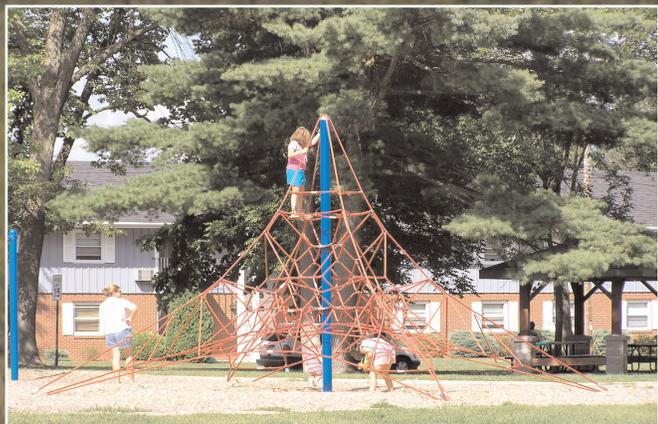


# City of Marshfield Draft Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010



# CITY OF MARSHFIELD DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2006-2010

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# 1 Executive Summary

As the demand for leisure and recreational activities continues to grow throughout the country, the City of Marshfield has taken the proper steps to not only create a solid recreational base, but also to maintain and improve recreational opportunities within the community. With the development of this plan, the City of Marshfield has recognized the importance of providing quality recreational opportunities to its residents and visitors. Recreational needs can only be met by properly located sites that provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities and are convenient to potential users. These sites should possess natural characteristics appropriate to their intended functions. Providing these facilities has become an accepted responsibility of government at all levels - local, county, state, and federal. The increasing demand for outdoor recreation has produced three areas of concern for local government decision makers:

- The need to improve existing facilities and provide additional facilities to meet current and future demand for recreational activities.
- The need to provide recreational opportunities and facilities in a manner compatible with natural resources.
- The need to provide recreational opportunities and facilities in a manner compatible with limited fiscal resources.

Planning is an integral element in identifying community needs and providing facilities efficiently, effectively and economically. The approval of this plan by the Common Council and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will enable the City of Marshfield to be eligible for the next five years to pursue funding through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LAWCON), the State Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Program (ADLP), the Urban Greenspace Program and through other state grant-in-aid programs.

## 1.1 List of Major Report Recommendations

For quick reference, this list of the major recommendations of this report has been included. Priority of projects and grant eligibility is included to help the Park, Recreation and Forestry Committee (PRFC) prioritize projects.

### Grant Eligibility Classification Explanation:

- High: Project involves acquisition or public access to water. Based on 2000 selection criteria, these projects are likely to do well in the WDNR project rating procedures and would be most likely to receive funds.
- Med.: Project involves trail building or multi-seasoned recreation use. The WDNR has been funding this kind of development but less so than acquisition.
- Low: These projects do not address issues the WDNR is concerned with in their grant programs and are therefore not likely to be funded.

**Table 1-1 Major Report Recommendations**

<u>Park</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Grant Eligibility</u>
<b><i>High Priority Projects</i></b>		
Trail Connections	Marshfield has accomplished much in the past few years in trail and bike route development, some key connections remain to be made, public support is high for this project type	High
Pool Planning	Marshfield residents agree that Hefko Pool is in poor condition, a replacement facility is desired, but where it is located and what shape it takes will need more study	Low
Tennis Court Maintenance	During the update of this plan much interest and support of outdoor tennis was shown. Reconstruction of the courts at Steve J. Miller will help meet the demand for courts that is currently unmet.	Low
Implement Zoo Master Plan	Support of the Zoo was strongly communicated through the recent community survey. A Zoo Master Plan is underway and should be adopted and implemented, the Zoo is a great asset and draw for Marshfield.	Low to Medium (special Zoo focused grants)
<b><i>Medium Priority Projects</i></b>		
Columbia Park Band Shell Study	This historic structure is close to downtown and should continue to be a center piece of civic gatherings, however it is due for maintenance. Historic building experts should be consulted.	Low to Medium (Grants focused on the arts may be available)
Develop North Griese Park Acquisition	This newly acquired land north of this popular park will add some much needed soccer field space and parking and development should be pursued in the next few years.	Low
<b><i>Low Priority Projects</i></b>		
Improve Wildwood Park ponds shoreline and habitat	Grade shoreline to have outcroppings, possibly add islands, create better habitat with native plants along the shore, including trees, shrubs and ground cover.	High

## 1.2 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Goals and Objectives

The initial task in preparing any type of planning document includes the formulation of a series of goals and objectives that outline the City's intent throughout the planning document. These goals and objectives will serve as a guide for the City of Marshfield to follow in providing a desired community-wide park and recreation system.

Mission Statement - The overall purpose of the park system and reason for the recreation provision.

Goal - A broad statement of direction and purpose. A goal should be based on the stated needs of the community. A goal should be long-range and timeless as well as idealistic.

Objective - Defined as a quantifiable aim within a limited time frame. Objectives should be derived from stated goals, quantifiable, specific and within a limited time frame.

Put another way, a goal provides the City with its long-term destination; objectives act as mile markers along the way. All recommendations listed in the plan are specifically designed to address the goals and objectives listed here.

### An Example of a Goal and Objective:

#### Goal

Ensure that open space and recreation activities and programs are designed to meet the special needs of all residents, especially the elderly and handicapped.

#### Objective

Convert all existing restrooms in the parks to accessible restrooms by the year 2005.

### City of Marshfield Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement

To provide quality recreation opportunities for the citizens of Marshfield that are both accessible and affordable and to plan, promote, acquire, develop and maintain parks and recreation facilities that will enhance the City of Marshfield and meet the recreational needs of the community.

### City of Marshfield Goals and Objectives

Goal: The City of Marshfield wishes to provide parks and recreation facilities and programs that are accessible to all our citizens.
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#### Objectives:

- Complete an access inventory every five years with the CORP update
- All new facilities will be fully accessible to the extent reasonable
- Columbia Park Band Shell and Restrooms will be made accessible by 2009 as per historic building renovation guidelines

- Access trails to playgrounds will be added as necessary at the rate of one per year until complete
- An Access Statement will be added to the Recreation Program Brochure in the Summer of 2006

Goal: The City of Marshfield will continue to provide both neighborhood and community parks by acquiring and developing parkland in conjunction with newly developing residential areas.

Objectives:

- Work with Planning Department to draft a new city ordinance to allow for land acquisition from the developer of the acreage needed to serve the projected population of the new neighborhood, to be allocated at the platting and permitting stage. An example would be a parkland dedication ordinance requiring 10 acres per thousand new residents
- Consider implementation of an Impact Fee ordinance to collect money at the building permit stage to fund the development of the new neighborhood park. An example, would be \$200 per new home built going into a fund to build new parks in new neighborhoods or to improve existing parks to serve the new residents better
- Pursue development of University Park at corner of Larch and 5<sup>th</sup> Street as a neighborhood park thru development of an agreement with the UW-Marshfield/Wood County
- Seek opportunities to acquire land and develop a neighborhood park for residential area along Veteran's Parkway in the northwest quadrant of the city

Goal: The City of Marshfield wishes to be bicycle and pedestrian friendly, offering citizens a safe and comprehensive route system so they may travel by non-motorized means.

Objectives:

- Establish a metropolitan area trail building/maintenance "authority" with membership from adjoining townships in Wood and Marathon Counties
- Adopt the 2006 Wood County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- Fund at least one bike facility development per year
- Work closely with the Public Works Department as they implement pavement improvements or road reconstruction to make sure the needs of bikers and walkers are considered in each project.
- Connect the existing trails system with on and off street routes by the year 2010
  - Complete the North/South trail system from McMillan Street to Wildwood Park via Steve J. Miller Park
  - Complete the spur through to Yellowstone Business Park, and continue out to the Village of Hewitt
  - Partner with adjacent towns to complete the Town of McMillan spur to Mann Road and the McMillan Marsh Trail

- Install an off-road non-motorized trail or bike lane parallel to, or on, Lincoln Avenue at the time of street reconstruction
- Annually review Marshfield Bicycle Route Plan to make recommended changes or additions to the Board of Public Works

Goal: The City of Marshfield wishes to provide safe park facilities for its citizens.

Objectives:

- Continue to conduct a playground and athletic field safety audit annually to create a punch list of necessary repairs to existing playgrounds and athletic fields
- Train park crews to look for playground maintenance and other safety issues as they visit the parks. Implement a reporting and follow up system that is easy to use – i.e. online reporting for citizens etc.
- Include maintenance funds in each year's budget for painting of shelters, crack filling on asphalt parking lots and trails, replacement of deteriorated park benches, athletic field maintenance, replacement of playground surfacing, etc.

Goal: The City of Marshfield's Park and Recreation system greatly benefits from partnerships with public and private clubs and agencies and the city should continue to expand upon these mutually beneficial relationships when possible.

Objectives:

- Continue to work with the Marshfield Area School District, University of Wisconsin Marshfield/Wood County and other private organizations to provide recreational and programming options for the citizens of Marshfield
- Continue to partner with local agencies to provide the best range of programming possible for the greatest number of participants
- Continue to provide support to downtown festivals, activities and special events by hosting events at the parks and providing staffing for set up and take down tasks as the department budget allows

Goal: Build a swimming pool facility that is designed to meet the present and future needs of the community including disabled and older adults

Objectives:

- Establish a pool committee for gathering community input and developing a fundraising strategy by 2006
- Determine programming needs of the aquatics facility by 2006
- Hire a consultant to develop pool layout and plans for associated recreation areas by 2007
- Develop a budget for pool construction 2007
- Continue fundraising in the years 2006-2009
- Construct the pool and associated recreation areas by 2009-2010

Goal: Provide residents with recreational facilities and programs not currently offered in the community through partnerships and collaborations with other organizations and agencies.

Objectives:

- Develop a dog park within or close proximity to the City of Marshfield
- Develop an oval ice skating surface suitable for short track and speed skating activities
- Continue to monitor and assist a local group studying the feasibility of development of a 100,000 square foot multipurpose indoor sporting facility in or near Marshfield
- Assist Marshfield Tennis NOW organization with grant applications for funding assistance from N.R.P.A. and United States Tennis Association for construction of an eight to twelve court tennis facility to be located at the Marshfield High School
- Continue to pursue development of a sledding hill in or in close proximity to the City of Marshfield
- Cooperate with Marshfield Youth Hockey Association where possible to complete the MYIce Project to build a second indoor ice rink

Goal: Increase use of volunteers in the delivery of Parks and Recreation services.

Objectives:

- Improve training opportunities for existing and future volunteers
- Provide increased means of recognition of volunteers on an annual basis by holding a recognition banquet
- Create a formal policy regarding use of volunteers detailing how they become involved, how they are supervised, trained and recognized

### 1.3 Summary of Existing Marshfield Park System

This section of the report contains an inventory of existing city owned and non-city owned facilities and a map illustrating the location of City park properties. This section provides the reader with an overview of existing conditions and facilities at each park.

#### Park and Open Space Inventory

##### Community Parks

##### Wildwood Park - 1800 S. Central Avenue, 340.16 acres

Restrooms	Playground equipment (1998)
Wildwood Station building (enclosed)	Picnic tables & grills
Large open shelters 42'x36' (2)	Historic steam locomotive display
Single Table open picnic shelters (2)	Nature trail & large wooded area
Hefko Swimming Pool	Large man-made ponds (2)
Disc golf course (9 hole)	Accessible fishing pier
Asphalt and gravel trails	Lighted tennis courts (2)
Lion's Club observation deck	Labor Council Shelter & playground (upper pond)
Wildwood Zoo - animal exhibits, native garden, sensory garden, education shelter	

##### Marshfield Fairgrounds Park - 513 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, 45.4 acres

Lighted 300' softball diamonds (2)	Playground equipment (2000)
Open shelter(s)	Restrooms
Hospitality building	Grandstand - 2500 capacity
Concession building	Animal barns & exhibit areas
Fairground office building	Large gravel parking area
Curling Club building	Education garden & gazebo

##### Braem Park - 905 N. Cedar Avenue, 33.45 acres

Lighted 275' softball diamond	Playground equipment (2000)
Open picnic shelter with restrooms	Picnic tables & grill
Horseshoe courts (13)	Skate Park
Disc golf course (18 hole)	Large wooded area
Granite trails	Concession building
Lighted Tennis Courts (4)	

##### Steve J. Miller Recreation Area - 205 S. Oak Avenue, 21.43 acres

G.P. Olson East baseball field -200'	A.J. Reeths baseball field - 350'
G.P. Olson West baseball field - 200'	Lighted tennis courts (4)
Restrooms	Asphalt trail
Ice rink - winter (no warming house)	Open picnic shelter with restrooms
Parking lot (227 stalls)	

Jack Hackman Field - regulation baseball (385'), grandstand seating for 1000 concession stand, accessible press box, batting cage restrooms, 9 inning electronic scoreboard

Oak Avenue Community Center - large gym (basketball & volleyball standards)  
kitchen, dining room, meeting rooms, restrooms and showers  
boxing practice room, equipment storage areas

Griese Park - 1001 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street, 21.5 acres

Open picnic shelter with restrooms	Basketball court (4 adjustable goals)
Parking lot (123 stalls)	Community built playground (2001)
Asphalt trail (.75 mile)	Concession area
Rain garden	Wooded area and wetlands
Bille Soccer Field (80 yds. x 50 yds.)	Weinfurtner Soccer Field (72 yds. x 120 yds.)
Figi Soccer Field (75 yds. x 120 yds.)	Electronic scoreboards (on Figi and Weinfurtner fields)

**Neighborhood Parks**

Benedict Park - 1703 Waushara Drive, 2.21 acres

Playground equipment (1994)	Basketball court
Open picnic shelter	Picnic tables & grill

Forest Ridge Park - 1137 W. Blodgett Street, 3.13 acres

Playground equipment (2004)	Basketball court
Backstop	Picnic tables

**Mini-parks**

Grant Park - 601 Oak Avenue, .71 acre

Playground equipment (2004)	Picnic tables
Park benches	Municipal water tower

Northern Hills Park - 1601 Broadway Avenue, .34 acre

Playground equipment (1999)	Picnic table
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Pickle Pond - 713 E. Arnold Street, 1.5 acres

Ice rink - (winter) lights, warming house, and restrooms	
Backstop	Picnic table

**Conservancy Areas**

Conner Park - 1812 E. Blodgett Street, 5.6 acres

Wooded area	Nature trail loop
Picnic table	

Joe and Bernadine Weber's Nature Park - 2901 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 37.15 acres

Asphalt trail (.3 mile)	Natural surface trails (over 1.5 miles)
Parking lot (29 stalls)	Nature pond (1 acre)
Wooded area and wetlands	

Hamus Nature Preserve and Recreation Area - 210 Wilderness View Dr., 32 acres

Managed by Marshfield Utilities

Ponds (3)	Natural surface trails (2 miles)
Asphalt surface trail (1 mile)	Large open picnic shelter
Restroom	Wooded area and wetlands

**Special Use Parks**

Columbia Park - 201 W. Arnold Street, 2.49 acres

Band shell with restrooms	Picnic tables & grills
Park benches	Many large mature trees

Veterans Memorial Park - 206 Park Street, 1.95 acre

Picnic tables	Vietnam vintage helicopter display
Memorial stones	Bench swing
Many large mature trees	

Eighth and Hemlock Park - 805 S. Hemlock Avenue, 1.14 acres

No improvements - former ice skating rink location

14<sup>th</sup> Street Park - 1202 S. Maple Avenue, .8 acre

No improvements - former ice skating rink

Strohman Park - 630 S. Central Avenue, .25 acre

Picnic tables	Fountain & small bridge
Memorial stones	Park benches
Flower plantings & landscape beds	

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## **Marshfield Trail System**

The City of Marshfield has made great progress on its trail system in recent years. Many segments are in place and others are on schedule for installation. Figure 1-1 shows the existing segments for the City of Marshfield.

### **Griese Park Trail**

Located at Griese Park, 1001 E. 29th Street, the trail is a 3/4 mile long, 8' wide, asphalt surface.

### **Greenway Trail**

Located on the west side of Pecan Parkway between Washington Avenue and 17th Street, this trail is .5 mile long and is a widened asphalt shoulder.

### **Joe & Bernadine Weber's Nature Park Trails**

This is a new 37-acre city park. You can access the park at the corner of Holly Avenue and West 5th Street. The park includes a .3 mile asphalt trail plus over 1.5 miles of natural surface trails that are suitable for hiking, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing. The trails are not groomed for cross country skiing.

### **McMillan Marsh Trail**

Located north of Marshfield off Mann Road at the McMillan Marsh Wildlife Area, this trail boasts a distance of 6.25 miles, with a surface combination of crushed lime and gravel. The McMillan Marsh Trail is open May 1 until September 1. The McMillan Marsh Trail is maintained by Marathon County Parks Department.

### **Millcreek Business Park Trail**

Located on the south side of Marshfield in the Mill Creek Business Park. The preferred access to the trail is at 29th Street and Apple Avenue but you can also access the business park from Cherry Avenue, Commerce Drive and Hwy 10. This trail is a 10' wide asphalt surface, 2.6 miles long.

### **UW-Marshfield/Wood County Arboretum Trail**

Located at the west end of 8th Street, this trail is approximately two miles long and has a granite surface. Bicycles are not allowed.

### **Veterans Parkway Trail**

This 10' wide asphalt surface trail can be found on the south side of Veterans Parkway between Oak Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street. A granite surface from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 29<sup>th</sup> Street was added in 2005 by the Friends of the Trail organization. The entire trail from Oak Avenue to 29<sup>th</sup> Street is 3 miles long.

### **Wildwood Park & Zoo**

Contains a number of park trails and roads both asphalt and granite surfaces that are suitable for biking and walking. Along the south side of the elk pasture the Airport Connector Trail, a two block asphalt trail constructed in 2004 by the Friends of the Trails, links Wildwood Park to 29<sup>th</sup> Street and the Marshfield Airport. This also serves as a convenient bicycle route to Griese Park and the Mill Creek Trail by allowing bicycle riders to cross Highway 13 at the signalized intersection at 29<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Wildwood Station Trail (phase 1)**

This 10'-wide, 1-mile long, asphalt trail can be found a half block north of Adler Road between Lincoln and Oak Avenues. From Oak Avenue it follows the Veterans Parkway Trail to the pedestrian overpass and then turns south through Steve J. Miller Recreation area and currently ends at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Spruce Avenue. Plans call for the trail to eventually be extended south to Wildwood Park.

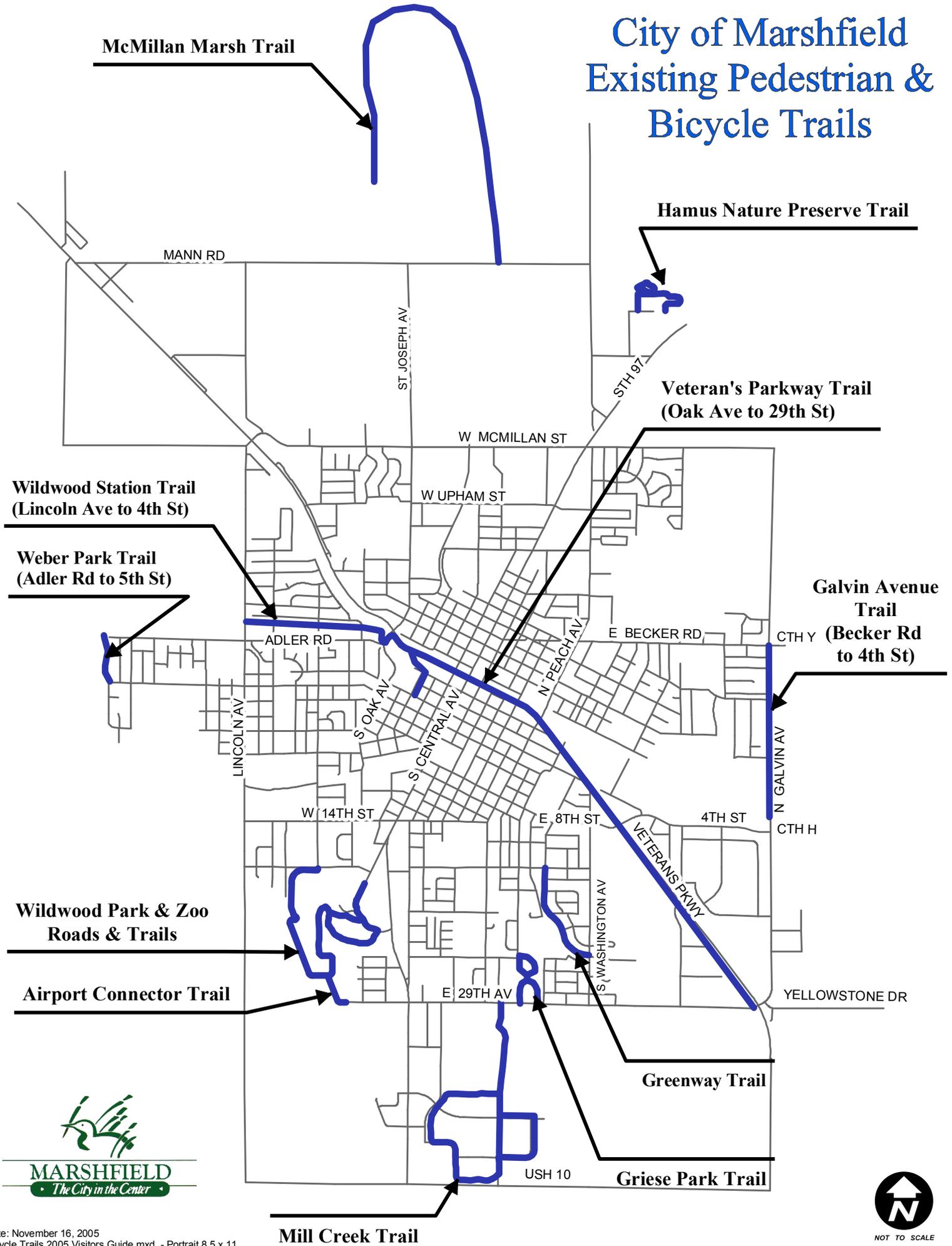
### **Galvin Avenue Trail**

Is a 10' wide asphalt trail paralleling Galvin Road between the railroad tracks north of 4th Street and Becker Road. The trail is 1 mile long and was constructed in 2005.

### **Hamus Nature Preserve and Recreation Area**

This nature and well head protection area is located at 210 Wilderness View Drive just north of V&H Automotive on the city's north side. Currently it includes just over 1 mile of asphalt trails and other amenities including a shelter house, ponds, restrooms and other natural surface trails in progress. This project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2006. The new facility is managed by the Marshfield Utilities.

# City of Marshfield Existing Pedestrian & Bicycle Trails



### **Greenways – Managed and Maintained by the Public Works Department and Street Division**

The primary purpose of these lands is storm water management. Requirements for stormwater management are evolving and may impact future recreational use of these properties.

#### **Meadowbrook Greenway**

The Meadowbrook Greenway is a 3.86-acre linear natural runoff corridor located in the northeast quadrant of the City. The greenway was dedicated at the time the area was subdivided.

#### **Northeast Greenway**

The Northeast Greenway is a broad natural runoff corridor for Squaw Creek. The greenway is 104 acres and adjoins the Marshfield Senior High School site. The greenway was acquired by purchase from landowners; some of the acquisition was purchased using federal LAWCON funds.

#### **Pleasant Valley Greenway**

The Pleasant Valley Greenway is a 2.0-acre linear natural runoff corridor located in the west quadrant of the City. The greenway was dedicated at the time the area was subdivided.

#### **Southeast Greenway**

The Southeast Greenway is a natural runoff corridor for Mill Creek located in the southeastern quadrant of the city. The greenway was purchased from landowners for drainage purposes and is 22.45 acres in size.

### **Public School Recreation Facilities**

In addition to the parks owned and managed by the City, there are a number of play fields and other outdoor recreation areas, such as school sites. They provide recreation facilities for residents in adjacent neighborhoods and for Citywide events sponsored by both the public and private schools and the Park and Recreation Department.

School sites and facilities include the following:

#### **Marshfield School Forest**

The School Forest is located 13 miles southwest of Marshfield on County Trunk Highway N just 0.6 miles east of County Trunk Highway V near Lindsey. Parking is available adjacent to the lodge.

The Marshfield Area Ski Touring Foundation (MASTF) in cooperation with the Marshfield School Board developed and operates a system of nearly 10 kilometers of trails groomed for diagonal striding and skating cross country skiing through the 320 acre School Forest. The terrain provides a challenging, scenic ski experience for all levels of skiing proficiency. Snow shoeing is available on separate trails. Three lantern skis events are planned each year. Rental equipment is available at The Sports Den in Marshfield.

### **University of Wisconsin – Marshfield/Wood County Campus**

The 91.29-acre UW-Marshfield site contains four (4) lighted tennis courts, two (2) ball diamonds, three (3) soccer fields, and a wooded area with an arboretum and nature trails (only pedestrians are allowed on this trail system). There is a gymnasium, fitness center and performing arts theater on campus. In 1996, an additional 20-acre woodland preservation site adjacent to the campus was added to the arboretum and nature trail system. The land was purchased with private funds and a Wisconsin DNR Stewardship Grant. The Parks and Recreation Department has a four year agreement with the UW for the use and management of their outdoor recreation areas (baseball and soccer fields), excluding the tennis courts. The Department is responsible for the maintenance and scheduling of these facilities. The UW is responsible for grass mowing, fertilization and weed control.

### **Marshfield Senior High School**

The 60.0-acre Senior High School site contains two (2) practice football fields, a practice baseball field, and large open areas used for a variety of school and community activities. The school also has an indoor swimming pool, weight room, and gymnasium.

### **Marshfield Middle School**

The Junior High School site includes an outdoor football stadium, a practice football field, four (4) lighted tennis courts, a running track, and two (2) gymnasiums. The combined Beell Stadium and Junior High School site is approximately 20 acres. The track is heavily used by the public as a jogging/walking course.

### **Grant Elementary School**

The Grant Elementary School site includes play fields, a paved basketball play area, and playground equipment. The school grounds function as a neighborhood playground for the Northern Hills neighborhood. The school also has a gymnasium.

### **Lincoln Elementary School**

The Lincoln Elementary School site is a 5.0-acre site containing a large open grass area, paved basketball play area, three (3) back stops, and playground equipment. The school also has a gymnasium.

### **Madison Elementary School**

The Madison Elementary School site contains paved and grassy play areas and playground equipment. The school also has a gymnasium. A new school is currently being constructed at the same location and when completed, it will house a softball diamond as well as two large open space fields.

### **Nasonville Elementary School**

The Nasonville Elementary School site, located at 11044 Highway 10, contains play equipment and the building houses a gymnasium.

### **Washington Elementary School**

The Washington School site contains paved and grassy play areas and playground equipment. The school also has a gymnasium. A new school is being constructed at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln Avenue and there are no definite plans for the current site once vacated. The new school site, once completed, will house a softball field, asphalt walking path and two large open space areas.

## **Private School Recreation Facilities**

### **Area Churches**

The following area churches have gymnasiums and playground equipment, Immanuel Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, Christ Lutheran, Wesley United Methodist and First Presbyterian.

### **Marshfield Area Catholic Schools (MACS)**

#### **Columbus High School, Columbus Catholic Middle School and Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School**

The combined Columbus High School, Columbus Catholic Middle School, and Our Lady of Peace Catholic School site contains a practice football field, practice soccer fields, paved play area, outdoor basketball courts, two sand volleyball courts and playground equipment. The high school and the elementary school have gymnasiums.

#### **Sacred Heart Catholic School**

The Sacred Heart Catholic School site contains a gymnasium and houses the Marshfield Clinic's Youth Net Program. The Youth Net program is an after school educational support and mentoring program for children from ages 8 to 18.

#### **St. John's Catholic School**

The St. John's Catholic School site contains a gymnasium, a play area and playground equipment.

### **Other Publicly-Owned Park and Open Space Areas**

In addition to the parks that are currently developed, the city owns several other properties that have potential for recreation opportunities and improvements.

#### **South Well Field – Managed by Marshfield Utilities**

This 119.68-acre city well site is an open area that functions to protect the City's water supply. Most of the site is wetlands, which are a tributary to Mill Creek. Because of the need to preserve the groundwater aquifer, intensive recreational use of this site is limited so it is most suitable as a natural area. The Mill Creek Trail travels through this area from 29<sup>th</sup> Street south to the Mill Creek Business Park.

#### **Walnut Street Storm Water Detention Basin – Managed by the Public Works Department**

This 8.85-acre site was constructed in 1991 to help address the increased need for stormwater control measures due to increased development of the northwest quadrant of the city. Except for brief periods during significant rainfalls, the site is used for recreational activities such as softball and soccer practices and games, and sledding during the winter months. In 1996, the Parks and Recreation Department created a full size soccer field for use by schools and adult soccer teams. Two small soccer fields were recently added. This site is managed by the Public Works Department with the Parks and Recreation Department responsible for the maintenance and scheduling of the soccer fields. The primary purpose of these lands is storm water management.

### City Hall Plaza- Tennis Racquetball Center

The Parks and Recreation Department operates and manages the indoor tennis and racquetball courts located in the City Hall Plaza. The Department took over responsibility of this area from the YMCA in 1994 when the Y moved to their new facility.

### Senior Community Center

The Senior Community Center is a City owned building located next to the municipal library. The building contains a large meeting room, a small kitchen/food preparation area, pool room, craft room, meeting room, lounge, office and restrooms.

### **Member and Public/Private Facilities, Clubs, and Associations**

Bulls Eye Sports - Indoor archery range and equipment sales.

Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts - Privately owned center located in historic former Presbyterian Church building located in downtown Marshfield that provides opportunities for performing arts, visual arts, and literary arts. Opportunities include plays, concerts, recitals, poetry readings, art gallery shows, workshops, artist and musician studios, and recording/video services.

Curves for Women - Fitness center for women located in downtown Marshfield.

Derrico's Black Belt School - Exercise and fitness programs centered around martial arts for the whole family.

Dive Point Scuba - Offer scuba lessons at Marshfield Senior High Pool periodically throughout the year.

Fox Fire Gardens - Privately owned scenic gardens, a blend of lasting simplicity of the Chinese style with the ruled and highly symbolic Japanese gardens, carefully mixing the flair of late European gardens. Open to the public.

Kiwanis Club Basketball Program - Basketball league games, practices, and tournament for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys in Marshfield area schools. Games held Saturday mornings December - February at Middle School Gyms.

Legends Golf Center - This facility is open to the public year round. Located in the Town of Lincoln near the intersection of Wildwood Station Trail and Lincoln Avenue, the Center offers a lit driving range, practice putting green, miniature golf course, and batting cages.

Main Street Conservatory of Dance - Dance instruction in ballet, tap, jazz, and modern

Marshfield Area Ski Touring Foundation - Maintain over 10 kilometers of groomed trails for both diagonal striding and skate cross country skiing at the Marshfield School Forest. Snow shoeing is also available on other trails. Lodge building is available for warming house.

Marshfield Area Runners Club - Informal group of runners of all abilities and interests that come together to encourage and support running events and activities.

Marshfield Area Youth Football, Inc. - Membership group offering contact football program for children in grades 3 through 6. Also offer a cheerleading instruction program.

Marshfield Country Club - The Marshfield Country Club borders the City limits on the western edge. It has an 18-hole golf course which is open to the general public as well as a miniature golf course and driving range. An indoor computerized golf simulator was added in 2005.

Marshfield Curling Club - A membership club that offers curling competitions, lessons, and special events during the winter months.

Marshfield Horseshoe Association - Offer leagues and tournaments at the Braem Park horseshoe courts during the summer.

Marshfield Muscle and Fitness - 24 hour fitness center located in downtown Marshfield

Marshfield Youth Hockey Association (MYHA) - Provides hockey for skaters ages 4 to adult. An in-house USA Hockey Skills Development Program is offered as well as traveling teams for girls and boys ages 9 - high school. These skaters are primarily from Marshfield public and parochial schools, but some participants also come from Spencer, Stratford, Auburndale, Pittsville, Loyal, and Colby. MYHA hosts 3-4 tournaments each year bringing in 7+ guest teams that utilize Marshfield for the tournament weekends.

Marshfield Youth Ice and Recreation Center - Built and owned by MYHA and located at the Marshfield Fairground Park on the land owned by the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association. There is a long-term lease agreement between MYHA and CWSF for use of the building. MYHA maintains control of building operations from the end of September through March and the CWSF has use of the building from April through mid September. The center is also home to the Marshfield Senior High Hockey Team. MYHA also partners with the Marshfield Parks and Recreation Department to offer public open skating at the center on Saturday evenings and in the afternoons when schools are released early. In 2004, the Marshfield Youth Hockey Association launched the MYIce project. The plan is to complete this project in three phases with the ultimate goal being an enclosed structure joined to the current facility that would house a second hockey rink complete with locker rooms, concessions, bleacher seating and improved parking facilities. The total project is estimated at \$1.9 million dollars. Phase One is estimated to cost \$700,000 for the initial structure, and dehumidification. Phase Two is budgeted at \$600,000 for concrete and refrigerated ice. Phase Three is estimated at \$600,000 to complete the interior items and add bleacher seating and a parking lot.

Marshfield YMCA - Member organization located on the northern edge of the City limits, the YMCA was constructed in 1994. It has a gymnasium, indoor swimming pool, running track, weight room, meeting rooms, teen center, family fun zone, women's express, cycling studio, locker rooms and offices. In 1996, two lighted sand volleyball courts were constructed for league play. Some open space for play areas exists on the south side of the YMCA. In 2005, an 80-car parking lot addition was completed along with a building addition to house the "Wellness Center". In addition to the large number of programs offered through the YMCA they also partner with the Marshfield Parks and Recreation Department to offer youth swim lessons.

Marshfield Youth Special Olympics - Sports training and athletic competitions in a variety of sports for children and adults with cognitive disabilities.

Marshfield Area Kennel Club - Dog obedience lessons, training and competitions.

Marshfield Youth Wrestling - Membership wrestling group for youth ages 5 to 12. Practice starts in the end of November run for 12 weeks. An open youth wrestling tournament held the first weekend in March.

Marshfield Softball Association - Organize adult softball leagues and tournaments plus sand volleyball leagues and tournaments. Activities held at the Marshfield Fairgrounds Park softball diamonds and sand volleyball courts.

Marshfield Community Learning Center - Activities offered through Marshfield School District. Current activities include yoga and open swim program in fall and winter months at Senior High in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Marshfield Tennis Association - Volunteer organization that coordinates local tennis tournaments, plus adult and youth leagues. Also work to increase interest and support for tennis in the Marshfield area.

Marshfield Youth Soccer Association - Competitive soccer program for Marshfield area boys and girls ages 7 to 19. Teams play home and away matches and tournaments. Sponsor soccer clinic in August in cooperation with the Marshfield Parks and Recreation Department.

Marshfield Spring Baseball - Competitive youth baseball program for children ages 9-14. Children placed on teams with volunteer coaches. All games played at Steve J. Miller Recreation Area.

Marshfield Senior Citizen Council - Interested area seniors who organize, schedule, and coordinate a variety of activities at the Marshfield Senior Community Center.

MARSH - 21 - Marshfield Area Recreation, Sports, & Health Task Force is an organization that promotes and develops recreation and sports related facilities in the Marshfield area. MARSH-21 was a key participant in the development of Griese Park, Jack Hackman Field and the Steve J. Miller Recreation Area renovations.

Melody Gardens Skateland - Roller skating rink and lessons

New Visions Gallery - Non-profit community museum located in the lobby of the Marshfield Clinic. Exhibits change every six to seven weeks feature a variety of art forms including national traveling exhibits and significant works on loan from private and public collections.

Optimist/YMCA Basketball Program - Basketball league games and practices for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls in Marshfield area schools. Games held Saturday mornings, December - February at YMCA and Grant Elementary School.

Optimist Youth Soccer Program - Recreational youth soccer program held in August - mid October for boys and girls ages 6 through 13. Games are held weekly on Sunday's at Griese Park. Program is offered in cooperation with the Marshfield Parks and Recreation Department.

R & R Ranch - Seven hundred acre game preserve located 6 miles south of Marshfield featuring hunting and sporting clays

RiverEdge Country Club - This facility provides an 18-hole golf course and driving range, located three miles southwest of the city. It is privately owned and operated and open to the general public.

Rose Bowl Lanes - 24 lane bowling center, leagues, instruction and equipment sales.

Silver Laces Figure Skating Club - Figure skating lessons and performances held at the Marshfield Youth Ice and Recreation Center.

Sports Den - Provides outdoor recreation equipment rentals and sales plus climbing wall. Also serves as contact for Wood Spokes, a cycling group offering training and recreation exercise, coordinate group bike rides for women, men, casual riders, and serious riders weekdays during the summer. Also provides ski trips and snow condition information for the School Forest cross country ski trails.

Squared Circle Boxing - Amateur boxing club providing training and competition opportunities. Located in upper level of the Oak Avenue Community Center.

UW-Marshfield/Wood County Continuing Education - Provide various lesson and activity programs for all ages.

Wood County 4-H - Youth development programs with a variety of physical and activity opportunities. Some clubs charge a nominal fee for dues.

Wood County Master Gardeners - Wood County Extension Service program to educate participants in gardening skills and knowledge plus provide volunteer gardening services to their community.

## **Regional Parks**

### **Wood County Parks**

#### **North Wood County Park**

North Wood County Park is located on 172 acres on the banks of the Yellow River, five miles north of STH 13 & 80 on CTH A. Two small artificial lakes created by dams on the river and a small pine-wooded island provide scenic beauty for the entire area. The main attraction of the park is the 225 foot suspension bridge over the Yellow River. Other attractions include a disc golf course, paddle boat rental, a rentable stone shelter and a beach area. There are 99 campsites located at North Park, 51 with electricity. Shower facilities are also available.

#### **Powers Bluff Park**

Powers Bluff Winter Recreation Area is located 15 miles southeast of Marshfield. The area can be easily reached from U.S. Highway 10 or from STH 13 via County Highway E. Seventy acres of Powers Bluff is a Scientific Preservation Area. There is a 1.5 mile self-guided nature trail. Eighty acres to the south are designated as a State Historical Site where Indian dance rings and burial grounds have been preserved.

Winter sports include downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, and tubing. A two-story stone shelter building serves as a warming house, in which a concession operates during the hours the park is open for recreation. The shelter may be reserved during the summer and winter season.

Three trails are available for cross-country skiing with lengths of 1,320 ft., 1,410 ft. and 1,500 ft. Two pull ropes are operated, one for skiing and one for the tubing hill. The estimated vertical drop is 250 ft. Skis, boots, and poles for downhill skiing are available for rental in the concession area.

### **Richfield 360**

This 360-acre parcel has five miles of developed cross country ski trails, wilderness camping and a parking lot on gently rolling lands that are divided by Puff Creek. Richfield 360 is located 7 miles north of STH 13 & 80 on CTH A and is open year round.

### **Marshfield Fish Pond Area (Trout Pond)**

This five-acre area with a four-acre pond is open to the public for fishing. It is located on the north east corner of Stadt Road and Trout Drive, just south of Stadt and E. McMillan Street. Wood County cooperates with the Department of Natural Resources to stock this pond with bass or other game fish. A catch-and-release policy is currently employed to enhance the quality of fishing.

## **Marathon County Parks**

### **Big Eau Pleine County Park**

This 2,050 acre park offers 104 camping sites as well as a boat landing, swimming, fishing, a picnic area, shelter and playground, horseshoe pits, trails for hiking, toilets and drinking water.

### **Big Rapids County Park**

This 33 acre park offers fishing, a picnic area, and an open shelter. The park also includes a playground, horseshoes and a restroom.

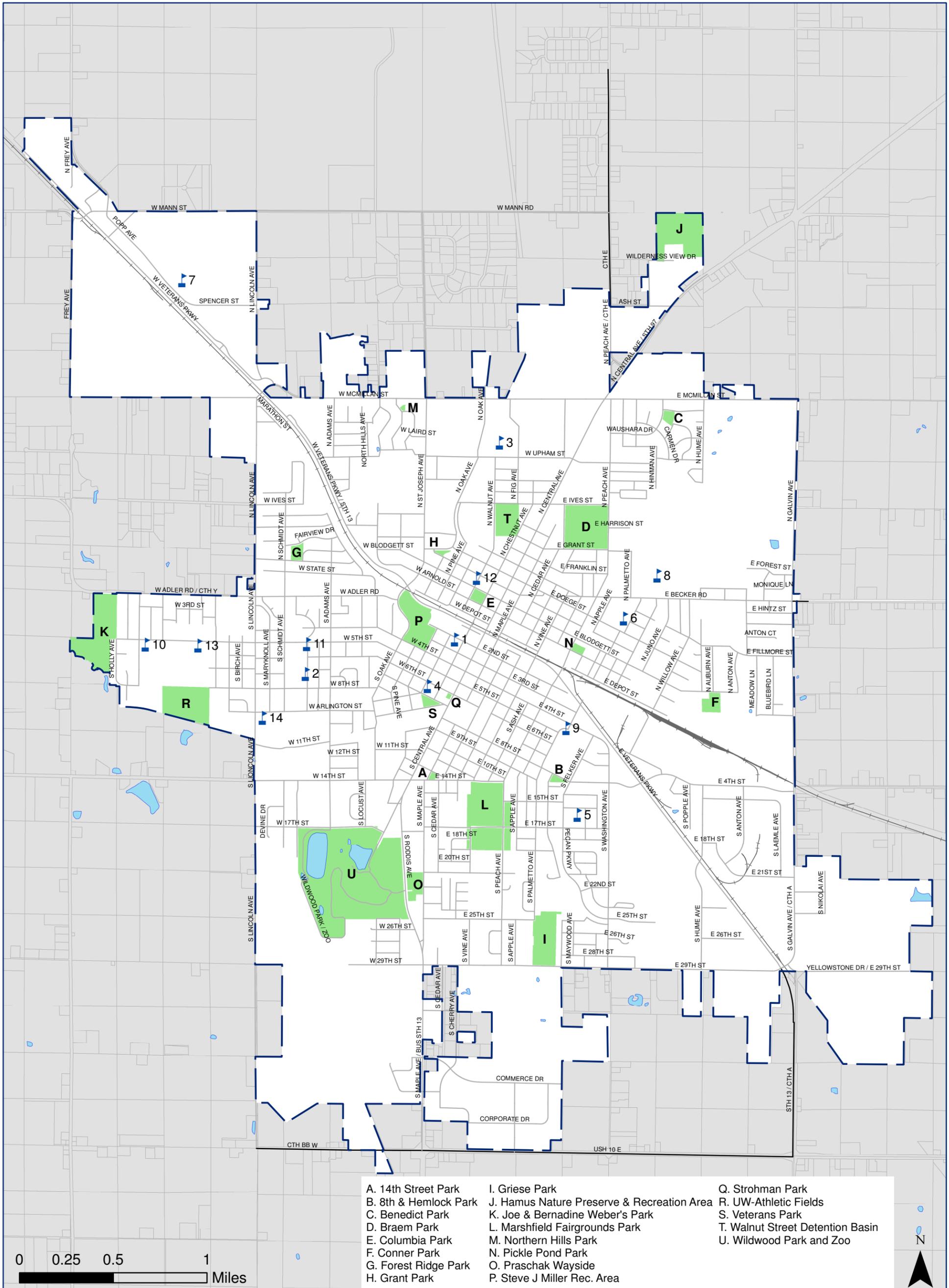
**State Wildlife Areas**

There are four state wildlife areas within a short drive of Marshfield that offer acres of passive recreational land available to Marshfield residents. The table below is a summary of information on the state wildlife areas.

Name	Size	Recreational Opportunities	Habitat	Wildlife to be Found There
McMillan Marsh	5,759	Hiking, bird watching, trapping	Marsh and lowland forest	Waterfowl, grouse, pheasants, deer, rabbits, wood cocks and raptors
George W. Mead	28,500	Hiking, bird watching, and trapping	River, marsh and lowland forest	Waterfowl, grouse, deer, rabbits, wood cocks, squirrels, trumpeter swans and raptors
Sandhill Wildlife Area	9,455	Hiking, bird watching, and berry picking	Marsh and lowland forest	Deer, waterfowl, squirrels, woodcock, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans and Karner blue butterflies
Wood County Wildlife Area	19,303	Hiking, bird watching, and berry picking	Marsh and lowland forest	Ducks, grouse, deer, rabbits, squirrels, wood cocks, sandhill cranes, sharptail grouse and Karner blue butterflies



# Existing Facilities Map - Figure 1-2



City of Marshfield, WI

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010

Source: Marshfield Planning Department  
February 23, 2006

Prepared By:

Schreiber/Anderson Associates SAA

## **2 Analysis of the Marshfield Park and Open Space System**

The number and type of parks and recreation facilities needed within a community are dependent on the demands of the local residents. Identifying the recreational needs and wants of community residents provides the justification for funding the acquisition and development of new facilities as well as the maintenance of existing recreational facilities. There are four generally accepted methods of determining recreation needs:

- A classification of existing parkland and a comparison to national acreage standards
- Comparison to generally accepted service area standards
- Comparison to regional quantitative studies – the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Wood County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan
- Soliciting public input and discerning local recreational facility needs

It is important to use all four of these methods in determining the need for additional parks and/or recreational facilities in the City of Marshfield. Each method focuses on one specific element of providing suitable parks and open space, and types of facilities. Taken individually, they do not provide an accurate representation of community-wide recreation needs. However, used as a group, recreation needs and wants can be aggregated and identified and additional parks and recreation facilities can be justified.

### **2.1 Parkland Analysis**

A parkland classification system is a useful tool to determine if an existing park system serves the needs of a community. Total acreage alone does not guarantee that the community's park needs are being met. A community should have a number of different types of parks to serve the various needs of the residents. They may have "met the standard" in acreage through the creation of one large park, but the community's needs have not truly been met in terms of accessibility and recreational activity variety. Table 2-1 explains the seven park classifications, the associated use, service areas, desirable size and desired acres per 1,000 population. A well-rounded park system offers at least one park in each classification.

**Table 2-1 National Recreation and Park Association Parkland Classification System**

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population
<b>A. Local/Close-to-Home Space</b>				
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	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5A
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Areas 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)	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0A
Community Park	Areas 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, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A
Total Local Space = 6.25 to 10.5 AC/1,000				
<b>B. Regional Space</b>				
Regional/Metro-politan Park	Areas of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.	Several communities. 1 hour driving time	200+ acres	5.0 to 10.0A
<b>C. Space that may be Local or Regional and is Unique to Each Community</b>				
Linear Park	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas. (NOTE: the above components may occur in the "linear park")	No applicable standard	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use	Variable
Special Use	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, skateparks, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas,	No applicable standard	Variable	Variable

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population
	or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.			
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective.	No applicable standard	Sufficient to protect the resource	Variable

Table from Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, NRPA, 1983, pages 56, 57.

Once existing parks have been classified, a comparison can be made between the national standard acres per 1,000 population for each park type and existing acreage.

For this plan, the acreage standard for local park space is most relevant. The standard of 10.5-acres/1,000 population (taken from Table 2-1) is used as a basis for determining acreage needs. This acreage should be distributed among park types as follows:

#### Park Standards

Mini Parks	0.5 acres/1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	2.0 acres/1,000 population
Community Parks	8.0 acres/1,000 population
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.5 acres/1,000 population</b>

Source: Table from Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, NRPA, 1983, pages 56, 57.

The City of Marshfield currently has 205.77 acres of land in the above park classifications or 10.68 acres/1,000 residents (based on the estimated census population of 19,258 for 2005). As mentioned above, the national standard is 10.5 acres/1,000 residents. The City of Marshfield is currently just above the national standard for active use parks. However, a more careful analysis is necessary to determine where deficiencies may exist and to see which park classification needs are being adequately met.

**Table 2-2 City of Marshfield Recreation Areas by Park Classification**

Mini-Parks		Neighborhood Parks		Community Parks		Conservancy		Special Use	
	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
Grant	1.0	Benedict	2.2	Braem	40.0	Conner	5.5	Strohman	0.5
Northern Hills	0.34	Forest Ridge	2.8	Griese	20.0	Weber's Nature Pk	38.0	Veterans	1.88
Pickle Pond	1.73	Steve J Miller	21.43	MFP Park**	10.3			Columbia	2.5
				Wildwood*	106.0			14 <sup>th</sup> Street	1.23
								8 <sup>th</sup> & Hemlock	1.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3.07</b>		<b>26.43</b>		<b>176.3</b>		<b>43.5</b>		<b>7.11</b>

\* Acreage listed does not include the zoo or land set aside for airport expansion

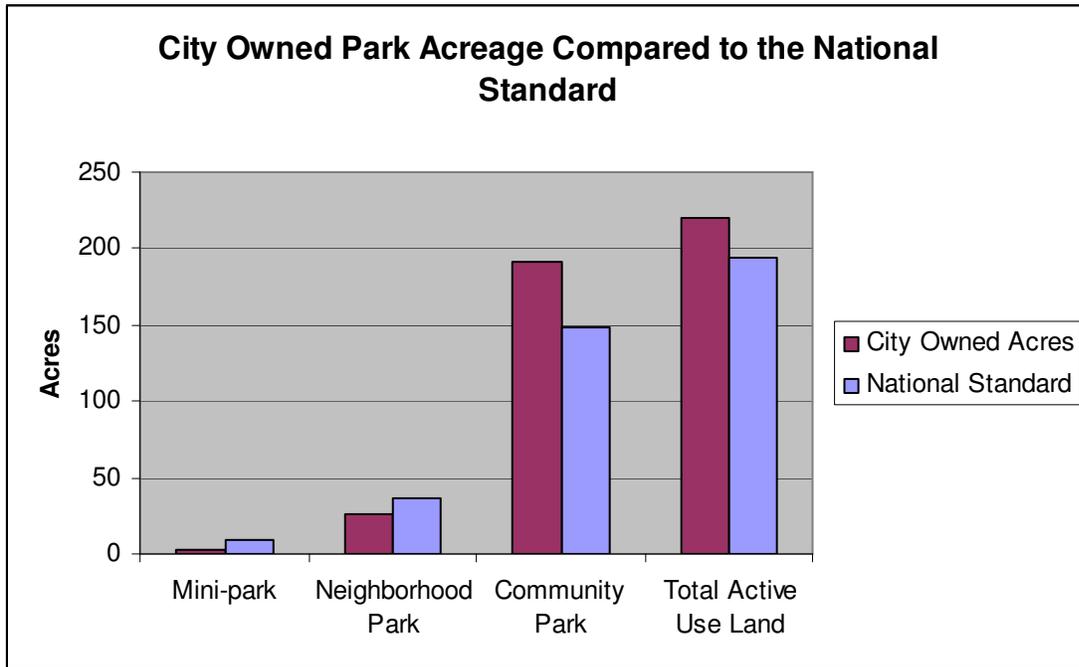
\*\* Acreage only includes the ballfields

**Table 2-3 Recreational Facilities Owned by Other Agencies by Park Classification**

Mini-Parks		Neighborhood Parks		Community Parks		Conservancy		Regional/Metro-politan Park	
	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
Lincoln Elem.	2.5			Marshfield HS	15.0	Meadowbrook GW	3.86	UW-Marshfield.	91.0
Jefferson Elem.	2.5			Marshfield JHS	15.0	Northeast GW	96.25		
Madison Elem.	2.5					Pleasant Valley GW	2.0		
Washington Elem.	2.5					Southeast GW	22.45		
Nasonville	2.5					Hamus Preserve	30.36		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12.5</b>		<b>0.0</b>		<b>30.0</b>		<b>154.92</b>		<b>91.0</b>

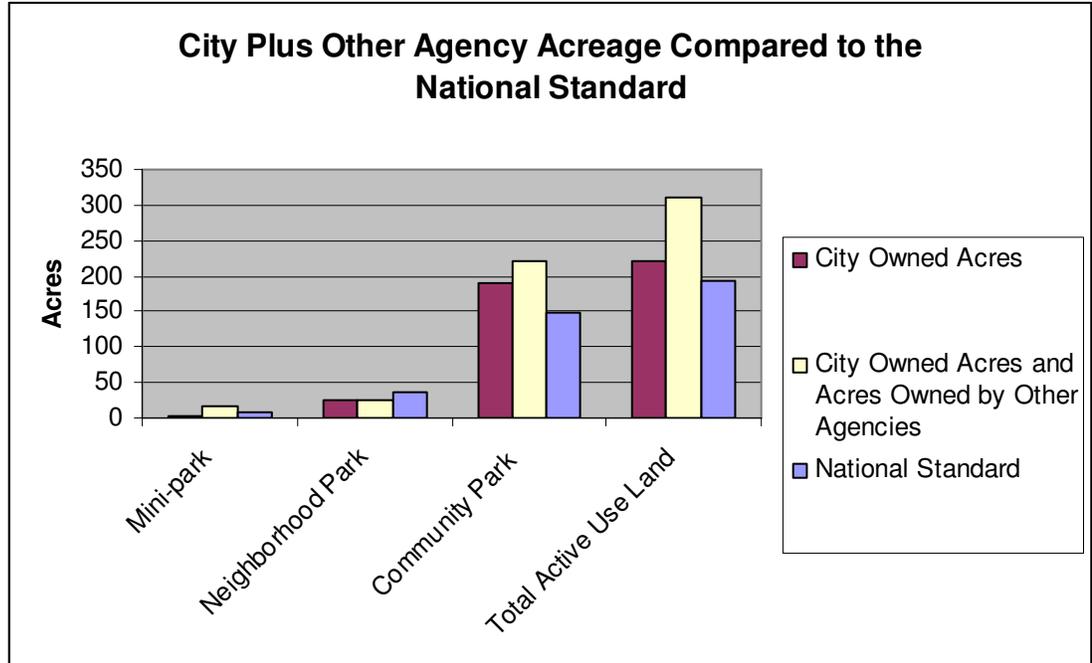
Note: Acreage includes only recreation areas at each school site. All acreage for the School District sites is approximate.

**Figure 2-1 Existing Park Acres Compared to the National Standard**



**Note:** National standard calculated by multiplying the standard for each park type per 1,000 residents by the number of residents. Acres needed to meet national standards are based on the 2004 projected population for the City of Marshfield, 19,020.

**Figure 2-2 Existing Park Acres Plus Other Agency Acres Compared to the National Standard**



**Note:** National standard calculated by multiplying the standard for each park type per 1,000 residents by the number of residents. Acres needed to meet national standards are based on the 2004 projected population for the City of Marshfield, 19,020.

## 2.2 Park Service Area Requirements

The second method of evaluating a community's parkland needs and adequacy of service is to plot park service areas on a base map and identify areas that are not being served. Utilizing the park service radii criteria established by the NRPA, park service areas were mapped for existing neighborhood and community parks in Marshfield.

All residents of the City of Marshfield should have reasonable access to City parks. Specifically, all City residents should reside within the park service area of a neighborhood park or a mini park. The national standard service area for a neighborhood park is a ½ mile radius and for a mini park it is a ¼ mile radius.

Figure 2-1 on page 34 demonstrates that the majority of residents in existing Marshfield neighborhoods are within the service area of either a neighborhood park, mini-park or a school facility that provides mini park facilities. There are a few neighborhoods that are underserved as indicated by the map. Braem, Griese and Wildwood parks are considered community parks; however, they provide neighborhood park facilities to their immediate neighbors so they have been included in this analysis. This map makes it clear that as new Marshfield neighborhoods develop, they will need additional parks to serve them particularly to the northwest and northeast.

## 2.3 Other Plans

The third method of determining recreation needs in the community is by using local, regional, and state quantitative recreation studies that apply to the area. These quantitative studies are statistically defensible surveys, polls, and other instruments that help identify user trends, needs, and wants by soliciting user responses to uniform sets of questions. These studies are very useful since they are a good indicator of recreation needs as perceived by recreation users. The two studies available at this time are the *2000-2005 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* and the *1996-2001 Wood County Park, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan*.

### 2.3.1 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The purpose of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2000 – 2005 (SCORP), written by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), is to offer a research base and overall guidance for all providers of outdoor recreation throughout Wisconsin – federal, state, county, city, village, and town governments; resorts and other businesses; and a variety of other public and private organizations. Ideally, the SCORP will be used in conjunction with other planning documents such as property master plans, community park and open space plans, the State Trails Strategic Plan, six-year development plans and county regional planning commission plans.

The objective wasn't to create an action plan, but to suggest issues to consider when developing programs, policies and actions that affect outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. The plan is also used to guide the grant programs associated with the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund and the state Stewardship Program. If this plan fosters further discussion between outdoor recreation providers and recreation enthusiasts, and between private and public organizations that have local or statewide responsibility, it will be a success.

In preparing the 2000 – 2005 SCORP, WDNR staff researched and analyzed 60 outdoor activities to create a picture of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin in the 1990s. During this assessment, certain recurring themes were discovered: Wisconsin lacks good, consistent recreational data; the roles of various public and private recreational providers are unclear; Wisconsin's natural resources must be protected while providing recreation opportunities at the same time; and change is inevitable.

The plan also identifies five major, statewide issues facing outdoor recreation in Wisconsin and suggests strategies for addressing those issues:

- Multiple recreational activities are currently competing for the same limited recreation resources
- Changing land uses, ownership, and regulations reduce recreational opportunities and diminish resource quality
- Financial resources are increasingly strained to meet costs of operating and maintaining recreation resources
- Overall, people lack outdoor skills and ethics and knowledge of available outdoor recreation opportunities
- WDNR should provide leadership in planning for outdoor recreation activities

While by no means a complete analysis, these issues should foster future discussion between recreation providers about how to better serve various recreation interests. By identifying issues of statewide significance, outdoor recreation providers, from village recreation departments to federal agencies, can better identify individual roles for providing high quality recreational opportunities offered to our citizens, now and into the future.

### **2.3.2 Wood County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan 2001**

The Wood County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan summarizes the County's park and recreation resources, makes recommendations for maintaining and improving those resources, and provides a timetable and identifies funding sources for completing the identified improvements. The plan's intent is to ensure a practical outdoor recreation plan to meet the needs of Wood County residents and also to make wise use of the County's resources, including natural and man-made resources, as well as financial resources available through State, Federal, and local programs.

The City of Marshfield should consider the following recommendations from the Wood County plan as they implement their own Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan:

- The plan recognizes that bicycling is an important family activity and mode of transportation and the Wood County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan should be implemented once completed. This includes providing safe bicycle routes through Marshfield and connecting to regional destinations.
- The County wishes to work with municipalities, including Marshfield, and other governing bodies to identify projects that both meet their common goals and are eligible for State Stewardship funds.
- The plan recommends developing trails near Marshfield where they will be easily accessible to an urban population.
- The plan identifies all historic places in Wood County that are on the National Register; eight of the ten properties are located in the City of Marshfield; therefore demonstrating the importance of the City's historic properties to the County's history.

- The plan recommends that parkland dedication activities include linear open spaces when those linear spaces are considered good bicycle or pedestrian connections.

In addition to these recommendations, the plan suggests public policy measures that should be followed by all municipalities in the County, including the City of Marshfield. A summary of these policies include:

- Upgrade community park facilities.
- Develop centrally located neighborhood parks in residential areas.
- Utilize easements to create neighborhood parks.
- Require residential subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use.
- Encourage the private sector to develop specialized recreation facilities.
- Promote continued and increased cooperation between municipalities and school districts in meeting recreational needs.
- Involve senior citizens in community park development and beautification, and provide recreational facilities for their use.
- Involve organized service groups in needed park and recreation development.
- Recognize that community appearance is an important component of a recreation program.
- Study and implement recreation activities for high school age youth.
- Communities should pool their resources and carefully monitor operations and maintenance costs when developing or expanding a parks program.
- All communities should provide winter outdoor recreation facilities.
- All communities should assess recreation needs on a five year basis.
- Municipal officials should develop five-year capital improvements programs for recreation that reflect implementation of proposals made in their plans and the priorities they place on them.
- All communities in the County should adopt uniform standards for recreational development.
- All providers of recreation facilities should make a determined effort to provide both service and recreation activities for physically and mentally handicapped persons.
- All public school sites in the County should continue to have associated outdoor recreation facilities open for public use when school is not in session.

Especially important to consider are the recommendations regarding the acquisition of linear open spaces to accommodate bicycle/pedestrian facilities and requiring residential subdivisions to dedicate portions of subdivided land for permanent park and open space. One of the major goals of this plan is to create a comprehensive, connected trail system within Marshfield. With an awareness of potential acquisition parcels suitable to trails, this goal can be made a reality. Further, as Marshfield seeks to implement the other goals and action plan of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Report, they will be more easily accomplished with the creation of a parkland dedication ordinance and/or impact fee.

Marshfield's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan embraces and is consistent with the goals and recommendations of the Wood County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

An update to the Wood County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space 2001 Plan is currently underway.



- |                       |  |                                  |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| A. 14th Street Park   | I. Griese Park                             | Q. Strohmman Park                |
| B. 8th & Hemlock Park | J. Hamus Nature Preserve & Recreation Area | R. UW-Athletic Fields            |
| C. Benedict Park      | K. Joe & Bernadine Weber's Park            | S. Veterans Park                 |
| D. Braem Park         | L. Marshfield Fairgrounds Park             | T. Walnut Street Detention Basin |
| E. Columbia Park      | M. Northern Hills Park                     | U. Wildwood Park and Zoo         |
| F. Conner Park        | N. Pickle Pond Park                        |                                  |
| G. Forest Ridge Park  | O. Praschak Wayside                        |                                  |
| H. Grant Park         | P. Steve J Miller Rec. Area                |                                  |

**Legend**

- |                |            |   |
|----------------|------------|---|
| City Boundary  | US Highway | Mini Park Service Area (0.25 mi)        |
| Local Roads    | Railroad   | Neighborhood Park Service Area (0.5 mi) |
| County Highway | Lake       | Community Park Service Area (2 mi)      |
| State Highway  |            |   |

Note:  
Special Use & Conservancy  
Parks do not have service areas.

## 2.4 Public Input

The fourth method of evaluating a community's parkland and recreational needs is to solicit public input to the planning process.

- July 27, 2005- Stakeholder Meeting
  - SAA staff met with 4 groups representing different aspects of the City of Marshfield. These included Business, Health, Community and Education
  - An hour was spent with each group collecting opinions and information regarding the needs and wants of each group. A summary of their comments can be found in Appendix D
- August 8, 2005
  - Citizens Task Force, called together for the first time to help develop this plan
  - The group provided excellent and helpful input throughout the planning process.
  - A list of participants can be found in Appendix C.
- September 20, 2005
  - Citizens Task Force reviewed Draft 1 of the report
- October 18, 2005
  - Citizens Task Force reviewed Draft 2 of the report
- November 9, 2005
  - The City of Marshfield and the consultant hosted an open house at the Senior Center
  - Information on existing facilities and proposed recommendations was provided to meeting attendees.
  - Attendees were free to ask questions of the consultant or city staff at the meeting, they were also encouraged to write down their ideas for each park.
  - Several ideas were collected this way and added to the plan.

## 2.5 2005 Marshfield Citizen Survey Results Related to Park and Recreation Issues

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Political Research Institute, in conjunction with the City of Marshfield, conducted a mail survey of all households within the City of Marshfield in July of 2005. Over 8,600 surveys were sent out and the final response rate was slightly over 35%. The highlights listed in the Executive Summary include the following:

- A slim majority of the respondents were willing to accept increases in property taxes in order to maintain existing City services.
- Respondents indicated strong support for continued funding of the Wildwood Zoo and Hefko Pool.
- Respondents generally favored low-cost solutions to existing city issues, such as remodeling rather than replacing the existing fire station.
- Residents are generally pleased with the level of service they receive from the City.
- Clear divisions are visible between the older and younger respondents and between the wealthy and less-wealthy respondents.

The report also provides information on usage of certain public facilities in the past year. 63.3% of respondents indicated that they had used a city park three or more times in the past year (28.7%

indicated using a park over 11 times in one year). 50.3% of respondents said they had visited Wildwood Zoo three or more times in the past year, and 39.6% indicated that they had used the bike/ped trail system in the past year three times or more. This use pattern fits well with the main goals of this plan which are to maintain and improve the condition of the existing parks in Marshfield. Improve the zoo and complete/connect existing trail sections to each other and to city parks and other destinations.

Hefko Pool, baseball field use, tennis court use, skate park use and soccer field use all had more than 75% of the respondents indicating that they have not used these facilities in the past year even once.

The low reported use of the skate park, the baseball fields and the soccer fields makes sense given the age of the respondents. However, the low reported use of the tennis courts and the pool is somewhat surprising. The CORP update process has indicated a high interest in the future of the pool, and a desire for a better swimming facility and a popular desire for more tennis courts and better care of the ones in existence.

The survey reports support for continued funding of the zoo was tied with support for school crossing guards at the top of the list. Support for the zoo crosses all demographic lines with the community. Again, this fits with what we have heard during the public input sessions held to update the CORP.

The overall value of the scores for the athletic facilities were fairly mediocre. More respondents rated them as poor than excellent, but the clear bulk of the responses fell into the good or average categories. It is interesting to note that the people that made the most use of facilities like baseball fields, tennis courts, soccer and especially the trails, reported a higher value placed on athletic facilities in general.

The overall value of scores for the Wildwood Zoo are very good. 48% of the respondents felt the zoo was an excellent or a good value. An additional 29.6% felt it was an average value. Also, the more people used the zoo, the more they appreciated its value. 42.4% of those who rated the zoo as an "excellent value" reported visiting it more than 10 times per year. 41.2% of the people rating it a poor value reported never visiting the zoo in the past year.

Interestingly, even though there are high levels of support for pedestrian and biking trails in the City, the two questions that asked about building sidewalks along new or existing streets received very little support. 64.6% respondents did not support converting ditched streets to streets with curb and gutter and 68.7% of the respondents did not support the building of sidewalks. Sidewalks would make the City of Marshfield's neighborhoods much more walkable and pedestrian friendly, which seems to be important to those providing input to the CORP update process.

The ratings for recreation in Marshfield are generally positive, only twelve percent of respondents choosing to rate the availability as poor.

The researchers reported a clear and unequivocal support for some city programs such as the Wildwood Zoo and school crossing guards. Generally the survey reports support for walking and biking trails, and an overall satisfaction with the recreational facilities and the recreation programming offered by the City of Marshfield.

### **3 2006-2010 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations**

#### **3.1 Future Park Locations**

As Marshfield continues to develop the pattern of neighborhood parks serving small residential areas should be maintained. In order to do this the city staff and the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee must stay in touch with planning so they are aware of new residential areas planned for the city. The park land set aside should be 1 to 2 acres in size and accessible by the neighborhood residents by foot or bike. The facilities should be similar to those found in existing neighborhood parks in Marshfield, a playground, small mowed lawn play field, a small shelter, and possibly a basketball court and bounding board.

Discussions with the city staff in the fall of 2005 indicate that new residential growth is expected in the northwest side of Marshfield and in the northeast near Conner Park. The new northwest neighbors will need park land as this is an area that is currently underserved as far as park availability goes. Conner Park is a passive use park, but due to the residential area it is located in, it should have the facilities to serve as a neighborhood park. This could be accomplished by acquiring an acre or two in the area currently being developed and placing playground equipment and a small shelter on the site. The addition of University Park on 5<sup>th</sup> Street would compliment the Weber Park Development. See Appendix I for a map of potential future residential growth in the City of Marshfield.

A facility type that is almost always needed these days are flat grassy open areas. Areas suitable for soccer practice, pick up soccer games, flag football or ultimate Frisbee are always in demand. The City of Marshfield should keep an eye out for acquisitions that will provide areas for fields. Also, there maybe opportunities to consider leasing lawn area from private owners or using lots that are awaiting development to accommodate these needs.

#### **3.2 Park Inventory and Development Recommendations**

This section of the report contains a review of the park inventory found in Section 1.3. It also includes recommendations for each individual park. "O.H" after a recommendation indicates that the recommendation was made at the November 9, 2005 public open house.

#### **Community Parks**

##### **Wildwood Park**

The Wildwood Park and Zoo area is a 340.16-acre site consisting of a variety of activity areas. A portion of the area includes a designated buffer area for the Marshfield Airport. The Marshfield "fixed asset" park proper is 169 acres. Facilities in the park include the Hefko municipal outdoor swimming pool, two lighted tennis courts, a nine hole disc golf course, an enclosed pavilion – Wildwood Station building, two large picnic shelters, 2 small picnic shelters, steam locomotive exhibit, nature trails, two large man made ponds, playground equipment, accessible fishing piers, and municipal zoo. Much of the area is heavily wooded and contains a wide variety of flowering ground cover.

Praschak Wayside (6.8 acres) is a highway wayside on the east side of Roddis Avenue (STH 13) that is also included in the Wildwood Park acreage. The parcel includes the American Legion Building and the Alano Club, both of which have long-term leases with the City. It also includes a picnic table. In February of 1998, the City sold 1.5 acres to Figi's Inc. for business expansion. The City also sold a small parcel to the Henry Praschak Memorial Fund, Inc. in 1998. The sale of this 0.15 acre parcel allowed the new owners to retain the statue of Christ and make landscape improvements to the area. Following the sale of this property at Praschak Wayside the 8 camp sites were removed and camping was relocated to the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association property.

In 1997 a decision was made to remove the 75-year-old pavilion at the park. The new Wildwood Station was completed in 1998 in the same location as the original pavilion. The building is air conditioned and heated to allow for year-round use. The City provided \$230,000 and the private sector raised over \$400,000 in donations to complete construction of the facility.

The site also includes 36.77 acres utilized by the electric and water utility. The city owned Marshfield Utilities operations and offices are located on the site. Following the demolition of the power plant and cooling towers in 1998, the Park and Recreation Department assumed responsibility for the management of the upper and lower ponds. Approximately 137 acres, west of the developed portion of the park, are reserved for potential airport expansion.

### Wildwood Park Zoo

The Wildwood Park Zoo was established in 1937. This zoo encompasses over 38 acres of land and boasts a variety of animals and birds from North America. Exhibits located in the core zoo include grizzly bear, cougars, lynx, timber wolves, prairie dogs, sand hill cranes, turkey vulture, eagles, peregrine falcon, rough legged hawks, red tail hawk, screech owls, and great horned owl. The drive by pasture exhibits feature bison, elk, white-tail deer, and turkeys. Native animals such as geese, ducks, swans, muskrats, rabbits and squirrels can also be found in the park and zoo. The zoo also features Sensory Gardens, which includes a wide variety of flowering and non-flowering plants designed to encourage the visitor to experience the senses of sight, sound, smell, and touch in a unique and tranquil setting and the Native Gardens exhibit, developed in 2005 and when mature, will simulate the stages of a prairie habitat evolving into a Wisconsin woodland forest.

The Wildwood Park Zoological Society works closely with the Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Marshfield to continue improvement and development of the zoo, which is one of the feature attractions for visitors to the area.

The 1990 master plan for Wildwood Park and Zoo calls for improving the entrances into the park and zoo, improving pedestrian circulation within the zoo, expanding parking, improving pedestrian trails, improving signage, installing an observation tower and handicap fishing pier, and expanding the zoo area. The primary uses of the park and zoo would remain unchanged. A more complete list of the 1990 master plan recommendations can be found in Appendix E. Information regarding the proposed updated 2006 Zoo Master Plan is located in Section 3.4.2.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Continue to follow the 1990 master plan – an updated master plan is in process***
- ***Improve the recreational and aesthetic qualities of the ponds; specifically related to the upper pond, consider restoration of habitat and creation of recreational opportunities***
- ***Consider charging a fee to provide revenue for the zoo***

- ***Work with the Zoo Society to develop long term plans for the zoo and increase fundraising efforts***
- ***Continue to work with private donors to improve and maintain the new shelters and playground equipment***
- ***Renovate or replace Hefko Pool***
- ***Eliminate the Maple Street access drive to Praschak Wayside to eliminate a costly maintenance item and work with American Legion to identify alternative uses for the area.***
- ***Do not apply pesticides on days of heavy use, such as weekends and summer holidays when people are picnicking (O.H.) Note: This is not a current practice***
- ***Complete the trail between Steve Miller and Wildwood for bike and pedestrian access (O.H.)***
- ***Stock ponds with game fish (O.H.)***

### **Marshfield Fairgrounds Park**

The Marshfield Fairgrounds Park is a 45.4-acre community park/special use park located in the southeastern quadrant of the city. The park, with the exception of the ball diamonds in the interior of the track, is managed under the policy making authority of a Fairgrounds Commission consisting of three (3) city aldermen and three (3) county supervisors. The Central Wisconsin State Fair Association (CWSTA), an independent organization responsible for the operation of the annual fair, own and manage both a 10-acre parcel adjacent to the western property line of the Fairgrounds and a 12-acre section that borders the southern edge of the city-owned Marshfield Fairgrounds.

Facilities at the park include a ½ -mile dirt racetrack, which is currently not used for races, two (2) lighted 300' softball fields with a concession stand and press box, two (2) lighted sand volleyball courts, playground equipment, Fuzzy Fellenz Hospitality Building, a curling club (owned and operated by an independent club), and numerous fair exhibit buildings that are used year round for a variety of activities. The site also contains one of the largest round barns in the world, listed on the State and National Historic Register. The grass parking areas on the perimeter of the grounds are used as practice sites for baseball, softball and soccer teams and as a dog exercise area by local residents. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for both the grounds maintenance and coordination of the city owned facility usage. The City owned property is used by the CWSTA for the two weeks before and after the fair as well as the week of the fair. With the exception of the area inside the race track that is under control of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee, the remaining city owned property is managed under the policies of the Fair Commission that consists of 3 city alderman and 3 county supervisors. Please see the following page for a map of the Fairgrounds and the various management areas.

Facilities on the adjacent property that are owned by the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association include an indoor hockey arena, an outdoor horse arena and two 40 stall horse barn, a outdoor hockey rink, and a campground with electric and water hook ups. The campground is available to the general public and reservations can be made through the Fair Association. The office building for the Central Wisconsin State Fair Association is located on City owned property. (See Appendix I for a map of Fairground Ownership and Management)

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Examine alternative uses for the old race track***
- ***Consider a master plan to inventory the building conditions, long term uses, traffic flow, and make suggestions for improvements***
- ***Pursue implementation of 2005 Stormwater Management plan***

- *Use the fields south and east of the grounds as a “dog park” area (O.H.)*

### **Braem Park**

Braem Park is a 33.34-acre community park located in the northeast quadrant of the city. Facilities at the park include four (4) lighted tennis courts, a skate park, a softball field, playground equipment, 13 horseshoe courts, picnic areas, concession stand, picnic shelter with restrooms, an 18-hole disc golf course and nature trails. Approximately one half of the site is wooded. The Sunrise Rotary Club is the designated “Park Improvement Partner” and has assisted with a number of park improvements.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- *Continue to improve the new disc golf course by installing concrete tee pads*
- *Continue to add elements to skate park as originally designed plus consider a separate area for beginners*
- *Improve softball diamond*
- *Manage the non native, invasive species in the woods with a focus on Bucktorn (*rhamnus carthartica*) (O.H.)*

### **Steve J. Miller Recreation Area**

Steve J. Miller Recreation Area is a 21.43-acre community park serving the entire city with its unique facilities. Its open space and recreation facilities also serves as a neighborhood park for those neighborhoods in the immediate vicinity. In 1993 the city acquired two privately owned parcels (0.25 acres) that were surrounded on three sides by the park. This acquisition was in accordance with a recommendation in the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Master Plan and the land purchase and removal of buildings was made possible by a Wisconsin DNR Stewardship cost share grant. In 1995, a Park Master Plan combining this area, Arthur J. Reeths baseball field and the Oak Avenue Community Center (old Armory Building), was developed to address the impacts of the Veterans Parkway on the area. The phased construction occurred between 1998 and 2004. Facilities at the park include the G.P. Olson East and G.P Olson West fields - two (2) youth baseball fields,(200’) Arthur J. Reeths Field - an intermediate sized baseball field (350’), and the Jack Hackman Field - a regulation sized baseball field (see below). In addition there are four (4) lighted tennis courts, a park shelter with restrooms, 227 stall parking lot and a lighted ice-skating rink.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- *Install a playground with a sun shelter in the park*
- *Finish Phase III Enhancements not completed due to funding limitations, such as landscaping, additional lights etc.*
- *Budget to renovate the shelter at the south side of the park*
- *Build a half-court basketball court at the west end of the tennis courts and include a bounding board on the north side of the west tennis court*
- *Resurface the tennis courts*
- *Provide more bike parking to accommodate those coming off the nearby trails*

### **Jack Hackman Baseball Field (Part of the Steve J. Miller Recreation Area)**

This 4.60-acre special use facility is located inside Steve J. Miller Recreation Area. It contains a regulation size ball diamond with lights, fencing, electronic scoreboard, bleachers with seating for 1000, above ground covered dugouts, a combination concession/broadcast building and restrooms. Constructed in the spring of 1999, this field is one of the premier baseball fields in north central Wisconsin.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Add maintenance access drive from parking lot and material/equipment storage building***

### **Oak Avenue Community Center (Part of the Steve J. Miller Recreation Area)**

When the Wisconsin National Guard constructed a new Armory on the south side of the community, ownership of the Old Armory was conveyed to the city. Renamed the Oak Avenue Community Center, the building is home to a gymnasium, kitchen, storage areas and meeting/activity rooms. Currently, the Squared Circle boxing club, some YMCA classes, Parks and Recreation volleyball leagues, independent team practice and tournament play are held in the building. The local community band also practices at this site. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department, Zoological Society, Pop Warner Football and Community Band store equipment at the Community Center. The building is rented by groups and individuals for various shows, sales and events.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Contract with a consultant for a study of the OACC to determine how to use this building to its full potential***
- ***Consider selling the .9 acre site located on the west side of Oak Avenue to adjacent property owner***
- ***Budget for roof repairs, window and door replacement, tuck pointing and mason repairs, heating and ventilation improvements and interior painting in the gym***
- ***Improve pedestrian access to the building from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street***

### **Griese Park**

Griese Park is a 21.5-acre park located in the southeast quadrant of the city. The park was made possible by a land donation by Dr. George and Margaret Griese in 1994. The initial phase of the park development was completed in the fall of 1997 and included three (3) soccer fields, a 0.75-mile asphalt pedestrian trail, entrance drive, 123 stall parking lot, utility service installations, and an area for future development of either basketball courts and/or sand volleyball courts. A second development phase was completed in 1999 and included landscaping and a restroom/shelter building. Additional improvements have been made at the park since 1999 including a new asphalt surface basketball court with 4 adjustable goals, donated by St. Joseph's Hospital and Ministry Health Care, a "community built" playground was constructed in 2001, and in 2003 two electronic soccer scoreboards were donated and installed on the Figi and Weinfurtner Fields. The park also includes wetlands and natural wooded areas. The area around the shelter hosts a beautiful rain garden, with native flowers and grasses. The rain garden, constructed and maintained by the Marshfield Ground Water Guardians in 2004, serves dual purposes, cleansing storm water runoff and reducing the amount of area mowed.

In 2005, the City purchased 3 acres of vacant land to the north of Griese Park. Plans call for the expansion of the pedestrian trail and the installation of three (3) 50 yard by 35 yard soccer fields that can be overlaid with one 80 yard by 50 yard soccer field. The land will also accommodate an additional 45 stall parking lot along Palmetto Avenue. MARSH 21 was active in acquiring the initial land donation and has raised a substantial amount of private donations to assist with the development of the park.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- *Generate design development phase drawings of the new parcel and its proposed facilities*
- *Budget for the engineering and installation of the new facilities in*

## Neighborhood Parks

### Benedict Park

Benedict Park is a 2.21-acre neighborhood park/playground serving the Zimmerman Subdivision neighborhood in the northeast quadrant of the city. Facilities at the park include a canopy picnic shelter, picnic facilities, asphalt basketball court, and playground equipment. The basketball court and additional playground equipment were installed in 1994.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- *Improve condition of basketball courts and consider fence or landscape screening for neighbors*
- *Develop sidewalk access to park facilities to meet ADA requirements*

### Forest Ridge Park

Forest Ridge Park is a 3.13-acre neighborhood park serving the Forest Ridge neighborhood in the west quadrant of the city. The site contains playground equipment, picnic tables, basketball court and a backstop. The playground equipment was replaced in 2004.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- *Consider contracting with a porta pottie company to provide toilets during the summer (O.H.)*

## Mini-parks

### Grant Park

Grant Park is a 0.71-acre park located in the central neighborhood on the former site of Grant Elementary School. Facilities at the park include playground equipment, picnic tables, and park benches. A large water tower, owned and operated by the Marshfield Utilities, is also located just west of the play equipment. A plan created in 1989 called for development of a basketball court in the area west of Oak Avenue. Although Marshfield Utilities requests that a buffer of 100' be maintained around the water tower there is still room in the park for the basketball court. New playground equipment was installed in 2004.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- *Provide accessible path to the playground*
- *Consider a tennis court with a half court basketball included(O.H.)*

### Northern Hills Park

Northern Hills Park is a 0.34-acre mini-park located within the Northern Hills subdivision in the northwest quadrant of the city. The mini-park contains playground equipment for small children and picnic benches. The playground equipment was replaced in 1997.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- *Update some of the older equipment (O.H.)*

### Pickle Pond Park/Ice Skating

This neighborhood park/ice skating rink is located in the north central part of the city. The 1.5-acre site includes a warming house with restrooms and a lighted skating rink. In addition, the site has a backstop and is used for pick-up ball games and soccer practice.

***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***None at this time***

## **Conservancy Areas**

### **Conner Park**

Conner Park is a 5.6-acre conservancy park in the northeast quadrant of the city and is currently undeveloped. The only site improvement is a nature trail loop. Earlier plans called for a small neighborhood playground area and basketball court however current opinion is that the site should remain as a natural area with walking trails. Adjacent property should be acquired for future development of the playground and basketball court area. Property to the south and east of Conner Park has been considered for future residential development. A wetland area borders the park to the east.

***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***As lands to the south of Conner Park are developed the City should seriously consider acquiring a land parcel from the developer to install a playground and a basketball court***
- ***Manage park vegetation to minimize non native invasive species(O.H.)***

### **Hamus Nature Preserve and Recreation Area**

In 2004, the Marshfield Utilities purchased 32 acres of land north of Wilderness View Drive (27.5 acres are wetland). The land was purchased to protect the City's wellhead but it also offers some passive use recreational opportunities. Three small ponds were constructed on the property in 2005. The plan recommends native landscaping for the entire parcel and a parking lot and hiking trails to allow visitors to enjoy the property and its wildlife. As the main purpose of this property is well head protection, it is expected that Marshfield Utilities will continue to provide the necessary maintenance for this property. Phase I development of this reserve was completed in the fall of 2005 and included trails, both asphalt and stone surface, a shelter building, restrooms and parking lot installation.

***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Manage the park's vegetation to restore it to native vegetation over time***
- ***Continue to develop trails and interpretive signs for the preserve***
- ***Consider connecting the new preserve to Marshfield via bike trails and routes(O.H.)***

### **Joe and Bernadine Weber's Nature Park**

In 2001, the City of Marshfield received a \$63,500 Urban Rivers grant from the WI DNR to assist in the purchase of approximately 37.15 acres of land bordering the east branch of the Yellow River from the Marshfield Country Club. During that same year, Joe and Bernadine Weber took an interest in the project and donated \$100,000 to the City of Marshfield to assist with the purchase of the land and Phase I development.

In 2002, the City of Marshfield purchased the property and received a second grant from the WI DNR in the amount of \$80,000 to assist with Phase I development.

In August of 2003, a committee was formed to develop a master plan for the park. The master plan calls for a wildlife pond, asphalt surface parking lot, restroom, shelter, pond observation deck, asphalt surface trails, natural surface trails, boardwalk crossings of wetland areas, a sidewalk extension on the Street, culvert crossings over the drainage ditch, historical information signs, forest management zones and nature viewing areas. In November of 2004, the City of Marshfield received a wetland development permit from both the WI DNR and the Army Corp of Engineers that cleared the way for Phase I development.

Phase I construction was finished in the fall of 2005 and included creation of the trail system and parking facilities. Phase II construction will include the addition of the shelter/restroom building and nature viewing accommodations.

***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Continue to develop the park as planned in the 2003 master plan***
- ***Consider starting a Friends of Weber Nature Park group to assist with fund raising for development and maintenance and to possibly organize clean up days and lead nature education hikes***
- ***Working with an arborist, focus on tree health and tree renewal in the park***
- ***Consider connecting cross country ski trail and snow shoe trail to the golf course to create an extensive trail system during the off season (O.H.)***

## **Special Use Parks**

### **Strohman Park**

Strohman Park is a small vest pocket park located at the City Hall Plaza. The park was developed in 1991 to serve as a memorial to local firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. The park contains a small pond and fountain, benches, tables, and flower plantings. The Marshfield Fire and Rescue Department staff assist with park maintenance, funding of improvements and decorate the site with lights during the winter holiday season.

***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Expand the park to align with the back of the City Hall building to the west and close 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, develop this expanded park area as a civic gathering space with a gazebo, park benches, paved paths and shade trees in conjunction with the downtown plan***

### **Columbia Park**

Columbia Park is a 2.49-acre special use park located one block west of Central Avenue. The park contains a band shell, picnic tables, and park benches. Many large, mature trees inhabit the site. This park is used for special community events in addition to weekly band concerts during the summer. The band shell has restrooms located in the back of the building but both the band shell and restrooms are not ADA accessible. In 1995 an electric service panel was installed in the northwest corner of the park to accommodate the electrical needs of special events held at the park.

***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Conduct a study on the historic restoration of the band shell and ADA accessibility***
- ***Budget to begin the restoration effort of the band shell***
- ***Working with an arborist, focus on tree health and tree renewal in the park***
- ***Landscape the front of the band shell including annual flower beds(O.H.)***

### **Eighth and Hemlock Ice Skating Rink**

This facility is no longer used as an ice skating rink. Located on a 1.14 acre site in the southeast quadrant of the city. Located across the street from Beell Stadium, it is currently used for overflow parking.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Consider redevelopment of the park as a mini-park facility***

### **Fourteenth Street Ice Skating Rink**

This 0.64-acre site is no longer used as an ice skating rink. The Park, Recreation and Forestry Committee has indicated to the city that this site can be considered as surplus property.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Consider future of the property – possible redevelopment of a mini-park facility***

### **Veterans Memorial Park**

Veterans Memorial Park is a 1.95 -acre special use park containing a memorial, benches, and picnic tables. The site contains many large mature trees, shrubs, and flower planters. In 1996 the American Legion completed the development of a Vietnam War vintage cobra helicopter display in the park. The Immanuel Lutheran Elementary School, located across the street from the park, uses it as a recess play area.

#### ***Recommended Improvements:***

- ***Work with an arborist, focus on tree health and tree renewal in the park***

### **Greenways – Managed and Maintained by the Public Works Department and Street Division**

The primary purpose of these lands is storm water management. Requirements for stormwater management are evolving and may impact future recreational use of these properties.

#### **Meadowbrook Greenway**

The Meadowbrook Greenway is a 3.86-acre linear natural runoff corridor located in the northeast quadrant of the city. The greenway was dedicated at the time the area was subdivided.

#### **Northeast Greenway**

The Northeast Greenway is a broad natural runoff corridor for Squaw Creek. The greenway is 104 acres and adjoins the Marshfield Senior High School site. The greenway was acquired by purchase from landowners; some of the acquisition was purchased using federal LAWCON funds.

#### **Pleasant Valley Greenway**

The Pleasant Valley Greenway is a 2.00-acre linear natural runoff corridor located in the west quadrant of the city. The greenway was dedicated at the time the area was subdivided.

#### **Southeast Greenway**

The Southeast Greenway is a natural runoff corridor for Mill Creek located in the southeastern quadrant of the city. The greenway was purchased from landowners for drainage purposes and is 22.45 acres in size.

***Recommended improvements to be considered for all greenways in the City:***

- ***Consider planting native grasses and flowers in the greenways to decrease the amount of mowing and increase the effectiveness of stormwater infiltration***
- ***Consider if the greenways can become part of the pedestrian and bicycle trail system of Marshfield***
- ***Examine future annexations, map environmental corridors and future greenways***

### **3.3 Proposed 5-Year Action Plan**

#### **3.3.1 City-wide Improvements**

The following is a list of recommendations for the entire system of City of Marshfield parks. The overall list of recommendations may seem overwhelming, however, they are meant to be long-term and they should be implemented over a period of years. The citywide improvements should be implemented over a ten to twenty year period, as opposed to implementing the Capital Improvements Program for specific sites in a five-year period. If all the citywide recommendations are implemented, the Marshfield Park and Recreation System will be significantly improved.

General Recommendations (listed according to priority)

Accessible Restrooms

- Retrofit all parks and park facilities to be disabled accessible, including shelters and restrooms. As park toilet buildings are built or upgraded, they should be designed to be barrier-free and accessible to all park users.

Playground Safety Surfaces

- Maintain playground safety surfaces directly under play equipment and a safe zone around the play equipment with a 10-inch to 12-inch layer of resilient materials. Commonly used resilient surfaces are sand, pea gravel and bark or wood chips. To meet the Federal ADA requirements, the City of Marshfield is using “Wood Carpet” or a similar product that provides wheelchair accessibility as well as a resilient surface. Consider the use of “rubber surfacing” where practicable.

Specific Recommendations

- Continue to develop a citywide, barrier-free, multi-purpose trail system that connects city parks, county and state parks and provides access to natural and cultural resources in the community and region. Cooperate with various transportation agencies to provide safe crossings at major street and highway intersections.
- Actively generate funds for park and recreation programs and park development.
  - Revenue generating activities (fees)
    - Potential Subdivision impact fee
    - Potential Payment in lieu of dedication of parkland

Grants and donations

Create a Marshfield Area Sporting Events organization to solicit and implement large tournaments and bring special events to Marshfield.

- Consider the creation of a subcommittee to improve upon joint use policies and agreements between the City, school district, County and recreation associations to help develop recommendations for future park facilities. This committee would be responsible for oversight of the various partnerships existing between the Parks and Recreation Department and other recreation providers
- Research opportunities to increase the tax-based funding for the Parks and Recreation Department. Possibilities include utilizing a School District based system to fund recreational programming or the creation of a Park District System. Currently, there are no Park Districts in Wisconsin due to legal issues but legislation is pending. There are 27 School District based recreation programs in Wisconsin.
- Perform systematic routine maintenance of park facilities and equipment.
  - Play equipment
  - Courts and fields
  - Benches and picnic tables
  - Trail systems
  - Restrooms and shelters
- Acquire additional parklands as appropriate to meet current and future recreational needs per the recommendations of the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

### 3.3.2 Capital Improvements Plan 2006-2010

Capital improvements to a park are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designated and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Routine maintenance, on the other hand, is considered to be the repair and upkeep of existing park facilities, such as painting a shelter building. Routine maintenance of park facilities does not appreciably increase the value or usefulness of the park, and is traditionally funded through the park department's operations budget. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, such as upgrading a toilet facility to be barrier-free is usually considered to be a capital improvement.

Most projects can be easily identified and categorized, but some are difficult. When a project falls on the borderline between a capital improvement and maintenance, the overall cost becomes the determinant. Projects with a high cost, such as for seal coating roads or parking lots, are categorized as capital improvements.

The capital improvements program for each park is a combination of several types of projects. These projects are ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the park. Generally, capital improvements are ranked in the following manner:

- Improvements to Existing Facilities

Correct health and safety hazards  
Upgrade deficient facilities  
Modernize adequate but outdated facilities

- Installation of facilities as deemed appropriate and necessary through public demand (public meetings, PRFC input, expected population growth)
- Development of new facilities as deemed necessary through comparison to NRPA park and recreation standards

The City of Marshfield Parks CIP addresses the four areas of concern that have been discussed throughout this planning process. First it focuses on taking care of existing facilities such as the Oak Ave Community Center, the Wildwood Zoo and restoration of the band shell at Columbia Park.

The condition and future of Hefko Pool came up at every public meeting and stake holders meeting that we held. The CIP includes fund to study the best option for a pool in Marshfield including feasibility and location.

Tennis court conditions have been a major concern to people participating in the CORP update process, the courts at Steve J. Miller park are due to be reconstructed in 2007. This will add four courts in excellent condition to the Marshfield inventory and should help meet demand.

Finally, the completion of the trail system in Marshfield is a demand that came through each time we asked the public which projects they would like to see Marshfield focus on over the next five years. The CIP includes \$695,000 to improve trails in the city. The biggest budget item is \$650,000 for the Wildwood Station to McMillan Marsh Trail.

The 2.5 million dollar CIP for the parks system addresses issues and demands brought to light during this planning process and should result in an improved park system that serves the citizens of Marshfield well into the second decade of 2000.

**Table 3-1 City of Marshfield Capital Improvements Plan 2006-2010**

### 3.4 Marshfield Park and Recreation Focus Areas

#### 3.4.1 Hefko Pool

##### *City of Marshfield, Wisconsin Swimming Pool Study*

This study was completed in November 2000 with the purpose of providing the City of Marshfield officials with the information required to determine the future of Hefko Pool and the future of outdoor swimming in Marshfield. The existing pool was originally constructed in 1934 and reconstructed in 1974 and is in need of repair or replacement.

The report states that the Hefko site is the best available location for an outdoor swimming pool and that there are no City-owned parcels of sufficient size available that would provide a better location; purchasing land would add to the project budget. The committee that studied the pool issue felt that Wildwood Park is a great location and that a pool will enhance the City's efforts to improve the Zoo, Wildwood Station, and other park enhancements. Also, the community and the pool's neighbors accept the present location.

The plan recommends replacing the existing pool with a modern, zero-depth entrance swimming facility with recreational amenities that will serve the needs of the entire community. The recommended plan includes:

- A zero-depth entrance (beach entry) swimming pool
- A new combination bathhouse, concession, and mechanical building
- A new parking lot
- A double-flume waterslide
- A water walk
- A deep area with a diving board and a drop slide
- An interactive shallow water play feature
- Ample pool deck and natural grass inside the facility
- A 50-meter, 3-lane training course
- An accessible facility

The allowable capacity of this recommended facility is 912 people. The plan recommended a timeline for the project and that the pool open in June 2004; however, this has not yet occurred.

The estimated cost of the new aquatic center recommended by the pool study was \$3,215,915. Funding was initially budgeted in the 2002 budget to cover the cost to design the new pool but the funding was later shifted to another project when the Common Council decided that the overall project cost was too high and that no large private donations had come forward to support the project. The project also came to the forefront as the City was confronted with the need for a new fire station. To date neither of these projects has been completed or resolved.

### 3.4.2 The Future of Wildwood Zoo

As mentioned before, the Wildwood Zoo is one of the City’s premiere attractions, made even more so by its free admission. As the Zoo and the surrounding park have become more popular, increased usage has added pressure to an already well-used site. In the recent city-wide survey, 80% of respondents wanted the Wildwood Park and Zoo to be saved from budget cuts.

In March 2001, a Zoo Master Plan Task Force was formed to assess and review the 1990 Master Plan and provide a recommendation to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee as to the best action to follow to update the existing plan or to create a new plan. As part of the Task Force process a self-study survey under the direction of the American Association of Museums was completed.

In 2004 the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee appointed the Zoo Master Plan Committee to develop a recommended Master Plan for the Wildwood Zoo.

The Master Plan Committee agreed that the new master plan should be a five (5) year plan that should be reviewed annually and a status report be given to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee.

#### Master Plan Committee Members

Jeff Becker	Tom Buttke	Bonnie Curtiss	John Christenson
Chad Dallman	Ed Englehart	Mike Feirer	Don Lamon*
Laura Lee	Mayor Mike Meyers	Jim Nikolai*	Kristy Palmer
Tonia Peters*	Chris Viegut	Kathryn Yochis*	

\* Left committee prior to adoption of final master plan.

#### Mission Statement

The mission of Wildwood Zoo is to foster an understanding of our partnership with nature and the environment through animal conservation, education, and recreational opportunities.

#### Vision Statement

Provide Marshfield and all visitors to Central Wisconsin a natural park environment and family adventure through viewing natural displays of North American animals. The Zoo will be a place to observe and celebrate the diversity of wildlife, educate visitors regarding wildlife survival and habitat preservation, and will emphasize conservation of threatened species.

#### Recommendations

#### Governing Authority

- Create a Zoo Commission that would have management and policy authority over the zoo grounds, facilities, and finances.

- Create a written agreement between the City of Marshfield (governing authority) and the Wildwood Park Zoological Society clearly defining the working relationship, duties and responsibilities of each organization.

#### Accreditation

- Continue to study the feasibility and benefits of pursuing the future establishment of a program to meet the accreditation standards set forth by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (A.Z.A.). New exhibits/facilities or major renovations to existing exhibits/facilities, shall be made in such a manner to meet standards established by the A.Z.A. and licensing agencies.

#### Core Zoo Development

- Enhance existing visual character and user comfort (i.e. pedestrian landscape, pond edge treatment, exhibit interior landscape, floral displays, seating areas).
- Develop a continuous, broad walkway linking all exhibits.
- Develop a separate zoo maintenance area for material and equipment storage.

#### Landscaping Development

- Develop areas of unique vegetation adding to the overall zoo experience (i.e. woodland garden, wetlands, and the sensory garden).
- Develop a landscape identity consistent with the Zoo's North American animal orientation.

#### Waterway Enhancement

- Expand and enhance the existing waterfowl pond incorporating a new wetland component, larger pond, and waterfowl feeding areas.
- Develop a stream corridor to convey both educational and recreational information about exhibits.

#### Signage

- Develop signage to convey both educational and recreational information pertaining to the exhibits

#### Exhibits and Collections

Exhibit Policy will be focused on achieving and maintaining:

- Signage improvements including entrance, exit, directional, and interpretive signs.
- Animal enclosures with natural enrichment.
- Well-constructed exhibits maintained to contemporary standards.
- Exhibits will represent natural habitats of the species displayed, whenever possible.
- Future exhibits will take advantage of water and elevation changes.
- Animal and public landscaping should blend to create an uninterrupted natural experience.
- Adherence to A.Z.A. animal care and management standards.

Following are a list of animals that can be considered as potential future exhibits.

River Otters	Bobcat	Moose
Porcupine	Coyote	Fox (Red, Grey, Arctic)
Caribou/Reindeer	Pronghorn	Turtles (Blanding, Soft Shell)
Condor	Badgers	Black Bear
Song Birds	Reptiles	Rocky Mountain Goat
Mule Deer	Forest Bison	Dahl Sheep
Black Tailed Deer	Musk Ox	

#### Entrance(s)

- Currently the zoo is accessible from 4 entrances (Ludwig Building gate, Wildwood Park gate, south parking lot gate, and the bison exhibit gate). It is desired that entrances to the zoo be limited to **one or two** in order to provide control and direction of the zoo visitors, coordination of tour groups, improved security, and the possible future collection of fees. It is recommended that the south parking lot gate and the Wildwood Park gate be retained and the Ludwig Building gate and bison exhibit gate be closed off.

#### Staffing

- It is desired that the staff levels at the zoo be increased over time to provide better care for animals, increased exhibits and educational programs, increased fundraising, and a more focused management on the specific needs and operation of the zoo. Following is a listing of the proposed staff levels. The initial priority would be the addition of a Zoo Keeper II position and then the Zoo Director position.

Zoo Director  
Zoo Keeper III  
Zoo Keeper II (2 fte)  
Zoo Keeper I (.75 fte)  
Zoo Intern (520 hrs/stipend)  
Education Specialist (.5 fte)  
Zoo Attendants

#### Funding

- It is desired to increase the operational funding for the zoo to \$300,000 by 2007, \$400,000 by 2008, and \$500,000 by 2009. This would be accomplished from a variety of funding options including, but not limited to, support from neighboring governmental units (townships and villages), Wood County, area Foundations, Corporations, and the implementation and increased solicitation of a "suggested donation" or fee from zoo visitors to both the core zoo and those viewing the large animal pastures by vehicle using the park road.

### **3.4.3 Completion and Connection of the Trail System**

Praise for the existing trail system and requests to finish it have been the main theme since the very first stakeholders meeting and visioning session held in July 2005. The Citizens Task Force and those attending the open house in November of 2005 also urged the city to continue its efforts to install a city wide bike route/trail system. During the months of October and November of 2005 city staff and county planners worked to coordinate the Marshfield bikeway system with Wood County's plans. The final draft shows a system that combines on road routes and off road trails to provide access to all parts of Marshfield as well as to major recreational destinations such as Braem Park, Joe and Bernadine Weber's Nature Park, Steve J. Miller Recreation Area, Griese Park and Wildwood Park and Zoo.

This is an excellent time for Marshfield to be working on trails. Federal funding for trails was approved in late 2005 and the money will be distributed by the Wisconsin State Department of Transportation over the next 5 years. Having just completed their planning process the city of Marshfield is in an excellent position to take advantage of this funding to install trails and improve existing roads to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. Please see the bike route map on the following page.

Insert Future Map of Trail Here

#### **3.4.4 Marshfield Area Tennis Facilities**

Many people involved in the development of this plan expressed interest in improving the existing tennis courts in Marshfield (starting with the courts at Steve J. Miller Recreation Area). Many have also stated that there are not enough courts in the city. There is demand for a modern eight court facility. This would meet the needs of the local high schools and the university.

The school district has agreed to donate land for an eight court complex. The community would then raise the money for the actual planning and construction of the courts. A non profit group called Tennis NOW is leading the fundraising effort. Plans call for eight courts to be constructed in the fall of 2006.

#### **3.5 Marshfield Recreation Programs**

Participation in Marshfield recreation programs has been steady since 2001. While the adult league softball responsibilities were handed off to the Marshfield Softball Association a few years ago, the other adult leagues such as basketball and volleyball have continued to enjoy steady participation numbers. With the construction of the new skate park the Parks and Recreation Department has added skate board lessons during the summer season and the Kiwanis Club and Marshfield Skate Park organization have held annual competition events. In the summer of 2005 a new company was identified by the Parks and Recreation Department to offer the annual end of summer soccer camp. The Marshfield Youth Soccer Association partnered with the department to offer the soccer camp. Seventy-one individuals participated in the camp. Twenty-four individuals participated in the goal keeper clinic.

Summer youth baseball and Optimist youth soccer are the most popular programs offered by Marshfield Parks and Recreation.

Another area of increasing demand are programs for 3 to 5 year olds. The Parks and Recreation Department offers a "totnastics" gymnastics program, "pee wee tennis", and a series of one night pre-school programs. These have grown each year in participant numbers. More parents are interested in having organized recreation programs made available to their children at younger ages including sports leagues.

In 1994, the Parks and Recreation Department entered into an agreement with the Marshfield YMCA for the YMCA to offer youth swim lessons to city residents. This partnership has continued through the years and has proven to be a successful partnership that avoids duplication of services and provides participants with a quality lesson facility at a relatively low cost. The agreement provides city residents who are not members of the YMCA with equal access to register for the classes. The Parks and Recreation Department does operate the outdoor swimming pool and provides three to four late night swim program events each year in addition to the open swim times. The department also rents time at the Senior High Swimming Pool for a morning lap swim program and partners with the Marshfield Community Learning Center for open swim times at the High School during the fall, winter, spring and summer seasons.

Over the past three years the number of outdoor ice skating rinks has been substantially reduced. Currently the Parks and Recreation Department only maintains one ice rink with a rink guard and warming house at Pickle Pond. An ice rink is maintained at Steve J. Miller Recreation Area but there is no warming house provided. The department has made arrangements with the Youth Hockey Association to provide public skating opportunities at the indoor ice arena on afternoons when school is out early and on holidays.

The Parks and Recreation Supervisor interacts with members of the Marshfield Senior Center Council (M.S.C.C.) and the Committee on Aging to provide guidance and assistance with programs held at the Marshfield Senior Community Center.

One issue that the residents of Marshfield expressed an interest in but has not been addressed as of yet is the need for a teen center. The desire seems to be for a drop-in, after school program in a convenient location. A project like this will take partnership efforts from local service groups, the school district and perhaps the YMCA. In Ozaukee County a teen/senior center opened its doors 2 years ago as a result of a partnership effort between the school district and the YMCA.

“The center is the result of an unusual new partnership between the school district and the Feith Family YMCA in Saukville. In a quest to find new ways to serve the school community and the community at large, the district worked with the YMCA to identify unmet needs and find a way to address them.

The outcome is the teen center and a senior center that is open to any resident of the school district. The centers operate from the same set of rooms at Ozaukee Elementary School. The elementary school is part of a central campus in Fredonia that includes the middle school, high school and district offices.” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2003

With the Teen Council getting started under the guidance of the Mayor in the winter of 2005, this might be an opportune time to discuss potential partners to address the need for an after school drop in youth center in Marshfield.

The Oak Avenue Community Center is a great facility and centrally located. It is programmed but there is a gap in its scheduling from 8 AM to 4 PM. Staff is trying to find a program that would fit into this time frame. Given the time of day, it will have to be for children under school age, or seniors.

The Parks and Recreation Department does not currently offer special needs programming though the Parks and Recreation Department, however, it does cooperate with the local Special Olympics program and Marshfield Area Camp Courage Day Camp by providing them with facilities. Cultural programming such as arts, drama and music is another area not covered by city sponsored programs. The Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts is a new non-city funded facility serving the Marshfield area that offers drama, arts, and music programs. They are expanding their programming as financial and volunteer support increases.

The Parks and Recreation Department charges participant fees for all of its youth programs. It is intended that the fees cover the direct cost of most programs; however, some programs such as youth baseball, softball, and soccer, and are also supported with sponsors fees and numerous volunteer coaches. Non-residents of the city are charged 1.5 times the resident participant fees. A scholarship policy is in place to assist low income residents with the purchase of program fees and swim passes.

A table recording participation in each recreation program for the past several years is included in Appendix G.

### **3.6 Park Maintenance Recommendations**

The City of Marshfield has worked hard to achieve the park system it has. As a park planner working around the state and seeing many different park systems, it must be noted that Marshfield is one of the better maintained park systems that I have seen. To maintain this level of service the budget each year needs to include money to maintain the existing facilities. Over the past several years all of the play equipment in the Marshfield park system have been changed out. During that same time frame many of the shelters were updated.

The 2006-2010 CIP has money set aside for park shelter/restroom renovation, park and facility identification signs, on road bike route signs and repairs and maintenance to the parks maintenance building.

Renovation of the Columbia Band Shell is considered maintenance, this is scheduled for the 2006 fiscal year.

In addition, the City should develop and implement a more formal and systematic forest management program in parks and conservancy areas. This should include long range goals, periodic inspection and assessment, proper care and maintenance and re-planting of selective species to attain long range goals.

## 4 Park Acquisition and Development Mechanisms

### 4.1 Issues when Considering a Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Many communities have developer exactions for parkland acquisition and recreational facilities development. These exactions are designed to help a growing community develop new park facilities to keep pace with new residential development. As residents move into a new subdivision, they place additional stress on existing park facilities. Developer exactions, agreed upon during the subdivision review and approval period, provide land or cash or a combination of both to the City to be used for the provision of park facilities for the new neighborhood.

An issue often discussed regarding these ordinances is what type of land is acceptable for park dedication. Of the five municipal park types discussed in Appendix A, the ordinance is focused on producing land for neighborhood parks; however, urban greenspace is often donated. Urban greenspace does not increase the amount of active use land in a community, which is the goal of the ordinance. These two parkland types are defined below.

#### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are designed to provide both active and passive recreation activities, organized league recreation, as well as informal “pick up” play. The primary user ranges from 5 to 15 years of age. However, informal recreation opportunities cater to groups of all ages. The service area of ¼ mile radius includes the entire neighborhood, with some neighborhood overflow if features are unique. The average neighborhood park commonly ranges from 5 to 10 acres in size and serves from 1,000 to 5,000 people – basically one park for every elementary school.

#### Urban Greenspace

This property has the protection and management of the natural environment as its number one priority with recreational use as a secondary objective. A Marshfield Parkland Dedication Ordinance should specifically state what kind of land will be accepted to meet the dedication ordinance obligation. The ordinance should also specifically state what kind of land is acceptable to meet the dedication requirements as well as the condition of the dedicated land at the time of dedication.

**Table 4-1 - Summary Table of Dedication Ordinances and Impact Fees of Similarly Sized Communities**

Community	2004 Estimated Population	% Growth Rate from 1990 to 2000	Park Land Dedications (Acres/DU)	Fee in Lieu of Land (\$/DU)	Park Impact Fee (\$/DU)
Middleton	15,770	15.73	1450 sq.ft/du	\$811/Mfdu, 1 bedroom; \$1308/all other du; adjusted annually for inflation	NA
Fitchburg	20,501	23.67	minimum 2900 sq.ft/du	\$500/du	NA
DePere	20,559	19.41	4.4 % of total non-public residential property	\$300/Sfdu; \$600/duplex; \$130 per bedroom for multifamily	NA
Marshfield	18,383	-4.94	None	None	NA

## 4.2 Impact Fees for Park Development

Many communities collect “impact fees” at the time the building permit is issued for a new home. These impact fees can fund a variety of items including sewer and water construction, fire fighting equipment, library facilities and park development. Regardless of what particular facility or service, the fee must be reasonably related to or somehow serve the new neighborhood.

## 4.3 Waupaca Town Recreation Fee Program

The City of Waupaca has had a program for 12 years now that collects a per resident fee from surrounding towns to help pay for youth recreational programs. Before they went to the towns to ask them to participate they checked their youth program participation and found that 60% of those participating came from the surrounding towns.

The City of Waupaca has 5 towns in its school district and the city population is 5,200 and while the surrounding towns have a population of 9,000. Of the five surrounding towns, three have agreed to participate. The residents of the two that do not participate pay exorbitant fees to partake in the Waupaca youth programs (an example would be \$20 for a city resident and \$90 for a non participating town resident).

Waupaca based this program on the well accepted idea that adult programs should pay for themselves while youth programs are tax subsidized. They used the State Formula for Impact Fee calculation to come up with the amount to charge. They chose to charge a somewhat reduced amount because the towns are not part of a park district and will not have parks built in within their boundaries.

The city started out at \$11 per resident and they charged the towns 1/3 the first year, 2/3s the second year and the full amount the third year. This allowed the towns to accommodate the new charge over time and raise taxes all at once. There have been a series of 3 year agreements with fee adjustments with each agreement. The fee is now up to \$13.50 per resident and nets about \$110,000 per year to help fund youth programs.

If the City of Marshfield is interested in implementing a program such as this James Ash, director of Parks and Recreation for Waupaca suggests the following:

- Be ready with solid data on how many youth are being served by Marshfield youth recreation programs
- Be ready to stick by the extremely high fees for youth from out of the city, to make the program work there needs to be consequences for not participating
- Work with the towns to phase in the program over time to help with their tax increase issues
- Use the State Formula to determine fee amounts so that you can explain to others how the fee was calculated

While this program does not solve all the problems with town residents using park facilities they do not pay for, it does supplement the youth programs. Until Wisconsin adopts enabling legislation for communities to form park districts, this may be the best one can do.

The City of Marshfield may also want to consider using such a program to help pay for services and facilities such as the Zoo and the aquatic center that is under discussion. The only way it would work would be if the City began to charge for the Zoo, with a very high mark-up for non residents. The city would also have to determine in advance what the entrance fee for residents and non residents would be for the new pool. If a town wanted to avoid the extreme mark-up for its residents to use the above facilities, they would need to agree to collect a per resident tax and turn this over the city for these facilities. Residents from towns participating in this program will pay the same fee as city residents, town residents not participating in the program will pay the higher entrance fees.

#### **4.4 Grant Information for Park Acquisition and Development**

The state and federal government provides money to local governments for the acquisition and development of parks. It is important to note that most of the programs require that a local government submit to the WDNR a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan or master plan which has been approved by resolution by the submitting local government. By adopting the 2006 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan with a resolution, the City of Marshfield has met the eligibility requirement for these grant programs until the year 2010. This section provides general information and contact names for many of the grant programs that may be used to acquire and develop local park facilities. The Grant Information Matrix below is divided into two sections, the Stewardship Program and other grant programs.

The Stewardship Program was created by the 1989 Wisconsin Legislature. It originally provided for a 10-year program/\$250 million fund to enhance Wisconsin's outdoor recreational resources. In 1999, the Stewardship Program was re-authorized for another 10 years. The program contains funds for state and local governments, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs). To encourage partnerships and cooperation between the WDNR, local governments and NCOs, the Stewardship Program provides a matching grant that is available to non-profit organizations for the acquisition of land or land rights for a variety of land conservation and recreational purposes. The Grant Information Matrix (Table 4-2) contains only those specific Stewardship funds for which local governments or NCOs are eligible to apply.

Other grant programs listed in the grant information matrix include the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal grant program for the acquisition and development of local parks and the Urban Forestry Program, which contains state and federal funds for the development and preservation of urban forests, including park trees and a program to fund boat launching facilities.

**Table 4-2 Grant Information Matrix**

## Appendix A – Parkland Classifications

Municipal parks are designed primarily to serve residents within the boundaries of the municipality. There are five specific municipal park types.

### 1. Mini Parks

Mini parks provide open space for passive and some active recreation opportunities within a limited walking distance of primary users. The service area is confined to a sub-neighborhood level from 250 to 1,250 persons within a 1/8 mile radius. Average area size ranges from 1,000 square feet to one acre. Typical facilities include play equipment, walking paths, trees, park benches and drinking fountains.

### 2. Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are designed to provide active and passive recreation activities, organized league recreation, as well as informal "pick up" play. The primary user ranges from 5 to 15 years of age. However, informal recreation opportunities cater to groups of all ages. The service area of one-quarter mile radius includes the entire neighborhood, with some neighborhood overflow if features are unique. The average neighborhood park serves from 1,000 to 5,000 people, basically one park for every elementary school. Neighborhood parks commonly range from 5 to 10 acres in size. Typical facilities include landscaping and site amenities, tennis courts, identification signage, play equipment, swing sets, infant swings, sand diggers, softball backstops, soccer goals and nets, basketball courts, paved paths, shelters and drinking fountains.

### 3. Community Parks

This type of park is designed to serve several neighborhoods while minimizing travel distance. Though community parks are designed to accommodate all age groups, most activities cater to the active recreation needs of junior/senior high school students and adults. Although size is not always a reasonable criterion for classifying parks, it is generally recognized that community parks are more spacious than neighborhood parks or playgrounds. Community parks have an effective service radius of 1 mile and can serve from 2,500 to 20,000 people. Most community parks have an average size of between 20 to 35 acres. Typical facilities include softball and baseball diamonds, little league diamonds, multiple soccer fields, youth football fields, basketball courts, hiking trails, large shelter with restrooms and small shelters.

### 4. Special Use Parks

This type of park facility emphasizes a chief feature or features that are unique to the municipality. Examples of this type of facility include children's zoos, swimming pools, marinas, fairgrounds, and those with historical features to mention a few. Due to the varying degree of features these types of parks offer, the age group of users is often widespread. Often the service area of this type of park includes the entire municipality and is sometimes regional as well. There is not an average park size or service area standard for special use parks.

5. Urban Greenspace

This property has the protection and management of the natural environment as its number one priority, recreational use is of secondary importance.

6. County Parks

County parks are designed to provide a wide range of long and short-term active and passive recreation opportunities to several communities and/or municipalities. County parks are designed to accommodate all ages of users, and usually provide a more limited range of recreation opportunities than municipal parks. Most county parks are located in areas with distinctive natural features and provide nature oriented passive outdoor recreation such as fishing, swimming, camping, hiking or boating. County parks are generally large, usually being 200 to 400 acres in size, and are usually located adjacent to a significant water body. County parks usually have an effective service radius of about one half-hour (30 minutes) driving time.

7. Responsibility for Open Space

In Wisconsin, a variety of governmental agencies provide recreational opportunities for the residents of a community. Some agencies are responsible for providing services on a neighborhood level, while others provide services both on a neighborhood and community level. Below is a matrix that describes the responsibilities of various government agencies in providing open space. Open space is divided into the six park classifications. (The park classifications are defined above). Responsibility is defined as "Primary" or as "Cooperative". "Primary" responsibility means that the agency is expected to take the lead in providing the recreation opportunity. "Cooperative" responsibility means the agency may be involved, but usually in a team effort with one or more different agencies.

<b>Local Open Space Classifications</b>	<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>School Districts</b>	<b>County Parks</b>
<b>Mini Parks</b>	Primary	None	None
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	Primary	Cooperative	None
<b>Community Parks</b>	Primary	Cooperative	Cooperative
<b>Linear Parks and Trails</b>	Primary	None	Primary
<b>Conservation/Protection Areas</b>	Cooperative	Cooperative	Primary

## Appendix B – Community Profile

### CITY OF MARSHFIELD POPULATION TRENDS MEMO

#### Overview and Summary

The following overview of demographic trends and background data is necessary to develop a comprehensive understanding of the City of Marshfield. This section includes population trends, age distribution characteristics, educational attainment and income trends.

#### Historical Population Growth

The City of Marshfield’s population was 18,800 in 2000, according to the U.S. Census. In 2004, the Wisconsin Department of Administration estimated the City’s population at 19,012, which means the City added approximately 53 people each year during this period. In 2005, the City reports its population at 19,217 residents – an increase of 83 people each year over the last five years.

Over the past 25 years, the City’s population fluctuated from 18,290 in 1980 to 19,293 in 1990 – an increase of about 5.5 percent. The population then decreased by about 2.6 percent to 18,800 in 2000. It appears that the population is again increasing, and projections are included to 2025 in the Growth Projections chapter of this report.

Table 1 compares Marshfield’s historical population growth with that of Wood County, Marathon County and the State of Wisconsin. Since 1980, the City’s growth rate (2.8 percent) has been much slower than that of Wood County (3.8 percent), Marathon County (13.1 percent) or the State (14.0 percent).

	Year	City of Marshfield	Wood County	Marathon County	Wisconsin
Census	1980	18,290	72,799	111,270	4,705,642
	1990	19,293	73,605	115,400	4,891,769
	2000	18,800	75,555	125,834	5,363,715

**Table 1:  
Wisconsin  
DOA  
Population**

#### Trends

Source: State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, 2003

#### Age and Gender

It is important to know not only how many people live in Marshfield, but also to understand key characteristics of the City’s residents – for example their age, education and employment status. Several age groups have more impact on the City than others – notably the under 18 group, the group between the ages of 25 and 54 and the group over the age of 65. Table 2 shows Marshfield’s age and gender distribution in 1990 and 2000.

The population under 18 is important because it determines the number of school-aged children and therefore the demand for schools, busses, and other related needs. Overall, the under 18 group in Marshfield decreased between 1990 and 2000. While this number will likely fluctuate over the years,

it is not expected to increase drastically for a couple of reasons. First, the “baby bust” generation (those born in the 1960s and 1970s) are at the middle to end of their prime childbearing years. Since there are fewer people in this “baby bust” group than in the generation before them, fewer children will be born. Second, the average family size is smaller today than it was a generation ago. Therefore, unless Marshfield attracts a significant number of families with young children from other areas, the under 18 population will likely not drastically increase.

People between the ages of 25 and 54 are in their prime working years. The fact that this age group increased more than any other in Marshfield between 1990 and 2000 demonstrates that there is a strong workforce in the City. However, the largest population increase was in the 45 to 54 age group, which is nearing retirement age. It will be important to continue to ensure good jobs and a vibrant community to attract a young workforce to the area and to encourage young people to stay in the community, or return to the community after college.

The 65 and over population is also important to Marshfield’s future. The national trend shows an aging population, and Marshfield’s population echoed this trend as the population of those 65 and over increased by 1.5 percent between 1990 and 2000. As life expectancy continues to increase, and more elderly move to Marshfield because of the excellent healthcare services, the number of people over 65 will also increase and this trend will likely continue over this planning horizon.

Table 2: City of Marshfield Population by Age and Gender, 1990 and 2000

	1990	Percent of Total	2000	Percent of Total	Proportional Change 1990-2000
Under 5 years	1,386	7.2	1,117	5.9	-1.3
5 to 9 years	1,512	7.8	1,140	6.1	-1.7
10 to 14 years	1,328	6.9	1,237	6.6	-0.3
15 to 19 years	1,239	6.4	1,301	6.9	0.5
20 to 24 years	1,351	7.0	1,161	6.2	-0.8
25 to 34 years	3,384	9.5	2,421	12.9	3.4
35 to 44 years	2,849	14.8	2,899	15.4	0.6
45 to 54 years	1,653	8.6	2,618	13.9	5.3
55 to 59 years	682	3.5	846	4.5	1.0
60 to 64 years	762	4.0	713	3.8	-0.2
65 to 74 years	1,620	8.4	1,404	7.5	-0.9
75 to 84 years	1,099	5.7	1,362	7.2	1.5
85 years and over	426	2.2	581	3.1	0.9
<b>Over 65 years</b>	<b>3,145</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Male	9,179	47.6	8,915	47.4	-0.2
Female	10,112	52.4	9,885	52.6	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,291</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

## Race

Marshfield’s population is predominately White (97.1), with a small percentage of Asian residents (1.4) and small populations of African American (0.4) and American Indian (0.2) residents. This trend is similar for both Wood County and Marathon County, as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Population by Race, 2000**

Race	Percent of Marshfield Population	Percent of Wood County Population	Percent of Marathon County Population
One Race	99.4	99.3	99.3
White	97.1	96.4	93.8
Black or African American	0.4	0.3	0.3
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2	0.7	0.3
Asian	1.4	1.6	4.5
Some Other Race	0.2	0.3	0.3
Two or More Races	0.6	0.7	0.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

## Educational Attainment

Table 4 shows education levels in Marshfield versus those in Wood County and Marathon County. Education levels in the City are similar to both counties; however, the City has a much higher percentage of residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher (21.1) percent than Wood County (16.9 percent) or Marathon County (18.3). This can primarily be attributed to the Marshfield Clinic and St. Joseph’s Hospital, which together comprise the largest medical facility in central Wisconsin.

**Table 4: Educational Attainment, 2000**

	City of Marshfield	Percent of Total	Wood County	Percent of Total	Marathon County	Percent of Total
Less than 9th Grade	938	7.3	3,049	6.1	6,712	8.2
9th to 12th Grade, no diploma	1,267	9.9	4,613	9.2	6,570	8.0
High school graduate (incl. equivalency)	4,430	34.6	20,618	41.0	31,091	38.0
Some college, no degree	2,346	18.3	9,443	18.8	15,015	18.3
Associate degree	1,122	8.8	4,050	8.1	7,543	9.2
Bachelor’s degree	1,680	13.1	5,937	11.8	10,349	12.6
Graduate or Professional degree	1,019	8.0	2,549	5.1	4,645	5.7
Percent high school graduate or higher	82.8	-	84.8	-	83.8	-
Percent bachelor’s degree or higher	21.1	-	16.9	-	18.3	-
<b>Total (population 25 and over)</b>	<b>12,802</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>50,259</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>81,925</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

## Income Levels

Household income refers to the amount of total income earned by both family and non-family households. The median household income indicates that half of the households in the area received that amount or more, while the other half received that amount or less. Median family income refers to income earned solely by family members in a household. Per capita income is the average amount of income each person in the area earns. It is calculated by taking the total personal income

(including wages, interest and dividends) of the residents of an area divided by the total population of that area.

As shown in Table 5, per capita income for Marshfield residents was higher in 1989 and 1999 than per capita income in Wood County, Marathon County or the State of Wisconsin. However, median household income and median family income in Marshfield were lower than both counties in 1989 and 1999, but higher than the state in 1999.

**Table 5: Income Levels, 1989 – 1999**

	1989			1999		
	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income
City of Marshfield	\$26,728	\$33,786	\$13,466	\$37,248	\$50,498	\$21,965
Wood County	\$29,735	\$34,933	\$13,130	\$41,595	\$50,798	\$20,203
Marathon County	\$30,143	\$34,988	\$12,718	\$45,165	\$52,632	\$20,703
State of Wisconsin	\$29,442	\$35,082	\$13,276	\$29,442	\$35,082	\$13,276

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

## Appendix C: Citizen Task Force Members, List of Stakeholder Meeting Attendees and Stakeholder Meeting Notes

### Marshfield 2006 to 2010 Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan Update Citizens Task Force Members

Allyson Mayeux	Harry Nienaber	Lori Weigel
Bob Nikolay	Howard Hoffman	Lyman Boson
Brenda Baur	Jane Yaeger	Mike Steinwagner
Chad Dallman	Jean Swenson	Patty Nagel
Chris Jockheck	Jim Wein	Ron Dielmann
Dan Umhoefer	John Scheuer	Sue Babcock
Ed Englehart	John White, Jr	Sue Meyer
Gordon Adler	Julie Smith	Thomas Bitner
Gordon Schalow	Kelly Cassidy	
Tim Brass		

### Park and Recreation Stakeholders

<u>Education</u>	<u>Health</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Business</u>
Andy Keogh	Dan McCardy	Greta Meyers	Denny Riedel
Bill Penker	Chuck Schmoller	Brent Finlay	Peg Davis
Graham Olson	Ann Boson (Filling in for Mike Blanchard)	Barb Beck	
Katyee Hughes Schuller (MACS Rep)		Michelle Boernke	
		Randy Neve	

## Marshfield Stakeholder Interviews

### CORP-Businesses

July 27, 2005

3:00-4:00 p.m.

- \* The Sports Den opened in 1975
  - o Supplied a variety of sporting good equipment
- \* The last five years have seen great improvements
  - o Miller Fields
  - o Griese Park improvements
    - Soccer fields
    - Playground
  - o Much better amenities now
- \* There needs to be something on the northwest side for a children's park
- \* Currently developing an area for hiking/biking/snow shoeing/skiing adjacent to Weber Farms
  - o This will be more adult focused, not playground type service
- \* Very few city park services on the west side of the city
  - o Kids in that area use school facility
- \* Marshfield is really slow with the development of bike trails
  - o Comparable communities have better bike systems
  - o It seems to be very unsafe, particularly for recreational riders
  - o Connections need to be improved
  - o No obvious ways to connect through town
- \* Downtown needs to be more accessible to bicyclists and pedestrian
- \* Marshfield residents take their kids to Weston pool rather than use Hefko
- \* Should change/renovate/add to Hefko pools because it's a great asset for the community
  - o Used by a variety of ages
- \* Hefko pool could be renovated to be a larger draw
- \* Zoo is nice, but not a big priority
- \* Leave Wildwood Park as a park, but the zoo is not entirely necessary
- \* Tennis courts are in bad conditions
  - o The surfaces are tough
  - o The schools have just resurfaced theirs, but it is necessary to maintain them
  - o 4 courts at junior high
  - o Oak Ave (Miller)
  - o Wildwood
  - o Would be nice to host a tournament in the area
- \* Some of the older fields (softball for example, particularly at Fairgrounds) do not receive the same amount of maintenance that they used to
  - o Is there not enough money to maintain them?
  - o Who owned/maintains them softball fields?
- \* The warming house needs a new coat of paint
  - o Resident wants to do it herself it's so bad
  - o It's simple solution that makes a big cosmetic impact
- \* Signage for the trails would be helpful
- \* Stevens Point has a 36 mile trail system that offers a mix of settings, urban and rural
  - o Marshfield should emulate that
  - o Driving through Stevens Point feels more "athletic" because there are always people running and biking
    - They are a little larger and have the university, but it is so nice to see active people out
- \* Soccer has become more popular in the area, but now has peaked
- \* Coaches make a difference for local sports stores

- \* Service organizations often meet recreation needs, in conjunction with the park and recreation department, and then when kids are old enough families utilize the school to round out their recreation goals
  - o The synergy between the various organizations is getting better
  - o They shouldn't compete for customers when it comes to services and programs
- \* Bicycling right now is very popular
- \* Since the skateboard park was put in, skateboard sales went through the roof, but trick bike sales dropped
- \* Kids overall seem to be so sedentary and choose to not be active
- \* Healthy Lifestyles has brought a renewed consciousness to the importance of active living
  - o But that doesn't always reach down to kids, it's more focused on adults
- \* Offer choices that the whole family can go to
  - o An aquatic center would be a solution to that
- \* Young people in Marshfield need something active to do

### **Marshfield Stakeholder Interviews**

#### **CORP-Education**

July 27, 2005

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### Introductions-Representatives

Pedestrian

UW-Marshfield/Wood County Representative

School District/Recreation Department Representative

Catholic School Rep-Kaytee Hughes Schuller (715) 387-1177

- \* Double-check the shape/acreage of the UW Marshfield/Wood collage grounds for the map
- \* Miller Field is the Little League/Junior League fields, which are wonderful, but a playground would be nice
- \* Currently, the city park and rec dept does a great job of meeting the needs
  - o Especially the bike path-used frequently
- \* People use Our Lady of Peace playground as a mini park
- \* Catholic schools have 600 kids that don't have access to the same programming as public school needs
  - o The UW and the Tech School share their school facilities
  - o The city soccer league colors are the same as the city high school colors, so students and parents are unsure if they are able to participate
  - o Baseball fields are similar, are Catholic schools allowed to use those? Scheduling issues through the rec department
  - o Not intentional issue, just trying to clear up scheduling and programming issues, so that it is and feels inclusive for all users
  - o Role of hockey users
  - o The programming aspect is a big deal, and discourages use/involvement by Catholic and Lutheran school kids
  - o Seven on seven football works really well, that arrangement had less confusion between who was supposed to participate and who wasn't supposed to
- \* The fields are constantly busy, particularly during the school year
- \* Overall many families are impressed with the amount of park and rec facilities the city provides to the citizens
- \* Veterans park is used by the Emmanuel School (daycare-8<sup>th</sup> grade-120 students) for recess
- \* Emmanuel Lutheran school has the only playground equipment in the area
- \* Historically when Emmanuel Lutheran renovated, they removed some of their playground equipment, which was a red flag for some of the neighbors, who were worried about losing play space
- \* Citizens would like to see the bike paths more connected
- \* Check existing map for bike paths
- \* There's a plan for the bike paths to connect to one another
- \* It should be a top capital priority to connect the bike paths
- \* There is a plan to run a bike path on the rail right of way along the UW arboretum along Weber's Farm

- \* Bike group is very active and has been working with Marsh 21
- \* Wildwood station is misnamed
- \* Supposed bike path in the works for west of Lincoln Ave
- \* University has great recreation facilities
  
- \* Opportunity for the park department to bring together youth in the community
  - o Build on the United Way
  - o The Y and the Park Department have the resources to bring all these kids together
    - Teaching and recreation should/could be centralized to bring together all these pieces
    - Currently there is a disjoint between those organizations that if they worked together they could provide more services to kids
  
- \* Park Department should play a more centralized role in organizing activities
  - o Lay-offs make this difficult
- \* Park Department is a facility manager
  - o One staff that is a programmer
  - o The organization is stagnant
  - o It takes more staff to develop and go forward
  - o Community survey asked citizens what 12 positions should be cut
  - o It is important to have a vision, but that is hard given current budget conditions
  - o State budget must support a vision, as should the City's
    - Current city administration doesn't have a vision or know where the city is or should be going
    - Cutting taxes is not bad, but cutting it for no reason or without a vision can be harmful
    - Having a vision can be hard when there is no money to implement the dream/vision
    - A lot of what is done is driven by the money available
    - The question should be how proactive are we willing to be in order to not have to be reactive?
    - Are the grassroots organizations helping do some of the legwork?
      - Somewhat, but the city needs to help coordinate those organizations and the overall vision
      - There is not a great deal of cooperation going on
        - o One good example of cooperation is the pool and the gym at the high school where the park department and the school district collaborated
        - o There are Y's across the country that require capital projects to always be completed in conjunction with another agency
- \* New ball fields and other park facilities are nice, but without the proper personnel to organize activities and maintain them, it is hard to implement programs and services
- \* Potential for neighborhood park near to the UW
- \* Re-evaluate the parks in downtown-the two small green spaces might not meet the needs of nearby residents
- \* Pedestrian needs are not met-car traffic makes getting to park areas very difficult
- \* Both traffic enforcement *and* education lead to a more pedestrian aware culture
  - o Currently cars do not care about
  - o Lieutenant oversees a pedestrian safety program
- \* The zoo is a unique opportunity for a community this size
- \* Ed is the Director
  - o Kelley is the only Supervisor
  - o Chad takes care of the maintenance of the park
  - o Katherine is the Supervisor of the Zoo
    - She has a zoo staff
- \* When Griese and Miller Park were completed, three or four more staff members should have been added to the park department
- \* The Marshfield Clinic has an interesting relationship the city
  - o As the clinic expands, there is less available city land and the more parking lots

- The clinic used to be tax exempt, but now the supreme court decided that they are no longer exempt
- There is a research foundation up at the clinic (one of the largest in the country-approaching 200 people)
- Lots of positive spill over effect
  - there is some hostility towards the doctors
- Long history in the community
- The clinic is run by the board, which is made up from all the physicians there, so almost 700 people
- They really add to the quality of life here
  - Helmet give away in the community
  - Living well program run in the schools
- \* If there was a center/coop that coordinated all rec/park/healthy lifestyle programs/activities/services the clinic should be a part of that
  - It might be hard to accomplish with the current ownership/leadership
  - Stakeholders are extremely segregated
    - Little league
    - Hockey
    - Tennis
    - Pop Murphy
    - Bicyclists
  - They don't work together, rather they have competing plans
  - You can see this with the development of Marsh 21
    - It was determined that each year their would be a different priority
    - First project was infilling a creek for the high school football field
    - Griese park came from that-which is probably the busiest park in the city
      - It's a wonderful park!
    - Meeting needs with demand doesn't always work
    - This caused a splinter between the original member
      - That's how friends of the trails was formed
      - Will probably happen with the hockey families in the near future
- \* Having an outdoor swimming pool in this environment makes no sense
  - This community needs an aquatic center
  - The current pool is too small
  - But it can't be an outdoor pool
    - It's been redone twice in the past
  - No high school boys swim team because there aren't enough kids interested
  - There are two big slides at the Y and those are always packed, especially in summer
  - It's pretty expensive, but there are many health benefits
  - Hefko pool should be closed to the community because it is too old and it has seen better days
    - Skeptics will say, we have a pool at high school and the Y
  - Provides a unique recreational activity
  - During the hot summer days, the demand exceeds the supply
  - Could be multipurpose
    - Recreation
    - Health
    - Swimming lessons
    - Community gathering place
- \* Some of the sidewalks in this community are horrendous
- \* Some streets don't have sidewalks, and it makes it extremely difficult for handicapped citizens and pedestrians to get around
  - It is illegal to drive an electronic wheelchair on the street
  - Trail should be established along current ditches
    - Wouldn't have to be sidewalks
- \* City is small enough that walking through and around it is possible

## Marshfield Stakeholder Interviews

### CORP-Health

July 27, 2005

1:00-2:00 p.m.

- \* Marshfield Clinic
  - o 2 million square feet all over central and northern Wisconsin
- \* Cost doesn't/shouldn't limit investments that the city makes
  - o Not everything that costs money is bad
- \* Healthy Lifestyle-
  - o Community coalition started about 5 years
  - o Consists of different committees throughout the city in order to create more healthy lifestyles
  - o Shaping policy to encourage healthy lifestyles
  - o Host health conferences (3 in the last few years)
  - o A part of Marshfield Clinic? - Internal Advisory Committee
- \* St Joseph's Hospital put in the basketball court at Griese Park 5 years ago
  - o Did this in conjunction with the park department
  - o Provided grant money for that project
  - o Currently St Joseph's Hospital has no plans for physical improvement contributions
    - Helmet give away
    - Stop drop and roll
    - Bike safety checks
    - Other types of community involvement
    - They also hold events at the Wildwood Pavilion
      - For the community
      - Sponsored by the hospital
- \* It would be important to talk to Friends of the Trails to find out about what they have done thus far
- \* President of Marshfield Clinic is a huge proponent of the Healthy Lifestyles initiative
- \* Marshfield Clinic has a Work Life department
- \* Paths and walking paths has been very welcomed and very well done
  - o Need to keep that as a top priority
  - o Connect them!
- \* There isn't good signage for people utilizing the medical facilities to direct them to the parks and trails
  - o People often use parks/trails in between medical appointments
  - o People are aware of the status of the trails
- \* The younger age group needs are met, but the teenage years are underserved
  - o Something before kids can drive
  - o Pool is too young for teenagers
- \* Griese park is a great addition
- \* Park programming booklet collaboration is welcomed
- \* It will be interesting to see the results of the community survey
  - o One issue in particular will be the pool
- \* Why not use the parks, especially an aquatic center, as a source of revenue
- \* The parks maybe should be expanded, trails enhanced, and more larger parks
- \* Could the airport be converted to a park?
  - o Is it needed as an airport?
  - o It could be an extension from Wildwood Park
- \* There is a need for parks in the north side of town, particularly the northwest side
- \* Paths are being used a lot and it filled a need
- \* People like the paths more than using the streets
- \* Connections need to happen, so you can travel between parks without using streets that are more dangerous

- \* One option to think about would be making some streets one way and then adding a path along the side of those streets
- \* Traffic calming needs to be improved
  - o Keep stop signs
  - o Improved crosswalks
  - o Alternative solutions
- \* Marshfield has a good street system that allows for connectivity
- \* Softball diamonds and Griese park were really great assets
- \* An aquatic center could be a draw for community to the pool and other things (restaurants, gas, etc)
  - o If money is no object, indoor would be great
  - o The current pool hours are sporadic
  - o People go to Weston and the two in Wausau to use the pools there (travel 45 min)
  - o Public/private ownership and maintenance would have to be determined
  - o The location of Hefko is really great
    - Close to Wildwood, Frisbee golf, Dairy Queen, etc. It can entertain a family for the day
- \* Skatepark here is very good and popular
  - o Helmets should be required
- \* Helmet Giveaway programs fit the children for the helmets before they get them
  - o Security Health fits them, St Joseph provides the helmets
- \* The ball fields are in great shape throughout the city
  - o Unsure of where the funding is coming from (maybe Marsh 21 or Marshfield Baseball), but they are doing a good job
- \* Hefko should be renovated or replaced
- \* Basketball is the one underserved sport in the city
  - o There are no programs for basketball
- \* Frisbee golf is very popular and used at both places
  - o There is a state circuit tournament here
  - o It's nice because it can be used throughout the season
- \* Community gardens would be appreciated
  - o There used to be one run partially by UW Extension
  - o Incorporate kids programming with gardening
  - o Senior citizen activity as well
    - Would please farmers moving into town after retiring
- \* Very few people use overpass at Veteran's Parkway and Oak Ave near Miller Park

### **Marshfield Stakeholder Interviews**

#### **CORP-Community**

July 27, 2005

2:00-3:00 p.m.

- \* Youth Net
  - o Comprehensive youth development program serving youth between 8-18
  - o Primarily hosted by the Clinic
  - o One main feature is an after school program (boys and girls club type program)
- \* Use the parks, pool, walking trails often with grandchildren
  - o Very informally
  - o Use Hefko pool, which has been in jeopardy because it's in rough shape
  - o Renovating it should happen so it meets standards
  - o Replacing it with an aquatic center could be done if a partnership is struck between Marshfield and surrounding communities
- \* Rapids and Wausau have soccer fields that can host traveling team tournaments
  - o Building that type of facility would be a good revenue generator for the city
- \* Softball tournaments do take place here and make a positive impact on the economy
- \* Marshfield Convention and Visitor Business
  - o Maple Fall Fest held at Wildwood Park

- Staff doesn't help a lot, but they are very good
- They use Fairgrounds for Dairy Fest
- \* Wildwood Zoo should not be closed as it is the largest attraction within the City boundaries
  - It's free and a great entertainment source
  - Why not charge a small fee?
- \* WI Tourism Secretary was in town and announced a grant would be given for sports attraction
- \* JEM Grants are being explored
- \* Love to picnic at Wildwood Park
  - It's one place in town with a natural water feature
- \* Vision Council leads programming
- \* Skate park is great for the teenagers
- \* Zoo and pool remain open
- \* Make a Difference Day could be a way to adopt parks within the city, with a youth focus and ownership
- \* Wildwood Pavilion is appreciated for use by community organizations
- \* So there is interaction between parks department and other organizations through committee and boards
- \* There are too few tennis courts in the city
  - High school is at risk of losing their high school program
- \* There are no lights on the small softball fields
- \* Bike paths just end, there's no signage letting you know that
  - Near Legends and Lincoln
- \* Adopting a park would be a great program
- \* Y is completing their strategic planning phase
- \* There should be more lit fields in the area
- \* More soccer fields are needed for tournaments
- \* Create parks that have more than one focus (tennis and soccer, or not just softball)
- \* Y is looking into water (pool) options
  - Interested and talking with the park department about making some improvement happen for the city
- \* Tennis and racquetball courts are mediocre
  - Not enough and in bad shape
- \* There is no dedicated gymnastics space in the city
  - They are shuffled from gym to gym
- \* All the programs act as a retention for employees and families in Marshfield
- \* Safety at the skate park should be considered
  - Program by the parks not the police should be available there
  - Create connections with the kids
  - Mixed ages make it difficult for younger participants
  - Different type of kids can cause conflict
  - It's been open for 4 years
  - A tournament held here was very successful
  - A set of eyes should be at the park, more informally than formal
- \* 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball tournament about fills the limit of basketball availability at the Y
  - More room for basketball should be included
- \* Sports beyond football, tend to be lacking because feeding programs are not developed
  - Lack of organization
  - Y is starting some more programs that will hopefully help for baseball
- \* There should be some connection/development between sporting events and tourism
  - Convention and Visitor Bureau is working with local sports association
- \* There is a show dog event annually at the fairgrounds
- \* The hockey association would like to build another rink
  - There is no morning ice time
  - Compete for ice time between hockey and figure skaters
- \* Used to have 10 outdoor ice rinks, but now there are only 3
- \* There are many organizations that fill various needs so that most park and recreation uses are used
  - Between the Y and the park and recreation needs are met
- \* Braem park facility is very clean and maintained

- \* Concerts are held Wednesday at Columbia Mini Park
- \* The City should start to think more creatively
  - o Don't just raise taxes or not do programs
  - o Look for grants, partnerships
  - o The pool possibility is a great idea
  - o It's good for Marshfield and the surrounding communities
- \* It should go beyond a higher service fee for certain services, the park system should be taxed on surrounding communities if those services are open to those residents
- \* Thinking regionally about parks may or may not be a welcome idea here
  - o Would be helpful here because Marshfield crosses two counties
- \* Portion of the room tax goes back to the parks department

**Appendix D –Meeting Notes and Summaries (Community Visioning and the Public Open House)**

**Appendix D-Meeting Notes Summary**  
Community Visioning Meeting  
July 27, 2005

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Likes:**

- They are just recently updated, it's good for the kids
- Free zoo
- Zoo
- Wildwood
- Trails
- A wide variety of programs for all ages in Marshfield from playgrounds to tennis to horse shoes, etc.
- Good educational programs at the zoo
- Continuous upgrading of all parks, trails, facilities
- The zoo – one of the best small ones in the state
- Good woodlands
- Wonderfully dedicated staff and a great start to a trail system
- Wildwood Park and zoo
- Wildwood Park and zoo
- West side bike/walk trail
- Bike trails
- Zoo
- Local park (Conner) – opportunity for kids
- Facilities for all youth groups
- Trails
- Quality of facilities and variety of recreation opportunities
- Many parks
- Many opportunities for different types of recreation
- Variety of locations and activities available
- The zoo
- Green areas
- Wildwood Park
- Progressive
- What we have done with the park/zoo
- The City is allowing marked walking paths with healthy lifestyles!
- Disc golf good
- Need more natural parks, preserve woods when developers want to build
- Quality of facilities (exception – Hefko pool)
- Several parks with opportunity to walk, ride, rollerblade
- Widely distinctive sites throughout county
- Wildwood station
- Skate park
- Zoo
- Neighborhood playgrounds
- Bike trails
- Athletic facilities
- Past quality of life Quiet, low crime
- Safe place to raise kids and strong schools
- Proximity to larger communities and way to get to them
- Zoo
- Like being a long-term resident and the benefits that come with it
- Size of the community – Midwest values
- Great place to raise kids
- Recent move toward more trails and healthy lifestyles
- Quality of life
- Plan ahead area
- Parks have come a long way. They are progressive
- Variety and activities of facilities
- Amazing variety – very progressive
- Marshfield 21 is good, but needs to prioritize one activity a year
- New facilities met a large need

- City is allowing healthy lifestyles to branch out – wants to continue
- Dedicated staff at parks department
- Trail system
- Zoo – best in the state!
- Woods
- Westside trail

- Parks are not connected to downtown streets
- Number and quality of facilities
- Redevelopment of facilities
- Good amount of charities
- Specialists need to make land use decisions
- Bike trail

- Good diversity of facilities
- New facilities – soft ball
- Soft ball
- Trails
- Good facilities for youth – quality!
- Corporation sponsorship
- Wildwood Park and zoo

## Dislikes

- Need more vision
- Swimming pool should be updated
- No dedication of park parcels on new subdivision openings
- We could use more bike racks in downtown/or near downtown
- Need signage from bike trail showing where shopping and eating places are
- Hefko pool needs to be replaced with an updated aquatic center
- No contiguous trail system
- You have to drive to get to them – no easy bike/walk access
- No lake or river
- Very little winter activity i.e. x-c ski trail, snowshoe
- More trees/planted areas
- Trails interrupted by traffic. Need for more teen activity
- Present outdoor pool
- Pedestrian trail network non-connectivity
- Better planned
- Time it takes organized zoo funding – look for money
- Expansion of facilities way behind
- Lack of walkways/bike paths which would promote a healthy lifestyles by encouraging more walkers/bikers
- Some facilities in poor repair with inadequate time for repair
- Not very disabled friendly
- Inadequate plan
- Lack of additional walk/ bike trails
- Lack of funds to accomplish goals
- Lack of focus on future needs
- No place to run dogs legally
- Old pool
- Trails that are not connected
- Lack of trails (connected)
- Outdoor aquatic center
- Outdoor pool situation
- Lack of friendly attitude – changes to feel of community
- Parks and recreation facilities – not pool
- Disconnect between Chamber and industry and downtown business
- Lack of entertainment and options of things to do
- Downtown parking – parallel
- Motorized thoroughfares that are unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Hate the ditches – bad for walking
- Disconnect in the recreation facilities
- Rehashing of downtown – three plans in 15 years
- The amount of litter
- Alleys downtown are in poor shape
- Shortage of money
- Lack of money which leads to a lack of animals
- Recreation is too organized. Parks and rec is a form of babysitting
- Not enough promotion of programs
- Not friendly to disabled residents
- There is no plan – fly by the seat of your pants. – Long term consequences
- Dollar is being stretched in too many directions
- Too many desires that are big ticket items
- We don't look for funding sources for new projects
- Bike racks are needed downtown
- Signs to downtown for bicyclists
- No lake or river
- Pedestrian quality
- Kids don't get out to enjoy natural resources
- West side needs a park
- Terrible pool – need one that everyone can afford
- Better pool needed
- Better water resources (natural)
- Parks are always last in the picking order for the budget

- Hefko pool
- No current contiguous multi-modal trail system

- Dislike – disconnect between public and

private schools and parks department

### ***Overall community park and recreation needs***

- Columbia Park restored to earlier beauty
- Have better groomed small parks
- Recreation programs not well managed, i.e., Little League
- Dog park
- Improved outdoor swimming pool
- Excellent
- More connected biking/walking trails are needed. Also racks, signs, benches, trash receptacles
- New, updated aquatic center
- Completion of the walking/biking trails throughout the City
- Trails for walk and bike (multi-modal)
- Winter recreation
- Encourage public/private ventures i.e. work with Hochen group and YMCA and new partners
- School facilities should be integrated into the city rec department by contract for after school hours and summer
- Pools
- Trails – connected

- Education on needs and what we have – tunnel vision
- Passive recreation opportunities
- Mostly covered
- Need for forest/tree management
- Zero winter needs
- “Nature deficit disorder”
- Environmental education
- New swimming pool and better accessibility to hockey, etc
- Aquatic center
- More bike/walking trails
- Condense tennis facilities
- Marketing signage
- Update tennis courts
- Sidewalk – walking trails
- Tennis
- Pool
- Need to consider non-traditional types of recreation in the plan (ATV, snowmobile, paintball, hunting, etc)
- Aquatic center
- Neighborhood parks with new developments
- Increase and connect trail system
- Forests in community should become a more passive park – E Blodgett St

- Expand Wildwood and have more exhibits
- Fine the way things are and likes the updates
- Came from Beloit and Marshfield is a big improvement
- Hefko pool closed and an aquatic center opened elsewhere in the city
- Better advertising of great condition and facilities
- Continue to expand facilities
- Better signage for all park facilities and trails
- Increase and connect trails
- Improve tennis courts/facilities – role as a life long sport and contribute to healthy life system – no place for tournaments
- Various sport tournaments should be brought to town
- Griese Park is an addition like! Park is multi-generational
- More people need to get involved in supporting the parks, particularly at the zoo
- Sponsorships at the fairgrounds

- Get off your a\*\* and do something!
- People need to be more active in supporting the parks
- Friends of the trails is a good additional to meet the needs
- Trails need to be more connected
- Need more support at the county level so Marshfield gets their fair share
- Need to elect officials that support Marshfield
- Maybe more neighborhood sponsorship/ownership should take place
- Expand trails
- Improve the zoo
- Donations to the zoo should go to the zoo
- Educate community to build a bigger vision – get away from tunnel vision
- Capture the attention of people who work in the town
- Shake out new dollars in the community
- Many options are pulling residents in different directions  
Cooperation with YMCA and parks department should make indoor park happen
- More winter opportunities needed  
New subdivisions must have a park dedication ordinance
- Broader view of recreation: include non-team sport activities, inclusive of all leisure activities
- Impressed with the people who make the city work - employees and elected officials
- More passive recreation spaces needed
- Nature festival
- Paved trails linking to other communities
- Group home placement
- Only plow half of bike trails – leave for skiing
- Long-term maintenance of facilities

### ***Geographic locations for new parks and recreation facilities***

- Connect the existing bike trails
- In new subdivisions
- Make them easily accessible for pedestrians/strollers.
- Look at Forest Ridge's park. How do you access it from Blodgett or Onstand? You have to walk down and in the ditch to get to it from the street. Wet feet, bike tires slipping – It's crazy! – Also no bathroom – also crazy
- Wherever there is a vacant lot or building site, even on Central Avenue. North/south bike/walking trails
- Trails connecting from current through to Mill Creek and back to Wild Park and connect to Weber Park
- I like policy of new neighborhood park required in every new neighborhood.
- Make a grand entrance to Wildwood from Roddis Avenue (move our power company)
- Downtown park
- Pocket park
- Ok
- Need as much green space
- Good as is
- As city grows north, what about park in northern part of city
- Expanding existing
- West of Lincoln Ave, 1/2 mile north of Adler Road
- Bike trail through town
- Where was local TU?
- Keep trees – it keeps the city cool. Balance of green space and development

- Public restroom downtown
- Pocket passive park downtown
- Schools need environmental education – leads to more appreciation

***Priority projects for the next 5 years***

- Expand Wildwood Zoo
- Swimming pool
- New bike paths
- New aqua center
- Connecting all bike and walking trails
- Connecting bike trails
- A lake? Dreaming!
- European cities and towns have public restrooms in the center – we need to think of that for Marshfield
- Hefko pool rebuild
- Continuous trail system
- We need a greenway connecting the S.J. Miller Ball fields with downtown
- Should connect library and Upham mansion & Chestnut Center too
- How about rowing concession on the park lower pond?
- Pool
- Pedestrian trail network and connectivity
- New outdoor pool
- Finish trail system
- Swimming pool
- Zoo
- Bike/walking trails
- Tennis facility to service community, the two high schools and the UW-MWC
- Aquatic pool
- Walking trails (bike)
- Zoo
- Bike trails
- Indoor water park connected with YMCA, state, UW and perhaps part outdoor open to all during the summer
- Pool
- Update Hefko pool – better summer water option
- Support and promote non-traditional recreational activities as much as traditional sports
- Better signage
- Hefko pool needs to be turned to an aquatic center
- Expand and make trail system more comprehensive
- Top priority – Zoo – Marshfield needs to decide if they do or do not want it. Should become the largest attraction in the City
- Need more bike paths – Central Avenue needs a plan for bicyclists
- Need an end game for the bike trails. Needs to loop so you can bike around the entire community and connects to other communities
- Close the loops on the bike paths – that way you wouldn't need bike on Central
- Try and finish the ball fields in the next few years
- Hefko pools need to be addressed – expand usage to more months during the year
- Handicap accessible
- Indoor water park partnered with YMCA
- Priority – connect 4<sup>th</sup> St and Wildwood with trail
- Priority – get the trail connections through the budget and implemented
- Priority – new pool / water activity
- Priority – trail system
- Priority – Hefko pool needs to be replaced with an aquatic center
- Better planning for next 5 years

# MEMORANDUM



**Date:** 11/16/05

Landscape Architecture

**To:** Ed Englehart  
City of Marshfield

**From:** Ann M. Freiwald, ASLA  
**Project:** Marshfield CORP Update  
**SAA #:** 2106

Urban Design  
Community Planning  
Civil Engineering

**Re:** Summary of Public Open House, Nov. 9, 2005

We had over 30 people attend last week's open house on the CORP Update. The group was very enthusiastic about parks and willing to share their ideas.

We received comments on 16 of the 21 park or trail properties that we asked for comments on. We received 57 comments total with 10 of them on the trail recommendations sheet. I have attached the comment sheet for each park and trail with the comments added to the bottom for your review.

Of the 8 Goals we provided for comment, 3 received comments for a total of seven comments on the goals and objective statements we provided.

In summary the comments seemed to track closely with the overall themes we have been pursuing with the CORP update. The public seems to have a high interest in the trail system, they love what has been done and would like to see it continued and completed. They are interested in more and better tennis facilities. They are interested and excited about improvements to Hefko Pool and feel the Zoo and Wildwood Park are two of the City's best assets and they would like to see them maintained and where possible improved upon.

Some other comments received that have been discussed previously but have not been included a plan focus areas area:

The desire to have a dog park in Marshfield

The desire to have a sled hill in Marshfield

The request to have more active management of Buckthorn and other non native invasive species in the wooded parks

Sereral people commented on their desire to see the Columbus park band shelter restored

Many people are very happy with the progress on Hamus Nature Preserve and the Weber's Nature Park

We will reflect of these ideas in the next draft of the CORP.

Two members of the media where there, a radio station representative (he was also at our last CTF meeting) and a representative from the Marshfield News Harold. The News Harold ran an article the next day that did a nice job of summarizing the meeting.

## **Appendix E –Summary of the 1990 Master Plan for Wildwood Park and Zoo**

The Master Plan for Wildwood Park and Zoo was created in 1990 by Schreiber/Anderson Associates. In 1904, the City of Marshfield purchased the Wildwood site and the existing on-site power plant, which became the municipal utility by 1906. Shortly thereafter, the area became known as “Water Works Park.” In 1923, the Women’s Club named the site “Wildwood Park”, the name it holds today.

### Park Recommendations

#### Entrance Modifications

- Establish a main park entrance feature at the corner of Central Avenue and Roddis Avenue for local visitors
- Provide clear directional signage for visitors at all entrances

#### Recreational

- Develop active recreational opportunities such as volleyball, in the upper park along Balboa Avenue
- Increase fishing potential by implementing a catch and release program and a habitat restoration program at both the ponds
- Examine water quality in both the ponds and commission a study to determine the feasibility of maintaining a fishery in the upper pond

#### Landscape Development

- Screen the Marshfield Utilities Equipment and Supply Yard
- Enhance the existing landscape, character of the park by emphasizing landscape plants that will increase visual interest with texture, scale and seasonal color
- Create landscape diversity by introducing new vegetation types to include prairies and wetlands

#### Parking Expansion

- Increase parking for the main picnic area and swimming pool at the park entrance
- Continue to develop and plan for the future expansion of the south zoo entrance parking area

#### Trail System

- Expand the existing environmental trail system to include the proposed prairie, meadow and restored streambank landscapes
- Provide interpretive signage along trail system at feature areas
- Develop a combination hike/bike/jogging/cross-county ski all weather trail linking all major park facilities and connecting to the City’s bike trail system
- Implement the recommendations of the Wildwood Park Trail Plan (1999)

#### Handicap and Senior Citizen Accessibility

- Upgrade the zoo restroom to be handicapped accessible
- Develop fishing platform at lower pond

## Appendix F – Marshfield Parks and Recreation Department Programming

The Marshfield Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of programming options to the residents of Marshfield.

The following is a list of program partnerships between the Parks and Recreation Department and numerous other organizations.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Partnership</b>
Swimming Lessons	YMCA
Open Gym and Swim	Marshfield Community Learning Center
Adult Activities	Marshfield Community Learning Center
Boys' Basketball	Marshfield Kiwanis Club
Youth Hockey Leagues	Marshfield Youth Hockey Association
Open Skating	Marshfield Youth Ice Recreation Center
Trail Improvement	Marshfield Area Friends of the Trails
Jazzercise	Jazzercise
Miller Park Youth Baseball Fund Drive	Marsh-21
Various Senior Programs	Marshfield Senior Community Center
Arts Classes	Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts

## Appendix G – Recreation Program Participation Numbers

### Adult Recreation Programs

Numbers listed are the number of teams enrolled

<b>Teams</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Men's Basketball Leagues	16	18	17	13	16
Adult Volleyball Leagues	106	96	99	104	105

### Summer Swim Passes

<b>Passes</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Family Swim Passes	86	122	118	112	85
Adult Individual Passes	2	9	11	8	12
Youth Individual Passes	125	73	83	86	73
Duplicate Swim Passes	15	7	14	3	4
Totals	228	211	226	269	174

### YMCA Swim Lessons

<b>Lessons</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
YMCA Members	952	905	885	836	824
City Residents	493	479	485	382	317
Non-Residents	500	591	524	351	388
Totals	1945	1975	1910	1569	1529

## Youth Recreation Programs

Numbers listed are the number of individuals enrolled unless otherwise noted

<b>Baseball</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
T-ball Baseball	138	138	139	139	129
Triple-A Baseball	117	125	116	117	101
American League Baseball	77	100	72	77	81
National League Baseball	91	92	105	91	93
Traveling Baseball Team	15	--	--	15	0
Bronco League Baseball	--	--	--	--	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>415</b>

<b>Basketball</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Girl's Sr. League Basketball	7 Teams	8 Teams	8Teams	0Teams	--
Boy's & Girl's Jr. League	9	41	41	31	47

<b>Gymnastics</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Totnastics	61	65	89	103	115
Beginning Gymnastics	66	74	72	89	112
Intermediate Gymnastics	40	46	38	37	41
Advanced Intermediate	14	9	5	0	--
Advanced Gymnastics	--	--	12	16	21
<b>Totals</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>289</b>

## Fall-Winter-Spring

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Preschool	81	54	46	59	52
Summer Preschool	62	66	25	51	43
<b>Totals</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>95</b>

<b>Activities</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Pumpkin Patch Party	36	25	50	54	43
Pumpkin Carving	--	9	36	20	20

## Skateboarding

<b>Lessons</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Skateboarding Lessons	--	--	15	24	19

## Soccer

<b>Soccer</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Soccer Camp	--	--	--	--	71
Soccer Clinic	11	--	--	--	--
Optimist Soccer	334	325	353	347	346
<b>Totals</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>424</b>

## Softball

<b>Softball</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Ponytail Softball	32	--	--	--	--
Pigtail/Ponytail Softball	38	23	43	44	35
Junior League Softball	--	--	3 Teams	0	0
Senior League Softball	6 Teams	6 Teams	7 Teams	6 Teams	8 Teams

## Tennis

<b>Tennis</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Advanced Beginner Tennis	40	32	30	30	14
Beginning Tennis	54	79	68	80	79
Intermediate Tennis	13	16	12	31	23
Pee-Wee Tennis	31	42	44	66	71
<b>Totals</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>187</b>

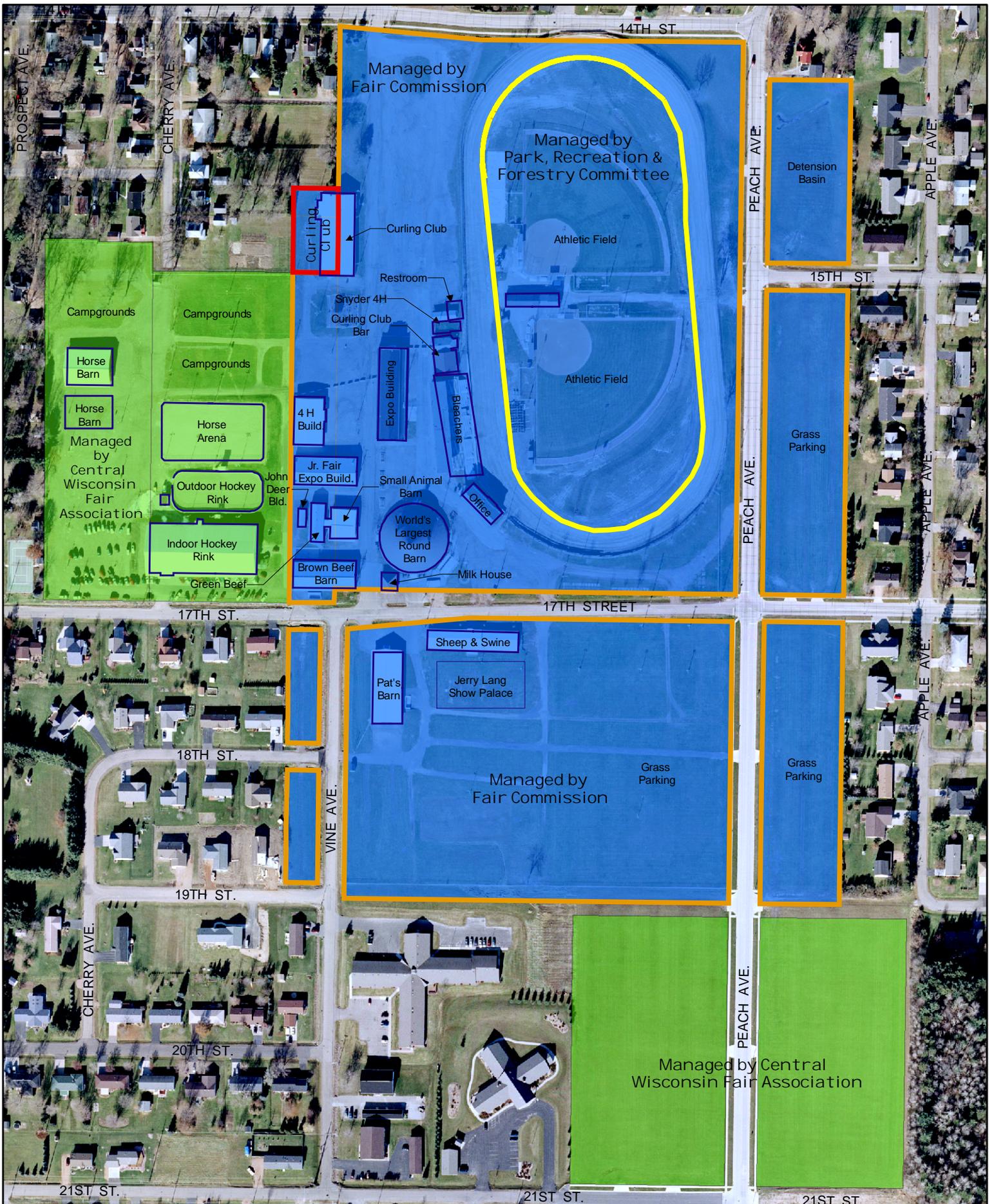
## Support Services

The Parks and Recreation Department supports several area programs by coordinating schedules, taking registrations, and providing facilities. Though the Department does not directly or independently provide these programs, it supports the organizations that do.

Activities	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Marshfield Football							
Football Fundamentals	30	26					--
7-on-7 Football	11*	12*	18*	18*	18*	14*	17*
Marshfield Country Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adult Golf	58	55	56	34	34	33	22
Junior Golf	38	63	68	73	57	33	30
Senior Golf	16	12	15	11	5	8	4
Youth Golf	14	3	7	3	2	0	3
Golf Camp	24	20	24	20	8	8	12
Jr. League Golf					53	39	34
Advanced Golf					5	4	3
Women's Golf						20	33
Marshfield Tennis Association							
USTA Tennis League	58	71	36			67	67
Marshfield Youth Wrestling							
Youth Wrestling	64	54	67	57	81	76	55
Kiwanis & Main Street Marshfield							
Skate Park Competition					53	14	19
Marshfield Optimist Breakfast Club							
Optimist Soccer					353	347	348

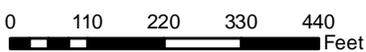
- Denotes number of teams enrolled as opposed to individuals

## **Appendix H: Map of Ownership and Management of Marshfield Fairgrounds Park**



# Marshfield Fairgrounds Park Ownership & Management

- Legend**
- Property Managed by Curling Club
  - Managed by Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee
  - Managed by Fair Commission
  - Property Owned by City of Marshfield
  - Property Owned and Managed by Central Wisconsin Fair Association



**Appendix I: Map of Approved and Potential Future Residential in Marshfield**



■  
■  
No Scale

***Approved & Potential Future Residential Development Map***

**Legend**  
■ Approved  
■ Future