



Outdoor Recreation Plan

2014-2019



North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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- B. Facility Design Standards
- C. Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs
- D. 2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP Summary
- E. DNR Forest Transition Ecological Landscape Summary
- F. Bike and Pedestrian Implementation Table
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Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 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..."

Submission of this adopted ORP to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the local unit of government to apply for a variety of Federal and State Aids for outdoor recreation (Chapter NR 50.06(4), Wisconsin administrative code).

A. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this outdoor recreation plan is to provide continued direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of the Village of Rothschild.

Adoption of this plan by the Village of Rothschild Board and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will continue the Village's eligibility for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), and State Knowles–Nelson Stewardship Program funds under: *Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space Program (UGS), and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP).*

Non-profit conservation organizations (NCOs) are eligible to participate in the Knowles–Nelson Stewardship Program under the Urban Green Space and Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks programs. NCOs may adopt or carry out recommendations from a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan of the local unit of government in which the NCO project is located or use their land management plans that are required for participation in the stewardship programs.

This plan is organized by:

1. Reviewing other plans and laws that affect outdoor recreation (Chapter 1);
2. Describing the Village demographics (Chapter 2);
3. Inventorying what park facilities exist within the Village (Chapter 3);
4. Asking the public about their needs for outdoor recreation (Chapters 4 & 5); &
5. Recommendations are made to satisfy identified needs (Chapter 6).

B. PROVISIONS FOR PLAN UPDATES

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision makers. Amendments must follow the same process as the original plan and generally prolong the effectiveness of the plan.

C. REFERENCE PLANS & LAWS

This plan was written to continue the parks and recreation program established in the Village of Rothschild Outdoor Recreation Plans since 1999. Each plan and law listed below affects outdoor recreation in the Village of Rothschild.

Complete Streets Law

Wisconsin's Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations law addressing Complete Streets was codified in 2009. It was incorporated as State statute §84.01(35) and later into administrative rule as Transportation 75.

Complete Streets are roadways designed and operated to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable access and travel for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transport users of all ages and abilities are able to safely and comfortably move along and across a complete street.

All roads receiving state or federal funding through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) must also accommodate bicycles and pedestrians per this law. Local governments may pass their own Complete Streets ordinances to cover their own road networks. Specific guidelines related to traffic counts, and if the road is urban or rural, are used in these ordinances to determine whether a sidewalk, path, or lane is needed to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.

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. One Segment affects the Village of Rothschild.

Segment 18 – Tomahawk to Wisconsin Dells

A power line corridor along County Trunk Highway X from Wausau to Stevens Point should be considered a component of the statewide "backbone" trail system. This potential trail not only connects the communities of Wausau and Stevens Point, but also could link with the Green Circle State Trail and several other proposed trail corridors. ***NCWRPC Note: This power line corridor is on the west side of the Wisconsin River in the Town of Rib Mountain. No part of this power line corridor that makes this potential trail segment is in Rothschild.***

I-39/Business 51 Interchange, Rothschild, Marathon County

Planning for this WisDOT project began in 2005 and design work began in 2012. Construction is currently scheduled to begin late summer 2014, with completion by the end of 2015.

Proposed improvements to the I-39 interchange and Business 51 include:

- Reconstruction of Business 51 to a four-lane, divided roadway between Village Way and Eagles Nest Boulevard.
- Reconstruction of the I-39/Business 51 interchange ramps.
- Reconstruction of the Cedar Creek bridge
- **Construction of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations along Business 51.**

I-39/US 51 (Business 51-Foxglove Rd.), Rothschild and Rib Mountain, Marathon County

Planning for this WisDOT project started in 2003 and design work in 2004. Construction began in 2012.

Proposed improvements to the I-39 interchange and Business 51 include:

- Widen and resurface southbound I-39/US 51 bridge over the Wisconsin River
- Replace 1.9 miles of pavement along southbound I-39/US 51, Business 51 (Rothschild) to Foxglove Rd.
- Reconstruct I-39/US 51 bridge over Business 51
 - **Allows for future on-street bike accommodation on Business 51**
 - **Allows for future multi-use path along Business 51**

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

Every five years, the WDNR publishes a SCORP as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. At its core, this SCORP is used to help allocate federal funds equitably among local communities, but the document also transcends many levels of outdoor recreation discussion and policy. At the national level, this SCORP recognizes the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative, which is based on the idea that the protection of the country's natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans. The AGO encourages state and local communities to develop local conservation and recreation initiatives.

This SCORP document shows a clear vision of how preserving and improving recreation opportunities in Wisconsin fits within a broader national initiative of conservation and recreation.

A summary of this SCORP is in Attachment D.

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report, 2006-2056

This WDNR report is a comprehensive inventory of the special places that will be critical to meet future conservation and outdoor recreation needs in Wisconsin for the next fifty years. The Land Legacy 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 craft comprehensive plans, or offering different types of technical assistance.

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

MW <u>Middle Wisconsin River</u>	
Size	Large
Protection Initiated	Limited
Protection Remaining	Substantial
Conservation Significance	☆☆☆
Recreation Potential	☆☆☆☆

As the Wisconsin River meanders across this ecological landscape, it flows through a number of communities, including Merrill, Wausau, Rothschild, and Mosinee. Surrounding land use is a mix of agricultural and forested land. Numerous hydroelectric facilities are found throughout this reach of the river. The middle portion of the Wisconsin River is an important biological and recreation corridor linking northern and southern Wisconsin.

Due to the proximity of several large population centers, this portion of the river receives substantial public use with recreational boating, fishing, and waterfowl hunting being particularly popular activities. Large numbers of anglers take advantage of the river's robust warmwater fishery, which includes muskies in the upper stretches, and walleye, smallmouth bass, and several other species elsewhere. The black redhorse is found below the dam in Wausau, the only place in the state that it is known to occur.

Upland forests in the area typically contain a mix of oaks, aspen, and conifers, while the floodplain forests dominated by silver maple, green ash, and hackberry. In concert with associated marshes, these forests provide important habitat for a variety of resident and migratory wildlife. In addition to its aesthetic value, maintaining natural shoreline along the river is important for maintaining and improving water quality. A protected corridor could possibly allow for the establishment of a network of recreation trails.

Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan, 2005-2015

The WDNR created this state wildlife action plan in 2005. State wildlife action plans outline the steps that are needed to conserve wildlife and habitat before they become more rare and more costly to protect. Taken as a whole, they present a national action agenda for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered.

Rothschild and all of Marathon County are within the WDNR's *Forest Transition* ecological landscape part of Wisconsin (shown on the map in Attachment E).

The Wisconsin River in Rothschild is listed as having "Upper Midwest" significance as shown on the map in Attachment E. Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) have been found in this stretch of the Wisconsin River. The river itself along with the shoreline habitat are important to retain and restore for the Species of Greatest Conservation Need to thrive.

High Priority SGCN and natural communities; Priority Conservation Actions; and Conservation Opportunity Areas that are significant to the WDNR's *Forest Transition* ecological landscape are listed in Attachment E.

Wausau MPO Bicycle And Pedestrian Plan, 2009

The Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) prepared the 20-year Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Implementation Guide in 2008. The plan developed strategies for improving bicycle and pedestrian transportation throughout the Wausau area. Potential trails and routes are identified and an improvement schedule was created for each project in 5-year time frames.

See "Bike & Pedestrian Implementation Table" in Attachment F. Rothschild's routes are shown on Map 1.

Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2007-2012

Marathon County has recognized the importance of providing quality recreational opportunities to its residents by developing and updating a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The Marathon County Parks Department prepared this 5-year plan. The Rothschild area is well served by county parks that exist within a 30-minute driving distance.

The county plan shows that a need exists throughout the county for more non-motorized trails, two additional county parks, and for additional fishing access to the water.

A look into the future, CWOCC Master Plan, 2013

The Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) created the master plan to make the Wausau area an official IMBA Ride Center.

One specific bicycle facility in Rothschild is mapped for potential development, and that is about creating a *pump track* on land adjacent to Gaska Park.

IMBA Ride Center evaluation criteria were also reviewed to determine other community aspects of what Rothschild could do to help make the whole area more bicycle friendly.

Village of Rothschild Comprehensive Plan, 2006-2026

The Village of Rothschild cooperated with the County Planning Department that hired URS Inc. and MSA to assist with creating this plan. This comprehensive plan will guide zoning and land division decisions in the Village for many years to come.

Village of Rothschild Pavilion Park Master Plan, 2013

This park master plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different park improvements within Rothschild Pavilion Park. The plan was created by MSA Professional Services Inc.

Guiding Principles

- The Village views the park as a sustainable forestry area that is also for public use. The goal is to properly manage the woodlands to protect the health and overall general aesthetics of the area.
- Preserve and enhance historic features of the site. The goal is to incorporate the history of the park within the site improvements, enhancing the park's unique sense of place.
- Site improvements should enhance existing facilities (i.e. Pavilion, Aquatic Center, boat landing, and island). The goal is to enhance the park for weddings, special events, family gatherings, and water recreation.

Village of Rothschild Trails Plan, 2004

This plan was created to provide a trail system of mainly off-road facilities for the multiple uses of pedestrians, bicyclists, snowshoers, and cross country skiers. This plan was created by Peter Flucke of WE BIKE.

Emphasis was placed on establishing trail connections to existing points of interest within the Village and to adjacent communities and trail systems.

Suggested Trail Segments:

#1 West Over Wisconsin River - Length: About 0.25 miles.

Description: From River Street Park, travel west across the new Wisconsin River bicycle/pedestrian bridge to the western boundary of the Village.

#2 North to Aquatic Center - Length: About 1.2 miles.

Description: From River Street Park, travel north in the corridor between Business 51 and the railroad tracks, under the STH 29 overpass to the Rothschild/Schofield Aquatic Center.

#3a South Loop to Cedar Creek - Length: About 1.5 – 3.0 miles.

Description: From River Street Park, travel south along Birch St. to Zimpro Park. Continue south through the Zimpro Park property along the Wisconsin River to Cedar Creek. Loop back north following the power line right-of-way adjacent to Business 51 to Military Road, and back to River Street Park.

#3b South to Cedar Creek Mall - Length: About 2.0 miles.

Description: From River Street Park, travel south along Birch St. to Zimpro Park. Continue south through the Zimpro property along the Wisconsin River to Cedar Creek, then cross the creek, and cross Business 51 at the Imperial Dr. traffic lights.

#4 East – South of Cedar Creek Swamp

(Weston and Mountain Bay Trail)

Length: Varies.

Description: From River Street Park, travel south along Birch St. to Zimpro Park. Continue south through the Zimpro property along the Wisconsin River to Cedar Creek, then go under the railroad tracks, and under Business 51 using the Cedar Creek bridge. Meander east and cross Cedar Creek at the red covered bridge into the Cedar Creek Mall area. Use existing streets to access the major east-west power line corridor for possible connection to Weston.

Power lines exist on a property easement, so new agreements with the underlying property owners would need to be made to allow a trail in the power line corridor to exist. American Transmission Company (ATC) has expressed interest in working with the Village to secure trail easements in existing power line easements among land owners.

The Village of Weston has expressed an interest in connecting the Rothschild trail system with the Village and the Mountain Bay Trail. Exactly where the Rothschild and Weston trail systems will hoop up will need to be determined at a later date, but many possible sites exist along the border.

Connections to Weston and the Mountain Bay Trailhead could also be made using the existing network of rural roads. Both Camp Phillips Rd. and Ryan Rd. cross STH 29 going north. Since Ryan Rd. is grade separated with no interchange, it is the preferred crossing of STH 29.

#5 East – North of Cedar Creek Swamp

(Weston and Mountain Bay Trail)

Length: Varies.

Description: From River Street Park, travel east on River St. to Line Rd to Hewitt St/Becker St, across Business 51 to Pflieger Street. On Pflieger St., travel south to the end where the trail could follow the sanitary sewer interceptor to the east. This connection could also be made at Military Rd. if a suitable crossing of Business 51 is ever created. From south of the Village Garage, the trail could continue southeast, roughly following the old snowmobile trail along the north edge of the swamp to just south of Lambert St., and then continue east to Madelyn Court. From here the trail could continue east, parallel to Cedar Creek Sr. to the Village's east border with Weston.

The Village of Weston has expressed an interest in connecting the Rothschild trail system with the Village and the Mountain Bay Trail. Exactly where the Rothschild and Weston trail systems will hoop up will need to be determined at a later date. Weston already has formal plans to connect Weston and the Mountain Bay Trail with Wausau.

From Rothschild's border at Howland Ave., the ATC power line runs northeast to Cedar Creek, where it turns north to Weston Avenue. There is a new hospital being constructed in this area and a 10' wide paved path is planned for the south side of Weston Ave. from Birch St. to Camp Phillips Road. From this location trail users could reach Weston and the Mountain Bay Trail via Weston Ave and CTH X or Ryan Rd to the east. Ryan Rd. crosses STH 29 at an overpass. CTH X is an interchange and therefore is a less desirable crossing.

#6 Cedar Creek Swamp Loop

Length: Varies.

Description: From River Street Park, travel south along Birch St. to Zimpro Park. Continue south through the Zimpro property along the Wisconsin River to Cedar Creek, then go under the railroad tracks, and under Business 51 using the Cedar Creek bridge. Meander east and cross Cedar Creek at the red covered bridge into the Cedar Creek Mall area. After using the red covered bridge, turn east and travel under the Eagle Nest Blvd. bridge. Continue along the ridge that separates the Cedar Creek Swamp to the north and undeveloped commercial property along the north side of Eagle Nest Blvd. to a point just north of Calumet St. where the trail will meet the storm sewer line. From here the trail could continue north into the swamp on boardwalks to Pflieger Street, then use streets back to River Street Park.

Insert MAP 1 – Recreation Facilities in Rothschild

Chapter 2

BACKGROUND OF ROTHSCHILD

A. INTRODUCTION

Potential opportunities and limitations start with understanding an area. This section provides a basic feel for what the Village of Rothschild looks like physically, demographically, and economically.

The Village of Rothschild was established as a Wausau area paper mill site on the Wisconsin River in 1907, and then incorporated in 1917. Rothschild participates with the Marathon County Historical Society to document its history.

Rothschild has a 2010 Census population of 5,269 people and is part of the Wausau urbanized area in Marathon County. Single family and multi-family housing is still being constructed, and commercial properties continue to turn over into new businesses due to their preferred easily accessible locations. The Village's industrial park still has infill properties for development. All the necessary utilities exist at each site, and convenient access to the interstate accommodates the increasing demand for building factories and warehouses.

The natural features (e.g. wetlands, forest, wildlife, and steep slopes) are described and mapped in the Rothschild Comprehensive Plan of 2006 (not part of this plan). The Wisconsin River segment that runs through Rothschild and all of Marathon County is an impaired water, because of atmospheric deposition of mercury mainly from fossil fuel fired power plants and PCB contamination. Waters in Rothschild are not listed as Areas of Special Natural Resource Interest, nor are they designated by DNR as outstanding resource waters or exceptional resource waters. The water resources, park locations, and road layout exist on Map 1.

B. LAND USE

The Village is located on 6.9 square miles of land along the eastern shore of the Wisconsin River. Cedar Creek and surrounding wetlands bisect the Village. The paper plant (Domtar) along the Wisconsin River is the reason why the Village exists. Company homes were built in the neighborhoods adjacent to the paper plant in the early 1900s. Newer and newer subdivisions were continually built west of this core to the Village. Annexations in the 1990s provided additional housing and commercial growth, both west of the Village core and south of Cedar Creek.

C. DEMOGRAPHICS

In 5 years, Rothschild's population basically held steady. Kronenwetter has grown faster than Weston, and with almost the same number of houses too. Table 1 displays total population for the Villages of Rothschild, Weston, and Kronenwetter.

Table 1: Area Population

Local Government	2005	2010	2005-2010 Change	2005-2010 % Change
Village of Rothschild	5,201	5,269	68	1.3
Village of Kronenwetter	6,162	7,210	1,048	17.0
Village of Weston	13,350	14,868	1,518	11.4

Source: WIDOA, 2010 U.S. Census, & NCWRPC

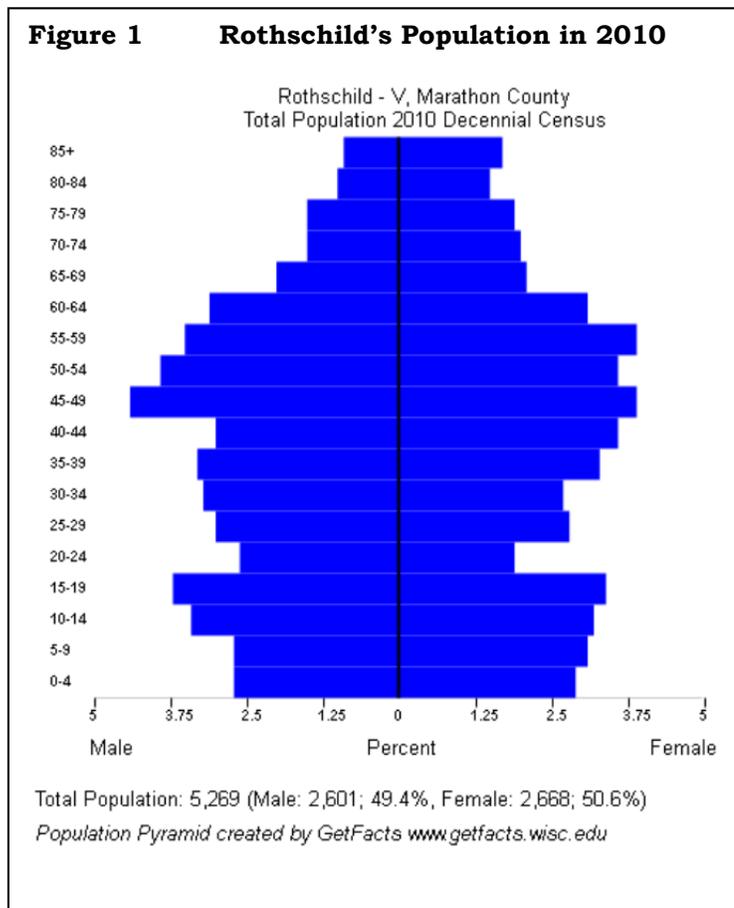
In 2000, Rothschild’s Census population was 4,970. By 2010, the Census reported that Rothschild’s population increased by 6% to 5,269 residents. Table 2 shows NCWRPC’s 5-year projections based upon the last two census counts. The Village’s population is projected to grow by less than 500 people by 2025.

Table 2: Rothschild Population Projections

2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 Projections	2020 Projections	2025 Projections
4,970	5,269	5,427	5,590	5,758

Source: U.S. Census, & NCWRPC

The Village of Rothschild’s population shows a relatively middle aged profile, with more women in young, middle, and senior age categories than is normally identified. Figure 1 is Rothschild’s population pyramid that was created with 2010 U.S. Census data. Two thirds of households in Rothschild are families, of which 26.8 percent have children under 18 years old.



Demographic Trends

Table 3 shows a comparison between the last two U.S. Census counts for Rothschild. Families with young children under 5 years old continue to become residents in Rothschild. Latino and Hmong populations have both increased in the Village by a percentage point each. The percentage of people below the poverty level decreased slightly (0.2%). Educational attainment over the last decade of Village residents has risen, with better than a 2 percentage point gain of those having a high school diploma, and a substantial 10% gain in residents with bachelor's degrees. Even though the number of residents with bachelor's degrees rose substantially (10%), median household income rose only 13.4% over the last decade, which did not kept up with inflation. This may be the result of young professionals taking advantage of low mortgage rates to buy many of the starter homes (older housing stock) within the Village. Since these young professionals are just starting their careers, then they are at entry level salaries, and in a decade if they stay, then median household income will be much higher – beyond inflationary gains.

Table 3: Rothschild's Quick Demographics

	2000	2010
Population	4,970	5,263
Persons under 5 years	5.5%	5.6%
Persons under 18 years	26.4%	22.4%
Persons 65 years and over	12.3%	16.1%
Female persons	50.2%	50.6%
White persons (not Hispanic)	96.2%	93.9
Black persons	0.3%	0.5%
American Indian persons	0.3%	0.3%
Asian persons	2.9%	3.8%
Hispanic or Latino persons	0.3%	1.2%
High school graduates or higher**	90.2%	92.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher**	18.4%	28.2%
Housing units	1,988	2,332
Persons Per Household	2.56	2.35
Median household income	\$50,543	\$58,372
Persons below poverty level	4.0%	3.8%

Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2010, & American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010

**Percent of the population that is 25 years old and over.

The Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development creates countywide workforce profiles that include some demographic data. In 2009, OEA provided the following population perspective:

Population changes are made up of two components; natural and migration. Natural change computes births minus deaths, and migration looks at how many people moved into and out of an area. Marathon [County] has a balanced mix of both. Marathon [County's] natural growth was 3.8 percent, 0.3 percentage points higher than the state but 0.9 percentage points lower than the nation. Net migration, at 3.7 percent, was higher for the county than either

the state or nation. Natural increases accounted for 4,730 new residents while migration added 4,626, a difference of about 100. The combination of natural and migration increases gives a nice mix of older and younger residents.

D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rothschild is part of the greater Wausau area, which is the main economic region within Marathon County. The Wausau Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes all of Marathon County.

Residents may not work in the forestry industry per Table 4, but one of the largest employers in the Village per Table 6 – Domtar – needs hundreds of foresters to harvest and deliver logs to make paper.

Table 4 shows employment by industry in Rothschild and the Wausau MSA (Marathon County).

Table 4: Employment by Industry

	Rothschild	Marathon County
Ag, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	5	2,787
Construction	67	2,909
Manufacturing	527	14,239
Wholesale trade	205	1,782
Retail trade	432	8,835
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	153	2,962
Information	46	744
Finance & insurance, real estate	332	5,936
Professional, scientific, mgnt., admin., and waste mgnt. services.	223	3,703
Educational, health care, social assistance.	683	15,638
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food service.	208	5,048
Public administration	68	1,448
Other services	62	2,862

Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2010, & American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010

Table 5 shows the labor force of Village residents over the last two Census counts. Even through the 2008 Recession, unemployment has remained low among Village residents.

Table 5: Rothschild's Labor Force Indicators

	2000	2010
Labor Force	2,760	3,160
Employed	2,696	3,011
Unemployed	64	149
Unemployment Rate	1.7%	4.7%
Participation Rate	73.1%	74.3%

Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2010, & American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010

Table 6: Rothschild's Large Employers

Name	Industry	Size
Domtar	Paper	250 – 499
Wausau Tile	Concrete Products	250 – 499
Wisconsin Public Service Corp.	Electric Generation	100 – 249
Siemens Energy	Engineering	100 – 249
Imperial Industries	Metal Tank Mfg.	100 – 249
Schuette Inc.	Misc. Metal Fabrication	100 – 249
Krueger Wholesale Florist Inc.	Flower, Nursery Stock, Wholesaler	100 – 249

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, October 2013

Chapter 3

EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

A. PARKS and CONSERVANCY CLASSIFICATIONS

The following descriptions of each park type are from SCORP 2005-2010. 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: Centrally located spaces of 5 to 25 acres that serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood are good neighborhood parks. Active and passive recreational activities in this park classification 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.

County Parks: County parks consist of 100 acres or more that are specifically set aside for active and passive recreation uses to accommodate large gatherings, special events, and individual users. These parks have scenic natural features that preserve the character of the region and provide a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities; and may also provide areas for camping, historic preservation, protection of natural areas, and special use areas.

Conservancy Areas: Conservancy areas are managed for the flora & fauna resources that exist at a site. Activities like hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing may be allowed on these lands that may have labels like state natural areas, forests, or wildlife refuges. Each conservancy area has specific rules of use for public enjoyment.

B. PARK FACILITIES IN ROTHSCHILD

The Village of Rothschild park system consists of approximately 92 acres and about 207 acres of undeveloped land (landfill and wetlands) within the village. This acreage does not include any trails. All parks listed below are owned and maintained by the Village of Rothschild unless stated otherwise. School properties referenced below are owned by the local public or private school district. Map 1 shows outdoor recreational opportunities within the Village.

Linear Parks

Water Trails – A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. All navigable water is available to canoe on. The Wisconsin River has a portage established on the west bank around the Rothschild Dam. There are 2 boat landings within the Village, as shown on Map 1, and described under “Special Use Areas” on page 18.

Snowmobile Trails – Marathon County has 780 miles of snowmobile trails that are maintained by multiple snowmobile clubs. A spur of these trails passes into Rothschild in the Cedar Creek area to access hotels.

Bike Trails: Various roads and off-road paths make up this bike trail system in Rothschild. All bike routes are shown on Map 1. Attachment F has a list showing when and how each bike route may have bike paths or other bike enhancements completed.

Wausau Area Bike Routes: Ten color-coded and numbered bike routes cover the Wausau area, of which three are in Rothschild and are described below. Each route in Rothschild is shown on Map 1.

Red Route 7 – This 17.1 mile long bicycle route parallels the Wisconsin River mainly on trails, but also on some residential streets. This route uses the red covered bridge into the Cedar Creek retail area, a red covered structures under the Business 51 railroad tracks also by Cedar Creek, the Cedar Creek Trail, and the Wisconsin River Bike & Pedestrian bridge into the Town of Rib Mountain.

Brown Route 9 – This 8.12 mile long bicycle route starts in Pavilion Park and travels north out of Rothschild on Grand Avenue.

Blue Route 22 – This 10.5 mile long bicycle route connects the Cedar Creek area, and Route 7, along a series of trails and bike lanes into Kronenwetter and Weston, along with Route 15.

Cedar Creek Bike & Pedestrian Trail: This 1.3 mile long asphalt trail begins at the end of Zimpro Park (Military Rd at the WI River) and continues in a wooded corridor between the Wisconsin River to the west and industrial properties to the east. This trail is part of Red Route 7. The trail is subject to flooding in the spring, is not maintained during the winter, and has the potential for extreme icing and snow conditions.

Mini Parks

See "mini park" definition on page 11.

Tower Park: This 2.5 acre park is under a canopy of oak trees with picnic tables, a playground, and a portable toilet located at the corners of Brown Boulevard, First Street, Wilson Avenue, and Second Street. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

Zimpro Park: This is a 4 acre park with a playground and portable toilet located on West Military Road near Siemens Water Technology. In addition to the developed park there is also a natural area to the south and access to the Wisconsin River and the Cedar Creek Bike & Pedestrian Trailhead to the west. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

Gaska Park: Open space for play and a playground make this part of the mini parks serving the nearby residents. Map 2 shows this park as both a mini park and a neighborhood park. See description on page 18.

George Street Park: Open space for play and a playground make this part of the mini parks serving the nearby residents. Map 2 shows this park as both a mini park and a neighborhood park. See description on page 17.

River Park: Open space for play and a playground make this part of the mini parks serving the nearby residents. Map 2 shows this park as both a mini park and a neighborhood park. See description on page 18.

Evergreen Elementary School: This school has a 2 acre area with a grass play field, multiple playgrounds, and paved play areas, which are located at 1610 Pine Road. This school yard is available to the public during non-school hours.

Rothschild Elementary School: This school has a 2 acre play area and a 2 acre wooded area with trails in it. There are two paved play areas, a grassy play field, and multiple playgrounds, which are located at 810 1st Street. This school yard is available to the public during non-school hours.

St. Mark Catholic School: This school has a 1 acre area with a grass play field and a playground, which are located at 602 Military Rd. This school yard is available to the public during non-school hours.

Neighborhood Parks

See "neighborhood park" definition on page 11.

Gaska Park: Four acres of this park are developed as a neighborhood park. See description on page 18.

George Street Park: This 7.5 acre park was is located at the corner of George Street and Military Road. Facilities at this park include a Little League size ball diamond, a soccer field, tennis court, playground, and grass play field that could be flooded for ice skating. An open air shelter building also contains a concession kitchen, restrooms and drinking fountain. A pedestrian path winds throughout the park, connecting

three street sidewalks. Two paved parking lots exist in the park and are plowed in winter so people can park and use the sledding hill. Pets are not allowed in the park.

River Park: This 5 acre park overlooks the Wisconsin River and is located at the corner of River and Williams Streets. Facilities in this park include a Little League size ball diamond, a soccer field, playground, and an open air shelter building with a concession kitchen, restrooms, and drinking fountain. A pedestrian trail with benches at various locations winds throughout the park and along the banks of the Wisconsin River. The pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Wisconsin River connects the trails of the Village of Rothschild and Town of Rib Mountain. Pets are not allowed in the park.

Community Parks

See "community park" definition on page 11.

Pavilion Park: This 25.92 acre park fully surrounds Park Street and contains all the shoreline to the Kort Street boat launch. Major features in the park include the Rothschild Pavilion, the Rothschild-Schofield Aquatic Center, the Village's water treatment building and wellhead buildings. Picnic tables exist under an open air shelter, and fishing opportunities are along the east bank of the Wisconsin River. The forested buffer around the park is managed as a sustainable forestry area to maintain the general aesthetic of a pine forest as a backdrop to the Pavilion. Dogs are allowed in the park.

Gaska Park: This 40 acre park (4 acres of developed space) is located at the corner of Military Road and Volkman Street. Facilities at this park include a ball diamond, volleyball court, playground, and a small outdoor shelter with restrooms. A year-round trail system with bridges exists that provides cross-country ski opportunities in the winter with a paved area for parking. Although dogs are not allowed in the park, there is a designated pet area in the woods that surrounds the trails.

Special Use Areas

See "special use area" definition on page 11.

Rothschild-Schofield Aquatic Center: This outdoor pool facility (2.5 acres at 1104 Park Street in Rothschild) is a joint effort of the Village of Rothschild and City of Schofield which features:

- Recreational swimming
- 225-foot water slide
- Youth slide with water spray
- Log walk
- Lap lanes
- Rock climbing wall
- Children sand play area
- Sand volleyball
- Bath House with coin operated lockers
- Fountains at the zero depth pool entry
- Concession area
- Shade umbrellas & lounge area

Domtar Company Boat Launch: This 8 acre boat launch is along the west bank of the Wisconsin River and owned & operated by the Domtar Company. Access to this boat launch is off Sunrise Lane in the Town of Rib Mountain and open to the public,

however, please be aware of Ordinance No. 12.13 relating to boating below the Rothschild Dam in the Wisconsin River.

Kort Street Boat Launch and Park: This 0.8 acre park, within Pavilion Park, is located along the Wisconsin River on Kort St at Edgewood Drive. Facilities here include concrete picnic tables, a portable toilet, fishing pier, boat dock and two boat launches. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

Veterans Memorial Park: This ¼ acre park is adjacent to the Village Hall, and shares the Village Hall parking lot. Facilities include memorial paver paths around both the Blue Star Memorial bronze statue and the Fallen Soldier's Memorial bronze statue.

Conservancy Areas

See "conservancy area" definition on page 11.

Hunting on Village Property

Hunting on the Alderson Street compost parcel & Cedar Creek lowland parcel south of Village Garage is allowed in accordance to Ordinance 442-18 Firearms, Shotgun, Bow-Arrows, etc. in the Village. Any interested party must register in the Clerk's office located at 211 Grand Avenue, Rothschild during normal business hours.

The Village Garage, yard, and recycling station occupy about 8 acres, and the Cedar Creek lowlands parcels south of the Village Garage occupy about 207 acres.

Undeveloped Property (No Park Classification)

These land parcels have no recreational facilities, and are considered undeveloped land that the Village owns.

Cedar Creek Water Tower Park: This 2.26 acre parcel is an undeveloped park located at the corner of Creske Avenue and Tesch Lane. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

Garske Park: This 0.5 acre parcel is an undeveloped park and picnic area located on Birch Street. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

Jones Drive Park: This 0.5 acre parcel is an unimproved, wooded, residential lot that was deeded to the Village for a park when the surrounding land was platted for a subdivision. No facilities exist within this parcel.

Chapter 4

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the village were identified by collecting public input, reviewing past plans, and creating a park Level Of Service assessment.

B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Informal Public Input

In the regular course of business, Rothschild's staff, and Parks, Grounds, Buildings Committee members have received public input about the parks. That input and staff's professional experience will also shape what changes are implemented.

Public Meeting Results

Two public meetings (Jan. 13, 2014; and Feb. 19, 2014) and an extended public comment period (all of January and February till Feb. 19) were held to listen to what the public would like for outdoor recreation.

Public notice of those meetings existed in several formats. In December 2013, maps and a notice stating that a to-be-scheduled January meeting on the plan were all posted in the Village Hall's hallway outside the office where everyone comes to pay their taxes. A public notice was posted in the local newspaper advertising both public meetings, along with the regular posting boards at the Village Post Office, Village Hall, and Village Library.

January's meeting had 6 residents in attendance along with 4 staff and elected officials. Since a quorum of the Committee was not present, comments were taken from the public and a second meeting (Feb. 19th) was scheduled. February's meeting had 12 residents in attendance along with 7 staff and elected officials.

Public Comment Summary:

- a. Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) is in support of the bicycling accommodations listed in this plan. CWOCC would especially like to construct a "pump track" within the Village.
- b. There are so many recommendations, creating a priority order for the improvements would be nice to understand when each project is going to happen. (2 people made this comment.)
- c. Gaska trails need improvement right now for pedestrians. Trails are muddy when it rains.
- d. We need bicycle accommodations for families with small children to ride through the Village. (3 families approved of this comment.)
- e. It would be nice to have a playground in Pavilion Park, since the Schofield one is far away.
- f. Pavilion Park should also have a boardwalk along the water's edge.

- g. A kayak portage at Pavilion Park would be a good idea.
- h. Create a park overlooking the Cedar Creek wetlands, so that newlyweds and their guests can get out of the Holiday Inn and Stoney Creek Inn and take pictures overlooking the wetlands, and getting fresh air.
- i. Creating an off road bicycle trail connecting the Cedar Creek trail and covered bridge with the Cedar Creek wetlands ridgeline trail would be a good idea. Also connect this trail with the apartments along Tesch Lane, just north of CTH XX.
- j. Is there a faster way to create trails within the Cedar Creek wetlands area than waiting for all the property to be in public hands? It would be great to have trails sooner.

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 (e.g.: 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 12 lists specific park facilities. If changes to park facilities are necessary to make them ADA compliant, then they will be listed as recommended improvements in Chapter 6 under "Capital Improvements."

1. Park Design Criteria

Parks of any size are useful, but when land is set aside in subdivision plats for future parks, then the appropriate size and reason for the park needs to be established. Park design criteria become useful when deciding on a communities’ *official map* (§62.23(6) WI. Stats.) where future parks should be.

Park design criteria is described in Attachment A for the full variety of park types. Each park classification contains the following:

- Definition,
- Size Objectives;
- Service Area Objectives;

Park and Recreation Designs
Attachment A

The various attributes (e.g. acreage, location, and amenities) of each park classification are described in this attachment. Use these designs as one part of determining if community-wide needs are being met in the parks.

- Location Objectives;
- Space, Design, and Service Areas;
- Orientation; and
- Function.

2. Park Service Areas

Parks must be close to where residents live for people to consider a park useful. Just like schools, park types (mini, neighborhood, and community) are provided for each life cycle, and therefore each park type must cover every resident.

Map 2 illustrates how well the Village of Rothschild is served by the various parks within and adjacent to Village residents. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides the following guidelines for park placement:

- Mini park service area: ½-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 village or outside of village limits (shown with a neighborhood service area on Map 2, but they also serve the whole community);
- 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 (not on Map 2, because none exist in the community);
- Conservancy park service area is a whole community. Conservancy areas are managed for the flora & fauna resources that exist at a site. Activities like hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing may be allowed on these lands. Each conservancy area has specific rules of use for public enjoyment.

Map 2 shows the service areas for all mini and neighborhood parks. Map 2 shows a 1/2-mile radius service area for each mini park, and a 1-mile radius for neighborhood parks. Every neighborhood park serves as both a mini and a neighborhood park, so George St. Park and Gaska Park both have 2 park service areas (1/2 mile and 1 mile). Special use parks, community parks, and conservancies serve all of Rothschild; therefore no specific service areas are shown for these parks on Map 2.

3. Level of Service

A Level Of Service (LOS) approach is used to identify if enough park land exists for a community's needs. This revised approach is defined by the community's needs rather than an arbitrary acreage-per-1000-people 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. If the public determines that individual parks need more facilities in them, then a particular park needing additional land may become reclassified into the next larger classification. When the community grows in population the LOS is used to calculate how many additional parks are needed.

Park Acreage

The size of a park is determined by two 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 buffers between uses.
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 village 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.

Park acreage in TABLE 7 shows how Rothschild's park system (not including schools) compares with state standards for the size of each park as grouped by classification. The average park sizes for Rothschild are in line with State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) recommendations for each classification. Some parks can be classified as both a mini park and a community park (i.e Kort St Boat Launch is a mini park within Pavilion Park).

Table 7 **Park Acreage, 2013**

Classification	SCORP Recommendation	Rothschild average park size
Mini	0.5 – 5* acres	3.25 acres
Neighborhood	5 – 25 acres	5.50 acres
Community	25+ acres	32.96 acres
Special Use	Various based upon facility	2.51 acres

Source: WDNR, & NCWRPC

*SCORP states that a mini park is 0.5-1.5 acres, but a gap from 1.5-5 acres exists, so that gap was added to the mini park size.

Parks are listed by classification starting on page 14 of this plan. Undeveloped parkland was not included (i.e. Jones Drive, Garske, and Cedar Creek Tower Park), and schools were not included either in creating a Level Of Service. No park acreage was added between 2000 and 2010. The Village of Rothschild's 2000 Census population was 4,970, and increased to 5,269 in 2010.

This is the formula used in TABLE 8 to create the acres per 1,000 people, which is the Level of Service:

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

Park Classification	Level Of Service			
	2000		2010	
	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 people	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 people
Mini	6.5	1.31	6.5	1.23
Neighborhood	16.5	3.32	16.5	3.13
Community	65.92	13.26	65.92	12.51
Special Use	11.55	2.32	11.55	2.19
Total	315.47	20.21	315.47	19.06

Source: NCWRPC

Rothschild had a 20.21 village-wide Level Of Service (LOS) in 2000, which declined to 19.06 by 2010. The LOS in TABLE 8 declined because the population grew, and park acreage remained the same.

The LOS calculated in TABLE 8 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, or if unused land within existing parks is used. Chapter 6 will show what projects are planned to improve the parks.

Summary of Needs Driven Park Planning

This is a summary of the above three parts (*park design criteria, park service areas, and level of service*) of *Needs Driven Park Planning* as it applies in Rothschild.

Park Design Criteria – All parks appear to meet these criteria for space and facilities within each park, and that is why they fall into specific park categories. No deficiencies exist within each park.

Park Service Area – Map 2 shows the park service areas. Every neighborhood needs to be covered with each of three types of parks – mini, neighborhood, and community.

Four neighborhoods have barriers to accessing their nearest park.
(Match the Roman numerals below to those on Map 2.)

1. **“I”** – This neighborhood next to Pavilion Park is just outside the ½ mile radius from Mayoral Park in Schofield, but it is still easy to access that park, because the whole area is low volume residential streets, and sidewalks exist throughout. There is also a playground at St. Therese Catholic School, which is available to the public after school hours. No improvements are needed.
2. **“II”** – This neighborhood is bound by STH 29 on the north, Volkman St., Weston Ave., and Alderson Street. One third of this neighborhood is multi-family housing, with the remaining two thirds as single family housing and land for single family homes. This area is not served by a mini park, so the non-pedestrian friendly streets of Weston Ave. and Volkman St. are barriers to Gaska Park. Solution: 1. Make Volkman St. Weston Ave. and Alderson St pedestrian friendly (install sidewalks, multi-use paths, or 5-foot or greater paved shoulders); and 2. Create a

mini park in the neighborhood. Vacant land still exists, and Whitespire Grove housing has a private play area that could be expanded or relocated to better serve the whole neighborhood.

3. **“III”** – Since these apartments are for seniors only, then potential grandchildren who would use mini parks are transported here. For the seniors themselves, a number of studies have found that quiet areas and green or tree-lined areas used for walks and social interaction were important for senior citizens. A multi-use trail runs in front of these apartments. A mini golf course exists almost next to these apartment buildings. Establishing a sidewalk across private property to connect these two destinations would partially serve this use. An outdoor or indoor play area on the mini golf property could become a public use facility if arrangements were made with the property owners/operators.
4. **“IV”** – This neighborhood has apartment buildings along Tesch Ln. and single family homes to the east. The whole neighborhood is served by Sunset Park in Kronenwetter, but CTH XX is a major barrier to cross. No sidewalks or paths exist along Tesch Ln, north or south of CTH XX. Cooperating with Kronenwetter to install a sidewalk or multi-use path along the east side of Tesch Ln to connect the park with this neighborhood would serve this area. There still is the barrier of smaller children crossing CTH XX. Either constructing a pedestrian crossing median on CTH XX at Tesch Ln., or creating a mini park north of CTH XX should be established to serve neighborhoods III and IV.

Level Of Service – Rothschild has an abundance of parks relative to its population. Park acreages within each park are appropriate in size per Table 7 and serve their respective neighborhoods well. Among the developed parks, features within each park (identified in Chapter 3) have enough space to function properly, are well maintained, and have unprogrammed buffer space between uses. Parks are located in areas that have scenic beauty and do not have physical barriers for neighbors to access them. Gaska Park just had a path constructed that connects it to adjacent eastern neighborhoods.

As Map 2 shows, this Level Of Service is good for the neighborhoods that have parks. Other neighborhoods may need parks, and are identified on Map 2 and described with Roman numerals “I” through “IV” above.

If Village residents agree that the existing Level Of Service is good, then Rothschild should make sure its current ordinance requiring park impact fees is adequate to make the additional parks that are needed.

See Chapter 5’s goals and objectives to determine how the Level Of Service will be used.

Insert Map 2 – Park Service Areas

Chapter 5

OUTDOOR RECREATION GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives will guide Village officials and staff as they work towards providing a recreation system to meet the needs of Village residents and visitors to the area over the next 5 years.

Goal 1 – Maintain the existing quality park level of service as the community grows.

Objectives

1. Continue utilizing and exploring additional opportunities to work with other public and private entities for services.
2. Continue to add parks to serve new residential developments.
3. Revise subdivision ordinance to provide a larger amount of dedicated parkland per allowed residential development.

Goal 2 – Maintain the natural aesthetic beauty of the Village.

Objectives

1. When the Village updates its Comprehensive Plan, work with land owners to consider restricting development in specific groves of mature trees (potentially increasing their land values and preserving the natural aesthetic).
2. Consider establishing a land conservation trust similar to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (see Natural Aesthetic Beauty recommendation).
3. Continue the urban forestry program in the Village.
4. Continue requiring perennial vegetation (not just trees) during site development reviews in the Village.

Goal 3 – Provide facilities for bicycle and pedestrian use.

Objectives

1. Cooperate with WisDOT to choose the best bicycling and walking accommodations for WisDOT road projects. State and federal highway projects now comply with the Complete Streets law that requires site specific bicycling and walking accommodations within certain levels of reconstruction.
2. Consider making all roads classified as collectors or arterials pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Many main roads in the Village do not have a safe place to walk or bike outside of the travel lane.
3. Continue requiring pedestrian accommodations in new development.
4. Consider requiring bicycle parking at each employer in the Village.

Goal 4 – Improve water access throughout the Village.

Objectives

1. Develop kayak access points within existing parks in Rothschild (e.g. Pavilion Park, River Park, and Domtar Boat Launch).
2. Develop fishing area on Wisconsin River shoreline within Pavilion Park per the master plan.

Insert MAP 3 – Potential Projects

Chapter 6

RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendations and Capital Improvements are strategies for satisfying issues identified. 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 or need arises.

A. RECOMMENDATIONS

There are a variety of strategies available for implementing this plan. Chapter 7 provides a wide variety of implementation techniques to use. By using the following recommendations, and implementation techniques in Chapter 7, Rothschild can improve and preserve outdoor recreation for current residents and future generations.

Cedar Creek Ridge Trail

“A” on Map 3.

Since the ridge that separates Cedar Creek wetlands from the light industrial zoned parcels north of Eagle Nest Boulevard is not developed yet, then an opportunity exists to create a trail along the ridge. *Officially mapping [Wis. Stat. § 62.23(6)]* this trail corridor would protect its development into the future without needing to pave it right now. Long term, this trail would be an asset to future business employees who may stroll on this path during their lunch breaks, and also to nearby residents in both Rothschild and Kronenwetter.

Cedar Creek Nature Area

“A” on Map 3.

Rothschild recognizes the recreation potential in the Cedar Creek wetlands of the third most popular outdoor activity in Wisconsin – *view/photograph natural scenery [birding]*, according to the SCORP in Attachment D. Cedar Creek wetlands are a vast wetland landscape that is rich in wildlife due to the wetlands, uplands, and towering white pines. All the land in the Cedar Creek area is not wet. Creating natural surface trails and boardwalks will direct people where to walk, so the natural area does not get trampled with overuse, while still enjoying it.

The Cedar Creek wetlands are about 720 acres in size, with the Village owning about 240 of those acres. Cedar Creek could become a local natural area that is enjoyed by the public with better access.

The Village should create a master plan for the Cedar Creek wetlands. The master plan will include an analysis as to how special the natural resource is, where to layout trails and scenic overlooks, and how to transfer additional land into the potential Cedar Creek Nature Area from willing land owners.

An initial way to create trails on a trial basis, would be to acquire easements for winter non-motorized use only (e.g. Dec.-Apr., cross-country skiing and snow showing).

Beautify Cedar Creek Shopping Neighborhoods
“B” on Map 3.

Senior apartments, general apartments, and single family homes all exist in the industrial and shopping area of the Cedar Creek development. Efforts to beautify Tesch Ln. and Eagle Nest Blvd. would include street trees (Eagle Nest Blvd has them, but Tesch Ln does not) and clumps of bushes between the trees to visually block the store backs and industrial properties from the street corridor.



Source: Google Street View

Industrial road screened from adjacent residential area with trees and bushes.

Business 51 Bike Trail
“T” on Map 3.

Cooperate with WisDOT to locate a bike trail in the Business 51 R-O-W. There are two segments that WisDOT is looking at:

1. From the Pavilion south to Hewitt Street; and
2. From Imperial Drive south to Kowalski Road.

Both trail segments would be off-street, 10-foot wide, asphalt bike trails. Segment #1 would be between the railroad tracks and Business 51, and Segment #2 may be on either side of Old Hwy 51.

Sidewalks

Walking is by far the most popular outdoor activity in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan lists *walking for pleasure* as having 87.7% of the population enjoying it.

The Village has an ordinance requiring sidewalks in new residential development, but several existing neighborhoods have incomplete sidewalks. It is most important for people to feel safe walking in their neighborhoods, therefore sidewalks or multi-use paths that also allow bicyclists, should be installed along roads classified as: *collectors* or *arterials*.

Priority sidewalk locations:

Road diets listed in some of the points below are a way to provide a walking and biking space within the existing roadways. A road diet repurposes either the parking lanes or one travel lane in each direction to become bike lanes.

- East side of Tesch Ln. from CTH XX to Creske Avenue. **“B” on Map 3.** Apartments in this area need a sidewalk or off-street path.
- On Alderson St., coordinate with Weston to perform a road diet to install a bike lane or bike sharrows on each side of the street. Where parking is allowed, paint bike sharrows to show drivers to expect higher bicycle traffic. For example: between Hemlock Ave. and the STH 29 bridge, the Alderson St. road diet could be two travel lanes in the center that are separated from the two outside bicycle lanes with painted hash marked boulevards.

- Pedestrian crossings on all 4 sides at the intersection of Imperial Dr. and CTH XX. Sidewalks only allow crossing on the east side, but all four sides have pedestrian destinations (two hotels, a college, a convenience store, and several restaurants).
- Add sidewalk on west side of CTH XX between Imperial Dr. and Industrial Park Avenue. There are no pedestrian connections to Park Plaza businesses within the Cedar Creek shopping area.
- Place Creske Ave on a *road diet* (two travel lanes, a center turn lane, and two outside bike lanes). Half of Creske Ave has no sidewalks or paths, and part of the other half is missing a connection on the north side of Creske Ave at Market Street. Truck turning radiuses will also improve, because travel lanes will be farther from the curbs.
- Place the 4-lane section of Industrial Park Ave. on a *road diet* (two travel lanes, center turn lane, two outside bike lanes). Restriping the road is cheaper than installing sidewalks or paths, while still providing a safe area for drivers, walkers, and bicyclists. Truck turning radiuses will also improve, because travel lanes will be farther from the curbs.
- Military Rd. east of Volkman St., all of Margaret St, and all of Shorey Ave. are each only 2-lanes of pavement. To maintain the rustic feel of this stretch of Military Rd and still provide a safe walking area, then 6-foot wide paved shoulders or a sidewalk on one side should be installed.
- Weston Ave. should have 6-foot wide paved shoulders to walk and bike on wherever curb and gutter does not exist.
- Extend the off-street bike and pedestrian path along Volkman St. from Schmidt Ave north to Business 51. **“E” on Map 3.**

IMBA Ride Center

The CWOCC chapter of IMBA created their long range plan for mountain biking in the Wausau area, and presented it in the summer of 2013. Generally, the recommendations below are parts of this long range plan that could be implemented in the Village of Rothschild:

Gaska Park Area

“G” on Map 3.

No change to Gaska Park, because it is mainly for nature viewing. Bicycling is allowed on the paths, but the park is not meant for heavy bicycle traffic as would exist if a bike park were constructed in or adjacent to Gaska Park. There are other privately held parcels about 20 acres in size that may be a better fit in and near Rothschild for a pump track. The Village would like to continue working with CWOCC to find a better location in the same area for a pump track.

Bicycle Parking

Installing bike racks in each park would provide secure parking for residents and visitors. A set of bicycle parking recommendations from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) is included in Attachment G. The amount of space needed for a bike rack, and how to determine good bike rack designs are included in those guidelines.

Bike-friendly Lodging

Specific easy to provide bike facilities at each bike friendly hotel is important when enticing people to visit the local trails. Ride Center Evaluation Criteria has this statement for lodging:

Hotels, motels, or campgrounds must have bike washes, secure bike storage, and/or allow bikes in rooms. At least 25% of available rooms/sites are to be bicycle friendly within the region near the Ride Center.

NCWRPC Note: A bicycle wash should just use standard municipal water pressure when designating an area to wash bikes. High pressured wash stations could cause damage by forcing abrasives into bike bearings.

Bicycle Parking

For bikes to be used more often for transportation, everyday destinations like work, school, stores, offices, and restaurants must be within a convenient biking distance. Rothschild was laid out as bicycle friendly over 100 years ago. Destinations are close, but major roads like Business 51 are not perceived by most residents as bicycle friendly.

The Village may want to consider creating a bicycle parking ordinance. Bicycle trails now run throughout several parts of the Village, but few places provide bicycle parking. Therefore, now is the time to provide guidance and a timeline to establishing 1) where, 2) how much, and 3) what type of bicycle parking each employer would provide in the Village (both public and private). Bicycle rack design guidelines in Attachment G are a good start for anyone wanting to provide bicycle parking now that would comply with potential future regulations.

Consistent Park Signs

The park identification signage is inconsistent from park to park, and many parks do not have any identifying signs (e.g. George Street Park, and River Park). As signage is replaced or upgraded in the Village parks or along its trails, it should be designed to create a constant image for the parks in Rothschild. The Pavilion Park Master Plan identified a sign type that incorporates elements of pine wood beams and blue stone.

Trails that exist throughout the Village should have some minimal signage for several reasons: 1) designating what uses are allowed on them, 2) for basic wayfinding and 911 locating, and 3) to let people know that these paths are open for public use. A simple sign with the Village logo, "Pedestrian Trail", and icons showing what uses are allowed would be helpful to potential users.



Sample trail sign

Recreation Safety (911)

Accidents are a part of life. From a physical injury to recreational equipment breaking down, people will need help, and they expect the authorities to find them.

Work with the Marathon County Emergency Management Department to verify that official Village trails and parks are geo-located in the 911 system. For example: if a person calls from a path in Gaska Park, then a map of the Gaska Park trails would show up on the 911 screen, along with all the access points into the park.

Parks on Google Maps

Some of Rothschild's parks are not listed on Google Maps. Working to establish all developed parks on Google Maps will assist residents and visitors. Many mobile device applications use such free online data to assist residents and visitors do things like find out how walkable their community is, buying and selling their homes, along with other useful tools.

New Park in Northeast Corner of Village

"G & H" on Map 3.

The park location analysis of Map 2 shows that the northeast corner of the Village is not served by a neighborhood park – in Rothschild or in Weston. The condo development along Whitespire Road has a mini park on their property next to a stormwater retention basin. The size of that park is too small to add playground equipment and a play field to per the space requirements in Attachments A & B (park size and facility standards). If more land could be added to the potential Whitespire Road park, and if a fence could be installed around the retention basin to keep kids away, then this site would serve this area of Rothschild well.

Park Impact Fees

Review subdivision ordinance to verify that it is consistent with what this outdoor recreation plan recommends. If a new subdivision is platted, will enough land or money in lieu of land be requested of the subdivider? Does the official Rothschild map show where future parks or trails should go when the facilities are needed? These are just some of the questions to act upon when reviewing the Village's land use regulations (subdivision ordinance, zoning ordinance, and official map).

Intrinsic Natural Aesthetic Beauty

Rothschild's logo is of a flying bald eagle, whose habitat is tall trees, preferably white pine, and large lakes and flowages that have open water all year long. Many residents greatly appreciate the natural beauty that white pines and woodlands create, but many areas that residents respect are not protected from being sustainably harvested or clear cut for development. Residents have no problem with silvicultural activities (clear cutting and sustainable harvest) that are performed in forests, but viewsheds within the Village could be established for intrinsic natural aesthetic beauty.

There are a variety of land use tools that the Village can use to conserve these forested viewsheds, while maintaining or even improving property values. One example of a

cross between regulation and land donation is the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board ("Agency"). The Wisconsin River ("Riverway") segment that is protected is the segment that extends 92.3 miles from below the dam at Prairie du Sac to the confluence with the Mississippi River near Prairie du Chien and encompasses 79,275 acres. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for administering a land acquisition program within the project boundaries – but Agency rules supercede DNR authority in the Riverway. The Agency administers a system of "performance standards" which are designed to protect the aesthetic integrity of the Riverway. Permits are required for structures, timber harvesting, utility facilities and other activities. A number of activities are now prohibited within the Riverway. However, most activities associated with an agricultural operation are exempt from the new regulations.

Pavilion Park

"D" on Map 3.

Implement the Pavilion Park's Master Plan Improvements, which has three phases to improvements. See Attachment H to identify specific projects and their locations.

B. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2014-2019

Capital improvements to parks are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. This list of capital improvement projects was created by Village Staff.

Pavilion Park

See Attachment H list of suggested facilities and a map of their locations.

General Village Projects:

- Improve trails for pedestrians within, adjacent to, or provide direct connectivity to Gaska Park.
- Create trails in Pavilion Park and on Pavilion Island.
- Investigate trail sign designs to use on non-paved Village trails in Cedar Creek wetlands to show where the public is allowed, and possibly on paved trails throughout the Village too.
- Acquire easements on private land in the Cedar Creek wetlands to create trails.

Chapter 7

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

There are a variety of strategies available for implementing this plan. These strategies include using land use tools and government programs to realize attainment of this plan's goals and objectives.

Shoreland Zoning

Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program established statewide minimum standards for shoreland development. Counties are required to adopt and administer shoreland zoning ordinances that meet or exceed these minimum requirements. The statewide minimum standards for county shoreland zoning ordinances are found in Chapter NR 115, Wis. Admin. Code. The Village of Rothschild administers the zoning within Rothschild.

Public Access to Waterways

Rothschild's Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance and state regulations for subdivisions require dedication of public access when the land along waterways is platted.

LAKE AND STREAM SHORE PLATS [236.16(3) WISCONSIN STATUTES]

- (a) All subdivisions abutting on a navigable lake or stream shall provide public access at least 60 feet wide providing access to the low watermark so that there will be public access, which is connected to existing public roads, at not more than one-half mile intervals as measured along the lake or stream shore except where greater intervals and wider access is agreed upon by the department of natural resources and the department, and excluding shore areas where public parks or open-space streets or roads on either side of a stream are provided.

NR 1.93 Access in platted subdivisions. Under s.236.16 (3), Wis. Stats., the DNR has authority to recommend wider access at less frequent intervals than are prescribed in the statutes. The DNR shall consider waiver of the 60-foot access requirement only where the DNR determines:

- (1) It will be advantageous to public interests in navigable water;
- (2) Adequate space for access users and adequate buffering for private property is assured by access wider than 60 feet where possible; and
- (3) The access that would result provides an equal or greater opportunity for public access than would be provided by dedication at statutorily prescribed intervals and the 60-foot width.

Park Dedication

Subdivision regulations can be used to require residential land subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use. 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 some communities.

Conservation Subdivisions

Conservation subdivisions are characterized by common open space and clustered compact lots. A variety of housing types or the same type of housing may be allowed. The purpose of a conservation subdivision is to protect farmland or natural resource open spaces while allowing for the maximum number of residences under current community zoning and subdivision regulations. In some cases a greater density (density bonus) may be offered in the local ordinance to encourage this approach. Generally, this tool is used for parcels 40 acres and larger, or where the community maps natural resource corridors or natural features that they want to preserve. A conservation subdivision maintains the same level of overall density as a conventional subdivision, but individual lot sizes are smaller, and the community receives open space.

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 village'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 village. The village then leases the land to a private party or organization with use restrictions placed on the land. Under this method, the village receives some monetary return on its investment and retains control over the use of the land.

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

State and federal financial and technical aid programs are designed to assist communities with meeting recreational needs. A list of these programs exists in Attachment C.

The Stewardship Fund is a state provided comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of several state and federal aid programs such as Local Park Aids and LAWCON, combined with new programs, such as the Urban Rivers Program. Attachment C gives an explanation of the Stewardship Program. For additional information go online to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

A requirement for application to the Stewardship Fund is for the local community to have a DNR approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The Village of Rothschild Outdoor Recreation Plan is designed to meet that requirement. For additional information contact:

Community Services Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
1300 West Clairemont Avenue
P.O. Box 4001
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4001

Besides state and federal aid programs, there are other sources of funding such as private foundations, trust funds, and civic and recreation organizations.

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, intensive use ATV areas, and ski resorts can be an

important adjunct to public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

Municipal and 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 gardens 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.

Service Group Involvement

Involve organized service groups in park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports areas 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 volunteerism of this type should be encouraged. In addition, service groups could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources by 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 trail 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

Park Design and Location Criteria

From:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005-2010

ATTACHMENT B

Facility Design Standards

From: National Recreation and Park Association

ATTACHMENT C

Federal & State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs

ATTACHMENT D

2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP Summary

ATTACHMENT E

DNR Forest Transition Ecological Landscape Summary

ATTACHMENT F

Bike and Pedestrian Implementation Table

From: Wausau MPO's 2009 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

ATTACHMENT G

Bicycle Parking Guidelines

From: Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP)
One page summary sheet.

ATTACHMENT H

Pavilion Park Capital Improvement Projects

From: Rothschild's Pavilion Park Master Plan, 2013.