



# CITY OF MENASHA

## OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES PLAN

2007 - 2011

November 2007

**CITY OF MENASHA**  
**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES PLAN**  
**2007 - 2011**

November 2007

**CITY OF MENASHA**

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES PLAN**  
**2007 - 2011**

Prepared by the  
City of Menasha Parks and Recreation Board  
and the  
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

City of Menasha  
140 Main Street  
Menasha, Wisconsin 54952  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Telephone: 967-3640

April 2007

## 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 RECREATION NEEDS 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 AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	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 - Population Trends, 1950-2000 .....	2

Table 2 - Population Projections, 2000-2020.....	2
Table 3 – Estimated Parks/Recreation Capital Costs (2007-2016) .....	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 stormwater management issues. As a result, the City of Menasha, with assistance from the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, began work on an update of its comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Facilities Plan in November 2006 for the years 2007-2011.

This new plan, developed 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 2001. **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 programs each 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 to 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 2000 the median age of Menasha residents (34.0) was similar to but slightly lower than both Winnebago County (35.4) and the State of Wisconsin (36.0). Additionally, the population of all three entities had nearly identical age structures. *Source: 2000 US census data, D.O.A.*

**TABLE 1  
POPULATION TRENDS  
1950 - 2002**

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
2001	16,375	157,283	5,400,004
2002	16,529	159,161	5,453,896
Percent Change 1990 – 2002	12.36%	13.43%	11.49%

Sources: U.S. Census: 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000. D.O.A.: 2001 and 2002.

**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 Council approval. A crew of seven full-time and five 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 beginning February 1. 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) 967-5106.

## **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 provide a gauge of the overall adequacy of the quantitative aspects of a community's park system. As such, they are useful in determining what and where specific recreational needs exist and suggest appropriate measures to fulfill these needs. **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.** These enable a community to refine the national standards to accommodate its own needs based on community interest, physical resources, and financial capacity to operate its park system. The following general park standards and important local criteria influenced the preparation of this plan:

**Acreage Standard.** The most common standard for park and open space in a community is 10 acres for each 1,000 residents. Generally, however, as 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.

**Facilities Standard.** This standard pinpoints the number of recreation facilities, such as tennis courts or picnic tables, that should be found in a community based on its population. While this standard is useful in discovering major discrepancies, 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 involved with recreational programming typically have an excellent perspective on local recreational shortcomings.

**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.

**Mini-Park.** Sometimes called a vestpocket 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.** Very 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 drainageways 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 (Figures 1 and 2). This acreage includes nearly 20 parks and open space areas maintained by the City of Menasha Department of Parks, Recreation, Forestry, and Cemeteries; eight school sites maintained by the Menasha School District; and an additional four parks in the adjacent portions of the Town of Menasha. 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 12 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 tournament softball diamonds, three of which are lighted, horseshoe pits, two volleyball courts, and acres of open area for football, soccer, or simply relaxation await the outdoor sports enthusiast.

The Menasha Municipal Pool complex is also located in Jefferson Park. The complex consists of a zero-depth pool for waders, 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 Indian burial mounds - large settlements of Fox and Winnebago Indians 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 will be constructed in 2007. The area will be 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.

## **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.

**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. The shelter is used year round for recreation programs including a summer playground program. A community well is being constructed in the northwest corner of the park and a 7,000 sq. ft. skateboard park was installed in 2002.

**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.**

**Veterans Park.** This small park located on Racine Street adjacent to Elisha D. Smith Library was eliminated in 2002 when the public library was expanded. A military service monument in the park was relocated in front of the library entrance.

**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.

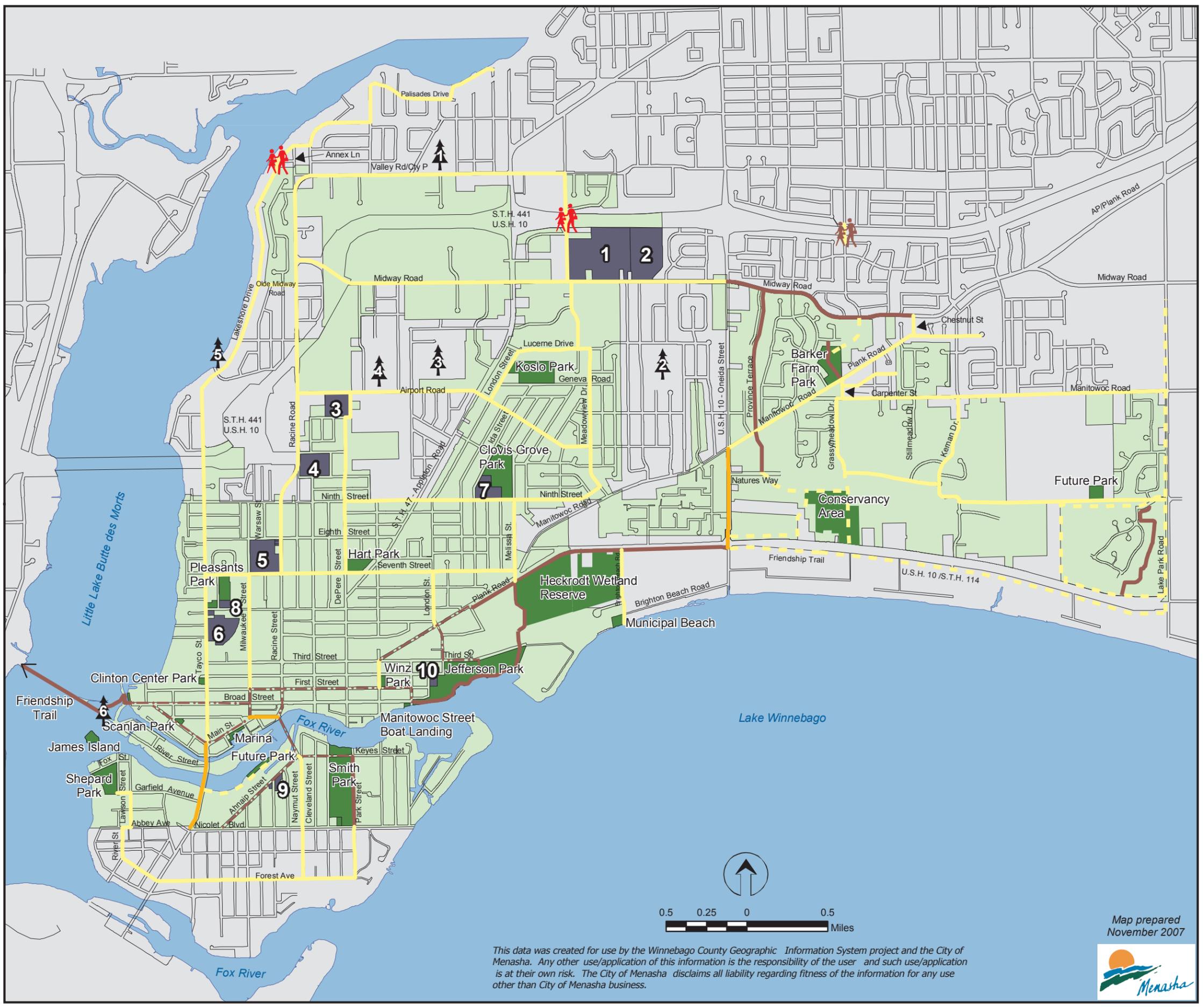
**Bridge Tower Greenspace and Museum.** Located on Tayco Street just north of the Tayco Street bridge, this park was developed in 1996 to provide an attractively landscaped small pedestrian park to complement the adjacent Bridge Tower Museum, which depicts the Fox River's role in the area's historical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



# EXISTING 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**

- Public School Facilities

**City of Menasha Parks**

- City of Menasha Parks
- Corporate Limits

**Existing Pedestrian Overpass**

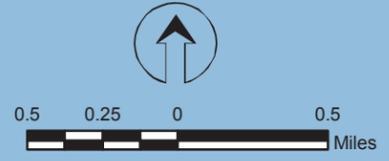
- Existing Pedestrian Overpass
- Proposed Pedestrian Overpass

### 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



Map prepared November 2007



*This data was created for use by the Winnebago County Geographic Information System project and the City of Menasha. Any other use/application of this information is the responsibility of the user and such use/application is at their own risk. The City of Menasha disclaims all liability regarding fitness of the information for any use other than City of Menasha business.*

## **Special Use Parks and Facilities**

**Menasha Marina 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, which encompasses approximately 3 acres, is the site for numerous special events including a Steak Fry. 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 recently begun replacing pier decking and replacing floats. Marina patrons also have use of shower facilities, gasoline sales, sanitary head pumpout, and a "ship's store". 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 but plans call for possible expansion to 100+ acres. The area consists primarily of wetlands so a modest development plan was approved in 2000. A parking lot is available off of Hwy. 10/114. As funds and time permit, additional trails could be cleared and marked to accommodate hiking and cross-country skiing. A modest 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 shoreline and beach area.

**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 boat and is maintained in a natural wooded state. 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.

**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 kids discovery fountain, concessions area and several large shade umbrellas. 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. The city should give consideration to recommendations to be contained in a

pool renovation study set to be completed in early 2007. Many decisions may be influenced by anticipated changes to state codes governing municipal pool operation.

**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.

**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.

**Trestle 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. Please 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. The Town has undertaken an extensive master planning effort for the park. The proposed development will greatly enhance the site/trail as a new tourist destination.

**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 area 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 four 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 is being transformed into a prairie meadow with a short interpretive trail system.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives were developed by the Menasha Parks and Recreation Board after revisiting long-range goals identified in earlier plans. They are intended to serve as a guide for creating the type of park and recreation system the city's residents would enjoy. The goals are stated as desirable conditions to strive for in the future. They are common ideals of the community that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private organizations, and individual citizens. Objectives specify in 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: To establish a communitywide system of parks, open space and park facilities that will provide all residents of Menasha with adequate recreational opportunities.**

### **Objectives:**

- Provide park and recreational facilities that adequately serve all residential areas of the community.
- Ensure that newly developed residential areas are provided with adequate and accessible park and recreational facilities.
- Provide a wide variety of recreational activities that will serve the residents of Menasha on a year-round basis.
- Maintain program reciprocity with the Cities of Appleton and Neenah and the Town of Menasha. Explore expanding agreements to other neighboring communities.
- Maintain and/or improve existing park and recreational facilities to meet community standards, needs and expectations.
- Provide safe and adequate accessibility to all community park and recreation areas.
- Design accessible active and passive recreational areas and park facilities that can be utilized by elderly and physically challenged citizens.
- Continue pursuing co-sponsored recreation programs with neighboring community recreation departments and related organizations.

**GOAL: To conserve, protect and beautify natural resources in the city and surrounding environs.**

**Objectives:**

- Make protection of the city's natural resources a priority in land use planning decisions as well as site planning activities.
- Ensure that environmental and aesthetic qualities of the community are considered when planning for park and recreational development.
- Preserve and maintain natural drainageways, woods, and other natural resource areas in and around the community and, where possible, utilize these areas for appropriate recreational development.
- Encourage private sector participation in preserving natural and wooded areas whenever possible.
- Maintain and improve the quality of water resources in the city.

**GOAL: To encourage cooperation with adjacent municipalities, the Menasha School District, local groups and organizations, and developers to maximize the cost-effectiveness of providing open space and recreational facilities.**

**Objectives:**

- Work jointly to avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities and programs and seek equitable ways of sharing the burden for acquiring, developing, and maintaining parks and other recreational facilities.
- Work jointly to coordinate facilities such as recreational trails and on-road bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to achieve linkage across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Encourage cooperative community/school projects to improve and expand indoor and outdoor recreational facilities at existing and future school sites.
- Work with developers in identifying and reserving sites which are capable and suitable for accommodating appropriate future recreational uses such as open space, trails, etc.
- Solicit the support of community groups and service organizations as a way of funding and/or undertaking improvements benefiting residents of the city.
- Maintain program reciprocity agreements with the Cities of Appleton and Neenah and the Town of Menasha by exploring reciprocity opportunities with other neighboring communities.

**GOAL: To encourage continued involvement of Menasha residents when planning for park and recreational development.**

**Objectives:**

- Conduct public meetings, focus groups, etc. to permit and encourage involvement by individual citizens as well as special interest groups in developing Menasha's open space and recreation facilities plan.
- Conduct neighborhood public informational meetings when significant development is planned in any park.
- Encourage ongoing participation by all residents, particularly those who are elderly and physically challenged, at Parks and Recreation Board meetings.
- Solicit ongoing comments from Menasha residents on all aspects of park and recreational programming and management.

## PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### CHANGES TO 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. This section addresses recent changes to Wisconsin Statute Section 66.0617 pertaining to park impact fees. A needs assessment that justifies why a fee should be imposed is required under section 66.017(4)a. A municipality can no longer impose a park fee in its subdivision ordinance as a condition of subdivision plat approval. Municipalities have authority under section 66.0617 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. For the purposes of this assessment, a 10-year timeframe (2007-2016) will be used. Ten years is the maximum amount of time a municipality has to expend impact fees that were collected.

### LAND NEEDS

A standard of 10 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents is often used as a basis for estimating the land area that should be provided for general recreational use in a community. This standard suggests that about 169 acres of parks and other open space lands should be available to meet the needs of the City of Menasha's 17,000 residents. **The 231 existing acres in the City's parks alone indicates that adequate acreage is presently available to accommodate Menasha's recreational needs.** This total includes the 43-acre undeveloped conservancy area east of Oneida Street and the Heckrodt Wetland Reserve. This total excludes the 4.0 acre future neighborhood park west of Lake Park Road and the 2.0 acre park on the Fox River at the old Gilbert Paper Company site. These two new parks would place the total park and acreage at 237. It should be noted that these figures do not include the ten public school facilities, five Town of Menasha parks and the Lock site which are all east of Little Lake Butte des Morts which provide a significant amount of open space and recreation facilities available to our City residents. **This amount of land should be adequate enough to meet recreational needs as the City reaches the limits of its growth area.**

### 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-mile or five-minute walk, 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.

Together, these barriers divide the city into seven neighborhoods, generally radiating out from the east end of the downtown area. Menasha's neighborhoods are divided by the Menasha Channel of the Fox River and its adjacent industrial area and by those streets classified as traffic arterials. These typically carry over 10,000 vehicles per day, providing a significant hazard for pedestrians, particularly children and less mobile residents. The present distribution of parks and schools within the city provides each of its neighborhoods with a good range of convenient recreational facilities. As new residential areas develop, however, new park sites will be needed to serve these residents. The dedication of Barker Farm Park in 2005 serves the developing neighborhood east of Oneida Street and is an example of the City's commitment to addressing this need.

## **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 recreate the City towards a more water based, outdoor tourism destination will be key to future inner-city vitality.** The Menasha Marina and Trestle Trail are examples of outdoor recreation venues that already bring visitors (spending) to the city. A proposal to construct a whitewater park in an old by-pass canal south of the Menasha Dam is another example of a unique attraction that would bring visitors and new businesses to the community. 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.

## **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 2,000 people. Using an average of 2.8 people per dwelling unit, it is estimated that 714 households/dwelling units will constitute 12% of the new total. This 12% figure should be 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**

As indicated previously, the City appears to have adequate parkland out to the limits of its boundary agreements. This assumes an approximate 4.0 acre neighborhood park near Lake Park Road and the 2.0 acre park at the old Gilbert Paper Company site that will be added in the future. For future planning purposes and to serve as a guide to establishing a justifiable Park Impact fee,

a list of potential future land acquisition, park/trail development and improvements to existing community facilities are listed on page 21. **These may only be development or improvement projects that the entire community can conceivably benefit from.** Cost estimates are based off of national or local standards. For example, \$22,000 per acre was assumed as the price of raw land and \$2,500 for wetlands. A development cost of \$40,000 per acre was assumed for a typical neighborhood park.

**TABLE 3  
ESTIMATED CAPITAL COSTS**

**For new and broad community based projects – 2007 – 2016**

**\*These projects have the potential to receive State grants which may offset some of the project cost. Existing Park Impact funds may also be utilized.**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Need</u>	<u>Estimated Cost \$</u>
Neighborhood Park near Lake Park Road	Acquire approximately 3.0 additional acres	*\$66,000
Neighborhood Park near Lake Park Road	Development costs for the park	*\$120,000
Wetlands east of the gas station at the northeast corner of Oneida/114	Some land needed for trail development	*\$75,000 (easements may be an option)
Trail Development (asphalt & boardwalk) Oneida Street to Conservancy and north link to Province Terrace	Provide safe access to Conservancy trails from the west and north	*\$130,000
2.0 Acre Park Old Gilbert Paper Company Site—Public Greenspace and Whitewater Park	Potential as a significant economic attraction and stimulus for downtown businesses	*Land to be donated, mostly in-kind contributions and donated services. Local share mainly in-kind labor, instead of cash.
Clovis Grove Tennis Court Rehabilitation	Community facility in need of future resurfacing.	\$161,000
Swimming Pool Rehabilitation	Address deficiencies in the pool tank, upgrade pool filtration, deck and bathhouse for operational efficiency, user satisfaction and code compliance.	\$2,000,000 (2007 consultant estimate)
	Total:	\$2,552,000

Calculation for Park Impact Fee

0.12 (12% of new city population by 2016) x \$2,552,000=\$306,240

\$306,240 ÷714 dwelling units = \$428.90 (\$430.00)

Current impact fee is \$300.00

Estimated revenue generated by new impact fee for 10 year period: \$307,020

A revision to City Ordinance O-18-92 is required under Wisconsin Statute Section 66.0617. This revision can include a change to the current \$300 fee in lieu of land paid by developers.

## **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. **Some are more conceptual than others and would require further analysis before implementation.**

### **EXISTING PARK SITES**

#### **Jefferson Park**

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. Consider acquiring, renovating, and utilizing the Army Reserve building for City use. Demolition and a taxable development combined with adding greenspace is also a possibility.
5. Consider a small unisex restroom facility to serve users of the south ball diamond and area west of the boulevard.
6. Repair the east end parking lot.

#### **Menasha Lock Site**

1. Consider installing a non-motorized canoe\kayak portage facility. Such a facility should coincide with a water trail route under consideration by local paddling organizations.

#### **Smith Park**

1. Consider building a small sledding hill north or west of the pavilion.
2. Consider modest rehabilitation of the outdoor youth theater southwest of pavilion recently being utilized by Shooting Starr Productions.
3. Consider adding a small "splash pad" water feature for kids.

## **Memorial Building**

1. Options for first floor restrooms are limited due to limited size and the occupancy by the Menasha Historical Society.
2. Consider full handicapped accessibility of the entire building. This could reduce the number of stalls.

## **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. Diamond lighting should be installed on softball diamond if demand warrants.
3. Consider parking lot expansion to the east or perhaps to the west side of the park.
4. Consider replacing backstop as needed.
5. Add an overhang structure off the south side of the building to accommodate concession sales and shade for fans.
6. Consider adding a small "splash pad" water feature for kids.
7. Resurface existing basketball court as needed.

## **Clovis Grove Park**

1. Consider a small skatepark area, preferably near the drinking fountain and restrooms.
2. Consider adding a small "splash pad" water feature for kids.
3. Resurface/repair seven tennis courts as needed.

## **Hart Park**

1. Consider adding some equipment to the skatepark in the northeast corner of the existing concrete slab.

## **Pleasants Park**

1. Resurface/repair four tennis courts as needed.

### **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. Install a park identification sign and add additional landscape plantings as needed.
3. Consider adding an east/west paved bike path to connect with the Midway Road trail.
4. Consider lighting the tennis courts and adding a rebound board.
5. Consider constructing a small "splash pad" water feature for kids.

**Veterans Park** – Park was eliminated in 2002 with the new library expansion.

### **Clinton Center Park**

1. Play equipment should be updated as needed.
2. Expansion of the park should be considered should adjacent property become available for acquisition or through easement.
3. 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.

## **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.

Various Friendship Trail Segments and Lake Park Villa Perimeter Trail—routine maintenance recommended.

Gatehouse Park—building sold to private individual in 2007.

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.
2. Consider small unisex restroom building for boaters.

## **Manitowoc Street Boat Launch**

Opportunities for expanding off-street parking should be explored.

## **Park Street Boat Launch**

Other than routine maintenance, no actions are recommended.

## **Winz Park**

1. Consider placing smaller play equipment in the northeast section of the site, with a rubberized or equivalent soft surfacing.
2. Resurface court area as needed.

## **Conservancy Area**

1. Consider expanding trail system to include some boardwalk bridges over ponds.
2. Consider building an observation deck with a fishing area.
3. Connect the existing trail system west towards Province Terrace.
4. Acquire adjacent acreage to the east as it becomes available.
5. Consider a unisex toilet facility near the parking lot.
6. Consider other development options compatible with a natural site.

## **Menasha Marina and Riverwalk**

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.
2. Complete the re-docking and float replacement project.
3. Continue considering annual improvement requests from the Harbormaster.

## **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. If possible, the City should work cooperatively with the City of Appleton and the Town of Harrison in planning and developing park sites in this area.

The City should also continue to purchase wetlands and other open space in this area as they become available. The acquisition of existing natural drainageways should also be pursued.

A small neighborhood park near Lake Park Road will be needed as residential growth continues. The City of Appleton should consider adding a park somewhere north of Manitowoc Road. The City has already begun a process to secure parkland from a developer in this area.

## **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. Purchasing additional properties to the west should be considered as further development plans arise.

## **Water Trails**

Recreational flatwater 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. Several communities have begun to discuss a Fox River Waste Trail route in concept. Fox Cities Greenways, Inc has supported the idea from the start. The idea of developing a water-trail system along the Fox River fits well with the plans for the Fox River Heritage Corridor Parkway supported by the WDNR. NRDA funding should be considered for this project.

## **Old Gilbert Paper Company Site—Public Greenspace and Whitewater Park**

Whitewater parks have become very popular in many states, particularly in Colorado. **Communities have seen dramatic economic activity from both an ecotourism perspective and by people and businesses drawn to a community offering active lifestyle amenities.** Whitewater parks are not built for the relatively small number of kayak enthusiasts that would use it. These parks become a community gathering spot where non-paddlers typically outnumber paddlers 20 to 1. Walking, picnicking or spectating are just some of the activities people partake in. These parks can be incorporated into existing or future park/trail systems or into other riverfront development plans a community may have. The City of Menasha has a potential site in the vicinity of the vacated Gilbert Paper Company site. In 2006, a consultant ranked the Gilbert site as having the best potential for the development of a whitewater park along the Fox River. The idea of this type of park fits well with the plans for the Fox River Heritage Corridor Parkway supported by the WDNR. NRDA (for Fox River remediation projects) funding should also be considered for this project as with the water trails. The owner/developer has indicated a willingness to donate the land for park development. Donated value can leverage greater support which means less direct City funding may be required.

## **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. The Town of Menasha has plans to construct a Heritage Adventure Center at the newly expanded Fritse Park site.

## **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 been received very well and has gotten a lot of use over the past several years. Lights were recently added in 2005 to allow for nighttime skating. Other local communities have added similar outdoor parks. The only indoor park in the Fox Cities area at this time is located in Kimberly. There is talk of another indoor park in the works. The City of Appleton should consider building a large public outdoor facility.

## **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 work cooperatively with the WDNR, Calumet County, and the Town of Harrison as well as other governmental entities to create a marked bike route from Menasha to High Cliff State Park. Extending the Friendship Trail on the south-side of STH 10/114 between Oneida Street and CTH LP (Firelane 8) is the safest, most direct and the preferred route. DOT Enhancement and/or Stewardship grants should be pursued for this project. The first step should be to have the WDNR acquire all the necessary property.

The recently completed off-road bike/pedestrian pathway along the south side of Plank Road (STH 114) provides safe access to the Heckrodt Wetland Reserve and serves as a link in the Friendship Trail. As a companion project, the City should consider the development of a northerly trail connection from Plank Road to Midway Road via Province Terrace. Strong consideration should be given to lighting part of the Friendship Trail immediately southwest of the Heckrodt Wetland Reserve (north of the railroad tracks). The Friendship Trail extends westerly from Jefferson Park along city streets to the Menasha Lock site before crossing on the Little Lake Butte des Morts trestle. 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 should also be considered.

## Recommended Bike Trail/Routes

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 under construction (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 (off road).
- Province Terrace south of Manitowoc Road, southeast to Conservancy Area – some boardwalk again required (off road), allows people to access trails in the Conservancy Area.
- Barker Farm Park east to Midway Road (off road), work with future developers.
- Oneida Street to Lake Park Road (Friendship Trail south side of 10/114).
- 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.
- Carpenter Street right-of-way (across Plank Road) connection to Barker Farm Park.
- Sidewalk link from Stillmeadow subdivision west to Carpenter Street.
- Construct a pedestrian bridge on the north end of Lakeshore Drive connecting to Annex Lane in the Town of Menasha.
- Consider constructing a pedestrian overpass over STH 441 to connect University and Chain Drive.

## CITY BEAUTIFICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT

Several recent projects point to the positive results that can be achieved through community beautification efforts. These have not only improved the image of the City of Menasha in the eyes of visitors, they have also increased community pride among local residents. There are a number of opportunities for furthering these recent efforts.

1. With its enviable waterfront location, the core of Menasha is ideally suited for economic revitalization. The paper industry continues to struggle and simply maintaining a core of employees in the area will be a challenge in the years to come. **Economic diversity needs to be part of Menasha's future. A water based, ecotourism type of economy is key to this transformation.** Kayakers, walkers, and bicyclists are being seen in greater numbers. Along with the opening of the Trestle Trail, condominium development, Curtis Reed Square, a new movie theatre, and quality shopping have all improved the identity of Menasha and with it has drawn people to the downtown area. The City should do whatever it can to continue fostering this transformation. Creation of a public park, with a whitewater course and walking trails connecting to the Trestle Trail would continue to spur economic revitalization and bring people to the downtown area.
2. The City's General Streetscape Plan, adopted several years ago, called for improvements primarily in the downtown area, should be considered for implementation. The removal of

two old gas stations along the Racine Street corridor across from the library creates an excellent opportunity for public beautification.

3. Visually prominent locations and other major features that serve as important focal points should be identified and steps taken to make them aesthetically pleasing. Particular attention should be given to creating attractive entrances into the City, not only through public projects such as signing plazas but also through beautification efforts undertaken by private investment.
4. A possible landscape corridor exists on the eastside of Racine Street and the corridor between Broad and Second Streets. An attractively landscape area with both static and interactive features to attract people to the site would fit well with other recent downtown enhancements.
5. A system of "wayfinding" signs directing people to prominent destinations should be implemented. The Fox Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau plan should be considered.

#### **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 may 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 is scheduled to be vacated in 2008, with the building and grounds to be made available to the City in early 2010. Some deficiencies with the structure may make it cost prohibitive to update to modern, public standards. However, a large two bay garage in back of the building seems to be in good condition. A complete structural analysis and careful consideration of all possible uses should be undertaken in the near the future.

## **PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following is a list of projects the City of Menasha Department of Parks, Recreation, Forestry and Cemeteries and the Menasha Parks and Recreation Board should consider for implementation over the next five years. **This list represents projects that are more essential and includes some from the Ideas and Recommendations section starting on page 21.** An emphasis will be placed on maintaining existing facilities, with the acquisition and development of one neighborhood park being completed within the next five years. Project costs and implementation schedule are left to the discretion of staff, the Parks and Recreation Board, Mayor, and the Common Council.

### **SUGGESTED FIVE-YEAR PARKS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2007-2011**

#### **RECOMMENDED PROJECTS:**

##### **Jefferson Park**

- Upgrade current slip area (Combine with possible Reserve property project)
- Repave east end parking lot
- Update/Replace play equipment as needed

##### **Jefferson Park Pool**

- Pursue aggressive facility maintenance schedule

##### **Smith Park**

- Resurface basketball courts as needed

##### **Koslo Park**

- Construct overhang on southside concession building
- Update/Replace play equipment as needed
- Resurface basketball

##### **Barker Farms Park**

- Complete small baseball diamond
- Add a park ID sign and additional landscaping

##### **Hart Park**

- Add small pieces to the existing park

##### **Pleasants Park**

- Resurface four tennis courts

##### **Clovis Grove Park**

- Resurface tennis courts
- Update/replace playground equipment as needed

##### **Clinton Center Park**

- Update/replace playground equipment as needed

##### **Municipal Beach**

- Update/replace playground equipment as needed

**Conservancy Area**

-Connect trail system west to Province Terrace trail segment

**Ninth Street Boat Landing**

-Parking lot and landscape upgrade

**New Neighborhood Park**

-Acquire approximately 4.0 acres of land

-Develop and begin implementation of park master plan for site (TBD)

**Winz Park**

-Add small piece of playground equipment with protective surfacing in the northeast corner of the park

-Resurface court area as needed

**Gilbert Paper Company Park Site**

-Accept land donation from developer (to be used to leverage grant monies)

- Develop and begin implementation of preliminary engineering and park master planning (including a whitewater course) for the 2.0 acre site (TBD)

This page is intentionally blank

RESOLUTION R – 22 – 07

RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF MENASHA  
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES PLAN

Introduced by Alderman Wisneski

WHEREAS, the City of Menasha has requested the development of a communitywide open space and recreation facilities plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of Menasha Parks and Recreation Board has worked closely with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to prepare the city's Open Space and Recreation Facilities Plan, and

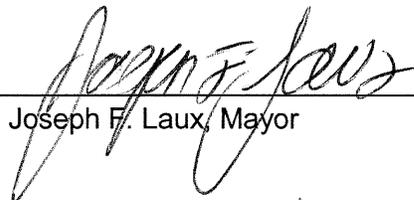
WHEREAS, the City of Menasha Open Space and Recreation Facilities Plan encompasses a general outline and is a valuable tool for development of parks and recreation facilities throughout the city through the year 2011, and

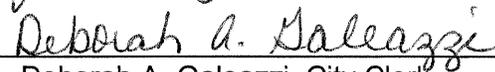
WHEREAS, adoption of said plan is required for the City of Menasha to become eligible for cost sharing aid programs administered by the State of Wisconsin, now therefore,

**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 adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph F. Laux, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah A. Galeazzi, City Clerk