

# City of Monona

## Park & Open Space Plan

-----

### DRAFT As of 3-1-10



**Prepared By:**

**Angie Tackaberry, City Planning Intern**  
**Kaili Tews, Park & Recreation Intern**  
**Jacob Anderson, Park & Recreation Director**  
**Paul Kachelmeier, City Planner**

# MONONA

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

---

**City Council**

Robb Kahl, Mayor  
Dennis Kugle, Alderman  
Doug Wood, Alderman  
Kathy Thomas, Alderman/Council President  
James Busse, Alderman  
Michael Vesperat, Alderman,  
Jeffery Wiswell, Sr., Alderman

**Park and Recreation Board**

Jeffery Wiswell, Sr., Chairman  
Dennis Kugle, Co-Chairman  
Mark Modaff, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Jacob Anderson, Parks & Recreation Director  
Jessica Ace, Citizen Member  
Greg Anderson, Citizen Member  
Dan Coyne, Citizen Member  
Pat Howell, Citizen Member  
Pam Kitslaar, Citizen Member  
Karen Turino, Citizen Member  
Lisa jo VonAllmen, Citizen Member

**Plan Commission**

Kathy Thomas, Chairperson  
James Busse, Co-Chairperson  
Paul Kachelmeier, Planning/Community Development Coordinator  
Sharon Devenish, Citizen Member  
Griffin Dorschel, Citizen Member  
Brian Grady, Citizen Member  
Chris Homburg, Citizen Member  
Jane Kuzma, Citizen Member  
Moni Rohr, Citizen Member

**Prepared By**

Angie Tackaberry, City Planner Intern  
Kaili Tews, Parks & Recreation Intern  
Jacob Anderson, Parks & Recreation Director  
Paul Kachelmeier, Planning/Community Development Coordinator

# --- DRAFT ---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

---

<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>I. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>II. PLANNING PROCESS.....</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>IV. COMMUNITY AND PARK INVENTORY</b>	
Population Demographics, Trends and Forecasts.....	<b>Page 8</b>
Park Classification System.....	<b>Page 16</b>
Individual Park Descriptions.....	<b>Page 17</b>
Trail System.....	<b>Page 37</b>
<b>V. PARK AND FACILITY STANDARDS</b>	
Acreage Standards.....	<b>Page 38</b>
Activity/Facility Standards.....	<b>Page 39</b>
State Needs Assessment by Area.....	<b>Page 40</b>
Public Input.....	<b>Page 41</b>
<b>VI. FUNDING/IMPLEMENTATION</b>	
Local Funding Sources.....	<b>Page 42</b>
State and Federal Funding Sources.....	<b>Page 42</b>
Regulatory Strategies.....	<b>Page 43</b>
<b>VII. APPENDIX</b>	

# --- DRAFT ---

## I. INTRODUCTION:



The City of Monona has within its boundaries many natural land features, such as four miles of Monona Lake shoreline, a portion of the Yahara River, woodlands and wetlands. Through implementation of the City's Park and Open Space Plan, the community has worked to best utilize these features through its public park system. The Park and Open Space Plan for the City of Monona is an expression of the community's goals and objectives, current and future needs, and demands for recreational facilities. The intent of this document is to plan for the improvement and maintenance of Monona's recreational and open space resources by outlining a strategy to manage existing resources wisely, and to develop new resources to meet future needs and demands.

Parks can serve a limited neighborhood area, a portion of the City, or the entire community or region and provide area and facilities for outdoor recreation for residents and visitors. Open space can take the form of parks, greenbelts, wetlands, and floodplains. Open space can also serve many functions for a community other than recreation, such as the following:

- Preservation of scenic, cultural and natural resources
- Flood management
- Protecting the area's water resources
- Buffering incompatible land uses

A well designed parks and facilities plan should incorporate private as well as public open space areas in the community. The development and continual updating of a Parks Plan, such as this, becomes a valuable asset to a community and contributes to its stability and attractiveness.

### **Purpose of Plan**

The specific purpose of this Plan is to guide the development and improvement of the City's outdoor recreation facilities over the next five years in order to meet the recreational needs and demands of the local residents. It also provides a tool for evaluating progress being made within the City's park system. It is not the intent of the plan, however, to restrict the use of parks in any way.

Policy decisions recommended by the City's Park and Recreation Board, Plan Commission, and City Council for park programs and improvements shall be guided by the goals and objectives, findings, and recommendations of this adopted Plan.

# --- DRAFT ---

Actual public policy decisions or choices are contingent on funding sources, new opportunities and ideas, changing growth patterns, budget priorities, and changing community needs and desires. For this reason, the Plan should be reviewed annually and a detailed update should be completed every five years. Updating the Plan every five years is also a requirement of the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for a community such as Monona to stay eligible for matching governmental funds for parkland acquisition and facility improvements. But just as importantly, the City of Monona needs to continue to set a course of action for improvement of its parks and outdoor recreation system.

**--- DRAFT ---**

**II. PLANNING PROCESS:**

---

## II. GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

Monona's Park and Open Space Plan will serve as a vital element of Monona's Master Plan. It must, therefore, support the overall objectives for community development, growth and services. The following goals and objectives are presented to help guide decision making to reflect community values.

Goals are general statements of desirable ends while objectives are measurable statements of desirably ends. Objectives are usually specific but at all times they are in harmony with stated goals. As a community's desire and needs change, so too must its goals and objectives. Goals and objectives should be continuously refined and revised.

### **Goal 1: To provide adequate recreational opportunities of varied kinds for the residents of Monona now and in the future.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. The City's parks should be made available to everyone by creating programs and activities for all people.
2. The City's parks should be made available to individuals with disabilities. All new facilities should be accessible and improvements should be made to existing facilities to make them as accessible as possible.
3. The city should identify public access to surface waters for lake recreation.
4. The City should identify public and private facilities that can be jointly used to help meet the community needs.
5. The City should work to construct new bicycle routes and continue to improve existing bicycle routes in order to create safe and attractive travel and recreation options for all Monona citizens.

### **Goal 2: To provide the natural, cultural and scenic resources of the City for the enjoyment of present residents and future generations.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. The City should preserve environmental corridors, scenic views, natural land and areas of ecological significance.
2. The City should preserve cultural, anthropological and historical sites.
3. The City should integrate, at the policy level, recreation components with other planning considerations such as land use and conservation.

# --- DRAFT ---

4. The City should encourage conservation practices that improve the quality of the land and water.
5. The City should preserve primary wetlands in their natural state and conserve soils, water and forest resources.
6. The City should encourage the proper handling of wastes and chemicals, so that they have a minimal effect on ground and surface waters.
7. The City should encourage uses of land and other natural resources which are in accordance with their character and adaptability.
8. The City should protect the beauty and amenities of landscape and man-made development.

## **Goal 3: To provide safe, updated, well-maintained park area for all residents within a reasonable distance from their homes.**

### **Objectives:**

1. Current City park facilities should be improved and updated yearly using the Park Plan recommendations as a guideline for future planning.
2. Equipment and facilities should be maintained to meet or exceed safety standards prescribed by appropriate regulatory agencies.
3. The City should optimize intergovernmental sharing of facilities and other resources by identifying facilities which can be jointly used to help meet community needs.
4. The City should take pro-active steps to ensure that provisions for additional parks are included in all future developments.
5. Potential alternative funding sources for expansion and improvement of the City's park system should be explored and utilized whenever possible.
6. City officials should encourage local service organizations and interest groups to assist in defraying the costs associated with improving and maintaining the beauty and operations of the parks.

### III. COMMUNITY AND PARK INVENTORY:

#### Population and Demographic Trends and Forecasts

##### 1. Population Totals and Projections

The 2000 population in Monona, according to the Census Bureau was 8,018. The 2005 Census projection was 7,821. Monona is currently in a period of slight population decline. The population of Monona grew substantially during the 1960s, but since then, the population has been decreasing. Wide population fluctuations have leveled off, since the 1980s. Population totals are outlined in Table A, while percentage of change is listed in Table B.

<b>TABLE A: Population 1960-2020</b> <i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau &amp; Demographics Services Center, Wisconsin Department of Administration, March, 2004</i>							
<b>Census 1960</b>	<b>Census 1970</b>	<b>Census 1980</b>	<b>Census 1990</b>	<b>Census 2000</b>	<b>Projection 2010</b>	<b>Projection 2015</b>	<b>Projection 2020</b>
8,178	10,420	8,809	8,637	8,018	7,553	7,269	7,030

<b>TABLE B: Population Change, 1960-2020</b> <i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau &amp; Demographics Services Center, Wisconsin Department of Administration, March, 2004</i>					
<b>1960 - 1970</b>	<b>1970 - 1980</b>	<b>1980 - 1990</b>	<b>1990 - 2000</b>	<b>2000 - 2010</b>	<b>2010 - 2020</b>
27.42%	-15.46%	-1.95%	-7.17%	-5.80%	-6.92%

# --- DRAFT ---

**TABLE II: Change in Housing Units – City of Monona 1960-2000**

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau & Demographics Services Center*

Housing Units	Total
1960 (U.S. Census)	2,256
1970 (U.S. Census)	3,363
1980 (U.S. Census)	3,751
1990 (U.S. Census)	3,822
2000 (U.S. Census)	3,922

From COMP PLAN:

The steady decline in Monona’s population can be attributed to a number of factors, including the following:

- an increase in the elderly population,
- the growth of empty nester households,
- a trend towards smaller household sizes, and
- the lack of available land for new housing development

One-hundred-seventy-nine (179) units (apartments and condominiums) have been proposed (in 2003) to be constructed approximately before 2008. These new housing units could affect population projections (as calculated by the DOA’s Demographics Service Center) and potentially increase Monona’s population.

Actual development trends in the City of Monona do not necessarily support this continued population decline. The increase of 74 housing units (where is this from?) since 1980 shows an interest in the housing market in Monona. Unless household size continues to decline at its recent rate, housing growth in the City should result in population growth.

Although the boundaries of the City of Monona cannot be expected to grow through annexation, there are opportunities for housing development in undeveloped areas within the City. There are opportunities for housing development in areas along East and West Broadway, and densities are increasing along Monona Drive in the north end of the City where high density apartments and condominiums are replacing single family homes.

## **Population by Age**

The State of Wisconsin Department of Administration computes Population Projections by Age for counties in the State, but not by small places or municipalities. The fastest growing age group in most parts of the country is the elderly. This trend is occurring in Dane County as well. Table IV shows the change in number of persons age 55 and older projected for Dane County from 1990 to the year 2020 and the percentage of the total population of the County that they represent.

# --- DRAFT ---

<b>Table IV</b>							
<b>Population Projections by Age</b>							
<b>(Those 55 and Over Residing in Dane County)</b>							
<b>2005-2035</b>							
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2035</b>
Number	86,765	106,952	127,559	147,691	164,015	176,674	188,213
% Change	25.4%	23.3%	19.3%	15.8%	11.1%	7.7%	6.5%
% of Total County Population	18.9%	21.8%	24.4%	26.4%	27.7%	28.3%	28.8%

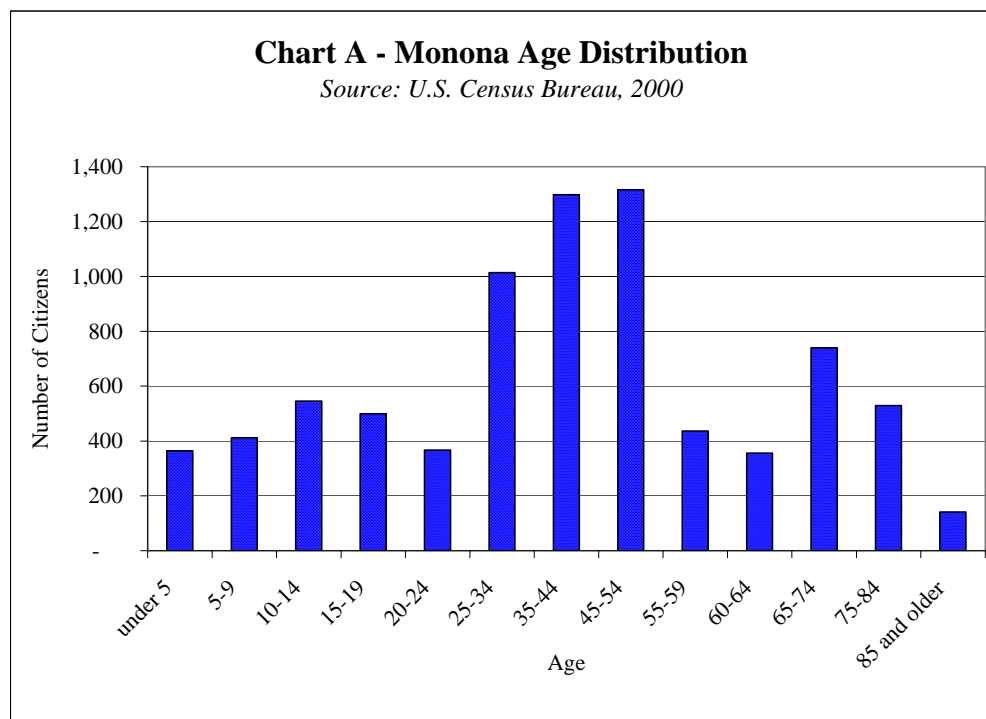
*Source: State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration  
Demographic Services Center, 2009.*

## **2. Age Distribution**

General trends can be seen in Monona’s population by age category. Chart A depicts age demographics for Monona. Forty-five percent of Monona’s population is between the ages of 25 and 54. Approximately 27 percent of the total City population, or 2,202 residents of Monona, are 55 or older.

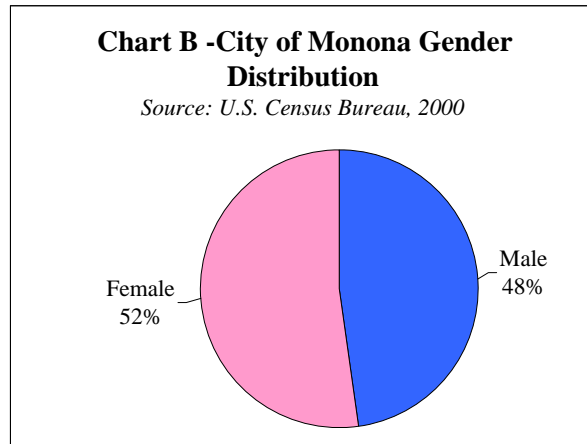
When looking at the next twenty-years, there will be a drastic increase in the number of 55+ citizens, meaning that the population will potentially be more stable and that there may be a large turnover of residences to young families.

The City of Monona has the second highest proportion of seniors in its population of any community in Dane County. The percent of people who are 55+ is 27% and is substantially higher than the average in Dane County of 17%. In addition, the percent of people age 65 and older in Monona is 18%, much higher than the average in Dane County’s of 9%.



**3. Gender Distribution**

In looking at Monona’s population by gender, Chart B shows that gender in Monona is distributed relatively equally. Approximately 3,825 residents are male and 4,193 are female.



**4. Racial Distribution**

According to the 2000 Census, the majority of Monona’s residents are of a white racial heritage. Hispanic or Latino is Monona’s second largest racial group, comprising 3.2% of the population. Black or African Americans make up Monona’s third largest racial group with 2.3% of the population. See Table C for a complete listing of the racial heritages of Monona’s residents.

**TABLE C: Racial Distribution**  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

	Number	Percent
One Race	7900	98.5%
White	7513	93.7%
[Hispanic or Latino]	[256]	[3.2%]
Black or African American	185	2.3%
American Indian & Alaska Native	27	0.3%
Asian	67	0.8%
Native Hawaiian	3	0.1%
Some Other Race	105	1.3%
Two or More Races	118	1.5%

**D. Household Characteristics and Forecasts**

Census 2000 figures indicated slight changes in Monona’s household characteristics for 1990. Some of the changes include:

- A 5% decrease in the number of family households,
- A slight decrease (2.4%) in the number of 65+ residents living alone, and
- A slight decrease in the average household size.

<b>TABLE D: Household Characteristics</b>				
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000</i>				
	<b>1990</b>		<b>2000</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total Households	3743	-	3768	-
Family Households	2290	61.18%	2053	54.49%
Non Family Households	1453	38.82%	1715	45.51%
Individuals Living Alone	1200	-	1393	-
Older than 65 yrs	476	39.67%	519	37.26%
Average Household Size	2.3	-	2.12	-

(See Appendix H for the U.S. Census Bureau’s definition of “household” and “family household.”)

**1. Housing Tenure**

The majority of Monona residents own their homes (60.9%), compared to these renting housing units (39.1%), according to the 2000 Census. The average household house hold size of owner-occupied units is 2.37, while the average size of renter-occupied units is 1.71.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, housing in Monona in 2000 had a 3.9% vacancy rate. Out of the 3,922 total housing units in the city, 154 units were unoccupied. The U.S. Census Bureau calculated that the 2000 homeowner vacancy rate was 1.3%, while the rental vacancy rate was 3.0%.

**2. Household Mobility**

The majority of Monona’s residents (58.8%) remained in the same house from 1995 to 2000. However, 28.6% of Monona’s residents, surveyed in the 2000 Census, had moved to Monona from somewhere within Dane County during this 5-year period. Five-point-nine percent of Monona’s residents (in 2000) moved to Monona from somewhere within Wisconsin (other than Dane County). A similar percentage of Monona residents, 5.7%, surveyed in Census 2000, moved to Monona from a different state. One percent of Monona’s 2000 population moved to the city from another country.

# --- DRAFT ---

<b>TABLE E: Household Mobility</b> <i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000</i>		
<b>Residence in 1995</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Same house	4,520	58.80%
Different House		
in Dane County	2,200	28.60%
in Wisconsin (excluding Dane Co.)	457	5.90%
in Different State (excluding WI)	435	5.70%
in Different Country	79	1.00%
Total Population 5 years & over	7,691	100.00%

### **3. Household Forecasts**

Forecasts from the Dane County Regional Planning Commission indicate that between 1995 and 2020 Dane County's population will increase by about 100,000 for a total of over 488,000 persons. Dwelling units will increase by over 40,000 dwellings, totaling 212,000 dwelling.

Monona's population, on the other hand, is expected to decline, approximately 5.80% percent from 2000 to 2010, and based on that projection the following observations and projections may be made:

- 12.6% of Monona's residents (2000 Census) are between the ages of 25 and 34 years old. In addition, 16.2% of Monona's residents are between the ages of 35 and 44 years old. In general, both of these groups (for a total of 28.8% of Monona's population) will be expanding their current household and family sizes.
- The other largest age group is those aged 45 to 54 years; this group composes 16.4% of Monona's total population. Over the next 20-years, children from these residents will potentially be moving away from Monona's homes, thus reducing the average household size.
- Following these segments of Monona's population are the 75 to 84 years group and 85 years and over group. Together, these groups compose 8.4% of Monona's population. This group currently presents the largest demand for smaller condominium homes and assisted living facilities.
- Over the next 20 years, the 65 to 74 years group representing 9.2% of the population (736 individuals) may also be interested in leaving their larger, single-family residences for smaller condominium homes and assisting living facilities.

(See the Housing Element for further details and analysis of Monona's households.)

### **Overall Issues and Opportunities**

The City of Monona has identified issues and opportunities that will help to guide growth and change in the city for the next 20 year period. These issues and opportunities are identified by their appropriate comprehensive planning Element.

#### **A. Housing**

- Monona has a diverse housing stock, including single family homes, apartments and condominiums.

# --- DRAFT ---

- There is a high amount of investment in existing homes from the remodeling and construction of additions, a trend that will continue.
- The proportion of seniors in Monona is significantly higher than that of Madison or Dane County; 27% of Monona's residents are age 55 and older, compared to 16% in Madison, and 17% in Dane County. This high proportion creates a strong market for senior housing.
- There is no vacant land remaining in the City of Monona for the development of subdivisions.

## **B. Transportation**

- Monona reconstructed Broadway in the 1990s and is currently focusing on the reconstruction of Monona Drive which will begin around 2008.
- With its location in a regional transportation system, Monona residents have easy access to destinations in the City of Madison and Dane County, though the effective network of streets, bus routes, and bike routes.
- Monona has an extensive transportation network, for which sufficient financial resources must be allocated to maintain and rebuild of the city's infrastructure.

## **C. Utilities, Community Facilities and Services**

- The City of Monona has numerous public facilities and an extensive network of utilities, which provide its residents a wide variety of services.
- High quality utilities, facilities, and services are important to Monona residents and businesses; continued investment in the maintenance and improvement of these services and infrastructure will be necessary to continue to meet these needs.

## **D. Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources**

- Monona has many natural resources including Lake Monona, the Yahara River, woodlands, and wetlands, and has adopted a variety of plans and policies to preserve these resources.
- The City of Monona has developed an extensive park system, as well as programs to serve the recreational needs of residents.
- Occasional competing demands of natural resource preservation and economic development must be balanced.

## **E. Economic Development**

- There is very little vacant land remaining in the city and the city cannot easily grow through annexation; therefore the City of Monona has focused its economic development strategies on infill and redevelopment, while encouraging business retention, expansion, and attraction.
- New Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) State Legislation passed in 2004 offers opportunities for the greater use of TIF financing for economic development.
- A new City of Monona Economic Development Committee (EDC) is preparing a strategic plan for economic development and increased coordination between the City Council, Plan Commission, Community Development Authority, Economic Development Committee, and the Chamber of Commerce.

## **F. Land Use**

- The City of Monona lacks substantial raw land for commercial and residential development because it is unlikely to expand its boundaries through annexation.
- It is important for the City to find creative ways to achieve continued growth in its commercial tax base.
- Trends indicate that the demand for commercial and residential development in the City is strong.

# --- DRAFT ---

- Community needs and market trends need to be considered and balanced, when determining land uses for areas of development and redevelopment.
- Design standards for buildings will help guide Monona's future development and redevelopment.

# --- DRAFT ---

## Park Classification System

The following classification system is intended to serve as a guide to planning. Services offered by parks, in terms of range of uses, convenience of location, user needs, and the park's physical environmental limitations, should be of primary concern in the selection and placement of recreational facilities, not park size. The determination of real community needs and future actions addressing those needs must also take into consideration the use of existing school facilities and open spaces not within the park system.

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Characteristics
Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than ¼-mile radius	Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse developments, or housing for the elderly.
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading, pools, etc.	¼ to ½-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood)	Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population-geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school-park facility.
Community Park	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be and area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2-mile radius.	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhoods served.
Area Park	Area for recreational pursuits of all types. Serves as a neighborhood park for surrounding homes, as a city park for more structured events offered to the community as a whole and as a central location for area festivals and events.	2 ½ to 3-mile radius. Serves non-residents as well as residents.	Area suitable for several simultaneous large-group activities or lake access for a large number of boats. May include natural features such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development, easily accessible to the community.
Open Space/Conservancy Areas	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.	No applicable standard.	Variable, depending on the resource being protected.

Source: NRPA's Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines

# --- DRAFT ---

## Acreege Breakdown

### Non-Recreational Green Space

Indian Mounds	.20 A
Interlake (LA)	.75
Paunack	?

### Neighborhood Parks

Birch Haven (LA)	.18 A
Bridge Road	1.80 A
Garden Circle	.10 A
Graham (LA)	.40 A
Fireman's	?
Lake Edge (LA)	.60 A
Maywood	5.40 A
Tecumseh (LA)	.18 A
Three Meadows	1.83 A
Waterman	1.60 A
Wylldhaven	.26 A

### Community Parks

Arrowhead	.55 A
Frostwoods	2.4 A
Frostwoods Beach (LA)	.81 A
Schluter Beach (LA)	1.8 A
Stone Bridge (LA)	.60 A
Tonyawatha (LA)	.68 A

### Area Parks

Ahuska	21.58 A
Lottes	3.30 A
Oneida	3.68 A
Winnequah	44.30 A

### Open Space

Aldo Leopold Nature Center	20.16 A
Monona Wetland Conservancy (LA)	220.0 A
Monona Woodland Park	17.52 A
Edna Taylor Conservation	56.0 A

Note: All parks with the (LA) notation provide public access to Lake Monona or the Yahara River.

# --- DRAFT ---

## EXISTING RECREATIONAL AND OPEN SPACE IN THE MONONA AREA

### City of Monona Properties

Non-Recreational Green Space	.95 A
Neighborhood Parks	12.35 A
City Parks	6.35 A
Area Parks	90.38 A
Open Space	220.0 A

### Private and Public Facilities

Monona Grade Schools	7.5 A
Adjacent Madison Grade School	2.0 A
Monona Grove High School	22.0 A
La Follette High School	15.0 A

### Specialized Recreation Areas Outside of Monona

Monona Grove Golf Course and Dean House	120.0 A
Edna Taylor Conservancy Park	30.0 A
Olbrich Park	45.0 A
9 Springs E-Way	2,800 A

# --- DRAFT ---

## Individual Park Descriptions

### Ahuska Park

One of Monona's newest parks, Ahuska Park is located between East Broadway and the Beltline, directly south of Roselawn Cemetery. This 22-acre park is designated as an area park due to its large size and easy access to Monona Drive and the Beltline. The park is primarily flat and open, and is well shielded from the highway by the addition of berms and landscaping. Entrance to the park is off East Broadway, into a large landscaped and lighted 150-stall parking lot. Ahuska Park is home to the Monona Farmer's Market, which meets Sundays May through October.

Ahuska Park contains two finished, full-size soccer fields, one of them lit for night games. It also features a lighted baseball diamond, eight lighted tennis courts, a small playground for young children, a sand volleyball court, and a large shelter with bathrooms that can be rented.

Ahuska Park serves as the City's athletic complex and is home to Monona Home Talent Baseball Team, Monona Grove Freshman and JV Baseball Teams, MG High School Soccer Teams, MG Youth Soccer, MG Youth Football, MG JV Tennis, Adult USTA Leagues, and numerous parks and recreation programs.

It also includes a Dane County Veteran's Memorial that was donated by Hometown USA Veterans Memorial Project, Inc and installed in 2006.



#### Park Inventory:

2 soccer/football fields

1 lighted baseball diamond

8 lighted tennis courts

150-stall parking lot

1 large shelter w/ restrooms

Sand volleyball court

1 small playground

Veteran's Memorial

#### Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- Improvements to the baseball dugouts (2008)
- Numerous tree and shrub plantings (2005-2009)
- Dane County Veteran's Memorial Installation (2005)
- Re-grading of soccer/football field #1 (2006)
- Installation of 3 tennis courts (2005)
- Installation of 2 field goals on soccer/football field #1 for football (2009)

# --- DRAFT ---

## Recommendations:

Ahuska Park is an extremely important park for athletic and community events. Every effort should be made to maintain the athletic facilities and make improvements for pedestrian access to those facilities.

- Fence around soccer/football field #1 (2010)
- Rubber mulch for playground equipment (2010)
- Ball diamond groomer (2011)
- Tennis court resurfacing (2011)
- Crushed rock walking path from northwest side of park around soccer field and baseball field to northeast side of park (2012)
- Utility shed for maintenance equipment (2012)
- Baseball field drainage repairs (2012)
- Pedestrian walking paths from park shelter to soccer fields, baseball diamond, playground equipment, and Veteran's Memorial (2013)
- Tennis court windscreens (2014)
- Additional parking lot on east side of park between the baseball diamond and Veteran's Memorial (2014)
- Shelter Improvements (Concrete repairs, Concession Rooms Improvements, Lighting, Signage)

## Aldo Leopold Nature Center

The Aldo Leopold Nature Center Monona Campus is located at 300 Femrite Drive, Monona, on a 47 acre conservation park. This land is leased by the City to Aldo Leopold Nature Center and borders Woodland Park. The City should work cooperatively with Aldo Leopold for inclusionary outdoor environmental programs and seek input on maintaining Woodland Park.

## Arrowhead Park

This park, approximately .55 acres in size, is located at the intersection of Vogts Lane and Tonyawatha Trail. Ingress/egress is directly from the street. No on-site parking is available. The site is predominantly flat with a few low spots, and provides a good open focal point in the neighborhood. Several mature trees canopy portions of the park. Current uses include informal field games, picnics and playground use.



### Park Inventory:

1 ball field and backstop  
3 picnic tables  
1 climber

2 swing sets (6 swings)  
1 sand digger  
1 multi-use play structure with 2 slides

# --- DRAFT ---

1 basketball hoop and blacktop surface

1 permanent bench

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- Removal of playground equipment that did not meet CPSC guidelines
- Repaving of basketball court surface

## Recommendations:

- Park signage and landscaping (2012)
- Tree Plantings (2013)
- New playground equipment and protective fall zone surfacing (2014)
- Pedestrian Access Path from Street to playground (2014)

## Birch Haven Park

This park, approximately .2 acres in size, is located along the southern portion of Birch Haven Circle. The topography is flat with no major screening or trees present. Permanent seating and picnic tables are provided at this park. During the winter months, this park serves as an access point onto the lake for ice fishermen. No off-street parking is available.

## Park Inventory:

1 permanent bench

1 picnic table

1 swing set

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

None

## Recommendations:

- Berming of landscape on lake to help with flooding (2010)
- Swing Repair or Replacement (2010)
- Park signage and landscaping (2012)
- Rain Garden/Sustainable neighborhood garden (2013)
- Pedestrian Access Path from Street to swing (2014)

## Bridge Road Park

This park, approximately 1.8 acres in size, is located in the 6200 block of Bridge Road and is adjacent to City Well House No. 2. The park is completely fenced, and is the only fenced neighborhood playground within the City. Ingress/egress to the park is through the service entry off Bridge Road and through two path entrances located on the east and west ends, respectively. The site is predominantly open and flat. Adjacent neighborhood yards help soften this park edge. Current uses for this park are open field activities, basketball, playground use and passive activities.

# --- DRAFT ---



## Park Inventory:

1 basketball hoop and blacktop court	2 permanent benches
5 picnic tables	1 trash receptacle
1 sand box	1 climber
1 multi-use play structure with 3 slides	1 swing set (4 swings)
3 steps/kids toy	1 spring animal

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- Loose fill rubber mulch – 2009

## Recommendations:

Bridge Road Park is accessible for Bridge Road and Midland Lane.

## Community Garden or Edible Garden Site (2012)

- Park Sign & Landscaping (2012)
- Pedestrian Access Path from Street to playground and to Midland Lane (2014)

## Edna Taylor Conservation Park

A glacial drumlin rising above a broad ribbon of marsh forms the backbone of this 56 acre Madison Park. On-going projects are oak savannah and wetland restorations. Nearby Glendale School and Aldo Leopold Nature Center use the park extensively for environmental education. City of Madison Park.

## Park Inventory:

- |                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| • 1.3 miles of trails   | 1 parking lot |
| • Native American mound | boardwalk     |

## Frost Woods Beach

Frost Woods Beach, approximately .8 acres in size, is located in the 5800 block of Winnequah Road. Ingress/egress to the beach is made through an on-site ten to twelve car parking lot. From the parking lot to the beach the topography is a continuous wooded slope, with a small area of open space providing a good transitional quality to the beach. Shrubs, contributing to the woodland character border the park. The beach provides diverse views out onto the bay and lake. Current uses include picnicking, shallow water play, fishing and small open space activities. In the winter the park serves as an access point for ice fishing on Squaw Bay.

# --- DRAFT ---



## Park Inventory:

1 picnic table  
1 canoe/kayak rack

1 trash receptacle  
1 portable toilet (4 months)

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- Canoe/Kayak rack installation

## Recommendations:

Frost Woods Beach is a beautiful spot to watch the sunset, launch a canoe/kayak or enter Lake Monona for Ice Fishing in the winter. Every effort should be made to clean up the beach area and work with the DNR on how to maintenance standards and water runoff in an effort to make the area clean enough for swimming. The access path from the parking lot down to the beach needs to be modified to a step system to reduce wash out of the gravel rock. There still needs to be a way for utility vehicles to enter the lower part of the park for tree trimming.

- Improved maintenance of beach (2010-2014)
- Pedestrian Access Path from parking lot to beach (2012)
- Park Lot resurfacing (2013)
- Benches along pedestrian path (2) (2014)

## Frost Woods Park

This park is approximately 2.4 acres in size, and is located on the north side of the 500 block of Frost Woods Road. Ingress/egress is allowed along the entire length of Frost Woods Road. The site is bound on the north, east and west by residential lots with very good, diverse buffer plantings. The site slopes gradually to the west. A softball diamond with backstop, basketball court, and playground area are the major recreational facilities located in the park. The park is heavily used in the summer months for youth baseball and pick-up basketball games. A small storage shed located in the southwest corner of the park is used by all three activities. The outstanding feature of this park is the size of the open space and flexibility of space for open field activities. Parking is somewhat a problem with parking limited to adjacent streets.



## Park Inventory:

1 softball diamond w/backstop and bleachers      1 basketball court w/

# --- DRAFT ---

two hoops

1 large slide

1 swing set (4 swings)

2 spring animals

1 storage shed

1 drinking fountain

1 climber

1 multi-use play structure

3 picnic tables

4 red players' benches

1 portable toilet (6 months)

Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- Baseball Field Repairs (2009)

## **Recommendations:**

This park has the only baseball diamond for Boys in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Games are played virtually every night from the end of May through the end of July. A plan should be developed for the improvement of the baseball field to include regrading of the outfield, installation of a fence, improved storage facility, and upgraded playground equipment. The Woods next to the park could be expanded with an interpretive walking trail explaining the different kinds of trees in the woods and how the land was donated to the city.

- Playground rubber fall zone protection (2011)
- Storage Shelter (2012)
- Park Sign & Landscaping (2012)
- Baseball field grading improvements (2013)
- New drinking fountain and screening for portable toilets (2013)
- Baseball field fencing (2014)
- Playground Equipment (2014)

## **Graham Park**

This park, approximately .4 acres in size, is located west of the intersections of Graham Avenue and Winnequah Road. The site is flat, primarily open, and nicely screened from adjacent residential lots. Several willows shade the shoreline. Views of Squaw Bay, wetlands, and Lake Monona can be seen from the shore. Permanent seating is available. Current uses include fishing and passive park use.

Park Inventory:

1 permanent bench

Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

None

## **Recommendations:**

This is another lakefront park that is a great place to watch boaters, do a bit of fishing or enjoy a great sunset. This could be another park that could use landscaping upgrades, perhaps much of the park could become low level native grasses/flowers with a pedestrian path meanders through the park to a viewing area of the lake with benches

- Pedestrian Access Path from parking lot to beach (2012)
- Park Sign & Landscaping (2012)
- Park Benches along path (2) (2013)



# --- DRAFT ---

- Native grass/planting (2014)

## **Indian Mounds Park**

This park, approximately .2 acres in size, is located at the intersections of Midwood Avenue and Ridgewood Avenue. This area is considered a specialized recreational area. The park is the location of an Indian burial mound believed to have been built around 1,500 years ago by the Hopewell Indians. This mound was unintentionally cut into during street construction in 1948 and skeletons were uncovered. These skeletons were noted at the time by the State Historical Society to be one of the most important archaeological discoveries ever made in southern Wisconsin. A State of Wisconsin historical marker was placed at this site in 1998, inscribed with the following:

### *The Outlet Mound*

*The largest of nineteen conical, oval and linear mounds once located in this vicinity, the Outlet Mound was built by Woodland Indians about 2,000 years ago. Constructed as a burial place, the mound was saved from destruction by the Wisconsin Archaeological Society and local citizens in 1944 and donated to the City of Monona.*

Park Inventory:

Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

None

### **Recommendations:**

- Park Signage and Landscaping (2012)

## **Interlake Park**

This triangular shaped park, approximately .5 acres in size, is located between West Broadway on Interlake Drive. A smaller .25 acre piece of the park is located 1,000 feet east. The site is flat sloping up on the north to meet West Broadway. Presently the park provides an open space area with views of the Yahara River widespread. No vegetation screen currently exists.

Park Inventory:

Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

None

### **Recommendations:**

- Park Signage and Landscaping (2012)

## **Lottes Park**

This park, approximately 3.3 acres in size, is located between the Yahara River widespread and West Broadway. Ingress/egress to the site is a dirt driveway off West Broadway. The topography is a gradual incline toward the water, with some mounding and low spots present. Currently both densely wooded and grassy areas are found in the park. Adjacent to the eastern border is a man-made inlet and mobile home park. Interlake Drive and several residential areas border the west.



# --- DRAFT ---

## Park Inventory:

1 picnic table	1 boat landing
1 boat launch kiosk	1 fishing pier
1 permanent bench	1 Canoe/Kayak Rack

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- Removal of several Cottonwood Trees

## Recommendations:

Lottes continues to be a popular park for boaters to launch from. There are always vehicles parked in this lot during the fishing season. Efforts should be made to balance the need for parking and green space at this park. A parking lot master plan is included in the appendix. There are also potential Indian artifacts in the front part of the park creating an access issue with the adjacent neighbor. Any potential sale of the adjacent property must be closely examined so that Lottes Park and the enjoyment of the park by visitors are not disturbed.

- Asphalt Parking Lot with parking configuration (2012)
- Restrooms (2012)
- Park Signage and Landscaping (2012)
- Pedestrian Access Path from parking lot to fishing pier (2012)
- Enhanced concrete ramp (2013)

## Maywood Park

This park, approximately 5.4 acres in size, is located on Winnequah Road adjacent to Maywood School. Ingress/egress is from Winnequah Road through an on-site, ten-stall parking lot. The park topography is predominantly flat. A Drainage swale and a bermed bituminous basketball court provide some topographical relief in the park. Canopied by a mature stand of cottonwoods, Maywood Park evokes a woods-like quality. Current uses include picnicking, playground activities, basketball, nature trail, and informal space.

## Park Inventory:

1 basketball court w/two hoops	1 additional blacktop area
1 Multi-purpose Playground	1 glider bench
3 picnic tables	1 turtle
1 swing set (4 swings)	1 sandbox

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- Playground Equipment (2007)
- Removal of Cottonwood Trees (2004-2006)

## Recommendations:

Maywood Park has seen an increase in the amount of visitors since new playground equipment was installed in 2007. Many Cottonwood trees have also been removed from this park since 2004 due to failure of branches. This park is a beautiful mature park that borders Maywood School. Upgrades to this park should include a pedestrian walking path that would link Maywood School to Winnequah Road to the park access path on Maywood Road. An effort should be made to clear invasive brush from the west side of the park. The large swing set on the north side of the park should be moved closer to the existing playground and receive rubber fall zone protection. Consider working with the Monona Grove School

# --- DRAFT ---

District on installing a sledding hill that would start at Maywood School and end in Maywood Park. Restrooms and a gazebo would compliment this park nicely.

- Park Signage and Landscaping (2010)
- Pedestrian Access Path from parking lot to playground (2011)
- Pedestrian Walking Path linking Maywood School to Maywood Road Access Path and Playground (2012)
- Gazebo/Restrooms/Sledding Hill (2014)

## **Monona Wetland Conservancy**

Kaukauna-Gisholt Machine Company gifted a large 200-acre wetland area, extending from West Broadway to the City limits and east to the widespread area of the Yahara River, to the City of Monona in the early 1970's. A management plan was created in 1990 for the conservancy. Long range plans include a trail system that will link up with the Capitol City Trail and the Dane County and State Rural Bike System, and the establishment of walking, hiking and cross-country ski trails.

Park Inventory:

1 park sign

Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

None

## **Recommendations:**

None

## **Oneida Park**

Oneida Park, approximately 3.7 acres in size, is located at the corner of Neponset Trail and Tecumseh Avenue. Ingress/egress into the park is made through an on-site, five stall parking lot. The site topography is generally flat with some low spots. The southern portion of the park is predominantly canopied with mature cottonwoods. The central and northern portions of the park are open space. Aesthetically, the park provides large shaded open space areas within the neighborhood where playground, shelter house, water fountain and restroom facilities are available.



# --- DRAFT ---

## Park Inventory:

8 picnic tables	1 shelter
1 drinking fountain	1 storage building w/restrooms
1 sand volleyball court	1 multi-use play structure
1 swing set (4 swings)	

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- New Playground Equipment (2009)

## Recommendations:

Oneida Park has serious flooding issues that must be addressed so the whole park can be utilized by the public. New playground was installed in 2009 on the south side of the park. A master plan should be conducted at this park with input from experts in flood mitigation and park planning. This park should include access paths from the shelter to the playground to the street.

- Park Master Plan (2012)
- Pedestrian Access Path from parking lot to playground (2012)
- Park Shelter/Restrooms (2014)

## Schluter Beach

Schluter Beach, approximately 1.8 acres in size, is located on the north side of the 4500 block of Winnequah Road. Ingress/egress to the site is made through a 35 stall, pull-off parking lot located along the southern side of the park. The topography is flat with a few irregularities. Approximately two-thirds of the surface is turf, and the remainder is a sandy beach area running from the lake back around several pieces of play apparatus. A paved path runs from the parking lot to and around the bathhouse. A small gazebo, grills, and picnic tables provide an enjoyable picnicking area. This park provides a comfortable space with a mature canopy of trees, water, grass and a lake view. Current activities include swimming, picnicking, sunbathing, playground use, and small open space activities.



## Park Inventory:

6 picnic tables	1 gazebo
1 drinking fountain	1 bathhouse w/restrooms
4 grills	2 permanent benches
2 swing sets (4 swings)	
Playground Equipment	
1 accessible fishing pier	

# --- DRAFT ---

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- Parking Lot Resurfacing
- Landscaping Improvements

## Recommendations:

Schluter Beach is one of our most attractive parks situated on the lakefront. Attention needs to be placed on the maintenance of the beach. Playground Equipment should be replaced in the next 5 – 6 years.

- Pedestrian Access Path from parking lot to playground (2012)
- Park Signage and Landscaping (2012)
- Park Shelter/Restrooms (2014)

## Stone Bridge Park

This park, approximately .6 acres in size, is located just west of the intersection of Winnequah Road and Parkway. Ingress/egress to the site is from Winnequah Road. The topography is rolling in nature with a storm sewer ditch bisecting the park. Several mature ashes and willows provide a good tree canopy. A permanent bench and lighting is provided at this park. Currently the Monona Sailing Club uses a portion of the shoreline, having constructed dock facilities and a hoist mechanism for their members. About 20 boats currently use this facility during the summer. There is also a historical Pagoda situated in the park.

## Park Inventory:

1 pier  
1 light

1 permanent bench  
1 pagoda

Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:  
None



## Recommendations:

This park is another lakefront park that is used by bikers, walkers, and members of the Sailing Club. A natural spring has occurred at the Pagoda. A complete landscaping plan for this park is needed to showcase the pagoda. Earthwork should be done so the Pagoda can be viewed from the road. A pedestrian access path from the street to the shoreline would enhance the beauty of this park

- Park Signage and Landscaping (2012)
- Pagoda restoration/landscaping plan (2013)
- Pedestrian Access Path from street to shoreline (2012)

## Tecumseh Park

This park, approximately .2 acres in size, is located at the southern tip of Belle Isle. Presently, the park serves a neighborhood open space providing a pleasant view of Lake Monona. A lift station was installed in 2009

# --- DRAFT ---

## Park Inventory:

1 bench

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

None

## Recommendations:

- Park Signage and Landscaping (2012)
- Pedestrian Access Path from street to shoreline (2012)
- Park Bench (2) (2012)



## Three Meadows Park

A park master plan was developed and adopted for Three Meadows Park in 1995. The park is located in the newest subdivision of Monona, called Oak Park. The park is divided into two separate neighborhood areas, the east and west, each serving a different purpose. The parks are divided by a small wetland. A trail was constructed in 2000 to connect the parks through the wetland, with a bridge.

The East Meadow area is designed to provide a play space for neighborhood families. Ingress/egress is off of Copsps Avenue, with parking available on the street. A gravel path leads from the road to the play area, which is surrounded on two sides by woods and by houses on one side.

The West Meadow area provides a passive park setting for the neighborhood. The park is a grassy triangle shape, bordered by the street, neighborhood homes and a wetland. The park is primarily flat and grassy, with few trees. A gravel path leads from the street to a gazebo and picnic area.

## Park Inventory:

3 permanent benches

1 set of swings (4 swings)  
structure

1 spring toy car

1 swinging bench

4 picnic tables

1 multi-use play

1 gazebo



## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

None

## Recommendations:

Park Signage and Landscaping (2012)

Playground Upgrades (border timbers, loose fill rubber fall zone protection) (2012)

Park Bench (2) (2012)

Pedestrian Access Path from one side of park to other (2014)

## Tonyawatha Park

This park, approximately .7 acres in size, is located on the 4600 block of Tonyawatha Trail and serves principally as an access point for boating and fishing. Two launching ramps are provided with one short pier for temporary tie-ups. Some informal open space activities, picnicking, and wayside uses also occur. During the winter the park serves as an access to the lake for ice fishing. Excellent lake and shoreline views are provided. Both picnic tables and permanent park benches are located in Tonyawatha Park.

# --- DRAFT ---



## Park Inventory:

2 picnic tables  
1 pier

1 permanent bench  
1 boat launch kiosk

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- Floating Pier (2009)

## Recommendations:

- Upgrade to boat launch area (2012)

## Waterman Way Park

Waterman Way Park, approximately 1.6 acres in size, is located at the corner of Winnequah Road and Waterman Way across the street from Schluter Beach Park. The topography is generally flat with a berm area in the northwest portion. A scattered row of trees line the edge of the park adjacent to Waterman Way. A major underground storm sewer system extends from south to north to Schluter Beach. Currently unstructured open field games occur in this park.



## Park Inventory:

Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:  
None

## Recommendations:

While the Parks & Recreation Department does not recommend a dog park in Monona, if there was one park that could potential facility a small dog exercise area, this park would be the most suitable in Monona. If there was to be a dog exercise area, it would need a fence and an annual permit to keep with turf maintenance. Another option could be a community garden or community edible garden where various fruit trees could be planted.

- Park Signage and Landscaping (2010)

# --- DRAFT ---

## Winnequah Park

This park, approximately 44.3 acres in size, is located almost in the geographic center of the City. Winnequah Park is separated into 3 distinct sections. The three sections of the park offer most of the community scaled recreation facilities, including two reservable picnic shelters, various playground apparatus, six ball diamonds, three soccer fields, three tennis courts, a variety of other recreational opportunities, and the Monona Community Center and Monona Community Pool. A separate Master Plan has been developed for this park and can be found in the appendix.

## **Fireman's Park Area** Fireman's Park Shelter, Barry Johnson Baseball Field and Monona Memorial Arboretum



This park is located in the northern-most corner of Winnequah Park, at the corner of Winnequah Road and Progressive Avenue. Fireman's Park contains an open-air shelter house that can be rented for picnics or other events, a children's playground, restrooms, a baseball diamond, a sand volleyball court, and a parking lot. This park is used by the Monona Grove Soccer Club for Youth Soccer and the Monona Grove High School for Boys Freshman Baseball.

This part of Winnequah Park is more wooded than the rest of the park. Ingress/egress is through a parking lot on the northwest side of the park. The playground is in between the Monona Memorial Arboretum (located south of the playground) and the baseball field, which is to the northeast of the play area.

### Park Inventory:

1 shelter house with restrooms	1 storage/restroom building
20 picnic tables	1 permanent bench
2 grills	1 flag pole
2 basketball hoops on parking lot	1 sand volleyball court
1 baseball diamond w/backstop and bleachers	1 multi-use play structure
4 player benches	1 climber
1 swing set (4 swings)	1 drinking fountain
1 permanent bench	1 mini seesaw
1 score board	1 sandbox

### Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

None

### Recommendations:

# --- DRAFT ---

Fireman's Park would receive some major changes based on the recommended Winnequah Park Master Plan (See Appendix). Removal of the Barry Johnson Baseball Field and Softball Field #1 would be replaced by a full size 120 x 75 yard multi-purpose field and provide fencing and lights for the Kaiser & Gunderson Softball diamonds. A pedestrian walking path would also connect Fireman's Park to Winnequah Park and Greenway Road. Removal of the Sand Volleyball Court would also lead to a more natural area on the west side of the park area that includes the Monona Memorial Arboretum that would include a crushed rock walking path with memorial benches and shade loving plants. The pedestrian walking path would link up the asphalt path that currently exists by the Winnequah School parking lot and Monona Community Pool and also provide a network of paths through the park.

- Replace bathrooms (2010)
- Parking lot/access road resurfacing (2011)
- Removal of Barry Johnson Baseball Field (2012)
- Park sign and landscaping (2012)
- Monona Memorial Arboretum native grasses/plants (2013)
- Re-grading for multi-purpose field(2013)
- Playground upgrades including timber borders, loose fill surfacing for swings (2013)
- Pedestrian walking path connecting park shelter to playground equipment to Greenway Road and Nichols Road (2014)

## **Pool Area Kiddie Park, Tennis Courts, Pool and Skate Park**

This area of the park, located in the central section, is heavily used. It is divided from Dream Park Shelter area by Nichols Road. The Kiddie Park is a large, open playground with equipment scheduled to be replaced in 2010. A lagoon separates it from the tennis courts and pool area. The lighted tennis courts are heavily used during the summer. The pool complex is extremely popular and busy during the summer months. A skateboard park was built in 2006 with recent upgrades in 2008.

### **Park Inventory:**

1 large multi-use play structure	4 picnic tables
1 swing set (4 swings)	1 skateboard park
2 tennis courts with lights	1 pool complex

### **Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:**

- Installation of Skate Park (2006 & 2008)

### **Recommendations:**

The pool area is a popular destination spot for many visitors during the summer. It is the crown jewel of the city and must be maintained that way. An upgrade to the pool area that would attract more patrons would be the addition of a splash park. A splash park next to the outdoor pool that could be managed and operating with the pool fence would be ideal. Since removing one of the tennis courts to install a skate park, the current location of the tennis courts is less than ideal for tennis lessons, match and recreational play. New tennis courts would be installed next to the Dream Park Shelter at Winnequah Park and serve as an ice skating rink in the winter.

- Replace playground equipment (2010)
- Park sign and landscaping (2012)
- Removal of Tennis Courts (2013)
- Installation of Splash Park in place of tennis courts (2013)

# --- DRAFT ---

- Skate park upgrades (2014)

## Pool:

- Water slide repair and painting (2010)
- Shower room floor resurfacing (2010)
- Locker room plumbing upgrades (2010)
- Circulation pump repair (2011)
- Shade umbrella and awnings (2011-12)
- Deck furniture (2012)
- Front entrance sign landscaping (2012)
- Lane Line Replacement (2012)
- Accessibility lift (2012)
- Commercial sand filter replacement (2012)
- Parking lot resurfacing (2013)
- Sound system (2013)
- Solar powered lights (2013)
- Splash Park addition (2014)

## Dream Park Shelter Area

On the south side of Nichols Road is the second section of Winnequah Park, which is a hub of activity all year round. From soccer and softball games to the Fourth of July Community Festival, from fishing in the lagoon to ice-skating during the winter months, there's something for everyone here.

The centerpiece is the "Monona Youth Dream Park," a children's playground built through a community effort in 1997. The central area of the Dream Park resembles a large castle with turrets, walls and bridges, a painted moat at the entrance and a dragon sculpture rising from it.

A new park shelter was built in 2007 it remains the most popular shelter to rent in the summer months. It is also the home of many parks and recreation programs.



## Park Inventory:

1 shelter house w/restrooms

Over 24 picnic tables

2 park benches

1 sand volleyball court

2 softball diamonds w/backstops & bleachers

1 drinking fountain

multi-purpose fields

Dream Park

1 lighted skating area

# --- DRAFT ---

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

- Dream Park Shelter House (2007)
- Baseball Diamond Improvements (2009)
- Numerous Tree Plantings (2005-2009)

## Recommendations:

- Access path from parking lot to shelter (2010)
- Park signs (2) and landscaping (2010)
- Dream Park maintenance (2010)
- Pedestrian bridges over lagoon (2010)
- Shoreline restoration of lagoon (2011)
- Pedestrian walking paths (2012)
- Rubber playground surfacing (2012)
- Canoe/Kayak rack and launch at Healy Lane entrance (2012)
- Lighted Tennis Court/Ice Rink (2013)
- Re-grading of soccer field (2013)
- Native Grass Prairie west of lagoon (2014)
- Restroom/Concession stand for youth baseball (2014)

## **Schaefer Shelter**      Schaefer Shelter, Adult Softball Fields

This section of Winnequah Park is primarily flat and open space. There are three softball diamonds and a large open-air shelter with picnic tables. In addition, there is a concession facility with restrooms. The Monona Softball Association uses the softball fields and shelter for league play May – August. The Monona Grove School District also uses this area for physical education classes at Winnequah School.

## Park Inventory:

3 softball diamonds w/bleachers	1 concession/restroom facility
1 open-air shelter	8 picnic tables
2 additional sets of bleachers	1 drinking fountain

## Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

None

## Recommendations:

- Install lights for Gunderson Field (2012)
- Install lights for Kaiser Field (2013)
- Re-grade softball diamonds (2013)
- Remove softball diamond #1 (2013)

## **Woodland Park**

Late in 1995 the City of Monona purchased the property formerly owned by the Sand County Foundation located at 300 Femrite Drive. This 46.63-acre parcel has been divided into a number of different uses. Seventeen acres have been designed as public parkland and named the Monona Woodland Park, while 20 acres are currently leased to Aldo Leopold Nature center.

# --- DRAFT ---

The Monona Woodland Park is a heavily wooded and hilly area with three trails of different lengths running through it. The Indian Mounds are one of the most striking features of the park, and are visible from the trails. The park is used primarily for walking and hiking in the warmer months, and snowshoeing in the winter. Monona Woodland Park is the only large forested areas located within the City.



Park Inventory:  
Trails and trail signs

Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:

### Recommendations:

- Invasive Treatment of entire park (2010)
- Native Grasses planting (2011)
- Oak Tree Planting (2012)
- Continuation of Management Plan (2010-2014)
- Parking Lot off Monona Dr for 15 vehicles (2012)

### Wyldhaven Park

This park, approximately .25 acres in size, is located at the intersection of Tonyawatha Trail and Wyldhaven Avenue. This site slopes subtly toward the lake before dropping off at the beach, where stairs are provided for easier access. Excellent views of Lake Monona and the Madison Isthmus are provided from the permanent seating within the park. Currently the park is used as a pedestrian wayside, passive beach, and fishing area. In the winter months Wyldhaven Park is used by ice fisherman as an access to the lake.

Park Inventory:  
1 picnic table  
1 dock/pier

1 bench

Improvements in Last Five (5) Years:  
None

### Recommendations:

Wyldhaven has beautiful views of Lake Monona and an accessible pedestrian path with benches would add to this lakefront park. Landscaping will be improved with new park signage.

- Park Signage and Landscaping (2012)
- Park Bench (2) (2012)

# --- DRAFT ---

- Pedestrian Access Path from street to shoreline (2014)

# --- DRAFT ---

## **Trail System**

Both on-street bicycle routes and hiking trails exist in Monona that connect with adjacent City of Madison bike routes and hiking trails. The opportunity and potential for other bike routes, both on and off-road and pedestrian trails exists in the City of Monona. These routes and trails could provide recreation networks for bicycling, walking, hiking, and even cross-country skiing. This plan recognizes the need to identify bicycle and pedestrian trail systems in Monona and the need to coordinate their planning and implementation with the City of Madison, Dane County and the State of Wisconsin.

## **Bicycle Trails**

The existing on-street bikeway system in Monona is part of the Lake Monona Loop that runs through the Isthmus and connects with the City of Madison bike route system. This route is very popular with local bicyclists. A revision to this bike route rerouted this bikeway off a five-block section of Monona Drive and through a residential area in Madison before connecting back to the lake route, with all crossings of Monona Drive at traffic signals. Some problems have been experienced with cyclists continuing to use the former more dangerous sidewalk path route and crossing Monona Drive, a major commercial artery, at places where there are no traffic lights. Signage to help educate and inform cyclists of this route change and the best and safest routes through Monona has been developed, using the Dane County bicycle grant program to assist in funding.

A City of Monona Scenic Bike Route was established in 1998 that connects with the existing Lake Monona Loop and gives bicyclists the opportunity to cycle past popular City parks and landmarks.

The State and Dane County Parks Department are developing connecting routes to provide linkages for the new State off-street Capital City Trail that connects the Military Ridge and Glacial Drumlin Trails through Dane County. A link to Monona could provide trail connections for this cross-state trail using streets with or without bike lanes, off-road paved bikeways, and off-road gravel or unpaved bike trails. Bike lanes that have been added to West and East Broadway with the reconstruction of the street provide a connection across the Beltline at South Towne Drive to the Capital City Trail, just south of the Beltline near the MMSD Plant. This bike route could potentially connect to the east end of the Capital City Trail from Broadway north to Edna Taylor Parkway, and through the Edna Taylor Conservancy.

## **Walking Trails**

Hiking trails have been mapped and signed in Monona Woodland Park, purchased by the City of Monona in 1995. These connect with the adjacent Aldo Leopold Nature Center trails to the east and the City of Madison Edna Taylor Conservancy further to the east to provide a large network of wooded and prairie trails on the east side of Monona and Madison.

## IV. PARK AND FACILITY STANDARDS:

This section uses a variety of methods to assess Monona's need and demands for additional park area, facilities, and programs. Needs and demands were determined by comparing standards for park space, service area, and major facilities to the City's current park area, service area, and major facility inventory. Recommendations for recreation activities for the Monona area were taken from the DNR's State-Wide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan's list of recreation need priorities for South Central Wisconsin. Public input in many forms from the Monona community was also used to identify more specific park facilities, improvements and programs needed and desired.

### Acreage Standards

The most common standard to measure the adequacy of a community's park system is to determine the number of people it serves or has the capacity to serve. This is determined by assigning an acreage requirement for each type of park for each 1,000 population in the community.

For purposes of this study, the standard of twelve acres per thousand population is used as a basis for evaluating the City's park system. The twelve-acre standard is equal to the minimum standard recommendation by the Dane County Regional Planning Commission. This acreage should be distributed through the community so that residential area, age groups, and activity needs are served in the best manner possible.

Service capabilities of parks are best described in terms of their particular service areas. The general service area radius for neighborhood parks and playgrounds is considered to be one-fourth mile and that of community classified parks to be one-half mile. Reference Maps B and C (see pages \_\_\_\_\_) show the relative service areas of Monona's developed parks and show the effectiveness in meeting demands for neighborhood and community facilities by definition.

Acreage standards should only be considered as a guide in the community's decision making. Many other factors need consideration in evaluation existing and future park facilities.

# --- DRAFT ---

## Activity/Facility Standards

Provided in the following table is recommended standards for facilities and activities in the Monona park system. Consideration of existing public and private school facilities should be taken into account when judging Monona's park system sufficiently based on these standards.

<u>Activity/Facility</u>	<u>Recommended Standards</u>
Baseball/Softball	One (1) baseball field per 5,000 population with a service radius of one-quarter to one-half mile. One (1) lighted softball diamond per 5,000 population or one (1) unlighted softball diamond per 2,500 population. May be part of neighborhood complex, lighted fields part of community complex.  One (1) youth field per 2,000 population with a service radius of one-quarter mile
Basketball	One (1) hard surfaced 50 foot by 84 foot court per 5,000 population, one (1) 30 foot by 25 foot minimum hard surface court per 2,000 population, the recommended orientation is along a north-south axis.
Cooking Grills	A minimum of one (1) cooking grill for parks and one-half acre or less. A minimum of two (2) cooking grills for parks over one-half acre.
Ice Hockey	One (1) outdoor hockey rink per 5,000 population, minimum 85 feet by 185 feet. Orientation would be along the north-south axis.
Ice Skating	One (1) rink per 5,000 population, suggested square footage approximately 4,000 square feet. This could vary depending on site and conditions.
Playground	Each park where physically possible and desirable to the neighborhood should possess at least a minimum amount of playground equipment.
Major Shelter	To be located in community or area parks with off-street parking, where such a shelter would be deemed to have a positive impact on those parks without undue impact on adjacent neighborhoods.
Minor Shelter	To be located in neighborhood, community or area parks where such a shelter would be deemed to have a positive impact on those parks without undue impact on adjacent neighborhoods.
Soccer	One (1) play area per 2,000 population. Field sizes include: 120 X 210 (2), 165 X 270 (2), 210 X 330 (1). Orientation should be on a north-south axis, if possible.
Swimming Beach	Beach area should have 50 square feet of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be a 3:1 ratio of supporting land to beach.
Tables and Seating	A minimum of two (2) tables for parks in one-half acre or less. A minimum of three (3) tables for parks greater than one-half acre, one (1) permanent seating bench for each lakeside park.
Tennis	One (1) court per 2,000 population orientation along a north-south axis.
Volleyball	One (1) court per 3,000 population minimum size is 30 feet by 60 feet with six foot clearance on all sides. Orientation is along a north-south axis.

# --- DRAFT ---

## State Needs Assessment by Area

The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) has identified high, medium, and low priority recreation needs by area throughout the State. The priorities listed in the table below are based on data gathered from a statewide survey. They refer to the needs (those activities lacking sufficient facilities) of the Madison area which includes the four counties of Dane, Jefferson, Green, and Rock. These needs pertain primarily to state, county, and regional parks and may or may not coincide with Monona's local park and open space needs and priorities. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources does, however, refer to the listed priorities when making allocation decisions for Federal, State, and local funds.

### **SCORP Needs Priorities**

#### High Priority

- Fairs, festival and amusement parks
- Play equipment
- Non-specific outdoor enjoyment
- Fishing
- Hiking/Backpacking
- Boat access
- Walking/jogging
- Historical sites

#### Medium Priority

- Picnicking
- Golfing
- Baseball/softball diamonds
- Horseback riding
- Outdoor concerts/theaters
- Pleasure driving
- Hunting land
- Zoos
- Tennis
- Downhill skiing
- Ice skating
- Boat tours
- Spectator Sports
- Camping

#### Low Priority

- Trail use
- Windsurfing
- Water skiing
- Nature activities

# --- DRAFT ---

## Public Input

The City of Monona has attempted to identify and determine the public's needs and demands for outdoor recreational facilities, improvements and programs. A variety of sources have been surveyed and public participation has been encouraged. The following sources have contributed to the identification of needed and desired park facility and program improvements:

- Park and Recreation Board Members
- Plan Commission Members
- Parks Operation and Maintenance Staff
- The general public through a citywide survey about various aspects of Monona, including parks and natural resources, conducted in 2010.
- Recommendations of the 2001 Park & Open Space Plan

The Monona Park & Recreation Board is made up of two City Council members, the Park & Recreation Director, the Public Works Director, and seven Monona residents. They have solicited information from City Staff and the general public and identified needed improvements for the City's park system.

This input, along with information on standards for park space, service area and major facilities, and DNR recommendations for high priority recreation needs were used by City Staff and the Park and Recreation Board to determine park facility and program needs and wants for the next five years for the City.

In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department conducted a survey in February of 2010, which was sent via e-mail to households in Monona, via a link on the City website, and links on the Park and Recreation Department's Facebook page. Approximately 204 responses were received on detailed questions such as parks, facilities, open spaces and natural resource issues within the City. Natural resources and in particular the park system of Monona, consistently ranked very high in terms of importance to the City and current levels of public satisfaction. Many people wrote detailed comments about their likes and dislikes of the park system, and the direction they would like to see the parks grow in the future. This information, in conjunction with the previously mentioned other sources of information, will help determine the shape of the park system for the next five years.

Public responses to the 2010 Parks & Open Space Survey can be found in Appendix B.

## V. FUNDING/IMPLEMENTATION:

### **Local Funding Sources**

Local sources of funding for Monona park improvements include the City Park and Swimming Pool budgets, City long term borrowing to finance capital improvements, the use of user fees for certain programs and activities, and donations from organizations and individuals.

To help facilitate the private contribution of funds for Monona's parks and recreational programming, the Park and Recreation Board has created the Monona Park and Recreation Gift Fund and Catalog. The Gift Fund Catalog provides a list of items identified by the Board as enhancements which would complement City sponsored facilities and programming.

### **Statewide and Federal Funding Sources**

#### **The Stewardship Program**

The Stewardship Program, created by the 1989 Wisconsin Legislature, provides for a ten year, \$250 million fund to enhance Wisconsin's outdoor recreational resources. The Stewardship Program is funded through general obligation borrowing and provides funding for a variety of purposes, including trails, habitat restoration, property development, local park aids, urban green space, general land acquisition, natural areas, and stream bank protection.

#### **Land and Water Conservation Fund Act Program (LAWCON)**

LAWCON provides financial assistance to state agencies, counties, villages, towns, school districts, cities, and Indian tribes for the acquisition and the development of public recreation areas and facilities. In Wisconsin, the LAWCON program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Wisconsin's LAWCON program allocates 40 percent of available funds to local governments, 40 percent to state agencies, and 20 percent to a contingency fund for use by local governments and state agencies. The contingency fund allocation is reserved by the Department for projects meeting high priority, unforeseen or emergency needs. The LAWCON program provides up to 50 percent reimbursement grants for approved state and local projects.

#### **Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)**

ADLP provides up to 50 percent matching grants to towns, villages, cities, counties or Indian tribes to acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas. A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required to participate. Funds are apportioned on a Department district allocation system, with 70 percent of the funds distributed on the basis of each county's proportionate share of the state population and 30 percent distributed equally to each county. Qualified non-profit conservation organizations may also be eligible for land acquisition grants through the ADLP program.

#### **Urban Green Space Program (UGS)**

# --- DRAFT ---

UGA provides 50 percent matching grants to cities, villages, towns, counties, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts and qualified non-profit organizations for the acquisition of land. The intent of the program is to provide natural space within or near urban areas, protect scenic or ecological features, and to provide land for non-commercial gardening.

## **Regulatory Strategies**

### **Natural Resource Zoning**

Natural resources zoning may be used to protect standards, wetlands, flood plains, woodlands, agricultural lands, groundwater recharge areas, and recreation lands. In turn, desirable privately or publicly owned open space is provided. These districts are usually more applicable in sparsely developed areas where the natural resources are still abundant but can also be used in highly developed areas to ensure that ultimate use will revert back to that particular natural resource.

The State of Wisconsin Statutes (Section 59.97) and Administrative Code (NR117) require shore land-wetland and floodplain zoning by all cities and villages. Cities and villages are responsible for zoning in incorporated areas. The purpose of these regulations is to protect the shoreline, floodplain, and adjacent wetlands of navigable waters from undesirable use and development.

Environmental areas within the City of Monona have been established as Environmental Corridors by the city and the Dane County Regional Planning Commission. Environmental Corridors in the Central Urban Service Area is a map proposed by the Dane County Regional Planning Commission which outlines the areas in Monona that are within the Environmental Corridors.

The Monona wetlands are in the southern part of the City and have been zoned Conservancy. This wetland area, approximately 200 acres, is one of the largest conservation districts on the fringe of the Madison urban area.

Monona's Conservancy District was established to preserve in a natural open state certain areas, including wetlands and other areas of aesthetic and ecological value, which because of their unique physical features are desirable and functional as drainage ways, water retention areas, natural habitats for plant and animal life or protected open space. Development in the Conservancy District is limited in character, although certain agricultural, public and recreational uses are permitted when controlled by specific regulations. It is also intended that public highways and parkways will be permitted if they are designed to minimize damage and to provide the public with a view of the conservancy area, and to relieve safety and traffic congestion problems along existing highways.

One of the planning and management activities for this wetland conservation area is to ensure its preservation through the establishment of protective covenants on the deed.

### **Easements**

Open space and public recreation use of private land may be acquired by easement. With an easement, certain rights are granted to the public for a specified period of time and the private owner is compensated for that public use. In purchasing an easement, the public body acquired a right either to use the land in a specific manner or to restrict the use to which an owner has for his land. For example, the rights to establish public hiking and bicycling trails or fishing access to a waterway may be purchased through easement. When the preservation of woodlands, wetlands, or other natural resources is desired, a

# --- DRAFT ---

conservation easement may be purchased. Scenic easements may be used to limit development along a highway and preserve the adjacent landscapes.

## **Leases**

Leases are similar to easements. Leases may be applied as methods to use or protect land until more permanent measures for preservation can be found. By leasing parcels of land, the land remains on the community's tax rolls and can be used for public recreation and open space.

Another leasing method involves outright purchase of land by the City and the City leasing it to a private party or organization with use restrictions placed on the land. Under this method, the City receives some monetary return on its investment and retains control over the use of the land.

## **Subdivision and Zoning Regulation**

The City of Monona has adopted a regulation requiring dedications of land for parkland as part of its Subdivision and Platting Ordinance. This section, General Park and Public Land Dedication Requirements, requires that whenever land is subdivided, or residential development adds swelling units to previously platted lots and need is created for park and open space, each subdivider or developer is required to dedicate land or pay fees in lieu of land dedication for park use.

This requirement guarantees that as Monona's population grows denser through land subdivision and the addition of new dwelling units, additional parkland and open space is set aside and added to Monona's park system, or monies-in-lieu of parkland dedication are collected to be put toward improvements to the City's parks to provide for the recreation needs of the community.

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX A: ESTIMATED IMPROVEMENT COSTS

The facility and equipment costs presented in this section are compiled from previous expenditures on similar equipment or are found by reviewing what has been used in other Wisconsin communities. These costs represent average expenditures and may vary by facility.

**Improvements and Additions to Existing Park Areas**

Park	Improvements	Estimated Costs	Estimated Time
A. Ahuska	1. Fence around soccer field #1 2. Rubber mulch for playground 3. Ball diamond groomer 4. Tennis court resurfacing 5. Crushed rock walking path 6. Utility shed for maintenance equipment 7. Baseball field drainage repairs 8. Pedestrian walking paths 9. Tennis court windscreens 10. Additional parking lot <i>Total Ahuska Park</i>	\$14,000	2010 2011 2011 2011 2012 2012 2012 2013 2014 2014
B. Arrowhead	1. Park signage and landscaping 2. Tree plantings 3. New playground equipment and landing zone 4. Pedestrian access path <i>Total Arrowhead Park</i>		2012 2013 2014 2014
C. Birch Haven	1. Berming of landscape 2. Swing repair or replacement 3. Park signage and landscaping 4. Rain garden/sustainable neighborhood garden 5. Pedestrian access path <i>Total Birch Haven Park</i>		2010 2010 2012 2013 2014
D. Bridge Road	1. Community Garden or Edible Garden 2. Park sign and landscape 3. Pedestrian access path <i>Total Bridge Road Park</i>		2012 2012 2014
E. Frost Woods Beach	1. Improved maintenance of beach 2. Pedestrian access path 3. Parking lot resurfacing 4. Benches along pedestrian path		2010-2014 2012 2013 2014

# --- DRAFT ---

	<i>Total Frost Woods Beach</i>		
F. Frost Woods	1. Playground rubber fall zone 2. Storage shelter 3. Park sign and landscaping 4. Baseball field grading improvements 5. New drinking fountain and screening for portable toilets 6. Baseball field fencing 7. Playground equipment <i>Total Frost Woods Park</i>		2011 2012 2012 2013 2013 2014 2014
G. Graham	1. Pedestrian access path 2. Park sign and landscaping 3. Park benches along pedestrian path (2) 4. Native grass/planting <i>Total Graham Park</i>		2012 2012 2013 2014
H. Indian Mounds	1. Park signage and landscaping <i>Total Indian Mounds Park</i>		2012
I. Interlake	1. Park signage and landscaping <i>Total Interlake Park</i>		2012
J. Lottes	1. Asphalt parking lot 2. Restrooms 3. Park signage and landscaping 4. Pedestrian access path 5. Enhanced concrete ramp <i>Total Lottes Park</i>		2012 2012 2012 2012 2013
K. Maywood	1. Park signage and landscaping 2. Pedestrian access path 3. Pedestrian walking path 4. Gazebo/Restrooms/Sledding Hill <i>Total Maywood Park</i>		2010 2011 2012 2014
L. Oneida	1. Park Master Plan 2. Pedestrian access path 3. Park shelter/Restrooms <i>Total Oneida Park</i>		2012 2012 2014
M. Schluter Beach	1. Pedestrian access path 2. Park signage and landscaping 3. Park shelter/Restrooms <i>Total Schluter Beach</i>		2012 2012 2014
N. Stone Bridge	1. Park signage and landscaping 2. Pagoda restoration/landscaping plan 3. Pedestrian access path <i>Total Stone Bridge Park</i>		2012 2013 2012
O. Tecumseh	1. Park signage and landscaping 2. Pedestrian access path 3. Park bench (2) <i>Total Tecumseh Park</i>		2012 2012 2012
P. Three Meadows	1. Park signage and landscaping 2. Playground upgrades 3. Park bench 4. Pedestrian access path		2012 2012 2012 2014

