



**CITY OF MANITOWOC
COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR
RECREATION PLAN**

DRAFT: 2.17.23



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2023 City of Manitowoc Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) was prepared in accordance with the guidelines that will make it certifiable by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and qualify Manitowoc for matching grant funds.

- The City has grown at a modest pace over the past three decades and in 2022 had a population of 34,722. By 2033, it is projected that Manitowoc will have a population of 34,948 and by 2043 a population of 35,243. See Chapter 1 and Appendix for more details.
- The City of Manitowoc owns and maintains 704 acres of total parkland in 36 parks. Additionally, there are multiple other municipal, state, and county parks and trails within close proximity of the community. See Chapter 2 for more details.
- Multiple forms of public participation were utilized in this planning process including the following. See Chapter 3 and Appendix for more details.
 - An online survey was utilized to gather 259 people’s opinions on current usage, prioritized park improvements, new facilities, and more. The survey mirrored that of the one utilized as part of the 2018 CORP process to identify and track changes, trends, and similarities over time.
 - The Public Infrastructure Committee participated in the review of the draft document and provided feedback on key components of the plan during public meetings held throughout the process.
 - A public in-person and online open house was held between January and February in conjunction with the City’s Comprehensive Plan Update. A total of 70 people participated and provided feedback that was incorporated into each plan.
- In comparison to other similar sized Wisconsin communities, Manitowoc compares favorably and exceeds the level of service provided by other communities in terms of the number of municipal parks, parks per resident, total park acres, and acres per 1,000 residents. See Chapter 5 for more details.
- A service area analysis was conducted to explore the geographic distribution of existing facilities in relationship to residential neighborhoods. There are a few identified existing gaps within Manitowoc as shown on Map 2.
- As of 2023, Manitowoc provides approximately 20 acres of total parkland and 13 acres of active parkland per 1,000 residents. The new established standard for the City moving forward will be to maintain these figures over the next 5 years. See Chapter 5 for more details.
- To meet the future population demand and maintain the existing level of service currently provided, it is projected that Manitowoc will need to acquire between 3-5 acres of new parkland by 2033 and between 7-11 acres of new parkland by 2043. See Chapter 6 for more details.
- A new parkland evaluation tool was developed to assist the City in assessing new parkland acquisition opportunities as they may arise over the planning period. See the Appendix for more details.
- Several new recommended park locations were identified as part of this planning process (Map 3) and a number of recommended improvements to existing facilities were also established in Chapter 7 and 8. A model Capital Improvement Plan for parks and recreational projects is provided in Chapter 9.
- This planning process also included an ADA Assessment of several existing parks and staff training on how to complete park assessments in the future. The recommendations of the assessment are included in the Appendix.
- Estimated parkland dedication, fee-in-lieu, and park improvement calculations were developed and analyzed to provide guidance on potential future changes to these provisions. See Chapter 9 for more details.
- A detailed set of action steps were identified to assist the City in advancing the goals and recommendations of this plan through implementation. See Chapter 10 for more details.

1



**INTRODUCTION AND
EXISTING CONDITIONS**

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

Communities throughout the world recognize that park land, recreation trails, and natural areas are key components of high-quality living environments. Open spaces and outdoor recreation provide a community with many benefits and serve a multitude of functions, including opportunities for recreation, promoting and accommodating a healthy lifestyle, enhancing community aesthetics, increasing property values, attracting visitors and tourists, shaping development patterns, and protecting the natural environment. The park and open space system of every community should be planned and designed to meet the diverse needs of its population. Proper recreation-based planning requires a focus on both the types of facilities needed to meet the needs of the community as well as the geographic distribution of those facilities relative to those who will use them.

OUTDOOR RECREATION IN WISCONSIN

According to the Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation, Wisconsin is home to over 15,000 inland lakes, 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, the 1,200-mile Ice Age National Scenic Trail, 7.5 million acres of public land, over 25,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, the third most ski resorts in the country, and 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations. In 2021, Wisconsin's outdoor recreation industry contributed a record-setting \$8.7 billion to the state's gross domestic product and the outdoor economy grew by over 14%. Additionally, the industry supports nearly 90,000 jobs across various sectors in the state. Overall, outdoor recreation throughout Wisconsin provides a high quality of life for residents, economic opportunity, public health benefits, community identity by highlighting cultural and historic resources, and natural resource preservation and enhancement. *(Source: Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation, 2022)*

The City of Manitowoc's park, recreation, and open space system is one of its many important amenities. The existing system plays a key role in the community's high quality of life, however, there are opportunities for expansion and improvement to serve the City's growing population, protect and maintain its high-quality natural resources, and further embrace opportunities for open space preservation and recreation.

This City of Manitowoc Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) compiles, reviews, and updates information on the physical facilities and lands that make up the existing City park and open space system, in addition to providing guidance for future improvement and expansion of the system. This Plan serves as an important element of Manitowoc's overall community comprehensive planning program. As such, the CORP addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community over the next 10-20 years, with a specific focus on park and recreation action items over the next 5-year period (2023-2028). Five years is generally considered a reasonable horizon in park master planning because social, cultural, and political conditions tend to change enough over five years for the goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations developed in previous plans to be reevaluated.

This CORP has been prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and qualifies the City of Manitowoc for matching grant funds through the



Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Federal Recreation Trails Act (RTA), and the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Programs (State of Wisconsin). The CORP must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. The plan has also been prepared in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 61.35, 236.29 and 66.0617. Furthermore, it will be incorporated as a detailed component of the City’s “Smart Growth” Comprehensive Plan under Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.

This Plan is intended to incorporate and refine the previous analysis and recommendations of the 2017-2022 City of Manitowoc Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan and was written in tandem with the 2023 City of Manitowoc Comprehensive Plan Update. Manitowoc’s public parks and open spaces are operated and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Division. This CORP was prepared under the direction of City staff, the Public Infrastructure Committee, Plan Commission, and Common Council.

GENERAL REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Manitowoc (the “City”) is a vibrant historic community located in the prime agricultural area of East Central Wisconsin where the Manitowoc River meets Lake Michigan on Wisconsin’s eastern shore. The City serves as the County seat for Manitowoc County, and is bordered by the Town of Manitowoc Rapids to the west, Lake Michigan to the east, the City of Two Rivers to the northeast, the Town of Manitowoc to the north and south, and by the Town of Newton to the southwest. Manitowoc is located 25 miles north of the City of Sheboygan, 40 miles southeast of the City of Green Bay, and 50 miles southwest of Door County, Wisconsin. Regionally, the City is located roughly 80 miles north of Milwaukee, 165 miles north of Chicago, and 315 miles southeast of Minneapolis-St. Paul. As of 2020, the City of Manitowoc had 34,626 residents and encompassed approximately 11,283 acres or 17.6 square miles of land.

The City is surrounded by natural resources including lakes, rivers, streams, woodlands, wetlands, and some of the most productive agricultural lands in the state. Some of the most notable are Lake Michigan, Silver Lake, Silver Creek, the Little Manitowoc River, and the Manitowoc River, which runs through the middle of the community. Each of these characteristics of the landscape influences the history, culture, economic, and recreational opportunities of the region’s inhabitants.

In the past, the City’s strategic location led to the creation of a thriving port in which shipbuilding and manufacturing flourished. The region’s rich land and water-based natural resources complimented these industries, growing the City’s population and economy. While the nature of industry and trade has changed since the City’s founding in 1836, the City’s strong manufacturing base and inherent natural resources, combined with its hardworking residents and innovative businesses, have enabled it to maintain a high quality of life. The City has benefited from its picturesque shoreline, quality schools and safe neighborhoods, as well as strong regional connections. The City is located along major ground and water transportation corridors, connecting it to regional markets, population, and economic cores of the Midwest and beyond. Manitowoc’s location near Interstate 43 provides direct, efficient access between the City and the greater Fox Valley and Milwaukee areas. The City is the location of the western port of the S.S. *Badger* ferry, which provides transportation services across Lake Michigan to Ludington, Michigan. Combined, this transportation network provides the City with access to regional employment, shopping, cultural, and entertainment destinations.



Today, it is the vision of the City to continue to support and encourage its industrial heritage, along with being a friendly, culturally diverse, and economically vibrant community that embraces the arts and humanities, and preserves the best characteristics of life on the lakeshore including access to natural resources, health, comfort, and safety for all residents.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Manitowoc’s current population as of 2020 includes just over 34,600 residents. The need for parks and recreational space is driven by the growing population of the City. Predicting how the community’s population might grow in the future provides important information about the amount of new parkland and recreational facilities that will be needed to serve the community. Manitowoc has experienced varying population changes since the 1990s. The City experienced its most significant population growth between 1990 and 2000, when the community grew by 5% within a decade. Population growth stalled and resulted in a small population decrease during the 2000s, likely due in part to the effects of the housing market collapse of the Great Recession and subsequent slow, long-term recovery experienced by many communities. Like many other small-to-mid-sized Wisconsin communities, it has taken Manitowoc the better part of the past decade to begin to recover from the Recession’s effects. Since 2010, Manitowoc has experienced a steady, modest population growth, though not at the same level of intensity as in the first decade of the 21st Century.

Many of the communities adjacent to Manitowoc, as well as Manitowoc County, have experienced similar trends over the last two decades. Throughout Wisconsin, communities experienced significant construction and development in the 1990s and the years preceding the Great Recession (2000-2008), followed by slow economic recovery that has resulted in much smaller increases in housing development and population over the course of the following decade. However, the City of Manitowoc and some of its comparable communities including Sheboygan have continued to see modest but steady population growth in the last several years similar to Wisconsin’s overall population growth over the time period. Manitowoc County and the Town of Two Rivers have both seen population stagnation during this period, and many other communities within Manitowoc County have even experienced population decline in the last several years.



FIGURE 1.1: POPULATION TRENDS

	1990	2000	2010	2020	2000-2010	2010-2020
City of Manitowoc	32,520	34,053	33,736	34,626	-1%	3%
City of Two Rivers	13,030	12,639	11,712	11,271	-7%	-4%
City of Sheboygan	49,676	50,792	49,288	49,929	-3%	1%
City of Sturgeon Bay	9,176	9,437	9,144	9,646	-3%	5%
Town of Manitowoc	937	1,091	1,264	1,096	16%	-13%
Town of Manitowoc Rapids	2,579	2,467	2,406	2,049	-2%	-15%
Town of Newton	2,242	2,250	2,418	2,167	7%	-10%
Town of Two Rivers	2,147	1,952	1,663	1,665	-15%	0%
Manitowoc County	80,421	82,887.00	81,442	81,359	-2%	0%
Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,686,986	5,893,718	6%	4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 – 2020 Census.

Population projections are important components of the planning process and provide a guide for decision makers. Since the market has fluctuated over the past 30 years, it is more important to factor in multiple projection scenarios to account for the various outcomes that could occur in the future. Seven different population projection scenarios for the City through the year 2040 were calculated and compared.

These projections were derived using a variety of methodologies:

- **Linear Growth Rate 1990-2020, 2000-2020, 2010-2020.** This set of projections were calculated using the average annual population change over the time period and projecting that rate forward to 2040. The average annual population change for the various time periods ranged from 27 to 85 new residents per year.
- **Compounded Percentage Rate 1990-2020, 2000-2020, and 2010-2020.** These estimations are determined utilizing the annual average percentage change over the time period and extrapolating that rate forward to 2040. The average projected percentage change for the three time periods ranged from 2%-5% growth.
- **Department of Administration (WisDOA) Projection.** In 2013, the State Department of Administration forecasted population change for all communities in Wisconsin based on 2010 U.S. Census data. As shown, this data is clearly outdated, though may offer a potential population projection mirroring trends experienced and anticipated throughout many small and medium-sized communities throughout the state.

Based upon these scenarios (excluding the outdated WisDOA projections), the City’s population is projected to be between 32,870 and 36,403 in the year 2040. For the purposes of this CORP, the City will utilize the Compounded Growth Projection scenario from 2000-2020. This model factors in both the population loss experienced between 2000-2010, in addition to the modest population growth experienced between 2010 and 2020, best modeling anticipated growth trends similar to those experienced over the past several years. These forecasts provide the basis for determining future need for parks and open spaces.

Predicting future population growth is challenging and somewhat inexact. Market conditions, regional growth, and the City’s policies will influence the actual rate of population growth. It should be noted that Manitowoc’s actual future population will depend on and be influenced by social and economic trends, market conditions, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations.

Figure 1.2: City of Manitowoc Population Projections

	2010	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	% Change 2020-2040	Increase 2020-2040
WisDOA Projections*	33,736	34,626	34,060	34,180	33,890	32,870	-5%	-1,756
Linear Growth 1990-2020 ⁽¹⁾	33,736	34,626	34,907	35,258	35,609	35,960	4%	1,334
Linear Growth 2000-2020 ⁽¹⁾	33,736	34,626	34,741	34,884	35,027	35,170	2%	544
Linear Growth 2010-2020 ⁽¹⁾	33,736	34,626	34,982	35,427	35,872	36,317	5%	1,691
Compounded Growth 1990-2020 ⁽²⁾	33,736	34,626	34,926	35,305	35,687	36,074	4%	1,448
Compounded Growth 2000-2020 ⁽²⁾	33,736	34,626	34,743	34,889	35,036	35,184	2%	558
Compounded Growth 2010-2020 ⁽²⁾	33,736	34,626	34,993	35,457	35,927	36,403	5%	1,777

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990-2020 Census.

*Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2013 population estimate.

1. Extrapolated based on the average annual population change over the given years.

2. Extrapolated based on the average annual percent change over the given years.

Demographic data suggests that Manitowoc’s population is getting older. In 2020, the City’s median age was 45, higher than the statewide average (40), but similar to Manitowoc County’s (44.9). This mirrors many statewide and national trends, where many small-to-medium sized communities are experiencing an increasingly aging population as the Baby Boomer generation reaches retirement age. This trend will present both potential opportunities and issues for the City. The percentage of the City’s population aged 18 and under was 21 percent. That percentage was lower than both the statewide (22) and countywide (23) percentages, but higher than the percentage of young people in this age category in six other comparable communities. The relatively high percentage of residents under 18 should be considered when planning for future community needs. 22 percent of the City’s population was aged 65 and older – a larger percentage than surrounding incorporated communities, the state, and the county, but a smaller percentage than surrounding towns. It is important to keep in mind that there may be a larger percentage of residents over the age of 65 in the next decade, and park and recreational facilities need to provide for this age demographic as well as all others.

The 2020 Census data suggests that Manitowoc remains racially diverse relative to Manitowoc County and its neighboring towns and cities, yet the community is notably less diverse than the State of Wisconsin. The City’s non-white population in 2020 (8 percent) was higher than in the surrounding towns, cities, and the county, where the non-white population ranged from less than 1 percent in the Towns of Manitowoc and Manitowoc Rapids, to 6 percent in the City of Two Rivers, and 6.5 percent in Manitowoc County. In contrast, the State’s non-white population was 10.8 percent. The racial groups represented in the City’s population include a high percentage of Asian (5.9 percent) residents and smaller populations of Black (2.3 percent), Native American (0.5 percent), and individuals who identify as some other race or races (2.6 percent). The community’s residents that identify as Hispanic and Latino comprise 5.5 percent of the population. While the City is still well over 85% white, the Asian, Black, and Hispanic or Latino populations have increased since 2000. The City is cognizant of this shift, but must continue to recognize potential barriers faced by these growing population segments, increase inclusiveness, and strive to provide equitable services and representation in local government. These findings indicate that care must be taken during the planning process to include and represent these growing minority groups in the planning for future park and recreation spaces within the community.

Figure 1.3: Race and Ethnicity Comparison, 2020

	White	African American	American Indian	Asian	Other	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino
City of Manitowoc	81.0%	2.3%	0.6%	5.0%	0.3%	3.7%	7.2%
City of Two Rivers	87.4%	1.3%	0.6%	2.7%	0.2%	4.1%	3.7%
City of Sheboygan	68.9%	3.1%	0.4%	11.0%	0.3%	3.7%	12.5%
City of Sturgeon Bay	88.2%	1.1%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	4.0%	5.0%
Town of Manitowoc	92.8%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	0.2%	2.0%	1.4%
Town of Manitowoc Rapids	94.7%	0.3%	0.2%	0.9%	0.5%	2.5%	0.9%
Town of Newton	94.1%	0.4%	0.2%	1.0%	0.1%	2.2%	1.9%
Manitowoc County	87.2%	1.3%	0.5%	2.8%	0.3%	3.1%	5.0%
Wisconsin	78.6%	6.2%	0.8%	3.0%	0.3%	3.5%	7.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census.

Another trend that the City must be cognizant of over the planning period is both individuals and families in poverty. The 2008 Great Recession played a part in increasing poverty rates for both families and individuals between 2000 and 2010. In subsequent years, the rates of both families and individuals in poverty have continued to steadily increase, reaching 13 percent of individuals and 9.6 percent of families in 2020. Nationally, the same poverty trends are taking place as the income inequality gap continues to get larger, the cost of housing increases, wages stay stagnant, and student debt rises. It should also be noted that the global COVID-19 pandemic has played a role in increasing this divide and perpetuating the income inequality gap. It will be important for the community to consider these trends when adding or revising services in the future.

Average household size is also another good metric that can be used to evaluate housing needs and preferences, in addition to parkland use demands in the future. Since 2000, Manitowoc's average household size has decreased to 2.17 people per household. This is similar to state and national trends, where average household sizes have been decreasing in part due to the increase in the aging population, people waiting longer to start a family, and generational lifestyle preferences. While household size is shrinking, the total number of housing units has increased slightly since 2010, in contrast to more significant growth experienced between 2000-2010. The rates of housing unit growth in Manitowoc slightly lower than those in other neighboring communities and regionally, and the region has generally experienced only very modest rates of housing unit growth.

In 2020, Manitowoc's average household size was lower than most comparable jurisdictions. This trend may reflect the decline of average household size nationwide. On average, household size tends to be lower in urban areas, which is largely attributed to the greater number of single person households. This factor is important to consider when planning for future park land use demand and the distribution of housing in the City. The trend toward smaller households suggests the need for types of housing and park and recreational facilities that accommodate singles, small families, empty-nesters, aging Baby Boomers, and single-parent households.

The City also has a significantly lower percentage of owner-occupied homes than the surrounding towns and the County, but these jurisdictions are well above the State and national averages. This trend is a function of the City's income diversity and household mix. The City's rate of owner-occupied housing is comparable to Wisconsin and the U.S.

Utilizing the population projections and methodology mentioned above, the projected number of households were also calculated. The Compounded Growth Projection between 2000-2020 was also selected to forecast future households. In 2030, it is projected that the City will add 19 new households, and by 2040, 155 total new households. This projection methodology utilized a customized average household size projection between 2025-2040 based on analysis of the average household size change between 2000-2020 and WisDOA's projected City household size between 2010-2040. It was determined that a slight decrease in average household size may occur over the next 20 years, but that Manitowoc's modest population growth will result in projected average household sizes staying consistent over time, with a projected average household size of 2.17 individuals per household in 2040. This factors in the City's modest sustained growth over the past decade, coupled with an increasingly aging population and national trends in decreasing household size.



A slightly modified future household projection was utilized in calculating the estimated cost projections in Chapter 9 to reflect exactly 10 years from adoption of this Plan (2033). The total number of projected new residents over the next decade (255) were divided by the projected new average household size in 2033 (2.17) to generate the projected number of new households in 2033 (118). While slightly different than the overall household projections above and shown in the Appendix, this customized approach was determined to be best suited for the calculations in Chapter 9.

Parks and recreation are directly related to the community's overall public health because they provide opportunities for residents to participate in physical activities, get outside, and improve health education. In comparison to other neighboring counties, Manitowoc County ranks in the bottom 50% of Wisconsin counties in terms of overall health outcomes, indicating there are still public health areas that can be improved including percentage of adults with obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. This information is important for assessing how healthy the City of Manitowoc is today, while identifying areas of focus for improvement in the future.

A complete inventory, analysis, and review of Manitowoc's natural resource components, data trends, and existing plans can be found in the Appendix.

2



EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

CHAPTER 2: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

Located along the banks of Lake Michigan and the Manitowoc River, the City provides various opportunities for residents to enjoy the outdoors. As provided below, the City of Manitowoc’s park, recreation, and open space system consists of a wide range of facilities across the community including passive parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, public fishing locations, walking and hiking trails, and a variety of other uses. Other publicly owned sites in the Manitowoc area include those owned by the Manitowoc School District, Manitowoc Goalgetters United Soccer Club, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Manitowoc County, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In addition, a privately owned, public golf course is located on the far northeast side of the City and nine private schools also include outdoor recreational facilities. In total, the City owns and maintains 704 acres of parkland in 36 City parks.

The presence of outdoor recreation sites and open spaces add significant opportunities for dynamic activity, social connection, physical exercise, and numerous other health benefits to a community’s quality of life. They enhance the attractiveness of the community and foster a sense of civic pride and identity. Furthermore, even small green spaces, playgrounds, or parks create a sense of social cohesion and serve as focal points for the surrounding neighborhood.

Overall, Manitowoc has a robust supply of well-established parks. The full range of the City’s developed park system includes Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Special Use Areas located throughout the community. As Manitowoc continues to grow, the community will need to provide new neighborhood-serving parks and recreational amenities within its planned residential growth areas. A brief description of each of the community’s existing park and open space sites is included below.



CHARACTERISTICS OF RECOMMENDED FACILITIES

Manitowoc’s existing park locations are divided into four categories for the purpose of this Plan. These include Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Special Use Parks. Within the Appendix (Part 1), each are defined in terms of the basic facilities and activities they support, in addition to desirable site characteristics. There are also model diagrams of each that can be utilized in future planning of new parks and/or upgrades to existing facilities. Conservancy areas, school parks, recreation trails, on-street bicycle facilities, and trailheads are also defined further within the Appendix for future reference and planning purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Existing Mini Parks

Site Name	Existing Conditions
Burger Boat Company Park	This downtown 0.38-acre urban park abuts the south side of the Manitowoc River and provides recreational opportunities downtown. Current facilities include benches, lighting, scenic vistas, flagpoles, farmer’s market and winter ice skating rink (adjacent parking lot), and fisherman’s wharf.
Manitowoc Shipbuilders Park	This is a 0.61-acre urban park that lies in the heart of downtown Manitowoc. The park connects to the north side of the Manitowoc River and downtown walkway system. Existing facilities include benches, lighted walkways, riverwalk, fountain, arbor, transient boat dock.
Mariners Landing	This 0.09-acre mini park compliments the beauty of the Manitowoc City Hall Complex. Located to the east of City Hall, the park allows a beautiful scenic vista for the shopping district connecting the Eighth Street and 10th Street bridges. City Hall and Mariner’s Landing offer seating, landscaped areas, hard surface patio, lighted walkway, fishing, picnicking, and river vistas.

Existing Neighborhood Parks

Site Name	Existing Conditions
Dale Street Park	This 2.17-acre park is located in the central section of the City and is surrounded by residential homes. The park caters to a walk-in population emanating from adjacent residential homes. Existing facilities include playground equipment, picnic area, benches, open greenspace, and paved trails.
Emma Radandt Park	This is a 5.19-acre park located on the southeastern side of Manitowoc that was donated by the Radandt Family to provide active and passive recreational opportunities for area residents. In addition to a small picnic area, there is also a playground.
Fleetwood Park	This north-centrally located park contains 11.05 acres of parkland. It’s a beautiful traditional style neighborhood park that includes off street parking, two tennis courts, playground equipment, nature trails, and an open grass area for volleyball or other open play sports.
Halvorsen Park	Halvorsen Park is 10.02 acres and is located in the heart of a west central residential area of the City. The park contains a fenced in dog park, two softball diamonds with bleachers and player benches that serves various ball groups. Other existing facilities and uses include a restroom/shelter building, drinking fountain for people/pets, playground equipment, utility shed, and picnic area.
Lincolnshire Park	This north-central park includes 2.51 acres, and its borders are land-locked with houses, which limit any future growth. Existing facilities include open playfield areas, paved access into the park off Richmond Street and Camden Court, playground equipment, and disc golf.
Manitou Park and Conservancy	Situated along the north side of the Manitowoc River, this area generally functions as an ADA accessible fishing facility catering to the boating and fishing public with auto-boat trailer parking. Approximately one-half of the 28.18-acre park is developed, with the remainder as a conservancy area. This park and conservancy area cater to a wide variety of users including walkers, joggers, bikers, in-line skaters, fishing enthusiasts, and kayaks/canoeist. Existing amenities include a shelter with restrooms, drinking fountain, picnic area, open park shelter, boat dock / fishing pier, boat and kayak launch, auto and boat trailer parking, ADA accessible fishing pads, and walkway system.
Pulaski Park	Pulaski Park is 3.14 acres in size and is located in the south-central portion of the City in an established residential neighborhood. The proximity of the Municipal Baseball Field, and several public and parochial schools nearby, relieves some of the pressing needs for active recreation. Existing facilities include playground equipment, restroom/open air shelter building, drinking fountain, lighted pathways, benches, basketball hoop, and a picnic area.
Rheaume Park	Rheaume Park is located in the north-central portion of the city and consists of 5.55 acres. It was donated to the City of Manitowoc by William Rheaume in 1960. The park is located in one of the most

	densely populated areas of the city. The park serves as a buffer between the railroad and the city's Fleetwood Drive Park Maintenance Facility, in addition to residential uses to the north and west. Existing facilities include an unlighted softball diamond with bleachers, playground equipment, off-street parking, drinking fountain, restroom/open air shelter building, basketball hoop, benches, and a picnic area.
Riverview Park	This 2.44-acre site affords an excellent scenic view of the Manitowoc River. Existing facilities include playground equipment, lighted pathways, benches, and a picnic area.
Riverview Drive Park	Is located along the banks of the Manitowoc River and is 4.86 acres in size. The park has a developed playground area, open space, and paved walking path.
Silveridge Park	Silveridge is a 11.02-acre park located in the far southwest section of the city. Except for playground equipment, the site remains mostly undeveloped.
Union Park	This 3.72-acre park is located north of the downtown district within an older established residential neighborhood. It is a park deep in history and tradition. Land for this park was donated by Manitowoc founder Benjamin Jones. It was renamed Union Park in recognition of the 2,467 men who served on active duty during the Civil War and includes a Civil War cannon and historical marker. More recently, the designated Ice Age Trail traverses through the central portion of the park. Existing facilities include playground equipment, drinking fountain, restroom/overhead shelter building, lighted pathways, picnic area, and the Civil War Cannon Memorial.
Westfield Park	Westfield Park is a 4.99-acre neighborhood park located in the center of Manitowoc. Existing facilities include one lighted softball field with bleachers, a basketball court, playground equipment, restroom/open air shelter/concession building, drinking fountain, off street parking, and benches.
Washington Park	Washington Park is 3.75 acres in size and sits in the heart of downtown district. It hosts many community events such as a vendor fairs and car shows. Washington Park also features the MetroStage on which many concerts are held on summer evenings. Existing facilities include playground equipment, restroom/shelter building, drinking fountain, benches, lighted pathways, two basketball courts, picnic area, fitness equipment, and the permanent band shell.

Existing Community Parks	
Site Name	Existing Conditions
Citizen Park	Citizen Park comprises 26.49 acres. It has recently completed some significant renovations. They include two adult tennis courts, two age 10 and under quick-start tennis courts, two pickleball courts, two adult basketball courts, one youth basketball court, two lighted ball fields, concession stand/restroom building, open air shelter, benches, two playground areas, and off street parking areas. Additionally, the Manitowoc Youth Baseball Association recently constructed a new baseball complex at Citizen Park which includes four new diamonds. Citizen Park Recreation Center and the City's Aquatic Center are also located on-site. Amenities of the aquatic center include three water slides, a diving board, a four-lane lap pool, a lazy river, a zero-entry area for children, a sand play area, concession stand and mini golf. Due to these unique amenities, the park attracts users outside of the City.
Henry Schuette Park	This community park comprises 69.73 acres and is centrally located in the City by the scenic Manitowoc River. The natural landscape includes rolling terrain, wildlife, aquatic type plants, bushes, and forest area. This community park provides off-street parking, a community-built playground, open air shelters, restrooms, grills, fishing areas, and over six miles of nature and fitness trails in a beautiful scenic vista along the Manitowoc River. Cross country skiing is allowed on the trails in winter; however, the trails are not groomed. The park has two parts: a Community Built Playground in the upper portion, and the lower park which contains natural walking/biking paths, river access, kayak launch, and an exercise course area. A portion of the Ice Age Trail goes through Henry Schuette Park.

Lincoln Park and Conservancy	<p>The community park comprises 120.32 acres. Due to the zoo function of the park and events like Lights in Lincoln Park, this park attracts users far outside the city limits. The park also features a ball diamond, lighted tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic areas, restrooms, field house, shelter, and cabin rentals, nature trails, wildlife areas, fish rearing pond, off-street parking, and the Lincoln Park Zoo. The Lincoln Park Conservancy is a 45.02-acre natural area portion of the park. The conservancy includes the Little Manitowoc River which traverses the length of the park. The conservancy includes a substantial amount of floodplain and wetland areas which are highly valued for flood control and wildlife habitat.</p>
Lighthouse Park	<p>Located adjacent to Lake Michigan, the park provides opportunities to enjoy the lakeshore. This 2.95-acre area includes access to Lighthouse Beach and contains a restroom facility, outdoor shower, shelter, and an off-street parking lot along with accommodating the highly popular Mariner’s Trail and Army Corps of Engineers Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) and dog park.</p>
Miracles Park	<p>Located in the south-central portion of the City, the 21.88-acre park contains the lighted Regional X-sports complex skate park, the Goodwill NCW Miracle Field of Dreams, a fully accessible playground, a soccer field, baseball field, and a concession stand/shelter with public restrooms. A vehicle entrance to the park along with a parking lot can be found off of South 35th Street. The Miracle Field of Dreams baseball diamond facility that is accessible to, and useable by, people with special needs and physical limitations is a regional draw.</p>
Red Arrow Park and Conservancy	<p>The park comprises a total of 35.11 acres. It abuts Lake Michigan and offers many recreational amenities, such as a handicap-accessible lakefront and beach walkway. Specific park amenities include one baseball diamond with bleachers, playground equipment, restroom/concession stand/bathhouse facility, two open air shelters, swimming beach, picnic areas off street parking facilities, four unlighted tennis courts, lakefront walkway system, and small watercraft boat launch with parking area. There are also memorials throughout the park honoring the Red Arrow 32nd Infantry Division including two anti-aircraft guns, paved walkways, multiple flag poles, and flags depicting veterans of various wars. The Red Arrow Conservancy is a 10.61-acre linear section of land that extends approximately 2,800 feet along the Lake Michigan Shoreline connecting Red Arrow Park with the UW-Manitowoc campus. The conservancy area does not contain any developed amenities. This area has been adopted by Citizens for a Scenic Lakeside. They have worked with the City and Woodland Dunes to develop a management plan for the site. Goals of this plan are to create scenic views, foster a native bird habitat, and to minimize further erosion of the bluff. This project is also part of a statewide initiative called “Restore the Shore”, headed by Woodland Dunes.</p>
Silver Creek Park	<p>Silver Creek Park is located on the southern border of the city. This 78.44-acre park is arguably Manitowoc's most diverse park, set on the shore of Lake Michigan with Silver Creek running through the park area. The park contains several scenic overlooks, rolling topography, rural-like wooded public areas, winter sports area, a 36-hole disc golf course, open air shelter, and playgrounds. Other park amenities include ice skating, sledding facilities, groomed fat tire bike trails, concession stand, field house with restrooms, playground equipment, two off street parking facilities, three large picnic areas with tables and grills, nature trails, cross country ski trails (ungroomed), swimming beach, and fishing along Silver Creek and the lakeshore.</p>

Existing Special Use Parks

Site Name	Existing Conditions
Camp Vits	Camp Vits is a 76.17-acre special use park located on the far western edge of the city along the scenic Manitowoc River. Containing bluffs, ravines, mature hardwood forest and wildlife areas, this park is a true natural resource gem. A public mountain bike trail consists of a two-mile beginner loop with three advanced sections branching off of the beginner loop. An extension was completed to allow access to the river. Parking is not available at Camp Vits or on town roads, instead access to the park is provided by the Vetter Trailhead.
Indian Creek Park	Located in the northeast portion of the City, this 7.25-acre park showcases a natural beauty with the Little Manitowoc River winding through the center of the park. A natural spring is located in the southeast portion of the property. The park currently contains an 18-hole disc golf course, off-street parking, and a large off-leash dog run area and agility course are adjacent to the disc golf course. Dogs are allowed on a leash throughout the remainder of the park.
Lakeview Park	Lakeview Park overlooks Lake Michigan and borders Madison Elementary Public School with a beautiful scenic vista. The park contains 6.97 acres. Much of the area along Maritime Drive is conservancy and open space, and too narrow for active recreation uses.
Lakefront Park	This 9.43-acre park is located between S. Lakeview Drive and Lake Michigan. The park serves primarily the needs of motorists providing a lakefront scenic vista and passive recreational aspects. The park also contains a portion of the Mariners/Ice Age Trail which currently ends at a trail head parking lot on its southern end. Plans for the trail to extend southward to Red Arrow Park are proposed. Existing facilities include off-street parking, benches, picnic area and natural beach. The beach is also accessible from the parking lot.
Little Manitowoc River Walkway and Prairie	Located along the Little Manitowoc River and Lake Michigan, this 12.98-acre site provides tremendous coastal recreational opportunities. Scenic vistas, wildlife areas, exercise station, and passive recreational amenities such as paved lighted walkways, fishing areas, benches, picnic areas, parking, and wildlife viewing areas are provided for both local and regional users.
Manitowoc Chiefs Youth Football Park	This 10.1-acre park is located adjacent to Henry Schuette Parks, Riverview Park, and the Manitowoc River. It features fishing and walking/hiking trails that connect the adjacent amenities together.
Manitowoc Marina	The 19.45-acre Manitowoc Marina is classified as a special use facility serving the recreational boating needs of the residents and non-residents of the area. The area is heavily used by boaters, tourists, and Mariners Trail users. The marina's current facilities include breakwater structures, a confined disposal facility, a travel hoist, water slips, a parking lot, bioswale/raingarden, restroom facilities, a fish cleaning station, a six-lane launch ramp, a fuel dock, a marina administration building, a repair building, a ship store, charter fishing, shoreline and pier fishing, a boat storage facility, picnic tables, park benches, Mariners Trail, and a sanitary disposal station. The Marina also rents out kayaks and bikes.
Manitowoc River Walk	This 1.69-acre property features a walkway from the 8th Street Bridge that loops around the Manitowoc Museum, the Baymont Manitowoc Lakefront Hotel, YMCA, and connects to the Mariners Trail at the Manitowoc Marina. Facilities include lighted paved walkways, benches, landscaping, signs, and scenic views of Lake Michigan. This walkway is also designated as part of the Ice Age Trail.
Municipal Baseball Field	The 7.16-acre property is owned by the City, but the playfield areas are operated by the Manitowoc Public School District (MPSD). Current facilities include lighted baseball diamond with dugouts, press box, drinking fountain, concession stands, storage building, off-street parking, restrooms, batting cages, bleachers, picnic tables, and scoreboard.

South 14th Street Parkland and Community Garden	This park consists of 6.47 acres. It has a mixture of trees with rolling terrain, and a small pond in the center. The southwestern portion of the property adjoins Monroe Elementary School. The active portion of the property contains a community-built garden with greenhouse and storage building that was constructed on just under two acres of parkland under the direction of the Grow It Forward organization.
River Heights Park	Located in the northwest portion of the City, this park contains 23.99 acres of land located along the scenic Manitowoc River. Currently, this park provides walking/hiking opportunities and fishing access along the Manitowoc River, but is otherwise undeveloped. Public street access occurs at the southern end of Sylvan Drive and off of N. Rapids Road.
Vetter Trailhead	The 4.16-acre site features a trailhead, information kiosk, toilet, partially handicap-accessible trail, and parking lot with access to Camp Vits.

Public School Facilities

Existing Public School Facilities	
Site Name	Existing Conditions
Andrew Jackson Elementary	Located in the north central portion of the City, it contains 8.25 acres of land. It includes playground apparatus, basketball courts, and open playing areas.
Benjamin Franklin Elementary	The 11.49-acre property includes playground apparatus, basketball courts, and open green spaces.
Stangel Learning Community	Located in the northeast portion of the City, this playground contains 9.78 acres of land. Because of the lack of municipal parks in this area of the City, this playground enhances active recreation prospects for that area of Manitowoc.
James Monroe Elementary	Amenities of this 14.40-acre site includes open space area, playgrounds, and basketball court that provides recreational amenities in the southeastern portion of the City.
Jefferson Elementary	Located in the southeastern portion of Manitowoc, this 3.88-acre property features open space, playgrounds, and a basketball court.
Madison Elementary	The 4.78-acre property offers green space, playgrounds, and a basketball court in the northeastern portion of Manitowoc.
Riverview Elementary	In the northwestern portion of the City, this 14.05-acre property provides open space, playgrounds, basketball court, soccer fields, and ball diamonds.
Washington Middle School	The 11.04-acre property is adjacent to Ron Rubik Municipal Athletic Field which consists of a turf football/soccer field, track and field facilities, and open green space. The school grounds include tennis courts and a football/soccer field.
Wilson Middle School	The school grounds feature tennis/basketball courts, football/soccer fields, and sledding hills on the 10.54 acres.
Lincoln High School	Located along the Lake Michigan shoreline, the 20.59-acre site features football/soccer fields, a track, and sledding hills.
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Manitowoc Campus	Also located along the Lake Michigan shoreline, the 35.27-acre property features green space, lake frontage, prairie, and walking trails.
Lakeshore Technical College	The Manitowoc Campus is located downtown and has no recreational value or amenities.

Private School Facilities

Existing Private School Facilities	
Site Name	Existing Conditions
Roncalli Elementary School	2.81-acre property with a playground and open play space.
Roncalli Middle School	1.41-acre property with open play space and a basketball hoop.
Bethany Evangelical Lutheran School	3.11-acre property with playground and open play space.
First German Evangelical Lutheran Grade School	1.43-acre property with playground and open play space.
Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran School	2.30-acre property with playground and open play space.
Manitowoc Lutheran High School	22.39-acre property with baseball, softball, football, and soccer fields.
Roncalli Catholic High School	37.37-acre property with baseball and softball fields, track and field facilities, and soccer fields.

Other Recreational Facilities

Other Existing Recreational Facilities	
Site Name	Existing Conditions
Memorial Drive Wayside	Memorial Drive Wayside is located between Memorial Drive and Lake Michigan on the north-east end of the City. The land is 7.44 acres and includes amenities such as lakefront scenic vistas, beach area, picnic area, and off-street parking stalls. The Mariner/Ice Age Trail traverse the entire length of the area.
Confined Disposal Facility (CDF)	The Confined Disposal Facility is a 13.32-acre property that was created, and is still owned, by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The park is managed through an agreement between the City and the ACOE. The “island” was created from harbor dredging and serves as protective barrier to the Manitowoc Marina and Harbor. Park amenities include a trail connection to Mariner’s Trail, wildlife viewing, fenced-in dog exercise area, and privately-owned lighthouse.
Manitowoc Senior Center	Located in southcentral Manitowoc near Halvorsen Park, the Senior Center is home to the City of Manitowoc Parks and Recreation Division. It offers a wide variety of recreational programming, but is not a designated City park.
Mariners Trail	Mariners Trail is a paved 7-mile trail running along Lake Michigan that connects the City of Manitowoc and Two Rivers. The trail is frequently used by residents and visitors to walk, bike, skate, and run along the lakeshore. The Friends of the Mariners Trail group helps maintain the trail.

Notable Parks and Trails in Nearby Communities

There are two noteworthy facilities located in the City of Two Rivers that are a regionally important to connecting the greater recreational networks of the area. These include:

- **Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve**, located just to the northeast of Manitowoc’s municipal boundary in the City of Two Rivers along the south banks of the West Twin River is an extensive wildlife preserve consisting of 1,500 acres of native habitat, including hardwood and coniferous forests, wetlands, and prairies. Established in 1974, the Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve attracts thousands of visitors each year, many of which are student groups, providing 7 miles of hiking trails, kayaking, star gazing, a Butterfly Garden, and various other recreational opportunities.
- **Rawley Point Trail** in Two Rivers connects Two Rivers to the Point Beach State Forest headquarters four miles to the north. The trail is connected to the Mariners Trail and provides a direct route for bicyclists from Manitowoc to the State Forest.



Manitowoc County Parks

Manitowoc County Parks located near the City of Manitowoc provide an important part of the recreational infrastructure in the community, supplying regional parks and recreational opportunities in areas outside of the City itself.

- **Silver Lake Park**, located off of US Highway 151 in the Town of Manitowoc Rapids just off the southwest edge of the City contains a wayside park and boat launch ramp on Silver Lake developed on 12 acres of land leased to Manitowoc County by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity of Holy Family Convent. A concrete boat ramp and pier are available for launching canoes, sailboats, and rowboats. Motors, except for electric motors, are restricted from the lake by Town ordinance. Silver Lake itself is 55 acres in size, almost divided into two separate lakes by a long narrow neck located in the middle of the waterbody. The wooded margins of both sections of the lake and Silver Creek offer bird watching, especially during the spring and fall migration of warblers. Silver Lake provides an excellent opportunity for fishing from shore or by boat, and features populations of perch, panfish, largemouth bass, and northern pike.
- **Fischer Creek Conservation Area** is the most recent addition to the Manitowoc County Park System. This 160-acre site was purchased by the State of Wisconsin using Stewardship money along with a contribution from Manitowoc County. The property is owned by the State and developed and maintained by the County. Portions of the property lie on either side of Fischer Creek. The landscape on both sides of the creek sloped down to the bed of the watercourse and then slopes easterly to Lake Michigan, where the park has approximately one mile of shoreline. Much of the Lake Michigan shoreline consists of scenic bluffs that rise up to 40 feet above the water level. The property contains a number of abandoned agricultural fields, grassland meadows, wetlands, and lowland forests.

State of Wisconsin Parks and Trails

The Wisconsin State Park System provides places across the state for outdoor recreation, educational opportunities, and large-scale ecosystem and wildlife preservation. State parks, forests, trails, and recreation areas see more than 20 million visits a year. There are a number of State Park and Trail facilities in the greater Manitowoc area.

- **Point Beach State Forest** consists of 2,903 acres located along six miles of Lake Michigan coastline and is headquartered four miles north of Two Rivers. Point Beach offers family campsites, two large group cabins, and an outdoor group camp. A popular feature within the park is the Rawley Point Lighthouse, which has been operated and maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard since 1853. Manitowoc’s Mariners Trail connects to the Rawley Point Trail in Two Rivers and provides a direct route for bicyclists from Manitowoc to access the State Forest. The Point Beach Ridges, a National Natural Landmark, are located within the forest.
- The **Devil’s River State Trail**, formerly known as the Denmark-Rockwood State Trail, connects the communities of Denmark, Maribel, Francis Creek, and Rockwood via a former rail line, running through Brown and Manitowoc counties. Currently consisting of 14 miles of shared use rail-trail featuring scenery as varied as farmlands, prairies, rivers, and wetlands, there are plans to develop the southern branch located in southeastern Manitowoc County outlined in the 2019 Devil’s River State Trail Master Plan. The plan recommends that the northern and southern branches of the system be connected via the existing road network and off-street bicycle infrastructure improvements, with a large portion of the recommended extensions running through the City of Manitowoc.



National Parks and Trails

The City of Manitowoc recreational trail network benefits greatly from having a portion of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail running through the community, connecting it to the greater area and a state-wide network of trail connections, parks, and other recreational opportunities.

- **Ice Age National Scenic Trail.** Named for the diverse geological features found along the trail, the Ice Age Trail is a nearly 1,200-mile pedestrian (and occasionally multi-use) pathway located entirely within the State of Wisconsin. The trail extends from its eastern terminus in Door County to its western terminus on the Wisconsin-Minnesota border. The trail can be broken down into three categories: 467 miles of “traditional” hiking trails; 103 miles of multi-use paths; and 529 of road and sidewalk miles. In 2017, the City of Manitowoc was designated an Ice Age Trail Community by the Ice Age Trail Alliance, whose mission is "to create, support and protect a thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin - the Ice Age National Scenic Trail." The Ice Age National Scenic Trail network has four segments in the Manitowoc area:
 - **Point Beach Segment:** Starting at the north end of Point Beach State Forest, this 10-mile trail segment features coastal sand dunes, the Rawley Point Lighthouse, Molash Creek, and follows the shores of Lake Michigan.
 - **City of Two Rivers Segment:** This 2-mile segment provides access to the Historic Farm Museum, Washington House, and the Historic Rogers Street Fishing Village in Two Rivers, providing trail connections through the community south to Manitowoc.
 - **Dunes Segment:** The 2.7-mile Dunes Segment runs through Woodland Dunes State Nature Center and Preserve, an oasis of marshland, swamps, sandy meadows, and wooded ridges, connecting to the Mariners Trail for access into Manitowoc.
 - **City of Manitowoc Segment:** This 7.5-mile urban trail segment highlights the City of Manitowoc and its rich maritime history, including a lengthy stretch along the shores of Lake Michigan on the paved Mariners Trail, running to downtown past the Wisconsin Maritime Museum and then picking back up along the Manitowoc River heading west. The trail also connects to Henry Schuette Park.

Figure 2.1 below summarizes the City’s developed park facilities and the amenities offered at each.

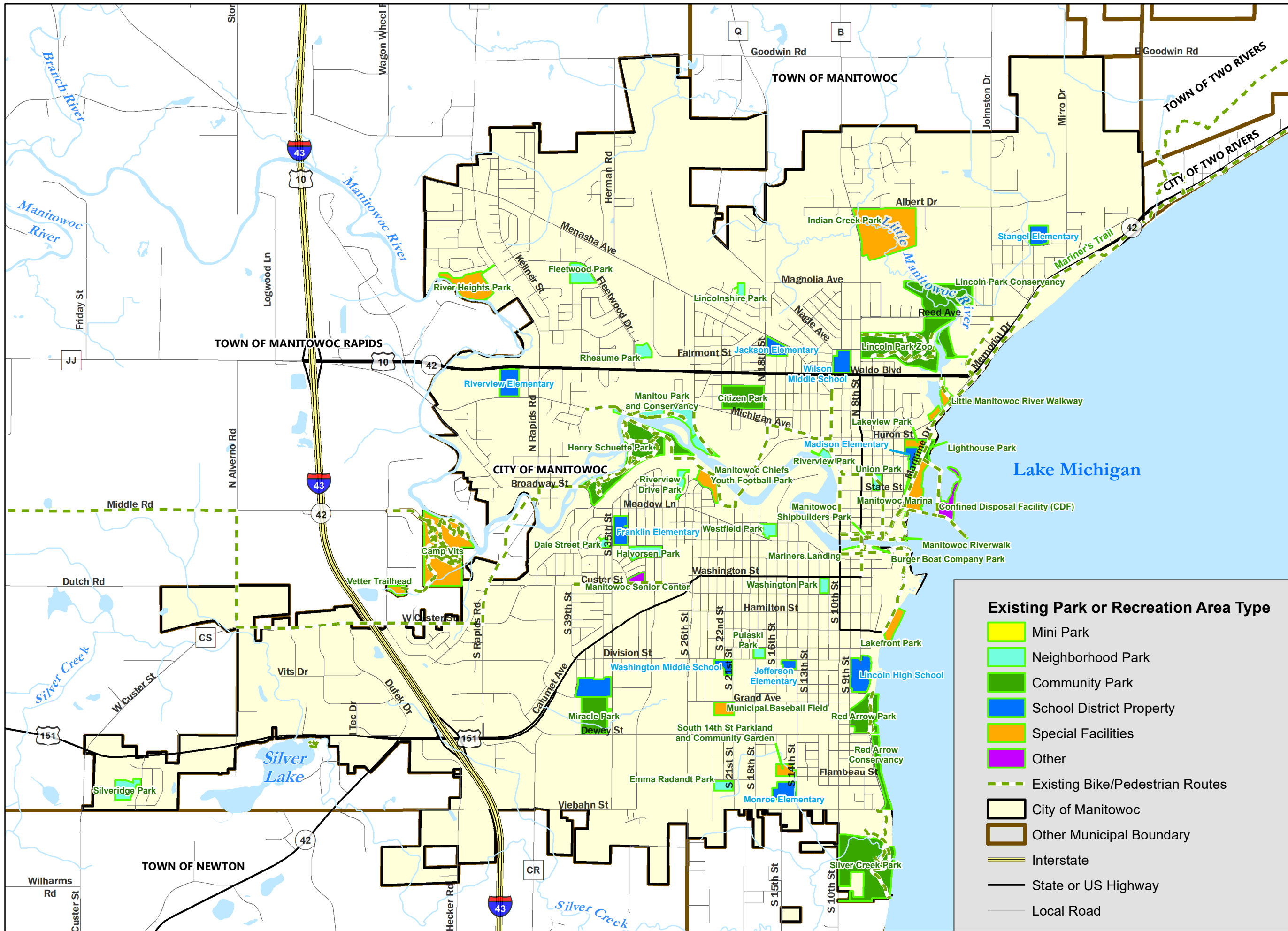
FIGURE 2.1: PARK FACILITY MATRIX

City of Manitowoc Parks and Facilities	Acres	Baseball Diamond	Basketball Hoop	Boat/Kayak Launching	Disc Golf	Dog Exercising*	Fishing	Grill Available	Mini Golf	Mountain Bike Trail	Outdoor Stage	Playground	Public Restroom	Rental Facility	Skateboard Complex	Soccer Fields	Swimming, Pool/Beach**	Tennis Courts	Walking/Hiking Trail	Parking Lot	Pickleball Court	Outdoor Exercise Equipment
Burger Boat Park	0.38					X													X	X		
Camp Vits/Vetter Trailhead	76.17/ 4.16					X	X			X			X						X	X		
Citizen Park	26.49	X	X					X	X			X	X	X			P	X		X	X	
Dale Street Park	2.17											X										
Emma Radandt Park	5.19											X										
Fleetwood Park	11.05		X									X							X		X	X
Halvorsen Park	10.02	X				X						X	X									
Henry Schuette Park	69.73			X		X	X	X				X	X	X					X	X		X
Indian Creek Park	71.25				X	X	X													X		
Lakefront Park	9.43						X										B					
Lakeview Park	6.13																					
Lighthouse Park	2.95					X	X						X	X			B		X	X		
Lincoln Park and Conservancy	120.32	X	X			X		X				X	X	X				X	X	X		
Lincolnshire Park	2.51				X							X										
Little Manitowoc River Walkway and Prairie	12.98						X												X			X
Manitou Park and Conservancy	28.18			X		X	X	X					X	X					X	X		
Manitowoc Chiefs Youth Football Park	10.1						X												X			
Manitowoc Marina	19.45			X			X														X	
Manitowoc Riverwalk	1.69						X												X			
Manitowoc Shipbuilders Park	0.61						X												X	X		
Mariner’s Landing	0.09						X												X			
Mariners Trail						X	X						X						X	X		
Miracles Park	21.88	X						X				X	X	X	X	X				X		
Municipal Field	7.16	X																		X		

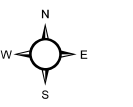
City of Manitowoc Parks and Facilities	Acres	Baseball Diamond	Basketball Hoop	Boat/Kayak Launching	Disc Golf	Dog Exercising*	Fishing	Grill Available	Mini Golf	Mountain Bike Trail	Outdoor Stage	Playground	Public Restroom	Rental Facility	Skateboard Complex	Soccer Fields	Swimming, Pool/Beach**	Tennis Courts	Walking/Hiking Trail	Parking Lot	Pickleball Court	Outdoor Exercise Equipment	
Pulaski Park	3.14		X									X	X										
Red Arrow Park and Conservancy	35.11	X		X		X	X	X				X	X	X			B	X	X	X			
Rheaume Park	5.55	X	X									X	X	X							X		
River Heights Park	23.99						X												X				
Riverview Drive Park	4.86											X											
Riverview Park	2.44											X											
Silver Creek Park	78.44				X		X	X				X	X	X		X	B		X	X			
Silveridge Park	11.02											X											
South 14 th Street Parkland & Community Gardens	6.47																						
Union Park	3.72											X	X	X					X				
Washington Park	3.75		X								X	X	X										X
Westfield Park	4.99	X	X					X				X	X	X									

*Dogs are allowed in all parks, outside of Citizen Park, Miracles Park, and the Lincoln Park Zoo. Dogs must be leashed unless signs indicate it is a dog run area.

**P = pool facility and B = beach



Data Sources:
 City of Manitowoc,
 Manitowoc County,
 Bay Lake RPC



2,000 Feet

Date: 10/25/2022

Map 1: City of Manitowoc Park Facilities

Manitowoc County, Wisconsin

Existing Park or Recreation Area Type

- Mini Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- School District Property
- Special Facilities
- Other
- Existing Bike/Pedestrian Routes
- City of Manitowoc
- Other Municipal Boundary
- Interstate
- State or US Highway
- Local Road



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3

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CHAPTER 3: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

The planning process for the City of Manitowoc Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was guided by several public participation events and online public engagement tools, in addition to meetings with various departments and committees within the City. The following is a summary of those activities conducted during the early information gathering, issue identification and inventorying, and priority identification components of this planning process. All public input gathered can be found in the Appendix.

Event	Date	Summary
Kickoff Meeting with Staff & Community Site Visit	September 19, 2022	To kick off the planning process, staff and consultants met to discuss key issues and opportunities related to the project and tour several of the City's existing parks and recreational amenities.
Community Survey (Online Event)	September 26 – October 17, 2022	This online interactive survey allowed participants to identify key values and opportunities, spotlight areas of interest and concern, and evaluate park and recreational needs for the City. Participants utilized this survey to express their concerns and ideas for the future of the community and assist in the planning process. A total of 259 people participated in the online survey.
Kickoff Meeting with Public Infrastructure Committee	October 5, 2022	On October 5 th , staff and consultants met with the Public Infrastructure Committee, gathering key input on key issues, opportunities, and strategic goals of the Committee for the project.
Public Infrastructure Committee Draft Review Meetings	December 7, 2022, and March 1, 2023	The December 7 th included a presentation of the public survey feedback, overview of the City's updated parkland standards, and the draft ADA Assessment for review. The March 1 st meeting included a review of the feedback gathered through the public open house and recommendation of the plan for adoption by the Plan Commission and City Council.
Public Open House	January 18 – February 8 2023	Both an in-person event and online survey were provided to the public as part of the public open house review of the draft plan. A total of 70 people participated.
Public Hearing and Adoption Meetings	April 17, 2023	A public hearing was held at a joint meeting of the Plan Commission and City Council to recommend and adopt the plan.

STAFF KICKOFF MEETING AND COMMUNITY SITE VISIT TOUR

At the forefront the planning process, a City staff kickoff meeting was held. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the proposed project, the planning process, and the project schedule, as well as to identify key personnel to be involved in the project within City staff as well as important stakeholders and interest groups within the wider community.

Additionally, on September 19, 2022, planning consultants and City staff conducted a tour of the community and its various park and open space assets to gain further understanding and familiarity with specific sites, the community's characteristics and values, recent improvements to the City's Park and Recreation system, and future recreational opportunities. Topics discussed with staff included overall needs and priorities, additional amenities needed in existing and future parks, reconfigurations to improve ADA accessibility at existing facilities, the implications of future growth on the City's parks and recreational resources, prioritizing connections of trails to and within the community, and ways for residents to stay involved in the planning process.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The City of Manitowoc conducted an online questionnaire via Survey Monkey from September 26, 2022, to October 17, 2022. In total, 259 people provided feedback. The 2022 survey mirrored some components of the survey used in 2017 plan to provide perspective on how opinions might had changed over the past 5 years. The 2017 survey had over two and half times as many responses compared to the survey conducted in 2022, yet a number of similar conclusions were drawn between each survey's results.

Overall, the survey focused on obtaining public opinion and feedback on the current conditions and future needs of the Manitowoc park and recreation system. Much of the feedback informed the development of the Plan is reflected throughout. All survey results can be found in the Appendix.

Of the 259 responses, 88% were residents of the City of Manitowoc and the rest were mainly from neighboring towns and cities. Additionally, over 42% of respondents were between the ages of 30-49 and 30% were between the ages of 50-65. In total, the survey only engaged 26 respondents under the age of 30, or 10% of total participants. When compared to 2017 survey results, the most recent survey engaged a smaller percentage of people under age 30, but captured responses from a higher percentage of residents over 50 years of age and older. Overall, the results of the 2022 survey strongly mirrored those of the 2017 survey, though with less representation from younger age demographics and more from older individuals.

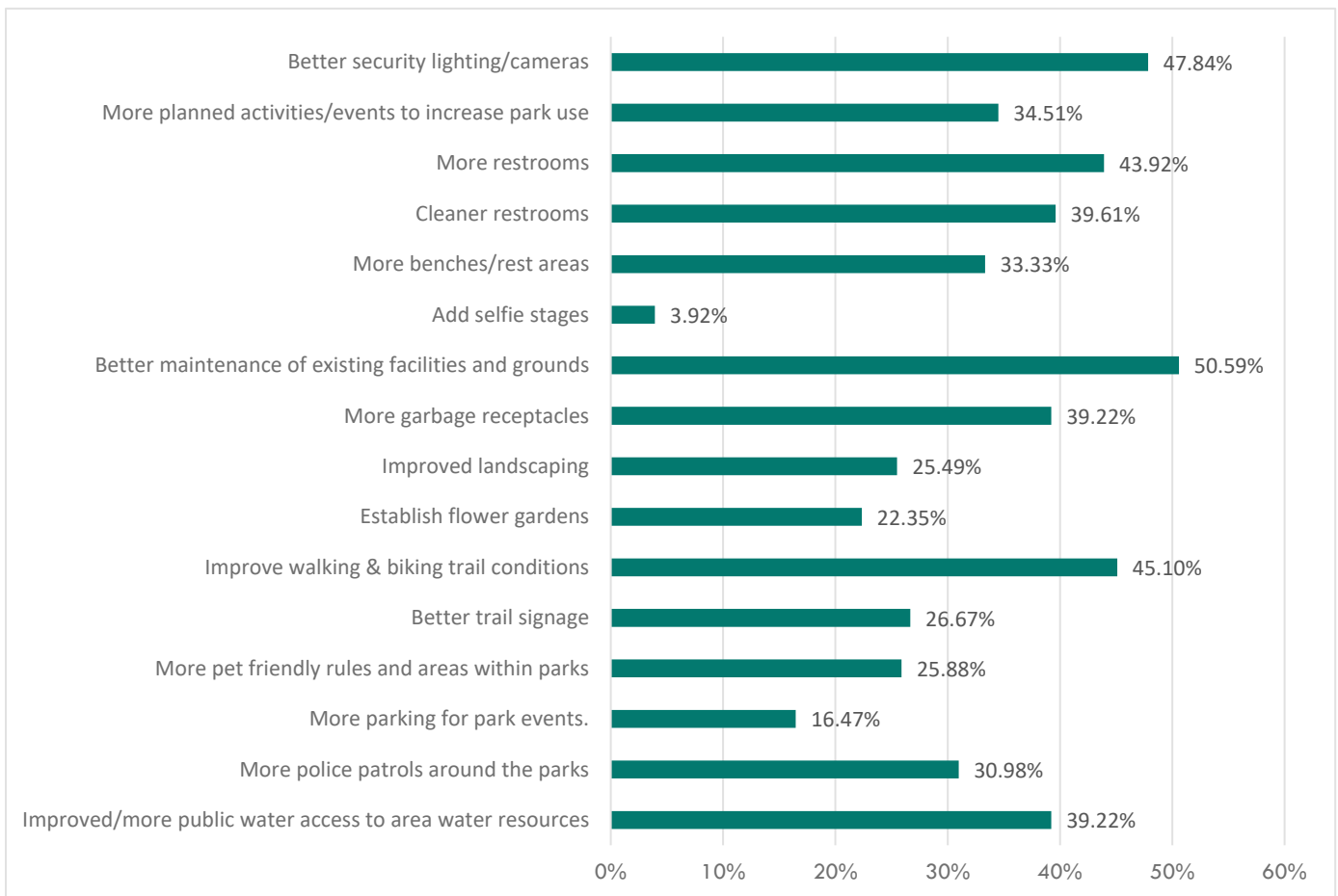
Survey respondents were asked what activities they and their families currently participate in, which parks they frequented the most, and what their perception was of the amount of park and recreational facilities in the community. They were also asked to rank the priorities the City should pursue over the planning period related to park and recreational facility improvement and provide input on what types of amenities could improve the City's park system. The top three responses for each of the High, Medium, and Low priority categories are listed below (respondents were asked to check all that apply).

Responses indicate that residents of Manitowoc value the existing park and recreation system and view it as large enough to meet their needs. Emphasis was put on the desire to see existing park and recreational facilities maintained, upgraded, and expanded and to strengthen the trail system connecting the parks and the community at large. Residents want to see further programming and activities at existing parks that are currently underutilized, and notably, there is a strong desire to see an increased use of activities and programming in parks along the Manitowoc River and Lake Michigan to activate the waterfront areas within the City as one of the high priority and medium priority needs within the community. The further acquisition of parkland for active or passive uses are viewed by participants as low priorities, indicating that respondents perceive the community as having adequate park and recreational facilities at this time.

FIGURE 3.1: TOP THREE NEEDS IDENTIFIED AS HIGH, MEDIUM, AND LOW PRIORITIES

Priority	Percentage
Top Three Needs Identified as the Highest Priority	
Focus on upgrading and maintaining park facilities at existing parks	53%
Continue to develop opportunities to expand the existing trail system between parks and city points of interest (Passive Recreational & natural areas, trails)	23%
Promote more activities (water based, festivals or otherwise) along the Lake Shore	8%
Top Three Needs Identified as the Medium Priority	
Look for innovative ways to promote more activities in underutilized parks	21%
Focus on expanding park facilities at existing parks	19%
Promote more activities (water based, festivals or otherwise) along the Lake Shore	18%
Top Three Needs Identified as the Lowest Priority	
Acquire additional park land for future active sports facilities (i.e. ball diamonds, sports fields, etc.)	55%
Acquire additional park land as natural areas with low-impact uses such as trails	15%
Accommodate the interest of local conservation, civic, and other organizations as partners in the planning and development of existing parks	10%

FIGURE 3.2: TOP IDENTIFIED RECREATIONAL FACILITY ADDITIONS



Overall, the results of the 2022 survey are similar to the results of the data gathered in 2017. The most significant change was in the second highest priority category, with residents indicating that they would like to see more and better security lighting and cameras at parks (48% of respondents) compared to in 2017, when the second highest priority was providing more planned activities and events to increase park use (43% of respondents at the time). These two priorities are tied together. The more active use at a given park location, the less likely the need for increased security, as informal community policing takes place when members of the public engage with and activate a space that when left empty may have the potential to invite security concerns.

Another common theme throughout public feedback was the desire to see increased use at underused parks and more recreational programming throughout existing facilities. Responses clearly indicate a desire amongst residents for more social, recreational, educational, skill-building, interactive, and entertainment programming within the community and interest in attending programming in the City's park and recreation network. The 2017 survey results indicated a significant desire for cleaner restrooms and improvements to existing parks as well as improvements to walking and biking trails, trends once again seen in the most recent survey. Additionally, in 2022, respondents favored improved public water access and activation of the community's lake and river areas more than participants in 2017 did.

The lowest priority new facility was reported to be adding selfie stages (4%) in 2022, which was a similar result to the previous 2017 survey results. The highest priority new facility reported in 2022 was better maintenance at existing facilities and grounds throughout the community (indicated by 51% of respondents). A majority of the survey focused on how familiar respondents were with the existing parks, if they used the parks, and what additional facility upgrades might be needed in the parks. These questions were asked in relation to City-owned Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Specialized Parks.

Overall, most respondents engaged the most in swimming and beach use, wildlife viewing, visiting the zoo, utilizing the community's hiking, walking, and bicycling trails including the Mariners Trail, and attending the Farmers Market. Respondents used six of the City's key parks more than any others, with approximately 50% of respondents indicating that they visit the Lincoln Park Zoo, Henry Schuette Park, Mariners Trail, Citizen Park, and Silver Creek Park. Additionally, a number of respondents stated that they actively used the other City Parks, especially Red Arrow Park and Conservancy and Washington Park. Between the 2017 survey and the 2022 survey, data indicates that a smaller percentage of residents are using the Lincoln Park Zoo and Henry Schuette Park than previously, though this could be attributed to the larger sample of residents who participated in the 2017 survey. Some of the top needs in the City's existing parks included:

- Improving the maintenance of existing facilities for park users
- Improving, upgrading, or replacing existing facilities
- Increasing the amount of security lighting, public bathrooms, garbage receptacles
- Expanding/improving walking trails and public water access to areas with water resources

In total, over 100 written comments were provided within the 2022 survey. Below is brief summary of those responses. All responses gathered can be found in the Appendix.

- Many people enjoy the parks and recreational opportunities provided in Manitowoc and believe that increasing the community's awareness of the existing assets is key opportunity, in addition to building a tourism economy around the unique offering the City provides.



- Security upgrades in many of the parks are needed, in addition to enforcement of existing rules and off-leash dogs.
- Environmental protection and remediation efforts were strongly encouraged including tree management, beach maintenance, and erosion control.
- New recreational opportunities identified included boardwalks, bike racks, ATV trails, dirt pump tracks, recreational programming for all age levels, and more kayak and canoe rental and storage options.
- Upgrades to existing facilities included overall maintenance, playgrounds, access to special use areas, and increasing native plantings in mowed areas.
- Respondents felt that more recreational opportunities existed for trail connections, basketball hoops, events and festivals, outdoor exercise equipment, splash pads, pickleball courts, soccer fields, benches and shade trees, winter trails and activities, disc golf holes, bathrooms, dog-friendly locations, and fishing access points.
- Some respondents felt that the rental costs for shelters were too high and that swimming lesson costs could be reduced.

DRAFT PLAN REVIEW MEETINGS

On December 7, 2022, the Public Infrastructure Committee was provided with an overview of the survey results, key parkland standards and metrics, service area analysis, and ADA assessment. Committee members were encouraged by the survey results, ADA assessment, and progress with the planning process. No additional public comments were provided.

The Public Infrastructure Committee was provided the full Draft #1 Plan and revised Final Draft for review and comment between meetings.

On March 1, 2023, the Public Infrastructure Committee reviewed the Final Draft Plan, which included an overview of the plan, its recommendations, and the feedback gathered through public open house. Following the review and discussion, the Committee formally recommended the plan to the Plan Commission and City Council for adoption.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

On January 18, 2023, a public open house review of the Draft Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was held in conjunction with the City's Comprehensive Plan update process. City staff and Vandewalle & Associates organized and attended the meeting, which was held downtown at a local event venue. During the event, staff and consultants discussed various elements of each plan with interested residents, who were provided the opportunity to view plan materials, rank prioritized projects, comment, and ask questions. In total, approximately 25 people attended this two-hour event.

Directly following the in-person event, the City and consultants created an online version of the public open house reference materials and survey to provide the public with further access and opportunities to review and comment on the Draft Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan updates. The open house survey was available for public review and commenting from January 19 through February 8. A total of 45 people completed the online open house survey.

All feedback gathered through both events have been incorporated into this plan. A full summary of all feedback received can be found in the Appendix.

PLAN COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL ADOPTION

On April 17, 2023, a joint meeting of the Plan Commission and City Council was held. The meeting featured a public hearing, recommendation, and adoption of the plan by both bodies.



4

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

CHAPTER 4: GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

In order to conduct a thorough and accurate planning process, it is important to establish a set of goals, objectives, and policies that will serve as the basis for the recommendations in this Plan.

A Vision Statement is a high-level and overarching declaration on where the community would like to be at the end of the planning period. Vision statements set the framework for all goals, objective, and policies in advancing the community toward a common destination.

Goals are broad statements that express general public priorities. Goals are formulated based on the identification of key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the park system.

Objectives are more specific than goals and are usually attainable through strategic planning and implementation activities. Implementation of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.

Policies are rules and courses of action used to ensure plan implementation. Policies often accomplish a number of objectives, sometimes simultaneously.

The following vision statement and list of goals, objectives, and policies are based on the information that has been presented in the previous chapters of this Plan including public input and discussion amongst City staff and Public Infrastructure Committee members.

VISION STATEMENT

The City of Manitowoc will be a welcoming, healthy, vibrant, and interconnected community for all residents and visitors that features a robust parks and trails system and high quality of life highlighted by its recreational, historical, cultural, natural, and community assets.

GOALS

1. Ensure the provision and protection of sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas that meets the needs of and are accessible to all community members, promote public health, and provide diverse recreational opportunities.
2. Preserve the City's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.
3. Establish a safe, accessible, and interconnected multimodal transportation network to connect the City's park and recreation system to areas of activity and community neighborhoods.
4. Proactively advance public health through park and recreation planning efforts to create compelling, accessible, and user-friendly park and recreation networks that are well-activated and well-integrated into the community.



OBJECTIVES

1. Provide quality outdoor recreation, programming, and adequate open space, parklands, and facilities for each neighborhood of the community.
2. Integrate park, recreation, and natural resource preservation in land use planning policies and administration.
3. Establish an equitable user experience at all parks by providing diverse and equitably situated recreational opportunities so that residents of all demographic groups have an equal access and opportunity to enjoy the park and open space system.
4. Collaborate with other units of government, including Manitowoc County, WisDNR, and the Manitowoc School District on park and recreation system planning.
5. Plan and implement a comprehensive network of sidewalks, pedestrian paths, and bicycle routes in the City that serve neighborhoods, schools, parks, playgrounds, and activity centers.
6. Leverage public-private partnerships, local associations and foundations, and other creative funding sources to help improve and meet the long-term park and recreational needs of the community.
7. Recognize the links between the quality and accessibility of park and recreation facilities and public health outcomes, as well as the social determinants of health that can be positively impacted by quality park and recreational programming.
8. Account for and adapt to changing climate conditions, including the impacts of these changes on the design, construction, and character of new development and community facilities related to park and recreational planning.
9. Recognize and promote multimodal transportation network connections to increase access to community parks, recreational facilities, City neighborhoods, and downtown while decreasing reliance on automobiles.
10. Develop and implement sustainability best practices and strategies in all future policies and public investments as relates to park and recreation planning.
11. Strive to increase equity and representation in civic engagement for park and recreation planning, the provision of park and recreational services, and community programming activities and events.



POLICIES

1. Neighborhood parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood-gathering place. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance of all City residents, generally 1/3-mile service areas.
2. Require parkland dedication or fee-in-lieu standards for all new residential subdivisions and explore the potential creation of park improvement fees.
3. Explore City acquisition of park and open space lands in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and help facilitate site planning for development. Coordinate land acquisition with state, county, regional, and local agencies to ensure an interconnected system of outdoor recreational facilities.
4. Any new park development should be planned to consider its future impacts on the surrounding neighborhood and, where possible, mitigate nuisance situations.
5. Establish bicycle paths and routes on local streets throughout the community to connect neighborhoods with schools, parks, trails, and other destinations.

6. Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Manitowoc County, and the state to coordinate bicycle and pedestrian planning and planning for potential future alternative transportation corridors and transit modes. The provision of safe and convenient bike connections between park and open space facilities should be emphasized in on-going City planning and acquisition efforts and should follow State and ASSHTO standards.
7. Master plans should be considered for all future parkland development. These plans should indicate the future use of the facilities, equipment, and park grounds.
8. As opportunities become available and when deemed necessary or desirable, the City should consider purchasing properties adjacent to existing park properties to allow for the expansion of existing parks. The City will need to evaluate each opportunity to determine which properties will sufficiently meet the future needs of the park system.
9. Defend park and recreational areas against encroachments from non-conforming uses, both public and private. Where recreational land must be taken for another public use, it should be replaced with other land of similar quality and in a comparable location.
10. Consider combining City park and recreational facilities with school facilities, where appropriate and feasible.
11. Preservation of environmental corridors in their natural state should receive special attention to ensure the maintenance and integrity of wildlife and fish habitats, natural drainage areas, areas for passive recreation and outdoor recreation, steep slopes, riparian environments, woodlands, and reservoirs for sediment, where appropriate and particularly adjacent to Lake Michigan and the Manitowoc River.
12. Investigate all regulatory and acquisition tools available to preserve conservancy lands or other open space. Conservancy lands that can be adequately and appropriately protected without public expenditure should be preserved. Consider using public funds to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a high priority.
13. Establish ADA accessibility policies to be implemented in existing park improvements through compliance with ADA design guidelines and new park development through barrier-free design to increase park and recreational facility accessibility.
14. Utilize management practices that protect and enhance the natural features of all of the system's parks. This includes efforts to establish and maintain buffers for sensitive environmental areas, minimize fertilizer and pesticide use, and implement native species plantings and landscape initiative, to the extent possible.
15. Explore the acquisition and preservation of shoreline lands and integrate sustainable development that allows for public access and use where appropriate.
16. Implement the recommendations of the City of Manitowoc Comprehensive Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to promote healthy and active lifestyles through compact development patterns, land use practices that create easy access to community amenities and services, and the creation of an active transportation network that improves walkability and bikeability throughout the City.
17. Participate in future updates to regional and county Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plans and Parks and Open Space Plans.
18. Update the City's Noxious Weed Ordinance to reflect modern sustainability practices by allowing for more native habitat planting in parks and other areas throughout the community that provide pockets of habitat for pollinators and other species, decrease soil erosion, and increase water retention, filtration, and stormwater management. Update definitions so that native plants are no longer considered public nuisances and clearly define native plants and native plant areas.



19. Update the City’s Park Ordinance to incorporate language that protects park property from vandalism, littering, and encroachment, further updates park hours, exceptions, and Public Infrastructure Department powers related to park closures for public safety concerns.
20. Update the City’s Park Ordinance to incorporate language further defining regulations around vehicular use and operation within City parks, language establishing protection for natural resources within City parks from damage, alteration, littering, and other improper conduct.
21. Update the City’s Park Ordinance to further define locations in the park and trail system within which electric scooters, skate equipment, skis, snowshoes, sledding, and fat tire biking may be utilized.
22. Update the City’s Park Ordinance to incorporate language defining regulations for camping in the City’s park and recreation system.
23. Adopt a Complete Streets Policy that requires multi-modal elements as part of every roadway infrastructure project. Integrate United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, National Association of City Transportation Officials, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and Wisconsin Department of Transportation guidelines, best practices, and performance measures into the policy to facilitate true complete streets.
24. Consider developing and adopting a “Health in All Policies” initiative so that public health is integrated in all decision-making process City-wide, potentially in partnership with Healthiest Manitowoc County.
25. Utilize the City’s 5-year Capital Improvements Plan to pursue and implement the recommendations of this Plan.
26. Pursue becoming a designated Wisconsin Healthy Community.
27. Develop, host, or partner with the School District, Police Department, or other local organizations on bicycle and pedestrian education programs and other training to increase safety and utilization of trails, paths, sidewalks, and streets.
28. Maintain and update Comprehensive Park and Recreational planning efforts to ensure continued eligibility for State, Federal, and other funding sources for the acquisition and improvement of park-related projects and facilities.
29. Update the Urban Tree Ordinance and the Park Tree Management Plan to address emerald ash borer removal and replacement within City parks.
30. Develop an annual ADA improvement budget within each year’s Capital Improvements Plan to allocate funds towards the implementation of the ADA Assessment in all existing parks.
31. Develop and adopt a playground replacement policy that includes the provision of solid, ADA-accessible surfaces, equipment, and access.
32. Develop a policy and partnerships for the donation, repurposing, or selling of replaced playground equipment.



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**PARK AND OPEN
SPACES STANDARDS**

CHAPTER 5: PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

In order to guide the park planning process, it is important to establish a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents and to plan for future facilities based on projected population growth. As such, park and recreation standards are commonly developed using a ratio of the number of minimum acres recommended per 1,000 residents.

The following section details the local standards for park and recreational facilities. These standards are a combination of National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines and previously established best practice standards based on for Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. A calculation of community-specific standards is more likely to identify those park system deficiencies that would not otherwise be captured by universal or national standards. Furthermore, a locally derived standard does a better job of considering the quality of the park system as well as the quantity of park and recreational facilities provided.

For a full description of each park type in the City see Chapter 2.

NATIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPARABLE COMMUNITY'S STANDARDS

To understand the role that the City's Park and Trail System should play in providing park and recreation services, it is useful to understand the role of a municipal park system in the context of national, state, and county services provided.

- **National Parks** are scattered throughout the United States with massive tracts of land that serve as vacation destinations or wilderness areas. They are run by the Department of Interior of the United States government. There are no National Parks in Manitowoc County, but the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary runs along the coast of Lake Michigan in Manitowoc.
- **State Parks** exist as conservation areas, scenic drives, or as weekend getaways, typically away from population centers. State Parks are often designed to encourage tourism, but their primary purpose is to serve residents of their respective states. Nearby State Parks include Point Beach State Forest, Fischer Creek State Recreation Area, Woodland Dunes State Natural Area, and the Devil's River State Trail.
- **County Parks** function to fill in the gaps that municipal and state governments do not serve. The gaps can include serving a municipal function in portions of a county with municipalities too small to have enough resources to provide parks, conserving large areas of open space that municipalities cannot, or as a tourist venue for people from outside the county. Silver Lake Park and the Fischer Creek Conservation Area are examples of county parks located throughout Manitowoc County.
- **Municipal Parks** exist to serve residents of municipalities, sometimes on an hourly basis, as hosts for active athletic or recreation programs. The two most common types of municipal parks are Neighborhood and Community parks. Neighborhood parks are usually 1-10 acres in size and have a 1/3-mile service radius. Community parks are larger (10+ acres) and typically serve larger portions of the community with a 1-mile service radius.



On an annual basis, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) compiles data from around the U.S. on park and recreational departments and services provided. In 2022, the NRPA released its latest version of the Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks. It is important to compare the services that Manitowoc provides to the national averages as a benchmark for analysis. A few of the most applicable metrics include:

- On average, 10.4 acres of park land is provided per 1,000 residents in a jurisdiction.
- On a per park basis, there are an average of 2,323 residents per park.
- Per 10,000 residents, an equivalent 8.9 full-time employees on average are employed in each park and recreation department.

Another method in evaluating the existing Manitowoc Parks System is comparing it to other neighboring municipalities. In Figure 5.1, five other communities were selected that ranged in size between 25,410 – 66,816 in total population. Generally, Manitowoc compares very favorably to other similar sized communities in terms of park locations, residents per park, total acres, and acres per 1,000 residents.

To note, some communities have significant amounts of their existing total park acres that are constrained by environmental factors such as rivers, streams, steep slopes, natural areas, floodplain, and wetlands. Many do not account for that factor in their park planning, thus total acres shown below include both constrained and unconstrained land totals.

FIGURE 5.1. COMPARABLE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

Municipality	2020 Population	Number of Municipal Owned Parks	Residents Per Park	Total Acres*	Acres Per 1,000 People
City of Manitowoc	34,626	36	962	703.57	20.3
City of Sheboygan	49,929	36	1,387	614.04	12.3
City of Oshkosh	66,816	41	1,630	415.34	6.2
City of Fond du Lac	44,678	27	1,655	715.45	16.0
City of West Bend	31,752	36	882	1,271	40.0
City of Sturgeon Bay	9,646	16	603	92.20	9.6
City of De Pere	25,410	35	726	465.79	18.3
Average of Comparable Communities	37,551	32	1,121	611	18
NRPA Standards (2022)	-	-	-	-	National Average: 10.4

**Some communities listed in this analysis have a significant number of constrained acres that make up the total parkland acres documented in their respective Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Not all communities listed distinguish constrained from unconstrained acres, so both were considered in this analysis to provide a consistent data point for all communities.*

Source: V&A and City of Manitowoc, City of Sheboygan, City of Oshkosh, City of Fond du Lac, City of West Bend, City of Sturgeon Bay, City of De Pere, and the National Park and Recreation Association.

While it is important to evaluate Manitowoc based on both national averages and neighboring Wisconsin municipalities, it is difficult to do a one-to-one comparison between parks departments. This is because of the variability in department structure, amenities, distribution of county and state parks, and the number of natural resources in the area. Since there are so many variables, this plan will use customized local standards established for this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans to determine its existing service gaps and future needs.

MANITOWOC PARK STANDARDS

Overall, the City currently maintains a standard of approximately 20.3 total park acres per 1,000 residents and 13.1 active park acres per 1,000 residents. Because of the projected future increase in the population over the next 10-20 years, the number of acres per resident standard is expected to decrease over the planning period. However, the City

currently exceeds the number of park acres per resident compared to national standards. These factors indicate the most effective way to continue to provide excellent park and recreational amenities in Manitowoc will be to maintain the existing level of service standards (20.3 total park acres per 1,000 residents and 13.1 active park acres per 1,000 residents). This results in the City currently meeting its established standards.

FIGURE 5.2 FUTURE CITY OF MANITOWOC PARK STANDARDS

	2023 Total Acres	2023 Total Acres Per 1,000 Residents	2023 Standard Park Acreage Per 1,000 Residents	2023 Total Acres Needed to Meet Standard	2023 Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standard
All Parks	704	20.3	20.3	704	0

The City of Manitowoc’s 2022 population was used to calculate the above (34,722).

FIGURE 5.2 FUTURE CITY OF MANITOWOC PARK STANDARDS

	2022 Total Active Acres*	2022 Total Acres Per 1,000 Residents	2022 Standard Park Acreage Per 1,000 Residents	2022 Total Acres Needed to Meet Standard	2022 Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standard
All Active Parks	455	13.1	13.1	455	0

The City of Manitowoc’s 2022 population was used to calculate the above (34,722).

*Active acres are defined as those within Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks. Special Use facilities are often significantly constrained by natural features and provide less active recreation space for the purposes of this analysis.

Source: V&A and City of Manitowoc

Although the need and support to purchase additional lands for park use is not the top priority over the planning period, there may be opportunities to acquire key pieces of land to augment the park system as the community grows and develops. Some of these future opportunities should not be discounted and could include natural resource protection opportunities, public greenspace to support downtown and neighborhood functions, areas to serve future residential development, expansion opportunities for existing facilities, and trails to connect existing or future parks and wildlife habitats.

SERVICE AREAS

Maps 2a and 2b depict the service areas of existing Neighborhood and Community Parks based on their location within the community. This analysis is utilized to determine the existing service coverage of the City’s park system, in addition to forming the basis of the recommended new park locations as discussed in Chapter 7.

In most municipalities, service areas range between 1/4 – 1/3 mile because of the need to accommodate all modes of transportation access, especially people who may not own or be able to operate a vehicle (children, handicapped individuals, the elderly, etc.). 1/4 – 1/3 mile is seen as representative distance of mobility or how far most individuals can walk comfortably depending on age, health, and other factors. An additional consideration in the service areas provided by each Neighborhood and Community Park are access barriers (large roadways, natural features, bridges, etc.) and general development density. Barriers that may fall under these category include: I-43, Waldo Blvd., Maritime Drive, Calumet Avenue, and the Manitowoc and Little Manitowoc Rivers.

Park service areas were divided into two different distances based on the size, number of amenities, and ability to serve multiple recreational functions:

- Neighborhood Parks: 1/3 Mile Service Area
- Community Parks: 1 Mile Service Area

Using these service areas, Map 2 identifies a few small service gaps in Manitowoc:

- Far Northwest Side – While River Heights Park is nearby, it does not provide any active play areas. Residents may also utilize Fleetwood Park, but it is beyond 1/3 mile from several residential neighborhood areas and not accessible to all users.
- Far Northeast Side – There are very few, if any, residential neighborhoods in this location that are not served by nearby Community Parks or recreational areas in the City of Two Rivers. However, if future residential development takes place in this area, it is recommended that new active play areas within a Neighborhood Park be developed.
- Far Southwest Side – The only existing park on the west side of I-43 is Silveridge Park and the rest of the area is mostly industrial and commercial. However, if future residential development takes place in this area, it is recommended that new active play areas within a Neighborhood Park be developed.

In total, the existing park locations are fairly well distributed throughout the community and provide service to almost all existing neighborhoods and residents within one of the Neighborhood or Community Park service areas identified.

PROGRAMMING AND STAFFING

The City of Manitowoc’s mission is to provide and improve public safety, infrastructure and services across our community to ensure it is a great place to be. To this end, the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of the City’s park system is directed by the Public Infrastructure Department. A year-round recreation program for all ages and abilities is also provided by the department. Public and private school buildings are utilized at no cost to the department as per facility agreements.

The City’s Parks and Recreation Divisions consist of five (5) distinct subdivisions: Parks, Recreation, Zoo, Aquatic Center, and Senior Center. The manpower of these five sections is comprised of 12 full-time equivalent employees, and numerous part-time and seasonal employees. The main governing body for the Park and Recreation Division is the Public Infrastructure Committee. The division also receive advisory council from the Municipal Tree Commission and Committee on Aging.

In order to continue to provide the high level of service that the City desires, it is recommended that the existing ratio of full-time to part-time staff, in addition to the ratio of programming to maintenance staff be increased over the next five years. However, if new or expanded programming, facilities, or land acquisition takes place, additional staff should be considered and is recommended to maintain the existing level of service experienced in the community. According to the National Recreation and Park Association’s 2022 Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks Field Report, the national average of full-time park employees per 10,000 people in a jurisdiction is 8.9. This translates to approximately 31 parks and recreation staff needed to meet the national benchmark based on Manitowoc’s existing population.

The Parks Division maintains 36 park locations totaling 703.5 acres of parklands, boulevards, waysides, trails, and open spaces. It also is responsible for special event coordination and supplies amenities such as tables and band stages for these privately and publicly run events. Parks and City owned building refuse collection is undertaken by the Parks Division daily. Additionally, the Division maintains the Red Arrow Park, Lighthouse Park, Lakefront Park, and YMCA beach areas during the summer months. It also maintains the outdoor ice rink at Burger Boat Company Park during the winter season. Park facilities include ball diamonds, basketball facilities, cabins/field houses, concession stands, tennis courts,



volleyball courts, soccer fields, playgrounds, nature trails, cross country ski trails, multi-use facilities, beach areas, restroom/shelter facilities, disc golf, dog runs, and the Aquatic Center.

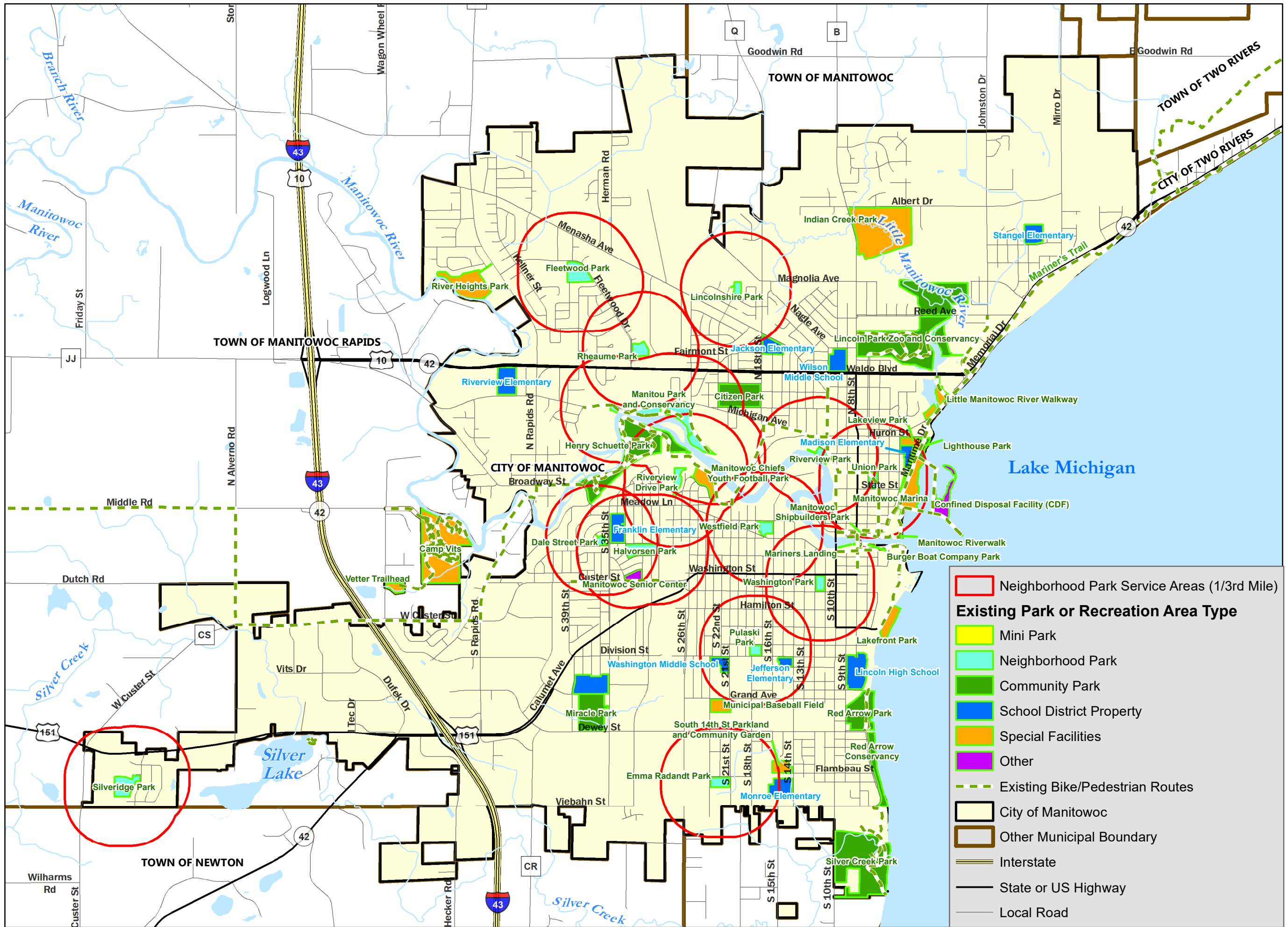
- The Recreation sub-division organizes plans, develops, and supervises a diversified program of recreation, sports, and special events for all ages and abilities. It also operates the Aquatic Center which is a regional draw for aquatic activities. All scheduling and reservations, as well as equipment rentals, are handled through this division.
- The Zoo sub-division houses a variety of local, regional, national, and international species of animals. The Zoo curators run programming and schedule facility reservations at this location. Zookeepers performance maintenance at the facility.
- The Senior Center sub-division administers and coordinates all activities of the Manitowoc Senior Center. Activities at the Center include day trips, seminars, physical fitness activities, life-long learning activities, special events, and recognition programs. The Senior Center, along with the Committee on Aging work hard to cooperate with, and assist, community organizations by providing space for a myriad of activities for older adults.
- The City's Forestry Division falls under the broader Streets Division and is responsible for over 9,300 street trees within the City limits. The City of Manitowoc invested in the development of a park tree inventory, a park tree management plan, and a cost/benefit analysis of inventoried park trees with grant monies from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The inventory was conducted by "Stratapoint Incorporated", and the analysis and plan development were performed by registered consulting arborist, Logan Nelson. Based on the inventory of Manitowoc park trees, the data analysis summarized the potential strengths and weaknesses identified within the Manitowoc parks tree population.



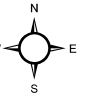
The Parks and Recreation Division cooperate and partner with various community organizations, school districts, businesses, and agencies throughout the region. The arrangement reduces overhead, enhances the department's revenues, and improves the breadth of recreational resources for the community.

Ensuring that local citizens are satisfied with programs and facilities, City staff work effectively with commerce and industry in Manitowoc to enhance the vitality and progress of the community. The development and maintenance of natural open areas available to all is also vital to the future success of the City. Parkland acquisition, development, and maintenance is carried on through both long-range planning, such as this document, as well as through the City's subdivision review, street assessment, and other business-related activities and programs. There are various other local organizations that provide recreational activities in various parks and facilities throughout the year. All other recreational programming is provided by School District and local sports groups and leagues.

The City is committed to improving the quality of life for all City residents and visitors. With 38 park sites accommodating an estimated 2022 city population of 34,722, the task is very challenging. This is accomplished by providing and promoting well maintained and fully functional parks, facilities, and public open spaces, as well as offering a variety of lifelong recreational opportunities and special events for people of all ages.



Data Sources:
 City of Manitowoc,
 Manitowoc County,
 Bay Lake RPC



2,000
 Feet

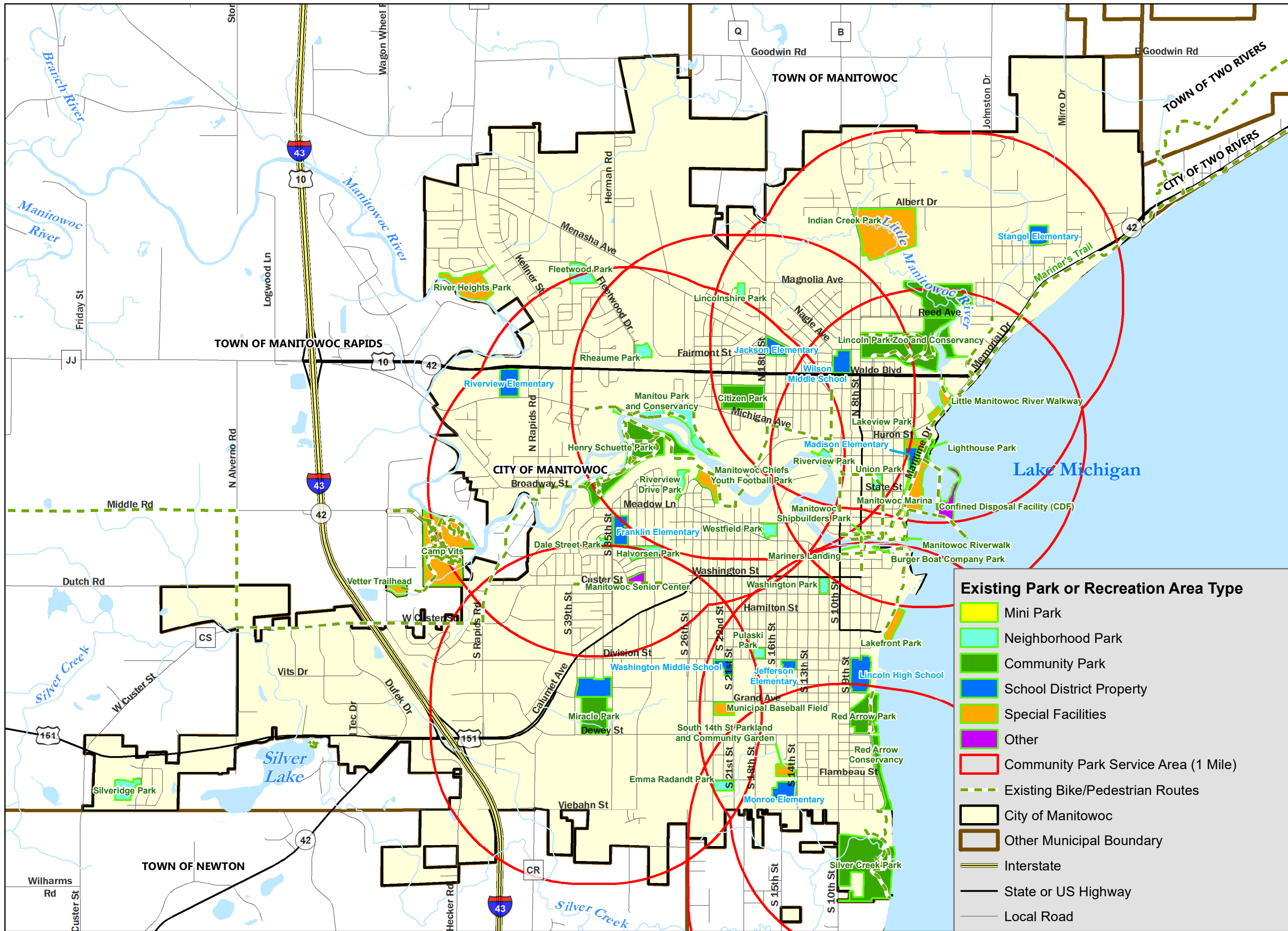
Date: 10/25/2022

Map 2a: Neighborhood Park Service Areas

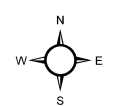
Manitowoc County, Wisconsin



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 ASSOCIATES INC.
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Data Sources:
 City of Manitowoc,
 Manitowoc County,
 Bay Lake RPC



2,000 Feet

Date: 10/25/2022

Map 2b: Community Park Service Areas

Manitowoc County, Wisconsin

Existing Park or Recreation Area Type

- Mini Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- School District Property
- Special Facilities
- Other
- Community Park Service Area (1 Mile)
- Existing Bike/Pedestrian Routes
- City of Manitowoc
- Other Municipal Boundary
- Interstate
- State or US Highway
- Local Road



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6

**ANALYSIS OF THE
EXISTING PARK AND
OPEN SPACE SYSTEM**

CHAPTER 6: ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

This Chapter presents an analysis of how well the City of Manitowoc’s existing park and recreational facilities meet community needs, evaluating the following components:

- An application of established local and national park and recreational facility service standards to reliable population projections for the City (Chapter 5).
- A qualitative and quantitative analysis of the City’s park system based on both an understanding of the City’s goals and objectives and an evaluation of the local demand for parkland and recreational facilities.
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of each park location.
- A consideration of public input regarding the future of the City’s park and open space system.
- A review of the Wisconsin’s State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

The results of this analysis will serve as the basis for the recommendations presented in Chapter 7.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

Existing Facilities

As documented in Chapter 5, the City’s existing park acres meet the established local standard per 1,000 residents (Figure 5.1). However, within Special Use Parks, there are significantly more environmental constraints including WisDNR wetlands and floodplains, steep slopes (greater than 12%), drainageways (75’ buffer around perennial streams or 50’ buffer around intermittent channels), and woodlands (combined 80% cover area). In calculating and analyzing the future park acres needed to accommodate the City’s growing population, the active parks areas or all Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks were separately determined.

FIGURE 6.1: TOTAL PARKLAND BY TYPE

Park Type	2023 Total Acres	2023 Total Acres Per 1,000 Residents
Mini and Neighborhood	100	3
Community	355	10
Special Use	249	7
Total	704	20

The City of Manitowoc’s 2022 population was used to calculate the above (34,722).

Source: V&A and City of Manitowoc

Future Park System Needs

Based upon the analyses provided, the City’s future local standard for total park acreage is 20.3 total acres per 1,000 persons and 13.1 active park acres per 1,000 persons.

Based on these standards, Figures 6.3 and 6.4 shows the minimal additional park acreage that will be needed to accommodate the City’s projected population in 2033 and in 2043. The 2033 projection will be used in Chapter 9 to determine recommended parkland dedication and impact fee requirements. The 2033 population projection was selected to more accurately reflect Chapters 66.0617 and 236.45 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The statutes related to impact fees specifies municipalities have a ten-year timeframe for collection and expenditure. Land acquisition and improvement recommendations are based on what the City can reasonably expect to accomplish in a ten-year timeframe.

Based on the population projections detailed in Chapter 1, the City is expected to grow by 255 residents by 2033 and 551 residents by 2043. If the established standards for parkland acres per 1,000 residents is maintained at its existing ratio, over the next twenty years, the City will need to acquire minimal new active parkland.

By 2033, it is recommended that the City acquire a minimum of 3-5 new acres of active parkland and 7-11 new acres by 2043 to meet the level of service established in the local standards. It is realistic to assume that the City could achieve these figures, however it is important to continuously consider budgetary constraints, growth patterns, and the willingness of landowners to sell.

FIGURE 6.3: PARK ACREAGE NEEDS, 2033

	2023 Total Acres	2023 Acres Per 1,000 Residents	Manitowoc Park Acreage Standard Per 1,000 Residents	2033 Total Acres Needed to Meet Projected Population Standards*	2033 Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standards*
All Total Parkland	704	20.3	20.3	709	5
Active Total Parkland	455	13.1	13.1	458	3

Note: all figures used in this table are rounded.

Source: V&A

* The City of Manitowoc's 2022 population was used to calculate the above (34,722). Population projection in 2032: 34,948

FIGURE 6.4: PARK ACREAGE NEEDS, 2043

	2023 Total Acres	2023 Acres Per 1,000 Residents	Manitowoc Park Acreage Standard Per 1,000 Residents	2043 Total Acres Needed to Meet Projected Population Standards*	2043 Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standards*
All Total Parkland	704	20.3	20.3	715	11
Active Total Parkland	455	13.1	13.1	462	7

Note: all figures used in this table are rounded.

Source: V&A

* The City of Manitowoc's 2022 population was used to calculate the above (34,722). Population Projection in 2042: 35,243

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Although quantitative standards provide a good basis for formulating the recommendations, a thorough assessment of the City's existing facilities must include an analysis that takes into consideration those characteristics that make Manitowoc unique from other communities, this includes:

- Identify those park system deficiencies and strengths that are not captured by universal standards.
- Ensure that future parks and recreational facilities are tailored to meet the needs of City residents.
- Allow for the establishment of a more reasonable and specialized level-of-service standard by which the City can plan its future park system.

Important factors to consider include the following:

- The quantitative analysis presented earlier in this Chapter does not include outdoor school recreational facilities because the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources does not consider these areas in the calculation of total parkland within a community. Additionally, they are prioritized for school district-based activities and can be closed to the public on occasion. While they do offer additional recreational facilities in many neighborhoods throughout the community and accommodate some of the local demand, they are not considered in the calculations and analysis of this Plan.
- The Ice Age National Scenic Trail runs through Manitowoc, and nearby amenities offered by state, county, or other municipalities also contribute to the area's overall parks, recreation, and open space system. Each helps serve Manitowoc residents, although most are only accessible to the City's residential areas by vehicle or bicycle.
- City residents have access to many recreational facilities, however, the survey results (see Appendix) indicated there is a desire for some additional facilities and amenities such as:
 - New and/or improved facilities to provide water access to area water resources such as Lake Michigan and the Manitowoc River
 - More restrooms at existing parks
 - Improving walking and biking trail conditions and the trail network
 - More benches and rest areas
 - Playfields
 - Better security lighting at existing facilities

GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The location and distribution of the park and open space facilities in relation to a community's residents is also an important indicator of how well existing facilities meet the needs of the community. Maps 2a and 2b illustrate how effectively the City of Manitowoc's parklands serve the various developed areas of the City. These service areas are based on the local service area standards identified in Chapter 5. An analysis of existing park service areas is utilized to determine the existing service coverage of the park system in addition to forming the basis of the recommended new park locations as discussed in Chapter 7.

The area served by a park is influenced by several factors. These include the size of the park, location, transportation accessibility, and natural or manmade barriers. Displaying park service areas based on these factors suggests locations where additional park facilities might be necessary to serve residents.

Generally, the City is well-covered with Community and Neighborhood Parks in the areas where the majority of residents live. However, there are existing service gaps in the far extents of the community in the northwest, northeast, and southwest corners of Manitowoc. This is fairly common as most peripheral edges of a community are where future growth is occurring or planned.

As the City continues to grow, existing and future gaps in park and recreation facility service areas will need to be addressed in each of the service areas gaps shown on Map 2a and 2b. If the community continues to grow in these areas, there may be opportunities to fill these existing gaps with the addition of new parkland so future residents have equitable access to all types of parklands, open space, and recreational opportunities.



REVIEW OF THE WISCONSIN STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2019-2023 (SCORP)

The last component of this needs assessment involves a review of the State of Wisconsin's 2019-2023 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Some of the key issues, concerns, and factors influencing the future of outdoor recreation include:

- Demographic shifts in age, urbanization, and diversification
- The declining overall maintenance of infrastructure, especially recreational facilities
- Technology advances affecting the way we travel, use parks, and distribute information
- Equitable distribution of public lands
- Declining habitat quality and invasive species maintenance
- Increasing extreme weather events and weather pattern shifts
- Funding opportunities and increasing costs

To note, as of the writing of this Plan, no update information was currently available on the next statewide plan. It is anticipated that the state plan will be updated sometime following the adoption of this Plan in 2023.

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**PARK FACILITY
RECOMMENDATIONS**

CHAPTER 7: PARK FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter provides detailed recommendations to expand and improve Manitowoc’s existing park and open space system based on current deficiencies and opportunities identified in the preceding chapters of this Plan, as well as new park and facilities needs as indicated by future population growth. These recommendations are also guided by the goals, objectives, and policies outlined earlier in this Plan.

Based on the City’s projected population and local standards, Manitowoc will need to provide approximately 3-5 additional parkland acres in 2033 and 7-11 additional acres of parkland in 2043. It is also recommended that various additional improvements to existing parks also be made.

Over the planning period, the focus will be on maintaining, programming, and improving existing park and recreational facilities throughout the community, and that additional improvements in multimodal, active use trail connections be made. As Manitowoc continues to grow, further moderate development of passive, nature-oriented park space, in addition to active park development is recommended. This recommendation assumes that Manitowoc will continue to grow at a modest rate, and that park and open space planning will be oriented toward serving a steadily growing population. The timing of park acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational facilities in the City’s developed and newly developed areas.

Map 3 shows the approximate locations for future recreational facilities in the City. More precise park boundaries will be determined during formulation of specific neighborhood plans, during the preliminary stages of detailed site development plans, or when lands are acquired or platted. Proactive identification of lands suitable for active parks or natural areas worthy of conservation is recommended early in the development process.

Additionally, an evaluation tool was created to help score and compare proposed parkland when it is presented to the City during the plat review process. The tool utilizes nine different criteria to evaluate proposed parkland and can be used to assess a proposed subdivision plat to determine if there is proposed to be enough parkland, the proposed parkland is the right type of land, and if other land that may be better suited for park and open space in the area. See the evaluation tool, criteria, and scorecard below. It is recommended that the evaluation criteria be used in all future discussions and reviews of subdivision plats and potential parkland acquisition.



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS

Recommended park improvements were developed through feedback from the Public Infrastructure Committee, City staff, and the public, a review of the goals, objectives, and policies of existing plans, and the inventory and analysis of existing park and recreation system conditions within Manitowoc. This comprehensive analysis led to the following list of existing park recommendations.

FIGURE 7.1 RECOMMENDED MINI PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Site Name	Recommended Improvements
General Overarching Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving wayfinding signage. Add a paved platform or formalize space for the community’s portable band shell to increase the event capacity at key locations, where appropriate. Security upgrades. Add bicycle racks. Implement the ADA Assessment.
Burger Boat Company Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a shelter or gazebo. Complete a Park Master Plan. Implement the recommendations of the Downtown Master Plan, Manitowoc Riverwalk Master Plan and Design Guidelines, and Downtown River Corridor Plan.
Manitowoc Shipbuilders Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add bicycle racks.
Mariner’s Landing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install permanent picnic tables. Implement the recommendations of the Downtown Master Plan, Manitowoc Riverwalk Master Plan and Design Guidelines, and Downtown River Corridor Plan.

FIGURE 7.2 RECOMMENDED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Site Name	Recommended Improvements
General Overarching Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving wayfinding signage. Add a paved platform or formalize space for the community’s portable band shell to increase the event capacity at key locations, where appropriate. Security upgrades. Establish uniform shelter rental signage for noticing when shelters are rented. Add bicycle racks. Add benches and shade trees. Add pickleball courts when repairing or replacing any existing tennis court. Where applicable, implement the recommendations of the Manitowoc Riverwalk Master Plan and Design Guidelines, Riverwalk Engineering Study, Manitowoc River Watershed Water Trail Plan, and environmental plans and studies as documented in Chapter 8. Implement the ADA Assessment.
Dale Street Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace existing playground equipment.
Emma Radandt Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install new permanent bathrooms. Add walking trail. Add sports court.
Fleetwood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install new permanent bathrooms. Improve walking trails through widening, boardwalks, and bridges. Upgrade ditches. Replace playground equipment. Add a trail connection to School District property. Add a pump track. Add an RC park. Explore opportunities for a new regional stormwater facility on-site to assist in mitigating stormwater impacts from surrounding neighborhoods.
Halvorsen Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a new splash pad. Replace playground equipment.

Lincolnshire Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace playground equipment. • Connect park to future trail opportunity to the north.
Manitou Park and Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a pedestrian bridge across the Manitowoc River, connecting Manitou Park with Henry Schuette Park. • Develop a park restoration plan and remove invasive species and replace with native plantings. • Upgrade or replace the ADA boat launch and fishing pier.
Pulaski Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new splash pad. • Replace playground equipment.
Rheaume Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace playground equipment. • Upgrade parking lot surface. • Add a new walking path around the park. • Install pickleball courts. • Install shelter/pavilion. • Address stormwater issues.
Riverview Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Riverwalk Preliminary Design and Engineering Study to develop a new trail along the bank of the river with bank and bluff stabilization. • Replace playground equipment. • Install scenic overlook.
Riverview Drive Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail connection to Manitowoc Chiefs Youth Football Park. • Replace playground equipment.
Silveridge Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Master Plan for the park to determine future use and improvements. • Add a new walking path around the park.
Union Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new splash pad. • Establish new sports courts. • Improve ADA access to plaza. • Replace playground equipment.
Washington Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade basketball courts. • Upgrade bandshell.
Westfield Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the existing paved court area. • Add an RC park. • Replace playground equipment.

FIGURE 7.3 RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Site Name	Recommended Improvements
General Overarching Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving wayfinding signage. • Add a paved platform or formalize space for the community’s portable band shell to increase the event capacity at key locations, where appropriate. • Security upgrades. • Establish uniform shelter rental signage for noticing when shelters are rented. • Add bicycle racks. • Add benches and shade trees. • Add pickleball courts when repairing or replacing any existing tennis court. • Where applicable, implement the recommendations of the Manitowoc Riverwalk Master Plan and Design Guidelines, Riverwalk Engineering Study, Manitowoc River Watershed Water Trail Plan, and environmental plans and studies as documented in Chapter 8. • Implement the ADA Assessment.
Citizen Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade City baseball fields and concessions building. • Conduct a building assessment of the Recreation Center building to identify the renovations and improvements needed. • Add outdoor lighting to sports courts. • Add sand volleyball court. • Work with local organizations to determine the long-term operational responsibility of the Aquatic Center and mini golf course.

Henry Schuette Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a pedestrian bridge north over the Manitowoc River connecting to Manitou Park trail system. Implement the Lower Henry Schuette Park Bridge Analysis. • Replace playground surface and long-term replace the community-built playground equipment. • Provide additional wayfinding signage within the park, between the upper and lower portions, and along the trails. • Add a new shelter with an information kiosk. • Add a permanent restroom in the lower portion of the park. • Establish and groom winter trails. • Implement the Lower Henry Schuette Park Restoration Plan.
Lincoln Park and Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the City of Manitowoc Lincoln Park Zoo Master Plan and Little Manitowoc River Restoration Plan. • Replace existing park road with improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. • Improve the day camp areas throughout the park. • Explore options for moving the Zoo entrance to Reed Avenue. • Develop a new pedestrian bridge over the creek and develop trail connections to the east and north. • Add archery range in conservancy area. • Upgrade all existing tennis courts and add pickleball court lines. • Complete wetland enhancements and remove invasive species and replant native plantings. • Develop a stormwater plan for the site to improve water conveyance, filtration, and treatment from the zoo area.
Lighthouse Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand walking paths throughout the park and connections to adjacent parks and trails. • Remove invasive species and replant native plantings. • Add benches along North Pier. • Implement the Maritime Bluff and Shoreline Restoration Plan. • Develop a Park Master Plan if the Army Corp of Engineers transfers ownership of the Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) area extending into Lake Michigan.
Miracles Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Manitowoc Public School District to establish City use of the soccer fields and parking area north of the park or acquiring those facilities directly from the district. • Establish improved connections between the skatepark, parking area, and playground. • Establish improved connections and signage between southern playfield and parking area. • Add off-street parking along 39th Street.
Red Arrow Park and Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new trail connecting Red Arrow Park with the UW-Green Bay Campus trail. • Provide an ADA accessible pathway to access the beach from the park. • Establish an on-site festival area that could be the construction of a building or facility to increase event and rental capacity at the park on the existing hill or grass area. • Expand tennis courts, add outdoor lighting and pickleball courts. • Improve and expand the boat launch. • Convert or add a concession stand and showers to the existing enclosed changing room shelter. • Create trail connection to tennis courts and baseball diamond from the park to Lincoln High School. • Establish additional programming at the park to further utilize existing green space. • Develop a paved platform and wider connection to the beach to use the community's existing portable bandshell on site. • Implement the Lakeside Bluff Management Plan to improve bluff stabilization.
Silver Creek Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add permanent restrooms to south parking lot. • Add an ice rink and warming house with skate rentals and fat tire bike rentals. • Upgrade existing concession stand building. • Complete a tree inventory to address removal and replacement of ash trees. • Consider establishing formal rentable campsites within the park. • Incorporate signage along the trail to the beach and to multiple parking areas. • Improve the shelter at the top of the hill and create a trail connection to it, including signage. • Develop a new trail connection across the UW-Green Bay Campus to connect to Red Arrow Park to the north. • When completed, implement the Stream Restoration Plan and Habitat Restoration Plan.

FIGURE 7.4 RECOMMENDED SPECIAL USE PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Site Name	Recommended Improvements
General Overarching Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving wayfinding signage. • Security upgrades. • Establish uniform shelter rental signage for noticing when shelters are rented. • Add bicycle racks. • Add benches and shade trees. • Where applicable, implement the recommendations of the Manitowoc Riverwalk Master Plan and Design Guidelines, Riverwalk Engineering Study, Manitowoc River Watershed Water Trail Plan, and environmental plans and studies as documented in Chapter 8. • Implement the ADA Assessment.
Camp Vits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new boardwalks on trails through wetland areas. • Create new trail connection to Ice Age Trail. • Develop permanent on-site bathrooms. • Establish new water access points for non-motorized boats. • Remove invasive species and replant native plantings. • Complete streambank stabilization through addressing water conveyance from adjacent neighborhoods.
Indian Creek Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop permanent on-site bathrooms. • Establish a fence around the existing dog run area. • Add signage for the parking area off of Albert Drive. • Expand the park’s trail network on the underutilized east side of the property. Explore the option of a boardwalk through the on-site wetlands. • Establish a north-south trail connection between Albert Drive and railroad. • Complete an environmental restoration plan for the property to identify streambank stabilization measures, removal of invasive species and replacement with native plantings, and forested area management.
Lakeview Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove invasive species and replant native plantings. • Implement the Maritime Bluff and Shoreland Restoration Plan.
Lakefront Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an improved parking area. • Complete a stormwater management plan to identify ways to combine stormwater discharge points and treat stormwater on-site. • Construct restrooms and a bathhouse. • Establish dune grasses to help with coastal and beach erosion issues and beach nourishment.
Little Manitowoc River Walkway and Prairie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an expanded trail system, which could include boardwalks over wetland areas. • Add benches. • Improve on-site prairie with removing invasive species and replacing with native plantings.
Manitowoc Chiefs Youth Football Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add trail connection to Riverview Drive Park. • Install new river access point.
Manitowoc Marina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the reuse of the parking and boat storage area for RV camping. • Upgrade or replace dock.
Manitowoc River Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an expanded riverwalk system through redevelopments that occur along the river.
Municipal Baseball Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new projects are proposed, continue transfer of property to School District.
South 14th Street Parkland and Community Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a passive trail network through the forested areas of the park connecting to the community gardens and adjacent school site.
River Heights Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop walking trails through park. • Install kayak and fishing water access point and platform. • Improve park entry access and signage.
Vetter Trailhead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove invasive species and replant native plantings. • Complete streambank stabilization through addressing water conveyance from adjacent neighborhoods.

Over the next 5 years, it is unrealistic to think that all projects for each park and trail will be implemented. To account for this, the recommendations provide a broad range of projects that can be implemented incrementally in the short, medium, and long term as deemed feasible by the City. For the proposed parks and recreation Capital Improvement Plan see Chapter 9.

RECOMMENDED NEW PARKS

Future infill and new development may result in the need for additional Neighborhood and Community Parks. Map 3 shows potential locations for additional new parks and potential expansion areas for existing parks. Specific park facility boundaries in these general locations will be determined when the lands are platted or acquired. The following is a description of these general park recommendations. Models for Neighborhood and Community Parks can be found in the Appendix.

Existing Park Expansion Opportunities

Downtown

Adjacent to the new River North Apartment redevelopment along the northside of the Manitowoc River is the CN property that is planned for further redevelopment. This area could provide an opportunity for a new mini park location serving the new residents of the area or an additional downtown gathering place along the river. It is also a key trail corridor opportunity for further expansion of the riverwalk.

Henry Schuette Park/Manitou Park and Conservancy

Directly across the Manitowoc River (northside) from the lower portion of Henry Schutte Park is a meandering section of the river with lowland habitat. This area presents an opportunity for expansion of Manitou Park and Conservancy to the west and future connections to Henry Schuette Park to the south, which could serve as a new passive recreational amenity and riverwalk trail connection.

Camp Vits/Vetter Trailhead

Directly surrounding Vetter Trailhead to the south is an existing undeveloped property adjacent to the railroad line. This a logical expansion area of the park to provide improved connections to Camp Vits and expanded interior trail opportunities. Additionally, there are two similar properties to the east and north of Camp Vits that could provide park expansion options, natural resource preservation, and increased river access points/trails.

Fleetwood Park

Adjacent to Fleetwood Park are two large undeveloped properties to the west. One property is already owned by the City of Manitowoc and the other is owned by the School District. This mature wooded area could be further preserved as an expansion of Fleetwood Park and a portion could be utilized to assist in regional stormwater mitigation.

Manitowoc Public School District Soccer Complex

Directly to the north of Miracles Park, the School District owns a 17.8-acre property, which includes multiple developed soccer fields. Overall, the City has a lack of developed soccer fields within its existing recreational inventory, but one is currently located in Miracles Park. It may make sense to expand the park north to increase connections, on-site circulation, and offer multiple soccer fields in the same location for recreational use by residents. A potential land swap or other similar agreement may be needed between the City and School District to acquire the property.

Archer Street

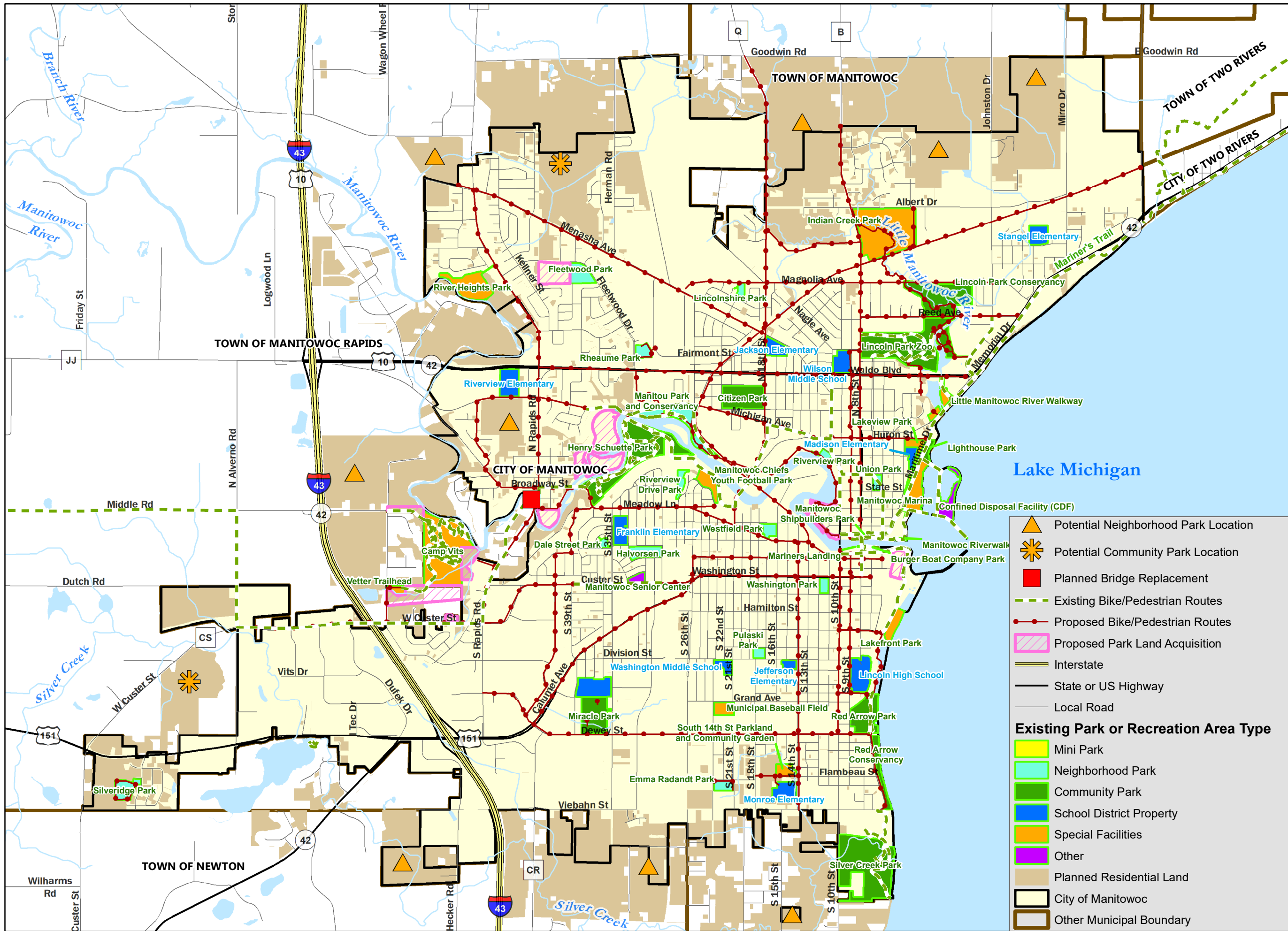
Just east of Henry Schutte Park, there is a large bend in the Manitowoc River where the topography slopes down from the existing neighborhood to the north. This area is well suited to serve as new passive recreation opportunity, river access point, or a potential campground. It could also provide a new trail connection from Archer Street to Broadway Street and eventually Henry Schutte Park. The site is currently underutilized and would provide another riverfront park location in the City.

New Neighborhood Parks

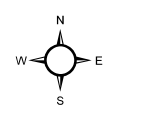
There are nine total proposed new Neighborhood Parks identified on Map 3 in the City's planned residential growth areas. These parks are intended for recreational activities serving areas that may be developed in the near future. They should be easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood with safe walking and bicycling access, and approximately 5-10 acres, serving an area within a 1/3 radius, or a population of 1,000 to 5,000 persons. Map 3 does not depict the exact future locations of each park, instead they are recommendations for general areas in which future Neighborhood Parks should be accommodated as part of new residential neighborhoods that may be developed in the future.

New Community Parks

There are two total proposed new Community Parks identified on Map 3 in the City's planned residential growth areas. These parks will serve both short-term and long-term future development. They may include recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, swimming pools, a community center, tennis courts, and others. They may also contain areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, bicycling, sitting, viewing, and picnicking. It is important that these parks be located on or near a major thoroughfare, have adequate off-street parking, and also be accessible by foot and bicycle. These parks should be approximately 20-40 acres and serve an area within a 1-mile radius. Map 3 does not depict the exact future locations of each park, instead they are recommendations for general areas in which future Community Parks should be accommodated as part of new residential neighborhoods that may be developed in the future.



Data Sources:
 City of Manitowoc,
 Manitowoc County,
 Bay Lake RPC



2,000 Feet

Date: 10/25/2022

Map 3: Planned Park Facilities

Manitowoc County, Wisconsin

- Potential Neighborhood Park Location
 - Potential Community Park Location
 - Planned Bridge Replacement
 - Existing Bike/Pedestrian Routes
 - Proposed Bike/Pedestrian Routes
 - Proposed Park Land Acquisition
 - Interstate
 - State or US Highway
 - Local Road
- Existing Park or Recreation Area Type**
- Mini Park
 - Neighborhood Park
 - Community Park
 - School District Property
 - Special Facilities
 - Other
 - Planned Residential Land
 - City of Manitowoc
 - Other Municipal Boundary



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SPECIAL USE FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

Through the planning process, additional unique recreational opportunities were identified. In the future development and upgrades of existing and new parks, it is recommended that the City consider the following unique opportunities and partnerships as population and demand increase:

ADA Facilities and Accessibility

As part of this planning process, an ADA Assessment of the City's existing parks and trails was completed. The assessment's recommendations are provided in the Appendix and have identified improvements needed at all park locations. It is recommended that the upgrades to each park in accordance with the assessment be pursued over the planning period. Focus should be placed on making improvements based on similar types of projects (sidewalks, pavement stripping, signage, etc.) as part of an annual line item in the City's Capital Improvements Plan. Additionally, with any new facility constructed, special attention should be placed on creating an equitable and fully ADA accessible facility that reflects all federal guidelines.

Community Gardens

The South 14th Street Community Gardens and Parkland have provided a model for how community gardens can benefit the neighborhood and community overall through healthy food options, recreational opportunities, and gathering spaces. Smaller versions of 6-10 plot community gardens could be accommodated in a wide variety of parks and be operated and maintained by local neighborhood associations, organizations, and other similar groups with very little resources required by the City resources. It is recommended that throughout the existing park system, new community gardens be developed in underutilized spaces.

In terms of future parkland that may be acquired and developed by the City, an alternative approach should be considered. This would include expanding upon the traditional thinking in terms of community gardens to include a larger, tillable area for produce growing with water access. In particular, the Hmong community in Manitowoc has expressed a desire for this type of urban agriculture to facilitate larger crop production within the City's borders. While there aren't any examples of this type of facility provided in Manitowoc today, several other communities around the state and country have employed a similar approach to offering larger-scale urban agricultural facilities.



Splash Pad

A splash pad has become a very popular alternative to community swimming pools because they are far less expensive to build and maintain, and because they are safer and do not require constant lifeguard supervision. Splash pads also function as interesting features of community civic spaces. The City of Manitowoc just completed a new splash pad at Citizen Park within the Aquatic Center, however there are several other existing Neighborhood and Community Parks that could benefit from a splash pad in other areas of the community.

When planning for a new splash pad, it is important to consider the intended size of the facility, its proposed location in relationship to water and stormwater infrastructure, and long-term operating expenses. There are two common types of splash pads, flow-through and recirculation. A flow-through facility brings new water each day through the features and then drains that water into stormwater sewers. This type of facility is less expensive to construct and operate (\$350,000-\$400,000), but is limited in size to 2,400-3,000 square feet because the maximum water capacity of a flow-through is

50,000 gallons per day. A recirculation facility brings water through the features, collects the water used, filters the water, and then recirculates it through the features. This type of facility is more expensive to construct and operate long-term (\$600,000-\$700,000) because it is required to meet state pool code and requires regular County and City staff inspections. However, it does provide greater flexibility in overall size and number of features. Most often, a recirculation splash pad makes the most sense for a larger planned facility with lots of infrastructure, such as an aquatic center or existing community pool. Flow-through splash pads are commonly used in smaller settings such as a Neighborhood Park.

Pickleball Courts

Pickleball is an increasingly popular recreational pastime across the country. The game is becoming a popular alternative to tennis and the nature of the gameplay allows it to be accessible to many different age groups. Pickleball is particularly popular with middle-aged and older recreationists, who make up a significant segment of Manitowoc’s population, and public input in the planning process identified significant interest in the installation of courts. There are several pickleball facilities, leagues, and groups already established throughout Manitowoc and the greater Manitowoc County region. If an opportunity is presented to add this type of facility in an existing or future park, it is recommended that the City strongly consider such a facility. One way to accommodate new pickleball courts in the City at a low cost is to paint minimally intrusive pickleball lines on existing tennis courts.

Water Access Improvements

The City of Manitowoc has abundant water access opportunities throughout the community on the Manitowoc River, Little Manitowoc River, Lake Michigan, and several other smaller creeks and streams. Many existing parks have direct water access, and it is recommended that these locations be improved and enhanced over the planning period. This can be done through improved or expanded docks, landings, and drop-in locations, enhanced recreational opportunities at each access point through interpretive signage, non-motorized boat rentals, fishing spots, bathrooms, picnic areas, or shelters, and improved navigability of the waterways themselves through bank erosion mitigation, tree and brush maintenance, dune preservation, and invasive species removal and replacement with native plantings. Additionally, there are many new opportunities for new water access points in both existing parks and non-City owned properties. It is recommended that the establishment and enhancement of the water trail network throughout Manitowoc remain a priority project over the planning period.



Permanent Outdoor Events Venue & Portable Bandshell Platforms

To provide space for community programming and further activate the City’s park and recreation system, the City should consider the creation of permanent outdoor event venues or foundational platforms for use of the community’s existing portable bandshell at various park spaces. Popular around the country for creating space for active community use, a dedicated event space could be designed to host summer concert series, food truck events, festivals and celebrations, and facilitate community gathering. The survey conducted among City residents as part of this planning process confirmed that residents desire to have festivals and more meaningful programming and gathering opportunities. In considering the incorporation of such an amenity into the parks and recreation network, it is recommended that the City identify a central, widely accessible location for such a facility. A permanent outdoor events venue could be used to activate a location downtown along the community’s main street or could be located to provide residents with access to the Manitowoc River, further cementing the natural feature as a key characteristic of the community. Additionally, the

City should consider creating a number of dedicated platforms to allow for the use of its portable bandshell within more parks throughout the community to further supplement community programming.

Beer Garden

Beer gardens have become very popular in many communities as a seasonal amenity that can be used to generate new revenue for the community and create a gathering space for residents during warm months. They do not take up a large amount of space and can utilize an existing shelter, parking lot, or open space area. Examples of beer gardens that have been successfully implemented in existing parks include a traveling beer garden throughout Milwaukee County, multiple permanent beer gardens in Milwaukee County Parks within the City of Milwaukee, and the annual beer garden at Olbrich Park in Madison.

Disc Golf

Manitowoc features several existing disc golf courses within its park system. These courses are highly utilized by local residents and attract visitors from the greater area. The sport is also growing widely in popularity and experienced a surge of participation during the pandemic. In 2022, there are now more than 13,000 courses across the world, which is double the number of courses there were just seven years ago (Source: Ultiworld Disc Golf, 2022). It is recommended that the addition of new disc golf courses be considered as new parks are developed or in further development of underutilized spaces in existing parks, especially Special Use Areas.



Other Potential Opportunities for Special Use Areas

- There are several opportunities to establish designated overnight tent camping sites within existing Special Use Parks. Additionally, camping could also be accommodated at the Manitowoc Marina parking and boat storage area in the form of RV and trailer camper sites. However, this will require infrastructure upgrades, strategic siting, and potentially additional staffing for reservations, cleanup, and maintenance.
- Closed-circuit remote-control car tracks provide another unique recreation opportunity that could be accommodated in those parks with underutilized areas and adjacent electrical connections.
- Archery and shooting ranges have limited opportunities within existing parks due to the proximity of adjacent residential neighborhoods, but future Special Use Areas that are strategically located could potentially accommodate this unique recreational use.
- Winter recreational trails could be expanded, improved, and groomed in many of the Special Use Parks for off-road and fat tire biking and cross-country skiing. This has already taken place in some existing parks, but could be further expanded.



8

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 8: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter provides detailed recommendations on other key components that play a role in the community's park and open space offerings including natural resources, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and programming. These recommendations are also guided by the goals, objectives, and policies outlined earlier in this Plan.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2021, the City of Manitowoc completed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in conjunction with the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission that identified, analyzed, and prioritized future bicycle and pedestrian connections and improvements. Outside of the recommended trail connections to future planned parks on Map 3, this Plan recognizes and furthers the recommendations of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Additionally, several other trail plans and studies have been completed. These include:

- Manitowoc Riverwalk Master Plan and Design Guidelines
- Downtown Manitowoc Master Plan
- Riverwalk Engineering Study
- Manitowoc River Watershed Water Trail Plan
- Lower Henry Schuette Park Bridge Analysis

COMMUNITY-WIDE BENEFITS OF TRAILS

Trails provide tangible benefits to communities across the county as they promote physical and mental health, offer inclusive and equitable outdoor recreation opportunities, stimulate economic development, and provide sustainable transportation infrastructure. Together, these benefits increase the local quality of life for all residents and visitors of the community.

Physical and Mental Health: A 2014 study by the American Journal of Public Health found that there is a direct and significant measurable correlation between how close people live to bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure and the amount of weekly exercise people get. Additionally, a 2011 study by the American Heart Association found that every \$1 invested in building trails is a direct correlation to \$3 of saved medical costs. Finally, a 2019 study by University of Exeter published in the Scientific Report found that 2 hours a week in the outdoors has a measurable impact on mental health. Proximity also matters, as most people studied lived within 2 miles of trail.

Equity: Trails promote social, racial, gender, and economic equity through strengthening the community, building sustainable interactions and outdoor recreation opportunities, and improving quality of life. Trails are the most potent tools in maintaining and improving urban viability and appealing to a broad range of demographic groups in choosing where they live, work, and play.

Economic Development: The outdoor recreation economy generates over \$887 billion dollars in consumer spending each year across the United States, including over \$59 billion in state and local tax revenue. Beyond just tax revenue, other economic benefits include property value increases and creation of jobs. In fact, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects create 8-12 jobs per \$1 million of spending. (Garrett-Peltier, 2011)

Sustainable Transportation: Trails are truly infrastructure that enhances quality of life through connecting communities and destinations, spurring economic development locally and regionally, reducing our collective carbon footprint, and preserving the natural environment.

Source: American Trails, 2022

In combination, these plans and studies mirror the recommendations of the City's 2023 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The implementation of these plans is a high priority over the planning period, as detailed below.

Proposed Paths and Trails

This Plan recommends several off-street paths and trail segments within the community's existing boundary and growth area. These trails and paths are essential to linking existing and future neighborhoods to on-street bicycle routes, parks and environmental corridors, existing and future school sites, and the Manitowoc River.

Unpaved natural trails serve to connect facilities within developed parks and can serve as the main recreational element of an undeveloped park. This type of trail is most appropriate for natural resource areas such as Red Arrow Park and Conservancy, Little Manitowoc River, Manitowoc River, and other similar environmental corridors. Each of these areas present opportunities for urban hiking, further community-wide trail connectivity, and could potentially include boardwalks over wetland and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Paved paths serve developed parks to connect on-site park facilities or connect multiple recreational locations together. In accordance with the recommendations of the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the City should develop a system of connector trails that would solidify and connect to the network of greater regional trails. Ultimately the City's trails should extend beyond the City limits and connect to other County and State trails. The key elements of the City's trail system are listed below. The trail routes will involve a combination of City-owned park and conservancy land, easements through private property, Ice Age Trail routes, and sections on public street right-of-way.

- S. Lakeshore Trail (Silver Creek Park to 8th St. Bridge).
- Mariners Trail (8th St. Bridge to Two Rivers).
- Manitowoc River Trail (downtown to Henry Schuette Park/Manitou Park).
- Little Manitowoc River Trail (Lincoln Park to N. 18th St.).

MANITOWOC RIVERWALK

A primary goal of the City is to implement the recommendations within its Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Comprehensive Plan, Riverwalk Engineering Study, Manitowoc Riverwalk Master Plan and Design Guidelines, Manitowoc River Watershed Water Trail Plan, and this document, which collectively advocate for the creation of an established multiuse riverwalk trail running east-west along the north and south banks of the Manitowoc River. Establishing a connected riverwalk will provide a key east-west active transportation corridor within the City, will help activate the Manitowoc River as a recreational resource, and will preserve and protect sensitive riparian environment from the encroachment of future development. Establishing this section of riverwalk as a continuous multiuse trail route will create a key network connection from downtown to the Mariners Trail to the east and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail to the west, greatly improving the multimodal transportation network within the City. As part of this initiative, the City's ongoing redevelopment of the Riverpoint District is establishing a section of riverwalk on the north side of the Manitowoc River at the southeast portion of the site. The City is working to acquire the property at the tip of the Riverpoint Peninsula to continue the extension of the riverwalk trail west along the river.

Proposed On-Street Bicycle Routes

This Plan also recommends continuing to develop an on-street bike route system along existing and proposed City streets. Building on the existing routes in the community, it is recommended that additional bicycle lanes and buffered bicycle lanes be added. Each of these additions are shown on Map 3. Key improvements include:

- Upgrading bicycle and pedestrian facilities at the intersection of North Rapids Road and Waldo Boulevard in front of the Manitowoc Lutheran High School
- Installing intersection improvements, traffic calming treatments, and dedicated bicycle lanes along 10th and 8th Streets

- Establishing an on-street bicycle lane and increasing active transportation options between Madison Street, 10th Street, and Green Street, which will connect the Mariners Trail and Red Arrow Park as well as provide additional safe travel options to Lincoln High School for students and staff.

As shown on Map 3 and within applicable Park Specific Recommendation Maps, throughout Manitowoc there are many proposed bicycle and pedestrian trail connection projects that were prioritized through this plan. Many are also reflective of the City’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Below is a table summarizing the proposed projects, the scale and scope of each, and their proposed implementation timeline.

FIGURE 8.1 PROPOSED TRAIL PROJECTS

Project Location	*Proposed Implementation Timeline
Large Scale and Higher Cost Projects	
Menasha Ave. to Herman Rd. Conservancy	Long
Waldo Blvd. to Lincoln Park Boardwalk	Long
Bayshore Boardwalk	Medium
Little Manitowoc River Reed to 18 th Street (full trail)	Long
Rails to Trails (Riverwalk Extension)	Medium
Manitowoc Riverwalk	In Progress
Lakeside Blvd. Greenway	Short
Magnolia Trail	Medium
Manitou Park to Henry Schuette Park Pedestrian Bridge	Long
Mill Road Pedestrian Bridge	Medium
Smaller Scale and Lower Cost Projects	
Archer St. to West Meadow Ln. to Broadway St.	Medium
Reed Ave. Multi-Use Path Extension	Short
CVS Trail	Short
Little Manitowoc River Reed to Magnolia (Section 1)	Medium
Spring Street to Manitou Park	Medium
N. 9 th Street Riverwalk Connection	Short
Rheume Park Railroad Crossing	Medium
Evergreen West Trail (New Cemetery Land)	Short
Former Rail along Manitowoc River (Wollmer St. to 21 st St.)	Long
South 18 th St. to Monroe to South 14 th St. Parkland and Community Gardens	Medium
9 th Street Bike Boulevard	Short
Miracles Park (internal connections)	Short

*In Progress = acquisition, design, and/or budgeting is already underway, Short = 1-2 year time horizon, Medium = 3-5 year time horizon, Long = 5+ year time horizon

NATURAL AND OPEN SPACE AREAS RECOMMENDATIONS

Manitowoc residents prioritized the desire for more natural recreation areas that provide access to and tie the community to Lake Michigan and the Manitowoc River in the 2022 Comprehensive Plan process, the 2017 community parks survey, and again in 2022 during the creation of this plan. The City should consider pursuing the acquisition of any quality land donations for conservancy or natural and open space uses along the Lake Michigan coastline and Manitowoc Riverbanks; however, these lands will not count toward the land dedication requirements in Chapter 9.

The City has completed several environmental plans related to several existing parks. These include:

- Maritime Bluff and Shoreline Restoration Plan
- Silver Creek Restoration Plan and Stream Design and Habitat Restoration Plan
- Lower Henry Schuette Park Restoration Plan
- Lakeside Boulevard Management Plan
- Park Tree Management Plan

It is recommended that these plans be implemented in conjunction and coordination with future park and trail facility upgrades that occur over the planning period to support high-quality and sustainable environmental management of key features located throughout the City.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey conducted among City residents as part of this planning process confirmed the need for youth and teen programming and the desire of residents of all ages to have more recreational activities, festivals, and more meaningful gathering opportunities throughout the community. It is recommended that Manitowoc explore opportunities to expand recreational programming through the following:

- The creation of a database of all existing recreational activities within the City. This would include the City, School District, local sports leagues, and other recreation-based groups. The database could be utilized to develop an annual or bi-annual recreational programming guide. Much of this information is currently siloed by group and the City could take a leadership role in undertaking this effort to combine programming schedules.
- The development of a recreational programming guide. This would help increase access to and participation in various recreational activities, festivals, and events in the community, while also helping to inform residents and potentially attract tourists. However, it is likely that this effort would require additional staffing.
- Increase the use of newsletters, local media, websites, social media, email lists, and the newly-created Tourism Department to distribute information about events and programming taking place throughout the community.
- Explore opportunities to develop new programming. This could include educational and recreational classes, fitness or exercise classes, new local events or festivals, and sports leagues. There is ample opportunity to engage key community organizations such as the Manitowoc Marina, Wisconsin Maritime Museum, and Rahr West Art Museum to program community spaces with events and activities that celebrate and explore Manitowoc's unique history, culture, and the arts. However, in exploring this opportunity it is recommended that the City consult with other community organizations to avoid any future duplication of offerings. Additionally, this would also require additional staffing resources that may not be attainable within the planning period.
- Continue to work with other groups in providing an amenity-rich environment for residents—to serve the intertwined goals of fostering community health, economic prosperity, and high quality of life. Many such projects have already started that have made a significant shift in the way Manitowoc thinks of itself. These include community garden projects have brought more small-scale specialty agriculture growers together, downtown revitalization efforts of the last two decades have increased activity downtown, and the highly successful Farmers' Market and other community programming fostering an increased sense of community.
- Continue efforts to capitalize on lakefront and river corridor access. Partnerships should be explored between the City and local environmental and natural wildlife sciences organizations, including Friends of the Manitowoc River



Watershed (FMRW) and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP), to program and activate these important natural features.

- Further strengthen the connection between existing School District and City programming, with particular focus on sports, recreation, natural sciences, and the arts which can help the community develop new and engaging programming partnerships.

SPORT AND FITNESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION SPORTS, FITNESS, AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES TOPLINE PARTICIPATION REPORT, 2022

The Sport and Fitness Industry Association conducted a national survey in 2021 of a random sample of over 20,000 Americans. The findings help to provide large trends related to inactivity, demographics, and participation. A few data points that are important for the City to consider over the next five years are:

- 22% of the US population is inactive, meaning that they do not participate in any level of calorie burning activities in an average week, which is a decrease since 2013.
- Class-based (yoga, karate, etc.), fitness (cardio, lifting, swimming, etc.), and outdoor activities (hiking, trail running, etc.) have all increased in overall participation since 2013.
- Pickleball has become the fastest-growing sport over the past two years, with participation seeing a 39.3% growth.
- The most popular activities by age group:
 - Baby Boomers focus on low-impact activities
 - Gen Xers participate most in team sports
 - Millennials prefer to participate in the most diverse set of activities across many different types

COLLABORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to implement the recommendations of Chapter 7 and 8, it will take a collaborative effort between the City and its local partners. This includes the School District, Manitowoc County, state and regional governments, nonprofits, volunteer groups, and the private sector.

The City of Manitowoc has a long and successful history of partnering with various local and regional stakeholder groups on fundraising, implementation, and maintenance activities that support the expansion, improvement, and ongoing success of the community's park and recreation system. It is recommended that the City work with established and active stakeholder groups to continue to increase and expand recreational access, activities, and programming throughout the City. Important organizations and entities that the City will benefit from proactively engaging with include the following:

- Grow it Forward (GIF)
- NE WI Great Lakes Sports Fisherman
- Friends of Mariners Trail
- Manitowoc Youth Baseball Association (MYBA)
- Manitowoc Marina
- Discover Eastern Wisconsin Disc Golf (DEWDG)
- Manitowoc County Mountain Bike Club
- Friends of the Aquatic Center
- Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership (LNRP)
- Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed (FMRW)
- The Ice Age Trail (IAT)
- Manitowoc County Tennis Association (MCTA)
- Miracle League Lakeshore
- Progress Lakeshore
- Rahr West Art Museum
- Wisconsin Maritime Museum
- Healthiest Manitowoc County
- Manitowoc County Parks
- Friends of Red Arrow
- People, Earth, Water (PEW)
- Manitowoc Public School District (MPSD)
- Kenny's Athletic Club
- Friends of CP (Citizen Park)
- Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
- Lincoln Park Zoological Society

The City has several opportunities to collaborate with other units of government in planning for park and outdoor recreation facilities over the planning period. These opportunities include the following:

- Work with the WisDNR on coordinating park, open space, and environmental corridor protection and use activities.
- Work with Manitowoc County on any potential park expansion areas within proximity of the City that could benefit interconnectivity and access to park and recreational opportunities.
- Work with the Manitowoc School District to determine ways to work together to provide needed and innovative park and recreational facilities that encourage community use and environmental education.
- Continue to participate in regional park, open space, multi-use trail, and bike route planning efforts, particularly when regional jurisdictions update their Bicycle and Pedestrian and Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. At the time that this Plan was being written, Manitowoc County was in the process of updating their Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans in conjunction with the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission. The City of Manitowoc will work with the County and Regional Planning Commission as they update their plan, ensuring that County and local municipal park and recreational network goals and objectives complement one another for effective coordination, visioning, and implementation.

Other Collaboration Recommendations

- Encourage the creation of a unified “Friends of the Manitowoc Parks” volunteer program to lead private fundraising efforts, assist with park maintenance, and raise awareness about the City’s robust park facilities.
- Continue to market the park system’s facilities and programs to the community. This effort could include utilizing social media, email lists, the use of a bi-annual recreational guide, signage, maps, and wayfinding treatments, and developing new informational publications. A map identifying park facilities should be included in these materials.
- Continue to grow cooperative partnerships with local stakeholder groups such as nonprofits, volunteers, and recreational organizations to support fundraising, programming, activation, and management of the City of Manitowoc’s park and recreation system.
- Work with People Earth Water, Inc., Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed, and other environmental stewardship non-profit organizations and consider measures to promote land preservation and water quality in the City and surrounding area.



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9

**ESTIMATED COST
PROJECTIONS FOR
FUTURE FACILITIES**

CHAPTER 9: ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE FACILITIES

This chapter contains detailed capital cost estimates for providing the new park and recreational facilities recommended in Chapter 7 and 8. It is intended to assist the City with the budgeting and planning for future parks and to satisfy §66.0617 and 236.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes regarding the opportunities to collect fees, if desired. However, the adoption of this Plan does not commit or require the City of Manitowoc to collecting these fees through an impact fee ordinance.

As of 2023, Manitowoc imposes a parkland dedication requirement and fee-in-lieu of land dedication, but does not impose any impact fees for park development. The City’s requirements can be found in the City of Manitowoc Code of Ordinance, Chapter 21.030(4)f Subdivision Regulations.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANNING

The following projects and cost estimates correspond to those site-specific projects listed in Chapter 7 and 8. Each overarching project has a wide variety of variables associated with its implementation in each individual site where it is planned to be completed. To estimate budgeting for each project, it is recommended that more detailed analysis related to the individual park site be completed to determine a cost estimate for that specific project which is most accurate.

To note, the estimated cost ranges are based on project bids collected in 2021-2022 dollars. It is reasonable to expect that an inflation metric of at least 1%-2% or more be applied based on these figures and the year in which the project is being pursued. Building materials, labor, and overall construction costs have been highly variable over the past two years. As such, the inflation metric listed above could increase significantly over the planning period. Overall, these tables have been developed with the intent of providing benchmark estimated costs figures for planning purposes only.

Projects Estimated Between \$0 and \$100,000	
Proposed Project Type	Estimated Cost Range
Park Master Plan	\$10,000-\$20,000
Playground Equipment (new or replacement)	\$70,000-\$300,000
Playground Surface (replacement)	\$50,000-\$150,000 (\$5/sf EWF, \$22/sf PIP)
Open Air Shelter (new or replacement)	\$50,000-\$75,000
Outdoor Lighting on Courts	\$100,000/4 courts
Paved Trail	\$25/lf (assumed 10’ width)
Unpaved Trail	\$15/lf (assumed 10’ width)
Boardwalk Trail	\$250/lf (assumed 10’ width)
Water Access (non-motorized)	Variable dependent on location and type
Water Access (motorized)	Variable dependent on location and type
Stormwater or Environmental Restoration Plan	\$25,000-\$45,000
RC Park	\$25/lf (assumed 10’ width)
Baseball/Softball Fields (upgrades)	\$50,000-\$125,000 (not including lighting)
Beach Nourishment	Variable dependent on location and type
Building Assessment (Citizen Park Rec Center)	\$35,000-\$50,000
Paved Stage Platform	\$33/lf (assumed 14’ width)

Projects Estimated Between \$0 and \$100,000

Proposed Project Type	Estimated Cost Range
Disc Golf Course	\$5,000/hole equipment and tee box (does not include earthwork and hole clearing)
On-Site Parking (replace or expand)	\$1,800/parking stall
Dog Park Fence	\$55/lf (assumed 6' tall)
Benches and Picnic Tables	\$1,200/each
Wayfinding Signage	\$800/each
Park Master Plan	\$10,000-\$20,000

Source: Vandewalle & Associates and Parkitecture + Planning, 2022

Projects Estimated Between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000

Proposed Project Type	Estimated Cost Range
Splash Pad	\$350,000-\$500,000 (flow through)
Permanent Bathrooms (new or replacement)	\$250,000-\$500,000 (\$250/sf)
Permanent Bathrooms and Showers (new or replacement)	\$350,000-\$700,000 (\$280/sf)
Concession Buildings (new or replacement)	\$350,000-\$700,000 (\$280/sf)
Baseball/Softball Field Lighting	\$150,000-\$175,000 (each field)
Soccer and Football Field Lighting	\$150,000-\$165,000 (each field)
Sport Court, Tennis Court, or Pickleball Court (new or replacement)	\$50,000 per court w/ lighting \$180,000 (4 courts no lighting) \$250,000 (4 courts w/ lighting)
Pedestrian Bridge	\$500,000-1,000,000
Stream/River/Lake Bank Stabilization and Restoration	Variable dependent on location and type
Ice Rink Warming House	\$250,000-\$500,000 (\$250/sf)
Archery Range	\$150,000-\$200,000
Wildlife Exhibits	Reference Zoo Master Plan

Source: Vandewalle & Associates and Parkitecture + Planning, 2022

ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Based on a projected growth of 255 residents by the year 2033, applied to the City’s projected acres needed in 2033 (3 acres for developed parks), Manitowoc would need to spend a minimum of \$94,500 in 2023 dollars for park land acquisition. Assuming the addition of 118 households, a fee-in-lieu of land dedication of \$804 per new household would meet this demand. The alternative dedication of 1,111 square feet per household would satisfy the projected demand, if land dedication were preferred. However, any future land dedication must be suitable for the development of a neighborhood or community park. The City will continue to accept conservancy areas as donations to the park system; but these lands will not count toward this land dedication calculations. The process for arriving at these calculations is described in detail below.

FIGURE 9.1: PROJECTED PARKLAND DEDICATION AND FEE-IN-LIEU OF LAND DEDICATION

Calculation		Value
A	Projected Population Growth in 2033	255 residents
B	Projected Household Growth in 2033	118 households
C	Calculated Additional Acres Needed (Figure 6.3)	3 acres
D	Land Dedication Requirement per HH (Row C/Row B)	0.03
E	Land Cost Per Acre (average cost per acre listed)	\$30,000
F	Projected Cost of land acquisition (Row C + Row G)	\$90,000
G	Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (Row F*5%)	\$4,500
H	Total land acquisition costs (Row F + Row G)	\$94,500
I	Fee-in-lieu of land dedication per household (Row H/Row B)	\$804
J	Land Dedication per Household in square feet (Row D*43,560)	1,111 square feet

ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Each new park should have a minimum amount of playground equipment and opportunities available. The cost of certain playground equipment varies with the age range of the intended users, the park type, and dramatic infrastructure fluctuations in costs year to year. Equipment in neighborhood parks is intended for younger children and the equipment available in larger parks should accommodate a wider age range of users. However, state law currently restricts the type of park improvements for which a community may collect impact fees. Figure 9.2 outlines the playground costs associated with each future park type in Manitowoc.



FIGURE 9.2: PROJECTED IMPROVEMENTS BY PARK TYPE

	Neighborhood	Community
Pavilion with Restrooms	-	\$50,000 (1)
Open Air Shelter	\$25,000 (1)	-
Playground	\$75,000 (Small)	\$150,000 (Large)
Seating/Picnic/Rest Area	\$5,000 (Small)	\$15,000 (Large)
Little League Baseball Field		\$200,000 (1)
Full Sized Soccer/Play Field (without lights or nets)	\$50,000 (1)	\$200,000 (4)
Sidewalks and Bike/Walking Path	\$50,000 (1)	\$150,000 (1)
Signage	\$5,000 (1)	\$15,000 (1)
Miscellaneous Landscaping and Lighting	\$10,000 (1)	\$40,000 (1)
Site Work	\$50,000 (5 facilities)	\$100,000 (10 facilities)
Parking Lot	\$18,000 (12 stalls)	\$72,000 (48 stalls)
Total Cost of Facilities	\$578,000	\$2,587,000
Typical Park Size	5 acres	20 acres
Total Playground Costs per Acre	\$57,600	\$49,600
Adjacent Road and Utility Improvements Costs Per Acre (Figure 8.3)	\$37,335	\$18,668
Average Improvement Cost Per Acre	\$94,935	\$62,268
Prioritized Development of Each Park Type	50%	50%
Average Improvement Cost Per Acre (weighted)	\$81,601	

FIGURE 9.3: ROAD AND UTILITIES IMPROVEMENTS CALCULATION

Calculation	Neighborhood	Community
A Typical Park Size (based on NRPA standards) in Acres	5	20
B Typical Park Size in Square Feet (Row A * 43,560)	217,800	871,200
C Conceptual Road Frontage on Two Sides in Linear Feet (√Row B*2)	933	1,867
D Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Linear Foot	\$400	\$400
E Parkland Portion (Half) of Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Linear Foot	\$200	\$200
F Road and Utilities Improvement Cost for Typical Park (Row E*Row C)	\$186,676	\$373,352
G Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Acre for Typical Park (Row F/Row A)	\$37,335	\$18,668

Figure 9.4 shows what would be required to cover the costs associated with playground improvements. It should be noted that this figure is approximate and subject to significant change associated with economic fluctuations and the rapidly rising cost of construction materials such as wood, steel, concrete, and asphalt.

FIGURE 9.4: PROJECTED RECREATION FACILITIES FEE

Calculation	Value
A Projected Additional Population in 2033 (individuals)	255
B Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2033 (dwelling units)	118
C Calculated Additional Acres Needed (Figure 6.3)	3
D Average Park Improvement Cost per Acre Estimate (Figure 9.2)	\$81,601
E Projected Cost of Improvements (Row C*Row D)	\$244,804
F Calculated Improvement Cost per Dwelling Unit (Row E/Row B)	\$2,082

TOTAL IDENTIFIED IMPACT FEES

The adoption of this Plan does not compel the City to establish or enact impact fees. The purpose of this analysis is to provide a methodology for how impact fees could be calculated in the future. It is an exercise in exploring costs related to population changes and new park development, if the City were to solely take on the responsibility of funding new parks and their improvement. Impact fees are not imposed upon existing residents and, if established, are only required for new construction of housing units in Manitowoc.

If formally adopted by ordinance, impact fees should be imposed on each new household unilaterally. In instances where development has dedicated lands, it will only be necessary to collect the improvement costs, or \$2,082 per dwelling unit. However, where land dedication does not take place, the total identified impact fee is \$2,885 per dwelling unit. This represents approximately 2.2 percent of the cost of the median existing owner-occupied home in Manitowoc.

In general, parks should provide both active and passive features in one area. Therefore, where possible, neighborhood parks with intense recreational activity should be located near environmental corridors (which ultimately may carry trail facilities). More care is required in the design of regional and community-wide facilities due to the need for parking lots, lit athletic fields, and courts. For such parks, extensive on-site landscaping and berming may be desired to mitigate adverse traffic, sound, and lighting impacts.

FIGURE 9.5 TOTAL IDENTIFIED IMPACT FEES

	Traditional Residential Dwelling Unit
Identified Land Dedication	1,111 square feet
Identified Fee in Lieu of Land	\$804
Identified Improvement Fee	\$2,082
Total Identified Impact Fee	\$2,885

IMPACT ON NEW HOUSING COSTS

Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617(4)(a)(3) requires estimating the effect of imposing park impact fees on housing costs within the municipality. The following assumptions were made in this analysis:

- Costs of the monthly mortgage payment are no more than 30 percent of a household's gross income
- Homeowners borrow no more than 2½ times the City of Manitowoc's median household income for a home mortgage (which in 2020 was \$51,563 according to 2015-2020 American Community Survey data)
- Homeowners would make a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the total home cost

Based on these assumptions, if someone is spending 2½ times the population's median household income for a home mortgage (\$128,908), and making a 5 percent down payment, then an affordable house in Manitowoc costs approximately \$135,353 (according to U.S. Census 2020 data, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in the City is \$112,000).

Assuming a single-family detached housing price of \$112,000, a 5 percent down payment, a 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, and a mortgage amount of \$135,353, the typical monthly mortgage payment is \$692.

If the City chose to impose fees for parkland acquisition and park improvements, this would impact the cost of new housing construction in Manitowoc. When adding this Plan's identified park impact fee of \$2,885, the mortgage amount for a single-family detached home would increase to \$131,793. Assuming the same 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, the monthly mortgage payment would increase to \$707 per month. This increase in monthly mortgage payments due to the imposition of the identified park impact fee is \$15 per month, or a 2.2 percent increase.

Therefore, using the assumptions for a typical single-family home in the City of Manitowoc, park impact fees would have some impact on the cost of new housing.



10

**IMPLEMENTATION
ACTION PLAN**

CHAPTER 10: IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

In striving to achieve the vision and goals of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, specific follow-up actions will be required. This final chapter is intended to provide a roadmap for these implementation actions by identifying priority programs and actions. This Chapter, in combination with Chapter 7, 8 and 9, should be utilized to help guide project implementation by the City of Manitowoc over the next 5 years.

PLAN UPDATES

The Plan was prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and will qualify the City for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and State of Wisconsin Stewardship Funds. In order to remain eligible, the Plan must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. Based on this deadline, Manitowoc will update this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan before the year 2028 (i.e. five years after 2023), at the latest. The City should continue to monitor any changes to state or federal regulations related to grant eligibility over the next five years.

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has listed many projects that will hopefully be implemented over the next five years. There is no escaping the issue that improving park facilities in the future will cost money. Some projects will certainly take longer to develop than others. The level and timing of funding can be a significant catalyst in how fast some projects move up the priority list.

The City of Manitowoc park system has benefited greatly from a wide range of “Friends Groups” and other non-profit civil type organizations which have contributed handsomely to many initiatives city wide. Amenities such as the Mariner’s Trail, Ice Age Trail, Lincoln Park Zoo, Aquatic Center, disc golf courses, mountain bike trails, and other amenities would not be in existence today without the fundraising assistance provided by many stakeholder groups. The continuation of working directly with groups cannot be overstated, as they provide the most cost-effective way for projects to become reality.

In addition to donations and fundraising activities, grants can be pursued if the projects meet the goals of the grant program (See Appendix).

Historically, land acquisition, trail development and water related activities have been actively supported by state and federal programs.

Relative to funding future projects, city leaders and staff must assess each project’s funding potential separately. Certain projects will align much better for securing donations or alternative funding sources than others, where general tax revenues may be required for successful financing. To assist with this effort, the Appendix goes into significant detail on each of these topics and can be used as a source of information in aligning projects to the appropriate funding and implementation tools. In addition, the City may want to secure the services of a grant writing consultant to assist in the preparation of grants, which often can be very time consuming.



ACTION PLAN MATRIX

Figure 10.1 provides a detailed list and timeline of the major actions that the City intends to complete in implementing this Plan. Often, such actions will require substantial cooperation with other City Departments, state and local governments, non-profits and volunteer groups, and local organizations and entities throughout the area. The list of recommendations is divided into four different categories—based on different implementation tools or Plan elements. This list is not exhaustive. It includes the recommendations that are likely to be actions taken over the next five years. The City Council may choose to pursue additional actions or prioritize other actions as conditions change.

The table has three different columns of information, described as follows:

- **Action Item:** The first column lists the actual steps, strategies, and actions recommended to implement key aspects of the Plan.
- **Potential Partners:** The second column lists additional City departments, agencies, or other groups who would be a great partner in the pursuit of accomplishing the Action Item.
- **Implementation Timeframe:** The third column is the suggested timeframe for the completion of each recommendation. It reflects the priority attached to the recommendation. Each timeframe is defined as follows:
 - In Progress means that the Action Item has already started to be addressed at some point and it is still a priority moving forward. These Action Items should be continuously reevaluated to make sure that progress is being made.
 - Short means that the Action Item should be pursued over the next 1-2 years, following the adoption date of this Plan.
 - Medium means that the Action Item should be pursued over the next 3-5 years, following the adoption date of this Plan.



There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation, including state and federal grant programs. These funding sources are included in the Appendix. It should be noted that funds from many of these grant programs are subject to change due to fluctuations in federal, state, and local budgets.

FIGURE 10.1 ACTION PLAN MATRIX

Action Item	Potential Partners	Timeframe
Improve existing and establish new access points along the Manitowoc River and Little Manitowoc River through property acquisition or during development of these areas. Implement the Manitowoc River Watershed Trail Plan.	Manitowoc County, WisDNR	Ongoing
Implement the recommendations of the City of Manitowoc Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.	Counties, WisDNR, WisDOT, MPO	Ongoing
Implement the recommendations of the Downtown Master Plan, Manitowoc Riverwalk Master Plan and Design Guidelines, and Downtown River Corridor Plan in relation to the City's parks in these locations.	Public Infrastructure Committee, Plan Commission	Ongoing
Continue to implement the Riverwalk Preliminary Design and Engineering Study, Lower Henry Schuette Park Restoration Plan, Lincoln Park Zoo Master Plan, Little Manitowoc River Restoration Plan, Maritime Bluff and Shoreline Restoration Plan, Lakeside Bluff Management Plan, and Stream Restoration and Habitat Restoration Plan at Silver Creek Park.	City Staff	Ongoing
Ensure ADA compliance with all new construction in City parks.	Public Infrastructure Committee	Ongoing
Explore property acquisition for existing park expansion as identified on Map 3 and in Chapter 7.	Public Infrastructure Committee, Plan Commission, City Council	Ongoing
Through the Capital Improvements Plan, prioritize and incorporate the recommendations in Chapter 7 and projects identified in Chapter 9.	Public Infrastructure Committee, City Council	Ongoing
Continue to work with local organizations and groups in fundraising efforts and park improvements to each of the City's parks.	Local Groups and Organizations	Ongoing
Participate in any future updates to the Manitowoc County CORP or Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.	Manitowoc County	Ongoing
Work with the School District on any future updates to the Safe Routes to School Plan and participate in future School District planning efforts and updates to the Strategic Plan.	School District	Ongoing
Work with state on any future plans for parks, recreation, and bicycle and pedestrian planning in and around Manitowoc.	WisDNR, WisDOT, MPO	Ongoing
Annually review the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan at a Public Infrastructure Committee meeting to track progress and set priorities for the upcoming year.	Public Infrastructure Committee	Ongoing
Maintain and update all City Park and Trail Maps on the website and any public-facing marketing materials.	City Staff	Ongoing
Evaluate any new parkland acquisition using the evaluation matrix in Chapter 7.	Public Infrastructure Committee, Plan Commission	Ongoing
Actively pursue grant opportunities as they arise that align with the recommendations of this Plan.	City Staff	Ongoing
Complete and implement the ADA Assessment recommendations for each existing park and trail. Annually allocate money in the Capital Improvements Plan to pursue implementation of identified projects.	Public Infrastructure Committee, City Council	Short

Action Item	Potential Partners	Timeframe
Work with American Trails to leverage opportunities for trail assessments and signage upgrades donated by private business sponsorships.	City Staff	Short
Complete a building assessment for the Recreation Center at Citizen Park.	Public Infrastructure Committee	Short
Establish a Friends of Manitowoc Parks group that serves as the overarching body for all local organizations and site-specific groups.	City Staff	Short
Develop and adopt policies as identified in Chapter 4.	Public Infrastructure Committee, Plan Commission, City Council	Short
Develop relationships and information sharing between local economic development and tourism groups to highlight events, programming, and recreational opportunities in Manitowoc.	Economic Development Agencies, RPC, County	Short
Explore opportunities for local business sponsorships to fund park improvements.	Local Organizations and Employers	Short
Establish a parks donation program where residents can donate money to assist in the future park improvements.	Local Organizations and Employers	Short
Reevaluate the land dedication and fee-in-lieu requirements for all new residential developments based on the recommendations in Chapter 9. Require the inclusion of a new Neighborhood Park with any new residential neighborhood developed.	Public Infrastructure Committee, Plan Commission, City Council	Short
Create and adopt an Official Map that reflects Map 3 and aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan to proactively plan for future parks and trails within Manitowoc's growth areas.	MPO, Plan Commission	Short
Update the Park Tree Management Plan and inventory all trees in each park.	City Staff	Medium
Create a Master Plan for Silveridge Park.	Public Infrastructure Committee	Medium
Create a Master Plan for the Confined Disposal Facility if the City acquires the land from the Army Corp of Engineers.	Public Infrastructure Committee	Medium
Establish partnerships between nearby universities to provide a cost-effective method of conducting additional studies, research, and park planning.	UW-Green Bay, Lakeland University, Lawrence University, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison	Medium
Partner with local employers to connect people looking to volunteer with opportunities to assist in the maintenance of City parks.	Local Organizations and Employers	Medium
Partner with the School District and local area private schools to increase the use of parks for outdoor educational opportunities	School District and private schools	Medium
Complete a full update the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.	Public Infrastructure Committee, Plan Commission, City Council	Medium

FIGURE 10.2 RECOMMENDED PARKS IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Proposed Project	1-2 Year Project	3-4 Year Project	5+ Year Project
Mini Parks			
Burger Boat Company Park			
New shelter or gazebo		X	
Complete a Park Master Plan		X	
Manitowoc Shipbuilders Park			
Add bicycle rack	X		
Mainers Landing			
Install permanent picnic tables	X		
Neighborhood Parks			
Dale Street Park			
Replace playground equipment		X	
Emma Radandt Park			
Install new permanent bathrooms			X
Add walking trail		X	
Add sport court			X
Fleetwood Park			
Install new permanent bathrooms		X	
Improve walking and nature trails through widening, boardwalks, and bridges		X	
Upgrade ditches (rock and plantings)	X		
Replace playground equipment		X	
Add a trail connection with School District property	X		
Add a pump track			X
Add an RC Park		X	
Address regional stormwater issues	X		
Halvorsen Park			
Add a splash pad			X
Replace playground equipment	In Progress		
Lincolnshire Park			
Replace playground equipment			X
Connect park to future trail opportunity to the north			X
Manitou Park and Conservancy			
Develop a bridge connecting to Henry Schuette Park		X	
Develop an environmental restoration plan	X		
Replace ADA boat launch and fishing pier		X	
Pulaski Park			
Add a splash pad		X	
Replace playground equipment	In Progress		
Rheaume Park			
Upgrade parking lot surface	X		
Add a new walking path around the park		X	
Replace playground equipment	X		
Install pickleball court	X		
Install shelter/pavilion			X

Proposed Project	1-2 Year Project	3-4 Year Project	5+ Year Project
Address stormwater issues	X		
Riverview Park			
Bank stabilization and River Walk Trail			X
Replace playground equipment		X	
Install scenic overlook	X		
Riverview Drive Park			
Add trail connection to Manitowoc Chiefs Youth Football Park		X	
Replace playground equipment		X	
Silveridge Park			
Develop a Park Master Plan	X		
Add a new walking path around the park	X		
Union Park			
Improve ADA access to plaza	X		
Install new sports court area			X
Add a splash pad			X
Replace playground equipment		X	
Washington Park			
Upgrade basketball courts			X
Upgrade bandshell			X
Westfield Park			
Update and expand paved court area		X	
Add an RC Park	X		
Replace playground equipment		X	
Community Parks			
Citizen Park			
Add outdoor lighting to sports courts			X
Conduct building assessment on Recreation Center	X		
Upgrade City baseball fields and concessions building		X	
Add sand volleyball court	X		
Henry Schuette Park			
Develop a bridge connecting to Manitou Park		X	
Complete habitat restoration	In Progress		
Add a permanent restroom for lower portion of park			X
Add a new shelter with information kiosk	X		
Establish winter trails	X		
Add wayfinding signage within park and trails	In Progress		
Replace playground surface			X
Lincoln Park, Zoo, and Conservancy			
Reconstruct tennis courts and add pickleball lines	X		
Upgrade tennis lighting	X		
Replace interior park road with bicycle and pedestrian improvements	X		
Upgrade day camp area		X	
Implement the Lincoln Park Zoo Master Plan	In Progress		
Upgrade Zoo entrance off of Reed Avenue			X

Proposed Project	1-2 Year Project	3-4 Year Project	5+ Year Project
Install archery range		X	
Install new trail and bridge through wetlands and conservancy area	In Progress		
Lighthouse Park			
Expand walking path within park	X		
Add benches along North Pier	X		
Install parking lot lighting		X	
Complete Master Plan, if City acquires Army Corp of Engineers Confined Disposal Facility site			X
Remove invasive species, add native plantings	In Progress		
Miracles Park			
Acquire MPSD soccer fields and develop a City soccer complex	X		
Improve on-site path connections	X		
Add off-street parking along 39 th Street			X
Red Arrow Park and Conservancy			
Expand trail between parks	X		
Complete ecological restoration along lakeshore	In Progress		
Establish on-site summer festival area		X	
Expand tennis courts, lighting, and add pickleball courts			X
Improve and expand boat launch			X
Install beach stage/platform		X	
Add ADA accessible paths to beach	X		
Add concession stand and shower facility to existing changing room			X
Add paved path from High School to tennis and baseball diamond	X		
Add paved platform and wider path near beach for portable bandshell	X		
Silver Creek Park			
Add permanent restrooms to south parking lot	X		
Install ice rink with warming house, skate rentals, and fat tire bike rentals			X
Complete streambank stabilization and habitat enhancements	In Progress		
Upgrade concession stand building	In Progress		
Establish rentable campsites within the park			X
Upgrade shelter (hilltop)	X		
Complete tree inventory	X		
Add interior wayfinding signage	X		
Special Use Parks			
Camp Vits			
Create new trail connections to Ice Age Trail		X	
Install permanent bathrooms		X	
Develop boardwalk trails	X		
Install kayak/canoe rest stop on river			X
Remove invasive species, add native plants	X		
Complete streambank stabilization and habitat enhancements	X		
Manitowoc Chiefs Youth Football Park			
Add trail connection to Riverview Drive Park		X	
Install new river access point			X

Proposed Project	1-2 Year Project	3-4 Year Project	5+ Year Project
Indian Creek Park			
Add signage at Albert Drive entrance	X		
Install permanent bathroom		X	
Create a north/south trail connection between Albert Drive and the railroad		X	
Establish walking and cross-country ski trail on the east side		X	
Add a fence around the dog exercise area			X
Develop environmental restoration plan for site	X		
Lakeview Park			
Complete bluff restoration	In Progress		
Lakefront Park			
Beach nourishment	X		
Expand and improve parking area	X		
Conduct stormwater management plan	X		
Add permanent restrooms and shower facility			X
Little Manitowoc River Walkway and Prairie			
Remove invasive species, add native plants	X		
Add benches	X		
Develop boardwalk trail system			X
Manitowoc Marina			
Convert parking lot into RV Campground			X
Upgrade/replace dock		X	
Manitowoc River Walk			
Continue implementing river walk expansions, as redevelopment occurs	In Progress		
Municipal Baseball Field			
Continue transfer of property	In Progress		
South 14th Street Parkland and Community Gardens			
Develop a trail system in forested area with connections from park to school		X	
River Heights Park			
Develop walking trails through park		X	
Install kayak/fishing rest stop or platform			X
Improve park entry access and signage	X		
Vetter Trailhead (to Camp Vits)			
Streambank stabilization	X		
Remove invasive species, add native plants	X		