



# **Village of Johnson Creek Park and Open Space Plan**



Prepared by  
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Adopted: October 2, 2003



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## I. INTRODUCTION

The quality of life in a community is measured by considering a variety of factors such as the availability of employment opportunities in the community, the beauty and amenities of the natural environment, the level of municipal services, the quality of local schools, the supply and quality of housing, and cultural and recreational opportunities. Parks and open space are key components of high quality living environments. Parks and open space provide a number of key functions including meeting human needs for recreation and aesthetics, protecting and enhancing the natural environment, and shaping the extent and patterns of development in a community. The park and open space system of every community should be planned and designed to meet the diverse needs of persons living in the community. Proper recreation-based planning requires a focus on both the types of facilities needed to meet the needs of the community as well as the geographic distribution of those facilities in relation to the persons who will use them.

Currently, the Village of Johnson Creek is experiencing a substantial amount of new development activity, which will have a direct impact on the community for years to come. Therefore, it is extremely important for the Village to proactively plan for the future recreational needs of the community at this time. The *2003 Park and Open Space Plan* is an important element of Johnson Creek's overall community master planning program. The *Plan* reviews and updates the physical facilities and lands that make up the Village's park and open space system. The plan is intended to provide guidance for future improvement and expansion of the system. Although the plan addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community over the next 20 years, it focuses more directly on recreational development needs over the next 5-year period.

The *Plan* has been prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and qualify the Village of Johnson Creek for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund. The Park and Open Space Plan should be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its DNR certification. The plan has also been prepared in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.0617 and Section 236.29 with which all subdivision ordinances imposing fees upon developers of land must comply.



This *Plan* was prepared under the direction of the Village of Johnson Creek Joint Park and Recreation Committee. Johnson Creek's public parks and open spaces are operated and maintained by the Public Works Department.

## II. BASELINE CONDITIONS

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### A. GENERAL REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Village of Johnson Creek is located in the north-central portion of Jefferson County, Wisconsin. The Village is located approximately 45 miles west of Milwaukee and 35 miles east of Madison. The Village is bordered on the southwest by the Town of Aztalan; on the east and southeast by the Town of Farmington; and on the north by the Towns of Farmington, Milford and Watertown. The nearest neighboring cities are Jefferson (6 miles south) Lake Mills (6 miles west) and Watertown (8 miles north). As of Summer 2003, the Village encompasses 2.6 square miles of land and has a population of around 1,700 residents.

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### B. NATURAL RESOURCES

The relationship between the Village of Johnson Creek and its natural features provides a valuable point of reference. It sets up a framework for analysis, suggests possible location advantages that the Village may possess for certain land uses, and hints at the relationship between the Village and the rest of the region.

#### 1. GENERAL SOILS INFORMATION

Soil suitability is a key factor in determining cost-effective locations for new development. According to the Dodge and Jefferson County Soil Surveys, most of the planning area is covered by soils rated as generally unsuited, or poorly suited for development utilizing septic systems.

The Jefferson County Soil Survey also identifies ideal soil conditions for various recreational activities. *Picnic areas* and *Camp areas* require soils that are firm when wet, are not dusty when dry, are not subject to flooding during the period of use, and do not have slopes, stones, or boulders that will increase the cost of shaping sites or building access roads and parking areas. *Playgrounds* require soils that are level and can withstand intensive foot traffic; the soil should be firm after rains and not dusty when dry. *Path and trail areas* also require soils that are not wet, firm after rains, not dusty when dry, and are not subject of flooding more than once during the annual period of use. These soils should have moderate slopes and have few or no stones or boulders on the surface.

Soil limitation degrees are defined as slight, moderate, or severe. *Slight* indicates soil properties that are generally favorable with minor limitations that are easily overcome. *Moderate* indicates limitations can be overcome or alleviated by planning, design, or special maintenance. *Severe* indicates soil properties that are unfavorable with limitations that can only be offset by costly soil reclamations, special designs, intensive maintenance, limited uses, or a combination of these measures. Soils in the Johnson Creek area are of two major types:

- The *Waconsta-Lamartine-Theresa* association predominates in the vast majority of the General planning area. This association is characterized by very poorly drained, poorly drained, somewhat poorly drained, and well-drained soils with a silty or loamy subsoil and are underlain by silt loam, sandy loam, or gravelly sandy loam. This soil association has generally severe limitations for playgrounds, and severe to slight limitations for camp areas, picnic areas, and paths and trails.
- The *Palms-Keowns-Milford* association predominates to the south and west of the city along the Rock River corridor. This association is characterized by very poorly drained and poorly drained soils that have loamy or clayey subsoil and are underlain by silty, sandy, or clayey material. This association is also characterized by nearly level soils that are organic. This soil association has severe limitations for camp areas, picnic areas, playgrounds, and paths and trails.



## 2. DRAINAGE BASIN

The Village is located within the Rock River Basin portion of the Mississippi River system. The dominant feature of the area is the Rock River corridor proper that bisects the Johnson Creek area into east and west halves. This valley creates a north to south drainage pattern throughout the northern two-thirds of the Johnson Creek area. In the southern one-third of the area, the Johnson Creek tributary of the Rock bends to the west, and then to the north—ultimately entering the Rock River just west of the Village limits. This unusual drainage pattern places the Village (and its sanitary sewerage treatment plant) in a location that is, and will be, very central to the growth of the Planning Area throughout the foreseeable future.

## 3. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Johnson Creek runs through the southern portion of the Village and drains into the Rock River to the south and east of the Village. Spring Creek is a small drainage way that runs north and south through the center of the Village roughly parallel to the railroad tracks draining into Johnson Creek west of Union Street. To an important extent, both Johnson Creek and Spring Creek are main determinants of both existing and future neighborhoods within the portions of the Planning Area that are planned for development.

The Rock River is located to the west of the Village and creates a significant barrier for western development. Numerous local governments within Jefferson, Dodge, and Rock Counties support the designation of the Rock River Corridor as a recreation and natural resource protection corridor. The Rock River Coalition has been the lead nonprofit organization spearheading efforts to coordinate planning and improvements in this corridor. Map 1 shows the major rivers and streams in the planning area.

## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

Environmental corridors are composites of the best elements of a natural resource base occurring in a linear pattern on the landscape. These corridors are essential to the maintenance of ecological balance and diversity, the preservation of natural beauty, and should be preserved and protected for natural open uses. Environmental corridors generally lie along the major stream valleys, around major lakes, and in the moraine areas of southeastern Wisconsin. Environmental corridor features include:

- Surface waters and their undeveloped shorelands and floodlands
- Wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitats
- Rugged terrain and high relief topography

Almost all of Jefferson County's remaining high-value wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat areas, and major bodies of surface water, delineated shorelands, and floodlands are contained within these corridors. There are additional characteristics of environmental corridors that provide recreational, scenic, and historic value: existing recreation sites; potential outdoor recreation sites; historic,





archaeological, and other cultural sites; scenic areas and vistas; and scientifically significant areas. The *Jefferson County Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan* identifies three environmental corridor goals:

- Protect and preserve an environmental corridor system consisting of wetlands, floodplains, and steeply sloped glacial features.
- Protect groundwater and surface water quality.
- Discourage development in areas that possess valuable natural resource characteristics and wildlife habitats.

Environmental corridors are the most important individual elements of a natural resource base and have immeasurable environmental, ecological, and recreational value. Protection of environmental corridors from additional intrusion by incompatible land uses, and thereby from degradation and destruction, should be an essential planning objective in a Park and Open Space Plan. Map 1 shows the location of these environmental corridors in the Village.

## 5. SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS

Hilltops and steep slopes are important natural features that often overlooked in Park and Open Space Planning. Hilltops and steep slopes define the horizon and provide a “natural edge” for a community. Large structures constructed on top of them (including homes) can be excessively prominent, particularly if they do not blend with the area’s rural-agricultural character, color, material, and style. Johnson Creek area hilltops and steep slopes are particularly noticeable along portions of the STH 26 and CTH B corridors. Other significant hills are located along the Rock River and Johnson Creek corridors.

## 6. CLIMATE

The Johnson Creek area has a continental climate characterized by significant changes in weather. Winters are cloudy, cold and snowy. Lakes and rivers usually begin to freeze over in December and remain ice covered until March. During the spring, periods of warm weather alternate with cold spells. By the end of March, nearly all precipitation is in the form of rain. Summers are warm and at times hot and humid. Cool periods are also common during the summer months. Fall is generally mild during the day with cool clear nights. The change from fall to winter is often abrupt, as is the change from summer to fall.

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## C. POPULATION TRENDS AND FORECASTS

The Village of Johnson Creek has experienced a significant increase in population growth in recent years. From 1990 to 2000, the Village’s population increased by about 26 percent, from 1,259 to 1,581 residents (see Table 1). The Village’s growth rate compares to a 10 percent increase in Jefferson County and the State as a whole; and a 13 to 17 percent for neighboring Watertown and Lake Mills. Since 1970, the Village’s population has doubled in size. The 2002 estimated population of Johnson Creek is 1,639.

**Table 1: Population Trends and Forecasts**

	1970	1980	1990	2000	1990-2000 Numeric Change	1990-2000 Percentage Change
<b>Village of Johnson Creek</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>25.6%</b>
City of Lake Mills	3,556	3,670	4,143	4,843	700	16.8%
City of Watertown	15,683	18,113	19,142	21,598	2,456	12.8%
Jefferson County	60,060	66,152	67,783	74,021	6,238	9.0%
State of Wisconsin	4,417,731	4,705,642	4,891,769	5,363,675	471,906	9.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing (1970-1990); Census 2000

According to preliminary data from the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA), the Village's population is projected to grow to be 1,842 residents by 2010. According to these preliminary state projections, Jefferson County's highest growth rates are predicted for Lake Mills, Cambridge and Palmyra, and the Towns of Concord, Lake Mills, Oakland, and Palmyra.

Three alternative projections show higher rates of population growth in Johnson Creek over the next two decades (see Table 2). A ten-year average annual growth rate of 2.56% projects the Village population to reach 2,974 residents by the year 2025. A thirty-year average annual growth rate of 3.34% projects a population of 3,595 by the year 2025. Using the highest growth rates found in communities along Interstate 94, the Village's population is projected to grow to 5,354 residents by 2025. These three alternative growth scenarios showing a Village population of around **3,500 residents** by the year 2025 present a reasonable basis for this *Plan's* recommendations. Using a projected household size of 2.5 persons/household, this projected population will require 1,400 housing units, or about **740 additional units** than currently provided in the Village.

**Table 2: Population Projections**

	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2010	2015	2020	2025
<b>Wisconsin Dept. of Administration<sup>2</sup></b>	1,581	1,842	-	-	-
<b>1990 – 2000 Growth Rate<sup>3</sup></b>	1,581	2,036	2,310	2,621	2,974
<b>1970 – 2000 Growth Rate<sup>4</sup></b>	1,581	2,196	2,588	3,050	3,595
<b>Interstate 94 Communities Growth Rate<sup>5</sup></b>	1,581	2,575	3,287	4,195	5,354

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

<sup>2</sup>Preliminary Municipal Projections, 2000 - 2010 (July 2003)

<sup>3</sup>based on a 1990-2000 average annual growth rate of 2.56% compounded annually

<sup>4</sup>based on a 1970-200 average annual growth rate of 3.34% compounded annually

<sup>5</sup>based on a the highest growth rates of communities along Interstate 94 (5% average per year)

## D. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

In 2000, Johnson Creek had a median age of 31.9 years, up from 30.2 reported in 1990. This median age is lower than that of the surrounding communities, Jefferson County or the State. The Village has a larger percentage of residents under 18 and a smaller percentage of residents over 65 when compared with the neighboring cities, Jefferson County and the State. Table 3 shows other demographic characteristics for the Village and County and State.

**Table 3: Demographic Characteristics**

	Village of Johnson Creek	Jefferson County	State of Wisconsin
<b>Median Age</b>	31.9	36.6	36.0
<b>% under 18</b>	26.6%	25.2%	25.5%
<b>% over 65</b>	9.5%	12.6%	13.1%
<b>% Female</b>	50.5%	50.4	50.6%
<b>% White</b>	98.20%	98.40%	88.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## E. HOUSEHOLD TRENDS

The average household size in Johnson Creek in 2000 was 2.53 persons per household, a slight decrease since 1990 (2.76). As shown in Table 4, the average household size in the Village was comparable to both Jefferson County and the State.

**Table 4: Household Characteristics**

	Village of Johnson Creek	Jefferson County	State of Wisconsin
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	659	25,719	2,321,144
<b>Household Size</b>	2.53	2.67	2.50
<b>% Occupied</b>	96.40%	93.40%	89.8%
<b>% Owner Occupied</b>	73.70%	66.00%	68.4%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$45,694	\$46,601	\$43,791

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## F. REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS

### 1. VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CREEK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Village of Johnson Creek updated its *Comprehensive Plan* in May 2002. The *Comprehensive Plan* recommends three new Community Parks in the community:

- A 50-acre park north of I-94 in the *River Drive Neighborhood*, with a canoe launch on the Rock River and possibly athletic fields;
- A 20-acre park along I-94 in the *Union Street Neighborhood*; and
- A 20-acre park south of the proposed school site.

In addition to these community parks, new residential neighborhoods should develop park facilities. In general, all residents in a neighborhood should be within a 10-minute walk (approximately 1/3 mile) from a neighborhood park facility.

Pedestrian and bicycle access within and between parks is an important part of the Village's park and open space system. Bicycle lanes and sidewalks should be provided in new neighborhoods. In addition, off-street trails should be developed throughout the Village to create a pedestrian/bicycle transportation network. Map 1 shows the location of public access easements where biking or walking trails are possible.

In general, parks should provide both active and passive features in one area. Therefore, where possible, neighborhood parks with intense recreational activity should be located near environmental corridors (which ultimately may carry trail facilities). More care is required in the design of regional and community-wide facilities due to the need for parking lots and lit athletic fields and courts. For such parks, extensive on-site landscaping and berming may be desired to mitigate adverse traffic, sound, and lighting impacts.

This plan recommends that the Village require parkland dedication requirements that would fully supply the recreation demands of the Village's growing population. In addition to a land dedication or fee-in-lieu amount, many communities are also now requiring the payment of a parkland improvement fee. The use of parkland dedication (or fees-in-lieu of dedication) and a parkland improvement fee, if used, should provide for the cost effective expansion of the Village's park and recreation system as new growth requires new facilities.

## **2. JEFFERSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND LAND USE PLAN**

Jefferson County prepared the *Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan* in October 1999. This plan provides a vision and guidelines for growth, development, and land preservation in Jefferson County over the next two decades. The plan is intended to function as the primary policy document setting forth goals and objectives and a vision of how Jefferson County should grow and develop in a manner that preserves the natural resources and environmental quality of the County. A fundamental goal of the this plan is to guide and manage Jefferson County growth and development in a manner that will preserve the rural character, agricultural base, and natural resources of the countryside and contribute to the high quality of life and prosperity of the communities.

## **3. JEFFERSON COUNTY BIKEWAY/PEDESTRIAN PLAN**

Jefferson County adopted the *Jefferson County Bikeway/Pedestrianway Plan* in 1996. This plan identifies desirable bicycle and pedestrian facility routes throughout Jefferson County and details current bikeway/pedestrianway plans within the communities of Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, Waterloo, Watertown, Whitewater, Johnson Creek, Sullivan, Lake Mills, and Palmyra. The plan emphasizes that bicycling and walking can become more appealing and efficient modes of transportation and recreation with improved safety levels.

The plan also recommends a bicycle path to be developed within the Rock River corridor, with spur trails connecting to the mall access road and River Road to the north. The plan also recommends the construction of four multi-use trails separated from roadways; two of those four trails run to and from Johnson Creek paralleling the Rock River.

## **4. JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

Jefferson County prepared the *Jefferson County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan* in 1997. There are several key long-range policy recommendations identified in the plan:

- Acquisition of valuable natural areas and historic areas of 100 acres or more
- Identification of 4-6 new sites for large natural-resource-oriented parks
- Solicitation of donations from the private sector for funds to be used for parkland acquisition
- Continued implementation of the Jefferson County Bikeway/Pedestrian Plan.

## **5. BIKE JEFFERSON COUNTY: A GUIDE TO 12 RECREATIONAL LOOP RIDES**

The Jefferson County Parks Department and University of Wisconsin-Extension, Jefferson County office prepared *Bike Jefferson County: A Guide to 12 Recreational Loops* was in 1999. This plan includes two recommended loop rides that run through Johnson Creek. Ride number two is entitled “Watertown/Johnson Creek” and is a 20.7 mile loop ride that passes a blue heron rookery and Watertown airport’s main landing strip. This ride is a reasonably easy ride with a few hills and some interesting scenery along the Rock River Valley. Ride number seven is entitled “Jefferson/Johnson Creek” and is a 25.7 mile loop ride passing the Frank Lloyd Wright designed home and historic Stoppenbach Park along Linden Drive in Jefferson. The terrain is generally rolling, with a few challenging hills.

## **6. JOHNSON CREEK SNOWMOBILING**

Jefferson County has 235 miles of county trails and 290 miles of club trails. A major County trail runs east-west around the Village crossing STH 26 south of the village. A wooden bridge recently built by the local Johnson Creek Snowmobile club allows for this trail to cross the Johnson Creek near STH 26. Two club snowmobile trails are accessed off of the north-bound Jefferson County trail, and a third club trail runs along north side of west-bound CTH B into a west/northwest-running County trail.

### III. EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

The Village's park and open space system consists of **37 total acres** of parkland and special use areas. When combined with the School District, there are about 50 acres designated for park and open space use. The Village's park system includes a full range of developed facilities including neighborhood parks, community parks and special uses areas located throughout the community. The Village generally has a good supply of well-established parks in the older parts of the community and is successfully acquiring new park areas where residential growth is occurring. However, the Village needs to modernize its facilities and equipment in older parks and provide new facilities and equipment in undeveloped or partially developed parks. Table 5 provides a detailed listing of the facilities located within each park.

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#### A. DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

##### 1. COMMUNITY PARKS

- #1. Pioneer/Fireman's Park:** This 15-acre community park is located at the north end of Union Street. There are two ponds in this park, and facilities include a double tennis court, pedestrian bridge, a combined hardball (baseball and little league/softball) field), pavilion, restrooms, a scoreboard, and bleachers.
- #2. "Centennial" Park:** This 16-acre undeveloped park is located at the northwest part of the Village along Midge Street. Consistent with the Village's comprehensive plan, this park site was recently acquired by the Village and development plans for this park are in process.

##### 2. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- #3. Veteran's Park:** This 2.24-acre park is located in the center of the Village on the eastern side of Union Street. Facilities include a gazebo, restrooms, playground equipment, a basketball court, and a volleyball court
- #4. Lunar Park:** This 3.35-acre developing park is located in Hunter's Glen and was dubbed "Lunar" due to many odd looking clumps of topsoil scattered throughout the park that it looked like a moonscape before the topsoil was graded and seeded. Development plans for this park are in process.

##### 3. SPECIAL USE PARKS AND FACILITIES

**Johnson Creek Cemetery:** This 5.77-acre cemetery is located north of Milwaukee Street between Grell Lane and Watertown Streets.

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#### B. DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING PUBLIC SCHOOL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

##### 1. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Johnson Creek K-12 School District (A):** The School District owns 13.73-acres at the southern end of Johnson Creek, west of STH 26 and south of Milwaukee Street. Facilities at this site include playground equipment, two ball fields, and a football field. The School District also owns 66.83 acres of land south of CTH B west of the Village.

**Table 5: Recreation Amenities in Public Parks and Schools - 2003**

<b>Park Facility</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Drinking Water</b>	<b>Rest Rooms</b>	<b>Enclosed Shelter</b>	<b>Open Shelter</b>	<b>Swimming</b>	<b>Play Equipment</b>	<b>Basketball Courts</b>	<b>Horseshoes</b>	<b>Tennis</b>	<b>Volleyball</b>	<b>Baseball/Softball</b>	<b>Soccer</b>	<b>Football Field</b>	<b>Golf</b>	<b>Picnic Tables/Grills</b>	<b>Sledding Area</b>	<b>Ice Skating</b>	<b>Natural Resources/Passive Area</b>	<b>Boating (non-motorized)/Canoeing</b>	<b>Fishing</b>	<b>Hiking/Trails</b>	<b>Cross-Country Skiing</b>
<b>Public Parks</b>																							
<b>Community Parks:</b>																							
1. Fireman's/Pioneer Park	15.64		✓	✓						✓		✓	✓			✓			✓				
2 "Centennial Park" (developing)	16.00	*✓	*✓				*✓					*✓				*✓			*✓			*✓	
<b>Neighborhood Parks:</b>																							
3. Veteran's Park	2.24	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓					✓			✓				
4. "Lunar Park" (developing)	3.35	*✓	*✓				*✓									*✓							
<b>Special Use Areas:</b>																							
5. Johnson Creek Cemetery	5.77																		✓				
<b>Public Schools</b>																							
Johnson Creek K-12 School Site	13.73	✓	✓				✓					✓		✓					✓				
Johnson Creek K-12 Future Area	66.83																		✓				

\* Indicates a probable amenity



### **Map 1: Existing Park and School Facilities**



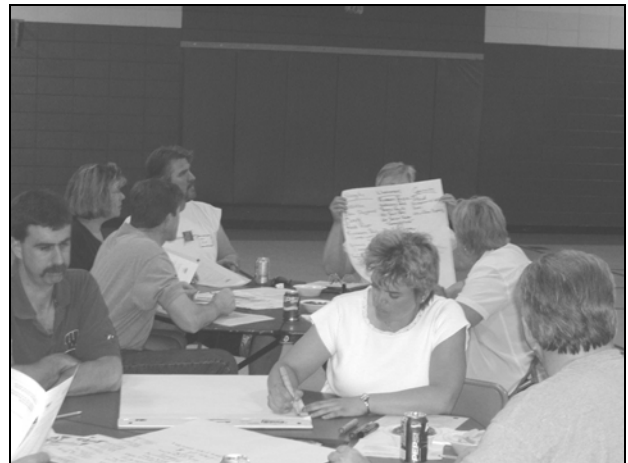
## IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### A. VISIONING SESSIONS

As part of the planning process, the Village held two visioning sessions on April 7 and 15, 2003. Johnson Creek's Park and Recreation Commission members and meeting attendees shared their perspectives on the Village's park system and its future. Participants were asked to identify park system strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Participants were then asked to prepare focused vision statements for the future of the park system.

The following vision elements were identified at the two meetings:

- Establish a community center for youth, adult, and seniors
- Upgrade Firemen's and Veteran's Park
- Establish a Village Park leadership body to oversee development, composed of diverse members
- Foster cooperative arrangements with Johnson Creek school district staff and facilities
- Hire a Recreation Intern
- Encourage Plan Commission commitment
- Utilize volunteer groups
- Plan the new 16-acre "Centennial Park" wisely: little/adult league capabilities, concessions, rest rooms, storage, play areas, trail accesses
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian facility planning
- Funding should be a combination of impact fees, grant money, village taxes and user fees
- Capitalize on current citizen momentum to develop parks
- Maintain and improve existing facilities
- Develop a coordinated Park Plan with appropriate transportation planning
- Build and bike/pedestrian trail system



### B. NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASSING

During the Summer of 2003, Park and Recreation Committee members conducted a door-to-door survey to learn what types of facilities residents desired in their parks. The canvassing effort included homes on the west side of the Village, on the north and south sides of Milwaukee Street, and along Highway B. The results of this effort are summarized in the Appendix. Overall, most residents were in favor of smaller tot lots or mini-parks located within easy walking distance to their residence.

### C. OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC HEARING

The Village held an open house before a public hearing on the draft park plan on September 11, 2003. Comments made at the public hearing included a suggestion that the Committee should inventory all Village-owned properties to assess future park opportunities.

## V. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Once the baseline conditions have been established, the next step in the park planning process is to establish goals, objectives, and policies that serve as the base for all subsequent planning efforts. The following goals, objectives, and policies are based on a review of existing plans, basic planning principals, and input gathered from the Joint Park and Recreation Committee.

*Goals* are broad statements that express general public priorities which are striven for but which may not be fully attainable. Goals are formulated based on the identification of key issues, opportunities and problems that affect the park system

*Objectives* are more specific than goals and are usually attainable through strategic planning and implementation activities. Implementation of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.

*Policies* are rules and courses of action used to ensure plan implementation, including the accomplishment of goals and turning planning maps and graphics into reality. Policies often accomplish a number of objectives.

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### A. GOALS

Ensure provision and protection of sufficient parks, recreation facilities and open space areas to satisfy the health, safety, and welfare needs of citizens and visitors including special groups such as the elderly, the handicapped, and pre-school age children.

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### B. OBJECTIVES

1. Preserve natural features and amenities, and conserve natural resources for the benefit of the community and society as a whole.
2. Provide quality recreation and adequate open space lands and facilities for each neighborhood of the community.
3. Provide coordination of public park and open space lands with other uses of land, in order that each may enhance the other and make possible the realization of the highest type of urban environment for people who live in the Johnson Creek community.
4. Provide diverse recreational opportunities so that residents of all ages have an equal opportunity to enjoy the park and open space system.

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### C. POLICIES

1. All citizens should be provided with the opportunity for engaging in recreational experience, and such recreational facilities should be equitably situated.
2. Neighborhood parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood-gathering place. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods.
3. Park development should be planned to avoid creating nuisance situations between neighbors and park users.

4. Park facilities should be scaled and located to the future needs of the area and population served, both present and future. Parcels of land, which would be suitable for park and recreation development and are located in areas and neighborhoods that are fully developed, should be acquired as circumstances permit.
5. All multi-family development with five or more dwelling units shall provide an on-site tot lot or work with the Village to develop one within close proximity.
6. Acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning for development. Active parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.
7. Alternative means of reserving lands required for open space use should be fully explored to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public. Mandatory dedication of lands for public use as parklands and/or cash donations should be continued as provided by Village ordinances.
8. Particular attention should be given to coordinating the land acquisition, land use control and planning programs of all federal, state, county and local agencies concerned with parks and conservation.
9. Master plans should be developed for all current and future properties. These plans should indicate current use and conditions and the future use of the facilities, equipment, and park grounds.
10. As opportunities become available, the Village should consider purchasing properties adjacent to existing park properties to allow for the expansion of existing parks. The Village will need to evaluate each opportunity to determine which properties will sufficiently meet the future needs of the park system.
11. Parks and recreational facilities should be combined with school facilities, where appropriate and feasible.
12. Preservation of the lowlands, natural waterways and marshes, and adjacent contributing uplands in their natural state should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, as areas for passive recreation and outdoor recreation, and as reservoirs for sediment, where appropriate.
13. The Village should investigate all regulatory and acquisition tools available to preserve conservancy lands or other open space. Conservancy lands that can be adequately and appropriately protected without public expenditure should be preserved. Public funds should be used to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a high priority.
14. The Village should utilize management policies that protect and enhance the natural features of all of its parks. This “green” focused management should include efforts to establish and maintain buffers for sensitive environmental areas, minimize fertilizer and pesticide use, and implement native species plantings and landscape initiative, to the extent possible.
15. The Village should continue to provide recreation facilities that are designed for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them, the effectiveness of supervision, and the quality of the recreation experience.
16. All new residential development in the Village or within the Village’s extraterritorial jurisdiction shall meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this plan and implemented by the Village of Johnson Creek Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Official Map, and Parkland Dedication and Improvement Ordinance.
17. The Village needs to continue to market the park system’s facilities and programs to the community. The Village should continue its progress in upgrading the appearance of its program brochures,

flyers, and information publications. A map identifying park facilities should be included in the program brochure. The Village should maintain an active file of other communities' park system publications for use in obtaining graphic design ideas for its own publications.

18. The Village should encourage the creation of a "Friends of the Parks" volunteer program. The organization can help with newsletters, install and maintain playgrounds and other equipment, and organize festivals. The Village should distribute a pamphlet describing how volunteers can help to the Joint Park and Recreation Committee, service and civic clubs, and churches.
19. Locate and construct a boating, ATV, snowmobile facilities, as appropriate, within the environmental corridors.
20. In order to protect prime agricultural land surrounding the Village, any future golf courses should be located to the south and west of the Village where the Palms-Keowns-Milford association of soils predominates.
21. Protect the Rock River wilderness zone from Linda's Lookout to Captain's Corner via extraterritorial zoning powers as follows: (1) create a no construction zone within 100' of either side of the high-water mark (wetlands or 100' floodplain, whichever is higher) and (2) maintain, with the exception of municipal trails, a no-cut zone within the same area.
22. Preserve, as much as possible, the hillsides and the edges and borders of the Village.
23. Connect bike/pedestrian trails north and south of I-94 and east and west of STH 26 with overhead bridges.
24. Integrate wetlands to the Village's natural trail system through use of wood footbridges.

## VI. PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

This chapter provides a set of minimum standards for park and open space facilities. These standards enable a community to determine how well its existing recreational facilities meet the needs of its residents at the present time, as well as to project the future need for such facilities. Typically, these standards are expressed as a population ratio, that is, the minimum number of acres recommended per 1,000 persons. For example, a community may choose a standard of 5 acres of neighborhood park land for each 1,000 residents. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a set of recommended park and open space standards which can be used by local communities as a general guide in their park and open space planning efforts. It should be pointed out that these standards should be used as a flexible guideline and adapted to the particular needs of the community and situation.

The following is a list of various types of park and open space facilities and their recommended NRPA standards. This list includes a hierarchy of parks and open space facilities based on an area to population ratio and a recommended minimum service area for each type of facility. Generally, NRPA recommends 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 persons.

### A. MINI-PARK

<b>General Description:</b>	These parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as pre-school and elementary school age children or senior citizens.
<b>Service Area:</b>	Less than ¼ mile radius in residential areas
<b>Desirable Size:</b>	2,500 square feet to 1 acre
<b>Acres per 1,000 Population:</b>	0.25 to 0.5 acres
<b>Basic Facilities &amp; Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coordinated play equipment and structures for pre-school and elementary school age children</li> <li>▪ Conversation and sitting areas arranged to permit easy surveillance by parents</li> <li>▪ Landscaped areas which provide buffering and shade</li> <li>▪ Lighting for security at night. Lighting must be designed to be direct cut-off and not spill into adjacent properties.</li> <li>▪ Parking is typically not required</li> </ul>
<b>Desirable Site Characteristics:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Well buffered by open space and landscape plantings for protection of young children</li> <li>▪ Visual access is very important</li> <li>▪ In tight areas that have close access to roadways, physical barriers, such as fences, may be needed to separate play areas from vehicular areas.</li> <li>▪ Mini-parks should be located within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development, or housing and activity centers for seniors.</li> </ul>



## B. NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

<b>General Description:</b>	An area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, wading pools, ball fields, adult areas with benches, shelter, and game tables. Trees, open fields, and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks.
<b>Service Area:</b>	¼ to ½ mile radius uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers
<b>Desirable Size:</b>	5 acres is considered minimum size with 5 to 10 acres being the optimal size.
<b>Acres per 1,000 Population:</b>	2-3 acres
<b>Basic Facilities &amp; Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active recreation facilities such as playground equipment, playfields (softball, soccer, football, etc.), tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, shuffleboard areas, horseshoe courts,</li> <li>▪ Passive recreation facilities such as internal trails (with connections to larger regional system), picnic/sitting areas, general open space, and “people watching” areas.</li> <li>▪ Service buildings for shelter, storage, restrooms</li> <li>▪ Landscaped areas which provide buffering and shade</li> <li>▪ Lighting for security at night. Lighting must be designed to be direct cut-off and not spill into adjacent properties.</li> <li>▪ Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Desirable Site Characteristics:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Suited for intense development</li> <li>▪ Easily accessible to the neighborhood population</li> <li>▪ Geographically centered with safe walking and biking access.</li> <li>▪ May be developed as a school-park facility</li> <li>▪ 50% of the site should be used for active recreation facilities, with the remaining 50% used for passive activities, landscaping, and conservation as appropriate</li> </ul>

## C. COMMUNITY PARK

<b>General Description:</b>	An area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending on the site and community need. Desirable facilities in community parks include those listed above in neighborhood parks, along with swimming facilities, picnicking, lighted ball fields and tennis courts, a community center, and adequate off-street parking. It is important that community parks be located on or near major thoroughfares and also easily accessible by foot. Landscaping and natural areas are desirable in a community park.
<b>Service Area:</b>	½ to 3 mile radius
<b>Desirable Size:</b>	10 or more acres with 20 to 50 acres being most common
<b>Acres per 1,000 Population:</b>	5-8 acres
<b>Basic Facilities &amp; Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active recreation facilities such as playground equipment, playfields (softball, soccer, football, etc.), tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, shuffleboard areas, horseshoe courts, ice skating areas, swimming pools, swimming beaches, archery ranges, disc golf areas</li> <li>▪ Passive recreation facilities such as extensive internal trails (with connections to larger regional system), individual and group picnic/sitting areas, general open space and unique landscapes/features, natural study areas, and ornamental gardens.</li> <li>▪ Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park.</li> <li>▪ Community Center building with multi-use rooms for crafts, theater, restrooms, social activities, and senior adult use</li> <li>▪ Service buildings for shelter, storage, restrooms</li> <li>▪ Landscaped areas which provide buffering and shade</li> <li>▪ Lighting for security at night. Lighting must be designed to be direct cut-off and not spill into adjacent properties.</li> <li>▪ Adequate off-street parking spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Desirable Site Characteristics:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Suited for intense development</li> <li>▪ May include natural areas, such as water bodies</li> <li>▪ Easily accessible to the neighborhood population</li> <li>▪ Easily accessible for walking and biking</li> <li>▪ May be developed as a school-park facility</li> </ul>

## D. SPECIAL USE PARKS AND FACILITIES

<b>General Description:</b>	Parks and recreation facilities oriented toward a single-purpose use, usually falling into three categories: Historic/Cultural/Social Sites, Recreation Facilities, or Outdoor Recreation Facilities
<b>Service Area:</b>	No applicable standard
<b>Desirable Size:</b>	Variable
<b>Acres per 1,000 Population:</b>	Variable
<b>Basic Facilities &amp; Activities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Historic/Cultural/Social – historic downtown areas, performing arts parks, arboretums, ornamental gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, public buildings, zoo, and amphitheaters</li> <li>▪ Recreation Facilities – community centers, senior centers, community theaters, hockey arenas, marinas, golf courses, miniature golf courses, shooting ranges, aquatic parks, skate parks</li> <li>▪ Outdoor Recreation Facilities – hiking trails, tennis centers, softball complexes, sports stadium</li> <li>▪ Lighting for security at night. Lighting must be designed to be direct cut-off and not spill into adjacent properties.</li> <li>▪ Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Desirable Site Characteristics:</b>	Variable, depending on use

## VII. ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

This chapter presents information on how the Village's existing park and open space system satisfies current needs in the community. The most common method for measuring the sufficiency of a community's park and open space system is to:

- Determine whether or not the park system serves, or has the capacity to serve, the current and projected number of residents in the community based on reliable population projections and adopted per-capita service standards.
- Determine whether or not the park system provides an adequate coverage throughout the community so that all current and future residents have the desired accessibility based on the amount and location of planned growth areas and adopted service standards.

This analysis, as described below, will serve as the basis for this *Plan's* park and open space recommendations presented in the next chapter.

### A. CURRENT AND FUTURE POPULATION SERVICE STANDARDS

Table 6 below shows the total acreage of land devoted to each park type in the Village. The table also breaks down the aggregate acreage per park type into five categories of open space. This breakdown more clearly indicates how much parkland in Johnson Creek is devoted to both active and accessible passive recreational activity and how much is comprised of open space areas, which serve specialized recreation purposes or provide environmental and/or aesthetic benefits.

**Table 6: Total Developed Acres of Village Parkland  
by Type of Recreational Use per Specific Type of Park**

Type of Park	Active Recreation Area <sup>1</sup>	Passive Recreation Area <sup>2</sup>	Natural Area <sup>3</sup>	Special Facilities Area <sup>4</sup>	Water, Wetland, Floodplain	Total Park Acreage
<b>Public Park Facilities</b>						
Mini-parks	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neighborhood Parks	5.59	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.59
Community Parks	31.64	3.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	36.14
Special Use Areas	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.77	0.0	5.77
<b>Total Public Park Facilities</b>	<b>37.23</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.77</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>47.5</b>

<sup>1</sup>Active Recreation Area: playgrounds, athletic fields, etc

<sup>2</sup>Passive Accessible Area: walking trails, picnic groves, etc

<sup>3</sup>Natural Area: passive, non-accessible areas for conservation

<sup>4</sup>Special Facilities Area: golf courses, arboretums, scenic over-looks, cemeteries, etc

**Table 7: Active and Passive Usable Acres in Public Park and Open Space Facilities and Public and Private Church-School Recreational Facilities**

Type of Park	NRPA Standard acres per 1,000 persons	Village Park Facilities		School Facilities		Total Park and School
		Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 persons <sup>1</sup>	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 persons <sup>1</sup>	Acres per 1,000 persons <sup>1</sup>
Mini-park	0.25 – 0.5 acres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neighborhood Park	1 – 2 acres	2.24	1.37	0	0	1.37
Community Park	5 – 8 acres	15.64	9.54	0	0	9.54
Special Use Area	Local standard	5.77	3.52	13.73	8.37	11.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.25 – 10.5 acres</b>	<b>23.65</b>	<b>14.43</b>	<b>13.73</b>	<b>8.37</b>	<b>22.8</b>

<sup>1</sup>Based on 2002 DOA population estimate of 1,639 for the Village of Johnson Creek.

Table 7 shows the NRPA recommended acreage standards for each park type per 1,000 persons, and the Village's existing acreages per park type. The Village of Johnson Creek exceeds the national standard with an aggregate 23.65 useable acres for recreational activity, which breaks down to 14.43 acres per 1,000 persons (the NRPA recommended standard range is 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 persons.) In terms of the provisions of specific park types, the Village is within the NRPA suggested range for neighborhood parks at 1.37 acres per 1,000 persons; and the Village exceeds the NRPA suggested range for community parks at 9.54 acres per 1,000 persons. However, the Village is below the NRPA suggested range for mini-parks, at 0.00 acres per 1,000 persons. The Village also provides 3.52 acres per 1,000 persons of land for special uses. There is no specified NRPA standard for special use areas. When the Johnson Creek School District's recreational facilities are included in the calculation, the community has a total of 50 acres of park and open space land in active and accessible use. These facilities serve a much larger geographic area and population than just the Village-proper and are not under the jurisdiction of the Village.

## **B. LOCAL AND DISTRIBUTION OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES**

The *location* of the park and open space facilities in relation to a community's residents is also an important indicator of how well existing facilities meet the needs of the community. To illustrate how well the Village of Johnson Creek's parklands serve the various areas of the Village, a map has been prepared which illustrates the service areas of the community's recreational facilities. Based upon a service area of one and one half miles, as shown on Map 2, Johnson Creek's two community parks (Firemen's Park and "Centennial Park") adequately serve the residential portions of the community at this time. However, new park facilities will need to be constructed in developing areas. Map 2 indicates that most neighborhood parks currently serve all areas of the Village, that is, most neighborhoods fall within the 1/3-mile recommended service area of the Village's neighborhood parks system (in some places, the service area boundary is broken by a pedestrian barrier, such as a major arterial or railroad). This analysis includes public schools and community parks since they also serve as neighborhood parks to the surrounding areas. However, this does not include private schools because these facilities offer only limited public access. The following residential areas are not currently served by a neighborhood park: West Street and Gosdeck lane neighborhood; the southern end of Jefferson Street and Serenity Court; and developing neighborhoods along South Wright Road

## **Map 2: Park Service Areas**





## VIII. RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

This chapter provides detailed recommendations to expand and improve Johnson Creek's park and open space system based on projected population growth and current deficiencies identified in the preceding chapters of this *Plan*. These recommendations are also guided by the goals, objectives and policies outlined earlier in this report.

Based on the Village's projected population in 2025 (3,500 residents) and its current park acreage-to-population ratio of 14.43 acres per 1,000 residents (which exceeds NRPA standards), Johnson Creek will need to provide about 50 acres of active and passive parkland by 2025, or an **additional 27 acres**, to maintain its current provision standards. This recommendation assumes that Johnson Creek will continue to grow at a moderate rate and that park and open space planning will be oriented toward serving a growing population. The actual timing of park acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational facilities in the Village's developed and newly developed areas.

### A. DEVELOP "CENTENNIAL PARK"

The Village is currently "land rich" when it comes to available park and open space sites. In the short term, the Village's park planning efforts should be focused on developing the new park site on the northwestern edge of the community, referred to as "Centennial Park". One of the primary goals of this planning process is to identify the desired facilities and uses for this park. The 16-acre site has the potential to become a premier active community park for Village residents. During this planning process, the Village's Joint Parks and Recreation Committee identified the following desired facilities and uses in this undeveloped site:

- A paved walking trail around the park
- Two open shelters with tables and grills
- A fenced tennis court
- A playground area
- A volleyball court
- Two ball diamonds
- A concession stand/storage/restroom area
- A basketball court
- A gazebo
- A soccer field



Following the adoption of this *Plan*, the Village should prepare a detailed master plan for "Centennial Park" to guide decisions on where to specifically site these facilities. Once developed, this park should adequately serve the park and open space needs for the central part of the community over the next 20 years.

### B. UPDATE AND RENOVATE EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

The Village should continue to assess needed updates and renovations to facilities in Firemen's Park and Veteran's Park over the course of this planning period.

## C. ACQUIRE AND DEVELOP NEW NEIGHBORHOOD AND MINI PARKS

The previous chapter indicated how future development on all four edges of the Village will likely necessitate the need for both neighborhood parks and mini parks. In response to this identified need, Map 3 shows approximate locations for five neighborhood parks (ranging 3 to 5 acres in size) and eight mini parks (about ½ acre in size) in the Village's urban service area (which totals between **20 and 30 additional acres**). The specific park facility boundaries in these general locations will be determined when the lands are actually platted or acquired over the next 20 years. The following is a description of these general park recommendations.

### 1. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

As depicted on Map 3, this *Plan* recommends five new neighborhood parks to serve the Village's future residential areas and those neighborhoods currently underserved by park facilities. These neighborhood parks should be easily accessible to the surrounding residential areas with safe walking and bicycling access. They should be approximately 3 to 5 acres in size and serve an area within a ¼ to ½ mile radius. These parks could include the type and range of facilities found in Veteran's Park, such as a playground, play field, and play structure.

### 2. MINI PARKS

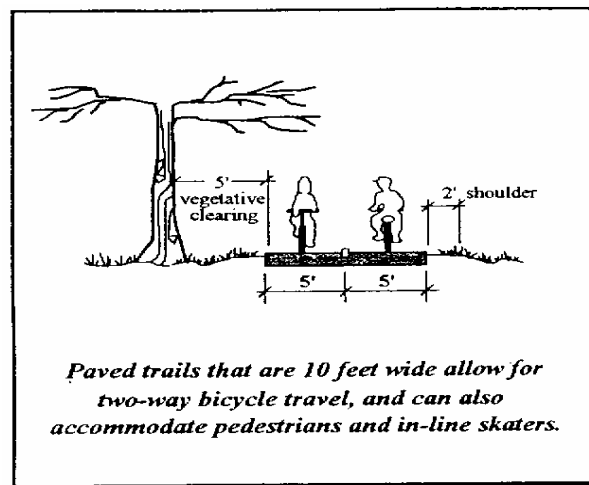
As noted in the previous chapter, the Village does not currently have any mini parks that serve local residents. To make up for this deficiency, this *Plan* recommends eight new mini parks to provide service for developing areas on all four sides of Johnson Creek. These smaller parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population such as pre-school and elementary school age children or senior citizens. These parks should be easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood. They should be approximately ½- to 1-acre in size and serve an area within a ¼ mile radius.

## D. PROPOSED PATHS AND TRAILS

This *Plan* recommends several off-street paths and trail segments (totaling about three miles within the urban service area) to link existing and future neighborhoods to on-street bicycle routes, parks, the existing and future school sites, the river, and the downtown area.

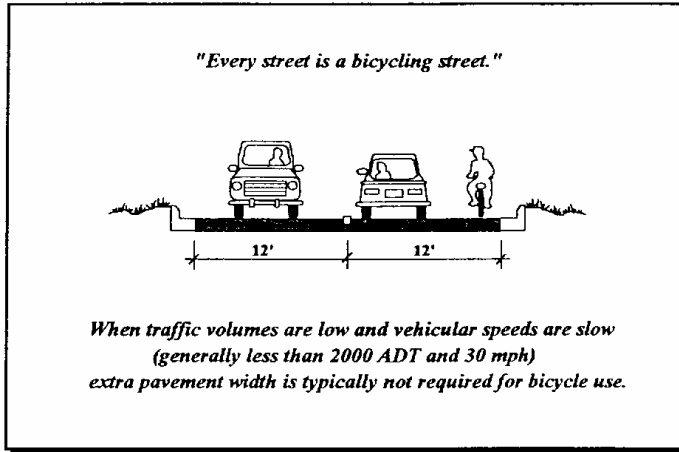
Typically, off-street paths and trails have a paved surface of 10 feet in width to accommodate two-way bicycle travel as well as other types of movement such as walking or in-line skating. In addition to providing recreational opportunities, these paths and trails provide a safe environment desired by less skilled cyclists. These trails are most effective when they provide system continuity and adequate access points to on-street bike routes that encompass the remainder of the Village's bicycle system.

Consistent with the Village's comprehensive plan, this Plan recommends a trail network along both sides of the Rock River, and along the powerline greenway corridor in the northwest portion of the village. In the southeastern portion of the Village, an off-street path is recommended to link the Hunter's Glen and Deer Crossing neighborhoods with future growth to the east and south. An off-street trail is planned to loop



around to the southwest part of the Village and link the future school site and parks with surrounding neighborhoods.

## E. PROPOSED ON-STREET BICYCLE ROUTES



This *Plan* recommends an on-street bike route system, which reflects the objective of providing a system of bike routes within a two-minute ride of all Village residences. All proposed on-street bike routes should be signed and properly maintained. On-street bike routes typically include local streets where cyclists share a travel lane with automobiles. Most bicycle travel occurring today in Johnson Creek takes place on these types of shared roadway facilities. These types of signed bike routes provide good access to many origins and destinations throughout the community.

Maintaining on-street bike routes is

relatively inexpensive and can be accomplished primarily by eliminating basic hazards to bike travel. These hazards include parallel drainage grates, rough at-grade railroad crossings, rumble strips, pot holes, pavement seams, and gravel and debris along the curbside.

## F. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

In addition to the recommendations above for the development and/or acquisition of a new park sites in the Village, the following are recommendations for enhancing and maintaining the existing park and open space system:

1. The Village should develop a detailed master plan for "Centennial Park" and Fireman's Park. Once established, these master plans will form the basis for developing a capital improvements program.
2. The Village should continue to update and maintain playgrounds and equipment in existing parks in accordance with a playground management plan.
3. The Village should explore the feasibility and cost of providing benches at designated overlooks or rest areas along the Rock River and Johnson Creek corridor. These benches could be "sponsored" by local businesses to offset the costs for purchase, installation and maintenance.
4. The Village and school officials responsible for providing recreational space in Johnson Creek should place a continued emphasis on the provision of areas and facilities that support recreational activities for all ages and abilities, rather than facilities geared only toward team sports or certain age groups.
5. The Village should continue to support volunteer groups and donated materials to greatest extent possible to develop and maintain its park and open space system. Utilization of volunteer labor is generally most successful where a single tangible project is involved, such as tree planting, construction of a facility, or a one-day clean up and beautification project. These types of projects are most suitable for Veteran's Park in downtown Johnson Creek.
6. The Village should continue to participate in regional park and open space planning efforts, particularly when the County updates its *Park and Open Space Plan*.

7. The Village should update its Subdivision Ordinance to clarify the difference between the park fee-in-lieu of land dedication and the park improvement fee.
8. The Village should work with private residential developments to ensure the timely installation of any recreational facilities agreed upon between the developer and the Village.

### **Map 3: Recommended Parks and Open Space**



## IX. ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

This chapter contains detailed capital cost estimates for providing the new park and recreational facilities recommended in this *Plan*. It is intended to assist the Village with the budgeting and planning for future parks and to satisfy §§66.0617 and 236.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes regarding fee collection. However, the adoption of this *Park and Open Space Plan* does not commit the Village of Johnson Creek to collecting these fees through an impact fee ordinance.

The facility and equipment costs presented in this chapter are compiled from previous Village expenditures on similar types of equipment or infrastructure improvements, or are derived by reviewing park and trail facility expenditures from other Wisconsin communities. These base costs represent average expenditures, and may vary depending upon a variety of factors including the type and amount of equipment, how the equipment is obtained and installed, and the amount of labor required for each facility development. Consistent with § 66.0617, Wis. Stats., “*capital costs*” in this report means the costs to construct, expand, or improve public facilities, including the cost of land, and including legal, engineering, and design costs to construct, expand, or improve public facilities. Under this statutory definition, no more than 10 percent of capital costs may consist of legal, engineering, and design costs

### A. DEVELOPING THE VILLAGE TRAIL SYSTEM AND “CENTENNIAL PARK”

Tables 8 and 9 break down costs in 2003 dollars to develop the three miles of recommended Village off-street trail system within the urban service area, and the “Centennial Park” site.

**Table 8: Village Trail Facility Improvement Costs: 2003**

Facility Type	Number of Facilities Required	Estimated Costs
10-foot wide Bituminous Paved Trail Surface (at \$20 a linear foot)	3 Miles of Trail Length	\$320,020
Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (10 percent of the subtotal)		\$32,002
Total Cost		\$352,022



**Table 9: “Centennial Park” Facility Improvement Costs: 2003**

Facility Type	Number of Facilities Required	Estimated Costs
<b>Active Recreation Equipment</b>		
Playground structure	1	\$35,000
Basketball court (unlighted & unfenced)	1	\$12,000
Volleyball court (sand)	1	\$5,000
Tennis court	2	\$30,500
Baseball diamond without lights	1	\$100,000
Baseball diamond with lights	1	\$125,000
<b>Passive Recreation Equipment</b>		
Picnic Tables	8	\$8,000
Benches	8	\$4,000
Grills	5	\$1,500
Open Shelter & Slab	2	\$30,000
<b>Trails</b>		
10-foot wide paved perimeter trail	0.5 mile	\$40,000
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Concession stand/restrooms		\$200,000
30-stall parking lot	1	\$105,000
Electric Service		\$20,000
Subtotal of Capital Costs		\$716,000
Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (10 percent of the subtotal)		\$71,600
Total Cost		\$787,600

Based these two tables, the Village should budget an estimated \$352,022 to develop the three miles of off-street trail segments and \$787,600 to develop “Centennial Park” as recommended in this *Plan*.

## **B. ACQUIRING AND DEVELOPING THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

This *Plan* recommends five neighborhood parks on all sides of the Village that will be easily accessible to the surrounding residential areas. These neighborhood parks should be approximately 3 to 5 acres in size and serve an area within a ¼ to ½ mile radius. It could include facilities such as a playground, ball field, play structure, playfields, picnic area, and other active areas.

The largest capital cost for a neighborhood park is land acquisition. Based on current land sales in the community, it was determined that the market value for parkland is around \$5,000 an acre. Because the neighborhood park sites recommended in this *Plan* assumes a minimum park area of 3 acres, the total land acquisition costs is estimated at \$15,000 for one park site, and \$75,000 for the five recommended park sites.

**Table 10: Neighborhood Park Facility Acquisition and Improvement Costs: 2003**

Facility Type	Number of Facilities Required	Estimated Costs
<b>Active Recreation Equipment</b>		
Playground structure	1	\$20,000
Basketball court (unlighted & unfenced)	1	\$12,000
Playfield	1	\$14,000
<b>Passive Recreation Equipment</b>		
Benches	4	\$2,000
Picnic table	1	\$1,000
<b>Parking Facilities/Infrastructure</b>		
10 car paved parking lot		\$35,000
<b>Land Acquisition</b>		
Purchase cost		\$15,000
Subtotal of Capital Costs		\$99,000
Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (10 percent of the subtotal)		\$9,900
Total Cost (3 acres)		\$108,900

### C. ACQUIRING AND DEVELOPING MINI PARKS

This *Plan* recommends eight mini parks with specialized facilities that serve a concentrated population or specific group such as pre-school and elementary school age children or senior citizens. These parks should be easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood and are developed with playground structures (*as represented in the photo below*).

Table 11 breaks down costs in 2003 dollars to develop the desired range of facilities in each mini park recommended in this *Plan*. Again, these mini park facility and equipment costs are compiled from previous Village expenditures on similar types of equipment or infrastructure improvements, or are derived by reviewing park expenditures from other Wisconsin communities. These base costs represent average expenditures, and may vary depending upon a variety of factors. Based on the data presented in Table 11, the Village should budget \$25,300 to develop each new mini park.



**Table 11: Mini Park Facility Acquisition and Improvement Costs: 2003**

Facility Type	Number of Facilities Required	Estimated Costs
<b>Active Recreation Equipment</b>		
Playground structure	1	\$20,000
<b>Passive Recreation Equipment</b>		
Benches	4	\$2,000
Picnic table	1	\$1,000
Subtotal of Capital Costs		\$23,000
Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (10 percent of the subtotal)		\$2,300
Total Cost for One Mini Park		\$25,300

## D. PARK IMPROVEMENT COSTS AND COST-IN-LIEU OF LAND DEDICATION

Developing the community-wide trail system and “Centennial Park” will meet the needs of current residents in the Village and is not included in any calculations on park development or acquisition fees that could be imposed on future residents.

Acquiring and developing the five neighborhood park sites and eight mini park sites are intended to meet the needs of future residents and these costs could be imposed on future development. According to Table 10 and 11, the Village should plan to spend a minimum of \$671,900 in 2003 dollars for park facility improvements (this total does not include park acquisition costs). As reported in Chapter II of this Plan, an estimated 740 dwelling units will be added to the Village over the next 20 years based on the Village’s projected population. These new households will mean increased demand on the Village’s park and open space system. To meet this demand, the Village would need to collect a park improvement fee of **\$907.97 per dwelling unit**.

According to Table 10, the Village should plan to spend a minimum of \$75,000 to acquire land for the five new neighborhood parks. Assuming the addition of 740 dwelling units, a parkland fee-in-lieu of land dedication of **\$101.35 per dwelling unit** would meet this demand.

The park improvement fee and the parkland fee-in-lieu of land dedication collection should be segregated into separate accounts. *Note that these calculations follow NRP A provision guidelines and continue the historic rates of Village provision. In this manner, the Village is clearly not making up for facility deficiencies.*

## E. COMPARING CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED PARK IMPACT FEES

Table 12 below compares the Village's current park impact fees amount to the recommended park impact fee amount needed to implement this *Park and Open Space Plan*.

**Table 12: Comparison of 2003 and Recommended Park Impact Fees**

	Park Improvement Fee	Parkland Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication	Combined Park Impact Fee
Current (2003) Park Impact Fee	na	\$170.00/d.u.	\$170.00/d.u.
Recommended Park Impact Fee	\$907.97/d.u.	\$101.35/d.u.	\$1,009.32/d.u.

## F. IMPACT ON LOW-INCOME HOUSING

As part of the public facilities needs assessment, Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617(4)(a)(3) requires estimating the effect of imposing park impact fees on the availability of affordable housing within the municipality. For this type of analysis, it is first assumed that housing in the Village of Johnson Creek is affordable if:

- The costs of the monthly mortgage payment consumes no more than 30 percent of a households adjusted gross income;
- That homeowners borrow no more than 2½ times the Village of Johnson Creek's median household income for a home mortgage (which in 1999 was \$45,694 according U.S. Census 2000 data); and
- That homeowners would make a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the total home cost.

Based on these assumptions, if someone is spending 2½ times the Village population's median household income for a home mortgage (\$114,235), and making a 5 percent down payment, then an affordable house in the Village of Johnson Creek costs approximately \$119,946. (According to U.S. Census 2000 data, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in the Village of Johnson Creek is \$122,200). Assuming a typical single-family detached housing price of \$119,946, a 5 percent down payment, a 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 8 percent (which are common in Johnson Creek), and a mortgage amount of \$114,235, the typical monthly mortgage payment is \$838.22.

The Village's imposed fees for parkland acquisition and park improvements would be an integral part of the housing unit mortgage amount. When adding this Plan's recommended park impact fee of \$1,009.32, the monthly mortgage amount for the typical single family detached home would increase to \$115,244. Assuming the same 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 8 percent, the monthly mortgage payment would increase to \$845.62. This increase in monthly mortgage payments due to the imposition of the recommended park impact fee is \$7.40 per month, or less than a 1 percent increase.

*Therefore, using the assumptions for typical single family home in the Village of Johnson Creek, this Park and Open Space Plan finds that the recommended park impact fee will have a minimal effect on the provision of affordable housing in the Village of Johnson Creek.*

## X. IMPLEMENTATION

The recommended improvements to Johnson Creek's park and open space system described in this *Plan* will be phased over time. This phasing will be dictated, in part, by private landowner decisions to develop their property for residential use and by the funding available to the Village to make necessary acquisitions or improvements.

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation. These funding sources are included as Appendix A. The Wisconsin Stewardship Program is the best opportunity to apply for matching grant funds to develop "Centennial Park". The federal Recreational Trails Act program is the best opportunity to apply for matching grant funds to develop the proposed off-street paths and trails throughout the Village. Funds from programs such as the State Stewardship Program and Intergovernmental Surface Transportation Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) are subject to change due to uncertainties with current federal and state budgets. Perhaps most importantly, the park and open space facility improvements recommended in this *Plan* should be incorporated in the Village's regular capital improvement plans and programs.

The Village should also coordinate efforts with other units of government (e.g., Towns of Aztalan, Farmington, Milford and Watertown, Jefferson County), governmental departments and public agencies (e.g., Johnson Creek School District, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and private and non-profit agencies) to help fund and implement the recommendations presented in this *Plan*.

The Village should formally adopt a park impact fee ordinance to acquire and develop the recommended new park and open space facilities. Adopting an official map would also help the Village implement the recommendations of this Plan. The official map allows the Village to identify existing and future parks and trails and ensure that as lands in the community are developed, these facilities are incorporated into the design of subdivisions and site plans.

### Appendix A: Potential Funding Sources for Park and Open Space Facilities

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
<b>Wisconsin Stewardship Programs</b>						
Aids for the acquisition and development of local parks (ADLP)	To acquire or develop public nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>\$4 m available each year.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required.</li> <li>Priority for land acquisition.</li> <li>Projects must comply with ADA.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR	Stefanie Brouwer South Central Region (608) 275-3218
Urban Greenspace Program (UGS)	To acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas, or to protect scenic or ecological features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>\$1.6 m available each year.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required.</li> <li>Projects must comply with ADA.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR	Stefanie Brouwer South Central Region (608) 275-3218
Acquisition of Development Rights	To acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>\$1.6 m available each year.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds are available to acquire development rights (easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial development are in place.</li> <li>May include enhancements of nature-based outdoor recreation.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR	Stefanie Brouwer South Central Region (608) 275-3218
Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)	To acquire lands, or rights in lands, adjacent to urban rivers for the purpose of preserving or restoring them for economic revitalization or nature-based outdoor recreation activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>\$800,000 available each year.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required to participate.</li> <li>Projects must comply with ADA.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR	Stefanie Brouwer South Central Region (608) 275-3218
<b>Federal Programs</b>						
Land and Water Conversation Fund (LAWCON)	To acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>Land acquisition.</li> <li>Development of recreational facilities.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required to participate.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR with TEA-21 funds.	Stefanie Brouwer South Central Region (608) 275-3218
Recreational Trails Act	To provide funds for maintenance, development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of land for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>Maintenance and restoration of existing trails.</li> <li>Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages.</li> <li>Construction of new trails</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan</li> <li>Funds may be used on trails which are referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR with TEA-21 funds.	Stefanie Brouwer South Central Region (608) 275-3218

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead- line	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
		(with certain restrictions on federal lands). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition of easement or property for trails purchase.</li> </ul>				
<b>Statewide Multi-Modal Improvement Program (SMIP)</b>						
Transportation Enhancements Program (TE)	Providing facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. This program includes rehabilitating and operating historic transportation buildings and structures/restoring railway depots, as well as streetscaping “Main Streets” and landscaping near transportation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded through TEA-21.</li> <li>80%/20%.</li> <li>20% required match (funds are not awarded upfront, but are reimbursed).</li> </ul>	February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-construction projects over \$25,000.</li> <li>Construction projects over \$100,000.</li> </ul>	WisDOT	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
Surface Discretionary Grant Program (STP-D)	Provides flexible funds, which can be spent on a wide variety of projects, including roadway projects through the Federal-aid highway system, bridges, transit facilities, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded through TEA-21.</li> <li>80%/20%.</li> <li>20% required match (funds are not awarded upfront, but are reimbursed).</li> </ul>	February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any project that fosters alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips.</li> <li>Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.</li> <li>System-wide bicycle planning.</li> <li>Non-construction projects over \$25,000</li> <li>Construction projects over \$100,000</li> </ul>	WisDOT	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
<b>Federal Transit Administration Grants</b>						
Section 5309 (old Section 3 discretionary funds)	Transit capital projects; includes intermodal facilities such as bicycle racks on buses and bicycle parking at transit stations; most funds are to be directed toward transit itself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% local match per project.</li> </ul>	Early spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for this program is allocated on a discretionary basis.</li> <li>Congress / Administration can pick the projects although the authorization bill contains a list of specific earmarks.</li> </ul>	WisDOT Bureau of Transit.	John Duffe (608) 264-8723
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program	Funds projects which will reduce vehicle trips and miles; reduce emissions due to traffic congestion; or reduce the per mile rate of vehicle emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> </ul>	Early April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited to Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Walworth, and Door Counties</li> </ul>	United States Department of Transportation.	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
<b>Section 402-Highway Safety Funds</b>						

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
Community Programs Empowerment Program Enforcement Program	For bicycle and pedestrian safety education and training projects, including helmet promotion and purchases, sponsorship of rodeos, classes, and development of brochures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% local match per project.</li> <li>Bicycle and pedestrian education and enforcement projects.</li> <li>Non-construction projects (e.g.; helmet purchase, brochure development).</li> </ul>	October to December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communities with higher than average pedestrian and/or bicycle may be contact WisDOT regarding the use of funds</li> <li>Engineering and maintenance work not eligible for funding.</li> </ul>	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
Highway Safety Program (Section 403)	Available for bicycle /pedestrian education. May also be used to develop safety classes for bicycle/pedestrian offenders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20%-50% local match per project.</li> </ul>	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communities that can document bicycle crashes related to motor vehicle violations</li> <li>Funds new enforcement programs up to \$1,000.</li> </ul>	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
Research Projects	Funds the research needed to substantiate unique local needs for additional safety funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% local match per project.</li> </ul>	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A study of transit needs on public lands to assess the feasibility of alternative transportation modes. (Section 3039).</li> </ul>	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
<b>Other Programs</b>						
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program	Comprehensive downtown revitalization program, which includes streetscape improvements.		No specific date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General downtown program.</li> <li>May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping.</li> </ul>	National Main Street Center 202/673-4219	Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Downtown Dev. (608) 266-7531
Surface Transportation-Environment Cooperative Research Program	Federal program designed to evaluate transportation control measures, improve understanding of transportation demand factors, and develop performance indicators that will facilitate the analysis of transportation alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% local match per project.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$500,000 is made available for the development of a national bicycle safety education curriculum.</li> <li>\$500,000 per year is made available for grants to a national not-for-profit organization engaged in promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety to operate a national clearinghouse, develop informational and education programs, and disseminates techniques and strategies for improving bicycle and pedestrian safety.</li> <li>\$200,000 is made available for a study of the safety issues attendant to the transportation of school children to and from</li> </ul>	FHWA	U.S. Department of Transportation 202-366-4000



Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
				school and school-related activities by various transportation modes.		
Urban Forestry Grants	Assistance for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$450,000 to \$500,000 available annually.</li> <li>▪ \$1,000 to \$25,000 grants awarded with a 50% local match.</li> <li>▪ Match may include in-kind services and donations.</li> </ul>	November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 50 to 60 grants made per year.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry	Dick Rideoyt (608) 267-0843
Hazard Elimination Program	Program designed to survey hazardous locations, or projects regarding any publicly owned bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail and safety-related traffic calming measure, as well as improvements to railway-highway crossings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 10% local match per project.</li> </ul>	June 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communities are encouraged to start working with the District Office (District 2) in March, 2003.</li> <li>▪ The project must exemplify that the benefits will outweigh the costs of accidents.</li> </ul>	WisDOT-Bureau of State Highway Programs funded by TEA-21	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800

## Appendix B: Neighborhood Canvassing Results

### Johnson Creek Area Recreational Department Survey

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

If a park and/or recreational area would be available in your neighborhood, as a resident of the Village of Johnson Creek, what type of facilities would you and your family like to be able to have the option to use?

Would you be interested in any of the following? Check all those that apply.

- A. Tot-Lot    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_  
                   If yes, including which components?  
   Jungle Gym    \_\_\_\_\_  
   Sand Boxes    \_\_\_\_\_  
   Swing Set    \_\_\_\_\_  
   Slide    \_\_\_\_\_

- B. Other Park Options: Check all those that apply.

Picnic Area    \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tennis Court    \_\_\_\_\_  
 Volleyball Court    \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soccer Field    \_\_\_\_\_  
 Basketball Court    \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other    \_\_\_\_\_

Number of family members \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children \_\_\_\_\_

Age range:

0-3    \_\_\_\_\_  
 4-6    \_\_\_\_\_  
 7-9    \_\_\_\_\_  
 10-14    \_\_\_\_\_  
 15-up    \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or suggestions welcome:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own or rent your home?    Own \_\_\_\_\_    Rent \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in favor of a village wide network of walking/bicycle paths?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think the village needs softball and little league fields in addition to the baseball diamond at Firemen's Park?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_

Other Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## West Side Survey Results

Number in Family: 286

Number of Children: 101

Tot Lot

Yes: 74

No: 10

Items to include

Jungle Gym: 65

Sandbox: 63

Swing set: 63

Slide: 63

Park Options

Picnic Area: 51

Tennis Courts: 31

Volleyball: 36

Soccer Fields: 27

Basketball Court: 55

Other – Swimming Pool: 1

Monkey Bars: 1

Carousel: 1

Age Groups of family members

Age 0-3: 20

Age 4-6: 13

Age 7-9: 8

Age 10-14: 23

Age 15 – up: 51

Ownership vs. Rental of Home

Own: 80

Rent: 15

Walking and Bike Path

Yes: 85

No: 9

Softball and Little League Fields

Yes: 64

No: 21

Undecided: 3

### Comments:

- Fix and maintain tennis court we already have, also maintain present parks and improve if necessary.
- Repair present tennis court.
- Need softball and little league fields, but not in Firemen's Park.
- New tennis court net needed.
- Start with Veterans Park. Would be happy to help when construction begins. (Ed Meyer 699-2119)
- Want more variety and also there is nothing for 9-10 year olds to do.
- Pavilions for picnics and volleyball with it. Could be used for company or family picnics.
- Keep Firemen's Park.
- Fix the current tennis court.
- New pavilion for gatherings and groups.
- Community center and dugouts.
- Sprinkle parks throughout village, young kids are intimidated by the older kids.
- Need 4-way stop at Watertown and Milwaukee Street.
- Would love to see a summer program.
- Put out a park information brochure.
- Community Center.
- I think these items need to be done, but not at the village expense. It should be done like Watertown did with Riverside Park. The money should be raised privately and volunteers should build it. The village would have to maintain it there after. We pay enough in taxes the way it is.
- Senior Citizen Center
- Keep firemen's park because it is more central than new park.
- In favor of controlled growth
- Projects should be supported by new resident dollars.
- Senior Citizen Center

- Vocational Classes
- A year round swimming pool at the school.
- Tot-lot needed more on east side of town.
- Baseball improvements
- Swimming pools and more restroom facilities. Need more facilities for teenagers such as games with adult supervision.
- Community Center needed for kids and seniors
- Twenty-eight people felt that a Community Center would be a good idea. One person was indifferent.
- Community Center is a good idea; also need a place for teenagers with a pool table, ping-pong and games
- Five people stated that there is a need to repair or replace existing tennis courts
- Playground for kids that are 10-14 is needed
- Senior Center that is accessible
- Two people felt that a tot lot was needed over by Hunters Glen
- Trail in town is nice and our community is small with little traffic so a new trail is not necessary.
- Tot lots will be needed as the village grows
- Bird watering area and a youth/community theater

## North and South Sides of Milwaukee Street

Number in Family: 67

Number of Children: 26

Tot Lot

Yes: 21

No: 0

Items to include

Jungle Gym: 21

Sandbox: 17

Swing set: 18

Slide: 18

Park Options

Picnic Area: 20

Tennis Courts: 8

Volleyball: 13

Soccer Fields: 12

Other – Swimming Pool/ball fields: 2

Archery: 1

Age Groups of family members

Age 0-3: 1

Age 4-6: 4

Age 7-9: 5

Age 10-14: 5

Age 15 & up: 8

Ownership vs. Rental of Home

Own: 23

Rent: 0

Walking and Bike Path

Yes: 22

No: 1

Softball and Little League Fields

Yes: 19

No: 3

### Comments:

- At Firemen's Park remove all buildings and put up new restrooms, concession stands, equipment building and a sheltered area for family gatherings.
- Two little league fields and one baseball diamond at new park with concessions and picnic areas.
- Provide facilities to promote exercise, which is lacking among all age levels.
- Walking/bicycle paths would be wonderful. Don't know how much of a need there is though. Summer Rec. programs and such. Maybe we do need more fields.
- Organized activities for kids in summer. Running Tracks.
- Shelters at parks to get out of the sun or sudden rains.

- Restroom facilities, concession stand, soda machines at new family parks.
- I have a copy of your survey and will be circulating it on North Watertown St. I think you have a few things missing from your survey.

Naming the current parks and showing where they are via a map or description.

Telling what each park is currently used and what is available at each site

I have a plan for the parks that I don't think have been considered. I hope you will allow me a voice.

Currently we have only 2 east-west streets through the Village. There will be a large number of houses built on the west end of the Village and the current roads will not be able to handle the traffic. I know there is a road that is supposed to go from Hwy B to the new subdivisions but that will only accommodate traffic coming east on B—not traffic trying to go west through the Village from Hwy I 94 or Hwy 26.

Therefore, we need another east-west road. River Road, Lincoln St., and Milwaukee Street will not be able to handle the traffic. (This issue was a large bone of contention a few years ago and a Village President lost an election due to his look to the future. Swish Wischowski, may he rest in peace, thought the idea was appropriate.) Please read below.

So, much to the chagrin of many of the residents of Johnson Creek, I would like Hartwig Dr. to continue from Watertown St. through the Fireman's Park to Union Street and meet up with Midge. That way traffic will move to the West side of the Village without overloading the inadequate Watertown and Lincoln Streets.

When restructuring Fireman's Park, I would like to see the softball diamond kept in place, the current buildings torn down, the tennis courts moved to the area on the corner of the new Hartwig and Union St. I would like to see restrooms/ picnic building somewhere in the area between Fireman's and Pioneer Park. Where the tennis courts are currently located, soccer field(s) can be installed. (In most communities I have seen soccer on leveled grass land with temporary goals.) Currently Pioneer Park is useless because it has no restrooms or water, my plan would provide this. The tractor pull track can remain and a parking area can be created somewhere in the park. In Pioneer Park I would like to see some playground equipment, maybe something similar to the smaller unit at the Elementary School. At the south end of the park on Ashland Street I would like to see 4 lots developed and sold for either Habitat homes or another self help type program. When the street is constructed, I would like to see sidewalks on each side as this is now mandated by Village ordinance. (What happened to the shelter at Pioneer Park?)

In Veteran's Park I would like to see the removal of the "Fire Truck" and the addition of climbing equipment. This could be larger than the small structure at the Elem. School but not as large as the big structure. The current small slides and swings can remain. The basketball court, the most active place in our parks, must remain and possibly be expanded.

Out in Hunter's Glen I would like to see a youth diamond and a play area. This might include a small structure such as the one at the Elementary School. Restrooms are a must along with an area for concessions. An open picnic shelter could enhance the park. (Check out the new one at Riverside Park in Watertown.)

At our new park I would like to see a lighted hardball diamond, bleachers, dug outs, etc. If deemed necessary, an additional diamond for youth or softball could be built. Soccer and basketball courts would enhance the park. Restrooms with a picnic shelter and a small playground would be nice.

I would like to see Fireman's Park/Pioneer Park remain our main gathering park for the loud and raucous events. I would like to see Veteran's Park to include programming of the quieter nature such as concerts, lectures, and ice cream socials.

The beginning of a walking path in Chapel Hill is wonderful. Your plan should provide the continuation of this throughout the Village. The current ground cover might be difficult for the path to be used as a bike path.

A rec. coordinator should be part of any plan and remembering young, middle and old as programming is important.

Long range planning should include a pool and skate board park.

- An east/west corridor is needed to alleviate the traffic problem on Watertown Street.
- Soccer fields are needed.
- Our parks need improvement; the parks we have need much attention now before we begin any new projects.
- Skating rinks and wading pools.
- Ice Skating.
- We need a wider variety of summer sports for the children.
- Water fountains
- It would be nice to have other doings at firemen's park.
- If the children had a nice place to play it may keep them off the street.

## Highway B Results

Number in Family: 43

Number of Children: 15

Tot Lot

Yes: 9

No: 3

Items to include

Jungle Gym: 8

Sandbox: 8

Swing set: 7

Slide: 7

Park Options

Picnic Area: 8

Tennis Courts: 2

Volleyball: 3

Soccer Fields: 2

Other – Swimming Pool: 2

Age Groups of family members

Age 0-3: 8

Age 4-6: 3

Age 7-9: 2

Age 10-14: 1

Age 15-up: 1

Ownership vs. Rental of Home

Own: 12

Rent: 0

Walking and Bike Path

Yes: 11

No: 1

Softball and Little League Fields

Yes: 10

No: 2

### Comments:

- Should have many smaller neighborhood green spaces dedicated so that families with small children can easily access without driving or crossing busy streets. For example: new subdivision to east of state highway 26.
- Number one priority should be sidewalks.
- Kiddy wading pool.
- An all around nice park.
- Public pool like in Watertown.

