

**Village of North Hudson
Outdoor Recreation/Park Plan
2014 - 2019**



**Prepared by:
North Hudson Park Board of Commissioners
Approved February 10, 2014**

**Adopted by:
North Hudson Village Board
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Introduction	3
II. Vision	4
III. Purpose	4
IV. Goals and Objectives	5
V. Considerations	5
Operations and Maintenance	5
Community Needs	5
Park Dedication	6
Use of Easements	6
Aid Programs	6
Service Group/Volunteers	6
Special Populations/Accessibility	6
Community Attractiveness	6
Bicycling	6
Municipal Cooperation	7
Historic Preservation	7
VI. Park Inventory and Recreational Facilities	8
Map 1: Parkland Village of North Hudson	9
Table 1: Existing Park and Recreation Facilities	10
VII. Recommendations	12
General	12
Specific	14
Table 2: Implementation Priorities for North Hudson Park System	18
Attachment A: Potential Funding Sources	19
Attachment B: Uniform Park Standards	20

I. INTRODUCTION

The North Hudson Outdoor Recreation/Park Plan (Park Plan) *2014 - 2019* is prepared as a guide for the Village Park Board of Commissioners and the Village Board in developing and enhancing its park and recreation system over the next five (5) years.

The Park Plan addresses present and future recreational needs identified by the Park Board and in the Village's 2006 Comprehensive Plan and Citizen Survey. The plan is a guide for public decisions regarding park, recreation, and open space development opportunities in the community and will help maintain a pleasant, satisfying, and safe environment for present and future generations.

The plan was prepared by the Board of Park Commissioners and the Village Board of Trustees. It should be updated every five (5) years to reflect the changing needs of the village and its residents and to meet the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) eligibility requirements for funding through the Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Program and other financial assistance programs.

The Board of Park Commissioners consisting of one (1) Village Board member and six (6) village residents has been in existence since 1973 and meets regularly to conduct park planning and other related business. Other Village residents participate on committees for specific projects. The Park Board of Commissioners is considered the "guardians of the park system in North Hudson" and a body that updates and makes recommendations to the Plan Commission on appropriate locations and uses of dedicated parklands. According to the 2006 North Hudson Comprehensive Plan, the Village Board, Plan Commission, and other sub-committees can seek the council of the Park Board on various park and recreation issues that need to be addressed and in planning and predicting future park and recreation needs. All Park Board agendas are published and the public is welcome to attend all meetings.

II. VISION

The Village of North Hudson's parks and open space provide safe and accessible park and recreational opportunities for its residents that enhance the community, contribute to improved quality of life, and protect the environment.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to provide for the development and enhancement of the Village of North Hudson's park, trail, and open space system. The Park Board's philosophy is to encourage the development and protection of the physical environment in a fiscally responsible manner to allow for:

- Space and facilities for recreation for various age groups, activities, and abilities.
- Protection and access to the natural environment.
- Preservation of historic sites.

Additional planning will be needed to identify all park and recreation needs, opportunities and programs and to offer realistic proposals and budgets to the Village Board regarding parkland development, acquisition, and use. It will also provide a basis for identifying funding opportunities for enhancing the village's parks and open space system.

IV. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goal(s) and objectives will provide a sound basis for future park planning decisions in the village and will help address the park and recreation needs of the community and its residents.

GOAL: Provide a variety of quality, safe, passive and active park and recreational facilities and activities to meet the needs of the community and its residents and enhance the quality of life in North Hudson.

- Identify new opportunities that enhance the existing park and recreation system.
- Provide for the recreational needs of people with physical and mental disabilities.
- Obtain sites for future parks, playgrounds, trails, and access to natural areas, as opportunities arise.

GOAL: Provide for recreational activities and facilities that minimize impacts to and enhance the environment.

- Preserve and protect scenic areas of unique and natural beauty.
- Encourage nature based recreation.
- Provide reasonable access to waterways and public recreation areas.

GOAL: Manage infrastructure and programs in a fiscally responsible manner while seeking new funding opportunities to enhance the existing park and recreation system.

- Develop a five year capital improvement schedule that addresses the short, medium, and longterm priorities identified in this plan.
- Work with public and private programs to identify funding sources to implement this plan.

GOAL: Protect, enhance, and interpret the Village's historic resources.

V. CONSIDERATIONS

1. Operations and Maintenance

In developing recreational programs and facilities, care should be taken that the annual cost of operation and maintenance does not exceed an amount the municipality can afford or fund. Too often, an ambitious program can lose community support as a result of prohibitive operation and maintenance costs. As demand grows there will be a growing need to identify and seek funding for long-term operation and maintenance costs of facilities.

2. Community Needs

The 2006 Comprehensive Plan Update and Citizen Survey confirmed that parks, trails, open space, and greenways are important assets to the community. New ways to expand existing facilities and/or address the development and enhancement of these and other assets, as need and resources arise, need to be explored.

3. Park Dedication

The Village will require when authorized by statute, dedication of new park land and/or the funding of park improvements.

4. Use of Easements

An easement is a tool that can be used to limit land acquisition costs for linear facilities, such as trails. An example of an easement is along abandoned right-of-ways and is one way to provide the community with recreational access without the high cost of land acquisition.

5. Aid Programs

State and federal financial and technical grant-in-aid programs designed to assist communities in meeting recreational needs are available as long as communities maintain their eligibility for these programs. It is important to coordinate with public and private entities to secure/leverage funds and in-kind donations to requirements of these programs. Coordination with these entities during concurrent planning activities will help maximize opportunities for funding. Potential funding sources that the Village can explore to enhance its park and recreation system is listed in Appendix A (Attached) .

6. Service/Volunteer Group Involvement

Involvement of service groups and volunteers is highly recommended for park and recreation development. Continued involvement by these groups should be encouraged to help supplement municipal financial resources.

7. Special Populations/Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires local governments to ensure that all programs and facilities, including parks and recreation, are accessible to people with disabilities. ADA applies not only to people in wheel chairs, or with vision or hearing impairments, but also to those with mental impairments, temporary disabilities, walkers, canes, the elderly and mothers with strollers or small children. Involvement of these special populations should be encouraged and helps identify recreational facilities for their use.

8. Community Attractiveness

North Hudson is fortunate in having several amenities that make it attractive. Among the most important are the St. Croix River and the trees and vegetation that provide shade in residential neighborhoods, cover the hillsides, and adorn North Hudson's abundant shoreline along the St. Croix and Willow Rivers. Ways to improve and maintain the attractiveness of these amenities is a priority of this plan.

9. Bicycling

The popularity of bicycling necessitates designation of appropriate routes, trails, and paths. Connecting schools and recreation areas with bike trails is important because of

heavy use by school age children and funding opportunities that currently exist. The State's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) contains three programs, including the Safe Routes to School Program that address this purpose. Connecting to neighboring communities is also an important consideration when planning bike trails and facilities.

10. Municipal Cooperation

Continued and increased cooperation between all levels of government is necessary to meet the recreational needs of the community. With good planning, cooperation may take the form of cost sharing for land acquisition, facility development, and/or maintenance and liability.

11. Historic Preservation

The preservation of historic resources is an important issue in park planning and development. Consideration should be given to the preservation of Village historic properties, as appropriate.

VI. PARK INVENTORY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Village of North Hudson is bordered to the west by the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, to the south by Lake Mallalieu, to the east by the Willow River and Willow River State Park, all of which makes the village a very attractive place to live and contributes to the extensive recreational use of the area by residents and non-residents. Map 1: Village of North Hudson Parkland indicates the location of North Hudson's existing park and recreational areas.

An inventory of these facilities follows and includes an estimate of acreage of publicly and privately owned properties developed or designated for public recreational use. It also includes an analysis of the number, condition and needs of existing facilities identified by the Park Board and the development potential of parks within the community. These issues are addressed in more detail in the Recommendations section of this plan.

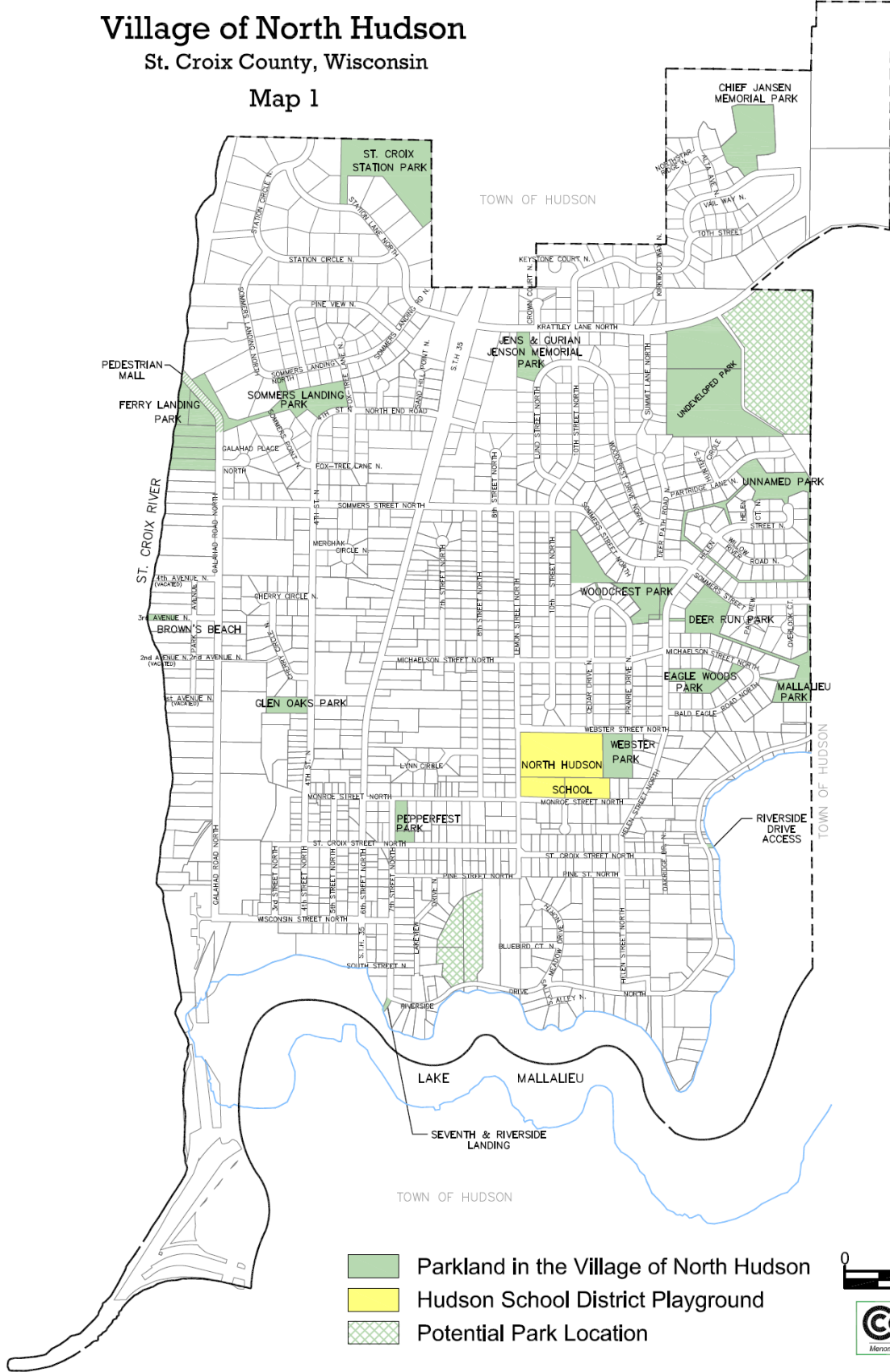
Insert Image(s) of Parks

PARKLAND


Village of North Hudson


St. Croix County, Wisconsin

Map 1



- Parkland in the Village of North Hudson
- Hudson School District Playground
- Potential Park Location








Table 1: Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

PARK	ACRES	FACILITIES	NEEDS	PLANNED OR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES
Brown's Beach	0.50	Swimming beach No Lifeguard	Repair retaining wall, address accessibility/park use/beach equipment maintenance	Explore funding opportunities to replace retaining wall and improve accessibility
Deer Run	3.30	Undeveloped wooded area and playground	Address park use and needs	Maintain playground equipment
Eagle Woods	1.70	Undeveloped wooded area and playground	Address park use and needs	Install new playground equipment
Ferry Landing	5.00	Overlooks St. Croix River, loop trail system, picnic shelter, grills, tables, restroom and bathhouse, off-street pkg. (trailer/ non-trailer spaces), unimproved boat launch, playground	Continue to monitor boat launch and activities to determine if additional actions are needed.	Install signage, control bluff and beach erosion, explore stairway access
Glen Oaks	1.21	Playground, undevel. wooded area	Address park use and needs, restrooms	Restrooms/ Maintain playground equipment/walkways, add benches
Jensen Memorial	1.60	Open space, swings, playground	Address park use and needs	Maintain playground equipment/picnic area/benches/walk ways
Mallalieu	2.47	Open space, undev.	Address park use and needs	
Pepper fest	1.10	Fenced grass field, open ice rink w/ lighting and warming house, Veteran's Memorial, picnic area w/shelter, tables.	Redevelop park adj. to village hall Off street parking	Maintain warming house, shelter, insulate windows
Riverside Drive Access	0.20	Scenic view of Lake Mallalieu		Clear vegetation to improve view, Add

				bench
Seventh & Riverside Landing	0.05	Scenic view of Lake Mallalieu		Add bench
Sommers Landing	6.30	Playground, open space, basketball court, picnic shelter	Address flooding	Maintain playground equipment, ball fields, plant shade trees
St. Croix Station	8.59	Undeveloped wooded area.	Low, wet areas constrain use of this park. Maintain as natural area. Needs Signage	Install sign to identify park, define boundaries, coordinate with Starwood
Webster	3.75	Adjacent to school, picnic areas and grills	Improve use and safety	Selective tree removal to improve safety and access, work with North Hudson Elementary to develop nature trail
Woodcrest	4.80	Playground and open space		Maintain/replace equipment
Hunters and Willow Ridge Developments	4.80	Undeveloped wooded areas with no trails		Maintain as natural area
Chief Jansen Memorial Park	4.86	Playground, shelter, trail, restrooms, Chief Jansen Memorial, fitness trail, basketball court	Park development	Complete park development, maintain equipment
North Hudson Elementary School	6.00	Playground, ball fields, tennis courts, grass play area	Expand access/use by non-school groups	Coordinate with school administration to expand use of this area
TOTAL ACREAGE	56.23			

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations will help address the park goals and objectives identified in this plan and will provide for an improved park and recreation system in the Village of North Hudson. The recommendations concern not only recreation, land acquisition and development projects and new and diversified recreational opportunities, but also the general items related to administration, funding, implementation, and practical land use.

General Recommendations/Actions

1. The Village of North Hudson should retain and utilize its present ordinance for meeting the needs of parks and recreational open space generated by new development. This ordinance needs assessment and the fee schedule should undergo annual review to make sure it is meeting the needs of the community, identifies the most suitable areas for parks, and/or funding in lieu of park dedication. The Village will require, when authorized by statute, dedication of new park land and/or the funding of park improvements. Any zoning ordinance and official village map adopted by the village should give recognition to those lands designated for parks, open space, and conservancy purposes. These land uses are considered to be equally important to orderly community development and lands dedicated to residential, commercial, and industrial purposes.
2. The Village should look into new and creative ways to fund the upkeep and expansion of existing and new facilities while keeping residents safe and active. In developing a recreation program, care should be taken that the annual cost of maintenance does not exceed the amount the village can afford. Additional sources of funding should be identified and secured to help the village supplement the limited resources that exist for parks and recreation facilities and programs. Examples of resources to be considered in addition to the park board's annual budget include federal, state, and foundation grants, private donations, parking permits, use fees, and a village referendum for development of park and recreation facilities. The Park Board should also work with public and private entities to secure/leverage funds and in-kind donations to meet required matches and criteria of these programs.
3. Conservancy areas are needed to preserve and protect the natural environment, provide wildlife habitat, and minimize impacts to the environment from stormwater runoff, erosion, and other development activities. Revegetation along boulevards and public open space should be considered to enhance the community's existing natural areas.
4. A volunteer program should be considered to involve North Hudson residents in all aspects of park board business.
5. Identify future recreational opportunities in areas listed as open space or undeveloped.
6. Strict enforcement of the village tree ordinance requiring proper maintenance and disposal of diseased trees must be adhered to and invasive species that threaten the integrity of natural areas should be controlled. Consider development of a diseased

tree replacement program and invasive species control program for European buckthorn, Canadian thistle, spotted knapweed, and other invasive species.

7. All present and proposed park facilities should be compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).
8. Continue to explore future passive and active recreational needs and locations for the community that are consistent with the North Hudson Outdoor Recreation and Comprehensive Plan. New activities identified as Park Board priorities and/or important to members of the community include canoe access, accessible recreation, skate park, waterfront access and green space, dog park, fitness trail, town park/green, and activities for teens and active older adults. Accessible boating, fishing, and other adaptive recreational opportunities should be considered for people with disabilities.
9. The North Hudson Park Board should explore developing activities that promote fitness, health, and activities for active older adults and seniors (ex. fitness trail).
10. To help meet the recreational needs of pre-teens and teenagers, the Village should explore the development (and funding) for a playground designed for older children and a skate park.
11. A dog park should be considered to accommodate Village residents who have pets.
12. Good communication and cooperation should be maintained between all levels of government, area service clubs, and private facilities that offer public recreational opportunities. The potential for joint development should be explored when new facilities are planned. It would be constructive for these groups to meet on an annual basis to review activities, plans, needs and development of facilities.
13. The Village should continue to coordinate with and provide representation when developing local and regional bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure plans or other recreation plans with adjacent municipalities, St. Croix County, and other bicycle, pedestrian, or outdoor organizations.
14. A program designed to identify, study, record, and preserve sites of regional or local historical interest should be encouraged in North Hudson. Although the village does not employ the manpower required to operate such a program, it is entirely within its prerogative to encourage others to do so by providing “in-kind” services or direct financial support. Volunteers and service organizations may find such a program a highly rewarding contribution to the community’s development. Any program of this nature started in North Hudson should be closely associated with the City of Hudson and St. Croix County Historical programs.
15. Work with scouts and other clubs to help keep parks clean.
16. Prepare WEB page for the North Hudson Park System and to update citizens on our park facilities. Explore St. Croix County foundation grant to fund this activity.

17. Consider standardizing park signage and amenities to give a North Hudson “identity” for its park and recreation facilities.

18. Update Village Comprehensive Plan to include park plan recommendations.

Specific Park Recommendations for Implementing the 2014 - 2019 Outdoor Park and Recreation Plan

The Park Board of Commissioners will develop a more detailed implementation plan and 5-year capital improvement schedule that identifies short, medium, and long-term priorities and includes time frames to be completed, who will complete, and anticipated implementation costs. This information is presented in Table 2: Draft Implementation Plan for the North Hudson Park System and will be expanded and updated periodically to help develop future CIP/Park Board budgets/Funding Needs. Specific issues and recommendations for each park that will be addressed in this implementation plan include:

Browns Beach

- Explore funding opportunities to replace retaining wall and improve access.

Deer Run Park

- Maintain playground equipment, picnic area, park benches, and walkways.

Ferry Landing Park

- Ferry Landing Park is North Hudson’s key access to its number one amenity - the St. Croix River. Improvements to this park should be considered while protecting the river and park from overuse.
- Monitor new parking facilities/signage, and beach access to determine if improvements have been successful in controlling increased parking and use of park. Consider additional actions if these issues have not been eliminated. Actions for consideration include fees, permits, and/or boat length restrictions.
- Re-evaluate parking situation at end of each boating season and make recommendations, as appropriate or necessary.
- Explore opportunities to control bluff and beach erosion (retaining wall, vegetation).
- Continue to study/explore access from the beach to the restrooms.
- Selectively remove diseased and dead trees for additional sun.
- Organize a beach clean-up.
- Add additional garbage can at beach area.
- Monitor and address increased activities by jet skis and boats anchoring at beach.

Glen Oaks Park

- Playground equipment maintenance, replacement, addition of new equipment, and walkways.

Jensen Memorial Park

- Maintain playground equipment, explore additional features.

Lake Mallalieu Dam

- Explore acquisition of railroad bridge and adjacent property, parking, bike/pedestrian facilities, picnic area, fishing access.

Pepper Fest Park

- Make recommendations to Village Board regarding park facilities adjacent to Village Hall addition.

Riverside Drive Access

- Clear vegetation to improve view.
- Add bench.

Seventh Street Access

- Add Bench.
- Selective tree removal to improve view of Lake Mallalieu.

Sommers Landing Park

- Playground equipment maintenance, develop ball fields, park benches, walkways, and plant additional shade trees.
- Explore adding shade trees, new equipment, and amenities.
- Evaluate uses and future development needs of this park.
- Evaluate and make recommendations to areas subject to flooding.

St. Croix Station Park

- Install signage.
- Maintain as natural area.

- Define park boundaries or coordinate with Starwood to expand park area and use.

Webster Park

- Continue to explore tree removal.

Woodcrest Park

- Playground equipment maintenance, replacement, new equipment, picnic area, canopy, park benches, and walkways.
- Install sign at south access to park.

Unnamed Parkland in Hunters Ridge 2nd Addition and Willow Ridge Developments

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Chief Jansen Memorial Park

- Continue to work with Derrick to complete development of park.
- Maintain playground equipment, fitness trail, bike/walkway, basketball court, and shelters.

North Hudson Elementary School

- Work with School Board to expand use of this area by village residents.

Trails and Open Space

- Connect existing recreational facilities and natural areas for pedestrians, walking, running, and cycling, and with any newly developed parks and/or areas where population dictates a future facility.
- Work with Railroad Company to acquire the bridge (and adjacent property) over Lake Mallalieu (top priority) for future trail connection to Hudson's Lakefront Park. Resume discussions with railroad regarding acquisition of Railroad Bridge across Lake Mallalieu.
- Monitor new St. Croix bridge trail connection opportunities to North Hudson. Work with other municipalities and organizations.
- Monitor active rail corridors for abandonment and reuse as trail corridor.
- Explore ways to make the village more pedestrian friendly, have more waterfront greenspace, and a cleaner river.

- Assist in layout, design, and equipment selection of parks in new developments. Use developer contributions to leverage additional funds that benefit new and/or expanded park development.
- Any land adjacent to village parkland or open space that becomes available for acquisition should receive consideration for parkland, nature-based recreation, and/or wildlife habitat. Work with land trusts and public agencies to acquire these areas. Areas to be explored include the Village dump, Rod and Gun Club, Zappa land as new or connecting parkland to Chief Jansen Memorial Park and the Burnley property.

Table 2: Proposed Implementation Framework for the North Hudson Park System

SHORT TERM PRIORITIES (1 – 2 Years)

Fund by Park Maintenance and Development Budget

Park Name	Proposed Improvements	Group	Time Frame	Cost Estimate
1. Maintain/develop existing parks	See pp. 10 – 14 of this plan			
2. Clean-up Webster Park	TBD			
3. Ferry Landing Park	Playground			
4. Glen Oaks Park	Restrooms			
5. Woodcrest Park	Install Mutt Mitts			

MEDIUM RANGE PRIORITIES (2 – 3 Years)

Fund by Park Development Budget and New Funding Sources

Park Name	Proposed Improvements	Group	Time Frame	Cost Estimate
1. Continue improving Ferry Landing Park	Signage River Bank Improved Access			
2. Brown's Beach	Handrail or safety improvements to beach access			
3. Define goals for St. Croix Station, Eagle, Deer Run, Woodcrest, and Mallalieu Parks	TBD			

LONG RANGE PRIORITIES (3 – 5 Years)

Fund by New Sources*

Park Name	Proposed Improvements	Group	Time Frame	Cost Estimate
1. Acquire RR river property	Trail connection to Hudson and Lakefront Park			
2. Tie into local and regional trail systems	Define trail route and connections to proposed county trails			
3. Acquire new park assets from developers	TBD			

* Re-evaluate priority status of all action items if new funds are acquired.

ATTACHMENT A: POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

West Wisconsin Land Trust

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources including the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and Wisconsin Department of Transportation which includes the Transportation Alternatives Program.

Stillwater Bridge Mitigation funds for trails, greenspace, and parkland

Private Foundations

Rails to Trails

Tony Hawk Foundation (for Skate Parks)

Home Depot, Target, Other Local Businesses

Rotary

Pepper Fest

ATTACHMENT B: UNIFORM PARK STANDARDS*

Park, Open Space, and Pathways Classification Table			
Parks and Open Space Classifications			
Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than a ¼ mile distance in a residential setting.	Between 2,500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼ to ½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered the minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of park, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable – depends on function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than a neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open space.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3-mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/ buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily	Strategically located	Determined by projected

	programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	community-wide facilities.	demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose visit.	Variable – dependent on specific use.	Variable.
Private Park/Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable – dependent on specific use.	Variable.

Pathway Classifications

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria
Park Trail	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with natural environment.	Type I: Separate/single purpose, hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type II: Multipurpose, hard surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard- or soft-surfaced.
Connector Trails	Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation.	Type I: Separate/single purpose, hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/ in-line skaters located in independent r.o.w. (e.g., old railroad r.o.w.) Type II: Separate/single purpose, hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road r.o.w.
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic.	Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes.	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.
Cross-County Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-county skiing.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural areas.
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multipurpose with hiking and all-terrain biking where conflicts can be controlled.

*Source: NRPA's *Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines*