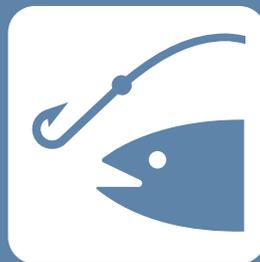


# CITY OF CHIPPEWA FALLS

## OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

2019 - 2024



# CITY OF CHIPPEWA FALLS

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## OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

2019 - 2024

Prepared by:

Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

*with assistance by:*

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Adopted by Chippewa Falls City Council - July 2, 2019

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-34**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF CHIPPEWA FALLS  
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2019-2024  
AS THE OFFICIAL OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR THE CITY OF CHIPPEWA FALLS.**

WHEREAS, the City of Chippewa Falls, in cooperation with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, has updated a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the City; and,

WHEREAS, this plan lists available outdoor recreation facilities and identifies foreseeable outdoor recreation needs for the City of Chippewa Falls; and,

WHEREAS, this plan identifies specific goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations for improving the recreational facilities and opportunities within the City of Chippewa Falls; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Chippewa Falls desires to maintain its eligibility for certain state and federal grant funding for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities; and,

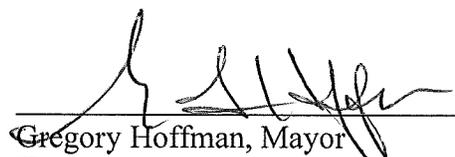
WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires that the City update its comprehensive outdoor recreation plan every five years to maintain such grant eligibility and to assure that the City's outdoor recreation planning goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations are current;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby adopts the *City of Chippewa Falls Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2019-2024* as the current official outdoor recreation plan for the City of Chippewa Falls.

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2019

ADOPTED: July 2, 2019

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CW King, Council President

APPROVED:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory Hoffman, Mayor

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bridget Givens, City Clerk

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# SECTION I: PROCESS & GOALS

## Introduction

Broadly defined, recreation is an activity or experience undertaken solely for the pleasure or satisfaction derived from it. Although recreational preferences may vary from individual to individual, recreation occupies a necessary and significant place in every person's life. It is important to provide a variety of parks and outdoor recreational facilities to offer opportunities for participation in a wide range of active and passive recreational pursuits.

A primary purpose of this plan is to provide direction for the programming, maintenance, and improvement of the City of Chippewa Falls existing parks and recreational trails, while guiding the acquisition and development of land to satisfy the outdoor recreational needs of the current and projected population of the city.



# Planning Process

## A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

Overall, this plan is intended to provide direction to the City of Chippewa Falls in the development of parks and outdoor recreation facilities. It is an update of the 2013 – 2018 City of Chippewa Falls Outdoor Parks & Recreation Plan. This document ensures the continuation of an orderly procedure to identify facilities that are needed, where they should be located, and generally when facilities should be constructed.

The Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department took the lead role in managing the development of this plan. This includes direction from the City Parks Board and facilitation support from West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC).

The Parks Board served as the advisory group for the plan update and where appropriate, information was also gathered from the City Planning and Engineering Departments. The City Comprehensive Plan and other plans (e.g., Riverfront Master Plan and Erickson Park Plan) were integrated into this document which consist of significant public input.

The plan update process began in December of 2018 and involved planning and strategy meetings, development of an on-line survey, interviews with stakeholders, and intensive data collection efforts summarized in the project timeline shown here.

### PROJECT TIMELINE

#### DECEMBER 2018

- » Form steering committee to guide plan update and review materials.
- » Update physical/demographic data and maps.

**MEETING 1** - discuss process and approach, identify goals and opportunities, web-based survey.

#### JANUARY 2019

- » Review and identify changes to 2013 plan.
- » Summarize progress on 2013 recommendations.
- » Update park inventory/facilities data.

**MEETING 2** - discuss changes/needs for park facilities. Finalize web based survey questions and collect responses from Jan. 14 to Feb. 22, 2019.

#### FEBRUARY 2019

- » Interviews with stakeholders.
- » Review of related plans for integration.
- » Develop updated recommendations and action plan/priorities.
- » Summarize survey results.

#### MARCH 2019

**MEETING 3** - Public meeting presentation to the Park Board of survey findings and discuss next steps for action plan.

**MEETING 4** - Sub-committee meeting to identify all park facility plan recommendations, costs, and timeline.

- » Complete park inventory forms and distribute draft plan to steering committee.
- » Incorporate edits and recommended changes to draft plan document.

#### APRIL 2019

- » Provide revised draft plan document to Park Board for review.

#### MAY 2019

- » Provide revised draft plan document to City for review.

#### JUNE/JULY 2019

- » Submit final draft to City for adoption (provide model resolution for consideration).
- » Submit adopted plan to WDNR for acceptance.

## B. PROCESS FOR ADOPTION

The final draft 2019-2024 City of Chippewa Falls Outdoor Recreation Plan will be adopted by the City during properly noticed public meetings, which provides additional opportunities for public input on the local recreational amenities, goals, and recommendations discussed in this document.

## C. AMENDING THE PLAN

The City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department is responsible for providing recommendations to the City Council to ensure implementation of the plan is consistent with the plan's goals, objectives, and policies.

Conditions, needs, opportunities, and recreational interests change. This plan may be amended as necessary to address changing conditions and any amendments should require formal approval of City Council after consideration of an advisory recommendation from the City Parks Board and the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Department.

Any adopted plan revisions or amendments should be sent to the region's Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Community Services Specialist. Furthermore, the plan should be updated every five years to maintain grant eligibility for certain WDNR grant funding as discussed later in Section V.

### SUMMARY OF PAST COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING

This plan update illustrates the dedicated effort of the Parks Department in actively maintaining and developing a strong recreation program within the City.

Previous City Outdoor Recreation Plans were consistently utilized to plan for and pursue grant dollars that have led to several successful projects throughout Chippewa Falls.

Maintaining this plan up-to-date will help ensure that park facilities are included in all planning and budgetary actions within the City and will help continue the success and momentum of the City Parks Board to ensure that:

*"The City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department maintains the beautiful parks in Chippewa Falls Wisconsin, and provides adult and youth seasonal recreation activities for the community".*

# Goals & Objectives

Goals may be defined as general statements of desirable ends, while objectives are measurable statements of those goals. Objectives are not always specific, but should always be in harmony with stated goals. As community desires and needs change, goals and objectives must remain flexible to reflect the changing values and priorities of the community.

Upon adoption of this plan, the following goals and objectives below provide a sound basis for future outdoor recreation planning in the City of Chippewa Falls. In addition, the outdoor recreation plan shall serve to meet the varied recreation needs of residents and visitors while at the same time protecting, conserving, and enhancing the City's natural, historical, and cultural resources.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

### A. GOALS

- » Provide an integrated system of public, general-use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas.
- » Develop and maintain a system of parks and recreation areas that offer a diversity of recreational opportunities for all.
- » Provide a system of public outdoor recreation sites that offer opportunities for individuals to become aware of natural resources through a variety of educational tools and programs.
- » Provide a mix of affordable, quality outdoor recreation facilities, programs, and amenities.

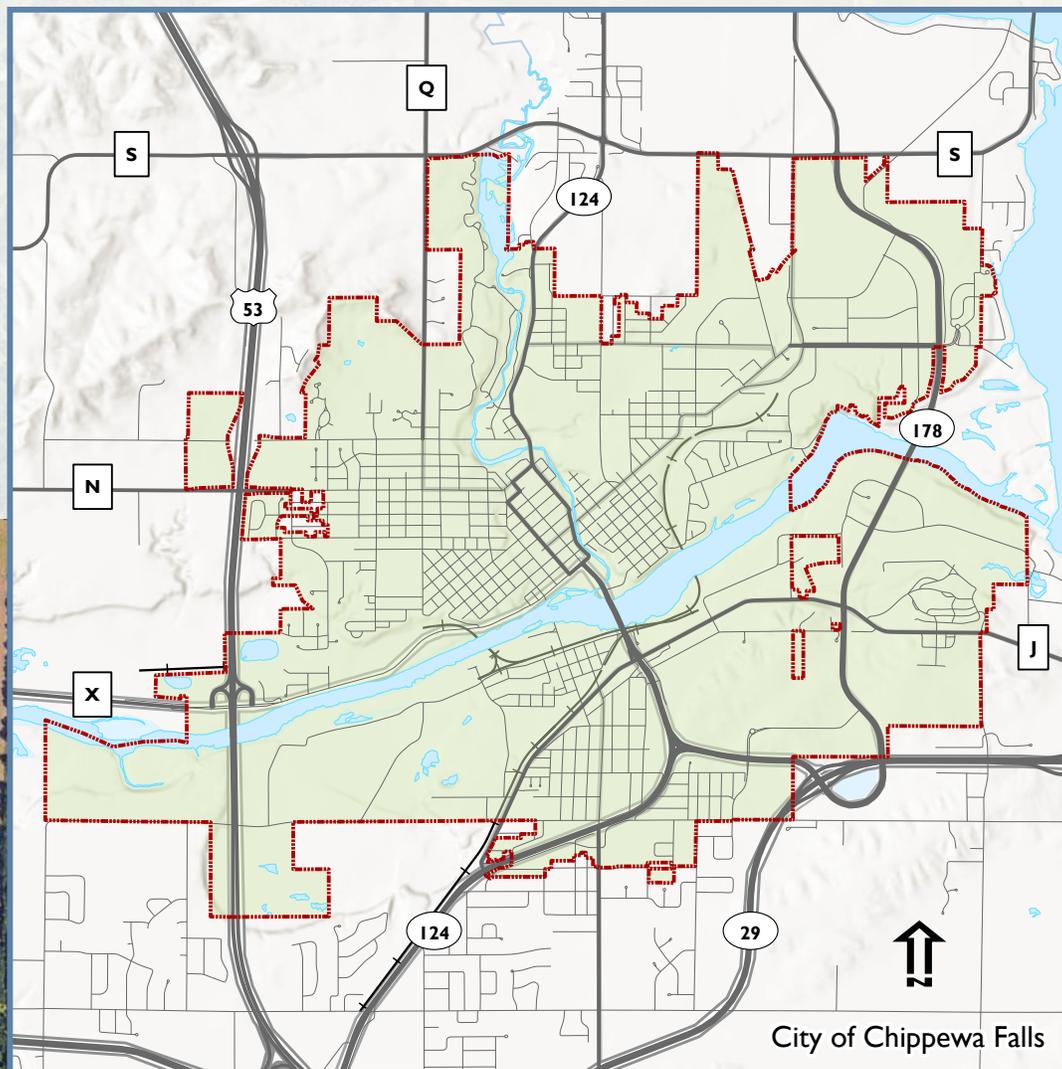
### B. OBJECTIVES

- » Provide general-use outdoor recreation sites sufficient in size and number to meet the recreation demands of the resident population.
- » Plan strategies should recognize and reflect the unique roles and other differences between neighborhood versus city-wide parks to best meet resident recreation demands.
- » Analyze the current park system to identify gaps in outdoor recreational sites or the potential overlap of recreational service areas.
- » Provide opportunities for all residents to enjoy the community's parks, natural resources, and recreation areas.
- » Preserve and protect land uses adjacent to existing community parks and playgrounds, and consider acquisition of properties adjacent to existing parks as opportunities arise.
- » Coordinate public and private recreation programs to ensure maximum public benefit.
- » Provide access to, and adequate parking for, the use of recreational resources and amenities.
- » Be aware of demographic trends and provide for the recreation needs of changing population.
- » Provide for the periodic review and updating for the City outdoor recreation plan so that it will reflect the changing needs of the community and its residents.
- » Identify and improve access and mobility to park facilities and features as parks are developed or improved.
- » City-wide improvements to recreation signage, wayfinding and connections to existing trail networks.

# SECTION II: CHIPPEWA FALLS CONDITIONS & TRENDS

Leisure time is an important component of people's lifestyles and quality of life whether they live in urban centers or sparsely populated rural regions of the country. Compared to a century ago, shorter working hours, more disposable income, earlier retirement, and longer life spans have led to an increased demand for leisure-time activities, including outdoor recreation.

**Figure 1:** Context Map of the City of Chippewa Falls



# Characteristics of the Planning Area

## A. PHYSICAL SETTING

The City of Chippewa Falls is located in the southwest portion of Chippewa County in west-central Wisconsin. The City is 90 miles east of the Twin Cities, 194 miles west of Green Bay, and is directly connected with the City of Eau Claire-Chippewa Falls Metropolitan Area.

The topography of Chippewa Falls is quite irregular. The terrain alternates between steep hills with dense urban tree canopy, to large flat areas amenable to development, open space, or parks. Duncan Creek and the Chippewa River are approximately 840 feet above sea level and some of the highest areas in the City are nearly 80 feet above the valley floor.

Chippewa Falls is located on the “Fall Line” in northern Wisconsin. This area marks the location of rapids or low cascades on major rivers (Chippewa River) and, hence, an abundant source of water and hydropower. Access to nearby water features is an important component of recreation and the quality of life for those living in the City.

Many of the City’s popular destination locations incorporate water features or access to water in their designs. This helps illustrate the importance of water to the identity of the City and is an important consideration for future outdoor recreation planning.

Figure 2: Statewide Context Map of Chippewa County.

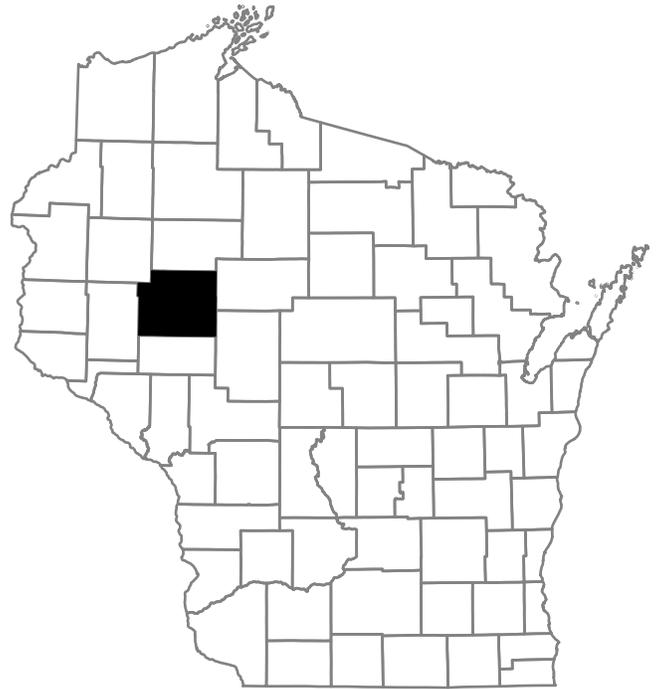


Figure 3: Regional Context Map.



## B. POPULATION & ECONOMY

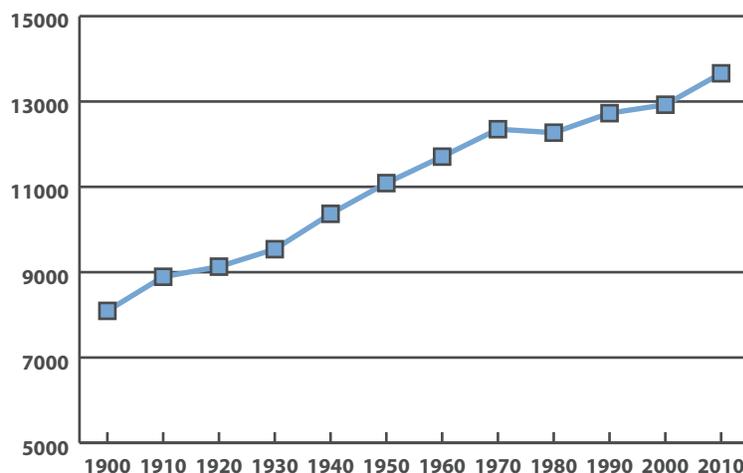
Since 1870, the City of Chippewa Falls has only experienced two decades in which the U.S. Census reported a loss of population occurring in 1900 and 1980 (Figure 4). In 1900, population had decreased by 576 persons, which is likely attributed to the declining lumber industry during that period. However, over the next seventy years the population saw steady growth, averaging an approximate increase of 600 persons every ten years, followed by slight population loss that occurred in 1980.

According to more recent estimates by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the City's current population is around 14,050 and is expected to increase for the next several decades. The City's location within the Eau Claire-Chippewa Falls metropolitan area is a major factor contributing to growth, along with access to plentiful water resources, services, and a diversity of employment opportunities.

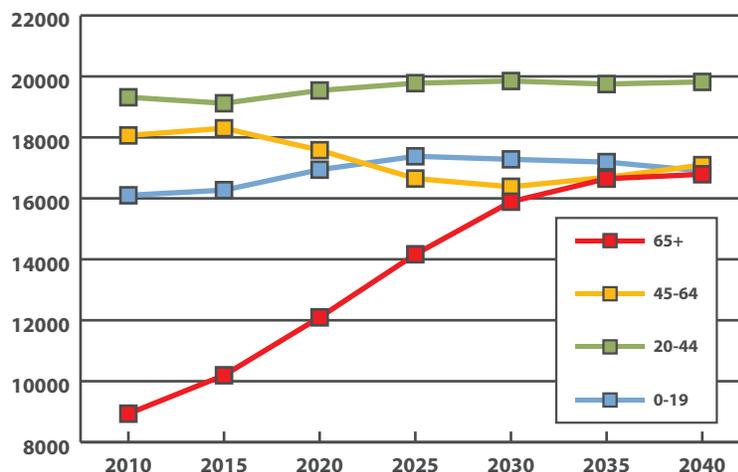
An important consideration for outdoor recreation planning is related to the aging population in the City. According to estimates by WCWRPC and DOA, the age group of individuals 65 and older in Chippewa County is expected to double by the year 2040, and will constitute a significant portion of the overall population (Figure 5). This transition in median age will have serious implications in the type of recreation, facilities, and improvements that are planned for the future.

The economy in Chippewa Falls remains strong and the area proves to be an attractive location for new businesses and families. The largest industries in the City include Manufacturing, Health Care & Social Assistance, and Public Administration and the median household income is \$42,391 (ESRI 2018).

Demographic trends are an important source of study to developing a healthy mix of recreation opportunities in the City, and will have serious implications in the type of recreation, facilities, and improvements that are planned for the future.



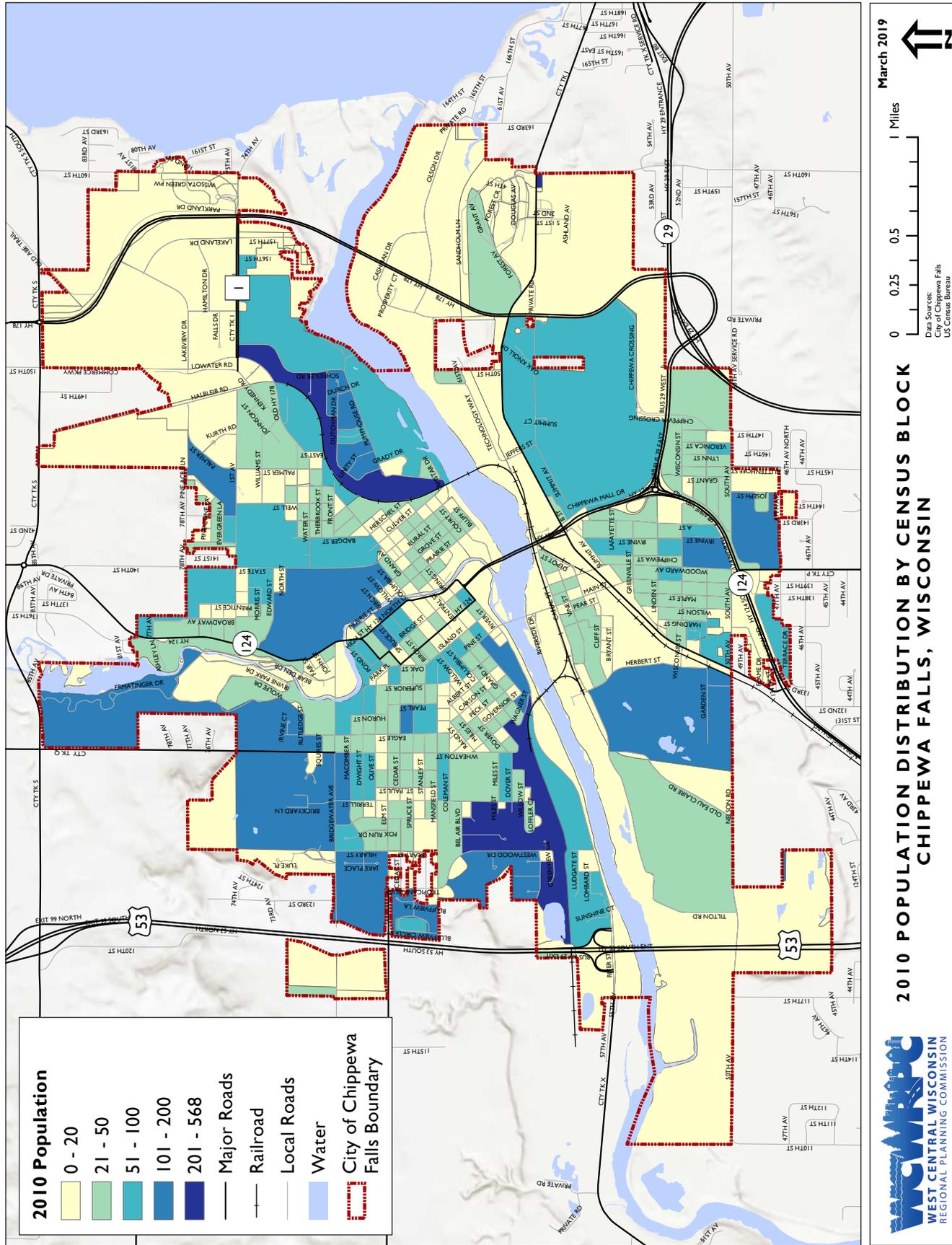
**Figure 4:** U.S. Decennial Census Historical Population for the City of Chippewa Falls 1900 to 2010.



**Figure 5:** Chippewa County Age Group Projections 2010 to 2040. Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2014.

Data Sources: Unless otherwise noted, sources of data in this section are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Figure 6: Map of 2010 population by census block for the City of Chippewa Falls. Source: U.S. Census.



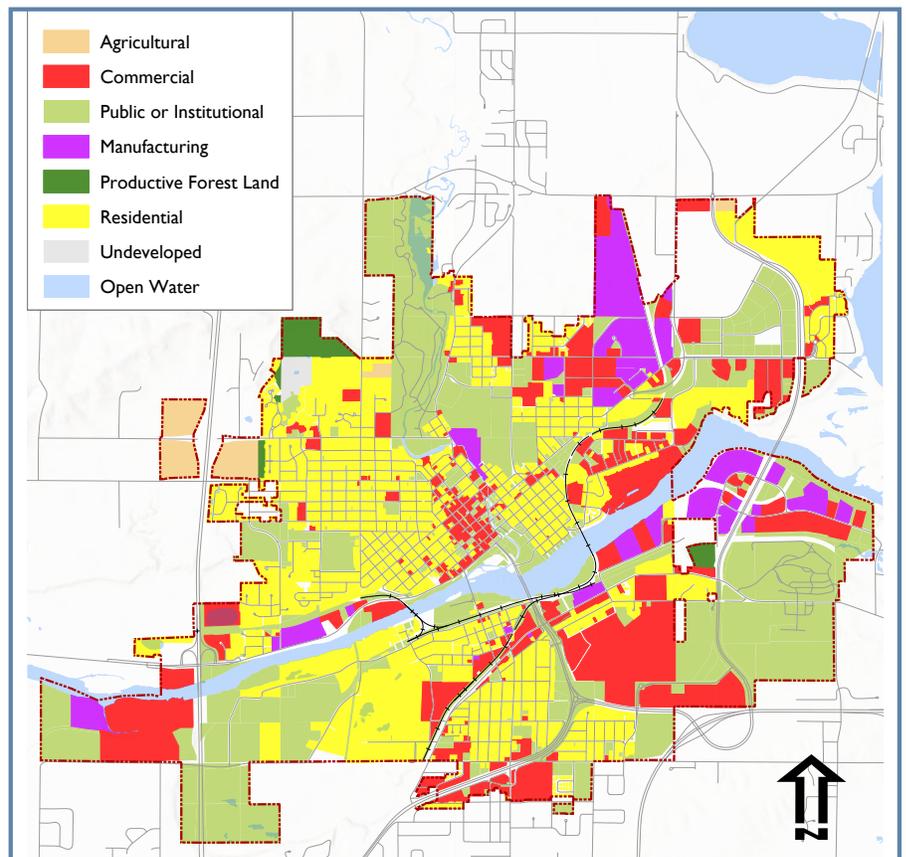
## C. LAND USE

The City of Chippewa Falls covers just over 11 square miles or 7,583 acres. Of this, approximately 360 acres is surface water. Residential acreage represents the largest percentage of land use within the community and is expected to increase with population growth over the next 30 to 40 years.

Many of the older residential homes and small commercial facilities in the City were developed at much higher densities than newer developments occurring further away from downtown Chippewa Falls. The City's comprehensive plan calls for continued high density development in the downtown area with larger lot developments outside this area.

Non-taxable acreage, such as most outdoor recreational land, is not classified in the Wisconsin Department of Revenue data. However, based on review of current park facilities with the Parks Board, there are an estimated 553 acres of parkland within the City limits, which includes the Northern State Fairgrounds.

There are also several more acres of county, state, and private land in the City with various four-season recreation facilities and amenities. Notable private facilities include the YMCA, Chippewa Area Ice Arena, and the Vic Mason Youth Sports Complex. While these latter facilities are not owned or managed by the City, they are an important mix of recreation opportunities for both residents and non-residents in the area.



**Figure 7:** Land Use map of the City of Chippewa Falls. Data from the State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue - 2017 Statement of Assessment.

# SECTION III: PARKS & RECREATION INVENTORY

The first step in developing a recreation planning program involves the inventory of the community's existing facilities.

This section focuses primarily on parks and outdoor recreational facilities owned and managed by the City of Chippewa Falls. However, residents and visitors also have access to a variety of outdoor recreational facilities owned by nearby communities, school districts, non-profit groups, and private enterprises.



# Summary of Park Classification System

The National Recreational and Park Association published guidelines in 1983 which classified different park areas based on use, service area, size, and desirable site characteristics. This classification system has been largely incorporated into this plan with those park types considered most appropriate for recreation facilities in the City of Chippewa Falls.

The definitions and standards below are suggested guidelines for planning purposes and analysis based on commonly used terminology and the primary intent of each park type. Although other types of parks can be found in some of Wisconsin’s cities and villages, the ones defined here are sufficient to analyze recreation areas within the City of Chippewa Falls.

**Most parks in Chippewa Falls are best classified as mini parks or neighborhood parks.**

**The City also has unique access to a high number of specialized recreation areas within, or in close proximity to the City’s municipal boundary.**

**Figure 8:** Summary of the City of Chippewa Falls Park Classification System.

Park Type	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/ 1,000 pop.	Use and Characteristics
Mini-Park	< 0.25 mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 – 0.5 acres	specialized facilities serving a concentrated population (e.g., apartments, seniors, tots)
Neighborhood Park/Playground	0.25 – 0.5 mile radius up to 5,000 pop.	1 to 5+ acres (see footnote*)	1 – 2 acres	intensive recreation area within safe walking distance; may be a school-park facility
Community Park	several communities; w/in 1 hour	5 to 25+ acres	5 – 8 acres	may include both passive & active recreation; easily accessible to neighborhoods served
Regional Park	several communities; w/in 1 hour	50+ acres	5 – 10 acres	contiguous to or encompassing natural resources
Specialized Area	varies; may be regional	varies	varies	provides a specialized function; may include conservancy areas and greenspace

\* The NRPA standard for the desirable size of neighborhood parks and playgrounds is actually 15+ acres. However, after consideration that such standards were developed with large, densely populated urban cities in mind, a decision was made to reduce the desirable size to 5+ acres to better reflect the park system and population characteristics of the City of Chippewa Falls.

# Park Types & Inventory

Each community is unique in its size, demographics, geography, and distribution of population; therefore, the classifications applied in a given community result from a community's judgment of how that community's parks function in meeting local and nonresident recreation needs.

## A. MINI-PARKS

A mini-park is a small, outdoor recreation area, typically less than 1-acre in size, that offers specialized facilities providing a single use or very limited number of amenities. Mini-parks will also serve a concentrated or limited population, such as very young children or senior citizens. Mini-parks are typically located in very close proximity to high-density residential development, such as a large apartment complex, townhouse development, or specialized housing for the elderly.

## B. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS

Neighborhood parks and playgrounds are suited for intense development areas and should be easily accessible to their neighborhood population by both pedestrian and bike travel. The service area for neighborhood parks and playgrounds is approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, with playground service areas potentially being larger. These facilities are typically for daylight use only, though some recreational court games and skating rings may be lighted.

All city-owned properties in this section are grouped by park type according to the City of Chippewa Falls Park Classification System.

Each number corresponds to the number and location shown on the map in Figure 9.

### Mini-Parks

1. Simon Lyberg Park
2. Ball and Knight Park
3. Alexander McBean Park
4. Mason Park
5. Alexander Wiley Park
6. L.C. Stanley Park
7. Harmony Park (Square)

### Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds

8. Unity Park
9. Frenchtown Park
10. James Buchanan Memorial Park
11. Thaddeus Pound Park
12. Adams Park

## C. COMMUNITY PARKS

A community park serves several neighborhoods or the entire community and is generally larger (25+ acres) and much more spacious than a neighborhood park or playground. The community park is designed to serve a full range of ages, including teenagers and adults with various recreational activities. Community parks can include play fields, participation sports areas, (baseball/softball fields, typically designed for organized league play), swimming pools, basketball courts, tennis and pickleball courts, disc golf, and skateboard parks.

## D. REGIONAL PARKS

A regional park not only serves the entire community, but offers amenities which are an attraction to several communities within a one-hour driving time. In a large city, a regional park may function as a city-wide or community park. Regional parks are very large (50+ acres) and serve some or all types of a community's recreation needs. It can provide a wide range of activities for all age groups or it can be very specific (i.e., a zoo). Regional parks are typically reserved for large contiguous landscapes kept natural or for focused nature-based activities.

## E. SPECIALIZED OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS

Golf courses, outdoor sports complexes, historic sites, conservancy areas, fairgrounds, and floodplains are examples of specialized recreation facilities and open spaces. Most of these are not developed as multi-purpose recreation areas, or are not always available for use by the public. However, specialized areas are an important adjunct to a community and its outdoor recreation and open space program as they often meet specific recreation demands of the population both in and around the community.

### Community Parks

13. Hiram S. Allen Park
14. Casper Park
15. Mary E. Marshall Park
16. Chippewa Riverfront Park

### Regional Parks

17. Irvine Park & Zoo

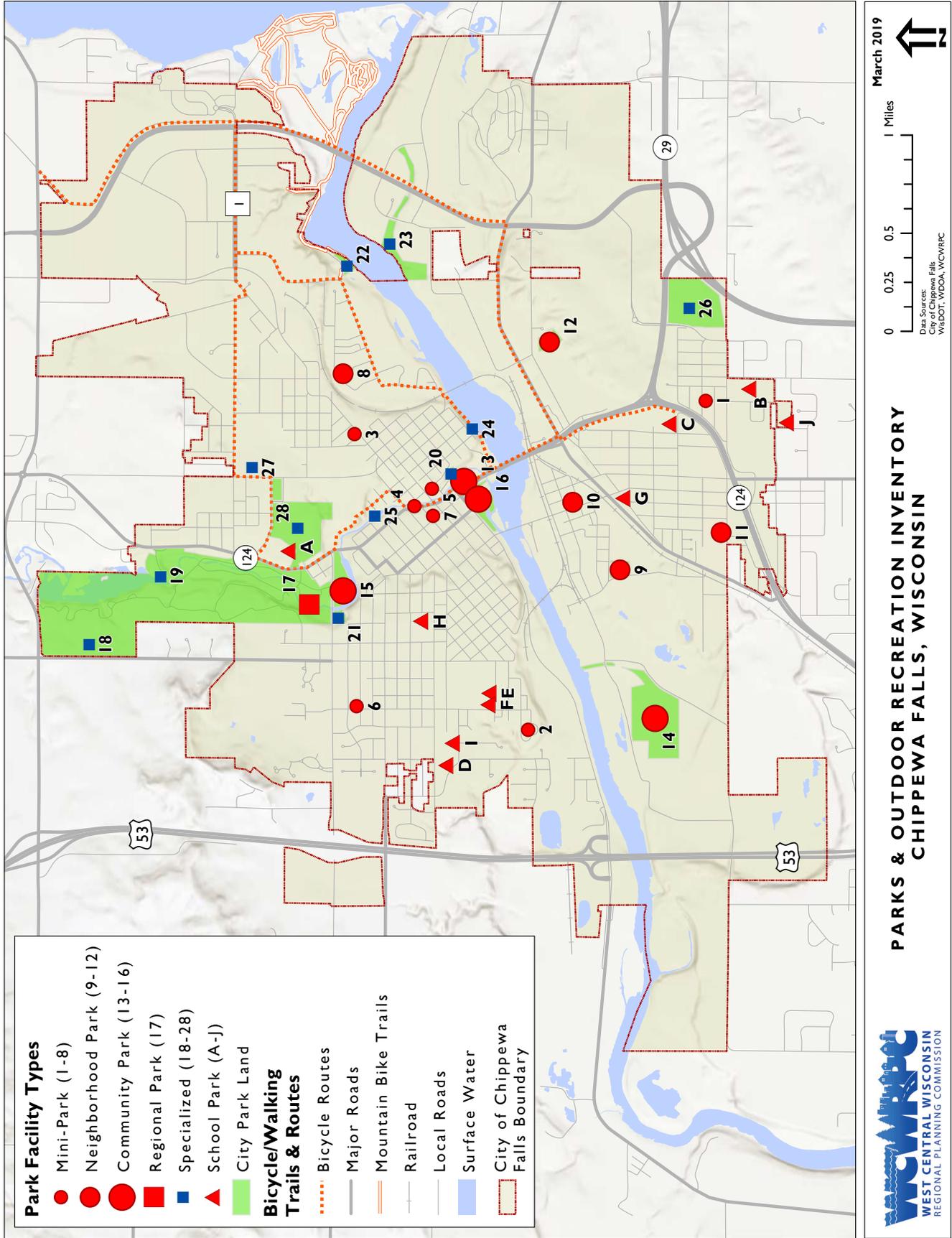
### Specialized Outdoor Recreation Areas (City)

18. Kalk-Fatu Woodland Park
19. Erickson Park
20. Goldsmith Wildlife Refuge
21. Hurd Picnic Place Park
22. Chippewa River Boat Landing
23. Industrial Park Conservancy Area
24. Chippewa River Corridor
25. Duncan Creek Floodplain
26. Chippewa Falls Happy Tails Dog Park

### Specialized Outdoor Recreation Areas (Private)

27. Vic Mason Youth Sports Complex
28. Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds

Figure 9: Map of Parks & Other Recreation Facilities in the City of Chippewa Falls.



# Additional Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## A. PUBLIC & PAROCHIAL SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

These school facilities have not been included in the overall land acreage totals for public (City) recreation facilities because they are not accessible to the general public at all times and are not owned or maintained by the City.

However, the City of Chippewa Falls and the school district have a strong partnership regarding the sharing of outdoor recreational facilities and use agreements are in place for some school and City park facilities. Currently, the outdoor recreation facilities of the Chippewa Falls United School District are available for public use during non-school hours; and the four public elementary schools of Parkview, Halmstad, Southview, and Hillcrest function as neighborhood playgrounds during non-school hours.

It is recommended that the City and school district continue to coordinate activities, to the extent possible, so the recreation facilities under each jurisdiction can be beneficial to both. No formal arrangement between the City and private schools exist for the general public use of private school playgrounds and athletic fields during non-school hours.

### Schools With Parks or Playgrounds

#### A. Parkview Elementary School

Playground equipment and open space

#### B. Halmstad School

Play apparatus, soccer fields, backstops and benches

#### C. Southview School

Play apparatus, basketball and open space

#### D. Chippewa Falls Middle School

Softball/baseball/football/soccer and cross-country ski trails in winter

#### E. Hillcrest School

Playground apparatus

#### F. Chippewa Fall High School

Blacktop courts, baseball, football practice and open space

#### G. Holy Ghost Elementary School

Blacktopped area, basketball and playground apparatus

#### H. St. Charles School

Blacktopped area, basketball, play apparatus and open space

#### I. McDonell Central High School

Backstop for baseball/softball and open space

#### J. Christ Lutheran School Playground

Playground with recent improvements in 2011

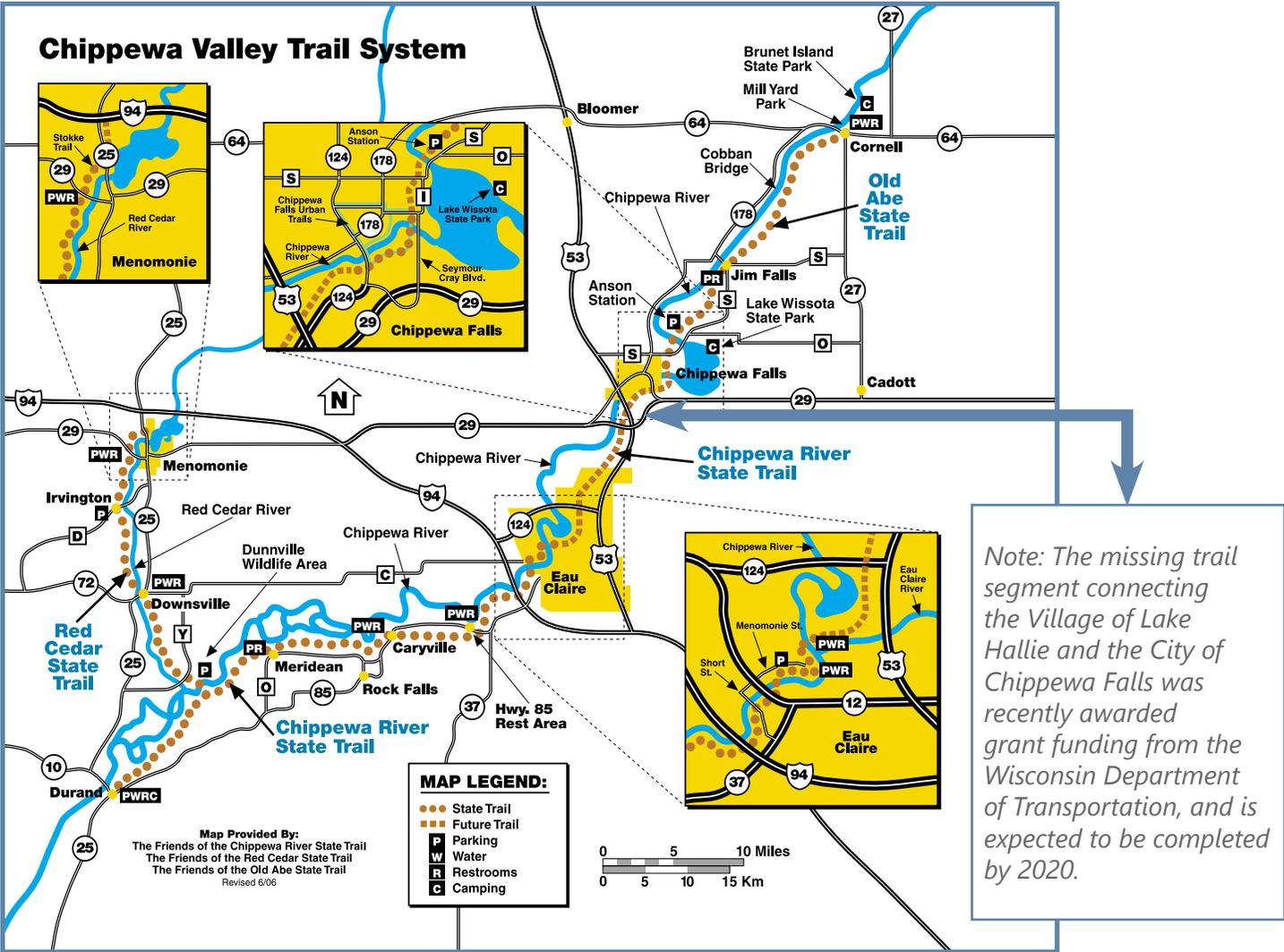
B. NEARBY RECREATION FACILITIES OUTSIDE THE CITY

Regional trail linkages are important to outdoor recreation planning in the City and several recent projects are nearing completion that will greatly enhance trail network connectivity in the region. The City of Chippewa Falls is an important link in the Chippewa Valley Trail System shown in Figure 10 and this multi-use trail system of over 70 miles connects communities spread throughout four counties in western Wisconsin - Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Pepin.

At its north termination point in Cornell (Brunet Island State Park), the Chippewa Valley Trail System also connects with the Chippewa County portion of the Ice Age Trail.

City residents can also take advantage of a diversity of county, state, and other outdoor recreational facilities in the region. These facilities offer recreational opportunities which may be inappropriate or not found in the City, such as hunting, shooting ranges, boating, and campgrounds.

Figure 10: Map of the Chippewa Valley Trail System. The City is also working on a new Bicycle & Pedestrian plan that will improve cycling opportunities throughout the City and the region.

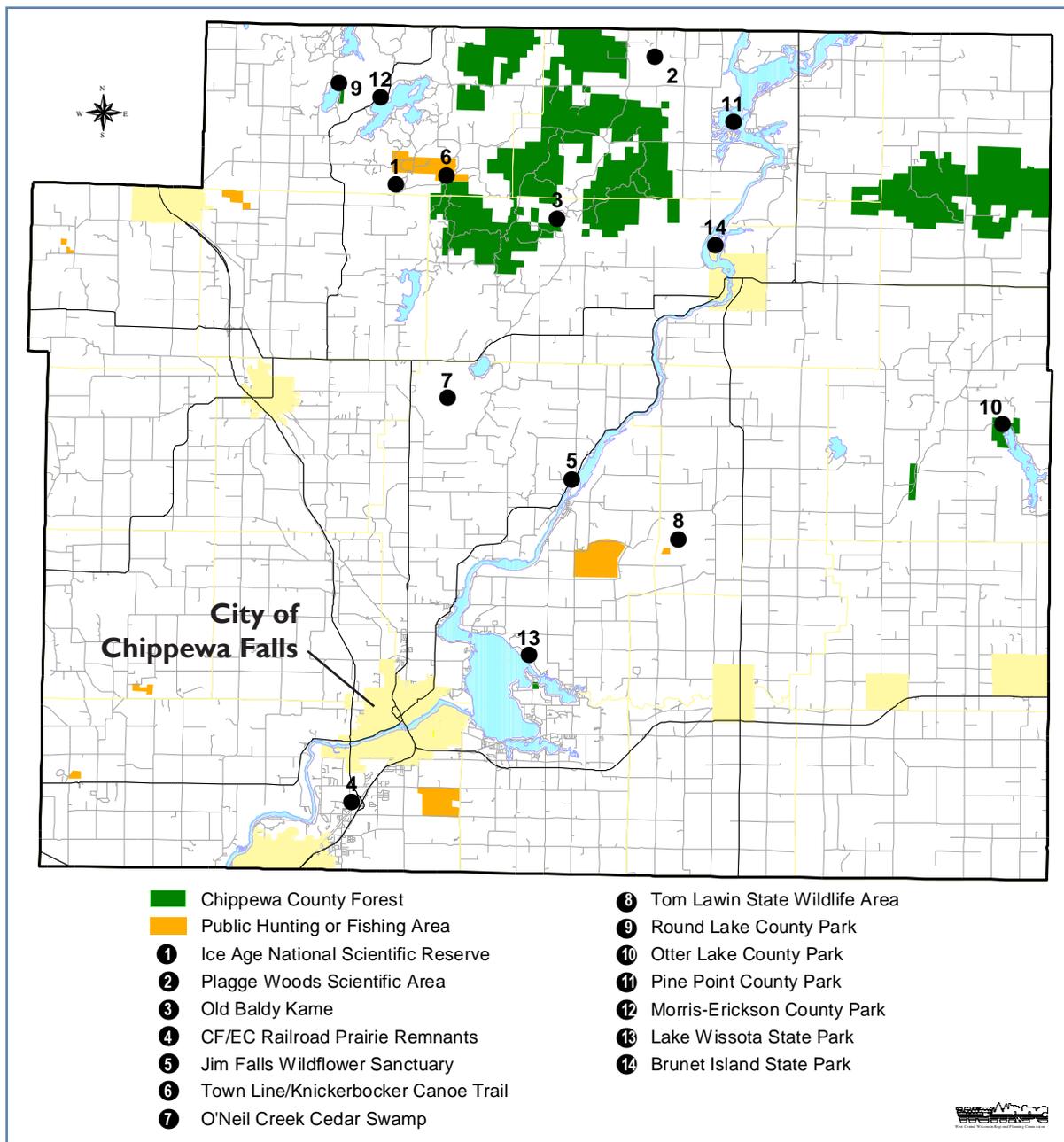


# CITY OF CHIPPEWA FALLS

There are numerous unmapped recreational facilities which are operated by other nearby local communities or are privately owned. Some of these public or private facilities include the Village of Lake Hallie parks/ballfields or the City of Stanley campground. As of 2010, there were approximately 1,687 campsites in Chippewa County, of which about 1,412 were privately owned, including the 30 sites at the privately operated Fair Hill Campground located at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds.

Of special significance to City residents is the 6,300-acre Lake Wissota and Wissota State Park just east of the City for boating, water-skiing, and fishing. Chippewa County also has nearly 81 miles of trout streams. Hunters have access to over 40,000 acres of hunting grounds in the County when Managed Forest Law lands and Forest Crop lands are included. Figure 11 below highlights some of the significant county-wide facilities offering various additional outdoor recreation opportunities.

**Figure 11:** Map of Chippewa County & Additional State Recreation Areas.



# Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

A community's recreational programs and activities play an important part of the life of community. No physical or policy barriers should exist that keep people with disabilities from participating. The City of Chippewa Falls is committed to providing ample recreational options for persons with disabilities, but also recognize that some trails and non-play areas may not be conducive to such improvements due to topography and other site factors.

When new recreational facilities or alterations to existing facilities and amenities are made, they **both must comply with ADA standards**. It is the goal of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department to implement appropriate guidelines and recommendations for existing and future recreation facilities. Currently, not all park facilities, walkways, trails, play equipment, and restrooms are fully accessible for persons with disabilities and comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. However, the City has made progress in improving such facilities, and continues to incorporate ADA standards into new or improved park facilities.

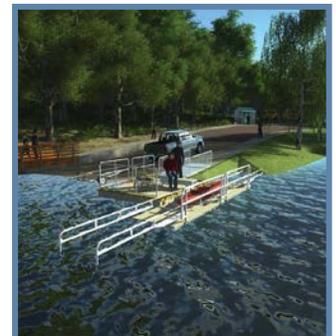
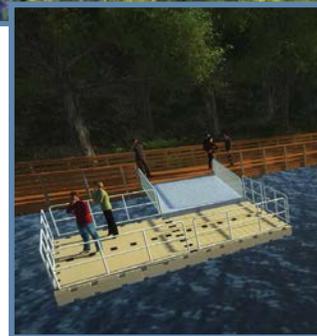
There are several outdoor recreation facilities that are currently under construction such as Erickson Park and the Chippewa Riverfront Park that will be completely accessible by all members in the community. These projects highlight the commitment of residents and the City to eliminate access or mobility barriers to outdoor recreation amenities. The City will continue to incorporate ADA design standards into the development or expansion of parks which includes playground equipment or other amenities purchased and/or replaced as identified in the detailed park plans and recommendations in Section V of this plan.

The City of Chippewa Falls will continue to incorporate ADA design standards into the development or expansion of city-owned parks and outdoor recreation facilities.

This includes the purchase of accessible playground equipment or other park features identified in Section V of this plan.



**Figure 12:** Erickson Park Site Rendering, floating fishing piers (bottom left, and accessible boat launch (bottom right). Designs by Ayres Associates. Images courtesy of City of Chippewa Falls.



# SECTION IV: OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## TOP 10 OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE

1. **Four Season Recreation Opportunities**
2. **New/Expanded Trail Networks & Opportunities**
3. **Maintenance of Existing Trail Networks & Facilities**
4. **Increased/Improved Social Engagement Opportunities**
5. **Retention of Public Open Spaces & Natural Environments**
6. **Restroom & Shelter Improvements**
7. **Better Use of Existing Park Spaces & Adjacent Public Land**
8. **Major Updates at Marshall Park & Casper Park**
9. **Improved Park/Trail Connectivity, Wayfinding, & Signage**
10. **Identifying Public Demand for Recreation Improvements**

# Public Input Assessment

## A. PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

### MAJOR FINDINGS

In early 2019, Chippewa Falls residents and visitors had the opportunity to participate in a 16-question online survey. The survey focused on use of the City's recreational facilities and offered participants an opportunity to provide input for suggested facility improvements to both public and private recreation amenities.

There were 167 responses to the survey and approximately 60% of respondents indicated they live in the City of Chippewa Falls, while 40% live outside the City. Survey participation was requested via e-mail, Facebook, and through notices or links posted at various City websites or community facilities. Survey respondents provided a variety of suggested improvements to the City's recreational facilities and some of the common themes include:

- » Dog park improvements.
- » Disc golf course needs significant work and should be made accessible to those of all abilities.
- » Sidewalk improvements within parks.
- » Skate park needs improvements and upgrades.
- » Improved connection to Old Abe State Trail and other trails.
- » Community pool needs repairs and upgrades.
- » Improved signage and wayfinding for parks.

Survey Respondents: 167

Of the current outdoor recreation opportunities and demands in the City, the majority of respondents feel that the following facilities are doing a good job meeting demand, and do not require significant improvements:

- » **Walking, jogging, running (84%)**
- » **Picnicking (87%)**
- » **Fishing (78%)**
- » **Motorized boating (72%)**
- » **Access to dog parks (73%)**
- » **Baseball/softball fields (78%)**

Areas where respondents identified the need for significant improvements include the following recreation activities:

- » **Road cycling (34%)**
- » **Nature-based educational programs (33%)**
- » **Outdoor ice skating/hockey (28%)**
- » **Disc golf facilities (26%)**
- » **Mountain bike trails (25%)**
- » **Skateboard facilities (24%)**
- » **Snowshoeing (23%)**



**Figure 13:** Survey flyer developed for marketing and outreach of the online public input survey for the City of Chippewa Falls Outdoor Recreation Plan Update.

## COMMUNITY GARDENS

Of those that responded, 33% would use a community garden if it was in their neighborhood, 39% would not use a community garden, and 28% did not have an opinion.

## USE OF CITY OF CHIPPEWA FALLS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Irvine Park & Zoo/Kalk-Fatu Woodland Park is the most often used facility with 90% of respondents identifying frequent use of the area. Bike routes and trails are also popular among respondents, along with the Chippewa Riverfront Park that is currently under development and will begin programming and scheduling activities in the spring/summer of 2019.

## PARK OR PROGRAM FEES & EQUIPMENT COSTS

The majority (74%) of respondents indicated that park fees do not prohibit or limit their household from enjoying City parks or participating in outdoor recreational activities. Additionally, respondents do not find that equipment costs prohibit or limit their household from participating in available outdoor recreational activities within the City.

## ACCESSIBILITY OF PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS

Most respondents (76%) feel that parks and playgrounds in the City are accessible and inviting to all residents. Those who disagree noted the need for accessible playground equipment updates for several park areas in the City. Respondents also identified the need for greater signage and improved wayfinding of City park facilities.

## PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED ADULT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Of those that responded, 35% would be interested in participating in an organized adult recreational group; expressing an interest in activities such as softball, pickleball, volleyball, ultimate frisbee and basketball.

## B. STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

Assessing the outdoor recreation needs of Wisconsin’s residents and visitors is a major component of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). SCORPs are intended to evaluate outdoor recreation supply, demand, trends and issues. They are used to set forth ideas about recreation’s future role in the state and serve as the blueprint by providing broad guidance to governments at all levels, communities, businesses and organizations on recreation needs and opportunities.

States are required to complete SCORPs every five years to be eligible for participation in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program. Describing the supply and demand for outdoor recreation in the state as well as describing the criteria and system to distribute LWCF funds are required components of the SCORP. States have the flexibility to incorporate other topics in their SCORP that will help provide a better understanding of the needs and priorities unique to their outdoor recreation resources.

Primary actions for the 2019-2023 Wisconsin SCORP include:

- » collect data on Wisconsinites’ participation in outdoor recreation;
- » conduct initial research on the efficacy and costs of different techniques to gather data on visitors (e.g., numbers, activities pursued, visitation patterns and satisfaction) to public lands;
- » update data on the supply of outdoor recreation opportunities, with a focus on properties open to the public for nature-based outdoor recreation; and
- » develop priorities for future recreation funding.

### State of Wisconsin’s Goals for Outdoor Recreation



1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation



2. Grow partnerships



3. Provide high-quality experiences



4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits



5. Enhance funding and financial stability

### Regional Recreation Needs Identified in the Western Sands

- » Bicycling – bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- » Bird or wildlife watching
- » Camping - developed and primitive
- » Canoeing or kayaking
- » Cross country skiing
- » Dog walking
- » Fishing
- » Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- » Horseback riding
- » Hunting - big game
- » Picnicking
- » Snowshoeing
- » Swimming in lakes and rivers

## C. RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES ANALYSIS (ROA)

In June of 2018, The Department of Natural Resources released the Recreation Opportunities Analysis (ROA). This document compiles information and public input throughout the state regarding:

- Current recreation opportunities
- Existing gaps and needs
- Department-managed properties that may be well-suited to help address these needs

The ROA divides the state into eight regions; the same regions identified and used in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP). Chippewa Falls is part of the Western Sands Region and received input from over 1,000 individuals regarding the opportunities and needs of the region. Some of the highlights from this report identifying high needs or requested improvements in the Western Sands Region include:

- Hiking/walking/running trails
- Bicycle trails - both paved and natural surface
- Camping - rustic/quiet campgrounds
- Horseback riding trails

Chippewa Falls has made significant improvements to its bicycle and hiking trail network, and is currently working on a Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan that will be completed in 2019. The plan will identify several additional routes and connections to help expand and improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities and identify where wayfinding and signage improvements can be made throughout the City.

### Description of the Western Sands Region

The diverse landscape of the Western Sands Region provides outdoor recreation for those looking for a mix of developed recreation facilities. Much of what recreationists look for can all be found here—regional trail networks for various forms of trail use, large properties for migratory bird and big game hunting, state and county park properties with camping, picnic areas and hiking trails, as well as waterways for boating and canoe/kayak use.

### Top 10 Activities Respondents Participate In Include:

- » Bicycling – surfaced trails
- » Bicycling – mountain biking, single track
- » Camping – tent
- » Camping – RV/pop-up
- » Canoeing/kayaking
- » Cross-country skiing/snowshoeing
- » Fishing – from a boat, canoe or kayak
- » Hiking, walking, and running on trails
- » Swimming
- » Wildlife/bird watching

## D. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES DISTRIBUTION & DEMAND

Another tool used to identify parks and recreation needs for the City considers the amount and types of parkland available in the context of the potential recreation population. This analysis will use the National Recreation and Park Association's general service standard of 10 acres of public recreation land per 1,000 residents.

The City of Chippewa Falls manages over 516 acres of public land used for recreational purposes in the city limits. The City's current population is about 14,049 residents (Wisconsin Department of Administration) and based on the standard of 10 acres of public recreation land per 1,000 population, the City should have around 140 acres of public park land for its residents.

In terms of gross acreage, the City's supply of 516 acres of public park land greatly exceeds the minimum service standard of 10 acres per 1,000 residents, even for any anticipated projected population growth over the next several decades.

However, despite having sufficient park land available, many of the recreation facilities are not solely used by residents inside city limits, as was indicated by the online public input survey. Additionally, there are several hundred acres that are unimproved or cannot be developed as multi-use parks due to their topography or use requirements such as the Kalk-Fatu Woodland Park for example.

Based on the assessment of current recreational facilities and demands in the City, the following factors are of greater importance with regards to the development or improvement of additional park facilities in the future:

- » Growing or changing recreational demands by residents and/or visitors are not being met with existing park facilities.
- » The geographic distribution of existing parks does not provide sufficient access for all residents.
- » Park amenities or specific uses are overly concentrated in a single area at such levels that use conflicts are created and/or the carry capacity of facilities and the natural environment are being exceeded.

**Figure 14:** Photo of the new trail bridge connecting Irvine and Erickson Parks. This bridge and several other planned improvements will provide greater connectivity between City parks and trail networks in the region.



# SECTION V: OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The previous section of this plan identifies several general recommendations for outdoor recreation planning in the City of Chippewa Falls. By way of public survey and detailed input from City officials or boards involved in recreation planning, **bicycle and cycling** facilities appear to be in highest demand for new or expanded facilities.

While this section identifies new or expanded trail networks within existing City-owned properties, there are several other recent planning efforts identifying trails and cycling improvements to improve connectivity throughout the City and into neighboring communities or more rural areas of Chippewa County.

The plans below consist of significant public input to identify new or expanded bicycle and pedestrian facilities which support multi-modal transportation, public health, and outdoor recreation. These plans are thereby incorporated by reference for the purpose of outdoor recreation planning in the City which include the following:

*Chippewa Falls Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan - 2019*

*Chippewa County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan - 2019*

*Chippewa Falls Area Safe Routes to School Plan - 2015*

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Also highly correlated, are demands for greater access to nature through the following activities that could be improved in the City of Chippewa Falls over the next one to five years:

- » *Cross-country skiing/snowshoeing*
- » *Canoeing/kayaking*
- » *Picnicking*
- » *Wildlife/bird watching*
- » *Fishing – from a boat, canoe or kayak*
- » *Swimming (including lakes & rivers)*

The following activities have high public demand, but based on facility needs or other site factors, are better suited for development or improvement outside the City in more rural areas of Chippewa County such as:

- » *Camping*
- » *Horseback riding*
- » *Hunting*

# Detailed Park Inventory Forms, Improvements, & Action Plan

While previous sections of this plan identify general policies, long-term goals, and public input for enhancing City recreation opportunities, this section of the plan identifies specific features, amenities, improvement needs, and opportunities for existing facilities either owned, managed, or considered for capital investment by the City of Chippewa Falls.

Each park facility and the accompanying recommendations include cost estimates, potential partnerships, maintenance responsibilities, and suggested time frames for improvements. The cost estimates are a reasonable approximation and will vary based on site-specific characteristics and final design. The exact time-frame for implementation will also vary based on available resources, partnership opportunities, and other priority needs within the City when considering potential future improvements.

The inventory forms included here serve both as an outreach tool for marketing existing recreation facilities in the City, while also serving as a capital improvement plan for park facilities. Consolidation of park information in this manner helps simplify future facility improvements, recognize accomplishments over time, and identify changes for future Outdoor Recreation Plan updates.

## FACILITIES INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION:

1. Simon Lyberg Park
2. Ball & Knight Park
3. Alexander McBean Park
4. Mason Park
5. Alexander Wiley Park
6. L.C. Stanley Park
7. Harmony Park (Square)
8. Unity Park
9. Frenchtown Park
10. James Buchanan Memorial Park
11. Thaddeus Pound Park
12. Adams Park
13. Hiram S. Allen Park
14. Casper Park
15. Mary E. Marshall Park
16. Chippewa Riverfront Park
17. Irvine Park (Zoo shown separately)
18. Kalk-Fatu Woodland Park
19. Erickson Park
20. Goldsmith Wildlife Refuge
21. Hurd Picnic Place Park
22. Chippewa River Boat Landing
23. Industrial Park Conservancy Area
24. Chippewa River Corridor
25. Duncan Creek Floodplain
26. Chippewa Falls Happy Tails Dog Park

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This section does not guarantee that all listed improvements will be made, but helps identify future priorities for City-owned facilities as citizen demand and funding is made available through allocation, grants, or partnership opportunities.*

# 1. SIMON LYBERG PARK

**ADDRESS:** Garden St. (Between Prairie View Rd. & Grant St.), Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Mini-Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Playground

**SIZE:** 0.2 acre

## PRIMARY USES

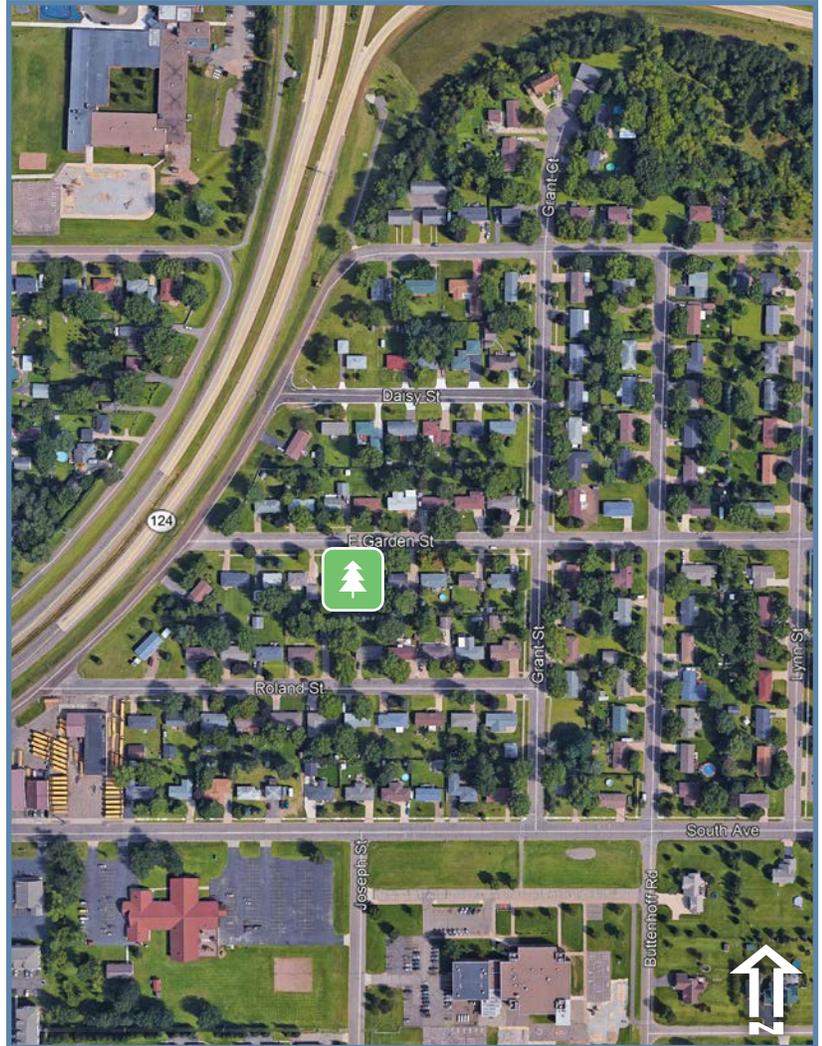
This is a small park used mostly for the playground equipment and other passive recreational activities by residents in the City's southeast residential neighborhoods.

## KEY FEATURES

The park is located on a small center lot in a residential neighborhood. Park users have access to playground equipment, a picnic table, and benches. The area is fenced with large shade trees and manicured grass surrounding the playground area.

## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Playground equipment
- » Picnic table
- » Bench
- » Fencing around park
- » Shade trees
- » Manicured grass



## PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintain/install new playground equipment and other park features.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

\$25,000

**TIME  
FRAME**

1-5 yrs

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

## 2. BALL & KNIGHT PARK

**ADDRESS:** 1400 Area of Loffler Ct., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Mini-Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Playground

**SIZE:** 0.3 acre

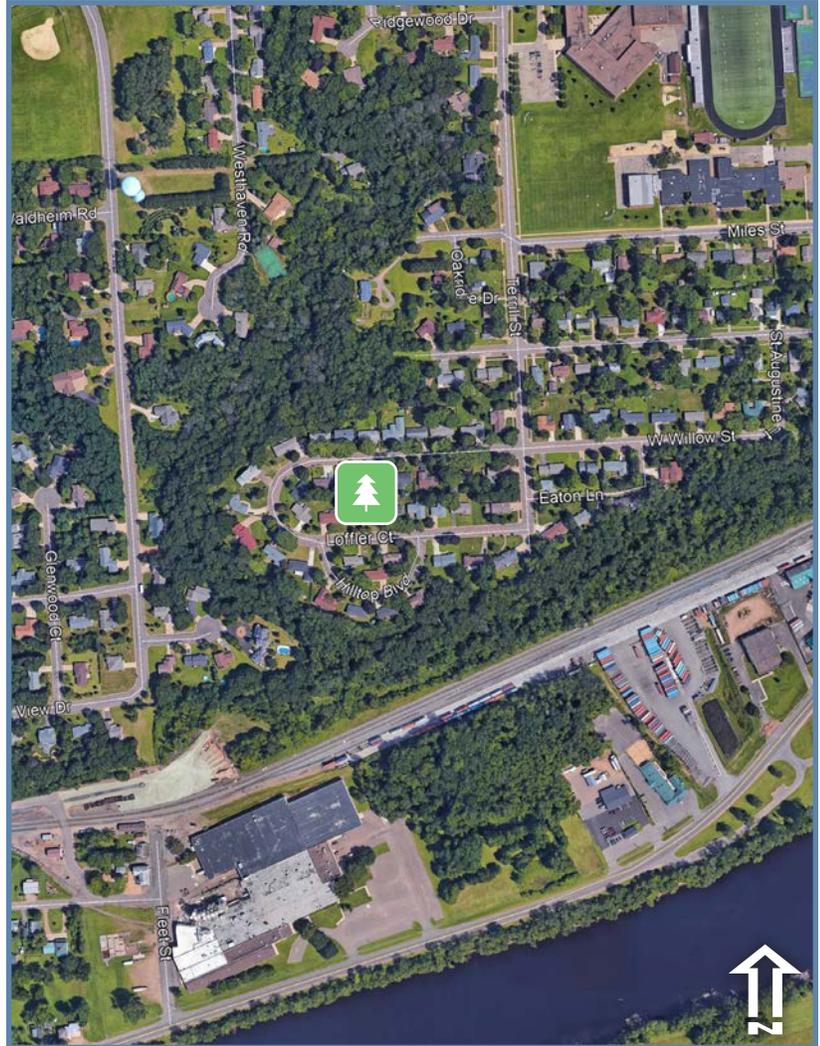
### PRIMARY USES

This is a small park used mostly for the playground equipment and other passive recreational activities.

### KEY FEATURES

The playground has become less popular with nearby access to the improved playground equipment at Hillcrest Elementary School.

The entire park is fenced with a large play area, flat manicured grass, and several large shade trees.



### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Playground equipment
- » Shade trees
- » Manicured grass
- » Fencing around park

### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Site needs new playground equipment.

Consider new/additional outdoor recreation amenities at this site.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

\$40,000

NA

**TIME  
FRAME**

3-5 yrs

1-3 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

### 3. ALEXANDER MCBEAN PARK

**ADDRESS:** Corner of Marshall St. & Grand Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Mini-Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Playground

**SIZE:** 0.4 acre

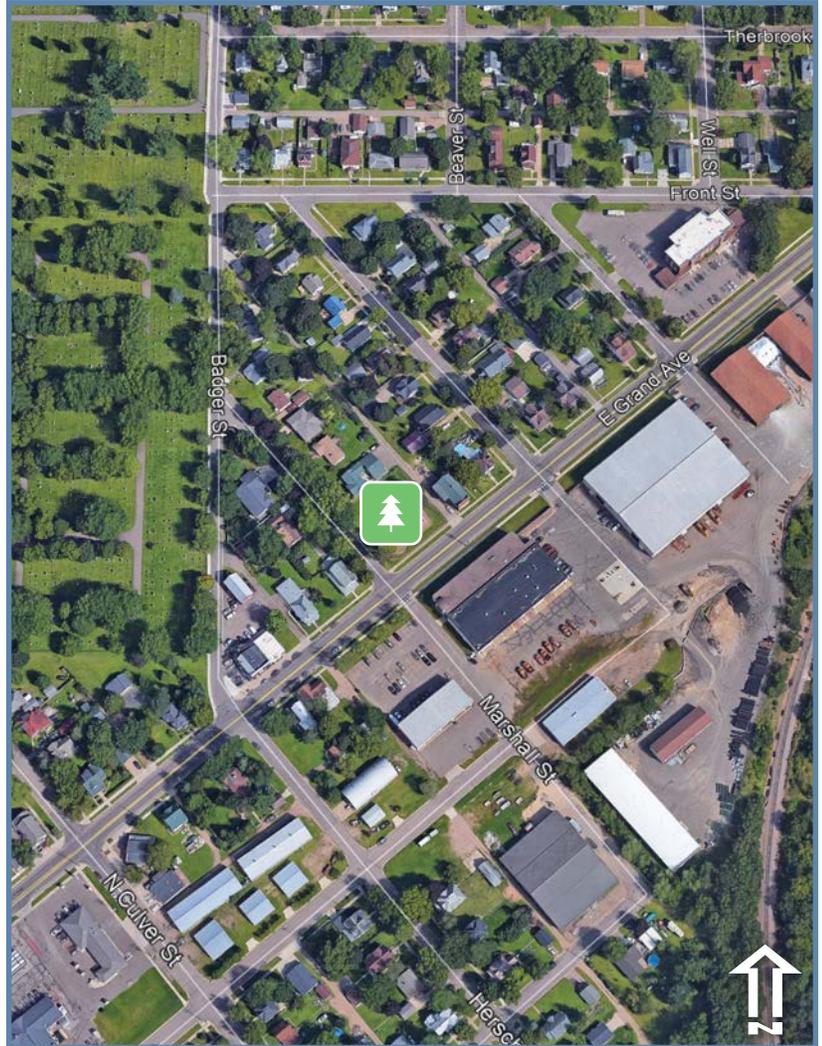
#### PRIMARY USES

This is a small park used mostly for the playground equipment and other passive recreational activities.

#### KEY FEATURES

The playground equipment at the park was recently replaced in 2016 along with removal of aging and degraded blacktop.

The playground is popular during favorable weather and the entire park is fenced with separate play areas, flat manicured grass, and large shade trees.



#### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Playground equipment
- » Picnic table
- » Shade trees
- » Manicured grass
- » Fencing around park

#### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintain playground equipment as needed.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

\$25,000

**TIME  
FRAME**

3-5 yrs

#### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

## 4. MASON PARK

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of Columbia St. & Rushman Dr., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Mini-Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Picnicking/Historic Marker

**SIZE:** 0.2 acre

### PRIMARY USES

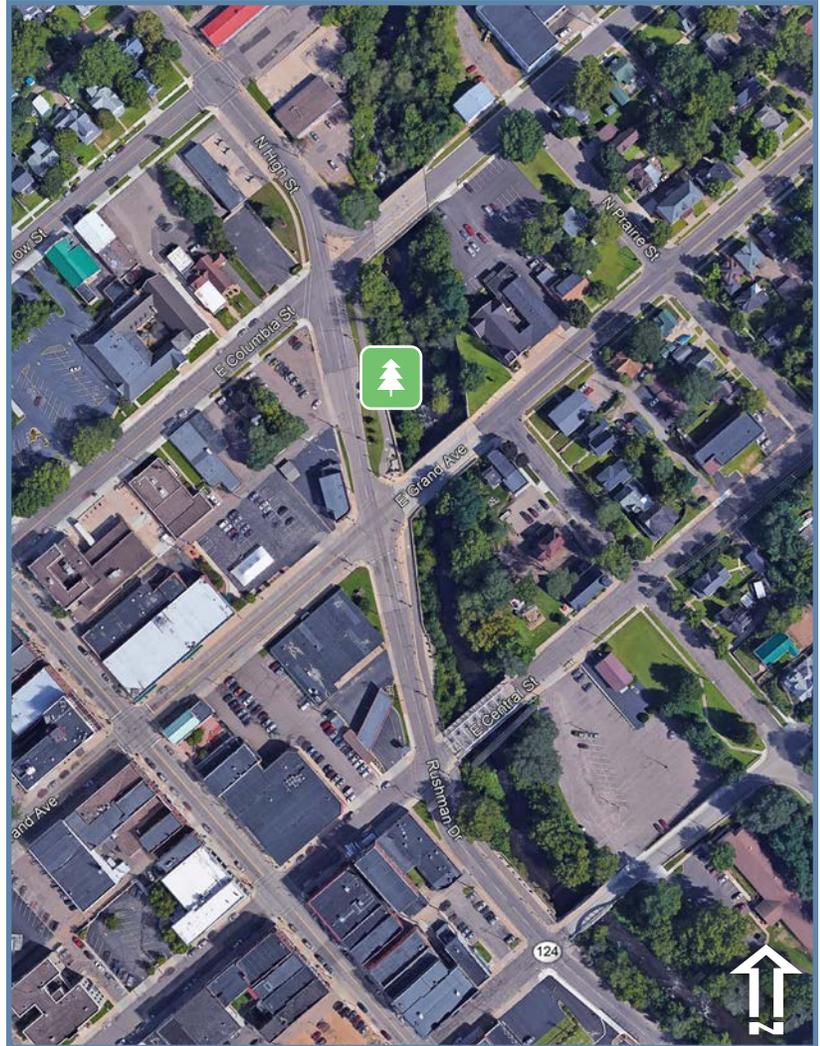
This small park space is adjacent to Duncan Creek, offering picnic facilities and access to the historical marker of the Old Mason Shoe Factory.

### KEY FEATURES

The park strip includes a paved hiking and biking pathway that runs parallel with the City's downtown. Park users have access to picnic tables, shade trees, and manicured grass down to Duncan Creek featuring a historical marker which describes the commercial history of the site.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Picnic tables
- » Benches
- » Shade trees
- » Manicured grass
- » Creek access
- » Historic marker showing what remains of the Old Mason Shoe Factory foundation



### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Clean-up area along Duncan Creek, expand day-use opportunities/access with additional picnic tables, bike rack, and night-time lighting, stairs, and accessible path to Duncan Creek.

Identify partnerships for clean-up, maintenance, and safety.

	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Clean-up area along Duncan Creek, expand day-use opportunities/access with additional picnic tables, bike rack, and night-time lighting, stairs, and accessible path to Duncan Creek.	\$50,000	1-3 yrs
Identify partnerships for clean-up, maintenance, and safety.	NA	1-3 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This site offers significant recreation potential to the community and employees working in the downtown area. Improvements and maintenance should include a combination of public and private investment to maximize clean-up efforts and assist with ongoing maintenance/improvements for the site.

## 5. ALEXANDER WILEY PARK

**ADDRESS:** Corner of High St. & Spring St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Mini-Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Picnicking

**SIZE:** 0.4 acre

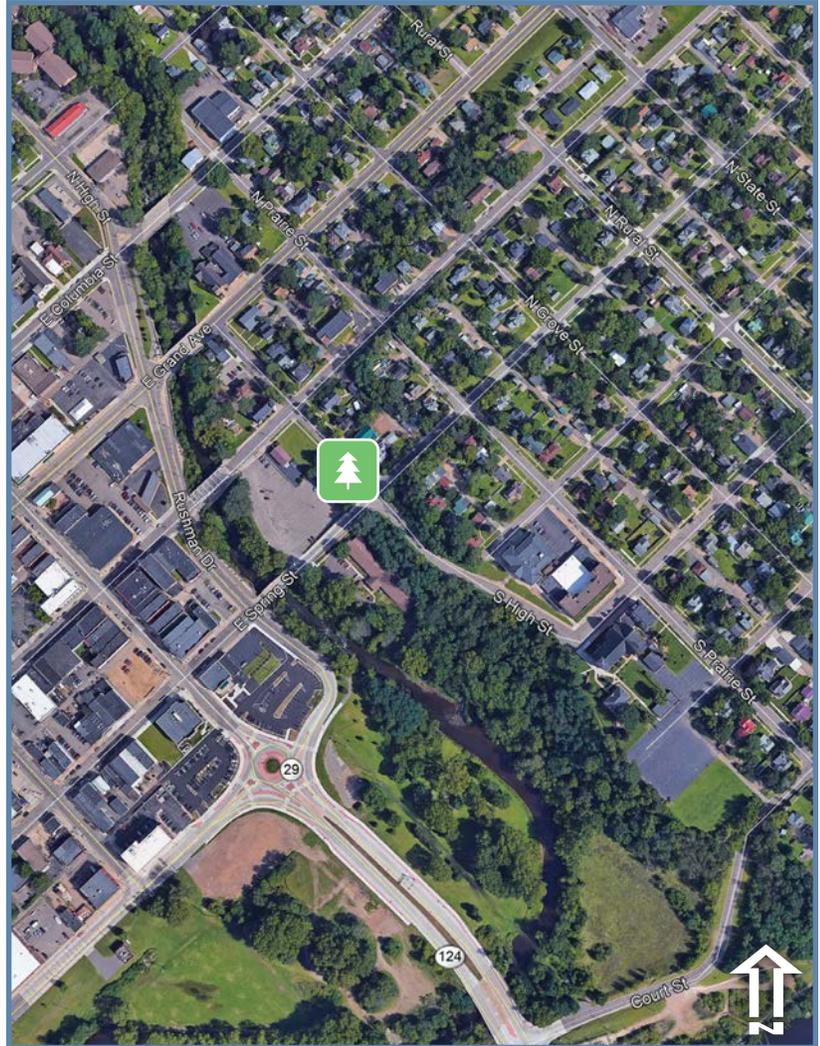
### PRIMARY USES

This park area is primarily used for picnicking and other passive recreational activities.

### KEY FEATURES

This park is located at the corner of High and Spring Streets with benches for passive recreational activities. The Committee for 21st Century buried a two hundred-year capsule containing 200 items at this park in the year 2000.

The park area is flat with manicured grass, picnic tables, and large shade trees. The site is also located within short walking distance (1 block) of the downtown area and the Chippewa Falls Visitor Center.



### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Parking
- » Benches
- » Picnic table
- » Time capsule

### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Site is favorable for War Memorial or other similar uses.

**COST ESTIMATE**

\$50,000

**TIME FRAME**

3-5 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

## 6. L.C. STANLEY PARK

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of Terrill St. & Dwight St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Regional Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Playground

**SIZE:** 0.3 acre

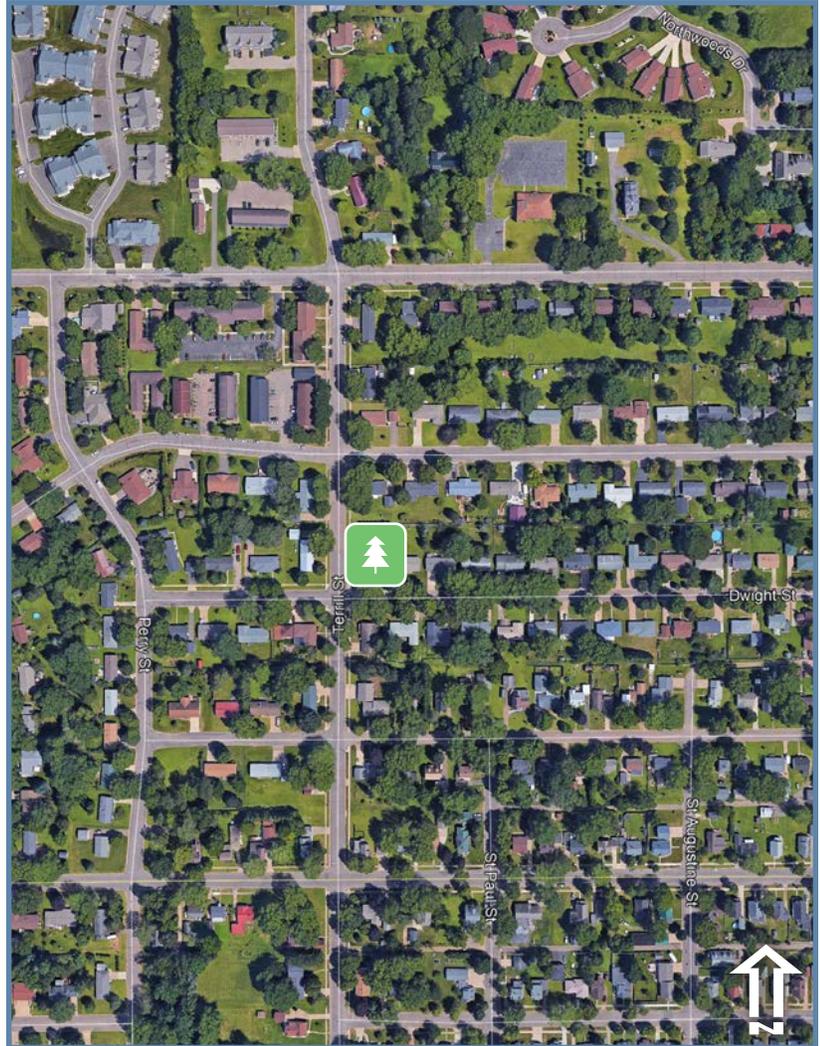
### PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for access to the available playground equipment.

### KEY FEATURES

The park is located among the City's northwest residential neighborhoods with access to a playground, small shelter, benches, and picnic tables for day-use gatherings or picnics.

The park is fenced entirely and the shelter and tables are shaded by large trees with manicured grass surrounding the playground equipment.



### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Shelter
- » Picnic tables
- » Benches/seating
- » Playground equipment
- » Fencing around park

### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Install sand in playground area. Maintain equipment and other park features.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

\$25,000

**TIME  
FRAME**

1-5 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

## 7. HARMONY PARK (SQUARE)

**ADDRESS:** 223 North Bridge St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Mini-Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Passive Use/Small Events

**SIZE:** 0.2 acre

### PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for small downtown events and passive recreation on benches or other features installed for sitting and relaxing.

### KEY FEATURES

This mini-park is primarily used by Chippewa Falls Main Street, an organization that utilizes the space for various downtown programming, concerts, and other small events.

The site also features murals painted on surrounding business walls depicting historic inhabitants in the area, along with a dedication mural of the Chi-Hi Marching Band.



### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Chi-Hi Memorial Mural
- » Historic Mural
- » Benches/seating areas
- » Shaded square
- » Small events and programming

### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Install bike racks.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

\$2,500

Improve/maintain murals.

\$10,000

**TIME  
FRAME**

1-3 yrs

5+ yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This site is maintained by the Chippewa Falls Department of Public Works and Chippewa Falls Main Street organization.

## 8. UNITY PARK

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of Unity Rd. & Dutchman Dr., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Mini-Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Playground/Basketball

**SIZE:** 2.25 acres

### PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for access to the playground and basketball court.

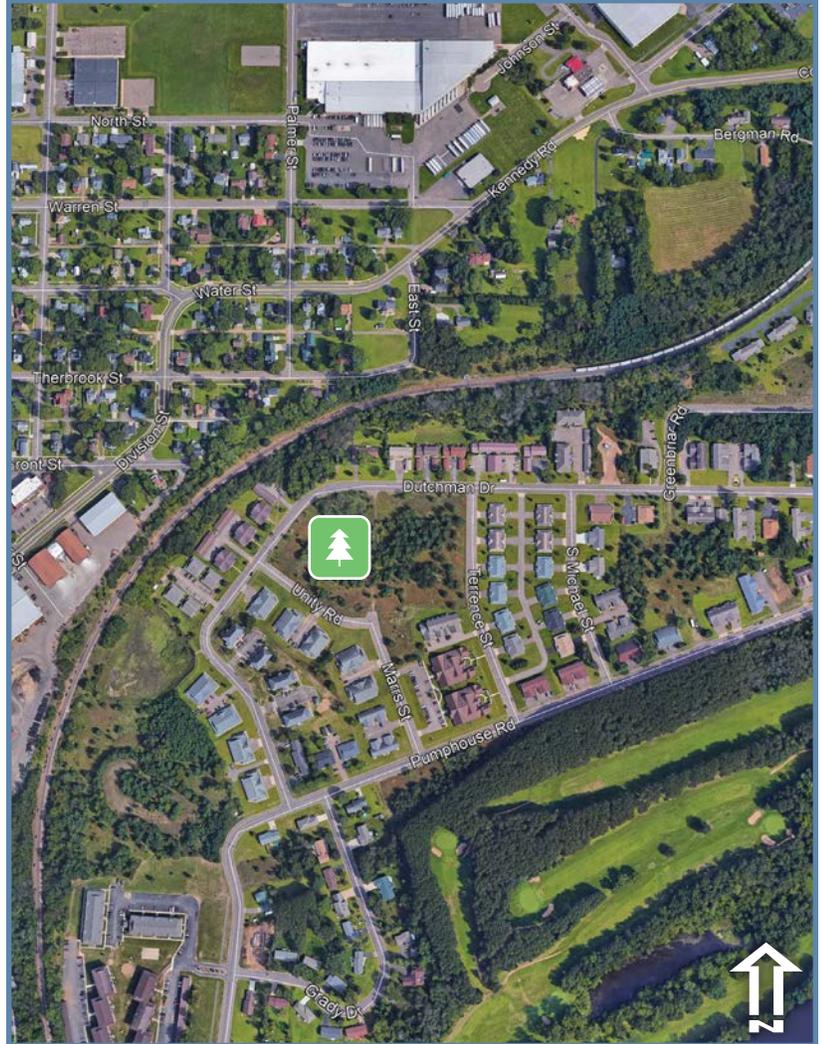
### KEY FEATURES

The land was donated in 2015 and the park is located in a naturally wooded area surrounded by residential homes in the northeast portion of the City.

This newly developed recreation area helps meet a significant need for park facilities in this part of the City. The residential neighborhoods are uniquely isolated by a railroad line to the north and the Chippewa River to the south. The nearest park is only 1,500 ft away (Alexander McBean Park) however, it can only be accessed by driving 1.3 miles around the existing railroad line from the neighborhoods in this area.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Playground equipment
- » Basketball court
- » Natural wooded area/shade trees



### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Complete development of concrete paths, signage, basketball striping, and walkways.

Install benches and shelter.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

\$10,000

\$20,000

**TIME  
FRAME**

1-3 yrs

1-3 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

## 9. FRENCHTOWN PARK

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of Herbert St. and Bryant St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Neighborhood Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Picnic/Frisbee/Open Space

### PRIMARY USES

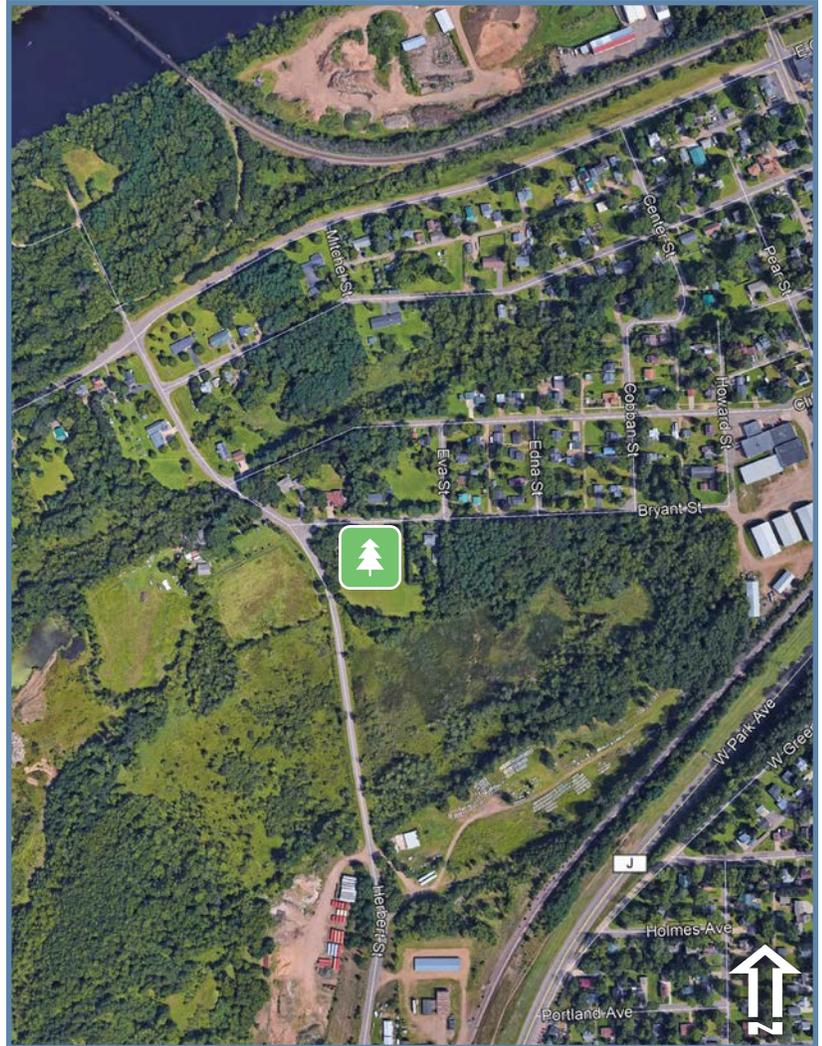
This park area is primarily used for the playground equipment and large area of open space with manicured grass.

### KEY FEATURES

Also referred to as Bryant Park, the area features a shaded playground with access to a large open area of manicured grass used for soccer, frisbee, playing catch, and more.

The site is currently utilized as a practice field by youth soccer and baseball/softball leagues, and could easily accommodate other outdoor recreation facilities such as a community garden, picnic shelter, soccer goals, or a new baseball/softball backstop.

**SIZE: 3.7 acres**



### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Playground
- » Partial fencing
- » Large shade trees
- » Large grass open space/practice field

### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Install youth baseball/softball backstop.
- Install youth soccer goals.
- Construct picnic shelter and tables.
- Install community garden, water lines, and shelter.
- Replace playground equipment.

	<b>COST ESTIMATE</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>
Install youth baseball/softball backstop.	\$5,000	3-5 yrs
Install youth soccer goals.	\$5,000	3-5 yrs
Construct picnic shelter and tables.	\$25,000	1-3 yrs
Install community garden, water lines, and shelter.	\$50,000	1-3 yrs
Replace playground equipment.	\$40,000	1-3 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

# 10. JAMES BUCHANAN MEMORIAL PARK

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of Main St. & Walnut St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Neighborhood Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Playground/Pickleball/Basketball

**SIZE:** 1.3 acres

## PRIMARY USES

This area represents one of the busiest parks utilized by residents in the City for pickle-ball. The park also includes a basketball court and access to playground equipment.

## KEY FEATURES

Major improvements include demolition of aging park features to allow for the construction of a new basketball court and six pickle-ball courts, completed in 2015.



## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » 6 Pickle-ball courts
- » Basketball court
- » Playground equipment
- » Porta-toilet

## PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Construct new/permanent restrooms.
- Construct shelter and picnic tables.
- Install new playground equipment.

	<b>COST ESTIMATE</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>
Construct new/permanent restrooms.	\$200,000	1-3 yrs
Construct shelter and picnic tables.	\$50,000	1-3 yrs
Install new playground equipment.	\$60,000	1-3 yrs

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

# 11. THADDEUS POUND PARK

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of South Ave. & Frenette Dr., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Neighborhood Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Playground/Ballfields

**SIZE:** 1.5 acres

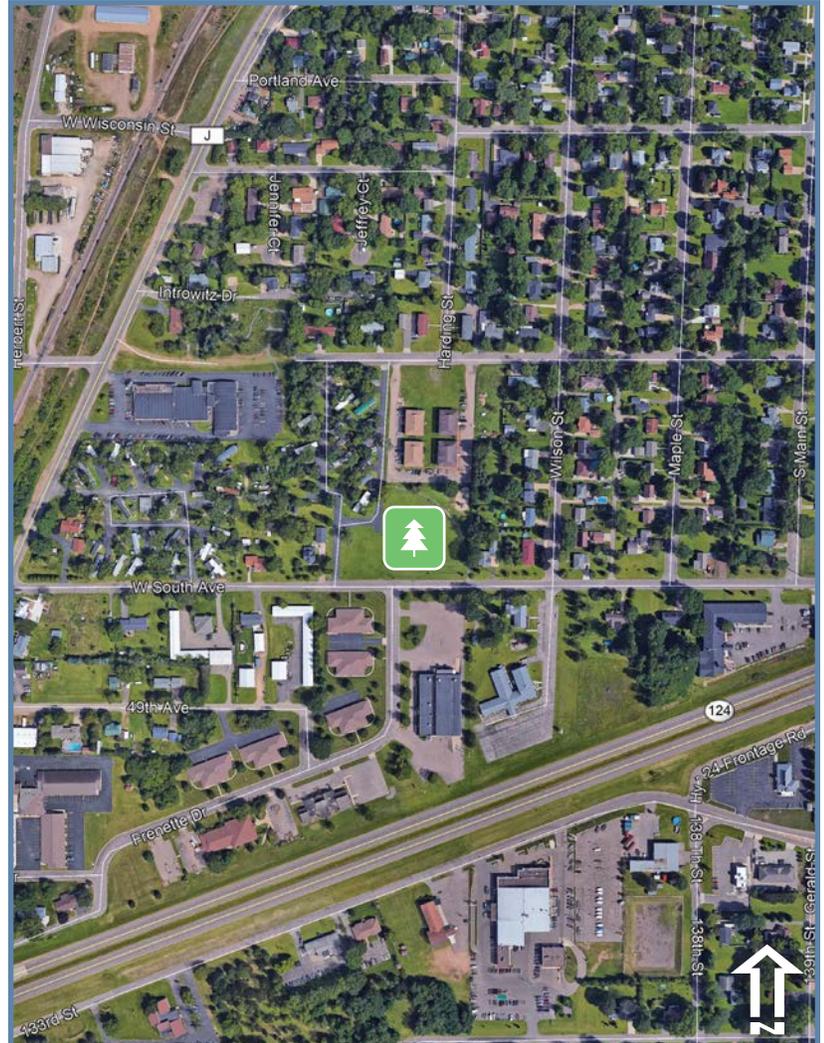
## PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for access to the playground and practice field for youth softball/baseball.

## KEY FEATURES

The park is located in the City’s southwest residential neighborhoods and is a popular recreation spot for nearby residents

The park is used as a practice field for organized youth sports groups and includes a backstop, fencing, and large open space with manicured grass and shade trees around the park perimeter and near the playground.



## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » **Playground equipment**
- » **Backstop/fencing**
- » **Large open space areas w/manicured grass**
- » **Shade trees**
- » **Fencing around most of the park**

## PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Install ballfield equipment/fencing/additional features.
- Additional programming/park expansion.
- Maintain playground equipment and other park features.

	<b>COST ESTIMATE</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>
Install ballfield equipment/fencing/additional features.	\$25,000	1-3 yrs
Additional programming/park expansion.	\$20,000	1-3 yrs
Maintain playground equipment and other park features.	NA	Ongoing

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department and used by Chippewa/Hallie youth baseball and softball leagues as a practice field.

## 12. ADAMS PARK

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of Summit Ave. & Jeffers St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Neighborhood Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Nature Viewing

**SIZE:** 5 acres

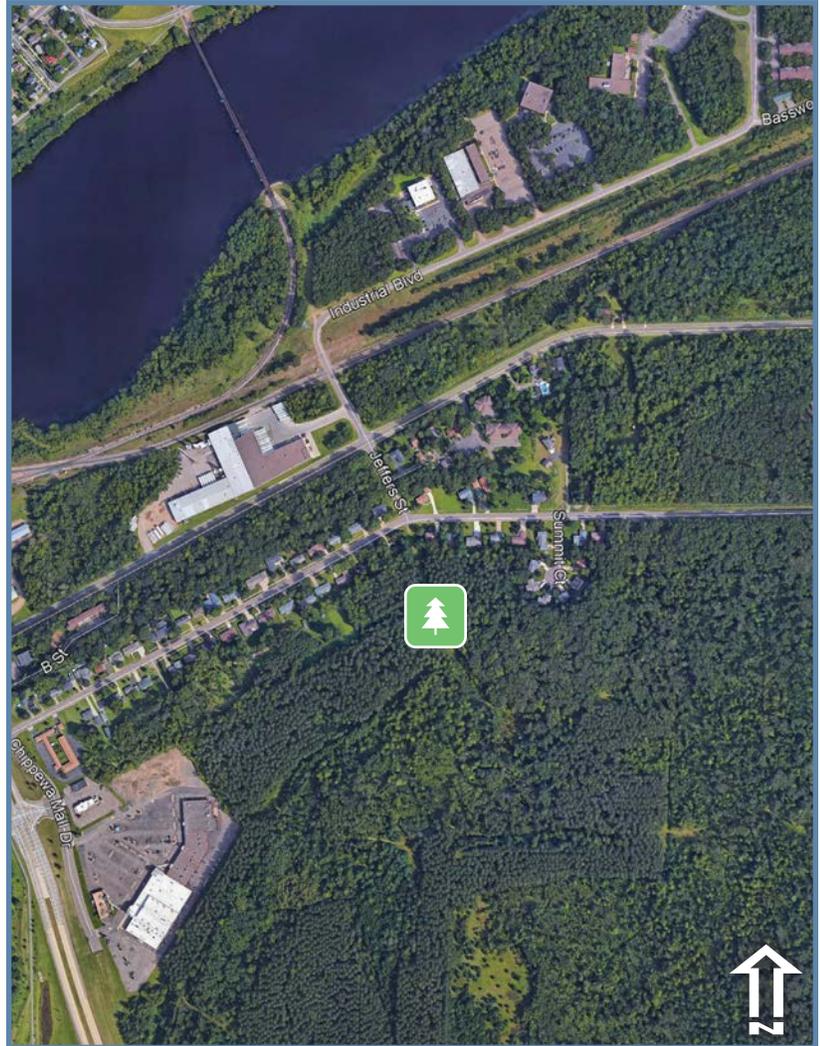
### PRIMARY USES

This recreation property is currently undeveloped and is mostly used for wildlife viewing or forest hiking.

### KEY FEATURES

A site master plan was developed for the property in 1985, but the area remains as a densely wooded natural area. Previous planning efforts for the site called for a multi-use recreation area, but with changes in neighborhood dynamics and adjacent land uses, the site was never developed.

Based on surrounding land uses at the site, the City should consider programming and improvements for the area that maintain the natural forest and support more passive recreation uses.



### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Forest hiking
- » Nature viewing

### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Install signage recognizing City ownership.
- Construct hiking/snowshoe trails.
- Potential disc golf site - construction and equipment.

	COST ESTIMATE	TIME FRAME
Install signage recognizing City ownership.	\$1,000	1-3 yrs
Construct hiking/snowshoe trails.	\$50,000	3-5 yrs
Potential disc golf site - construction and equipment.	\$60,000	5+ yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department. The site should remain in a mostly natural state to support adjacent land uses related to water quality.

# 13. HIRAM S. ALLEN PARK

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of Bridge St. & Rushman Dr., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Neighborhood Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Picnicking/Farmers' Market

**SIZE:** 2.8 acres

## PRIMARY USES

This park is a multi-use recreation area with access to Duncan Creek and large areas of manicured grass and shade trees scattered throughout the park.

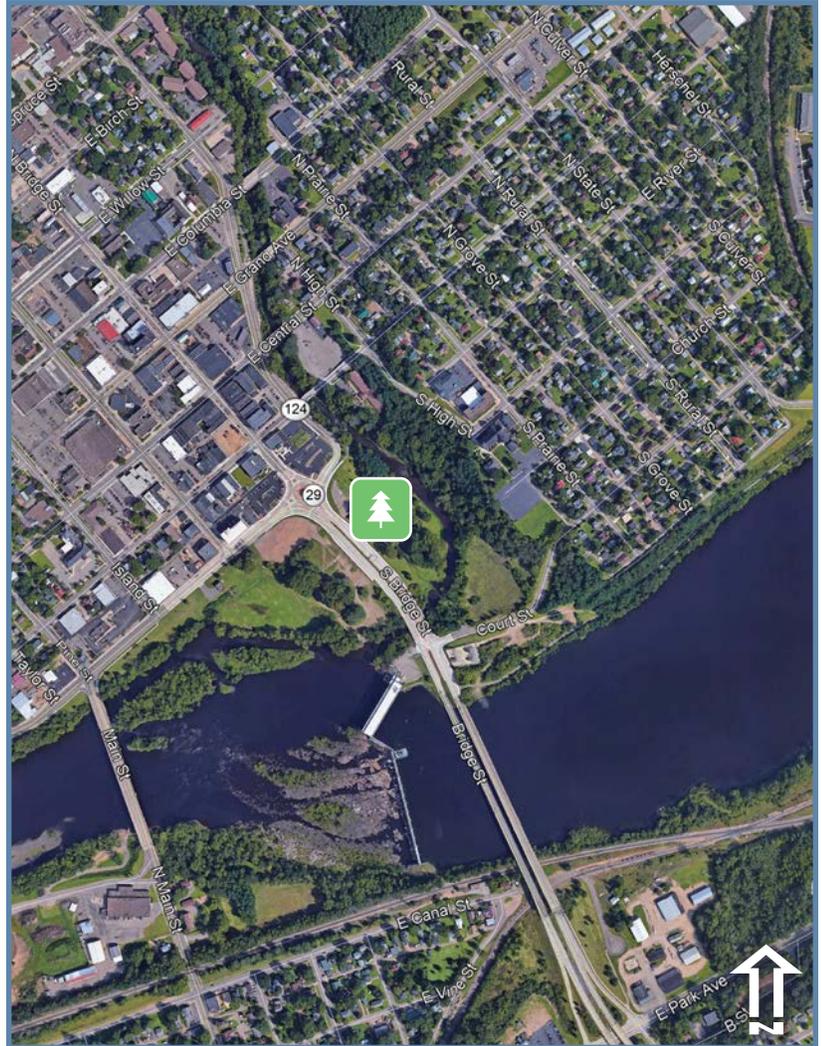
## KEY FEATURES

Allen Park is a small downtown leisure area with a shelter, park benches, and several trees planted memory of loved ones. There is also a local Farmers' Market hosted at the park at various times throughout the summer.

This area is being redeveloped in conjunction with the Chippewa Riverfront which will enhance several park features and maximize the recreation potential of this site.

## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Shelter/restrooms
- » Farmers' market
- » Large shade trees and manicured grass
- » Access to Duncan Creek
- » Close to Visitor Center/Downtown/Chippewa River



## PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Part of Phase III for Chippewa Riverfront development (includes picnic shelters, flag plaza, trails, pavilion, upgraded/enhanced farmers' market, parking, future sculptures and artwork)

Consider development of canoe/kayak launch site.

**COST ESTIMATE**

**TIME FRAME**

\$1 million

1-3 yrs

\$500,000

1-3 yrs

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This site offers significant recreation potential to the community and requires programming and management/maintenance assistance from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, the Department of Public Works, and additional private/public partnerships for the canoe/kayak launch.

# 14. CASPER PARK

**ADDRESS:** 440 Old Eau Claire Rd., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Community/Regional Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Multi-Use Sports Complex

**SIZE:** 55.6 acres

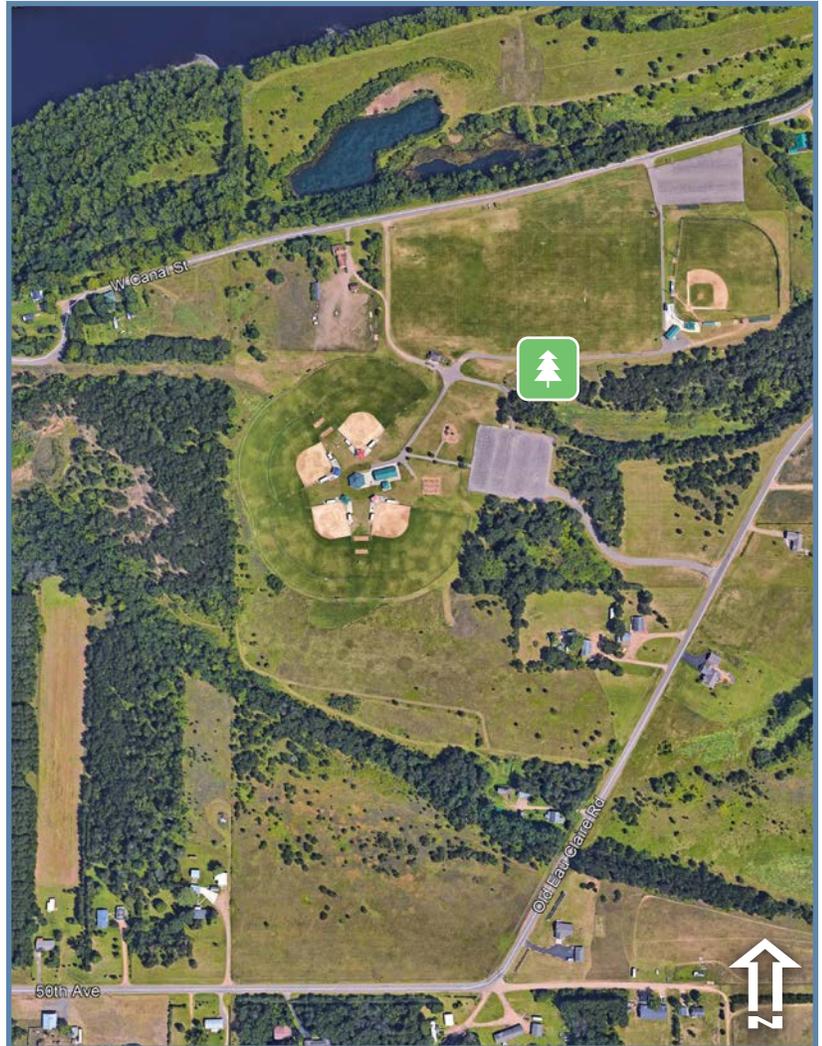
## PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for access to outdoor sports facilities which include a softball complex, soccer complex, and baseball fields.

## KEY FEATURES

Current park facilities are heavily used throughout warmer weather months and the park has significant potential for development of additional year-round activities.

The City owns much of the nearby and adjacent property that could facilitate the development of year-round biking, hiking, ski trails through the natural wooded areas and other passive activities at the site.



## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » 4 softball fields, 1 baseball field, 5 soccer fields
- » Batting cages
- » Shaded bleachers
- » Restrooms, concessions, shelters
- » Parking and paved pathways
- » Playground equipment

## PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Explore additional programming/activities at the site such as:

Disc golf, community gardens, hiking trails.	\$50,000	1-3 yrs
Bike/snowshoe/ski trails with trail markers and signage.	\$50,000	1-3 yrs
Develop master plan to include surrounding City owned property.	\$100,000	3-5 yrs
Improve/upgrade aging structures and facilities.	\$1,000,000	5+ yrs

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls with a use agreement between the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District for school sports and athletic programming. Additional potential partnerships with local or regional clubs could help with the costs and development of new outdoor recreation opportunities around the park such as disc golf, year-round trail networks, and more.

# 15. MARY E. MARSHALL PARK

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of Bridgewater Ave. & Jefferson Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Community Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Swimming Pool/Sports/Gardens

**SIZE:** 13.2 acres

## PRIMARY USES

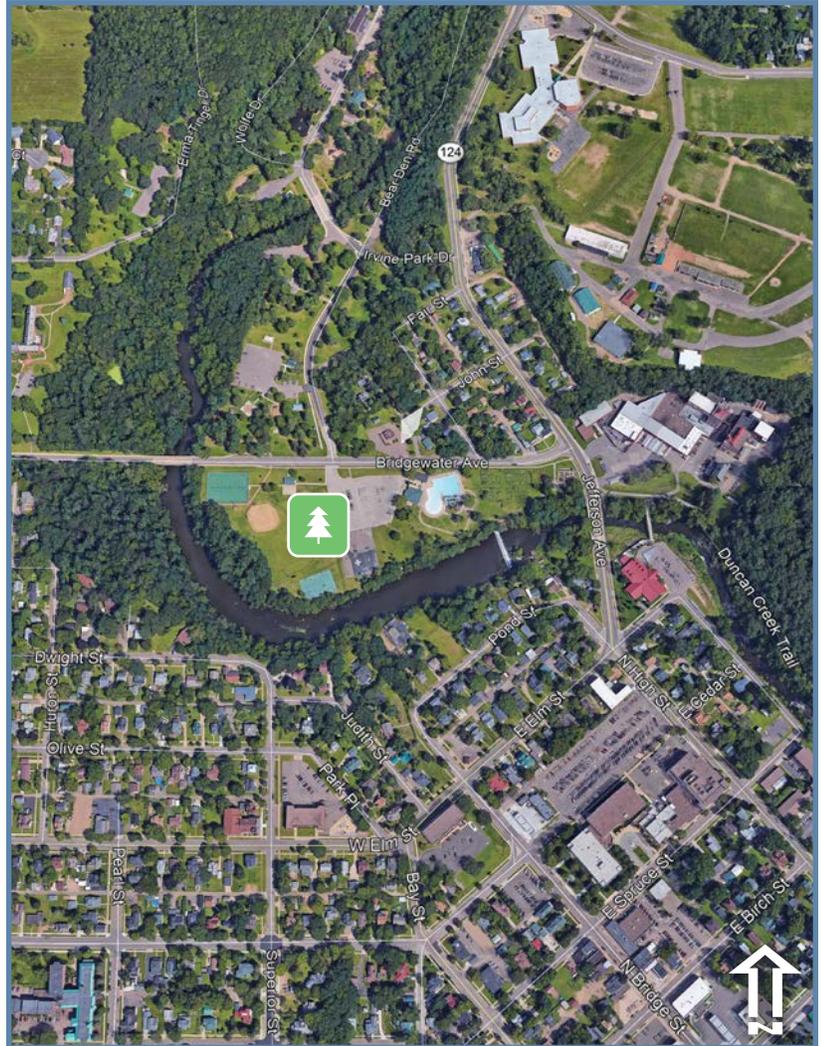
This multi-use recreation area is directly south of Irvine Park and offers a range of outdoor recreation opportunities and amenities.

## KEY FEATURES

From west to east, park facilities are organized in a way that maximizes use of the park space adjacent to Duncan Creek as it meanders east before turning south toward its confluence with the Chippewa River.

## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Tennis/basketball courts
- » Softball/baseball diamond
- » Parking/shelters/restrooms
- » Picnic tables/benches
- » Skateboard park
- » Community swimming pool
- » Community gardens
- » Rose garden
- » Duncan Creek Trail
- » Access to nearby park facilities



## PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Renovation of the skateboard park and improvements to sports recreation facilities for youth programming at the park.

	<b>COST ESTIMATE</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>
Renovation of the skateboard park and improvements to sports recreation facilities for youth programming at the park.	\$200,000	1-3 yrs
Improve shower/changing facilities at the community pool.	\$500,000	1-3 yrs
Installation of shaded structures at the community pool.	\$40,000	1-3 yrs
Continue to evaluate/implement Marshall Park master plan.	NA	Ongoing
ADA playing fields/upgrades.	\$50,000	1-5 yrs

Improve shower/changing facilities at the community pool.

Installation of shaded structures at the community pool.

Continue to evaluate/implement Marshall Park master plan.

ADA playing fields/upgrades.

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

## 16. CHIPPEWA RIVERFRONT PARK

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of Bridge St. & River St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Community/Regional

**KEY FUNCTION:** Multi-faceted Riverfront Venue

**SIZE:** 10 acres

### PRIMARY USES

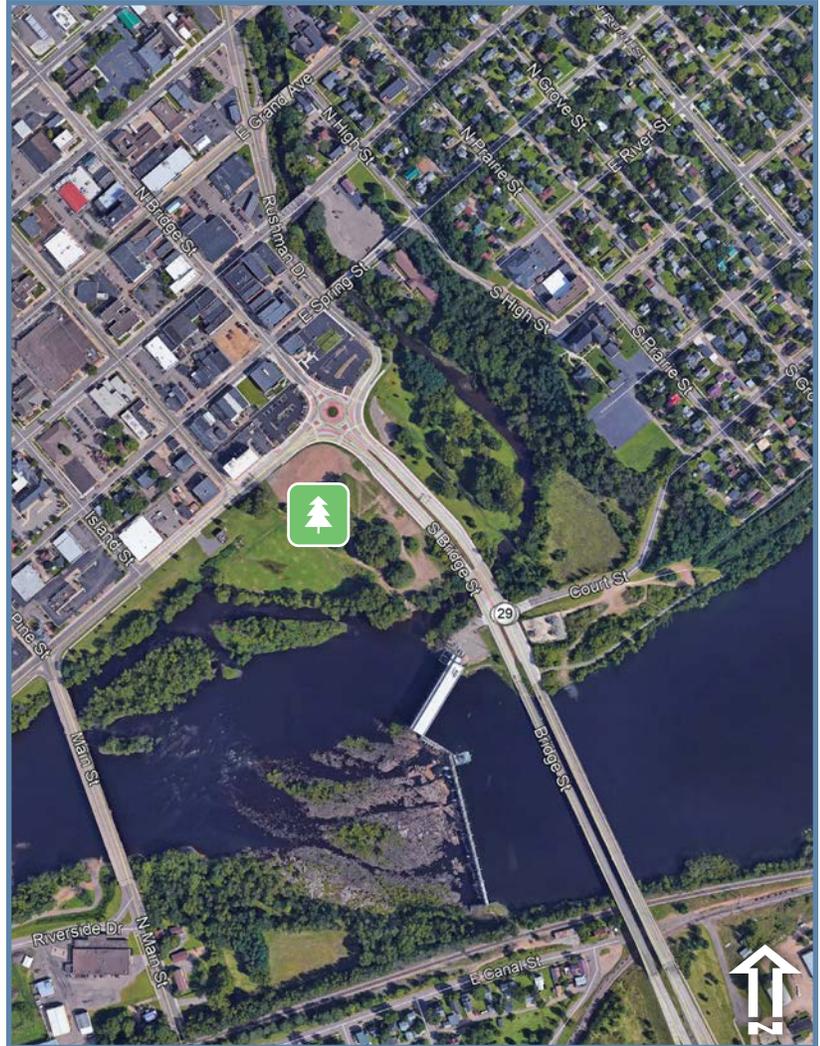
This multi-use recreation area along the Chippewa River represents a significant public and private investment, offering several features and amenities that are accessible to all members of the community and the region.

### KEY FEATURES

Chippewa Riverfront is the cornerstone of a multi-faceted vision to revitalize downtown Chippewa Falls and its gateway. There are numerous planned features and programming that continue to be developed and expanded through project completion that is expected by 2022.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Accessible trails, paths, bridges
- » Specially developed river access areas
- » Restrooms, plazas, amphitheater
- » Water features, skating rink
- » Boardwalk, pedestrian bridges
- » Parking, seating, benches, open space
- » Special programming, donor features



### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Phase I - grading, irrigation, water/sewer, landscaping, trails, parking, river/fishing access, entrance patio and water feature.

Phase II - bathrooms, shelters, patio, donor walls, water fountain, amphitheater.

Phase III - improvements to Allen Park including shelter, trail connection, bathrooms, overflow parking, water access to Duncan Creek.

Install wireless internet access points and security cameras.

Development of Art in the Park programming features.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

**TIME  
FRAME**

\$3.2 million

2016-2018

\$2 million

2017-2019

\$1 million

2020-2022

\$200,000

1-3 yrs

\$100,000

1-3 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This site offers significant recreation potential to the community and the region. Partnerships for this facility should include a combination of public and private support to assist with ongoing maintenance and continued development/expansion of park features and programming.



## IRVINE PARK ZOO *(Not numbered, mapped with Irvine Park)*

**ADDRESS:** Irvine Park Rd., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Regional Park

**KEY FUNCTION:** Playgrounds/Pavillions/Attractions

### PRIMARY USES

The zoo, centrally located in Irvine Park, features several large and small mammals, birds, and a petting zoo.

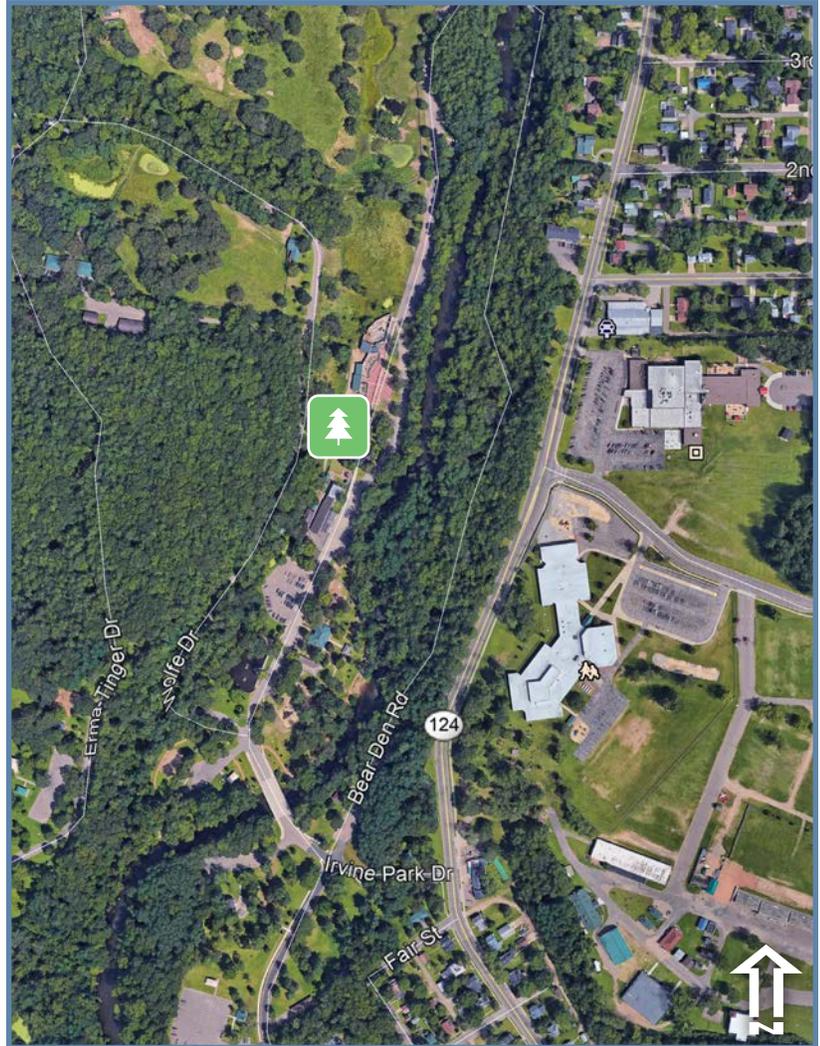
### KEY FEATURES

The site has a newly developed welcome center, along with several additional zoo support structures and facilities.

There is a centralized area to access the petting zoo and view exotic large and small mammals. Additionally, there is a road/hiking loop around the large open containment areas for viewing additional large pasture animals and accessing additional natural and historic landmarks throughout the park.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Zoo/Petting Zoo
- » Large mammals (Hyenas, Black Bears, Tigers)
- » Pasture animals (Bison, Elk, Yak, Zebra)
- » Small mammals
- » Paved/accessible parking and restrooms



### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve pasture, fencing, feeding stations, and shelter for large animals.  
Construct a new Peacock exhibit.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

\$250,000  
\$50,000

**TIME  
FRAME**

3-5 yrs  
1-5 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This site offers significant recreation potential to the community and the region. Improvements would require programming and management/maintenance assistance from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, and the Department of Public Works, along with support from private or nonprofit organizations.

# 18. KALK-FATU WOODLAND PARK

**ADDRESS:** Ermatigner Dr., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Specialized

**KEY FUNCTION:** Nature Viewing

**SIZE:** 55 acres

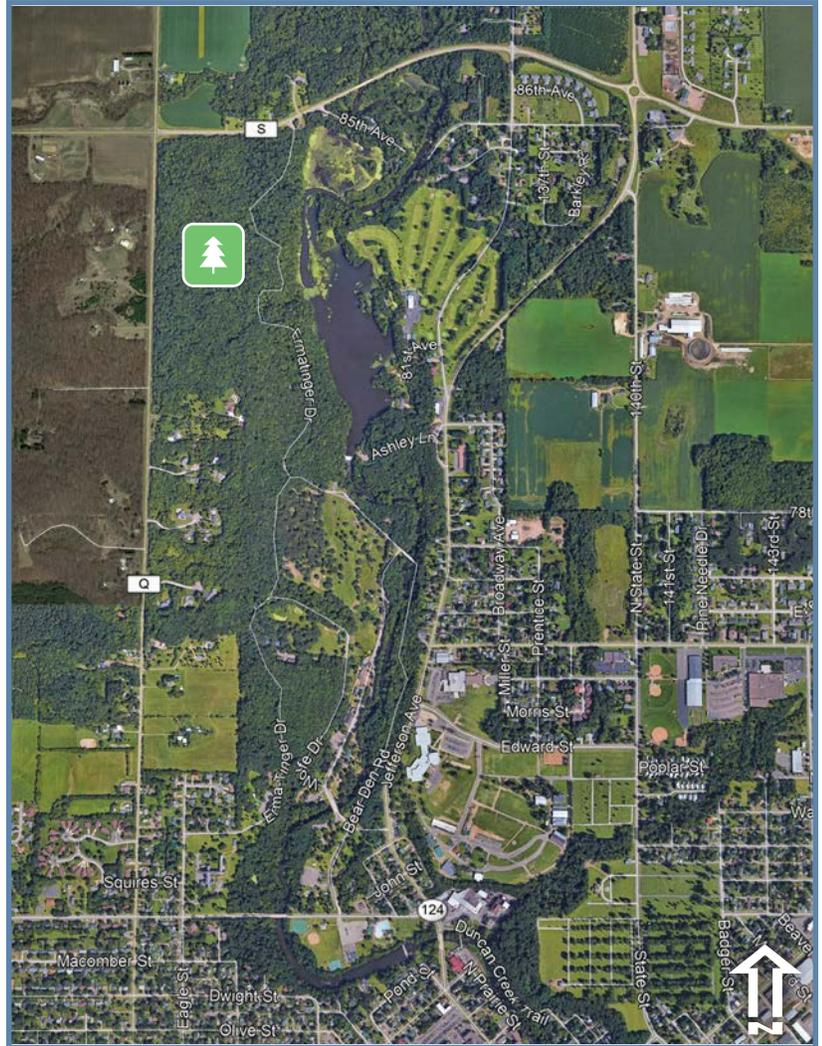
## PRIMARY USES

This recreation area is primarily used for nature viewing and hiking in the area.

## KEY FEATURES

The park is directly north of Irvine Park and is accessible by taking Bear Den Road directly through Irvine Park. Alternately, this site can be accessed from the north off of Highway S, about a quarter-mile east of Highway Q.

The park is maintained as a natural wooded area adjacent to Glen Loch Flowage and is used for day-use scenic driving, picnics, hiking, or nature viewing.



## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Picnic tables
- » Hiking trails/bridge
- » Picnic tables
- » Pavillion
- » Paved road w/minimum speed
- » Nature viewing
- » Direct access to Irvine Park & Zoo

## PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintain woods, trails, and roads. Explore additional allowable nature-based recreation opportunities\*.

**COST ESTIMATE**

\$25,000

**TIME FRAME**

5+ yrs

*\*Note: This 55-acre area directly north of Irvine Park was donated to the City and must be maintained as a natural wooded area between Highway S and Bear Den Rd/Erma-Tinger Dr in Irvine Park.*

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This site offers significant recreation potential to the community and the region. Improvements would require programming and management/maintenance assistance from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, and the Department of Public Works, along with support from private or nonprofit organizations.

# 19. ERICKSON PARK ALL ACCESS FISHING PIER & PARK

**ADDRESS:** Access from Ashley Ln., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Specialized/Regional

**KEY FUNCTION:** ADA Accessible Fishing Piers

**SIZE:** 4.4 acres

## PRIMARY USES

This is a new park in the City whose primary use is focused on providing off-shore fishing opportunities accessible to all members of the community.

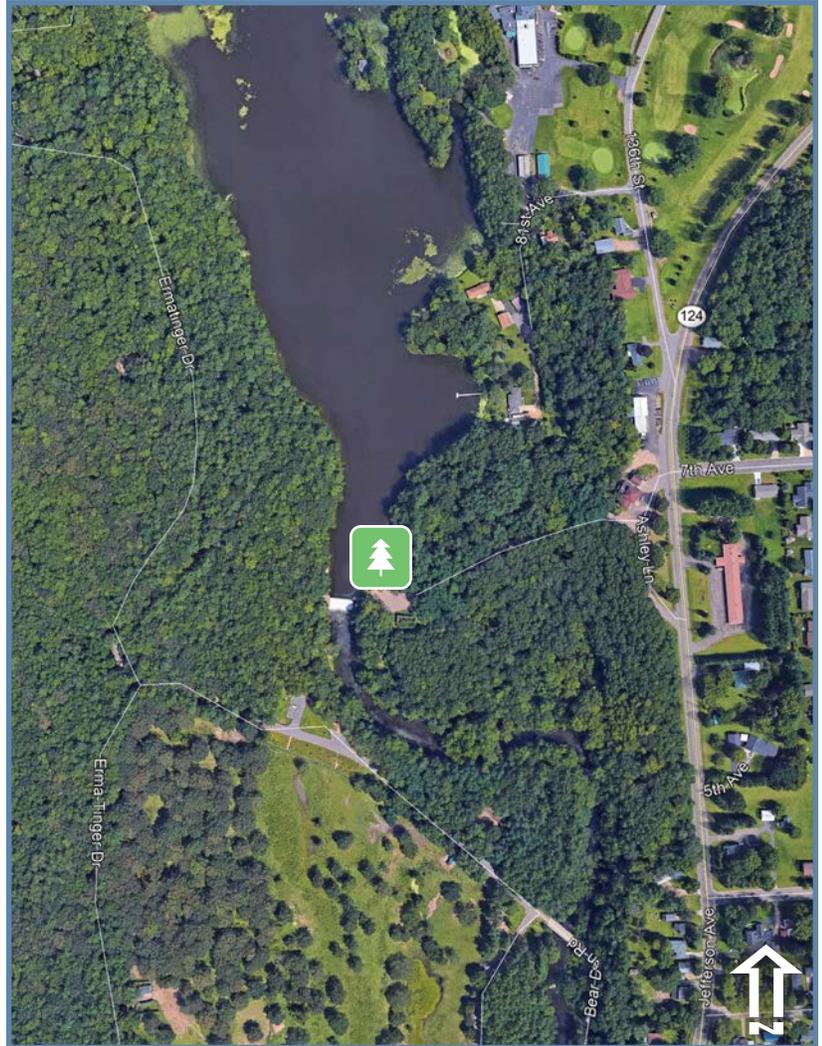
## KEY FEATURES

The park is a multi-use park space featuring several accessible amenities and nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities. Improvements also include trail linkages throughout the city and to nearby state trail networks.

The site provides access to Glen Loch Flowage, a 39-acre lake with a maximum depth of around 17 feet. Fish include Panfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, and Trout.

## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » 200' walkway
- » Two 30' fishing piers, safe fishing areas
- » Parking for large vehicles and buses
- » Bathrooms, picnic areas
- » Improved boat landing/Easy Launch for Canoe/Kayak/SUP
- » ADA trail connecting Erickson Park to Irvine Park



## PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Construct hiking and/or snowshoe trails.
- Develop accessible trail system and signage.

	<b>COST ESTIMATE</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>
Construct hiking and/or snowshoe trails.	\$25,000	1-3 yrs
Develop accessible trail system and signage.	\$50,000	1-3 yrs

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

The site was developed with significant public and private investment. There is a memorandum of understanding between the City and Fish Chippewa for responsibilities related to development and maintenance of the park area and its facilities.

## 20. GOLDSMITH WILDLIFE REFUGE

**ADDRESS:** North of Allen Park, opposite side of Duncan Creek, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Specialized

**KEY FUNCTION:** Nature Viewing/Hiking

**SIZE:** 2.6 acres

### PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for wildlife viewing along a wooded trail.

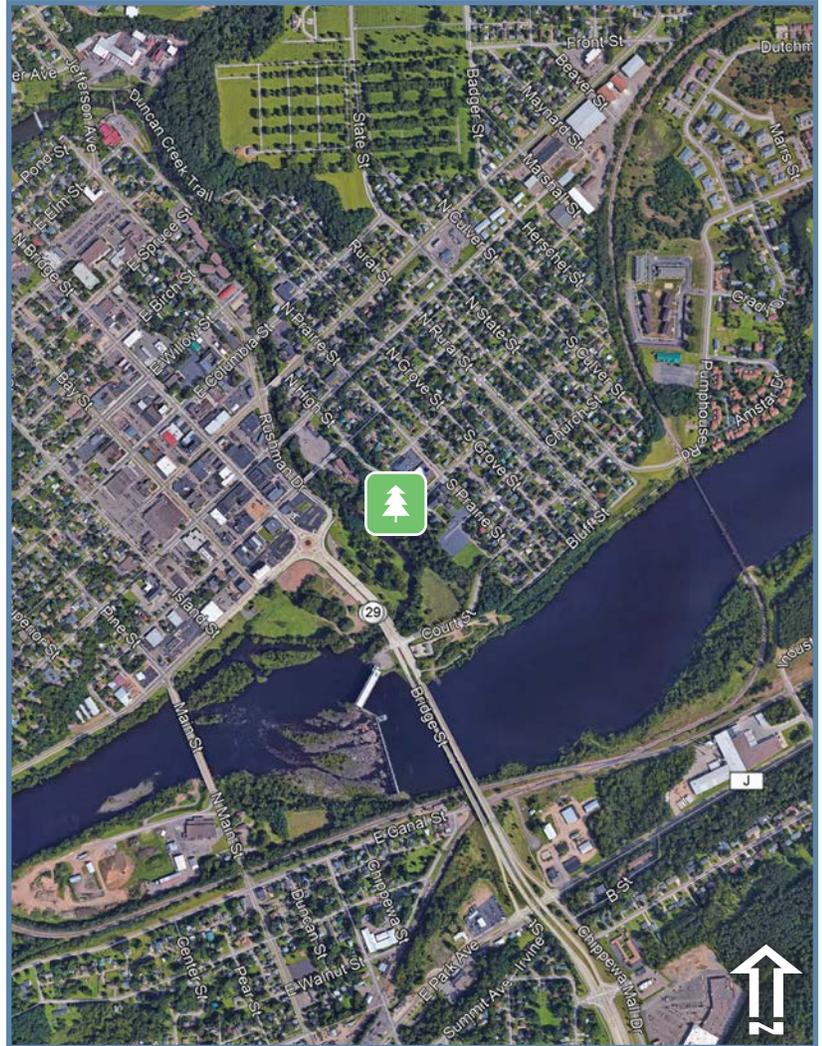
### KEY FEATURES

The property is located along the northern bank of Duncan Creek, which separates Goldsmith from Allen Park directly to the south.

The area is an undeveloped and mostly wooded natural area adjacent to Duncan Creek. The site is a haven for birds and other animals and is located within a short walking distance from the Visitor Center and other nearby downtown amenities.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Wooded/forest trail
- » Natural areas for wildlife viewing
- » Passive recreation
- » Access to Duncan Creek
- » Close walking distance to Visitor Center/Downtown



### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Clear out overgrown trail.
- Clean up dead trees/invasives (Buckthorn).
- Develop accessible features including trails, benches, park/trail signage.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

**TIME  
FRAME**

\$40,000

1-3 yrs

\$35,000

Ongoing

\$50,000

1-3 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This site offers significant recreation potential to the community and would require programming and management/maintenance assistance from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, and the Department of Public Works.

# 21. HURD PARK

**ADDRESS:** Bridgewater Ave., West of Duncan Creek, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Specialized

**KEY FUNCTION:** Nature Viewing/Hiking

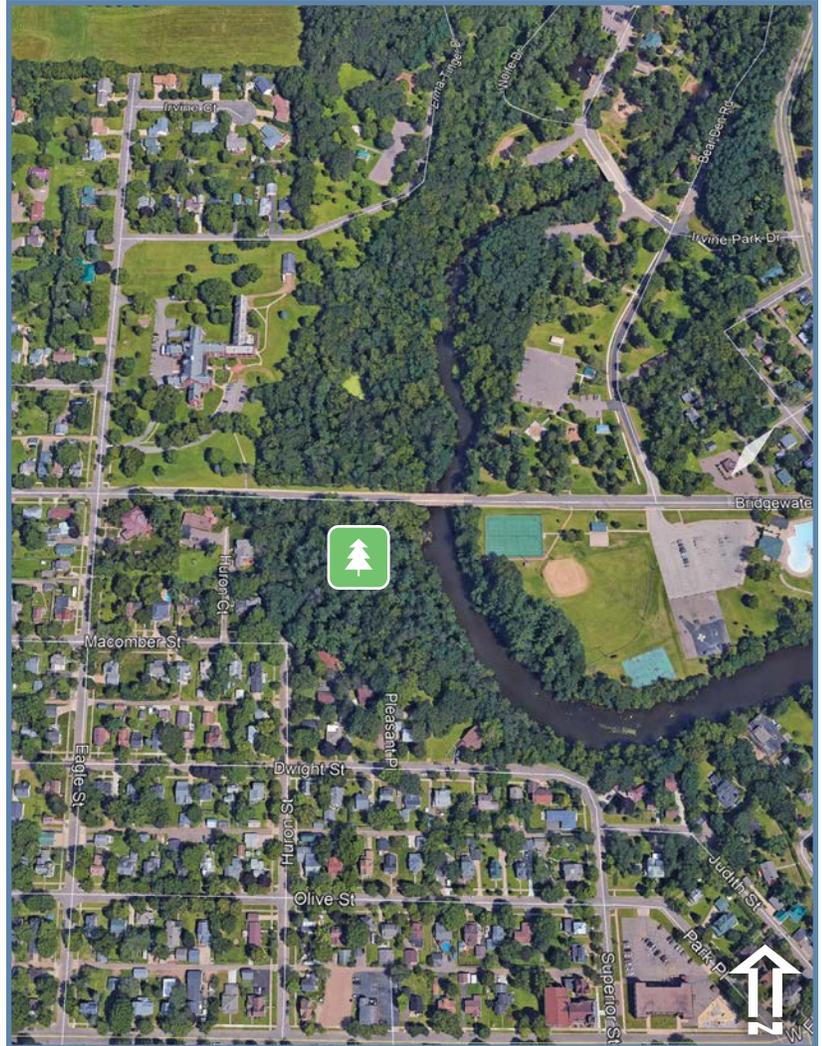
**SIZE:** 2.4 acres

## PRIMARY USES

This is a small, undeveloped wooded area adjacent to Duncan Creek, directly west of Marshall Park.

## KEY FEATURES

The purchase agreement for this park calls for it to be maintained as a natural, wooded site. The site is popular for trail hiking and nature viewing, with nearby access to Marshall and Irvine Parks.



## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Natural/wooded area
- » Wildlife viewing
- » Bird watching
- » Forest trail

## PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve access, construct hiking trails, and install signage.

**COST ESTIMATE**

\$50,000

**TIME FRAME**

3-5 yrs

## AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is managed by the City of Chippewa Falls Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

## 22. CHIPPEWA RIVER BOAT LANDING

**ADDRESS:** Intersection of Pumphouse Rd. & Boat Landing., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Specialized

**KEY FUNCTION:** Boating/River Access

**SIZE:** 3.2 acres

### PRIMARY USES

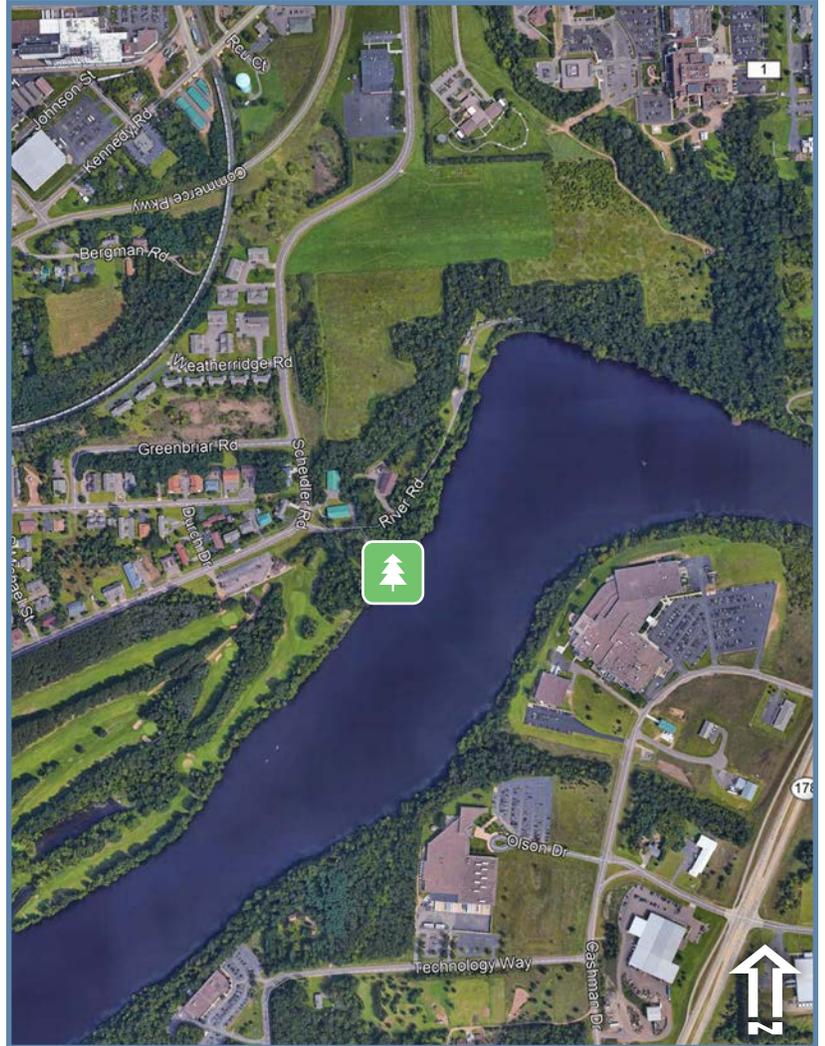
This is a small boat landing owned by the City on the Chippewa River between the Xcel/NSP Dam and the Lake Wissota Dam.

### KEY FEATURES

The boat landing is paved with an asphalt boat launch and there is a small grassed area nearby for parking. The site is well-maintained with manicured grass, picnic tables, and large shade trees for day-use gatherings or picnics.

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Boat landing
- » Bench
- » Picnic tables
- » Manicured grass
- » Shade trees
- » Parking areas



### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- New asphalt needed at boat launch.
- Continue mowing/maintenance of stormwater outfall.
- Improve/maintain accessible features/facilities.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

**TIME  
FRAME**

\$50,000

5+ yrs

NA

Ongoing

\$25,000

5+ yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is maintained by the City of Chippewa Falls Public Works Department.

## 23. INDUSTRIAL PARK CONSERVANCY AREA

**ADDRESS:** Northwest of Technology Way & Cashman Dr., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Specialized

**KEY FUNCTION:** Nature Viewing/Hiking

**SIZE:** 20 acres

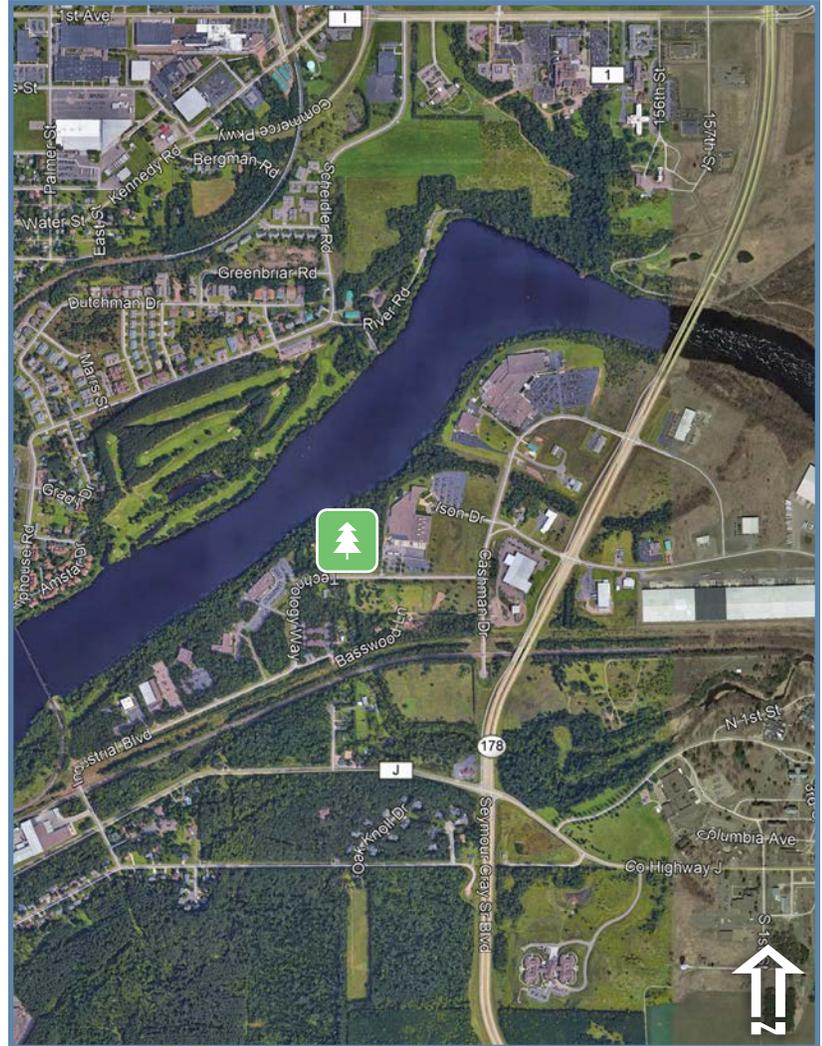
### PRIMARY USES

This area is located next to the Chippewa River in an industrial park area with opportunities for nature viewing and hiking.

### KEY FEATURES

This area consists of both City park and conservancy land. The land directly adjacent to the Chippewa River, off of Technology Way, includes the park area of the property.

The conservancy land extends east away from the Chippewa River towards the Old Abe Trail, crossing Cashman Drive. This narrow strip of forest canopy provides a natural buffer for the intermittent stream that flows into the Chippewa River.



### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Natural areas
- » Passive recreation
- » Nature viewing
- » Hiking
- » Access to Chippewa River

### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Construct hiking, snowshoe, bike trails.

Construct shelter and park benches.

Install park/trail signage.

Development of four-season trails from 1 to 5 miles in length connecting Area 178 managed trails and surrounding businesses and neighborhoods.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

**TIME  
FRAME**

\$40,000

3-5 yrs

\$50,000

3-5 yrs

\$1,000

3-5 yrs

\$100,000

1-5 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This site offers significant recreation potential to the community and employees in the industrial park area. The Chippewa Off Road Bike Association (CORBA) is working to expand trail opportunities in the area with private funding and volunteers.

## 24. CHIPPEWA RIVER CORRIDOR

**ADDRESS:** Adjacent to Chippewa River, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Specialized

**KEY FUNCTION:** Hiking/Walking

**SIZE:** N/A

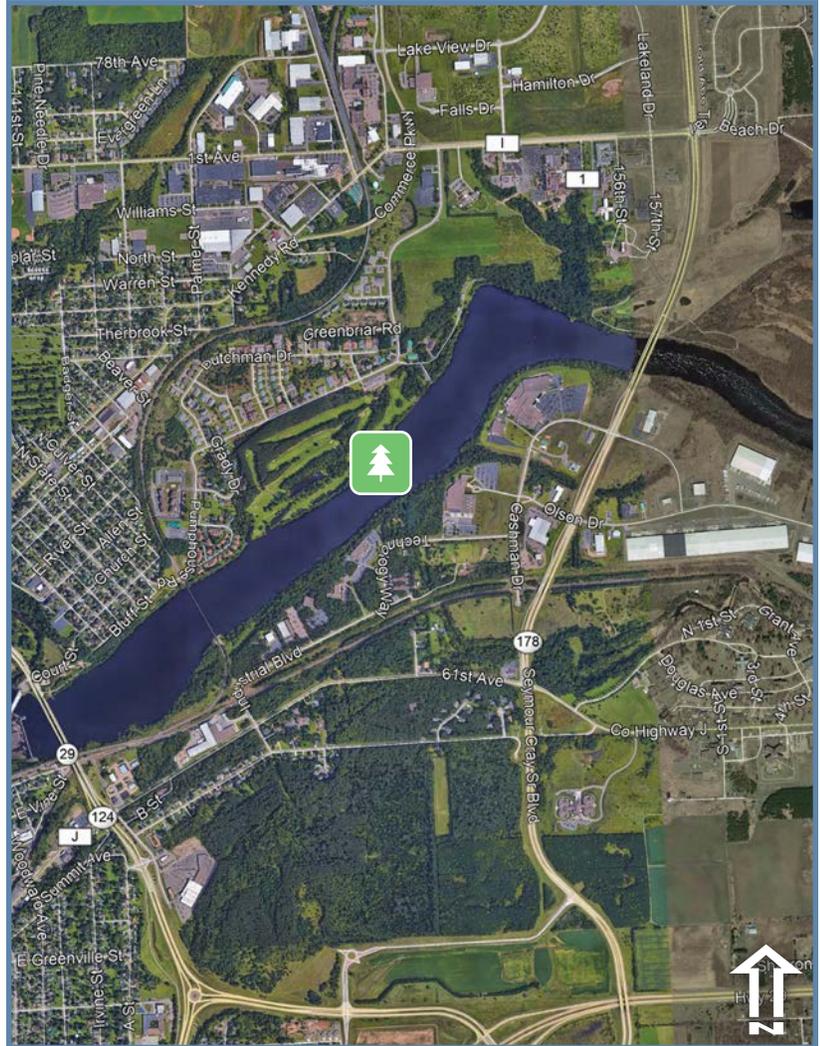
### PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used for access to two sections of paved trail along the northwest shore of the Chippewa River.

### KEY FEATURES

The Chippewa River Corridor extends from the Xcel/NSP dam to the Lake Wissota dam. The first paved section of trail in this area runs north, adjacent to the river from the Xcel/NSP dam to the railroad tracks at Pumphouse Road.

The second paved section is below the Lake Wissota dam, crossing under Highway 178. This trail provides access to both the Old Abe Trail and Area 178, a popular mountain biking area located just outside the City limits.



### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Paved bike trail
- » Nature viewing
- » Connection to downtown
- » Access to Old Abe Trail
- » Access to Area 178 (mountain bike trails)

### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Construct and expand the bicycle and pedestrian trail network and connections in the area.

**COST ESTIMATE**

\$50,000

**TIME FRAME**

1-5 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

Paved paths in this recreation area are maintained by Chippewa Falls Public Works Department.



## 26. CHIPPEWA FALLS HAPPY TAILS DOG PARK

**ADDRESS:** 841 Chippewa Crossing Boulevard, Chippewa Fall, WI 54729

**PARK TYPE:** Specialized

**KEY FUNCTION:** Dog Park

### PRIMARY USES

This area is primarily used as an off-leash dog park open 365 days a year.

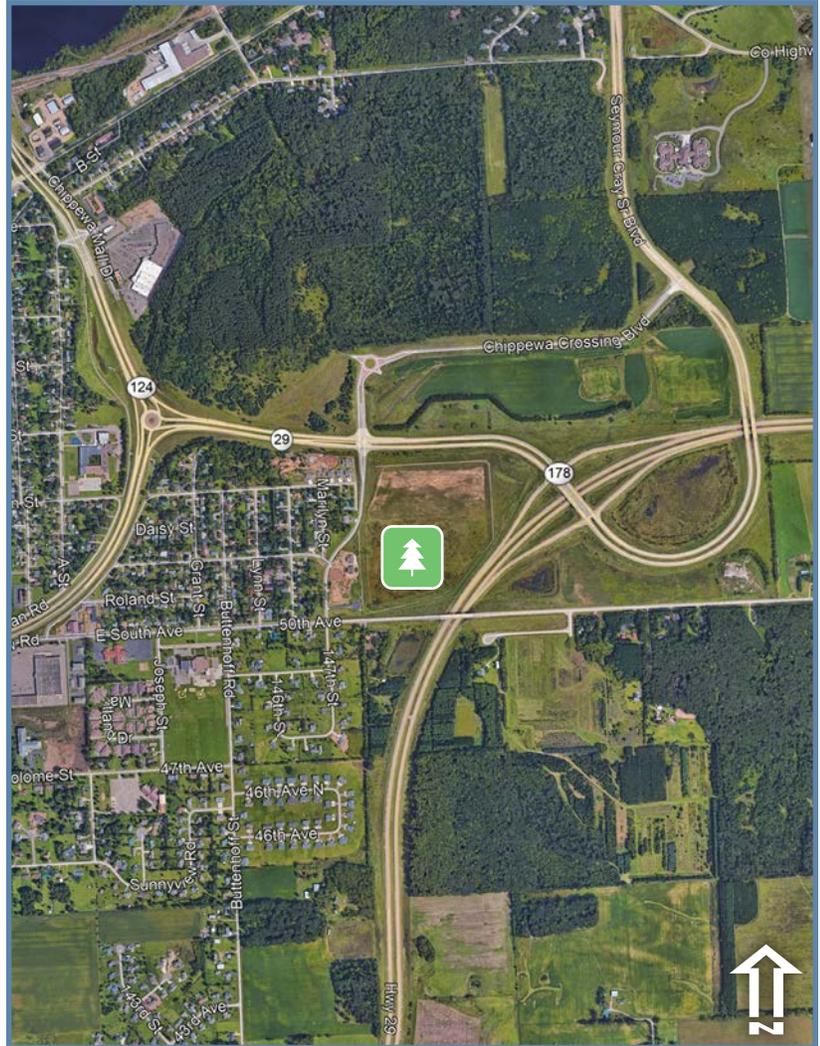
### KEY FEATURES

The site was originally developed as a stormwater retention pond and later expanded by agreement with the City to allow use as a dog park. The park is a large canine leisure area, self-funded through park fees and fundraising efforts led by a network of volunteers.

**SIZE:** 53 acres

### FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- » Large dog open area
- » Small dog play area
- » Gates/fences/holding areas
- » Parking
- » Benches
- » Waste containers
- » Porta-potty
- » Signage
- » Walking trail
- » Dog waste bags



### PLANS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Install message center and flag pole set.
- Signage upgrades and pavilion water fountain.
- Construct shelter addition and rest shelters.
- Install solar light system.
- Construct monument/memory garden.
- Construct ADA accessible small dog area.
- Drainage improvements for ponding water.

**COST  
ESTIMATE**

**TIME  
FRAME**

\$5,300	1-5 yrs
\$4,200	1-5 yrs
\$1,400	1-5 yrs
\$6,000	1-5 yrs
\$1,500	1-5 yrs
\$3,500	1-5 yrs
\$5,000	1-5 yrs

### AGREEMENTS/PARTNERSHIPS FOR USE, MANAGEMENT OR PROGRAMMING

This property is owned by the City of Chippewa Falls with all development, management, programming, maintenance, and improvements led by a local nonprofit organization. Dog park facilities are funded through use fees, donations, and fundraising efforts.

# Outdoor Recreation Resources & Funding

## A. LOCAL RESOURCES

The City of Chippewa Falls will continue to identify and leverage a mix of funding resources and partnership support from a wide variety of potential sources for outdoor recreation improvements and maintenance.

City financial resources potentially include standard operating budgets and general fund dollars; capital improvements budgets; loans, bonding, and notes; user fees; and developer impact fees and contributions. Donations of volunteer time, dollars, or property from local residents, businesses, and partner organizations are becoming increasingly important. Successful partnerships with private organizations, clubs, and nonprofits demonstrates the City does not have to “do it all” on its own. The most appropriate mix of such funding sources for future outdoor recreation projects should be identified and incorporated into the five-year capital improvements plan.

Grant dollars from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (e.g. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program), Federal sources (e.g. Recreational Trails Act, Land & Water Conservation Fund), or foundations have long been key to major park improvements in Wisconsin communities. Additional grant dollars are available depending on the nature of the activity (e.g. arts or educational programming) or attributes unique to the site (e.g. historic preservation, resource conservation, acquisition of floodplain properties, brownfield remediation).

## B. GRANT PROGRAMS

### Stewardship Local Assistance, Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) Subprogram

*Statute/Code: s. 23.09(20), Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subch. XII, Wis. Admin. Code*

**Purpose:** The ADLP program helps communities and organizations acquire land for public nature-based outdoor recreation and improve community recreation areas.

**Allocation:** Funds are allocated on a regional basis, proportional to population. Projects compete against other projects from their region.

**Eligible Applicants:** Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs. NCOs may only apply for ADLP grants to support land acquisition projects.

**Eligible Projects:** Land acquisition and development projects that provide opportunities for nature-based recreation are eligible for ADLP grants.

**Funding Priorities:** ADLP funding priorities include projects that:

- » Support a local CORP;
- » Support multiple uses;
- » Are of regional/statewide significance;
- » Result in a first-of-a-kind facility for the applicant;
- » Involve two or more governmental agencies;
- » Provide accessible recreation opportunities; and
- » Have other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

## **Stewardship Local Assistance, Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR) Subprogram**

*Statute/Code: s. 30.277, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subch. XIV, Wis. Admin. Code*

**Purpose:** The purpose of the ADR program is to protect natural, agricultural, and forest lands that provide nature-based outdoor recreation by purchasing development rights and compensating landowners for limited future development on their land.

**Allocation:** Projects compete statewide.

**Eligible Applicants:** Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs.

**Eligible Projects:** ADR grants may only be used to support projects that acquire development rights to support nature-based outdoor recreation.

**Funding Priorities:** The following types of property are given priority consideration for ADR grant funding:

- » Land with water frontage;
- » Land that provides a buffer between developed and natural areas;
- » Land that connects existing natural resource protection areas;
- » Land located within Department project boundaries; and
- » Land with other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

## **Stewardship Local Assistance, Urban Green Space (UGS) Subprogram**

*Statute/Code: s. 23.09(19), Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subch. XIII, Wis. Admin. Code*

**Purpose:** The UGS program supports acquisition of land for open natural areas and community gardens within or in close proximity to urban areas.

**Allocation:** Projects compete statewide.

**Eligible Applicants:** Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, NCOs, sanitary districts, and public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts.

**Eligible Projects:** Projects that acquire land within or in proximity to urban areas that provides open space, protects unique natural features, and/or provides opportunities for community gardening are eligible to apply for UGS grants. Development projects are not eligible for UGS grants.

**Funding Priorities:** UGS funding priorities include acquisition of land that:

- » Preserves land on the natural heritage inventory database;
- » Implements elements of approved water quality plans or initiatives;
- » Has unique natural features;
- » Provides linear corridor connecting open natural areas;
- » Has water frontage;
- » Is of regional or statewide significance;
- » Provides area for community gardens; and
- » Has other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

### Stewardship Local Assistance, Urban Rivers (UR) Subprogram

*Statute/Code: s. 30.277, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subch. XIV, Wis. Admin. Code*

**Purpose:** The UR program helps restore and preserve the character of urban river corridors through the acquisition and development of land adjacent to rivers.

**Allocation:** Projects compete statewide. No applicant can receive more than 20% of the UR funds allocated in any fiscal year.

**Eligible Applicants:** Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs.

**Eligible Projects:** Land acquisition and development projects that provide opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation are eligible for UR grants.

**Funding Priorities:** UR program funding priorities include projects that:

- » Restore river corridors following dam removal;
- » Support redevelopment of brownfields;
- » Acquire land with unique natural or aesthetic values;
- » Acquire land that connects with previous land acquisitions;
- » Provide outdoor recreation opportunities for diverse urban populations;
- » Provide new or expanded access to urban waterways;
- » Support local/regional plans; and
- » Have other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

### Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

*Statute/Code: Land and Water Conservation Act (Public Law 88-578); ch. NR 50.06, Wis. Admin. Code*

**Purpose:** The federal LWCF program supports development of high-quality outdoor recreation amenities in local communities.

**Allocation:** Projects compete statewide.

**Eligible Applicants:** Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and school districts. NCOs are not eligible to receive LWCF grants.

**Eligible Projects:** Generally, all acquisition and development projects that are eligible under the ADLP, UGS, and UR Stewardship subprograms are also eligible for LWCF grants. In addition, projects that provide outdoor recreation facilities that are not exclusively nature-based, such as active sports facilities, are eligible for LWCF grants. Some exceptions apply, such as cases where the applicant intends to meet their match requirement with federal funds. Contact a regional Grant Specialist for details.

**Funding Priorities:** LWCF funding priorities include projects that:

- » Meet the needs of urban areas;
- » Provide recreation opportunities for diverse populations;
- » Acquire land in areas with limited outdoor recreation facilities;
- » Provide multi-use and multi-season facilities;
- » Enhance or preserve natural beauty;
- » Are proposed by applicants which have financial resources to adequately maintain and operate the project; and
- » Have other priority characteristics specified in law/code.

## Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

*Statute/Code: Public Law 102-240; ch. NR 50.21, Wis. Admin.*

**Code Purpose:** The RTP program provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail uses. RTP grants are to be used on trail projects that further a specific goal or are included in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) or a local plan referenced in the SCORP.

**Allocation:** RTP grant awards may not exceed \$200,000 for individual projects submitted in the 2018 application cycle. Two-thirds (2/3) of the total RTP funding will be used for projects at the \$200,000 cap and the remaining 1/3 will be used for projects at the \$45,000 cap. However, applicants may receive multiple RTP grants for independent projects. Projects compete statewide within three project categories:

*Nonmotorized (30%):* Projects designed to benefit nonmotorized recreational trail use where motorized use would not be allowed.

*Motorized (30%):* Projects designed to benefit motorized recreational use; projects may also benefit some nonmotorized uses as long as motorized use is the primary intent.

*Diversified (40%):* Projects designed to benefit multiple uses; includes projects where motorized use would be permitted, but where motorized use is not the predominant beneficiary. Diversified projects are not required to have motorized use.

**Eligible Applicants:** Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governing bodies, school districts, state agencies, federal agencies or incorporated organizations are eligible to apply for funds. Incorporated organizations are those that are incorporated under ch. 181, Wis. Stats., whose primary purpose is promoting, encouraging or engaging in outdoor recreation trails activities.

**Eligible Projects and Funding Priorities:** RTP funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, County or state trail plan included or referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. These include traditional trails as well as water trails recognized by the DNR (see <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/watertrails/> for more information about water trails). Eligible RTP projects, in order of priority, are:

- » Maintenance and restoration of existing trails;
- » Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages;
- » Construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands); and
- » Acquisition of property for trails in areas with limited trail opportunities.

Pre-award expenses are not eligible for reimbursement under RTP grants.

Below are examples of projects that are considered maintenance, rehabilitation, development, and acquisition:

- » Maintenance and restoration of existing trails;
- » Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages;
- » Construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands); and
- » Acquisition of property for trails in areas with limited trail opportunities.

# Plan Conclusion

The outdoor recreation needs and recommendations identified in this plan are the result of significant public input and planning efforts made by the project steering committee. This plan provides guidance to elected officials and their designated boards and committees that will allow local officials to appropriate tax dollars for outdoor recreation facilities in an informed manner, and to integrate these recommendations into the City's capital improvement planning process.

The basis for plan recommendations include field inspection, analysis, public input, and discussions with community officials. It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will be achievable during the next five years, but with an active and successful Parks Board, the City was able to accomplish a significant number of projects identified in the previous outdoor recreation plan.

All improvements listed in the preceding pages may not be eligible for funding under WisDNR Stewardship Local Assistance or Federal Land & Water Conservation programs, but a truly comprehensive analysis of a community's outdoor recreation facilities means that all areas in need of improvement are considered.

The City will continue to pursue grant funding for the implementation of many of these recommendations. However, partnering with residents, local businesses, special interest groups, and the Chippewa Fall School District has also proven to be successful in the past and can significantly help address related costs for future improvements.

Although this plan focuses on the benefits of the park system to residents of the City, many of the outdoor recreation facilities included here have an important economic and tourism role of attracting visitors to the City. The quality of City park facilities, amenities, and programs play an important role in attracting and retaining residents, and contributes to the City's image as a vibrant community to live, raise a family, or start a new business.

These additional benefits should be considered, and if possible, quantified when considering significant park improvements or new facilities. And finally, while several recommendations requiring significant financial investment are identified in this plan, the City identifies that community dynamics and funding priorities are constantly changing. As such, this plan does not attempt to satisfy all recreational needs in Chippewa Falls, but instead focuses on providing citizens of the City and their guests with the best recreational program possible.

"I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright."

-Henry David Thoreau

