City of Mauston
Outdoor Recreation Plan

2012-2016
Effective January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2016

Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
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This plan was prepared at the request of the City of Mauston under the direction of City of Mauston Park & Recreation Commission by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: City of Mauston Outdoor Recreation Plan 2012-2017
Effective January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2017

SUBJECT: This report assesses the existing recreation system in the
City of Mauston identifies recreation needs based upon
public input, past plans, recreation standards, and the
Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation
Plan (SCORP); and establishes recommendations for
improving the recreation system over the next five years.

Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the City of
Mauston for a variety of Federal and State Aids to purchase
land and to add facilities to existing outdoor recreation
lands. The City of Mauston Outdoor Recreation Plan is
required to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation
Fund (LWCF), and Wisconsin Stewardship Grant funding.

Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may
also use this document to coordinate their own private
efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

DATE: December 2011

AGENCY: Public Works Department

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DISCLAIMER: This plan was prepared by the staff of the North Central
Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission under agreement
with the above contact.
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Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this recreation plan is to provide continued direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of the City of Mauston. This is accomplished through an inventory and analysis of outdoor recreational facilities, and the establishment of recommendations to meet identified needs.

Adoption of this plan by the City of Mauston Common Council and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will continue eligibility of the City for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), and Stewardship Fund money.

Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

B. STATUTORY BASE

This Outdoor Recreation Plan was prepared pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program. This section serves "to promote, encourage, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive long-range plan to acquire, maintain, and develop for public use, those areas of the state best adapted to the development of a comprehensive system of state and local outdoor recreation facilities and services..."

C. PAST PLANS

Each plan listed below affects outdoor recreation in the City of Mauston. Any recommendations from the below plans are described below.

City of Mauston Comprehensive Plan 2000-2020
The Mauston Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2000 under the new 1999 Comprehensive Planning Law. This document covers all nine of the required elements. The plan is made up of two basic sections: Inventory and Analysis and Plan Recommendations. A summary of this plan's issues relating to outdoor recreation were inserted into the public participation part of Chapter 4.

State Trails Network Plan
This 2001 document clarifies the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) role and strategy in the provision of all types of trails. The plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors that would link...
existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. This statewide network of interconnected trails would be owned and maintained by municipalities, private entities, and partnerships of the two. Preserving transportation corridors, such as old rail lines, is specifically discussed as a very important strategy in the creation of recreational and alternative transportation corridors. Segment 53 affects the City of Mauston.

**Segment 53 – Wyeville to Mauston to Adams County Hwy Z**

This potential trail corridor is a combination of rail line and highway right-of-way that links via Juneau County’s Omaha Trail to the Elroy-Sparta and "400" State Trails in Elroy. Rail line would provide the linkage from Wyeville to Mauston, and various roadways from Mauston east to the Wisconsin River.

**North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan**

This 2004 document is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region at the county level. Potential trails are identified and an improvement description was created for each county that trails exist in to facilitate implementation.

**Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016**

Completed in August 2011, this plan attempts to classify, measure, and ultimately provide for the preferences and needs of a statewide recreating public. Many factors, from changing demographic and land use trends, to recreational supply, and conflict with other recreation uses, affect the quality, supply, and demand for outdoor recreation.

Park design criteria from SCORP are described in ATTACHMENT B.

**Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056**

This report is a comprehensive inventory of the special places that will be critical to meet future conservation and outdoor recreation needs for the next fifty years. Some of the questions asked to guide creation of this report were: Which lands and waters remain unprotected that will be critical for conserving our plants and animals and their habitats? What gaps exist now (and will likely emerge in the future) in providing abundant and satisfying outdoor recreation? How can we most effectively build upon the state’s existing investment in protected lands to fill conservation and recreation gaps? What special places will our children and grandchildren wish we had protected? The study focused on identifying what of our state or regionally significant green infrastructure remains to be protected. These Land Legacy Areas are shown on MAP 1.
The report recommends protection of these lands by using federal, state, and local funding opportunities; along with possibly creating new kinds of incentives for landowners, working to draft comprehensive plans, or offering different types of technical assistance.

Each Legacy Area near Mauston is summarized below with 5 stars representing the highest level for that category:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LL</th>
<th>Lower Lemonweir River</th>
<th>GC</th>
<th>Greens and Cuestas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td></td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection Initiated</td>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>Protection Initiated</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection Remaining</td>
<td>Substantial</td>
<td>Protection Remaining</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Significance</td>
<td>☆☆☆☆</td>
<td>Conservation Significance</td>
<td>☆☆☆</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Potential</td>
<td>☆☆</td>
<td>Recreation Potential</td>
<td>☆☆☆☆</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Lower Lemonweir River, from New Lisbon to its confluence at the Wisconsin River, flows through the flat, sandy soils that characterize the Central Sand Plains. Due primarily to a lack of topographic relief, the floodplain consists of a vast complex of swales, running sloughs, and oxbow lakes. Floodplain forests, occurring throughout the river corridor, are dominated by silver maple, green ash, river birch, hackberry, and swamp white oak. The surrounding uplands are also heavily wooded. Sandstone cliffs border the south side of the river channel and provide habitat for a variety of unusual plants. Red and white pine relicts occur on some of the cliffs.

Although the waters of the Lemonweir run very dark (a result of the peat soils it flows through), it is one of the highest quality rivers in the area and supports an excellent warmwater fishery. Aquatic diversity within the river is very high. Due to the extensive forests and scenic cliffs, the Lower Lemonweir River offers high quality canoeing opportunities. Access points are limited which, particularly in the lower reaches near the Wisconsin River, provides a near-wilderness setting.

Cuestas are the sloping backside to an exposed escarpment. The Greensand Cuesta, forested with pines and oaks and also containing small prairie patches, is highly dissected along its eastern edge where the sandstone has eroded over time. Significant populations of rare plants and birds reside in the area. The buttes to the east, which can be seen from the I-90/94 interstate, are an extension of the cuesta and also harbor some rare plants.
Chapter 2
BACKGROUND

A. INTRODUCTION

This section describes the natural environment and the demographics that make up the City of Mauston. This information is essential in determining the potential as well as the limitations of an area for recreation development. Recreation planners use this kind of data to determine which resources to develop and which resources to protect or preserve.

The City of Mauston is located in south-central Juneau County and has a population for 4,423 according to the 2010 US Census.

B. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The City of Mauston is located on the eastern edge of the driftless area of Wisconsin, which is a region that was not affected by the glacial advances several thousand years ago. The city has developed on a relatively flat plain along the Lemonwier River, which empties into the Wisconsin River about ten miles south east of the city. The topography of the city is generally of low relief and gentle rolling hills, except for the isolated bluffs remaining from the pre glacial era. The most prominent bluff is One mile bluff which is located south of the city, however most bluffs in this area are located west of the city.

The city is classified in the continental climate type. Winters are cold, and summers are short and fairly warm. The short frost-free period in summer limits the production of crops to forage, small grain, and adapted vegetables. Precipitation is fairly well distributed throughout the year, reaching a peak in summer. Snow covers the ground during much of the period from late fall through early spring. The soils occasionally freeze to a depth of several feet when very cold temperatures occur before the ground is appreciably covered with snow. The soils usually freeze to a depth ranging from the top few inches to about a foot.

C. DEMOGRAPHICS

Juneau County's population included 26,664 residents in the 2010 US Census. The 2010 census represents a 9.7 percent increase since Census 2000 and includes the addition of 2,348 new residents; see Table 1. The City of Mauston experienced an 18.3% growth in population, which is nearly twice the rate of Juneau County during this time frame.
Mauston covers about 4.8 square miles, and had about 921 residents per square mile in 2010, which is a lower density for a city. Wetlands and surface water limit the buildable land within the city limits. The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), Demographic Services Center, prepares population projections for each county and community in the state. DOA projections estimate that the city will add about 914 persons by 2030. See table 2.

Table 2 Population Projections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2030</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mauston</td>
<td>4,423</td>
<td>4,665</td>
<td>4,926</td>
<td>5,153</td>
<td>5,337</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juneau County</td>
<td>26,664</td>
<td>28,449</td>
<td>29,348</td>
<td>30,066</td>
<td>30,551</td>
<td>3,887</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census, WDOA

Table 3 below shows a breakdown of population by age for Mauston, Juneau County and Wisconsin. The table looks at Median Age and age groups. The age groups are 17 and younger 18 to 65 and 65 and older, the table is broken down this way to look at dependent population, which is usually considered under 17 and over 65 years old, versus the independent population, which is usually considered 18 to 65 years old. In comparison to the state Mauston has a higher percentage of dependent population, specifically the older population. This should be considered in the development of this plan.
Chapter 3
EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

A. PARKS and CONSERVANCY AREAS

This section provides a summary of all the local parks’ and school grounds’ facilities. The following brief descriptions of each park type are from the Wisconsin SCORP 2005-2010. Elementary school playgrounds may be categorized as mini parks if only a playground exists. High schools grounds that contain several types of recreation fields would be listed under community parks. School forests are listed as community parks. Linear Parks are trails that may have various lengths.

Mini Parks—Generally less than 5 acres, these parks are special areas that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. One prominent feature or recreation facility like a playground may be present as the purpose of this park. The service area for this park generally is a ½ mile radius, and a population of 2,000-3,000 people.

Neighborhood Parks—An area of 5 to 25 acres that serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Active and passive recreational activities in this park include field, court, and ball games; skating; crafts; and picnicking. Facilities may also include a playground, wading pool, ball field, multi-activity field, ball diamond, tennis courts, skatepark, and shelter. Trees, open fields, and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks. The service area for this park generally is a 1 mile radius, and a population of 2,000-5,000 people.

Community Parks—Usually more than 25 acres in size, these parks serve entire communities, and are located adjacent to a collector street to provide community-wide vehicular access. The purposes of this park are to meet the recreational needs of several neighborhoods, as well as to preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. These parks allow for group activities not feasible at the neighborhood level. All of the facilities of a neighborhood park may exist, along with nature trails and scenic areas.

Special Use Areas—These areas are for single purpose recreational activities that often are designed as revenue generating enterprises such as for baseball, golf, nature centers, arboreta, formal gardens, gun ranges, festivals, ski areas, or areas that preserve and maintain cultural or archeological sites.
B. CITY OF MAUSTON PARK SYSTEM

The Mauston area park and recreation system consists of approximately 45 total acres within the city. This does not include any trails. All parks are shown on MAP 1. Each listing with a underlined title represents a park available to the public.

Linear Parks

Mile Bluff Lookout Park (Kiwanis Park): This 12 Acre Park contains a privately owned hiking trail owned by the hospital.

Mini Parks

Marachosky Park: This 2 acre park is located west of Liberty Street. It contains a picnic area, picnic shelter, playground equipment, a baseball field, a basketball court, open space and parking.

Jones Park: A 2.5 acre park located on the southeast corner of Maughs Street and Prairie Street. The site is level and modestly landscaped. The park contains a picnic shelter, open space, a baseball field, restrooms, an ice skating rink with warming house, and playground equipment.

Lions Park: This 2 acre park is located on Grayside Avenue. It contains a play field, tennis courts, picnic tables, grills, park benches, playground equipment, two basketball hoops, a pavilion, open space, restrooms and parking.
**Murphy Park:** This Park is located at west Monroe Street off of North Union Street just over the bridge. The park only contains a picnic area.

**Oakridge Park:** This 2.6 acre park is located at the southwest corner of 15th Avenue and 51st Street. The park contains a play area and open space.

**Neighborhood Parks**

**Mile Bluff Lookout Park (Kiwanis Park):** This 12 acre park is located at the end of Hess Street. Most of the park is located on a bluff known for its scenic overlook. A basketball court and picnic tables are located on a flat area at the base of the bluff. Along with open space and parking the park contains a privately owned hiking trail owned by the hospital.
Community Parks

Riverside Park: A 3.5 acre park located on Mansion Street fronting the Lemonweir River. The park contains numerous trees that provide shade which makes this park popular for picnicking. The park includes open space, picnic tables, play equipment, basketball hoop, tennis courts, paved parking, boat launch, fishing access, restrooms, a pavilion, a skateboard area and a service building. Even though the park is small in size it is a significant park in the city.

Special Use Areas

Veterans Memorial Park: A 19 acre park located on the south side of Mauston. This park contains the county fairgrounds, along with open space, two baseball fields, a picnic area, restrooms and parking.

C. SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

The Mauston School district provides additional local recreation opportunities to the City of Mauston. School yards often have playgrounds with play equipment, ball diamonds, and basketball hoops. School yards are considered neighborhood parks that range in size from 1 to 15 acres. A few districts also have school forests that are open to the public for a variety of recreational and educational uses.

West Side Elementary School: The school is 6 acres with buildings, baseball field, basketball court, parking, playground equipment and open space.

Gordon Olson Middle School, Grayside Elementary School, and Mauston High School: The combined schools account for 117 acres with buildings, effigy mound display, baseball fields, softball field, basketball court, soccer field, open space, playground equipment, football field and track.
Insert Map 1 – Existing Parks
Chapter 4
OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the city were identified by collecting public input, reviewing past plans, creating a park level-of-service assessment, and summarizing the Wisconsin SCORP 2005-2010 for active use.

B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

City of Mauston Park and Open Space Survey

The city of Mauston completed park and open space surveys over the last couple years. The surveys were sent out along with property tax bills and they were issued to families who utilized summer programs.

The survey had 82 respondents, 79 of which lived in the city with the others living nearby. Over 85 percent of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall parks system and facilities. Over 70 percent of the respondents used city parks at least once a month or more.

The survey also asked respondents attitudes on service improvements and facilities desired for long term planning. The survey identified that respondents would like to see service improvements in after school and youth programs, playground equipment, trail development, security and maintenance. The survey also revealed that the respondents would like to see a pool, rural bike trail and a river walk included in the park facilities long term planning.

Informal Public Input

In the regular course of business, City of Mauston staff, Park Board and City Council members have received public input about its parks.

C. NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

Since the 1960’s, an accepted practice has been to adopt a uniform national land standard, such as 10 acres per 1000 population, for park planning. A standard amount of land for parks and recreation nationwide is no longer recognized as universal for a park. A standard land measure is still used to determine how much land is needed for a specific use like a baseball diamond; facility standards are used for this purpose. The number of baseball diamonds
and other facilities are not the same among similar sized communities nationally; therefore a Level of Service needs to be created locally.

Besides creating a Level of Service for each park classification, other measures such as geographic distribution and universal accessibility, are also used to determine the adequacy of a community's parks.

Universal accessibility is making facilities (i.e. tables, drinking fountains, and restrooms) accessible to people with limited mobility. Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards are followed when purchasing or modifying facilities for universal accessibility. Each park description starting on page 7 lists specific park facilities. If changes to park facilities are necessary to make them ADA compliant, then they will be listed as recommended improvements by park in Chapter 6 under CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

**Level of Service**

The basis of this revised approach to park and recreation standards is to create a Level of Service (LOS) as defined by the customer's needs rather than an arbitrary standard. The LOS is generated locally for each park classification (i.e. mini, neighborhood, or community). Public input is collected, and the needs for a particular park, or whole park classification, are determined. If the public is content with the existing parks within a park classification, then the LOS is applied to the whole population. When the community grows in population, then the LOS is used to calculate if more parkland and facilities within a park are needed.

**Park Acreage**

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

1. **Physical geography.** Does the site have steep hills, woodlands, or wetlands? Such natural features are useful for exploration, conservation, aesthetic buffers, and unprogrammed lands.
2. **Park facilities.** What activities are allowed or will be allowed? How much land is needed for each use? This is determined by applying the park Level of Service (LOS) to lands where the city is growing. If a community is not growing in population, then the LOS does not change, but different uses may become desired over time, so facilities will need replacement.
3. **Unprogrammed buffers.** How much land within the park is needed to separate different uses or future expansion? Designating future parks on the Official Mauston Map will guide future parkland purchases.

Park acreage in TABLE 4 shows how Mauston's park system compares with state standards for the size of each park as grouped by classification. The average park sizes for Mauston fall within the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) recommendations for each classification. SCORP
recommends a mini park size that produces a gap in acreage from 1.5 acres and 5 acres that is not classified; therefore any park with less than 5 developed acres will be a "mini" park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>SCORP Recommendation</th>
<th>Mauston average park size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mini</td>
<td>1.5 – 5 acres</td>
<td>2.3 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>5 – 25 acres</td>
<td>15.5 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>25+ acres</td>
<td>3.5 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Use</td>
<td>Various based upon facility</td>
<td>Various based upon facility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WDNR, & NCWRPC

Parks are listed by classification starting on page 7 of this plan. The total acres for each park classification in TABLE 4 came from totaling all public parks. Undeveloped land and schools were not included. The City of Mauston population was 3,740 in 2000 (U.S. Census), and 4,420 in 2010 (U.S. Census).

This is the formula used in TABLE 5 to create the acres per 1,000 people, which is the Level of Service:

\[
\text{LOS by classification} = \frac{\text{Park acres per classification}}{(\text{City Population} \div 1,000 \text{ population served})}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Classification</th>
<th>2000 To 2010 Level of Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Use</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NCWRPC

TABLE 5 shows that the LOS decreased from 11.2 in 2000 to 10.1 in 2010. This LOS decrease is the result of a population increase of 683 people combined with limited park acreage added.

The LOS calculated in TABLE 5 is only adequate if public comment proves that more park land is not needed. Public comment may state that different uses are desired, but that may not affect LOS if the land area for those new uses replaces the old uses. Chapter 6 will show what projects are planned to improve the parks.
Park Service Areas

Parks must be close to where City residents live for people to consider a park useful. MAP 2 illustrates how well the City of Mauston’s parks serve the various areas of the City. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides the following guidelines for park placement:

- Mini park service area: 0.5 mile radius, or a population of 2,000-3,000;
- Neighborhood park service area: 1 mile radius, or a population of 2,000-5,000;
- Community park service area: 2-5 mile radius, in a city or outside of city limits;
- Special Use park service area is a whole community, and is determined by the type of recreation program, special event, or general activities desired at the park.

MAP 2 shows the combined service areas for 2 types of park classifications: mini, and neighborhood. Community parks and special use parks serve all of Mauston; therefore no service areas are shown for these parks on MAP 2.

Park design criteria are described in ATTACHMENT B. Each park classification contains the following:

- Definition,
- Size Objectives;
- Service Area Objectives;
- Location Objectives;
- Space, Design, and Service Areas;
- Orientation; and
- Function.
Insert Map 2 – Park Service Areas
Chapter 5
OUTDOOR RECREATION GOALS

The development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing outdoor recreation goals from public participation. A goal is a general statement of a desirable end or ultimate purpose toward which planning efforts should be directed. Goals are broad and may apply over a long time frame.

These goals and policies were created based upon public surveys and meeting with the Mauston Parks Board. Goals are meant to guide Mauston officials and non-profit partners as they work towards providing a recreation system to meet the needs of Mauston’s residents and visitors to the area.

Goal 1: Provide ongoing maintenance of what exists.

Buildings, playgrounds, and other structures all need continuous maintenance to provide usable facilities.

Goal 2: Generate revenue where possible while also maintaining the parks.

Several opportunities may exist to increase revenue from existing facilities, as is commonly done in other communities. For example, many boat landings within municipalities have an unmanned "fee station" to charge for launching a boat.

Goal 3: Establish "creature comforts" at most parks.

Make certain that parks have creature comforts that may include bathrooms, tables, benches, drinking fountains, and showers within all developed parks. Each park will have a different amount of these creature comforts.

Goal 4: Link all trails throughout the park system and the city.

Having a plan on where to complete all of these trails will make it easier to prioritize what sections to complete first so that an area is immediately useful to that user group.

Goal 5: Develop partnerships to help maintain and improve parks.

Organizations or "friends of the park" groups may be willing to improve specific parks in cooperation with and at the direction of the Parks Commission. Parks may be upgraded faster with such arrangements, and provide additional community pride when people work together.
Goal 6: Establish Park Beautification Programs

Establishing a parks beautification program could benefit Mauston by increasing property values, enhancing the Mauston’s image, and could become a source of community pride. In the past other cities have used programs to improve their parks, these programs include: city matching funds beautification program, adopt a park, adopt a spot, plant or donate a tree programs, and park memorial programs (i.e. shelters, benches, trees etc.).

Goal 7: Utilize Parks to enhance tourism in the city

The City of Mauston should consider all methods available to use the city parks to bring visitors into the City of Mauston.

These goals generally address what direction Mauston will take with outdoor recreation facilities over the next 5 years. Specific actions to satisfy these goals exist in the next chapter of this plan titled Planned Capital Improvements.
Chapter 6
RECOMMENDATIONS

A. INTRODUCTION

Although it is unlikely that all recommendations presented in this plan will be undertaken in the next five years, they should be recognized as causes for action if the opportunity arises.

B. MAUSTON RECOMMENDATIONS

City of Mauston Parks Board created these recommendations with assistance from NCWRPC staff based mainly on the goals identified from the survey and park board meetings.

**Create Segregated Park Fund**
Place funds generated from park use in a fund specifically for park maintenance and upkeep. Currently it is hard to maintain the parks the city has and using revenue the parks create should help with this issue.

**Fee structures**
The city should annually examine the fee structures for people using the city park system. This is needed to ensure that fees are set at a fair price for users and that the fees generate enough revenue to assist with the maintenance of the parks.

**Continue Park Partnerships**
The City of Mauston has had a history of partnering with local organizations for support for local parks. Some of the local partners include: Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, Golden Eagle Athletic Boosters, Marachosky Family, Local Churches and others. These partnerships have been a great assistance to the City of Mauston. The city should work to keep these partnerships and where feasible develop new partners for the park system.

**Trail Systems**
All potential DNR State Trails, and potential trails from the NCWRPC Regional Bike Plan are summarized in Chapter 1 of this City of Mauston Outdoor Recreation Plan. The city should support the opening of these trails and have local trails connect into the regional trail system.

**Signage**
The city should improve way finding signs for parks and park amenities like boat ramps, bathrooms, canoe launches and portages, etc. The city should provide signage along major streets, as well as trails and near boat and canoe launches.
C. 2007-2011 JUNEAU COUNTY ORP MAUSTON RECOMMENDATIONS

- Upgrade Riverside Park with new shelter.
- Continue to replace and add new equipment.
- Plant more trees.

D. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2012-2017

The City has already completed a parks capital projects list for 2012 through 2017. This section includes projects identified by the City of Mauston. The list includes projects that are budgeted in the next five (5) years and potential projects.

**Budgeted Projects**

These projects are budgeted in the City of Mauston’s 5 year plan and are likely to be completed within the 5 year period.

**Mansion Street and Riverside Park Development**
These two projects were brought forward though the Tax Increment District (TID) study and the highest ranked by both the stakeholders and Planning Commission. It was a part of the Downtown Revitalization Plan and also will serve to prepare for rerouting required when State St will be reconstructed in 2015. Design will be scheduled for next year and construction in 2013. Funding will be through the TID. As a reminder we have 5 years to execute projects utilizing the fund reserves the TID will accumulate by 2022. Conservative estimates are approximately 10M in TID Fund Reserves.

**Highway 82 Pedestrian Improvements**
This project was the next priority for the Planning Commission and is purposed to get pedestrian access along Highway 82 out past the interstate. There have been preliminary designs for this project. It is the intention to coordinate this project the Highway 82 construction next year. Again TID funding would be utilized to fund this project.

**Riverwalk & Pedestrian Bridge**
The River walk would continue improvements made to the Riverbank this year and connect those improvements to Riverside Park. HWY 82 Improvements would probably take place in 2013 and would dress up the corridor to make in a gateway into the community.
Baseball Field Concession Stand
Design is complete for this project and came from the Park Board. Approximately 75% of funding would come from the park reserve fund.

**Potential Projects**

Potential projects are projects that may be completed in the next 5 years if funding becomes available; however these projects are likely to be funded later than 2017.

**Veteran’s Memorial Park Improvements**
JCAIRS is currently working to fund raising and donations for a grandstand. In the five year plan they would like to build a community center and pave the new access road.

**Sled Hill**
This project is preliminarily designed. It came trying to address concerns brought forward with Child safety using the Hill behind the Methodist Church and the additional fill anticipated from the Attewell Detention Basin. The Kiwanis Club is very supportive of the project and hoping make Mile Bluff or Kiwanis Park more of a feature for the community. The intention is to use the slope at Mile bluff to provide a small bank for sledding in the winter. Extra fill would be used from the Attewell Detention Basin. It is still preliminary and contingent on the Attewell Project.

**Oakridge Park Dog Park**
The city crews have begun laying out a potential site for a dog park north of town. The area has a detention pond, plenty of open field area, and screening. Landscaping and a sign could create an excellent site for a dog park.

**Multi-use Trails from the River to Mile Bluff**
With the plan to create a river walk and extend multi-use trails along 82 past the interstate, eventually it is in the interest of the city to extend those trails south and connect Mile Bluff to River.

**Mile Bluff Trail Corridor**
Work to develop a trail extending from the south side of town around Mile Bluff. This will be approximately a 4 mile trail that will connect into the city and county trail systems.

**City Pool**
Survey respondents identified a pool as the top facility that the city should put into a long term facilities planning.
Chapter 7
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

A. INTRODUCTION

There are a number of different strategies available for the implementation of this plan. This includes securing funds to carry out the five year planning program and adopting techniques to carry out the general recommendations and to move towards attainment of the goals and objectives set forth in this plan.

B. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Public Access to Waterways
Wisconsin Statute §236.16(3) requires dedication of public access in subdivisions along waterways unless there is a public access within ½ mile of the subdivision.

Park Dedication
Subdivision regulations can be used by counties to require residential subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use in areas which are experiencing significant residential growth. Neighborhood parks may be acquired in this manner in newly developing residential areas. Local landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of small communities. Juneau County will focus efforts to provide connectivity between developments/subdivisions and recreation areas through trail development. The County will support development of other recreation areas within developments/subdivisions where feasible.

Use of Easements
Open space and public recreation use of private land may be acquired by easement. With an easement, certain rights are granted to the public for a specific period of time and the private owner is compensated for that public use. In purchasing an easement, the public body acquires a right either to use the land in a specific manner or to restrict the use to which an owner may put their land. For example, the rights to establish public hiking or fishing access to a waterway may be purchased through an easement.
Leases
Leases may be used as measures to use or protect land until more permanent measures may be found. By leasing parcels of land, the land remains on the county's and the community's tax rolls and can be renegotiated or non-renewed by the property owner if the monetary prospects for another use proves overpowering.

Another leasing method involves outright purchase of land by the county. The county then leases the land to a private party or organization with use restrictions placed on the land. Under this method, the county receives some monetary return on its investment and retains control over the use of the land.

Historic Sites
Historical sites can be rewarding additions to any community's recreation program. This is especially true in areas oriented to serving a significant tourist trade. Nearly all communities in North Central Wisconsin are in this category and they should all identify their historic sites. A study of potential areas is encouraged. Assistance and guidance for the study can be obtained from the Wisconsin Council for local History, an organization affiliated with the State Historical Society and the local County Historical Society.

Program Costs
A community should carefully watch operations and maintenance costs when setting up a parks program. A too ambitious acquisition and/or development program can easily lead to annual costs larger than the community can afford to meet. Recreation facilities like golf courses and swimming pools, for example, require large annual maintenance investments to continue.

Capital Improvements
Community officials should develop five year capital improvements programs for recreation that reflect implementation of proposals made in their plans and the priorities they place on them. To be functional, the program must be flexible and be subjected to annual review.

In developing a recreation program, care should be taken that the annual cost of maintenance does not exceed an amount the community can afford to pay. Too often, an ambitious program can lose community support as a result of prohibitive maintenance costs.

Monetary Aid Programs
Take advantage of state and federal financial and technical aid programs, which are designed, to assist communities in meeting recreational, needs, and maintain community eligibility for such programs.
The Stewardship Fund is a comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of several older aid programs such as LAWCON and Local Park Aids, combined with new programs, such as the Urban Rivers Program. Attachment C gives an explanation of the Stewardship Fund. For additional information obtain the most current booklet titled Open Project Selection Process from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Requirements for application to the Stewardship Fund include the requirement that the applicant submits an approved comprehensive recreation plan. This plan is designed to meet that requirement.

Besides state and federal aid programs, there are other sources of funding such as private foundations, trust funds, and civic and recreation organizations. For information on private foundations and trusts see Foundations in Wisconsin: A Directory, compiled by Susan A. Hopewood.

Future Planning
At a minimum, all communities should reassess their recreational needs near the end of the five year period covered by this plan. More frequent appraisal of needs may be called for under certain conditions such as extreme variations in funding capability, rapid population changes, actions of other units of government and private enterprise, and the recognition of new legislation, laws, and public programs.

Priorities
The need for community officials to establish priorities within their recreation program is emphasized by the scope of the previous recommendations. Although it is unlikely that all of these recommendations will be undertaken within the time period of this plan, there is an outstanding opportunity for inroads to be made. Recognition of increasing demands for recreation, space and facilities should prompt immediate action.

Lifetime Activities
Community and school officials responsible for recreation should place greater emphasis on land areas and facilities that can support "lifetime" recreational activities. Falling into this category are activities like golf, tennis, all target sports, horseshoes, cross country skiing, skating, running, volleyball, handball, badminton, back packing, and canoeing. Many schools have programs aimed at teaching recreational activities that people can participate in for a lifetime.

Winter Activities
All communities should provide winter outdoor recreation facilities. Skating and sliding sports (sledding, tobogganing, and skiing) can generally be provided without large investments. Skating, for example, can be as involved as
providing rinks for ice hockey or as simple as flooding a small area of a school playground. Likewise, merely blocking off a lightly traveled street with a suitable slope can frequently provide a sliding area.

**Specialized Facilities**
Encourage development of specialized facilities by the private sector. Specialized facilities such as golf clubs and ski resorts can be an important adjunct to public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

**Municipal & School District Cooperation**
Promote cooperation between municipalities and school districts in meeting recreational needs. With good planning, cooperation may take the form of joint land acquisition and/or facilities development cost sharing. Increased municipal use of existing school facilities during non-school hours should also be encouraged.

**Senior Citizen Involvement**
Involve senior citizens in community park development and beautification and provide recreational facilities for their use. Although senior citizens often compose a significant proportion of the total community's population, they are often neglected in recreational planning. Benches placed near neighborhood parks and play areas and non-intensive sports facilities such as horseshoe pits located in community parks help to provide a place for the senior citizens. Small, passive use parks and garden located near nursing and retirement homes should also be encouraged. In addition, senior citizens can provide invaluable assistance in beautifying parks and open spaces and can thereby become more involved in community group life.

**Youth Programs**
Few recreational opportunities have been planned for the communities’ high school age youth. School activities provide most recreational outlet during winter months, but in summer there is a distinct void. This plan recommends a study to determine what recreation activities would be best received by this age and what opportunity there is to provide for them at public parks.

**Service Group Involvement**
Involve organized service groups in needed park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports area and neighborhood parks. Traditionally, service groups and recreation organizations, such as Lions Club, V.F.W., softball leagues, and snowmobile clubs have played an active role in the development of such facilities. Continued activity of this type should be encouraged. In addition, service groups could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources and providing organization and volunteer labor.
Community Beautification
All communities should recognize that community appearance is an important component of a recreation program. Maintained streets and sidewalks, attractive trees and shrubs, well cared for homes and commercial buildings, and neatly landscaped home lawns, public open space, and parks are principal contributors to community beautification. Such a program is most rewarding to persons engaged in passive recreation.

Adopt-A-Park Program
A program which encourages local groups to adopt-a-park or segment of trial or stream could be organized similar to the very successful Adopt a Highway program. The groups could volunteer their time to maintain and beautify the county’s recreational system, allowing more county funds to provide major improvements.
ATTACHMENT A

CITY OF MAUSTON

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS
ATTACHMENT B

PARK DESIGN AND LOCATION CRITERIA

FROM

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP) 2005-2010
ATTACHMENT C

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

AND

PARK AND RECREATION DESIGNS
ATTACHMENT D

STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS