



City of Rice Lake Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

2025-2029



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Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
2025-2029**



Prepared by:

**Community Services Department
(Streets, Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries)**

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Section I: Introduction

Rice Lake citizens are fortunate to have inherited a park system built by the progressive vision and efforts of previous generations. Today, the Park Board and City staff continues a mission of enhancing Rice Lake legacy of diverse parklands; providing green space, safe environments and recreational facilities; and meeting the changing needs and demands of a diverse population for present and future generations.

As recreation providers, we must be able to accommodate these various needs, and it is important to have proactive planning to ensure that recreation in our city remains accessible and adaptable to the needs of the community population.

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is intended to serve City Boards and Commissions, City agencies and staff, other governments and agencies, and interested citizens and volunteers as a guide in decision-making related to park policies, acquisition and development of parkland and facilities, and City financing and operations.

A current Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is also a pre-requisite to participation in Federal and State Park and open space aid programs. The City must continue to remain eligible for these program funds to accomplish many identified park, recreation and open space objectives.

Analysis and recommendations provided in this plan are derived from an extensive planning process conducted from September 2024 through December 2024. This planning process involved staff visiting, mapping, researching, and surveying facilities.

The following material will discuss goals and objectives, define certain types of recreation areas, inventory current community supplies of recreation areas and facilities, suggest standards for evaluating their size, and, most importantly, offer an action program to the city designed to eliminate present recreation land deficiencies and to improve existing areas. The coverage and organization of this plan will, hopefully, provide a clear framework from which the City of Rice Lake can make efforts to meet daily outdoor recreation requirements, protect resources and provide a more desirable community environment

This document is intended to formally replace the existing Outdoor Recreation Plan adopted by the City of Rice Lake in 2019. This Plan involves a cooperative effort based on resources from the original Outdoor Recreation Plan and input from city staff and citizens. It is intended to guide the city for the next five years.

Section II: Characteristics of the Planning Area

Physical

Geographical Location/Community Description

The City of Rice Lake is located in Barron County in the region commonly referred to as the Red Cedar River Valley. It was incorporated on April 1, 1887. The city is the largest community in Barron County with a 2020 U.S. Census population of 9,040. The city also serves the county and region as the largest primary retail center, boasting service to an estimated 100,000 population in a 2,000 square mile area. The City's total area is 9.7 square miles, 8.6 in land area and 1.1 in water area. The population density is 1,046.5 persons per square mile. The City's elevation is 1,148 feet above sea level.

The City is served by three (3) major highways: U.S. Highway 53, U.S. Highway 8, and State Highway 48. The city is located approximately 100 miles south of Duluth-Superior; 110 miles northeast of Minneapolis-St. Paul; and 50 miles north of Eau Claire-Chippewa Falls.

Social

Population Trends

The city's population has increased in each decennial census year since 1900, except for 1970 when it declined .3%. Listed below is the Census year, population and percentage increase since 1980 and future estimates for 2030.

RICE LAKE POPULATION		
YEAR	POPULATION	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
1980	7,691	5.7%
1990	7,998	4.0%
2000	8,312	3.9%
2010	8,419	1.3%
2020	9,040	7.3%
2030	9,437	4.4%

The City's population is expected to moderately increase in the next 10 years. The forecast for 2030 is based on the average percentage increase for the decades since census year 1990 of 4.4%. The population increase will vary depending upon factors such as the economy, "net migration" for people moving in or out of the City, older population, birth and death rates, etc.

Rice Lake's population in the past several decades has grown older in terms of median age and will likely continue in the next two decades as the "baby boomers" (defined as those individuals born between 1946 and 1964) grow older. The census years historically reveal that a majority of Rice Lake's population is female, although the percentage "gap" has shrunk over time.

Age Distribution

The City's population, especially due to the "baby boomer" generation, will continue to grow older. Some factors for the increase median age besides the sheer number of "baby boomers" are exercise, medical care, and overall quality of life. The city will need to address the recreational needs of this aging population in future years, as the impact of the aging population will likely continue beyond 2030.

The 2020 U.S. Census provided a "snap shot" of the aging of Rice Lake's population in two significant age categories for men and women, they are 55 – 64, and 65 and over. The total number of individuals within the 55- 64 age category is 1,020, men comprising 442 or 43.3% and women 578 or 56.7%. The total population for the 65 and over category is 1,802 individuals. However, when broken down by sex, there is a slight gap between elderly males and females. Male's age 65 and over total to 788 or 43.7%, compared to females totaling 1,014 or 56.3%. The city will need to think about the recreational needs of the elderly, especially focusing on the interests of the female population.

Housing Forecast

Housing and income are interrelated to each other, dictating the type of housing unit you can afford to live in—be it a single-family unit, townhouse, condominium, mobile home or some other type of multi-family dwelling unit. The general "rule of thumb" is that housing costs should total no more than 30% of someone's income. Historically, multi-family unit development has exceeded the construction of single-family homes, most likely due to affordability. Single-family homes are also being used more as rental properties compared to years ago. If incomes fail to keep up with inflation or even the costs of building a home, the probable trend will be more multi-family and renter occupied dwelling units.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS: 1990 -2020

Category	1990	2000	2010	2020*
Total Housing Units	3,520	3,797	4,472	4,155
• Total Occupied Units	3,329	3,615	3,901	3,803
• Owner Occupied Units	2,011	2,183	2,168	2,004
• Percent of Total Occupied	60.4%	60.4%	55.6%	52.7%
• Renter Occupied Units	1,318	1,432	1,733	1,799
• Percent of Total Occupied	39.6%	39.6%	44.4%	47.3%
• Vacant/Seasonal Units	191	184	571	352
• Single Family Units	226	2,470	2,676	2,449
• Multi-Family Units	1,058	1,198	1,730	1,594
• Mobile Homes	236	168	66	112
Median Home Value	\$47,700	\$71,500	\$123,000	\$137,000
Median Cash Rent	\$264	\$409	\$604	\$ 754
Household Size (Persons)	2.34	2.24	2.09	2.13

* Information from US Census 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Income

Another indicator of income that may contribute to what individuals may or may not be able to afford in terms of housing or other personal property possessions is household median income. The City consistently lags behind both Barron County and the State of Wisconsin when this is measured. It will likely continue doing so, unless high quality, good paying and in-demand occupations significantly increase in future years in the community.

INCOME COMPARISON: 1989 – 2020

Unit of Government	1989	1999	2009	2020
City of Rice Lake	\$19,596	\$32,808	\$35,153	\$40,342
Barron County	\$22,570	\$37,275	\$44,149	\$52,346
State of Wisconsin	\$29,442	\$43,791	\$52,627	\$63,293

*Information from U.S. Census 2020 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates

Employment Characteristics and Forecasts

Typically, the amount of education an individual pursues leads to the type of employment that is attained by that individual. Another factor commonly tied to education and employment is the total lifetime income that a given occupation, achieves. Education, employment and income are significant factors that lead to the types of lifestyles people create for themselves. The amount of income, due to education and employment, will allow for the purchasing of material goods that usually define the wealth of the individual and benefits the community's local economy.

Section III: Goals and Objectives

The function of any planning, whether in our personal lives or as a community, is to achieve goals and objectives. Individuals or communities seldom act without implicit goals and objectives; yet plans and actions without goals can often be wasted. Therefore, it is imperative that a community formulate goals (ends) which it hopes to attain. The purpose of this section is to outline the goals and objectives of the community in the area of outdoor recreation.

Goals may be defined as general statements of desirable ends while objectives are measurable statements of desirable ends. Objectives are usually specific, but at all times they are in harmony with stated goals. As community desires and needs change, so also must goals and objectives. Goals and objectives should be continuously refined.

The following goals and objectives represent the ends which a community may adopt to provide a sound basis for future outdoor recreation planning decisions.

Goals

1. To enhance the quality of life and encourage healthy lifestyles while reconnecting people, especially children, to the outdoors through our parks and open spaces, natural areas, trails, and outdoor recreation programs.
2. To develop a stewardship ethic, protect our natural environment for sustainable conservation for our community and generations to come.
3. To ensure all people the access to a safe, affordable and healthy way to experience and appreciate nature while improving social and economic value to the city.
4. Provide a mix of affordable, quality outdoor recreation facilities, programs, and amenities at various scales and development intensities which meet the needs of residents while taking advantage of tourism opportunities.

Objectives

1. To provide a safe environment for play and physical activity and areas for active and passive recreation opportunities that meet the needs of all age groups, cultures, and ethnicity within the community.
2. To improve and revitalize our parks as gathering places for our youth, families and adults to play, exercise, relax, enjoy time with family and friends, and experience the natural environment.
3. To provide space for social interaction, health and wellness, and cultural diversity.

4. To obtain, when opportunities are feasible, sites for open green space, playgrounds, parks, trails, etc.
5. To provide opportunities for rural residents to enjoy the community's parks, natural resources, and recreation areas.
6. To establish priorities for needed outdoor recreation facilities based on prominent outdoor recreation trends, as well as existing recreational land distribution and existing and/or future deficiencies.
7. To raise awareness to help preserve and protect our natural resources within our parks and adjacent to, along with the promotion of good conservation and stewardship practices.
8. To coordinate the community's recreation program with other agencies, organizations, schools, other levels of government and private enterprise to ensure maximum public benefit.
9. To ensure that all people have access and adequate parking to our water amenities and public recreation areas.
10. To protect scenic values by managing billboards, signs, junkyards and other unsightly land uses and practices.
11. To make improvements and modifications to accommodate Adaptive/ADA-compliant facilities, play structures and accessibility that meet the needs of the physically challenged including the elderly and disabled that meet the American Disabilities Act standards.
12. To provide for the periodic review and updating of the city outdoor recreation plan so that it will reflect the changing needs and trends of the community.
13. Provide for annual planning, programming and maintenance of park and recreation facilities throughout the community with funding from the Capital Improvements Program (CIP), general obligation borrowing and other funding sources private or public.
14. To create and promote alternative means of transportation within the city by the establishment of trails and sidewalk connections for recreational and multi-modal transportations activities.
15. Areas of the city which are presently lacking adequate park area should be considered first when new additions to the city's park system are proposed.



Narrows Park

Section IV: Park Classifications

These classifications can be used as a guideline for understanding what services are typically provided as well as the area each park typically serves. The local community needs can best be met by providing a variety of parks which serve all age groups of the resident population. The following selected classifications of parks are those considered most appropriate for the City of Rice Lake.

Mini-Park

A play lot or playground that provides space for parental supervised recreation of toddlers and young children within a neighborhood, or as part of a larger neighborhood or community park and urban center, including shopping areas.

Demographics and population play a role in location, but the mini-park often services a specific recreational need or takes advantage of unique opportunities. In a residential setting, the service area is usually less than one quarter mile in radius. Accessibility is by way of interconnecting trails, sidewalks, or low volume residential streets. A size criterion is usually between 2,500 square feet and 1 acre.

Neighborhood Parks and Playground

Neighborhood parks and playgrounds are suited for intense development areas and should be easily accessible to their neighborhood population by both pedestrian and bike travel. It usually provides a combination of active and passive recreational activity areas, practice game fields, a court area, playground, walking and jogging path, picnic and conversation areas and an open play area for a wide variety of age groups including children, adults, seniors and special populations within a neighborhood.

The service area for neighborhood parks and playgrounds is approximately one-quarter mile, with playground service areas potentially being larger and is significantly larger than a mini-park. These facilities are typically for daylight use only, though some recreational court games and skating rinks may be lighted.

A desirable size for a neighborhood park and playground offering both passive and active recreational opportunities in an area of high-density urban residential development should be a minimum of 5 acres. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds may also be provided in conjunction with a school district or other such facility.

A neighborhood park provides open space for passive recreation needs to serve a neighborhood. The physical concept generally involves an imaginatively landscaped natural environment with limited facilities for active use. Site development could include sidewalks or trails for strolling, benches, picnicking areas, and a limited amount

of play equipment such as a sandbox, swing, slide, etc.

A neighborhood playground provides an area for active intensive play that serves a neighborhood. The physical concept involves a combination of paved and landscaped areas with an imaginative layout of facilities and equipment. This type of park may include some supervised playground program including games, physical skills, and low-level competition primarily for grade school age children. Activities and equipment may include swings, sandboxes, slides, climbers, fitness units, merry-go-round, etc., picnic tables, benches, grills, outdoor fireplaces and parking. The playground may also include a ball field and basketball court primarily used by neighborhood and school children.

Community Park

This type of park is usually located within one mile radius of residential neighborhoods and light business or manufacturing districts and is under municipal administration. A size criterion is determined as needed to accommodate desired uses and usually serves two or more neighborhoods within a half mile to 3-mile distance. These types of parks are generally more than 25 acres.

This park consists of a combination of recreational activity areas, lighted field areas and facilities, game courts, ball fields, playgrounds, walking/jogging paths, spray pools and aquatic facilities, skate facilities, picnic and conversation areas, and outdoor festival areas. Community Parks serve various age groups, with an emphasis on organized sport group activities.

School Parks

Parks associated with or combined with a school site that fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as mini-park, or neighborhood parks. Size is variable and depends on function. The location of the school park will generally be determined by the School District based upon policy and existing school distribution. The school park site usually serves to complement other community facilities such as playgrounds, neighborhood parks and community parks. Generally, a school park is a multi-purpose area developed with athletic fields for highly organized team sports.

Natural Resource Area

Land set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. The location is based on resource availability and opportunity and size is variable based on available land. Set selection is generally based on availability and the trail system plan. Natural corridors should be considered whenever possible but appropriate “built” corridors are also acceptable with proper design.

Greenway

Greenway lands are those which effectively tie the park system components together to form a continuous park environment. Location is based on resource availability and opportunity and size is based on available land. Greenways provide the opportunity for a number of recreational travel opportunities such as hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling and in-line skating. Parkway corridors also provide attractive travel experiences for the motorist and canoeing can occur in “green” waterway corridors.

Specialized or Private Recreation Facilities

A special use park is often designed as a revenue-generated enterprise designed to help satisfy the demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. These are park and recreation facilities that may be entirely private or a public-private partnership in which residents may receive special privileges. A well-defined joint use agreement between all parties should be considered when establishing these partnerships. They may include golf courses, historic sites, conservancy areas, festival/farmers markets, individual sports complex, or fitness/entertainment complex.

Some of these areas may have limited active recreation value, are not developed as multi- purpose recreation areas or are not always available for use by the public. Although such areas are not considered in current recreation acreage totals computed for Rice Lake, it must be recognized that specialized areas are an important adjunct to a community and its parks and open space program.



Hunters Memorial Park

Section V: Pathway Classifications

These trails may be a combination of trails along streets and scenic green spaces. Surfaces may be paved in either concrete or asphalt while trails in a natural setting may remain a soft surface, such as cobbles and vegetation.

Park Trail

Park trails are multi-purpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Park trails provide a natural environment and allow for uninterrupted movement throughout the park system, connect parks and other recreation areas together to form a cohesive park system and protect the user from vehicles. There are three types of trails included in this classification – Type I, Type II, and Type III.

Type I: Suited in areas where use patterns necessitate separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skates. They are typically 8-10' hard surfaces.

Type II: Suited for lighter use patterns, usually used for traveling from residential areas to a park preserve or nature area. They are typically 10' hard surface.

Type III: Suited for areas requiring minimum impact, for example a trail through a nature preserve. They are typically 6-8' soft surface.

These types of trails should be planned and designed in accordance with adopted local, state and federal standards. Park trails could also serve to accommodate bicycle-commuting purposes and should reflect the anticipated commuter use.

Connector Trail

Connector trails are multi-purpose trails that provide for safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and through the community. They differ from park trails primarily in location. There are two types of trails included in this classification.

Type I: Suited in areas where use patterns necessitate separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclists, for example, a trail within the shoulder of a parkway or collector street right-of-way. They are typically 10' hard surface.

Type II: Suited for lighter use patterns, for example, traveling from a residential area to a park preserve or nature area. They are typically 10' hard surface.

Bikeways

Bikeways are paved portions of streets and roadways or separate hard surfaced paths that assist in the safe separation of bicyclists from traffic. Bikeways are considered “any road, path or way which in some manner is specifically designated as being open to bicycle travel, regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive use of bicycles to be shared with other transportation modes,” as defined by AASHTO, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

There are two types of on-street bikeways in this classification:

Bike Route: Suited in areas where use patterns necessitate separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclists and if required, in-line skaters. For example, trail within the shoulder of a parkway or collector street right-of-way. They are typically 6' paved shoulder (part of roadway).

Bike Lane: Suited for situations where traffic volumes are heavy enough to call for a clear separation between bicycles and vehicles. They are typically 6' hard surface (part of the roadway).

The user groups of bike routes and bike lanes have distinctly different needs than the users of park trails and connector trails, and are used for speed for commuting, fitness and competition. It is important in the planning and designing of a trail and bikeway system that the inherent differences in user groups be recognized and not used as a direct substitute for another.

Motorized

May be exclusively motorized or may be a combination of motorized, bicycles, pedestrian and equestrian.

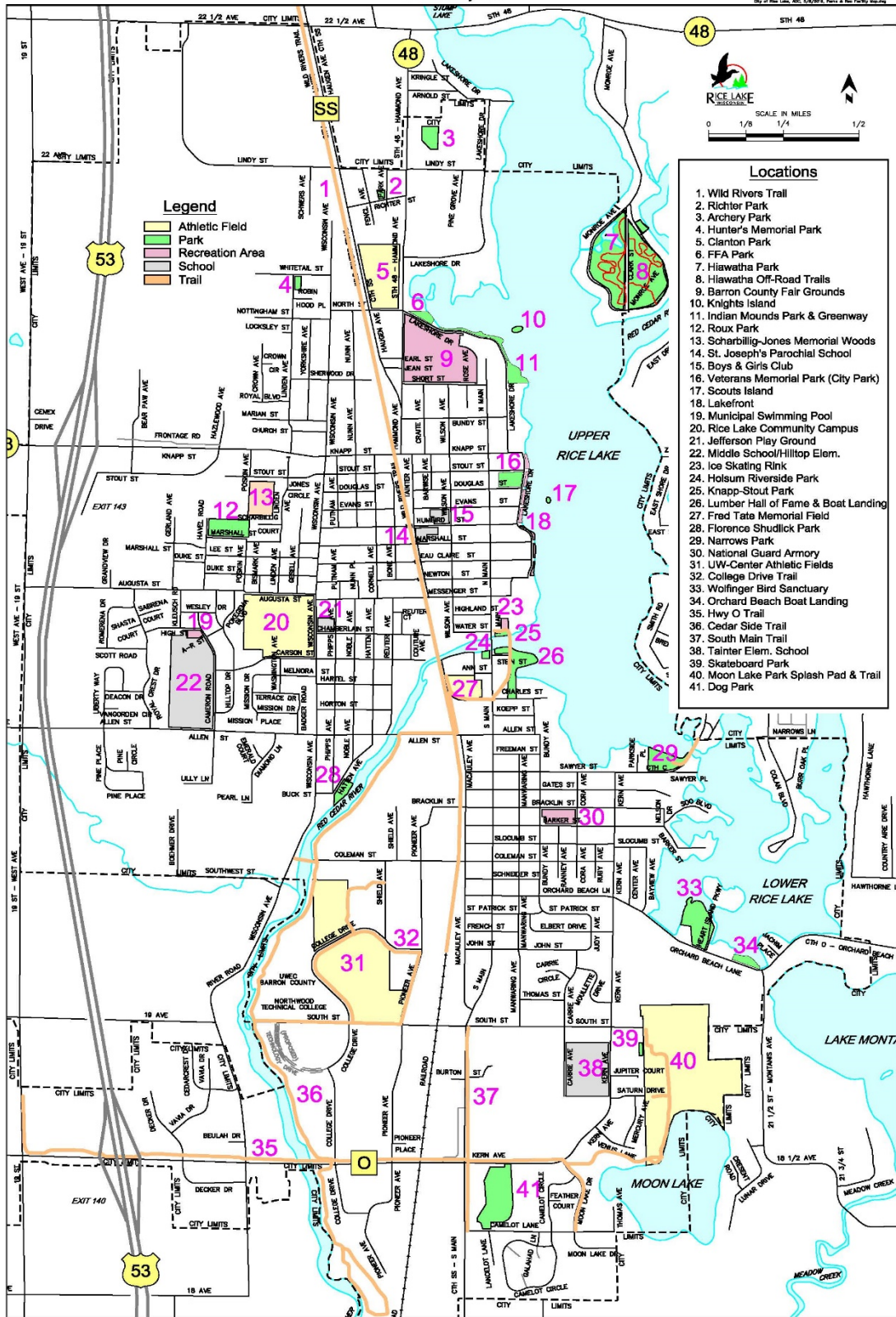
Section VI: Park Inventory and Analysis

The first step in developing a recreation planning program involved the inventory of the community's existing facilities. This inventory includes an estimate of the acreage of all park areas as well as an inventory of the amenities. The location of each park is indicated on the Rice Lake Park and Recreation Facility Map which is located on the following page (Page #18).

Map of Recreational Facilities

CITY OF RICE LAKE PARKS & RECREATION FACILITY MAP

As of January 2025



City Facilities

The following are a combination of athletic fields, parks, recreation areas, trails, schools, and private/specialized facilities that may or may not be maintained by the city.

1. Veterans Memorial Park - 2.4 Acres

Veterans Memorial Park, formally known as City Park, is utilized as a community park. Natural features include a rolling terrain with access to Rice Lake. The Park area is directly accessible to neighboring residential areas and to lake related activities. Amenities include an ADA compliant shelter and restrooms, a small storage area, picnic tables, drinking fountains, and playground equipment. The playground equipment is non-ADA compliant and includes a playground unit and swings. Specialized recreation facilities include two lighted tennis courts which are fenced, a Veteran's War Memorial, Civil War monument, and a fountain. Another added park fixture is an architecturally designed band shell with storage. (#16 on facility map)

2. Earl Clanton Memorial Park – 16 Acres

Earl Clanton Memorial Park is a community park and is located on Hammond Avenue and or County Rd. 55 and is adjacent to the Rice Lake Hockey Arena on the north end of the city. Facilities at this park include two lighted softball diamonds, a lighted flag/touch football field, a playground area, and a multi-purpose building which includes a concession stand, ADA compliant restrooms, press box, storage room and a sheltered picnic area. Each softball diamond as well as the football field is equipped with electric scoreboards and a public address system. (#5 on facility map)

3. FFA Park – 2.75 Acres

This Park is located near Hammond Avenue at Lakeshore Drive and borders Rice Lake. The natural features of the area are primarily wooded and wetlands. The area is semi-developed with some limited trails and bridges over wetlands. (#6 on facility map)

4. Fred Tate Memorial Park – 6.10 Acres

Tate Park serves Rice Lake as a community park and is located on the western terminus of Ann Street. Amenities include two lighted softball diamonds, a non-compliant swing set and playground equipment, picnic shelter, batting cage, basketball court, parking lot, a multi-purpose building that contains a concession stand, restrooms, press box and storage area. Each ball diamond is equipped with electric scoreboards and public address systems. (Trail access to Cedars Side Trail and Wild Rivers Trail)
(#27 on facility map)

5. Florence Shudlick Park – 2.3 Acres
This neighborhood park is located in the southwestern part of the city on Hatten Avenue. The natural features of the park include a sloped terrain to the Red Cedar River. Amenities include picnic tables, grills, non-ADA compliant playground equipment, swing benches, shelter, horseshoe pits, ADA restrooms, off-street parking, and concrete walkways. (#28 on facility map)
6. Hiawatha Park and former City Beach – 33.60 Acres
Hiawatha Park is located in the far northeastern corner of the city. The Park is located on a point of land between Rice Lake and the Red Cedar River. There is a .06-acre parcel with water access, which was a former Rice Lake beach along the Red Cedar River. The Park is in a residential area and is heavily wooded. Amenities include a picnic table, portable restroom, and developed walking/off road biking trails. (#7 on facility map)
7. Holsum-Riverside Park - .65 Acres
This Park is located along the Red Cedar River near the southwest corner of the Main Street Bridge. The upper portion of park is relatively flat terrain with a gradual embankment to the river. Amenities include picnic tables and sitting benches. (#24 on facility map)
8. Indian Mounds Park – 2.7 Acres
Indian Mounds Park is a historical burial site and passive recreation area and is adjacent to Rice Lake. Natural features include a wooded area with lake front greenway. Amenities include historical marker and text, Indian Burial Mounds, a unique pipestone shelter, picnic tables, grills, bench swings and an ADA accessible boat dock. (#11 on facility map)
9. Lakefront - .769 Acres
This is a greenway located along a half mile of Lake Frontage between Lakeshore Drive and the lake. Amenities include docks, bench swings, and picnic tables. (#18 on facility map)
10. Moon Lake Park – 76 Acres
This community park is located on the east end of South Street. Amenities include soccer fields, softball fields, skate park, splash pad, pickleball courts, fitness area, a .85-mile paved trail, two shelters with ADA compliant restrooms, and one shelter equipped with a concession stand. The Park also holds picnic tables, and a boat dock. (#40 on facility map)
11. Municipal Skating Rink - .60 Acre
This site is located in the downtown area of Rice Lake, adjacent to Knapp-Stout Park. Amenities include a lighted ice-skating rink, warming house, and ADA compliant restrooms. (#23 on facility map)

12. Narrows Park – 4.0 Acres

The Park is located where Sawyer Street Bridge crosses the narrow channel of Rice Lake. Natural features include a level wooded terrain with a steep slope down to the shoreline of Rice Lake. Amenities include a, ADA compliant restrooms, picnic tables, playground equipment, non-compliant swing sets, horseshoe pits, storage shed, and a boat dock. The playground equipment is non-ADA compliant. The Park also includes an ADA compliant shelter, ADA compliant deck with overlook, swimming area, and fishing dock. (#29 on facility map)

13. Rice Lake Dog Park – AKA – Lemler Landfill – 11.64 Acres

This community park is located on the east end of Lemler Road. Amenities include a fenced in space for dogs to run and cobbled pathways, shelter, benches and picnic tables, portable restroom, and a watering station for humans and dogs. (#41 on facility map)

14. Richter Park - .42 Acre

This mini-park is located in the northern part of the city in a residential area. Amenities include cement picnic tables, non-compliant swing set and slide. (#2 on facility map)

15. Roux Park – 4.83 Acres

This community park is located in a residential area towards the western end of Marshall Street. Amenities include a baseball field, a basketball court, horse shoe pits, ADA compliant shelter and restrooms, picnic tables, grills, a non-compliant playground and non-ADA compliant playground equipment, parking, and walkways. (#12 on facility map)

16. Scout’s Island AKA Fireworks Island - .5 Acre

This is a small island on Rice Lake located across from City Park. Amenities include a covered picnic table and boat docks. (#17 on facility map)

17. Scharbillig-Jones Memorial Addition – 6.5 Acres

This Park is a natural resource area. Amenities include nature trails and rest areas. (#13 on facility map)

18. Orchard Beach Boat Landing – 1.5 Acres

This community park, formally known as Veterans Memorial Park, is located on Orchard Beach Lane on Lower Rice Lake and is completely ADA accessible. The amenities include restrooms, parking lot, picnic shelters, walkways, outdoor grills, security lights, picnic tables, 110-foot handicap fishing wharf, lake species informational kiosk, and boat docks and a boat landing ramp. (#34 on facility map)

19. Wolfinger Bird Sanctuary – 7.73 Acres

This non-developed natural resource area is currently a bird sanctuary park and is located on East Orchard Beach Lane. The natural features of this area are woodlands and wetlands, with Rice Lake frontage on two sides of the parcel. The Park contains a small picnic shelter, picnic tables, and a fishing dock. (#33 on facility map)

20. Dan Genereaux Memorial Archery Park – 5.07 Acres

This Park is located on Lindy Street on the north end of the city. An engineered berm serves as a natural safety measure for the 14 targets ranging from 10 yards – 90 yards in distance. With one shooting lane being completely ADA compliant. Amenities include picnic tables, sitting benches, a portable restroom, a tree stand for shooting, a ground blind for shooting, a shooting platform and a parking area. (#3 on facility map)

21. Hunter’s Memorial Park-.8 Acres

This neighborhood park is located on the northwest corner of the city on the corner of Linden Avenue and Whitetail Drive. Amenities include a picnic shelter with a kitchenette, ADA compliant restrooms, playground, basketball court and picnic tables, off street parking and sidewalks. (#4 on facility map)

City Trails

1. Cedar Side Segment -2.7 miles

The head of this trail starts at Allen Street and extends 2.7 miles south with a loop at the southern terminus. Amenities include a 10’ wide asphalt paved trail for its entire length, three bridges over wetlands, scenic overlook shelter, various sitting benches along its route, various points of access to the river. This trail also connects to the Sunset and Moon Lake/Rotary segments of the trail system. (#36 on facility map)

2. Campus Loop Segment -1.4 miles

The trail head of the segment starts at the South Street trail head parking lot. Amenities include 10’ wide asphalt trail for its entire length, passing the College baseball field and disc golf course and connects WITC with UWBC campuses. (#32 on facility map)

3. Sunset Segment – 1 mile

This segment starts at College Drive and extends 1 mile westward to 19th Ave. Amenities include 10’ wide asphalt trail for its entire length, with a protective barrier across the Red Cedar River Bridge. (#35 on facility map)

4. Main Street Segment-.8 miles (#40 on facility map)

This segment starts at the Chamber of Commerce on Main Street and sends over a trestle crossing Rice Lake as it flows to the dam. The site of the National Lumbering Hall of Fame can be visited along this stretch. The trail then continues west crossing Main Street and eventually connecting with the Cedar Side segment at Allen Street.

5. Moon Lake/Rotary Segment– 2.9 miles
This segment boasts the beautiful Rotary Club Pavilion and playground at Moon Lake Par, along with the Rice Lake Splash Pa, a skateboard park, several soccer fields, and a sledding hill. It will take you past some stunning vistas of Moon Lake, and travels past the city's dog park. This trail also provides access to many businesses on Main Street and South Access (HWY O). (#40 on facility map)

School Facilities

1. Rice Lake Community Campus– 17.38 Acres
The Friess Family Rice Lake Community Athletic Complex is located on the grounds of Rice Lake High School along Wisconsin Avenue and is owned by the Rice Lake Area School District. The complex includes a synthetic football/soccer field with top-loading stadium seating, lighted baseball and softball fields, a 400-meter, nine-lane rubber track, press boxes for the stadium as well as softball and baseball, a multi-use practice field, 6 non-lighted tennis courts, and a new plaza area with concessions. (#20 on facility map)
2. Rice Lake Middle/Hilltop Elementary School – 23.0 Acres
These schools are located at the intersection of Cameron Road and Allen Street and is owned by the Rice Lake Area School District. The amenities include a playground, lighted and unlighted softball fields, a lighted football field, basketball courts, volleyball court, and the municipal swimming pool is adjacent to the property. (#22 on facility map)
3. St. Josephs Parochial School - .5 Acre
This school is located at the intersection of Tainter Avenue and Marshall Street. The amenities include a playground and a basketball court. (#14 on facility map)
4. Tainter Elementary School – 9.75 Acres
This school is located near Carrie Avenue and South Street and is owned by Rice Lake Area School District. Amenities include a playground, basketball court, and softball fields and the gymnasium serves as the Recreation Center in the winter for City recreation programs. (#38 on facility map)
5. University of Wisconsin Eau Claire - Barron County Recreation Area – 48 Acres
This facility is located at the UWBC and WITC campuses on College Drive. Amenities include softball and baseball fields, ADA compliant restrooms and concession stand, a disc golf course, a picnic area, picnic tables and grills, horseshoe pits, a trail that runs alongside College Drive for the length of the UWBC property and a groomed cross-country trail in the winter. (#31 on facility map)

Non-City Owned Park Facilities

1. Barron County Fairgrounds – 29.14 Acres
This facility hosts the county fair and 4-H related activities. Amenities include numerous fair related buildings, water, ADA compliant restrooms, grandstand, horse racing track and show arenas. This facility is used for several recreation related activities including walking and biking. (#9 on facility map)
2. Boys and Girls Club - .5 Acres
This property is located at the intersection of Wilson Avenue and Evans Street. The property is owned by the Rice Lake Area School District and leased to the Boys and Girls Club. Amenities include a playground, volleyball court, basketball hoops, and horse shoe pits. (#15 on facility map)
3. Knights Island - .5 Acres
This island, north of Scouts Island and was formally owned by the city and now owned by the Lake Improvement District. Amenities include a covered picnic table and grill. (#10 on facility map)
4. Knapp Stout Park - .6 Acres
This Park is owned by Barron County and is north of the dam. Amenities include a sheltered antique steam engine display, walking trail, picnic tables, and gazebo. (#25 on facility map)
5. Lumbering Hall of Fame Park – 2.68 Acres
This Park is owned by Barron County and maintained by the City of Rice Lake. It is a greenway that attaches to Stein Street Boat Landing. Amenities include a parking lot, paved trail, fishing wharf, picnic tables and access to the water. (#26 on facility map)
6. National Guard Armory – 2.5 Acres
This Park is owned by the National Guard and maintained by the city as a neighborhood park. The area is relatively flat and open, with little tree cover. Amenities include a softball/baseball field, a shelter, picnic tables. (#30 on facility map)
7. Stein Street Boat Landing – 5.25 Acres
This Park is owned by Barron County. Amenities include boat ramps, docks, (one ADA accessible) boat trailer parking, restrooms, and boat washing equipment (#25 on facility map)
8. Wild Rivers Trail – 2.53 miles
This trail is a state-owned trail and is maintained by Barron County Snowmobile Clubs. It is part of the Rails to Trails corridor for Barron, Douglas, Washburn counties from Superior south to Rice Lake. Amenities include a dirt trail surface used for motorized and non-motorized multi-purpose recreation activities. (#1 on facility map)



Cedar Side Trail

Section VII: Recreation Trends and Demands

Recreation Trends

Recreation demand and trends have changed its focus away from passive and competitive recreation and more on health and wellness and the need to bring children, families and adults back outside. With the rising numbers of child and adult obesity, it is an opportunity for parks and recreation to inspire healthier lifestyles and increase their mental and physical well-being in a natural environment.

The rising trends and the biggest change in Wisconsin has been the migration of rural populations moving into urban areas, thus resulting in an increased demand for urban based outdoor recreational activities with multiple ways of accessibility. Research has also linked the presence of parks, trails, enjoyable scenery and other people exercising to increase physical activity.

Recreation Demands

Recreation demand is the estimated number of people who are projected to participate in a particular recreation opportunity at some predetermined future time and location. It is important to identify the recreation demands by demographics, change in population, social and economic characteristics and by projecting outdoor recreation activity trends that are relevant to the future. Demands will continue to change over time given new science and information, recreation technology, social and economic trends and other circumstances of importance.

The demands need to fit a diverse population and the constant changing needs of the outdoor recreation public. By looking at the uses and trends we can better understand how the community connects to the city's outdoor recreation resources. It is hard to determine the exact needs of the Rice Lake community due to no outdoor recreation survey taken in the last 5-10 years. However, according to the WI – SCORP, the demands through-out the state and nation, say there is a need to enhance the relationship between outdoor recreation and health and wellness by creating more programming, transportation options, and increasing park connectivity with other parks, trails, and green spaces.

Section VIII: General Recommendations

Neighborhood and Community Park System Planning

To revitalize our parks as thriving gathering places for youth, families and adults, offering the public access by foot, bike and auto and a safe, affordable healthy way to experience nature and the outdoors.

To continue to make improvements and modifications to accommodate adaptive/ADA compliant facilities, play structures and accessibility that meet the needs of the physically challenged including elderly and disabled.

Upgrade community park facilities in terms of function, quality, safety, and to improve the attractiveness and preservation of natural settings with the promotion of good conservation and stewardship practices to last for generations to come.

A master plan and a management plan should be established for each park to provide direction for the progressive and orderly planning, management, maintenance, operation and programming of the park and recreation facilities.

Park and Recreation Development

Local landowners also should be encouraged to deed, dedicate or donate park land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of the city.

Due to increased and continuing housing development within the city, there is a need to develop, protect and acquire lands for mini-parks or green space within these residential areas and to provide parks within the perimeter standards.

With decreased funding there is an added importance of building relationships with private, local schools and community partnerships to help in leveraging resources and expand community outdoor recreation needs.

Community Beautification

The city needs to recognize that the appearance and image of our parks, trails, and facilities are a tangible reflection of the quality of life in the community. They provide an identity for citizens and an image that the city portrays to its residents and visitors. This is a key element to public pride and a sense of value and will help declining communities, decrease crime and vandalism, attract businesses, improve property

values, and increase health and wellness opportunities. Declining communities are defined as geographic areas or neighborhoods within the community that have witnessed a high vacancy rate for housing and loss of population.

Beautification projects, such as planting trees, shrubbery and flowers, general landscaping, natural habitats, bird and butterfly gardens for observation, quiet zones or conversation areas, natural play structures, water features and more should be encouraged with citizen participation, including but not limited, to service groups, schools, youth groups, veterans, and senior citizens.

Environmental Education

Parks provide significant economic, social and environmental benefits to everyone in the community. A partnership with our schools, youth organizations and the UW Extension should be implemented to encourage and promote environmental education opportunities and programs.

Private Recreation Areas and Facilities

There is a need for encouragement and development of specialized facilities by the private sector in the city. Specialized facilities such as mini golf courses, driving range, sport and water equipment rentals, theme parks, can be an important adjunct to the public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

It is important to build partnership opportunities with these private sectors which will allow for preservation of resources and the access to resources that have not been previously available to residents and visitors.

Walking, biking, trails and pedestrians

Walking is the most popular outdoor activity in the State of Wisconsin with bicycling and running/jogging reported as being in the top 10, and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing as top winter outdoor activities. Even though most recreation walking takes place on neighborhood sidewalks, having the presence of parks and trails and enjoyable scenery plays an important role to increased physical activity and improved general health of our community's children and adults.

By connecting bike and walking trails to parks, it will create higher usage frequency and increase residents' accessibility to outdoor recreation. This will also encourage safe and alternative modes of transportation for children and adults to travel to school, work, or shopping.

Studies show that the addition of well-designed pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure tends to reduce injury and crash risks and sends a message to both companies and employees that the city cares about its residents.

The city has developed and adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan which provides information to develop trails, sidewalks and paved bicycle paths on streets or shoulders inside municipality and the immediate area surrounding the corporate limits.

Further City action would include signing to alert motorists to heavier than usual bicycling activity, an informational campaign to encourage trail use and to instruct motorists of the rights bicyclists have on the streets. In addition, bicycle racks should be provided at all schools, recreation facilities and major shopping areas.

Provision for People with Disabilities and Diversity

Many people are still limited to segregated recreation and leisure choices. People with disabilities and diversity have had very little support offered for individual participation in community settings that offer greater opportunities for outdoor recreation, social connections and relationships. A segment of the population who would like use of public parks is restricted because of the lack of adaptive/ADA facilities play structures or accessibility to them. Community officials must recognize that present programs more often than not have little to offer these people in the way of safe and pleasurable recreational experiences.

Therefore, it is recommended that all parks be scheduled to include features that will aid people with disabilities. Specialized features should include paved and ramped walkways to facilities and play areas, wide doorways, grab rails in restrooms and proper facilities, handicapped designated parking, special seating at spectator events, adaptive playground apparatus and ADA compliant playground surfacing. Facilities for people with disabilities should be a priority to ensure that all people have access to the benefits of local parks and recreation and comply with the provisions found in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Retired and 55+ Involvement

With the rising numbers of “baby boomers” it is even more important to involve our retiring and 55+ citizens into community park development, beautification projects and develop programs that will provide more outdoor recreational activities for their use, such as walking and fitness clubs. Although retirees and senior citizens constitute a large proportion of the population in the community, they have been neglected in recreational planning and programming. Programs designed for 55+ encourage health and wellness benefits and provide social opportunities.

Grandparents now play a large role in helping to raise their grandchildren and frequent our parks often. Benches need to be placed within neighborhood parks and next to play areas and passive sport facilities to help provide a relaxing place for viewing or socializing.

In addition, our retired and senior citizens can provide invaluable knowledge and assistance in beautifying parks and open spaces and can thereby become more involved in community life as mentors and volunteers.

Citizen Participation and Service Group Involvement

Extensive community participation is essential to providing a good understanding of the needs and hopes of the residents, members of the community and visitors. Our neighbors, community leaders, churches, schools, businesses, service groups, youth and adult associations, organizations and all other service or volunteer groups play a key role in the development and implementation of outdoor recreation programs along with support for the community. Citizen participation should be viewed as an asset that can help solve problems, and be our best advocates to things public officials cannot. Our citizens can help determine problems and opportunities with resources available, educate politicians, go places and open doors. "People will support what they help create".

Rice Lake has had a strong history of community pride and involvement, such as providing financial resources, playground and sport equipment, facilities, programs, beautification, and volunteering where needed. The city should stay committed to this high level of involvement including input from residents and service groups.

Municipal/School District Cooperation

Continued and increased cooperation between the municipality, the school district and college campus in meeting the recreation needs of the community. Careful planning and facility development will have cost savings to both and increase the use of all facilities by the city and schools. This partnership is strongly encouraged to utilize these facilities to the fullest.

Program Consideration

One of the main objectives of the Community Services Department is to provide a variety of recreational programs and activities for all ages in the community. By providing recreational programs it encourages the public to use and enjoy the city facilities while enhancing their leisure time, encouraging movement and physical exercise, promotes outdoor play, socialization and education.

There is a need for additional and new youth, adult, adaptive and educational programming within the community. These programs will have to be developed to accommodate current and future recreation preferences, needs and trends and ensure the public that the type and quality of programs offered meet their needs.

An emphasis should be placed on health and wellness to enhance the quality of life and encourage healthy lifestyles and bring our youth back outside. It is important to promote and provide lifetime recreation programs such as, golf, tennis, swimming, skiing, jogging, walking, hiking, camping, etc. and focus on the development of areas and facilities needed to support these activities. Instructional programs should be aimed at teaching the recreational activity so people can try a new activity and participate in it for a lifetime rather than just during a brief period of time.

Staffing Considerations

The increased demand for recreational opportunities, as identified in the demands and needs assessment, will put a burden on the city to provide additional recreational programs and facilities. With this increase, consideration will need to be given to provide additional staff for the Community Services Department in areas of maintenance and programs, as it is the responsibility of the department to manage, operate, improve and maintain the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The city should continue to support the professional development of its employees by encouraging continued education, seminars, workshops and memberships in professional associations that promote the concepts, practices and techniques of professional management.

The Community Services Department should develop employee/volunteer training programs to ensure the provision of quality services and programs, and to promote a comprehensive, risk management plan.

The acquisition and development of additional park land could have an impact on the maintenance operation of the park staff. Therefore, additional park maintenance personnel may be necessary to maintain an acceptable level of care for the expanding park system.

Funding Considerations

The main ingredient in the implementation of any recommendation is determining how the project or program will be financed. There are many methods that can be considered, such as general revenues, user charges, general obligation bonds, state and federal funding programs, subdivision dedication requirements and donations.

As the community requests additional and updated facilities, there will be a need to place a greater emphasis on the appropriation of funds for their redevelopment and

maintenance. Alternative methods for funding may need to be explored if the city intends to meet existing and projected needs and demands for recreation. Capital improvement schedules with combined funding sources should be implemented along with other external funding sources, donations, state and federal grants, and fees.

In order to seek state and federal funding, the City needs to maintain their Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and update it for eligibility considerations. The city, for example, has received WIDNR funding for Narrows Park, Cedarside Trail extension, and The Archery Park.

Preservation/Conservation

With the addition of adding space, facilities, programs and beautification projects, park systems need to include conservation and preservation measures. It is crucial that the preservation of natural resources and the management of the environment be goals that the community and City should strive to achieve.

Playground Improvements

Most of the playground sites and play equipment located throughout the city are showing extreme weathering, age, and do not meet ADA compliant standards or the latest safety standards set by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Old and non-compliant playground equipment needs to be replaced with new equipment.

Proper surfacing for play structures has been started to be replaced and needs to continue so that all equipment has compliant surfacing. The city needs to look at providing surfacing that is ADA compliant on any new playground structures that are installed.

There is a need to expand existing equipment to enhance play opportunities and offer a more stimulating, creative play environment. Natural play features could be added and shaded structures planned for equipment areas to help provide relief from various weather conditions.

Section IX: Individual Park Improvements/Enhancements

This section of the plan will address improvements, and modifications that need to be made to existing parks, green space, facilities, playgrounds, structures, athletic fields, trails, etc. Many of the existing park facilities do need improvements from causes such as neglect, poor maintenance, excessive use, weather-caused deterioration and a need to bring the facilities up to safety and ADA Standards.

Updating and revitalizing Rice Lake's present facilities will allow for more passive and active recreation opportunities in our parks, green spaces, and trails and will promote social interaction, health and wellness and bring our youth back outside. The Community Services Department urges that serious consideration be given to these recommendations. It is hoped that many of these improvements will be made during the 2025-2029 planning period.

Mini-Parks, Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds

1. Veterans Memorial Park (City)
 - Additional sidewalks need to be added to allow ADA compliant access to the playground area and to the tennis courts
 - Replacement and removal of existing damaged or aged trees due to heavy park usage and nature's effect upon them.
 - Poured rubber surface in playground area
 - New ADA compliant drinking fountains at the pavilion
 - The problem of grass growth within some areas of the park, due to excessive tree shading, is a concern that needs to be addressed for aesthetic reasons. Currently, the grass growth deficiency is rectified by annual seeding and proper care during the spring time months. Permanent solution would be the addition of irrigation throughout park.
 - The band shell shelter is in need of roof repairs and exposed wood areas need to be covered with a weather resistant material.
 - Refurbishing or updating water fountain
2. FFA Park
 - Walkway and paths need hard surfacing
 - Replace parking barriers along top turnaround
3. Florence Shudlick Park
 - Remodel bathroom facilities to be ADA Compliant
 - Provide proper surfacing for swing sets and play equipment
 - Install raised sand box
 - Install sitting benches and quiet zones for viewing river
 - Beautification project and natural observation and education areas
 - Build a bigger pavilion

- Replacement and removal of existing damaged or aged trees due to heavy park usage and nature's effect upon them.
 - Update Park signage
4. Hiawatha Park
- Create better access for passive recreation, bird watching, and an educational area with access to the lake and river.
 - New picnic facilities and shelter and natural sitting areas
 - Improve river access for kayaks, canoes and swimming
 - Install bike repair station near trailheads
 - Install play structure
5. Holsum Park
- Add picnic area
 - Install shelter
6. Hunter Memorial Park
- Remove sand from playground area and replace with ADA accessible surfacing
 - Update play structures
 - Replacement and removal of existing damaged or aged trees due to heavy park usage and nature's effect upon them.
7. Indian Mounds Park
- Convert Indian Mounds Park into a passive park/burial grounds
 - Research stone shelter options
 - Remove riparian wall and restore shoreline
 - Beautification projects and observation settings
 - Restore to native grasses and plant life in burial area
 - Remove sidewalks and replace with ADA compliant walkways
8. Knapp Stout Park
- Install hard surface on pathways throughout park
 - Renovate Gazebo
 - Cover walking bridge across mouth of river
9. Lakefront
- Install walkway or trail along lake
 - Replace riparian wall and restore shoreline
 - Install boardwalk out to island
 - Remove hazardous and diseased trees
 - Install ADA docks
 - Update informational signs

10. Narrows Park

- Swing sets, and monkey bars need to be moved and proper surfacing added for safety standards.
- Install hard surface pathways to playground structures
- Install sand volleyball court
- Install raised sand box and natural play structures
- Beautification projects and natural play and observation settings
- Enhance swim area with floating raft and new dock system
- Install new ADA drinking fountains

11. Rice Lake Dog Park

- Beautification projects and additional trees
- Activity structures
- Install more lighting for safety
- Create a smaller fenced area for timid dogs
- Add additional walking trails

12. Rice Lake Municipal Ice Skate Park

- Install hard surfacing on rink area for year-round use/roller skating
- Install cement sidewalk and blacktop parking surface
- Install shelter seating for spectators
- Install signage on Main Street
- Add additional lighting for nighttime skating

13. Richter Park

- Revitalize and create park like atmosphere
- Provide surfacing under swing set
- Remove old slide
- Add ADA play equipment
- Install basketball court
- Trim overgrown trees and plant new trees
- Beautification and observation settings
- Install sitting benches and picnic tables
- Install bike racks
- Install parking area

14. Roux Park

- Install ADA compliant parking, and accessibility to the park
- Remove and replace broken playground equipment
- Install sand volleyball court
- Install raised sand box
- Install sitting benches and quiet zones
- Beautification project and observation settings
- Natural play structures
- Install guide fence and signs into Scharbillig-Jones Memorial Park

- Develop city's first all-inclusive ADA compliant park
- Remove dangerous or diseased trees

15. Scharbillig-Jones Memorial Park Addition

- Install sitting benches for resting and observation
- Improve entrance to park
- Provide a parking area and access into the park off of Stout Street
- Remove invasive flora (continuous action)

16. Orchard Beach Boat Landing

- Chip seal parking lot
- Repaint diagonal parking lanes
- Replace exhaust fan in restrooms
- Replace lighting in restrooms
- Construct fish cleaning station
- Replace older and deteriorating docks Replace decking, railings, and seating on fishing pier

17. Wolfinger Bird Sanctuary

- Install parking spaces along Heart Island roadway
- Install walking trails,
- Provide access area to the lakefront
- Install fishing wharf of north end of the park
- Install fountain and arboretum
- Abandon east entrance road and turn into green space area
- Turn exit road into two lane road for entrance and exit
- ADA accessible pathways, picnic tables, pavilion/restrooms and docks for fishing and access.

Community Park, Athletic Fields, and Trails

1. Earl Clanton Park

- Repair/replace siding, soffit, and fascia on all buildings
- Upgrade food handling areas in concession stand
- Upgrade bleachers
- Install irrigation
- Install new energy efficient field and building lighting
- Improve playing surface of flag football field (Rousseau Field)
- Install fencing on maintenance road
- Install new playing surface on softball fields

Playground area

- Fix/replace fence area and install gates
- Picnic tables and sitting benches
- Incorporate a shade structure over play equipment or sitting area
- Install outdoor workout equipment
- Install water fountain
- Create area for ADA parking

2. Fred Tate Memorial Park

- Upgrade food handling areas in concession stand
- Install maintenance gate
- Upgrade bleachers
- Install energy efficient field and building lighting
- Install kayak launch on Red Cedar River

Playground area

- Remove and replace with compliant surfacing under swing set
- ADA playground equipment or pieces need to be added
- Install benches by playground

3. Moon Lake Park, Fields and Trails

- Relocate light sensors in south restrooms
- Install shelter near softball field
- Install irrigation
- Install seating at softball field and periodically in park
- Fence off western private property (old airport buildings)
- Install field lighting
- Install fencing around splash pad area
- Develop permanent seating around splash pad
- Expand sledding hill
- Construct a warming house and outdoor ice-skating rink
- Construct swimming feature
- Install tow rope on sledding hill

4. Rice Lake Trail System
 - Connect with Ann Street Bridge
 - Install new decking and railing to Ann Street Bridge
 - Install benches
 - Install shelter and resting areas
 - Install signage

Section X: New Parks or Facilities Development

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

1. Adopt a plan for trail, sidewalk, bike routes and lanes, and signage

Narrows Park to Moon Lake Park Trail

1. The trail would continue north with a split at Kern Ave and Moon Lake Trail
 - A. The first trail extension would continue north on existing Kern Avenue as a bike lane on both sides to Narrows Park.
 - B. The second bike/pedestrian trail extension would extend off of the north end of the existing Moon Lake Trail, continue along the west side of the existing cranberry bog area to Orchard Beach Lane and continue west to Kern Avenue.

Mini-Park and Neighborhood Park Development

1. Develop parks in undeveloped residential areas in the community
2. Have residential developers set aside property designated for a mini-park
3. Neighborhood Park (See classifications of parks in Section IV).

Heritage Lakeview Park Development

1. Create a venue that provides ADA compliant play structures, restroom facilities, outdoor fitness stations, natural play areas, resting areas, kayak/canoe launch, board walks, a picnic pavilion, and amphitheater area for festivals and music experiences

Community Center Development

1. Create an indoor facility that would allow community members an indoor option for fitness, cultural, and social activities.

Section XI: Conclusion and Administration

Careful and comprehensive planning must be followed by implementation and the administration of recreation policies that have been decided on. Failure to implement and administer this plan means that all efforts, time and money spent were wasted efforts. This need not be, as appropriate local government agencies and bodies can be given the responsibility to enforce this policy document. The Community Services Department, Parks and Recreation Board and the City Council need to be pro-active and insure, through policy decisions, that this plan be implemented. These local government agencies or bodies need to work together and actively seek citizen participation when implementing this document.

Community residents of Rice Lake should take an active interest in the planning and development of recreational facilities. These facilities, after all, are for their use and enjoyment. Citizens need to advise local government officials as to their recreational needs so that plans can be created to fulfill those needs. Citizens can also help implement the recreational plan for the next five years by actively supporting plans that local government officials have created to either improve or expand present facilities or the development of new facilities. Volunteerism would benefit the park and recreation system as well as the entire community.

Most importantly, as far as this document is concerned, this recreation plan should be put under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Board, with input from the Community Services Department. As official overseers of recreation for the community, they will be the first contacts citizens will have over issues that concern them. They will also be the parties responsible to initiate proposals to improve or expand present park and recreation facilities or seek development of additional park facilities.

This document attempts to realistically appraise what park resources Rice Lake currently has and what the future needs and trends are for the community. It is comprehensive in the sense that it considers all types of recreational activities that Rice Lake enthusiasts seem to enjoy. Developers of this plan have attempted to be futurists; taking inventory of what we currently have and then estimating what recreational needs will exist between 2025-2029. The developers of this plan seem to be saying that those who fail to plan, plan to fail by not exercising any foresight to determine necessary public needs.

SECTION XII: Appendices

- A. Public hearing notice
- B. Park, Recreation, Cemetery Board Minutes
- C. Resolution 25-05
- D. Common Council minutes

Public Notice

Public Notice
2025-2029 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing of the City of Rice Lake, Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Board will be held on Friday, February 14th at 8:00 am at the Community Services Department Conference Room, 910 S. Wisconsin Avenue, Rice Lake, WI for the purpose of accepting oral or written comments on the draft 2025-2029 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires municipalities, in order to be eligible for funding programs that they administer, to either amend or update every five years the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The CORP has permitted the city to apply for and receive funding in past years for such projects as the Narrows Park Pavilion project, Cedar Side Trail extension, and the Archery Park.

A copy of the draft version of the CORP may be viewed on either the City's website at www.ci.rice-lake.wi.us, (Parks, Rec, Cemeteries, Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) or in person at the Community Services Department located at 910 S Wisconsin Ave during working hours, Monday thru Friday, from 7:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

CITY OF RICE LAKE

James S. Anderson, Director
Community Services Department

Chronotype: Please publish as a Class II Notice on January 29th and February 5th, 2025

Send Affidavit of Publication.

Park Board Minutes

Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Board Meeting
Community Services Building
910 S. Wisconsin Ave.
Rice Lake, WI
February 14th, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. by Chairman Doug Edwardsen.

1. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Doug Edwardsen, Craig Fowler, Wayne Rado, Dennis Villeneuve, and Sam Williams. Also present were Director James Anderson and Foreman Jordan Grilley. Excused: Ron Kay, Bert Richards, and Jennifer Fonfara.

2. Public Appearances.

None

3. Public Hearing

A. 2025-2029 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Park Chair Edwardsen invited citizens in attendance to comment either “for” or “against” the proposed 2025-2029 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Public Notice was published in the Rice Lake Chronotype in the January 29th & February 5th additions.

Citizens For: None

Citizens Against: None

Motion Fowler; seconded by Rado to approve the 2025-2029 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as written, and to recommend to the Common Council to approve resolution 25-05.

Voting For: Fowler, Rado, Villeneuve, Williams, and Edwardsen

Voting Against: None

Motion Carried

4. Consent Agenda

A. January 17th, 2025 minutes

Motion by Rado; seconded by Williams to approve the consent agenda:

Voting For: All

Voting Against: None

Motion Carried

5. Consideration

A. Rice Lake Soccer Association Request.

Vanessa Hellstern spoke to the board on the soccer associations request to hang banners on the fencing at Moon Lake Park recognizing entities that have donated to the Rice Lake Soccer Association.

B. Motion by Fowler; seconded by Rado to allow the Rice Lake Soccer Association to hang banners on the fence that runs parallel to field #2. The banners must vinal, with wind slits. The banners must be removed at the conclusions of the spring and fall seasons. Before placement the banners must be approved by Community Services Department staff. This allowance will be revisited on a yearly basis.

Voting For: Rado, Villeneuve, Williams, Edwardsen, and Fowler

Voting Against: None

Motion Carried.

6. Reports/Comments

- Williams commented on what would need to be done to dredge in Rice Lake
- Fowler commented on the necessity of more kayak launches on Lakeshore Drive; especially on the north end.
- Edwardsen and Director Anderson commented on the progress of Lakeshore Heritage Park.
- Grilley commented that some of the board members terms may be up in April, and that those board members will be contacted to inquire if they want to remain on the board or not.

Submitted by,
Jordan Grilley
Community Services Dept. Foreman/Forester

Approved by,
Doug Edwardsen
PRC Chairman

Resolution 25-05

RESOLUTION # 25-05

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF RICE LAKE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
(CORP)
2025-2029

WHEREAS, the City of Rice Lake, Barron County, Wisconsin wishes to provide quality park facilities and a variety of recreation opportunities and experiences to meet the needs of the community's residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rice Lake, Barron County, Wisconsin has developed, with subsequent amendments thereto, the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) in order to be eligible for Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Outdoor Recreation Action Program-Local Park Aids (ORAP-LPA), Stewardship or Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) programs funding opportunities during a five (5) year period between 2025-2029; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) requires, that in order to be eligible for funding of needed projects, municipalities to either amend or update every five years their CORP document; and

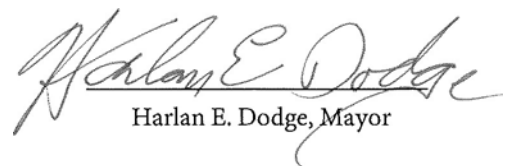
WHEREAS, the Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries Board held a "public hearing" for the expressed purpose of gathering citizen input on the plan contents or other community needs presented by citizens for potential placement in the document on February 14th, 2025; and


WHEREAS, the Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Board voted to recommend the adoption of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan by both the City of Rice Lake Common Council and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the dual purposes of serving as a guide for future park development within the municipality and potential funding considerations within the next five (5) years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Rice Lake, Barron County, Wisconsin, hereby adopts Resolution # 25-05.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that City administrative staff is directed to provide a signed copy of this resolution, along with the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for their review and consideration.

ADOPTED this 11th day of March, 2025.


Harlan E. Dodge, Mayor

Attest: 
Julie A, Kessler, City Clerk-Treasure

A. Regular Meeting - March 11, 2025

The March 22, 2025 City of Rice Lake Common Council meeting was held in-person and virtually in the City Hall Council/Lakeshore Rooms. Members Present: Mayor Dodge, Councilmembers Westaby, Dirkes, Larson, Resac, Sookiayak, Hulback and Edwardsen. Also present: City Administrator Johnson and City Clerk-Treasurer Kessler. Absent and excuses: Moffatt. Mayor Dodge called the meeting to orders. Jake from World Harvest Church led the prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Disclosure of conflict of interest by voting members regarding any item on the agenda: none.

Public Appearance - Dan Lawler talked about the Armory purchase and felt this should be put to a referendum.

Consent Agenda - Motion by Councilmember Edwardsen, second by Councilmember Resac, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Minutes - Approve the minutes of the February 25, 2025 Regular Council Meeting as submitted.
- Licenses - Approve the licenses as submitted.
- Approve the bills as follows
 - Direct Debits 489,085.69
 - Prepaid 137,874.02
 - PCard 143,799.67
 - Vouchers Waiting 343,544.22
 - Total \$1,114,303.60

Voting for: Councilmembers Dirkes, Larson, Resac, Sookiayak, Hulback, Edwardsen, Westaby

Voting against: none

Motion Carried

B. Resolution 25-06, Authorizing The Partial Defeasance of The City of Rice Lake

\$3,600,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2017 - Motion by Councilmember Resac, second by Councilmember Sookiayak, to approve Resolution 25-06 as presented.

Voting for: Councilmembers Resac, Sookiayak, Hulback, Edwardsen, Westaby, Dirkes, Larson

Voting against: none

Motion Carried

Street Closure Requests - moved to future meetings.

Resolution 25-05, Adopting the City of Rice Lake Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2029 - Motion by Councilmember Edwardsen, second by Councilmember Hulback, to pass Resolution 25-05 Adopting the City of Rice Lake 2025-2029 CORP and to authorize the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer to execute the necessary signatures.

Voting for: Councilmembers Sookiayak, Hulback, Edwardsen, Westaby, Dirkes, Larson and Resac
Voting against: none
Motion Carried

Resolution 25-07, Tax Increment District (TID) #3 Termination - Motion by Councilmember Resac, second by Councilmember Larson, to approve Resolution 25-07 with noted corrections.

Voting for: Councilmembers Hulback, Edwardsen, Westaby, Dirkes, Larson, Resac and Sookiayak
Voting against: none
Motion Carried

Abatement of Oil Site - Presentation and questions from CSD Anderson and Ryan Shimko, SEH. Motion by Councilmember Larson, second by Councilmember Edwardsen, to approve the City eliminate waste oil collection with the City and Hire SEH to perform the Tank System Site Assessment and Remedial Action Documentation and the Case Closure Request with an estimated cost of \$36,000 and approve the Engineers Supplemental Letter Agreement as present and direct the Mayor to sign such.

Voting for: Councilmembers Edwardsen, Westaby, Dirkes, Larson, Resac, Sookiayak and Hulback
Voting against: none
Motion Carried

Appearance of Downtown Bridge - Motion by Councilmember Sookiayak, second by Councilmember Resac, for City Administrator Johnson and CSD Anderson along with SEH, look into what can be done, costs of those options and how it can be paid for.

Voting for: Councilmembers Westaby, Dirkes, Larson, Resac, Sookiayak, Hulback and Edwardsen
Voting against: none
Motion Carried

Reports/Comments - Councilmember Edwardsen suggested onboarding and training for new councilmembers. Sookiayak added for them to hear from the Department Heads. Sookiayak provided congratulations for the Rice Lake Warrior

Gymnastics championship and the Girls Basketball going to state. Dirkes added the Robotics team and Archery team who will also be going to state.

Motion by Councilmember Sookiayak, second by Councilmember Resac, to convene into Closed Session pursuant to WI Stat. 19.85(1)(e) deliberating or negotiating of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session and WI Stat 19.85(1)(f) considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if

discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations and WI Stat 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

- National Guard Armory (CA)
- Property Inquiry (CA)
- Data Sharing on City Website (CA)
- Police Office Coordinator Compensation Adjustment (PD/PNC)

Voting for: Councilmembers Dirkes, Larson, Resac, Sookiayak, Hulback, Edwardsen and Westaby

Voting against: none

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilmember Edwardsen, second by Councilmember Resac, to reconvene into open session to take action resulting from the Closed Session.

Voting for: all

Voting against: none

Motion Carried

There were no public or press in attendance.

National Guard Armory - Motion by Councilmember Larson, second by Councilmember Edwardsen, to direct City Administrator Johnson to pursue the purchase of the property and explore partnering opportunities for its development including continued talks with RLHA and complete a low level feasibility study of the proposed usages via SEH for under \$3,000/

Voting for: Councilmembers Larson, Resac, Sookiayak, Hulback, Edwardsen, Westaby and Dirkes

Voting against: none

Motion Carried

Property Inquiry - Motion by Councilmember Sookiayak, second by Councilmember Westaby, to have City Administrator Johnson continue fact-finding and have conversations with the liquidator and identified developers for the property

and research the financial feasibility of offering assistance in the development of the property.

Voting for: Councilmembers Resac, Sookiayak, Hulback, Edwardsen, Westaby, Dirkes and Larson

Voting against: none

Motion Carried

Police Office Coordinator Adjustment - Motion by Councilmember Sookiayak, second by Councilmember Resac, to approve a base wage increase for the Police Office Coordinator position from \$24.43 to \$27.43 with any additional COLA increase for 2025 to be added and retroactive to January 1, 2025.

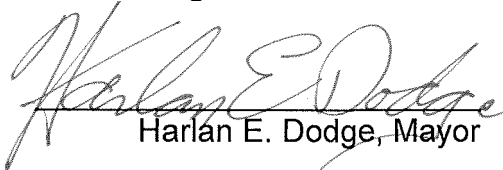
Voting for: Councilmembers Sookiayak, Hulback, Edwardsen, Westaby, Dirkes, Larson and Resac

Voting against: none

Motion Carried


Motion by Councilmember Resac, second by Councilmember Sookiayak, to adjourn the meeting.

Voting for: all


Harlan E. Dodge, Mayor

Voting against: none

Motion Carried


Julie A. Kessler, WCMC
City Clerk-Treasurer