

ADVISORY PARK BOARD AGENDA

October 28, 2024

5:30 PM

Meeting Room A

City-County Government Center

160 S Macy Street

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

I. ROLL CALL

A. Attendance

B. Declaration Quorum Present

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. August 26, 2024 Minutes

III. INPUT

A. Audience Comments (Agenda and Non-Agenda Items)

The Presiding Officer Shall Limit Non-Agenda Items To One Minute Speaking Time And Items Noticed On The Agenda To Five Minutes Speaking Time.

B. October Park Superintendent Report

- Bridge from Oven to Fountain Island
- Buttermilk, Russel and McKinley Playground Installations
- McDermott Park Landscaping and Synthetic Ice Rink Installation
- Swinging Bench and Donated Bench Installations in our Parks
- Park Storage Shed (Burned in June Fire) Replacement Update
- Park Winterization Schedule
- Ribbon Cutting Event - 10:30 am on 11/4 at McDermott Park

Presented By: Park Superintendent, John Redmond

IV. ACTIONS

A. Review and Approval of Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Introduction: Director of Public Works, Paul DeVries

V. ADJOURN

**ADVISORY PARK BOARD AGENDA
CITY OF FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN**

Title: August 26, 2024 Minutes

Subject:

Initiator:

Location:

Recommendation:

ATTACHMENTS:

	File Name	Description
📄	Minutes_2024_8_26_Meeting(1147).pdf	minutes

ADVISORY PARK BOARD MINUTES

August 26, 2024

5:30 PM

Meeting Room A
City-County Government Center

160 S Macy Street
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

ROLL CALL

Attendance

Present

Bill Greymont
Lisa Mick
Kay Miller
James Misudek
Patrick Mullen
John Papenheim
Amy Schingen

Absent

Dale Albrandt (Excused)
Joe Leventhal (Unexcused)

Administrative Staff

Paul DeVries, Director of Public Works
John Redmond, Parks Superintendent
Deb Hoffmann, City Attorney

Declaration Quorum Present

Chairperson, John Papenheim declared a quorum present.

CONSENT AGENDA

June 24, 2024 Minutes

A Motion was made by Patrick Mullen to approve June 24, 2024 Minutes and seconded by Kay Miller, and the motion was **Passed**.
Ayes: Greymont, Miller, Misudek, Mullen, Papenheim, Schingen

Abstain: Mick
Absent: Albrandt, Leventhal

INPUT

Audience Comments (Agenda and Non-Agenda Items)

The Presiding Officer Shall Limit Non-Agenda Items To One Minute Speaking Time And Items Noticed On The Agenda To Five Minutes Speaking Time.

Spoke In Support Of Non-Agenda Item, The Greenway Arboretum:
Laura DeGolier, 289 14th Street, Fond du Lac, WI

August Park Superintendent Report

- Russell and McKinley Park Playground Installation
- Buttermilk Park New Playground
- McDermott Park Landscaping Project
- McDermott Park Synthetic Rink
- Pool Season 2024
- Lakeside West Entrance Renovation
- Fairgrounds Slide Renovations

Presented By: Park Superintendent, John Redmond

Historical Plaque Examples

Presented By: John Papenheim, APB Member

ADJOURN

A Motion was made by Kay Miller to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. and seconded by Patrick Mullen, and the motion was **Passed**.

Ayes: Greymont, Mick, Miller, Misudek, Mullen, Papenheim, Schingen

Absent: Albrandt, Leventhal

**ADVISORY PARK BOARD AGENDA
CITY OF FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN**

Title: Review and Approval of Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Subject: Introduction: Director of Public Works, Paul DeVries

Initiator:

Location:

Recommendation:

ATTACHMENTS:

	File Name	Description
□	Memo_CORP_Approval_-_APB_Oct_2024.pdf	memo
□	CORP_-_2025-2029_Final_10-23-24.pdf	backup

CITY OF FOND DU LAC - Memorandum

Department of Public Works

Date: October 28, 2024

To: Advisory Park Board

From: Paul De Vries, P.E., Director of Public Works

Re: **Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan (CORP)**

We have been reviewing and working on the update to the City's Rec Plan over the past year or so. A lot of great feedback has come from the APB members along with the public. This plan helps guide future improvements in the park system along with evaluating the current state of the system.

You will notice that we updated the name of the plan to Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), this will align us with the terminology used by the State. The final version is included in your agenda packet for review and approval at the October 28, 2024 meeting. John and I want to thank the APB and the public for participating in updating this plan, this was a great collaborative effort by all parties involved.

City staff recommends the APB approve the CORP. In addition, the CORP will go to the November Plan Commission meeting and then City Council for approval.

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to me at 920-322-3473.



Fond du Lac Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 2025 – 2029



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Fond du Lac Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is based on previous Recreation Plans in 1984, 1990, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2010, 2015, and 2019. This plan is a tool for city leaders to use as they address the continuing demand for public park and recreation facilities.

Parks and open space are among the most valuable resources a community can offer its residents. Ideally, a community should have a number of different types of park and recreation facilities. The wide range of leisure activities demands a variety of facilities and opportunities. There are a number of numerical metrics based on population and land area, which can be used to measure the overall adequacy of community facilities. While these serve as useful barometers, judgment based on familiarity with actual community needs is more important in tailoring a meaningful action program. The contribution made by parks and other recreation facilities not under the jurisdiction of the community, such as school playgrounds and county and regional parks, is another factor, which needs to be considered when evaluating a community's park system.

Financial limitations, timing, and economic factors all affect the open space and recreation system of Fond du Lac. The city's park system is generally regarded as very good. The use of school playgrounds supplements the system significantly. There is a need to refurbish and maintain existing facilities for the benefit of the community and a growing demand for recreation trails should be continued to be pursued.

This plan reviews goals and objectives, evaluates metrics, describes existing conditions, determines existing and future open space and recreational needs, and provides recommendations and an action program to guide the future development and management of the city's park and recreation system.

INTRODUCTION

A. INTRODUCTION

This document is an update of the City's 2020-2024 Recreation Plan and replaces that earlier version. This revised plan will serve as a guide for the City of Fond du Lac in the development of parks and outdoor recreation facilities. The plan inventories existing facilities, identifies recreational land and facility's needs, and outlines policies and an action plan designed to meet those needs.

The plan also enables the City of Fond du Lac to participate in state and federal recreational grant programs which require a recreation plan as a prerequisite for funding. During the last twenty years, the City received over \$2 million in state and federal recreation funding. This revised plan will extend the City's eligibility for recreation grants through 2029.

Within the past five years, the City has made very good progress in implementing previous Recreation Plans. The lighthouse in Lakeside Park was completely renovated along with a trail and new parking around Lighthouse Drive. A pedestrian and bike bridge has been constructed to connect Lakeside Park and Lakeside Park West. A new Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan has been adopted to guide the next five years along with a comprehensive Loop signage project planned for 2024. Pickle ball courts have been added to Adelaide Park. Russell Park added brand new playground equipment that did not exist prior. Multiple restrooms were updated along with various basketball and tennis court upgrades.

An infusion of Federal money from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) saw multiple investments in City parks. Plamore Park saw a complete revamping with adding a Miracle League field, a large all-inclusive playground, a multi-sport court, and a concession and restroom building. Hamilton Park has a new shelter and restroom building. Franklin Park got a much-needed facelift along with replacing the aged playground equipment. McDermott Park has the majority of the landscape master plan installed along with a synthetic ice rink.

B. PURPOSE

The provision and availability of recreation and open space facilities within a community are a necessity, not a luxury. Public perceptions have changed which do not

limit recreation only to "child's play". Recreation is more than just a weekend activity. Recreation is an essential element in everyday life — for children and adults — to sustain physical and mental health.

Recreation is not restricted solely to active physical sports. It includes a wide range of activities, which run the gamut from lively outdoor sports to a leisurely stroll in the park. The variety of recreational activities is reflected in various types of parks and facilities.

The need for more and better planned recreation facilities is due to demographic and economic trends which have prompted an increase in demand for such facilities. As determined feasible, the City's park and recreation system should expand to keep pace with these trends. Several of the most noticeable trends over the past several decades are:

1. The population of the City of Fond du Lac has increased slowly but steadily over the past several decades, and forecasts indicate that this trend will continue until at least 2030. At the same time, decreased household size has led to a physical expansion of the community beyond what would be expected from population growth alone.
2. The character of the population continues to change. Over one-third of the population is categorized by single adults and elderly persons who live alone. In the 2000-2001 school year, there were 7,241 students in the public school system vs. 6603 in 2023, an 8.8% decrease.
3. Changes in employment patterns for at least some of the population may involve less time at work, flexible work hours, longer vacations or earlier retirement. More leisure time translates to a demand for increased opportunities to engage in leisure activities.
4. Greater mobility, brought about by more automobiles and improved travel routes, has enabled more people to travel for recreational purposes.

C. BENEFITS OF RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

The three basic functional objectives of recreation and open space planning address human needs for recreation, enhancement of the environment, and development decisions. Some examples of the benefits of successful recreation planning include:

Human Needs

- Recreation and open space areas provide an opportunity to engage in healthful exercise, helping to reduce the risk of obesity.
- Recreation is a means of obtaining an emotional and psychological release from everyday life.
- Open space is an important community design factor to enhance the human environment.
- Attractive parks and open spaces instill community pride, and make the community more attractive to others.

Enhancing the Physical Resources

- Recreation and open space areas can be a significant means of flood control and water storage. It may be possible to enhance flood control/storage opportunities.
- Important scenic areas and unusual landscape features are often preserved through the designation as open space or recreation areas.

Affecting Development Decisions

- Attractive recreation and open space areas may improve a region's economy through tourism.
- The beauty of parks and open space affect community desirability for the expansion or location of business and industry, and for location of residents, who have a number of options available. Persons working in Fond du Lac, for example, may choose to live anywhere within a reasonable distance.

- Parks and open space typically elevate the desirability and value of nearby residential properties and consequently generate additional tax base.

D. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives serve as a guide for the type of park and recreation system Fond du Lac residents would enjoy. The goals are stated as desirable conditions to strive for in the future. They are common ideals of the community that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private organizations, and individual citizens. Objectives specify in detail how these desired goals can be achieved.

Goal: To establish a communitywide system of parks, open space and recreation facilities that will provide all residents of Fond du Lac with adequate, convenient and quality recreational opportunities on a year-round basis.

Objectives:

- Maintain facilities at existing parks to meet the community's park and recreation needs.
- Provide sufficient undeveloped/unstructured open spaces.
- Ensure that existing and newly developed residential areas are provided with adequate and accessible park and recreation facilities.
- Provide safe and adequate accessibility to all park and recreation areas for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as motorists.
- Develop multi-use recreational facilities when such uses are compatible or seasonal in nature so that maximum benefits for recreation expenditures can be realized.
- Design active and passive recreational areas and facilities which can be utilized by elderly and handicapped citizens.

Goal: To conserve, protect and beautify other natural resources in the city and surrounding environs.

 **Objectives:**

- Ensure that environmental and aesthetic qualities of the city are considered when planning for park and recreation development.
- Preserve and maintain drainage ways and other natural resource areas in and around the city.
- Promote and endorse efforts to improve the water quality and navigability of Lake Winnebago and the Fond du Lac River system.
- Encourage efforts directed at improving both the visual and physical characteristics of shoreline areas through sound environmental and engineering practices.
- Continue to take advantage of opportunities to expand and develop public access and other facilities, which further encourage boating, fishing, and other water-related uses of the lake and river system.

Goal: To encourage cooperation with other governmental units, the school district and other educational institutions in utilizing appropriate facilities for open space and recreation needs.

 **Objectives:**

- Continue to link the various city, county and other outdoor recreation sites with trails for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Continue to encourage increased public use of recreational facilities available at school sites.
- Continue to encourage cooperative city/school projects to improve and expand recreational facilities available at school sites.
- Consider reaching agreements with the Fond du Lac School District to help maintain, enhance, and publicize current natural restorations on school grounds.

Goal: To promote the value of a well-balanced and adequate park system as an important community resource.

 **Objectives:**

- Undertake and promote improvements to the park and open space system, which enhance the quality of life in Fond du Lac and make the community a desirable place to live.
- Develop and maintain a park and open space system, which not only meets the day-to-day outdoor recreation needs and expectations of city residents but also elevates community pride.
- Create a recognition in the minds of local officials and staff that parks, trails and open space are an essential element in promotion of economic growth and municipal fiscal health.
- Encourage continued involvement by Fond du Lac residents when planning for the city's park and recreation development.

E. THE PLANNING PROCESS

This plan represents an update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan for the City of Fond du Lac, which was last adopted in 2019. Following approval of the final draft by the Advisory Park Board and the City Plan Commission, the plan was then adopted by the City Council.

F. THE AMENDMENT PROCESS

Although the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the City of Fond du Lac is fairly thorough and the need to amend it is not expected during the next five years, unforeseen needs or opportunities could arise. To ensure that the City can address these events, a process for amending the plan has been developed. Necessary plan amendments could be proposed by the Advisory Park Board or by staff, and would be reviewed by the Advisory Park Board. The amendment would subsequently be reviewed by the Plan Commission and adopted by the City Council, incorporated into the plan, and transmitted to DNR.

CHAPTER 1: THE CITY OF FOND DU LAC

A. RECREATION RESOURCES

Geography

Fond du Lac is located in east-central Wisconsin at the southern tip of Lake Winnebago. The land area of the city is approximately 22 square miles.

Geology & Topography

The City of Fond du Lac was founded in an area that was once part of a larger Lake Winnebago. The city is underlain by sedimentary rock formations — the Galena and Platteville dolomite formations. Bedrock is covered with unconsolidated glacial overburden consisting of sand, gravel and clays which present a generally level topography. Immediately east of the city is the Niagara Escarpment. This dolomite formation is a northeast-to-southwest ridge of exposed bedrock. The escarpment represents one of the most unique regional natural areas available for recreational and open space purposes, although little is publicly owned. In addition to providing aesthetic and scenic value, the forested open space associated with the escarpment serves as wildlife habitat and watershed protection.

Waterways

The major waterways of the city and immediate area are the East and West Branches of the Fond du Lac River, and DeNeveu, McDermott and Taycheedah Creeks. All land area within the city drains into Lake Winnebago, the primary water based recreational resource. Waterways provide recreation throughout the year to include boating, fishing, skiing, swimming, ice boating and snowmobiling. Fond du Lac enjoys about two miles of shoreline exposure on the south end of Lake Winnebago. Noted for excellent walleye and sturgeon spearing, the lake also yields catches of northern pike, white bass, crappie and perch. The greatest potential to increase fishing opportunities in the Fond du Lac area will correspond to improvements of water quality and access.

Climate

Fond du Lac has four distinct seasons affording a variety of weather in which recreational activities can be pursued. The area has a temperate continental climate characterized by cyclonic pressure systems traveling within the prevailing westerly winds. The coldest month of the year, January, has an average temperature of 19 degrees

Fahrenheit. July is the hottest month with an average temperature of 71 degrees Fahrenheit. Lake Winnebago exerts some influence over spring through fall temperatures. Meteorological records indicate an average annual precipitation of 29.9 inches and an average annual snowfall amount of 36 inches. The growing season — the time between spring's last killing frost and fall's first killing frost — is about 151 days.

B. LAND USE

The City prepared the 2040 Comprehensive Plan that updated the approach to Land Use. The plan emphasizes using land efficiently while creating balanced neighborhoods and balanced growth. Development decisions are to protect and respect natural resources and systems whether adjacent to an existing City park or in an area of possible addition of a City park.

C. POPULATION

The City of Fond du Lac has experienced moderate growth over the past decades (see Table 1). The 2020 census shows a City population of 44,678 with a growth of 3.85% locally as compared to the Statewide growth of 3.64%.

Table 1:

Population Trends 1900-2020
City, Township & County of Fond du Lac and State of Wisconsin

<u>Year</u>	<u>City</u> <u>Population</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Township</u> <u>Population</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>County</u> <u>Population</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>State</u> <u>Population</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Change</u>
1900	15,100	---	1,230	---	47,589	---	2,069,042	---
1910	18,747	24.07	1,103	-10.03	51,610	8.40	2,333,860	1.20
1920	25,427	35.63	1,175	6.53	56,119	8.70	2,632,067	5.60
1930	26,449	4.02	1,602	36.34	59,883	6.70	2,939,006	1.70
1940	27,209	2.87	1,809	12.92	62,353	4.10	3,137,587	6.80
1950	29,936	10.02	2,471	36.59	67,829	8.80	3,434,575	9.50
1960	32,719	9.30	3,851	55.85	75,085	10.70	3,951,777	5.10
1970	35,515	8.55	3,869	0.47	84,567	12.63	4,417,731	1.80
1980	35,863	0.98	3,001	-22.43	88,964	5.20	4,705,767	6.50
1990	37,757	5.28	2,308	-23.09	90,083	1.25	4,891,769	3.95
2000	42,203	11.78	2,027	-12.25	97,296	8.01	5,363,675	9.6
2010	43,021	1.93	3,015	48.74	101,633	4.46	5,686,986	6.03
2020	44,678	3.85	3,967	31.58	104,154	2.48	5,893,718	3.64

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 1900-2020

An analysis of the city's population reveals trends in the changing character of the urban area. The change in social characteristics affects the supply and demand for recreational facilities. A profile of selected population characteristics for the City of Fond du Lac is provided in Table 2. The statistics compare the different types of

households and also illustrate a gradual but constant increase in the median age of residents.

Table 2:
Selected Social Characteristics, 2020
City of Fond du Lac

Characteristic	Number	Percentage
Population		
2020	44,678	--
2010	43,021	--
2000	42,203	--
1990	37,757	--
1980	35,863	--
1970	35,515	--
Population by Gender, 2020		
Male	21,389	47.9
Female	23,289	52.1
Median Age		
2020	38.1	--
2010	36.9	--
2000	35.7	--
1990	33.6	--
1980	30.3	--
1970	28.1	--
Age Distribution, 2020		
Under 5	2,484	5.56
5-19	8,345	18.68
20-44	15,387	34.44
45-64	10,459	23.41
65 and Over	8,003	17.91
Total Households	18,858	100.00
Married Couple Household	7,285	38.63
Cohabiting Couple Household	1,780	9.4
Male Householder	4,167	22.10
Female Householder	5,626	29.83

Source: U.S. Census of Population 2010

Historical figures for the City and County are indicators to forecast population growth. Population projection estimates are used in calculating recreation needs by the population ratio method.

Table 3:
Population Projections
for the City of Fond du Lac
2030, 2040

Year	Population	Percent Annual Change
2030	46,300	0.36
2040	45,920	-0.08

Source: Wisconsin Demographic Services Center

CHAPTER 2: PARKS AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

A. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Over 2,000 acres of parks and other open space exist in the City of Fond du Lac (Tables 4 and 5). Parks and other open space areas maintained by the city's Parks Division total 725.45 acres. Other major suppliers of open space include three college campuses (300 acres), public and private elementary and secondary schools (282 acres), and three golf courses (652 acres). There are also a number of smaller recreational providers and historic sites in the city. In addition, Fond du Lac residents have ready access to a number of county and state parks and recreational facilities.

CITY MAINTAINED PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS

The City of Fond du Lac maintains 20 parks and other open space areas available for public recreational use and enjoyment. Each park and open space site plays a unique role in meeting the recreational needs of community residents and is typically categorized according to its function, size, and distribution. Once again, some parks do not fall neatly and exclusively into one of the park and open space categories described below. The City maintains a diverse park system with multiple amenities that highlight the excellent standard set by our park system.

Large Urban Parks - Large urban parks are intended to serve an entire city, although population and area may require that any number be provided. These types of parks should provide an attractive natural setting and be usable by both small and large groups. The minimum size range is twenty-five acres. In addition to facilities found in neighborhood and district parks, a large urban park may provide swimming beaches or a pool, large picnic areas with shelters, restrooms, off-street parking, regulation-sized playfields, boating facilities and extensive open areas.

Lakeside Park

Located on the southern tip of Lake Winnebago, Lakeside Park includes a wide variety of recreation facilities. Although first classified as a large urban park, Lakeside Park secondarily functions as a district park to the neighborhoods within a one-mile service radius. The main stem of the Fond du Lac River divides Lakeside Park into two distinct properties. East of the river is situated the 159-acre Lakeside Park East which contains the majority of recreation facilities available within the entire park. West of the river is property acquired by the City in more recent years as an expansion of the original park.

Lakeside Park West includes the 234.7-acre Supple Marsh and 13.5-acre Kilowatt Club (a former private sportsman's club) lands. Lakeside Park West includes the 234.7-acre Supple Marsh and 13.5-acre Kilowatt Club (a former private sportsman's club) lands. Lakeside Park West (LPW) recently added a trail, marsh lookout platform, boardwalk into the marsh, and a bridge to connect Lakeside East with Lakeside West.

Lakeside Park East (LPE) has been intensely developed as a recreation resource to serve the entire community. It has almost one mile of Lake Winnebago shoreline in addition to boating facilities within the Municipal Harbor. LPE has many features to attract residents and visitors. They include: the Lighthouse, splash pad, story walk, zip line and REV 8 spinner, many fishing piers, ADA compliant canoe/kayak launch, expanded Concessionaire offerings, Christmas light show, train rides and a carousel, paddleboat and canoe rentals, multiple restrooms and shelters, multiple trails with many benches, softball diamonds and volleyball courts, and multiple boat launches and full service marina.

District Parks - District parks are intended to provide active recreational opportunities for a number of neighborhoods. District parks generally vary in size from three to fifteen acres and serve about a one- to two-mile radius. A district park also functions as a neighborhood park for the immediate area. In addition to the facilities typical of a neighborhood park, a district park should also provide family picnic areas with picnic shelters, horseshoe pits and volleyball courts. The park may also include more specialized facilities such as tennis courts, swimming pools and sledding areas. Off-street parking and restrooms are often provided.

**Table 4:
Existing Open Space Area Acreage and Facilities**

PARKLAND	ACREAGE	FACILITIES
<u>Large Urban</u>		
Lakeside Park East	159.4	Boating harbor, lighthouse, 232-slip full service marina, 6 launching ramps, fishing piers, picnic areas, 7 shelters, playground areas, 3 lighted softball diamonds, 3 soccer fields, 4 volleyball courts, concession stands, restrooms, large pavilion, bandstand, gazebo, covered bridge, lagoons, ornamental fountain, extensive floral display areas, amusement rides, canoe rentals, off-street parking, splash pad, multi-use trail and heated restrooms.
Lakeside Park West	252.0	Twelve launching ramps, off-street parking, undeveloped open space and wetlands, prairie restoration, dog park, walking/snow shoe trails, marsh viewing platform, marsh boardwalk, kayak launch.
<u>District Parks</u>		
Adelaide Park	26.1	Youth baseball diamond, off-street parking, 6 pickleball courts, 1 tennis court, fitness trail, sledding hill, undeveloped marsh and wildlife area, disc golf, skate park.
Buttermilk Park	19.2	Picnic shelter, restrooms, workshop/storage and shelter building, outdoor performance center, concession stand, playground areas, 5 lighted tennis courts, 2 basketball courts, off-street parking, sledding hill, volleyball court.
McDermott Park	14.1	One adult softball diamonds, playground, volleyball court, restrooms and storage building, off-street parking, picnic facilities, shelter, 4 lighted tennis courts with Pickle ball striping, synthetic ice rink.
Taylor Park	10.4	Outdoor swimming pool, playground, 3 unlighted tennis courts, 3 Pickle ball courts, basketball court, picnic facilities, shelter, restrooms, asphalt trail, splash pad and a Gazebo.
<u>Neighborhood Parks</u>		
Brookfield Park	8.5	Open play area, with creek access.
Paul Butzen Memorial Park	5.6	Youth baseball diamond, 2 tennis courts, shelter, playground, basketball & volleyball.
Franklin Park	2.8	Playground, informal open space, basketball court, maintenance garage, and fruit trees.
Hamilton Park	5.7	Playground, Peace officer memorial, basketball court, pond, benches, community garden, story walk, shelter/Restroom building, music playground.
Hucks Bellevue Park	1.0	Playground, basketball court, volleyball court, youth softball diamond.
Jefferson Park	1.2	Playground.
Lallier Park	7.3	Playground, nature area, paved walkway, shelter and rest area.
McKinley Park	1.1	Playground, youth softball diamond, basketball court.
Plamore Park	3.3	Miracle League field, all-inclusive playground, concession/restroom building, sport court.
Russell Park	4.4	Two youth baseball diamonds, restrooms, playground, volleyball court.
Catherine Whittier Lewis Park	0.9	Playground, basketball court, sitting area.
James "Maggie" Megellas Park	10.6	Walking trail, playground and open mowed areas.
Colwert-Edward Park	6.4	Walking trail, playground and open mowed areas.
Cardinal Park	23.2	Walking marsh trail, playground, and open mowed areas.
<u>Non Park Open Space</u>		
Downtown River Trail	5.7	Asphalt trail (8' wide).
Brooke Street Trail	17.0	Asphalt trail (10' wide).
Police Memorial Drive Trail	1.0	Asphalt trail (10' wide)
Fond du Lac Avenue Trail	2.3	Asphalt trail (8' wide)
County Road K	60.0	Passive wooded area; future trail development.
Greenway arboretum	24	Walking trails, benches and native plantings.
Ledgeview Center	29.0	Open space, pond, walking trail, gazebo.
Undeveloped Open space	36.0	Primarily located along rivers and streams.
TOTAL PARK ACREAGE	733.1	

Adelaide Park

Situated adjacent to Parkside Elementary School in the northwestern sector of the community, Adelaide Park enjoys an excellent location for residents of this area. The 24-acre site follows the boundary of the school property, with Arndt Street to the south, Hickory Street to the east, a river inlet and the West Ditch to the north, and Seymour Street to the west. Adelaide Park is partially developed. Improvements include landscaping, a youth baseball diamond, a skate park, disc-golf course, six pickleball courts and one tennis courts, a sledding hill, and off-street parking. Bikes and scooters are also allowed to use the skate park.

Buttermilk Creek Park

Buttermilk Creek Park is twenty acres in size and located on South Park Avenue. The park is conveniently situated to serve the district park needs of the rapidly urbanizing southern sector of the community. The park provides a number of facilities, including a sledding hill with lights, tennis courts, several playgrounds, including a new one in 2024, a basketball court, and a very popular amphitheater. The amphitheater is named "The Raymond C. Wifler Performance Center" in honor of the long serving Music Director Ray Wifler. The amphitheater is used for the Symphonic band, Music Under the Stars and other performance events.

McDermott Park

Located south of Johnson Street adjacent to the east bank of DeNeveu Creek, the park covers 14.7 acres. McDermott Park is landscaped and provides sufficient open area for a variety of passive and active recreational activities. It is an intensively utilized open space area. It has four tennis courts along with pickleball striping on each court. Recent additions include the majority of the landscape master plan installed along with a synthetic ice rink.

Taylor Park

This wooded 10.5-acre site provides recreation facilities for surrounding residential neighborhoods in the west central portion of the community. Mary's Avenue and Hickory Street form the park's east/west boundaries and Emma Street and Ruggles Street form the north/south boundaries. One of the City's two outdoor pools is located in Taylor Park, as well as three tennis courts and 3 pickle ball courts. A gazebo was also recently added and funded by the Friends of Taylor Park. The park also contains several Indian mounds

and a historic pavilion structure. Taylor Park has, for the most part, reached its recreation carrying capacity and no major additional facilities are anticipated.

Neighborhood Parks - Neighborhood parks provide recreational facilities for all age groups. A natural setting such as a stream or woodlot is desirable, but not absolutely necessary. An elementary school can often serve as an excellent site for a neighborhood park, thus the park then functions in a dual role. Neighborhood parks are generally one to five acres in size. A neighborhood park should serve only about a one-half mile radius to be within walking distance for residents. At a minimum, neighborhood parks should provide playground equipment and open play area. If space allows, play fields for baseball, soccer, football and ice skating could also be provided.

Catherine Whittier Lewis Park

The playground is located in the high density eastern residential fringe of the central business district. The park includes a playground area, sitting area, landscaping and a small basketball court. Berms and a walkway have been installed.

Colwert-Edward Park

This 5.1 acre park is bordered by Southern Edge Court, Willsher drive and Eastman Lane. Facilities include a playground, benches and table, mowed green space and a walking trail. A good portion of this park is undeveloped.

Franklin Park

This park is located in the southwest section of the city at the intersection of Ninth Street and Military Road. The 3.0-acre site was originally acquired and developed to satisfy the need for a neighborhood park in the southwestern part of the city. Franklin Park contains informal open space along with some recent improvements with the installation of a new playground area and artistic upgrades on the basketball court and surrounding fencing. A small water feature is also planned for the future.

Hamilton Park

Located in close proximity to the downtown area at the southwest corner of Hamilton Place and Sophia Street, this 5.5-acre park offers a playground area, Peace Officer Memorial, pond, basketball court, benches, story walk and a community garden. A music playground and restroom shelter have recently been added. A small water feature is in the future plan.

Huck's Bellevue Park

This 1.09 acre park, located in the southeast corner of the city, is bordered by Southgate Drive, Crestview Lane and Hobbs Lane. The park offers playground equipment, a youth softball diamond, a basketball court, and a volleyball court.

James "Maggie" Megellas Park

This park is 13.5 acres located on the Southeast side of the city bordered by Primrose lane and S. Country lane. This park offers a playground, walking trail and open green space. A good portion of the park is undeveloped.

Jefferson Park

Located on Ninth Street between Ellis and Sherman Streets, Jefferson Park is only 1.2 acres. Berms and plantings border the play lot to contain noise levels and to discourage softball and organized sports. The park design reflects the limited site area and the proximity of surrounding homes.

Lallier Park

Adjacent to DeNeveu Creek at the southwest corner of the intersection of National Avenue and Fourth Street, Lallier Park is a wedge-shaped parcel and includes 2.3 acres of area. Expansion to the south was accomplished by the extension of National Avenue. The northern portion of the site contains playground equipment and picnic tables. A pathway running the length of the park is popular with area walkers, joggers, and bikers. Recent stabilization work has been done along DeNeveu Creek to reduce erosion and keep the natural streambank intact.

McKinley Park

This small park encompasses 1.1 acres and is located on Amory Street between Arndt and Follett Streets. McKinley Park offers a recently added ADA compliant playground, a multi-purpose asphalt court and an informal youth ball diamond and play area.

Paul Butzen Memorial Park

A six-acre parcel of land acquired through the city subdivision code's open space dedication requirement, the park is located in the extreme southeast sector of the community, a location which is advantageous to provide neighborhood recreation facilities

in this fast developing area. Facilities include two tennis courts, a basketball court, youth baseball field, playground, and open play area

Other Undeveloped Open Space

The City of Fond du Lac owns approximately sixty acres of undeveloped open space, located along river and stream corridors throughout the community. As lands are subdivided for development, these lands are dedicated to the City for open space purposes. At some point in the future, it may be desirable to extend pedestrian/bicycle trails through some of these lands.

Plamore Park

This 3.3-acre site is located in the west central portion of Fond du Lac at Division and Seymour Streets. Plamore Park saw a complete revamping with adding a Miracle League field, a large all-inclusive playground, a multi-sport court, and a concession and restroom building.

Russell Park

Russell Park is a 3.4-acre site containing two youth ball diamonds and is primarily devoted to active recreation programs. The park is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Third Street and Ashland Avenue. Russell Park offers a volleyball court, restrooms, newly installed playground, and picnic facilities.

Veterans Park

This 1.0-acre parcel is owned and maintained by Fond du Lac County. The property's location at the southerly entry to the central business district provides a valuable asset to the downtown area. The park is landscaped with a variety of plantings; walkways and benches accommodate pedestrians.

Fairgrounds Park

This 5.5-acre parcel is owned and maintained by Fond du Lac County. This property is located between Fond du Lac Avenue and Martin Avenue. The Park has a playground with two shelters.

SCHOOL OPEN SPACE AREAS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Open space and recreation facilities available at both public and private school sites can significantly augment a community's public park lands. This is particularly true

in Fond du Lac, where school sites are used extensively for many of the Recreation Department's programs and activities. Tables 5 and 6 detail areas of open space and available facilities of educational institutions in Fond du Lac.

Table 5:

School Open Space Summary - Fond du Lac

School Category	Combined Acreage	Recreation/Open Space
Post High School	342.0	300.0
High School	194.5	152.0
Middle Schools	117.0	51.0
Elementary School	107.9	77.8
TOTAL	761.4	580.8

Table 6:

**Public and Parochial Schools
Open Space & Recreation Facilities**

SCHOOL	ACREAGE	FACILITIES
<u>Post-High School Institutions</u>		
Marian College	69.00	Baseball diamond, tennis courts, soccer field, horseshoe courts.
Moraine Park Technical College	60.00	Open lawn area, landscaping, portion of Fond du Lac Soccer Complex.
County Campus	171.00	68-acre prairie restoration including 2 ponds, walking paths, oak savannah & small formal arboretum, portion of Fond du Lac Soccer Complex.
<u>High Schools</u>		
Fond du Lac High School	122.00	Practice fields, Football field, track, ponds, open space, restored nature area, walking trails, softball fields, and tennis courts.
St. Mary's Springs	20.00	Football field, track,
Winnebago Lutheran Academy	10.00	Football field, baseball diamond, track.
<u>Middle Schools</u>		
Sabish	12.00	Softball diamonds, football field, basketball backboards.
Theisen	27.00	Softball diamonds, football fields, basketball backboards, restored nature area.
Woodworth	12.00	Softball diamond, one unlit multi-purpose diamond, lighted baseball diamonds, football field, and basketball backboards.
<u>Elementary Schools</u>		
Chegwin	2.80	Basketball backboards, playground equipment.
Evans	10.40	Volleyball court, blacktop multi-purpose court, softball diamond, youth softball diamond, flag football field, playground equipment, basketball backboards.
Faith Lutheran	4.00	Playground, basketball backboards, softball diamond, volleyball court.
Good Shepherd Lutheran	4.2	Open space.
Lakeshore	10.00	Youth softball diamond, basketball backboards, playground equipment, restored nature area.
Lutheran Memorial	3.00	Youth softball diamond, basketball court, volleyball court, soccer field, playground equipment.
Parkside	3.20	Four basketball backboards, playground equipment.
Pier	7.00	Two softball diamonds, playground equipment.
Riverside	12.0	Indoor community aquatic center, tennis courts, restored nature area.
Redeemer Lutheran	3.5	Basketball backboards, playground, open space.
Roberts	5.00	Flag football fields, youth softball diamond, basketball court, playground equipment.
Rosenow	7.00	Basketball backboards, softball diamonds, flag football fields, soccer field, playground equipment.
St. Peter's Lutheran	22.7	Basketball backboards, playground, open space.
Waters	5.00	Youth softball diamonds, flag football fields, basketball courts, basketball backboards, playground equipment.
Total	602.8	

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds

Maintained by Fond du Lac County, this 90-acre site in the southeastern portion of the city is a special use facility which also functions as a large urban park. Facilities include indoor ice skating rinks, picnic shelters, playground equipment, horseshoe courts, outdoor arena, Exposition Center, and horse and other animal barns. Reconstructed by the City of Fond du Lac, a water park includes an aquatic center, beach entry, slides,

interactive play features, picnic area, and grass lounge areas. The Recreation Department currently provides staffing for both pools.

Fond du Lac Soccer Complex

The 32-field soccer complex is located on land leased from UW-Fond du Lac and MPTC. Facilities include fields suitable for all age groups, as well as a concession/restroom building.

Rolling Meadows Golf Course

Located at the southwest corner of the intersection of U.S. Highways 151 and 41, this 300-acre facility is a 27-hole public course owned and operated by Fond du Lac County.

Whispering Springs Golf Course

This 18-hole privately owned golf course is located at the easterly city limits immediately east of St. Mary's Springs High School. The 200-acre facility is open to the public.

South Hills Golf Course

This is a privately owned 152 acre golf course located in the southeastern portion of the City. It is available to members only.

Youth Baseball Complex

Located along Morningside Drive and Fourth Street on land owned by the School District and Fond du Lac Baseball Inc., this complex offers six baseball diamonds.

HISTORIC SITES

The majority of historic sites in Fond du Lac are concentrated in the central portion of the city. Formulated by the Historic Preservation Commission, the following list describes notable sites:

The **Galloway House** is a 22-room Victorian mansion located at the south end of Fond du Lac. The property was first purchased by Edwin H. Galloway in 1868. The House was given to the Fond du Lac County Historical Society in 1955 by Edwin P. Galloway and the late Teresa Galloway Ebernau, Galloway's grandchildren. The facilities and grounds are in need of capital and maintenance upgrades.

The picturesque **Lakeside Park Bandstand** was given to the City in 1900 by William McDermott. Original building plans indicated an octagon shape, 30 feet in height and topped by a 12-foot flagpole. The platform was elevated eight feet with a liberal amount of ornamentation. The bandstand is used for the yearly Symphonic Band concert on July 4th. The iconic **Lakeside Park Lighthouse** was designed by Roger A. Sutherland and constructed in 1933 with materials donated by local lumberman W.J. Nuss as part of a WPA project. The **Streetcar Waiting Station** is also located in Lakeside Park. The Station was built in 1900 and moved to its current location in 1909. The station was used as a shelter for people waiting for the Street car. It was designated a Historical site in the late 1980's.

Fond du Lac's **No. 5 Fire Station** at 193 North Main Street was built around 1874; the bell in the tower is inscribed with the year 1878. The bell tower was originally used for observation as well as to provide a place to dry fire hoses. The bell tower was restored during 1976 as a community bicentennial project with the aid of federal funds. The building contains an office and an apartment

St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral at 51 West Division Street is an American Gothic limestone structure which houses wood carvings from Oberammergau, Germany. Unusual stained glass windows and paintings contribute to the historic significance of the structure.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, located at 41 East Follett Street, was originally built in 1850. The tower addition was built in 1911.

The site of the former **St. Agnes Convent** on East Division Street is commemorated by a plaque. A historic album is displayed at the Fond du Lac Public Library and the new convent.

The building which originally housed one of Fond du Lac's first banks still stands at **2 North Main Street**. Built in 1872, a tavern now occupies the premises.

The **Merrill Institute** at 29 South Military Road is a red brick structure constructed in 1868 as an outstanding school for young ladies. The building is now a private apartment house.

Located at 695 Martin Road, the **Martin House** is a prairie land home built between 1848 and 1852.

The **Taylor Home** at 312 Forest Avenue was completed in 1852 by Jared Taylor, an early pioneering settler from Vermont. The home remained in the Taylor family for 93 years. The **Indian Mounds** and the **Taylor Park Pavilion** are also located in the same neighborhood.

The **Octagon House** is an octagon-shaped one and one-half story structure with stucco covered grout walls. The building was constructed in 1856 by Isaac Brown, an early Fond du Lac architect. Located at 276 Linden Street, the Octagon House is listed on the Federal Register of Historic Sites. Additions to the museum property include a landscaped fountain area and an 1890 era carriage house.

Located at the corner of First and Marr Streets, **St. Peter's Lutheran Church** was erected in 1869 by German Lutherans of the Wisconsin Synod. It is now an office building.

The **Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Depot and Yard** occupies the area between Forest Avenue and Second Street along Brooke Street. The depot is architecturally designed in the shed style with a Norman turret.

The site marker for **Military Road** can be found at its intersection with Second Street. Built in 1835 to link Prairie du Chien and Green Bay, Old Military Road was the first highway across the state.

REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Parks and environmental areas of regional significance are located within Fond du Lac County. As outlined in Table 7, these parks and open spaces areas provide specialized non-urban recreational opportunities to residents of the entire region, including residents of Fond du Lac.

Table 7:

Regional Recreation Inventory

Park	Acres	Facilities
Columbia	19	Boat launches, camping and picnic grounds, marina, fishing, playground equipment, and observation tower.
Eldorado Marsh	6,000	Waterfowl observation, hiking, skiing, nature and snowmobile trails, bird hunting, fishing.
Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds	90	Outdoor swimming pool, indoor ice skating rink, horse barn, horseshoe courts, Exposition Center, picnic shelters, playground equipment, outdoor arena.
Horicon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge	31,000	Waterfowl observation, hiking, skiing, nature trails, bird hunting, interpretive centers.
Hobbs Woods	60	Hiking and nature trails, stream fishing.
Kettle Moraine State Forest	15,000	Campgrounds, fishing, boating, horse-hiking-snowmobile trails, interpretive center, hunting.
Camp Shaganappi	100	Trails, wetlands, woods, prairie.
Wild Goose State Park Trail	34 miles	Multi-use trail, bicycling, nature observation.
Eisenbahn State Park Trail	22 miles	Multi-use trail, bicycling, nature observation.
Mascoutin State Park Trail	32 miles	Multi-use trail, bicycling, nature observation.
Prairie Trail	7 miles	Multi-use trail, bicycling.
Peebles Trail	5.6 miles	Multi-use trail, bicycling.
Riggs Park	300	Shelter, playground, walking trail, Disc golf and Splash Pad.
Roosevelt Park	3	900 feet of Lake Winnebago Shoreline. Picnic tables and grills, and shelter with restrooms.
Gottfried Arboretum	37.5	Trails with, wildflowers, wildlife Ponds and native tree/shrub plantings. Benches, picnic tables and a Kiosk.

B. RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Responsibility for the city's recreation management is shared between the Parks Division of the City of Fond du Lac Department of Public Works and the Recreation Department of the Fond du Lac School District.

The Parks Division is responsible for the maintenance and development of parkland within the city. Composed of citizen members appointed by the City Council, the Advisory Park Board advises the City Council on park-related matters and policy issues. The City Council sets the Parks Division budget and approves capital improvement projects. Staff services are provided by the Parks and the Engineering Divisions of Public Works.

Recreation programming is primarily the responsibility of the Recreation Department of the Fond du Lac School District. The Recreation Department operates outdoor recreation programs throughout the year at schools and parks, and also operates indoor recreation programs at schools.

C. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and maintenance of Fond du Lac's parks is the responsibility of the Parks Division of the City of Fond du Lac Department of Public Works. The Parks budget, which approximated \$2.8 million in 2024, is split between parks (\$1,564,014), forestry (\$610,279), pools (\$438,293), plus a Harbor Improvement Fund (\$183,647). The Parks Division employs 12 full-time employees, and approximately 20 seasonal workers who work from three to eight months a year. Personnel from other Department of Public Works divisions are also available for special projects and selected activities. Multiple community groups—including Parkwatch, Miracle League, Master Gardeners, Fond du Lac Softball, Fond du Lac Loop Coalition, Fond du Lac Festivals, Friends of Taylor Park, Friends of McDermott Park, Friends of Lakeside Park, and other service organizations—provide volunteer labor and fundraising for parks initiatives. A high standard of maintenance is evident throughout the City's park system. Fees generated throughout the system total approximately \$430,000 per year. These funds are utilized for both operational and capital expenditures.

CHAPTER 3: RECREATION LAND & FACILITY NEEDS

A. LAND AND FACILITY METRICS

Park and recreation needs may include the need for additional parkland to accommodate new facilities, the need for additional parks in areas of the community not adequately served by existing park sites, or the need for new or improved park facilities and equipment. A variety of methods have been developed to measure present and projected demands and unmet needs. Among the most common are recreation land and facility metrics such as those developed by the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA). These metrics help a community determine if adequate land has been set aside for open space and recreation, and if the number and range of recreational facilities is adequate to meet the demand generated by its residents. In much the same manner, these metrics can be used to assess future needs based on the community's anticipated growth.

It is easy for a community to put too much reliance on metrics when identifying shortcomings in its park system and planning for future growth. A community such as Fond du Lac with a highly organized and popular adult softball program, for example, needs more softball diamonds per capita than the typical or "standard" community just as a retirement community in Arizona may need more golf holes per capita. Metrics are only benchmarks or general targets for comparing supply with demand.

B. OVERALL LAND NEEDS

NRPA provides various metrics to evaluate park systems. The metrics used below are from the 2024 report for a community size ranging from 20,000 to 49,999. One metric is 11.2 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents that can be used as a barometer of the land area which should be provided for general recreational use in a community. Applying this metric to Fond du Lac's 2020 population (44,678), about 501 acres of public open space should be available in the city. About 518 acres would be needed to accommodate the 46,300 residents projected for 2030. With over 725 acres of city-maintained parkland and over 1,000 acres of additional open space in the community, there is adequate open space available to accommodate general needs. Another metric from NRPA is one park for every 2,062 residents. Applying this metric puts the number of parks at 22 so the City meets this metric and the community as a whole exceeds this as well.

C. LAND NEEDS BY PARK FUNCTION

In communities the size of Fond du Lac, parks typically function as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, district parks, or large urban parks. The role of the city's individual parks was discussed earlier. The 2024 NRPA report did not provide a breakdown of park type that allows a community to assess the balance of its park system by comparing the amount of park acreage in each of the four categories. NRPA recommends that of the 11.2 acres per 1,000 residents so the increase from the last Rec Plan was divided equally for neighborhood parks, district parks, and large urban parks as follows: 0.5 acres per 1,000 be contained in mini-parks; 3.4 acres per 1,000 in neighborhood parks; 3.9 acres per 1,000 in district parks; and 3.4 acres per 1,000 in large urban parks. Based on Fond du Lac's population of 44,678, the following allocations would be appropriate (Table 8):

Table 8:

Land Needs by Park Function

Mini-parks	0.5	x 44.7	=	22.4 acres
Neighborhood Parks	3.4	x 44.7	=	152.0 acres
District Parks	3.9	x 44.7	=	174.3 acres
Large Urban Parks	3.4	x 44.7	=	152.0 acres
TOTAL	11.2	x 44.7	=	500.7 acres

Applying these metrics to Fond du Lac indicates a deficiency in mini-park acreage and a surplus in other park acreage (Table 9). Because of the important role of school sites in providing recreational opportunities in Fond du Lac, it is appropriate to include their usable open space acreage in determining surpluses and deficiencies. Based on the facilities they generally provide, elementary schools typically function as neighborhood parks while secondary schools function as district parks. The surplus acreage in the table below once again shows the commitment of the City to an excellent park system.

Table 9:

Park Needs by Functional Category

<u>PARK FUNCTION CATEGORY</u>	<u>DEMAND</u>	<u>EXISTING</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	152.0	221.8	+69.8
Neighborhood Parks		74.0	
Undeveloped Park Sites		41.6	

Public Elementary Schools		62.2	
Private Elementary Schools		44.0	
DISTRICT PARKS	174.3	272.2	+97.9
District Parks		69.2	
Public High Schools		122.0	
Private High Schools		30.0	
Middle Schools		51.0	
LARGE URBAN PARKS	152.0	495.7	+343.7
Developed Parks		158.7	
Undeveloped Natural Areas		337.0	

D. LOCATIONAL NEEDS

Service area metrics for each park type provide an indication of how well the distribution of existing parks and open space acreage meets the needs of the community (Table 10).

Table 10:

Service Area Metrics for Estimated Park Needs

<u>Park Type</u>	<u>Service Area</u>
Mini-Park	0.25 mile
Neighborhood Park	0.50 mile
District Park	1.00 mile
Large Urban Park	3.00 miles

Caution must also be exercised when evaluating indicated area and locational deficiencies in neighborhood parks. In general, metrics suggest that neighborhood parks, with a 0.50 mile service radius, would be spaced roughly one mile apart from each other. This spacing provides convenient walking distance for residents of the surrounding area. In truth, however, the presence of physical barriers which prevent or impede safe and convenient movement to a neighborhood park is a more realistic basis for determining its service area. For the most part, the combination of Fond du Lac's parks and school sites provides a good distribution of recreational sites in developed portions of the city.

It will continue to be important to plan for new neighborhood parks in growth areas on the perimeter of the city. With the trend toward larger neighborhood parks (3 to 5 acres) and the availability of undeveloped land, future neighborhood parks in the city should be able to provide a broader range of recreational opportunities.

E. FACILITY NEEDS

Comparison between the supply of existing recreational facilities available in Fond du Lac with estimated facility needs based on NRPA metrics shows an overall adequacy of facility development in the city (Table 11). For the most part, the number of facilities provided exceeds the indicated need. Because demand and needs are expected to remain fairly static throughout the planning period, these values provide a reasonable benchmark in assessing in the city's park system. Note that location of the facilities is not addressed, just the number.

Table 11:

**Recreational Demand & Needs by Facility - 2024
City of Fond du Lac**

Facility	Demand	Existing	Unmet Need
Basketball	6	56	+50
Diamond Fields	15	20	+5
Pickleball	6	9	+3
Tennis	8	32	+24
Volleyball	4	7	+3
Football	2	8	+6
Soccer	13	34	+21
¼-Mile Running Track	2	3	+1
Trails - City	10	16	+6
Golf/18-Hole	1	2.5	+1.5
Swimming Pool	2	3	+1

+Indicates excess facilities.

Sources: National Recreation & Park Association.
Wisconsin Demographic Services, Population Estimates

Another facility oriented needs discussion is found in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), last updated in 2019 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Table 12). The SCORP lists the items in Table 12 as “High Needs”.

**Table 12:
SCORP High needs analysis**

Bicycling-road and off road
Bird and wildlife watching
Camping-developed and primitive
Canoeing and kayaking
Cross-country skiing
Dog Walking
Fishing
Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
Hunting- big game
Motor boating
Nature photography
Participation in nature-based education programs
Picnicking
Swimming in lakes and rivers
Visiting a beach, beach walking

Source: SCORP, 2019

Based on the preceding tables, and on perceived demands in the community, future facility needs in Fond du Lac are discussed below and in the following chapters.

ADA Requirements

Compliance with ADA requirements for handicapped accessibility in city parks and other public facilities. Specific needs have been addressed in the City's Title I ADA Self-Evaluation Plan, as required by the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The City has made considerable progress but some park facilities need improvement. Development of new facilities over time will also address handicapped accessibility and user safety.

Trails

Heightened fitness awareness by all age groups has increased the demand for areas where people can enjoy safe biking, hiking, walking, jogging, in-line skating, and other forms of recreation. The city's streams and other drainage ways provide an opportunity to expand areas where these types of activities can occur and also could serve as cornerstones for creating linkage between parks, schools, and other community destinations as well as with other facilities. Trails have been developed recently along former railroads and along highways. Opportunities for more such facilities should be explored.

A bike/pedestrian plan (incorporated by reference) completed in March 2024 includes dozens of recommendations for improvements.

Boating

Access to Lake Winnebago continues to drive a number of recreational demands. Creation of additional boat launch parking should be reviewed for Lakeside Park East.

CHAPTER 4: POLICIES & RECOMMENDATION

The City of Fond du Lac and the Recreation Department have created an excellent park and recreation system, but there are gaps and future demands must be met. Filling these gaps and providing for future park and open space needs will help to maintain and enhance the quality of life in Fond du Lac. The following recommendations are designed to ensure that the quality of life of Fond du Lac residents is enhanced by meeting existing and future recreational needs while conserving natural resources.

A. GENERAL PARK AND RECREATION POLICIES

The policies described below are partially abstracted from previous Recreation Plans and from the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

1. To avoid overcrowding and misuse of existing parks, the City should continue to develop Master Plans for the development of larger city parks. The Master Plan for Lakeside Park and McDermott Park have been completed and the 2040 Comprehensive Plan is in effect. Park improvements, shelters and similar projects should thereafter be constructed only in accordance with the Master Plan. This will result in parks, which are more functional and more attractive, and will help prevent overcrowding.
2. The City will seek to acquire or protect park and trail sites in developing areas, in accordance with this Plan and the Comprehensive Plan, in advance or in concurrence with residential development, and should develop these sites as expeditiously as possible.
3. The City will implement the Recreation Plan and recreation elements of the Comprehensive Plan in part through the utilization of the Subdivision Ordinance. This will involve reservation of future park sites and dedications by subdivision developers. When dedications are not necessary or desirable, the city will levy its standard public site fee.
4. Neighboring property owners should be involved in any trail or park planning development.

5. The City will work with the School District and the Recreation Department to coordinate playground and park siting. When possible, neighborhood parks will be located adjacent to schools to optimize use of land and facilities.
6. The City will attempt to budget within the Capital Improvement Program for appropriate park and trail improvements.
7. The City will work with Fond du Lac County and DOT to attempt to link park, recreation and trail facilities with bicycle and pedestrian trails, as is recommended by the 2018 & 2024 Bike/Pedestrian Plans.
8. The City should network with the county lands at the Fond du Lac County Campus, especially its recreational aspects of the Gottfried Arboretum, and its proposed capital developments and proximity to the Fond du Lac Loop.
9. The City should consider converting some of its current mowed areas to native prairie and native tree or shrub plantings, especially where these restoration efforts would add beauty and buffer strips along riparian systems.
10. The City should continue to enhance its Bird City Wisconsin and Tree City USA designations and continue its networking with groups such as the Fond du Lac Audubon Society chapter, Park Watch, Friends of Taylor, McDermott, and Lakeside Park.
11. Facilities in the City that currently allow lake access for ice fishermen are sufficient, but designated parking and signage may be needed.
12. Opportunities for increased open space within the downtown and central city should be explored.
13. The City should continue to acquire land along environmental corridors, rivers, and streams for open space, flood control, and recreational purposes, and should develop those intended for recreational facilities as funding permits.
14. As the community continues to grow and additional park and open space lands are acquired and developed, the City should continue to provide sufficient resources

to maintain those facilities. In addition, future park and recreational designs should take maintenance into consideration, seek to minimize mowed areas and other high-maintenance features, and seek community partnerships to assist with park improvement and upkeep.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

All Parks: Historical plaques should be installed in Parks where appropriate, explaining the history of that park.

Adelaide Park

Recently two of the tennis courts were converted to 6 Pickleball courts in the Southwest portion of the park. With this addition the area is maybe in need of additional parking and possibly a restroom. Additional and updated signage is needed for the Disc Golf course. Improvement of the fencing at Ernie Schneider fields and improvement of the seating around the skate park is desirable as well. A walking trail around the park is desired but should be carefully considered to coincide with the disc golf course.

Alliant Dog Park

The former Alliant Utilities coal gasification site on West Johnson Street is undergoing environmental remediation. Part of the property has been fenced off for a dog park and is maintained by the City.

Brookfield Park

This site should be allowed to remain undeveloped with the exception of the development of walking trails.

Buttermilk Creek Park

The addition of bike racks and a storm grate for the drainage system is recommended. It is also recommended to extend fiber to this park to allow for the use of security cameras and WiFi.

Colwert-Edward Park

Additional signage at the entrances to this park is desired.

Paul Butzen Memorial Park

The playground equipment should be replaced with more accessible equipment, and accessible pathways should be provided. Addition of a soccer goal and bike racks is recommended. Review the need for an enhanced ball diamond.

Franklin Park

If the property and funding become available, the commercial property to the south should be purchased, the building demolished, and the property added to the park. Accessible paths to the playground and basketball court should be provided. A drinking fountain and water feature are planned for the near future.

Hamilton Park

This park was recently expanded and upgraded, and has adequate playground equipment. A small water feature is planned for the near future.

Hucks Bellevue Park

Replace benches, update court, and add a picnic table are items recommended.

James Maggie Megellas Park

Additional benches in this park would be nice along with exploring the possibility of crossing the creek with a path. There would need to be a study done to determine the impact on the floodplain if this were to be done.

Jefferson Park

The existing playground should be replaced with more accessible equipment, and an accessible pathway should be provided. Adding a bike rack is also recommended.

Lakeside Park East

Given the size of Lakeside Park East and its position as the premier park in the area, there are always projects pending. The Exploratory Committee that was created in 2014, submitted its Final Report with 27 recommendations for Lakeside Park East and West. A master plan incorporating the 27 recommendations for Lakeside Park was then developed, with the assistance of Excel Engineering. A number of the recommendations from the Master Plan have been accomplished and more are planned.

The road system within the park is quite good, but traffic and parking does become an issue at times. Parking is an issue throughout the park, both at boat launches and at other locations. Additional parking should be explored, although care must be taken to

not detract from the aesthetics of the park.

The Tack Oil property, added to the park several years ago, has not yet been fully utilized. Given the location of this property along Harbor View Drive near a popular boat launch, it offers an opportunity for additional boat launch parking, which is needed in that area.

Boat launch facilities and boat launch parking should be enhanced wherever possible, as funding allows.

A sidewalk along Frazier Drive from Frazier shelter to Frazier point is desired along with a sidewalk on the West side of Oven Island along the north channel. These projects should be reviewed and installed if deemed appropriate.

Lakeside Park West

Much of Lakeside Park West's character should be left as is, in marsh and prairie. Development of a walking/snow shoe trail has been completed. Trail linkages along the river south to Scott Street, and north to North Fond du Lac, would improve access. If additional land becomes available, these opportunities should be examined carefully.

The existing boat launches and related parking are very popular. The parking lot will need to be sealed and striped in the near future. A fish cleaning station would be popular, but significant infrastructure improvements would be needed to accomplish this goal. More research is needed. The recent addition of the bridge connecting Lakeside Park East (LSE) with Lakeside Park West (LSW) has increased the connectivity between these two sides of the park. Additional trails in LSW are being pursued to continue this connectivity. An additional marsh boardwalk is planned in the future.

Lallier Park

With its natural and linear configuration, one of the park's most important values is as a trail for biking, hiking, and jogging. The playground is in need of replacement.

McDermott Park

There have been many improvements done to this park in the recent past. A walkway to the tennis courts is desired.

McKinley Park

A concrete pad and picnic table would be a nice addition to this park.

Plamore Park

Numerous improvements have recently been completed at Plamore. No additional work is recommended at this time.

Russell Park

It is recommended to plant some additional trees.

Catherine Whitier Lewis Park

The addition of several benches and screening of the basketball court from the homes is recommended. A review of the area should be done to see if this park can accommodate a swing set.

Taylor Park

Efforts should be made to maintain the oak and hickory stand through an aggressive replanting program. Accessible pathways to the playground should be provided. A better history of the Burial grounds should be provided.

Future Park Development

The size and location of future parks is guided by the following metrics and assumptions:

1. Minimum of three acres of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 population.
2. Neighborhood parks should be spaced no more than one mile apart and/or users should not have to cross major roads.
3. Existing parks should be considered in sizing and locating new parks.
4. Neighborhood parks should be no smaller than five acres; ornamental parks and tot-lots in areas of high density housing may be smaller.
5. It is acceptable to designate parks on location with poor soils if otherwise appropriate. Wetlands, ponding areas and steep slopes will be counted in the calculation of neighborhood park land at one-half the value of level upland areas.
6. Parks should have access from at least one local or collector level street, and that access should be at least 200 feet in width.

7. Where possible, new or rehabilitated parks should include accessible features.

In addition, there are other City-owned parcels scattered throughout the community that may be converted to park spaces, or at least have recreational improvements added to them. *Improvements must not be undertaken without confirming that future operation and maintenance budgets will be adequate for the increase in facilities.* Some potential improvements include the following:

1. Greenway Arboretum: This 24-acre site off Pioneer Road runs along the east branch of the Fond du Lac River and features walking trails, resting areas along the river, and several stands of native plantings. Securing public access and parking for the site will greatly increase its visibility to and use by the public. City forces should continue to support the local Parkwatch organization as it makes improvements to the property.
2. Quik-Frez Site: The bike/pedestrian trail through this area has been repaved and straightened, and the bridge deck over the Fond du Lac River has been improved. Wisconsin DNR completed a Remedial Options Action Plan in 2019, which recommended treating the soil contamination on the site with phytoremediation (planting a specific species of tree that will uptake the contamination and transpire it into the air). The DNR is also planning to remove the sheet piling that reduces the width of the Fond du Lac River, and to remove soils as needed to restore a sloped bank to match that to the north and south. In addition to practical applications like snow storage, the City looks forward to making this site a beautiful and accessible natural area for its citizens.
3. Grove Street River Frontage: Just over three acres of City-owned land fronts the west branch of the Fond du Lac River north of Grove Street. This residential area does not have a neighborhood park, and this area may be worth consideration for one.
4. Pioneer Parkway Lot: At the dead end of North Pioneer Parkway, the City owns a 0.5-acre parcel. Although wetlands can be found on part of the parcel, the east half may be ideal for a future neighborhood park.
5. South View Acres: A small, 1.6-acre land-locked parcel north of Springs Road runs along McDermott Circle and may be a suitable location for a future neighborhood

park. At the very least, this and other parcels should be considered for extending a walking path along Fond du Lac's waterways. A future local street is planning to extend through this neighborhood to connect Fourth Street to Prairie Road, which may be an ideal time to expand and utilize this land.

6. Wooded Parkland: Two large rural parcels that border Highway 151 and Highway K in the northeast part of the City may be ideal for rustic, natural parkland.
7. DuCharme Parkland: The City owns 10.6-acres along Taycheedah Circle northeast of DuCharme and Prairie. This may be an ideal location for a neighborhood park or trail to serve existing and future residential developments.
8. Lots Southeast of Lakeside Park: The City owns over five-acres of land north and south of Winnebago Drive, just east of DeNeveu Creek and Lakeside Park. Although the use of these lots may be limited by overhead power distribution lines and being separated from each other by roads and the creek, their proximity to the Peebles Trail and the creek may make them desirable for specific uses.

Bicyclist and Pedestrian Movement

The city should remain committed to a long-term program of enhancing and linking the recreation trail system.

1. The city should install concrete sidewalks along all local, collector and certain minor arterial roadways either at the time of initial street construction or at a later date.
2. The city should encourage and assist Fond du Lac County in the design and construction of county-level recreation trails: (1) east-west along the abandoned Chicago & Northwestern Railroad line and including Scott Street over USH 41, (2) connection of the Wild Goose Trail to the Brooke Street Trail, and (3) link the Prairie Trail and the Wild Goose Trail. Should the railroad line to Eden ever be abandoned, the Eisenbahn Trail south of Eden should be extended into Fond du Lac.
3. The city will continue its program to install handicap-accessible ramps at street intersections.

4. Bicycle safety measures, such as marked bike lanes, should be part of the City's future transportation improvements and plans where possible.
5. The City should take every opportunity to construct/extend parkways and trails along rivers and streams and environmental corridors.
6. Trailhead parking lots and facilities should be developed or enhanced at the intersection of the Plank Road and Prairie Trails and at the south end of the Prairie Trail, and at other trailheads as appropriate.
7. Bike racks should be constructed in locations as it becomes evident that they are popular destinations for bicyclists.

Open Space

There are two significant properties already owned by the City which should be minimally developed for open space recreational uses. The sixty-acre parcel along USH 151 at CTH K needs a small parking lot and trail development. A small parking area should also be developed for the East Greenway Arboretum property along the East Branch of the Fond du Lac River. It may be necessary to acquire additional land to do so.

Downtown Trail

The trail along the East Branch of the Fond du Lac River in downtown is well-used, and should be considered for improvement. The trail needs to be stabilized in some areas where the river wall is deteriorating, and repaved throughout. Desirable enhancements in the downtown area could include lighting, landscaping, signage, benches, and bike racks.

Park Reforestation

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has had a significant impact to the urban forest in Fond du Lac, including along streets, private land and in parks. The City has been removing and treating ash trees for over 10 years. Replanting new trees is also part of this program using diverse species.

Wildlife and Bird Viewing

Consideration should be given to providing locations for the viewing of wildlife and birds. This is an increasingly popular activity and should be taken into account as city-owned open spaces and trails are utilized. Birding spots should be identified and mapped. The City has been designated Bird City Wisconsin since 2012, with guidance from the Park Watch group.

CHAPTER 5: ACTION PROGRAM

**Table 13:
City of Fond du Lac
Summary of Capital Projects
FOR THE YEARS 2025 THROUGH 2029
PARKS**

Updates needed

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Funding Sources:					
General Obligation Debt	\$ 1,422,000	\$ 809,000	\$ 977,000	\$ 355,000	\$ 365,000
Federal/State Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding Sources	<u>\$1,422,000</u>	<u>\$ 809,000</u>	<u>\$ 977,000</u>	<u>\$ 355,000</u>	<u>365,000</u>
Proposed Capital Projects:					
Tennis Court/Pickleball Court resurfacing	170,000	125,000	82,000	\$ -	\$ -
Parking Lot Resurfacing (Pavilion)	290,000	-	-	-	-
Basketball Court Resurfacing	162,000	-	-	-	-
Taylor Park – Walking Trail renovation	125,000				
Ledgeview Corporate Center- Gazebo painting and landscaping.	25,000				
Lakeside Park Carousel Building	450,000	-	-	-	-
Storage building replacement	200,000				
ADA access to various playgrounds		60,000	32,000		
McDermott Park Ice Rink Enhancement		50,000	200,000	-	-
Parking lot resurfacing and repairs		158,000			
Playground resurfacing		60,000			
Buttermilk Park Fiber		165,000			
Adelaide Prk baseball fence replacement		125,000			
Park Shop lot renovation	-	66,000		-	-
Adelaide Parking lot addition	-	-	175,000	-	-
Playground equipment replacements	-	-	258,000	115,000	115,000
Lakeside Park- Blacktop renovation					
Softball Island Concession area			110,000		
Lakeside Park West- Trail from Bridge to Dog Park			120,000		
Lakeside West Boardwalk Extension				240,000	
Adelaide Park Paved Walking Trail					250,000
Total Capital Projects	<u>\$1,422,000</u>	<u>\$ 809,000</u>	<u>\$ 977,000</u>	<u>\$ 355,000</u>	<u>\$ 365,000</u>

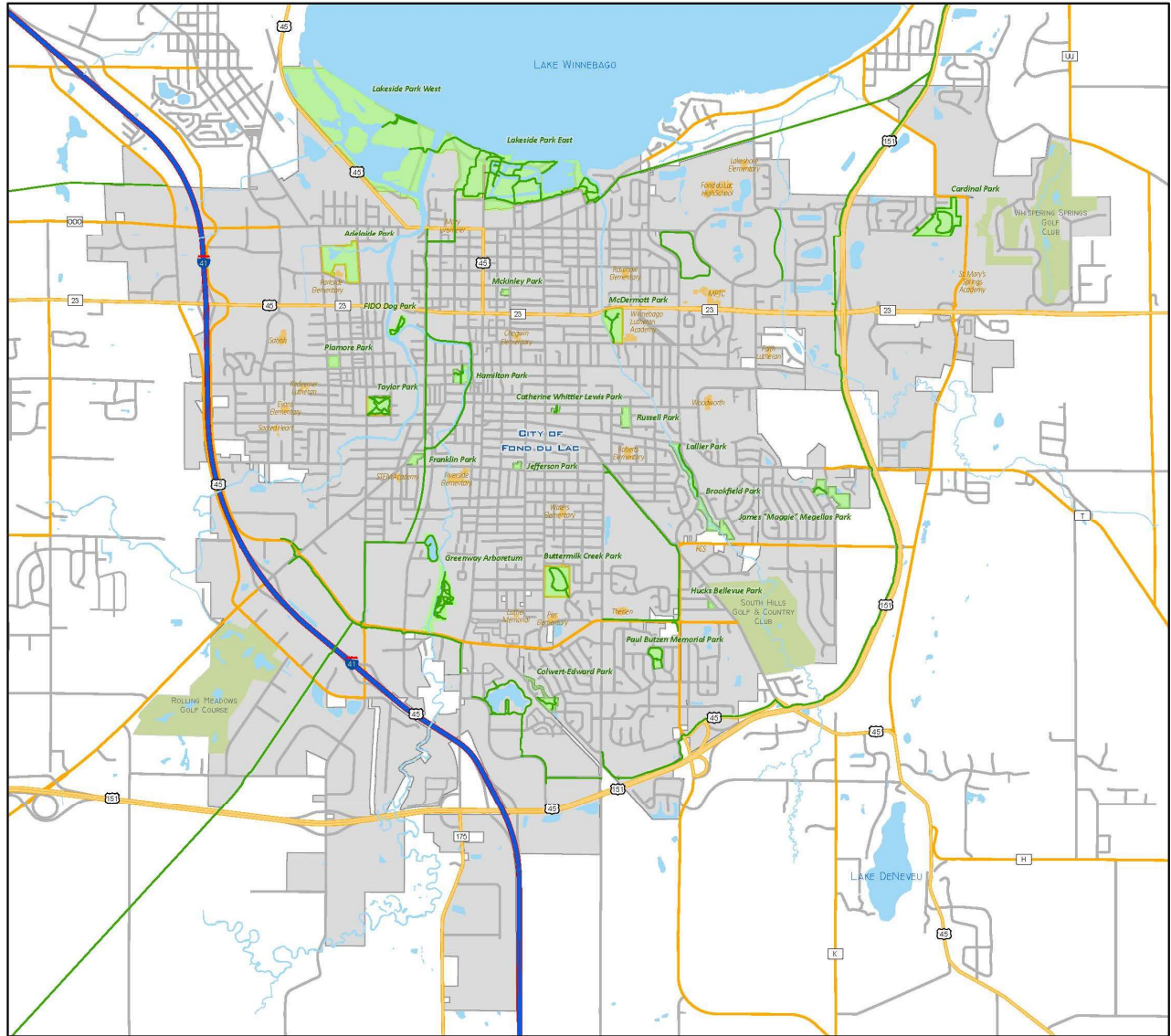
Table 14:
City of Fond du Lac
Summary of Capital Projects
FOR THE YEARS 2025 THROUGH 2029
HARBOR & BOATING FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

Updates needed	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Funding Sources:					
Federal/State Aid	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ -	-	\$ 30,000 -
Harbor Improvement Fund Balance	-	\$ 30,000	-	-	30,000-
Total Funding Sources	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ -	-	\$ -
Proposed Capital Projects:					
Resurfacing boater parking areas	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ -	-	\$ -
Lakeside Park West- Kayak launch into Supples Marsh					60,000
Total Capital Projects	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ -	-	60,000

Comments:

The Harbor and Boating Facilities Capital Improvements are funded by transfers from the Harbor & Boating Facility Special Revenue Fund. Projects will be delayed if sufficient funds are not available in the Harbor & Boating Facility Special Revenue Fund to finance the projects.

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL



CITY OF FOND DU LAC PARKS AND RECREATION



1" = 3,500'

- LARGE URBAN PARK
- DISTRICT PARK
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- ~ TRAIL
- EXISTING PARK
- GOLF COURSE
- SCHOOL
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY

NAME	TYPE	ACRES
ADELAIDE PARK	DISTRICT PARK	26.1
BROOKFIELD PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	8.5
BUTTERMILK CREEK PARK	DISTRICT PARK	19.2
CARDINAL PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	23.2
CATHERINE WHITTIER LEWIS PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	0.9
COLWERT-EDWARD PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	6.4
FIDO DOG PARK	DOG PARK	3.8
FRANKLIN PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	2.8
GREENWAY ARBORETUM	OTHER	18.9
HAMILTON PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	5.7
HASS CIRCLE	OTHER	8.2
HUCKS BELLEVUE PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	1.0
JAMES "MAGGIE" MEGELLAS PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	10.6
JEFFERSON PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	1.2
LAKESIDE PARK EAST	LARGE URBAN	159.4
LAKESIDE PARK WEST	LARGE URBAN	252.0
LALLIER PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	7.3
MCDERMOTT PARK	DISTRICT PARK	14.1
MCKINLEY PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	1.1
PAUL BUTZEN MEMORIAL PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	5.6
PLAMORE PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	3.3
RUSSELL PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	4.4
TAYLOR PARK	DISTRICT PARK	10.4
TOTAL		594.2

DISCLAIMER: THE CITY OF FOND DU LAC CREATES AND MAINTAINS GEOSPATIAL PRODUCTS FOR ITS OWN USE. THESE RESOURCES ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR LEGAL, ENGINEERING, OR SURVEY PURPOSES, AND ARE PROVIDED AS-IS WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND. THE CITY ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR THE ACCURACY, CORRECTNESS, OR USE OF THESE PRODUCTS. (10/22/2024)
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