

Dedication

This plan is collaboration between the City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department and various community groups.

Special thanks to all members of the community who provided input to the plan.

Community Groups include:

- Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh
 - Outdoor Recreation Alliance
 - City Council Members
 - Park Board Members
- Neighborhood Associations
- Mississippi Valley Conservancy

This plan was prepared by Steve Carlyon, Jason Odegaard, and Kerry Gloede.

Compiled and Edited by Parks and Recreation Coordinator Leah N Burns

2016-2020

Letter from the Director

Dear La Crosse Community Members,

Our parks and recreation system is a reflection of the community's long held values and support for park land, forest, marsh, river front activities, green space, fitness, wellness, and fun. Today's system of urban parks, trails, forest, water front facilities, recreation facilities and programs is a major contributor to La Crosse's acclaimed high quality of life and the result of the leisure community support and investment. For over 100 years, the City of La Crosse has promoted the community's access to nature, health and wellness in the areas of parks, recreation and forestry.

It is in this tradition that we are proud to submit the final City of La Crosse, Parks, Recreation and Forestry 2016-2021 Strategic Plan.

This plan presents the framework and policy that will assist and guide the department in the stewardship of our parks, forest, riverfront, marsh, recreation facilities and programs. The plan includes broad policies and initiatives that will help shape the services that the department will provide to the community over the next 5 years. The strategic direction is focused around six key themes:

- Community Health and Wellness
- Environmental Stewardship
- Financial Sustainability
- Building Community and Relationships
- Engagement and Activity for all ages
- Neighborhood Revitalization

The plan also includes an outline for an annual strategic planning process that will ensure that the initiatives of the plan become a reality. It is in the implementation of the plan that the community will see a parks and recreation department that is modern, results-driven, and collaborative. Reshaping parks and recreation services will require the focused energy and commitment of the department, the park board, the council, as well as support from the community. Available funding will be focused on the highest community priorities. Through the support and collaboration of the community, the complete set of desired facilities and services can be achieved.

The City Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department 2016-2020 Strategic Plan is the culmination of months of public outreach with community members, neighborhood associations, council members, user groups and partners. These conversations with the community will continue as we work together to accomplish the ambitious but necessary steps to ensure that the parks, recreation and forestry system continues to enhance the lives of La Crosse community members.

Sincerely,



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Mission Statement

The City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department’s mission is to enrich our community through stewardship of the environment and through provisions of quality recreation, facilities, and fun.

Vision Statement

Make La Crosse the best possible welcoming and inclusive community to live, work, and play in.



History

The La Crosse Park system was created in 1908 by ordinance conceived and sponsored by Dr. Anderson (Mayor of La Crosse). Dr. Anderson is considered the Father of the Park System of La Crosse because of his vision and enthusiasm for the La Crosse Park System.

In 1911 the first Park and Recreation Plan was created by John Nolen. Nolen was a student of Fredrick Law Olmstad who designed Central Park NY, Yellowstone Park, and other well-known parks. Due to the foresight and financial sponsorship of families such as Ellen Hixon, Henry Gund, Colman brothers, Lucian F. Easton, and Fred Schnell the citizens of La Crosse greatly benefited from the services of Mr. Nolen. Park plans for Pettibone, Riverside Park (previously known as Levee Park), Copeland Park, Grandad's Bluff, Powell, and Hood Park (now known as Poage Park) were developed by Nolen. Nolen wrote in the first Park and Recreation plan:

"No better illustration could be given of the making of a park system by a small city than the recent experience of La Crosse. It should be recalled that three years ago it had not even a park commission, and it is less than two years since the actual work of park construction was begun. Yet it has the substantial framework of a comprehensive park system that is equaled by few cities, if any, of the same size." (Nolen, 1911).

Due to urbanization in the Progressive Era designated park land was often forfeited for low income housing. It is remarkable that La Crosse still has a substantial amount of park and conservancy land.

Today the La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department oversee 46 parks totaling 1,400 acres, 34 miles of trails, 834 acres of forest, and 5,580 acres of conservancy lands



2016-2020



Findings: Standards and Level of Service

Planning Context Summary

Comparable Cities

Community Input

Trends

Purpose of Strategic Plan

Needs Assessment

2015 Survey



Planning Context Summary

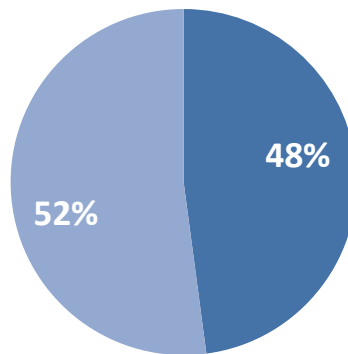
La Crosse Population and Socio-Demographic Overview

The following points summarize the population trends and socio-demographic considerations of relevance to this Plan taken from the 2010 Census.

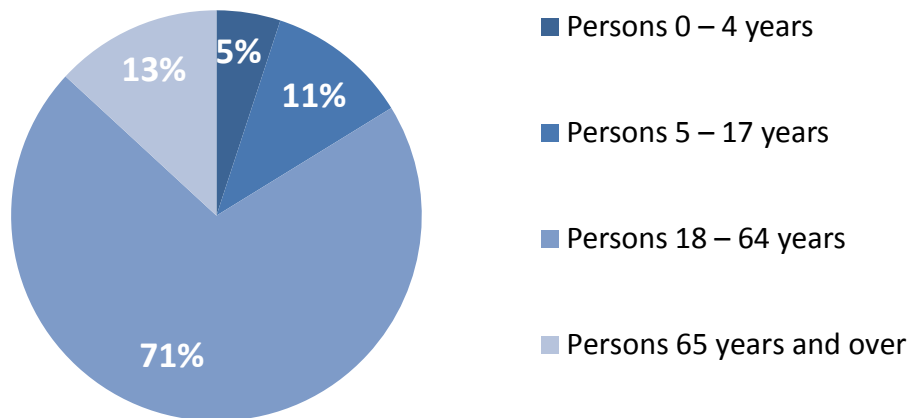
- 2010 the population was 51,320 with expected growth of 2.2% per year.
- La Crosse County has seen growth from 114,638 in 2010 to 118,011 in 2014.
- La Crosse has several surrounding cities and towns that are growing at a rapid pace, creating an increase in park and recreation demand on city resources.
- Median age is 30.1 years old

2010 Census - Gender

■ Male ■ Female



2010 Census - Age



City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Strategic Plan

2016-2020

Comparable Cities

Amenities	La Crosse	Waukesha	Wauwatosa	Eau Claire	Oshkosh	Sheboygan	Beloit	Janesville	Wausau
Park Acres	2,040	1,080	407	2,097	333	916	861	2,595	342
Miles of Trail	57	12	0	6	20	8	23	38	5
Sports Fields	76	95	37	16	13	14	10	34	20
Parks	45	49	31	33	26	32	37	64	33
Playgrounds	36	29	19	20	16	13	23	44	24
Beaches	3	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	1
Marinas	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boat Slips	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pavilions for Rent	26	19	0	18	12	15	17	6	12
Boat Ramps	7	0	0	4	6	0	1	5	3
Holes of Golf	18	0	0	0	18	0	18	27	0
Camp Sites	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishing Piers	8	0	0	1	3	0	2	1	4
Swimming Pools	3	2	4	0	2	4	1	1	3
Recreation Centers	2	3	0	0	1	4	0	0	0
Leased Operations	9	1	1	2	0	1	4	1	0
Conservancy Acres	1,200	479	0	0	13	35	0	806	20
Full Time Staff	14	40	7	30	33	11	36	27	17
Part Time Staff	291	343	278	250	350	280	400	150	130
Participants in Youth Sports	2,342	2,845	1,845	1,604	0	4,800	0	1,225	0
Participants in Adult Sports	3,815	4,161	3,568	2,193	3,702	3,401	1,646	2,930	0
Participants in Senior Programs	2,800	3,650	7,350	1,500	5,000	700	4,000	4,700	0

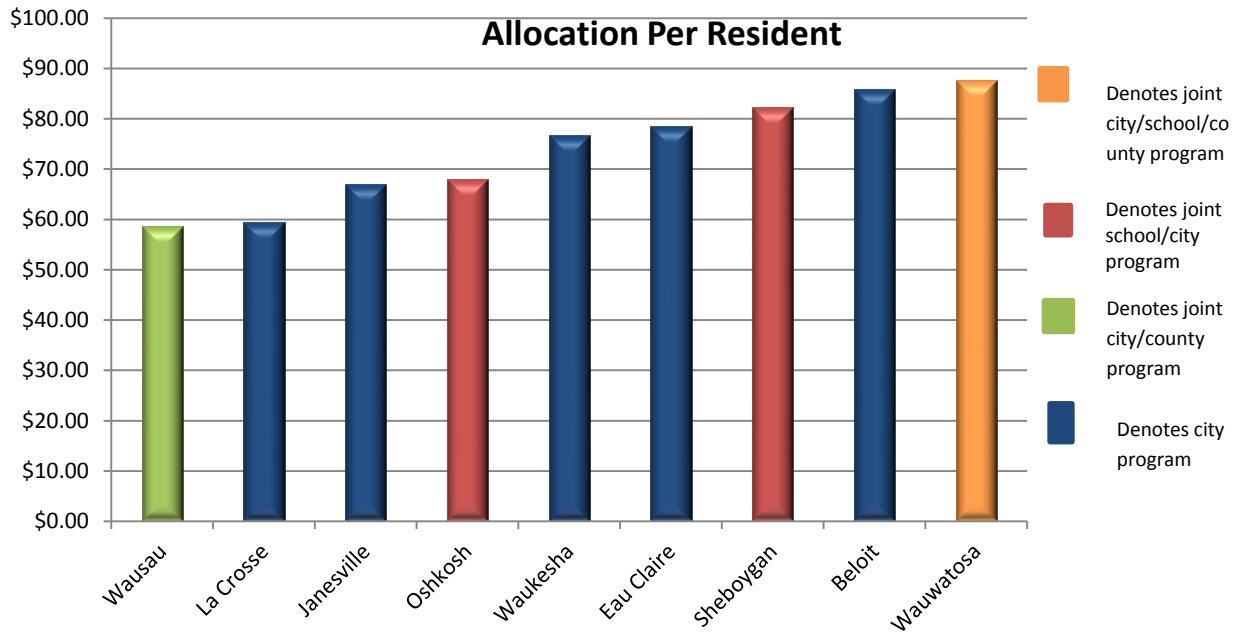
City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Strategic Plan

2016-2020

Comparable Budgets, Populations & Average Cost per Residents

City	Parks	Recreation	Forestry	Schools	Total	Population	Cost Per Resident
Wausau	\$2,293,947				\$2,293,947	39,106	\$58.66
La Crosse	\$3,047,423				\$3,047,423	51,320	\$59.38
Janesville	\$1,960,727	\$2,295,169			\$4,255,896	63,575	\$66.94
Oshkosh	\$1,934,200	\$828,200	\$309,200	\$1,417,618	\$4,489,218	66,083	\$67.93
Waukesha	\$3,278,441	\$1,340,810	\$802,941		\$5,422,192	70,718	\$76.67
Eau Claire	\$5,169,800				\$5,169,800	65,883	\$78.47
Sheboygan	\$2,783,210			\$1,272,528	\$4,055,738	49,288	\$82.29
Beloit	\$2,186,150	\$986,563			\$3,172,713	36,966	\$85.83
Wauwatosa	\$1,220,748	\$1,570,000	\$1,204,654	\$1,591,597	\$4,063,499	46,396	\$87.58
Average	\$2,652,738	1099448	\$772,265	\$1,427,247	\$3,996,714	54,370	\$73.75

The 2011 City Park Facts from the *Trust of Public Land Foundation* reports the median allocation per resident in 2011 for Parks and Recreation in the United States is \$84.00 per resident



Community Input

The 2015 City wide Parks, Recreation and Forestry survey demonstrated an overall high degree of satisfaction with the current parks and recreation system of park lands and facilities. The facilities that rated the highest in importance include:

- Trails
- Natural areas
- Playgrounds
- Recreation centers

While some other facilities (which fill a need for a more targeted or narrower population) rated as less important to the community as a whole, they are nevertheless very important to those certain segments of the population that have such a need, such as dog parks, indoor tennis, baseball and softball fields, and swimming pool.

A challenge into the future will be maintaining the current high level of service. So the management challenge is to balance the need to maintain and improve the existing expansive inventory of facilities, while responding to demands for expansion of the parks and recreation system in response to population growth.

The facilities that rated as top priorities to add, expand, or improve include the following.

- Community recreation centers
- Indoor/outdoor aquatic centers
- Playgrounds
- Trails (natural and hard surface)
- Natural areas

Trends

As you look at all the projects in the City of La Crosse 2016-2020 Park and Recreation Strategic plan you can begin to see some trends. One of the most important things to be aware of concerning the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department are trends impacting our community and our Nation.

Local trends in this Strategic Plan identify with four key pillars, (A) protection and connection to our natural resources, (B) social equality for all in accessing parks (C) sustainment of parks and facilities and, (D) the connection between parks and livable neighborhoods.

This plan also recognizes the importance of national trends facing Municipal Park and Recreational agencies across the country. [The National Park and Recreation 2015 Field Report-A Parks and Recreation National Database Analysis](#), points to 5 key trends that will impact the future of parks and recreation agencies;

1. Programs for all are the key to park attendance.
2. Park and Recreation Departments that centralized management of related recreational/leisure responsibilities are considered more value to a community than distributed leisure type services dispersed between other departments. An example is senior centers and recreation centers; only difference is age of user, but often under different departments often competing for resources.
3. Park and Recreation agencies are pioneering new funding methods to offset shrinking municipal budgets. Key is to maximize demand and retain revenues for operations. Shifting some of the tax base support to user based support for services.
4. Municipal infrastructure demands for roads, sewers, and infrastructure will increase competition for tax dollars and require innovative solutions to Park and Recreation Departments to find alternate

funding sources to address park and facility infrastructure challenges, such as partnerships, donations, or outsourcing.

5. Walkable/bike able cities draw Millennials who want walkable/bike able environments that contain cultural and recreational amenities. Failure to address this interest could fuel a suburban exodus away from a community to communities that do foster a walkable bike able community.

Purpose of the Strategic Plan

This plan will provide the framework for future improvements and align City goals with State and Federal goals related to grant opportunities.

The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department is an integral part of the City of La Crosse image, character, and quality of life. Specifically, the Department is responsible for:

1. ***Providing social benefits*** by connecting people with neighbors of other ages, incomes, backgrounds, and abilities. Parks and recreational activities build community pride and spirit.
2. ***Providing economic benefits*** by improving the quality of life in the community and helping to attract businesses and residents to the local area. Top-ranked parks and recreation programs and facilities are a competitive advantage for the entire area in economic development.
3. ***Providing benefits to the environment*** by connecting people with and educating them about nature. La Crosse is fortunate to have abundant natural resources and must continue to protect, sustain and restore our natural landscape, while at the same time offer recreational opportunities in harmony with nature.
4. ***Providing benefits to individuals*** by promoting physical fitness and self-improvement. Opportunities for exercise and being outdoors result in greater physical fitness, emotional well-being, and connectivity to nature.

Needs Assessment

The City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department evaluated the supply and demand for recreation facilities, parks, trails, and programs in 2015. The Department discussed the needs for improvement throughout facilities and programs. The needs assessment was based on an understanding of trends, best practices, community demographics, existing facilities, and facility usage. Community and public input is critical and was taken into consideration when making final decisions.

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry presented a draft of this report to 10 neighborhood associations and also took into account feedback from those associations. In addition Park Board Commissioners and City Council Members received the draft.

Neighborhood Associations

Neighborhood associations in La Crosse began with the idea that public input and subsequent planning would encourage people to remain and move into La Crosse's older neighborhoods. The Planning Department works with residents to develop a neighborhood plan. The first plan was adopted in 1998 for the Powell Hood Hamilton Neighborhood, now renamed the Powell Poage Hamilton Neighborhood.

The City of La Crosse now has 10 neighborhood associations, as follows:

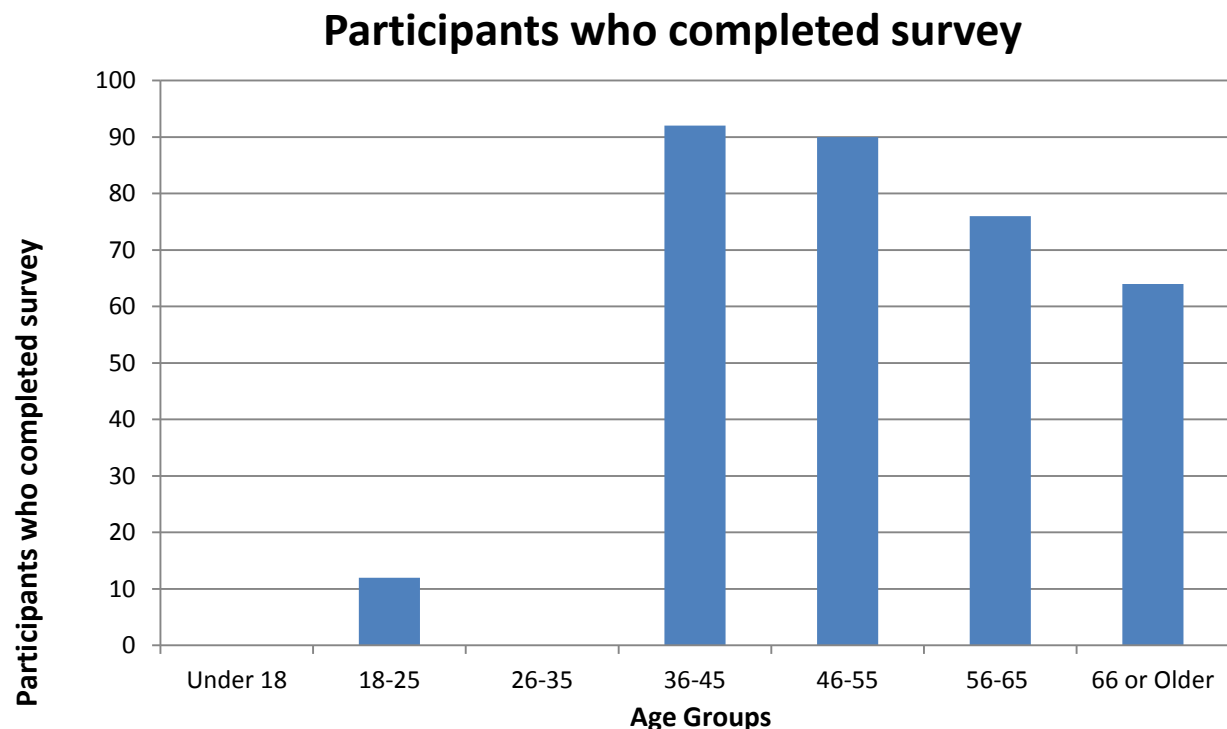
- Powell Poage Hamilton
- Lower Northside
- Goosetown Campus
- Washburn
- Grandview Emerson (GENA)
- Weigent Hogan
- Holy Trinity Longfellow
- Logan Northside
- Bluffside
- Springbrook Clayton Johnson (Sunnyside)

The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department regularly meet with these associations to hear their concerns and direct resources to park development in various neighborhoods. The City continues to support future neighborhood associations and consider input for future development.

2015 Survey

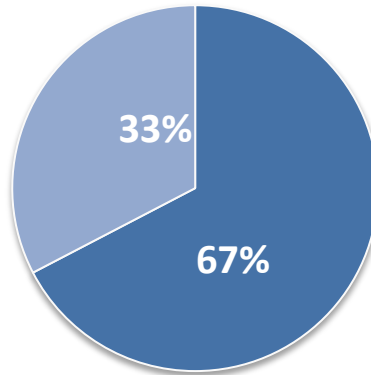
The following data comes from a survey that was conducted in 2015. The survey was conducted by the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department and available to the public via email blasts, and shared links on the City website. The survey was completed by 333 users. Major findings of the survey include:

- 1/3 of Park and Rec users are non-residents
- Electronic marketing is preferred and reaches 80% of our customers.
- Highest ratings were on staff customer service and quality of parks.



Residency vs Non-Residents

■ I Live in the City of La Crosse ■ I live Outside the City of La Crosse

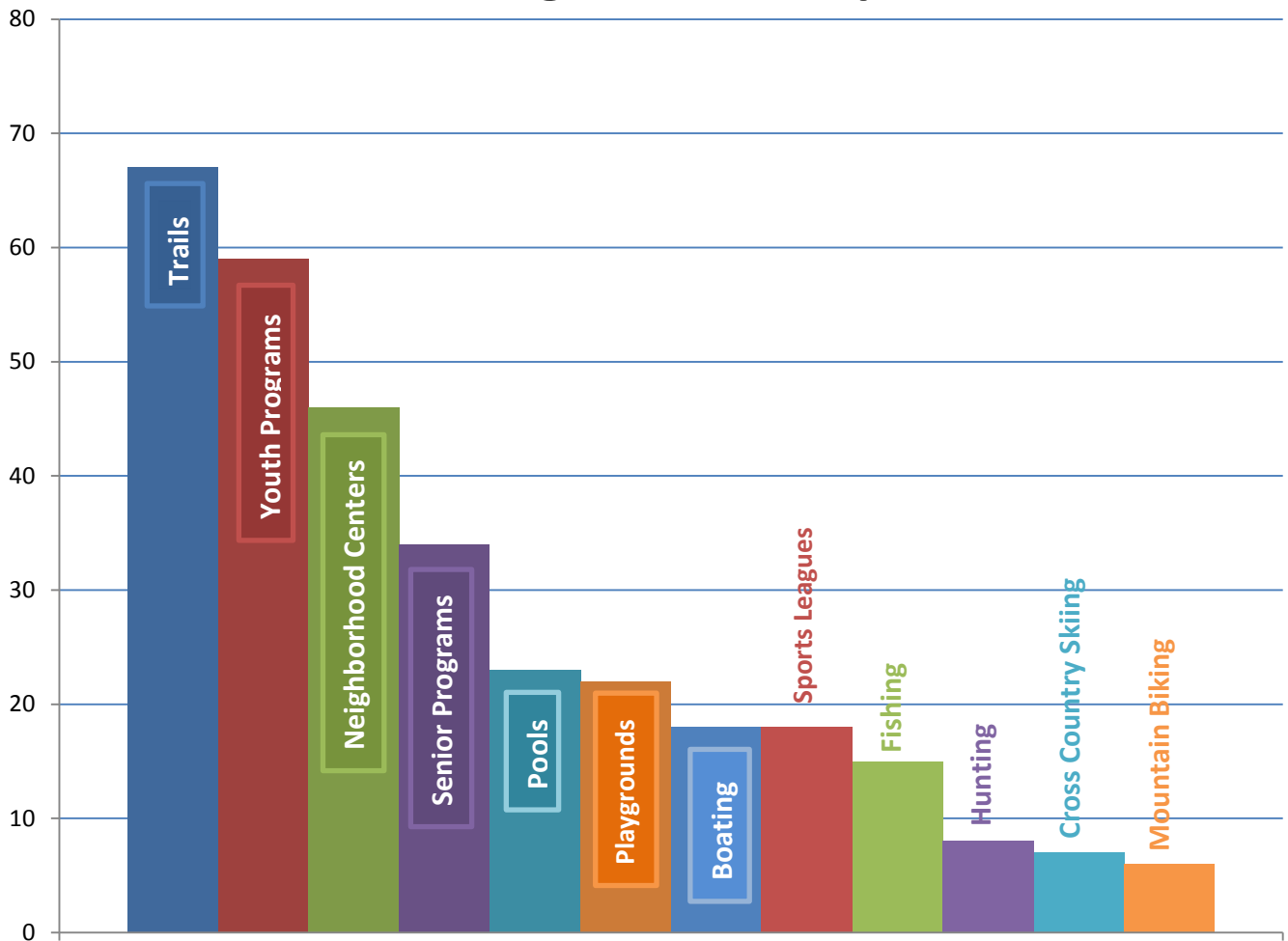


How important are the following to you?

Ranked from 1-13 with 1 being the most important

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Hunting	8	7	5	6	8	11	9	11	21	17	37	42	120
Fishing	15	18	14	14	19	18	23	31	38	32	30	50	3
Mountain Biking	6	16	12	9	10	23	22	29	30	33	35	52	30
Youth Programs	59	32	34	33	32	29	14	11	19	11	11	10	13
Playgrounds	22	35	42	52	44	31	30	15	21	12	4	2	2
Pools	23	43	48	33	35	33	31	29	18	8	7	3	1
Beaches	12	17	41	42	39	45	27	39	15	21	8	8	2
Trails	67	38	38	39	31	19	21	21	10	13	12	4	7
Neighborhood Centers	46	42	22	22	29	30	29	26	17	20	16	15	8
Sports Leagues	18	21	15	23	22	15	31	32	28	22	25	30	20
Cross Country Skiing	7	7	14	12	10	23	22	29	30	33	35	52	30
Boating	18	20	22	15	15	16	32	21	40	34	39	22	14
Senior Programs	34	32	17	19	31	17	19	27	21	22	22	22	43
Total	335	328	324	319	315	310	303	301	300	301	301	301	300

Ranking of most Important



Recommended Action Strategies

Goals and Objectives

Parks and Facilities

Parks

International Friendship Gardens

Ball Fields & Sport Complexes

Pools

Beaches

Neighborhood Centers

Boat Landings & Marinas

Cemeteries

Trails

Hixon Forest

Mobil Oil Site

The Blufflands

Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh



Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives provide the framework for guiding future recreation needs for City of La Crosse residents. These goals and objectives will serve as a guide for the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department's annual budget, capital plans, and work plans. These goals will be worked on over the course of the next five years. Each goal was taken into consideration by looking at the assessment needs of the city and the public input.

The Department considers priorities, issues, and strategies for each goal using the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2016-2020, which was prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Department goals listed below are not listed in order of importance.

Goal A: Continue to Evaluate and Update Existing City Parks, Facilities, Trails, and Natural Areas to meet Developing Growth Patterns.

- Objective 1: Project future growth patterns and recreational needs.
- Objective 2: Periodically conduct a survey of City of La Crosse residents to solicit public input regarding park and recreation needs.
- Objective 3: Identify the needs of residents at all age levels and physical barriers.
- Objective 4: Provide a variety of parks and recreation facilities that address current needs and emerging trends (e.g., dog parks, community gardens, ice facilities, tennis facilities, etc.).

Goal B: Develop Policies and Procedures for Public use of Parks, Facilities, Trails, and Natural Areas.

- Objective 1: Annually review park ordinances and policies for parks, trails, facilities, and natural areas.
- Objective 2: Develop policies and procedures for the use and care of parks, trails, facilities, and natural areas.
- Objective 3: Develop a comprehensive Forest Management Plan.
- Objective 4: Improve park signage.

Goal C: Cooperate and Coordinate with Neighboring Cities, Villages, Towns, Counties, and Property Owners to Provide Recreational Activities, Education, and Preservation of Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources for the Enjoyment and Benefit of all Citizens.

- Objective 1: Provide assistance with park and recreation planning services to local municipalities.
- Objective 2: Utilize, when practical, a multi-jurisdictional approach to acquiring and developing outdoor recreation facilities, and land.

Goal D: Update Trails Strategic Plans.

- Objective 1: By 2017 the City of La Crosse will update the strategic plans for each trail system (e.g. Hixon, Upper Hixon, Marsh, and Riverfront Trails).

Goal E: Continue to Provide and Enhance Public Access to La Crosse Recreational Lands and Waters.

- Objective 1: Continue to develop a regional interactive mapping system showing all public lands and water access points within the city lands available by a free app for data phones and devices.
- Objective 2: Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities, and opportunities available within the La Crosse Area.
- Objective 3: Continue to meet Americans with the Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility throughout parks, programs, facilities, and recreation.

Goal F: Conserve Wetlands, Urban Forests, Bluff lands, Rural Landscapes and Forests through Partnerships and Incentives.

- Objective 1: Encourage large-scale land conservation partnership projects.
- Objective 2: Continue to support the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative for habitat conservation and protection.
- Objective 3: Maintain the health of the urban forest, tree species planted in the park will be mixed, with no more than 20% from the same family, no more than 10% from the same genus, and no more than 5% from the same species.
- Objective 4: Increase the number of bird species in the city, park plantings will include deciduous canopy & understory trees, shrub layers, evergreens, forbs, grasses, and sedges.
- Objective 5: Increase the number of pollinators and beneficial insect species in the city, at least 30% of the woody species and 75% of the herbaceous species planted in the park will be native to the La Crosse area.

Goal G: Promote Outdoor Recreation as a Means of Improving Public Health.

- Objective 1: Promote activities that offer health benefits of moderate and enjoyable physical activities for all ages, such as walking, biking, nature study, etc.
- Objective 2: Start a dialogue between Outdoor Recreation Alliance, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, and public outdoor recreation providers and local health agencies to identify other (non-traditional) funding sources for recreational facilities and development.

Goal H: Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces.

- Objective 1: Create and enhance a new generation of safe, clean, accessible, and connected great urban parks, and community green spaces.
- Objective 2: create tree canopy coverage at maturity will be at least 35% of the total park area.
- Objective 3: Continue to apply for funding to communities through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to acquire and develop local parks and greenway spaces.

Parks & Facilities

Parks

- Badger/Hickey
- Bluffview Park
- Burns
- Cameron
- Civic Center
- Chad Erickson Park & Vietnam Veteran's Pond
- Clayton E. Johnson
- Copeland
- Crowley
- Diagonal
- Erickson
- Farnam
- Glendale
- Goose Green
- Goose Town
- Grandad Bluff
- Green Island
- Hass
- Highland
- Houska
- International Friendship Gardens
- Leuth
- Little Houska
- Merry Meadows
- Myrick
- Pettibone
- Poage
- Powell
- Red Cloud
- Riverside
- Roellig
- Roesler
- Schuh
- Seminary
- Sherwood
- Springbrook
- Starlite
- Tower
- Trane
- Triangle
- Verchota
- Veteran's Freedom
- Weigent
- Wittenberg

Ball Fields & Sports Complexes

- Bluffview Ball Fields
- Carroll Ball Field
- Copeland Ball Field
- Copeland Softball Field
- Erickson Ball Fields
- Goose Green Ball Field
- Green Island Ball Field
- Houska Ball Field
- Leuth Ball Field
- Leuth Skate Park
- Powell Ball Field
- Trane Ball Field
- Weigent Ball Field
- Green Island Ice Arena
- Forest Hills Golf Course

Pools

- Erickson Pool
- Memorial Pool
- Northside Community Pool

Beaches

- Black River Beach
- Pettibone Beach

Community Centers

- Black River Beach Neighborhood Center
- Myrick Park Center
- South Side Neighborhood Center

Boat Landings & Marinas

- 7th Street Landing
- East Copeland Landing
- Municipal Landing
- Municipal Marina
- Veterans Point Marina
- Veterans Freedom Park Landing

Cemeteries

- Campbell Cemetery
- Oehler Cemetery

Forests & Trail Systems

- Lower Hixon Forest Trails
- Upper Hixon Forest Trails
- Cross Country Ski Trails
- Marsh Trails
- City Trails
- Mountain Bike Trails

Contract Operations

- Boat Houses- Individually contracted to owners.
- Copeland Park Ball Field- Partially maintained and managed by the Northwood's League – La Crosse-Loggers.
- Forest Hills Golf Course- Managed by Kemper Sports Management, INC.
- Green Island Hockey Arena- Maintained by the Coulee Region Chill Hockey team.
- Julia Bell Swain- Managed by Julia Bell Swain Inc.
- La Crosse Queen- Managed by La Crosse Queen Cruises/ La Crosse Queen LLC.
- Municipal Boat Harbor- Managed by La Crosse Municipal Harbor INC.
- Pettibone Boat Club- Managed and maintained by Pettibone Boat Club.
- Pettibone Campground- Managed by Pettibone Resort LLC.

Surplus Lands

PROPERTY ADDRESS	SIZE	PARCEL NUMBER
1827 22nd Street South	.548 acres	17-50098-40
2225 Horton Street	.337 acres	17-50105-140
2421 Hengel Court	1.47 acres	17-50240-450
2600 29th Street South	207' X 170'	17-50114-10
3720 Easter Road	1.831 acres	17-50201-80
4700 Northbrook Road	1.577 acres	17-10406-260
800 Moore Street	.5333 acres	17-10281-30
Lot between 3182/3202 29th Court	140' X 65'	NA

In regards to the surplus lands, the Department is looking into all options for the best usage of these spaces.

Facility Analysis – Parks

Badger/Hickey

History

Badger/Hickey Park is located on the corner of Palace Street and Charles Street on the Northside of La Crosse behind Shopko. Badger/Hickey Park began with the establishment of a playground in 1959. Six years later the city constructed a shelter (1965). Five acres was purchased for another addition to the park in 1968. One year later, a fence was installed around the park. In 1978 the fence was removed. Today the park is 2.82 acres and features a playground, shelter, basketball court, volleyball area, and plenty of open space.



Amenities

- Restrooms
- Enclosed Shelter -Electricity
- Basketball Court
- Playground

Needs Assessment

2018 Park Renovation, Shelter, and Playground (\$450,000)

Bluffview

History

Bluffview Park was acquired by the City of La Crosse in 1957 for the Board of Education. The planned use of the 6.3 acre parcel was for a future elementary school. Under a lease agreement with the School Board, the Parks, and Recreation Department used the area for skating in the winter and a supervised playground and softball field in the summer. The area was never used for school purposes and became known as the 28th and Jackson St. Playground.



In 1977 a proposal was made and submitted to the City Council to swap Swanson Field (9.8 acres), which was under the jurisdiction of the Board of Park Commissioners, for the School Board's land at 28th and Jackson St. The deal was finalized in 1978.

In 1981 the La Crosse Youth Baseball Independent League paid for and constructed two baseball diamonds. In 2015, two basketball hoops were donated by a community member to the Parks and Recreation Department and installed in the park. Today, the park rests on 6.05 acres and features a playground, tennis courts, two ball fields, batting cages, basketball court, shelter, picnic tables, open area, and a gorgeous view of Grandad Bluff.

Amenities

- Basketball Court
- 2 Ball Fields
- Batting Cages
- Open Air Shelter
- Playground
- Sledding Hill
- 2 Lighted Tennis Courts
- View of Grandad Bluff



Needs Assessment

- Restroom, Storage Structure, Pickleball in 2017 (\$400,000)

Bluffview Neighborhood Association Input

- Installation of benches, trash receptacles, and dog poop station in 2018 (\$7,000)
- Resurface tennis courts – install backboard in 2018 (\$80,000)
- Outdoor fitness equipment for adults in 2018 (\$15,000)
- Lighting throughout park in 2018 (\$20,000)
- Improve ball south ball field in 2018 (\$10,000)
- Walking paths throughout park in 2018 (\$40,000)
- New larger shelter with restrooms in 2018 (\$250,000)
- Update and relocate playground to east side of park for easier access in 2018 (\$160,000)
- Add basketball court with lower hoops for children in 2019 (\$80,000)
- Add outdoor ice skating rink, splash pad, and additional parking in 2019 (\$20,000)
- Add slide in hill and make hill more accessible (graded path, steps) in 2019 (\$40,000)

Burns



History

Burns Park was donated by B. Farnam and Peter Burns. Before being named Burns Park it was known as Seventh Street Park, Main Street Park, and High School Park.

In 1903 the City Council named Burns Park in honor of Timothy Burns, who originally owned the land known as “the second founder of La Crosse”, he was chairman of the first town board, chairman of the first La Crosse County Board, and the first La Crosse County judge. He was elected the third Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin in 1851 and died in office in 1853.

In 1938, a Flagpole was placed in the park with a marker bearing the following inscription:

“To perpetuate the record of the gift of Burns Park to La Crosse by the Honorable Timothy Burns, Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin, 1851-1853. This tablet is erected by his grandchildren in 1938.

The “Lyra” Sculpture has been added in the center of the park. Today the park is 1.145 acres and is a quaint open space in historic downtown La Crosse.

Amenities

- Lighting
- Sculptures
- Walkway
- Irrigation

Cameron

History

Cameron Park is located on 400 King Street in downtown La Crosse. In 1847 the land was purchased by Peter Cameron and then deeded to his brother, Daniel Cameron in 1850. In 1851 it was realized that the deed was incorrectly registered as “Public Square.” The mix up gave both the City of La Crosse and Mr. Cameron claim to the land. Over the next ten years, there were court battles over the land. The City of La Crosse then purchased the park for \$6,000, which was awarded to Cameron’s niece Helen Janet McArthur after the death of Mr. Cameron.

In 1903 the City Council renamed King Street Public Square to Cameron Park, not after Daniel, but after brothers Peter and Angus Cameron.

In 1965 a Ten Commandments plaque was placed in the Northeast part of the park: “Presented to the City of La Crosse by La Crosse Aerie and Auxiliary No. 1254 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles June 1965.” This sparked religious controversy and Cameron Park made its way into the court system again. In 1987, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled that the marker could remain in the park. In August of 2002, the City sold the 440 square feet of land that the monument rests on to the Eagles Club. A fence was later put around the Ten Commandments plaque. Today the park features handicapped accessible walkways, parking, lighting, benches, and is a great shaded green space of 1.5 acres.

Amenities

- Handicapped Accessible
- Lighting
- Walkway
- Canopy
- Playground

Needs Assessment

- A playground will be installed in 2016 (\$65,000)



Civic Center Park

History

Civic Center Park is located on 101 2nd Street North. Civic Center Park was developed in 1980 as part of the Harborview Development. The park is a historical site for the City of La Crosse. A plaque on the West end of the park reads: "Nathan Myrick's original Townsite" Architectural and engineering services for this Harborview Plaza Park were donated by HSR Associates, Inc. of La Crosse, Wisconsin as a community service in 1980.

In 1981 the "Lacrosse Players" sculpture was erected.

"The City of La Crosse was named after the American Indian game which the French christened 'Lacrosse'. On this site hard fought matches were played by the Winnebago peoples. The sculpture was designed and fabricated by sculptor Elmer P. Peterson and dedicated in the year 1981 in the loving memory of my parents Frank and Elizabeth Walda Stern."



Today the park is primarily used as a connecting piece from downtown La Crosse to Riverside Park. The park rests on .67 acres and features a decorative water fountain, clock, historical marker and, sculpture.

Amenities

- Decorative Fountain
- Handicapped Accessible
- Scenic Overlook
- Sculpture

Chad Erickson Park and Vietnam Veteran's Pond

History

Chad Erickson Memorial Park, containing the Vietnam Veteran's Pond, is La Crosse's first new park in nearly 40 years. The park is located 3601 Park Lane. The 22.5 acre park was dedicated on June 14, 2014 and created as a tribute to Chad Erickson, a young outdoor enthusiast who died in 1995 at age 15 after suffering a brain injury during surgery. Special thanks to Barb and Dave Erickson for this generous gift to the La Crosse Area residents. The park is a true community collaboration. It is fully wheelchair accessible and has a specialized playground. A bridge was built across the pond and there are wheelchair accessible platforms for fishing. The pond was dredged, aerated and stocked with fish. Korean War veteran Louis Ferris raised money for a flagpole. The site also contains an open air shelter. It is a place for remembering and celebration.



Amenities

- Fully Accessible Park
- Lighting
- Vietnam Veteran’s Pond
- Trail Access
- Playground
- Picnic Tables
- Canopy
- Fishing
- Memorial Plaque
- Accessible Restrooms

Clayton E. Johnson

History

Clayton E. Johnson Park was originally called Juniper Park, and in 1995 was named after Clayton E. Johnson, who served on the City Council for 24 years. It is located next to Pammel Creek at 4600 33rd Street South on 7.2 acres of land. In 2015 playground equipment was installed after being moved from Poage Park. Today the Park features a playground, basketball court, benches, and open space for recreating.

Amenities

- Playground
- Basketball Court

Needs Assessment

- A park redevelopment plan is scheduled for 2018 (\$ 600,000)

Copeland

History

Copeland Park is located on the Northside of La Crosse on 400 Clinton Street. Frederick Allen Copeland donated 8 acres of land in June 1909. Mr. Copeland was the owner of the La Crosse Lumber Company and a one-time Mayor of La Crosse in the years 1891-1892. Almost 30 years later, in 1936, a wading pool was installed and four lighted tennis courts were added.



In 1963, the Burlington Northern Steam Locomotive and the Milwaukee Road Caboose were placed in the park. The locomotive was built in 1930 by Baldwin Works of Pennsylvania. The engine was used for work on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroads. Railroad crews nicknamed her "Big Alice the Goon." The caboose is a vintage 1889.

Copeland Park is well known for the locomotive and being the Northside Oktoberfest grounds and for housing the Loggers baseball field. Outside of the Oktoberfest and the Loggers, there are many things to do on the 31.125 acre park. There is a playground, two shelters, tennis and basketball courts, fishing, splash pad and ice skating during the winter.

Amenities

- Playground
- Restrooms
- Softball Diamond
- Ice Skating (winter)
- Fishing Pier
- 2 Shelters- Enclosed and Oktoberfest
- Tennis Courts
- Baseball Diamond
- Splash Pad
- Train Locomotive

Needs Assessment

- Replace Shelter, Playground, Splash Park in 2017 (\$850,000)
- Park Redevelopment Plan in 2018 (\$600,000)

Enclosed Shelter

Amenities

- Heated
- Electrical
- Handicapped Accessible
- 15 Indoor tables
- Restroom
- Holds 75 People



Oktoberfest Shelter

Amenities

- Electrical
- Handicapped Accessible
- Lighting
- 35 tables
- Restrooms
- Holds 300 People

Crowley

History

Crowley Park was a neighborhood effort involving the City of La Crosse Parks and Recreation Department and Emerson School. Emerson PTO and the School District of La Crosse worked together to bring this park to life. The park was originally donated by the Crowley family of La Crosse. Today the park neighbors Emerson Elementary School on 2103 Campbell Road and rests on 1.36 acres. Crowley Park was totally restored in 2008 and today its main features include an accessible walkway, gazebo, and playground and drinking fountain.



Amenities

- Handicapped Accessible
- Lighting
- Playground
- Gazebo
- Drinking Fountain

Diagonal

History

Diagonal Park is located at 2935 23rd Street South on .631 acres. This is a small park on the south side of La Crosse. The park features a playground, open area, and benches. Diagonal Park is a great neighborhood park for picnicking and children's play.

Amenities

- Playground

Erickson

History

Erickson Park started with the purchase of the land in 1920. This land was originally used as an airport, Salzer Field. In 1932, La Crosse decided to abandon Salzer Field for a site on French Island.

It was suggested that the land should be used for a school, playground, and a small park. Edwin E. Erickson, Edward Newburg and Larry G. Schafer ideas for the field were to someday establish a professional baseball team.



A pool and bathhouse was constructed on the eastern end of the field in 1965. Within a 13 year span, sidewalks and landscaping were installed within the two acres adjacent to the pool (1966), two lighted tennis courts and one practice court (1977), and two ball diamonds with one being complete with lights and an outfield fence of 270' (1978) were all constructed. A new "zero-depth" pool replaced the original pool in 2003. Although the park is known for the pool, there are many other things that are available at the park today. Features include an aquatic center, two ball fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts. Today the park rests on 9.14 acres at 2400 Losey Blvd.

Amenities

- 2 Lighted Ball Fields
- Basketball Court
- Batting Cages
- Climbing Structure
- Pool
- Splash Pad
- Restrooms
- Concessions

Needs Assessment

- Field Renovations (Artificial Turf infields E1 & E2, New seating E1 & E2, New lights E1, New Fencing in 2017 (\$750,000)
- Concessions/Storage/Restroom Facility in 2019 (\$250,000)

Farnam

History

Farnam Park is located at 1305 7th Street South. The City purchased lots from John A. Salzer Seed Company in 1938 to build tennis courts with WPA labor. This is a neighborhood park of .34 acres where people can recreate using the lighted basketball courts and two lighted tennis courts.

Amenities

- Lighted Tennis/ Basketball Courts
- Drinking Fountain
- Bench Swing

Glendale

History

Glendale Park is located at 2600 29th Street South. The property rests on .810 acres and this neighborhood park include a basketball court and playground.

Amenities

- Basketball Court
- Playground

Goose Green & South Goose Green

History

Goose Green Park is located at 1031 St. Andrew Street on the Northside of La Crosse. This park features a ball field, shelter, restrooms and a playground on its 2.31 acres.

Amenities

- Ball Field
- Restrooms
- Open Air Shelter- Polygon
- Playground

Needs Assessment

- Monitor to Goose Green Park Trail in 2017 (\$450,000)
- Redevelopment into Neighborhood Park in 2017 (\$400,000)

Goose Town

History

The Park is known as far back as 1880 as Lover’s Lane. In 1932 the lawns were seeded and three small flower beds were installed. In 1985 the small piece of land was designated as a historical site called Goose Town Park. The park is located at 1270 La Crosse Street. This .51 acre park is ideal for students and faculty traveling to and from the University of La Crosse.

Amenities

- Historical Plaque
- Walk Way

Grandad Bluff

History

Grandad Park opened in 1912. Grandad Bluff is the largest bluff at 1,172 feet in the La Crosse area and is well-known for its scenic overlook of La Crosse. In addition to enjoying the breath-taking view, you can explore several bluff side hiking trails. Since the top of Grandad Bluff can be seen from most points in the city, it's home to twice-yearly fireworks celebrations--one on Independence Day and one on New Year's Eve.



One hundred years after originally being dedicated as a park, Grandad Bluff Park had a grand re-opening in 2012. The park underwent a major renovation in 2011 which included: slope stabilization on the eroding cliff faces, a historic restoration of the 1938 shelter returning it to its original condition, the scenic overlook was re-built, new fencing and bathrooms were added, and the park was made ADA compliant. In 2013 it was awarded the American Public Works Association Project of the Year. In 2015 a sculpture of Mrs. Ellen Pennell Hixon, who was instrumental in obtaining funding to save the bluff from quarrying and preserve it as a park, was dedicated. This Sculpture is located at the top of the bluff and is a tourist attraction in itself.

Amenities

- Handicapped Accessible
- Map of La Crosse
- Historically Restored Open Shelter
 - Electrical
 - Fireplace
 - Lighted
- Scenic Overlook
- Picnic Tables
- Restrooms
- Trails
- Flag
- Mrs. Ellen Pennell Hixon Sculpture

Needs Assessment

- Invasive Species Management

Green Island

History

Green Island Park is located on 2312 7th Street South on the south side of La Crosse behind Gundersen Health System. The Park rests on 11.5 acres and has something for everyone, but what it is most known for is the ice arena and the worker's memorial grove. The Ice Arena is home to the hockey team Coulee region Chill and the La Crosse Parks and Recreation uses this space for figure skating and Winter Rec Fest activities.

Amenities

- Gazebo
- Handicapped Accessible trail
- Ball Field
- Workers Memorial
- Ice Arena

Needs Assessment

- Increase Parking at Ice Arena in 2019 (\$75,000)
- Curling Rink in 2019 (\$1,000,000)



Hass Park

History

In the early 1950's the land was donated to the Town of Shelby by Ed Hass, Sr. The area that is now Hass Park once held a race track and a lagoon. The land was then later annexed by the city, filled in and developed into a park. Hass Park is located on 3115 Elm Drive on 4.2 acres. The space is utilized for its open space, basketball court, shelter, picnic tables and playground.

Amenities

- Open Space
- Shelter
- Playground
- Basketball Court

Needs Assessment

- General Park Lighting in 2019 (\$100,000)

Highland

History

Highland Park is located on the Southside of La Crosse on Highland Street and 25th Street South. This is a small neighborhood park that features a playground on .07 acres.

Amenities

- Playground

Houska

History

Houska Park opened in 1937. Formerly known as Isle La Plume Park, Houska Park is located on 905 Joseph Houska Drive slightly south of downtown La Crosse alongside the Mississippi river.

Houska Park began as a gift to the City of La Crosse in December 1909. John Paul Lumber Company and C.L. Colman Lumber Company gave the entire tract of land known as "Isle La Plume."



In 1947, the parks name was changed from Isle La Plume to Houska Park. The parks control was transferred from the Department of Public Works to the Park Department in 1951. After a few years of control, the Parks Department had an open shelter with a three story tower (for the view of the river) constructed (1968).

In 2013, a dog park was added to Houska Park along the outfield of the ball diamond. The dog park includes a fenced in play area of 5 acres, waste disposal supplies, and dog drinking fountain.

Today the park features a playground, shelter, softball field, horseshoes, and plenty of open space on 13.83 acres of land.



Amenities

- Open Air Shelter
- Open Space
- Restrooms
- Scenic Overlook
- Ball Field
- Horseshoe Pits
- Picnic Tables
- Dog Park
- 3 Story Tower

Needs Assessment

- Dog Park Improvements in 2017 (\$150,000)

Washburn Neighborhood Association Input

- More benches overlooking the Mississippi River
- Add a walking path through the park
- Improve landscaping and grass
- Improved access & parking

Leuth

History

The skate park was opened and dedicated in September, 1999. The entire skate park encompasses approximately 21,000 square feet and includes the following elements: large quarter pipe, pyramid, wall ride, quarter pipe wall ride, pool, secondary stage, multi-level stage, and 14' half pipe. In addition to the skate park there is a playground, shelter, softball field, and open space.



Amenities

- Ball Field
- Open Air Shelter
- Sledding Hill
- Restrooms
- Skate Park
- Picnic Tables

Needs Assessment

- Skate park improvements in 2017 (\$75,000)

Little Houska

History

Little Houska is one of the first and is the smallest park in the City of La Crosse at .038 acres. It is located on a small triangle of land at 400 Farnam Street near Gundersen Health System on the south side of La Crosse.

Merry Meadows

History

Merry Meadows is located at 4200 Meadowlark Lane on .711 acres. This is a small neighborhood park utilized by residents of the area. The park was acquired when the City of La Crosse annexed a portion of the Town of Medary. The existing park remained park land and improvements have been made over the years. Today the park features a ball field, playground, and shelter.

Amenities

- Open Air Shelter
- Playground

Needs Assessment

- New Shelter in 2020 (\$200,000)

Myrick

History

In October of 1873, the City of La Crosse bought 20 acres from Fanny Strasberger. This land was known as Lake Park and popular for its "Turtle Mounds." In 1903, the park was renamed to Myrick Park, after the first La Crosse settler Nathan Myrick. Myrick Park is well known for Kids Coulee Playground, shelters, tennis courts, trail access, a dog park, and plenty of open space. A couple years later in 1906, the music pavilion was erected at a cost of \$800, plus \$500 for electricity and sprinklers (the facility was demolished in 1974).



Kids Coulee Playground was built by volunteers in 1994. This state-of-the-art playground located in Myrick Park was built by over 3,700 volunteers and more than \$190,000 was donated to make this dream a reality. It includes a variety of play structures and an amphitheater that is unique in the country and challenges children of all abilities. Kids Coulee is open, depending on weather, beginning mid-March from 8:00AM until dark.

Amenities

- Kids Coulee Playground
- Amphitheater
- 2 Shelters (enclosed)
- Open Space
- Myrick Park Center
- Tennis Courts (2)
- Restrooms
- Drinking Fountains
- Picnic Tables
- Tree Identification
- Trail Access

Needs Assessment

- Kids Coulee Renovations in 2016 (\$100,000)
- Kids Coulee Renovations in 2017 (\$1,000,000)
- Main Shelter Improvements in 2018 (\$200,000)
- Gun Club Renovations in 2019 (\$50,000)

Myrick Park Community, Inc. Input

- Restore duck house in 2017
- Build a concession stand in 2018
- Construct small petting zoo in 2018
- Contract kiddy ride boat operations in 2020
- Playground equipment (swings, splash pad) in 2020
- Build animal sanctuary facility in 2021

GENA Neighborhood Association Input

- Myrick Park master plan in 2018 (\$100,000)
- Barn upgrade for public use in 2018 (\$120,000)
- Tennis courts resurfacing, fencing, and lights in 2019 (\$150,000)

Pettibone

History

Pettibone Park started as land in the State of Minnesota. In 1857, Alzono Barron filed plans with Houston County for “Island City” a design for an attractive well plotted out city, but these plans never developed. Buffalo Bill Cody owned land on Barron Island during the late 1800’s as well. Around the same time, “White Beaver” Powell bought four acres of the island, reviving the dream of the “Island City”, but nothing developed (1885).



Barron Island was acquired by A.W. Pettibone for \$62,000 in 1901. In July of the same year Mr. Pettibone deeded Barron Island to the Pettibone Park Commission for \$1.00 to oversee that this land would be used as a public park for citizens of La Crosse. Along with the land, Mr. Pettibone set up a \$50,000 trust fund to be used for the upkeep and park development. In 1904, a bathhouse was constructed through the efforts of G. A. Keller, at a cost of \$1,200.

In 1918 an act of Congress transferred the land to the state of Wisconsin. Just one year later in 1919, the land was annexed by the City of La Crosse as part of the City’s Second Ward.



A memorial rock was placed by the pavilion in honor of A.W. Pettibone in 1922. The following is wording on the memorial rock:

“This tablet is here, placed by honored citizen Albert Wells Pettibone. Mr. Pettibone made this a park, and in the year of 1901, gave it to the city, together with generous fund for its maintenance.”

In 1926, a Mediterranean eclectic revival styled bathhouse designed by Otto Merman opened at the cost of \$28,455. Four years later, a lagoon bridge was also

built. After the lagoon warming house and bridge were built, the La Crosse Recreation Department fishing derby began, which was renamed the Babe Weigent Derby in 1945.

A stone monument was erected at the entrance of the park in 1950. The monument wording is as follows: “In honor of Albert Wells Pettibone the donor of this park. Erected by his grandsons, John S. Pettibone and Wilson N. Pettibone 1950.”

Today this park features 160 acres of open space for leisure and recreation.

Amenities

- Beach
- Drinking Fountain
- Fishing Dock
- Volleyball Courts
- Disc Golf Course
- Canoe/ Kayak Launch
- Open Space
- Lagoon
- View of Mississippi
- Shelters
- Gazebo
- Natural Area

Needs Assessment

- Canoe/Kayak Storage Facility in 2016 (\$150,000)
- Fishing Pier in 2016 (\$50,000)

Poage

History

George C. Poage Park, originally named Hood Park, was opened in 1909 and is located on the south side of La Crosse at 500 Hood Street. This park is filled with activities from ice skating in the winter to a large open field in the summer and is located less than a block away from the South Side Neighborhood Center. This 1.1 acre plot of land was purchased from the Michel Brewing Company in 1909. One year after the Board of Park Commissioners was created and was working on establishing a comprehensive park system. Hood Park was designed to have an open field area for games and skating, with a shelter to be constructed as a warming house. In 1910, the skating shelter house was constructed. In 1969, a fence was installed around the park. In June 2013 the name of the park was officially changed from Hood Park to George C. Poage Park.



George C. Poage was the first black American athlete to medal in an Olympic games. Poage came to La Crosse in 1884 at the age of 4 and was an 1899 graduate of La Crosse High School, the second highest in his class. He went on and became a track star at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Shortly after college graduation Poage won a pair of bronze medals in the 200 and 400 meter low hurdles at the 1904 Olympic Games.

The Poage project is expected to cost \$1.3 Million and replace the existing buildings and playground equipment. Sculpture by Elmer Peterson has been commissioned, and shows four separate renditions of Poage as he clears a hurdle.

Amenities

- Heated Shelter
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Drinking Fountain
- Sculpture
- Winter Ice Skating Rink

Powell

History

The City of La Crosse purchased the land for Powell Park, in 1909, from Dr. George and Dr. Will Powell . They were the brothers of Dr. Frank Powell, also known as White Beaver, who was elected four times to be the mayor of La Crosse in the 1880's and 1890's. The park, originally known as the West Avenue Playfield, was one of the areas designed by John Nolan in his 1911 report "The Making of a Park System in La Crosse ". The Park Board changed the name to Powell Park in 1958, and whether it was after the former land owners, or his more well- known brother is not clear. The distinctive fountain donated to the City by Dr. Frank Powell in 1890 was moved from its original downtown location to the park in 1971. The fountain was damaged at the park location, eventually rebuilt by volunteers at Trane Company, and is now displayed in the lobby of City Hall. The South Branch Library had been located at the southeastern part of the park, and was relocated when the new library building was built in 1952.

Amenities

- Playground
- Restrooms
- Shelter
- Open Area

Needs Assessment

- Redesign Neighborhood Park in 2016 (\$400,000)

Red Cloud

History

Red Cloud Park opened in 1953 and is located 530 Powell Street. The 6.9 acres of park includes a playground, shelter, tennis, basketball court, trails, and open space. Red Cloud Park began as a picnic area in 1953. In 1956, three and one half lots were acquired by the city for \$1,200. On May 10th, the name of the park was changed to Red Cloud Park in honor of CPL Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr., who had died in Korea, winning the Congressional Medal of Honor.



A shelter house was built in 1958. The Park Department put in the cement floor and a plaque on the building's fireplace that reads:

"Labor on this memorial building, at this historical site, was donated by La Crosse Building and Construction Trades members 1957-1958."

In 1980, tennis courts were added. Three years later, 1983, the park was officially linked to the R.A.B.B.I.T. Trail. Just one year after that, 1984, the fencing was replaced around the parking lot and driveway.

In 2013, the shelter was renovated and new restroom facilities were installed, making the shelter ADA compliant. A new paved walking path was installed throughout the park.

Amenities

- Playground
- Horseshoe Pits
- Basketball Court
- Tennis Courts
- Trails
- Handicapped Accessible
- Enclosed Shelter
 - Electrical
 - Fireplace
 - Lighting
 - Picnic Tables
 - Restrooms

Needs Assessment

- Improvements in 2017 (\$300,000)

Riverside

History

Riverside Park, originally called Levee Park, opened in 1911 and is located off the Mississippi River and in downtown La Crosse. Riverside Park is well known for hosting Riverfest, the Rotary lights, being a docking station for the Mississippi Queen and many Mississippi River steamboats. Riverside Park began as an idea in 1908, when Dr. Wendell A. Anderson, the Mayor of La Crosse, pushed for the development of a large river side park west of Front Street. \$75,000 was to be used for land acquisition, dredge fill and the development of the park.



In 1910, the land was purchased from the Milwaukee Road Railroad and private owners, Silas Oatsman, Gustave Kaeppler, Isidore Shilling, Spence McCord Drug Co., James Hogan, Emil Mueller, La Crosse Milling Co., and J.M. Holley. One year later, the contract for dredge fill was awarded to the La Crosse Dredging Company for \$43,000. Dredging started that year. It was dedicated as Levee Park.

A Cannon was placed in the park, July 1918, as a memorial to the USS Main, which was destroyed in Havana Harbor. A memorial band stand was built in honor of Dr. Wendell A. Anderson in 1930. "The Big Indian" or "Hiawatha", sculpted by Anthony Zimmerhagl with the help of his sons, was placed in the park in 1962.

In 1983, Riverfest which celebrates the 4th of July begins. Riverfest is a family fun fest with food, beverages and entertainment in Riverside Park. The sculpture "Anidont" (man and dog abstract in steel) was set in the south end of the park. The art work was sculpted and donated by Luis Arata, from New England, because he was inspired by the beauty of the La Crosse area. Three years later this sculpture was moved to Myrick Park. Park Board authorized an eagle sculpture to be placed in the park at the end of State Street in 1986. It was designed and sculpted by Elmer Petersen and donated by D.B. Reinhardt. In 2003 the Hoeschler Fountain was rebuilt. In 2006 local artist Mike Martino created a sculpture of two children and dog overlooking the Mississippi River "A Simpler Time.

Amenities

- Scenic View
- Fountain
- Restrooms
- Band Shell
- Sculptures
- La Crosse Visitor & Convention Bureau
- River Walk

Needs Assessment

- Fountain renovation in 2017 (\$1,400,000)
- Transient Boat Dock in 2016 (\$150,000)
- Band shell Project in 2016(\$400,000)
- Canoe/Kayak Landing in 2017 (\$100,000)
- Transient Boat Dock in 2017 (\$400,000)
- Transient Docks in 2018 (\$405,000)
- Band shell Project in 2017 (\$400,000)



Roellig

History

Roellig park is located on 800 Losey Blvd. N. This park is primarily used for its green space of 4 acres. Roellig Park was part of the original Hixon forest and Grandad Bluff gift to the City by Joseph and Irene Hixon in 1912. This was part of the “Hixon Reserve”. After highway 16 was moved to the east in 1931 the 4 acre parcel was cut off from the rest of the tract. It was known as the highway 16 triangle, until 1951, when then city council voted to name the park after 11th ward Alderman William P. Roellig, who was on the council for 41 years.

GENA Neighborhood Association Input:

- Nature trail in 2018 (\$60,000)

Roesler

History

Roesler Park is located on County Road MM on 24 acres. Roesler Park features a playground, gazebo, open space, and Mormon Creek flowing through it.

Amenities

- Playground
- Mormon Creek
- Gazebo

Needs Assessment

- Trout Stream and ADA Trail Development in 2017 (\$400,000)

Schuh

History

Schuh Park is located on 2225 Horton Street on .34 of an acre. Schuh Park was included as a playground in the Schuh addition when it was platted in 1951. The park includes a sidewalk connecting Horton Street to Weston Street.

Seminary

History

Seminary Park is located at 3349 East Ave South on 3.1 acres. Seminary Park came with the Seminary Park Addition. It was platted September 14, 1978. This park features a playground and picnicking area.

Amenities

- Playground

Sherwood Manor

History

Sherwood Manor Park was formed in 1969 with the Sherwood Manor Addition. Sherwood Manor is located at 3200 Scarlett Drive on 3.4 acres. Sherwood Manor features a playground, and open space for recreating.

Amenities

- Playground
- Open Space

Springbrook

History

Springbrook Park is located on 3519 Springbrook Way on 1.2 acres. In 2016 neighbor Lee Allen built an open air shelter & horseshoe pits.

Amenities

- Playground
- Open Air Shelter

Needs Assessment

- Shelter 2016 (\$30,000)
- Playground relocated from Powell Park in 2016

Springbrook Neighborhood Association Input

- Restrooms, benches, bike racks & trees in 2018 (\$20,000)
- Handicap picnic tables in 2018 (\$5,000)
- Splash pad for 2018 (\$20,000)

Starlite

History

Starlite Park is located at 2421 Hengel CT resting on 1.3 acres of land. This land used to be a drive-in theater before being acquired by the City of La Crosse in 1982 and turned into a park.

Amenities

- Playground
- Open Space

Tower

History

South Community Library – Tower Park. Tower Park is composed of four lots totaling to 1.4 acres. Today Tower Park is located on 1616 Farman Street adjacent to the South Community Library. This park features two playgrounds. One designed to encourage fitness activities and one for child’s play.

Amenities

- Playground

Needs Assessment

- New swings, benches, and Landscaping in 2017 (\$50,000)
- Shelter and Splash Pad in 2018 (\$220,000)

Trane

History

Trane Park is located on 1500 Chase Street. Trane Park was originally known as 21st Ward Playfield. In 1940 tennis courts were added to the park. By 1951 the name of 21st Ward Playfield was changed to Trane Park in honor of Reuben Trane and family. Reuben graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison with a degree in mechanical engineering. He later went on to incorporate The Trane Company that is now located in La Crosse, WI.

The 6 acre park was developed from 1952 to 1954 with grading, tree planting, installation of a watering system, and construction of a shelter and a splash pad. Development of the park was greatly assisted by a gift of \$35,000 from Trane Company. Also in 1954 playground apparatus was installed, with a \$1,000 donation from Trane Employees Federal Credit Union.

Amenities

- Shelter
- Lighted Tennis Courts (2)
- Splash Pad
- Ball Field
- Playground

Needs Assessment

- Design and built Inclusive Park in 2017 (\$3,500,000)



Triangle

History

Triangle Park previously known as Coulee Park is located at 2101 Coulee Drive on the Southside of La Crosse. This is a small park of .3 of an acre featuring a playground, picnic tables, and parking.

Amenities

- Playground

Verchota

History

Verchota Park was formed in 1949 as park of the Verchotta Addition. Verchota is a small half acre park located at 1827 22nd Street South near Central High School. This park is primarily used by neighborhood residents for leisure and recreation.

Amenities

- Playground
- Walkway

Veterans Freedom

History

Veterans Freedom Park, previously known as West Copeland Park at 100 Clinton Street, was designated as a park by the City of La Crosse in 2008. The site rests on 30.33 acres of land and is an island that was one of the City of La Crosse's original landfills.

Amenities

- Boat Launch
- Marina
- Tank Memorial

Needs Assessment

- Marina Addition in 2016 (\$70,000)
- Korean Veteran Memorial tree 2016 (\$20,000)
- Electricity & Water to Boat Houses in 2017 (\$250,000)
- Site Restoration, Gazebo/ Boat Landing in 2018 (\$355,000)

Weigent

History

Weigent Park began when the Central High School was vacated in 1967. On November 10, 1971 the school board approved selling the site.

The City of La Crosse razed the building at a cost of \$24,975 in 1972. The City then made an offer of \$79,000 for the site, out of which the expense of razing it would be credited. In November 1975, the City of La Crosse approved the development of old Central High land into a park. La Crosse's new park was named Weigent Park in honor of Walter "Babe" Weigent (1904-1972) former coach and athletic director at Central High School.



Weigent Park creates a wonderful atmosphere for families. The park has a playground, shelter, tennis court, softball field, and plenty of open space.

Staffing

Weigent Park has a summer playground program supervised by city employees. Children and staff engage in play and recreation activities.

Amenities

- Shelter
- Ball Field
- Lighted Tennis Courts
- Drinking Fountain
- Open Space
- Playground
- Bench Swing
- Memorial Plaque

Needs Assessment

- Babe Weigent Statue donated in 2017
- **Weigent Hogan Neighborhood Association Input- Park Upgrade in 2018 (1,500,000)**
 - Shelter & Bathroom Renovation for all season
 - Playground Replacement – ADA compliant, poured surface, climbing feature
 - Upgrade lighting to reduce light pollution
 - Rework fields: Ball Diamond replace fencing & seating
 - Green Space: Irrigation system, drainage
 - Reno Tennis courts/ Pickle ball
 - Add splash park
 - ADA compliant permeable walking paths
 - Upgrade: water fountain- dog fountain, benches, grills, and bike racks
 - Landscaping – natural seating
 - Shade structure

Wittenberg

History

Wittenburg Park, located at 2940 George Street, comprises 8.6 acres of land acquired in 1978 from a land swap with the La Crosse Housing Authority. The park was named after Henry Wittenburg, a 30 year member of the Park Board. In 1981 the first park amenities were added.

Amenities

- Ball Field
- Electrical
- Handicapped Accessible
- Shelter
- Sledding Hill
- Lighting

International Friendship Gardens

History

La Crosse enjoys thriving relationships with sister cities, business partners, students and people from around the world. To celebrate the success of these partnerships, and build a tribute to the culture and traditions of our worldwide friends, local people are working together to create the Riverside International Friendship Gardens in Riverside Park along the banks of the beautiful Mississippi River. The International Friendship Gardens can be found on the Northern end of Riverside Park on 2.7 acres at 410 Veterans Memorial Drive. This is a popular site for professional photographers and weddings.



The first gardens to be planted will represent the style of a typical garden in each sister city. La Crosse's current sister cities are:

- Bantry, Ireland
- Dubna, Russia
- Epinal, France
- Forde, Norway
- Friedberg, Germany
- Luoyang, China
- Cameroon, Kumbo

Additional information about the International Friendship Gardens can be found at <http://www.riversidegardens.org/>



Future Gardens

- The Republic of Cameroon, Kumbo. West Africa in 2018 (\$250,000)
- HoChunk Nation in 2018 (\$250,000)
- Globe Gathering Feature in 2018 for (\$150,000)

Amenities

- Handicapped Accessible
- Water Feature
- Plant Identification
- Open Air Shelter
- Sculptures
- Small Koi Pond
- Scenic overlook of Mississippi and La Crosse River
- Picnic Tables
- Bridge

Ball Fields & Sports Complexes

Bluffview Ball Fields

History

In 1981 the La Crosse Youth Baseball Independent League paid for and constructed two baseball diamonds currently located in Bluffview Park at 2800 Jackson St. In 2015, La Crosse Youth Baseball asked for and was granted permission to install batting cages in the park.

Amenities

- 2 Ball Fields
- Batting Cages



Carroll Ball Field

History

In 1969 the land was already owned by the city. Fifty bids went out for construction of the Park Department's third lighted field. In 1970 the work was completed on the field – 240' outfield fence, backstop, bleachers, parking lot and lights. This was the first ball diamond to benefit from users' fees. In 1979 1,100 cubic yards of fill was added and the field was re-sodded and with cement poured under the bleachers in 1979. In 1984 restrooms and a water fountain were added to the facility. Carroll Field is located at 1717 Marco Drive.

Amenities

- Lighted Ball Field
- Bathrooms
- Shade Structures
- Scoreboard



Needs Assessment

- New Ball Field Installation scheduled for 2016 (Phase 1) (\$120,000)
- Ball Field Renovations in 2018 (Phase 2) (\$200,000)
- Ball Field in 2019 (Phase 3) (\$150,000)
- Softball Complex in 2019 (1,500,000)

Copeland Baseball Field

History

Copeland baseball field is the City's premier baseball facility. Located within the confines of Copeland Park at 800 Copeland Park Drive on La Crosse's Northside, this facility is the home of the La Crosse Loggers Baseball Club, the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse's Baseball Team, and Western Technical College Baseball Team, with additional use by area high school teams. The facility features grandstand seating with a capacity of 3,000, an artificial turf infield, and multiple concessions and beverage stands.



Amenities

- Fully enclosed facility
- Artificial Turf Infield
- Grandstand Seating
- Concessions and Beverage Stands
- Video Scoreboard
- Lighted

Needs Assessment

- Baseball Field improvements scheduled for 2016 (\$700,000)

Copeland Softball Field

History

Copeland Softball Field is located just North of the Copeland Baseball Field within the confines of Copeland Park at the intersection of St. Cloud and Rose Streets. The field is utilized primarily by the Boys and Girls Club of La Crosse for their youth baseball and softball programs.

Amenities

- Bleachers

Erickson Ball Fields

History

The Erickson Ball Fields are the two ball fields located within Erickson Park at 2324 21st Place. These fields feature natural surfaces, lights, and limited bleacher seating. The park also features two full size batting cages, an open air shelter, a concession stand, restrooms, and a storage area.

These fields are used daily throughout the summer months hosting the City's baseball and softball programs. This location is also the primary site for weekend tournament use because of the number of fields available at the location. The NAFA Men's Fast pitch Softball Tournament has been held at Erickson Park for the last two years.



The long term goal for these two fields is to mimic Copeland Baseball Field on a smaller scale, with grandstand style seating and turf infields.

Amenities

- 2 Lighted Fields
- Bleacher Seating
- Storage Area
- Concessions Stand
- Batting Cages
- Scoreboards

Needs Assessment

- Field Renovations (Artificial Turf infields E1 & E2, New seating E1 & E2, New lights E1, New Fencing in 2017 (\$750,000)
- Concessions/Storage/Restroom Facility in 2019 (\$250,000)

Goose Green Ball Field

History

Goose Green ball Field is located at the intersection of St. Andrew and Kane streets on the Northside of La Crosse. The ball field is used by La Crosse Boys and Girls Club for youth sports. In the summer months, the field is used for adult co-rec softball games.

Amenities

- Bleachers

Green Island Ball Field

History

Green Island was dedicated as a park in 1979. In the spring of 1980, there was interest in including an ice rink in the new park. The Common council agreed that a large shelter was needed and could be used as an open-air rink in the winter and for recreation programs in the summer. In January of 1983 the ice arena was built. In 1991, a marble monument, called “Labor’s grove”, was dedicated at the park and memorializes those who lost their lives in the performance of their jobs. Along with the monument, several trees were planted next to the marker.

Green Island Ball Field is located at 2312 7th St S. The field is home to the La Crosse Parks, Recreation & Forestry youth fast pitch softball team for games and practice. Adult Co-Rec softball also utilized this field during the spring and summer months throughout the week. Youth baseball and softball tournaments are held at this facility on some weekends throughout the summer.



Amenities

- Scoreboard
- Bleachers
- Shade Structures

Houska Ball Field

History

Houska Ball Field is located slightly south of downtown La Crosse alongside the Mississippi river. The land for Houska Park was gifted to the City of La Crosse by John Paul Lumber Company and C.L. Colman Lumber Company in December of 1909. The field features natural surfaces, lights, and limited bleacher seating. The field is home to La Crosse Parks, Recreation & Forestry youth baseball games and is also utilized for weekend youth baseball tournaments. Adult softball is played on the field throughout the spring and summer months on weeknight evenings.

Amenities

- Bleachers
- Scoreboard
- Restrooms
- Lighted Ball Field
- Shade Structures

Leuth Ball Field

History

Leuth Ball Field is located near the University of Wisconsin La Crosse campus at 1200 La Crosse Street. Boys and Girls Club of La Crosse uses this field for their youth sports programs. Local church softball teams hold games on this field in the summer.

Amenities

- Bleachers



Weigent Ball Field

History

Weigent Ball Field is located at the intersection of 15th and Chase Street just south of historic Cass Street.

Amenities

- Bleachers
- Restrooms

Forest Hills Golf Course

History

Forest Hills Golf Course was established in 1901 and was originally called the Schaghticoke County Club. The course is currently under the management of KemperSports on the behalf of the City of La Crosse.



Amenities

- 18 Hole Golf Course
- Pro Shop
- PGA Professional Lessons
- Sledding and Cross Country Skiing
- Lighted Tennis Courts (6)

Needs Assessment

- Driving Range Project in 2017 (\$175,000)
- Mainline Drainage in 2016 (\$75,000)
- Well, pond and pump system for irrigation system in 2018 (\$ 1,200,000)
- Cart Paths in 2018 (\$300,000)
- Resurface Tennis Courts in 2018 (\$ 75,000)
- Swimming Pool in 2018 (\$3,500,000)
- Maintenance Storage building in 2018 (\$200,000)
- Clubhouse exterior upgrade in 2018 (\$125,000)

Green Island Ice Arena

History

Green Island Ice Arena is located on 2312 7th St. S. behind Gundersen Health System. Activities offered at this facility include:

- Learn to Skate
- Parent and Tot Skating Lessons
- Figure Skating Club
- Youth Hockey
- Winter Rec Fest
- Curling

Green Island Ice Arena is home to the Coulee Region Chill Hockey Team.

Pools

Erickson Pool

History

Erickson Park began with the purchase of the land in 1920. This land was used for airport, Salzer Field and was previously leased. In 1932, La Crosse decided to abandon Salzer Field for a site on French Island.



Amenities

- Concession Stand
- Diving Board
- Zero-Depth entry
- Lounge Chairs
- Splash Pad
- Water Slides
- Drinking Fountain
- Shaded Canopy

Memorial Pool

History

Work progress administrative project built the pool in 1934. August 1st, 1938 the pool opened to the public. The pool was constructed for \$78,000. The federal Government funded \$31,000 and the city \$47,000.



Amenities

- Pool
- Locker Room
- Ramp
- Drinking Fountain
- Diving Boards
- Concession Stand
- Lounge Chairs
- Shaded Canopy

Needs Assessment

- Feasibility study in 2016 (\$20,000)
- Total replacement in 2017 (\$2,500,000)
- Repair to meet code in 2017 (\$1,000,000)

GENA Neighborhood Association Input:

- Renovate/Repair in 2017/2018 (\$2,500,000/\$2,000,000)

North Side Community Pool

History

North Side Community Pool is located at 816 Sill Street on the Northside of La Crosse. This pool features a large waterslide, diving boards, and water fountains. This pool was created to be accessible with zero-depth entry.

Amenities

- Pool
- Locker Room
- Showers
- Water Slide
- Diving Board
- Concessions
- Canopy
- Zero- Depth Pool Entry

Needs Assessment

- Renovations in 2017 (\$75,000)



Beaches

Black River Beach

History

Black River Beach started as an approval from the council committee to dredge the beach and fill it with 130,000 cubic yards of dredged material in May 1946. The beach opened in June of 1947. A bathhouse was built in 1953 and replaced with the Black River Beach Neighborhood Center in 2010, a 1.3 million dollar multiuse facility.



Amenities

- Restrooms
- Shelter
- 3 regulation sand volleyball courts
- Drinking Fountain
- View of the Mississippi
- Outdoor Showers

Needs Assessment

- Canoe/Kayak/Fishing addition in 2016 (\$50,000)

Pettibone Beach

History

Pettibone Park was opened in 1901 originally being in Minnesota but later became La Crosse property. This park is well known for the beach and view of the Mississippi River.

In 1926, a Spanish colonial style bathhouse designed by Otto Merman opened. The bathhouse was restored in 2001.



Amenities

- Volleyball Courts
- Fishing
- Drinking Fountain
- Showers

Neighborhood Centers

Black River Beach Neighborhood Center

History

The Black River Beach Neighborhood Center is located on La Crosse's Northside at 1433 Rose Street. The Black River Beach is a new facility built in 2010 for 1.3 million dollars and is managed by the City of La Crosse Park and Recreation Department. The facility has a number of rooms that can be reserved for parties, gatherings, business meetings or fitness activities.



Amenities

- Computers Free of Charge
- Drinking Fountain
- Moveable Tables and Chairs
- Meeting Rooms
- Kitchen
- Office Space
- Projection Screen

Myrick Park Center

History

The Myrick Park Center is located in the center of La Crosse, at the North end of Myrick Park at 789 Myrick Park Dr. The building overlooks the Marsh and the wildlife living there. The Myrick Park Center was built in 2009 by Myrick Hixon Eco Park, INC. The building reverted back to the city in 2014 and is managed by the La Crosse Parks and Recreation Department and has been modified to accommodate many different needs. The Myrick Park Center has three rooms that can be rented out for many occasions. The La Crosse Room is great for meetings, while the Marshview Room is better for larger events. Many educational and recreational programs are offered throughout the year. These range from cooking to fitness classes.



Amenities

- Tables
- Internet
- Projection Screen
- Meeting Rooms
- Kitchen
- Moveable tables and chairs
- Office Space

Needs Assessment

- Additional Parking and ADA renovations in 2017 (\$75,000)

South Side Community Center

History

The South Side Neighborhood Center started as a plan to revitalize the Powell-Hood- Hamilton park neighborhood, now renamed the Powell- Poage- Hamilton – Neighborhood Association. The South Side Neighborhood Center is located across from Poage Park on La Crosse’s south side. The South Side Neighborhood Center is a city building managed by the La Crosse Parks and Recreation Department. Opened in 2002, the facility is used for multiple purposes. The neighborhood Center serves as a meeting facility, recreational facility, gathering place, and polling site for the community in addition to being an important resource for the Powell-Poage-Hamilton Neighborhood Association.



Amenities

- 6 Computers free of charge
- Meeting Facility
- Polling Site
- Drinking Fountains
- Moveable tables and chairs

Boat Landings & Marinas

7th Street Landing

History

7th Street Boat Landing is located on the south side of the City of La Crosse at 2300 South 7th Street and is situated just off the main channel of the Mississippi River. The landing has a two lane ramp and has 50 total parking spaces, with 20 additional gravel parking spaces. 7th Street Boat Landing has hosted multiple fishing tournaments and is a great location for smaller events. There is also a canoe/kayak launch south of the landing and a boat spray station for aquatic invasive species prevention.

Amenities

- 2 Lane Boat Ramp
- 50 Parking Stalls
- Canoe/ Kayak Launch
- Boat Spray Station (AIS Prevention)
- Picnic Area
- 20 Gravel Parking Overflow

East Copeland Landing

History

East Copeland Landing is located at the intersection of Clinton and Rose Street on the Northside of La Crosse. The landing has a two lane ramp on the south end and a two lane ramp on the North part of the parking lot. Both landings are located on the Northside of La Crosse and are situated on the Black River. East Copeland Landings have a total of 60 parking stalls; Users have convenient access to Powerhouse Marine, specializing in marine service and sales, Kwik Trip, and local restaurants. The East Copeland Boat Landings receive ample use but are suited more as an overflow for West Copeland Landing.

Amenities

- 2 lane boat ramps on the South and North landing
- Access to Powerhouse Marine, Kwik Trip, and Restaurants

Municipal Landing

History

Municipal Boat Landing is located on Isle la Plume off of Marco Drive and is situated on the main channel of the Mississippi River. The landing is a one lane boat ramp and has 35 total parking spaces. Municipal boat landing is used for Municipal Harbor boat launching and is mostly used by locals of the La Crosse area.

Amenities

- 1 Lane Boat Launch
- Municipal Harbor Access

Veterans Freedom Park Landing

History

Veterans Freedom Park and West Copeland Boat Landing are located on the Northside of the City of La Crosse and is situated on the Black River. The landing has a four lane launch with a total of 100 parking spaces. Veterans Freedom Park hosts over 75 fishing tournaments, including the 2012 and 2013 Bassmaster Elite Series Tournaments.

Amenities

- 4 Lane Boat Launch
- Space utilized for events & community gatherings
- Boat Spray Station
- 100 Parking stalls
- Restrooms
- 12 Slip Transient Docking

Municipal Marina

History

Municipal Marina is located at 1500 Marco Dr. on Isle la Plume. This Marina features 183 boat slips, a gas pump, restrooms, and convenience store.

Amenities

- Gas Pump
- Convenient Store
- 183 Boat Slips
- Restrooms

Needs Assessment

- Dock Replacement in 2017 (\$850,000)

Veterans Point Marina

History

In 2014 Veterans Point Marina was installed. Constructed of top quality materials and with an ADA compliant layout, all 25 slips were leased out in the first year. In 2015 an additional 25 slips were added to the marina and all 50 slips were successfully leased that year. In 2016 an additional 25 slips were added for a total capacity of 75 slips.



Amenities

- 75 Slips
- Water
- Electricity
- Parking
- Lighting
- Handicapped accessible

Cemeteries

Campbell

History

The property was first purchased by three citizens of La Crosse: John Folves, Thomas Jay, and R.E. Hauser. Burial lots were then first sold in 1860.

It was conveyed to the Town of Campbell in October, 1860. In 1932 the City of La Crosse inherited the cemetery from the Town of Campbell.

Campbell Cemetery is located on Oak Street on the Northside of La Crosse. There are no available gravesites left in this cemetery. City of La Crosse Parks Department also maintains this cemetery by mowing and trimming.

Oehler

History

Oehler is a small cemetery located off County Road MM on the Southside of La Crosse. The cemetery holds about 20 gravesites. The City of La Crosse Parks Department maintains this cemetery by mowing and trimming.

2016-2020

Trails

Survey

Goals and Objectives

Hixon Forest

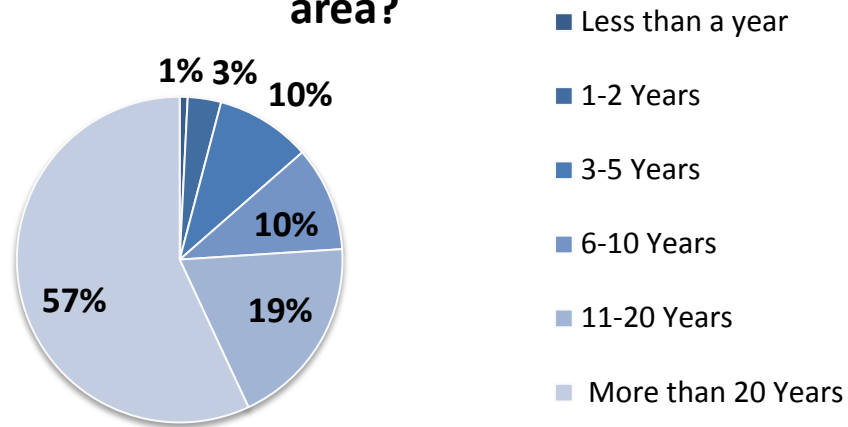
Upper Hixon Forest



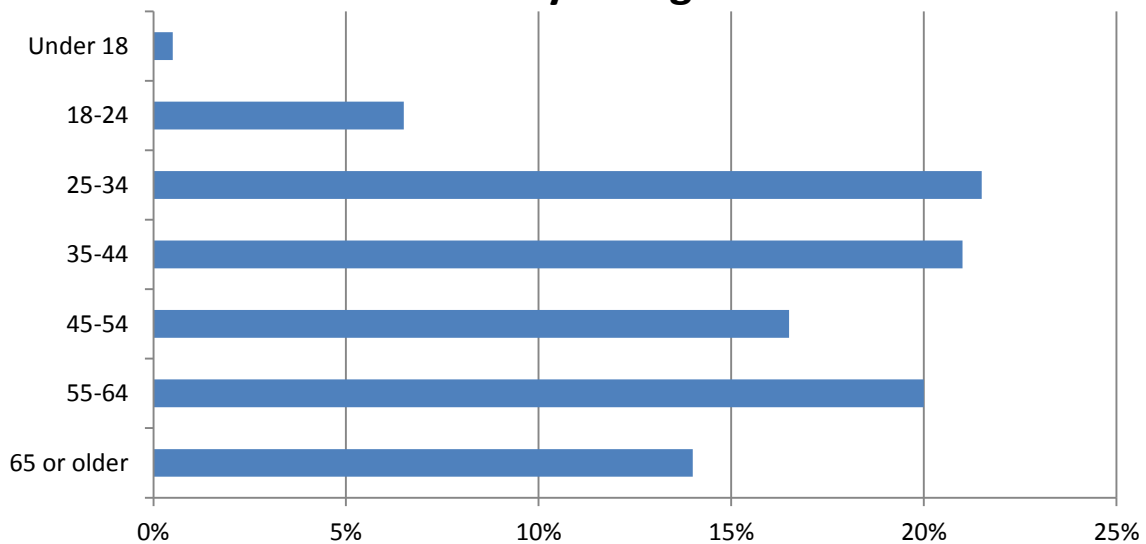
Survey

The City of La Crosse contracted an online public opinion survey to solicit information about the blufflands. In total 634 individuals completed the survey and 95% of those who completed the survey live in the region.

How long have you lived in the La Crosse area?

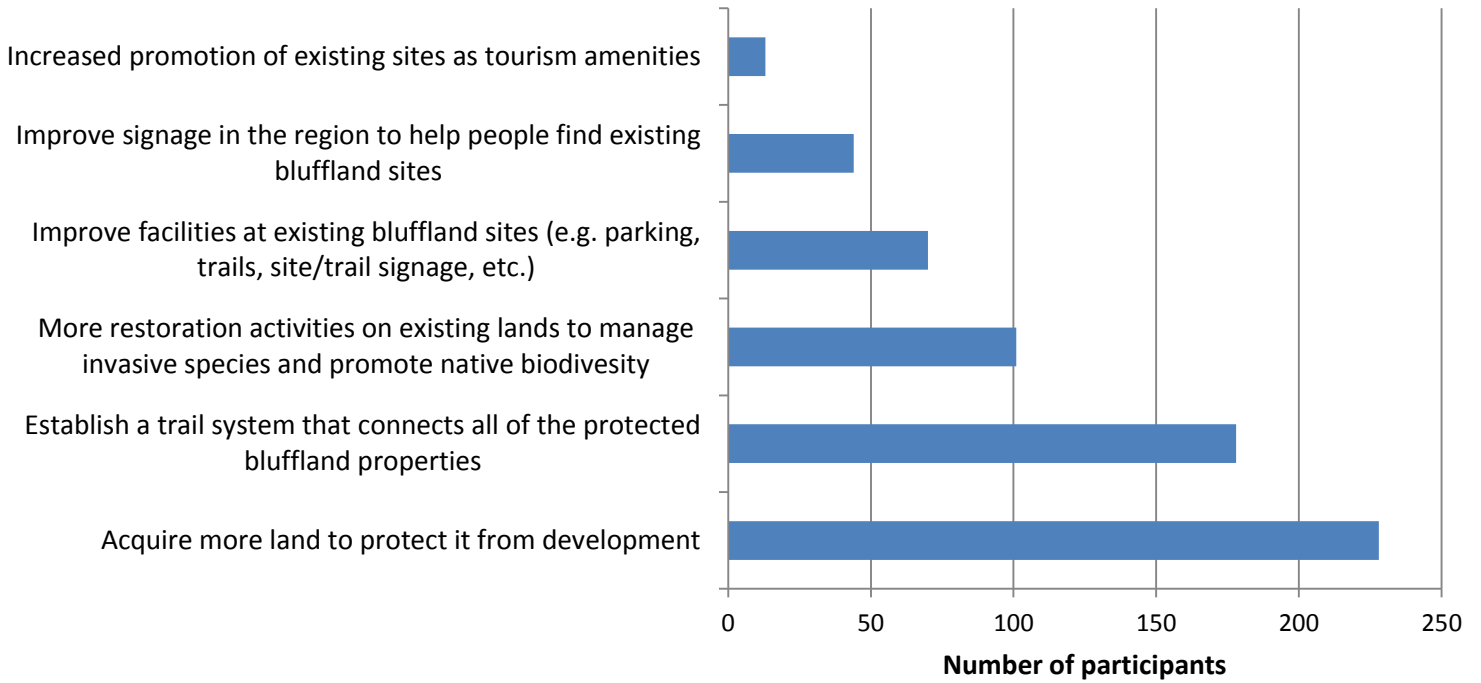


What is your age?

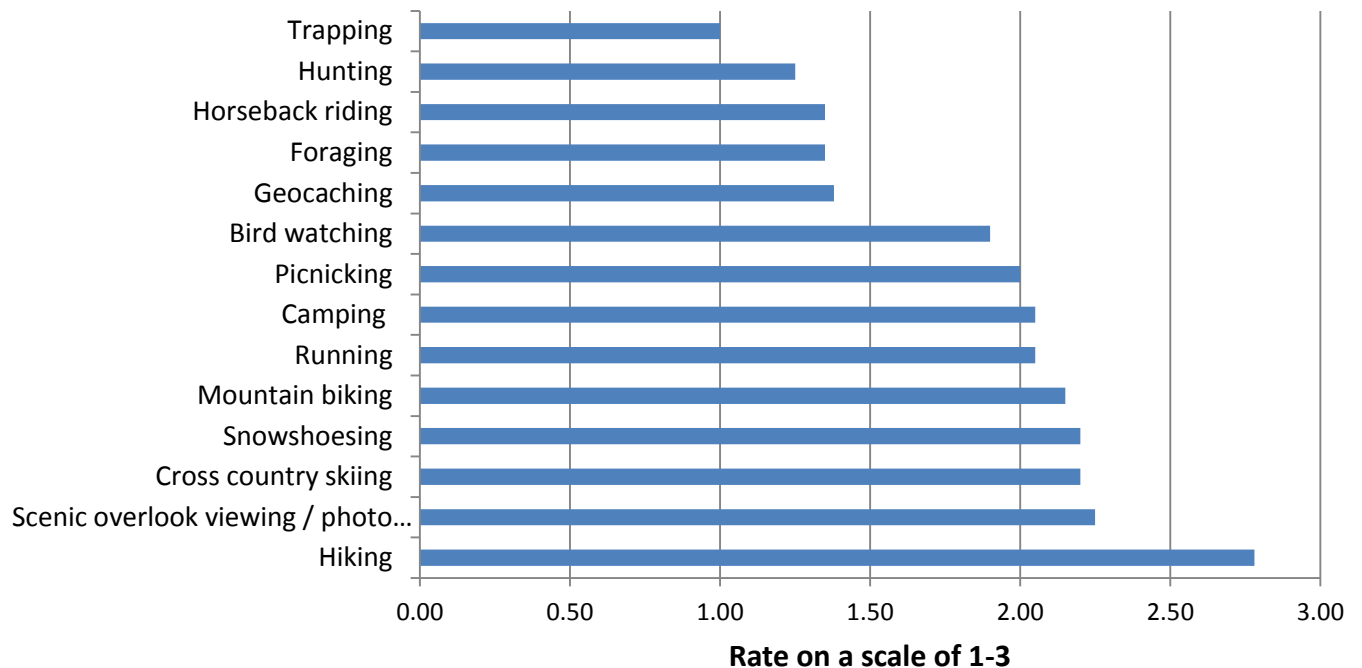


2016-2020

Importance of the following activities

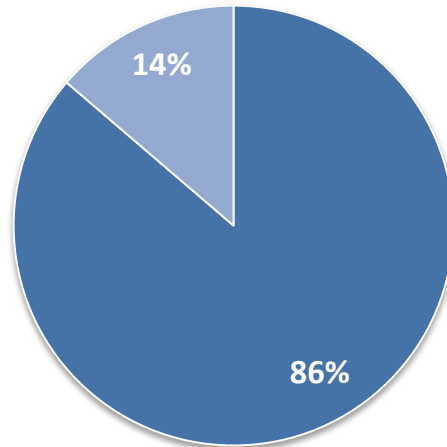


Does the region need more of any of the following recreational opportunities in the blufflands?



Have you heard the term "Blufflands" before taking this survey?

■ Yes ■ No



Goals and Objectives

Goal: Expand and Enhance Opportunities for Recreational Trail Experiences to Promote Health and Wellness.

- Objective 1: Expand the distribution of multi-use trails.
- Objective 2: Address need for specialty trail users, including hikers, bikers, and equestrians.
- Objective 3: Conduct feasibility studies, including public input, and operating/business plans prior to the design and development of new community recreation/aquatic facilities. Develop corresponding Program of Requirement (POR) descriptions.
- Objective 4: Expand sponsorships and naming rights opportunities.
- Objective 5: Utilize non-profit 501(c)(3) funding organizations to help generate alternative funding
- Objective 6: Increase trail connectivity.

Hixon Forest

History

In 1909 Grandad Bluff was going to be destroyed. Norris Bachellor had purchased a part of the bluff and announced his intention to use it as a quarry. A group of citizens led by Mrs. Gideon Hixon (Ellen) purchased the North and West slope of Grandad Bluff, saving the bluff from destruction. In 1912 the land was donated to the city of La Crosse for the purpose of a park and became known as Hixon Forest.



Over the years, various trails sprang up through the forest, but it wasn't until 1976 that the first official trail, the Bicentennial Trail, was constructed and dedicated. This was the impetus for further trail development in the forest and marsh. The River to Bluff trail was completed in 1988, making it possible to hike from the Mississippi River to the top of the bluffs without crossing a city street.

In 1911, noted landscape architect John Nolen wrote the first park plan for the City of La Crosse. In this plan, Nolen recommended the area around Grandad Bluff and Miller's Coulee (current day Hixon Forest) as the site for the City's largest and most beautiful park, with the goal being a park of more than 400 acres when complete. Nolen considered the site "as good an illustration of ready-made park as could be found, and except for road making, the cost of its improvement will be slight." By 1912, Hixon Forest had come under the stewardship of the City as a natural resource based park. It was at this time that civic activists raised money to purchase the park and annex it into the city in an effort to prevent this portion of the City's eastern skyline from being quarried and logged. Over time, as a result of fire suppression and conservation efforts, Hixon Forest has turned into a predominantly Oak-Hickory forest, with small remnant prairies located on some of the steeper sites.

Amenities

- Parking
- Trails (Range from beginner – expert level)
- Multiuse Trails (hike, bike, ski, snowshoe)
- Educational Opportunities



Recreation Issues

- Trail Erosion (can improve on design, minimize damage)
- Carrying capacity of forest (how many users can it accommodate)
- User conflicts
- Dogs off leash
- Off-trail use
- Consideration of wildlife/forest health with respect to recreation
- Signage for educational purposes

Forest Issues

- Regeneration
- Invasive species
- Stage of succession preference
- Keep controlled burns as an option
- Involve forestry professional once goal is identified
- Forest serves as home for wildlife, place for spiritual experience, recreation, education, etc.

Wildlife Issues

- Impact of deer herd
- Awareness of rattlesnakes
- Changing species diversity and composition

Hixon Forest Trails

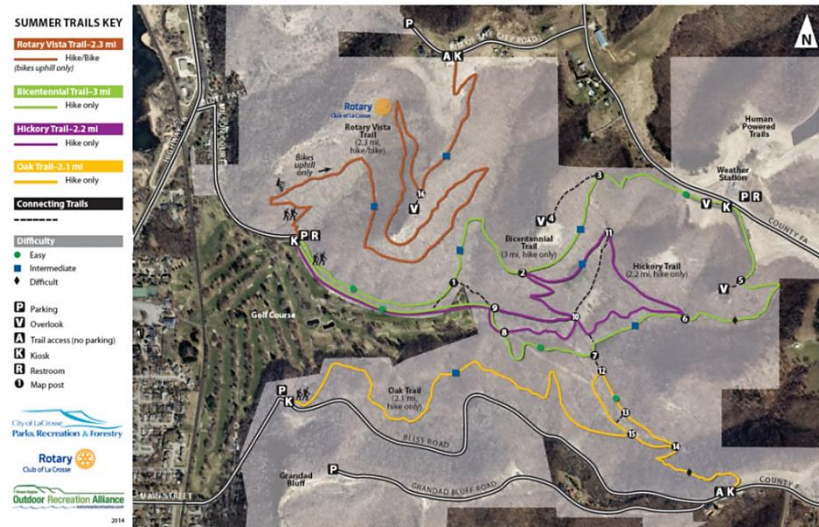
Hixon Forest trail head is located at 2600 Old Quarry Road. This trail head has parking, restrooms, and a kiosk. Trails connecting to this trail head include Oak Trail, Hickory Trail, Bicentennial Trail, and Rotary Vista Trail.

Needs Assessment:

- Aspen Section of Oak Trail Renovation (\$120,000)
- Upper Hixon Trail Head Facility in 2017 (Phase2) (\$400,000)
- Hixon and bluffland trail maintenance, repair, and construction in 2018 (\$75,000)
- Hixon and bluffland trail maintenance, repair, and construction in 2019 (\$75,000)

GENA Neighborhood Association Input:

- Upgrade trail head off Milson court in 2018 (\$20,000)



Rotary Vista Trail

Rotary Vista Trail is a multi-use trail used by hikers and bikers. This trail evaluated at an intermediate level and is 2.3 miles one way and has a secondary access point (no parking) on Rim of the City Road.

Bicentennial Trail

Bicentennial Trail is a 3 mile hiker only trail that starts and ends at the 2600 Old Quarry Road trail head. Bicentennial has access to Hickory Trail and Oak Trail with connecting trails to overlook areas. Bicentennial begins with a difficulty rating of easy and progressively increases to difficult.

Hickory Trail

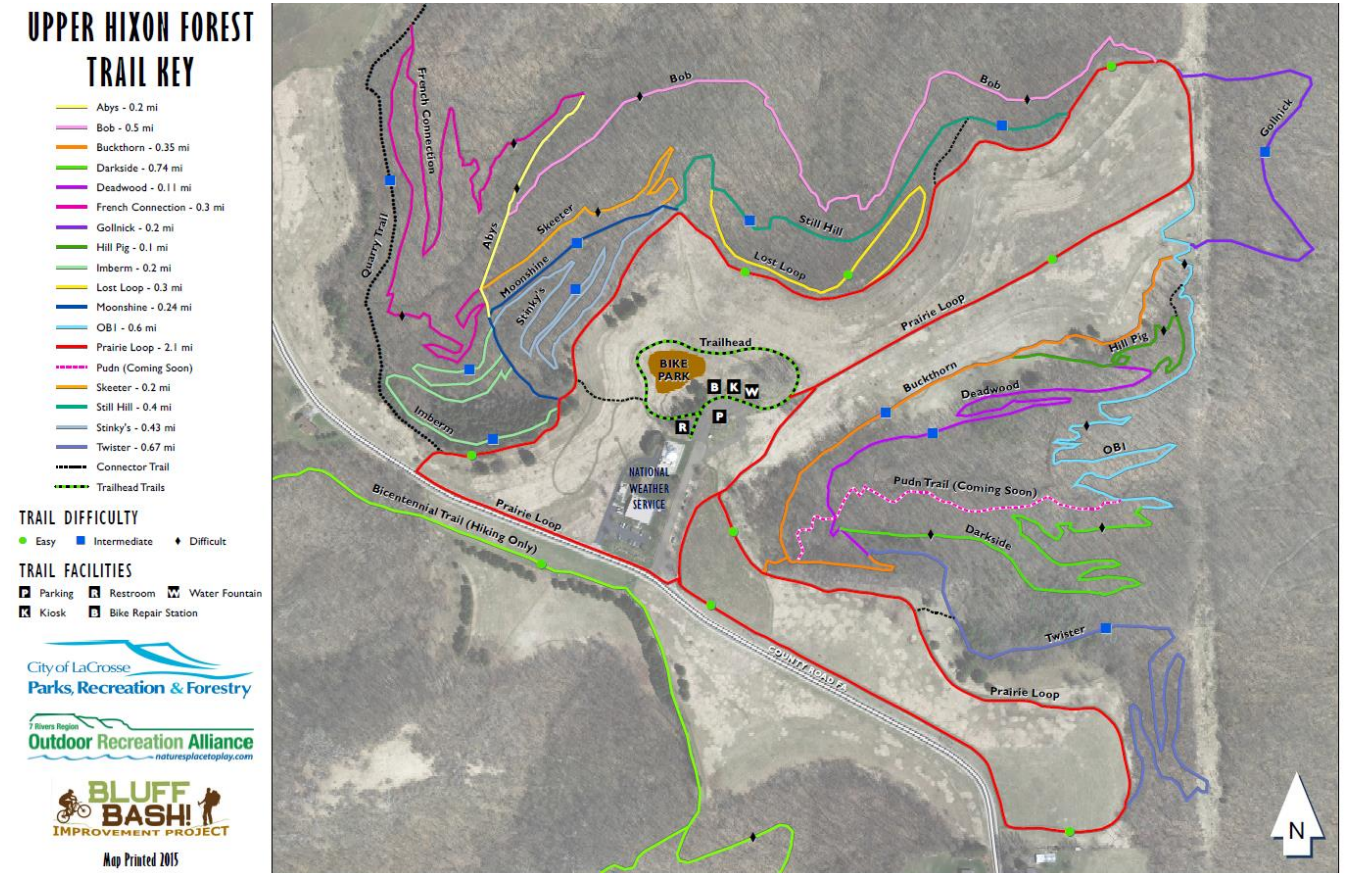
Hickory Trail is a hiker only trail of 2.2 miles. This trail begins at an easy difficulty level and increases to an intermediate level with connections to the Bicentennial and Oak Trail.

Oak Trail

Oak Trail is rated at a difficulty level of easy to intermediate. Oak Trail is hiker only trail of 2.1 miles one way. This trail has secondary access points on County Road F and Bliss Road.

Upper Hixon Forest Trails

Upper Hixon trail head is located behind the National Weather Service Station off County Road FA. This extensive trail head has connections to eighteen trails of varying difficulty level. At the trail head there is a pump track, restrooms, bike repair station, and drinking fountains.



Mobile Oil Site

History

Vision



Mobil Oil Site/Riverside North

History

Over the past four decades, the City of La Crosse has purchased 65 acres of land most commonly referred to as the “Mobile Oil Site”. The properties purchased include the Exxon-Mobile property (25 acres), Western Wisconsin Redi Mix site (8 acres), the Patros Family/Steel Supply property (11 acres), former railroad right-of-way (5 acres), and a 15 acre pond. The land is located along Copeland Avenue/US 53 at the confluence of the Mississippi, Black and La Crosse Rivers. In 2014 The Charrette Master Plan was developed with a combined effort of many organizations including. The City of La Crosse Planning Department, Riverside North Steering Committee, outdoor recreation groups, downtown business owners, transportation & infrastructure groups and many other influential groups and individuals in the La Crosse community.

Plans for Development & Future Amenities

Vision

The vision establishes a comprehensive framework for public open spaces—a mix of civic, recreational, residential, and commercial uses, pedestrian and vehicular circulation and parking, orientation and shape of development blocks; and building types and conceptual layouts for public infrastructure, phasing and rezoning. Taken together with the existing Riverside Park, International Gardens, and La Crosse Marsh, the overall master plan illustrates the potential for linking the natural assets within the area of the City together as an interconnected open space system with blue and green trails, restored habitat and enhanced ecological function.

Existing Trails:

- The Three Rivers Trail is located to the south of the site and is paved for multi-use.

Proposed Trails:

- North/South shared use path for the western edge of the site using former rail line to connect the Three Rivers State Trail to the south via Front Street
- East/West paved shared use path starting directly across from River Bend Road and extending west through the site to connect to the proposed North/South path
- Long term plan to connect Riverside Park Riverwalk to North Riverside (Mobile Oil Site) and ultimately end with a connection to Copeland Park

Water Access:

- 15 acre pond with year round use; kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, ice skating, pond hockey etc.
- Canoe/Kayak launch on North bank of the La Crosse River

La Crosse Blufflands



Executive Summary

This plan is intended to provide guidance for the management and restoration of the Bluffland habitats owned by the City of La Crosse.

Goal of the Restoration Projects

Improve Biodiversity: By increasing the biodiversity of our native plant species we will be improving the quality and bounty of the food chain for all species groups - including humans. Prairies hold the highest quantity of highly nutritious native pollen for our insect species. Goat Prairies are a globally rare resource unique to the Driftless Region and home to a variety of threatened plants and wildlife. Improving and increasing our prairie and adjacent woodland habitat will inevitably increase the beauty and appreciation of the blufflands.

2016 Work Completed

1. Cut and piled woody material from Lookout and Zoerb Goat Prairies (~8 volunteer days, 275 person hours)
2. Cleared ~5 acres of a 20 acre future pollinator prairie habitat project (93 person hours)
3. Conducted a prescribed burn on Thompson Prairie
4. Maintenance of tree plantings (12 person hours)

Media Publicity Received between April and May 2016

1. Television Segments: 4
2. Newspaper Articles: 2
3. Radio Segments: 1

Acres of Land in Restoration by 2020

1. Dry/Goat/Hill Prairie: ~10-20
2. Pollinator Prairie: ~60-100
3. Woodland: ~60-100

Estimated Yearly Cost:

\$25,000-40,000

Management Project (Jan-June, 2016)	Cost/Value
Goat Prairie Clearing	3,988
Mathy Quarry Clearing	3,295
Monarch Conservation Grant from FWS (Mathy Quarry Project)	12,500
Thompson Prairie (46 acre burn)	4,080
Skemp II Tree Planting	175
Total	24,038

With the threat of non-native invasive species, the necessity to increase native plant diversity is becoming progressively more prevalent. Even the most untrained eye is noticing the visual, functional and environmental difference between a healthy, diverse understory, and one crowded with invasives. As our wildlife search for the dwindling supply of nutritious native species and our tree seedlings get outcompeted for soil space and light, our next generation could see a dramatic shift to a deforested, impenetrable jungle of invasive monocultures.

La Crosse Parks, Recreation & Forestry has a unique opportunity not only to create miles of recreational trails, but also to create beautiful, diverse, and healthy natural areas to attract the whole spectrum of nature enthusiasts and recreators. Hunters, trappers, birders, mushroom

hunters, herpatologists, botanists and entomologists will flock to this area along with our hikers and bikers. If we do not care for the health of these lands we risk losing the rare species that attract these varied tourists.

Introduction / History

Hixon Forest (850 acres)

In 1909 Grandad Bluff was going to be destroyed. Norris Bachellor had purchased a part of the bluff and announced his intention to use it as a quarry. A group of citizens led by Mrs. Gideon Hixon (Ellen) purchased the north and west slope of Grandad Bluff, saving the bluff from destruction. In 1912 the land was donated to the city of La Crosse for the purpose of a park and became known as Hixon Forest.

Over the years, various trails sprang up through the forest, but it wasn't until 1976 that the first official trail, the Bicentennial Trail, was constructed and dedicated. This was the impetus for further trail development in the forest and marsh. The River to Bluff trail was completed in 1988, making it possible to hike from the Mississippi River to the top of the bluffs without crossing a city street.

As development on the bluffs began to encroach upon Hixon Forest, another group of concerned citizens organized as "Friends of Hixon Forest Nature Center" with a mission to protect the forest and other natural areas. Hixon Forest Nature Center, a non-profit organization opened in 1983 and worked cooperatively with the City of La Crosse Parks Department. The Nature Center's small staff and volunteers provided environmental education programs to over 6,000 children annually, maintained forest, marsh, and prairie trails, managed forest and prairie restoration projects, and provided public programs and special events for the community. Hixon Forest Nature Center became Myrick Hixon EcoPark in 2007 and continued this work until 2014. Since then WisCorps has carried on the environmental education programs with 7,500 people attending education programs in 2015.

In 1911, notes landscape architect John Nolen wrote the first park plan for the City of La Crosse. In this plan, Nolen recommended the area around Grandad Bluff and Miller's Coulee (current day Hixon Forest) as the site for the City's largest and more beautiful park, with the goal being a park of more than 400 acres when complete. Nolen considered the site "as good an illustration of ready-made park as could be found, and except for road making, the cost of its improvement will be slight." By 1912, Hixon Forest had come under the stewardship of the City as natural resource based park. It was at this time the civic activists raised money to purchase the park and annex it into the city in an effort to prevent this portion of the City's eastern skyline from being quarried and logged. Over time, as a result of fire suppression and conservation efforts, Hixon Forest has turned into a predominantly Oak-Hickory forest, with small remnant prairies located on some of the steeper sites.

Surrounding Blufflands (~1000 acres)

These acres were obtained through cooperation between the Mississippi Valley Conservancy and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources utilizing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship

Grant. In 2013 the lands was transferred to the City's ownership with Mississippi Valley Conservancy holding the Conservation Easement. Hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking and skiing are the main activities advertised with biking and all-terrain vehicles specifically prohibited.

Current Conditions of Blufflands

Restoration and recreation management has been done on many of the bluffland acres. Restoration efforts, though, have been mainly volunteer driven. The La Crosse Parks, Recreation and Forestry department established their first Forest Management Coordinator position in January 2016 (see Appendix 2 for employee bio). Since then, restoration efforts, media attention, and public support have dramatically increased.

Throughout the blufflands buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Japanese barberry (*berberis thunbergii*) and invasive honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*) are the most prevalent issues. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) are also slowly increasing in severity. Some stands are nearly impenetrable, while others have old growth characteristics with few scattered invasives.

The extent and density of invasive species in the Blufflands creates a challenging management opportunity. The neighboring properties harbor significant populatons and the resultant seed sources of invasives will continuously increase the necessity for public education and management on all lands. Therefore, an important aspect to quality management is diligence. Cooperating with agencies, organizations, and private land owners will allow us to tackle new issues before they spread throughout the blufflands.

Project Goals

Stage 1: Explanation

Restoration is a process that can continue through multiple generations. This "Stage 1" plan will put details in place to begin creating a self-sustaining restoration machine. Yearly grant applications, educational outreach events, continual interns, and public support strategies will be implemented. The final goal for this "Stage 1" plan is to get particular parcels of land restored and placed into a burn regime. Prescribed burning will be our most utilized tool to combat invasive species. The minimal person power needed, with the effectiveness of burning allows us to maintain increasingly larger tracts of land without the necessity to increase employee or volunteer numbers. Due to our department's specifications, we must contract this work to a company with adequate liability insurance, which does increase the funds necessary to conduct the management.

Protecting Biodiversity

Because of the extent of invasive species in the La Crosse Blufflands it is necessary to prioritize restoration work. We have started this restoration process with a focus of prairie. Prairies hold the highest diversity of native plant species for our pollinators, herps, and mammals. Most of the Bluffland species whose populations are threatened or have significantly declined are associated with the bluff prairies, a habitat that has itself become rare. If we can restore these

areas and place them into a burn regime, we can then increase the quality of the surrounding woodland by removing invasive species between each prairie. One day we hope to connect each of our 15+ globally rare (S3, G3) Dry/Goat/Hill Prairies with quality mature oak/hickory habitat. We also have oak savannah habitat, and oak dominated old growth habitat that is an infrequent occurrence on our landscape. In addition to restoring pre-existing prairies, in May 2016, we burned 45 acres of pre-planted prairie area, and we currently are signing an agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service to use Monarch Conservation funds to convert 31 acres of bush honeysuckle to quality pollinator habitat.

Our goat prairies, planted prairies, cliff faces and woodlands provide habitat for a variety of species including the timber rattlesnake, winged snaggletooth snail, wild turkey, and white-tailed deer. As the blufflands become more diverse, and more beautiful, the variety of recreational users will increasingly appreciate the unique ecosystem they too call home.

Value of the Blufflands

1. Woodland and Prairie Functions

- a.** The key component to land management will always be diversity. On a landscape level, diversity means maintaining historically accurate habitat types. The driftless region is a unique area with habitat that cannot be found elsewhere. Our wildlife and insects depend on these quality natural areas for survival, and *our* survival is distinctly linked to the persistence of all our natural species. Without wetlands we will not have clean water. Without quality pollen, we will decrease our pollinators – thus harming our food production. Without insects, the delicate balance of predator and prey will be skewed – creating more issues than we already have. We need to reset the balance, this is our first step.

2. Key Points

- a.** La Crosse's tourism generated \$214 million for the area in 2013, and provided 4,000 full time equivalent jobs. La Crosse county tourism is growing: now ranked number 12 in the state, up from 17th, seven years ago.
- b.** Six thousand K – 12 students per year from within a 50 mile radius and 900 graduate and undergraduate college students per year use the marsh as classroom and laboratory.
- c.** La Crosse was originally known as “Prairie La Crosse” because the prairie/savanna habitat was the dominant ecosystem extending from the river to the bluff tops. Preserving the remnant prairies protects those rare habitats and provides a glimpse into the pre-European appearance of the area.

Restoration Practices

See Appendix 1 for a yearly breakdown of estimated management practices and costs.

1. Monarch Habitat Pollinator Prairie Creation

Early April 2016 started this project with a volunteer day between La Crosse Parks and Rec, Aquinas High School, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, WisCorps, and Outdoor Recreation Alliance (see cover photo). The Fish and Wildlife Service is our largest partner, providing the funds required to purchase 30 acres of native seeds to establish Monarch Conservation Pollinator Habitat. The area is ~70% covered with large honeysuckle that will be removed by volunteers, and donated machine removal hours from local contractors. Between fall 2016 to 2017, we will mow, herbicide and plant this unit. Until this area is ready to be placed in a burn regime the Parks and Rec staff will mow 2-4 times per year.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to provide \$12,500, and the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department will use direct funds and in-kind services to match \$19,732 (not include the cost of prescribed burning). We hope to increase this Monarch Habitat by 20 acres every few years until the entire 100 acre area is planted.

2. Goat/Hill/Dry Prairie Restoration

Between February and April we cleared two of our remnant goat prairies – Lookout and Zoerb – (Figure 1). In spring 2017 we will put these, along with Hass Prairie (Figure 2) into a burn regime. We would like to clear at least 2 goat prairies every year. We would then utilize contract work to expand these areas to a sustainable size. One that does not become easily taken over by woody species. Eventually we hope to restore the 15+ prairies under La Crosse ownership.

3. Invasive Species Removal

Invasive species will be our largest and most continual project. We will utilize a multiple resource attach to release our native species. We will start by conducting yearly garlic mustard management events. Then we will build off of our restored goat prairies, cutting and treating invasive species into the wood line. This will further assist the goat prairie health by

creating a buffer of invasive species free areas. We will utilize prescribed burning by moving the burn break outward every fire return. In addition, increased deer management will also be necessary. The current numbers of 100 deer per square mile needs to be managed down to 10 d/sm. The browse pressure and seed dispersal issue they present need to be mitigated. We hope to slowly connect these prairies with invasive free woods, reducing the competition of our regenerating tree seedlings.

4. Tree Planting Maintenance

Five locations have been planted with a mix of hardwood species. Early maintenance will continue. In the near future we hope to partner with SW Badger Resource Conservation & Development Council and local universities to study the success of deer enclosures on plant and tree regeneration. These planting areas may be the site for some of the study locations.

5. Forest Management

There are many options regarding timber management. Due to the recreational nature of these lands, we will begin this process by establishing greater public support for our efforts. Then, we will conduct small timber stand improvements, and oak regeneration plots to further increase public understanding of the timber management process. We will also protect some areas of old-growth forest for comparison and habitat values.

Outreach and Education

Public Support / Education

We acknowledge that public education and involvement is a key component to any form of land management. Since the Parks and Recreation staff devoted to restoration efforts is limited, we will rely on our cooperation with outside organization, agencies, schools, and volunteers. Thus, public outreach in the form of yearly invasive species removal days, neighborhood association presentations, newspaper articles, and television/radio coverage will be an essential component to this long-term project.

Media attention has also been wonderfully positive and facilitated our education efforts with four television segments, two newspaper articles, and one radio interview.

Partner Coordination

We have already received tremendous positive feedback since our Forest Management Coordinator started in January. The cooperation efforts made with Mississippi Valley Conservancy, , WisCorps, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin DNR, UW-L Extension Service, Outdoor Recreation Alliance, Friends of the Marsh, Friends of the Blufflands, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Biodiversity Task Force, SW Badger RC&D, Viterbo University, UW-L University, Western Technological University and Aquinus High school have all increased.

Conclusion

The La Crosse Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has the interest, the partners, and the necessity to create a restoration program that will sustain itself over time. The City of La Crosse has a goal to acquire the additional acres necessary to create a protected recreational and environmental corridor from County Road B to Interstate 14/61 (Figure 1, 2). Therefore, our ~1,700 acres will be increasing in the coming years. The diversity and health of these blufflands must not be lost. Our future generations deserve to experience a healthy ecosystem so they can learn about the many services our natural world provides.

We have the public support, passion, expertise, and experience necessary to accomplish our goals. Establishing consistent funding sources to assist in making these acres thrive is the most critical component to achieving success.

We will be ever grateful to our partners as we move forward as a mutually recognized team.

Restoration Management Areas Stage 1

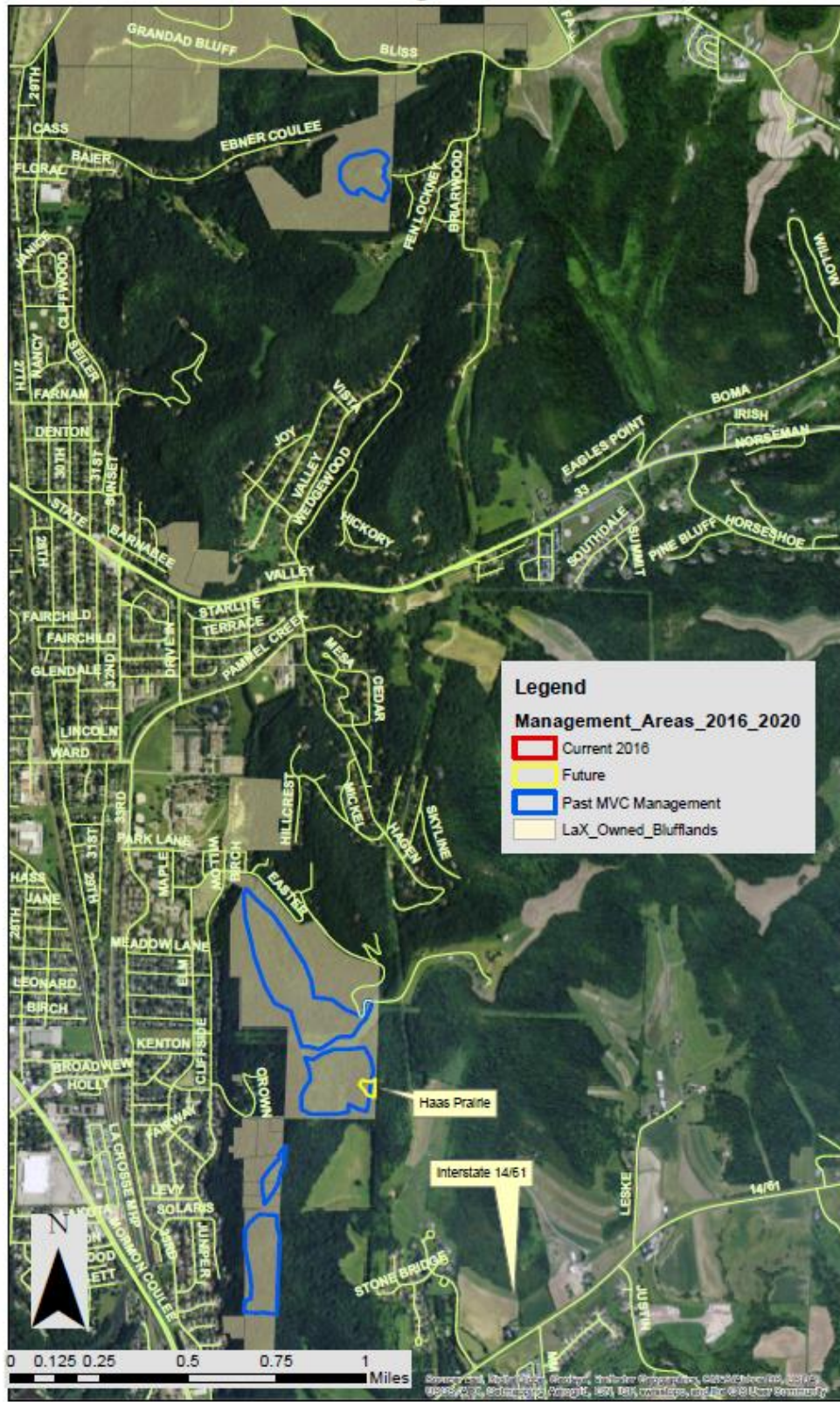


Figure 2. Southern Half of La Crosse Bluffland Management Areas

Appendix 1. Estimated Yearly Work

2016 Work Still Needed:

1. Brushcutting work on Lookout and Zoerb Goat Prairies
 2. Cut and treat remaining honeysuckle and sumac on Thompson Prairie
 3. Remove honeysuckle from Mathy Quarry
 4. First herbicide treatment of Mathy Quarry
- *Cost/Value Estimate: \$15,000

2017 Work Needed:

1. Mathy Quarry: Finish honeysuck removal, herbicide and plant the unit
 2. Clear Birch Goat Prairie
 3. Prescribed burn on
 - a. Lookout Prairie
 - b. Zoerb Prairie
 - c. Mathy Woodland Tract (~40 acres)
 - d. Juniper Partners Prairie
- *Cost/Value Estimate: \$35,000-40,000

2018 Estimated Work Needed:

1. Mow Mathy Pollinator Prairie
 2. Begin establishing *another* 20 acres Pollinator Prairie on Mathy Quarry
 3. Clear Miller Bluff Prairie
 4. Burn
 - a. Miller Bluff area
 5. Seed Thompson Prairie
- *Cost/Value Estimate: \$30,000-40,000

2019 Estimated Work Needed:

1. Mow Mathy Pollinator Prairie
 2. Burn
 - a. Mathy Quarry
 - b. Birch Goat Prairie
 3. Clear Grandad's Bluff Prairie
 4. Mow Thompson Prairie
- *Cost/Value Estimate: \$25,000-30,000

2020 Estimated Work Needed:

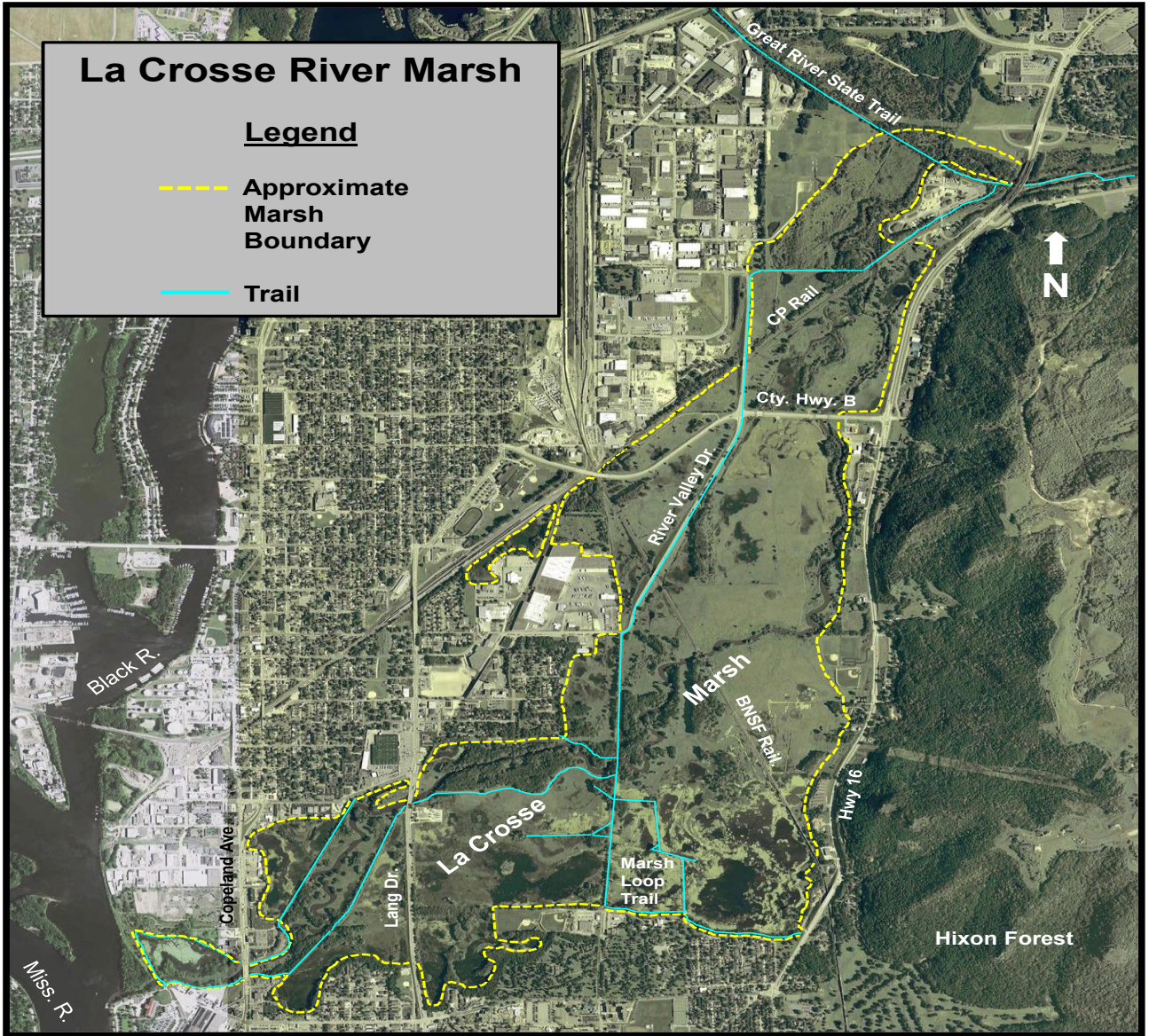
4. Mow Mathy Pollinator Prairie
 5. Burn
 - a. Thompson Prairie
 - b. 2-5 of our Goat Prairies
- *Cost/Value Estimate: 25,000-30,000

Appendix 2: La Crosse Parks, Recreation and Forestry’s Forest Management Coordinator;
Sunshine Love



Sunshine graduated in 2011 from Michigan Technological University with a BS degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management. Before arriving in La Crosse, WI, She was a Naturalist for the DeGraaf Nature Center, a Timber Technician for Custer State Park, SD, an Ecologist conducting restoration activities for The Nature Conservancy in Ohio and Kentucky, and a Botanist leading an invasive species crew and conducting botanical surveys for the Forest Service in Michigan.

Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh



JFS 1/7/16

History

The *Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh* is a 501 (c) (3) private, non-profit organization, incorporated with the State of Wisconsin in 2013. Its mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the La Crosse River Marsh and serve the community through action, advocacy, and education.

The La Crosse River Marsh is a riparian wetland of approximately 1000 acres. It is the largest single wetland within the extensive La Crosse River watershed, and is located entirely within the City of La Crosse. The marsh is a patchwork of public and private ownership, with no single agency or formally coordinated management. The *Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh* partner on a case-by-case basis with individuals, organizations, agencies, and civic entities to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the La Crosse River Marsh.

At this point in time, the highest valued functions of the La Crosse River Marsh include: floral diversity, fish and wildlife habitat, flood protection, water quality protection, shoreline protection, groundwater recharge and discharge, and aesthetics, recreation, education and science.

Strategic Plans

The *Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh* will facilitate a coordinated, strategic plan that brings habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement to the forefront, as a sound approach for the marsh and for community health and well-being.

To protect the La Crosse River Marsh and its riparian boundaries.

- Facilitate and partner with the city of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Monroe County, the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, and others to protect and preserve the marsh.
- Expand wetland acres to enhance wetland functions, through purchase, conservation easement, and restoration.
- Attain the highest available level of protection for the marsh.
- Prevent adverse land use changes.

To protect, enhance and restore native vegetation in the La Crosse River Marsh and riparian boundaries to ensure a healthy marsh ecosystem.

- Add to the habitat functions of the marsh by planting a range of native tree, shrub, and herbaceous plant species.
- Limit invasive plant species.

Improve hydraulic and water quality management.

- Work with USFWS, Corps of Engineers, WDNR and others to conduct hydraulic evaluations of the marsh and identify measures to maintain and enhance connectivity between sections of the marsh and between the marsh and the river.
- Support watershed-level water quality management programs through civic, county, state, and private coordination.

Safety

- Through appropriate signage and education, promote the considerate use of marsh recreation trails.
- Where appropriate along the trail system install railings or other secure installations to improve safety.

Education

- Offer educational programs about the value of wetlands, the history, the hydrology, and the flora and fauna of the La Crosse River Marsh, and to emphasize the unique place this marsh holds in the life of our community.

Goals and Objectives

A. Evaluate and Upgrade Parks, Facilities, Trails and Natural Areas

- Survey and restore diverse, native tree, shrub, and herbaceous plant species in the La Crosse River Marsh (along the trails, in riparian zones, and throughout the marsh). Consult with *Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh*.
- Design and maintain trails and riparian zones for habitat functions and hydraulic connectivity. Consult with *Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh*.
- Install four informational kiosks at trail heads.

B. Cooperate with Neighboring Cities and . . . to Provide Recreation, Education, and Preservation of Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources.

- The *Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh* have and will continue to facilitate meetings with the City of La Crosse, the City of Onalaska, La Crosse County, Monroe County, the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, the WDNR, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wisconsin Wetlands Association to coordinate programs and plans for the La Crosse River Watershed.

C. Conserve Wetlands, Urban Forests, and Blufflands through Partnerships and Incentives

- Attain highest level of protection for the La Crosse River Marsh.
- Restore former wetland acres through purchase or conservation easement.

Analysis of Findings and Conclusion

Capital Projects Completed from 2010- 2015 Plan

Projects Completed Not in 2010- 2015 Plan

Postponed Projects from 2010- 2015 Plan

Implementation Plan



City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Strategic Plan

2016-2020

Capital Projects Completed from (2010- 2015) Plan

2010	Project Details	Cost
Isle La Plume	Finish trail to Houska	\$ 46,000.00
Riverside Park	Norwegian Garden addition to International Friendship Gardens	\$ 35,000.00
		\$ 81,000.00

2011	Project Details	Cost
Copeland Park	New Lighting and Fencing for Train	\$ 25,000.00
Copeland Park	Paint open air shelter	\$ 10,000.00
Grandad Park	Engineering and Additional Costs	\$ 375,000.00
Grandad Park	Phase 1 Overlook Rehab	\$ 350,000.00
Grandad Park	Phase 2 Overlook Redevelopment	\$ 730,000.00
Myrick Park	Main shelter roof replacement	\$ 60,000.00
		\$ 1,550,000.00

2012	Project Details	Cost
Cameron Park	Canopy completion	\$ 125,000.00
Crowley Park	Redevelopment (New Playground, Gazebo, Playground, Lights, Drinking Fountain, Walkway)	\$ 175,000.00
Green Island Ice Arena	Insulation, Dehumidification, Flooring, Locker Rooms, Sound System	\$ 250,000.00
Riverside Park	Renovate and Paint Historic River Gauge	\$ 1,000.00
Red Cloud Park	Shelter Upgrades and Addition of Restrooms	\$ 175,000.00
Houska Park	Construted Dog Park	\$ 35,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Demolish Old Clubhouse	\$ 33,000.00
Green Island Ice Arena	Repainting of interior	\$ 1,000.00
Memorial Pool	Pump Replacement	\$ 10,000.00
Pettibone Park	New Fishing Piers (2)	\$ 80,000.00
		\$ 885,000.00

City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Strategic Plan

2016-2020

2013	Project Details	Cost
Black River Beach Community Center	Phase 2 (Shelter, Walkway, and Parking Lot)	\$ 325,000.00
Veteran's Freedom Park	Transient Docks, Field Improvements, Marina Installation	\$ 75,000.00
Copeland Park	Turf installed in the infield of Copeland Baseball	\$ 350,000.00
Erickson Pool	Floor Repair	\$ 20,000.00
Green Island Ice Arena	Replace Condensers	\$ 90,000.00
Veteran's Point Marina	75 Slip Marina in Veteran's Freedom Park	\$ 220,000.00
		\$ 1,080,000.00

2014	Project Details	Cost
Pettibone Park	Water & Sewer Hook-Up for Pettibone Boat Club	\$ 140,000.00
Veteran's Freedom Park	Park, roadway, parking spaces for Marina	\$ 20,000.00
Veteran's Freedom Park	Landscaping - Tree Removal	\$ 20,000.00
Boat Landings	New docks at (7th Street, Power House, West Copeland)	\$ 50,000.00
Houska Park	Expanded Dog Park	\$ 20,000.00
Red Cloud Park	Trail Addition	\$ 50,000.00
Chad Erickson Memorial Park	Constructed Playground, Fishing Pond, Gazebo, Restrooms	\$ 890,000.00
Bluff Land Area	Trail Creation, Maintenance, and Repair	\$ 100,000.00
Hixon Forest	Trail Improvements (Vista, Hickory, Bicentennial)	\$ 200,000.00
		\$ 1,490,000.00

2015	Project Details	Cost
City Wide	Ash tree management (Removal, Planting, Stumping)	\$ 450,000.00
Clayton E. Johnson Park	New playground	\$ 50,000.00
East Copeland Landing	New loading ramp	\$ 30,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Bike pedestrian path	\$ 40,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Course Redesign - 2 New Holes, Layout, Greens, Tunnel	\$ 1,200,000.00
Municipal Landing	New loading ramp	\$ 40,000.00
Myrick Park Center	New Conference Room	\$ 27,000.00
Northside Community Pool	Shade structure	\$ 50,000.00
Poage Park	Renovations (New Shelter, Playground, Lighting)	\$ 1,400,000.00
Riverside Park	Irish Garden addition to International Friendship Gardens	\$ 85,000.00
Upper Hixon Forest	Pump Track Facility	\$ 40,000.00
Upper Hixon Forest	Trail Head Facility Phase 1 (Bike Fixing Station, Drinking Fountain, Air Station)	\$ 450,000.00
		\$ 3,862,000.00

City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Strategic Plan

2016-2020

Extra Projects Completed NOT in 2010- 2015 plan

Park/Site	Project Description	Cost	Year
Bluffview Park	New Basketball Goals, Repaired Shelter, Batting Cages	\$5,000.00	2015
Boat Landings	New Canoe/Kayak - Gillette, 7th Street, West Copeland	\$10,000.00	2014
Carroll Park	Landscaping and Shade Structure	\$10,000.00	2013
City Hall	Landscaping	\$25,000.00	annually
City Wide	Boulevard and Median Landscaping	\$50,000.00	annually
Clayton E Johnson	New Playground equipment from Poage	\$24,000.00	2015
Copeland Park	New Lights and Fence surrounding locomotive	\$10,000.00	2015
Forest Hills	Tennis Courts Repair	\$22,000.00	2013
Grandad Bluff Park	Ellen Penell Hixon Statue	\$85,000.00	2015
Green Island	Fishing Platform and Memorial Bench	\$10,000.00	2015
		\$65,000.00	2013
		\$55,000.00	2014
Veterans Point Marina	Constructed 75 Slip Marina	\$65,000.00	2015
		\$436,000.00	Total

Postponed Projects from 2010-2015 (Moved to 2016-2020 Plan)

Park/Site	Project Description	Year
Bluffview Park	Level Field	2017
Carroll Park	Lighted North and South Ball Fields	2016
Carroll Park	Restrooms and Concessions	2018
Copeland Park	Lighting	2017
Copeland Park	Boat Pier	2018
Copeland Park	Upgrade	2017
Erickson Park	Concessions	2019
Forest Hills	Golf Course Irrigation	2017
Forest Hills	Clubhouse	2018
Forest Hills	Pool	2018
Kids Coulee	Playground Upgrade	2017
Leuth Park	Blast and seal skate park	2017
Memorial Pool	Bathhouse Upgrade / Pool	2018
Municipal Boat Landing	Dock Replacement	2017
Myrick Park	Stain/ Paint Shelter	2018
Red Cloud	Park Renovation	2017
Riverside Park	Fencing	2020
Riverside Park	Transient dock repair/contstruction	2016
Riverside Park	Band Shell	2017
Veterans Freedom Park	Memorial Walkway	2017
Veterans Freedom Park	Site Restoration- Gazebo- Boat Landing- Shelter	2018

Implementation Plan



Pettibone Park



Veterans Memorial Park



Riverside Park



Trane Park



Cameron Park



Poage Park

City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Strategic Plan

2016-2020

2016

Park/Site	Project Description	SOF	Cost
Bluffland Restoration	brushcutting & invasive treatment	NBI	\$ 10,000.00
Cameron Park	New Playground	TIF	\$ 65,000.00
Carroll Park	New Ball Field - Phase 1	TIF	\$ 120,000.00
City Wide	Boulevard Ash Tree Management	EBF	\$ 100,000.00
Copeland Park	Copeland Baseball Field Improvements	Other	\$ 700,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Mainline Drainage	Other	\$ 75,000.00
Hixon and Bluffland Area	Trail Maintenance	EBF	\$ 45,414.00
		NBI	\$ 4,586.00
Hixon Forest	Vista 2	NBI	\$ 50,000.00
Hixon Forest	Comprehensive Management Plan	NBI	\$ 40,000.00
Myrick Park	Kids Coulee Renovations	NBI	\$ 100,000.00
Northside	Bike path fencing	NBI	\$ 200,000.00
Northside	Bike path from Monitor St.	NBI	\$ 21,000.00
Memorial Pool	Feasibility Study	NBI	\$ 20,000.00
Pettibone Park	Canoe/Kayak Storage Facility	Other	\$ 150,000.00
Pettibone Park	Fishing Pier	NBI	\$ 50,000.00
Powell Park	Redesign - Neighborhood Park	TIF	\$ 400,000.00
Riverside Park	Bandshell Project	NBI	\$ 400,000.00
Riverside Park	Transient Boat Dock	NBI	\$ 150,000.00
Springbrook Park	Shelter	Other	\$ 30,000.00
Upper Hixon Forest	40 acre Pollinator Garden	Other	\$ 32,000.00
Veteran's Freedom Park	Korean War Memorial	Other	\$ 20,000.00
Veteran's Freedom Park	Marina Addition	EBF	\$ 35,000.00
		Other	\$ 35,000.00
		Total	\$ 2,853,000.00

Key

SOF	Source of Funds
NBI	New Bond Issue
EBF	Existing Bond Funds
DNR	State Department of Natural Resources
CBDG	Community Development Block Grant
TIF	Tax Incremental Fund
Other	Other (Grants & Donations)

City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Strategic Plan

2016-2020

2017

Park/Site	Project Description	SOF	Cost
Ball Fields	New backstops for primary fields	NBI	\$ 120,000.00
Black River Beach	Canoe/Kayak/Fishing Addition	Other	\$ 50,000.00
Bluffland Restoration	invasive treatment & Prescribed Burnes	NBI	\$ 50,000.00
City Wide	Boulevard Ash Tree Management	NBI	\$ 300,000.00
Copeland Park	Replace Shelter, Playground, Splash Park	NBI	\$ 400,000.00
Erickson Park	Field Renovations (Turf infields E1 & E2, New Seating E1 & E2, New Lights E1, New Fencing	TIF	\$ 750,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Driving Range Project	Other	\$ 175,000.00
Goose Green Park	Monitor to Goose Green Park Trail	TIF	\$ 450,000.00
Goose Green Park	Redevelopment into Neighborhood Park	CDBG	\$ 150,000.00
		NBI	\$ 250,000.00
Green Island	Increase Seating/ Restrooms/ Locker Rooms	Other	\$ 400,000.00
Houska Dog Park	Redevelopment of surface	NBI	\$ 150,000.00
Leuth Park	Skate Park Renovations	NBI	\$ 75,000.00
Memorial Pool	Total Replacement	NBI	\$ 2,500,000.00
Memorial Pool	Replace Repair to meet code	NBI	\$ 1,000,000.00
Mobil Oil Site	Waterfront Park/Development of Riverside North	NBI	\$ 700,000.00
Municipal Boat Harbor	Dock Replacement	NBI	\$ 850,000.00
Myrick Park	Kids Coulee Renovation	NBI	\$ 1,000,000.00
Myrick Park Center	Additional Parking and ADA Renovations	NBI	\$ 75,000.00
Northside Pool	Renovations	NBI	\$ 75,000.00
Prarie Restoration	Restore to natural area	Other	\$ 10,000.00
Red Cloud Park	Improvements	NBI	\$ 200,000.00
		CDBG	\$ 100,000.00
Riverside Park	Bandshell Project	NBI	\$ 400,000.00
Riverside Park	Canoe/Kayak Landing	NBI	\$ 100,000.00
Riverside Park	Transient Boat Dock	NBI	\$ 350,000.00
Riverside Park	Transient Boat Dock	NBI	\$ 225,000.00
		DNR	\$ 125,000.00
Riverside Park	Transient Boat Docks	NBI	\$ 400,000.00
Roesler Park	Trout Stream & ADA Trail Development	NBI	\$ 200,000.00
		DNR	\$ 200,000.00
Trail Maintenance	Trail Maintenance, Repair, & Construction	NBI	\$ 75,000.00
	Aspen Trail Restoration	Other	\$ 45,000.00
Trane Park	Redesign - Inclusive park	Other	\$ 3,500,000.00
Tower Park	New Swings, benches, landscaping, &Tree planting	NBI	\$ 50,000.00
Upper Hixon	Trail Head Facility (Phase II)	NBI	\$ 150,000.00
		Other	\$ 200,000.00
Veteran's Freedom Park	Electricity & Water to Boat Houses	NBI	\$ 250,000.00
Weigent Park	Shelter & Tennis Upgrades	NBI	\$ 500,000.00
		Other	\$ 100,000.00
Washburn	Neighborhood Park	NBI	\$ 273,000.00
		Total	\$ 16,973,000.00

Key

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City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Strategic Plan

2016-2020

2018

Park/Site	Project Description	SOF	Cost
Badger/Hickey Park	Site restoration/Gazebo/Playground	NBI	\$ 250,000.00
Ball Fields	Backstop Replacement	NBI	\$ 120,000.00
Bluffland Restoration	Reclaim natural area	Other	\$ 50,000.00
Bluffview Park	Walking Paths, new shelter/restrooms, relocate playground	NBI	\$ 450,000.00
Bluffview Park	Restroom/Storage Structure/ Pickleball	NBI	\$ 400,000.00
	fitness equipment, lighting, improved ballfield		
	Benches, Garbage Cans, & Dog clean up station		
Carroll Park	Ball Field Renovations - Phase 2	TIF 14	\$ 200,000.00
City Wide	Boulevard Ash Tree Management	NBI	\$ 200,000.00
Clayton E. Johnson	Park Redevelopment Plan	NBI	\$ 200,000.00
Copeland Park	Riverfront Boardwalk Development	NBI	\$ 600,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Resurface Tennis Courts	NBI	\$ 75,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Cart Paths	Other	\$ 300,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Swimming Pool	Other	\$ 3,500,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Maintenance Storage Building	Other	\$ 200,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Well, Pond, Pump & Irrigation System	Other	\$ 1,200,000.00
Forest Hills Golf Course	Clubhouse Exterior upgrades	Other	\$ 125,000.00
International Friendship Gardens	Cameroon, Kumbo addition	Other	\$ 250,000.00
International Friendship Gardens	HoChunk Nation addition	Other	\$ 250,000.00
International Friendship Gardens	Globe Gathering addition	Other	\$ 150,000.00
Tower Park	Shelter & Splash Pad	Other	\$ 220,000.00
Trail Maintenance	Trail Maintenance, Repair, & Construction	NBI	\$ 75,000.00
Mobil Oil Site	Waterfront Park/Development of Riverside North	NBI	\$ 500,000.00
Myrick Park	Main Shelter Improvements	NBI	\$ 200,000.00
Prarie Restoration	Restore to natural area	NBI	\$ 10,000.00
Riverside Park	Transient Docks	TIF 12	\$ 405,000.00
Riverside Park	Bandshell Project	NBI	\$ 400,000.00
Springbrook Park	Restrooms, Splash Park, Handicap Accessible tables	NBI	\$ 45,000.00
Veteran's Freedom Park	Site Restoration/Gazebo/Boat Landing	NBI	\$ 355,000.00
Weigent Park	Park Improvements	NBI	\$ 1,500,000.00
		Total	\$ 12,230,000.00

Key

SOF	Source of Funds
NBI	New Bond Issue
EBF	Existing Bond Funds
DNR	State Department of Natural Resources
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Other	Other (Grants & Donations)

2019

Park/Site	Project Description	SOF	Cost
Bluffland Restoration	Reclaim narutal area	Other	\$ 50,000.00
Bluffview Park	Splash pad, basketball court	NBI	\$ 140,000.00
Carroll Park	Ball Field - Phase 3	TIF	\$ 150,000.00
Carroll Park	Softball Complex	NBI	\$ 1,500,000.00
City Wide	Boulevard Ash Tree Management	NBI	\$ 200,000.00
Erickson Park	Concession/Storage/Restroom Facility	TIF 15	\$ 250,000.00
Green Island	Increase Parking at Ice Arena	NBI	\$ 75,000.00
Green Island	Curling Rink	NBI	\$ 800,000.00
		Other	\$ 200,000.00
Hass Park	General Park Lighting	NBI	\$ 100,000.00
Riverside Park	Bandshell Project	NBI	\$ 400,000.00
Trail Maintenance	Trail Maintenance, Repair, & Construction	NBI	\$ 75,000.00
Myrick Park	Gun Club Renovations	NBI	\$ 50,000.00
Prarie Restoration	Restore natural prarie	NBI	\$ 10,000.00
		Total	\$ 4,000,000.00

Key

SOF	Source of Funds
NBI	New Bond Issue
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DNR	State Department of Natural Resources
CBDG	Community Development Block Grant
TIF	Tax Incremental Fund
Other	Other (Grants & Donations)

2020

Park/Site	Project Description	SOF	Cost
Bluffland Restoration	Reclaim natural area	Other	\$ 50,000.00
City Wide	Boulevard Ash Tree Management	NBI	\$ 200,000.00
Merry Meadows Park	New Shelter	NBI	\$ 200,000.00
Prarie Restoration	Restore natural prarie	NBI	\$ 10,000.00
Riverside Park	Levee Restoration	Other	\$ 300,000.00
Trail Maintenance	New Trail	NBI	\$ 200,000.00
		Total	\$ 960,000.00

Key

SOF	Source of Funds
NBI	New Bond Issue
EBF	Existing Bond Funds
DNR	State Department of Natural Resources
CBDG	Community Development Block Grant
TIF	Tax Incremental Fund
Other	Other (Grants & Donations)