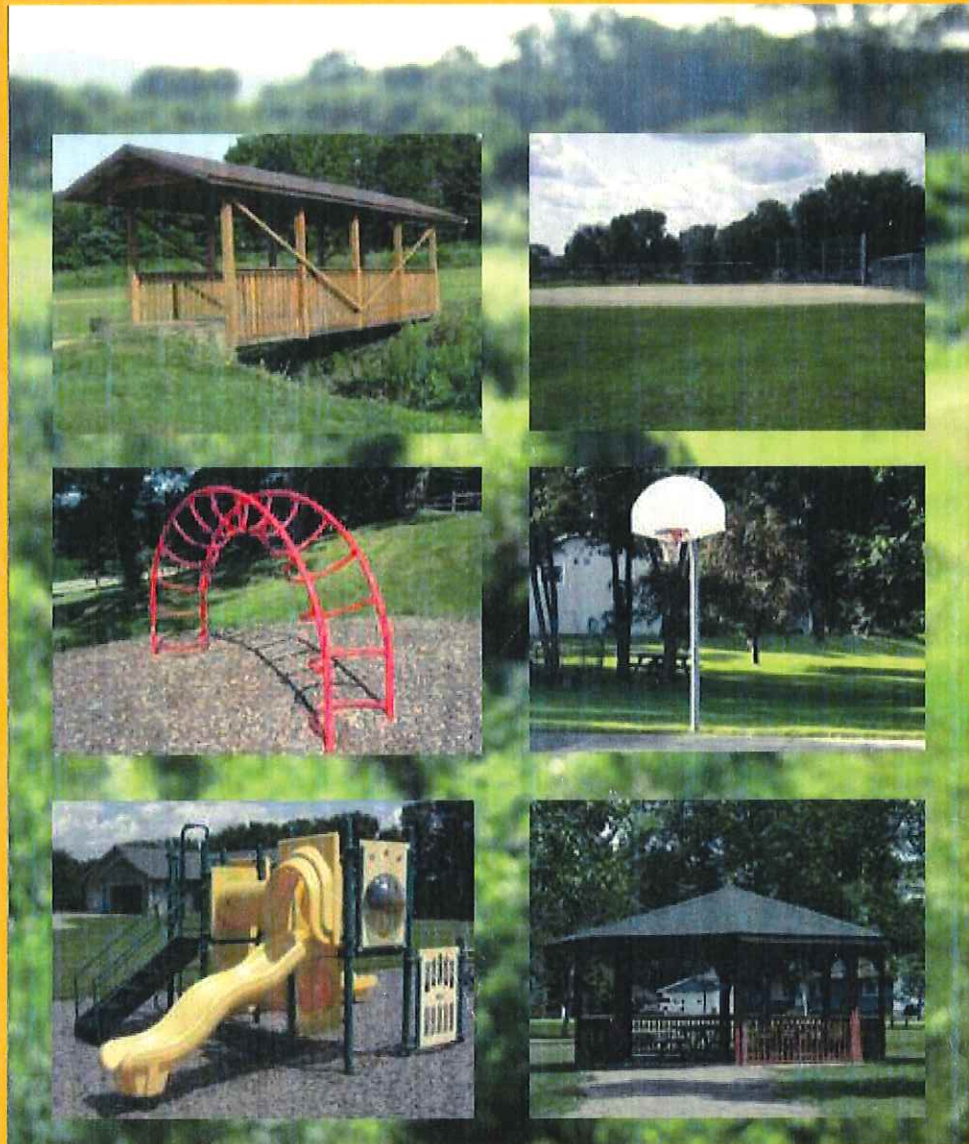


Town of Onalaska

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



FEBRUARY 2011
SCHREIBER | ANDERSON ASSOCIATES, INC.
PROJECT #2370.02

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1 INTRODUCTION

This is the first Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) prepared for the Town of Onalaska. It has been prepared to guide the town in developing public outdoor parks and recreation facilities and to enable Onalaska to participate in outdoor recreation grant programs through the Department of Natural Resources.

1.1 Executive Summary

The Town of Onalaska's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan sets forth the town's vision for the future growth and development of its outdoor recreation parks and facilities. This plan is intended to guide the town's outdoor recreation facility development to through the year 2015.

Onalaska is not expected to increase in population significantly over the 5-year lifespan of this plan (est. 192 person increase by 2015). These new populations will enjoy a variety of active and passive use parks with activities ranging from fishing (Mosey Landing, etc.) to baseball (Roth Field, etc.).

Changes in age distribution between 1990 and 2000 are not significant to suggest there is a growing need for playground equipment and facilities (0-19 years). However, following national trends, the town is likely to experience an increase of senior residents seeking recreation opportunities. These populations are generally seeking walking paths (with benches) and formalize senior programming as well as fishing and other outdoor options.

The existing town park system is comprised of 19 active use parks and 3 boat landings. A majority of these parks are neighborhood parks that provide a venue for local recreation within existing subdivisions. There are also 3 community parks, like Swarthout Park, that are only slightly larger than neighborhood parks, but provide a more regional appeal because they have the capacity to host regional events (Brice Prairie Time Trials, etc.).

General recommendations for the entire park system include retrofitting all parks and park facilities to be disabled accessible, including park shelters; improving existing playlots and playgrounds as neighborhood gathering places for all ages by updating playground equipment; performing systematic routine maintenance; and, actively pursuing funds for park and recreation upgrades.

1.1.1 Mission Statement

The Town of Onalaska's Park and Recreation mission is to provide residents with an improved quality of life through the reasonable provision of athletic, recreational and leisure facilities for all age groups.

1.1.2 Statement of Need

The Town of Onalaska Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has been prepared to identify a strategy to maintain the current level of recreational opportunity. This plan will be most useful for preparing budgets, policies and strategies to maximize the enjoyment and economic capability of the parks and recreation system. Onalaska desires to leverage the desirable attributes of the park system to enhance the vitality of neighborhood and natural areas.

1.2 Goals and Objectives

The following section identifies goals and objectives to guide the future development or expansion of local parks and open space facilities.

Goal 1.2.1: Enhance public access, use and enjoyment of the community's natural and recreational resources (2005 Comprehensive Land Use Plan).

Objectives:

- a. Ensure that public recreational use of natural resources is enhanced in a manner that is compatible with the resource.
- b. Support the provision of new parks within and near areas where significant residential development is occurring. For this CORP, endeavor to maintain at least 6.25 acres/1,000 population.
- c. Promote public access for recreational use of Lake Onalaska. Identify specific locations for new boat landings, lakeshore fishing access, and viewing areas.
- d. Emphasize the value of the town's natural resource areas as focal points of natural beauty and recreation that contribute to the community's identity, and as economic benefits to the town, region, and Wisconsin.

Goal 1.2.2: Ensure that open space, recreational facilities and programs are designed to meet the special needs of all residents regardless of age, gender, or ability.

Objectives:

- a. Provide for barrier-free access in all new park facility construction and play areas.
- b. Achieve compliance with accessibility requirements in existing facilities whenever financially feasible.
- c. Encourage participation and accommodation of all interested participants at park and recreational meetings and in recreational programs.
- d. Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it applies to communication with the public. This is in reference to the standard language that government agencies should use on their agendas and other public meeting documents stating accommodation of those with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting.

Goal 1.2.3: Coordinate development efforts and the use and maintenance of recreational facilities between the Town of Onalaska, area school districts, and appropriate recreation associations.

Objectives:

- a. Coordinate planning efforts of new transportation corridors to ensure proper consideration of trail connection development, and adequate green space protection.
- b. Coordinate the public use of indoor and outdoor school recreation facilities.
- c. Encourage cooperative Town/School/Sports Association development projects to help improve and expand recreational opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.
- d. Develop formal use/revenue/maintenance agreements between the town, school district, and public recreation associations to help operate and maintain public recreation facilities in the town. Agreements should be reviewed every two years.
- e. Participate in regional planning of parks and recreational needs, including La Crosse County Parks Department, local municipalities, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Goal 1.2.4: Stress the benefits of larger neighborhood and community parks that provide a wide range of facilities over the development of small playground and tot-lot facilities.

Objectives:

- a. Analyze the location, size and function of existing and proposed parks as annexations, residential development, or land use changes occur.
- b. Use Park Service Area Criteria to help determine the location of future park sites (see Chapter 2).

Goal 1.2.5: Provide residents with safe and reliable recreation equipment throughout the town park system.

Objectives:

- a. Accurately inventory existing parks facilities and maintain an active log of facilities improvement.
- b. Continue funding the replacement of old and deteriorating recreation equipment in all town parks.
- c. Continually monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure its longevity and safety.

Goal 1.2.6: Use all available resources to further enhance the quality of the town's park system.

Objectives:

- a. Continually pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase and/or development of desired park system improvements.
- b. Nurture the existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteer help to aid in park system development.
- c. Update the town's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan every five years to maintain grant eligibility.

- d. Pursue the development of revenue generating recreational facilities and activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.

Goal 1.2.7: Improve and expand the bicycle network.

Objectives:

- a. Improve trail connectivity throughout the Onalaska area to parks, schools, and regional trails.
- b. Establish wayfinding signage to allow new residents or visitors to effectively travel throughout the town.
- c. Increase the availability of bicycle parking, especially at parks with ballfields or other organized activity.
- d. Work with Wisconsin DNR to improve the Brice Prairie Trailhead facility on the Great River State Trail.

Goal 1.2.8: Recognize the importance of an adequate park budget, which can financially address existing park hazards and allow for future parkland acquisition and facility development.

Objectives:

- a. Use the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as a guide to establish yearly park budgets.
- b. Prioritize mitigation of existing hazards within the park budget.
- c. Invest funds for the development of facilities that will maximize existing park and recreation areas and provide exciting recreational programs, with the intention of increasing park prominence, community visibility, and use.

Goal 1.2.9: Better integrate programming and facilities development to correspond to recreational pursuits on a seasonal basis.

Objectives:

- a. Create a menu of programs for each season to identify gaps in the calendar where programs are not offered.
- b. Focus on creating additional winter programs, indoor and outdoor, to maximize the recreation opportunity of Onalaska as a year-round destination.
- c. Promote seasonal festivals in cooperation with local business and organizations.

Goal 1.2.10: Post park information and maps online to enhance public access.

Objectives:

- a. Create a section of the Town of Onalaska website that is dedicated to parks and open spaces and includes the CORP and any other studies about the natural environment performed by the town.
- b. Consider developing an interactive map for the website that allows users to select a park and find out more information about facilities. This information could be linked to show the existing facilities and recommendations from this plan.

1.3 Review of Past Planning Documents (Local, Regional, State)

1.3.1 Town of Onalaska Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2005)

The town adopted a comprehensive land use plan in 2005 per Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law. The plan identifies a variety of existing conditions, goals and objectives, and implementation strategies to maintain and enhance livability in the town. Development of a CORP was first identified in Chapter 9 of this plan. Policies related to parks and recreation are specifically discussed in Chapter 5: Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources. The goals and objectives identified in the comprehensive land use plan have been repeated in this chapter (Chapter 1) of the CORP.

1.3.2 Brice Prairie Master Plan (2006)

This plan was developed to determine how Brice Prairie would grow within the Town of Onalaska. Concerns arose during preparation of the town's comprehensive land use plan that the character and essential elements of Brice Prairie could be severely altered by development pressures over the next twenty years. The master plan was developed in response to these concerns and identified key elements for preservation that could be maintained through actionable strategies.

The plan recommends that open space is preserved through a variety of public (parks, etc.), private (homeowner's associations, etc.), and public-private (purchase of development rights, etc.) partnerships. The plan also mentions that if a new town hall is constructed, that a new park should be developed next to this structure (similar to the existing but with a wider variety of recreational equipment).

1.3.3 La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan (2008)

The La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2008 and is divided into six sections. Section one is an executive summary of the plan document. The second section identifies existing conditions information, including park inventories. The third section focuses on issues, visions, and goals for the county and coterminous jurisdictions. The land use plan appears in the fourth section with policies and recommendations appearing in the fifth section. The plan concludes with an implementation strategy.

Recommendations for the parks and open spaces include encouraging municipalities within the county to provide for the public recreation needs of all segments of the population. This includes protecting scenic areas and viewsheds and connecting important open spaces, trails, and parks. The plan also encourages that municipalities reserve parks and open spaces when new neighborhoods are built.

1.3.4 La Crosse County Land & Water Resource Management Plan (2007)

This plan is intended to focus the public vision of resource management by identifying the land use behaviors, policies and implementation procedures necessary to protect and improve the County's soil and water resources within the capabilities of the County and its land users.

The Land & Water Resource Management plan mentions the value of open spaces, and describes parks that occur in environmentally significant areas. It also discusses the value in protecting water resources such that they can be used for whole body contact recreation such as wading or swimming. There are no specific objectives related to the Town of Onalaska.

1.3.4 La Crosse County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2006)

The La Crosse County Outdoor Recreation Plan was developed and will be utilized to improve, enhance and expand the outdoor recreational opportunities available in La Crosse County. The plan covers the county's twelve unincorporated areas, including the Town of Onalaska.

The action program for the Town of Onalaska (page 26) lists the following improvement: Upper Brice Prairie Boat Landing – handicapped accessible dock, rebuild two boat launches, pave and stripe parking area. The estimated cost was \$25,000 and implementation was forecast to occur in 2005-2006.

1.3.6 Wisconsin State Trails Network Plan – West Central Region (2001)

The Wisconsin State Trails Network Plan, completed in 2001 and approved by the Natural Resources Board, provides a long-term, big-picture vision for establishing a comprehensive trail network for the state. One segment (Segment 12) would impact the Town of Onalaska.

Segment 12—St. Croix - Mississippi River corridor (West Central Region) would link the Northern, West Central and South Central regions. The link with the South Central Region would occur at De Soto on the Vernon/ Crawford county line. The proposed trail continues north on corridor using rail line, highway right-of-way, and the existing 22-mile-long Great River Trail between Onalaska and Trempealeau. State Highway 35 from Grant County to Prescott is identified in the *Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020* as a priority bicycle corridor. Wider paved shoulders are being added as highway reconstruction occurs. Currently DOT and DNR are cooperating on a 3.9-mile-long separated extension from Marshland (current terminus of the Great River Trail) along State Highway 35 to Winona, MN. Perrot, Merrick, Kinnickinnic, and Willow River state parks are in or near the corridor. From Prescott to the St. Croix/Polk county line, the recommended route is on County Trunk Highways F, A, and I and State Highway 35.

1.3.7 Wisconsin's State Outdoor Recreation Plan

Since 1965, the State has developed and maintained the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in an attempt to classify, measure, and ultimately provide for the preferences and needs of a statewide recreating public. Goals include the following:

1. Protect, restore and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources for outdoor recreation.
2. Continue to improve and develop Wisconsin outdoor recreation facilities.
3. Understand the threats and opportunities of Wisconsin's developing urban areas and areas of rapid population growth.
4. Promote Wisconsin outdoor recreation as a means to better health and wellness for state citizens.

The 2005-2010 SCORP examines and assesses current and future recreational needs within the state. To aid in this process, Wisconsin was divided into a group of eight planning regions, each representing a loose collection of natural resource and tourism based assets. Onalaska is in the "Mississippi River Corridor" region where access to the river and its backwaters are used for a variety of nature- and water-based recreational activities such as boating and swimming. The Great River Road connects over 50 local parks and beaches.

1.4 Summary of the Planning Process

1.4.1 Work Plan and Timeline

This plan was developed between August and October 2010. The process included two meetings with staff and other officials, and a public information meeting. All parks were audited by SAA staff with findings identified on inventory sheets (see Chapter 3).

1.4.2 Review Meetings

Meeting #1 August 6, 2010: the kick-off meeting was at Town Hall. The scope and timeline of the project was reviewed and dates for the public information meeting (PIM #1) were discussed. A hopes and concerns discussion revealed top priority needs including maintenance, bicycle trail connections, and establishing an accurate inventory of existing facilities.

Meeting #2 September 28, 2010: a public information meeting was held on September 28, 2010 to review draft recommendations. The meeting included a presentation on proposed facilities, linkages, and programs.

1.5 Town of Onalaska Demographics

1.5.1 Social Characteristics

This section presents social factors that are important to understanding the Onalaska community and its recreation needs and potential. Particularly important to planning for the adequate provision of parks and open spaces are population trends and projections over the planning period (5-10 years) and age characteristics of potential park users.

Population Trends and Projections

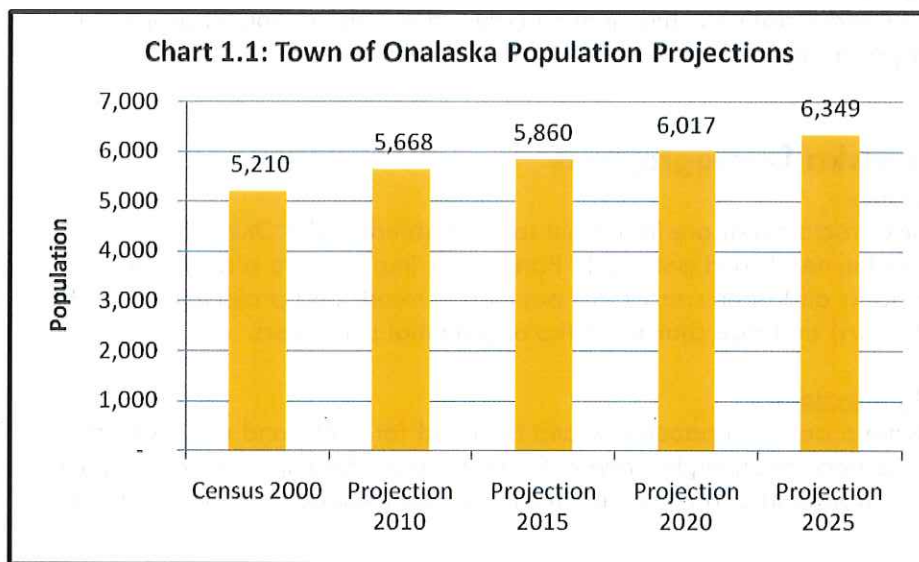
There is a direct relationship between population and the need for parks and recreational space. Predicting how the population might grow in the future provides important information about the amount of new parkland and recreational facilities that will be needed to serve the new populations.

Table 1.1 shows population projections as recorded in the comprehensive land use plan (2005). These estimates were derived by the Department of Administration in 2003. Estimates as of January 1, 2010 show the Town of Onalaska has increased slightly in population to 5,523 since 2000 (increase of 313). Based on this recent figure, growth is occurring marginally slower than was anticipated when the land use plan was prepared.

Table 1.1: Population Projections for Town of Onalaska and Comparables (2025)

Name of Municipality	Census 2000	Projection 2010	Projection 2015	Projection 2020	Projection 2025
T Onalaska	5,210	5,668	5,860	6,017	6,349
T Farmington	1,733	1,903	1,975	2,052	2,153
T Hamilton	2,103	2,477	2,646	2,821	3,028
T Medary	1,463	1,519	1,538	1,562	1,604
T Holland	3,042	3,609	3,867	4,134	4,447
V Holmen	6,200	8,249	8,287	8,958	9,729
C La Crosse	51,818	51,206	51,059	50,810	51,141
C Onalaska	14,839	16,924	17,993	19,009	20,238
La Crosse County	107,120	113,211	115,538	118,246	122,291

Source: State of Wisconsin, DOA (2003)



Ethnic Background

In 2000, the Census indicated the largest percentage of Onalaska residents (99.3%) were white. In 1990, the percentage of white residents was 99.4%.

Employment/Unemployment

In 2000, the Census indicated Onalaska had only 2.8% unemployment. This compares slightly lower than the state figure which indicated 3.2% unemployment this same year. However, recent statewide trends suggest unemployment in the town is likely to be higher in 2010 with the state reporting an 8.1% unemployment rate as of June 2010.

In 2000, approximately 21% of the population over the age of 16 was not in the labor force. This includes retired persons and those that choose not to work.

Age

Age distribution in the Town of Onalaska is shown in Table 1.2. Age cohorts are an important consideration when determining park facilities because certain age groups are more likely to

utilize certain recreation facilities depending upon their stage in life. For example, in 2000 there were an estimated 386 children under the age of 5. These children would best be served by low platforms with ramps or ladders, sand areas, or short slides no taller than 4 feet. These same facilities would be uninteresting to a 10 year old. A well-rounded park system will provide a variety of facilities (soccer fields, etc.) and equipment (swings, etc.) for all potential users regardless of ability or stage of life.

Changes in age distribution between 1990 and 2000 are not significant to suggest there is a growing need for playground equipment and facilities (0-19 years). However, following national trends, the town is likely to experience an increase of senior residents seeking recreation opportunities. These populations are generally seeking walking paths (with benches) and formalize senior programming as well as fishing and other outdoor options.

Table 1.2: Age Distribution, 1990-2000

	1990		2000		Proportional Change 1990-2000
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 5 years	504	8.5	386	7.4	-1.1%
5 to 9 years	592	10	406	7.8	-2.2%
10 to 14 years	617	10.5	477	9.2	-1.2%
15 to 19 years	434	7.4	438	8.4	1.1%
20 to 24 years	289	4.9	201	3.9	-1.0%
25 to 34 years	1023	17.3	638	12.2	-5.1%
35 to 44 years	1196	20.3	1,009	19.4	-0.8%
45 to 54 years	600	10.2	928	17.8	7.6%
55 to 59 years	224	3.8	260	5.0	1.2%
60 to 64 years	135	2.3	173	3.3	1.0%
65 to 74 years	184	3.1	196	3.8	0.7%
75 to 84 years	89	1.5	83	1.6	0.1%
85 years and over	20	0.3	15	0.3	0.0%
Total Population	5,907		5,210		

1990,2000 Census, SF-1

1.5.2 Physical Characteristics

This section presents physical factors in the community and region that are important to understanding Onalaska's recreation potential.

Topography¹

Scenic ridges, bluffs, valleys, wetlands and rivers characterize the topography of the Coulee Region, where the Town of Onalaska is located. The area is in the unglaciated region, of Driftless Area, of Wisconsin and was not affected by the last Ice Age, around 15,000 years ago. The steep topography contributes to the attractiveness of the area as a place to live and recreate.

Water Resources¹

The primary surface water bodies in the area are the Mississippi River, Black River, Lake Onalaska, Halfway Creek and Sand Lake Creek. One of the most significant outdoor

¹ Town of Onalaska Comprehensive Plan 2005-2025 (2005)

resources available to residents and visitors is Lake Onalaska. Recreational opportunities include boating, canoeing, sailing, fishing, hunting, and birdwatching. The 7,000-acre lake has depths to 40 feet, but the average depth is just 8 feet. The lake was formed in 1937 when the US Army Corps of Engineers finished the Dresbach, MN Lock and Dam 7.

Climate

Climate is an important consideration for determining the range of recreational activities that should be provided. The Onalaska area is in the humid continental climatic zone of the Midwest which is characterized by warm summers, cold winters and moisture throughout the year. The coldest month is January (14.4 degrees) and warmest month is July (73.5). La Crosse County annually receives approximately 30.6 inches of precipitation and 43.1 inches of snowfall.



2 ANALYSIS OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

This chapter analyzes the park and open space system in and around the Town of Onalaska. It inventories and classifies the park system based on national standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association. In addition, this chapter documents the nearby county and state outdoor recreation supply available to Onalaska residents.

2.1 Town of Onalaska Parks, Open Spaces, and Other Facilities

This section contains a summary of each park obtained through site visits. Complete Inventory Sheets for each park can be found in Chapter 3. A Facility Matrix for the entire Onalaska park system is located in Appendix A. See Appendix B for a map of park locations.

2.1.1 Mini Parks

Mini parks include specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. Desirable size is 1 acre or less.

Meadow Estates Park

Meadow Estates Park is a mini park located off STH 35 on Evergreen Way. There is a small parking pad at Evergreen Way's western terminus that faces the park. The park contains playground equipment.
Size: .75 acre

Town Hall

There is a mini park behind the town hall located at W7052 2nd Street. The park includes a swing set, slide, and merry-go-round.
Size: ~ .25 acre

2.1.2 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are areas for intense recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus, skating, picnicking, wading pools and the like. Desirable size is 15+ acres.

First Prairie Park

First Prairie Park is a neighborhood park located on Eric Ave. & Fairview Street (N6269 Eric Ave). The park features a ballfield, open shelter and playground equipment.
Size 2.32 acres

Heritage Hills Park

Heritage Hills Park is a neighborhood park located off Sugar Lane north of Hilltop Drive. The park features a full basketball court and several playground apparatus.
Size: 1.7 acres

Homestead Park

Homestead Park is a neighborhood park located at the west end of North Lake Shore Drive (CTH 'ZB'). The park features green space and playground equipment.

Size: 1.0 acre

Lake Park (Balduzzi Park)

Lake Park is a neighborhood park located north of Schaller Drive, east of CTH 'ZB'. The park offers picnic tables and playground equipment.

Size: .98 acre

Marvin Gardens

Marvin Gardens is a neighborhood park located at N5523 Sobkowiak Road and is bound on the north side by Hauser Road. The park features open space, covered bridge, enclosed shelter, and playground equipment.

Size: 3.52 acres

Mesa Grande Park

Mesa Grande Park is a neighborhood park located north of CTH 'Z' between Tabbert St (east) and Eagle Circle Drive (west). The park includes picnic tables, playground equipment, and a shelter is currently under construction (Eagle Scout project).

Size: 3.01 acres

Mulder Field

Mulder Field is a neighborhood park located south of Park St. east of Prairie Drive. The park features a ballfield with dugouts and bleachers. The park also has a shaded playground area.

Size: 1.25 acres

Prairie Heights Park

Prairie Heights Park is a neighborhood park located on Prairieview Drive (off CTH 'OT') east of CTH 'XX'. The park features a sandlot field, picnic tables and play equipment.

Size: 1.2 acres

Sun Valley Park (Rocky Top)

Sun Valley Park is a neighborhood park located at N6770 Sun Valley Road north of CTH 'D'. The park features an open shelter, playground, steep hill and open space.

Size: 2.52 acres

Sandy Knolls Park

Sandy Knolls Park is located east Sand Lake Road (CTH 'SN') north of Reef Road. The park features a ballfield, open shelter and playground equipment.

Size: 2.91 acres

Sobkowiak Park

Sobkowiak Park is located between CTH 'S' and Sobkowiak Road. The site features a basketball court, sandlot, and play equipment.

Size: 1.5 acres

Strawberry Commons Park

Strawberry Commons Park is located on Abby Road just west of USH 53 (south of CHT 'OT'). The park offers a softball field, open shelter, open space, and playground equipment.
Size: 3.52 acres

Terrace Heights (Circle) Park

Terrace Heights Park is located between Circle Drive W and Circle Drive East just north of Westview Drive. The park features a basketball hoop and playground equipment.
Size: 1.0 acre

Thunderbirds Park

Thunderbirds Park is located west of Sand Lake Road (CTH 'SN') north of Mohican Trail. The park features a basketball court, open space, volleyball court, and playground equipment.
Size: 1.92 acres

2.1.3 Community Parks

Community parks are areas of diverse environmental quality and may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. Desirable size is 25+ acres. However, in Onalaska, community parks were categorized based on the regional significance of the space and the capability of the facilities to provide diverse activities. These parks average about 4 acres.

Apple Valley

Apple Valley Park is located on Schilling Rd. and Park Drive. The park contains a variety of active use (ballfield and tennis courts) and playground facilities.
Size: 3.34 acres

Swarthout Park

Swarthout Park is located at W8020 CTH "ZB" (N Shore Dr) across from the Upper Brice Prairie Boat Landing. The park contains playground facilities, horseshoe and volleyball facilities, parking lots and a large enclosed shelter.
Size: 5.22 acres

Roth Field

Roth Park is located at N6147 Eric Ave. (Corner of Tower St. and Eric Ave.) The park contains a baseball field with open shelter, picnic tables, a batting cage, ½ basketball court, and playground equipment.
Size: 3.52 acres

2.1.4 Boat Landings

Boat landings are not generally considered an active use park, however, since they hold significant recreational value in Onalaska, a summary of facilities is provided below. The Town maintains cooperative practices with several organizations for upkeep and facilities installation. See Figure 1.

Lytle's Landing

Lytle's Landing is located at the end of Lytle Road north of the western terminus of CTH 'Z'. The facility serves as a trailhead for the Great River State Trail. Facilities include a paved parking lot, canoe launch and shallow depth canoe/kayak dock. There is also a hand crank water pump and an ADA accessible switchback sidewalk from the parking lot to the Black River.

Mosey Landing

Mosey Landing is located at W7207 CTH Z and contains two boat ramps, an ADA accessible pier (and two parking stalls), one port-a-potty, signage, trash receptacles, and ten vehicle-trailer parking stalls.

Upper Brice Prairie Boat Landing

The Upper Brice Prairie Boat Landing is located across from Swarthout Park at W8023 CTH 'ZB'. The site contains an open grassy area, information kiosk, parking area (unstriped), parking area (striped), two benches, trash receptacles, overhead lighting, a port-a-potty, two ramps and two docks.

2.1.5 Linear Parks (Trail Corridors)

A linear park is an area developed for one or more modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, etc. Trails are identified by name on Map 1.

Halfway Creek Trail

This trail connects the Town of Holland Hollow Bluffs Trail (north) to the Great River Trail (south). The trail features 3.4 miles of crushed rock surface from Halfway Creek Park, along the creek bed, to the Holmen Waste Water Treatment Facility. The trail includes five bridges and continues from the Waste Water Treatment Facility along Highway XX (paved shoulders) to Midway where it connects to the Great River Trail.

Great River State Trail

This 24-mile trail travels through prairies and backwaters of the upper Mississippi River valley. Built on an abandoned Chicago-Northwestern railroad line, the trail has a finely crushed limestone surface suitable for walking and bicycling for much of the year and snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter.

2.1.6 US Fish and Wildlife Visitor's Center

At 261 miles, the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is the

Figure 1: Boat Landings in the Town of Onalaska

Lytle's Landing (canoe launch and dock)



Mosey Landing (sign)



Upper Brice Prairie Boat Landing (kiosk)



longest river refuge in the continental U.S. The refuge begins at the confluence of the Chippewa River near Wabasha, Minnesota, and ends near Rock Island, Illinois. Management of the resource occurs through four district offices and a main headquarters. The La Crosse District office is located in Onalaska, Wisconsin. Recreation and education opportunities include environmental education, wildlife observation, and interpretation. The office is also responsible for management activities including restoring riverine habitat. Projects include a mix of wetland management, grassland/forest management, and fish management. Types of projects include active water level management, island building, bank stabilization, oxygenation of backwaters, and dredging areas for over-wintering fish.

2.2 Inventory of Nearby County and State Facilities

2.2.1 La Crosse County Parks

Goose Island County Park

Goose Island County Park includes a canoe trail featuring markers posted for clockwise travel around the island. The canoe trail passes through areas important to waterfowl and shorebirds as resting and feeding sites during fall migration. The park also features over 400 camping sites, a camp store, boat and canoe rentals, and variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. It is located about three miles south of La Crosse on STH 35. Due to its location on the Mississippi River, it has been included in this plan.

2.2.2 State Parks

Great River State Trail

The trail passes through the river communities of Onalaska and Trempealeau. Accommodations and services are available year-round in both communities.

Near Trempealeau, there is direct access from the trail to Perrot State Park where camping, hiking trails, canoeing, and a nature center are available. Perrot State Park was a natural landmark for the Hopewell Native American culture, which built many mounds along the Mississippi River Valley. There is a mound observation deck along the trail near Trempealeau.

The trail is in Wisconsin's scenic Coulee Region, part of the Driftless Area that was untouched by glaciers during the last Ice Age. Visitors to the Great River trail will enjoy the changing wetlands of the Mississippi River backwaters, 500-foot bluffs, hardwood forests, unique sand prairies and oak savannahs. The Great River Trail Prairie and the Midway Railroad Prairie are state natural areas with direct access from the trail.

2.3 Parkland Classification Analysis

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

2.3.1 Parkland Classification

A parkland classification system is a useful tool to determine if an existing park system serves the needs of a community. The definitions in this document are adapted from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) classification system. Total acreage alone does not guarantee that the community's park needs are being met. A community should have a number of different types of parks to serve the various needs of the residents. They may have "met the standard" in acreage through the creation of one large park, but the community's needs can best be met through a variety of recreational activity. The Town only contains mini, neighborhood, and community parks. Table 2-1 explains these park classifications, their associated use, service areas, desirable size and desired acres per 1,000 population.

Table 2-1 National Recreation and Park Association Parkland Classification System				
Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population
A. Local/Close-to-Home Space				
Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than ¼ mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5A
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Areas for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	¼ to ½ mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood)	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0A
Community Park	Areas of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A
Total Local Space = 6.25 to 10.5 AC/1,000				

2.3.2 Level of Service Standards

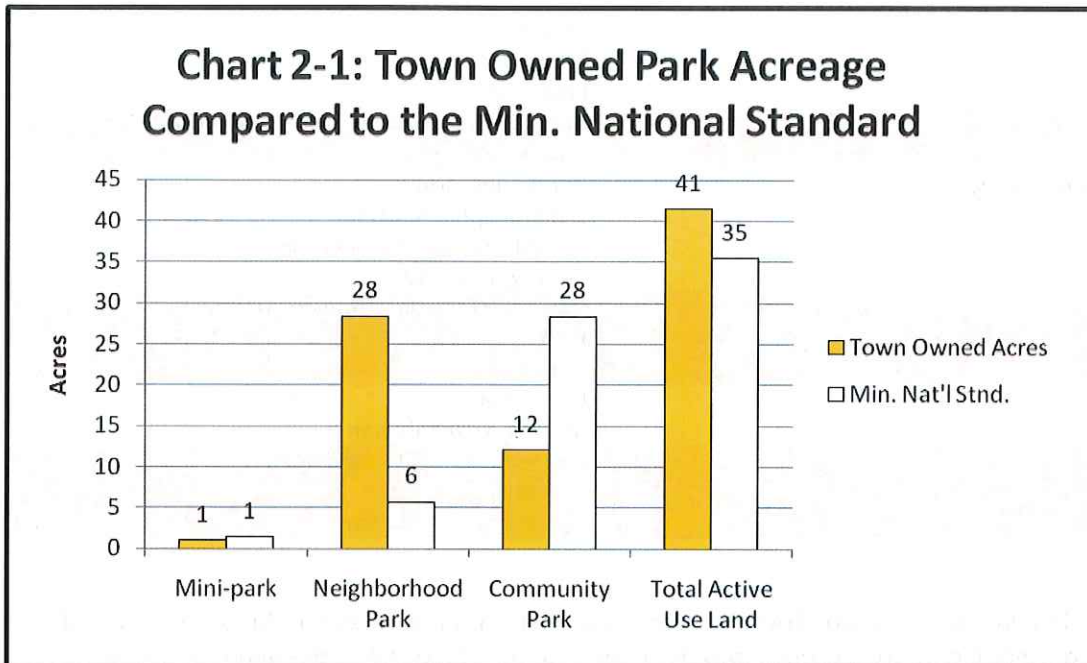
Once a community’s existing parks have been classified, a comparison can be made between the national standard for each park type and existing park acreage. While there is no formally established formula to determine the Level of Service (LOS) provided by the existing facilities, the following parameters should be considered.

Indicators	Social Environmental Economic
Acreage/Miles	Population standards (Acres/1000 population) Benchmarking
Facilities, Activities, Capacity	Population standards Demographic Analysis Neighborhood area activities Supply/Demand
Access	Walking/Bicycling/Driving, Transit Parks Facilities
Quality	Evaluation Mapping/Distribution
Programs	Relevancy, quality, and variety Scheduling Mapping/Distribution

For this plan, the acreage standard for local park space is most relevant. Since the Town of Onalaska is not incorporated and does not intend to provide a full complement of urban services, the minimum standard of 6.25-acres/1,000 population (Table 2-1) is used as a basis for determining recommended acreage needs. This acreage should be distributed among park types as follows:

Table 2-2 Recommended Park Standards	
Mini Parks	0.25 acres/1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	1.0 acres/1,000 population
Community Parks	5.0 acres/1,000 population
Total	6.25 acres/1,000 population

Actual acreage totals compared to national standards are identified in Chart 2-1. As shown, current acreage totals (41 acres) surpass minimum national standards (35 acres). However, the distribution of acres by park type shows a predominance of neighborhood parks (28 existing acres versus 6 recommended acres) and a dearth of community parks (12 existing acres versus 28 recommended acres).



The town is not overserved with recreational lands, however, as shown in Chart 2-2. This chart compares total town acres to minimum and recommended acreage standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association. Onalaska still enjoys a greater level of neighborhood parks, but fewer acres in all other categories. Given the rural nature the Town and the proximity of each neighborhood park to areas of population (arranged by subdivision), the preponderance of neighborhood parks reflect the platting standards of the time and provide a high level of neighborhood-level recreation.

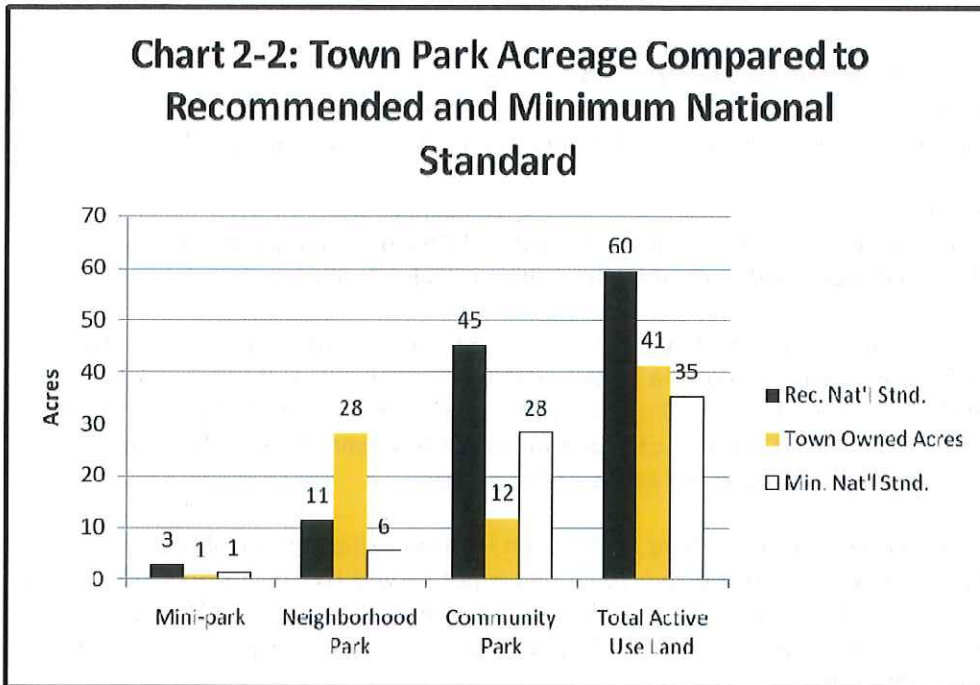
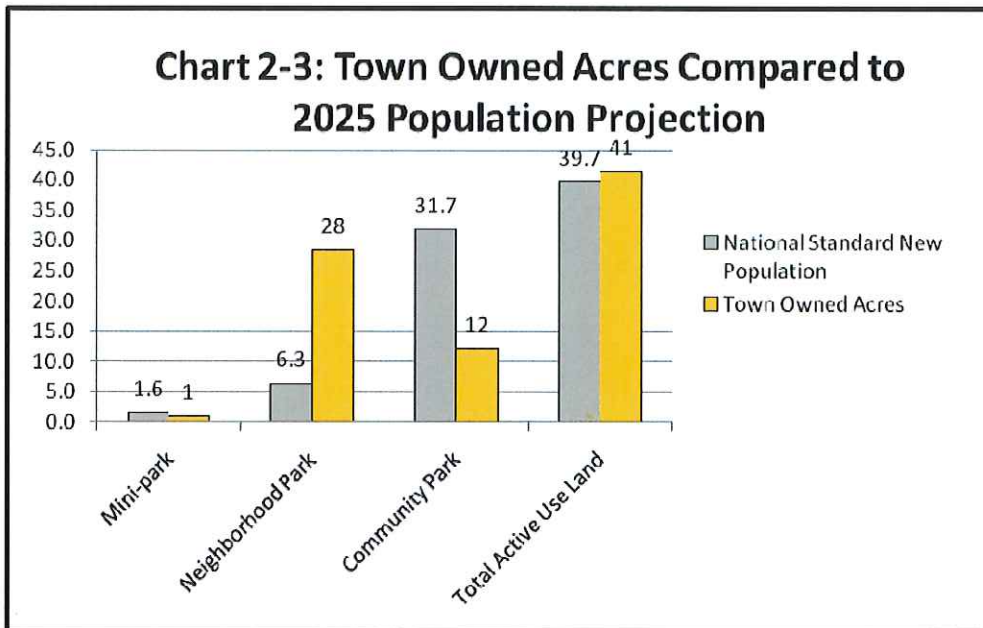


Chart 2-3 uses the 2025 population projection (Wisconsin Dept. of Administration) of 6,349 residents and applies it to current acreage figures. Assuming no additional parks are built, Onalaska continues to meet the recommended minimum acreage standard for active use parks (41 existing acres versus 39.7 recommended acres).



2.4 Park Service Area Requirements

This method of evaluating a community's parkland needs and adequacy of service includes plotting park service areas on a base map to identify areas that are underserved.

2.4.1 Park Service Areas

Utilizing the park service radii criteria established by the NRPA, park service areas were mapped for existing mini, neighborhood and community parks in Onalaska. See Map 2.

Several areas of the town have been identified as deficient in categorical distribution. The largest portion of the town that falls outside of any park service area is located in northeast Onalaska. Generally speaking, this area has the lowest population density in the Town which precludes park development as a function of subdivision development because there are fewer residential developments than other areas of the town.

Areas of consequence include those portions of the town located adjacent to Holmen Drive near USH 53. This is the densest area of the Town and is not served by Town parks. However, it should be noted that other facilities, such as Viking Elementary School and the Holmen Aquatic Center, exist within this area and since they are operated by other jurisdictions they do not appear in our analysis.

2.4.2 Park Service Areas – Population Density

Map 3 overlays the park service areas on a population density map (Census 2010 projected population). As mentioned in section 2.4.1 above, park service areas generally coincide with those areas that are most densely populated. Where this does not occur (Holmen Drive, etc.) there are parks operated by other jurisdictions providing recreational facilities.



3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations chapter of a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan provides actions to guide the future development or expansion of community parks and open spaces. General Town-wide recommendations provide direction on policy and design considerations while also considering operational and maintenance procedures. This chapter also includes a detailed park facilities sheet for each park in the Onalaska system with general issues, improvements, and costs, where applicable.

3.1 General Recommendations

The following is a list of general recommendations for the entire Town of Onalaska parks system. Some recommendations should be implemented as necessary when capital improvements and upgrades are considered on an annual basis.

3.1.1 General Recommendations for the Entire Park System

- a. Retrofit all parks and park facilities to be disabled accessible. As park shelters are built or upgraded, they should be designed to be barrier-free and accessible to all park users.
- b. Cover surfaces directly under play equipment and a safe zone around the play equipment with a 10-inch to 12-inch layer of resilient safety surface. Commonly used resilient surfaces are sand, pea gravel, recycled rubber or wood chips. To meet the Federal ADA requirements, the Town of Onalaska should consider using “Wood Carpet” or a similar product that provides wheelchair accessibility as well as a resilient surface.
- c. Conduct periodic safety audit/inspections of all existing play structures for current National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) conformance. Audits should be performed by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI).
- d. Improve existing playlots and playgrounds as neighborhood gathering places for all ages, and incorporate new neighborhood-focused facilities consistent with the patterns of new residential growth in the Town.
- e. Actively generate funds for park and recreation facilities upgrades. The Town should also pursue grant opportunities to supplement capital funds for future development and park system upgrades.
- f. Perform systematic routine maintenance of park facilities and equipment including:
 - Play equipment

- Courts and fields
 - Benches and picnic tables
 - Trail systems
 - Shelters
 - Weekly trash and recycle pick-up
- g. Formalize a policy for the systematic removal of older playground equipment that is generally considered less-safe by today's standards. Examples include metal slides and merry-go-rounds, and wood structures. Ensure the removed facility is replaced with an age-appropriate facility (spring riders or climbers, etc.).
- h. Place this plan and maps online for access and download.

3.2 Future Parks and Open Space Facilities

The following section discusses future parks and open space facilities.

3.2.1 New Parkland Locations

The Town of Onalaska is not looking to increase the quantity of parkland in coming years. Twenty-year projections show the town has adequate public spaces available to provide recreational opportunity for anticipated populations. The need for additional park spaces should be evaluated when this plan is updated every five years.

3.2.2 New Facilities Development

There are several opportunities for new facilities development that warrant mention. These facilities will increase the functional enjoyment of public spaces and enhance the recreational capacity of existing parks or can fill a void in the existing park system.

Consistent Park Signage

While some parks contain signage that identifies the name of the park, many do not. Consistent and visible signage that utilizes a unique theme would enhance each park in the system and increase community awareness of town parks.

Soccer Goals

Many park sites contained general open space areas that were flat and contained mowed grass. An amenity that could be added to increase the use of these spaces is soccer goals. The installation of even one soccer goal allows for informal pick-up games in neighborhood parks and has the potential to increase appreciation for the park system. Possible sites include Lake Park, Marvin Gardens, Strawberry Commons, Thunderbirds, and Swarthout Park.

Bicycle Network

The functionality of the bicycle network in Onalaska would be greatly improved by installing connections to and through some town parks. For example, at Heritage Hills Park there is a worn path from Penny Lane (north) to Sugar Lane (south) as it provides a cut-through for non-motorized transportation users. Connections through park spaces that provide access to schools, places of employments, and neighborhoods should be installed as funding is available.

Also, bike racks should be provided at all park locations especially those where formalized sports take place (Roth Field, etc.).

Ballfield Concession Stands and Lighting

Formal ballfields enable formalized softball and baseball activities. Many groups that operate these programs require fundraising to enable the continuation of programming. Some facilities, such as Mulder Field, may benefit from concession stands and increased lighting. As a secondary installation, bleachers in parks such as Strawberry Commons, may increase attendance during games and enhance the appeal of local facilities to residents.

Community Gardens

Seniors and others within many communities are looking for formalized options for recreation and activity. Community gardens can provide a beneficial outlet to enhance civic pride and can be provided with very little effort. In many communities, a strip of land is made available for plots that are rented, tended, and maintained by local groups and individual users. As interest escalates, the Town should coordinate with interested parties to identify an appropriate location that is accessible and can provide a water source.

3.3 Town Operations and Maintenance

The park system operates through a variety of cost-sharing, private maintenance, and intergovernmental coordination. The following recommendations speak to enhancing coordination and focusing maintenance efforts.

3.3.1 Informal Agreements

It is vital that the existing relationships between user groups are maintained. It is recommended that Town staff develop formal joint use policies and agreements. In the absence of these agreements, continuing to engage in open dialogue and cooperative practices remains invaluable.

3.3.2 Hard Surface Reconditioning

This plan recommends completion of a detailed inventory of all paved trails, parking lots, basketball courts, and tennis courts. The inventory should include condition information on each site and an asphalt surfacing plan completed for sites prioritized by use and condition. If tennis courts are to remain an active use feature, the courts will need to be repaved with possible base rebuilding. Special attention should be paid to the tennis courts at Apple Valley.

3.3.3 Repair and Maintenance

A few basic maintenance and repair needs were identified during an August 2010 audit. These needs include:

- Replace volleyball nets, basketball nets
- Remove old wells (Heritage Hills Park, etc.)
- Remove dead trees (and trim all trees near playground equipment for 8' clearance)
- Retention existing fencing (Sandy Knolls, Prairie Heights, Sobkowiak, etc.)

Also, since the Town has limited maintenance staff, it would be helpful if there was greater participation, existence of friends groups to help maintain park facilities and natural areas.

3.4 Individual Park Recommendations

The following section discusses the detailed improvements for each park within the Onalaska system. These items will also be included in the 5 year action plan in Chapter 4. Recommendations that are universal to all parks in the system include the addition of consistent park signage, trash receptacles, and bicycle racks.

Updating facilities throughout the park system is the primary recommendation and shows up most often in reference to older metal slides and trapeze swings. Trapeze swings are considered unsafe facilities because the height of the trapeze bar is consistent with user height and head trauma may result. The older metal slides vary in condition, and should be replaced on an as-needed basis depending on the condition of the bases, hoods, surfaces, and stairs. These facilities are generally considered less safe due to height and can be uncomfortable to use depending on the temperature. Other equipment, like teeter totters, should be checked for pinch-points.

Improving the condition of courts is also a common recommendation. The tennis courts at Apple Valley are in particular need of resurfacing, and basketball courts in general show signs of cracking. Periodic repair will increase the useful lifespan of these facilities.

The town is fortunate to have several regional and state trails in proximity to the parks. There currently is a good network of paths and trails, but an effort should be made to link these trails to park locations, and to provide bicycle parking facilities.

Specific recommendations and general cost estimates have been organized by park name and classification on the following pages.

Meadow Estates Park (W7063 Evergreen Way)

Park Description

Meadow Estates Park is a mini park located off STH 35 on Evergreen Way. There is a small parking pad at Evergreen Way's western terminus that faces the park.

The park contains playground equipment.

Size: .75 acre



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- swing set (3 Std., 1 Toddler)
- slide (at-grade; metal)
- climber (metal; red arch)
- general open space (steep grade)

Issues and Improvement Options:

- slide (this apparatus is installed on a hillside and is very long; trim grass and install railing on deck or remove the apparatus)
- sledding (fence at bottom of hill)
- install park sign, trash receptacle

Improvement Estimate

- Park Sign: \$1,000
- Slide Improvements: \$1,000
- New Fencing: \$4,000



Town Hall (W7052 Second Street)

Park Description

There is a mini park behind the town hall located at W7052 2nd Street. The park includes a swing set, slide, and merry-go-round.

Size: ~ .25 acre



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- merry-go-round (metal)
- swing set (3 Stnd., 1 Toddler)
- slide (metal w/ plastic hood)

Issues and Improvement Options:

- merry-go-round (remove or add rotational governor)
- too few apparatus to encourage active use (remove all equipment or add tot facilities such as spring riders or playground structure)
- install trash receptacles

Improvement Estimate

- Merry-go-round improvements: \$800
- Spring riders: \$800
- Playground structures (age 2-5): \$10,000



First Prairie Park (N6269 Eric Ave.)

Park Description

First Prairie Park is a neighborhood park located on Eric Ave. & Fairview Street (N6269 Eric Ave).

The park features a ballfield, open shelter and playground equipment.

Size 2.32 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- ball field with backstop and dugouts with concrete pads (installed 2008)
- bleachers (re-surfaced 2008)
- picnic table
- climber (metal)
- small slide (plastic)
- swing set (2 Stnd., 1 Trapeze, 1 Toddler)
- play structure (plastic)
- large slide (metal)
- open shelter (built 2007)
- port-a-potty
- trash receptacles

Issues and Improvement Options:

- swing set (remove trapeze bar and replace with standard swing)
- expand playground structure area with additional toddler equipment (spring riders, etc.)

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing, tree trimming, infield, weed treatments, mulch

Improvement Estimate

- Swing replacement: \$70 ea. (strap)
- Spring riders: \$800 ea.

First Prairie Park Site Images



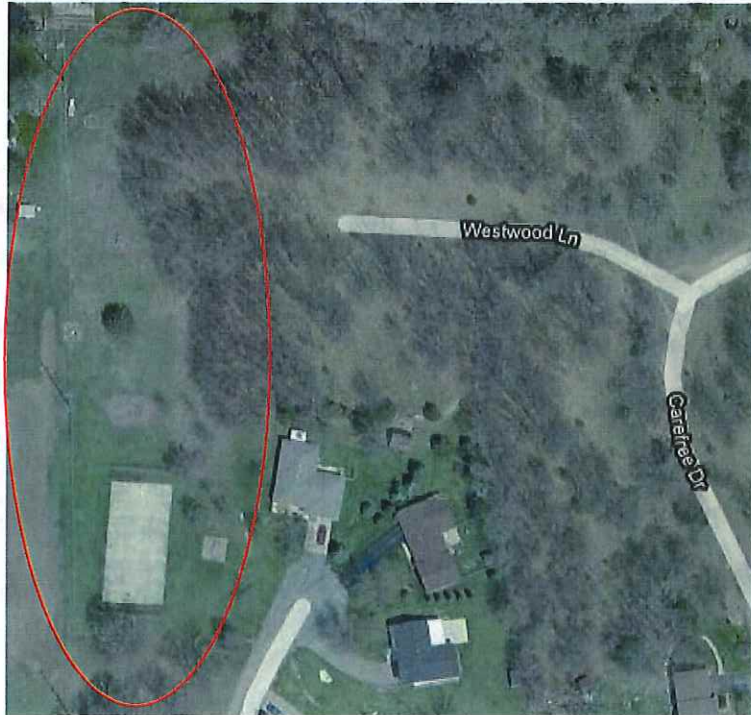
Heritage Hills Park (W6801 Sugar Lane))

Park Description

Heritage Hills Park is a neighborhood park located off Sugar Lane north of Hilltop Drive.

The park features a full basketball court and several playground apparatus.

Size: 1.7 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- full basketball court
- three picnic tables
- seven sitting benches
- swing set (3 Stand., 1 Toddler)
- merry-go-round (metal)
- two climbers (metal; 1 rocket, 1 arch)
- 4 seat teeter totter (spring)

Issues and Improvement Options:

- basketball court (replace nets; restripe court; tension fencing; prune tree by fence)
- merry-go-round (missing bolts, no rotational governor; remove the apparatus)
- well (remove old well)
- trees (remove dead trees)
- stormdrain dumps into park from Sugar Lane
- consider installing an open shelter on the existing concrete pad; move park sign from basketball court to shelter
- consider installing a path from Penny Lane (north) to Sugar Lane (south); this area shows signs of use as an informal walking/biking path

Improvement Estimate

- Basketball Court Upgrades: \$1,400
- Open air shelter: \$15,000
- Park sign: \$1,000
- 10' multiuse path: \$35/l.f.

Heritage Hill Park Site Images



Homestead Park (W8438 Northshore Dr)

Park Description

Homestead Park is a neighborhood park located at the west end of North Lake Shore Drive (CTH 'ZB').

The park features green space and playground equipment.

Size: 1 acre



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- swing set (2 Std., 1 Toddler)
- 2 climbers (metal; arches)
- merry-go-round (metal)
- picnic table
- park sign
- crawl tube (concrete)
- trash receptacle

Issues and Improvement Options:

- swing set (prune locust tree for clearance)
- teeter totter (base remains with no beam; remove all and replace with spring riders)
- merry-go-round (exposed base; reinstall safety surface – mulch)
- climbers (currently one climber is transverse mounted; relocate one of the arches so they are parallel or replace with play structure)

Improvement Estimate

- Spring riders: \$800 ea.
- Re-mulch play area: \$800
- Relocate one climber structure: \$800

Homestead Park Site Images



Lake Park (Balduzzi Park) (W7772 Schaller Dr)

Park Description

Lake Park is a neighborhood park located north of Schaller Drive, east of CTH 'ZB'.

The park offers picnic tables and playground equipment.

Size: .98 acre



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- picnic table
- swing set (2 Stnd., 2 Trapeze)
- large slide (metal)
- merry-go-round (metal)
- general open space

Issues and Improvement Options:

- picnic tables (warped)
- swing set (remove trapeze bars; replace with toddler seats)
- consider adding a soccer goal or backstop

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing, mulch

Improvement Estimate

- Picnic table: \$800
- Swing replacements: \$70 (straps); \$140 (toddler seat)
- Soccer goals: \$1500 ea.

Site Image



Marvin Gardens (N5523 Sobkowiak Rd)

Park Description

Marvin Gardens is a neighborhood park located at N5523 Sobkowiak Road and is bound on the north side by Hauser Road.

The park features open space, covered bridge, enclosed shelter, and playground equipment.

Size: 3.52 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- covered bridge (installed 2008)
- enclosed shelter (rentable, with power -no water)
- play structure (plastic)
- swing set (3 Std., 1 Toddler)
- 3 picnic tables
- new tree plantings
- bird houses
- open space
- port-a-potty
- parking lot

Issues and Improvement Options:

- covered bridge (exposed lip; regrade approach)
- shelter (extend gravel walkway around the entire structure)
- play structure (crawl tube is cracked)
- gravel path (resurface or spray for weeds)
- install signage
- consider adding a soccer goal to open space south of Hauser Rd

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- Shelter is rentable

Maintenance Program

- Mowing, treat for weeds, stream bank monitoring
- mulch

Improvement Estimate

- Bridge approach improvements: \$2000
- Walkway extension: \$1300
- Park sign: \$1000
- Soccer goal: \$1500 ea.

Marvin Gardens Site Images



Mesa Grande Park (N5426 Eagle Circle Ln E)

Park Description

Mesa Grande Park is a neighborhood park located north of CTH 'Z' between Tabbert St (east) and Eagle Circle Drive (west).

The park includes picnic tables, playground equipment, and a shelter is under construction (Eagle Scout project).

Size: 3.01 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- 7 picnic tables
- swing set (3 Stnd., 1 Toddler)
- large play structure (plastic)
- dry detention basin
- shelter under construction

Issues and Improvement Options:

- picnic tables (many are warped)
- shelter under construction is a climbing temptation in current state
- culvert entrance to park from Eagle Circle Lane
- consider installing basketball court

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- Shelter rental? (if completed)

Maintenance Program

- Mowing, mulching

Improvement Estimate

- Picnic tables: \$800 ea.
- Basketball court: \$5000

Mesa Grande Park Site Images



Mulder Field

Park Description

Mulder Field is a neighborhood park located south of Park St. east of Prairie Drive.

The park features a ballfield with dugouts and bleachers. The park also has a shaded playground area.

Size: 1.25 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- ballfield with backstop and covered dugouts (built 2008)
- batting cage (nets)
- open shelter
- two picnic tables
- slide (metal)
- swing set (2 Stnd., 1 Toddler, 1 Trapeze)
- climber (metal)
- port-a-potty
- trash receptacles

Issues and Improvement Options:

- swing set (remove trapeze bar and replace with toddler seat)
- consider adding additional toddler facilities (spring riders, etc.)
- concession stands/lighting

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing, treat for weeds, infield maintenance, mulching, tree trimming

Improvement Estimate

- Swing replacement: \$70 ea. (straps)
- Spring rider: \$800 ea.
- Field lighting: \$75000

Mulder Field Site Images



Prairie Heights Park (N6005 Prairieview Dr)

Park Description

Prairie Heights Park is a neighborhood park located on Prairieview Drive (off CTH 'OT') east of CTH 'XX'.

The park features a sandlot field, picnic tables and play equipment.

Size: 1.2 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- backstop
- half basketball court
- 2 picnic tables
- swing set (3 Stnd., 1 Toddler)
- playground structure (plastic)
- slide (metal)
- crawl tube (concrete)

Issues and Improvement Options:

- backstop (missing top rail – replace with new)
- basketball court (repaint backboard)
- playground (a retaining wall is built up around the playground equipment – the downhill side is failing – rebuild and spray for weeds)
- prune trees by swing set for 8' clearance
- no trash receptacle

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing, mulching

Improvement Estimate

- Backstop repair: \$1000
- Retaining wall: \$8000
- Trash receptacle: \$600

Prairie Heights Park Site Images



Sun Valley Park (Rocky Top) (N6770 Sun Valley Dr)

Park Description

Sun Valley Park is a neighborhood park located at N6770 Sun Valley Road north of CTH 'D'.

The park features an open shelter, playground, steep hill and open space.

Size: 2.52 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- open shelter
- one picnic table
- play structure (plastic)
- swing set (3 Std., 1 toddler)
- tree plantings (crab apple, maple, shingle oak)

Issues and Improvement Options:

- install park signage
- no parking
- entire park is on top of a hill from the street (improve ADA access by installing a ramp on the east side)

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

-

Improvement Estimate

- Park sign: \$1000
- Paved parking area: \$10000 (10 stalls)
- ADA path/ramp: \$5000 (asphalt)

Site Images



Sandy Knolls (W6650 Reef Rd)

Park Description

Sandy Knolls Park is located east Sand Lake Road (CTH 'SN') north of Reef Road.

The park features a ballfield, open shelter and playground equipment.

Size: 2.91 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- ballfield with backstop
- one set of bleachers (aluminum)
- dugouts (benches and concrete pads installed 2008)
- outfield fence (installed 2008)
- open shelter
- 3 picnic tables
- slide (metal)
- swing set (2 Stnd., 2 Toddler)
- climber (metal)
- crawl tube (concrete)
- port-a-potty
- open space (links to Sand Lake Elementary)
- trash receptacle
- parking lot

Issues and Improvement Options:

- backstop (retension the fencing)
- outfield fence (install permanent fencing)
- slide (slide is bent; remove)
- swing set (bent support pole; replace)
- install path to Sand Lake Elementary (SRTS Plan)



Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing, mulching, infield upkeep

Improvement Estimate

- Backstop repair: \$900
- Swing set repair: \$800
- 10' wide trail to Sand Lake Elementary: \$35 l.f.

Sandy Knolls Park Site Images



Sobkowiak Park (N5367 Sobkowiak Rd)

Park Description

Sobkowiak Park is located between CTH 'S' and Sobkowiak Road.

The site features a basketball court, sandlot, and play equipment.

Size: 1.5 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- full basketball court
- two picnic tables
- slide (plastic; spiral w/ hood)
- monkey bars (metal)
- play structure (plastic)
- 2 spring riders
- swing set (2 Stnd., 2 Toddler)
- backstop
- general open space

Issues and Improvement Options:

- basketball court (replace nets, stripe court)
- prune ash trees
- monkey bars (exposed bolts; remove structure)
- spring riders (exposed concrete base; install mulch safety surface to the area or remove)
- swings (one standard swing seat is broken; replace)
- backstop (minor damage; retention chain link fence)
- improve pedestrian access to the park and install signage

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing, tree trimming, mulching, basketball court sealing

Improvement Estimate

- Basketball court repairs: \$1100
- Swing replacement: \$70 ea. (straps)
- Backstop repair: \$900
- Park sign: \$1000

Sobkowiak Park Site Images



Strawberry Commons Park (N5464 Abbey Rd)

Park Description

Strawberry Commons Park is located on Abby Road just west of USH 53 (south of CHT 'OT').

The park offers a softball field, open shelter, open space, and playground equipment.

Size: 3.52 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Softball field with backstop
- half court basketball (2 hoops)
- open shelter
- 1 picnic table
- two climbers (metal)
- 4 place swing set (3 Stnd., 1 Toddler)
- volleyball court
- soccer field (no goals)
- slide (metal)
- crawl tube (concrete)
- spring rider (airplane)
- two sitting benches
- port-a-potty
- trash receptacle

Issues and Improvement Options:

- basketball court (replace nets, stripe court)
- volleyball court (sand is weedy, no net; regrade the court, add sand, and install a net)
- soccer field (install at least one goal – east end is preferred)
- softball field (install benches or dugouts and bleachers)

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing, mulching, infield upkeep

Improvement Estimate

- Basketball court repairs: \$1100
- Volleyball court repairs: \$1000
- Soccer goals: \$1500 ea.
- Softball field upgrades (masonry dugouts or bleachers): \$25000

Strawberry Commons Park Site Images



Terrace Heights (Circle) Park (W6840 Westview Drive)

Park Description

Terrace Heights Park is located between Circle Drive W and Circle Drive East just north of Westview Drive.

The park features a basketball hoop and playground equipment.

Size: 1 acre



Site Analysis Summary

- Existing Facilities**
- 1 picnic table
 - merry-go-round (metal)
 - swing set (3 Std., 1 Toddler)
 - slide (metal)
 - climber (metal)
 - basketball pad and hoop on Circle Drive
 - sloped open space
 - trash receptacle

- Issues and Improvement Options:**
- signs of flooding issues (2 beehive inlets; consider adding a swale on the north property line or install an additional inlet on the west end; add mulch to playground area)
 - prune all trees near play equipment for clearance
 - basketball pad (move hoop to north side to prevent the ball rolling into a street)
 - add park sign



Program Details

- Programs and Events**
- None

- Revenue Generators**
- None

- Maintenance Program**
- Trim trees, mulching, mowing, hard court surface

Improvement Estimate

- Stormsewer upgrades: \$10000
- Park sign: \$1000



Thunderbirds Park (N5694 Mohican Trail)

Park Description

Thunderbirds Park is located west Sand Lake Road (CTH 'SN') north of Mohican Trail.

The park features a basketball court, open space, volleyball court, and playground equipment.

Size: 1.92 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- half court basketball (2 hoops)
- open shelter
- two picnic tables
- volleyball court
- two climbers (metal)
- large slide (metal)
- one small slide with climber (metal)
- 4 place swing set (2 Stnd., 1 Toddler, 1 Trapeze)
- port-a-potty
- spring rider (airplane)

Issues and Improvement Options:

- volleyball court (replace net, spray for weeds)
- climbers (older climber has exposed bolts; replace within 5 years)
- swings (remove trapeze bar and replace with toddler seat)
- parking (consider striping stalls parallel to Mohican Trail)
- basketball court (replace nets, spray for weeds)
- consider installing soccer goals in open space

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Mowing, mulching, treat for weeds in volleyball court, hard court surface upkeep

Improvement Estimate

- Volleyball net: \$200
- Climber structure: \$1000 (arch)
- Parking lot striping: \$1000
- Soccer goals: \$1500 ea.

Thunderbirds Park Site Images



Apple Valley (W6535 Schilling Road)

Park Description

Apple Valley Park is a community park located on Schilling Rd. and Park Drive.

The park contains a variety of active use (ballfield and tennis courts) and playground facilities.

Size: 3.34 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- tennis courts (2)
- ballfield with backstop and scoreboard
- 1 set of bleachers
- two dugouts with benches on concrete pads (2008)
- 2 open shelters
- 2 picnic tables
- water pump (by tennis court)
- swing sets (2 Std., 3 Toddler, 2 trapeze)
- basketball court (half, with one hoop)
- slide (metal)
- 1 climber (metal)
- merry-go-round (metal)
- bike rack (fence-type)
- spring teeter totter (4 spot)
- trash receptacles
- port-a-potty
- spring rider (airplane)
- park sign

Issues and Improvement Options:

- Tennis court (crack filled 2008; resurface court; tension fencing)
- Ballfield (depression in right field; 1st baseline fence needs rebuilding)
- Swing sets (replace trapeze bars with standard swings)
- Basketball court (repaint backboard; remove weeds on court; possibly move the hoop to the long-end)
- Dying ash trees (initiate a replacement program)
- Install safety surfacing under all playground equipment (mulch)
- No parking on Park Street (this street offers direct access to the playground)
- Move the park sign location to corner of Schilling Road and Park Drive.
- Trim trees over climbing structure

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Hard court surfaces, mowing, trimming, mulch, infield repair

Improvement Estimate

- Tennis court resurfacing: \$8000
- Tennis court fencing repair: \$800
- Ballfield fence repair: \$3000

- Swing replacement: \$70 ea. (strap)
- Playground surfacing: \$1200
- Tree replacement – new shade trees: \$400 ea.

Apple Valley (Images)

Site Images

Ballfield



Tennis Courts



Playground



Basketball Court



Swarthout Park (W8020 CTH ZB)

Park Description

Swarthout Park is a community park located at W8020 CTH "ZB" (N Shore Dr) across from the Upper Brice Prairie Boat Landing.

The park contains playground facilities, horseshoe and volleyball facilities, parking lots and a large enclosed shelter.

Size: 5.22 acres



Site Analysis Summary







Existing Facilities

- full court basketball
- large enclosed shelter (rentable with electricity, non-drinkable water)
- gazebo with electricity
- eleven picnic tables
- one slide
- swing set (4 Std., 3 Toddler)
- 2 place teeter totter (metal)
- one climber (metal)
- 2 spring riders
- volleyball court
- 2 horseshoe pits
- trash receptacles
- port-a-potty
- 2 parking lots
- 1 grill (metal); 1 grill (stone)

Issues and Improvement Options:

- Slide (exposed nails and bolts)
- Swing set (exposed foundations)
- Teeter totter (install rubber bumpers)
- Climber (exposed bolts)
- South parking lot light should be rotated 180 degrees so it shines into parking lot (trim trees)
- Possibility of adding soccer goals in general open space area
- Improve park signage
- Install bike racks



Program Details		
Programs and Events	Revenue Generators	Maintenance Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brice Prairie Time Trial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing, trimming, mulching, shelter upkeep, lighting
Improvement Estimate		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide replacement: \$2000 (intersecting climber) • Teeter totter repairs: \$700 • Climber replacement: \$1000 (arch) • Soccer goals: \$1500 ea. • Park sign: \$1000 • Bicycle rack: \$1000 		
Swarthout Park Site Images		
		
		
		

Roth Field

Park Description

Roth Park is a community park located at N6147 Eric Ave. (Corner of Tower St. and Eric Ave.)

The park contains a baseball field with open shelter, picnic tables, a batting cage, 1/2 basketball court, and playground equipment.

Size: 3.52 acres



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- fenced ballfield with backstop and pea gravel warning track
- batting cage (nets)
- two sets of bleachers
- dugouts (covered and fenced)
- outfield fence
- half court basketball (2 hoops)
- open shelter/concessions
- four picnic tables
- playground structure (plastic)
- merry-go-round (metal)
- swing set (3 Stnd., 1 Toddler)
- 1 climber (metal – red arch)
- parking lot
- trash receptacles
- port-a-potty

Issues and Improvement Options:

- Bleachers (wood benches are warped)
- Basketball court (replace nets and paint backboard; spray for weeds and repair cracks)
- Baseball field (spray for weeds on warning track)
- Playground equipment (replace mulch)
- Install bicycle racks
- Install potable water fountain
- Replace swing straps when rubber cracks



Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- None

Maintenance Program

- Treat for weeds (turf and warning track), mowing, mulch

Improvement Estimate

- Bleacher repair: \$800
- Basketball court upgrades: \$1100
- Playground surfacing: \$900
- Bicycle racks: \$1000
- Potable drinking fountain: \$3000
- Swing replacement: \$70 ea. (straps)

Roth Field Park Site Images



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4 IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter of the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan includes a compilation of capital improvements, park acquisition and development mechanisms, and funding sources. The chapter also includes the process for adopting, monitoring, and updating this plan.

4.1 Capital Improvements Plan 2011-2015

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

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

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

- a. Improvements to Existing Facilities that will:
 - i. Correct health and safety hazards
 - ii. Upgrade deficient facilities
 - iii. Modernize adequate but outdated facilities
- b. Installation of facilities as deemed appropriate and necessary through public demand (public meetings, Park Committee input, expected population growth)
- c. Development of new facilities as deemed necessary through comparison to NRPA park and recreation standards

Specifically, improvements to existing facilities rank the highest in the capital improvements program, while new facilities are usually ranked lower, according to their relative need in the park. Improvements that correct health and safety hazards are always the highest ranking priority. Improvements that are deemed necessary through comparison to national park and recreation standards are usually ranked the lowest. The following table depicts the total

dollars to be spent for each park improvement. Costs provided below are based upon recent actual regional project construction costs. With variable economic conditions, it is suggested that the Town of Onalaska explore all possible funding options whether it be potential grant funding, public dollars, or private donations.

Recommendations discussed in Chapter 3 of this report are the basis for the following estimated costs. Priorities were created to aid the Town of Onalaska in establishing future capital budgets and ensuring proper allocation of funding. A **priority 1** will be considered an immediate action item; **priority 2** should be considered and funded within the next two to five years. A **priority 3** will be considered as funding becomes available over the next five to ten years. Funding opportunities are identified in section 4.3 of this chapter. For the purposes of this table the following funding identifiers were used:

General: general fund (Town expense)

Donation: potential donation or community service project (no/limited Town expense)

Stewardship: DNR funding; generally property acquisition and waterway restoration

RTA: DNR funding; trail development

TE: DOT funding; sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes

Holmen School District: coordinate with the school district for SRTS funding

Table 4.1 Town of Onalaska Park and Recreation Area Recommended Improvements				
Park	Recommendation	Estimated Cost (2011)	Funding Opportunity	Priority
Mini Parks				
Meadow Estates	Park Sign	\$1,000	General	1
	Slide Improvements	\$1,000	General	1
	New Fencing	\$4,000	General/ Donation	3
Town Hall	Merry-go-round	\$800	General	1
	Spring riders (ea.)	\$800	General	2
	Playground structure (age 2-5)	\$10,000	General/ Donation	3
Neighborhood Parks				
First Prairie Park	Swing set straps (ea.)	\$70	General	1
	Spring riders (ea.)	\$800	General	2
Heritage Hills Park	Basketball court upgrades	\$1,400	General	1
	Open air shelter	\$15,000	General/ Donation	3
	Park sign	\$1,000	General	1
	10' multiuse path (400')	\$14,000	RTA/TE	2
Homestead Park	Spring riders (ea.)	\$800	General	2
	Re-mulch play area	\$800	General	1
	Relocate climber	\$800	General	1
Lake Park (Balduzzi)	Picnic table (ea.)	\$800	General	1
	Swing set straps (ea.)	\$70	General	1
	Swing set toddler seats	\$140	General	1
	Soccer goals (ea.)	\$1,500	General	2

Marvin Gardens	Bridge approach	\$2,000	General/ Donation	1
	Walkway extension	\$1,300	General	2
	Park sign	\$1,000	General	1
	Soccer goals (ea.)	\$1,500	General	1
Mesa Grande Park	Picnic table (ea.)	\$800	General	1
	Basketball court	\$5,000	General	3
Mulder Field	Swing set straps (ea.)	\$70	General	1
	Spring rider (ea.)	\$800	General	2
	Field lighting	\$75,000	General/ Donation	3
Prairie Heights Park	Backstop repair	\$1,000	General	1
	Retaining wall	\$8,000	General	2
	Trash receptacles (ea.)	\$600	General	3
Sun Valley Park (Rocky Top)	Park signs	\$1,000	General	1
	Paved parking area (10 stalls)	\$10,000	General	3
	ADA path/ramp	\$5,000	RTA/TE	2
Sandy Knolls Park	Backstop repair	\$900	General	1
	Swing set repair	\$800	General	1
	Trail to Sand Lake Elementary (200')	\$7,000	Holmen School District	1
Sobkowiak Park	Basketball court repairs	\$1,100	General	1
	Swing set straps (ea.)	\$70	General	1
	Backstop repair	\$900	General	1
	Park signs	\$1,000	General	1
Strawberry Commons Park	Basketball court repairs	\$1,100	General	1
	Volleyball court repairs	\$1,000	General	1
	Soccer goals (ea.)	\$1,500	General	2
	Softball field (dugouts and bleachers)	\$25,000	General/ Donation	3
Terrace Heights (Circle) Park	Stormsewer	\$10,000	General	3
	Park sign	\$1,000	General	1
Thunderbirds Park	Volleyball net	\$200	General	1
	Climber	\$1,000	General	2
	Parking lot striping	\$1,000	General	2
	Soccer goals (ea.)	\$1,500	General	2
Community Parks				
Apple Valley Park	Tennis court resurfacing	\$8,000	General	3
	Ballfield fence repair	\$3,000	General/ Donation	1
Swarthout Park	Slide replacement	\$2,000	General	1
	Teeter totter repairs	\$700	General	1
	Climber replacements	\$1,000	General	1
	Soccer goals (ea.)	\$1,500	General	2
	Park sign	\$1,000	General	1

	Bicycle racks	\$1,000	General	2
Roth Field	Bleacher repair	\$800	General/ Donation	1
	Basketball court upgrades	\$1,100	General	2
	Playground surfacing	\$900	General	1
	Bicycle racks	\$1,000	General	2
	Potable drinking fountain	\$3,000	General	2
	Swing set straps (ea.)	\$70	General	1

4.2 Park Acquisition and Development Mechanisms

4.2.1 Parkland Dedication Ordinance

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

The Town of Onalaska general code (Sec. 14-1-8) covers dedication of lands for parks and other public uses at a rate of .05 acres per dwelling unit. The intent of the code is to dedicate adequate open spaces and sites for public uses. Given the current distribution of park sites within the town and cost to maintain these sites, additional park sites are not desirable at this point in time. However, should a large subdivision be developed, the town should work with the developer to provide adequate recreational space and long-term maintenance arrangements (such as covenants) with prospective residents. Even if active parks are not desirable at this time, the reservation of lands is important for growing populations. Reserved lands can be maintained as prairies or other passive uses until such time that there is demand for additional active use facilities.

4.2.2 User Groups

The Town should coordinate with user groups and volunteer organizations when planning new facilities or updating existing equipment to determine whether cost-sharing, donation, or outright purchase options exist.

4.2.3 Planned Giving

In many communities, parkland development often occurs with the availability of land. Donations of private land for a public purpose is not uncommon, but there needs to be criteria for accepting lands, and a formal procedure for how the land will be planned and used in the best interest of the community. A planned giving program through the Town of Onalaska would allow prospective patrons to dedicate land in a legal manner that may also provide comfort in knowing how the land will be utilized.

4.2.4 Grant Funding

Implementation dollars are available for acquisition and development of recreation spaces and facilities. Linear parks and trails can be funded through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) or the Department of Transportation (WDOT). The WDNR also provides monies for the acquisition of lands, the stabilization of shorelands, and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. A complete list of grant opportunities is provided in Section 4.3.

4.3 Grant Information for Park Acquisition and Development

The state and federal government provides money to local governments for the acquisition and development of parks. It is important to note that most of the programs require that a local government submit to the WDNR a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan or master plan which has been approved (via resolution) by the submitting local government. By adopting the 2011 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan with a resolution, the Town of Onalaska has met the eligibility requirement for these grant programs through the year 2015.

This section provides general information and details for many of the grant programs that may be used to acquire and develop local park facilities, linear trails, or boat landings.

Categories, by authorization agency, include:

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program: Named for two of Wisconsin's most revered conservation leaders, Governor Warren Knowles and Senator Gaylord Nelson, the Wisconsin Legislature created this innovative program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation.

All grant program awards cover up to 50% of eligible project costs. Projects eligible for Stewardship grant programs require that all land acquisition and development projects provide public access for "nature-based outdoor recreation" purposes. DNR decisions as to whether a particular project activity is "nature-based outdoor recreation" are made on a case-by-case basis. Please note that purchase and installation of playground equipment, and the purchase of land for recreation areas not related to nature-based outdoor recreation (dedicated sports fields, swimming pools, etc.) are not eligible. The Stewardship Program includes the four funds described below (A – D).

For more information and to submit applications contact the West Central Region representatives (listed below). All applications are due May 1.

Lavane Hessler

Telephone: (715) 839-3751

Email: lavane.hessler@Wisconsin.Gov

Karen Blodgett

Telephone: (715) 836-6574

Email: Karen.blodgett@Wisconsin.Gov

A. Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)

Description: Stewardship sets aside 50% of funds for projects that improve community parks and acquire land for public outdoor recreation. Applicants compete against other applicants from their region. Funds may be used for both land acquisition projects and development projects for nature-based outdoor recreation, such as fishing piers, hiking trails and picnic facilities. Funds are not available for non nature-based activities such as baseball and soccer fields. Costs associated with operation and maintenance of parks and other outdoor recreation facilities are not eligible for Stewardship funds.

Eligible Project Examples:

- Land acquisition projects that will provide opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.
- Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries and reservoirs that will provide water-based outdoor recreation.
- Property that provides special recreation opportunities, such as floodplains, wetlands and areas adjacent to scenic highways.
- Natural areas and outstanding scenic areas where the objective is to preserve the scenic or natural values, including areas of physical or biological importance and wildlife areas. These areas shall be open to the general public for outdoor recreation use to the extent that the natural attributes of the areas will not be seriously impaired or lost.
- Land within urban areas for day-use picnic areas.
- Land for nature-based outdoor recreation trails.

Ineligible Project Examples:

- Projects that are not supported by a local comprehensive outdoor recreational plan.
- Land to be used for non-nature-based outdoor recreation.
- Acquisition and development of golf courses.

B. Urban Rivers (UR)

Description: Stewardship allocates 20% of funds annually to restore or preserve the character of urban riverways through the acquisition of land or easements adjacent to rivers. Funding will be provided for projects that are part of a plan to enhance the quality of a river corridor. Applicants compete against other applicants statewide. The purposes of the program are:

- To provide for economic revitalization through the restoration or preservation of urban rivers or riverfronts;
- To improve outdoor recreational opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers for a variety of public uses, including but not limited to, fishing, wildlife observation, enjoyment of scenic beauty, canoeing, boating, hiking and bicycling;
- To preserve or restore significant historical, cultural, or natural areas along urban rivers.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Acquires land or land rights that preserve or restore natural values, including aesthetic values, and enhance environmental quality along urban waterways.
- Provides new or expanded diverse recreational opportunities to all segments of urban populations.
- Provides new or expanded access to urban waterways.
- Acquires blighted lands that will be restored to complement riverfront redevelopment activities.

- Encourages comprehensive riverway planning within and between municipalities and other agencies.
- Provides opportunities for increasing tourism.
- Acquires lands that through proper management will improve or protect water quality.

C. Urban Green Space (UGS)

Description: The intent of the Urban Green Space Program (UGS) is to provide open natural space within or in proximity to urban areas; to protect from urban development areas that have scenic, ecological or other natural value and are within or in proximity to urban areas; and to provide land for noncommercial gardening for the residents of an urbanized area.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- a. Planning Considerations, including:
 - Specifically implementing a priority of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
 - Implementing the approved master plans of 2 or more units of government or regional planning agencies
 - Preserving land that is listed on the natural heritage inventory database
 - Implementing elements of water quality plans or initiatives
- b. Project Considerations, including:
 - Serving the greatest population centers
 - Serving areas of rapidly increasing populations
 - Providing accessibility
 - Having unique natural features, threatened or endangered species, or significant ecological value
 - Providing open natural linear corridors connecting open natural areas
 - Having water frontage
 - Containing or restoring wetlands
 - Protecting sensitive wildlife habitat
 - Protecting an area threatened by development
 - Preserving a natural community or one that could be restored
 - Having regional or statewide significance
 - Relating to brownfield redevelopment
- c. Administrative considerations, including:
 - Projects that are ready to be implemented and/or continue previously started projects

D. Acquisition of Development Rights

Description: The purpose of the Acquisition of Development Rights Program is to protect natural, agricultural, or forest lands that enhance nature-based outdoor recreation.

"Development Rights" are the rights of a landowner to develop their property to the greatest extent allowed under state and local laws. The goals of the program are achieved through the purchase of those development rights and compensating landowners for limited future development on their land.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes or estuaries

- Property that creates a buffer between land that has been permanently protected for natural resource and conservation purposes and potential or existing residential, commercial or industrial development
- Property that is within the boundaries of an acquisition project established by the DNR, a government unit or a NCO where the uses of the property will complement the goals of the project and the stewardship program
- Property that is within an environmental corridor that connects 2 or more established resource protection areas

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continued...

Federal Programs in Comparison to the Stewardship Program: The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreational Trails Act (RTA) programs fund projects that are similar to the Stewardship programs. One primary difference is that LWCF and RTA programs are not restricted to nature-based outdoor recreation projects. In these programs, nature-based outdoor recreation projects compete against projects with non-nature based recreation elements for LWCF funds. Another difference is that federal programs have additional requirements that must be satisfied – for example, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Historic Preservation Act, etc. Federal programs administered through the DNR include the two funds described below (E, F). All applications are due May 1.

E. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Description: This program was established to encourage nationwide creation and interpretation of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities. The program funds both state and local outdoor recreation activities.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Relationship to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; activities must be in locally approved plans
- Regional or statewide in nature
- Acquires land where a plan supports need
- Provides or enhances water-based activity
- Serves the greatest populations
- Involves other local government's, cooperation, volunteers, local donations
- First time applicants
- Sponsor has completed past projects
- Provides multi-season, multi activity use
- Basic over elaborate facilities
- Participant over spectator facilities
- "Nature based" restriction does not apply

Eligible Project Examples:

- Land acquisition
- Development of outdoor recreation facilities, including active sports facilities

F. Recreational Trails Act (RTA)

Description: These funds are used to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. RTA 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. 30% of funds must be used on motorized trail uses, 30% on non-motorized trail uses, and 40% on diversified (multiple) trail uses.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- 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).
- Acquisition of easement or property for trails.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation offers a variety of programs that can provide financial assistance to local governments, along with other public and private entities, to make improvements to highways, airports, harbors, bike, rail and pedestrian facilities. The use of these funds in Kenosha would be most closely tied to developing trails to link parks and conservancy areas to places of employment, residence, and commerce. Programs administered through the DOT include the five funds described below (G-J).

For more information and to submit applications contact the representatives listed after each program. Local matches and application submission deadlines vary by program.

G. Surface Transportation Program – Rural (STP-R)

Description: This program provides funding to improve roads and streets in rural areas functionally classified as principal arterial, minor arterial or major collector. Funding is provided for a wide range of transportation-related activities, including projects on higher function local roads not on the State Trunk Highway system.

Contact: Michael Erickson, Southwest Region at (608) 246-5361 or Michael.erickson@dot.wi.gov

Deadline: spring of odd-numbered years

H. Local Transportation Enhancements Program (TE)

Description: Transportation enhancements (TE) are transportation-related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of transportation systems. The transportation enhancements program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, with examples ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian facilities, to landscaping and scenic beautification, and to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff. Most of the projects awarded in Wisconsin have been for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Examples of bicycle and pedestrian projects include: multi-use trails, paved shoulders, bike lanes, bicycle route signage, bicycle parking, overpasses/underpasses/bridges, sidewalks, and pedestrian crossings. Local municipalities contribute 20% of the project costs. Transportation enhancement activities must relate to surface transportation. Federal regulations restrict the use of funds on trails that allow motorized users, except snowmobiles.

Contact: John Duffe, State Coordinator at 608-264-8723 or john.duffe@dot.state.wi.us

Deadline: spring of even-numbered years in conjunction with BFPF, dates vary

I. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program (BFPF)

Description: Bicycle and pedestrian facility projects costing \$200,000 or more and planning projects costing \$50,000 or more are eligible for BFPF funds. To be eligible, the project must

be usable when it is completed and not staged so that additional money is needed to make it a useful project. A project sponsor must pay for a project and then seek reimbursement for the project from the state. Federal funds will provide up to 80% of project costs, while the sponsor must provide at least the other 20%. Because of the similarities between the BPPF and the Transportation Enhancements (TE) program objectives and eligibility criteria, applications and funding for both programs are undertaken together.

Contact: John Duffe, State Coordinator at 608-264-8723 or john.duffe@dot.state.wi.us

Deadline: spring of even-numbered years in conjunction with TE Program, dates vary

J. Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Description: Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs encourage children ages K-8 to walk and bike to school by creating safer walking and biking routes. These programs are funded through the revised federal transportation act - SAFETEA-LU - signed into law on August 10, 2005. This legislation provides funding to state departments of transportation to create and administer SRTS Programs. SRTS Programs improve walking and biking travel options, promote healthier lifestyles in children at an early age and decrease auto-related emissions near schools. SRTS funds can be used for both infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure activities within 2 miles of elementary and middle schools (K-8). Safe Routes to School grants fully fund accepted projects (100% funding).

Contact: Renee Callaway, Wisconsin Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Transportation at 608-266-3973 or renee.callaway@dot.state.wi.us

Deadline: even-numbered years (applications available in January and due in April)

4.4 Plan Approval and Amendments

Introduction

A prerequisite to participation in outdoor recreation grant programs is the adoption and subsequent Department of Natural Resources acceptance of a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

Comprehensive planning is an overall survey of the existing facilities within a given jurisdiction, and gives recommendations for future improvements. A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP) is only the first step in the development of a recreational park site or system.

Master planning, which follows the recommendations of the comprehensive plan, is an overall view and analysis of an existing or proposed park area. The purpose is to guide the orderly development of a park or recreational facility.

Site Planning, is the detailed plan of how an area within a park or recreation area will be developed. Site plans supply the construction details needed to develop a facility recommended in the master plan.

Formal Plan Approval

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan should be approved by the local governing body. This plan includes a copy of the resolution of adoption in Appendix D.

Amending the Plan

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision-makers. Amendments must follow the same process as the original plan and should be developed in coordination with the Park Committee before presented to the Town Board for approval. Amendments generally prolong the effectiveness of the parent plan.

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Appendix A:

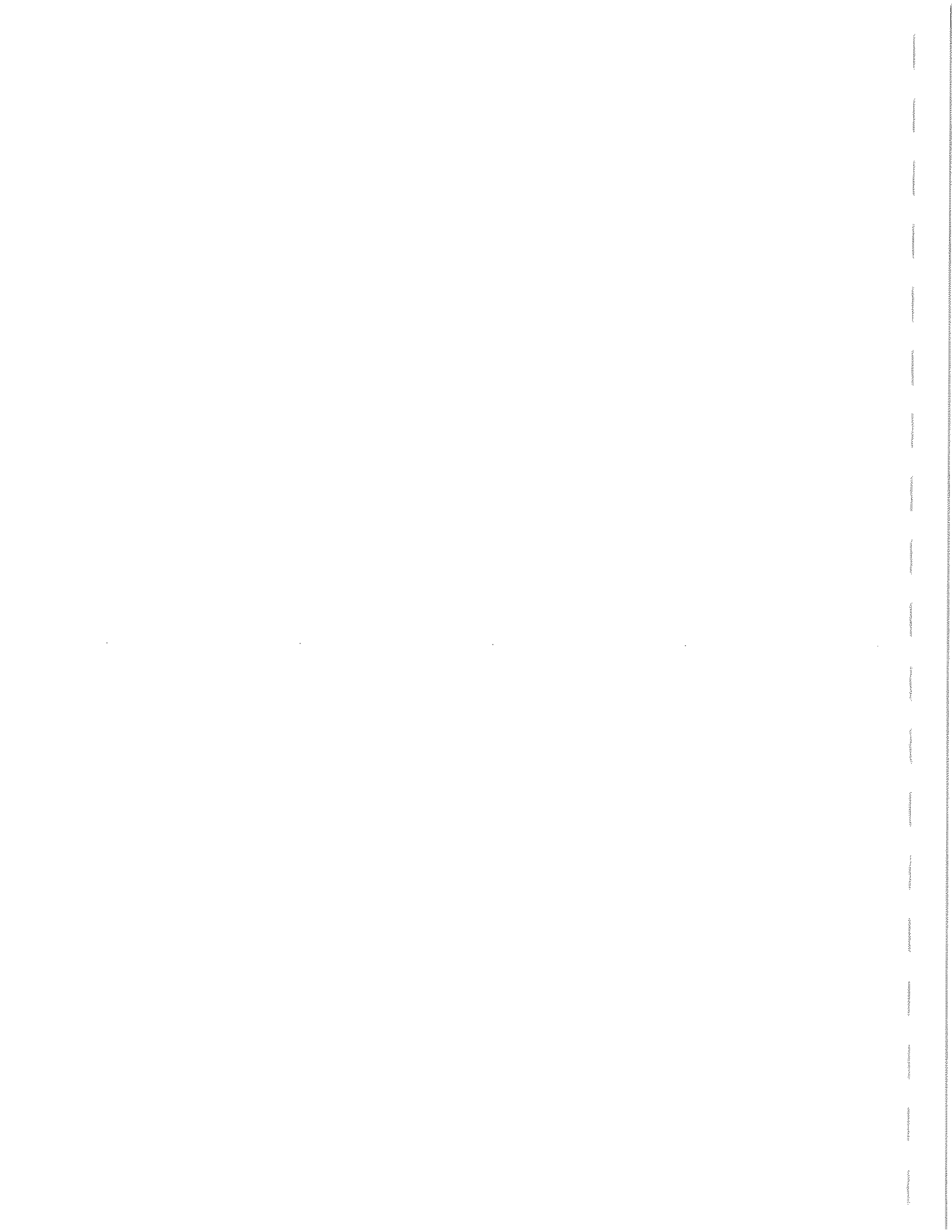
Facilities Matrix

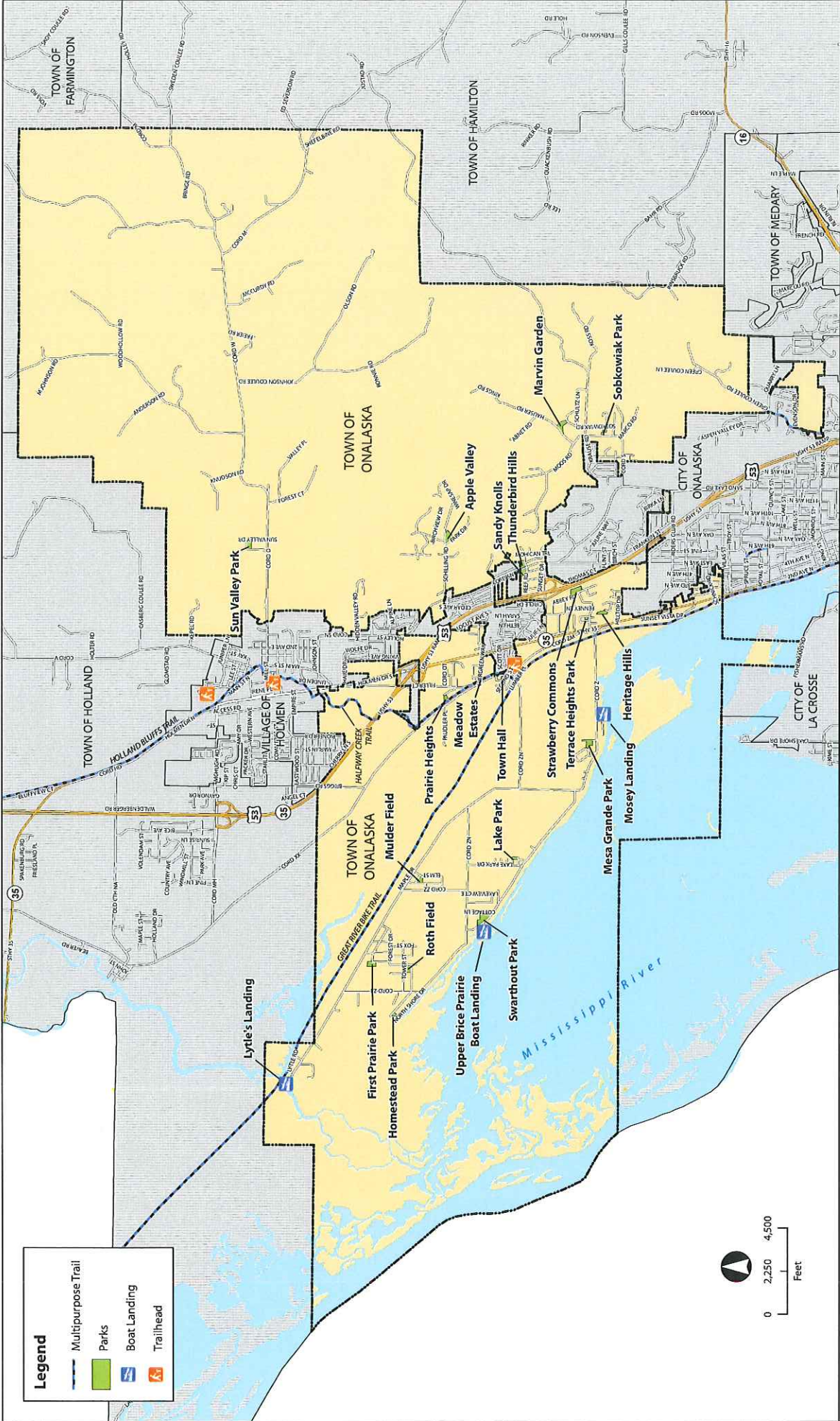




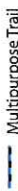



Appendix B:

Maps

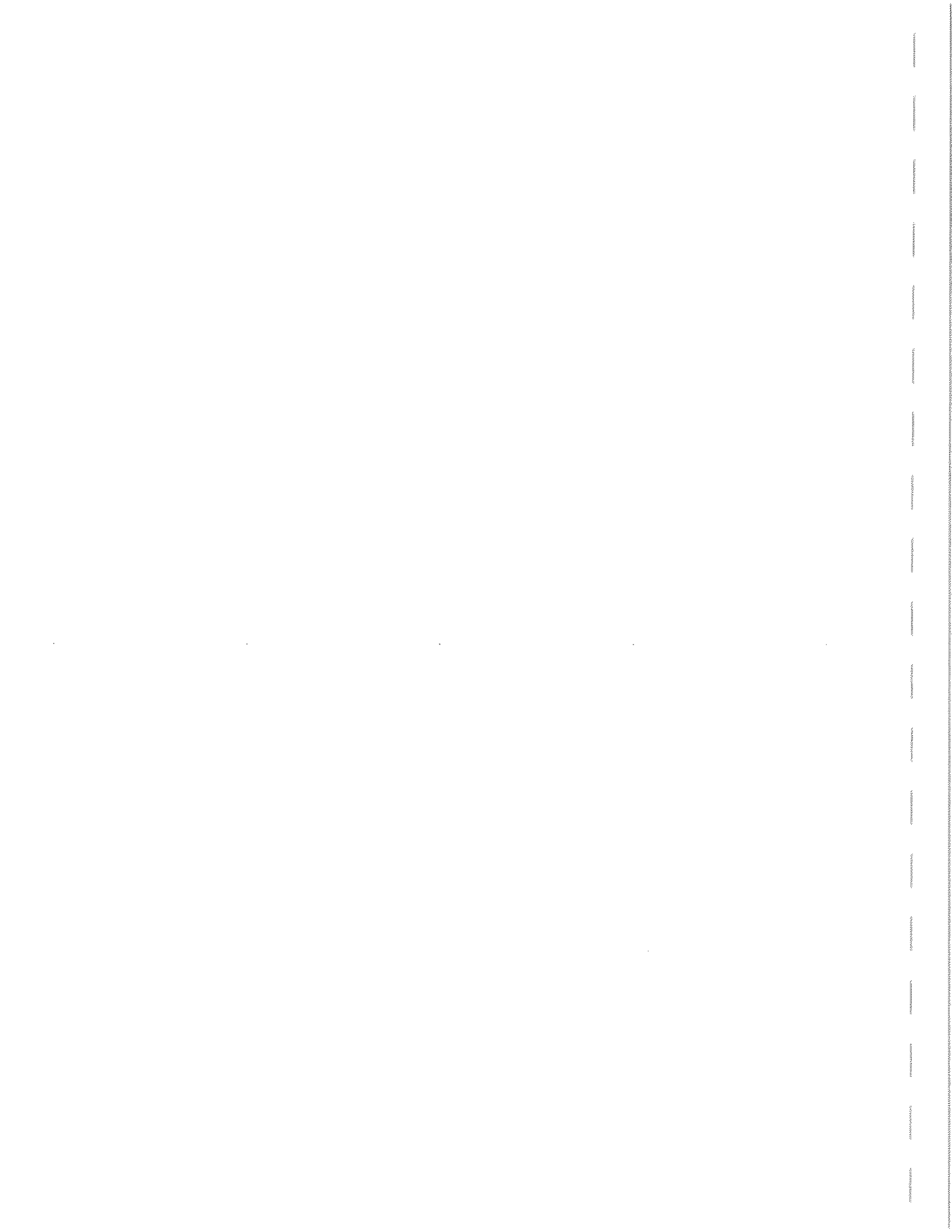


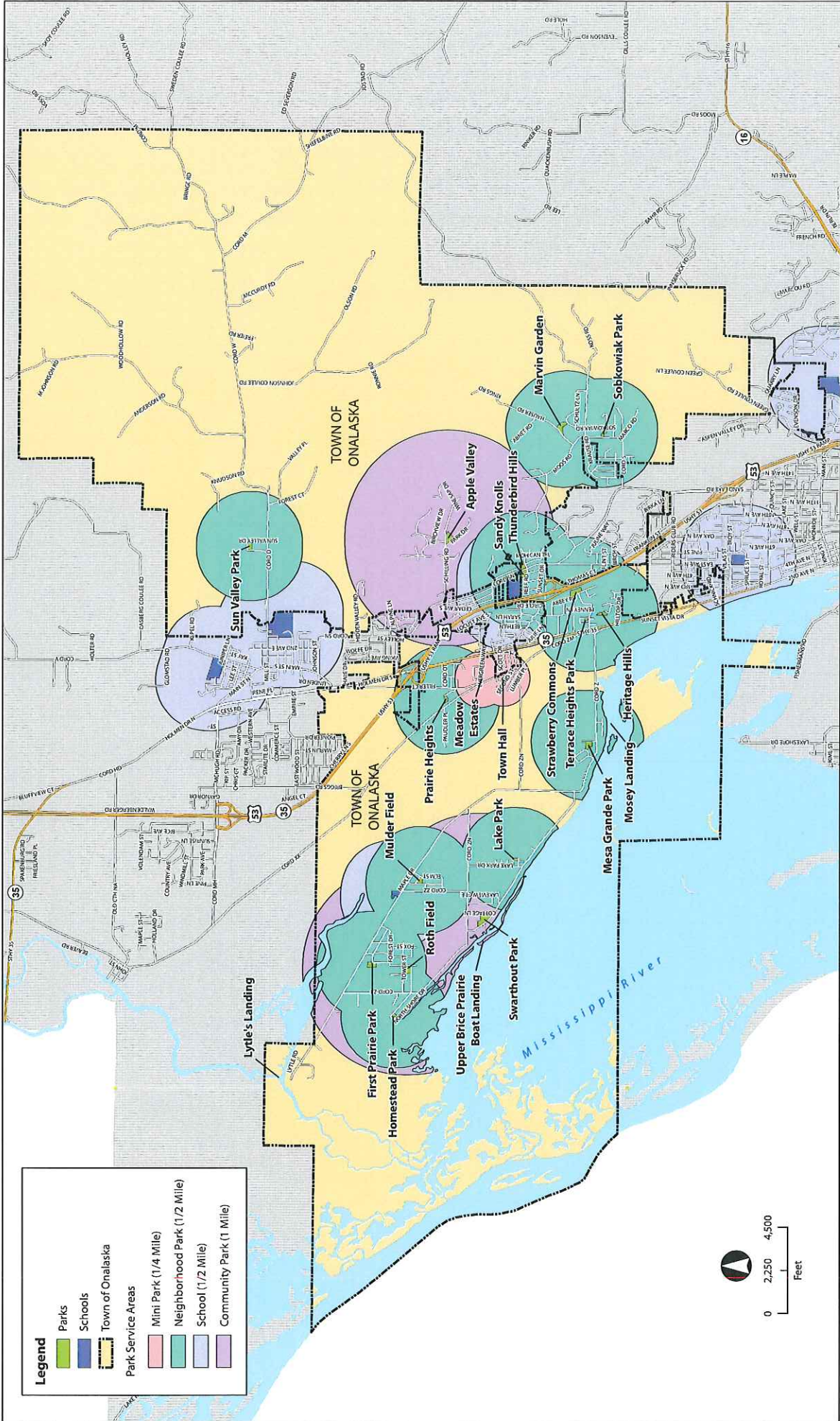


Legend

-  Multipurpose Trail
-  Parks
-  Boat Landing
-  Trailhead





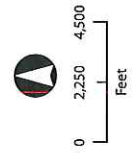


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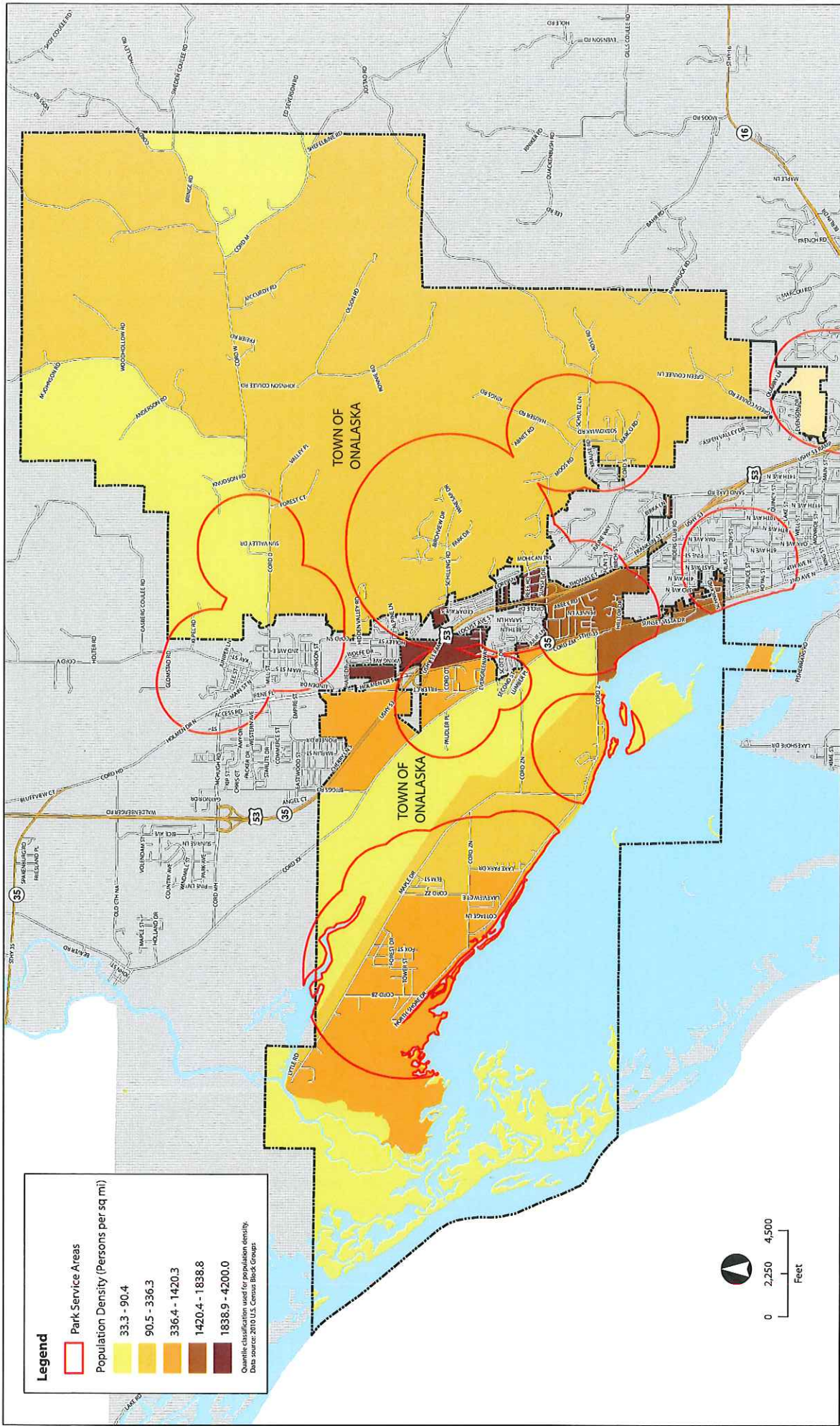
- Parks
- Schools
- Town of Onalaska

Park Service Areas

- Mini Park (1/4 Mile)
- Neighborhood Park (1/2 Mile)
- School (1/2 Mile)
- Community Park (1 Mile)



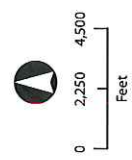




Legend

- Park Service Areas
- Population Density (Persons per sq mi)
- 33.3 - 90.4
- 90.5 - 336.3
- 336.4 - 1420.3
- 1420.4 - 1838.8
- 1838.9 - 4200.0

Quantile classification used for population density.
Data source: 2010 U.S. Census Block Groups





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