



THE VILLAGE OF  
**COTTAGE GROVE**

# 2023 PARK & OPEN SPACE PLAN



approved by VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES on July 17, 2023



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# INTRODUCTION



*Dream Park playground at Bakken Park; photo by Parks Dept.*

In communities throughout Wisconsin, the preservation of parkland, open space, and natural resource areas have become key components of high quality living environments. Parks and open spaces do more than meet the basic human needs for recreation and aesthetics, they also protect and enhance the natural environment and shape the patterns of development in a community. Over the years, the park and open space system in Cottage Grove has been planned and designed to meet the diverse needs of all persons living in the community. The Village has recognized that proper recreation-based planning requires a focus on both the types of facilities needed to meet the needs of the area, as well as the geographic distribution of those facilities in relation to the residents who will use them. This 2023 Park and Open Space Plan was prepared to further this tradition of park and open space planning in Cottage Grove.

The primary purpose of this 2023 Park and Open Space Plan is to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land for park, outdoor recreation, and related open space uses in Cottage Grove as needed to satisfy the recreational needs of the Village population, and to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base in the community. Although the plan addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community (through the year 2040), it focuses more directly on recreational development needs over the next five-year period.

This 2023 Park and Open Space Plan is intended to update previous findings and recommendations contained in the Village's current Park and Open Space Plan. This next generation of park and open space planning is meant to proactively plan for future recreational needs for this growing community.

This Plan has been prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and qualify the Village of Cottage Grove for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund. The Park and Open Space Plan should be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WDNR certification.

This plan may be amended from time to time within the 5-year planning period. Changes should be proposed to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee. That committee will provide feedback and determine the appropriate means of public input regarding the proposed change. After the appropriate input has been gathered and considered, the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee will approve a public hearing draft of the proposed amendment. A public hearing will be held by the Plan Commission, after which the Plan Commission will act on a recommendation to the Village Board. The Village Board has the ultimate authority to approve the amendment.

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION



Photo by Parks Dept.

## A. General Regional Context

The Village of Cottage Grove is located in eastern Dane County, Wisconsin, situated within the dynamic Madison metropolitan area. The Village is only 15 minutes from downtown Madison and 60 minutes from Milwaukee. The Village is bordered by the Town of Cottage Grove generally to the west, south, and east. The Town of Sun Prairie is located to the north. The Village is situated along the Interstate 94 corridor. The intersection of CTH BB and CTH N is the geographic center of the village.

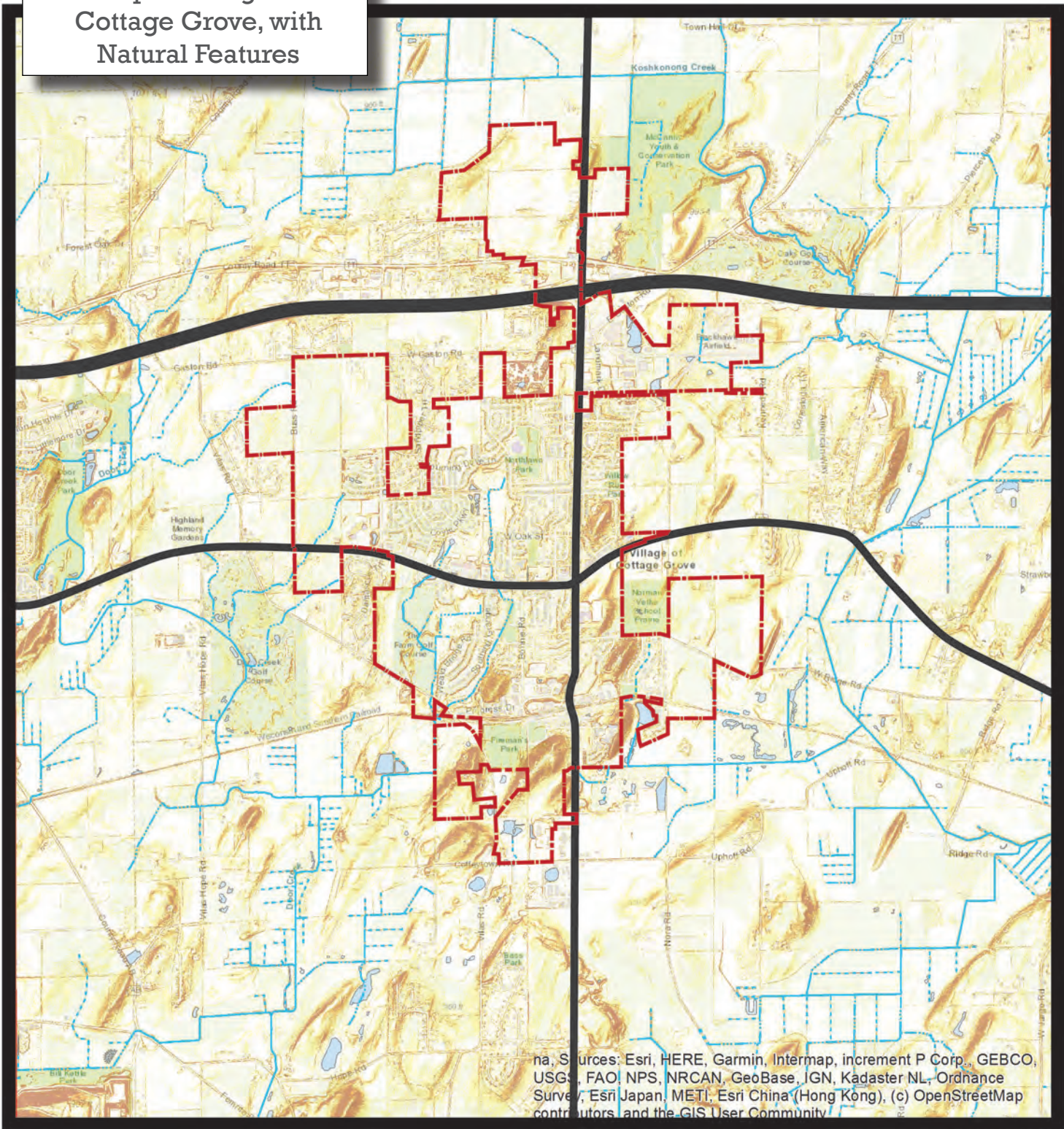
## B. Natural Resources

The Village's relationship with its natural surroundings provides a valuable point of reference for this park and open space planning effort. Understanding these natural resources provides a framework for analysis and suggests possible locational advantages for certain park and recreational facilities. The following is a summary of the key environmental features within the Village and its environs.

### 1. Landforms and Soils

Landforms in the area in and around the Village of Cottage Grove are basically glacial drift features. The most notable feature is the collection of drumlins and related hills that are scattered throughout the Planning Area, generally running in a northeasterly-southwesterly direction. The Village is located on the drainage divide between the Yahara River and Koshkonong Creek drainage basins. The highest point in the Planning Area is about 1,015 feet above sea level in the northeast part of the Village and the lowest point is about 850 feet above sea level near the

# Map 1: Village of Cottage Grove, with Natural Features



na, Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Scale: 1" = 4,000'

**Boundaries**

Village of Cottage Grove Boundary

**Rivers and Streams**

Perennial Stream; Hidden Perennial Stream  
 Intermittent Stream; Hidden Intermittent Stream  
 Constructed Drainage

**Lakes and Ponds**

Lakes and Ponds

**Steep Slopes**

Greater than 6 to less than 12  
 12 to less than 20  
 20 and greater

Source: Access Dane, Dane Co. Land Information Office

tributary to Koshkonong Creek at the southeast corner of the Planning Area.

According to the Dane County Soil Survey, most of the Planning Area is covered by soils rated as generally unsuited, or poorly suited, for development utilizing septic systems. The Village contains primarily silt loams and loam soils, including the Batavia, Boyer, Dodge, Griswold, Kidder, Plano, Ringwood and Wacousta soil series. This association is characterized by very poorly drained, poorly drained, somewhat poorly drained, and well-drained soils with a silty or loamy subsoil and are underlain by silt loam, sandy loam, or gravelly sandy loam. Most of these soils are suitable for development and have 2% to 12% slopes. Kidder soils are found in steep areas (over 20% slope), which are often drumlins.

Soils within wetland areas and the floodplain at the southeast and western edges of the Village consist of Houghton mucks, Orion silt loam and Sable silty clay loam. These soil types have severe to very severe limitations to development due to high compressibility, very low bearing capacity, seasonal high water table and occasional flooding. Development should generally be prohibited in these areas.

## **2. Water Bodies & Drainage Basins**

The primary surface water bodies in the Planning Area are Koshkonong Creek to the east and Door Creek to the west. The Village does not discharge its municipal wastewater into these water bodies because it is served by the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District. The outfall of MMSD is Badfish Creek located south of the City of Madison.

The northwest parts of the Village lie within the Door Creek drainage basin, which drains southerly into Lake Kegonsa and the Yahara River. The southern and eastern parts of the Village lie in the Koshkonong Creek drainage basin, which drains southeasterly into Lake Koshkonong and the Rock River.

## **3. Wetlands**

Wetland areas are located along streams and drainageways and in isolated low spots. Most of the significant wetlands in the Cottage Grove area are immediately southwest and southeast of the Village, associated with tributaries of Door Creek and Koshkonong Creek. The wetlands within the Thaden Natural Area include the headwaters of Door Creek. There are also two isolated wetland areas within the Village, west of Forrester Drive and north of Cottage Grove Road. These wetlands have been identified and mapped by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. These areas are important for aquifer recharge, groundwater and surface water quality improvement, and wildlife habitat. Wetlands are included within Environmental Corridor boundaries, as depicted on all the maps in this Plan. However, refer to the WDNR Wisconsin Wetland Inventory maps and subsequent detailed onsite surveys for official delineation of wetland boundaries.

## **4. Woodlands**

The Planning Area contains scattered wooded areas, including the woodlands within Governor Taylor Park. Most of these are located on the steepest slopes of the drumlins, and in lowland woodlands in inter-drumlin wetlands and along stream corridors. The most common species are oak, elm, and maple. The sparsely wooded condition of the remainder of the Planning Area is due to a combination of rich soils, few steep slopes, and residential development activity, which tends to place high value on wooded sites. As such, the remaining woodlands in and around the Village are valuable contributors to the area's character and beauty. The Village protects woodlands through assertive zoning overlay standards.

## **C. Population Trends**

The Village of Cottage Grove has experienced a significant increase in population in recent decades. From 1990 to 2000, according to the U.S.

Census the Village’s population grew from 1,131 to 4,059, or by about 259% (See Figure 1). This was followed by a 53% increase between 2000 and 2010, to 6,192. The 2020 Census count is 7,303; which represents a 17.9% gain since the 2010 U.S. Census. The WI DOA projects a Village population of 7,845 in 2025, and 8,990 at the end of this park planning horizon in 2035. However, these projections were produced in 2013 and appear low based on the recent Census data. Given recent and expected growth, the Village’s population will likely grow past 10,000 before 2030.

### D. Demographic Characteristics

The following sections review the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) data for the Village of Cottage Grove compared to comparable Dane County communities including the Cities of Fitchburg, Middleton, Monona, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, and Verona,

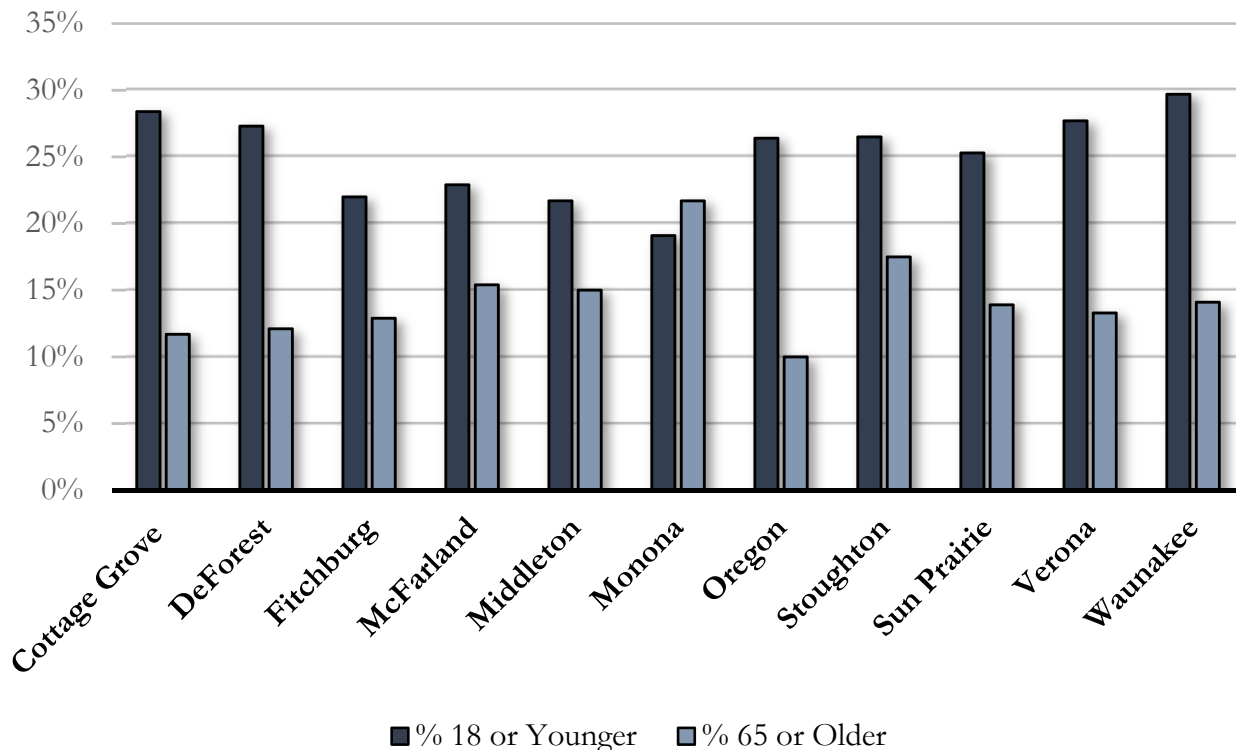
and the Villages of DeForest, McFarland, Oregon, and Waunakee.

According to the 2020 ACS, 11.7% of the Village’s population was aged 65 or over (see Fig. 1). The percentage was the second lowest among comparable Dane County communities. Oregon was the lowest (10.0%). Monona had the highest percentage with 21.7% aged 65 or over. Cottage Grove also had the second highest percentage of residents aged 18 or younger (28.4%), after Waunakee (29.7%).

Among the eleven comparable communities, Cottage Grove was one of seven in which more than 90% of the population was white (see Figure 2). Cottage Grove was one of three comparables (with DeForest and Stoughton) in which less than 1% of the population was black.

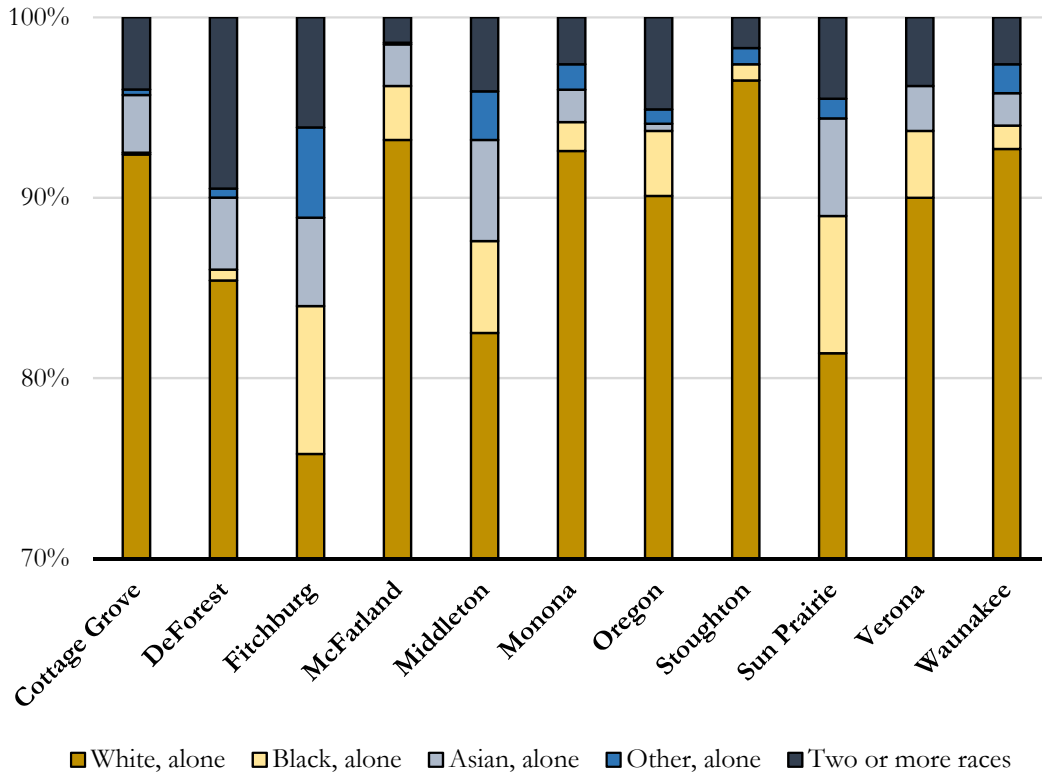
In Cottage Grove, 16.4% of the population did not attend college, while 52.9% had at least a college degree.

Fig. 1: Population by Age



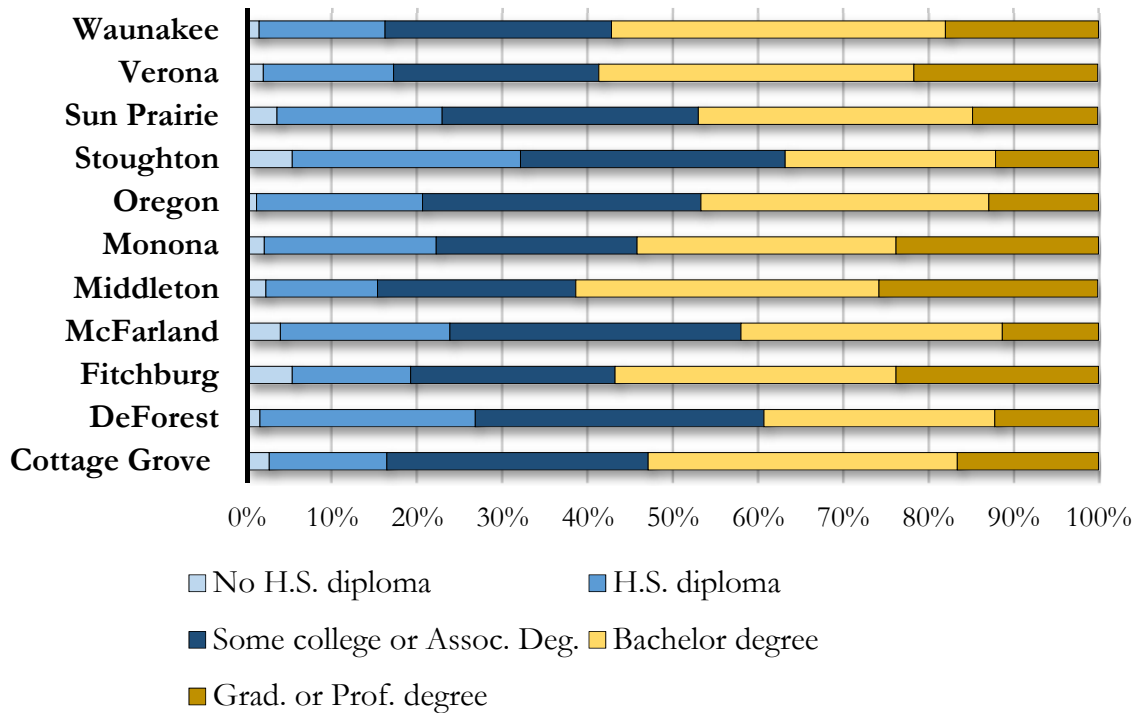
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

Fig. 2: Population by Race



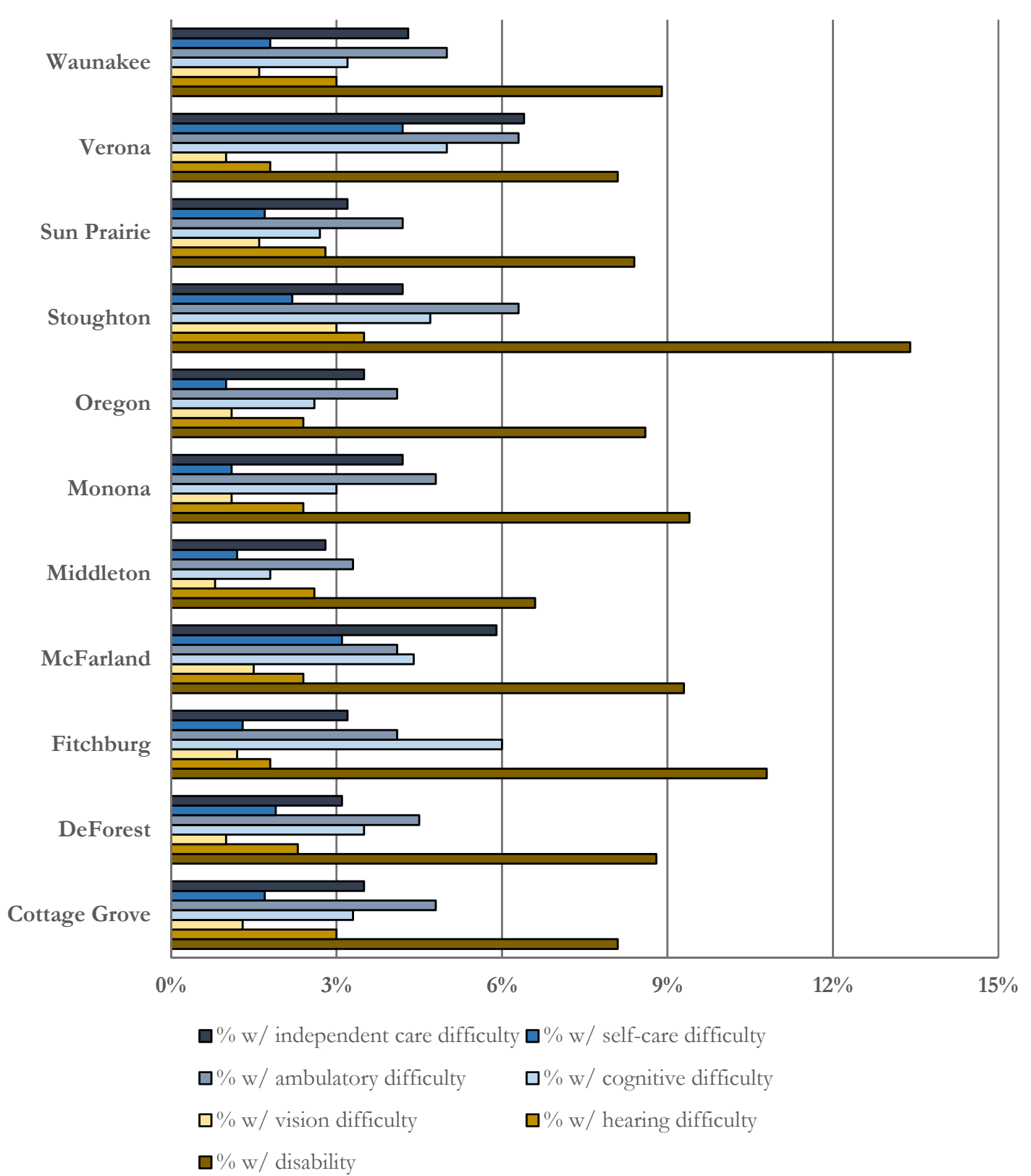
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

Fig. 3: Educational Attainment, Age 25 or Over



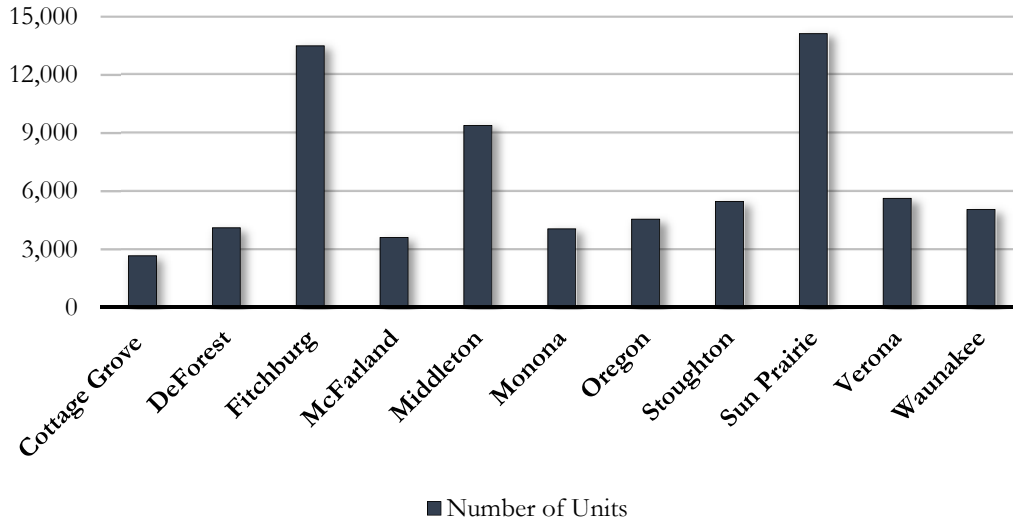
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

Fig. 4: Disability Characteristics



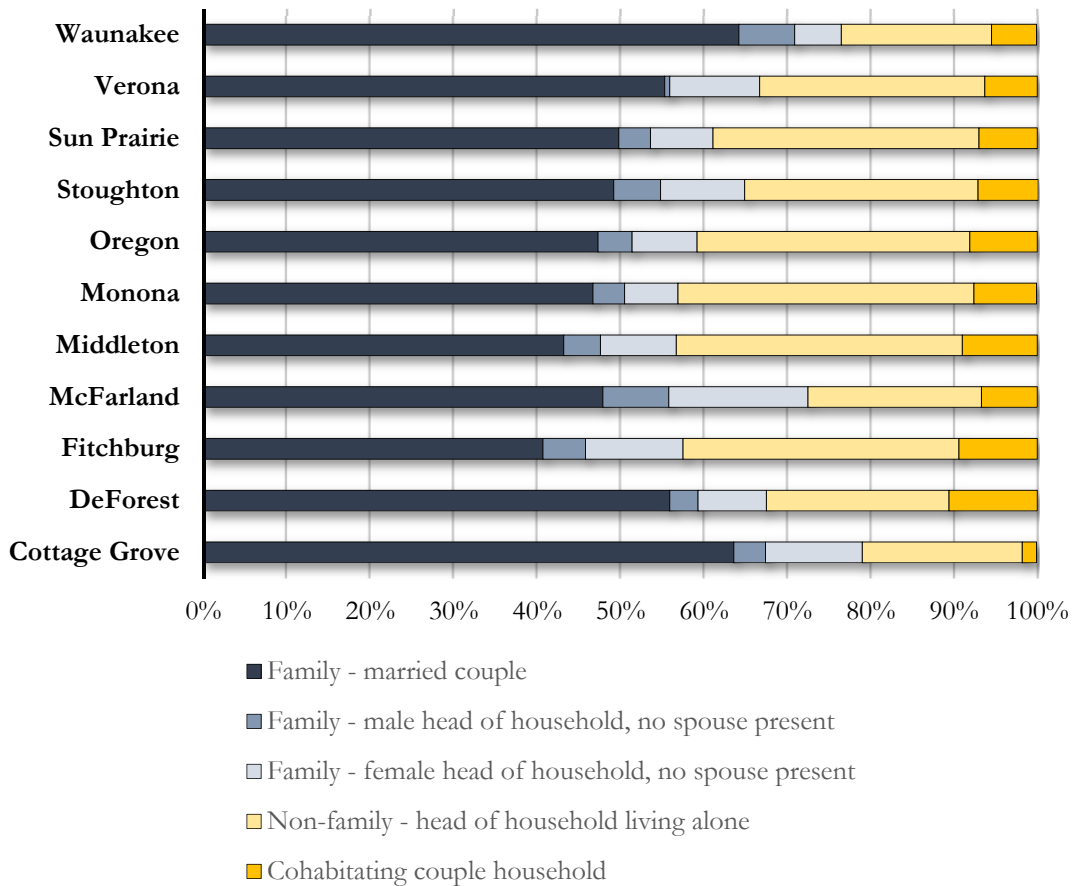
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

Fig. 5: Housing Units



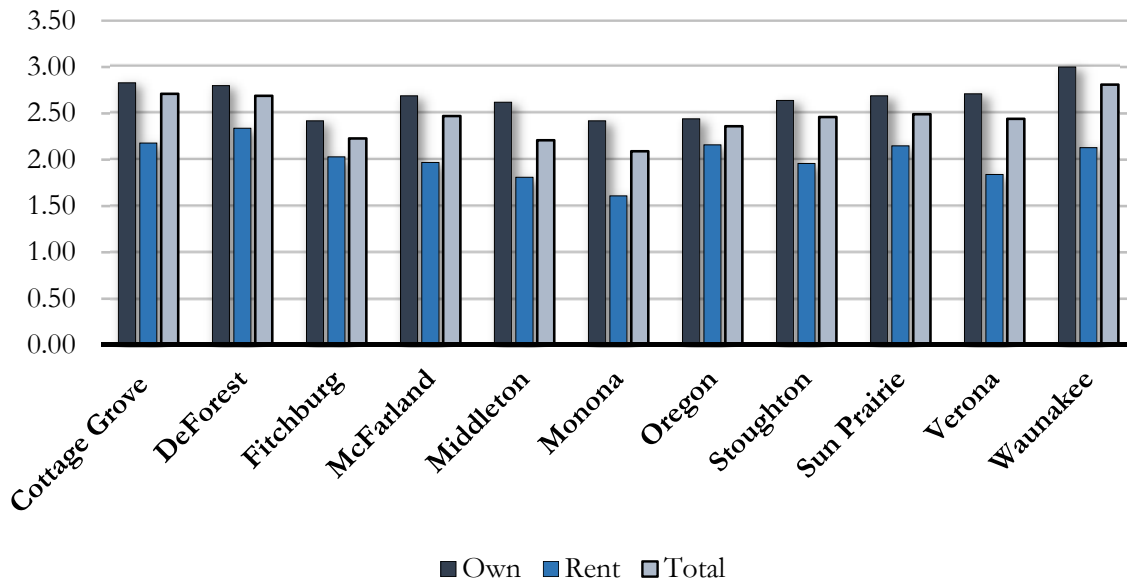
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

Fig. 6: Household Type



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

Fig. 7: Average Household Size



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

Cottage Grove had the second lowest percentage of residents who were disabled (see Figure 4) at 8.1%, tied with Verona. Only Middleton had a lower percentage (6.6%). Stoughton had the highest percentage (13.4%). Ambulatory difficulties were the most common disability in the Village (4.8% of the population). Hearing, cognitive, and independent care difficulties also affected more than 3% of Cottage Grove’s population.

### E. Household Characteristics

According to the 2020 American Community Survey, Cottage Grove had 2,667 housing units (see Figure 5) which was the fewest among the comparables. Sun Prairie’s 14,122 housing units were the most.

Per the 2020 American Community Survey, 63.6% of Cottage Grove households included a married couple (see Figure 6). Only Waunakee had a higher percentage (64.2%). In Cottage Grove, 19.2% of households were comprised of a householder living alone. This was the second lowest percentage after Waunakee (18.0%).

Households headed by a female with no spouse

present comprised 11.6% of Cottage Grove households (only McFarland and Fitchburg are higher), while 3.8% were headed by a male with no spouse present.

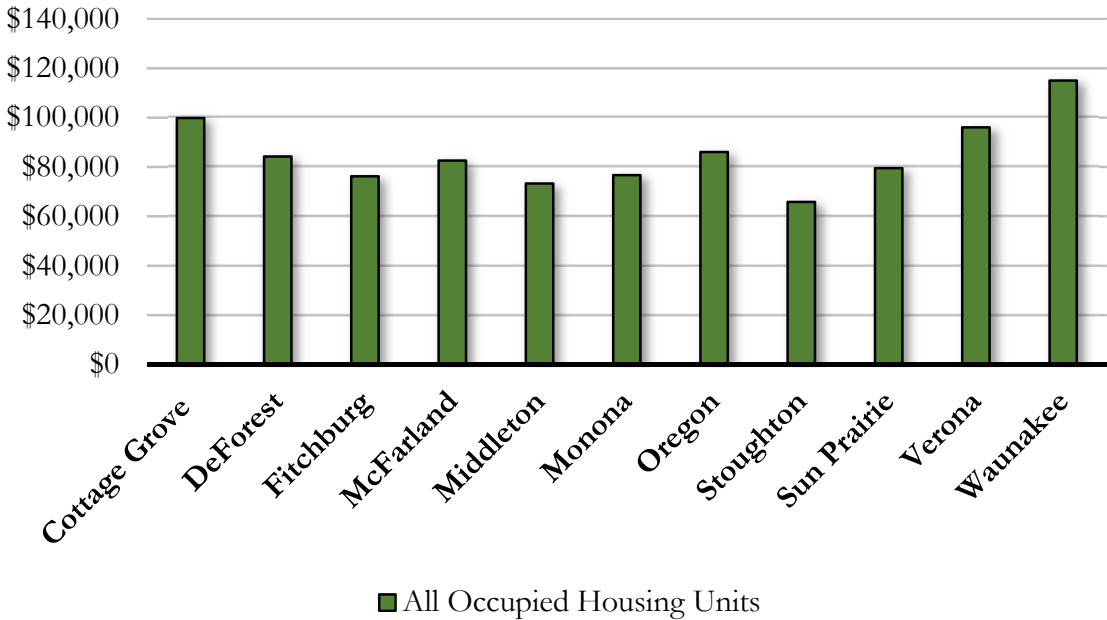
The average household size in Cottage Grove per the 2020 ACS was 2.71 persons per household, including 2.18 in rental units and 2.83 in owner-occupied units (see Figure 7). Only Waunakee had a higher average household size (2.81). Fitchburg and Monona tied for the lowest average household size (2.42).

### F. Economic Characteristics

According to the 2020 ACS, the median household income in the Village of Cottage Grove was \$99,858 (see Fig. 5). This ranked second among the Dane County comparables behind Waunakee.

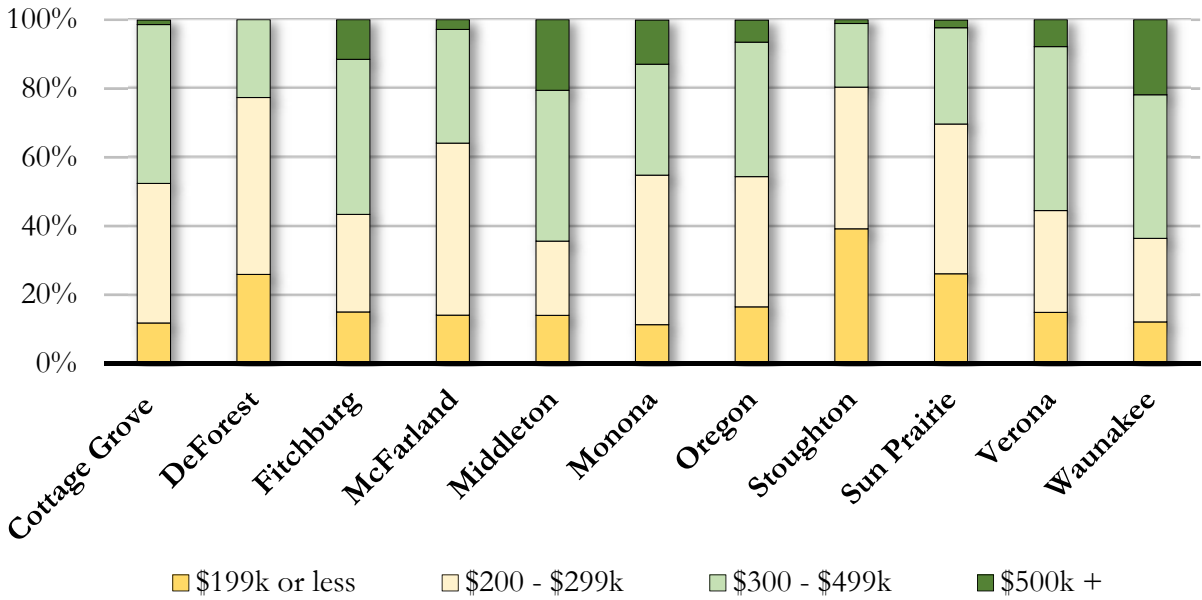
Per the 2020 ACS, 86.8% of the owner-occupied homes in the Village of Cottage Grove were valued between \$200,000 and \$400,000, highest among the comparables. Cottage Grove had the third lowest percentage of homes valued \$500,000 or more (1.3%) and the second lowest percentage

Fig. 8: Median Household Income



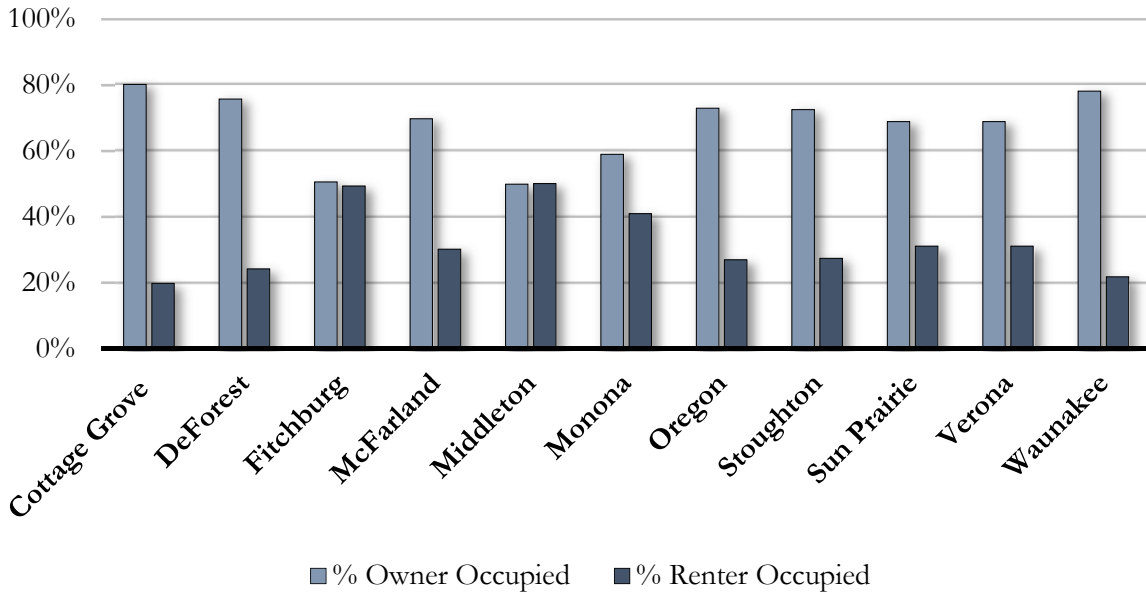
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

Fig. 9: Owner-Occupied Housing by Value



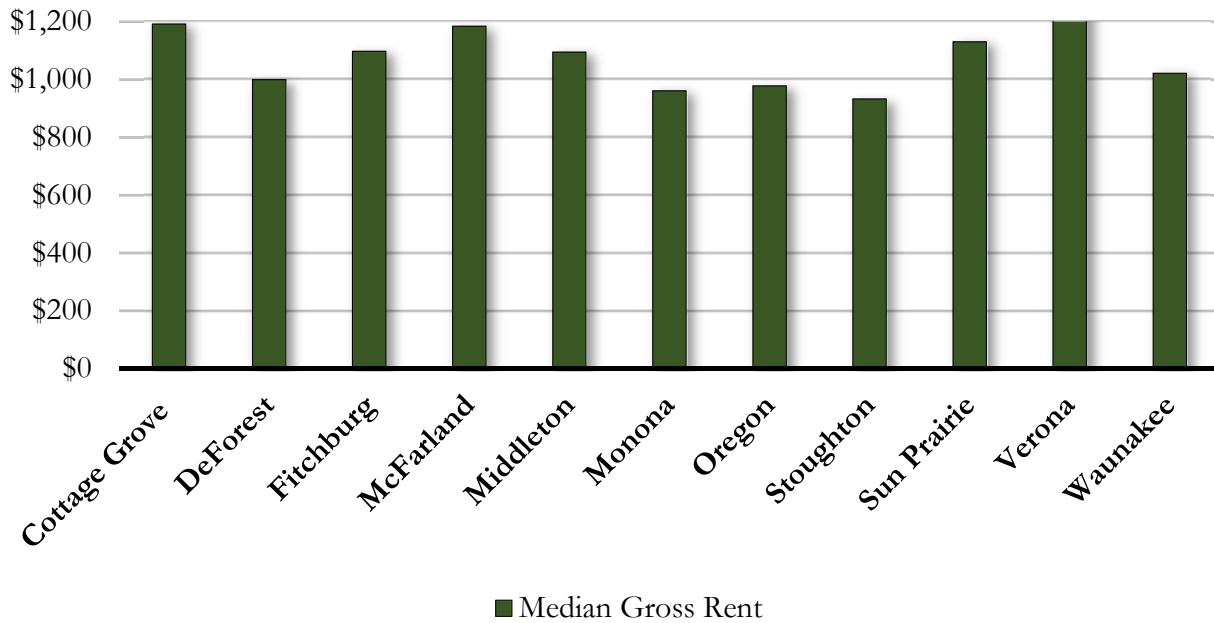
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

Fig. 10: Housing Tenure



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

Fig. 11: Median Gross Rent



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey

of homes valued below \$200,000 (11.8%).

In the Village of Cottage Grove, according to the 2020 ACS, 80.2% of housing units in the Village were owner-occupied which has the highest percentage among the comparables. Middleton had the lowest percentage of owner-occupied homes (49.9%).

Also according to the 2020 ACS, the Village of Cottage Grove had the second highest median gross rent (the monthly cost of rent plus utilities) at \$1,192. Only Verona had a higher median gross rent (\$1,258). Stoughton had the lowest median gross rent (\$933).

## **G. Review of Existing Plans**

An important step in the park planning process is an assessment of past planning efforts in the Village. A review of existing plans helps ensure consistency between this plan and the Village's broader goals, objectives, and policies. In addition, a review of related planning efforts from overlapping jurisdictions helps ensure and maximize coordination.

### **1. Village of Cottage Grove Park & Open Space Plan, 2018**

The most recent Village Park and Open Space plan was completed in 2018. The Plan provided an analysis of the existing park system and made general recommendations for future parkland acquisition and improvements. Specifically, the plan identified the need for an additional 30 to 60 acres of active parkland in the Village by 2035 to meet population projections. Specific recommendations were made regarding the location and size of future parks, proposed new amenities in existing parks, a summary of proposed ADA improvements, and new bike/ped path connections. The plan included cost estimates and an implementation plan.

### **2. Village of Cottage Grove Comprehensive Plan, 2020**

The Village's Comprehensive Plan was first adopted in 2000 in compliance with the 1999 —

Smart Growth legislation and has been regularly updated to keep the plan relevant and up to date. The Plan establishes 20-25 year growth areas for the village, provides for residential and non-residential infill development within the current boundaries of the Village, as well as continued revitalization, redevelopment, and infill along existing commercial corridors. Additionally, the plan summarizes economic development strategies, methods to retain and enhance community character and outlines sustainability initiatives.

### **3. Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan, 2018 - 2023**

Dane County's most recent Parks & Open Space Plan was adopted in 2017. The plan identifies six primary goals:

1. Provide sufficient park land and recreation facilities to meet the demand of Dane County residents without adversely affecting existing natural resources.
2. Preserve for posterity the characteristics and diversity of the natural, cultural, and historical resources of Dane County.
3. Preserve large tracts of natural and agricultural rural landscapes at urban fringe areas that will provide regional resource protection and recreation benefits.
4. Provide volunteer opportunities and stewardship education to all county residents.
5. Protect lakes, rivers, and streams including shorelands, wetlands, high infiltration areas, and associated vegetative buffers to maintain high water quality, manage water quantity, and sustain water-related recreation throughout Dane County
6. Provide an inclusive parks system for all Dane County residents regardless of age, race, gender or gender identity, national origin, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation, place of residence, veteran status, physical ability, cognitive capacity, or family, marital, or economic status..

The Dane Co. Parks & Open Space Plan, 2018-2023 also references a master plan for the McCa-

rthy County Youth and Conservation Park. A draft of the master plan was completed in 2015, as described below.

#### **4. McCarthy County Youth & Conservation Park Master Plan**

Dane County approved the master plan for the McCarthy County Youth and Conservation Park in 2015. Village of Cottage Grove staff provided input in the master planning process, and public input sessions were held at Village Hall and the Town Hall in the Town of Sun Prairie.

General recommendations in the Master Plan include:

1. New shelter, playground, and picnic area near entry.
2. Grassland, oak opening, and wetland restoration.
3. Surrounding farmland preservation.
4. Four season 'yurt' (a round structure based upon a traditional Central Asian building type) at equestrian group camp.
5. Future off-leash dog exercise area.
6. Ho-Chunk interpretive trail.
7. Development of regional trail segment from Town Hall Drive to park entrance.
8. Consideration of regional sports complex in the Cottage Grove area.
9. Consideration of future target archery area.
10. Development of an outside the park equestrian trail.

#### **5. Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2019 - 2023**

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is prepared by the Wisconsin DNR. It examines and assesses current and future recreational needs within the state and provides recommendations to guide public outdoor recreation policy, planning, and funding. According to the plan, 95% of Wisconsinites engage in some form of outdoor recreation.

More generally, the SCORP provides extensive survey data regarding the percentage of Wisconsinites who participate in various outdoor activities. Picnicking, hiking, visiting a beach/swimming, wildlife viewing, boating, and fishing were among the most popular. Activities identified as experiencing increased demand included adventure racing, driving for pleasure, developed (RV) camping, kayaking, visiting dog parks, and playing soccer. Activities identified as having decreased demand included hunting, in-line skating, skateboarding, horseback riding, softball, and downhill skiing. The plan also introduces public health as a decision marking criteria by comparing activities by their relative exertion levels.

The 2019 - 2023 SCORP identified seven outdoor recreation goals:

1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation.
2. Grow partnerships.
3. Provide high-quality experiences.
4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits.
5. Enhance funding and financial stability.

Finally, the SCORP describes the eligibility criteria and priorities for the State's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants.

# EXISTING PARK & OPEN SPACE FACILITIES



Gazebo and playground at Strouse Park; photo by Parks Dept.

The Village's park and open space system consists of 297.4 total acres of active and passive parkland and special use areas. Of this total, 131.3 acres are under the control of the Village, and 166.1 acres are under the control of the Monona Grove School District, including the 68-acre Vethe School Forest . This system includes a full range of developed facilities including community parks, neighborhood parks, mini-parks, and special uses areas located throughout the community.

The following is a summary of the existing park and recreational facilities in the Village area. A complete list of all facilities within each park is provided following the maps at the end of this section.

## **A. Description of Existing Public Park and Recreation Facilities**

### **1. Municipal Services Building**

The Village of Cottage Grove Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department is headquartered in the Municipal Services Building located at 210 Progress Drive. Department staff can be reached at (608) 839-8968.

The Municipal Services Building includes space used for recreational activities. Additional vacant space is available in the building that may be converted into recreational space in the future. The conversion would require new flooring and a dividing wall. This would allow multiple classes to run at the same time.

### **2. Municipal Parks**

Site plans of current park facilities follow.

# BAKKEN PARK



SCALE:  
1" = 200'

## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

1. Madison United Rugby Sports Complex
  - a. Rugby field
  - b. Clubhouse
  - c. Championship rugby field (lighted)
2. Parking (149 spaces)
3. Shelter
4. Splash pad
5. Playground (Dream Park)
6. Miracle League of Dane Co. Field
7. Skate park and pump track
8. Future park development area
9. Soccer fields

This 37 acre park is located immediately west of Fireman's Park. Several new facilities were added to the park in recent years including a shelter, splash pad, skate park, and pump track. The Village partnered with Miracle League of Dane County to install a baseball field for children with disabilities. 2022 improvements to Clark and Grove Streets included new on-street parking.

# FIREMAN'S PARK



## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

1. Baseball field, lighted w/ batting cage
2. Ball field
3. Volleyball court
4. Playground equipment
5. Shelter
6. Restrooms
7. Concession stand
8. Picnic facilities
9. 32 parking spaces w/ basketball court
10. Park Dept. storage building

This 11.0 acre park is located on the south side of the Village at the west end of Reynolds Street. It is adjacent to Bakken Park. Facilities include a baseball field, ball field, volleyball court, playground equipment, shelter, restrooms, picnic facilities, a concession stand, parking with a basketball court, and a Parks Dept. storage building.

# NORTHLAWN PARK



SCALE:  
1" = 200'

## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

1. Taylor Prairie Elementary School
2. Playground equipment
3. Baseball/softball field
4. Soccer field
5. Other sports field
6. Basketball court
7. Tennis courts
8. Open shelter w/ restrooms
9. 98 parking spaces

This 13.0 acre park is located adjacent to Taylor Prairie Elementary School on the north side of the Village. Facilities include softball fields, basketball court, soccer field, tennis courts, playground equipment, a concession stand, picnic shelter, and restrooms. The map above shows a potential arrangement of sports fields. The actual configuration varies season to season.

# COMMUNITY PARK



SCALE:  
1" = 200'



This 8.8 acre park is located south of Cottage Grove Road (County Highway BB) and is accessible from Lori Lane, between the Seldal and Southlawn Subdivisions. The park often functions as a community facility for picnics and recreational programs. Facilities include a baseball field and batting cage. 2022 improvements include new playground equipment and four pickleball courts. Additionally, a new shelter is planned in coming years. A trail runs through the park's main attractions connecting Weald Bridge Road on the south and will extend to W. Cottage Grove Road on the north.

## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

1. Trail to Cottage Grove Road
2. Playground
3. Pickle ball courts
4. Shelter
5. Parking (40 spaces)
6. ADA accessible bleachers
7. Batting cage
8. Baseball field

# GOVERNOR TAYLOR NATURE PARK



SCALE:  
1" = 200'



This 5.0 acre park is located near the center of the Village, north of W. Cottage Grove Road (County Highway BB). The park is accessible from Oak Street and Woodview Drive. The park is primarily an undeveloped, conservancy park with nature trails. Facilities include a picnic area with tables and benches, seating areas, and flower beds.

## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

1. ADA accessible path to bench
2. Hiking trails
3. Picnic area
4. Wetland

# R.G. HUSTON PARK



SCALE:  
1" = 200'

This 4.0 acre park is located adjacent to the Glacial Drumlins State Trail on the southeast side of the Village, near the intersection of Trillium Trail and Yarrow Hill Drive. Facilities include a little league baseball diamond, a half basketball court, playground equipment, sand volleyball court, soccer field, walking trails, a shelter, and restrooms.

## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

1. Playground equipment
2. Baseball field
3. Soccer field
4. Basketball court
5. Volleyball court
6. Hiking trails
7. Drinking water
8. Open shelter w/ restrooms
9. Picnic tables & grills

# WILLOW RUN PARK



SCALE:  
1" = 200'

The 1.3 acre park is located on the east side of the Village along East Parkview Street. Facilities include playground equipment, a play field, and a zip line. The park also serves as an overflow area for stormwater management.

## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

1. Playground equipment
2. Zip line
3. Paved trail/sidewalk
4. Play field
5. Stormwater management area

# STROUSE PARK



SCALE:  
1" = 200'

This 1.2 acre park is located along Southing Grange on the south side of the Village. Facilities include playground equipment, basketball court, tetherball, open air gazebo, and open fields.

## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

1. Playground equipment
2. Half basketball court
3. Open air gazebo
4. Open field

# DUBLIN PARK



SCALE:  
1" = 200'

This 1.3 acre park is located on Dublin Circle in the Coyle Highlands subdivision in the northwest portion of the Village. Facilities include playground equipment, swing sets, an open air gazebo, a basketball court, and open green space.

## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

1. Playground equipment
2. Basketball court
3. Open air gazebo
4. Open green space

# RED HAWK PARK & PONDS



Red Hawk Park is a 0.8 acre space in the northwest corner of the Westlawn Estates 4th Addition. The park includes a playground and picnic area. A trail system traverses the subdivision linking the park to a series of three public green space areas adjacent to stormwater management ponds. The trail extends from the south end to the adjacent Glacial Drumlin and Granite Ridge Schools, and from the north end it will extend into the Westlawn Estates 6th Addition and eventually to a 20-acre park in that neighborhood.

## EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

1. Playground with zip line
2. Fishing Pier
3. Benches

### **3. Special Use and Open Space Facilities**

**Oakengate Hill** - this 10.3 acre wooded hill is located between Fireman’s Park and Community Park, northwest of the Cottage Grove Business Park. Future facilities may include a walking trail and benches.

**Thaden Nature Area** - this 36.6 acre open space and wetland area is located west of N. Parkview Street. Most of the area is intended to remain an undeveloped passive area.

## **B. Description of Other Local and Regional Facilities**

### **1. School-Owned Facilities**

The Monona Grove School District serves the communities of Monona and Cottage Grove. As of September 2021 the total enrollment in the district was 3,550 students. Four schools are located in Cottage Grove, including Cottage Grove Elementary (enrollment 285), Taylor Prairie Elementary (enrollment 272), Granite Ridge Elementary School (enrollment 444), and Glacial Drumlin Middle School (enrollment 779).

Monona is home to Winnequah Elementary School (enrollment 578) and Monona Grove High School (enrollment 1,091). The district also includes the MG21 Charter School (enrollment 69), and the Together 4 Kids School (enrollment 32).

The Monona Grove School District periodically updates its future enrollment studies. Pending the results of those studies, the district may re-examine the adequacy of current facilities to accommodate future students. Should these studies indicate a need for a new school, or expansion of existing facilities, the Village will collaborate with the district as needed on these projects.

#### **Cottage Grove Elementary School**

This 20.6 acre facility is located on the east side of County Highway N near its intersection with County Highway BB. Facilities include softball diamonds, basketball courts, a soccer field, and playground equipment.

#### **Taylor Prairie Elementary School**

This facility is located adjacent to Northlawn Park (see page 12) on the north side of the Village. In combination with Northlawn Park, the facility totals 24.2 acres. Facilities include playground equipment.

#### **Granite Ridge Elementary School**

This facility is located on Buss Road, adjacent to the Westlawn neighborhood on the Village’s west side. The school opened in the fall of 2021. The school sits on a 29.8 acre parcel that includes playground equipment and outdoor basketball courts. The school district also owns an adjacent 24 acres that is currently undeveloped.

#### **Glacial Drumlin Middle School**

This 36.7 acre facility is located on County Highway BB/W. Cottage Grove Road, west of Damascus Trail. The facility includes softball fields, soccer and football fields, and a community garden.

#### **Norman Vethe School Forest**

This 68.0 acre facility is located east of Cottage Grove Elementary School. A portion of the property is used as a sledding hill in winter. The Monona Grove School District used Wisconsin DNR funds to install prairie restoration and wetland study areas as well as walking and cross country skiing trails.

### **2. Regional Facilities**

#### **McCarthy County Youth & Conservation Park**

This 220 acre Dane County Park is located east of County Highway N and north of I-94. The park is largely undeveloped, though existing facilities include hiking trails, equestrian trails and campsites, and a sledding hill.

#### **Glacial Drumlin State Trail**

This 52 mile trail runs from Cottage Grove to Waukesha, WI. The trail is open to bikers and pedestrians. The WDNR operates a trailhead with parking and a restroom on S. Main Street.

In 2022 the Village completed an off-street trail from the trailhead north to Highway TT. In 2021

## RECREATION AMENITIES, VILLAGE OF COTTAGE GROVE (2023)

	Acres	Play Equipment	Baseball Field	Softball Field	Soccer/Flex. Field	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Pickleball Courts	Sledding Hill	Hiking Trails	Fishing Pier	Splash Pad	Drinking Water	Restrooms	Skate Park/Pump Track	Open Shelter	Picnic Tables & Grills	Concession Stand	Passive Area
<b>Community Parks</b>																				
Fireman's Park	11.0	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓						✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Northlawn Park	13.0	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Bakken Park	38.0	✓	✓		✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>																				
Community Park	8.8	✓	✓						✓					✓	✓		✓	✓		
Gov. Taylor Park	5.0										✓									✓
R.G. Huston Park	4.0	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		
<b>Mini-parks</b>																				
Willow Run Park	1.3	✓			✓															
Strouse Park	1.2	✓				✓											✓	✓		
Dublin Park	1.3	✓				✓											✓	✓		
Red Hawk Park and Ponds	0.8	✓										✓					✓	✓		✓
<b>Special Use Areas</b>																				
Oakengate Hill	10.3																			✓
Thaden Nature Area	36.6																			✓
<b>School Facilities</b>																				
Cottage Grove Elementary	19.9	✓		✓	✓	✓														
Taylor Prairie Elementary	11.7	✓			✓	✓														
Granite Ridge Elementary	29.8	✓			✓	✓														
Glacial Drumlin Middle	36.7			✓	✓	✓				✓										
Vethe School Forest	68.0									✓	✓									✓

the Village extended the trail from S. Main St. along Clark Street and through Fireman's and Bakken Parks to Vilas Road.

Dane County and the WDNR continue to work on completing a trail extension from the City of Madison to Cottage Grove. When completed this extension would connect to the municipal trail end in Bakken Park on Vilas Road. This piece would connect the Milwaukee area to the extensive trail network that runs throughout south and central Wisconsin.

# GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES



*Basketball court and playground at Dublin Park; photo by Parks Dept.*

The first step in the park planning process is to establish goals, objectives, and policies that serve as the basis for all subsequent planning efforts. The following goals, objectives, and policies were developed by the Park & Recreation Committee based upon a review of existing plans, basic planning principals, and public input.

**Goals** - broad statements that express general priorities. Goals are formulated based on the identification of key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the park system.

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

**Policies** - rules and courses of action used to ensure plan implementation. Policies often accomplish a number of objectives.

## A. Goals

1. Provide, maintain, and enhance the parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, and trail systems throughout the Village for the benefit of all current and future residents, as well as other interested stakeholders, for the purpose of providing physical and mental health benefits from exercise and interaction with nature while also providing opportunities for social interaction and community building.
2. Conserve, protect, maintain, and encourage responsible access (where appropriate) to the natural and environmentally sensitive areas in the Village, and in applicable watersheds beyond the Village, for the benefit of current and future residents, as well as native wildlife and ecosystems, for the purpose of providing physical and mental health benefits from exer-

cise and interaction with nature while fostering the benefits derived from native habitats and ecosystems.

3. Provide, encourage, and continue to evolve programming and recreational activities in the Village's parks, recreation facilities, and other suitable facilities for the benefit of all residents and other potential participants for the purpose of providing physical and mental health benefits from exercise and other activities, and to provide an opportunity for social interaction and community building.
4. Attract, support, and evolve community and regional athletic and cultural events at existing facilities throughout the Village, as well as new facilities as they may develop in the future, for the benefit of residents and other potential participants for the purpose of providing physical and mental health benefits from exercise, to support the development of local athletes, to increase tourism and foster economic development, and to provide opportunities for social interaction and community building.
5. Grow and maintain a network of bike/pedestrian paths throughout the Village with an emphasis on connecting parks to each other and to residential areas. This network shall provide safe and convenient access and function as both an alternate means of transportation and a pleasant and inspiring opportunity for recreation and exercise. Newly developed neighborhoods shall complete path networks described in the Village's Comprehensive Plan, while existing neighborhoods may be retrofitted as part of street reconstruction or repair, or as other circumstances allow. The Village shall work with other governmental agencies on opportunities to extend this network beyond Village limits.

## **B. Objectives**

1. Provide both active and passive recreation opportunities for the Village's residents at the neighborhood and community levels.

2. Provide recreation opportunities within neighborhoods, which strengthen the neighborhood's identity and provide areas for nearby recreation.
3. Link together all of the Village's neighborhoods, parks, and schools. Cooperate with others in connecting these trails into a regional network of trails and parks. Continue to pursue long-term collaboration with the Wisconsin DNR in extending the Glacial Drumlin Trail.
4. Encourage and coordinate year-round recreational programs and facilities.
5. Recognize the importance of environmental features, in particular Door Creek and Koskonong Creek watersheds, in providing recreational opportunities.
6. Maintain the overall ratio of park acreage to population, approximately 13 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents.
7. Strengthen the role of Bakken Park as a community-wide resource for recreation.
8. Provide park and recreational facilities to serve residents of all ages and abilities.
9. Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities (active and passive, resource oriented and non-resource oriented) so that residents of all ages and abilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy the park and open space system.
10. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to maintain and upgrade existing park sites and facilities.
11. Provide good pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to all parks and recreational facilities.
12. Focus preservation, protection, and enhancement of open spaces and conservancy areas along drainageways and other environmentally sensitive areas to the extent possible.
13. Maintain a system of trails and pathways so that all residential neighborhoods will have safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle access

to parks, schools, neighborhood commercial districts, public open spaces, and conservancy areas.

## C. Policies

1. Strive to provide park land within safe walking distance of all residential neighborhoods. One quarter mile is the preferred walking distance, with a maximum distance of one half mile between residences and neighborhood parks.
2. Park facilities should be scaled and located to the future needs of the area and population served. The Village should continue to use a hierarchy of park sites based on size, facilities, and areas served to suit different neighborhoods, and types of development.
3. Continue to site and design neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place. All neighborhood parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods where possible and be served by a complete sidewalk and trail network.
4. Parks should have full street frontage along at least one side of the park to enhance the relationship between the neighborhood and the park, and to provide a high degree of visibility into the park to strengthen public safety. Structures and landscaping within the park should be arranged so as not to block views into the park from the public street. High activity areas within the park should be located within view of the public street.
5. Parks and recreational facilities should be combined with school facilities where appropriate and feasible. Specifically, the Village should target lands for neighborhood park acquisition adjacent to school athletic and playground areas.
6. The Village should develop a unified walking and bicycle trail and route system throughout the Village to link neighborhoods with schools, parks, and other destination areas. A unified wayfinding signage system should be developed as part of the trail system. The Village should continue to work on the state bike trail extension.
7. Cooperate with other units of government and agencies wherever possible in providing park and recreation areas and facilities. The Village and school officials responsible for providing recreational space in Cottage Grove should place a continued emphasis on the provision of areas and facilities that support recreational activities for all ages and abilities, rather than facilities geared only toward team sports or certain age groups. The Village should also work with Dane County, the Wisconsin DNR, and the Towns of Cottage Grove and Sun Prairie to coordinate park systems and recreation services and to implement the regional trail network included in the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan.
8. All new residential developments should meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this plan and implemented by the Village of Cottage Grove Zoning Ordinance, and Subdivision Ordinance. The Village should require all proposed residential developments to identify pedestrian access corridors to public parks and schools. Parks should be integrated into future neighborhood designs and linked by a network of sidewalks, bike trails, and open space corridors. Park land dedications in new subdivisions should be consistent with the locations identified in this plan.
9. A detailed park management and maintenance plan should be included as a component of each park design.
10. Acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in advance or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning.
11. Alternative means of reserving lands required for open space use should be fully explored to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public. Mandatory dedication of lands for public use as park lands and/

- or fees in lieu of park land dedication should be continued as provided by Village ordinances.
12. Dedicate a set portion of the Village's budget to expenditures for capital improvements in the Village's parks and indoor recreation facilities.
  13. Acquire park land in developing areas through park land dedication, or fees-in-lieu of park land requirements.
  14. Consider actively fundraising for large park improvement projects, including improvements within Fireman's and Bakken Parks.
  15. Continue to support volunteer groups and donated materials to the greatest extent possible to develop and maintain the park and open space system. Utilization of volunteer labor is generally most successful where a single tangible project is involved, such as tree planting, construction of a facility, or at a one-day clean up and beautification project.
  16. Actively encourage the donation of gifts by private individuals. Such gifts may include trees, park amenities such as benches and shelters, and money for park development. The Village should also explore the opportunity to develop a public-private partnership with local construction companies, asphalt companies, and quarry owners who may be willing to reduce costs or donate time, equipment, and supplies needed for park development.
  17. Discourage the alteration of natural areas and encourage the restoration of indigenous plant communities in all private and public developments.
  18. The preservation of sensitive environmental features should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, as areas for passive recreation and outdoor recreation, and as stormwater management areas, where appropriate. An exception to this should be the area of steep slopes necessary to accommodate the expansion of Fireman's Park and Willow Run Park.
  19. Utilize management policies that protect and enhance the natural features of all parks. This 'green' focused management should include efforts to establish and maintain buffers for sensitive environmental features, minimize fertilizer and pesticide use, and consider opportunities to implement native species plantings and landscape initiatives.
  20. Encourage public awareness of the Village's parks and recreation facilities by promoting them through maps, signage, and other materials, such as wayfinding signage, newsletters, and special events.
  21. The Village should continuously evaluate all park and open space sites and facilities to ensure compliance with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## **D. Public Participation**

The preparation of this plan update was guided by the Village of Cottage Grove's Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee at a number of the committee's regularly scheduled public meetings. The committee includes one Village Trustee and four citizen members.

The plan also makes use of survey data collected by the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, as well as conversations between the department and park user groups. The survey was conducted online. The survey was open from May 1, 2022 to June 1, 2022. It was publicized via both the Village and Park Department Facebook pages and webpages. The link to the survey was also emailed to everybody on the Parks Department's email contact list. The survey received 230 responses. An overview of the survey results begins on page 55 of this document, and the full results comprise Appendix B.

After discussing the various components of the plan throughout 2022 and the first half of 2023, the 2023 Park and Open Space was approved by the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee on June 22, 2023. The Plan Commission approved the plan on July 12, 2023 and the Village Board provided final approval on July 17, 2023.

# PARK & OPEN SPACE STANDARDS



Tennis courts at Northlawn Park; photo by Parks Dept.

## A. NRPA Data

An important step in the park and open space planning process is to compare data about services and facilities with other agencies. This review should be considered, along with the community's goals and public input to determine how effectively the department is serving its residents.

In 2015 NRPA introduced a revamped system for benchmarking community park and open space lands and amenities. This benchmarking system relies on their proprietary PRORAGIS (Park and Recreation Operating Ratio and Geographic Information System) tool. PRORAGIS allows NRPA member agencies to enter data pertaining to their agency. The whole of the information submitted by all agencies becomes a dataset that a member agency can use to compare their agency's metrics against a group of peers selected by the user.

So rather than prescribing an objective target for park amounts and amenities, the new system encourages the relative comparison of data. Therefore, it is left up to each park and recreation agency to determine who their peers should be for the purposes of making comparisons, and how their agency should rank compared to those peers. For example, a community that has developed a series of small, but densely programmed parks may rank higher than peers in spending per acre, but lower in park land per capita. As long as that park type continues to meet the needs and desires of that community, the rankings may not represent a problem, but rather confirm the community's values. NRPA compiles this data into an annual *Agency Performance Review*. This document provides data in a variety of categories for all agencies and broken out by size of the agency.

The following tables provide points of comparison between the Village and other jurisdictional statistics reported in the *2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review*. In most cases, Village data is compared to jurisdictions with populations below 20,000 and to all jurisdictions regardless of size.

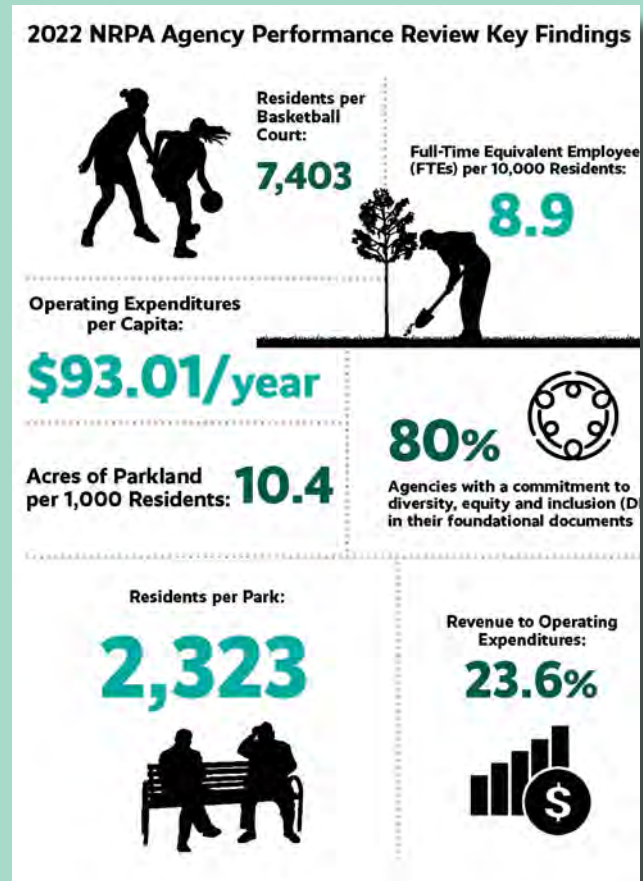
The following tables are based on the WIDOA population estimate of 8,854 for the Village of Cottage Grove in 2022.

## NRPA Agency Performance Report

“The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides park and recreation professionals across the United States with the most up to date data that inform current and future decisions and equip leaders with insights that help them make the case to key stakeholders and elected officials for greater, more sustainable funding. The *2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review* summarizes the key findings from NRPA Park Metrics - the benchmarking resource that assists park and recreation professionals in the effective management and planning of their operating resources and capital facilities.”

“The *2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review* does not present park and recreation ‘standards,’ nor do the benchmarks represent any standards against which every individual park and recreation agency should measure itself.”

- *2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review*



Source: 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review

Residents per Park			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	1,301	761	
Median	2,323	1,233	
Upper Quartile	4,556	1,924	
Actual			885

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above analyzes residents per park. A lower number of residents per park equates to a higher number of parks per resident. The national median number of residents per park for all agencies is 2,323 residents, and the median for agencies with less than 20,000 residents is 1,233.

The Village of Cottage Grove has a higher number of parks than would be typical given the population, resulting number of residents per park (885) that is below the lower quartile for all agencies (1,301) and slightly above the lower quartile for agencies less than 20,000 (761).

Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	5.1	5.2	
Median	10.4	12.9	
Upper Quartile	18.2	21.7	
Actual			9.5

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

Whereas the table above looked at the number of parks regardless of size, this table considers acres of parkland regardless of the number of parks.

The national average acres of parkland per 1,000 residents is 10.4 acres and the median for agencies with less than 20,000 residents is 12.9 acres.

The Village of Cottage Grove has 9.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is below the median for all agencies and for agencies with less than 20,000 residents, but well above the lower quartile in both categories (5.1 acres and 5.2 acres respectively). This figure references the 84.4 acres within Village parks, but does not include the roughly 47 acres that are in non-park natural areas such as Oakengate Hill or the Thaden Natural Area.

Outdoor Park & Recreation Facilities				
	% of Agencies with facility	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Median Residents per Facility
Playgrounds	95%	3,750	1,986	984
Basketball Courts	86%	7,403	3,750	1,476
Baseball Fields (youth)	79%	7,000	3,107	1,771
Tennis Courts	78%	5,608	2,723	4,427
Multi-Purpose Grass Fields	68%	9,622	4,326	2,214
Dog Park	67%	43,586	11,100	n/a
Softball Fields (adult)	65%	14,302	5,667	n/a
Softball Fields (youth)	62%	11,339	5,339	n/a
Baseball Fields (adult)	54%	20,127	7,954	8,854
Swimming Pools	53%	38,000	8,637	n/a
Community Gardens	51%	30,140	8,773	n/a
Soccer Fields (youth)	50%	7,382	3,504	2,214
Multi-Use Courts	48%	11,232	5,400	n/a
Tot Lots	45%	11,983	6,642	n/a
Soccer Fields (adult)	44%	13,200	8,017	n/a
Skate Parks	39%	53,708	11,100	8,854
Football Fields	35%	26,493	8,004	n/a
18-Hole Golf Course	29%	86,277	9,183	n/a
Driving Range	26%	23,977	5,055	n/a
Multi-Purpose Synthetic Fields	22%	39,736	12,962	n/a
Ice Rinks	18%	16,887	7,997	n/a
Pickleball Courts	18%	14,714	3,446	2,214

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows the percentage of jurisdictions or park and recreation agencies that have any of the listed outdoor facilities, and the median number of residents per facility. The numbers for all jurisdictions are shown in comparison with the Village of Cottage Grove.

The Village has a lower number of residents per facility (indicating more facilities per person) than both 'all agencies' and 'agencies with less than 20,000 residents' in a number of categories including playgrounds, basketball courts, youth baseball fields, multi-purpose grass fields, youth soccer fields, skate parks, and pickleball courts.

The number of residents per tennis court was lower in the Village than in 'all agencies' but higher than 'agencies with less than 20,000 residents.'

Miles of Trails			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	5.0	2.0	
Median	14.0	3.0	
Upper Quartile	39.0	10.0	
Actual			4.8

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows the total miles of off-street bike/pedestrian trails within the reporting jurisdictions. The table reflects only the total miles and is not normalized on a per resident or per acre basis.

The Village of Cottage Grove has approximately 4.8 miles of off-street trail. That figure is slightly below the lower quartile for ‘all agencies’ and above the median for ‘agencies less than 20,000 residents.’ The 4.8 miles reported by the Village includes stretches of asphalt trail that have replaced or have been installed in lieu of sidewalk. Examples of this trail type include the trail along Main Street/Highway N.

Indoor Park & Recreation Facilities				
	% of Agencies with facility	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Recreation Centers (and Gyms)	64%	31,129	9,126	n/a
Community Centers	60%	29,036	8,504	n/a
Senior Centers	41%	59,603	12,935	n/a
Performance Amphitheaters	36%	68,181	9,291	n/a
Nature Centers	31%	114,696	11,821	n/a
Aquatic Centers	25%	53,025	11,375	n/a
Stadiums	17%	75,026	9,126	n/a
Teen Centers	14%	57,109	14,426	n/a
Indoor Ice Rinks	12%	50,863	8,002	n/a
Arenas	7%	65,466	6,137	n/a

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows the percentage of jurisdictions or park and recreation agencies that have any of the listed outdoor facilities, and the median number of residents per facility. The Village did not have any of the indoor facilities listed in the table.

Programming Offered by Park & Recreation Agencies		
	% of Agencies with programming	Village of Cottage Grove
Themed Special Events	90%	Yes
Social Recreation Events	88%	Yes
Team Sports	87%	Yes
Fitness Enhancement Classes	82%	Yes
Health and Wellness Education	80%	Yes
Individual Sports	76%	Yes
Safety Training	72%	Yes
Racquet Sports	71%	Yes
Aquatics	70%	Yes
Performing Arts	64%	No
Visual Arts	63%	No
Natural and Cultural History Activities	62%	No
Cultural Crafts	62%	Yes
Trips and Tours	61%	Yes
Martial Arts	59%	No
Running/Cycling Races	50%	Yes
Golf	48%	Yes
eSports/eGaming	12%	No

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows the percentage of jurisdictions or park and recreation agencies that offer the listed activities or programs, and whether those programs are currently offered by the Village of Cottage Grove’s Parks & Recreation Department. The Village offers 13 of the 18 programs.

Targeted Programs for Children, Seniors, and People with Disabilities			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Summer Camps	83%	61%	Yes
Specific Senior Programs	79%	65%	Yes
Specific Teen Programs	66%	46%	Yes
Programs for People with Disabilities	62%	36%	No
STEM Programs	58%	40%	Yes
After-School Programs	55%	47%	No
Preschool	34%	25%	No
Before-School Programs	19%	16%	No
Full Daycare	7%	4%	No

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows the percentage of jurisdictions that offer the listed programs for children, seniors, or people with disabilities. The Village offers 4 of the 9 programs.

Key Responsibilities of Park & Recreation Agencies		
	% of Agencies with programming	Village of Cottage Grove
Operate and Maintain Park Sites	98%	Yes
Provide Recreation Programming and Services	94%	Yes
Operate and Maintain Indoor Facilities	91%	Yes
Have Budgetary Responsibility for Its Administrative Staff	87%	Yes
Operate, Maintain, or Manage Trails, Greenways, and Blueways	81%	Yes
Conduct Jurisdiction-Wide Special Events	81%	Yes
Operate, Maintain, or Manage Special Purpose Parks and Open Spaces	73%	Yes
Include in Budget the Funding for Planning and Development Functions	71%	Yes
Operate and Maintain Non-Park Sites	69%	Yes
Operate, Maintain, or Contract Outdoor Swim Facilities/Water Parks	67%	Yes
Operate, Maintain, or Contract Racquet Sports/ Activities Facilities	63%	Yes
Administer or Manage Tournament or Event-Quality Outdoor Sports Complexes	56%	No
Administer Community Gardens	45%	No

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows the percentage of jurisdictions that house the listed responsibilities within their Parks and Recreation departments.

The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department in the Village has 11 of the 13 listed responsibilities. The 11 responsibilities held by the Village include all of those most commonly held by agencies nationally. These include operating and maintaining park sites, providing recreation programming, maintaining trails, and conducting special events among others.

The two not held by the Village are the operation of an event quality outdoor sports complex (held by 56% of all agencies) and administration of community gardens (a responsibility of 45% of all agencies).

Other Responsibilities of Park & Recreation Agencies		
	% of Agencies with programming	Village of Cottage Grove
Manage Large Performance Outdoor Amphitheaters	37%	No
Operate, Maintain, or Contract Tourism Attractions	36%	No
Operate, Maintain, or Contract Golf Courses	36%	No
Operate, Maintain, or Contract Indoor Swim Facilities/Water Parks	32%	No
Maintain or Manage Beaches	22%	No
Administer or Manage Farmers Markets	21%	No
Maintain, Manage, or Lease Indoor Performing Arts Centers	20%	No
Administer or Manage Tournament or Event-Quality Indoor Sports Complexes	20%	No
Operate, Maintain, or Contract Campgrounds	18%	No
Operate, Maintain, or Contract Marinas	11%	No
Maintain or Manage Professional or College-Type Stadiums/Arenas	9%	No
Maintain or Manage Fairgrounds	6%	No

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows the percentage of jurisdictions that have the additional listed responsibilities. The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department in the Village has none of the 12 responsibilities listed. The 12 responsibilities are held by as many as 37% of agencies to as few as 6%.

Park & Recreation Agency Staffing (FTE's)			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	17.3	5.4	
Median	49.4	11.8	
Upper Quartile	127.3	23.8	
Actual			7.0

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The Village of Cottage Grove has 7 full time equivalent (FTE) employees, a figure that is above the lower quartile for 'agencies less than 20,000' (5.4) and below the lower quartile for 'all agencies' (17.3). This total does not reflect coaches, referees, class instructors, etc. It includes only Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department staff.

Park & Recreation Agency Staffing (FTE's) per 10,000 Residents			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	4.7	6.4	
Median	8.9	11.3	
Upper Quartile	15.4	21.1	
Actual			7.9

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The Village of Cottage Grove employs 7.9 FTE employees per 10,000 residents. This figure is above the lower quartile for both 'all agencies' (4.7) and 'agencies with less than 20,000 residents' (6.4).

Responsibilities of Park & Recreation Staff		
	All Agencies	Village of Cottage Grove
Operations/Maintenance	45%	50%
Programmers	31%	35%
Administration	17%	12%
Capital Development	3%	3%
Other	4%	1%

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows how responsibilities are allocated to the typical Parks and Recreation staff. 'Operations/maintenance' (45%) and 'programming' (31%) are the responsibilities accounting for the most staffing across 'all agencies.'

Percentages for the Village of Cottage Grove were all within 5% of those reported nation-wide.

Annual Operating Expenditures			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	\$1,969,110	\$551,925	
Median	\$5,079,925	\$1,200,000	
Upper Quartile	\$14,157,797	\$2,443,647	
Actual			\$606,300

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

Per the Village of Cottage Grove's 2022 budget, the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department had an operating budget of \$606,300. This figure is above the lower quartile for 'agencies less than 20,000' (\$551,925), and below the lower quartile for 'all agencies' (\$1,969,110).

Operating Expenditures per Capita			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	\$51.40	\$67.73	
Median	\$93.01	\$117.36	
Upper Quartile	\$171.18	\$226.43	
Actual			\$68.48

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

To facilitate comparisons among different sized agencies, the table above compares operating expenditures on a per capita bases.

The Village of Cottage Grove's operating budget per capita for the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department was \$68.48, which is slightly higher than the lower quartile for 'agencies less than 20,000' (\$67.73), and higher than the lower quartile for 'all agencies' (\$51.40).

Operating Expenditures per Acre of Park & Non-Park Sites			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	\$3,648	\$3,950	
Median	\$7,823	\$8,188	
Upper Quartile	\$18,379	\$24,015	
Actual			\$4,618

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

Another way to compare operating expenses across agencies is per acre of land (park and non-park) controlled by Parks and Recreation agencies. The Village of Cottage Grove's Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has a budget of \$4,618 per acre of land (based on 131.3 acres including non-park sites such as Oakengate Hill and the Thaden Natural Area).

This figure is higher than the lower quartile for both 'all agencies' (\$3,648) and 'agencies less than 20,000' (\$3,950), and below the medians (\$7,823 for 'all agencies' and \$8,188 for agencies with less than 20,000 residents).

==

Operating Expenditures per FTE			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	\$75,933	\$72,435	
Median	\$102,530	\$101,772	
Upper Quartile	\$143,389	\$145,611	
Actual			\$86,614

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

Yet another way to compare operating expenses across agencies is per FTE employed by Parks and Recreation agencies. The Village of Cottage Grove’s Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has a budget of \$86,614 per FTE.

This figure roughly midway between the lower quartile and median for both ‘all agencies’ and ‘agencies less than 20,000.’ For ‘all agencies’ the lower quartile was \$75,933 and the median was \$102,530. For ‘agencies less than 20,000’ the lower quartile was \$72,435 and the median was \$101,772.

Distribution of Operating Expenditures		
	All Agencies	Village of Cottage Grove
Personnel Services	54%	60%
Operating Expenses	38%	35%
Capital Expense Not in CIP	5%	3%
Other	3%	2%

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows how operating expenditures are allocated across the typical Parks and Recreation department budget. On average, across all agencies, ‘personnel services’ accounted for 54% of the budget, while ‘operating expenses’ accounted for 38%. The remaining 8% was comprised of ‘capital expenses not in the CIP’ 5% and ‘other’ 3%.

The estimated numbers for the Village of Cottage Grove were very similar to those reported nation-wide with ‘personnel services’ accounting for 60%, ‘operating expenses’ 35%, ‘capital expenses not in the CIP’ 3%, and ‘other’ taking up the remaining 2%.

Operating Expenditures Dedicated to Parks or Recreation		
	All Agencies	Village of Cottage Grove
Parks	45%	50%
Recreation	42%	45%
Other	13%	5%

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows how operating expenditures are allocated between parks and recreation on average across ‘all agencies.’ Across ‘all agencies’ 45% of operating expenditures were allocated to parks, 42% to recreation, and 13% to other.

Once again the estimated numbers for the Village of Cottage Grove are similar to those reported nation-wide. ‘Parks’ accounted for 50% of expenditures, while ‘recreation’ accounted for an additional 45%. The remaining 5% fell into the ‘other’ category.

Sources of Operating Expenditures		
	All Agencies	Village of Cottage Grove
General Fund Tax Support	61%	80%
Earned/Generated Revenue	23%	15%
Dedicated Levies	8%	0%
Other Dedicated Taxes	3%	0%
Grants	2%	2%
Other	2%	2%
Sponsorships	1%	1%

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows the typical sources of operating expenditures across all agencies as a percentage of the total. Across ‘all agencies’ 61% of operating expenditures come from general fund tax support while 23% comes from earned or generated revenue.

In the Village of Cottage Grove ‘general fund tax support’ accounted for a greater percentage of operating expenditure sources than was reported nation-wide (80% to 61%). ‘Earned/generated revenue’ accounted for a lower percentage in the Village than nation-wide (15% to 23%). ‘Grants’ (2%), ‘other’ (2%), and ‘sponsorships’ (1%) accounted for the remainder of the expenditure sources in the Village.

Parks & Recreation Revenues per Capita			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	\$6.24	\$9.23	
Median	\$22.08	\$34.55	
Upper Quartile	\$54.36	\$76.26	
Actual			\$23.15

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows Parks and Recreation revenues per capita.

The revenue per capital in the Village of Cottage Grove was \$23.15, which is higher than the median for 'all agencies' (\$22.08) and less than the median for 'agencies less than 20,000' (\$34.55). These figures are based on the Village's estimated revenues of \$205,000 per the 2022 budget.

Revenues as Percentage of Operating Expenditures (Cost Recovery)			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	11.1%	11.2%	
Median	23.6%	25.0%	
Upper Quartile	43.4%	51.3%	
Actual			33.8%

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above examines cost recovery, or Parks and Recreation revenues as a percentage of operating expenditures. Across 'all agencies' the median cost recovery is 23.6% and 25.0% for 'all agencies less than 20,000.'

In the Village of Cottage Grove revenues (\$205,000) were 33.8% of expenditures (\$606,300) using figures from the 2022 Village budget.

Five-Year Capital Budget Spending			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	\$1,481,250	\$363,250	
Median	\$8,000,000	\$1,022,750	
Upper Quartile	\$24,498,169	\$3,872,635	
Actual			\$7,000,000

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above shows projected capital budget spending over the next five years.

The Village of Cottage Grove includes \$7 million in Parks and Recreation projects in its financial management plan, reflecting a number of proposed projects. This figure is above the upper quartile in 'agencies less than 20,000' (\$3,872,635), and below the median for 'all agencies' (\$8,000,000).

Targets for Capital Expenditures		
	All Agencies	Village of Cottage Grove
Renovation	56%	75%
New Development	30%	20%
Acquisition	7%	0%
Other	7%	5%

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The allocation of capital expenditures by project type is shown in the above table.

As an average across 'all agencies' 56% of capital expenditure funds are allocated toward renovation projects and 30% are targeted toward new development projects, while 7% is allocated toward acquisition and another 7% toward other uses.



Source: V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.



Source: V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

Park & Recreation Agency Policies				
	Yes, at All Locations	Yes, at Select Locations	No	Village of Cottage Grove
Has a policy barring the use of tobacco products in its parks and facilities	53%	29%	19%	No
Has a policy that allows the consumption of alcohol by legal aged adults on its premises	15%	59%	26%	Yes
Agency sells alcoholic beverages to legal aged on its premises (by agency or authorized concessionaire)	3%	47%	50%	No
Agency provides healthy food options in its vending machines	25%	42%	33%	No
Agency provides healthy food options in its concession stands	25%	48%	28%	Yes
Agency charges a parking fee at its parks or facilities	1%	16%	83%	No
Agency charges an admission fee to enter its parks	1%	16%	83%	No

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The table above displays the percentage of agencies that implement the listed policies at ‘all locations’, and ‘select locations’, or not at all.

Among all agencies, 53% ban tobacco use at all facilities, an additional 29% prohibit tobacco use at some, while 19% do not prohibit tobacco use in park facilities. The Village of Cottage Grove does not currently prohibit tobacco use in park facilities.

The Village allows consumption of alcohol in its park facilities. Only 15% of agencies allow alcohol consumption at all facilities, while 59% allow it at some. The Village does not sell alcohol at park concession stands. Nationwide, 50% of agencies do not sell alcohol at their facilities.

The Village provides healthy food options at concession stands. Among all agencies, 25% provide healthy options at all concession stands, while 48% provide healthy options at some stands.

Value of Deferred Maintenance Projects per Agency			
	All Agencies	Agencies less than 20,000	Village of Cottage Grove
Lower Quartile	\$0	\$0	
Median	\$480,500	\$100,000	
Upper Quartile	\$16,662,315	\$804,959	
Actual			\$300,000

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

The Village of Cottage Grove’s Parks and Recreation Department estimates there are \$300,000 worth of deferred maintenance projects in Village parks. These are primarily related to ADA accessibility projects that were defined in an ADA assessment study a few years ago. The Village has already corrected many of the identified deficiencies, but some remain to be addressed.

Across ‘all agencies’ the median value of deferred maintenance projects is \$480,500, which is higher than the Village’s identified amount. The Village’s \$300,000 value is higher than the median for ‘agencies less than 20,000’ (\$100,000).

<b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</b>			
	Yes	No	Village of Cottage Grove
Agencies with an expressed commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in their foundational documents	80%	20%	Yes

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

Among all agencies, 80% have an expressed commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in their foundational documents.

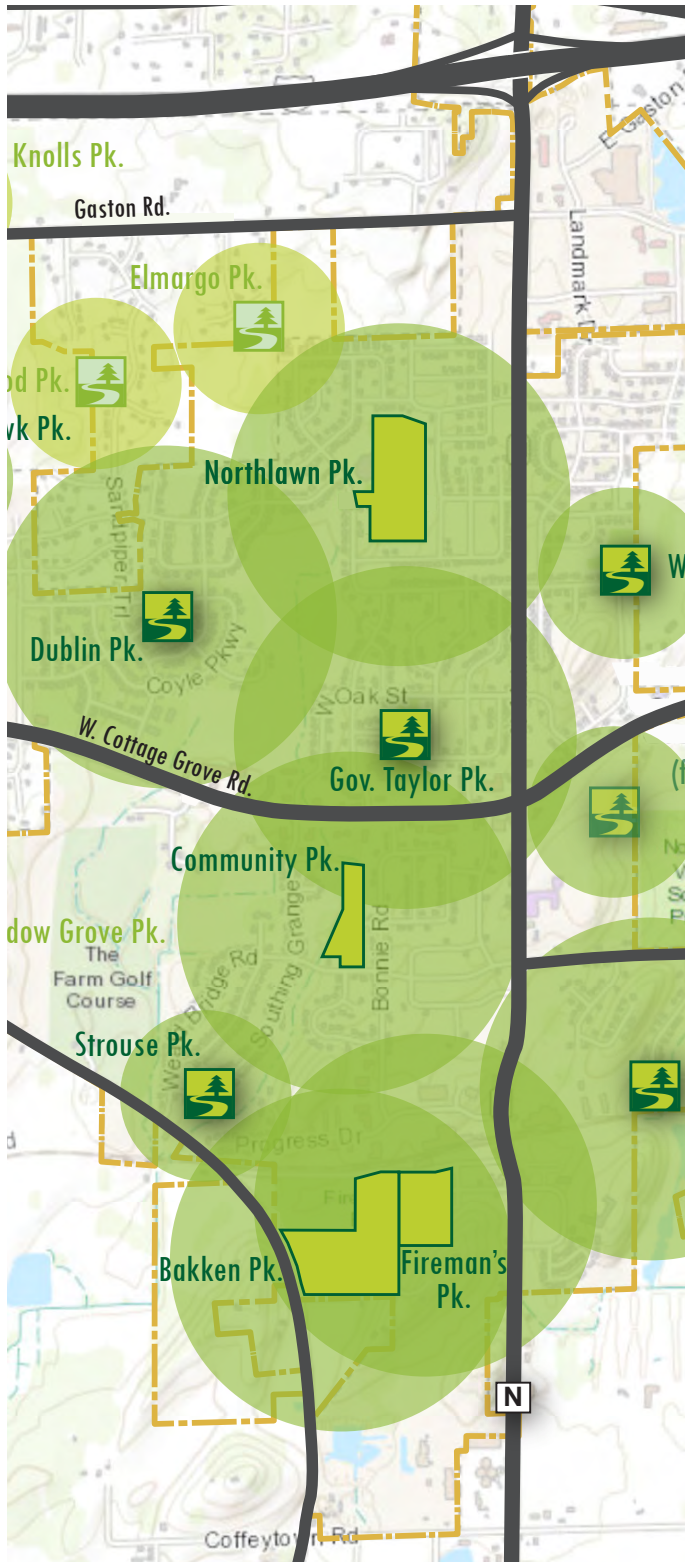
The Village also has such an expressed commitment.

<b>Diverse Workforce</b>			
	Yes	No	Village of Cottage Grove
Agency has hiring practices and policies promoting a diverse agency workforce	8%	92%	Yes

Sources: NRPA 2022 Agency Perf. Rev. & V. of Cottage Grove Parks Dept.

Just 8% of agencies nationally have a policy promoting a diverse workforce. The Village currently does not have an established policy.

# ANALYSIS OF THE PARK & OPEN SPACE SYSTEM



Source: Village of Cottage Grove

This chapter reviews the current Village of Cottage Grove park and open space system, and analyzes the extent to which the system satisfies the needs of the community.

The two primary factors that are considered are the amount of park land on a per capita basis, and the accessibility of the parks to residents, both currently and in the future based upon the Village's projected growth.

## A. Analysis of Existing Park & Open Space System

There are 87.9 acres of currently developed park land in the Village. The latest population estimate from the Wisconsin Department of Administration is 8,854 people as of January 1, 2022.

### 1. Existing Park & Open Space Service Standards

Given the data above, the Village is providing 9.93 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents.

The Village also contains 46.9 acres of undeveloped natural areas (Thaden Nature Area and Oakengate Hill). When these natural areas are added to the developed parks, the Village provides 134.8 total acres of park and open space, or 15.22 acres per 1,000 residents.

As previously seen, the median amount of park land per 1,000 residents nationwide is 10.4 acres.

Among jurisdictions with populations less than 20,000 people, the median amount of park land per 1,000 residents is 12.9 acres. The lower quartile for such jurisdictions in that category is 5.2 acres. Therefore, the Village's park land allocation is between the median and lower quartile for similar jurisdictions.

## **2. Location & Distribution of Existing Park & Open Space Facilities**

In addition to the amount of available park and open space, the location of those facilities is also an important factor in how well the facilities are serving Village residents.

Figure 9 shows the Village of Cottage Grove park system, including community, neighborhood, and mini-parks along with the Village's two natural areas. One facility is shown as a 'future park' on the west side of the Village representing a park that has been platted in the Shady Grove subdivision, but not yet built. Construction of the neighborhood is in progress and the park will be brought online as the surrounding development is completed.

While the Village's parks form the backbone of the local open space system, several other types of open space make important contributions to the community's supply. Figure 10 shows the Village of Cottage Grove's park system within the context of these other local features, which include six Town of Cottage Grove parks, McCarthy County Park, the Glacial Drumlin State Trail and accompanying trail head (operated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), two golf courses, and the Wisconsin Rugby Club.

## **3. Location & Distribution of Existing Off-Street Bike and Pedestrian Paths**

The Village of Cottage Grove is home to a growing network of off-street bike and pedestrian paths. Currently, there are asphalt paved paths at the following locations (as shown on Figure 11) that are completely separate from vehicular traffic:

- East side of Main Street/CTH N from the Glacial Drumlin State Trail trailhead to just north of I-94.
- South side of W. Cottage Grove Road/CTH BB from the Southing Grange to Damascus Trail.
- West side of Damascus Trail from W. Cottage Grove Road/CTH BB into the Westlawn Estates 5th Addition.

- Within the Westlawn Estates 4th Addition.
- Within the Commerce Park.
- Along Clark Street and through Fireman's and Bakken Parks to Vilas Road.

In addition, the Glacial Drumlin State Trail is a gravel path which begins at a trailhead operated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, located on the east side of S. Main Street/CTH N near Clark Street. Part of the trailhead was paved in 2022. The path runs east for 52 miles primarily along former railroad corridor through eastern Dane County, across Jefferson County and ending in Waukesha County at the Fox River Sanctuary on College and Prairie Avenues in the City of Waukesha. Bikers aged 16 or over require a state trail pass to use the Glacial Drumlin State Trail. A pass is not required for hiking or walking. In winter the trail is open to cross country skiers and snowshoers (no pass required), and portions are open to snowmobiles.

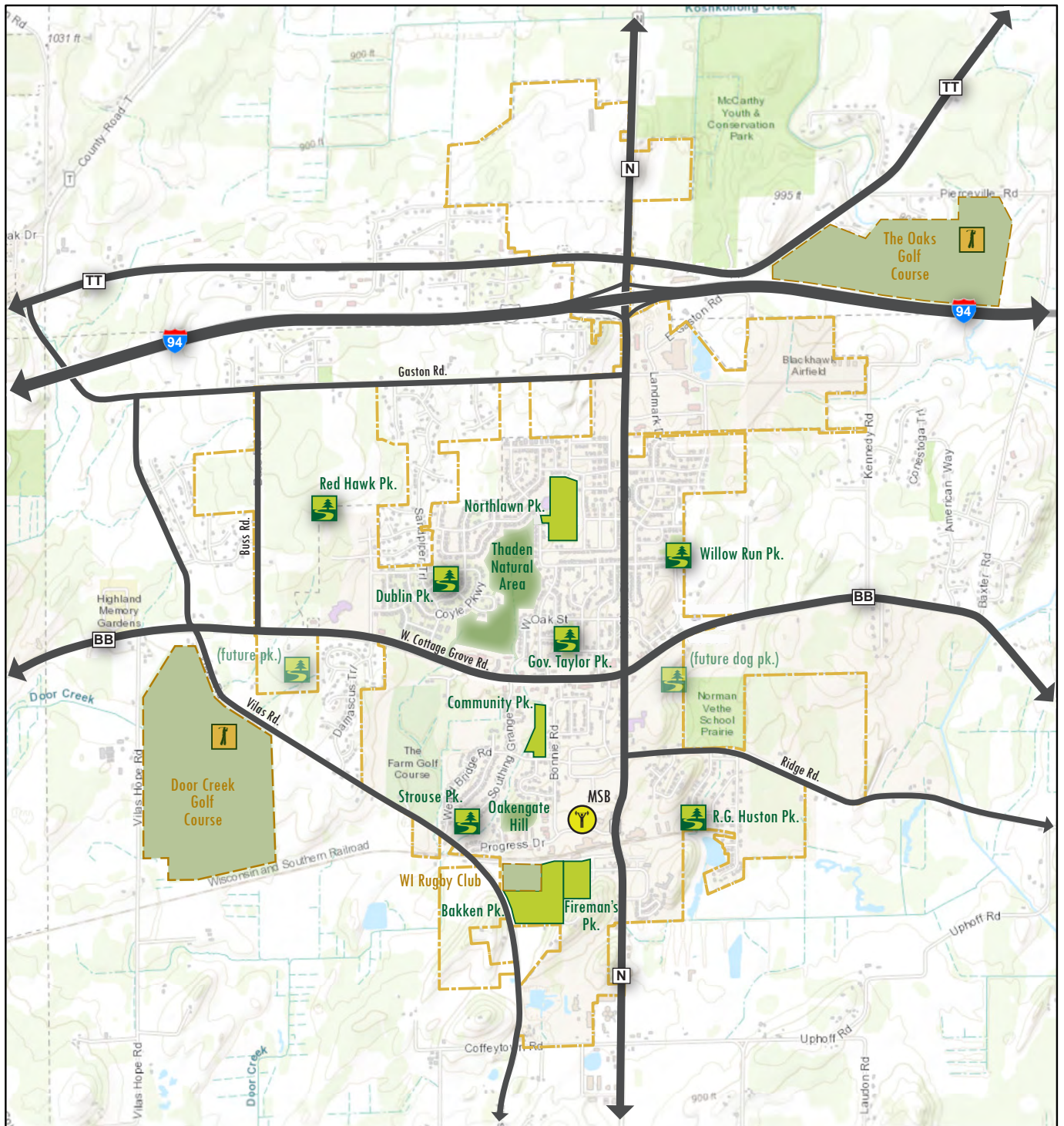
## **4. Community Park Service Areas**

Community parks (those sized between 5 and 8 acres with a range of amenities) are typically considered to have a 1-1/2 mile radius service area. In the Village of Cottage Grove these include Northlawn Park, Community Park, Fireman's Park, and Bakken Park. Figure 12 shows those parks with their respective service areas. Generally, in combination they currently serve all of the developed portions of the Village. One exception that is not covered is the far west portion of the Shady Grove subdivision, which is likely to develop in the next few years. The remaining portions of the Village that are outside the community park service areas include the eastern portion of the Blackhawk Airfield, and the area on the east side along Ridge Road. Currently there is no residential development in these areas.

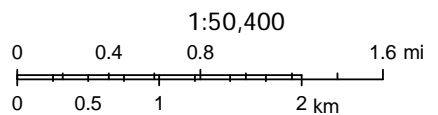
## **5. Neighborhood and Mini- Park Service Areas**

Neighborhood parks (typically less than 5 acres) and mini-parks (typically around 1 acre or less) have smaller service areas, as they are expected to serve the immediate neighborhood with many

Fig. 9: Village of Cottage Grove Park System

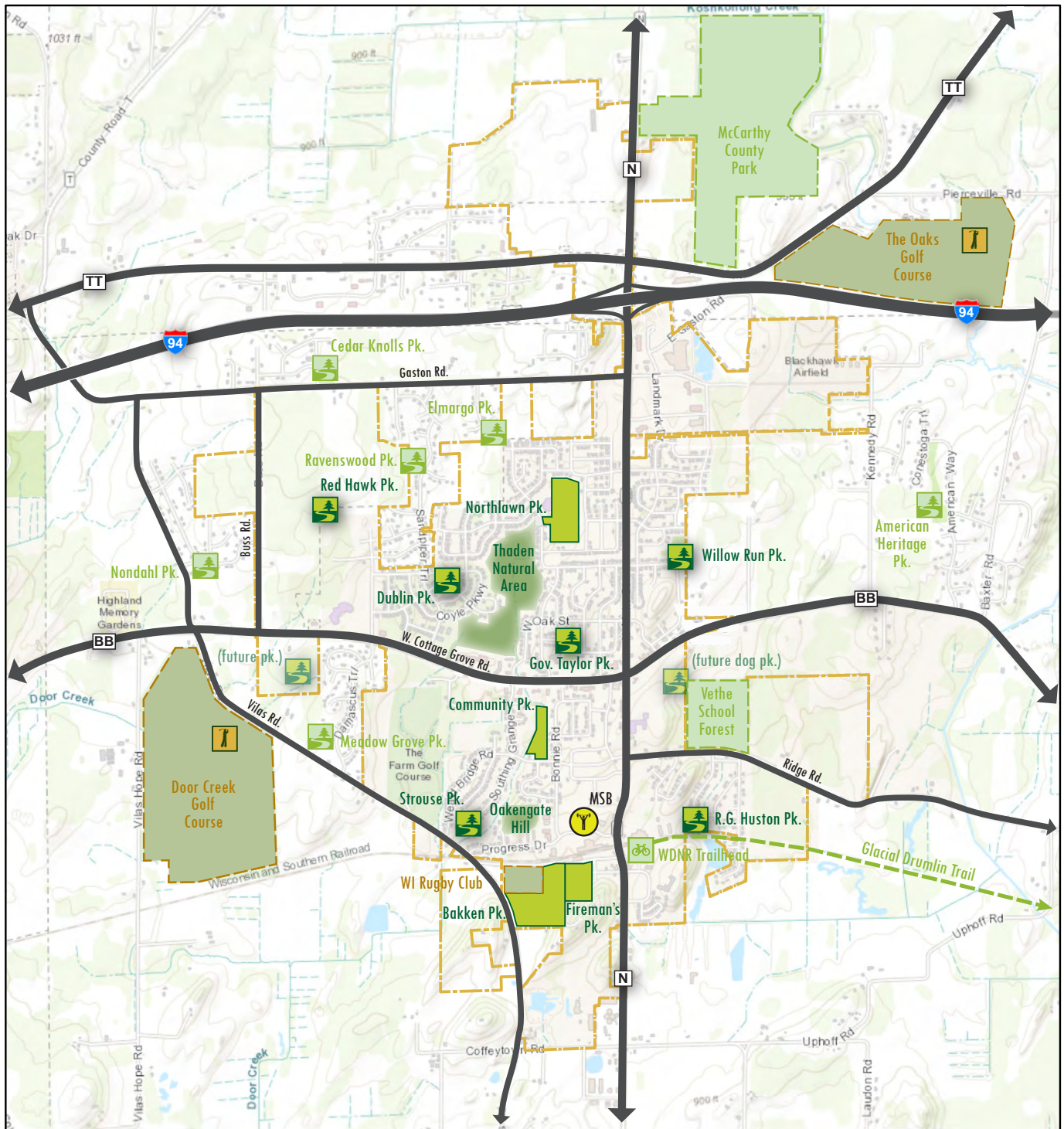






-  Village neighborhood or mini-park
-  Village community park
-  Village indoor recreation facility
-  Village natural area

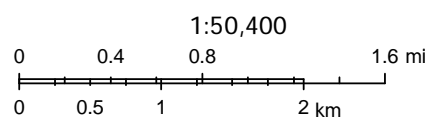


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Fig. 10: Public & Private Parks/Rec. Facilities Near the Village of Cottage Grove

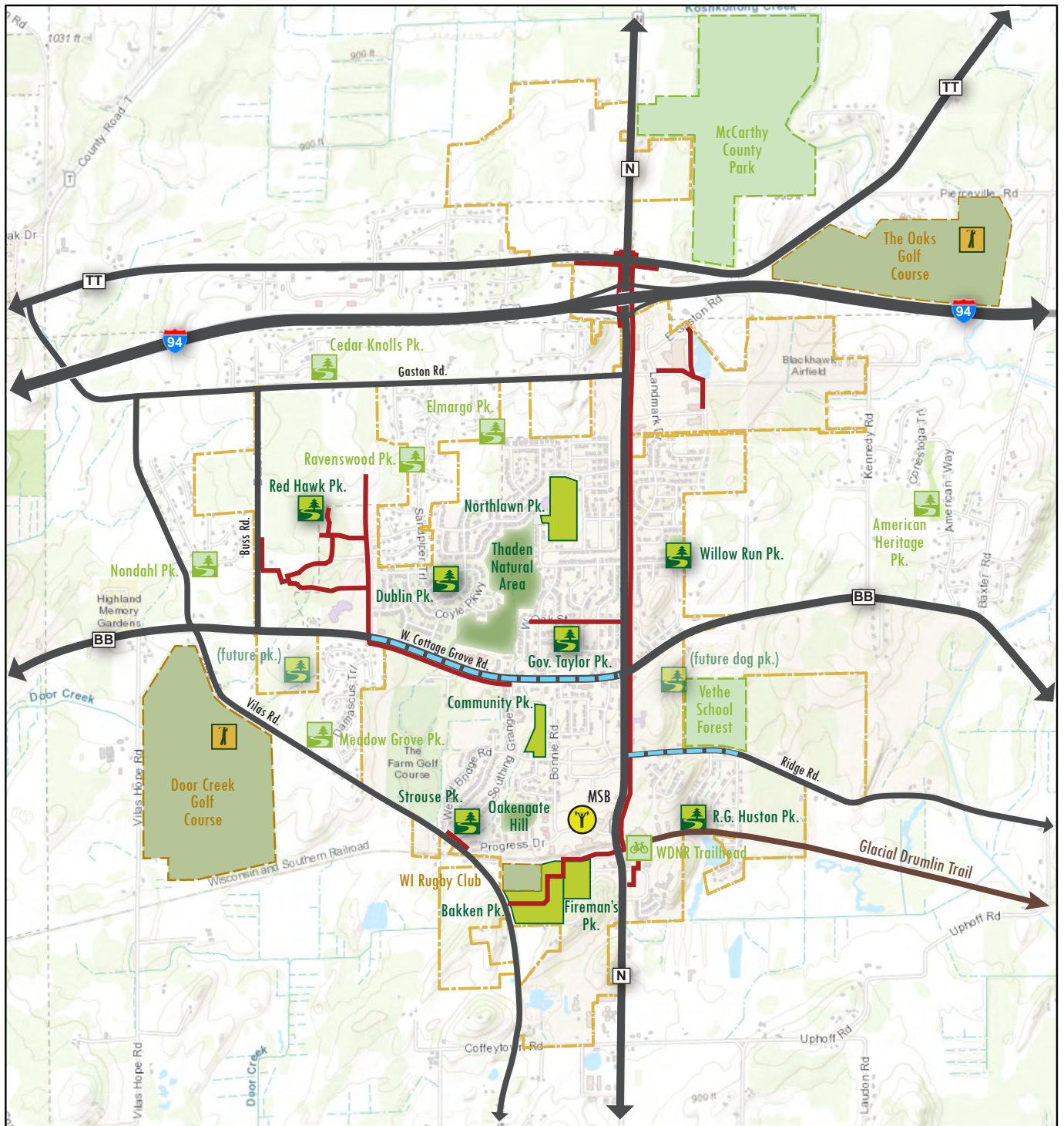


-  Village neighborhood or mini-park
-  Village community park
-  Village natural area
-  Town of Cottage Grove park
-  Other public recreational open space
-  Private recreational open space
-  Private golf course club house
-  WI DNR trailhead
-  State trail
-  Village indoor recreation facility



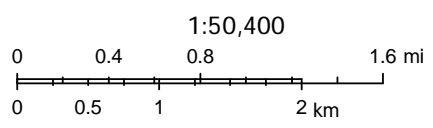
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Fig. 11: Exg. Off-Street Trails & On-Street Bike Lanes in the Village of Cottage Grove



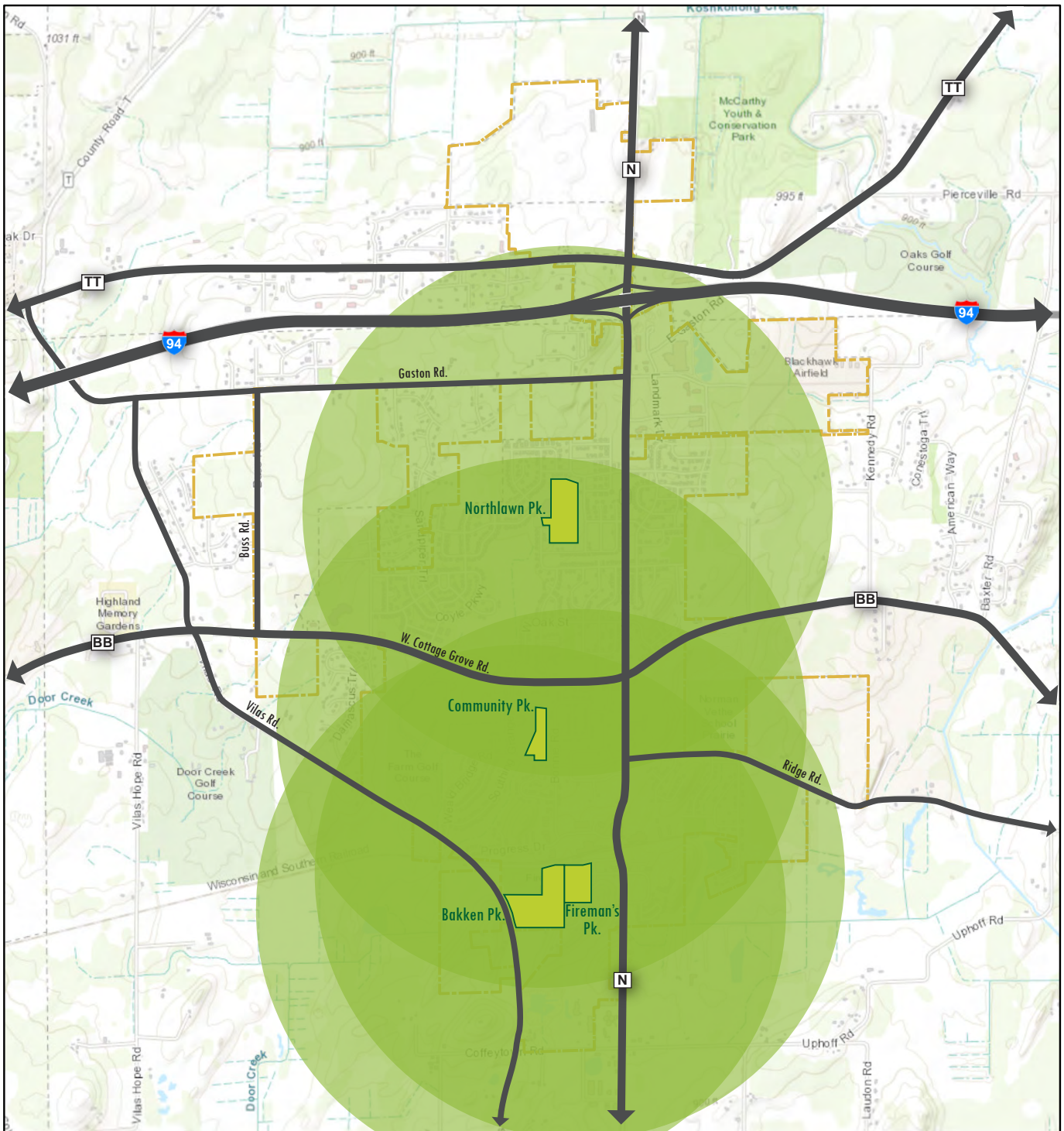
- Village neighborhood or mini-park
- Village community park
- Village natural area
- Town of Cottage Grove park
- Other public recreational open space
- Private recreational open space
- Private golf course club house

- WI DNR trailhead
- Village indoor recreation facility
- Glacial Drumlin State Trail
- Off-street path
- Street w/ bike lanes

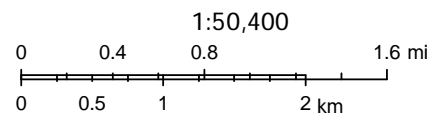


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Fig. 12: Village Community Park Service Areas



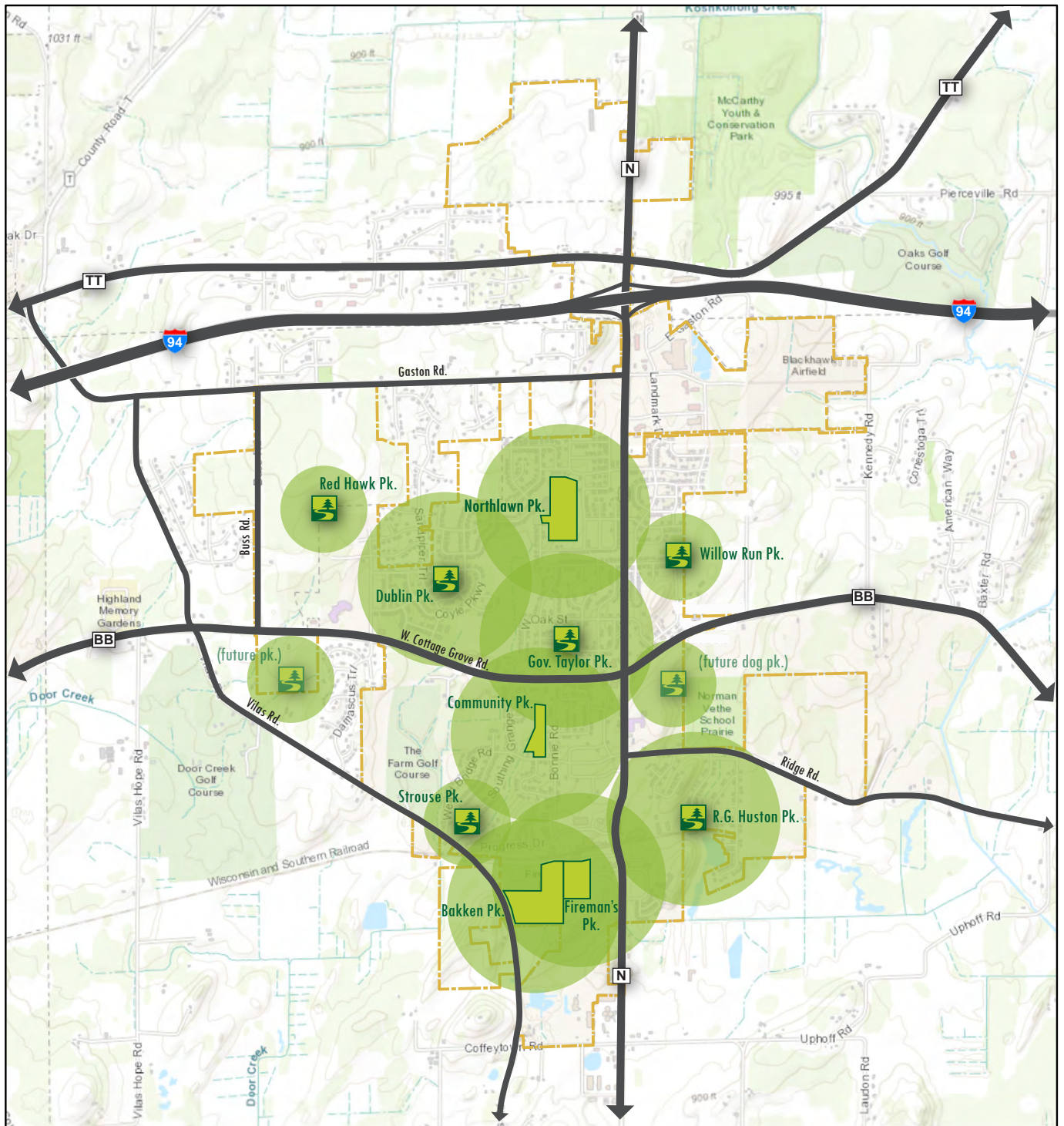
- Village community park
- Community park service area






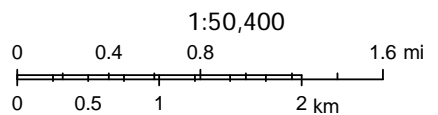
Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community  
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Dane County

Fig. 13: Village Neighborhood & Mini Park Service Areas

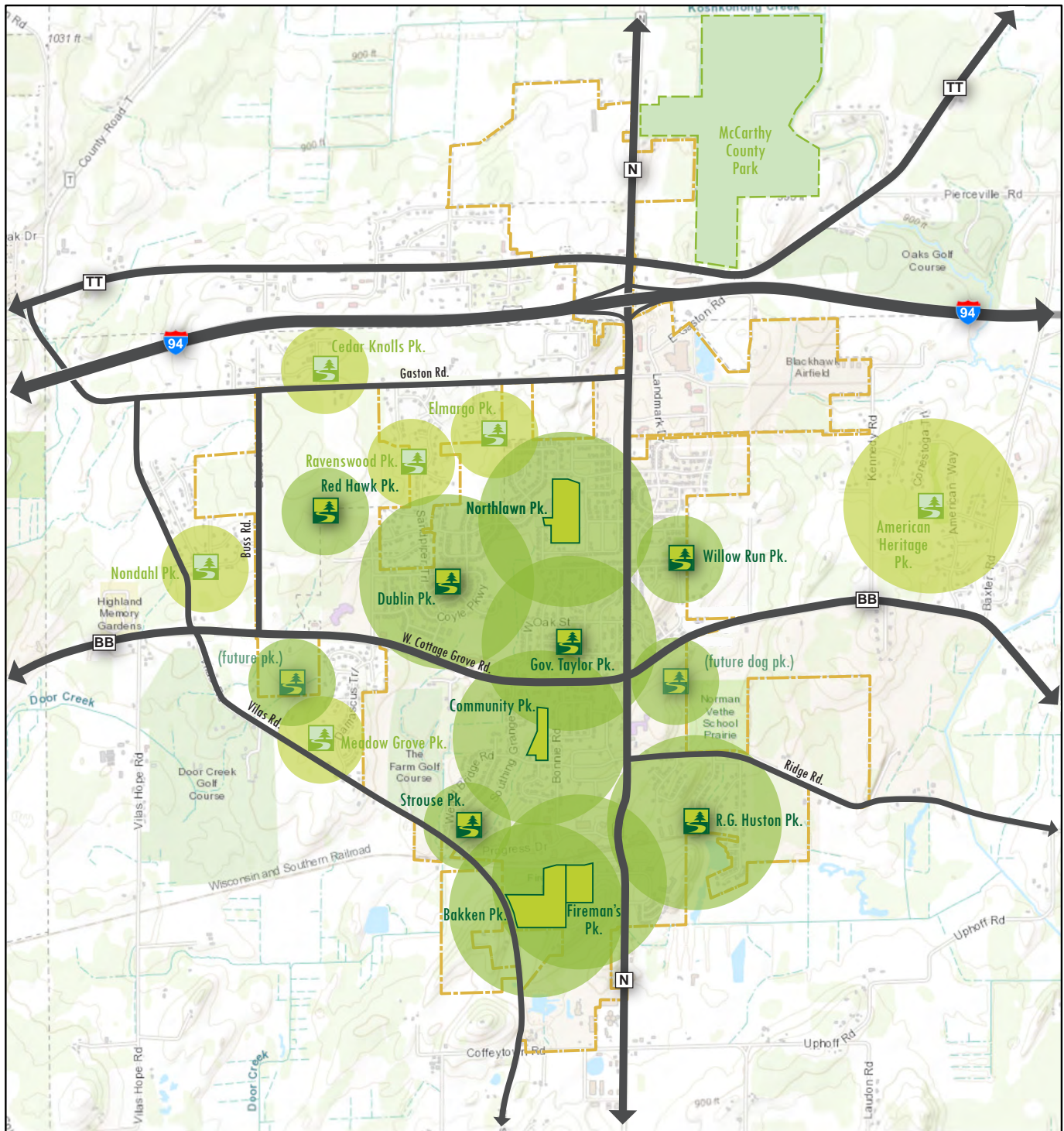





-  Village neighborhood or mini-park
-  Village community park
-  Park service area

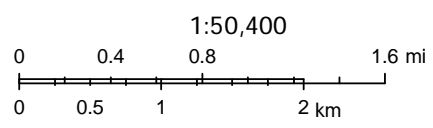


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Fig. 14: Village & Town of Cottage Grove Combined Park Service Areas



-  Village neighborhood or mini-park
-  Village community park
-  Park service area



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community  
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patrons walking or biking to them. Figure 13 illustrates the 1/2 mile radius area served by the Village's neighborhood parks (Dublin Park, R.G. Huston Park, and Gov. Taylor Park), and the 1/4 mile radius area served by mini-parks in the Village (Strouse Park, Red Hawk Park, and Willow Run Park).

Per Figure 13, most residential areas in the Village fall within the service area of a neighborhood or mini-park. For the purpose of determining service areas, community parks are also included but with a 1/2 mile radius as they also provide amenities to the local neighborhood in addition to those that serve the broader community.

Furthermore, there are several Town of Cottage Grove parks in the close vicinity of the Village. Figure 14 factors in the service areas of those Town parks.

## **B. Overview of Survey Results**

Beginning on May 1, 2022 and continuing until June 1, 2022 the Village of Cottage Grove Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department conducted an online survey of residents regarding issues related to the park planning effort. The complete results are included as Appendix B of this plan, and an overview is provided here. The survey results informed the Park, Recreation, and Forestry Committee's decisions in crafting the elements of this plan, including the goals, objectives, and policies, as well as proposed improvements to individual parks and the system as a whole. The Committee also compared the 2022 results to results of a 2017 survey that asked the same questions.

When asked about the frequency of use of various park amenities or facilities by members of their household, paved bike/pedestrian paths had the highest rate of daily use (25%), and playgrounds/toddler parks had the highest weekly use (39%). Ice rinks and tennis courts had the highest percentage of users who never use those amenities (56% and 55% respectively). Compared to 2017 the daily use of paved trails, nature trails, and nature preserves increased significantly while regular (monthly, weekly, or

daily) use of organized sports facilities such as baseball/softball fields, soccer/football fields, and basketball courts declined.

Regarding the frequency of use of specific parks, 85% reported using Bakken Park on at least an annual basis. Bakken Park also had the highest rate of frequent use with 43% using it daily or weekly.

When asked how important parks were to the overall quality of life, regardless of their personal use of the parks, 75% responded that they felt the park system was 'very important' while an additional 21% replied that it was 'important.'

Respondents were asked about their level of satisfaction (satisfied, not satisfied, neutral, or don't know) with various aspects of the park system, and with the system as a whole. 65% of respondents indicated they were satisfied with Village parks overall, down from 76% in 2017. Park safety, park cleanliness, proximity to home, and availability of parking were all rated 'satisfied' by at least 70% of respondents. 'Amount of restroom facilities' earned the highest percentage of 'not satisfied' responses (21%), while no other aspect was deemed unsatisfactory by more than 18% of respondents.

Respondents were asked how important they felt various amenities were as the Village park system expands. Paved bike/pedestrian paths, nature trails, swimming pools, central community gathering places/plazas, and neighborhood playgrounds/toddler parks were all deemed important by more than 65% of respondents. The percentage of respondents indicating the following uses were 'important' to add increased significantly compared to 2017: nature preserves (+15%), pet exercise facilities (+11%), ice rinks (+10%), nature trails (+9%), paved trails (+7%), and community gardens (+7%).

Disc golf courses and skateboard parks were deemed 'not important' by the highest percentage of respondents (33% and 31% respectively). The percentage of respondents indicating the following uses were 'important' to add decreased significantly compared to 2017: baseball/softball fields (-8%), and soccer/football fields (-8%).

Respondents were asked which amenities they would support, even if the construction of that amenity required an increase in taxes. The most strongly supported amenities were paved bike/pedestrian paths which were supported by 85% of respondents, nature trails by 78%, and swimming pools by 75%.

The survey asked whether respondents felt the Village should prioritize the development of new parks or the enhancement of existing parks. Enhancement of existing parks was favored by 65% of respondents, compared to 70% in 2017.

Respondents were asked which amenities would be the three highest priorities for their household as the park system expands. Bike/pedestrian paths were deemed a priority by 92% of respondents, and the top priority for 51% of respondents. Splash pads were the top priority for 38% of respondents. Natural areas, trails, and pickleball courts saw the biggest increase in prioritization since 2017. Sand volleyball courts, basketball courts, and soccer fields were each deemed 'not a priority' by at least 70% of respondents. Generally, organized sports facilities saw the biggest decrease in prioritization.

The survey asked respondents which approach to developing the park system best matched their opinion. The first option was that the Village should focus on providing a variety of amenities to support the varied needs of residents. The second option was that the Village should focus on providing a more limited variety of amenities in sufficient numbers that the Village could host regional events. 83% of respondents felt the Village should focus on providing a variety of amenities for residents, an increase from 77% in 2017.

# RECOMMENDED PARK & OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS



This chapter examines population projections and growth patterns in the Village to determine expected needs for new park and open space facilities. These recommendations assume accelerated growth will continue in the Village throughout the five-year planning period, and that park and open space facilities will continue to be provided at a similar ratio to those provided in the past. In most cases, land will be dedicated by developers as growth occurs.

## **A. Analysis of Future Park & Open Space Needs**

The remaining sections of this chapter will review population projections and proposed facilities to accommodate current and new residents.

### **1. Population & Housing Projections**

In early 2023 the Village of Cottage Grove commenced a facility study to examine facility needs (Village Hall/Municipal Building, Emergency Services, and a Village Library) over the next several decades. As part of this study, Village staff prepared population growth estimates over the next decade. These estimates provide the basis for the data in Figure 15.

This plan uses a five-year planning window, so Figure 15 uses the most recent population estimate (2022) provided by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WI DOA), and a 2028 population estimate prepared by Village Staff.

The WI DOA estimated the Village's population to be 8,854 in 2022. By the end of the five-year planning window in 2028, Village staff estimates the Village's population will grow by approximately 3,750 residents to 12,600.

The Village staff estimates are based on anticipated growth in known and planned development projects expected to be built during the planning window.

## **2. Projected Additional Park & Open Space Acreage**

In 2022, the WI DOA estimated the Village of Cottage Grove’s population to be 8,854. At the time, there were 84.4 acres of active park land. This equates to approximately 9.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

To keep the same ratio of 9.5 acres per 1,000 residents at the end of the planning period in 2028, when the population is anticipated to reach 12,600, the Village would need to add an additional 35 acres of parkland.

The Village Subdivision Ordinance requires developers to dedicate park land at a ratio of 1 acre for every 12 housing units. Using a conservative estimate of 3 persons per unit, the projected 3,750 residents would generate 1,250 new housing units. Using the ratio in the ordinance, the new units would generate approximately 67.5 acres of newly dedicated park land which exceeds the 35 acres needed to maintain the current ratio of 9.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

The Subdivision Ordinance also allows the Village to accept a fee in lieu of park land dedication. In 2023, the fee in lieu of park land dedication for a single-family home is \$3,229, and \$2,422 per multi-family unit with reductions for affordable or senior housing. These amounts change annu-

ally based on the consumer price index.

The Village Board may choose to accept fees in lieu of park land dedication for some developments or portions of developments in the planning period, while still maintaining the current ratio as long as parks of the approximate sizes and locations noted below are allocated to the Village.

## **3. Proposed Park Facility Locations**

Figure 16 shows recommended new or expanded park facilities in the Village of Cottage Grove. All current and future park facilities are shown on the map, marked with a park logo. New or expanded facilities are labeled in a yellow oval and are outlined in yellow (mini park), orange (neighborhood park), or red (community park). Locations should be deemed approximate as precise locations will be determined during the platting process.

The light brown areas on the map reflect residential growth areas that are currently within the Village of Cottage Grove’s urban service area. The urban service area is the territory in which the Village has received approval from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to extend municipal sewer service.

The beige areas on Figure 16 are areas identified as residential growth areas by the Village of Cottage Grove’s Comprehensive Plan, but are not within the Village’s urban service area. These areas are anticipated to be longer term development areas.

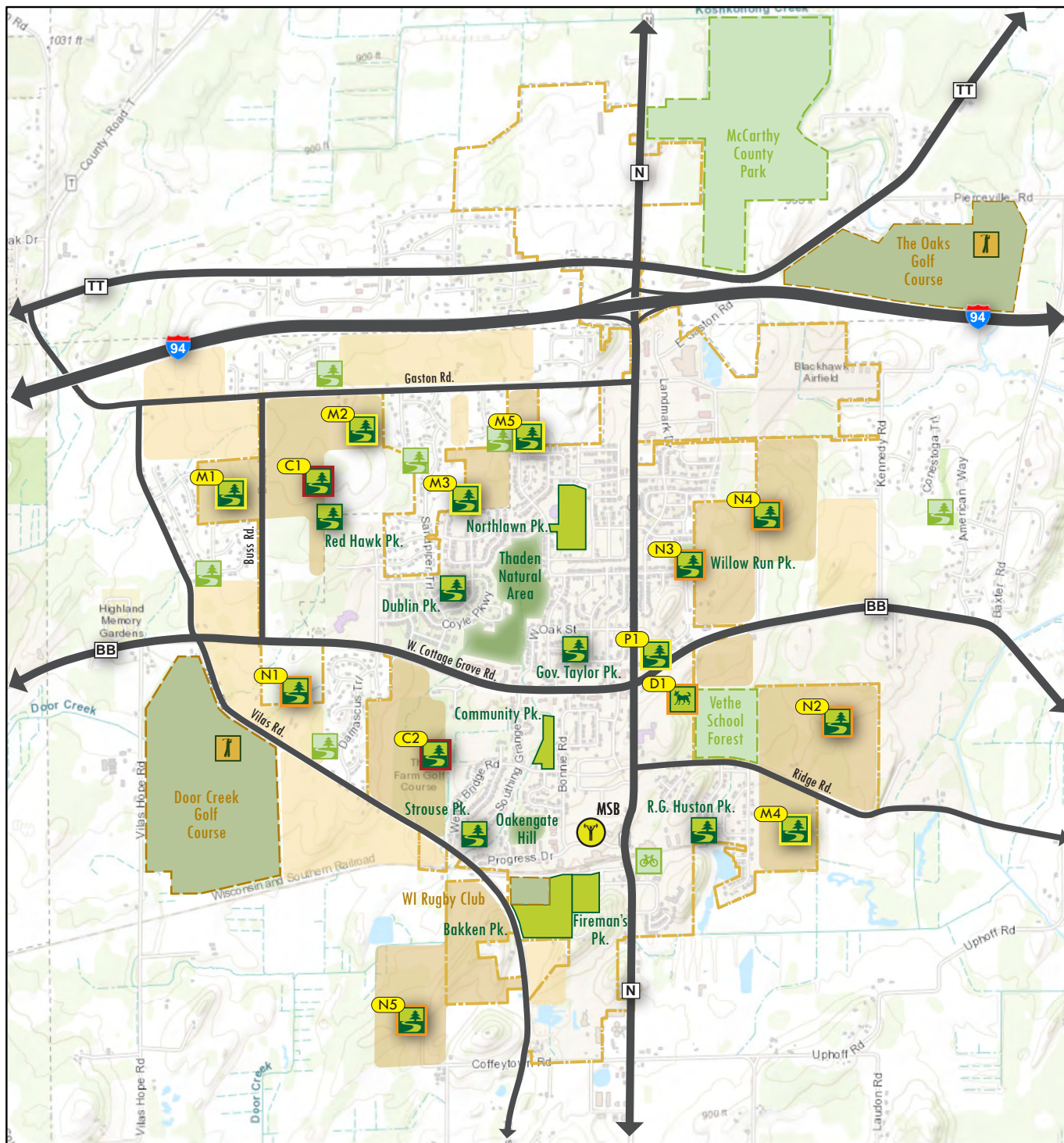
Fig. 15: Population Growth Estimates

### Village of Cottage Grove

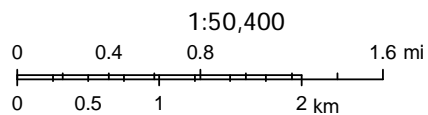
Year	Population	Population Increase	Active Park Land (acres)	Active Park Land Increase (acres)	Acres per 1,000 Residents
2022 (WI DOA pop. estimate)	8,854	-	84.4	-	9.5
2028 (Village staff estimate)	12,600	+ 3,746	119.7	+ 35.3	9.5

Sources: WI Dept. of Administration and Village of Cottage Grove

Fig. 16: Recommended Park Facilities

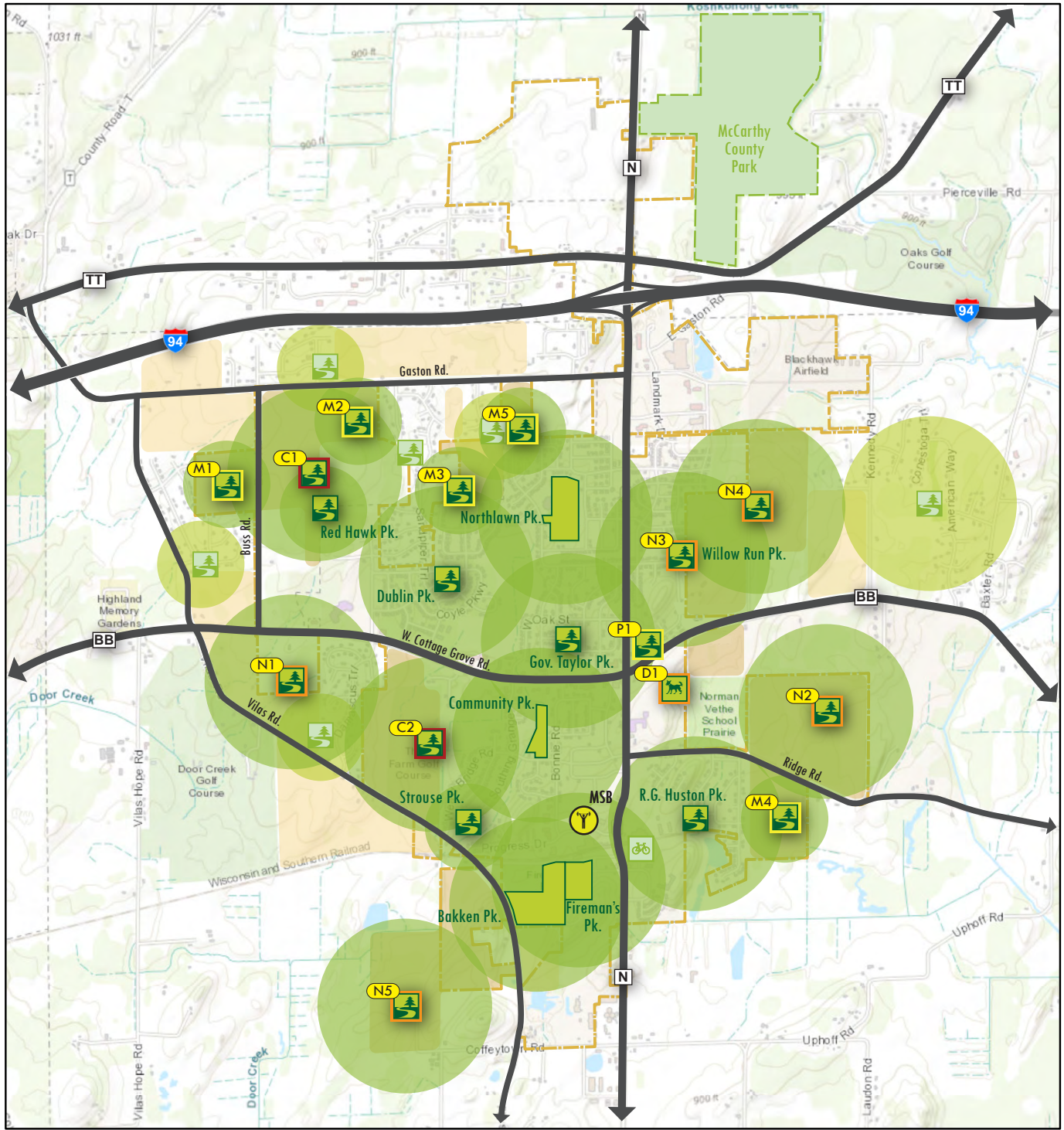


- Proposed Village Community Park (approx. 10 acres)
- Proposed Village Neighborhood Park (approx. 5 acres)
- Proposed Village Dog Park (approx. 5 acres)
- Proposed Village Mini Park or Plaza (approx. 1 acre)
- Res. growth area in Urban Service Area
- Res. growth area not in Urban Service Area
- Village indoor recreation facility
- Exg. off-street trail
- Proposed off-street trail



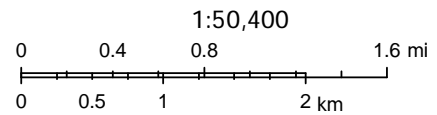
Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Parcels

Fig. 17: Recommended Park Facilities with Service Areas



- Proposed Village Community Park (approx. 10 acres)
- Proposed Village Neighborhood Park (approx. 5 acres)
- Proposed Village Dog Park (approx. 5 acres)
- Proposed Village Mini Park or Plaza (approx. 1 acre)

Village indoor recreation facility



- Res. growth area in Urban Service Area
- Res. growth area not in Urban Service Area
- Exg. off-street trail
- Proposed off-street trail

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community Parcels

Dane County

Figure 17 shows the same information as Figure 16, with an additional overlay showing park service areas. Similar to Figures 13 and 14, neighborhood and community parks are shown with a 1/2 mile radius service area, while mini parks are shown with a 1/4 mile radius service area.

#### 4. Proposed Park Facility Descriptions

The following proposed park facility descriptions are keyed to the locations shown on Figures 16 and 17.

##### Community Parks

**C1** - recommended park facility centrally located within the future phases of the Westlawn neighborhood being planned by Homburg Inc. The proposed park will be near, but not directly adjacent to, the recently developed Red Hawk Park. This park is expected to be approximately 20 acres.

The Village began master planning efforts for this community park in 2020, including two public involvement meetings. The current master plan is shown below. However, additional planning, engineering, and public input will occur before plans are finalized, so it should be expected that changes will occur to the plan below.

As currently designed amenities in the park include tennis/pickleball courts, shelters, a band shell/amphitheater, a sledding hill, playgrounds, and nature trails.

**C2** - recommended park facility is part of the former Farm Golf Course. As of this writing, the golf course closed and the land is owned by a local developer. While the development timeline is not known, planning and entitlement is expected to begin within the five-year planning period. The park may exceed 10 acres including wetlands and environmental features.

Fig. 18: Westlawn Community Park Master Plan



WESTLAWN COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN  
VILLAGE OF COTTAGE GROVE, WI  
JANUARY 25, 2020



Source: Village of Cottage Grove; MSA Professional Services

APPROVED JULY 17, 2023

Such wetlands and features can be found on much of the eastern portion of the site. These will be delineated during the platting process. The site has potential for nature trails and passive recreation in addition to amenities for the immediate neighborhood, such as playground equipment. This would also be a suitable alternative for a Village dog park instead of, or in addition to, the D1 location described below.

### *Neighborhood Parks*

**N1** - recommended park facility centrally located within the southwest growth area between Cottage Grove Road and Vilas Road. The initial 0.6 acres were dedicated as part of the Shady Grove subdivision. The remaining contiguous acres should be dedicated if or when the remainder of the neighborhood to the south is developed. The complete park should be approximately 5 acres with playground equipment for a variety of ages and picnic areas. Once the park has been established, the Village may consider a shelter with restrooms at this location at a later date if park usage dictates a need.

**N2** - recommended park facility located north of Ridge Road in the southeastern portion of the Village. The complete park should be approximately 5 acres with playground equipment for a variety of ages and picnic areas. Once the park has been established, the Village may consider a shelter with restrooms at this location at a later date if park usage dictates a need. The future neighborhood is adjacent to the Vethe School Forest which is owned by the Monona Grove School District. The Village should collaborate with the School District regarding opportunities for adjacencies, trail connections, and sharing of amenities if desired by both parties.

**N3** - this park facility is the currently existing Willow Run Park. The existing 1.3 acre park includes a half basketball court, paved trail, playground, and flexible field space. The remaining contiguous acres should be dedicated if or when the land to the east is developed. The complete park should be approximately 5 acres with playground equipment for a variety of ages and pic-

nic areas. Once the park has been established, the Village may consider a shelter with restrooms at this location at a later date if park usage dictates a need.

**N4** - this park facility is proposed to be located just east of the existing Quarry Ridge neighborhood. The complete park should be approximately 5 acres with playground equipment for a variety of ages and picnic areas. Once the park has been established, the Village may consider a shelter with restrooms at this location at a later date if park usage dictates a need.

**N5** - this park facility is proposed to be located within a future planned neighborhood on land currently owned by 2001 Realty. The proposed park may consist of one approximately 5-acre park, or multiple smaller parks integrated within the neighborhood totaling approximately 5 acres. Playgrounds and nature trails are among the amenities that could be considered in this park. Once the park has been established, the Village may consider a shelter with restrooms at this location at a later date if park usage dictates a need.

**D1** - this park facility is a dog park located to be located adjacent to the Cottage Grove Authentix development. The approximately 11-acre park is currently under construction and is expected to open to the public in 2024. The park will include fenced in small and large dog areas and a small parking lot accessed from E. Cottage Grove Road.

### *Mini Parks*

**M1** - recommended park facility located west of Buss Road in the future Homburg neighborhood. Like M2, this park will be located in the vicinity of a variety of residential types including lower density single family, higher density single family, and duplex residential. The park should be between 2 and 5 acres and amenities should include playground equipment for a variety of ages and picnic areas.

**M2** - recommended park facility located in the eastern portion of the future Homburg development. Per initial concept plans, the eastern por-

tion is expected to be comprised of single family residential on larger lots. Given this configuration, most home owners will have access to larger backyard spaces. Therefore, the park should focus on picnic areas and flexible community gathering spaces. The park should be approximately 1 to 2 acres.

**M3** - recommended park facility located in a future neighborhood on land currently owned by Homburg Equipment. The park will likely be located on the west side of the property and will include significant wetland areas. Given the sensitive environmental features, this park should focus on passive recreation and nature trails, as well as a flexible community gathering space for the neighborhood.

**M4** - recommended park facility located in the southeast portion of the Village, between Ridge Road and the Glacial Drumlin Trail. This area will likely be comprised of lower density single family residential. Given this configuration, most home owners will have access to larger backyard spaces. Therefore, the park should focus on picnic areas and flexible community gathering spaces. The park should be approximately 1 to 2 acres. The southern edge of this neighborhood is adjacent to the Glacial Drumlin Trail. The park should be either directly adjacent to the trail, or nearby with a direct and obvious connection.

**M5** - recommended park facility located within future development on property currently owned by Homburg Equipment. This park could be located directly adjacent to the Town of Cottage Grove's Elmargo Park, which may provide opportunities for collaboration on use and maintenance of the parks. This park will be located in the vicinity of a variety of residential types including lower density single family and duplex residential. The park should be approximately 2 acres and amenities should include playground equipment for a variety of ages and picnic areas.

### ***Town Squares or Plazas***

While the Village currently has ample park space, there is not one obvious central gathering place such as a town square or plaza. Such a facility would be a setting for civic or public events, as

well as for informal gatherings. A plaza could be used as the foreground to a new or existing landmark building, and could include public art, a water feature, or other decorative elements.

**P1** - there are multiple development and redevelopment opportunities located around the intersection of Main Street and Cottage Grove Road. The northeast corner of the intersection provides a setting for a triangular plaza pointing toward the intersection with one side facing Main Street, one side facing Cottage Grove Road, and a third side facing the facade of a new redevelopment. The point facing the intersection would be a logical place for public art or a water feature, with an open hardscaped area beyond for gatherings. Seating and landscaping could be arranged around the open space. Approximately 1/2 acre should be sufficient to create an appropriate public space. The Village may consider other locations near the intersection if they accomplish the same goals.

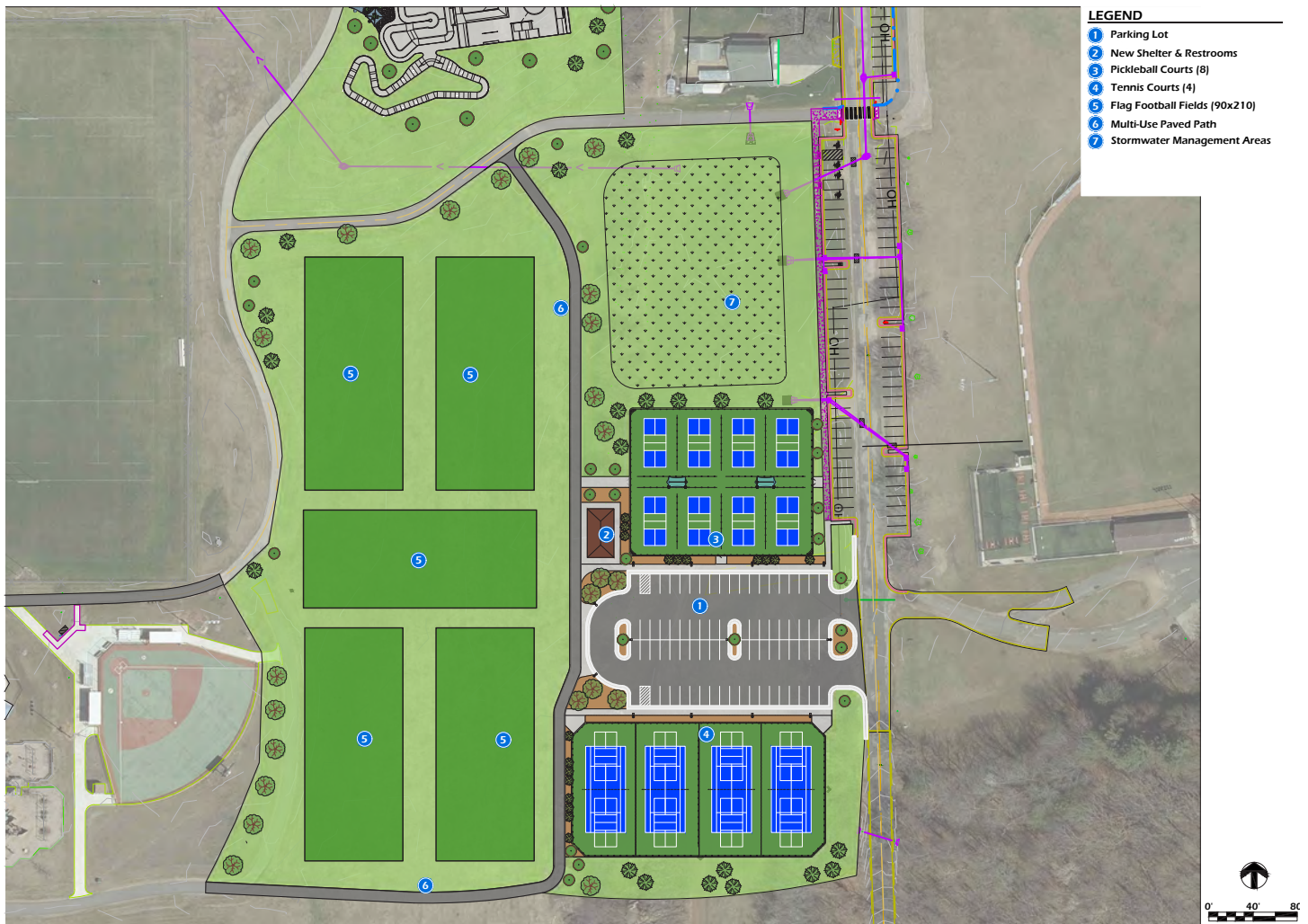
### ***Indoor Recreation Facilities***

**MSB** - as of early 2023 the Municipal Services Building (MSB) is the subject of a study by FGM Architects regarding future options for a Village campus that may involve the renovation and expansion of the current MSB. Preliminary concepts include multiple spaces that could be utilized in the future for recreation programming. The green space adjacent to the MSB could potentially be used for programming for outdoor activities as well.

## **5. Proposed Improvements to Existing Park Facilities**

The following are recommended improvements to existing park facilities, as listed in the Village's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Estimated dates and funding sources are consistent with the CIP, but each project will ultimately need to be approved by the Village Board within the budget process for the given year.

**Bakken Park** - many improvements have been constructed in Bakken Park over the past five years. The western portion of the park, south of



Site Plan showing 2023 Bakken Park improvements; Source: Strand Inc.

the rugby complex, was developed first. 2021 saw the opening of a new shelter with 1,150 interior sq. ft. and an additional 1,900 sq. ft. of covered exterior space. In the same year, the new splash pad began operation.

In addition, the Village collaborated with the Miracle League of Dane County on a baseball facility in Bakken Park. The Village donated the land and the Miracle League raised funds to construct a rubber-surfaced field for players with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. League play commenced at the facility in June of 2021. Over 200 players from throughout Dane County are expected to participate in the 2023 season.

In 2022, Clark and Grove streets were reconstructed in the vicinity of the park. As part of this reconstruction the Village added 135 new angled street parking spaces adjacent to the park.

In 2022 the Village also added a “wheels park”

on the north side, east of the rugby facility, facing Clark Street. The “wheels park” includes a concrete pump track for BMX bikes, and a variety of concrete skateboard ramps.

The 2023 construction season will see several improvements on the east side of the park (see site plan above). Anticipated improvements include eight pickleball courts, four tennis courts, a 76-space parking lot, a small shelter, a bike path extension, and flexible green space for athletic fields.

With the implementation of the 2023 improvements, the build out of Bakken Park will be complete. No significant projects are anticipated within the next five-year planning period.

**Northlawn Park** - several projects are scheduled in Northlawn Park in 2025. These include the reconstruction of the tennis courts, reconstruction of the basketball court, and ADA improvements

on the park's pathways. These three projects are listed in the Village's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

**Community Park** - significant improvements in Community Park are ongoing. In 2022 the Village replaced the playground equipment and installed new pathways.

In 2023 the Village will complete new lighted pickleball courts.

Per the CIP, the Community Park improvements are scheduled for completion in 2025. These improvements will include the replacement of the existing shelter, the replacement of the basketball court, and a trail extension connecting the park to W. Cottage Grove Road.

**Fireman's Park** - in 2018 the Village replaced the playground equipment in Fireman's Park. In 2023 the dugouts and scoreboard will be replaced at the Fireman's Park baseball field. The existing shelter's roof is expected to be replaced in 2025 per the CIP.

**Governor Taylor Park** - there are no anticipated improvements in Governor Taylor Park during this planning period.

**R.G. Huston Park** - per the CIP, the playground equipment in R.G. Huston Park is scheduled for replacement in 2024.

**Willow Run Park** - the playground equipment in Willow Run Park was replaced in 2020.

**Strouse Park** - there are no anticipated improvements in Strouse Park during the planning period.

**Dublin Park** - there are no anticipated improvements in Dublin Park during the planning period.

## 6. ADA Accessibility Projects

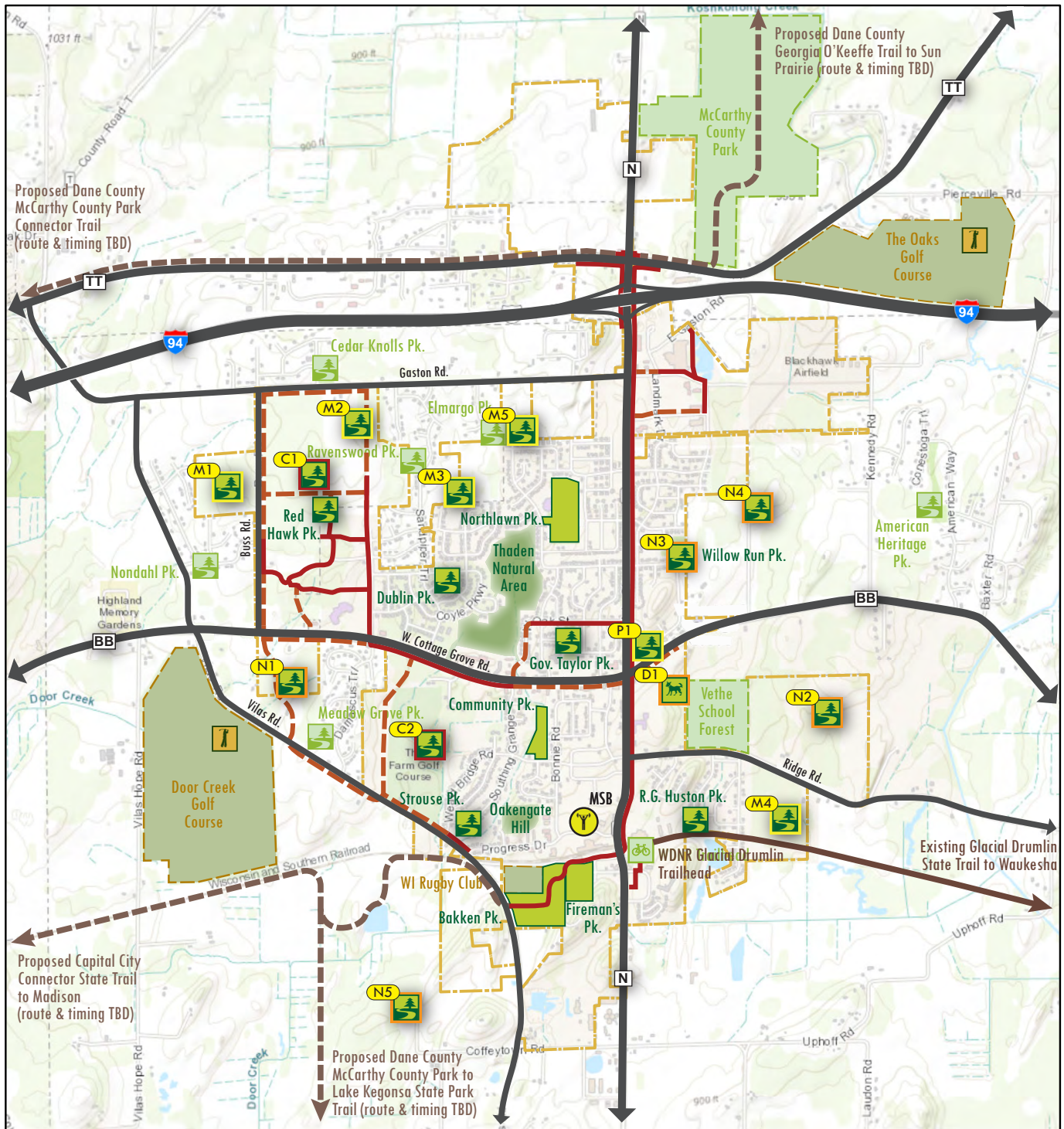
In 2017, MSA Professional Services prepared a document for the Village entitled, *Village of Cottage Grove Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department Access Audit of Facilities and Property*. The












Fig. 19: Village Facilities 2017 ADA Audit

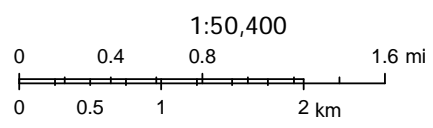
Map #	Name	Address	Acres	Approach & Entry			Play Areas							Sports Activities & Misc. Site Features				Restrooms and Shelters			Summary				
				Parking Lot	Exterior Route	Curb Ramps	Accessible Route	Ground Level Play (GPC) Components	Accessible Route Connecting GPC	Elevated Play Components (EPC)	Accessible Routes Connecting EPC	Play Components	Accessible Routes to Transfer Systems	Ground Surfaces	Accessible Route to Sports Activities	Team or Player Seating	Site Furnishings (Tables and Benches)	Drinking Fountains	Shelter	Restroom	Concessions	Total ND	Total LD	Total HD	Total NE
<b>Community Parks</b>																									
1	Fireman's Park	220 S. Grove St.	49	HD	ND	NE	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	LD	HD	HD	HD	1	1	15	1
2	Northlawn Park	900 N Parkview St	13	LD	LD	LD	No Play Area							HD	HD	LD	LD	LD	LD	LD	0	8	2	0	
11	Phobe Bakken Memorial	4064 Vilas Road	28.5	LD	ND	NE	LD	LD	HD	LD	HD	LD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	NE	LD	LD	NE	1	7	7	3
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>																									
3	Community Park	460 Lori Ln.	8.8	LD	LD	NE	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	LD	LD	HD	HD	0	4	12	2
4	Governor Taylor Park	224 W. Oak St.	5	NE	HD	HD	No Play Area							NE	NE	HD	NE	NE	NE	0	0	3	5		
5	R.G. Huston Memorial Pa	400 Trillium Trl.	4	NE	HD	NE	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	LD	LD	HD	NE	0	2	12	3	
<b>Mini-Parks</b>																									
6	Willow Run Park	403 E. Parkview St.	1.3	NE	LD	ND	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	NE	NE	NE	NE	1	1	11	3	
7	Strouse Park	731 Weald Bridge Rd.	1.2	NE	HD	ND	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	HD	NE	NE	NE	NE	2	0	12	4	
8	Dublin Park	300 Dublin Cir.	1.3	NE	ND	HD	LD	LD	LD	LD	ND	LD	HD	ND	ND	ND	NE	LD	NE	NE	5	7	2	4	
<b>Special Use Areas</b>																									
9	Oakengate Hill	n/a	10.3	NE	NE	NE	No Play Area							No Activity				NE			0	0	0	4	
10	Thaden Natural Area	n/a	36.6	NE	NE	NE	No Play Area							No Activity				NE			0	0	0	2	
<b>Non-Park Facilities</b>																									
12	Cottage Grove Village Ha	221 E. Cottage Grove Rd.	1.3	LD	ND	ND	No Play Area							No Activity				NE			3	1	0	2	
<b>Key</b>																									
ND	No Deficiency found	100% compliant																							
LD	Low level Deficiency	Few, minor, easily correctable deficiencies (ex. ADA Parking sign is missing or hung incorrectly)																							
HD	High level Deficiency	Many, major, or difficulty in correcting deficiencies (ex. Inaccessible play structure)																							
NE	Non Existent	Feature doesn't exist (ex. Play structure, parking lot etc...)																							

Source: MSA Professional Services, Access Audit of Facilities & Property

Fig. 20: Existing & Planned Off-Street Trails Near the Village of Cottage Grove



- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Village neighborhood or mini-park    |  WI DNR trailhead                  |
|  Village community park               |  State trail, exg.                 |
|  Village natural area                 |  State or County trail, proposed   |
|  Town of Cottage Grove park           |  Village Off-Street Path, exg.     |
|  Other public recreational open space |  Village Off-Street Path, proposed |
|  Village indoor recreation facility   |   |



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community  
Parcels

report provides a summary of accessibility deficiencies observed at each of the twelve audited sites, which include all of the Village parks plus Oakengate Hill, Thaden Natural Area, and the Cottage Grove Village Hall. The complete document is included as Appendix B. The deficiencies are identified relative to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II.

The report includes a section entitled Transition Plan, which details an approach and time line for applying corrective measures. The full document should be consulted relative to any improvement project. The following is simply a summary to provide an overview of the issues.

Since 2017 the Village has addressed many of the highlighted issues. As equipment or facilities are replaced they are brought into ADA compliance. The Village continues to allocate funds in the budget each year to correct ADA deficiencies in parks and other public facilities.

## **7. Proposed Trails & Paths**

Figure 20 shows both existing and planned off-street trails in and around the Village of Cottage Grove.

Over the years the Village of Cottage Grove has worked with the Dane County Parks Department, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on planning and design of the Capital City Connector trail. The Capital City Connector is intended to link the Glacial Drumlin State Trail with the Capital City Trail in the City of Madison. As of this writing, the precise route of this connector is still being determined by the county and state. While the trail connection is seen as a priority by these entities, there is not a timetable for its completion.

The portion of the connector within the Village of Cottage Grove has been completed. An off-street path along Clark Street and through Bakken Park now connects the WDNR Glacial Drumlin Trailhead to Vilas Road. The work was

completed as part of the Clark and Grove Street reconstruction. The Village portion does not require a state trail pass for bikers.

The latest version of the Dane County Park Plan, written in 2018, proposes a number of new off-street trails throughout the region. Three such trails are within the Cottage Grove vicinity. The precise routes and timing of each are to be determined. These proposed trails include:

- Georgia O’Keeffe Trail - from McCarthy County Park north to the City of Sun Prairie.
- McCarthy County Park Connector Trail - along CTH TT west of CTH N to the City of Madison.
- McCarthy County Park to Lake Kegonsa State Park Trail - proposed to run south from the Capital City Connector Trail west of the Village to Lake Kegonsa State Park.

Finally, the Village of Cottage Grove proposes to continue expanding its network of off-street trails within the Village, as shown on Figure 20. This network expansion may include Village projects to retrofit existing corridors and path extensions built by developers in new neighborhoods.

The proposed trail locations shown are estimated locations. Precise routes and exact locations, including which side of the street, shall be determined during the design and development process.

Many of the projects listed above will be considered at the time of development of the adjacent areas. Portions within existing Village neighborhoods could be considered as part of roadwork on adjacent streets or as separate capital projects.

Other locations not shown on the map may be considered as opportunities arise. Broadly speaking, the Village will continue to explore opportunities to expand the off-street trail network.



# IMPLEMENTATION



*Dream Park at Phoebe Bakken Park; photo by Parks Dept.*

As seen in the previous section, proposed park system improvements fall into three categories: 1) park facilities in new neighborhoods as the Village grows; 2) improvements to existing park facilities including the repair or replacement of amenities, addition of new amenities, and ADA accessibility improvements; and 3) improvements to the Village's bike/pedestrian path network.

New parks will be phased in as land is dedicated through the approval of new subdivisions. Improvements to existing parks will be subject to need and funding availability. Potential projects should be considered as the Village's 5-year Financial Management Plan is updated. New streets in new neighborhoods should include elements of the bike/pedestrian network. Improvements within or adjacent to existing streets are subject to need and funding availability. Potential projects should also be considered as the Financial Management Plan is updated. The Village should seek opportunities to improve the bike/pedestrian network as existing streets are repaired or rebuilt.

It should be noted that a project's inclusion in this plan or in the Village's Financial Management Plan, is not a mandate that the project must be funded. Future Village Boards will make budgetary decisions each year about which projects to fund. Projects are included in the plans to help decision makers anticipate near term funding needs.

The Village should also seek grants and opportunities to collaborate with other governmental agencies or other groups to creatively fund potential projects.

## A. Estimated Cost Projections

The Village's engineering consultant, Strand Inc., provided cost estimates for all of the various proposed improvements to the park system. These estimates can be found in Figures 21 through 27 on the following pages.

## B. State & Federal Programs

Funding and grant programs are available at the state and federal level to potentially assist in the development and implementation of new park facilities.

**Acquisition & Development of Local Parks (ADLP)** - helps communities acquire land for public nature based outdoor recreation and improve existing community recreation areas. Funds are allocated competitively by region, proportionally to population. The program is intended for projects that provide the opportunity for nature based recreation. Funding priority is given to projects that 1) support a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, 2) support multiple uses, 3) projects of regional or state significance, 4) projects that are first of a kind for the applicant, 5) projects that involve two or more governmental agencies, 6) and projects that support other priority characteristics specified in state statute or local code.

**Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR)** - this program is intended to protect natural, agricultural, and forest lands that provide nature based outdoor recreation by purchasing development rights. Funds may only be used to support projects that acquire development rights to provide nature based outdoor recreation. Funding priority is given to projects that 1) include land with water frontage, 2) include land that provides a buffer between developed land and natural areas, 3) land that connects existing natural resource protection areas, 4) land located within department project boundaries, 5) and land with other priority characteristics specified in state statute or local code.

**Urban Green Space (UGS)** - this program supports the acquisition of land for open natural ar-

reas and community gardens within, or close to, urban areas. Funds may only be used for projects that provide open space, protect unique natural areas, or provide opportunities for community gardens. Funding priority is given to projects that 1) preserve land on the natural heritage inventory database, 2) implement elements of approved water quality plans or initiatives, 3) have unique natural features, 4) provide linear corridors connecting natural areas, 5) have water frontage, 6) are of regional or statewide significance, 7) provide areas for community gardens, and 8) have other priority characteristics specified in state statute or local code.

**Urban Rivers (UR)** - this program is intended to restore and preserve the character of urban river corridors through the acquisition and development of land adjacent to rivers. Funds are allocated through a statewide competitive process, for projects that provide nature based outdoor recreation. Funding priority is given to projects that 1) restore a river corridor following dam removal, 2) support redevelopment of brownfields, 3) provide land with unique natural or aesthetic values, 4) provide land that connects with previous acquisitions, 5) provide outdoor recreation opportunities for diverse urban populations, 6) provide new or expanded access to urban waterways, 7) support local or regional plans, and 8) have other priority characteristics specified in state statutes or local codes.

In June of 2021, the state funded the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund for an additional four years at \$33 million per year.

**Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** - this program is federally funded and distributed through the WDNR. It was established in 1964 to safeguard natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage sites while also supporting the development of high quality outdoor recreation amenities in local communities. Projects compete for funding statewide. All projects that are eligible for ADLP, UGS, and UR funds (see above) are eligible for LWCF funds, with some exceptions. Funding priority is given to projects that 1) meet the needs of urban areas, 2) provide recreational opportunities for diverse populations, 3) acquire

Fig. 21: Existing Park Improvement Cost Estimates

<b>BAKKEN PARK</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Irrigation system	1	\$35,000/ea.	\$35,000	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$35,000</b>	

<b>FIREMAN'S PARK</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Replace shelter shingles	1	\$20,000/ea.	\$20,000	2025
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$20,000</b>	

<b>NORTHLAWN PARK</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Repair tennis courts	1	\$225,000/ea.	\$225,000	2025
Replace basketball court	1	\$110,000/ea.	\$110,000	2025
Path ADA improvements	1	\$60,000/ft.	\$60,000	2025
Tech services, design	1	\$50,000/ea.	\$50,000	2024
Tech serv., const. mgmt.	1	\$30,000/ea.	\$30,000	2025
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$475,000</b>	

<b>COMMUNITY PARK</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Replace basketball court	1	\$80,000/ea.	\$80,000	2025
Trail extension to BB	1	\$250,000/ea.	\$250,000	2025
Replace shelter	1	\$750,000/ea.	\$750,000	2025
Tech services, design	1	\$100,000 ea.	\$100,000	2024
Tech serv., const. mgmt.	1	\$70,000/ea.	\$70,000	2025
			<b>\$1,250,000</b>	

<b>R.G. HUSTON PARK</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Replace playground	1	\$150,000/ea.	\$150,000	2025
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$150,000</b>	

<b>SHADY GROVE PARK</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	0.6 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	2023
Grading & site prep	0.6 acres	By developer	By developer	2023
Landscaping & signage	0.6 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$6,000	2024
Picnic tables	2	\$1,500/ea.	\$3,000	2024
Benches	2	\$2,000/ea.	\$4,000	2024
Playground equipment	1	\$30,000/ea.	\$30,000	2024
Bike racks	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	2024
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$4,350	2024
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$47,850</b>	

Fig. 22: Proposed Community Park Facility Cost Estimates

<b>PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK - C1</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	20 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	20 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	20 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$200,000	tbd
Athletic fields	1 field	\$50,000/ea.	\$50,000	tbd
Parking lots	75 stalls	\$3,500/stall	\$262,500	tbd
Shelter w/ community room	1	\$400,000/ea.	\$400,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$30,000/ea.	\$30,000	tbd
Tennis courts	7	\$75,000/court	\$525,000	tbd
Seasonal hockey rink	1	\$100,000/ea.	\$100,000	tbd
Volleyball court	1	\$50,000/ea.	\$50,000	tbd
Basketball court	1	\$175,000/ea.	\$175,000	tbd
Bandshell	1	\$250,000/ea.	\$250,000	tbd
Sledding hill	1	By developer	By developer	tbd
Fishing pier	1	\$50,000/ea.	\$50,000	tbd
Open air shelter	2	\$25,000/ea.	\$50,000	tbd
Picnic tables	20	\$1,500/ea.	\$30,000	tbd
Benches	20	\$2,000/ea.	\$40,000	tbd
Bike racks	4	\$500/ea.	\$2,000	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$221,450	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$2,435,950</b>	

<b>PROPOSED COMMUNITY PARK - C2</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	20 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	20 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	20 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$200,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$30,000/ea.	\$30,000	tbd
Parking lot	25 stalls	\$3,500/stall	\$87,500	tbd
Shelter w/ restrooms	1	\$750,000/ea.	\$750,000	tbd
Trails	2500 feet	\$8/ft	\$20,000	tbd
Picnic tables	20	\$1,500/ea.	\$30,000	tbd
Benches	20	\$2,000/ea.	\$40,000	tbd
Bike racks	4	\$500/ea.	\$2,000	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$115,950	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,275,450</b>	

Fig. 23: Proposed Neighborhood Park Facility Cost Estimates

<b>PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - N1</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	5 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	5 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	5 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$50,000	tbd
Shelter w/ restrooms	1	\$400,000/ea.	\$400,000	tbd
Picnic tables	5	\$1,500/ea.	\$7,500	tbd
Benches	5	\$2,000/ea.	\$10,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$30,000/ea.	\$30,000	tbd
Bike racks	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$49,800	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$547,800</b>	

<b>PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - N2</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	5 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	5 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	5 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$50,000	tbd
Shelter w/ restrooms	1	\$400,000/ea.	\$400,000	tbd
Picnic tables	5	\$1,500/ea.	\$7,500	tbd
Benches	5	\$2,000/ea.	\$10,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$30,000/ea.	\$30,000	tbd
Bike racks	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$49,800	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$547,800</b>	

**PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - N3**

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	5 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	5 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	5 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$50,000	tbd
Shelter w/ restrooms	1	\$400,000/ea.	\$400,000	tbd
Picnic tables	5	\$1,500/ea.	\$7,500	tbd
Benches	5	\$2,000/ea.	\$10,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$30,000/ea.	\$30,000	tbd
Bike racks	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$49,800	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$547,800</b>	

**PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - N4**

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	5 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	5 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	5 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$50,000	tbd
Shelter w/ restrooms	1	\$400,000/ea.	\$400,000	tbd
Picnic tables	5	\$1,500/ea.	\$7,500	tbd
Benches	5	\$2,000/ea.	\$10,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$30,000/ea.	\$30,000	tbd
Bike racks	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$49,800	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$547,800</b>	

**PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - N5**

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	5 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	5 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	5 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$50,000	tbd
Shelter w/ restrooms	1	\$400,000/ea.	\$400,000	tbd
Picnic tables	5	\$1,500/ea.	\$7,500	tbd
Benches	5	\$2,000/ea.	\$10,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$30,000/ea.	\$30,000	tbd
Trails	1,500 feet	\$8/ft.	\$12,000	tbd
Bike racks	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$51,000	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$561,000</b>	

<b>PROPOSED DOG PARK - D1</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	5 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	5 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	5 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Fencing	5,000 feet	By developer	By developer	tbd
Pet waste stations	1	By developer	By developer	tbd
Picnic tables	5	By developer	By developer	tbd
Benches	5	By developer	By developer	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	By developer	By developer	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>By developer</b>	

Fig. 24: Proposed Mini Park Facility Cost Estimates

<b>PROPOSED MINI PARK - M1</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	4 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	4 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	4 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$40,000	tbd
Picnic tables	4	\$1,500/ea.	\$6,000	tbd
Benches	4	\$2,000/ea.	\$8,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$25,000/ea.	\$25,000	tbd
Bike rack	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$7,950	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$87,450</b>	

<b>PROPOSED MINI PARK - M2</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	2 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	2 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	2 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$20,000	tbd
Picnic tables	2	\$1,500/ea.	\$3,000	tbd
Benches	2	\$2,000/ea.	\$4,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$25,000/ea.	\$25,000	tbd
Bike rack	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$5,250	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$57,750</b>	

**PROPOSED MINI PARK - M3**

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	2 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	2 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	2 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$20,000	tbd
Picnic tables	2	\$1,500/ea.	\$3,000	tbd
Benches	2	\$2,000/ea.	\$4,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$25,000/ea.	\$25,000	tbd
Trails	500 feet	\$8/ft.	\$4,000	tbd
Bike rack	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$5,650	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$62,150</b>	

**PROPOSED MINI PARK - M4**

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	2 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	2 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	2 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$20,000	tbd
Picnic tables	2	\$1,500/ea.	\$3,000	tbd
Benches	2	\$2,000/ea.	\$4,000	tbd
Trails	500 feet	\$8/foot	\$4,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$25,000/ea.	\$25,000	tbd
Bike racks	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$5,650	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$62,150</b>	

**PROPOSED MINI PARK - M5**

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	2 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	2 acres	By developer	By developer	tbd
Landscaping & signage	2 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$20,000	tbd
Picnic tables	2	\$1,500/ea.	\$3,000	tbd
Benches	2	\$2,000/ea.	\$4,000	tbd
Trails	500 feet	\$8/foot	\$4,000	tbd
Playground equipment	1	\$25,000/ea.	\$25,000	tbd
Bike rack	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$5,650	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$62,150</b>	

Fig. 25: Proposed Urban Plaza Facility Cost Estimates

<b>PROPOSED URBAN PLAZA - P1</b>				
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (each)</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Land	0.5 acres	Land dedication	Land dedication	tbd
Grading & site prep	0.5 acres	\$100,000/acre	\$50,000	tbd
Landscaping & signage	0.25 acres	\$10,000/acre	\$2,500	tbd
Hardscaping	0.25 acres	\$200,000/acre	\$50,000	tbd
Water feature	1	\$25,000/ea.	\$25,000	tbd
Lighting	0.5 acres	\$50,000/acre	\$25,000	tbd
Bike rack	1	\$500/ea.	\$500	tbd
Design, engineering, etc.	-	+10%	\$15,300	tbd
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$168,300</b>	

Fig. 26: ADA Accessibility Compliance Project Cost Estimates

<b>ADA ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT COST ESTIMATES</b>		
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Cost (total)</i>	<i>Est. year built</i>
Fireman's Park	\$28,903	Ongoing
Northlawn Park	\$20,792	Ongoing
Community Park	\$38,142	Ongoing
Governor Taylor Park	\$2,142	Ongoing
R.G. Huston Park	\$50,762	Ongoing
Willow Run Park	\$9,423	Ongoing
Strouse Park	\$9,420	Ongoing
Dublin Park	\$0	Complete
Oakengate Nature Park	\$0	Complete
Bakken Park	\$4,273	Ongoing
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$163,857</b>	

Fig. 27: Total Park Project Cost Estimates

<b>TOTAL PARK PROJECT COST ESTIMATES</b>	
<b><i>Existing Park Improvement Projects</i></b>	<b><i>Cost (total)</i></b>
Bakken Park	\$35,000
Fireman’s Park	\$20,000
Northlawn Park	\$475,000
Community Park	\$1,250,000
Willow Run Park	\$150,000
Shady Grove Park	\$47,850
<b><i>SUBTOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,977,850</i></b>
<b><i>Proposed Community Park Facilities</i></b>	<b><i>Cost (total)</i></b>
C1	\$2,435,950
C2	\$1,275,450
<b><i>SUBTOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$3,711,400</i></b>
<b><i>Proposed Neighborhood Park Facilities</i></b>	<b><i>Cost (total)</i></b>
N1	\$547,800
N2	\$547,800
N3	\$547,800
N4	\$547,800
N5	\$561,000
D1	\$0
<b><i>SUBTOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$2,752,200</i></b>
<b><i>Proposed Mini Park Facilities</i></b>	<b><i>Cost (total)</i></b>
M1	\$87,450
M2	\$57,750
M3	\$62,150
M4	\$62,150
M5	\$62,150
<b><i>SUBTOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$331,650</i></b>
<b><i>Proposed Urban Plaza Facilities</i></b>	<b><i>Cost (total)</i></b>
P1	\$168,300
<b><i>SUBTOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$168,300</i></b>
<b><i>ADA Accessibility Projects</i></b>	<b><i>Cost (total)</i></b>
Accessibility Projects at Existing Park Facilities	\$163,857
<b><i>SUBTOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$163,857</i></b>
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,105,257</i></b>

land in areas with limited outdoor recreation facilities, 4) provide multi-use and multi-season facilities, 5) enhance or preserve natural beauty, 6) are proposed by applicants which have the financial resources to adequately maintain and operate the project, and 7) have other priority characteristics specified in state statute or local code.

### **Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**

- this program is intended to provide funds to maintain and develop trails and trail related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Funds may be used on projects that further a goal or are included in a state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, or a local plan that is referenced by the state plan. The grant award may not exceed \$45,000 for any individual project. Eligible projects and funding priorities include 1) maintenance and restoration of existing trails, 2) development and rehabilitation of trailside, trailhead facilities, and trail linkages, 4) construction of new trails, 5) acquisition of property for trails in areas with limited trail opportunities. Project funds spent prior to award of the grant are not eligible for reimbursement.

**Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program** - offers grants to local governmental units and non-profits for purchasing land and land interests identified in the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan, or for lands in buffer areas immediately adjacent to park lands.

## **C. Impact on Low-Income Housing**

A required element of this plan is the estimation of the effect of park improvement fees on the cost of affordable housing.

For the sake of continuity, this plan uses the same set of assumptions as those used in previous Park and Open Space Plans. These are:

- the costs of the monthly mortgage payment consumes no more than 30% of a household's gross income.
- that homeowners borrow no more than 2-1/2 times the Village of Cottage Grove's medi-

an household income for a home mortgage (the Village's median household income per the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey was \$118,433).

- that homeowners would make a minimum down payment of 5% of the total home cost (an FHA mortgage requires a minimum of 3.5% down, while traditional mortgage practices have required up to 25% down).

With these assumptions in mind, a home buyer spending 2-1/2 times the Village's median household income would have a mortgage of \$296,082. Including a 5% down payment, the cost of an affordable home in the Village would be \$310,887.

Assuming a mortgage of \$296,082, and a 30 year mortgage at 6.2%, the estimated monthly cost is \$2,285.

Current park fees include a \$2,436 park improvement fee per unit. When the \$2,436 total park fee is added to a \$296,082 mortgage, the monthly payment increases to \$2,300 - an increase of \$15 per month compared to the payment that does not include the park fees. This \$15 per month increase should not significantly impact the affordability of housing in the Village.

## **D. Facility Acquisition & Funding**

The following is an overview of various methods of funding park improvements.

### **1. Subdivision Ordinance Park Land Dedication**

Currently, the Village's Subdivision Ordinance requires the dedication of 0.067 acres of park land per housing unit. It appears that this amount of land dedication is enough to provide new park land at a ratio that meets or exceeds the current amount of park land per resident. The Village should continue to monitor this amount to ensure it remains adequate. Changing the amount would require the amendment of the Subdivision Ordinance.

At the discretion of the Village Board, the Village may instead accept a fee in lieu of park land ded-

ication for some or all proposed housing units. As of this writing in 2017, the fee is \$1,356 per unit. It is adjusted annually based on the consumer price index.

## **2. Park Improvement & Development Fees**

As noted above, the Village currently charges a \$2,436 per housing unit park improvement fee for a single-family home, which is paid with the building permit fee. It is adjusted annually based on the consumer price index. Multi-family units are assessed a fee of \$608 per bedroom up to a maximum of \$2,436 per unit.

The Village Subdivision Ordinance requires the dedication of 0.067 acres of park land for each housing unit created. At its discretion, the Village Board may accept a fee in lieu of park land dedication for some or all of the units created. Currently, the fee in lieu of park land dedication is \$3,229 for a single-family unit or \$2,422 for most multi-family units with the exception of units obligated to remain affordable for a minimum of 30 years and assisted living units, for which the fee is \$1,615. These fees are also adjusted annually relative to the consumer price index.

The fees should be monitored and the Village should consider adjusting them as needed to account for anticipated park improvement costs.

## **3. Grant Programs**

A Park and Open Space Plan (aka a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) that has been approved within the past 5 years is a prerequisite for most WDNR funding programs. Therefore, the Village should continue to amend this plan at no less than 5 year intervals.

A list of grant programs can be found earlier in this chapter. The Village should consider these funding programs when any significant park project is considered. The Village should consider pursuing a grant when the goals of the Village and the program align, and when the conditions related to the grant are acceptable to the Village.

## **E. Near-Term Implementation**

The following is a list of proposed projects anticipated within the next five years:

- Northlawn Park, tennis court repair (2018)
- Fireman's Park, replace playground (2018)
- Bakken Park, new shelter (2020)
- Bakken Park, new splash pad (2020)
- Northlawn Park, replace basketball court (2020)
- Community Park, replace basketball court (2020)
- Glacial Drumlin Trail connection (by 2021)
- Community Park, replace shelter (2022)
- Bakken Park, new tennis courts (2023)

# APPENDIX A: RESOLUTION APPROVING PARK & OPEN SPACE PLAN

## RESOLUTION 2023-XX

### ADOPTING AMENDMENT OF THE VILLAGE OF COTTAGE GROVE

#### PARK & OPEN SPACE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Village of Cottage Grove Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Committee has guided the amendment of the Village's Park & Open Space Plan, and has approved a Public Hearing Draft of said plan at their meeting held on June 22, 2023;

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held at the Village of Cottage Grove Plan Commission meeting on August 9, 2023; following the gathering of survey data, meetings with various stakeholders, and discussion at multiple public meetings;

WHEREAS, this plan amendment will guide recreation management and development of parks and recreation facilities for the next five years;

WHEREAS, approval by the Village Board of Trustees and certification by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will qualify the Village for matching grants;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Cottage Grove Board of Trustees adopt the amendment of the Village of Cottage Grove Park & Open Space Plan;

Adopted this 21st day of August, 2023.

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John Williams, Village President

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Lisa Kalata, Village Clerk



# APPENDIX B: 2022 PARK & OPEN SPACE SURVEY RESULTS

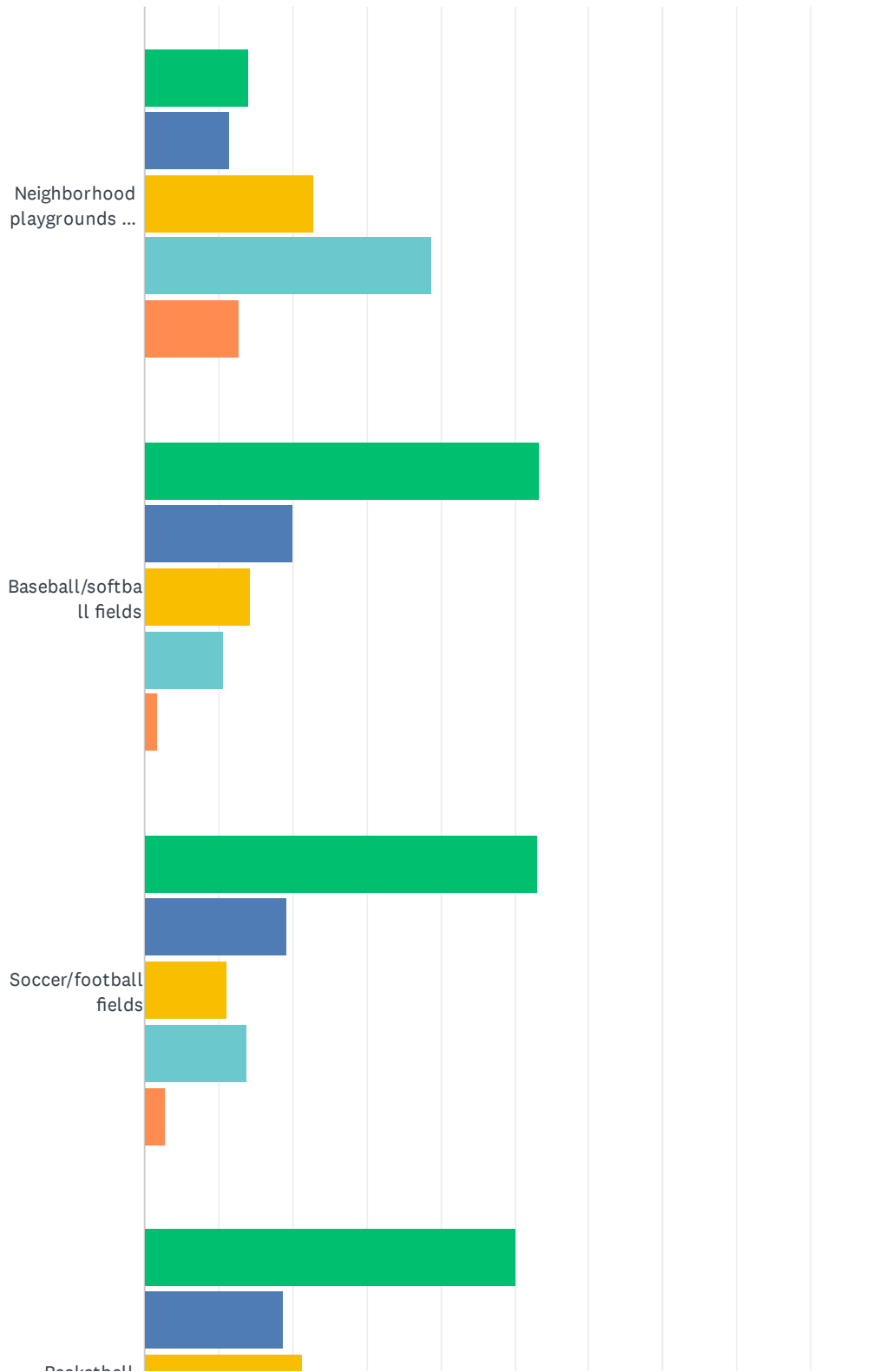
The Park and Open Space Survey was conducted via Survey Monkey from May 1, 2022 to June 1, 2022. It received 230 responses after being publicized on the Village and Parks Department Facebook pages and webpages, and after a link was emailed to the full Parks Department contact list.

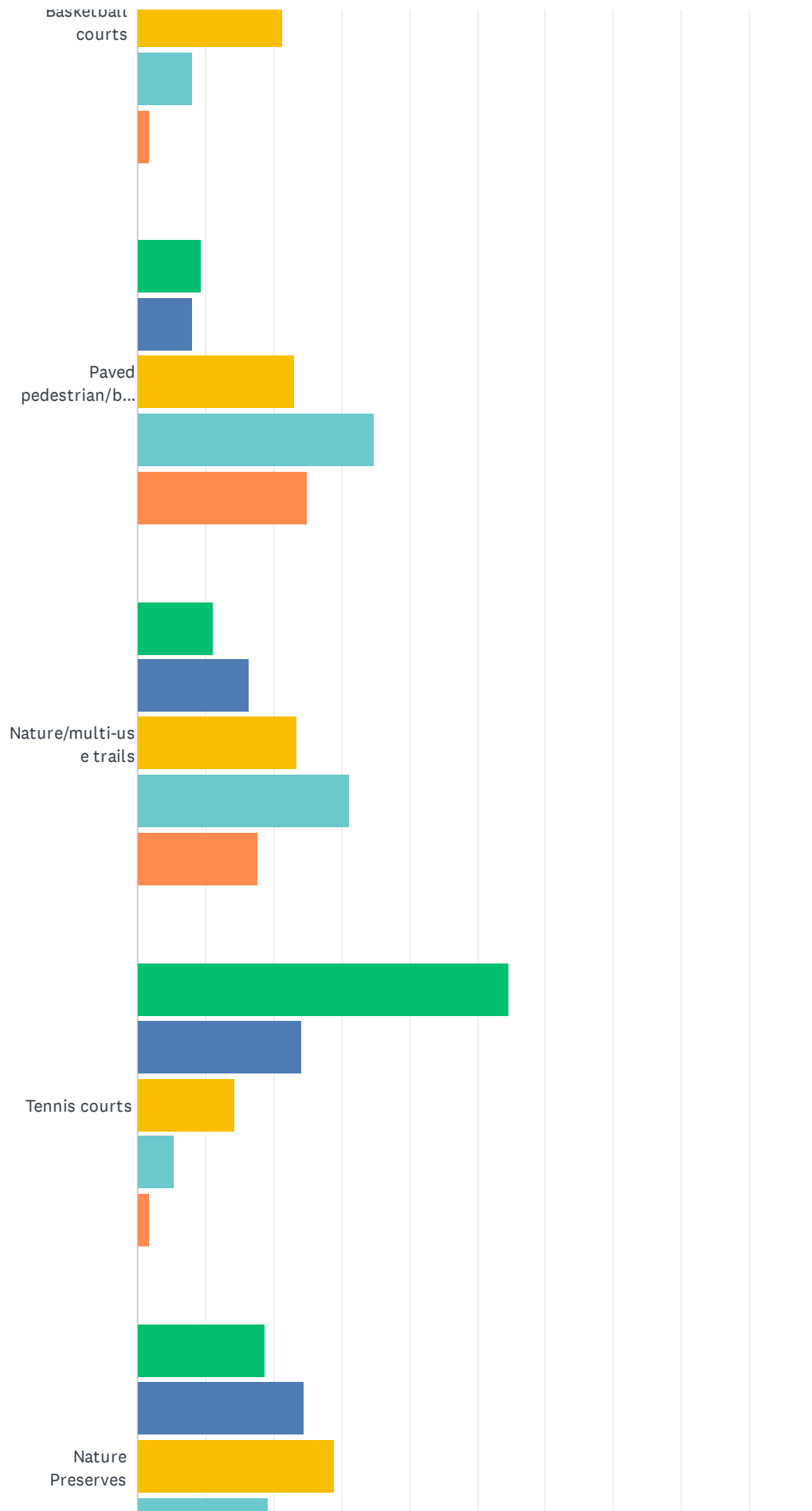
The full responses follow.

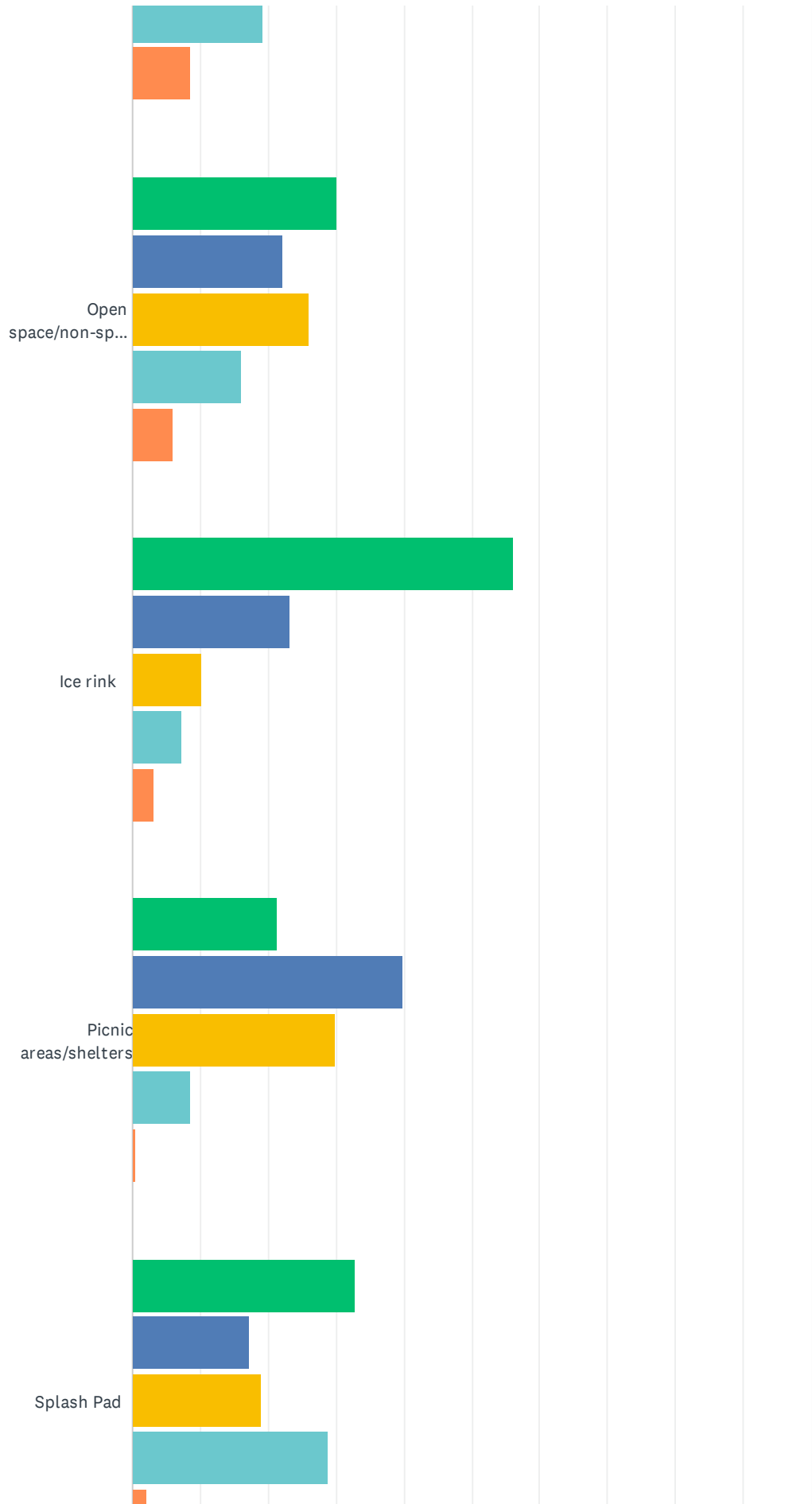


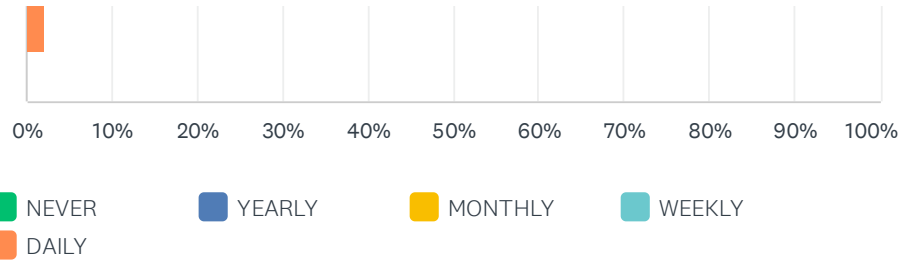
# Q1 Which of the following best describes your use (by you or a member of your household) of the following park and open space facilities offered by the Village of Cottage Grove?

Answered: 227 Skipped: 3





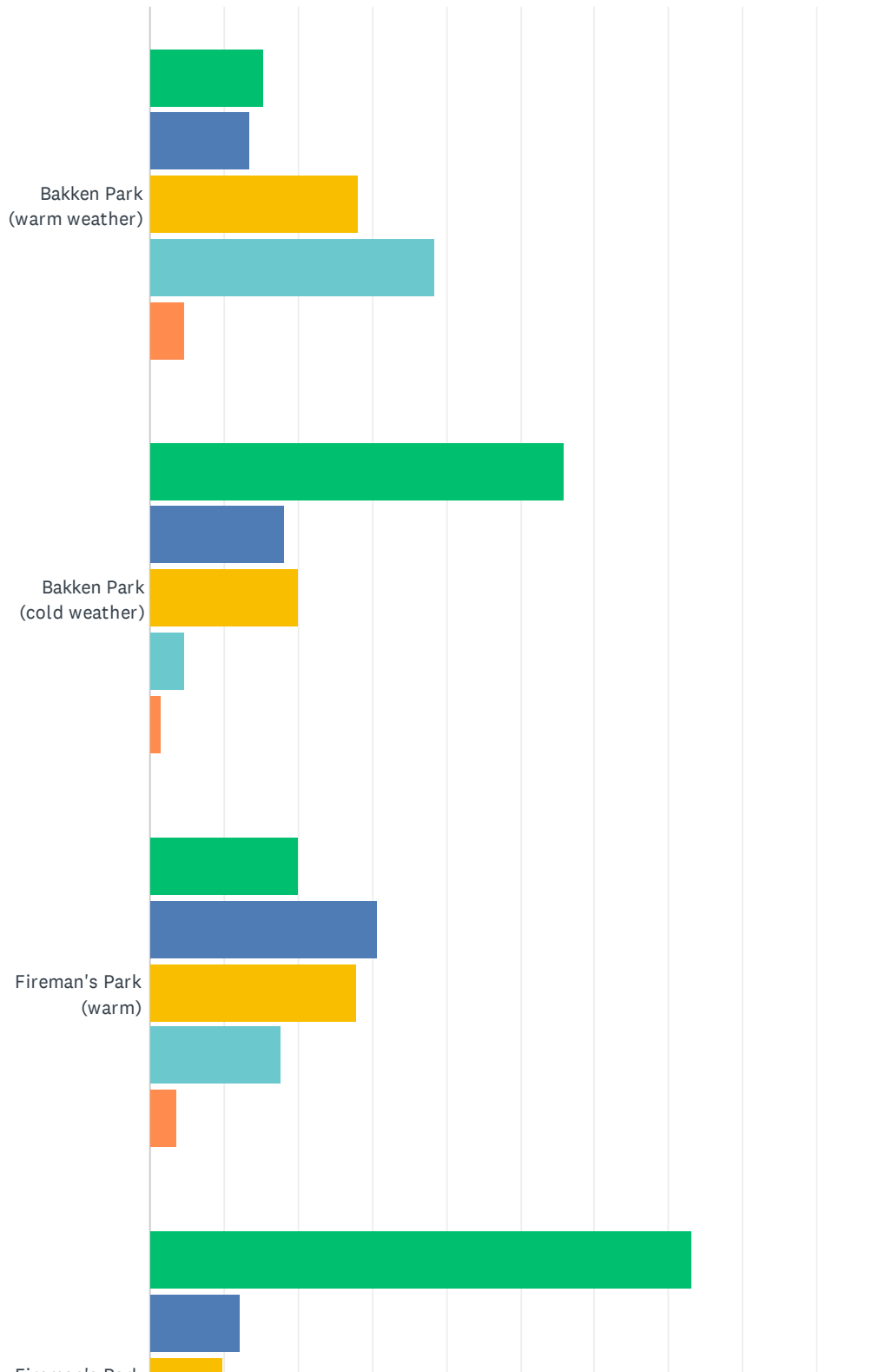


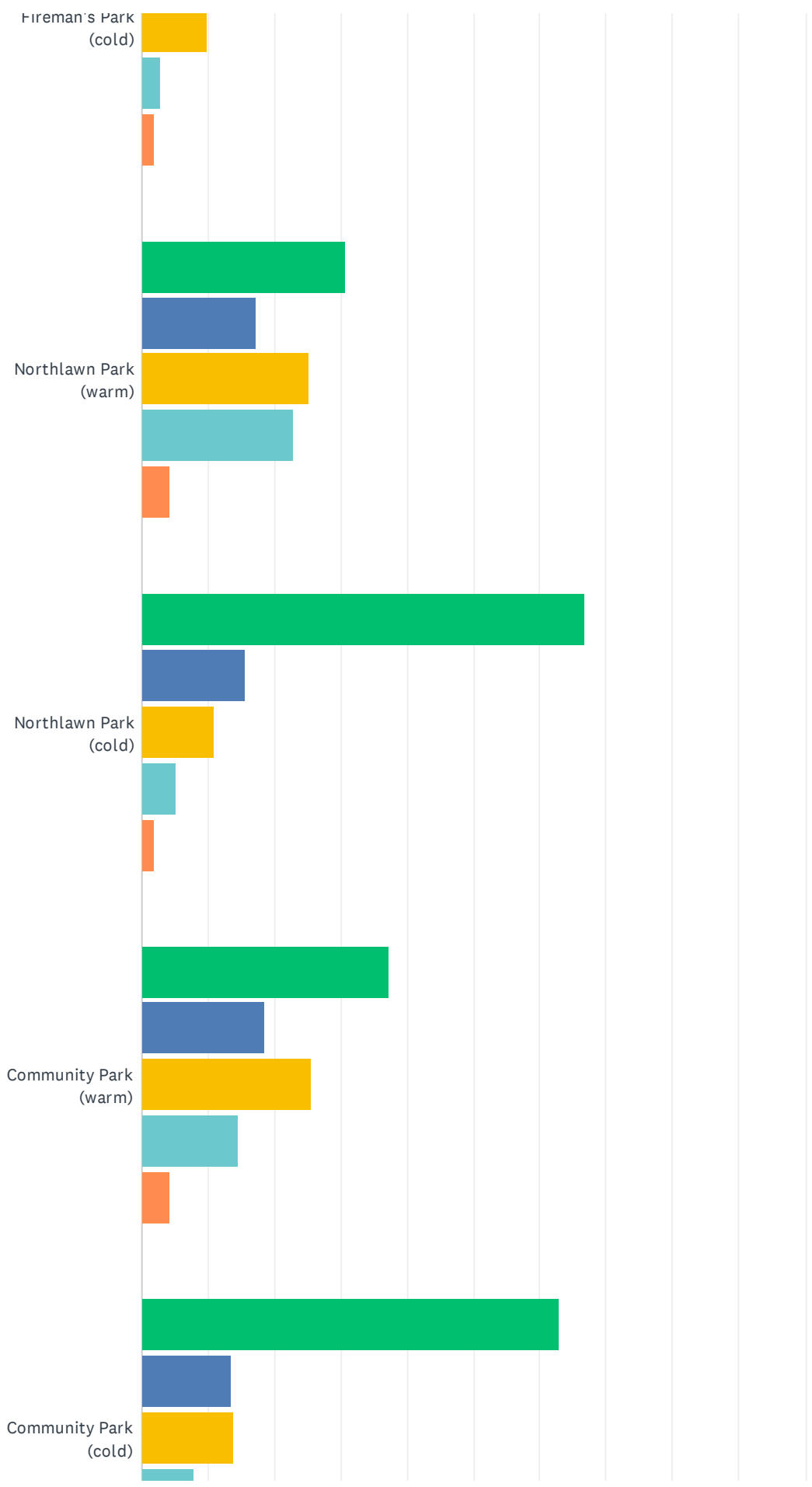


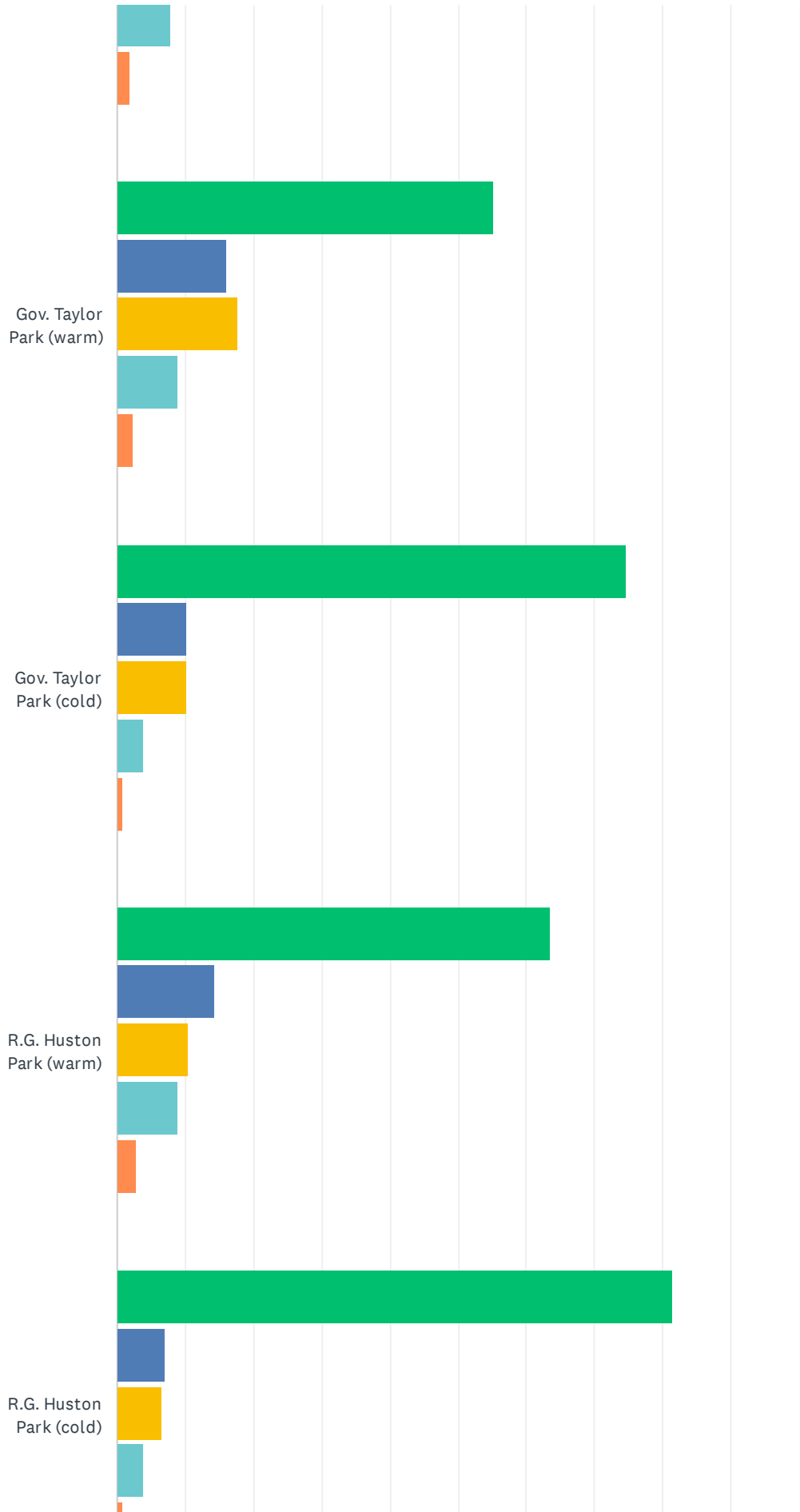
	NEVER	YEARLY	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	DAILY	TOTAL
Neighborhood playgrounds and toddler parks	14.10% 32	11.45% 26	22.91% 52	38.77% 88	12.78% 29	227
Baseball/softball fields	53.33% 120	20.00% 45	14.22% 32	10.67% 24	1.78% 4	225
Soccer/football fields	53.13% 119	19.20% 43	11.16% 25	13.84% 31	2.68% 6	224
Basketball courts	50.00% 112	18.75% 42	21.43% 48	8.04% 18	1.79% 4	224
Paved pedestrian/bicycle paths	9.33% 21	8.00% 18	23.11% 52	34.67% 78	24.89% 56	225
Nature/multi-use trails	11.11% 25	16.44% 37	23.56% 53	31.11% 70	17.78% 40	225
Tennis courts	54.67% 123	24.00% 54	14.22% 32	5.33% 12	1.78% 4	225
Nature Preserves	18.75% 42	24.55% 55	29.02% 65	19.20% 43	8.48% 19	224
Open space/non-specific areas	30.00% 66	22.27% 49	25.91% 57	15.91% 35	5.91% 13	220
Ice rink	56.05% 125	23.32% 52	10.31% 23	7.17% 16	3.14% 7	223
Picnic areas/shelters	21.27% 47	39.82% 88	29.86% 66	8.60% 19	0.45% 1	221
Splash Pad	32.74% 74	17.26% 39	19.03% 43	28.76% 65	2.21% 5	226

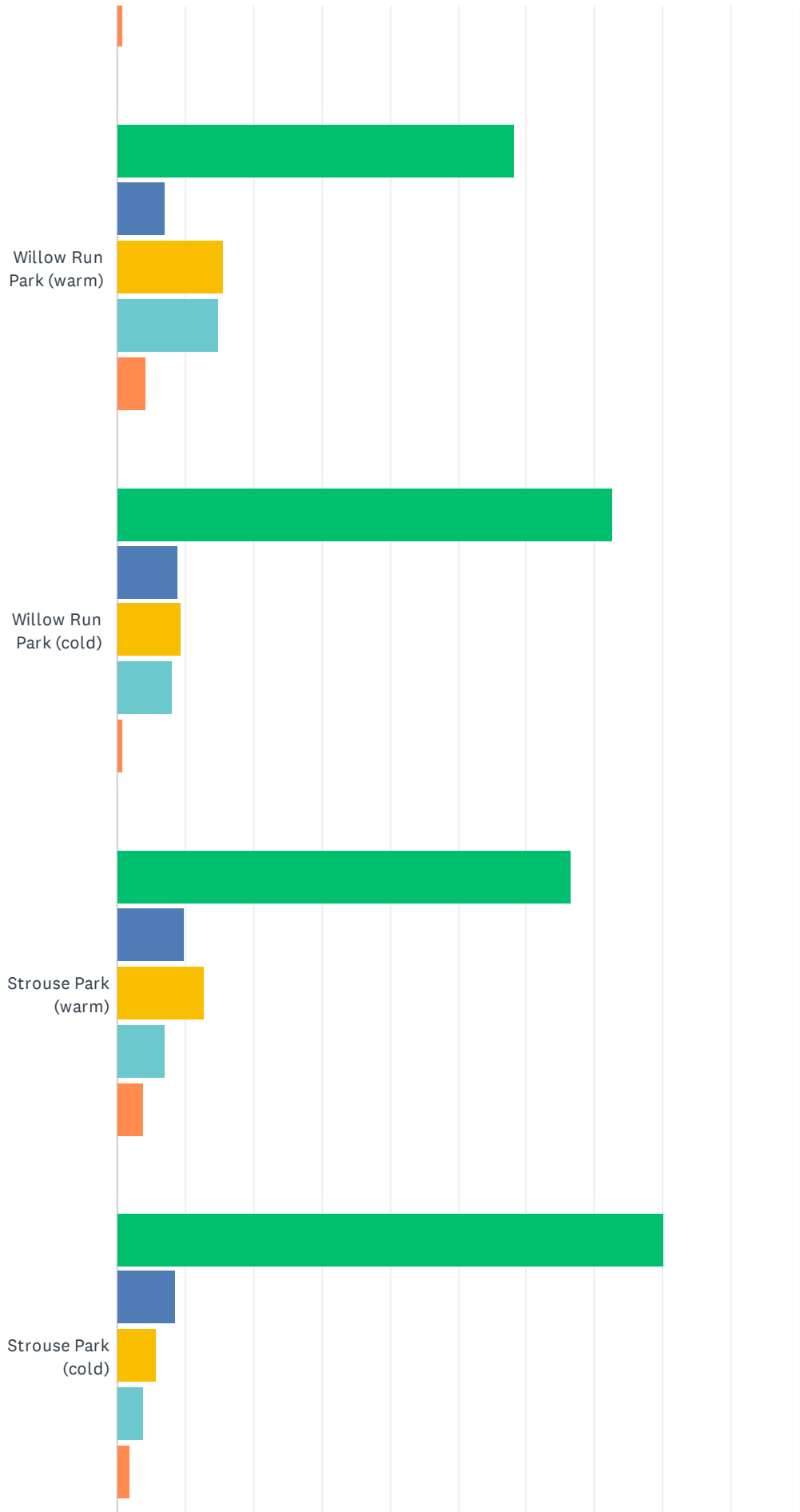
# Q2 Which of the following best describes your frequency of use (by you or a member of your household) of each park (during warm and cold conditions)?

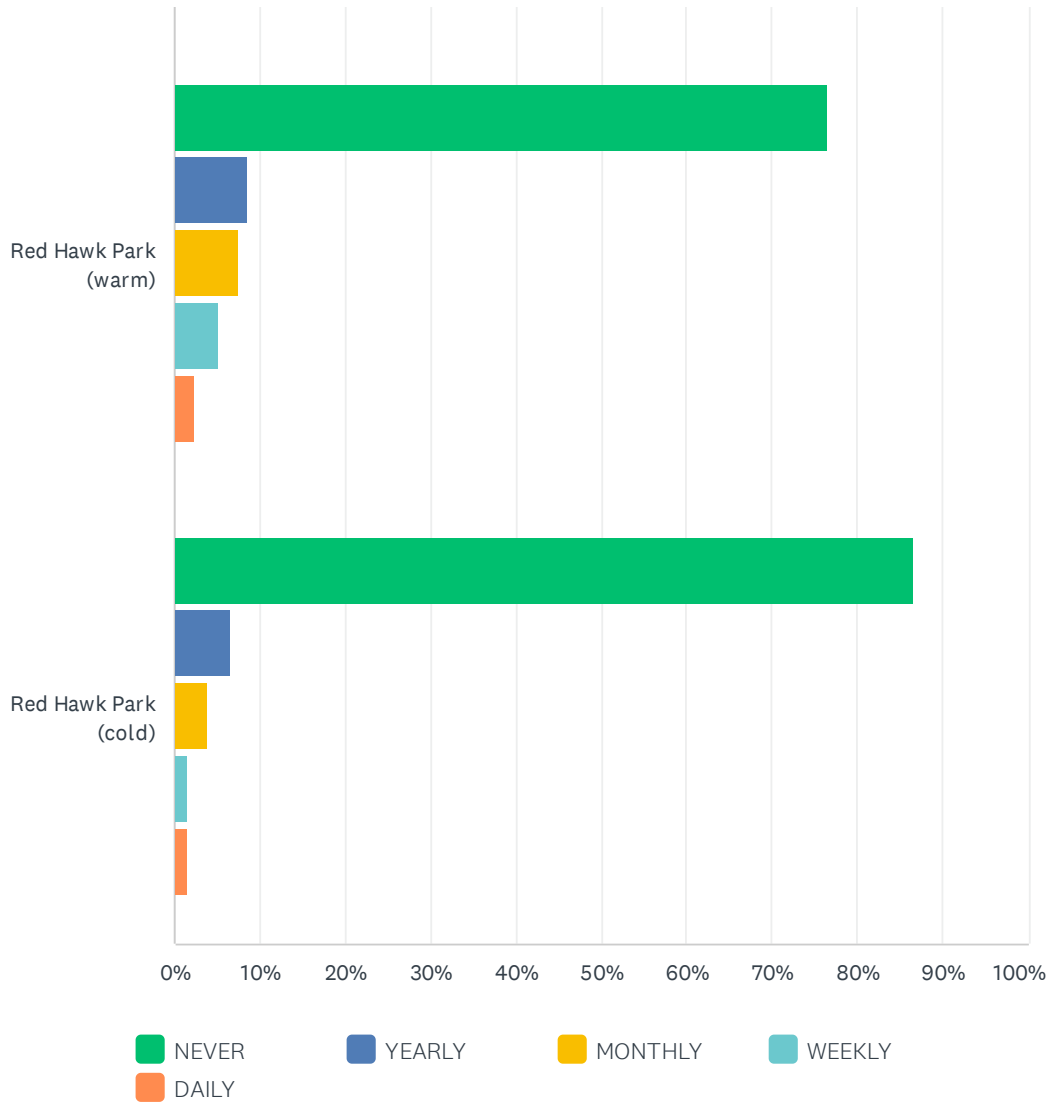
Answered: 220 Skipped: 10







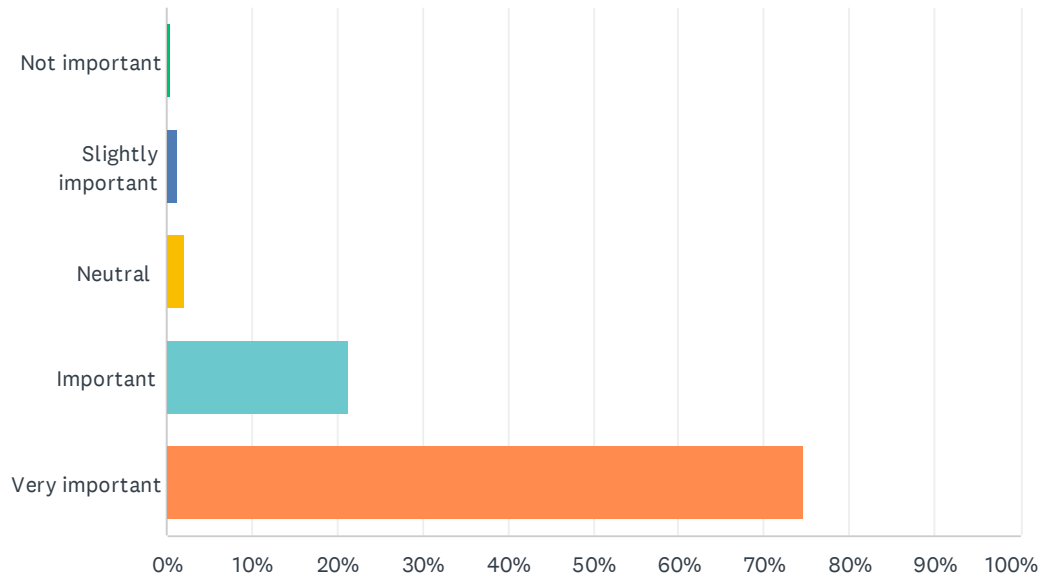




	NEVER	YEARLY	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	DAILY	TOTAL
Bakken Park (warm weather)	15.28% 33	13.43% 29	28.24% 61	38.43% 83	4.63% 10	216
Bakken Park (cold weather)	55.81% 120	18.14% 39	20.00% 43	4.65% 10	1.40% 3	215
Fireman's Park (warm)	20.00% 43	30.70% 66	27.91% 60	17.67% 38	3.72% 8	215
Fireman's Park (cold)	73.24% 156	12.21% 26	9.86% 21	2.82% 6	1.88% 4	213
Northlawn Park (warm)	30.70% 66	17.21% 37	25.12% 54	22.79% 49	4.19% 9	215
Northlawn Park (cold)	66.67% 142	15.49% 33	10.80% 23	5.16% 11	1.88% 4	213
Community Park (warm)	37.21% 80	18.60% 40	25.58% 55	14.42% 31	4.19% 9	215
Community Park (cold)	62.96% 136	13.43% 29	13.89% 30	7.87% 17	1.85% 4	216
Gov. Taylor Park (warm)	55.14% 118	15.89% 34	17.76% 38	8.88% 19	2.34% 5	214
Gov. Taylor Park (cold)	74.65% 159	10.33% 22	10.33% 22	3.76% 8	0.94% 2	213
R.G. Huston Park (warm)	63.51% 134	14.22% 30	10.43% 22	9.00% 19	2.84% 6	211
R.G. Huston Park (cold)	81.52% 172	7.11% 15	6.64% 14	3.79% 8	0.95% 2	211
Willow Run Park (warm)	58.22% 124	7.04% 15	15.49% 33	15.02% 32	4.23% 9	213
Willow Run Park (cold)	72.64% 154	8.96% 19	9.43% 20	8.02% 17	0.94% 2	212
Strouse Park (warm)	66.51% 141	9.91% 21	12.74% 27	7.08% 15	3.77% 8	212
Strouse Park (cold)	80.19% 170	8.49% 18	5.66% 12	3.77% 8	1.89% 4	212
Red Hawk Park (warm)	76.53% 163	8.45% 18	7.51% 16	5.16% 11	2.35% 5	213
Red Hawk Park (cold)	86.60% 181	6.70% 14	3.83% 8	1.44% 3	1.44% 3	209

### Q3 Regardless of how often you use the parks system, how would you rate the importance of parks and open space to the Village's general quality of life?

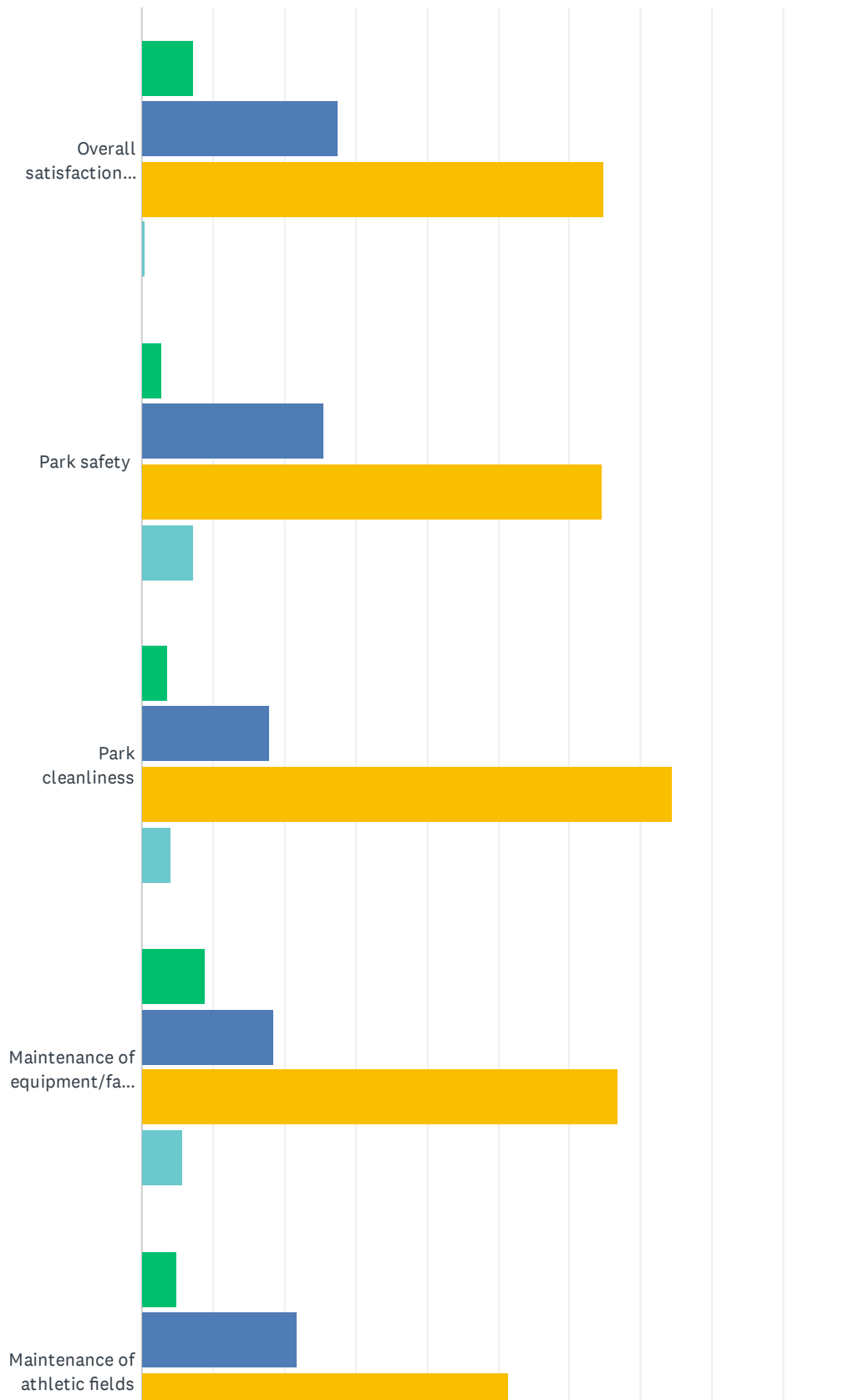
Answered: 225 Skipped: 5

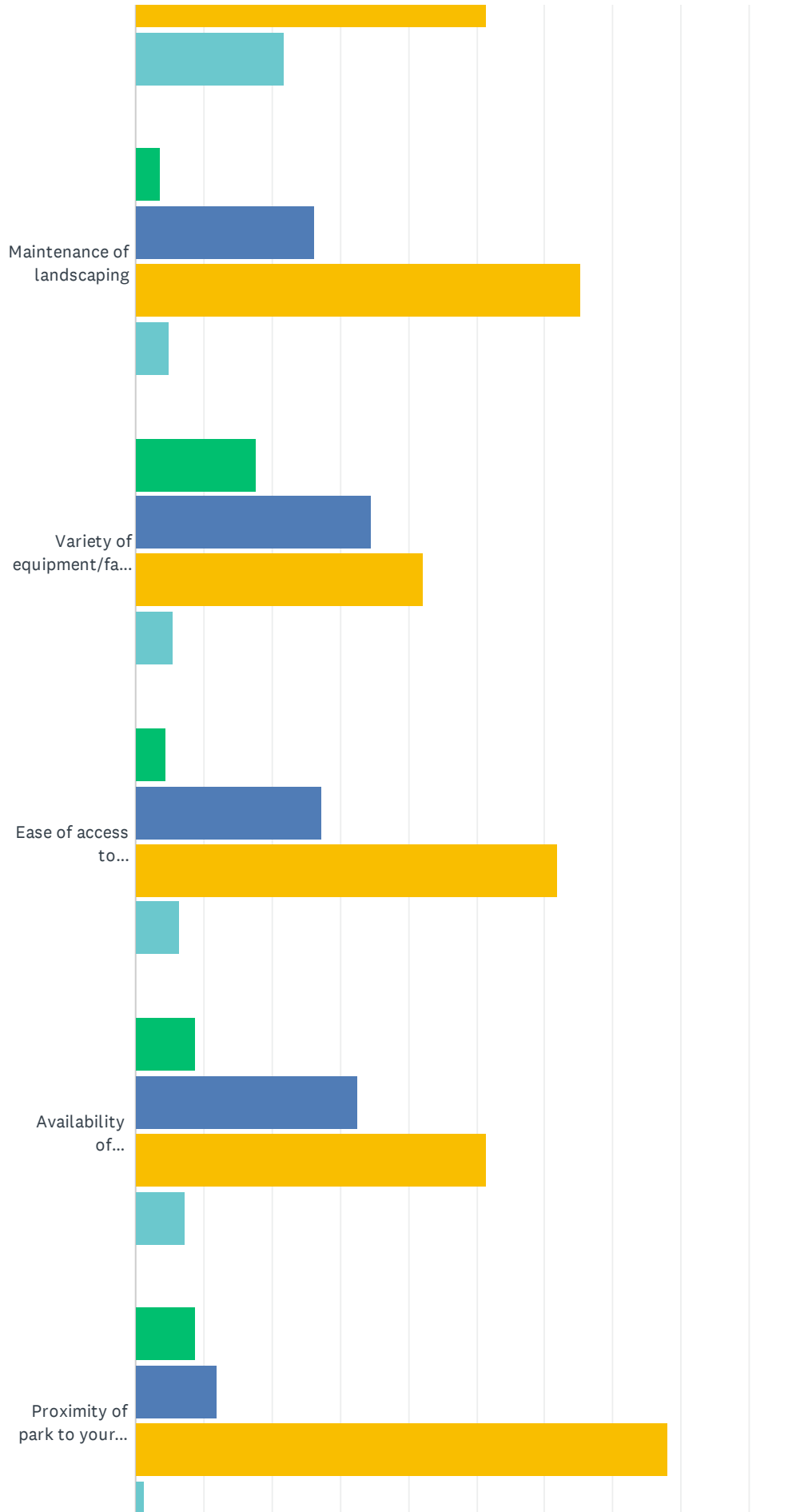


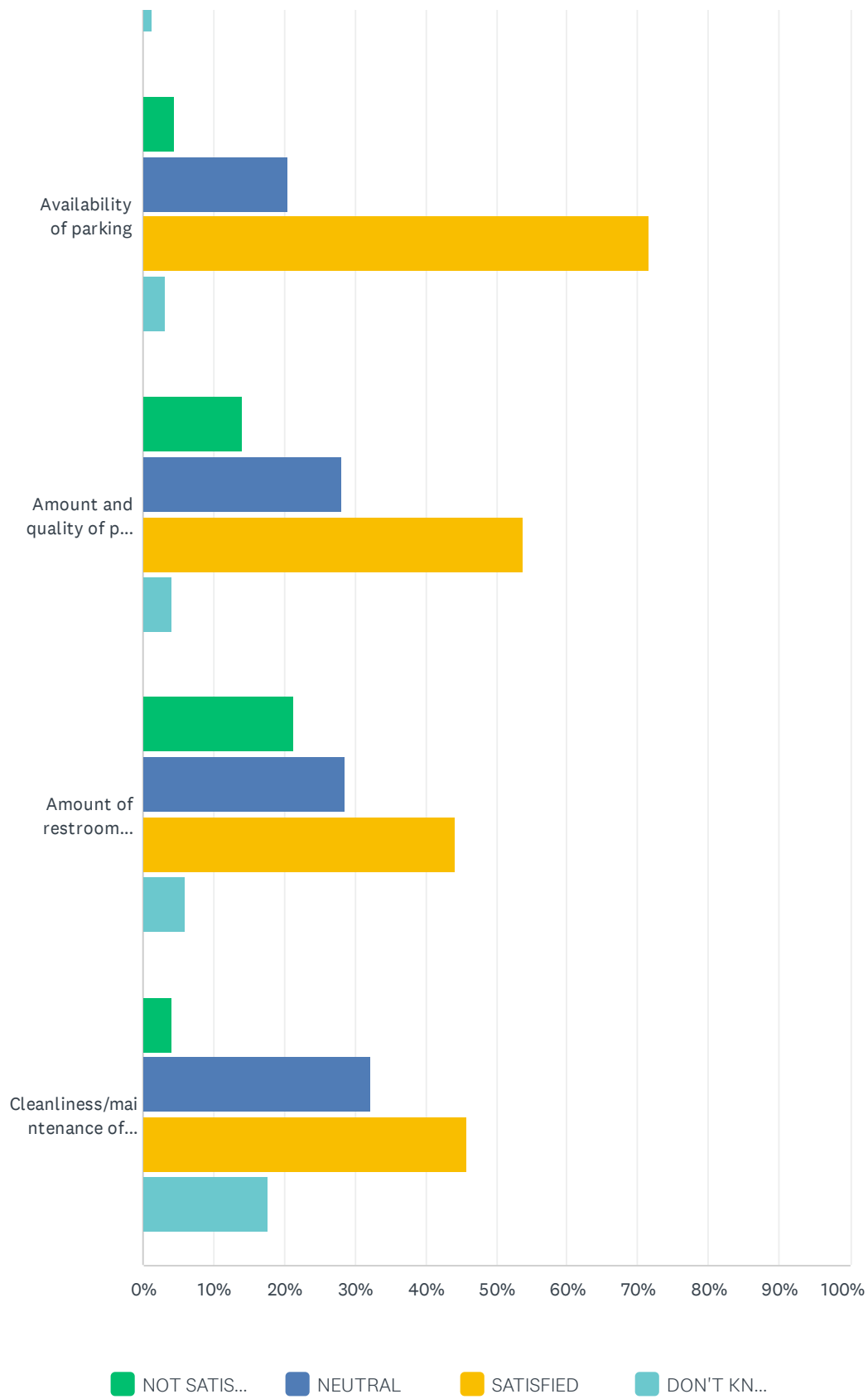
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Not important	0.44% 1
Slightly important	1.33% 3
Neutral	2.22% 5
Important	21.33% 48
Very important	74.67% 168
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>225</b>

### Q4 Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following:

Answered: 223 Skipped: 7



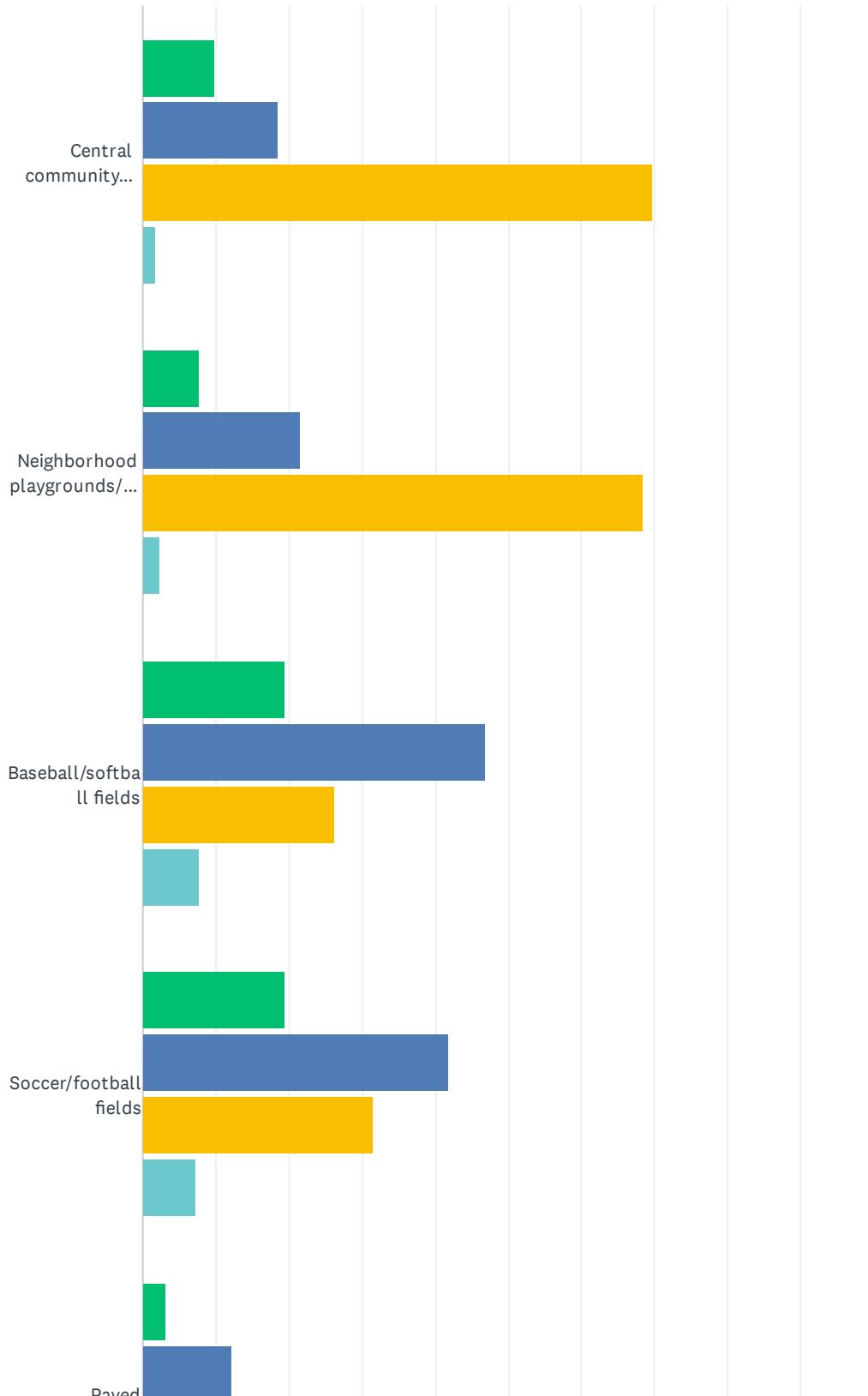


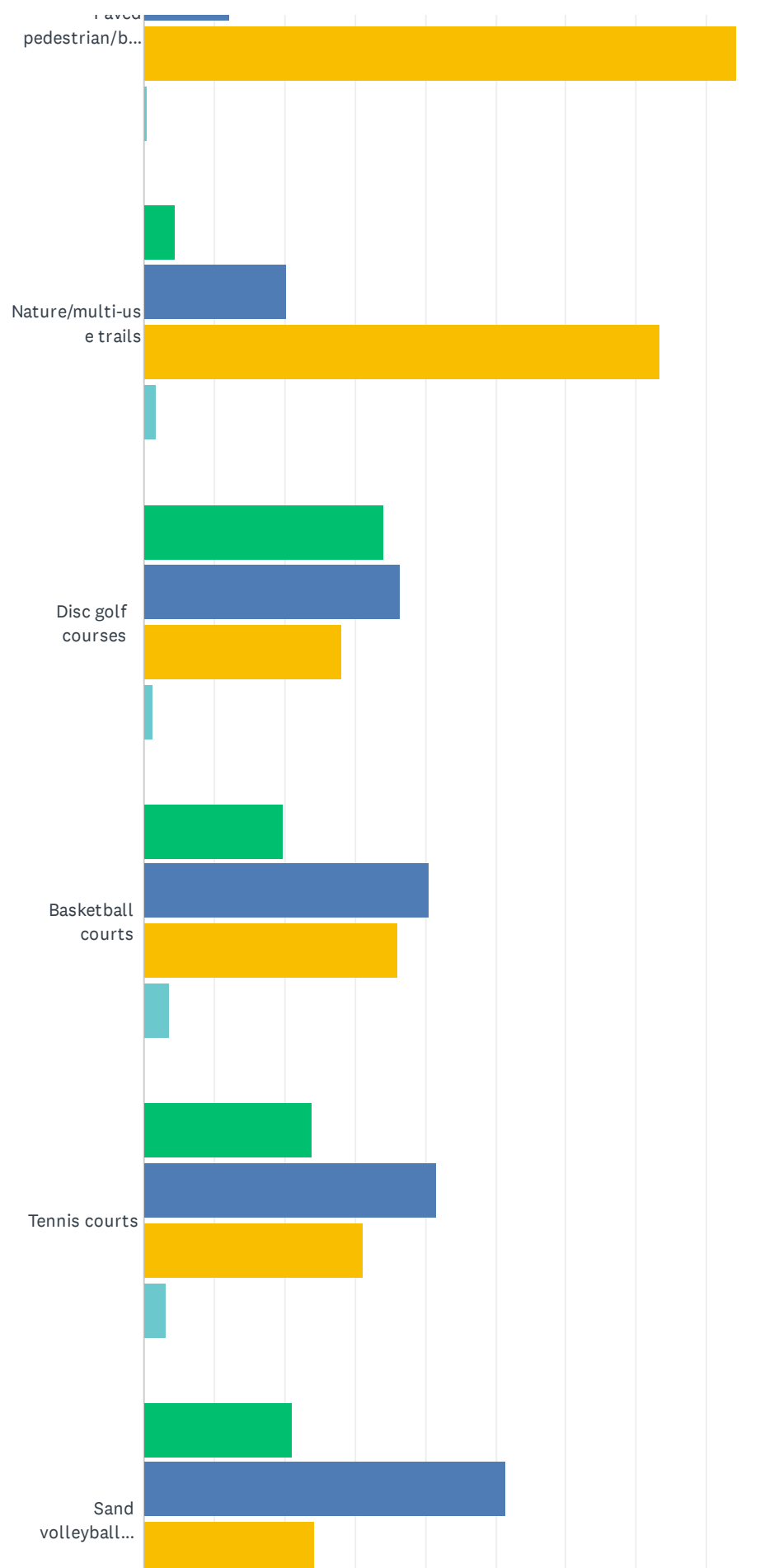


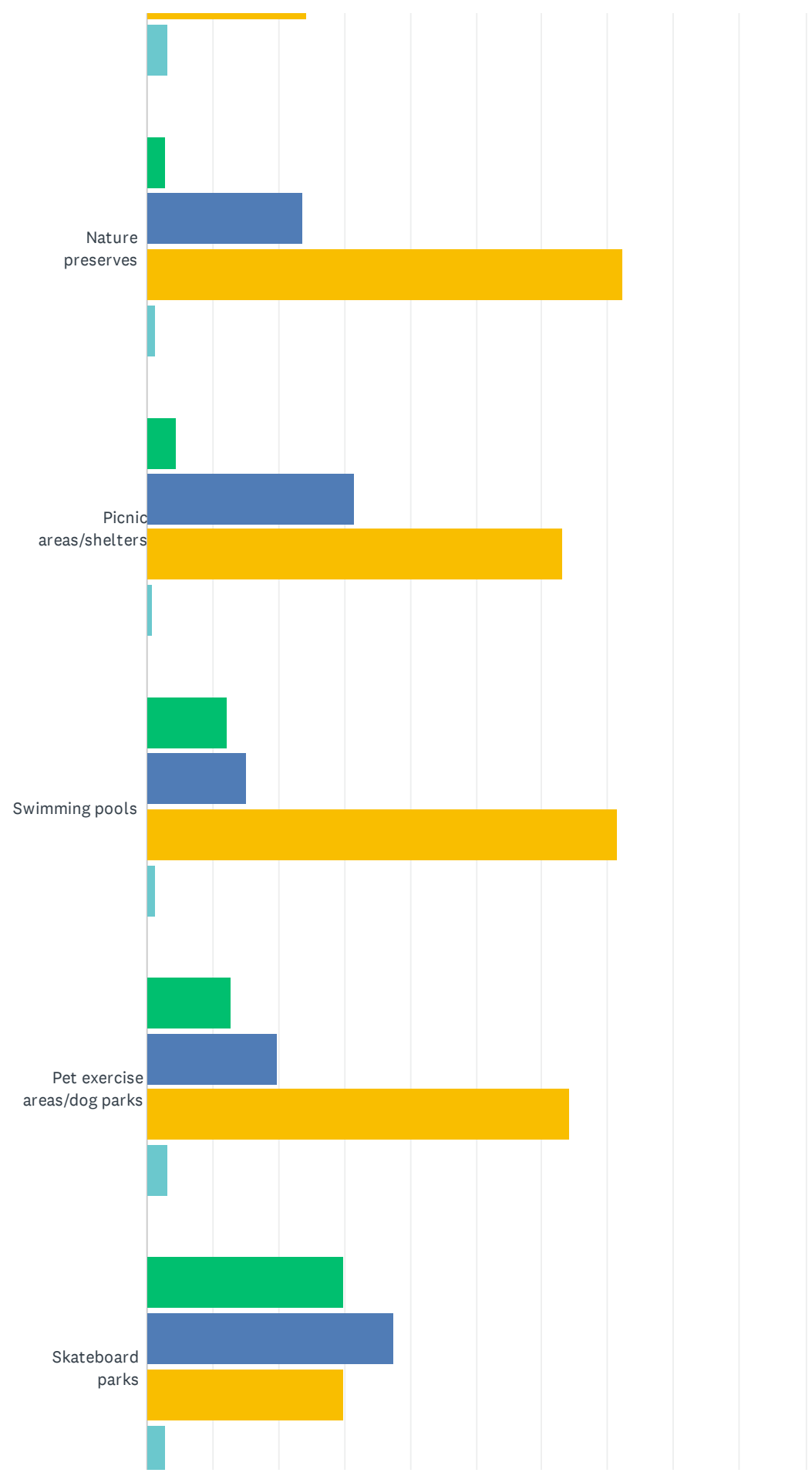
	NOT SATISFIED	NEUTRAL	SATISFIED	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Overall satisfaction with Village parks	7.21% 16	27.48% 61	64.86% 144	0.45% 1	222
Park safety	2.69% 6	25.56% 57	64.57% 144	7.17% 16	223
Park cleanliness	3.59% 8	17.94% 40	74.44% 166	4.04% 9	223
Maintenance of equipment/facilities	9.01% 20	18.47% 41	66.67% 148	5.86% 13	222
Maintenance of athletic fields	5.00% 11	21.82% 48	51.36% 113	21.82% 48	220
Maintenance of landscaping	3.62% 8	26.24% 58	65.16% 144	4.98% 11	221
Variety of equipment/facilities	17.73% 39	34.55% 76	42.27% 93	5.45% 12	220
Ease of access to equipment/facilities	4.55% 10	27.27% 60	61.82% 136	6.36% 14	220
Availability of equipment/facilities	8.64% 19	32.73% 72	51.36% 113	7.27% 16	220
Proximity of park to your home	8.68% 19	11.87% 26	78.08% 171	1.37% 3	219
Availability of parking	4.57% 10	20.55% 45	71.69% 157	3.20% 7	219
Amount and quality of park furnishings (tables, benches, etc.)	14.09% 31	28.18% 62	53.64% 118	4.09% 9	220
Amount of restroom facilities	21.36% 47	28.64% 63	44.09% 97	5.91% 13	220
Cleanliness/maintenance of restroom facilities	4.09% 9	32.27% 71	45.91% 101	17.73% 39	220

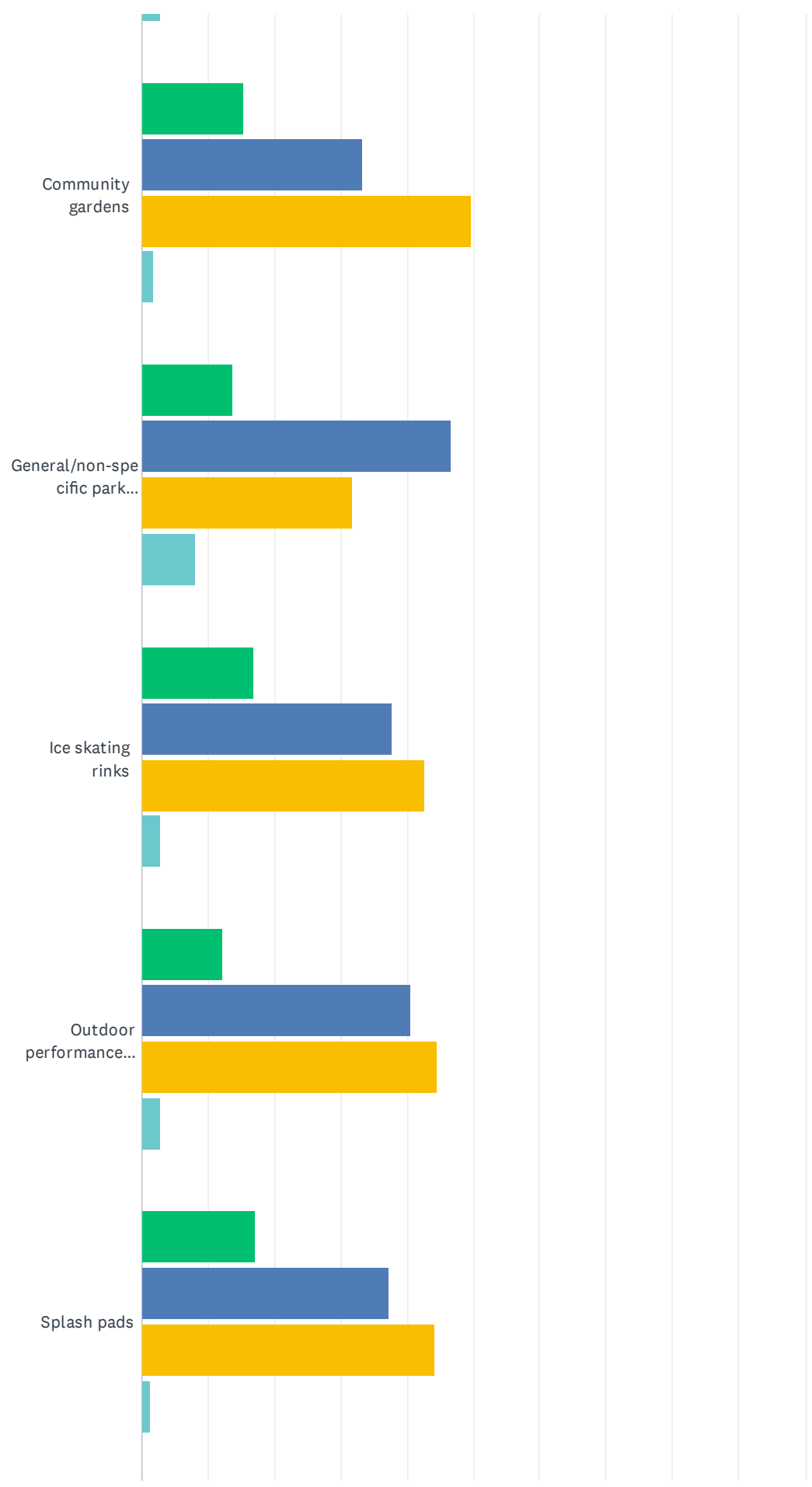
# Q5 As the Village expands, how important do you believe it is for the Village to add, or increase, the number of the following types of facilities?

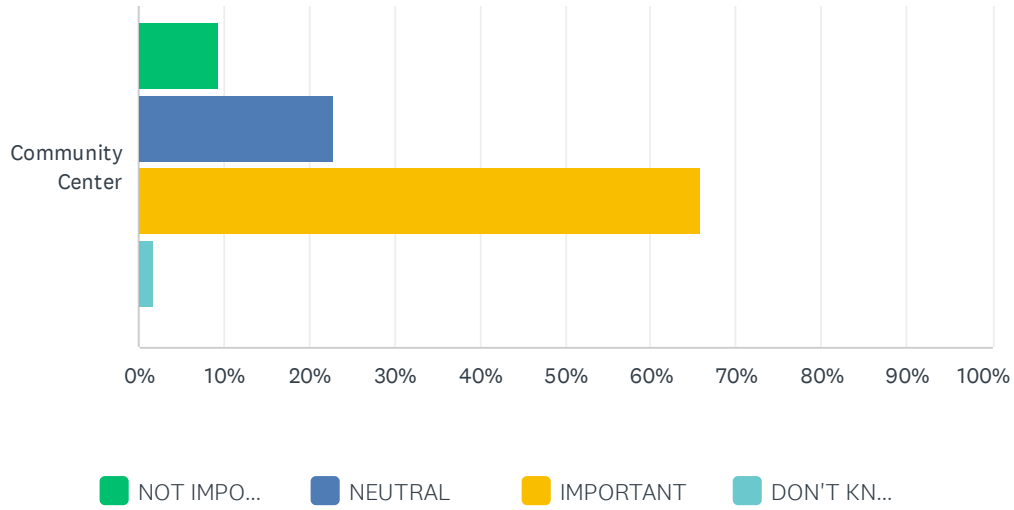
Answered: 227 Skipped: 3







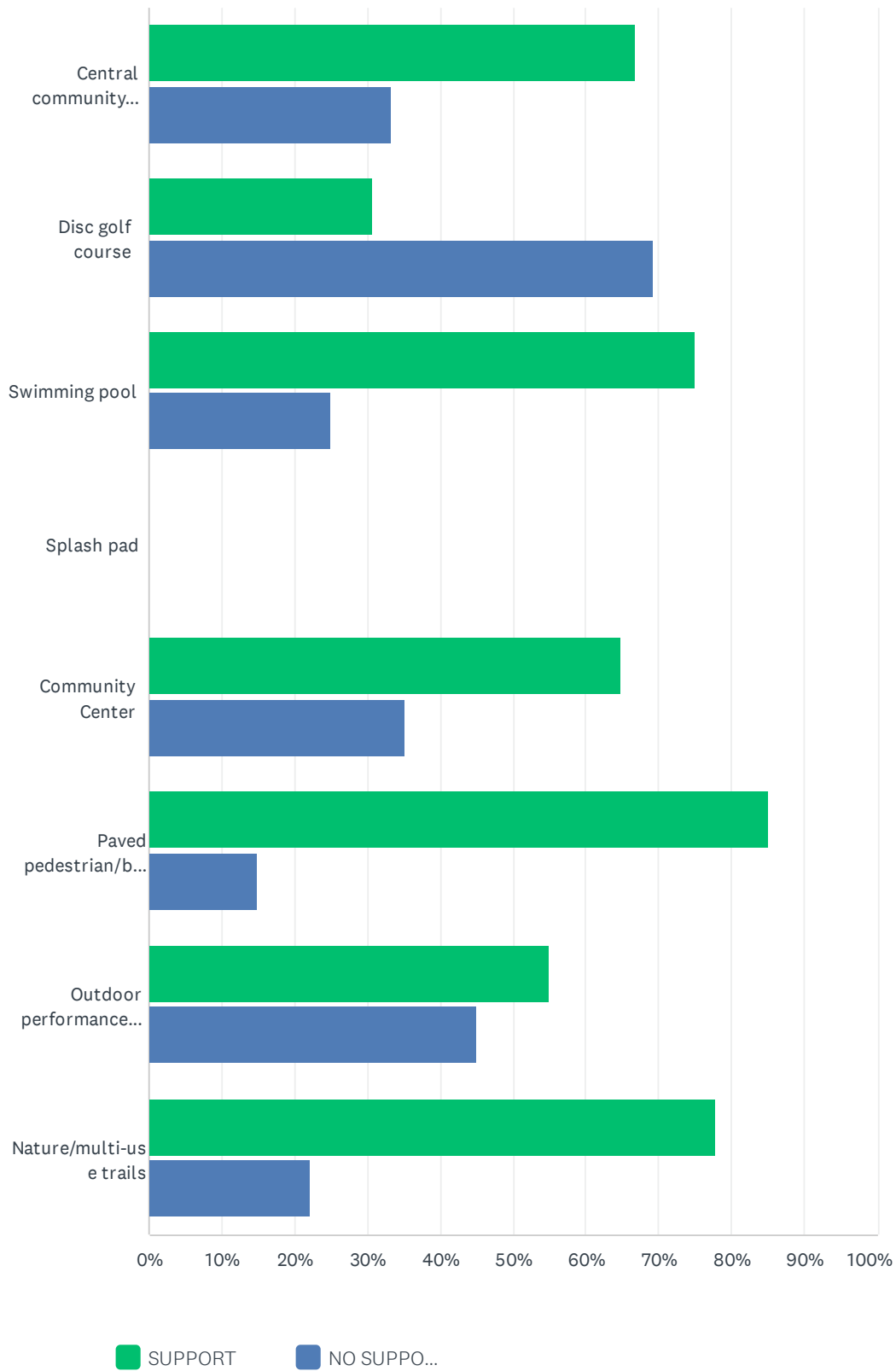




	NOT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	IMPORTANT	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Central community gathering places/town squares/plazas	9.91% 22	18.47% 41	69.82% 155	1.80% 4	222	2.64
Neighborhood playgrounds/toddler parks	7.66% 17	21.62% 48	68.47% 152	2.25% 5	222	2.65
Baseball/softball fields	19.37% 43	46.85% 104	26.13% 58	7.66% 17	222	2.22
Soccer/football fields	19.37% 43	41.89% 93	31.53% 70	7.21% 16	222	2.27
Paved pedestrian/bicycle paths	3.14% 7	12.11% 27	84.30% 188	0.45% 1	223	2.82
Nature/multi-use trails	4.50% 10	20.27% 45	73.42% 163	1.80% 4	222	2.73
Disc golf courses	34.09% 75	36.36% 80	28.18% 62	1.36% 3	220	1.97
Basketball courts	19.82% 44	40.54% 90	36.04% 80	3.60% 8	222	2.23
Tennis courts	23.98% 53	41.63% 92	31.22% 69	3.17% 7	221	2.14
Sand volleyball courts	21.17% 47	51.35% 114	24.32% 54	3.15% 7	222	2.09
Nature preserves	2.69% 6	23.77% 53	72.20% 161	1.35% 3	223	2.72
Picnic areas/shelters	4.50% 10	31.53% 70	63.06% 140	0.90% 2	222	2.60
Swimming pools	12.05% 27	15.18% 34	71.43% 160	1.34% 3	224	2.62
Pet exercise areas/dog parks	12.83% 29	19.91% 45	64.16% 145	3.10% 7	226	2.58
Skateboard parks	29.91% 67	37.50% 84	29.91% 67	2.68% 6	224	2.05
Community gardens	15.25% 34	33.18% 74	49.78% 111	1.79% 4	223	2.38
General/non-specific park areas	13.57% 30	46.61% 103	31.67% 70	8.14% 18	221	2.34
Ice skating rinks	16.89% 38	37.78% 85	42.67% 96	2.67% 6	225	2.31
Outdoor performance venues	12.16% 27	40.54% 90	44.59% 99	2.70% 6	222	2.38
Splash pads	17.12% 38	37.39% 83	44.14% 98	1.35% 3	222	2.30
Community Center	9.42% 21	22.87% 51	65.92% 147	1.79% 4	223	2.60

**Q6 Which of the following amenities would you support even if the construction of it required an increase in taxes?**

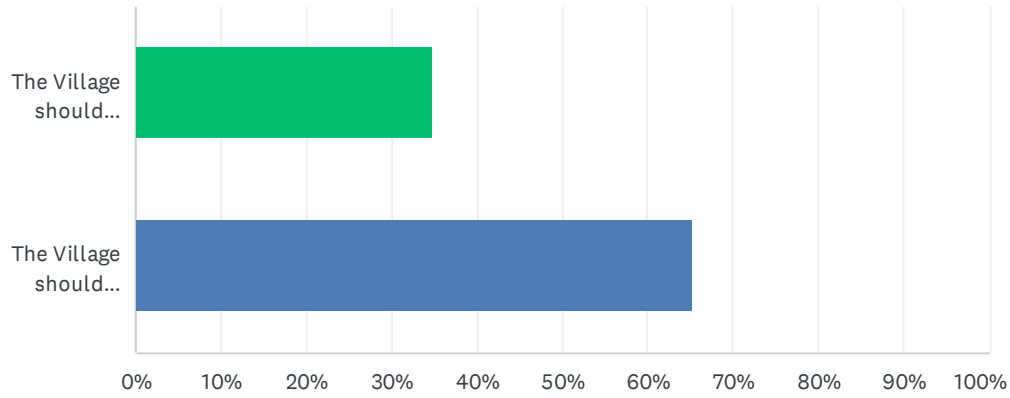
Answered: 226 Skipped: 4



	SUPPORT	NO SUPPORT	TOTAL
Central community gathering places/town squares/plazas	66.82% 147	33.18% 73	220
Disc golf course	30.80% 69	69.20% 155	224
Swimming pool	75.11% 169	24.89% 56	225
Splash pad	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0
Community Center	64.86% 144	35.14% 78	222
Paved pedestrian/bicycle paths	85.14% 189	14.86% 33	222
Outdoor performance venue	54.95% 122	45.05% 100	222
Nature/multi-use trails	77.93% 173	22.07% 49	222

### Q7 Which of the following best matches your opinion regarding the Village's park system?

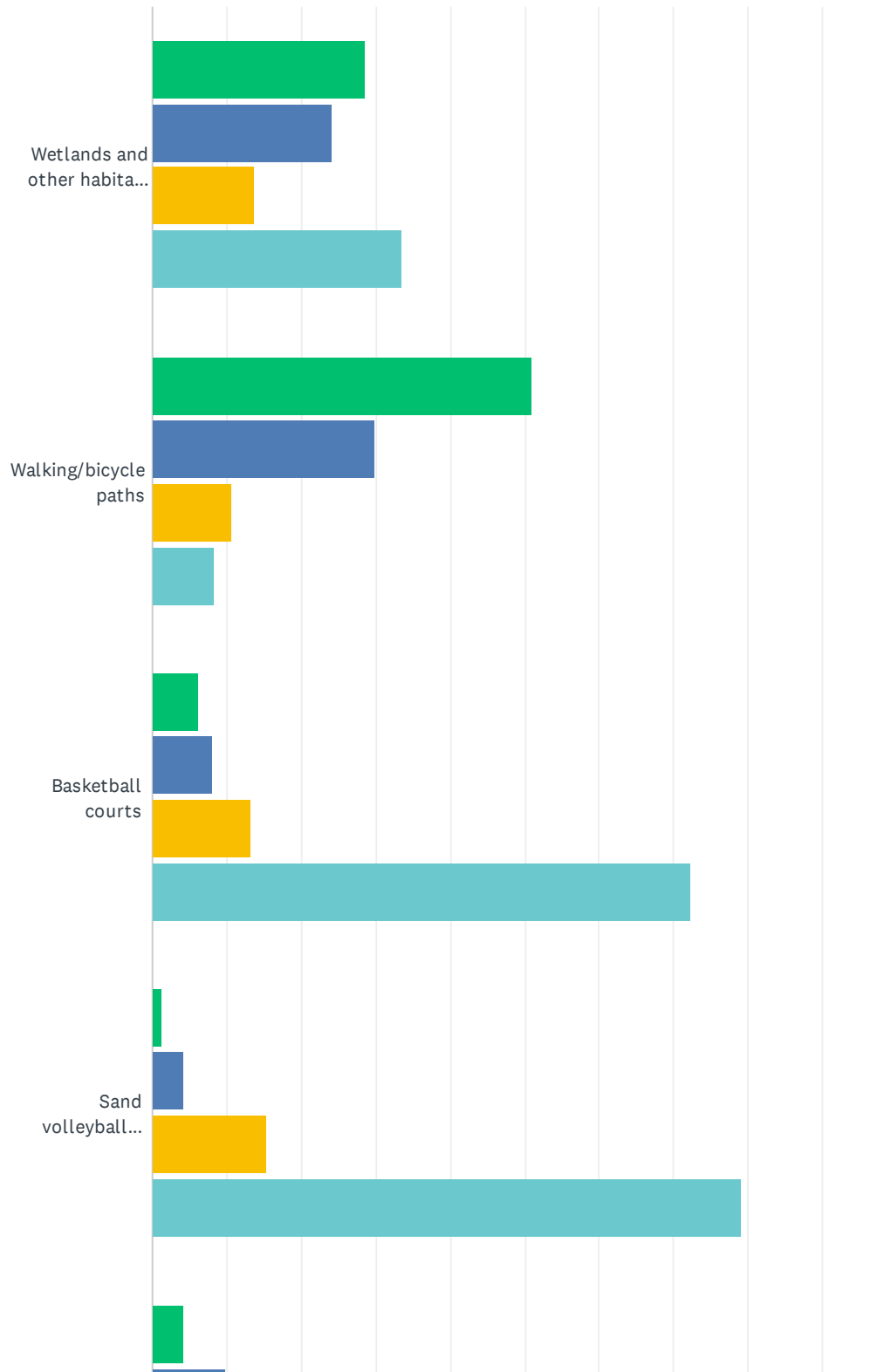
Answered: 219 Skipped: 11

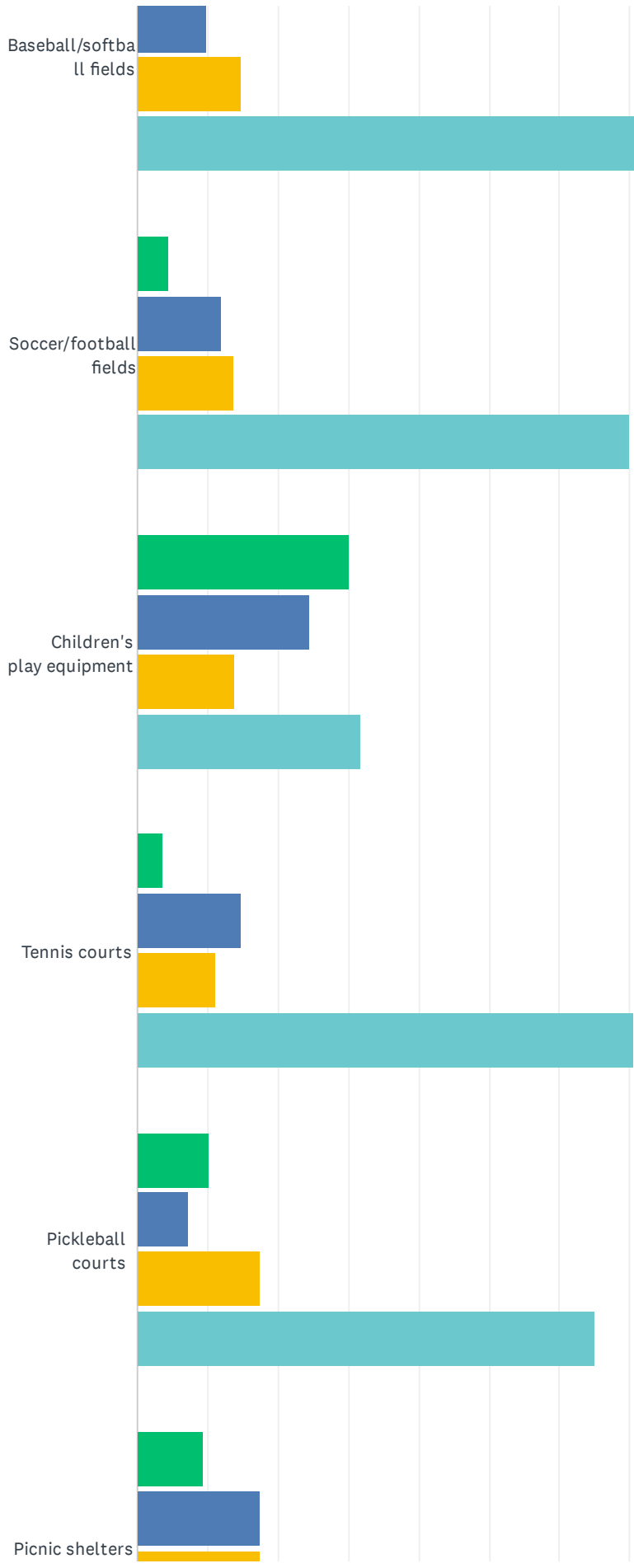


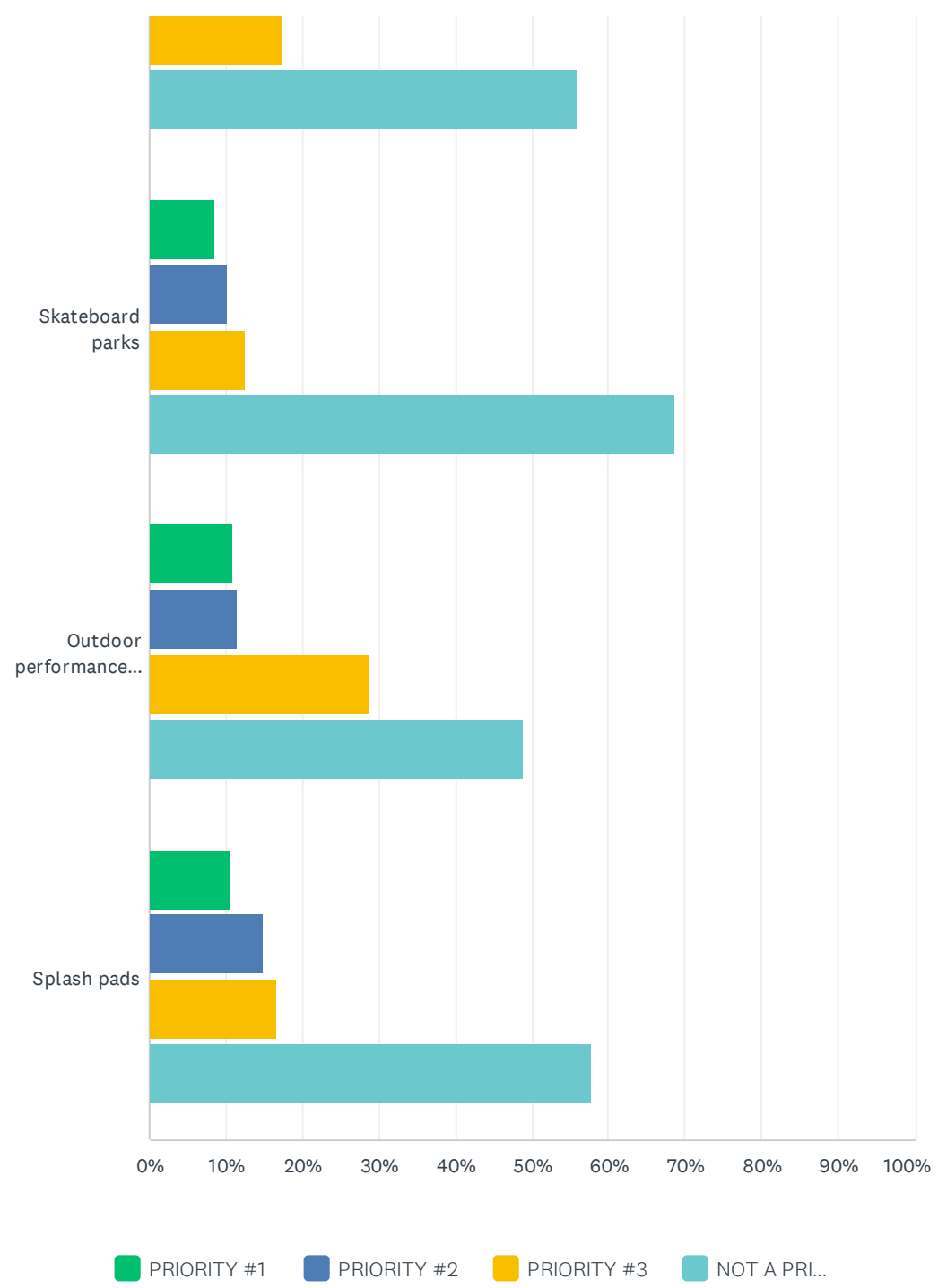
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The Village should prioritize the development of new parks.	34.70%	76
The Village should prioritize the enhancement of existing parks.	65.30%	143
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>219</b>

Q8 As the Village moves forward with its plans to build new parks, priorities must be established. Please indicate your top three priorities based on the expected use by you or members of your household.

Answered: 226 Skipped: 4



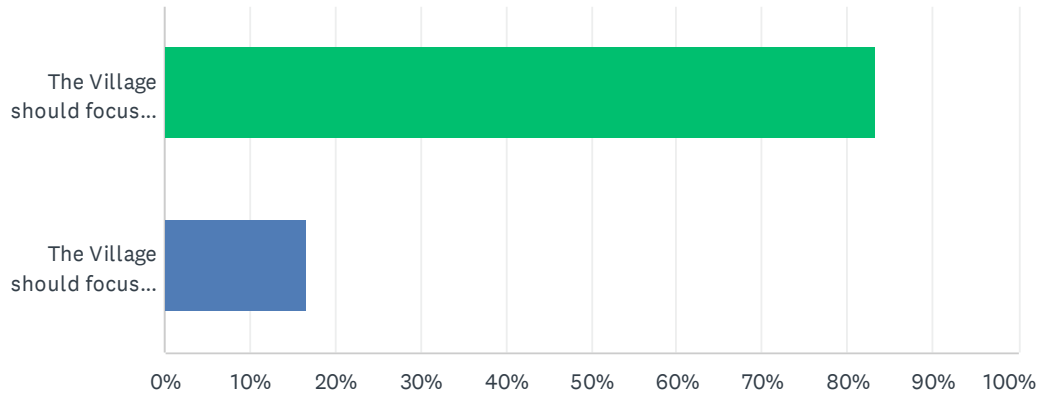




	PRIORITY #1	PRIORITY #2	PRIORITY #3	NOT A PRIORITY	TOTAL
Wetlands and other habitat preserves	28.57% 52	24.18% 44	13.74% 25	33.52% 61	182
Walking/bicycle paths	50.93% 109	29.91% 64	10.75% 23	8.41% 18	214
Basketball courts	6.29% 10	8.18% 13	13.21% 21	72.33% 115	159
Sand volleyball courts	1.23% 2	4.32% 7	15.43% 25	79.01% 128	162
Baseball/softball fields	4.32% 7	9.88% 16	14.81% 24	70.99% 115	162
Soccer/football fields	4.38% 7	11.88% 19	13.75% 22	70.00% 112	160
Children's play equipment	30.00% 54	24.44% 44	13.89% 25	31.67% 57	180
Tennis courts	3.68% 6	14.72% 24	11.04% 18	70.55% 115	163
Pickleball courts	10.24% 17	7.23% 12	17.47% 29	65.06% 108	166
Picnic shelters	9.32% 15	17.39% 28	17.39% 28	55.90% 90	161
Skateboard parks	8.43% 14	10.24% 17	12.65% 21	68.67% 114	166
Outdoor performance venues	10.92% 19	11.49% 20	28.74% 50	48.85% 85	174
Splash pads	10.71% 18	14.88% 25	16.67% 28	57.74% 97	168

### Q9 Which of the following approaches to developing the Village's park system more closely matches your opinion?

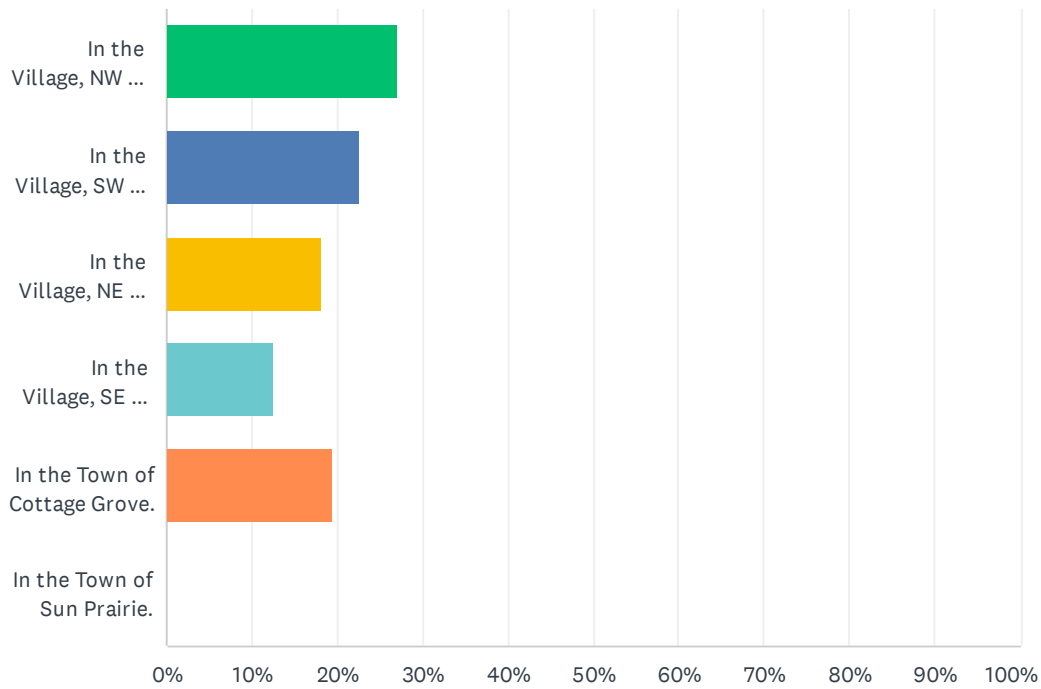
Answered: 223 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The Village should focus on providing a variety of amenities to support the varied needs of the residents.	83.41%	186
The Village should focus on providing a more limited variety of amenities in sufficient numbers that the Village could host regional events.	16.59%	37
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>223</b>

### Q10 Please indicate where you reside:

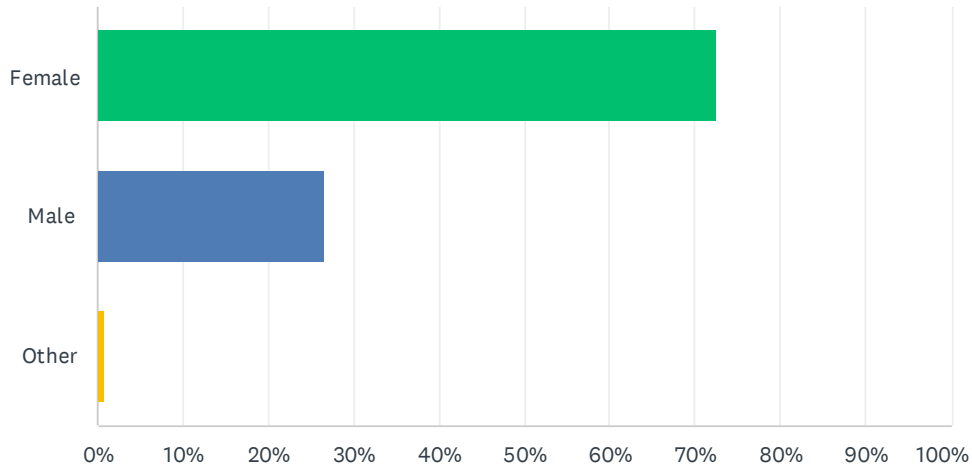
Answered: 221 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
In the Village, NW of the N & BB intersection.	27.15%	60
In the Village, SW of the N & BB intersection.	22.62%	50
In the Village, NE of the N & BB intersection.	18.10%	40
In the Village, SE of the N & BB intersection.	12.67%	28
In the Town of Cottage Grove.	19.46%	43
In the Town of Sun Prairie.	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>221</b>

### Q11 Please indicate your gender:

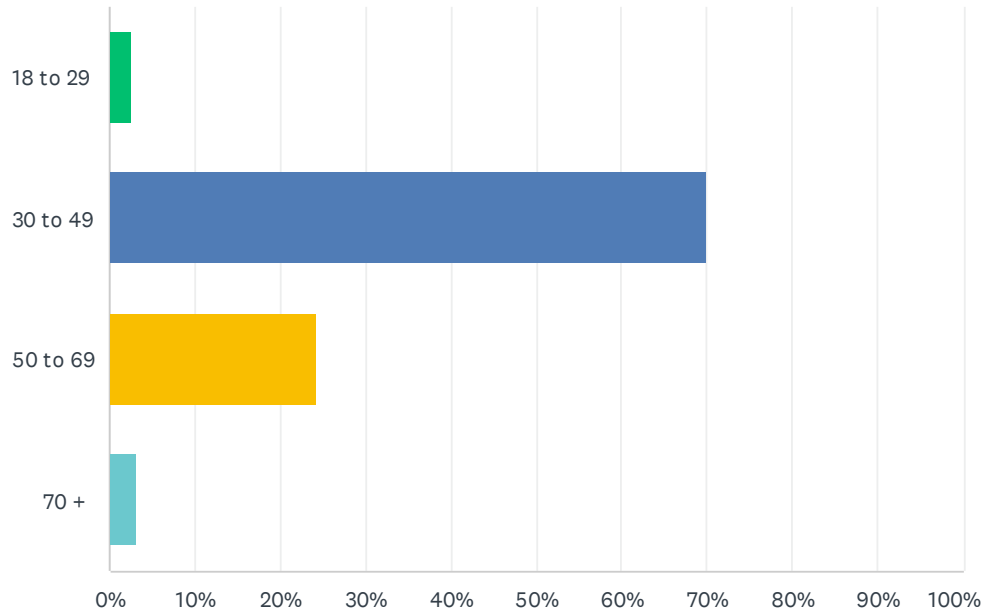
Answered: 225 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Female	72.44% 163
Male	26.67% 60
Other	0.89% 2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>225</b>

### Q12 Please indicate your age:

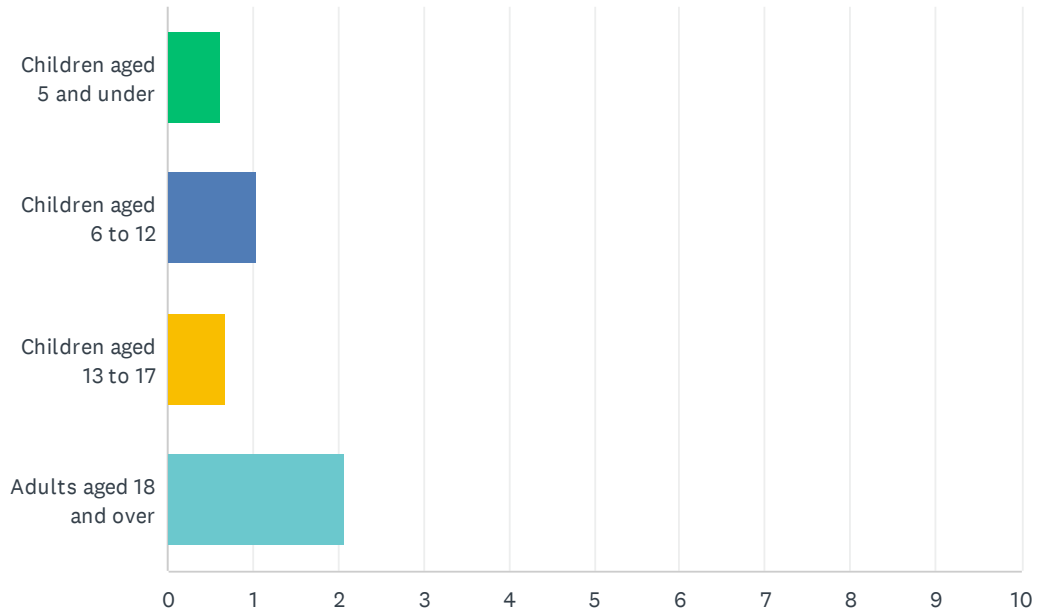
Answered: 226 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
18 to 29	2.65% 6
30 to 49	69.91% 158
50 to 69	24.34% 55
70 +	3.10% 7
TOTAL	226

### Q13 Please indicate the number of people in your household within the following age ranges:

Answered: 217 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Children aged 5 and under	1	96	157
Children aged 6 to 12	1	176	168
Children aged 13 to 17	1	93	137
Adults aged 18 and over	2	410	198
Total Respondents: 217			