



VILLAGE OF PALMYRA JEFFERSON COUNTY, WI

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2010-2015

Approved
May 3rd, 2010

**“The Heartbeat of
the Kettle
Moraine”**



PREPARED BY MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.

THIS PLAN IS
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1. INTRODUCTION

The following report is the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for the Village of Palmyra. This is the first ever CORP developed by the Village since its incorporation in 1866. The primary purpose of the CORP is to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land for park, recreation, and related open space uses in Village of Palmyra to satisfy the recreational needs of current and future residents, and to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base of the community. Specifically the plan provides:

- ✓ Information regarding demographic trends and natural resource concerns,
- ✓ An inventory of existing park and recreational facilities,
- ✓ An analysis of recreational needs and demands,
- ✓ General policy direction regarding park and open space planning and maintenance,
- ✓ Recommendations for park and open space acquisition and (re)development projects.

Maintaining and improving park and recreational facilities was identified as one of the implementation actions recommended within the Village's Comprehensive "Smart Growth" Land Use Plan adopted in May 2008 by the Village Board. The park and recreation comments expressed through the comprehensive planning process are reflected within this report, including reflections from the community survey conducted as part of that planning project.

Further reason for creating a CORP involves maintaining eligibility for state Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funding for park and open space acquisition and development. In order to maintain eligibility for Stewardship funds, municipalities must have a CORP that has been locally approved within the last five years. In addition, projects for which the Village seeks aid must be identified within its CORP.

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (Stewardship) in 1989. Named for two of Wisconsin's most revered conservation leaders, Warren Knowles (Governor 1965-1971) and Gaylord Nelson (Governor 1959-1963, U.S. Senator 1964-1981), the purpose of the program is to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The conservation and recreation goals of the Stewardship Program are achieved through the acquisition of land and easements, development of recreational facilities, and restoration of wildlife habitat.

This plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different types of parks, natural areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and/or discussion will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

THE ROLE OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN THE VILLAGE

Proper planning is essential for the Village's park and open space system to continue to meet the recreation needs of the community, as well as to continue to preserve valuable natural areas. Whether the Village is experiencing a *bear* or *bull* period of economic growth, it is important to remember the many benefits that park and recreational facilities provide the community.

Community Image – Local parks provide opportunities for formal and informal social gatherings. Community festivals, organized recreational events, or chance meetings between Village residents

at local parks, all provide opportunities for residents to socialize with people they might not otherwise meet. This contributes to the image of the Village as a friendly place to live, with a “small town atmosphere”. Having excellent park and recreation facilities can be a source of pride for a community.

Community Health – With the raising national trend in obesity, especially among children, the Village’s park and recreational facilities play a vital role in maintaining and improving the health of residents in the community. In addition, many studies have demonstrated increases in park and recreation facilities and programs can reduce community crime rates.

Ecological Health – While park and open spaces provide opportunities for improvements to the health of residents, they also contribute to the greater ecological health of the Village. Local parks are often tied together with environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, or significant woodlands. These areas provide food and shelter for local wildlife and natural stormwater retention. Individual parks can provide important “rooms” of natural resource activity; however, they become even more functional when they can be linked together by environmental corridors, or “hallways.” Wildlife, plants, and water all depend on the ability to move freely within the environment from room to room.

Economic Prosperity - Leisure time is an important component of people’s lifestyles and increasingly people are choosing locations to live based on quality of life amenities such as the amount and type of recreational facilities a community can offer. The ability to retain or attract new residents has direct economic benefits to the Village. Studies have also concluded that property values generally increase the closer residential lots are to a park facility. In addition, if a local parks system is designed with regional amenities, or connections to regional destinations, it can serve to bring additional visitors to the Village. The additional tourism can be a significant benefit to businesses.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Village of Palmyra (pop. 1,747) is located in the southeast portion of Jefferson County, approximately 60 miles east of Madison, and 45 miles west of Milwaukee. The Village borders the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest and thus has branded itself as the “*Heartbeat of the Kettle Moraine*.” This State park features a segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Figure 1: Regional Context, Village of Palmyra, Wisconsin

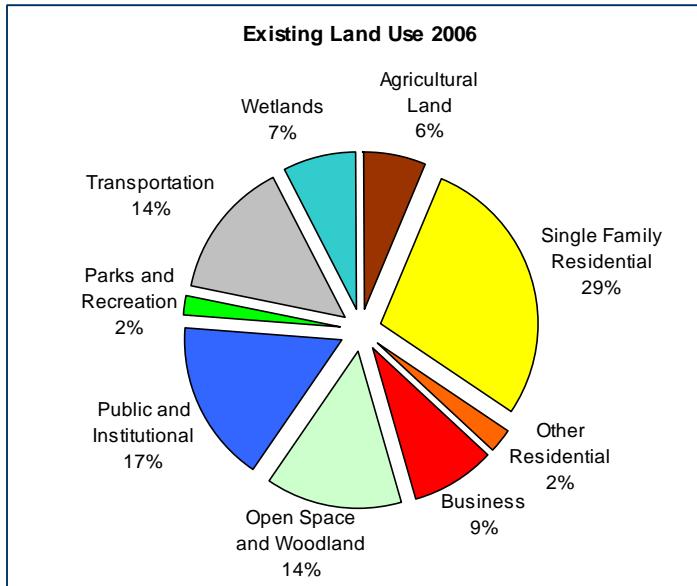


2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The following chapter details some of the important natural resources in the Palmyra area and Jefferson County. The information comes from a variety of resources including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department.

LAND USE

Figure 2: Existing Land Use

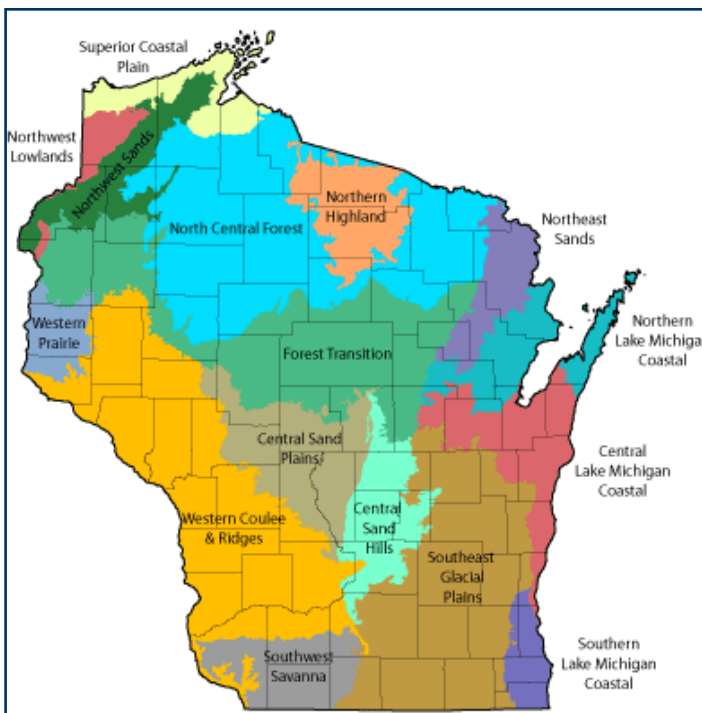


The majority of the land within the municipal boundaries of the Village is developed. The Village of Palmyra Comprehensive Plan, adopted in May 2008, identifies the predominant land use within the Village to be single-family residential (29%), followed by public/institutional uses (17%), and then Open Space/Woodland (14%).

The area surrounding the Village consists primarily of agricultural land, woodland, and rural subdivisions. The most prominent of these features is the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, Blue Spring Lake, Lower Spring Lake, and the Ice Age Trail.

GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

Figure 3: WIDNR Ecological Landscapes



The Village of Palmyra is located within the Southeast Glacial Plains ecological landscape. In 2002, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) published the *State Legacy Report*. The report identifies 229 Legacy Places organized by 16 different ecological landscapes. Ecological landscapes are based on the soil, topography, vegetation, and other attributes. (Refer to Figure 3.) There are five Legacy Places identified in Jefferson County. Two of the Legacy Places are near Palmyra. (1) Bark and Scuppernong Rivers Legacy Place, which includes Prince's Point Wildlife Area, partially in the Town of Palmyra. The goal of this Legacy Place is to

maintain an open space corridor between the Southern Kettle Moraine, Prince's Point, and the Rock River. The other legacy place near Palmyra is the (2)Kettle Moraine State Forest Legacy Place. The goal of this legacy place is to expand and buffer existing public properties. Refer to the report for specific information. (Source: WisDNR Legacy Report)

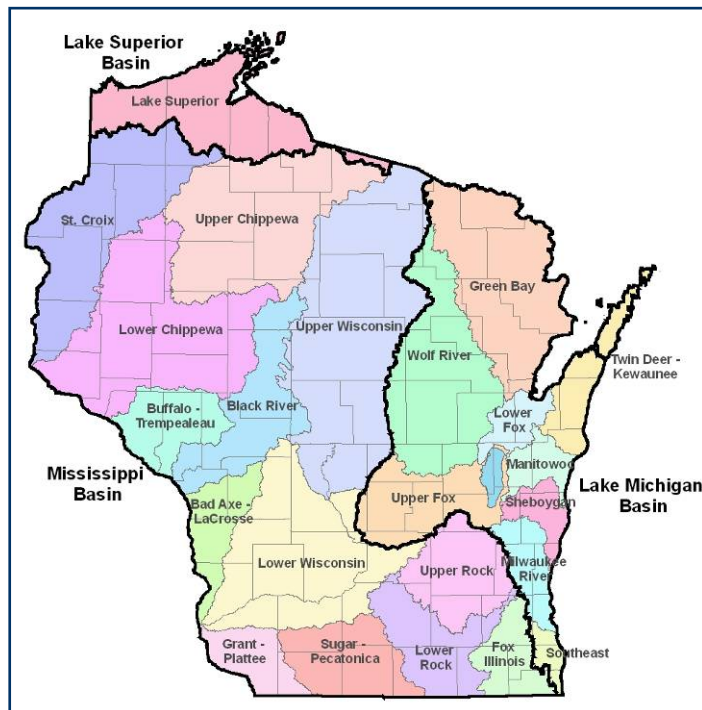
The surface features of Palmyra area are characteristic of the glaciated region. A pronounced topographic feature is the Kettle Moraine, which crosses the southeastern corner of the Village. It covers approximately six square miles and attains a peak elevation of 1,040 feet. The moraine was created when the Green Bay Lobe of the glacier, on the west, collided with the Lake Michigan Lobe of the glacier, on the east, depositing sediment. The moraine is dotted with kettles caused by buried glacial ice that subsequently melted. This process left depressions ranging from small ponds to large lakes and enclosed valleys. The average elevation of the County is between 800 and 900 feet. The ridgetop elevations range from about 1,350 feet to about 1,450 feet. The valleys are short, have mostly very steep sides and are underlain by sandstone. The valleys are from 300 feet to 400 feet below the ridgetops. Elevations in the Palmyra area range from 778 to 1,060 feet. Refer to the Environmental Corridors Map for the locations of areas with excessively steep slopes.

WATERSHEDS

Wisconsin is divided into three major River Basins each identified by the primary waterbody into which the basin drains. The Village of Palmyra is located within the Mississippi Basin. The three basins are further subdivided into 24 Water Management Units. The Village of Palmyra is located within the Lower Rock River WMU. (Figure 4)

In 2002, the WisDNR released the State of the *Rock River Basin Report*. The goal of the report is to inform basin residents and decision-makers about the status of their resource base so that they can make informed, thoughtful decisions that will protect and improve the future state of the Rock River Basin.

Figure 4: WIDNR River Basins & Water Management Units



The report identifies the most serious challenges facing the Basin to include:

- ❖ Water quality impacts and increased runoff quantity from agriculture and urban land uses, such that many of the rivers and streams are not meeting water quality standards.
- ❖ Loss of agricultural lands which impact wildlife habitat, recreational usages on those lands, the rural landowners, and the economy because it changes the nature of the Basin.

- ❖ Loss of critical, sensitive habitat and connection between habitats.
- ❖ Significant groundwater contamination in areas of the Basin.
- ❖ Lower urban groundwater levels due to increased use and decreased groundwater infiltration due to more acres of impervious land.

Figure 5: Regional Watersheds



Each WMU is further subdivided into one or more of Wisconsin's 334 watersheds. A watershed can be defined as an interconnected area of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point such as a lake or stream confluence with a neighboring watershed. The Rock River WMU consists of 28 watersheds. Village of Palmyra is located in the Scuppernon River Watershed (Figure 5).

LAKES

There are three lakes within the Palmyra area, Lower Spring Lake (104 acres), Upper Spring Lake (24 acres), and Blue Spring Lake (136 acres). All lakes are spring fed and have a maximum depth of 11-12 feet. Upper Spring Lake is the smallest of the three lakes, and the furthest from the Village. There is no public access to the lake. Lower Spring Lake has developed an *Aquatic Management Plan* to obtain funding for a plant harvester via the Waterways Commission. The lake has a heavy invasion of Eurasian water milfoil. Eurasian water milfoil is one of eight milfoil species found in Wisconsin and the only one known to be exotic or nonnative. The Eurasian water milfoil has few natural enemies and displaces native plant species, interfering with aesthetic and recreational use of waterbodies. The plan recommends continued use of the plant harvester as the primary aquatic plant management measure. (Source: Aquatic Management Plan for Lower Spring Lake)

Blue Spring Lake is also designated as a Lake Management District. An *Inventory of Blue Spring Lake* reports that the excessive growth of aquatic plants and the poor water clarity are the two most critical problems in the lake. Between May 15th and October 1st mechanical weed harvesting operations take place daily. In a typical year, approximately 1,600 tons of nuisance plants are harvested from the lake. Nuisance plants such as Eurasian water milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed crowd out other more desirable plants, resulting in a loss of biodiversity. The poor water clarity in

Figure 6: Lower Spring Lake



the lake is thought to be due to resuspended sediment rather than algal growth. This resuspended sediment contains high concentrations of phosphorus, which perpetuates the problem of nuisance plants in the lake. (Source: Jefferson County Land and Water Resource Management Plan)

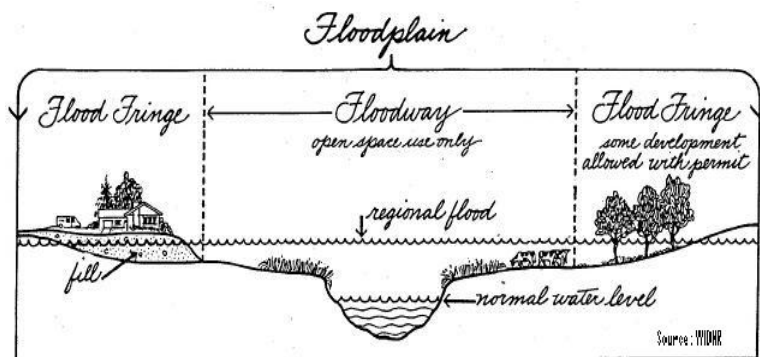
RIVERS & STREAMS

The perennial streams in the Village of Palmyra are shown on the Environmental Corridors Map. Perennial streams are defined as watercourses that maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. Perennial streams in the Palmyra area include the Scuppernong River, Mud Creek, and Spring Creek. The Scuppernong River is a tributary of the Bark River and is a Class III trout stream. Mud Creek is a low-gradient tributary to Scuppernong River with extensively ditched headwaters. Spring Creek originates from Blue Spring Lake and is a tributary to the Scuppernong River. It has also been extensively ditched and straightened. Spring Creek is also identified as an Impaired Water by the WisDNR due to sedimentation and phosphorus pollution. Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to develop a list of impaired waters, commonly referred to as the "303(d) list." This list identifies waters that are not meeting water quality standards, including both water quality criteria for specific substances or the designated uses, and is used as the basis for development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

FLOODPLAINS

The Environmental Corridors Map displays the floodplain areas in the Palmyra area as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A flood is defined as a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas. The area inundated during a flood event is called the floodplain. The floodplain includes the floodway, the floodfringe, and other flood-affected areas. The floodway is the channel of a river and the adjoining land needed to carry the 100-year flood discharge. Because the floodway is characterized by rapidly moving and treacherous water, development is severely restricted in a floodway. The floodfringe, which is landward of the floodway, stores excess floodwater until it can be infiltrated or discharged back into the channel. During a regional flood event, also known as the 100-year, one-percent, or base flood, the entire floodplain or Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is inundated to a height called the regional flood elevation (RFE). (Source: WisDNR Floodplain & Shoreland Zoning Guidebook)

Figure 7: Diagram of a Floodplain



Floodplain areas generally contain important elements of the natural resource base such as woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat; therefore, they constitute prime locations necessary for park, recreation, and open space areas. Every effort should be made to discourage incompatible urban development of floodplains and to encourage compatible park, recreation, and open space uses.

Benefits of floodplain management are the reduction and filtration of sediments into area surface waters, storage of floodwaters during regional storms, habitat for fish and wildlife, and reductions in direct costs (cleanup operations, reconstruction, etc.) and indirect costs (disruption of business operations, declining tax base in flood blight areas, etc.) due to floods. Section 17.11 of the Palmyra Zoning Code provides local regulations concerning floodplain management and development.

WETLANDS

The Environmental Corridors Map displays the wetland areas in the Palmyra area as designated by the WisDNR. Wetlands are areas in which water is at, near, or above the land surface and which are characterized by both hydric soils and by the hydrophytic plants such as sedges, cattails, and other vegetation that grow in an aquatic or very wet environment. Wetlands are nature's filters and sponges. They temporarily store floodwaters, filter pollutants from surface waters, control erosion and sediment, supply surface water flow and recharge groundwater supplies, and provide habitat for wildlife.

Wetlands are not conducive to residential, commercial, and industrial development. Generally, these limitations are due to the erosive character, high compressibility and instability, low bearing capacity, and high shrink-swell potential of wetland soils, as well as the associated high water table. If ignored in land use planning and development, those limitations may result in flooding, wet basements, unstable foundations, failing pavement, and excessive infiltration of clear water into sanitary sewers. In addition, there are significant onsite preparation and maintenance costs associated with the development of wetland soils, particularly as related to roads, foundations, and public utilities. The WisDNR and the US Army Corp of Engineers require mitigation when natural wetland sites are destroyed. Recognizing the important natural functions of wetlands, every effort should be made to discourage incompatible urban development of and to encourage compatible park, recreation, and open space. Section 17.11 of the Palmyra Zoning Code provides local regulations concerning wetland management and development.

FOREST & WOODLANDS

Under good management forests, or woodlands, can serve a variety of beneficial functions. Unfortunately, woodlands, which require a century or more to develop, can be destroyed through mismanagement in a comparatively short time. The destruction of woodlands, particularly on hillsides, can contribute to stormwater runoff, the siltation of lakes and streams, and the destruction of wildlife habitat. Woodlands can and should be maintained for their total values; for scenery, wildlife habitat, open space, education, recreation, and air and water quality protection. The Environmental Corridors Map displays those lands that are wooded in the Palmyra area. Jefferson County considers any woodland over 10 acres in size to be significant enough to be classified as an "Environmental Corridor."

The most significant threat to the Village's urban forest is the Emerald Ash Borer. Recently found in parts of southeastern Wisconsin, the Emerald Ash Borer attacks both stressed and healthy ash trees, typically killing its host in one to three years. It is unclear how many of the Ash trees are within the Village.

THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES

While the conservation of plants, animals and their habitat should be considered for all species, this is particularly important for rare or declining species. The presence of one or more rare species and natural communities in an area can be an indication of an area's ecological importance and should prompt attention to conservation and restoration needs. Protection of such species is a valuable and vital component of sustaining biodiversity.

Both the state and federal governments prepare their own separate lists of such plant and animal species but do so working in cooperation with one another. The WisDNR's Endangered Resources Bureau monitors endangered, threatened, and special concern species and maintains the state's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) database. The NHI maintains data on the locations and status of rare species in Wisconsin. These data are exempt from the open records law due to their sensitive nature; therefore, the WisDNR allows limited public access regarding the locations of known rare species. What information that is available can be found at the Bureau website, www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/nhi/.

- ❖ Endangered Species - one whose continued existence is in jeopardy and may become extinct.
- ❖ Threatened Species - one that is likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered.
- ❖ Special Concern Species - one about which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected but not proven.

According to the Wisconsin Endangered Species Law it is illegal to:

1. Take, transport, possess, process or sell any wild animal that is included on the Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species List;
2. Process or sell any wild plant that is a listed species;
3. Cut, root up, sever, injure, destroy, remove, transport or carry away a listed plant on public lands or lands a person does not own, lease, or have the permission of the landowner.

There are exemptions to the plant protection on public lands for forestry, agriculture and utility activities. In some cases, a person can conduct the above activities if permitted under a Department permit (i.e. "Scientific Take" Permit or an "Incidental Take" Permit).

For additional information on regional environmental features consult the following plans:

- ❖ Jefferson County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, 2006-2010
- ❖ WisDNR Rock River Basin Report, 2002
- ❖ An Aquatic Plan Management Plan for Lower Spring Lake, 2005
- ❖ Wisconsin DNR Legacy Report, 2002

Excerpts from the Community Survey – 2008 Comprehensive Plan

87.1% of respondents indicated that it is either "very important" or somewhat important" to preserve wetlands in the Palmyra area. (Question 11)

94.7% of respondents indicated that it is either "very important" or somewhat important" to preserve forests/woodlands in the Palmyra area. (Question 11)

96.6% of respondents indicated that it is either "very important" or somewhat important" to preserve surface water in the Palmyra area. (Question 11)

94.6% of respondents indicated that it is either "very important" or somewhat important" to preserve parks and open space in the Palmyra area. (Question 11)

3. PARK AND OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS

Definitions used in this plan are modifications of definitions used by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). They are used to classify the existing recreation system and to guide plans for its future. They begin with the smallest and most intensely used, and proceed to the largest and least used. Neighborhood and community parks are normally provided by municipalities. Larger recreation areas are normally provided by larger units of government or private developers.

Mini-Park, also sometimes referred to as a “Tot Lot” or “Pocket Park.” - The typical mini-park is located on a small lot, generally a ¼ acre or less, within a residential neighborhood. Often these sites were originally intended for residential use, but due to various factors (e.g. poor lot design, environmental concerns, etc.), have been converted to a park. Mini-parks generally are limited to one facility, such as a playground or fountain, with associated benches. The service area is 1/8-1/4 mile.

Neighborhood Playgrounds - A neighborhood playground mainly serves the active recreational needs of children from 5 to 15 years of age, and it may offer passive recreation opportunities to adults. It is often provided in conjunction with play apparatus; open areas for games, fields for baseball or football, courts for basketball or volleyball; and toilet and shelter facilities. Buffered play areas are desirable. If size permits, an area for more constrained activities, such as quiet games or handicrafts, is advised. Population density is important for determining the space needs and service area of a neighborhood playground. Walking distance of about 1/4-1/3 mile should be the maximum service area.

Neighborhood Parks - A neighborhood park provides open space for the passive recreation of all age groups in a neighborhood and enhances the overall neighborhood environment. An attractive, natural setting such as a lake, stream or woods is a desirable location for a neighborhood park. Facilities may include trees, lawn, benches and tables, open areas for sitting and sunning, paths, shelters, drinking fountains, lighting, and toilet facilities. Population density is important in determining the space needs and service area of a neighborhood park. The greater the density, the more space is needed. It should be within easy walking distance of intended users, not to exceed 1/3-1/2 mile. Neighborhood playgrounds may be included in neighborhood parks.

Community Playfields - The community playfield provides for the active recreational needs of several neighborhoods. It provides more facilities than a neighborhood playground. Such facilities may include: tennis complex, swimming pool, multi-purpose courts, community center, fields for sporting competition, ice-skating area, sanitary facilities, a playground and landscaping to buffer the playfields from surrounding properties. A community playfield might adjoin a public junior or senior high school. Population size and density are important for determining the space needs of a community playfield. It should serve an area with a radius of up to 1-2 miles. Neighborhood facilities might be included in a community playfield.

Community Parks - The community park is intended to serve the passive recreational needs of a number of neighborhoods or a medium-sized municipality. It may include wooded areas, varied topography, water features, undisturbed natural areas, scenic lookouts, picnic areas, hiking or riding trails, boating and swimming areas, and some area for active recreation on a less formal scale than the community playfield. The park may also be utilized for winter activities. The area served by a community park should have a radius of about 1-2 miles. Community park size should be

determined by size and density of population. Community parks also serve as neighborhood facilities for the surrounding neighborhood.

Special Purpose Parks - Special purpose parks may be created by a municipality or by a larger unit of government. These areas are located to take advantage of natural or unusual features of the landscape, or to preserve areas of historic value and provide a variety of outdoor recreation activities. Special purpose parks might be created to provide access to lakes and rivers or to protect ledges and areas with steep slopes. Sites of cultural, archaeological or historic importance might be designated special purpose parks. Certain recreational facilities such as golf courses, trails, boat launching ramps and marinas might be considered special purpose parks.

Waysides, welcome centers, and historic markers are special purpose parks designed to serve motorists. They are important to a tourist industry as a means of providing rest and information. They may include restrooms, picnic areas, shelters, or other facilities needed by motorists. The size and location of special purpose parks depends upon natural features and the functions they are intended to serve. If oriented to motorists, traffic volumes must be considered. Size requirements or specific functions can not be assigned to special purpose parks.

Reservations, Preserves, and Greenbelts - Reservations and preserves are usually located outside urban concentrations and include large tracts of land that are undeveloped or have limited development. Such areas are usually provided by county, state, or federal governments and have the primary function of resource protection. Reservations and preserves may be established to conserve forest lands, marshlands, floodplains, wildlife habitats, and other areas having cultural, scenic, or natural values. Normally, reservations and preserves include several hundred acres of undeveloped land, although some improvements may be provided which are incidental to the enjoyment of the natural scenery. Improvements are usually located in one section on the reservation or preserve so that the area remains largely undeveloped. Improvements may include parking areas, interpretive centers, and scenic waysides. Hunting may be a primary recreational activity in such areas. Other recreational uses might include backpacking, camping, trail use, picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, and water sports.

The greenbelt has basically the same characteristics and functions as the reservation or preserve; however, a greenbelt may be used to shape urban development. It may be a buffer between an urban area and surrounding rural areas and may connect parks within an urban area.

4. PARK, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION INVENTORY

The following chapter documents existing park and recreational facilities both within the Village of Palmyra and the surrounding region. Several other relevant plans exist and should be consulted for additional information including:

- ❖ Jefferson County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, 2005-2010
- ❖ Jefferson County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, 1996
- ❖ WisDNR Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit Master Plan, 1991
- ❖ WisDNR Glacial Heritage Area Master Plan, 2009
- ❖ WisDNR Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2005-2010

Figure 8: Lions Park at Lower Spring Lake

VILLAGE-OWNED FACILITIES

Lions Park is a 1.3-acre community park. The park includes a 100' long beach and swimming area within Lower Spring Lake. A beach house with changing areas, lockers, restrooms and showers together with a concession stand that sells a variety of soda, candy and ice cream is located at the edge of the public parking lot. The site also contains a large pavilion, playground equipment, and two diving rafts during the summer. The Palmyra Park and Recreation Department also makes swimming lessons available during the summer months at the Palmyra Beach.



Downtown Mini-Park is a 0.40-acre pocket park located one block south of Main St. on Second St. Half of the park consists of a public parking lot with 24 spaces. The other half is devoted to open space with several mature trees and picnic tables.

Figure 9: Village Park

Village Park is a 13.2-acre community playfield located on the west side of the Village. The park includes two ball diamonds, a pavilion with attached kitchen (featuring a stove, refrigerator, sink, hot water), picnic tables, playground equipment, tennis courts, two sand volleyball courts, basketball court, and four sets of horse shoe pits. The site also contains the Village's water tower and public restrooms (with ADA compliant stalls).



Deep Rock Springs is a historical site in Palmyra, which is also accessible to the public. The area around the spring was originally developed in the 1880's as a place to access its healing waters. The waters from the spring were also pumped to the spa that was located just west

of Lower Spring Lake, as well as to the railroad. Once at the railroad, it was bottled and used either on the railroad cars or shipped to markets in Milwaukee and Chicago. Concrete and landscaping work, as well as the addition of a placard telling of its history, was completed in 2005 by the Palmyra Historical Society. Deep Rock Spring is accessible from Jefferson Street (CTH E), where parking is available.

All Scout Park is located adjacent to the Village Hall on the corner of Mill Rd. and First Street. The timber framed Boy Scout Cabin is the focal point of this park, and is the meeting place for the local Scout troops. There is also a picnic table available to sit on and relax in the shade.

EXISTING RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Village of Palmyra Park and Recreation Department offers a variety of recreational programs for citizens of all ages. Programs include:

- ❖ Spring and Fall Soccer
- ❖ Swimming Lessons
- ❖ Spring and Fall Yoga
- ❖ Sand Volleyball
- ❖ Basketball
- ❖ Flag Football
- ❖ Various Senior Activities

The Department coordinates with the Palmyra-Eagle School District and the Village of Eagle Recreation Department to provide a broader range of services to area residents. In addition, the Department also organizes trips to area tourist destinations.

SCHOOLS AND PRIVATELY-OWNED FACILITIES

1. **Palmyra-Eagle Middle & High School** provides about 60 acres of recreational land. The site contains a football/soccer field surrounded by a running track, an additional practice field, and about 43 acres of open space, which is bounded by a pedestrian trail.
2. **Palmyra-Eagle Elementary School** provides approximately 10 acres of recreational land. The site contains two little league ball fields, a soccer field, basketball court, and various playground equipment.

REGIONAL PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The following section describes park and recreational facilities within the greater Palmyra area.

Blue Spring Lake - Blue Spring Lake is located a mile south of Palmyra on County Highway H. Public access parking is only permitted on the west side of Blue Spring Lake Dr. off CTH H, with one paved public access on the east side of the lake. The lake has been stocked with bass, pan fish, northern pike, crappies, yellow bullheads and bluegills. Fast boating is restricted to certain hours, which are posted on the backside of the welcome sign, otherwise slow no wake is required. A special July 4th Family Parade takes place every year and includes the fire trucks, decorated bikes, floats and hundreds of people parading down North Blue Spring Lake Drive.

Lower Spring Lake - Lower Spring Lake located between Highway 59 and Anemone Street in Palmyra is a cool and refreshing spring fed lake with a hundred and fifty feet of sandy beach. A WisDNR boat ramp and parking lot is located just east of the Village limits on STH 59 where boats are launched for recreational use and fishing. Bass, sunfish, bluegills and northern (stocked over the years by the local Lions Club) are among the fish most often caught during the summer months, but also while ice fishing in the winter. In June the WisDNR sponsors a free fishing weekend on all lakes, rivers and streams. The Palmyra Lions Club holds a fishing clinic on this weekend to give people of any age the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful sport of fishing.

Paradise Springs - Paradise Springs is a WisDNR designated Urban Fishing Pond located in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, ½ mile north of STH 59 on CTH N. A State Parks sticker is required for entry and special fishing regulations apply.

Carlin-Weld Park - The Carlin-Weld Park is a County owned park located two miles northeast of Palmyra on County Road Z and covers 78 acres of woods and prairie. The park has steep kettles and a man-made pond ideal for fishing, ice fishing and ice-skating. The trails are developed for non-motorized recreation. The park includes a playground area, rest rooms, and a picnic shelter area with tables, grills and a nearby pump house. The park is also used for model aircraft flying.

Kettle Moraine State Forest, Southern Unit - The most prominent natural resource feature in the Palmyra area. The Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest is 30 miles long, extending from the Village of Dousman, Wisconsin, almost to the City of Whitewater. More than 20,000 acres of glacial hills, kettles, lakes, prairie restoration sites, pine woods and hardwood forests can be found in the Southern Unit, making this a popular area for a wide variety of visitors. The state forest also includes the largest wet prairie east of the Mississippi River, the 3,500-acre Scuppernong River Habitat Area. The Forest Headquarters is three miles east of the Village of Palmyra on State Highway 59. A *Master Plan for the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit* was completed in 1991.

Within the forest headquarters is the Kettle Moraine Natural History Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping preserve the features of outstanding interest in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The association's mission is to aid in the interpretation of the human and natural history of the forest, so that visitors can better enjoy and appreciate the natural and historical heritage of the Kettle Moraine area. The Kettle Moraine Natural History Association generates financial support through gift shop sales, donations, and membership dues. It has provided matching funds for Stewardship grants.

Figure 10: Scuppernong River Habitat Area



The Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest has more than 700 campsites and 160 miles of trails, varying in difficulty, length, and permitted uses. The closest trails to the Village of Palmyra are the Emma Carlin, John Muir, Nordic, and Ice Age Trail.

John Muir Bike, Hiking, and Snowshoeing Trail - Located on County Highway H north of the Town of La Grange and US Highway 12 and south of the Town of Palmyra, this is the most popular trail within hundreds of miles. Five different loops ranging from 1.5 miles to 10 miles. Parking, water, and vault toilets are available.

Emma Carlin Hiking and Snowshoeing Trail - This trail system, on County Highway Z just south of State Highway 59, goes through a hardwood forest with mostly hilly terrain. Three color coded trails ranging from 2 to 4 miles. Parking, water, and vault toilets are available.

Nordic Hiking and Cross Country Ski Trail - This trail, on County Highway H south of the Village of Palmyra, provides hiking and skiing for skate and classical stride cross-country skiers through a variety of vegetation, hardwoods, pine plantations, open meadows, and kettle moraine terrain. There are six different trails of varying lengths and degrees of difficulty, providing great hiking or skiing for all levels of ability. A warming shelter is open every day, and convenient parking, vault toilets and a sledding hill are also available at the trailhead. Hiking is not allowed when the trails are groomed for skiing.

Ice Age Trail - The Ice Age Trail is a National Scenic Trail located entirely within Wisconsin. The trail is one of 42 designated Wisconsin State Trails, and the only one specifically designated as a "State Scenic Trail". From Interstate State Park on the Minnesota border to Potawatomi State Park on Lake Michigan, the Ice Age Trail winds for more than 1,000 miles, following the edge of the last continental glacier in Wisconsin. One of only eight National Scenic Trails, the Ice Age Trail is intended to be a premier hiking trail and conservation resource for silent sport and outdoor enthusiasts. The trail traverses some of Wisconsin's most scenic landscapes and helps tell the story of the last Ice Age by highlighting Wisconsin's unique glacial features.

Figure 11: Ice Age Trail



The Ice Age Trail is primarily an off-road hiking and backpacking trail which provides excellent opportunities for sightseeing, wildlife viewing and bird watching. In winter some sections of the trail are open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. ATV's and other motorized vehicles are not permitted on any segment of the Ice Age Trail.

A thirty-mile segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and shelters are located on Palmyra's doorstep. The closest accesses are off of Highway 67 near the intersection of Road X, and Highway 59 east of Palmyra. Vehicles can use the parking lots or anywhere the Ice Age Trail crosses the road, as long as the vehicle is not blocking the trail and is out of traffic. An admission sticker is required in all parking lots where it is stated that a sticker is needed. Shelters are provided for backpackers using the Ice Age Trail. Three reservable, overnight, backpacking shelters are available year round within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

The WisDNR and its partners, the National Park Service and the Ice Age Trail Alliance, cooperatively work together to develop and maintain the Ice Age Trail. The Ice Age Trail Alliance includes 21 local volunteer chapters. Since 1993, the Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter has reached out to residents of Walworth and Jefferson Counties and other nearby communities in southeast Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Chapter leaders conduct numerous hikes including popular weekly walks, special-interest hikes such as full moon, prairie flower, birding, and National Trails Day. Other

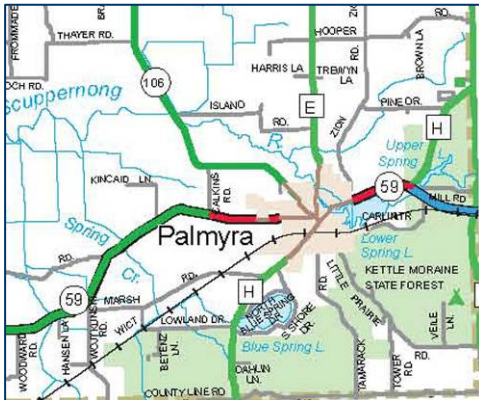
chapter activities include an Adopt-a-Segment program, monthly Trail maintenance days, family events and potlucks. Chapter meetings are held at 7:00pm on the third Tuesday of each month at US Bank, 101 E Walworth, Elkhorn. For more information visit www.iceagetrail.org.

Horsemen's Park - Located just one mile south of Palmyra on Little Prairie Road, within the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The campground has 56 completed sites that are open only to campers with horses. The camp also offers parking for day riding, group fire pits and a pavilion where water and toilets are provided. For reservation visit www.reserveamerica.com.

Old World Wisconsin - Located within the SKMSF one mile south of Eagle, Old World Wisconsin is one of America's largest outdoor museums of rural life. The site has many displays such as ethnic farmsteads that include furnished houses and rural outbuildings and crossroads villages with their traditional small-town institutions. Old World Wisconsin is a popular site for school field trips. For more information visit www.oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org/.

Bike and Pedestrian Routes - Walkers and bikers currently use the Village's existing roadways and sidewalks, although sidewalks are not available in some portions of the Village. There is also a hiking trail around the perimeter of the Palmyra-Eagle Middle & High School.

Figure 12: Bicycle Conditions



The WisDOT maintains a map of bicycling conditions for Jefferson County. These maps have been recently updated using 2004 traffic and roadway data. Figure 12 displays the portion of the map for the Palmyra area. Green routes indicated roadways considered to be in the best condition for biking, blue routes indicate moderate conditions for biking, and red routes indicate undesirable conditions.

In 1996, Jefferson County completed a *Bikeway & Pedestrianway Plan*. As a result of this planning effort, the Jefferson County Parks Department developed a pamphlet titled *Bike Jefferson County, A Guide to 12 Recreational Loop Rides*. The guide contains two loop rides that pass through Lions Park in the Village of Palmyra.

Figure 13: Bike Jefferson County, Ride #8

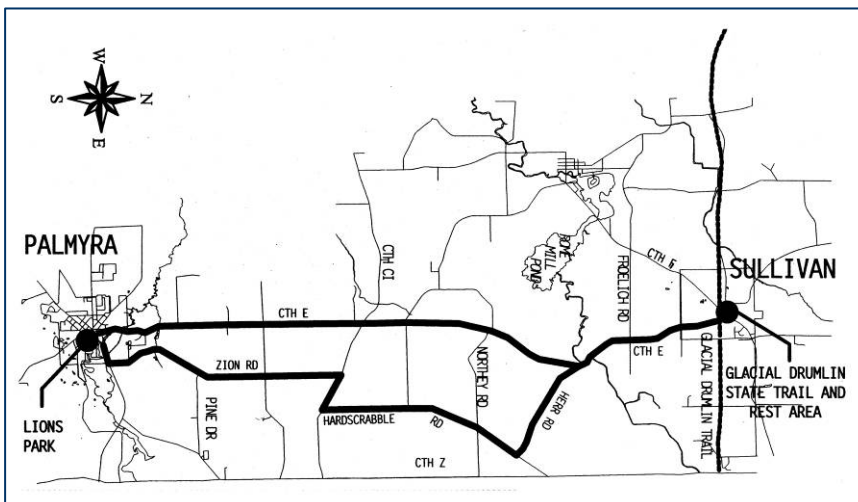
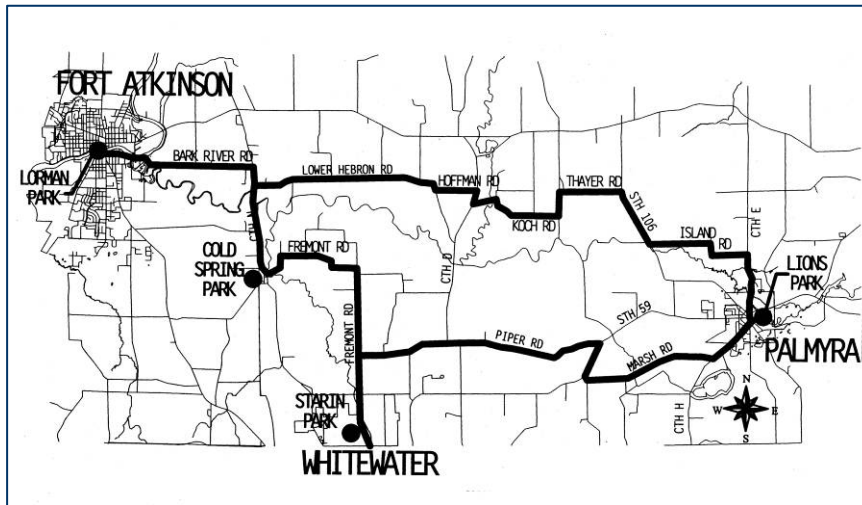


Figure 14: Bike Jefferson County, Ride #11

Jefferson County also has two off road trails, although neither connects to the Village of Palmyra. The Glacial Drumlin Trail, developed in 1986, bisects the County from east to west. It starts in Cottage Grove (Dane County) and traverses 52 miles to the Fox River Sanctuary in Waukesha. Closest access for Palmyra residents is in the Village of Sullivan (via County E) approximately 10 miles away. The other notable trail is the Glacial River Trail, a multi-modal trail that travels from the City of Fort Atkinson south to the Rock County line on a former railroad bed along Highway 26.

5. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS AND DEMANDS

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the Village of Palmyra's existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the Village's existing park and recreation system will be evaluated in the following ways:

- ✓ Quantitative Analysis – a comparison of existing parkland acreage and population projections versus park and recreational facility service standards.
- ✓ Qualitative Analysis – an analysis of the public input regarding Village park and recreational facilities gathered from a 2007 community survey and input from the Village's Parks Planning Committee.
- ✓ Geographic Analysis – an analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park facilities, including a review of county, regional, and state recreational needs and demands.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

From year 1970 to 2000, the population for the Village of Palmyra increased by 32%, which was the same growth rate experienced by Jefferson County. However, from 2000 to 2005, the population in the Village only increased by .5%, while growth in Jefferson County was 4.5%. The most recent population estimate for the Village is 1,747 (year 2008), a decline to late 1990s numbers. The 2008 population estimate for Jefferson County is 80,833. On average Wisconsin villages grew in population by 47% from year 1970 to 2000 and by 3.8% from year 2000 to 2005.

Table 1: Population History and Projection

Population	Village of Palmyra	Jefferson County	Wisconsin
Total Population (1970)	1,341	60,060	4,417,821
Total Population (1980)	1,515	66,152	4,705,642
Total Population (1990)	1,540	67,783	4,891,769
Total Population (2000)	1,766	75,767	5,363,675
Total Population (2005)	1,775	79,188	5,580,757
Projection			
Total Population (2010)	1,820	82,161	5,563,896
Total Population (2015)	1,876	85,178	5,751,470
Total Population (2020)	1,933	88,302	6,110,878
Total Population (2025)	1,986	91,464	6,274,867
Total Population (2030)	2,030	94,259	6,415,923
Percent Growth (2000-2030)	14.9%	24.4%	19.6%

Source: US Census, Projection WIDOA
May 2008

Population projections allow a community to anticipate and plan for future growth needs. In year 2008, the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WIDOA) released population projections to year 2030 for every municipality in Wisconsin. The WIDOA projected the Village of Palmyra will increase by 14.9% from the year 2000 to 2030.

As population gradually increases, household size is expected to decrease. In 1970, the average household size in Village of Palmyra was 3.2. By 2000, this number had shrunk to 2.6. This follows national

trends and reflects both a decrease in the number of children per family, increased life expectancies, and an increase in the number of people who live alone. According to WIDOA projections, the average household size is expected to decrease to 2.4 by 2030.

The age distribution is also expected to change dramatically. In 2000, the percentage of the Village's population under age 20 was 30%, while those over the age of 64 accounted for 11.5% of the total population. Following national trends in smaller family sizes, increased life expectancies, and an increased number of baby boomers entering retirement, the Village can expect a declining percentage of residents under 20 and an increasing percentage of residents over 64. These trends are likely to result in decreased demands for youth oriented park and recreational facilities or programs, and increased demand of those orientated towards the needs of young professionals and seniors.

An analysis of existing recreational land area is provided to determine if the recreational needs of the residents are being met. This analysis includes an evaluation of the space devoted to recreational use, the existing recreational facilities, and the service area. The WIDOA population projections for the Village, shown in Table 1, will be used in determining future recreational needs.

Table 2: Parks and Recreation Space Needs

Acreage Needs	Year				
	2008	2015	2020	2025	2030
Population	1,747	1,876	1,933	1,986	2,030
Existing Acreage of Village Parks and Recreation Areas	14.9	14.9	14.9	14.9	14.9
Demand for Neighborhood Parks (12 acres/1000 people)	21.0	22.5	23.2	23.8	24.4
Surplus/Deficit	-6.0	-7.6	-8.3	-8.9	-9.4

Source: WIDOA Pop. Projections & Jefferson County Parcel Data for Palmyra

Table 2 indicates that the Village has an overall deficit of six acres of park and recreational land. Assuming the population projections are correct, and the Village does not add additional parkland, the total deficit will grow to 9.4 acres by year 2030. It is important to note that the school-owned property is not included in this analysis. The school-owned property does indeed play a vital role at filling the neighborhood park needs of the residents of Village of Palmyra; however, because access and maintenance are not regulated by the Village these facilities were not included in the analysis. Nor were regional recreational facilities such as the Kettle Moraine State Forest. If the school-owned and regional recreational facilities were included in the analysis the Village would adequately meet the projected 2030 demand for parkland acreage.

Regional Quantitative Analysis - The *2005-2010 Jefferson County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (JCPROSP)* established a level of service of 12 acres per 1,000 people. In year 2005, Jefferson County's level of service was 7.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, about 59% of the recommended standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents.

Although the total acreage of community park and recreation lands is an easy indicator of the presence of parks and recreation space, it is not the only indicator of whether or not a community is able to meet the park and recreation needs of its residents. The National Recreation and Park Association advocates for safe and convenient access to affordable public park and recreation opportunities for every person in America. As such, it is important to examine not only the total number of acres of parkland, but also the location of the parks, and the facilities that are offered.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

During the comprehensive planning process a community survey was administer to area residents. Several questions asked respondents to give their opinion regarding existing and planned recreational facilities. The following is a summary of their responses to these questions.

Q6: 66.5% of respondents rated recreational trails in Palmyra as either "excellent" or "good".

Q8: 75.2% of respondents indicated that based on their experience, park and recreational facilities in Palmyra were either "excellent" or "good".

Question 12 on the survey asked respondents to indicate which recreational facilities they thought the Village should invest in over the next ten years. The top choices include playground equipment, sports fields, picnic areas, and bike & pedestrian trails.

12. During the next ten years, which of the following recreational facilities do you think the Village of Palmyra should invest in? (Check boxes for level of priority)

	Low	Medium	High	Not a Priority
a. Campgrounds	45, 30.2%	44, 29.5%	11, 7.4%	49, 32.9%
b. Cross-country ski trails	58, 38.7%	36, 24.0%	9, 6.0%	47, 31.3%
c. Picnic areas	35, 23.0%	59, 38.9%	29, 19.1%	29, 19.1%
d. Volleyball courts	49, 32.7%	45, 30.0%	6, 4.0%	50, 33.3%
e. Bike & pedestrian trails	28, 18.7%	59, 39.3%	28, 18.7%	35, 23.3%
f. ATV trails	41, 27.3%	24, 16.0%	27, 18.0%	58, 38.7%
g. Snowmobile trails	43, 28.1%	34, 22.2%	19, 12.4%	57, 37.3%
h. Frisbee golf course	58, 38.9%	9, 6.0%	7, 4.7%	75, 50.3%
i. Playground equipment	28, 19.0%	63, 42.9%	37, 25.2%	19, 12.9%
j. Tennis courts	53, 34.9%	49, 32.2%	14, 12.8%	36, 23.7%
k. Basketball courts	37, 24.8%	60, 40.3%	19, 12.8%	33, 22.1%
l. Sports fields	35, 23.0%	55, 36.2%	29, 19.1%	33, 21.7%
m. Other (<i>please specify</i>): Senior Center(1), Youth after school activities (2), dog park (1), take care of what we have (2), airport (1), winter skating (1), beach (5), golf course (1), indoor public pool (1), skate park (2)				

During the development of this plan, the Village's Parks Planning Committee discussed the following issues and opportunities.

- ❖ Downtown Mini-Park - is under utilized and contains too few recreational resources.
- ❖ Lions Park – needs additional bike racks, particularly since the park is used and designated as a regional stop for road biking.
- ❖ Lions Park – develop a dock so boaters can use the beach, pavilion or access businesses on Main St.
- ❖ Village Park – resurface tennis courts
- ❖ Village Park – develop an off-street parking lot. This park does not have a public off-street parking lot. The Village has an informal agreement with Saint Mary's Church to allow residents to use their parking lot to access the park.

Regional Qualitative Analysis - As part of the development of the 2005-2010 JCPROSP participants were asked to rate the relative importance or need for various activities in Jefferson County. Activities that ranked as important or very important included:

- ❖ Bike Trails/Routes
- ❖ Bird Watching
- ❖ Cross-Country Ski Trails
- ❖ Hiking Trails
- ❖ Historical/Cultural Resources – Preservation and Interpretation
- ❖ Natural Resource Areas – Preservation, Interpretation, and Improve Natural Vegetation
- ❖ Picnic Areas, Shelters, and Restrooms
- ❖ Volunteer Opportunities

GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

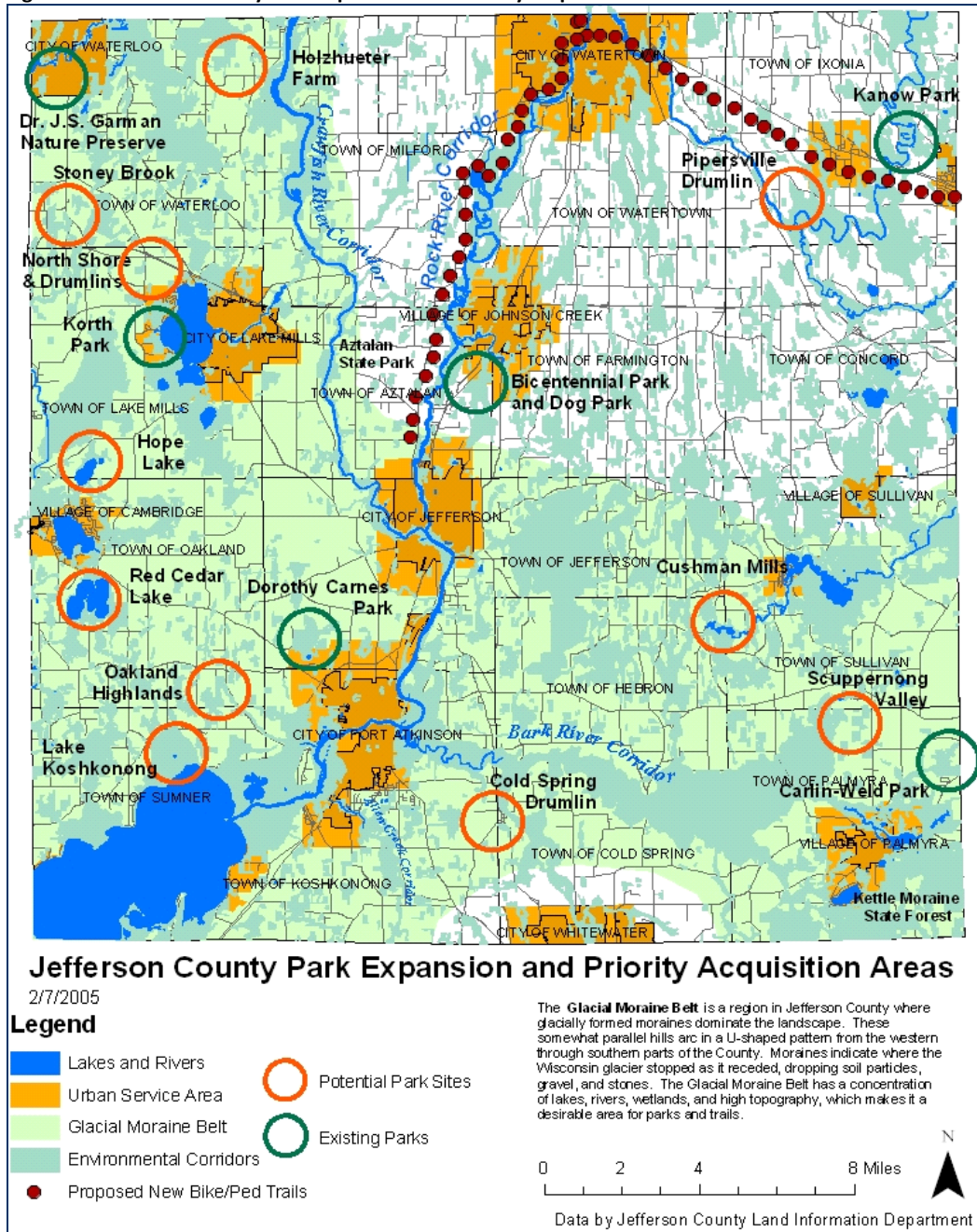
The Village's Comprehensive Plan recommends that all residents should live within a 1/3 mile of some type of public park or open space, which is consistent with NRPA standards. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Map includes an analysis of parkland service areas based upon the 1/3-mile standard¹. The map indicates the following deficiencies in the location of parkland.

- ❖ The area north of STH 59 and west of STH 106 is generally underserved by Village owned parks and open space. If the facilities located at Palmyra-Eagle Elementary School are considered, the deficiency no longer applies. However, it should be stated again that school facilities are not consistently open to the public, and school sponsored activities are given first priority when it comes to use of these facilities.
- ❖ Public access to Blue Spring Lake is limited both in quantity and design. Currently public access parking is only permitted on the west side of Blue Spring Lake Dr. off CTH H. However, the only paved public boat landing is on the east side of the lake. As a result, many lake users park their trucks and trailers along the roadway on the east side of the lake. This creates both a nuisance for neighboring residents and a safety hazard since the road is only 20 feet wide. Although this area is not within the Village limits, it is none the less an issue for Palmyra residents.
- ❖ The areas planned for new residential neighborhoods in the Palmyra Comprehensive Plan will be underserved by neighborhood parks unless new facilities are constructed with the development of the neighborhood.

Regional Geographic Analysis - The 2005- 2010 JCPROSP did not identify any new potential park sites within the Palmyra area. However, it did identify the Scuppernong Valley as a potential site in the Town of Palmyra (Figure 15). The Scuppernong Valley is an extensive natural area with high quality wetlands, upland and lowland woods, remnant prairies, and wildlife.

¹ Both Lions Park and Village Park offer unique community wide resources (beach, ball diamonds, etc.) which area intended to serve a larger radius than 1/3 mile. However, for the purpose of illustrating gaps where neighborhoods do not have some type of park within walking distance, a 1/3 mile service area was assumed for all parks regardless of classification.

Figure 15: Jefferson County Park Expansion and Priority Acquisition Areas



In 2009 the WisDNR and Jefferson County Board adopted the *Feasibility Study and Master Plan, and Environmental Impact Statement for the Glacial Heritage Area*. The proposed Glacial Heritage Area project originated as an offshoot of the *WisDNR Land Legacy Report*. The Village of Palmyra is included within the boundaries of the Glacial Heritage Study Area (Figure 16, page 22).

One of the highest priorities the WisDNR heard from the public throughout the development of the Land Legacy Report was to protect places near where people live — not because they were necessarily the highest quality habitats, but rather to provide readily accessible opportunities for residents to connect with the outdoors. The public is increasingly seeking out places to hike, bike, watch wildlife, camp, hunt, fish, ride horses, study nature, and participate in environmental education that are close enough to one's residence to be able to get to after work or on a day trip. The GHA is between the Madison and Milwaukee metropolitan areas, as such, it is within close proximity to a large portion of the state's population and as a result could help address this significantly increasing demand.

The master plan for the GHA was developed in coordination with a number of local, regional, and state governments, agencies, and organizations. Some of the groups that were most active in planning and designing the GHA master plan were:

- ❖ Jefferson County Board
- ❖ Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium
- ❖ State Trails Council
- ❖ Rock River Coalition
- ❖ Jefferson County Tourism Council
- ❖ Pheasants Forever & local conservation clubs
- ❖ Jefferson County Bike Club & TREK Bicycle
- ❖ Natural Heritage Land Trust & Madison Audubon
- ❖ Land use experts from local planning firms
- ❖ Department of Natural Resources

Glacial Heritage Area Master Plan

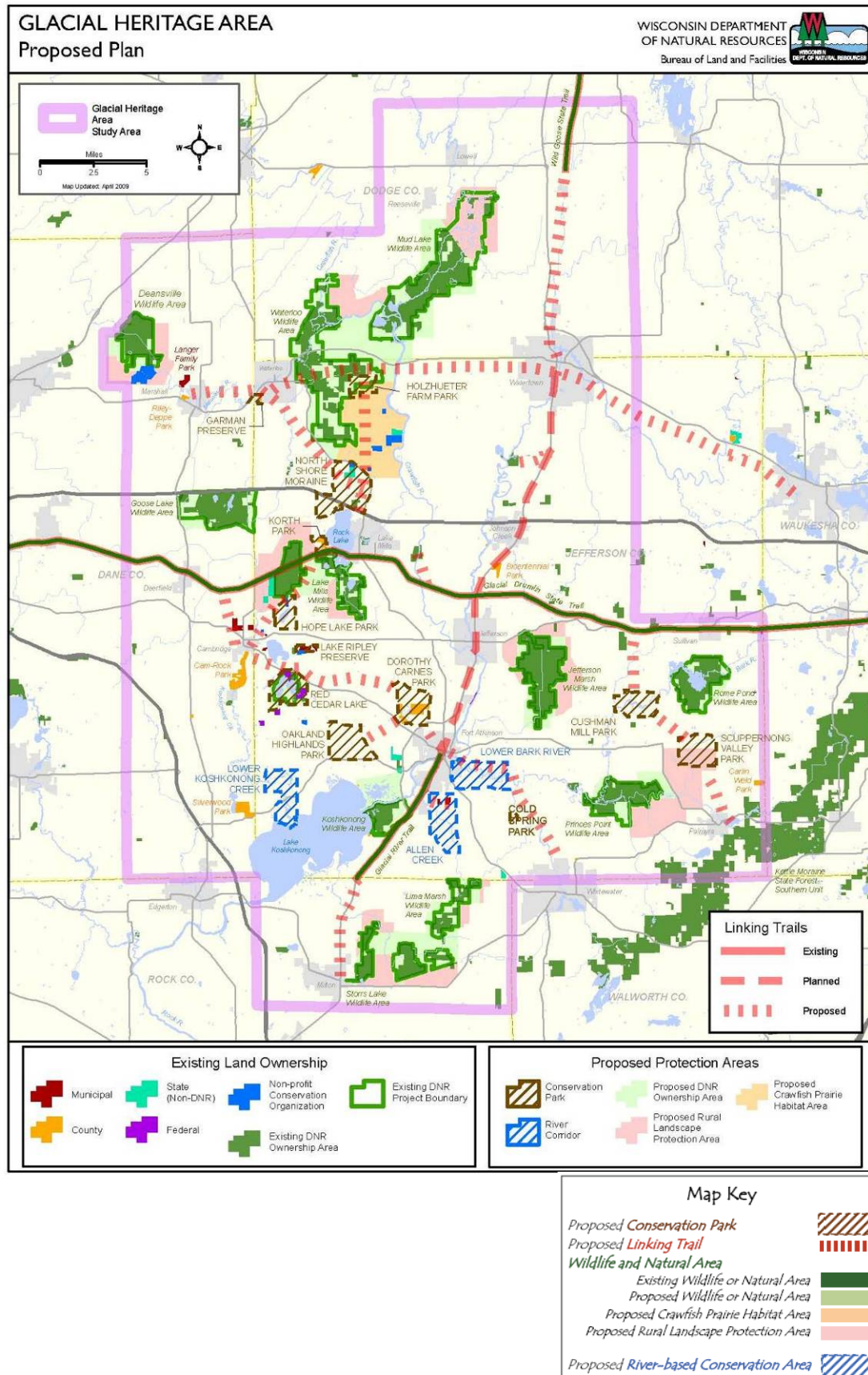
Vision Statement - Create a coordinated network of places and corridors that: enables and encourages a variety of compatible and sustainable outdoor recreation uses; preserves, restores, and protects significant habitats; benefits and integrates with local economic growth and farmland protection efforts; enhances the quality of life by maintaining and improving the land and water resources that underpin the economy; and helps residents and visitors maintain a strong connection to the natural world.

The purpose of the plan is to link parks, preserves, wildlife and natural areas, and other conservation lands to nearby cities and villages with different types of trails. This network aims to ultimately (1) connect people to the outdoors, and (2) protect and restore native grassland, savanna, woodland, and wetland habitats, and improve water quality in area lakes, wetland, and rivers. At its essence, the GHA Master Plan is a compilation of recreation plans developed by local municipalities, Jefferson County, the WisDNR, and nonprofit organizations.

Four types of places are proposed within the GHA network, Conservation Parks, Linking Trails, Wildlife and Natural Areas, and River-Based Conservation Areas. In the Palmyra area, the GHA proposes developing a conservation park in the Scuppernong Valley and linking this area to the Village, and ultimately the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, via a proposed Linking Trail.

The existing collection of parks, boat landings, wildlife and natural areas, and trails forms the foundation of the GHA. Some strategic expansions and additions are needed to create a more useable network; thus the groups helping to implement the project would need to acquire land through donation, purchase, or a combination of both, from willing sellers.

Figure 16: WisDNR Glacial Heritage Area Proposed Plan



The 2005-2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides information on statewide and regional recreation, including recreation supply and demand, participation rates and trends, and recreation goals and actions. The following are a few highlights of the plan:

- ❖ Walking for Pleasure is rated as the activity with the most participation.
- ❖ Backpacking, Downhill Skiing, Golf, Hunting, Mountain Biking, Snowmobile, and Team Sports are decreasing in demand.
- ❖ ATVing, Birdwatching, Canoeing, Gardening, Geocaching, Paintball Games, Road Biking, RV Camping, Hiking, Water Parks, Wildlife Viewing, and Photography are increasing in demand.

The Wisconsin SCORP divides the state into eight planning regions based on geographic size, demographic trends, tourism influences, and environmental types. Together these influences shape each region's recreational profile, describing which activities are popular, which facilities need further development, and which issues are hindering outdoor recreation. Palmyra is part of the *Southern Gateways* region. The most common issues and needs for the region identified by the plan include:

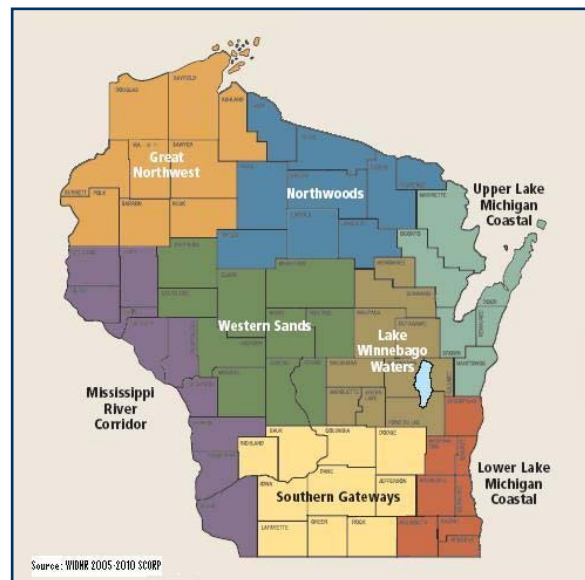
Issues:

- Increased competition for natural resources
- Increasing ATV usage and associated impacts
- Increased multiple-user recreation conflicts
- Lack of park maintenance and staff
- Overcrowding at existing facilities
- Poor water quality
- Protecting silent sport areas
- Budget constraints on park and recreation programs

Needs:

- More ATV usage opportunities
- More biking trails
- More camping opportunities
- More canoeing opportunities
- More cross-country skiing opportunities
- More hiking trails
- More equestrian riding trails

Figure 17: WisDNR SCORP Regions



6. GOALS AND POLICIES FOR PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING

Before any standards are applied and recommendations developed, there should be an understanding of basic goals and policies that should be considered in developing a park and recreation system. During the comprehensive planning process, the Village identified several goals, objectives, and policies related to park and recreation planning, including:

As presented in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan:

Goal: Reinforce the rural character of the Village and surrounding landscape by encouraging the preservation of productive farmland, sensitive environmental areas, wildlife habitat, rural vistas, and local cultural resources.

Objective: Minimize the potential impact on natural resources, environmental corridors, and wildlife habitat when evaluating potential residential, commercial, industrial, and intensive agricultural uses.

Policy: Collaborate with Jefferson County and the WisDNR to link Palmyra's Historic Downtown and park facilities to regional trails and parks, with particular emphasis on connections to the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest.

*An excerpt from the 20 Year Vision
– Palmyra Comprehensive Plan*

...Vibrant small town community which is widely known as the "Heartbeat of the Kettle Moraine" due to its connection to the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. This connection is emphasized through local tourism businesses, community events, and local design. The Village maintains a healthy and attractive downtown business district, serving the needs of both residents and visitors; connected to the Ice Age Trail via a local bicycle and pedestrian trails."

Policy: Maintain Village Park and Lions Park as focus areas for community gatherings and recreation. Require all proposed residential developments to dedicate land, or pay a fee in lieu thereof, for public park, recreation, and open space acquisition and development. Maintain an adequate amount of park and open space land, located throughout the community, to ensure all neighborhoods have access to recreational facilities. Most residents should be within a ten minute walk or 1/3 mile from a public park or open space area and the Village should strive to maintain an average of 12 acres of park and recreational land per 1,000 residents.

The following policies have been adapted from the *National Park, Recreation, and Open Space Standards*, a publication of the National Recreation and Park Association. These policies are paramount in obtaining a balanced allocation of land to meet the Village's social, physical, and economic needs.

NATIONAL PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

1. The Village's park and recreation system should provide opportunities for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or economic status.
2. Advance land acquisition based upon a park and open space system should begin immediately in order to prevent the loss of high quality sites to other development interests.
3. Facilities should be centrally located within the area that they are intended to serve and must have safe and adequate access, and be distributed so that all persons in the community can be served.

4. Land acquired for use as parks or recreation areas should be suitable for the specific intended use, and when possible, for multiple uses.
5. Land adjacent to recreation and open space areas should be used in ways that will not interfere with the purposes for which the recreation or open space land was intended, and in addition, recreation and open space areas should be compatible with surrounding land uses.
6. The design of individual park and recreation sites should be as flexible as possible to reflect the changing patterns of recreation needs in a given service area.
7. Special efforts should be made to provide for easy access to and the use of all facilities by the elderly, ill and handicapped, very young, and the other less-mobile groups in the community.
8. Recreation and open space land should be protected in perpetuity against encroachment by other uses that will inhibit the recreation or open space nature of the land.
9. Park and recreation areas should be used to separate incompatible land uses and guide future urban development.
10. Neighborhood and community level recreation areas should adjoin schools whenever possible. This can enhance the school environment and prevent duplication of facilities.
11. Citizen involvement in the recreation and open space decision-making process should be encouraged and expanded.
12. Facility development must be reviewed with safety in mind, adhering to accepted standards prior to installation.

Complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The ADA, enacted in 1990, clearly states the right of equal access for persons to local government services such as parks. New facility or park development must comply with the ADA and provide accessibility.

There are fundamental differences in how accessibility in the outdoors is accommodated compared to indoors or the built environment. While restrooms, shelters, interpretive centers, and parking lots, for example, need to follow detailed ADA guidelines, other improvements such as trails, boat landings and swimming beach areas, for example, do not necessarily need to follow indoor or built environment ramp grades or surfacing requirements.

A good rule of thumb for the Village to follow is that anything constructed must not make the outdoor experience anymore difficult than what occurs naturally. Mother Nature does not have to comply with ADA, but the Village does.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING

The quantitative, qualitative, and geographic analysis discussed in Chapter 5 reveals the need for some improvements to existing facilities, as well as, the acquisition and development of new sites for future recreational use. It should be noted that some of the actions may require considerable cooperation with others, including the citizens of the Village of Palmyra area, local civic and business associations, neighboring municipalities, Jefferson County, and State agencies. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and/or discussion will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

Many of the specific recommendations discussed below are illustrated on the Potential Park and Recreation Acquisition and Development Map.² Acquisition projects will be implemented through donation, purchase, or a combination of both, from willing sellers.

Recommendation 1: Develop new park and recreational facilities in areas of the Village under served by existing facilities, where future Village expansion is expected to occur, or where the acquisition of park and open space will advance the goals and policies of this plan or the Village's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The analysis of park and recreation needs and demands identified several opportunities to address neighborhoods that do not have access within a 1/3 mile of an existing park facility. Specific recommendations include:

Southwest Neighborhood

Site A. This 50 acre parcel is currently for sale by the owner. The majority of the site contains wetlands; which filter stormwater runoff from about a 1/3 of the Village. There are also two upland areas, one five acre site on the southern portion of the parcel that contains a single family residence. The other upland area borders Blue Spring Lake Dr. and CTH H. This six acre site is dry and has access to Village sewer and water. The Village should acquire this parcel and implement the following projects, as illustrated on the concept plans in the Appendix.

1. Sell off one acre of the northern upland at the corner of Blue Spring Lake Dr. and CTH H. This portion of the parcel is in a prime location for commercial development and will not be needed for the planned recreational uses of the property. The funds from the sale of this portion of the parcel should be used to develop recreational facilities on the remaining portion of the site, or to payoff Village debt in support of development projects already completed.
2. Sell off the southern five acre upland area with the single family house. The funds from the sale of this portion of the parcel should be used to develop recreational facilities on the remaining portion of the site, or to payoff Village debt in support of development projects already completed.
3. Develop recreational trails throughout the site. The location of this parcel provides an opportunity to connect the Village to the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, and especially the Ice Age Trail. The proposed trails shown on the concept map at the end of this plan were developed in order to link several existing destinations together,

² This map indicates approximate or preferred locations for new park and recreational facilities. More detailed planning and analysis may reveal other opportunities.

including the Ice Age Trail, Village Park, CTH H Bike Route, the Palmyra-Eagle Middle and High School. In addition, the trails are proposed along the edge of the parcel to minimize any disruption to the wetland features of this property.

4. Develop a trail head on the remaining portion of the northern upland area. Potential recreational facilities include:
 - ❖ **Parking Lot.** This is an ideal location for a parking lot for visitors using the recreational trails. In addition, the parking lot should be designed to include parking for trucks with boats trailers. The public boat launch for Blue Spring Lake is about a ¼ mile from the proposed parking lot. There is no parking lot at the boat launch; subsequently, people park their trucks and trailers along the narrow roadway. Adding parking for trailers will alleviate public safety and nuisance complaints. A volunteer permit system/drop box could be used to help offset costs and for continued revenue associated with maintenance of the park.
 - ❖ **Pavilion.** A small shelter with picnic tables should be provided. Restrooms should also be considered depending on their financial feasibility.
 - ❖ **Bike Racks.** One of the advantages of this site is that it is adjacent to CTH H which is already designated as a Jefferson County Bike Route. The Village should include several bike racks at the trail head in order to encourage nonmotorized trips to the park.
 - ❖ **Kiosk.** A kiosk featuring a map of the trails and key features of the property should be placed within the pavilion or as a stand alone structure. The kiosk could also feature information about area businesses or maps of connections to regional recreational facilities.

Site B. This 26 acre site is currently owned by the Blue Spring Lake Sanitary District and is within the Village's 20-Year Urban Sewer Service Area. The site is entirely wooded with some wetlands on the west side of the parcel. There are two potential access points from South Shore Drive. The Village should consider partnering with the Lake District to develop this site for recreational uses. Any concept map developed for the property should be added as an Appendix to this plan to provide eligibility for Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds.

Site C. The Village should develop two neighborhood parks to serve the future residential needs of this portion of the Village. The two sites should feature some differentiation in recreation facilities, to enhance the overall recreational opportunities for the entire neighborhood. For instance, while both sites might feature playground equipment, one park might have a soccer field while the other has ball diamonds and a basketball court.

Site D. As part of an expansion of Site A, the Village should consider acquiring this 11.5 acre site as a nature preserve. Almost the entire parcel is designated as a WisDNR wetland, except for a small portion on the east end of the parcel. Village ownership of this parcel will help ensure its preservation and the natural benefits the site provides.

West Neighborhood

Site E. Excluding the school facilities, this portion of the Village is under served by park and recreational facilities. As the West Neighborhood begins to develop the Village should construct a neighborhood playground. An ideal location might be in the small area surrounded by environmental corridors, on the south end of the neighborhood.

Planned Office & Industrial Expansion

Site F. This area of the Village is planned for future expansion of the Palmyra Industrial Park. The location of Site E includes a number of high-value, mature, oak trees. As the industrial park expands, the Village should consider preserving this portion of the site and developing woodland trails, benches and picnic tables. The nature preserve would provide employees in the industrial park with an outdoor area to enjoy during lunch and other break time.

Lower Spring Lake

Site G. This .3 acre site juts out into Lower Spring Lake from STH 59. The property contains a two story house with a detached garage. The property has a history of both commercial and residential use. The property is connected to Lions Park via a Village sidewalk around Lower Spring Lake. The building could be used as a Village Welcome Center, or for a rental shop for canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, or other water associated equipment.



Figure 18: Potential Park Site G

Site H. As an alternative to Site G, the Village could acquire a portion of 162 E. Main St. The site could be used for a Welcome Center or for an auxiliary parking lot for Lions Park.

South Neighborhood

Site I. This 5.9 acre parcel should be considered for acquisition to expand Village Park. Some steep slopes exist on the site which may limit its potential for active recreational uses. However, there may be room for additional ball fields, a public parking lot, dog park, or recreational trails, including a dirt bike track or skate board park.

Site J. The wetlands in this area extend just beyond the eastern parcel boundary of Site A. As an alternative to developing a series of boardwalks through the wetlands in Site A, the Village could acquire a small strip of land and bring the trails connecting Village Park to the Kettle Moraine State Forest around the edge of the wetland areas.

Site K. The Village should develop two neighborhood parks to serve the future residential needs of this portion of the Village. The two sites should feature some differentiation in recreation facilities, to enhance the overall recreational opportunities for the neighborhood. For instance, while both sites might feature playground equipment, one park might have a soccer field while the other has ball diamonds and a basketball court.

Recommendation 2: Establish a network of on and off-road bicycle and pedestrian trails that connect parks, regional trails, community facilities, and economic centers.

During the Comprehensive Planning process, many Village residents expressed a desire for increasing bike routes and pedestrian trails within and around the Village. Connecting local economic and recreation destinations to regional destinations is also a major goal supported by Jefferson County, WisDNR, and other nonprofit recreational organizations in the region. Potential routes identified during the planning process are shown on the Potential Park and Recreation Acquisition and Development Map³ at the end of this plan. Specific improvements include:

1. On-Street Bike Paths. The Village should create a network of on-street bicycle routes, which would connect important social, civic, and economic destinations within the community. The Potential Park and Recreation Acquisition and Development Map proposes creating a looping bicycle route that would link the downtown with area parks and schools. Most segments of the route could be established with simple route markers; however, the Village should consider additional painted lanes along Maple St. due to the higher levels of traffic.

 - ❖ *Blue Spring Lake Loop.* This plan adds one additional on-street bike route that was not discussed during the Village's Comprehensive Plan. This proposed route would connect the existing designated bike route on CTH H to the Blue Spring Lake District and potential park Sites A and B of this plan.
2. Off-Street Bike & Pedestrian Trails. The Potential Park and Recreation Acquisition and Development Map proposes creating a number of recreational trails within the Palmyra area, including:
 - ❖ *Southwest Neighborhood Trails.* Two potential off-road trails are envisioned. One would link Village Park to the Ice Age Trail, via the acquisition and development of Site A. Another proposed trail would link the two park "C" sites to the existing Palmyra-Eagle Middle & High School recreational trail along the edge of the environmental corridor.
 - ❖ *Deep Rock Spring Trail.* The Deep Rock Spring area would benefit from easier access by residents both from CTH E and also Mill Rd. This area is consistently very wet throughout the year and would best be served by a boardwalk type system for navigating the area. Lighting, signage and fencing would also be needed for safety to complete a project in the area.
 - ❖ *Scuppernon River Greenway.* This off-road trail would connect Mill Rd./STH 59 to CTH E using the Village of Palmyra Sewer Utility's easement. This trail would serve to protect floodplain land from future development and protect the river banks from erosion by ensuring the preservation of natural vegetation. This trail could connect to the Deep Rock Spring Trail and Lions Park.

³ This map indicates approximate or preferred locations for new on and off-road trails. More detailed planning and analysis may reveal other opportunities.

- ❖ *South Neighborhood Trails.* As the south neighborhood develops, a series of off-road trails should be developed to link the two park “K” sites to the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, park Site A, and Village Park.

Recommendation 3: Upgrade existing park and recreational facilities.

LIONS PARK

- A. Add additional bike racks, particularly since the park is used and designated as a regional stop for road biking.
- B. Develop a dock so boaters can use the beach, pavilion or access local businesses on Main St.

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Potential Maintenance Projects</u>
Merry-go-Round	Poor to Fair	Repaint and replace boards (1-2 yrs)
Swing Set	Good	None
Teeter-Totter	Fair	None
Beach House	Good	Replace overhead door (5-8 yrs)
Fencing	Fair	Replace lattice fence panels and top boards (2-4 yrs)

DOWNTOWN MINI-PARK

- A. Add a park sign. Technically this park is not officially named. The proposed bike routes identified in this plan all link to this park; therefore, a name and sign should be developed for wayfinding purposes.
- B. Add bike racks and a kiosk, displaying local and regional recreation trails, parks, and commercial destinations.

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Potential Maintenance Projects</u>
Picnic Tables	Fair to Good	Replace Boards (3-5 yrs)
Hitching Post	Good	None
Waste Facilities (3)	Good	None

VILLAGE PARK

- A. Develop an off-street parking lot.

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Potential Maintenance Projects</u>
Pavilion	Fair	Repaint (1-5 yrs), re-roof (1-5 yrs)
Picnic Tables	Good	Replace boards (5-10 yrs)
Kitchen	Fair to Good	Replace/update lighting and sink (3-5 yrs)
Restrooms	Good to Excellent	Repaint (8-10 yrs), re-roof (10+ yrs)
Pavilion Benches	Good	Re-roof in playground (3-5 yrs)
Additional Benches	Good	None
Hardball Diamond		
Fencing	Good	Replace as necessary (backstop, 1 st baseline)
Dugouts	Excellent	None
Bleachers	Good	Replace boards (5-8 yrs)
Softball Diamond		
Fencing	Good	Extend to enclose entire field (as desired)
Benches	Fair	Replace boards (2-4 yrs)
Bleachers	Good	Replace boards (5-8 yrs)

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Potential Maintenance Projects</u>
Tennis Courts	Fair to Poor	Resurface (3-5 yrs) & repaint lines (1 yr)
Basketball Courts	Fair to Poor	Repaint lines (1 yr), restore backboards (2-3 yrs)
Volleyball Courts	Good	Replace nets (2-4 yrs), add sand (2-4 yrs)
Horseshoe Pits	Good	Replace pit frames/backboards (2-3 yrs)
Playground Equipment		
Swing set	Fair	Replace (3-5 yrs)
Teeter-Totter	Good	Repaint seats (2-4 yrs)
Merry-go-Round	Good	Repaint (2-4 yrs)
Play Apparatus	Good	None
Monkey Bars	Good	None
Bounce-About	Good	None
Grills (2)	Good	None
Bubblers (2)	Poor	Replace (1-3 yrs)
Softball Shed	Good	Replace roof (8-10 yrs)
Hardball Shed/Batting Cage	Fair to Poor	Painting and door work (1-2 yrs)
Waste Facilities (16)	Good	Add separate recycling facilities (1-5 yrs)

DEEP ROCK SPRINGS

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Potential Maintenance Projects</u>
Park Bench	Excellent	None

ALL SCOUTS PARK

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Potential Maintenance Projects</u>
Park Bench	Fair	Repaint (1-2 yrs)

Recommendation 4: Promote awareness of local parks, businesses, natural and historical resources.

- A. Install interpretive signs and historical markers as part of local park improvements to promote awareness of natural vegetation, geology, rain garden projects, park founders, and other historical events.
- B. Install information kiosks at community parks as a means of promoting Village businesses.
- C. Install bicycle and trail maps at Village parks.
- D. Ensure that local streets provide sufficient signage to direct tourists to community parks.

Recommendation 5: Improve the water quality of Lower Spring Lake and Blue Spring Lake.

Lower Spring Lake and Blue Spring Lake are essential ingredients to maintaining a healthy Village of Palmyra. Not only are these lakes important for local fish and wildlife, but they also provide unique recreational opportunities that are not available in most urban areas. The lakes also boost the local economy through the collection of taxes on higher valued lake residences, and increased tourist spending at local businesses. In many ways, the two lakes serve to identify the village as much as Kettle Moraine State Forest. However, pollution from both urban and rural sources poses a long-term threat to the continued enjoyment of both lakes. Specific strategies to improve local water quality include:

- A. Collaborate with both lake associations on lake improvement projects.

- B. Preserve or enhance wetland areas that surround the lakes. Wetlands provide a natural means of filtering pollutants and controlling erosion and flooding. Ensuring their protection to the fullest extent will help protect water quality in the lakes.
- C. Install rain gardens and other retention and filtering features in public parks, open space, and drainage ways, and require the use of these features in new developments where appropriate and feasible. Rain gardens function as natural stormwater retention facilities and are an inexpensive alternative for reducing runoff and pollution.
- D. Plant native vegetation along all lake and river waterfront areas owned by the Village and establish regulations to require any new development or major renovations/expansions in waterfront areas to incorporate native plants along the shoreline. Where possible, this vegetated buffer should be at least 100 feet wide. Native plants are recommended because they generally do not require fertilizer and are more tolerant of local climate, soils, and water conditions.

Recommendation 6: Increase the number and diversity of tree species in the Village.

It is only a matter of time before the Emerald Ash Borer finds its way to Village of Palmyra, if it hasn't already. The Village should take steps to address this issue. Specific strategies include:

- A. Become a member of Tree City USA. To qualify as a Tree City USA community, the Village must meet four standards established by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program. It is important to note that they were also designed so that no community would be excluded because of size.
 - ❖ *A Tree Board or Department*
 - ❖ *A Tree Care Ordinance*
 - ❖ *A Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita*
 - ❖ *An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation*

The Tree City USA® program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities that more than 135 million Americans call home. Benefits of the program include:

- ❖ *Providing a framework for an urban forestry program*
- ❖ *Access to Educational Resources*
- ❖ *Improved Public Image & Citizen Pride*
- ❖ *Access to Financial Assistance from the Arbor Day Foundation*

- B. Conduct a tree inventory. Conduct an inventory of existing trees along street terraces and public parks using GPS technology. Information collected during the inventory should include the location, species, size, condition, and maintenance recommendations for each tree. The information collected can be used to visually depicted areas with the Village that lack street trees, are at greater risk to the Emerald Ash Borer, or require other maintenance improvements. A certified arborist should conduct the inventory.

8. FUNDING

Actual project and land acquisition costs will be required as part of the specific proposal for development of recreational facilities, as well as being dependent upon existing market conditions and supply costs. While maintenance of Village park and recreation facilities is generally funded through taxes and limited user fees, there are a wide variety of potential funding sources to assist with up-front capital costs, including the acquisition of land and the development of that land for recreation purposes. Community groups and civic organizations are sometimes willing to organize fundraising efforts to assist with these costs, and they may also be able to marshal volunteer labor to assist with small development projects such as trail creation or playground installations. Local business and corporate support should also be sought. Both non-profit and for-profit organizations can be rewarded for their support with acknowledgement on a plaque or sign at the site. In addition, costs for acquisition and development may be defrayed through donation of land or developer required parkland dedication and/or cash-in-lieu of parkland. An important source of funding is grant programs offered by state and federal agencies, especially including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. A summary of the applicable sources follows.

Table 3: WisDNR Funding Sources

Funding Programs By Category	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
<p>Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program</p> <p>The Stewardship Program was established in 1989 to preserve Wisconsin's most significant land and water resources for future generations and to provide the land base and recreational facilities needed for quality outdoor experiences.</p> <p>These goals are achieved by acquiring land and easements for conservation and recreation purposes, developing and improving recreational facilities, and restoring wildlife habitat.</p> <p>This is an umbrella program that funds the following grants:</p> <p>Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposed (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). <p>Urban Green Space (UGS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land or easements in urban or urbanizing area to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. <p>Urban Rivers (UR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land on or adjacent to river flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. <p>Acquisition of Development Rights Grants (ADR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values, that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. 	50% local match required	May 1	DNR

Funding Programs By Category	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This fund is used to implement projects that are identified by both the local and the state Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In general, land acquisition, development, and renovation projects for public outdoor recreation purposes are eligible LWCF projects. LWCF does not include the “nature-based outdoor recreation” restriction that the Stewardship Local Assistance Programs do. 	50% local match required	May 1	DNR
Recreational Trails Program Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible projects include: maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails, and acquisition of easement or property for trails. May only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan included or reference in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan required by the federal LAWCON. 	Up to 50% of the total project costs of a recreational trail project. Payments are reimbursements on costs incurred after project approval.	May 1	DNR
Urban Forestry Provides technical service and financial assistance to communities for developing urban forestry programs. Priorities include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan; 2) Communities needing worker training; and 3) Communities needing to conduct a street tree inventory. Eligible projects include 1) Undertaking street tree inventories; 2) Training for Village tree workers; 3) Developing urban open space programs; 4) Developing urban forestry plans; 5) Developing a tree ordinance; 6) Developing a public awareness program; and, 7) Tree planting and maintenance	50% local match required. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$25,000.	October 1	DNR
Lake Protection and Classification Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to assist lake users, lake communities and local governments as they undertake projects to protect and restore lakes and their ecosystems. Eligible projects include: Purchase of property or a conservation easement Restoration of wetlands Development of local regulations or ordinances Lake classification projects that allow counties to design and implement local land and water management programs that are tailored to specific classes of lakes in response to various development and recreational use pressures (these grants are limited to \$50,000). Lake protection projects recommended in a DNR-approved plan including watershed management, lake restoration, diagnostic feasibility studies, or any other projects that will protect or improve lakes. 	25% local match required. \$200,000 maximum per project.	May 1	DNR
Recreational Boating Facilities Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities. Also includes purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemically treating Eurasian water milfoil. 	50% local match required	Established quarterly	DNR