RESOLUTION R-30-12

Resolution for the Adoption of the City of Menasha Open Space and Recreation Facilities Plan

Introduced by Ald. Benner

WHEREAS, the City of Menasha believes in the importance of a communitywide Open Space and Recreation Facilities Plan, and

WHEREAS, staff from the Parks and Recreation Department and Community Development Department in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board has worked to prepare the city's Open Space and Recreation Facilities Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of Menasha Open Space and Recreation Facilities Plan encompasses a general outline and is a valuable tool for development of parks and recreation facilities throughout the city through the year 2016, and

WHEREAS, adoption of said plan is required for the City of Menasha to remain eligible for cost sharing aid programs administered by the State of Wisconsin, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MENASHA COMMON COUNCIL that the *City of Menasha Open Space and Recreation Facilities Plan* be adopted as the approved recreation plan for the city.

Passed and approved this ____day of ____, 2012.

_____
Donald J. Merkes, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Deborah A. Galeazzi, City Clerk

CITY OF MENASHA

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES PLAN 2012-2016

July 2012

CITY OF MENASHA

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES PLAN
2012-2016

Prepared by the
City of Menasha Parks and Recreation Department,
City of Menasha Community Development Department
with assistance from the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

City of Menasha
140 Main Street
Menasha, Wisconsin54952
Department of Parks and Recreation
Telephone: 967-3640

July 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1
- The City of Menasha 1
- Population 1
- Recreation Planning in Menasha 1
- Park and Recreation Management 3
- Service Standards 3

RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY 5
- Natural Resources 5
- Existing Recreational Facilities 5
  - Community Parks 5
  - Neighborhood Parks 7
  - Mini-Parks 7
  - Special Use Parks and Facilities 11
  - Public School Facilities 12
  - Town of Menasha Parks 13
  - Non-Profit Facilities 14
  - Parochial Schools 14

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 15

PARKS AND RECREATIONNEEDS ASSESSMENT 18
- Changes to Park Impact Fee Law 18
- Land Needs 18
- Locational Needs 18
- Facility Needs 19
- Projected Future Households / Dwelling Units 19
- Estimated Future Capital Costs of Parks and Recreation Development 19
- Recommended Park Impact Fee 20

IDEAS ANDRECOMMENDATIONS 21
- Existing Park Sites 21
- New Park and Recreational Facilities (including bike trails/routes) 25
- City Beautification and Redevelopment 28
- Park Department Policy and Management 28

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS 29

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION 33

TABLES AND FIGURES
- Table 1 - Current Population Trends 2

Table 2 – Population Projections, 2000-2020 2
Table 3 – Estimated Parks/Recreation Capital Costs (2012-2021) 19

Figure 1 - Park and Recreation Facilities (Chart) 8
Figure 2 - Existing Park and Recreation Facilities (Map) 9

INTRODUCTION

THE CITY OF MENASHA

The City of Menasha is located on the northwest corner of Lake Winnebago between the cities of Appleton and Neenah. Third largest of the Fox Cities, Menasha has a long history as an important industrial center. With frontage on Lake Winnebago, Little Lake Butte des Morts and the Fox River, Menasha is closely tied to the Fox River waterway and many of its recreational resources are located adjacent to the water. In recent years city leaders have made a strong commitment to integrating its waterfront into numerous downtown revitalization activities. These and other local efforts to attract new commercial, industrial, and residential development have had a significant impact on restoring the city's image and elevating community pride. Combined with Menasha's many existing employment opportunities, highly regarded school system, and other city attributes, these activities have created a resurgence in the city's growth cycle and have made the Menasha housing market competitive with those elsewhere in the Fox Cities.

RECREATION PLANNING IN MENASHA

Comprehensive parks and open space planning has long guided the growth and development of Menasha's park system. Continuing this planning process by maintaining a current plan has become more important in recent years. Several factors underscore the need for well considered decisions regarding the future acquisition and development of open space areas in the city. Among these are new residential development east of Oneida Street and elsewhere in the city; the city's downtown revitalization efforts, which have brought increased focus on the Fox River and navigational canal; recent acquisition of high value natural areas for open space purposes; and heightened concern with storm water management issues.

This new plan, developed in cooperation with the Menasha Parks and Recreation Board, draws upon past goals, objectives, and recommendations tempered with new considerations which have evolved since the last plan was adopted in 2007. **After state and local approval, the plan will allow the City to continue participation in the state's Stewardship Program as well as other state or federal funded programs. These DNR-administered typically provide up to 50 percent matching funds for the acquisition and development of parkland.**

POPULATION

Although Menasha's population was relatively stable between 1960 and 1990, it has experienced significant growth during the past decade (Table 1). Its 2002 population of 16,529 represents an increase of over 1,800 residents since the 1990 census was undertaken. A development spurt in the northern and eastern portions of the city has contributed too much of this new growth. **Projections indicate the city's population will continue to grow at a moderate rate during the next 30 years, reaching an estimated 19,676 by the year 2030 (Table 2).**

In 2010 the median age of Menasha residents (36.0) was similar to but slightly lower than both Winnebago County (37.9) and the State of Wisconsin (38.5). Additionally, the population of all three entities had very similar age structures, although the City of Menasha has a slightly greater proportion in the youngest age cohorts (e.g. ages 10 and under). *Source: 2010 Census.*

TABLE 1
POPULATION TRENDS
1950 - 2010

Year	Menasha	Winnebago Co.	Wisconsin
1950	12,385	91,103	3,434,575
1960	14,647	107,928	3,951,777
1970	14,836	129,946	4,417,821
1980	14,748	131,772	4,705,642
1990	14,711	140,320	4,891,769
2000	16,331	156,763	5,363,675
2005	17,156	163,244	5,580,757
2010	17,353	166,994	5,686,986
Percent Change 2000 – 2010	6.26%	6.53%	6.03%

Sources: U.S. Census: 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2012. D.O.A.: 2005.

TABLE 2
POPULATION PROJECTIONS
2000 - 2030

Year	Menasha	Winnebago Co.	Wisconsin
2000	16,331	156,763	5,363,675
2005	16,988	163,846	5,563,896
2010	17,443	168,538	5,751,470
2015	17,912	173,241	5,931,386
2020	18,460	178,543	6,110,878
2025	19,090	184,763	6,274,867
2030	19,676	190,504	6,415,923
Percent Change 2000 – 2030	20.48%	21.52%	19.62%

Sources: **Official Population Estimates**, Wisconsin Department of Administration; U.S. Census 2000; Population Projections, December, 2004; ECWRPC.

PARK AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

The responsibility for managing Menasha's parks and recreational facilities lies with a seven-member Parks and Recreation Board, which is appointed by the Mayor, subject to Common Council approval. A crew of five full-time, two part-time and six part-time summer seasonal employees are responsible for park maintenance under the direction of the Superintendent of Parks, Forestry and Cemeteries and the Director of Parks, Recreation, Forestry and Cemeteries. Reservations for park areas and pavilions are taken each year on the first working day in February. A copy of current fees, charges, rules and regulations is available at the Park and Recreation Office, City Hall, 140 Main Street, Menasha, WI 54952 or can be obtained by calling (920) 967-3640.

SERVICE STANDARDS

A good recreation and open space plan is carefully tailored to the community for which it is prepared and reflects user needs on a qualitative as well as quantitative basis. Nationally accepted park planning standards may provide a gauge of the overall adequacy of the quantitative aspects of a community's park system. **Often, however, these park standards are not sensitive to the many variables that make each community unique; thus, in addition to general park and recreation standards, other criteria related to particular local characteristics are employed.** Resident feedback is often the most important factor to consider when determining park land acquisition and development plans.

Acreage and Facility Standards. A revised approach toward park and recreation planning is a level of service as defined by customer needs rather than an arbitrary standard such as the number of tennis courts per 1,000 people. A standard for parks and recreation cannot be universal. Previously used standards were impossible for many communities to achieve and caused a great deal of frustration among planners and elected officials. Many communities begin to place greater emphasis on acquiring natural areas and other open space for preservation and/or passive recreation, they are finding that more acreage will be required if all recreational needs of their citizens are to be met.

A more accurate reflection of true community park needs is found in the demands expressed vocally by community residents. Communities such as Menasha with full time staff and an oversight board involved with recreational programming typically have an excellent perspective on local recreational shortcomings. Public input meetings and/or surveys can be a good way to help determine what the community wants.

Park Site Standards. Park site standards help determine the size and service area of the parks and the facilities that should be made available in various types of parks appropriate for a community. Community parks and neighborhood parks are the types of facilities most appropriate for a community the size of Menasha. Each type of park has generally accepted service radius standards to address the needs of the community.

Mini-Park. Sometimes called a vest pocket park or tot lot, these facilities are typically around 0.5 acres or less in size.

Neighborhood Park. A neighborhood park is a 3 to 15 acre park that provides recreational facilities for all ages. Typical facilities include play equipment, picnic areas, a basketball and/or volleyball court, and an open play area with backstop for unorganized activities. Although a desirable service radius for a neighborhood park is a half mile or ten-minutes walking time, it often is defined by natural and man-made barriers, such as unbridged river segments or major streets, which restrict safe and convenient access.

Community Park. A community park serves the entire community. In addition to providing most of the facilities recommended for neighborhood parks, a community park should include such facilities as restrooms, shelters, nature trails or areas, swimming areas, a band shelter, and similar facilities which would be used by the entire community. A desirable service radius for a community park is one mile or five-minutes driving time.

Special Use Parks. Vary widely in size and use. Examples of such facilities include: zoos, nature centers, boat launches, ski hills, beach areas, etc.

Citizen Involvement. Community views are reflected in two ways: (1) guidance from the Menasha Parks and Recreation Board in formulating goals and objectives, in identifying local problems and needs, and in synthesizing and reviewing final plan proposals; and (2) participation by community residents at public information meetings to review plan proposals. Full-time staff also provides a continuous sounding board for monitoring and responding to public concerns.

Environmental Quality. Unique land forms, wooded areas, water bodies, drainage courses, and other areas of significant environmental quality are often excellent candidate locations for parks and other open space areas. Opportunities for utilizing Menasha's natural features for future recreational development and/or preservation are identified.

Land Use. Future park locations must have a relationship to predicted land use patterns, especially to residential areas. Menasha's existing and future land use trends are evaluated so that growth areas can be identified as a basis for determining the location of future parks and open space areas.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES INVENTORY

NATURAL RESOURCES

The natural resource base is not only a major determinant of potential physical and economic uses of the land; it also suggests areas that are prime candidates for parkland and other open space uses. Communities that make public management and preservation of these resources a priority are rewarded with an enhanced quality of life for local residents. Among environmental characteristics well worth protecting for open space are topography; streams, lakes and other drainage corridors; floodplains; woodlands; and soils which are unsuitable for most types of intensive land use development. In many cases, private development of these environmentally sensitive areas is strictly regulated to protect the important environmental benefits they provide.

Lake Winnebago, the Fox River, Little Lake Butte des Morts and several sizable wetland areas which exist along the north shore of Lake Winnebago are important natural resources in the Menasha area. Elevations in the city range from around about 740 feet above sea level along the shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts to over 800 feet in some areas east of Oneida Street. This portion of the community is also characterized by several well-defined drainage ways which, with increased development in and around Menasha, provide opportunities for integrating stormwater management practices with open space and trail development in strategic locations. Several large woodland tracts are found in conjunction with the major wetlands.

EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Over 200 acres of public parks and other open space areas are available to City of Menasha residents (see fold out map). This acreage includes 14 parks, 4 boat landings, a marina, James Island, part of the Menasha Lock site, the Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, and open space areas maintained by the City of Menasha Department of Parks, Recreation, Forestry, and Cemeteries. This does not include eight school sites maintained by the Menasha School District; and an additional four parks in the adjacent portions of the Town of Menasha east of Little Lake Butte des Morts. Together, these areas provide a blend of passive, active, and special use areas for the Greater Menasha community.

Community Parks

Jefferson Park. Jefferson Park is the largest and most fully equipped park in the Menasha Park System, providing the setting for many major local festivals. Bordered by Third Street, Konemac Street and the Fox River, the park contains 28.9 acres and features a small island that has been known to generations of children as Peanut Island because of its shape. Picnickers enjoy a magnificent view of the Fox River and find reservable picnic areas and plenty of open space and playground equipment in the park. Boaters make use of several convenient docks and launches. Seasonal mooring is available for craft under 21 feet in length. Three lighted softball diamonds, horseshoe pits, two volleyball courts, and several acres of open space are available for recreational enjoyment.

The Menasha Municipal Pool complex is also located in Jefferson Park. The complex consists of a zero-depth entry pool, two water slides, and a jump platform. All major boat ramps at this site were repaired in 2005.

An award-winning pavilion, which may be reserved for family gatherings and other events, provides kitchen facilities, restrooms, and a shelter. Annual events at the park include Seafood Fest, Communityfest Celebration, Independence Day fireworks, and Jazzfest as well as a variety of company picnics.

Smith Park. Smith Park is located on Doty Island in the southern portion of the City. The park celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 1997, making it one of the oldest city parks in the state. Smith Park is bordered by Cleveland and Park Streets to the east and west, Nicolet Boulevard to the south and Fox River on the north. This 23.9-acre park features a large pavilion complete with kitchen facilities. Also located within the park are picnic facilities, playground equipment, volleyball court, four tennis courts, softball diamond and soccer field. Several unique features make Smith Park an attraction worth seeing and an important community asset. A railroad caboose, presented to the Menasha Historical Society, commemorates the fact that Menasha was the birthplace of the original Wisconsin Central Railroad. At the southern end of the park are several Native American burial mounds - large settlements of Fox and Winnebago Native Americans once inhabited this area - and a natural amphitheater used for summer concerts. The north end of the park features semi-formal gardens planted each year with approximately 6,000 annuals, a setting that is a favorite for summer weddings. A gazebo funded with corporate donations was built in this area in 1997. Many recreation programs are held in the park. Various entertainers offer free performances every other Tuesday night in the pavilion. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the park.

The Memorial Building and playground area are located north of Keyes Street on the Fox River. The "Mem" is a multiple-use facility utilized for recreation programs and is headquarters for the Menasha Historical Society. A shorewall with decorative lighting was installed behind the “Mem” in 1998 as part of the island renovation plan. Other facilities on the grounds include four tennis courts that were renovated in 2004, playground equipment, a basketball court, and an area for seasonal boat mooring operated by the Menasha Dock Association. Groomed cross-country ski trails are also available. An “Isle of Valor” monument honoring two Menasha Medal of Honor recipients was constructed in 2007. The area is located behind the Memorial Building and includes a new pedestrian bridge.

Koslo Park. A 12-acre park located east of Highway 47 and north of Airport Road, Koslo Park is bordered by London Street and Geneva Road. It features a semi-professional lighted baseball diamond, softball diamond, lighted basketball court, volleyball court, pole shelter and a variety of playground apparatus. The park serves as the home field of the Menasha Macs and Twins and local high school baseball leagues. In 2000, the City entered into a unique lease-back agreement with Menasha Utilities which allowed for the installation of a state-of-the-art sports lighting system. A new scoreboard was installed in 2001. In 2011, field users took it upon themselves to undertake two fundraising events to help offset costs and contribute to future diamond improvements.

Neighborhood Parks

Clovis Grove Park. Clovis Grove Park is located near the intersection of Ninth and Ida streets adjacent to Clovis Grove Elementary School and is the third largest park in the Menasha system. This 12.5-acre park features seven lighted tennis courts, one touch football field, soccer field, one softball diamond, a sledding hill, playground equipment and a picnic shelter. The park also features a small ½-acre wooded area. One softball diamond was removed when Clovis Grove School was renovated in 2003.

Hart Park. Hart Park is located on Seventh Street just west of Appleton Road. This 3.9 acre park includes restroom facilities, lighted basketball court, softball diamond/football field and playground area. A large, supervised, lighted ice rink and warming shelter is provided during winter months. The 1,000 square foot handicapped accessible shelter, which includes a fireplace, was constructed in 1994 with state grant assistance. The shelter is used year round for recreation programs and is available to rent. A skateboard park was installed in 2002 with partially donated funds.

Pleasants Park. Pleasants Park is bounded by Sixth, Seventh and Walbrun streets behind and west of Banta School. This 5.3-acre park includes four tennis courts, softball/baseball diamond, regulation soccer field, and a wide variety of playground equipment.

Shepard Park. Located on Doty Island between Mathewson Street and Garfield Avenue, Shepard Park fronts Little Lake Butte des Morts. Included in this 3.7-acre park are restroom facilities, softball diamond, basketball court, and playground area.

Barker Farm Park. Located east of Oneida Street in the Barker Farms Estates subdivision, the city's newest park expanded to 8.9 acres in 2000. The park was dedicated in 2005 and includes a picnic shelter, sledding hill, two tennis courts, an off street parking lot, playground equipment, a ball diamond, and a short asphalt trail system.

Mini-Parks.

Clinton Center Park. Clinton Center Park is located on the corner of Second and Tayco streets. This 0.6-acre park contains a variety of play equipment, a basketball court, and open play area.

Bridge Tower Greenspace and Museum. Located on Tayco Street just north of the Tayco Street bridge, this park was developed in 1996 to provide an attractively landscaped small pedestrian park to complement the adjacent Bridge Tower Museum, which depicts the Fox River's role in the area's historical development.

Scanlan Park. Scanlan Park occupies a small triangular parcel at the intersection of Kaukauna and Chute streets. This 0.5-acre park features some playground facilities.

FIGURE 1

Chart of Parks and Recreation Facilities

City of Menasha Parks and Recreation Facilities	Acres	Mini Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	Special Purpose Park	Play Equipment	Open Play/Athletic Area	Volleyball Court	Softball	Touch/Flag Football	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Shelter (Rental)	Restrooms	Picnic Area	Picnic Grills	Reservable Picnic/Event Sites	Sledding	Ice Skating	Ice Hockey	Canoe Launch	Warming Shelter	Baseball Diamond	Soccer Fields	Parking Areas	Concession Stand	Horseshoe Courts	Bicycling	Hiking/X-Country Skiing	Pleasure Driving	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Launch	Temporary Boat Docking	Boat Slips (Rental)	Natural Area	Public Gardens	Historic Site	Paved Trail
Scanlon Park	.5																																						
Clinton Center Park	.6																																						
Clovis Grove Park	12.5								2		S	7L																											
Hart Park	3.9										L																												
Pleasants Park	5.3											4																											
Shepard Park	3.7																																						
Koslo Park	12.0																						1L			$													
Jefferson Park	28.9							2	3L		S		4													$					P		$		49				
Smith Park	23.9											5																					$						
James Island	5.0																																						
Heckrodt Wetland Reserve**	76.0																																						
Ninth St. Boat Launch	.8																																$						
Winz Park	.5											2																											
Menasha Marina & Terrace	3.0																																		87				
Riverwalk	.50																																						
Manitowoc St. Boat Launch	.2																																$						
Municipal Beach	1.4																																						
Barker Farm Park	8.9																																						
Conservancy Area	44.0																																						
Curtis Reed Square	.3																																						
Total	232.4																																						

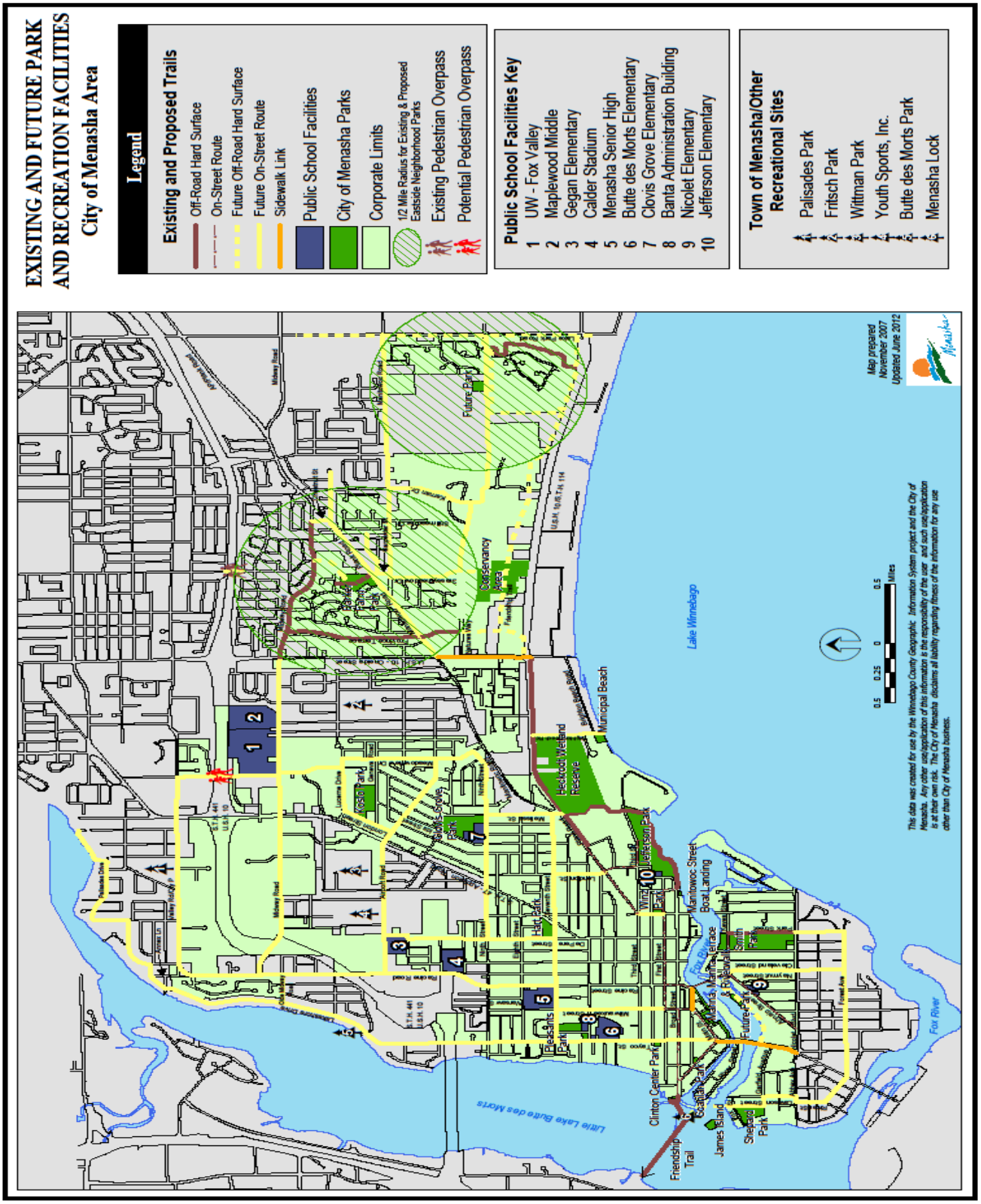
* Does not include terraces, boulevards & other greenspace throughout the city.

** Operated by a non-profit organization.

=Identified Amenity | 2=Number of Items | L=Lighted | P=Pool | $=Fee Area | F=Future | S=School

FIGURE 2

Existing Park and Recreation Facilities


EXISTING AND FUTURE PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES
City of Menasha Area
Legend
Existing and Proposed Trails
Off-Road Hard Surface
On-Street Route
Future Off-Road Hard Surface
Future On-Street Route
Sidewalk Link
Public School Facilities
City of Menasha Parks
Corporate Limits
1/2 Mile Radius for Existing & Proposed Eastside Neighborhood Parks
Existing Pedestrian Overpass
Potential Pedestrian Overpass
Public School Facilities Key
1 UW - Fox Valley
2 Maplewood Middle
3 Gegan Elementary
4 Calder Stadium
5 Menasha Senior High
6 Butte des Morts Elementary
7 Clovis Grove Elementary
8 Banta Administration Building
9 Nicolet Elementary
10 Jefferson Elementary
Town of Menasha/Other Recreational Sites
Palisades Park
Fritsch Park
Wittman Park
Youth Sports, Inc.
Butte des Morts Park
Menasha Lock
Lake Winnebago
Little Lake Butte des Morts
Fox River
Municipal Beach
Heckrodt Wetland Reserve
Conservancy Area
Future Park
Clovis Grove Park
Kozlik Park
Hart Park
Pleasants Park
Jefferson Park
Wing Park
Manitowoc Street Boat Landing
Smith Park
Future Park
Clinton Center Park
Friendship Trail
James Island
Shepard Park
Miley Road
Midway Road
Lake Park Road
Lakeshore Drive
Palisades Drive
Oak Hill Road
Lucerne Drive
Appleton Road
Broadway Street
Ninth Street
Tayco Street
Third Street
Fifth Street
Seventh Street
Ninth Street
Eighth Street
Sixth Street
Fourth Street
Second Street
Water Street
Front Street
Forest Avenue
Oak Hill Road
Lake Park Road
Lakeshore

Back of Map

Special Use Parks and Facilities

Menasha Marina, Terrace and Riverwalk. Built in 1987, and a cornerstone of Menasha's redevelopment efforts, this important amenity is located in the heart of the downtown. The Marina and Riverwalk, encompasses approximately 3 acres. The terrace is a strip of land above the Marina that parallels Main Street. This area is where the City's Farm Fresh Market is held. The complex accommodates seasonal and transient docking for watercraft up to 40 feet in length. There are 88 slips located in the Marina and approximately 25+ transient slips located along the beautiful Riverwalk. Slips are equipped with potable water and electricity. City parks crews have completed replacing pier decking and replacing floats. Marina patrons also have use of shower facilities, gasoline sales, sanitary head pumpout, and a "Harborhouse". Adequate parking for Marina users is just a short walk away from the facility.

Conservancy Area East of Oneida Street. This conservancy area is presently over 40 acres in size and expansion is possible. The area consists primarily of wetlands and minimal development is planned for this site. A parking lot is available off of Hwy. 10/114. A small wetland restoration project was undertaken in the spring of 2001 as part of a wetland mitigation process that was overseen by the DNR and the EPA.

Municipal Beach. A 1.4-acre parcel located on the shores of Lake Winnebago at the south end of Brighton Beach Road, the tract includes picnic facilities, a small play area, a sand volleyball court, and an unsupervised swimming area with a shorewall and beach area. This park is important because it offers one of the only public lake access sites between Menasha and High Cliff State Park.

James Island. James Island is a 2.1-acre island located at the mouth of the Menasha Channel offshore of Shepard Park. The island is accessible by non-motorized boat and is maintained in a natural wooded state. It is subject to erosion and flooding during periods of high water on the Fox River. The island is home to a large colony of cormorants.

Winz Park. Winz Park is a unique 0.5-acre "hard surface" play area utilizing the top of the Menasha Utility's clearwell water storage facility. Located on the corner of Second and Manitowoc streets, the park features two tennis courts, 1-1/2 basketball courts, and a hard surface activity area. Due primarily to maintenance concerns, discussion is ongoing over the future of this site.

Curtis Reed Square. Named after one of Menasha's founding fathers, Curtis Reed Square serves as an urban plaza in the heart of the downtown. Located on the north side of Main Street between Milwaukee Street and Chute Street, the 0.8-acre park was created when the former intersection of these three streets was redesigned in 1997. A large wall mural, which depicts the history of Menasha, was erected on the east wall of City Hall in 2000, providing an impressive backdrop to the square and serving as a focal point for visitors to the downtown area. The square is a hub for many outdoor civic events.

Jefferson Park Swimming Pool. Built in 1958 and renovated in 1990, the Menasha swimming pool features a 200' waterslide, zero-depth entry, a kid's discovery fountain, concessions area and several large shade umbrellas. Unfortunately, the 1990 renovation efforts did not address the

condition of several key mechanical components and the bathhouse structure. Pool vessel/deck concerns have also been noted. A pool consultant made a series of recommendations for the pool in 2007. Discussion is ongoing over the future of this facility. A friends group was formed in 2011 to support keeping the pool open.

Ninth Street Boat Launch. Located at the west end of Ninth Street, this boat launch provides two ramps for boaters wishing to use Little Lake Butte des Morts. About 0.8 acres of surfaced area provides parking for 34 car-trailer units on the north side of the street. The ramp was lengthened and the docks were rehabilitated in 2006. Improved landscaping of the parking lot should be considered.

Manitowoc Street Boat Launch. This boat launch is located on the south end of Manitowoc Street and provides access to Fox River and Lake Winnebago from the north bank of the Menasha Channel.

Park Street Boat Launch. The Park Street Boat Launch is located directly east of Smith Park on the north end of Park Street and provides access to the Fox River and Lake Winnebago from the south bank of the Menasha Channel.

Fox Cities Trestle-Friendship Trail. This award winning trail facility connects the City and Town of Menasha across a 1,600' converted railroad trestle. The trail also crosses the Menasha Lock site via an unique pedestrian lift bridge donated by Miron Construction. It is extremely popular and is maintained jointly by the City and Town of Menasha. Downtown City businesses have seen an increase in bicycle traffic since the trail opened.

Public School Facilities

UW-Fox Valley. A two-year campus of the University of Wisconsin system, the UW-Fox Valley Center campus is located on the north side of Midway Road west of Maplewood Middle School. An open area behind the buildings provides for one soccer field available by reservation. Six tennis courts are also available for public use.

Menasha High School. The Menasha High School, located on the west side of Racine Street between Seventh and Eighth streets, occupies a 12.3 acre site. Facilities include an open area for interscholastic sports practice and physical education classes.

Maplewood Middle School. Maplewood Middle School is located on the north side of Midway Road in the northern portion of Menasha. Facilities include an open play area along with a football/soccer field for interscholastic sports practice/events and physical education classes. An outdoor classroom with an emphasis on nature opened in 2006.

Butte des Morts Elementary School. Located on Tayco Street between Third and Sixth streets, Butte des Morts Elementary School provides two basketball courts, a baseball field, football field and other open play area.

Banta Administration Building. Located on Sixth Street adjacent to Pleasants Park, both sites are used concurrently by children during school and non-school hours.

Clovis Grove Elementary School. The area adjacent to Clovis Grove Elementary School complements and expands the open space available at Clovis Grove Park, which lies directly to the north.

Gegan Elementary School. Gegan Elementary School occupies a nine-acre site on the south side of Airport Road in the northwestern portion of the city. A basketball court, baseball field, football field, play apparatus and open play areas are available.

Jefferson Elementary School. Other than a basketball court and some play equipment, Jefferson Elementary School provides little in the way of recreational opportunities. Its location directly west of Jefferson Park, however, allows the school to rely on facilities there for many of its recreational activities.

Calder Stadium. The Stadium is located on Racine Street at the east end of the Little Lake Butte des Morts Bridge. The stadium is used almost exclusively for interscholastic varsity sporting events. A full-size practice\game soccer field was developed adjacent to the stadium in 2005. These facilities have limited availability and can be reserved for a fee. People may contact the Activities office at Menasha High School for fee/reservation information.

Town of Menasha Parks

Because of the interlocking boundary between the City of Menasha and Town of Menasha, many residents of each municipality find it convenient to utilize parks in the other's jurisdiction. The four town parks east of Little Lake Butte des Morts provide some recreational opportunities for city residents as well as one town park that is located on the west side of the lake (Fritse Park).

Palisades Park. Located adjacent to the Town Hall on Valley Road, this community park is somewhat removed from city residential areas and probably receives little use by city residents. Facilities include a variety of play apparatus, two ball diamonds, tennis courts, picnic facilities, shelter, and an ice skating rink. A unique feature is a wheelchair exercise course.

Fritsch Park. Located near the northeastern portion of the city at the intersection of Sandy Lane and Linda Avenue, Fritsch Park is a neighborhood park some 18 acres in size. Facilities include a shelter with restrooms, picnic area, a pavilion with a kitchen, playground equipment, ball diamond, a basketball court, soccer field, a volleyball court, horseshoe pits, ice rink and a sledding area.

Fritse Park. This 15 acre park is located on the western shore of Little Lake Butte des Morts and provides a link via the Friendship Trestle Trail to the City of Menasha. The park includes a boat launch, basketball court, a pavilion with a kitchen, picnic area, playground equipment, sledding hill, and a volleyball court. In 2010, the Town completed an extensive renovation to this park. Improvements include: a new trail side to shelter, a large playground, boat launch, improved parking with a boat wash station.

Wittmann Park. Wittmann Park is located on the north side of Airport Road and is relatively convenient to a sizable number of Menasha residents. Facilities available at this 25-acre community park include a shelter, restrooms, picnic facilities, play equipment, and basketball and tennis courts and soccer fields.

Butte des Morts Park. A neighborhood rec lot located at the intersection of Lakeshore Drive and Frances Street, this two-acre site provides access to Little Lake Butte des Morts. This site primarily serves the immediate residential area; fisherman and flat water kayakers occasionally use this site. There is a natural are along with a trail and playground equipment.

Non-Profit Facilities

Two separate non-profit sports organizations share a 10.5-acre site north of Airport Road in the north central portion of the City. The Menasha Area Soccer Club plays on five soccer fields and the Youth Sports, Inc. plays on four baseball diamonds, one being a high school dimension field.

Parochial Schools

A limited range of recreational opportunities is available at each of the city's three parochial schools. These sites can be considered as neighborhood rec lots, serving residents of the immediate area. Facilities typically include play equipment and hard surface play area.

Menasha Lock Site. Per an agreement with the State Dept. of Administration, this site, along with the other lock sites on the Fox River, were turned over to the Fox River Navigational System Authority (FRNSA). The city has partnered with the FRNSA to establish the lock grounds as a public greenspace. This partnership began when plans were made to cross the lock site with a separate pedestrian lift bridge. The lift bridge connects trail users to the popular “Trestle Trail” which spans Little Lake Butte Des Morts which opened in August of 2005. The trestle trail is a key link into the State Friendship Trail which is planned to one day to traverse from Stevens Point to Manitowoc.

Heckrodt Wetland Reserve. Heckrodt Wetland Reserve is a 72-acre natural area located south of Old Plank Road on Menasha’s east side. This facility is owned by the City. Heckrodt Wetland Reserve (HWR), Inc., a non-profit organization independent of the City, is currently responsible for its operation. With the 1999 dedication of a full-service nature center, numerous education programs for people of all ages are available. A large paved parking area serves the building and provides a trailhead for a 2.0-mile boardwalk trail and pond observation deck, which are used extensively by families. During the winter, the trail is primarily used by walkers. A marked snowshoeing trail is available in the winter. Bikes, pets, and alcohol are not allowed in the Reserve. The HWR purchased an additional 11.0 acres west of the Lopas Channel in 2005. Approximately half of this former fill site has been transformed into a prairie meadow with a short interpretive trail system.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives were developed by city staff than reviewed and recommended by the Menasha Parks and Recreation Board. They are intended to serve as a guide for creating the type of park and recreation system that benefits all city residents. 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 greater detail how these desired goals can be achieved. The goals and objectives provide a basis for establishing City policy regarding the planning, acquisition and future development of park and recreation facilities.

GOAL #1: To establish a communitywide system of parks, open space and park facilities that will provide all residents of Menasha with adequate recreational opportunities.

Objectives:

- Acquire and develop a neighbor park in the city's far east side, near the boundaries of Manitowoc Road and Lake Park Road space. Seek grant assistance for the park.
- Acquire and develop (seek grant assistance for this project) a public green space and riverside trail south of Menasha dam.
- Assess all parks and recreation facilities and begin complying (through retrofit or redesign) with updated 2010 ADA requirements.
- Implement and participate in the Neenah/Menasha Park Corps, which commits volunteers with park projects.
- Establish a written plan for future maintenance or facility improvements for all park facilities, including the Marina.
- Continue participation towards establishing a dog park in northern Winnebago County.
- Continue participation towards exploring the need for a regional park in northern Calumet County.
- Pursue a new park master plan for Jefferson Park.
- Seek the support (through donations, sponsorships or in-kind contributions) of community groups service organizations, businesses or individuals as a way of funding and/or undertaking improvements benefiting the City of Menasha.

GOAL #2: To offer recreation programming and aquatic services that meet the needs of Menasha residents.

Objectives:

- Maintain program reciprocity with the City of Appleton, City of Neenah, Town of Menasha, and Neenah/Menasha YMCA (pool only).
- Whenever cost effective or practical, initiate program partnerships with neighboring recreation departments or like organizations.
- Annually evaluate pool operations to balance the need for serving the public with fiscal responsibly.
- Annually evaluate recreational programs for the purpose of recovering 100%of the adult program and 50% of youth programs expenses through fees.
- Investigate and seek public input of cost effective alternatives for reconstructing or replacing the swimming pool.
- Separately track the number of summer and fall/winter with adult and child program participants.

GOAL #3: To facilitate and support the development of a comprehensive system of bicycle and pedestrian trails and routes throughout the city.

Objectives:

- Assist in the implementation of the grant aided Province Terrace trail project from Nature's Way to link with the existing Friendship trail at the corner of Oneida Street and STH 114.
- Work jointly to develop recreational trails and on-road bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to achieve linkages to existing and new park facilities as well as across jurisdictional boundaries (see Existing Park and Future Recreation Facilities Map).
- Support the implementation of the STH 47 corridor bike lane project.
- Seek the support (through donations, sponsorships or in-kind contributions) of community groups, service organizations, businesses or individuals as a way of funding and/or undertaking park or trail improvements benefiting the City of Menasha.

GOAL #4: To facilitate and support the development of a public riverside green space and habitat restoration on redevelopment property south and adjacent to the Menasha Dam.

Objectives:

- Continue the engineering and site planning processes for a shoreline trail and linear park along the length of the Old Gilbert Mill by mill property (Phase I).

- Identify and apply for any recreation or habitat restoration grant source that would aid in developing a public greenspace or restoring habitat on the Gilbert site.

- Begin preliminary site planning for habitat restoration, fishing and public recreation opportunities along a reopened water canal around the Menasha Dam (Phase II).

- Jointly market the project site with the Fox/Wisconsin Heritage Parkway as a visitor/tourist destination with both land and water access.

- Continue discussions and begin site planning for public use and private development at the old Donnelly site as it relates to the planning already undertaken at the Gilbert Mill site.

- Seek the support (through donations, sponsorships and in-kind contributions) of community groups, service organizations, businesses or individuals as a way of funding and/or undertaking improvements to this important redevelopment and public recreation site.

GOAL #5: To maintain and enhance KEY public recreation facilities.

Objectives:

- Swimming pool: Develop a strategy for ongoing maintenance of the pool while simultaneously developing a plan for a reconstructed or replacement aquatic facility. Seek public input in the process. Continue implementing operational efficiencies of the pool

- Trails: Provide funding and staff resources to adequately maintain trails. Seek outside labor and/or funding sources if available.

- Tennis courts: Reduce the number of tennis courts at Clovis Grove Park from seven to four. Negotiate turning over the four courts at Pleasants Park site to the Menasha Joint School District.

- Koslo Field: Continue facilitating field user fundraising efforts.

- Memorial Building: Provide funding for continued maintenance of this facility. Continue to maximize public use of the building. Investigate possible remodeling/expansion of the building.

Goal #6: To maintain and enhance the City's urban forest.

Objectives:

- Maintain current Tree City, USA status.
- Carry out Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) management plan adopted in 2010.
- Develop a planting strategy and goal that follows Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) standards.
- Review and update, as needed, city ordinances as they relate to trees.
- Continue residential tree planting program (rotating two districts per year.)
- Improve the communication process with Public Works when trees are impacted during street or sidewalk reconstruction.
- Seek opportunities for public education about the value of urban tress (environmental, livability and economic vitality).

PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

LAND NEEDS

Based on a level of service defined by the needs of the customers (i.e. city residences) it is apparent that the city has an adequate number of parks and open spaces west of Oneida Street. The Town of Menasha parks and school sites also contribute towards filling this need. The acquisition and development of two key sites still remains. The first is the addition of approximately 1.0 acres of land along the Fox River adjacent to the old Gilbert Paper Mill. The public greenspace will increase when the Donnelly/Curtis Reed Square Plaza site is redeveloped. **This location offers a prime opportunity to create an urban waterfront destination**. That would include habitat/shoreline restoration, trails, picnicking, fishing and canoe/kayaking activities. A combination of public amenities and redevelopment on this site would complement and enhance the current downtown housing and retail climate. The second important park site is the creation of a neighborhood park in the vicinity of Lake Park Road and Manitowoc Road (see map on page 9)

LOCATIONAL NEEDS

The key consideration in meeting locational needs is to ensure that all community residents have safe and convenient access to a range of recreational facilities. Ideally, recreational facilities should be available within a quarter to one-half mile, unimpeded by natural and man-made barriers, such as open water, non-residential land use, and busy streets. For planning purposes, these barriers define neighborhood boundaries. It is desirable that recreational facilities be available within each neighborhood.

The present distribution of parks and schools within the city provides each of its neighborhoods with a good range of convenient recreational facilities. The dedication of Barker Farm Park in 2005 began to serve the developing neighborhood east of Oneida Street. However, there is clearly a need (at a minimum) for one more neighborhood park on the city's far east side.

FACILITY NEEDS

Most of the facility needs revolve around continued provision of a well-balanced and maintained park system. The City should continue to actively pursue its downtown redevelopment plans. Menasha has the best water access of any Fox Cities community**. Economic diversification that would transition the City towards a more water based, outdoor tourism destination likely holds the key to future inner-city vitality**. In short, Menasha should take advantage of its access to water. Potential employers, residents and visitors all look for vibrant and interesting activities- such as walking, biking, shopping, dining, paddling, and special events to name a few. Additional Fox River locks are reopening, so boat traffic is expected to increase. Recreational paddling is one of the fastest growing sports and the city has already taken steps to welcome these enthusiasts by receiving donations for two canoe/kayak access docks in 2011. The Menasha Marina and Trestle Trail are examples of outdoor recreation venues that already bring visitors that spend money within the city. Other identified needs include the development of a city-wide system of bicycle trails/routes; additional areas which can be maintained primarily in their natural state to provide recreational opportunities such as cross-country skiing, hiking, and nature study.

PARK IMPACT FEE LAW

Park and recreation needs may include the need for additional parkland to accommodate new facilities, the need for additional parks in areas not adequately served by existing facilities or where new residential growth is occurring, or the need for new or improved park facilities and equipment. Menasha currently charges a park land dedication fee per dwelling unit if it does not opt for obtaining land in lieu of the fee. Wisconsin law states that a needs assessment that justifies why a fee should be imposed is required. A municipality may not impose a park fee in its subdivision ordinance as a condition of subdivision plat approval. Municipalities have authority to impose a fee on new land development for capital costs to construct, expand, or improve park facilities. This includes the cost of land for, among other things, parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields needed as the result of new development. A 10-year timeframe (2012-2021) has been used for the following needs assessment.

PROJECTED FUTURE HOUSEHOLDS/DWELLING UNITS

The information in this section was compiled with assistance from the City's Community Development Department. Because of boundary agreements with the City of Appleton, Town of Menasha, and the Town of Harrison, Menasha has a finite growth area that limits the need for planning for parks and recreation facilities beyond the boundary limits. In the next 10 years the City's population is expected to increase by approximately 1,200 people (from 17,381 to 18,581). Using an average of 2.8 people per dwelling unit, it is estimated that 429 households/dwelling

units will be added. This constitutes 6.5% of the new total. Most of this growth is expected to occur in the Calumet County portion of the city. This 6.5% figure is used as the basis for allocating future costs of parkland acquisition and capital costs to build, expand, or improve recreation facilities like the swimming pool, tennis courts, and trails.

ESTIMATED FUTURE CAPITAL COSTS OF PARKS AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

For future planning purposes and to serve as a guide to establishing a justifiable park dedication fee, a list of important future land acquisition, park/trail development and improvements to existing community facilities are listed on the next page. Only projects with significant community wide benefits are listed. Cost estimates for the swimming pool and Friendship Trail will undoubtedly need more cost refinement. Listed projects and estimations are designed to be a guide for further discussion and planning. A development cost of $20,000 per acre was assumed for a typical neighborhood park.

TABLE 3
ESTIMATED CAPITAL COSTS
For new and broad community based projects – 2012-2021
***These projects have the potential to receive State grants and other funding sources which may offset some of the project cost. Existing Park Dedication funds may also be utilized.**

Location	Need	Estimated Cost $
Neighborhood Park near Lake Park Road	Acquire approximately 5.24 acre park	*$125,000
Neighborhood Park near Lake Park Road	Development costs for the park	*$105,000(in-kind engineering labor should defray this cost)
Wetlands northeast of gas station at the northeast corner of Oneida/114	Some land needed for trail development, TE grant obtained in 2011	*$30,000 (easements may be an option)
Trail Development (asphalt & boardwalk) Oneida Street north to Province Terrace	Provide safe access to trails for residents east of Oneida	80% TE Grant (obtained) 20% local sponsors *$78,652
1.0 Acre Park Old Gilbert Paper Company Site—Public trail/Greenspace and habitat restoration	Significant economic attraction and stimulus for downtown businesses, also serves public need	*Land along river to be donated. Appraised at $375,000. Local share expected to be mostly in-kind labor
Clovis Grove Tennis Court Rehabilitation	Remove 3 courts, resurface 4	$100,000
Replace pool with regional spray ground with a small instructional and lap pool	Rehabilitation of existing pool may be an option. Deficiencies in the existing pool have been identified. Large spray ground/small pool option will decrease annual operating expenses	$1,400,000 for small instruction pool/spray ground option
Trail development Province Terrace east to Lake Park Road (Friendship Trail). Approximately 2.5 miles	Completing Menasha's Friendship Trail connection. Local and regional use expected	*WDNR Grant assistance potentially available 1.5 million at $100/ft for development, $200,000 for land acquisition
	Total	$3,388,652

Calculation for Park Dedication Fee

0.0675 (6.5% of new city population by 2021) x$3,388,652=$220,262
$220,262÷ 429 dwelling units = $513
Current dedication fee is $550
Estimated revenue generated by new impact fee for 10 year period: $255,200

IDEAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following ideas and recommendations are intended to serve as a guide for future development of park and recreation areas in the City of Menasha. Several modifications will be required to comply with access requirements spelled out in 2010 update to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). **Some are more conceptual than others and would require further analysis before implementation.**

EXISTING PARK SITES

Jefferson Park- Note that many of these suggestions would be addressed in a proposed master plan for the park (see page 16)

1. The potential use of the pre-settlement basin as a future marina for small boats should be investigated.

2. The current boat slip area in the east end of the park should be renovated, eliminated, or reconstructed to accommodate a few less boats and/or greater public access. This could be renovated along with a possible Reserve Building redevelopment project.

3. Playground equipment should be updated and replaced as needed.

4. Terminate the Army Reserve building lease with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Return the site to park land.

5. Upgrade softball diamond facilities. Some will be ADA accessible. Determine if three diamonds are still needed.

Menasha Lock Site

1. Consider some type of visitor center and/or concession and/or equipment rental operation at the site in cooperation with the Fox River Navigational System Authority.

Smith Park

1.

    1. Consider modest rehabilitation of the outdoor youth theater southwest of pavilion.

Memorial Building

1. Continue performing regular building upkeep and maintenance as needed.

2. Consider full handicapped accessibility of the restrooms. This will reduce the number of stalls.

3. Replace aging boiler.

4. Consider a full building renovation, perhaps when donor funds become available.

Koslo Park

1. Consider adding a restroom and public use structure on to the existing pole shelter on the east end of the park.

2. Repave and consider minor expansion of existing parking lot.

3. Replace backstop including ball netting as needed.

4. Add an overhang structure (or similar design) off the south side of the building to accommodate concession sales and shade for fans.

5. Resurface existing basketball court as needed.

Clovis Grove Park

1. Reduce number of courts from seven to four and resurface courts. A cost saving measure that still meets public demands.

Hart Park

1. Consider adding some equipment to the skate park in the northeast corner of the existing concrete slab. Users could seek donations as a source of funds.

Pleasants Park

1. Consider turning these courts over to The Menasha Joint School District.

Shepard Park

Other than routine maintenance, no actions are recommended.

Barker Farm Park

1. Complete the installation of a softball/little league sized baseball diamond.

2. Consider adding an east/northeast paved bike path to connect with the Midway Road trail as development occurs east of the park.

3. Consider lighting the tennis courts and adding a rebound board.

Clinton Center Park

1. Play equipment should be updated as needed.

2. Resurface existing basketball courts as needed.

Scanlan Park

1. Play equipment should be updated as needed.

James Island

1. This park should continue to be maintained in its natural state. Only low impact uses should be accommodated.

2. Consider adding shoreline armoring on the upstream side of the island for erosion control.

3. Work with WDNR and USDA on ways to reduce cormorant and geese impacts on the island.

Other Parks/Greenspaces Designated by Resolution in 2004

Kaukauna, Tayco and Main Street Fountains—routine maintenance recommended.
Riverview Park (a.k.a. "Power Pole Park")—shorewall area will need future attention.
Lakeview Park (a.k.a. "Nicolet Blvd. greenspace")—consider landscape improvements, pave short gravel path.

Lake Park Villa Perimeter Trails—routine maintenance recommended.
All other public spaces in the resolution are addressed in others sections of this document.

Municipal Beach

1. Consider upgrading existing rock shoreline as needed.

2. Upgrade playground equipment as needed.

3. Consider a small unisex restroom/changing room facility.

Ninth Street Boat Launch

1. Redesign lot, including landscape upgrade on Ninth and Tayco Streets.

Manitowoc Street Boat Launch

Other than routine maintenance, no actions are recommended.

Park Street Boat Launch

Other than routine maintenance, no actions are recommended.

Winz Park

1. Seek neighborhood interest on whether to continue maintaining all or part of the facility.

Conservancy Area

1. Consider expanding trail system to include some boardwalk bridges over ponds.

2. Consider building a handicap accessible fishing platform over one of the ponds.

3. Connect the existing trail system west to connect with the new Friendship Trail.

4. Obtain use of adjacent acreage to the east/southeast to continue Friendship Trail.

5. As use increases consider a unisex toilet facility near the parking lot.

Menasha Marina and Riverwalk Extension

1. Consider extending the Riverwalk along the canal westward from Washington Street to the Menasha Lock. This project would be designed to encourage greater pedestrian use of the canal bank and to stimulate redevelopment activity in the area.

NEW PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Area East of Hwy. 10

Steps should be taken to make sure; if possible, that future residential growth in the area east of Hwy. 10 has convenient access to park facilities. A small neighborhood park near Lake Park Road and Manitowoc Road has been previously identified and is a high acquisition priority. In addition, a coalition of communities has begun to discuss the need for a large regional park somewhere east of Lake Park Road. When looking out 10-20 years, there would seem to be a need for such a facility.

Brighton Drive Lake Access (75')

This site was obtained by the City and is east of Jefferson Park. Some discussion has been had over what recreation-related development may occur on this site. This area could also be a possible site for a new water inlet line. Those activities would not strain already limited available parking in the area. This location has potential as a canoe/kayak access site.

Water Trails/Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway

With its enviable downtown waterfront, the core of Menasha is ideally suited for revitalization. Recreational kayaking is the fastest growing paddle sport in the United States. Like their land trail counterpart, many regions around the country have begun to develop point to point water trails. These trails typically follow a route highlighted by points of interest and amenities such as launch

sites, restrooms, drinking water, parks, restaurants, etc. They can provide the urban paddler the best of both worlds, a sense of adventure and exercise with the convenience of being close to home. Two canoe/kayak access docks were donated by Fox Cities Friends of the Fox and Fox Cities Greeways Inc. These docks are located on the west end of Jefferson Park and just east of the Marina in downtown Menasha. The Fox-Wisconsin Rivers Heritage Parkway was established in 2010. Water trail signage including route maps was installed in the Menasha/Appleton area in 2011.

Donnelly/Curtis Reed Plaza Site—Public Greenspace and Trail

This site offers such a unique redevelopment/green space opportunity for the city. It was also identified as a major developmental goal. Site planning and engineering is continuing. The property owners have agreed to donate a strip of land for a trail, shoreline restoration and fishing areas. The pace of demolition on the site has slowed progress. Once complete, the city is hopeful a DNR Stewardship grant for habitat restoration and recreation/trail development is successful. This is considered Phase I of redeveloping the site. Phase II is the restoration and reopening of the existing canal that provided water to the old Gilbert Mill. This phase will allow for the creation of fish habitat and riparian restoration utilizing the fast current of the reopened canal. Once restored, the canal may also provide a venue for paddle sport enthusiasts. The closing of this site creates many redevelopment and green space opportunities. Both sites will fit well with plans for the Fox/Wisconsin Heritage Parkway and water trail. **This project will allow the city to capitalize on its greatest natural asset- waterfront location.** It has been shown that companies, prospective employees, visitors and residents alike are drawn to communities that provide lifestyle amenities like trails (both land and water). Recent local examples of this can be seen in both Neenah and Appleton.

Friendship Trail – Fox Cities Trestle

Commonly referred to as the “Trestle Trail”, this extremely popular trail segment opened for recreational enthusiasts in August of 2005. The City and Town of Menasha have agreed to jointly operate and maintain the trail.

Skateparks

While the popularity of skateboarding has leveled off a bit, it has remained a popular activity among the pre-teen through the young adult population. In November of 2002, The City of Menasha opened a 7,000 square foot outdoor skate park in Hart Park. The park has gotten a lot of use over the past several years. Lights were added in 2005 to allow for nighttime skating. Other local communities have added similar outdoor parks.

Bike Trails & Routes

A signed system of designated bike routes linking schools, parks, and other destinations should be developed throughout the city. It appears unlikely that Canadian National will ever abandon its track heading east toward High Cliff State Park. In the meantime, the City should continue working cooperatively with the WDNR, Calumet County, and the Town of Harrison and other stakeholders to create a marked bike route from Menasha to High Cliff State Park. Extending the Friendship Trail on the north-side of STH 10/114 between Oneida Street and CTH LP (Firelane 8) represents the safest, preferred route that benefits the greatest number of current and future Menasha residents. WDNR developers and landowners will all play an important role in making the to LP connection a reality.

The current off-road bike/pedestrian pathway along the south side of Oneida Road (STH 114) provides safe access to the Heckrodt Wetland Reserve and the Friendship Trail. The Friendship Trail extends westerly from Jefferson Park along city streets to the Menasha Lock site before crossing on the Fox Cities Trestle/Friendship Trail. Route signs and road striping should be considered in these locations. A coordinated program to identify, mark or sign bike/pedestrian linkages to neighboring communities will make it safer and easier for commuters and casual riders to move between cities. The future north/south Province Terrace trail is an important first step.

Recommended Bike Trail/Routes

Area.

The City has constructed many trail/route segments in recent years. These facilities provide a healthful recreation transportation option and are a vital tourism amenity. **The following routes are intended to be a guide for future bike/pedestrian planning (see Figure 2). It does not consider sidewalk connections. Some of the most vital trails/routes that the City should pursue over the next five years include:**

- Province Terrace – Midway Road to Manitowoc Road complete paving (off road).
- Continue Province Terrace south of Manitowoc Road southwest to the corner of Oneida Street (10/114) intersection – some boardwalk and land acquisition required (grant obtained).
- Province Terrace south of Manitowoc Road, southeast to Conservancy Area – some boardwalk again required, allows people to access trails in the Conservancy
- Barker Farm Park east to Midway Road, work with future developers.
- Oneida Street to Lake Park Road (Friendship Trail north side of 10/114) (work with all stakeholders).
- Lake Park Road, north of 10/114 intersection – west side to Manitowoc Road, work with Town of Harrison, and City of Appleton to extend the trail further north.
- Consider pursuing a bike/pedestrian bridge over the Fox River at Fox Street to serve as a safe, connection from Doty Island in the Trestle trail. Engage the city of Neenah in the process.

PARK DEPARTMENT POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

1. The City should continue taking steps to acquire at least one more neighborhood park site in the vicinity of the Lake Park Villa subdivision.

2. Opportunities for participating in various funding components of the Stewardship Program (i.e., Urban Rivers, Urban Green Space, Safe Route to Schools, and Acquisition of Development Rights) should be identified and pursued.

3. The City should continue to maintain a strong working relationship (i.e., reciprocity agreements) with the Menasha School District and the cities of Neenah and Appleton Parks and Recreation Departments as well as with the Town of Menasha.

4. The Parks Division should continue recent efforts with the Streets & Sanitation Department towards assigning staff to where the greatest need is at the time. A complete merging of the parks division with the Street and Sanitation division <u>may</u> not be in the best interest of the park system because of potential for less time being allocated to park maintenance and operations.

5. The Army Reserve building in Jefferson Park has been vacated. It is conceivable that it may be made available to the city in the next few years. The buildings have been toured by staff and some structural analysis has been done. Deficiencies with the structure seem to make it cost prohibitive to update to modern accessible public standards. The Parks and Recreation Board is inclined to return this site to parkland and reassess the use of this area as part of a future proposed master plan for the park.

6. Park staff and the Park Board should refine and update its five year park improvement plan (PIP).

This page is intentionally blank