



City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018-2022



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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

This Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP) was prepared pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program. This section serves "to promote, encourage, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive long-range plan to acquire, maintain, and develop for public use, those areas of the state best adapted to the development of a comprehensive system of state and local outdoor recreation facilities and services..."

Submission of this adopted ORP to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the local unit of government to apply for a variety of Federal and State Aids for outdoor recreation (Chapter NR 50.06(4), Wisconsin administrative code).

A. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this outdoor recreation plan is to provide continued direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of the City of Merrill.

Adoption of this plan by the Merrill City Council and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will continue the City's eligibility for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), and Stewardship Fund money.

Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

B. PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING 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.

Annual review of the plan recommendations and capital improvement list by the Merrill Board of Park Commissioners will keep this plan current. This review may also occur after a large turn over in elected officials after an election.

Process:

1. Merrill Board of Park Commissioners reviews plan and takes a vote on what changes to make.
2. Those changes and a copy of the meeting minutes are forwarded to the DNR's Community Financial Assistance staff in Eau Claire. Submission of the minutes and changes automatically constitutes DNR grant eligibility for those changes.

Establishing a **full plan update every five years** will assure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the county, and will extend the city's eligibility for grant programs for another 5 years.

Submission of 1) the revised plan, and 2) the City Council resolution approving the plan, to the DNR is the final step to extending the ORP for another 5 years. DNR approval of the ORP will come if the correct process was followed.

C. REFERENCE PLANS

Merrill is “The City of Parks,” and has been involved with recreation planning since 1974 when a park plan was compiled and written by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In 1977 the City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Plan was prepared by Vandewalle and Associates. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) has prepared the Merrill Outdoor Recreation Plan since 2002.

Each plan listed below affects outdoor recreation in the City of Merrill:

City of Merrill Comprehensive Plan 2017

The 2017-2027 Merrill Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2016. This document covers all types of development that may occur throughout Merrill.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies from the 2017 Plan that affect outdoor recreation are listed below:

Housing Goal 3: Eliminate dilapidated and tax delinquent housing units, especially in downtown areas, maximizing property values.

Objective 2: Reduce blighted residential property.

Policy 1: Aggressively market vacant lots for redevelopment or improve them for public benefit with features such as pocket parks or rain gardens to improve nearby property values.

Utilities & Community Facilities Goal: Promote an effective and efficient supply of utilities, facilities and services that meet the needs and expectations of residents

Objective 5: Provide quality and accessible parks and recreational facilities, areas, and services for all residents, including persons with disabilities and the elderly.

Policy 5: Follow the recommendations of the City’s Outdoor Recreation Plan and update that plan to correspond with the recommendations of this Plan.

Transportation Issue – A multi-use trail should connect Prairie River Park to Stange Park.

Transportation Goal 1: Provide an integrated, efficient, balanced, equitable and economical transportation system that provides mobility, convenience, and safety and that meets the needs of all citizens, including young, elderly, transit-dependent and disabled citizens. This includes providing choices in the mode of transportation (car, transit, bicycle, walking, etc.), easy transfer between modes, and accessible, safe, and convenient opportunities for those without the use of a motor vehicle.

Objective 1: Improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access to community activity centers such as schools, parks, shopping areas, employment centers, public buildings, medical facilities, and elderly housing.

Objective 2: Utilize river corridors for multi-use trail development.

Merrill Comprehensive Plan 2017

- Objective 4: Implement recommendations in the Merrill Bike and Pedestrian Plan 2015.
 - Objective 5: Provide appropriate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on arterial and collector roads, based on volume and speed of traffic and the connectivity value of the road.
 - Objective 7: Evaluate four-lane roads for potential road diets using Federal Highway Administration guidelines, and apply road diets to suitable roads.
 - Objective 9: Evaluate areas where speeding is a concern and implement measures, such as traffic calming, to address safety concerns.
 - Objective 10: Evaluate areas where bicycling on the sidewalk should be allowed.
 - Objective 11: Reduce travel lane widths to 10 feet wherever practical (including minor arterials and principle arterials less than 45mph), to reduce speeding, improve safety, reduce maintenance costs and increase the available space for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and terraces.
- Policy 5: Include appropriate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on all arterial and collector roads when undergoing resurfacing or reconstruction.
 - Policy 9: Consider bicycle and pedestrian accessibility when selecting sites for new public facilities such as schools, parks, libraries and community centers.
 - Policy 10: Carefully consider and require bicycle and pedestrian access and parking during site plan review.

City of Merrill Downtown Vision Plan, 2015

The Vision Plan aims to renew and re-energize the downtown in order to produce greater benefit for the City of Merrill. The Vision Plan focuses on the entire downtown and addresses blight concerns by outlining necessary investments for four districts within the downtown. The geographical scope of this vision plan is limited to the area along East Main and East First Streets. Recommendations included within the plan consist of varying sized investments which are intended to revitalize Merrill by initially reshaping its landscape and ultimately the downtown economy.

Outdoor recreation recommendations:

- Install custom bike racks in downtown that are created by Merrill High School students.
- Develop 911 E. Main St into a small park (see picture).



Possible downtown park
911 E. Main St

Merrill Westside Renewal Plan, 2015

This document, the Merrill Westside Renewal Plan, is a companion piece to the recently completed downtown Redevelopment Plan and is aimed at making recommendations to create a strong Westside and improve its economic condition. It represents a continued effort of the task force, and includes utilization of city advisors in engineering, architecture and community and economic development, as well as receiving input from local property and business owners.

Outdoor recreation recommendations:

- Install custom bike racks in downtown that are created by Merrill High School students.

City of Merrill Eastside Waterfront Initiative, 2010

The Eastside Waterfront Initiative is a long-term effort to redevelop a critical portion of Merrill's Wisconsin River frontage. Merrill has an opportunity to transform this industrial riverfront into a mixed-use riverfront destination that serves both visitors and residents. This riverfront revitalization plan describes a vision for redevelopment and a strategic plan for achieving that vision.

Outdoor recreation recommendations:

- Extend the River Bend Trail along the whole north side of the riverfront.
- Install 3 boat landings.
- Create a trailhead along the trail at Park Street.
- Two potential recreation bridge locations to cross the Wisconsin River.
- Create a trail along the south side of the Wisconsin River from Center Ave, east to Riverside Park, and continue trail to a green on the Merrill Golf Club.
- See the Concept Plan on pages 28-29 in the Plan for more details.

Merrill Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, 2015

The 2015 plan assessed the bikeability and walkability of the City of Merrill. An inventory of bicycling conditions and sidewalks, bicycle and pedestrian crashes with vehicles, and bicycle and pedestrian use areas are documented in the plan. Locations of potential bicycle routes and recommendations for roadway improvements were developed, along with safety programming recommendations.

Outdoor recreation recommendations:

- *Engineering* – Generally to improve street capacity, and add sidewalks;
- *Educational & Encouragement* – Generally to provide educational classes for all ages;
- *Policy* – Generally to revise municipal codes;
- *Enforcement* – Generally regarding targeted enforcement to improve compliance with laws;

North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan, 2017

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission created this document to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region at the county level. Potential trails are identified and an improvement description was created for each county that trails exist in to facilitate implementation. The plan is intended to strengthen the rural character of the County by connecting natural and cultural resource destinations and by connecting communities, which also will have positive economic development from tourism.

The routes for Merrill are part of the Lincoln scenic bike and auto tour, and Merrill Bike & Pedestrian Plan. The scenic auto tour loop passes through Merrill from the west on STH 107, then continues east through the City on STH 64, leaves Merrill, and the proceeds north on STH 17. The whole City is covered by suggested bike routes (both on and off-street) from the Merrill Bike & Pedestrian Plan.

Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan, 2012-2021

This county plan provides direction for county departments and the County Board over the 2012-2021 period.

Goals and Objectives

Transportation:

Goal 2: Trails of various types (e.g. ATV, snowmobile, walking, biking, horse, etc.) will be joined together and linked with other transportation modes such as roads both inside and outside the county to support greater regional economic activity.

Objectives

- A. Explore and take advantage of feasible revenue programs and grants that will improve different modes of transportation and our ability to link them.
- B. Plan and promote multiple modes of transportation as part of road repair and construction.
- C. Create snowmobile connectivity east to west and north to south in Merrill so snowmobilers don't have to cross the Wisconsin River (create similar connectivity in Tomahawk).

Goal 3: County departments will coordinate the development of a plan that effectively promotes Lincoln County trail systems.

Objectives

- A. Explore and take advantage of, when feasible, revenue programs and grants that will improve different modes of transportation and our ability to link them.
- B. Develop inventory of existing trail systems to determine what is most important and feasible to market.
- C. Organize and begin discussing with stakeholders how to market tourism on a countywide level.
- D. Establish a Lincoln County welcome or visitors' center near a county entrance.

State Trails Network Plan

This 2003 document clarifies the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) role and strategy in the provision of all types of trails. The plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors that would link existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. This statewide network of interconnected trails would be owned and maintained by municipalities, private entities, and

partnerships of the two. Preserving transportation corridors, such as old rail lines, is specifically discussed as a very important strategy in the creation of recreational and alternative transportation corridors.

One Segment affects Merrill:

Segment 18 – Tomahawk to Wisconsin Dells

From the end of the Bearskin/Hiawatha Trail in Tomahawk, this corridor would go south to Merrill, and then into the West Central Region terminating in Wisconsin Dells. Part of State Highway 107 has wide shoulders to accommodate bicycles and was identified in the *Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020*. When the remaining section of highway is reconstructed, wide shoulders will be included. Going south, this corridor links to Wausau, where it could link up to Mountain Bay Trail from there by road corridors.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

NOTE: This plan is being updated in 2016-2017.

Every five years, the Wisconsin DNR publishes a SCORP as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. At its core, this SCORP is used to help allocate federal funds equitably among local communities, but the document also transcends many levels of outdoor recreation discussion and policy. At the national level, this SCORP recognizes the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative, which is based on the idea that the protection of the country's natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans. The AGO encourages state and local communities to develop local conservation and recreation initiatives.

This document shows a clear vision of how preserving and improving recreation opportunities in Wisconsin fits within a broader national initiative of conservation and recreation.

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056

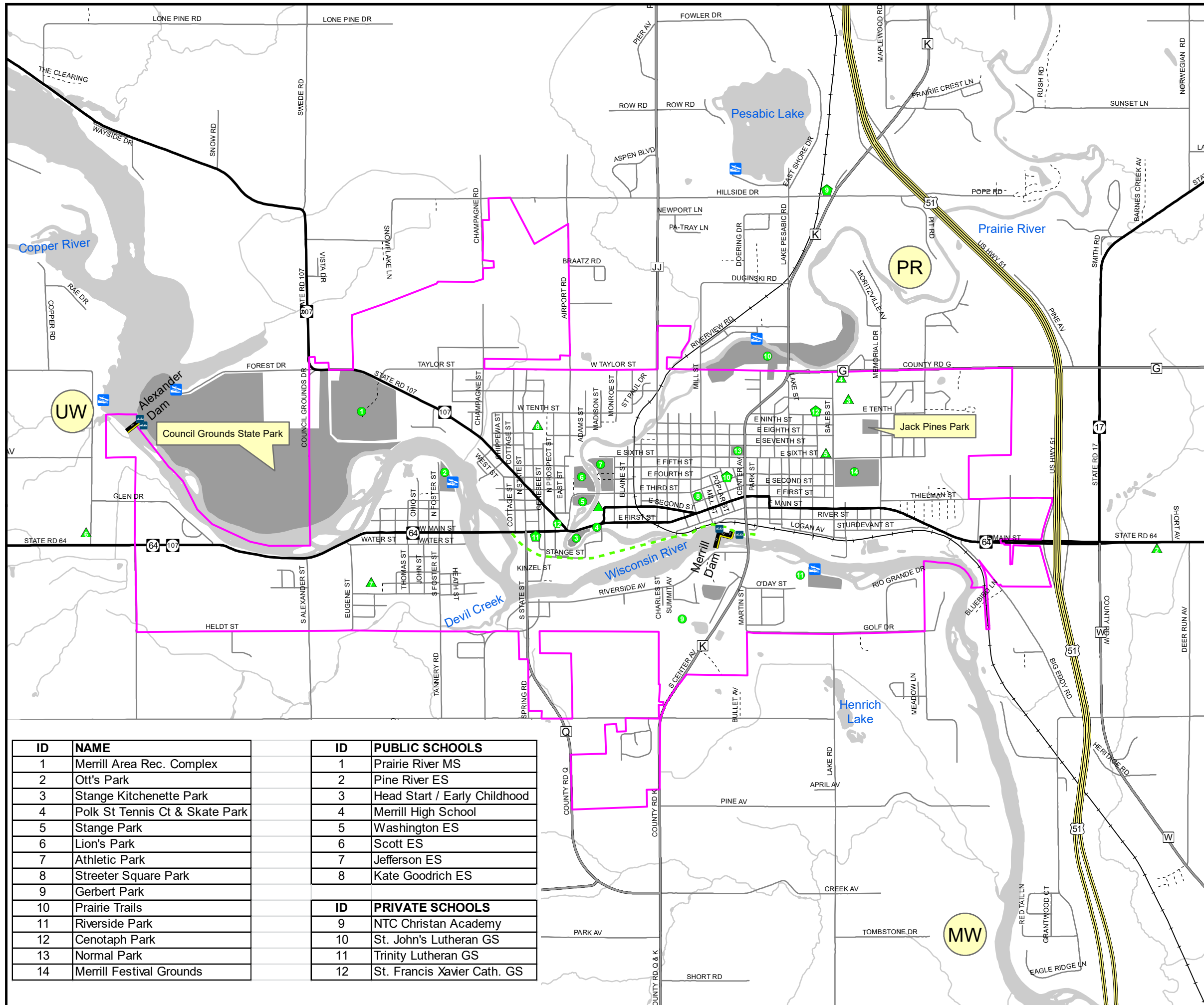
This report is a comprehensive inventory of the special places that will be critical to meet future conservation and outdoor recreation needs for the next fifty years. Some of the questions asked to guide creation of this report were: Which lands and waters remain unprotected that will be critical for conserving our plants and animals and their habitats? What gaps exist now (and will likely emerge in the future) in providing abundant and satisfying outdoor recreation? How can we most effectively build upon the state's existing investment in protected lands to fill conservation and recreation gaps? What special places will our children and grandchildren wish we had protected? The study focused on identifying what of our state or regionally significant green infrastructure remains to be protected. These Land Legacy Areas are shown on MAP 1.

The report recommends protection of these lands by using federal, state, and local funding opportunities; along with possibly creating new kinds of incentives for landowners, working to draft comprehensive plans, or offering different types of technical assistance.

Recreation prioritization of Land Legacy Areas is described in SCORP’s Chapter 3. Each Legacy Area near Merrill is summarized below with 5 stars representing the highest level for that category:

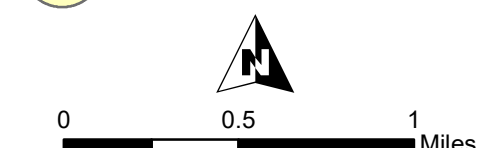
<p>PR <u>Prairie River</u></p> <p>Size Protection Initiated Protection Remaining Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</p>	<p>Medium Moderate Substantial ☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆</p>	<p>UW <u>Upper Wisconsin River</u></p> <p>Size Protection Initiated Protection Remaining Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</p>	<p>Large Moderate Moderate ☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆</p>
<p>MW <u>Middle Wisconsin River</u></p> <p>Size Protection Initiated Protection Remaining Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</p>	<p>Large Limited Substantial ☆☆☆☆ ☆☆☆☆</p>		

Map 1 Existing Parks City of Merrill



- Minor Civil Divisions
- US Highways
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Local Roads
- Private / Other
- Railroad
- Water
- Private Schools
- Public Schools
- Airport
- Boat Launch
- Parks
- Canoe Portage
- River Bend Trail

- State & County Parks**
- Upper Wisconsin River
 - Middle Wisconsin River
 - Prairie River

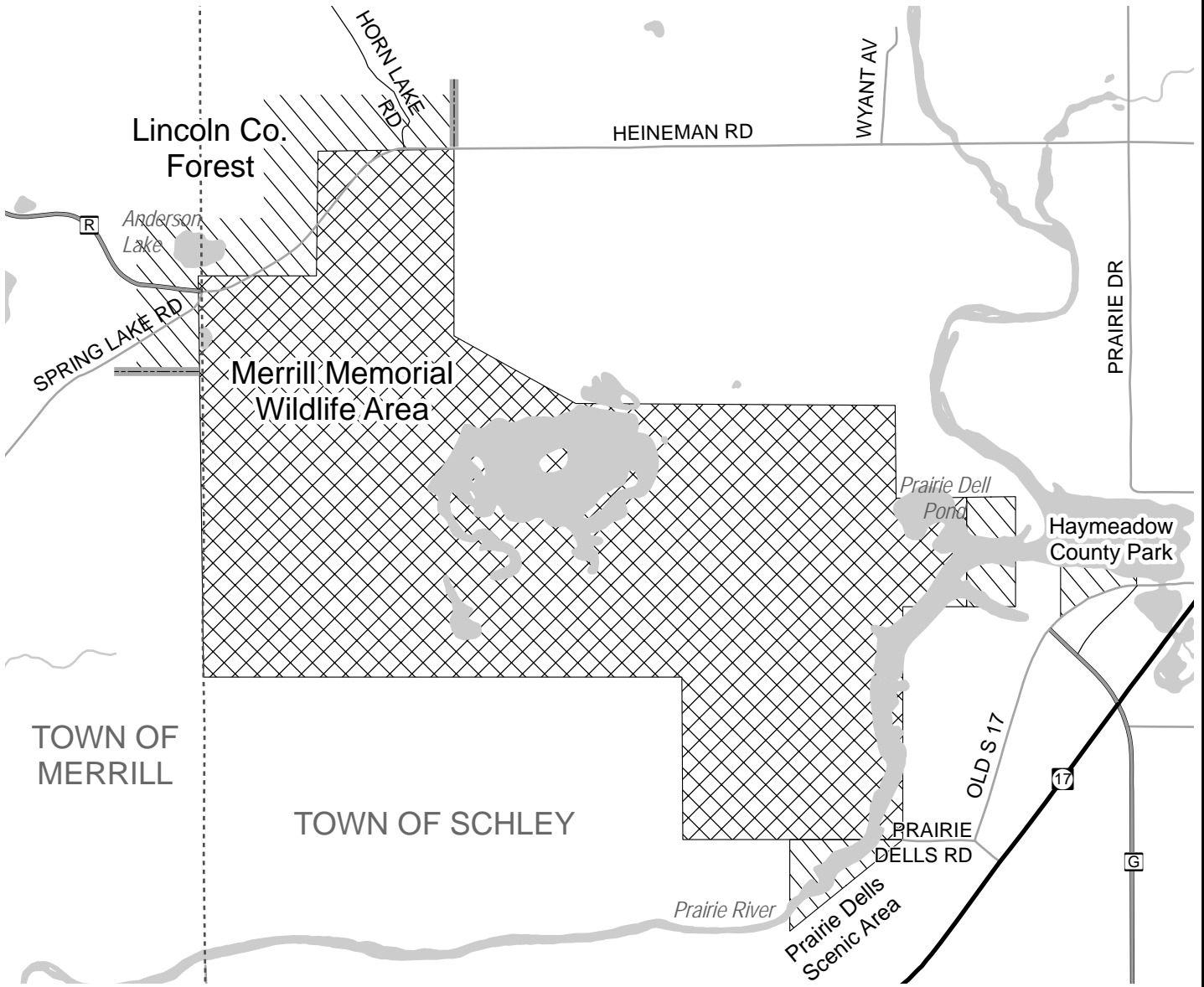
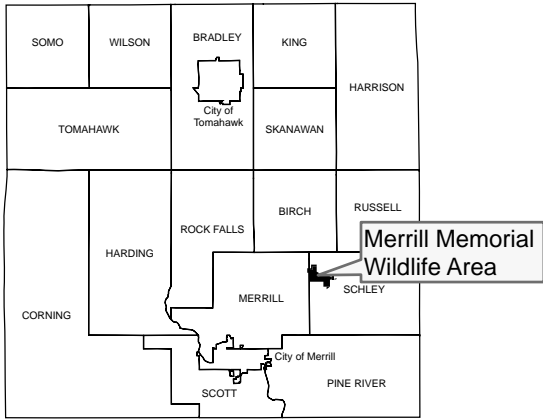


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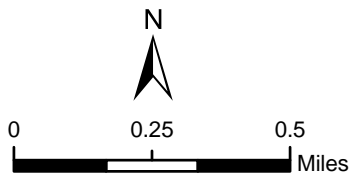
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ID	NAME	ID	PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1	Merrill Area Rec. Complex	1	Prairie River MS
2	Ott's Park	2	Pine River ES
3	Stange Kitchenette Park	3	Head Start / Early Childhood
4	Polk St Tennis Ct & Skate Park	4	Merrill High School
5	Stange Park	5	Washington ES
6	Lion's Park	6	Scott ES
7	Athletic Park	7	Jefferson ES
8	Streeter Square Park	8	Kate Goodrich ES
9	Gerbert Park		
10	Prairie Trails	ID	PRIVATE SCHOOLS
11	Riverside Park	9	NTC Christan Academy
12	Cenotaph Park	10	St. John's Lutheran GS
13	Normal Park	11	Trinity Lutheran GS
14	Merrill Festival Grounds	12	St. Francis Xavier Cath. GS

Map 2 Merrill Memorial Wildlife Area



- Minor Civil Divisions
- ==== US & State Highways
- ==== County Highways
- ==== Local Roads
- ==== Private / Other
- Water
- ▨ Merrill Memorial Wildlife Area
- ▨ County Land



Source: WI DNR, Lincoln Co & NCWRPC

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Chapter 2

BACKGROUND OF MERRILL

A. INTRODUCTION

This section provides a basic feel for what the City of Merrill looks like physically, demographically, and economically. Potential opportunities and limitations start with understanding an area.

The history of Merrill as a Euro-American community began in 1847 when a dam was constructed on the Wisconsin River where a mill was established. By 2010, Merrill's Census recorded population was 9,661.

B. LAND USE

Merrill is located at the confluence of the Wisconsin and Prairie Rivers. The Wisconsin River dominates the surface water hydrology of the area with numerous streams flowing into it. Wetlands lie to the north of the city and a variety of terrains are found throughout the area, from steep slopes to flat plains.

The two rivers divide the city into three distinct areas, one is south of the Wisconsin River, while the other two areas are north of the Wisconsin River, and are east and west of the Prairie River.

The city is about 7.5 square miles running roughly three miles east to west and about one mile north to south. Commercial development is stretched along State Highway 64 from the U.S. Highway 51 interchange to the west side of the city. There are numerous publicly owned parcels scattered throughout the city for schools, parks, county offices, city hall, library, and other community facilities. Industrial uses are concentrated along the railroad tracks that parallel the Wisconsin River, and the industrial park by the airport on the west side of Merrill. Scattered industrial properties exist among houses throughout the city.

There are about 5,090 acres of land within the city. As of 2015, about 23% of land was residential; 19.4% was woodlands, which includes some parks; 6% was governmental, which includes schools; 6.4% outdoor recreation, which also includes some parks; 12% was listed as open lands, most of which is in an area on the east side of Merrill that may become industrial and housing.

C. DEMOGRAPHICS

From 2010 to 2015, Merrill's population declined from 9,661 to 9,419 people. The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) projects Merrill's population to increase over the next 15 years (2015-2030) before decreasing to 8,990 by 2040, see Table 2.

Table 2: Merrill Population Projections

2015 Projections	2020 Projections	2025 Projections	2030 Projections	2035 Projections	2040 Projections
9,345	9,460	9,625	9,690	9,500	8,990

Source: WIDOA

Demographic Trends

Table 3 shows a comparison between Merrill's 2010 U.S. Census counts and Merrill/s American Community Survey (U.S. Census) counts averaged from 2011-2015. Fewer children under 5 years old and under 18 years old live in Merrill, and more people over 65 years old live in Merrill. The amount of high school graduates and residents with bachelor degrees have increased as a percentage of the total population.

Table 3: Merrill's Quick Demographics

	2010 Census	2015 ACS
Population	9,661	9,419
Persons under 5 years	596	538
Persons under 18 years	2,418	2,116
Persons 65 years and over	1,181	1,638
Female persons	52.4%	52.5%
White persons (not Hispanic)	97.5%	96.1%
Black persons	1.0%	0.6%
American Indian persons	0.9%	0.3%
Asian persons	0.8%	0.3%
Hispanic or Latino persons	2.0%	1.3%
High school graduates or higher	86.1%	88.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	13.2%	13.6%
Housing units	4,619	4,562
Average household size	1.98	2.25
Median household income [ACS]	\$39,783	\$41,130

Source: U.S. Census 2010, & American Community Survey (ACS) 2011-2015

D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2014, the City of Merrill and its leadership developed a strategic plan. During that process, several issues dealing with economic development were identified. Those issues are listed below:

- Rising costs of providing public services while the city's tax base is declining or stagnate.
- Economic development, including the creation of such amenities like the River Bend Trail, and job creation are important elements in the attempt to strengthen the tax base.
- Increasing and maintaining the optimal city population is key to increasing the tax base.
- City government workforce recruitment and retention. What can the city offer to keep high quality employees?
- Developing the Route 51 corridor and County G areas requires better dialogue with the surrounding towns.
- The City has areas of blight that must be addressed to increase their ability to attract and retain both businesses and workers.
- The City is facing an aging population with will affect the workforce.

Chapter 3

EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

The Merrill area park and recreation system consists of approximately 307 total acres within the city. This does not include snowmobile trails, River Bend Trail, or road trails. In addition to parkland within Merrill, the City also owns and maintains an additional 920 acres of wildlife area about 6 miles outside of Merrill, for a total of 1,201 acres. Public and private school playgrounds consist of 23.5 acres. Merrill High School has 12 acres. County owned outdoor recreation consist of the 11-acre Jack Pines County Park. State owned outdoor recreation in the Merrill area consists of the 503 acres of Council Grounds State Park. All parks are shown on Map 1.

Outdoor recreation in the City of Merrill includes trails (linear parks); 14 city parks of different classifications; 8 public and private school facilities that serve local recreation needs; one county park; and one state park.

Each park classification description (in each text box) is from the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 2011-2016, and is in Attachment A.

Linear Parks

Linear Parks are trails that may have various lengths. (See Attachment A.)

River Bend Trail – Merrill has an asphalt paved trail within a former railroad right-of-way that parallels the north side of the Wisconsin River. Total length of this trail is about 2.3 miles long in 2016, with an additional 0.6 miles of on-street routes.

Water Trails – A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. Parts of the Wisconsin River and all of the Prairie River are available to canoe on. Portages have been established on the Wisconsin River to get around the Alexander and Merrill dams. All navigable water is available to canoe on. There are several public water access points within the Merrill area, and shown on MAP 1.

Snowmobile Trails – Lincoln County has approximately 313 miles of designated snowmobile trails that are part of the State snowmobile aid program, along with approximately 100 miles of club trails. About 202 miles of these snowmobile trails are also winter ATV trails. These trails pass through Merrill on non-permanent easements.

ATV/UTV Routes – In 2015, the City of Merrill established ATV/UTV routes and a speed limit through the City.

Mini Parks

Mini Parks: Generally less than 5 acres, these parks are special areas that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. One prominent feature or recreation facility like a playground may be present as the purpose of this park. The service area for this park if a playground exists generally is a ½ mile radius, and a population of 2,000-3,000 people. (See Attachment A.)

Each listing with a **bold title** represents a park available to the public. Listings with *italic titles* represent park like facilities at schools that may be available after school hours.

Polk Street Tennis Court & Skatepark: This one acre park is located along the Prairie River just east of Stange Kitchenette Park. The park contains a lighted tennis court and lighted skatepark in a former tennis court.

The following **public schools** have outdoor recreation facilities that are available to the public outside of school hours:

Prairie River Middle School – A 0.5-acre swimming pool exists at this public school, located in the southwest part of Merrill.

Jefferson Elementary School – A 5-acre open space with playground exists at this public school, which is located in the southwest part of Merrill.

Washington Elementary School – A 3-acre open space with playground exists at this public school, which is located on the city's east side.

Kate Goodrich Elementary School – A 5-acre open space with playground exists at this public school, which is located on the city's north side.

The following **private schools** have outdoor recreation facilities that may be available to the public outside of school hours:

St. John's Lutheran Elementary School (K-8) – A 0.5-acre play area exists at this private school, which is located in the central city.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Elementary School (K-8) – A 4-acre playground exists at this private school, which is located in the northeast area of Merrill.

Trinity Lutheran Elementary School (K-8) – A 5-acre open space with playground exists at this private school, which is located on the city's west side.

NTC Christian Academy (K-12) – A 0.5-acre play area exists at this private school, which is located about 2 miles north of downtown at the intersection of Business Hwy 51 and Hillside Drive.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks: Centrally located spaces of 5 to 25 acres that serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood are good neighborhood parks. Active and passive recreational activities in this park classification include field, court, and ball games; skating; crafts; and picnicking. Facilities may also include a playground, wading pool, ball field, multi-activity field, ball diamond, tennis courts, skatepark, and shelter. Trees, open fields, and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks. The service area for this park generally is a 1 mile radius, and a population of 2,000-5,000 people. (See Attachment A.)

Normal Park: This two acre park is located north of downtown. It contains an outdoor ice skating rink with warming shelter, picnic areas, and the Bauman Family Memorial Gazebo with walkway.

Ott's Park: This nine acre park is located on the west side of the City along the Wisconsin River. This park has a children's playground, a softball field, boat landing, picnic areas, volleyball courts, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, concession stand with ADA restrooms, picnic shelter with electric and water service.

Riverside Park: This 22 acre park is located in the southeast portion of the City along the Wisconsin River. This park features a boat landing and boarding dock, picnic areas, sand volleyball court, horseshoes, an ADA accessible playground, ADA restroom facilities, a picnic shelter with water and electric service, and a 9-hole disc golf course.

Streeter Square Park: Streeter Square is a 2 acre park located to the immediate north of downtown. It contains a playground, smaller-than-youth-regulation basketball court, benches, and youth baseball field.

Community Parks

Community Parks: *Usually more than 25 acres in size, these parks serve entire communities, and are located adjacent to a collector street to provide community-wide vehicular access. The purposes of this park are to meet the recreational needs of several neighborhoods, as well as to preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. These parks allow for group activities not feasible at the neighborhood level. All of the facilities of a neighborhood park may exist. Appropriate program elements include community water feature, amphitheater, various picnic opportunities, and other elements per Attachment A.*

Each listing with a **bold title** represents a park available to the public. Listings with *italic titles* represent park like facilities at schools that may be available after school hours.

Lion's Park: Lion's Park is a 13 acre park located in the center of town along the Prairie River. The park consists of 5 little league baseball fields that are used very heavily from the first weeks in April through August. The park is used very heavily by the Prairie River Middle School for Physical Education Classes as well as their football team for practices. In the winter months, the park has an outdoor ice rink and the existing building is used as a warming shelter and restrooms.

Stange Park: Stange Park is an 11.6 acre park in the central portion of town along the Prairie River. The park includes tennis courts, a smaller-than-youth-regulation basketball court, playground equipment, restrooms, picnic shelter with electric and water service, walking bridges over the lagoons.

Stange Kitchenette Park: This six acre park is located just south of Stange Park along the Prairie River. It contains a kitchen shelter with electricity and water service, ADA accessible restrooms, a playground, horseshoe pits, and a sand volleyball court.

Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC): This complex covers 96 acres and is located on the west side of the City, north of the Wisconsin River on Marc Drive. The MARC includes four youth softball/baseball fields, an announcer's booth/score booth, two multi-purpose baseball/softball fields, and one baseball field. Concessions and restrooms exist by the varsity soccer fields. All of the ball fields have covered dugouts. The park also includes three soccer fields, two sand volleyball courts, outdoor concession stand/restroom, and outdoor hockey rink. About 2.5 miles of multi-purpose walking/hiking/biking trails connect to Council Grounds State Park, and connect by a temporary route to the River Bend Trail.

Smith Center: This building at the MARC houses an indoor ice skating rink, locker rooms, a weight room, a multi-purpose community room, a 17,000 foot convention area during non-ice months, and a concession kitchen. Indoor walking around the rink is also offered.

New in 2016, the MARC now hosts the Bierman Family Aquatic Center and a dog park.

Bierman Family Aquatic Center: This outdoor pool facility at the MARC was made possible through City tax revenue and a \$4 million donation from the Bierman Foundation.

Features of this aquatic center include:

- Double slide
- Family slide
- Two diving boards
- Basketball area
- Rock climbing wall
- Floatable play structures
- 6-lane competitive lap swim area
- Recreational swimming
- Shade umbrellas & lounge area
- Zero depth splash pad with playground
- Concession area
- Changing facility with ticketing, changing rooms/rest rooms, and two family changing rooms

Merrill High School has 12 acres of outdoor recreational facilities located in the northeast area of the City. There are 3 soccer fields, one softball field, one baseball field, and a varsity football field and track.

Special Use Areas

Special Use Areas: A special use park is often designed as a revenue-generating enterprise created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. A special use park may also be a sports park combined with enterprise activities and administered as a community recreation resource. Various functions include special events, fairs, festivals, expositions, symposiums, sport, community gatherings, and numerous other recreational programs and activities. (See Attachment A.)

Cenotaph Park: This is a 0.3 acre memorial park dedicated to veterans.

Athletic Park: This five acre athletic facility contains a baseball field, announcers booth, concession stand, newly constructed universally accessible restroom facilities, lights, in ground irrigation, new dugouts, and a batting cage. This park has seen a considerable amount of improvements within the past 3 years. The park is used solely for baseball games, older youth leagues, through adult league games. The park has been improved to the point where it will begin to host large scale tournaments.

Jack Pines County Park: This 11 acre county owned park is located in the northeast portion of the City across from the Fairgrounds. The City of Merrill operates an outdoor ice skating rink and warming shelter on the very southeast corner of the property. Most of this county owned site is undeveloped woodlands.

Merrill Festival Grounds: The festival grounds are a 25 acre facility located in Merrill. Existing facilities include three restrooms (two of them are ADA compliant); a livestock barn with 5 wings for cattle, horses, pigs, and sheep; a poultry and rabbit exhibition building; 2 exhibition structures for displays; a 14,000 sq. ft. expo hall; a 6,000 sq. ft. Enrichment Center (senior center); a 3,000 seat grandstand with stadium seating; a rodeo arena; a historic school house; and an office building. In 2015 ownership and maintenance of this facility was transferred from Lincoln County to the City of Merrill.

State Park

State Parks: *A state park, by size, program, and location, provides space for outdoor recreation and education about nature and conservation. These parks serve a significant geographic segment of a state or regional population. State parks aim to preserve, protect, interpret and enhance the scenic and cultural resources of the state. Most provide both active and passive recreation. The geographic area and the natural resources present dictate recreation uses and facilities present in the park. (See Attachment A.)*

Council Grounds State Park consists of 503 acres and is located on the west side of Merrill. Facilities include a 55 site campground with restrooms, showers, swimming beach, picnic areas, shelter house, boat access, shelter buildings, and a physical fitness trail. **Krueger Pines State Natural Area** (21 acres) is located in the southeast corner of Council Grounds State Park.

Conservancy Areas

Gebert Park: This 15 acre conservation protection area and wildlife habitat includes nature trails and is located south of the Wisconsin River.

Merrill Memorial Forest (Map 2): This 920 acre park is off of County Trunk Highway R about 7 miles north of Merrill. Established after World War II to honor returning veterans, Memorial Forest is a wildlife habitat park with walking trails, wildlife habitat, the 80+ acre Don Manthei Wetland Recreation Area, and about 7.5 miles of mountain bike trails (new in 2016), as well as over 8 miles of existing trails throughout the property. The City of Merrill owns this park.

Prairie Trails: In the 99 acre flood fringe and banks of the Prairie River is this silent sport recreation park located on the north side of the City. The park features 2.5 miles of multi-purpose hiking/walking/biking trails, picnic areas, picnic shelter, bridge, two canoe landings, overlook, fishing pier, boardwalk, and interpretive signage.

Chapter 4 **OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

A. INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the city were identified by collecting public input, reviewing past plans, and creating a park Level Of Service assessment.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROJECTS COMPLETED

First we will start with a list of projects from the previous outdoor recreation plan (2008-2013), and note if they were completed or not.

Note: On April 10, 2011, an EF-3 magnitude tornado hit the western part of Merrill. Council Grounds State Park and the MARC were substantially damaged. Reconstruction of existing facilities in the MARC took priority over other facility improvements.

- 2008 Riverside Restrooms demolition – rebuild to ADA Standards; **Complete**
Basketball Courts at MARC; **Incomplete**
Resurface tennis courts at Ott’s Park; **Complete**
Refurbish Stange Park “2-arch” Bridge; **Complete**
Restroom facility by adult baseball fields at MARC; **Incomplete**
Sandblast and repaint Riverside Shelter. **Incomplete**
- 2009 Ott’s Park Restrooms demolition – rebuild to ADA Standards; **will be complete**
Construct restroom facilities at Prairie Trails; **Incomplete**
Begin work on “River Walk” Trail System to follow the Prairie River; **Incomplete**
Lights on 1 adult field and 1 youth field at the MARC; **Incomplete**
Designated bike route through town; **Incomplete**
Riverside Park bridge refurbishment. **Incomplete**
- 2010 Continue work on “River Walk” Trail System to follow Prairie River; **Incomplete**
Locate and develop site for Dog Park; **will be working on in 2013**
Refurbish Riverside trail system; **Incomplete**
Improvements to Lion's Park Restroom facility – ADA Compliance; **Incomplete but will be working on in 2013**
New Playground equipment at Kitchenette. **Complete**
- 2011 Construct new swimming pool/aquatic center – in location to be determined **Incomplete**
Continue work on “River Walk” Trail System to follow Prairie River; **Incomplete**
Refurbish Gebert Park Trail System; **Incomplete**
Re-seal/stain Kitchenette Shelter building. **Incomplete**
- 2012 Improvements/addition to Riverside Park Disc Golf Course (Eric Schalow Disk Golf Course); **Incomplete**
Remove Shingles – steel roof on Kitchenette Shelter Building. **Incomplete will work on in 2013**
- 2013 Re-stain/seal Kitchenette Restroom building; **Incomplete**
Construct new park maintenance building at location to be determined. **Incomplete**
Upgrade playgrounds citywide for ADA accessibility. **Incomplete**

Investigate creating a new park to relieve use congestion of little league fields at Lion's Park. **Incomplete**

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Informal Public Input

In the regular course of business, Merrill's Park and Recreation Department staff, members have received public input about the parks. That input and their professional experience with also shape what changes are implemented.

Visioning Sessions

Two visioning sessions were held in the Merrill City Hall to engage the public in 2012. The result was the current vision statement in Chapter 5.

The City verified that this vision was still applicable for the next 5-years by including a question on their 2017 online ORP survey, which is summarized below.

- 91.5% - “Yes, that vision should provide continued guidance for outdoor recreation”

Summary of Survey Responses

*Below is an overview of the outdoor recreation survey that was created for this ORP. See **Attachment D** for a more detailed survey response summary.*

The City of Merrill advertised the survey link on their Facebook page twice, which is where most of the responses came from. The survey link was also advertised in the Merrill Foto News; and was posted on the City’s website, and the Merrill Park’s website.

We received 289 responses to the Survey. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had slightly smaller response groups.

There were 206 respondents who shared the intersection that was closest to their house. A map of these respondent’s intersections shows that all neighborhoods in Merrill were represented. See Q37.

Through an IP address analysis of who took the survey it appears that only 13 IP addresses are at least duplicated, which could mean that someone took it twice. By cross-tabulating these duplicate IP address’ responses with the question asking for the nearest intersection to their house, the results show that most of these duplicates could be people taking the survey at work. Only two of these duplicates showed the same street intersection, and neither intersection was typed the same. So it appears that nobody “stuffed the ballot box.”

About 2/3rds of the respondents were female (66.4% female, 33.6% male). Respondents came from all age groups, with a strong showing of over 17% in all age groups except “younger than 25,” which had less than 3% of all respondents.

Key Findings of the ORP Survey:

- **(Q1)** The top recreational activities, in order, that respondents participated in during 2016 are:
 1. Walking/hiking 82%
 2. Events / Festivals / Fairs 79%
 3. Swimming 52%
 4. Bicycling 47%
 5. Gardening 46%
 6. Fishing 44%

- **Q2** What potential outdoor recreational opportunities should be developed in the Merrill area?
 - More Walking/Biking trails (either and both included) 71 responses
 - Improve/create new skate park 36 responses
 - Improve kayaking (provide rentals – 4) 20 total responses
 - Create/improve disk golf 19 responses
 - Establish a dog park 14 responses
 - Provide cross-country skiing/snowshoe trails 13 responses

- Q7 through Q33: Review the “Average Number” or “Weighted Average” to determine results.

D. NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

Since the 1960's, an accepted practice has been to adopt a uniform national land standard, such as 10 acres per 1000 population, for park planning. A standard amount of land for parks and recreation nationwide is no longer recognized as universal for a park. A standard land measure is still used to determine how much land is needed for a specific use like a baseball diamond. Facility standards are used for this purpose. The number of baseball diamonds and other facilities are not the same among similar sized communities nationally; therefore a Level of Service needs to be created locally.

Park and Recreation Designs

Attachment A

The various attributes (e.g. acreage, location, and amenities) of each park classification are described in this attachment. Use these designs as one part of determining if community-wide needs are being met in the parks.

Besides creating a Level of Service for each park classification, other measures such as geographic distribution and universal accessibility, are also used to determine the adequacy of a community's parks.

Universal accessibility is making facilities (e.g.: tables, drinking fountains, and restrooms) accessible to people with limited mobility. Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards are followed when purchasing or modifying facilities for universal accessibility. Each park description starting on page 11 lists specific park facilities. If changes to park facilities are necessary to make them ADA compliant, then they will be listed as recommended improvements in Chapter 6 under "Capital Improvements."

1. Level of Service

A Level Of Service (LOS) approach is used to identifying if enough park land exists for a community's needs. This revised approach is defined by the community's needs rather than an arbitrary acreage-per-1000-people standard. The LOS is generated locally for each park classification (i.e. mini, neighborhood, or community). Public input is collected, and the needs for a particular park, or whole park classification, are determined. If the public is content with the existing parks within a park classification, then the LOS is applied to the whole population. If the public determines that individual parks need more facilities in them, then a particular park needing additional land may become reclassified into the next larger classification. When the community grows in population the LOS is used to calculate how many additional parks are needed.

Park Acreage

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

1. Physical geography. Does the site have steep hills, woodlands, or wetlands? Such natural features are useful for exploration, conservation, aesthetic buffers, and unprogrammed lands.
2. Park facilities. What activities are allowed or will be allowed? How much land is needed for each use? This is determined by applying the park Level of Service (LOS) to lands where the village is growing. If a community is not growing in population, then the LOS does not change, but different uses may become desired over time, so

facilities will need replacement.

3. Unprogrammed buffers. How much land within the park is needed to separate different uses or future expansion? Designating future parks on the *Official Map* [developed under Sec 62.23(6)(b) Wis. Stats.] and on the *Future Land Use Map* in the *Merrill Comprehensive Plan* will guide future parkland purchases.

Park acreage in TABLE 4 shows how Merrill's park system compares with state standards for the size of each park as grouped by classification. The average park sizes for Merrill follow in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) recommendations for each classification.

Some parks in each classification are smaller than SCORP recommendations. Taken together; Lion's, Stange, Stange Kitchenette, and Polk St Tennis & Skate parks form one 36.6 acre community park in the heart of Merrill.

Classification	SCORP Recommendation	Merrill average park size
Mini	0.5 – 5* acres	2.9 acres
Neighborhood	5 – 25 acres	8.8 acres
Community	25+ acres	27.7 acres
Special Use	Various based upon facility	Various based upon facility

Source: WDNR, & NCWRPC

*SCORP states that a mini park is 0.5-1.5 acres, but a gap from 1.5-5 acres exists, so that gap was added to the mini park size.

In Table 4, public school facilities were also used to create the Level Of Service. Merrill's 2010 Census population was 9,661; which decreased to 9,419 in 2015 per WDOA's estimated population.

$$\text{LOS by classification} = \frac{\text{Park acres per classification}}{(\text{City Population} \div 1,000 \text{ population served})}$$

Park Classification	2010		2015	
	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 people	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 people
Mini	14.5	1.5	14.5	1.5
Neighborhood	35	3.6	35	3.7
Community	138.6	14.3	138.6	14.7
Special Use	41.3	4.3	41.3	4.4
Total	229.4	23.7	229.4	24.4

Source: NCWRPC

Merrill had a citywide Level Of Service in 2010 of **23.7**, which is just a bit smaller than Merrill's 2015 LOS of **24.4**. There are fewer people living in Merrill in 2015 vs. 2010, therefore the Level Of Service (LOS) appears higher in the *neighborhood* and *community* classifications.

The LOS calculated in TABLE 5 is only adequate if public comment proves that more park land is not needed. Public comment may state that different uses are desired, but that may not affect LOS if the land area for those new uses replaces the old uses, or if unused land within existing parks is used. Chapter 6 will show what projects are planned to improve the parks.

2. Park Service Areas

Parks must be close to where residents live for people to consider a park useful. Map 3 illustrates how well the City of Merrill's parks serve the various areas of the City. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides the following guidelines for park placement:

- Mini park service area: ½-mile radius, or a population of 2,000-3,000;
- *Schools with playgrounds qualify as mini parks.*
- Neighborhood park service area: 1 mile radius, or a population of 2,000-5,000;
- Community park service area: 2-5 mile radius, in a city or outside of city limits (shown with a neighborhood service area on Map 3, but they also serve the whole community);
- Special Use park service area is a whole community, and is determined by the type of recreation program, special event, or general activities desired at the park (not on Map 3, because none exist in the community).
- School parks are not classified in this plan.

Map 3 shows the service areas for all neighborhood and community parks. All community classified parks are also neighborhood parks. Map 3 shows a 1-mile radius service area for each neighborhood or community park, and a ½-mile radius for a mini-park. Special use parks, community parks, and conservancies serve all of Merrill; therefore no specific service areas are shown for these parks on Map 3.

Results

Residential areas that are not served by *mini parks*:

- About 75 housing units to the north and south of Thielman Street are about 1-mile walking distance from Washington Elementary.

Recommendation: A mini park is needed to serve these townhouses and mobile home park.












- About 20 houses and a 30-bed elderly facility are interspersed with commercial properties along both sides of CTH K from O Day Street to Joe Snow Road.

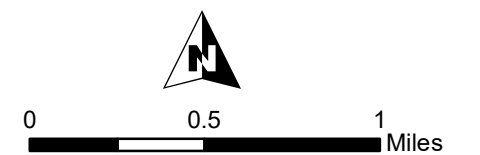
Recommendation: No change at this time. Houses may continue to convert to commercial properties. The elderly housing probably has on-site recreation for its residents. See **Attachment E** for elderly facility ideas.

- About 32 houses south of Joe Snow Road, between CTHs K and Q, are at least 1.5-miles away from Riverside Park.

Recommendation: A mini park is needed to serve these houses. Consider how many additional houses will be built, and consider acquiring at least 5-acres for a neighborhood park in this area.

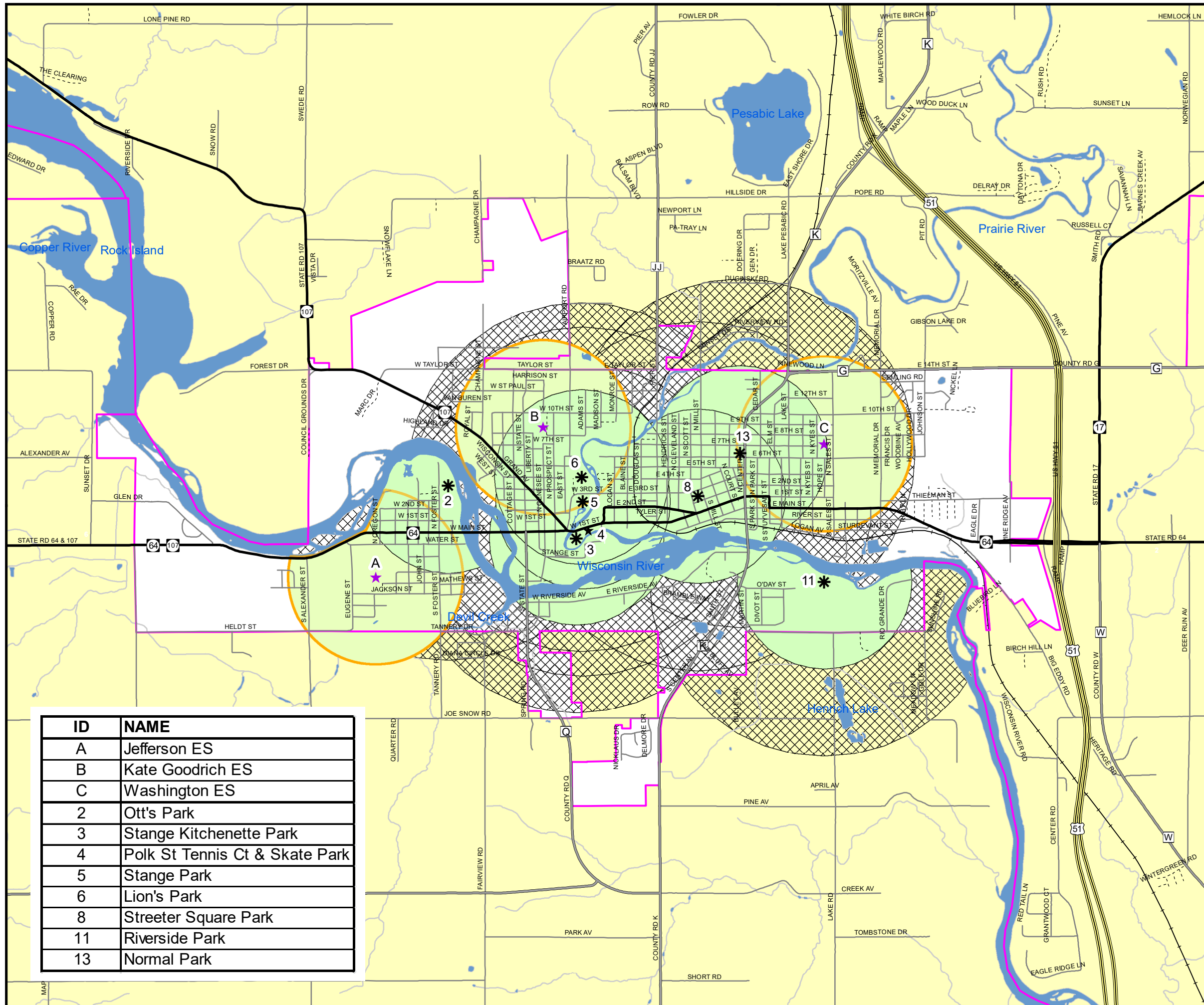
Map 3 Park Service Areas City of Merrill

-  Minor Civil Divisions
-  US Highways
-  State Highways
-  County Highways
-  Local Roads
-  Private / Other
-  Railroad
-  Water
-  Neighborhood Parks
1 mile service area
for Neighborhood parks
-  Mini Parks
0.5 mile service area
for Mini parks
-  Mini Parks, Public Schools
0.5 mile service area
for Mini parks



This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

ID	NAME
A	Jefferson ES
B	Kate Goodrich ES
C	Washington ES
2	Ott's Park
3	Stange Kitchenette Park
4	Polk St Tennis Ct & Skate Park
5	Stange Park
6	Lion's Park
8	Streeter Square Park
11	Riverside Park
13	Normal Park



Chapter 5

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing specific recreation and open-space goals and objectives from public participation. These goals and objectives will provide general direction to the Forestry, Recreation, and Parks Department for outdoor recreation purposes over the next 5 years.

Outdoor Recreation Survey respondents noted that the current vision statement is still very much accurate for the next 5 years.

Vision:

“Merrill, City of Parks, is committed to celebrating its heritage through diversified outdoor opportunities along the Wisconsin and Prairie Rivers which enhances quality of life for all generations.”

Goal 1. Become a more walkable and bikeable community.

Objectives:

- Continue implementing Merrill’s Bike & Pedestrian Plan;
- Install bike parking in downtown;
- Support development of Safe Routes To School;
- Create a pedestrian & bicycling bridge across the Wisconsin River; and
- Continue developing the River Bend Trail.

Goal 2. Improve water access within Merrill.

Objectives:

- Increase boat, shore, and canoe access to the Wisconsin and Prairie Rivers; and
- Promote water touring routes.

Goal 3. Bring parks into ADA compliance.

Objectives:

- Create short term and permanent fixes to upgrade ADA compliance in each park; and
- Continue planning and developing recreational facilities to accommodate the elderly and handicapped.

Goal 4. Continue to improve and develop Merrill’s outdoor recreation facilities

Objective:

- Develop facility improvements as outlined in the Chapter 6 Capital Improvement list.
- Create new parks to solve service area deficiencies.

Chapter 6

RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendations and Capital Improvements are strategies for satisfying issues identified. Although it is unlikely that all recommendations presented in this plan will be undertaken in the next five years, they should be recognized as causes for action if the opportunity or need arises.

A. RECOMMENDATIONS

Solving Park Service Area Deficiencies

Parks must be close to where residents live for people to consider a park useful. Map 3 illustrates how well the City of Merrill's parks serve the various areas of the City. Three residential areas in Merrill are not served by parks with playgrounds (mini parks), because they are farther than ½ mile away from the nearest playground. See more analysis under **Park Service Areas** on page 24.

Recommendation: Consider making changes per the "Recommendation" under each bullet point on page 24 under the "Results" heading.

River Bend Trail

The River District Development Foundation of Merrill continues pursuing plans extending the trail to the west and to the east. See **Attachment F** for overall maps.

- Connect the Trail with downtown via an at-grade railroad crossing just behind Merrill Federal Savings & Loan. Install a sign on Main St at Mill St, directing people to the River Bend Trail crossing.
- Continue developing amenities like benches and clear out brush along the trail.
- Continue developing the trail per maps in **Attachment F**.
- Pursue state trail status for the River Bend Trail.

Connect Parks with Bike and Pedestrian Trails

Merrill has parks interspersed along the Wisconsin River and Prairie River within densely developed housing. Connections between parks will focus on using the existing street network.

- Implement recommendations in the Merrill Bike & Pedestrian Plan.
- Merrill's Comprehensive Plan suggests creating "a multi-use trail [to] connect Prairie River Park to Stange Park." (Transportation Issues box, p.42)

Grow the Park Endowment Fund

The Merrill Park Endowment Fund is a joint effort between the Merrill Parks & Recreation Department and the Merrill Area Community Foundation. The Endowment Fund will allow the Department to invest in park improvements, recreation programs, playgrounds, and special events that have not been possible due to budget shortfalls.

- Actively promote the fund's existence among the general public and specialty groups of all age groups.

- Possibly create a memorial program where people can provide a specific donation and receive a brick paver engraved with their name and placed next to an existing tree, bench, or other object, and with new objects costing more.

ADA Improvements

Cooperate with Streets Department to reline parking lots to add accessible marked parking spots in each park, and also to fix any paths in disrepair. Each park has a variety of ADA improvements listed in Chapter 6's Capital Improvements section.

Continue Developing Trails in Memorial Wildlife Area

Merrill Memorial Wildlife Area, described on page 18 & Map 2, is a vast area where the City just began developing trails with volunteers over the last 5 years.

The Lincoln County Forestry, Land, and Parks Department is considering upgrading the restroom at Haymeadow County Park. Haymeadow County Park is a former DOT wayside with a small picnic area and restrooms. This park may see increased usage due to planned development at Prairie Dells Scenic Viewing Area.

- Cooperate with County Forestry to determine how any improvements within the Merrill Memorial Wildlife Area will compliment Haymeadow County Park and Prairie Dells Scenic Area.
- Consider creating a property management plan to determine which areas would be developed for what uses.
- Continue developing trails.

Snowmobile Trail

The Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plan lists a need to review snowmobile trails in Merrill to determine if permanent easements are needed to maintain access to destinations within Merrill like gas stations, hotels, and restaurants.

- Review snowmobile routes connecting Merrill with surrounding areas to determine if multiple use trail right-of-ways (easement) that snowmobiles could use are needed.

B. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2018-2022

Capital improvements to parks are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Routine maintenance is considered the normal cycle of repair and upkeep for existing facilities and is traditionally funded through the Park and Recreation Department's operations budget. For example, upgrading an outdoor restroom facility for universal access would qualify as a capital improvement, while repainting an outdoor restroom is considered routine maintenance.

Projects listed below are subject to receiving budgetary approval in the years they are planned. All listed projects may not be completed. Short term and permanent fixes to make each park ADA accessible are identified among other improvements listed below:

2018-2019

1. Put STH 64 in front of the library on a "road diet." (Figure 1, p.30)
2. Create River Bend Trail park, just west of Cosmo Theater (Figure 2, p.31).
3. Connect River Bend Trail to downtown across railroad tracks (Fig. 2, p.31).
4. Install new restroom & shelter at Stange Park.
5. Athletic Park improvements (pave parking lot, replace lighting, & restore wall).
6. Continue bike route designation throughout Merrill per Merrill's Bike & Ped. Plan, 2015.
7. Add ADA playground at Normal Park.
8. Reconstruct Stange Park's basketball court as a full high school regulation size basketball court.

2020

1. Install pedestrian & bicycle bridge across Wisconsin River (Figure 3, p.32).
2. Add canoe take-out by Stange Kitchenette Park, and then promote water trail.
 - See Attachment G.
3. Establish "parklets" in Merrill. (See Attachment H)
4. Work on establishing River Bend Trail as a state trail.

2021-2022

1. Install downtown curb extensions. (See Attachment I)
2. Create downtown bike parking. (See Attachment J)
3. Create new park southeast of Keys St & Logan Ave. (Figure 3, p.32)
4. Reconstruct Streeter Square Park's basketball court as a full youth regulation size basketball court.
5. Add new boat launch with parking in new Keys St & Logan Ave park. (Figure 3, p.32).
6. Fully reconstruct and expand skatepark at its current location. (Figure 4, p.33)

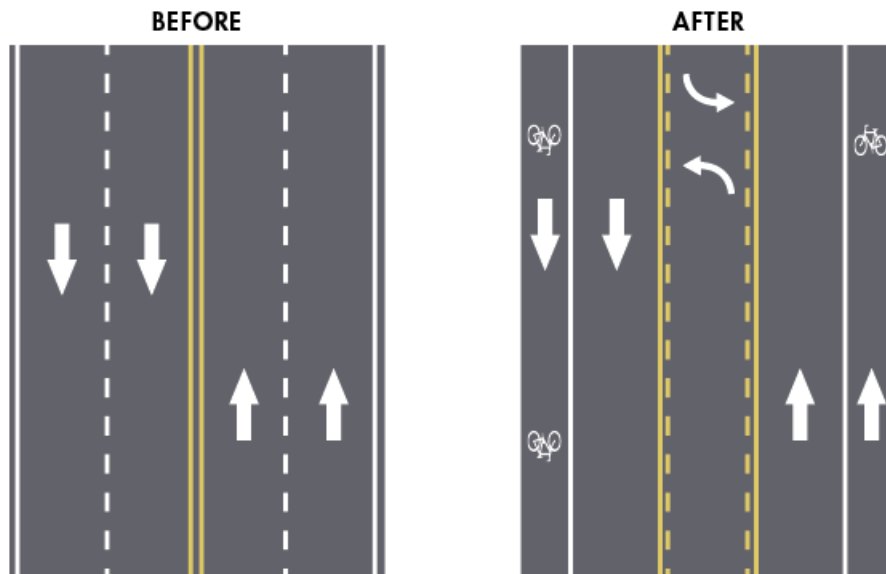
7. Install vault toilets at Prairie Trails Park.
8. Continue work at City Forest (improve trails, improve parking area, construct shelter building, and install vault toilets).
9. Improve dog park amenities.
10. Explore having curling at the MARC.

Other possible projects as local efforts develop:

- Disk golf initiative.
- Otts Park ball field improvements (complete new fence and replace lights).
- Install toilets at MARC baseball fields.
- Install art throughout the City.

Figure 1 Road Diet for STH 64 in front of T.B. Scott Library

NOTE: See the Merrill Bike & Pedestrian Plan for details of how to make this road diet between the Prairie River and the Polk Street intersection.



Sample road diet

Figure 2 Possible Downtown Improvements

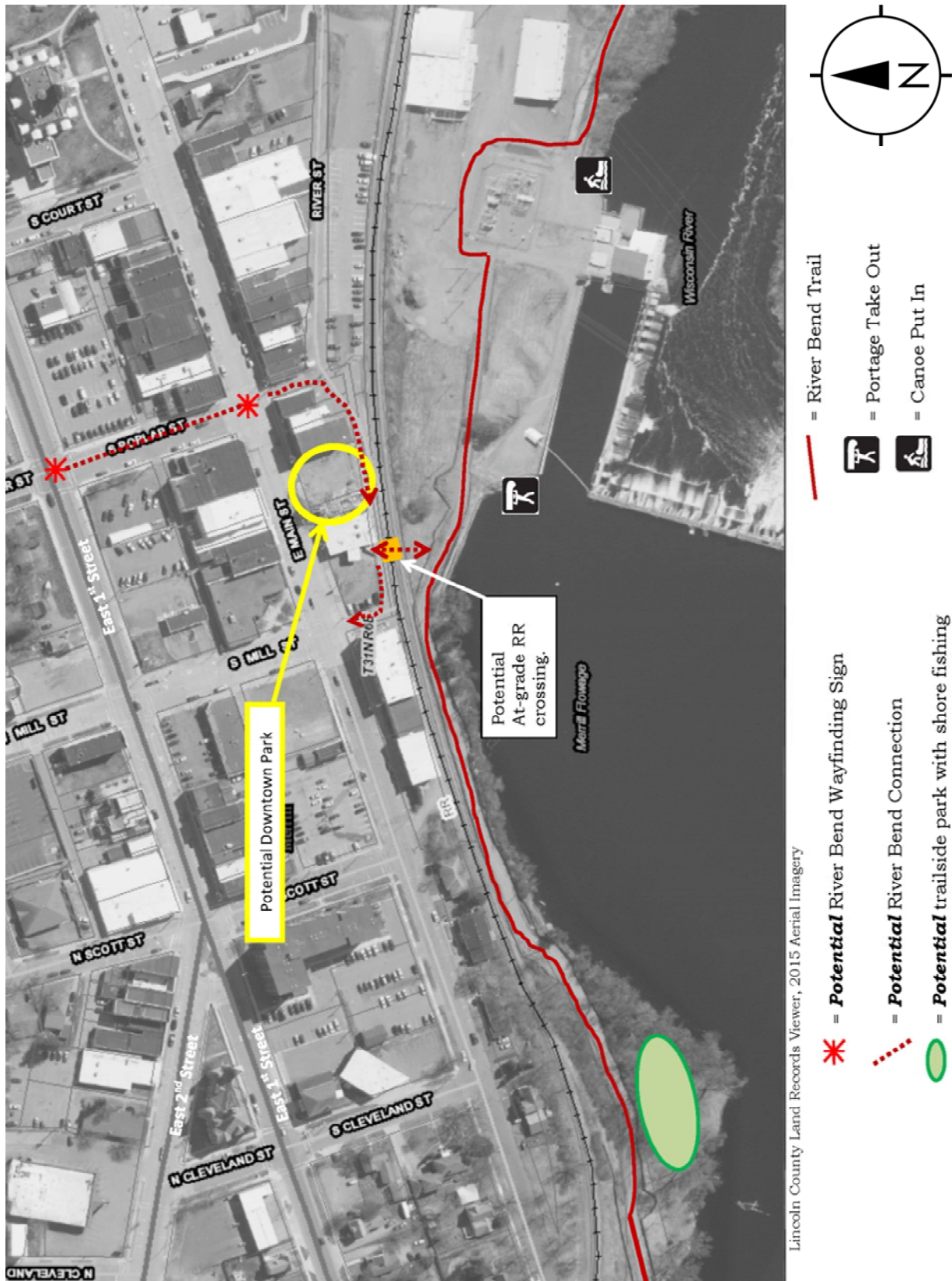


Figure 3 Possible Riverfront Improvements

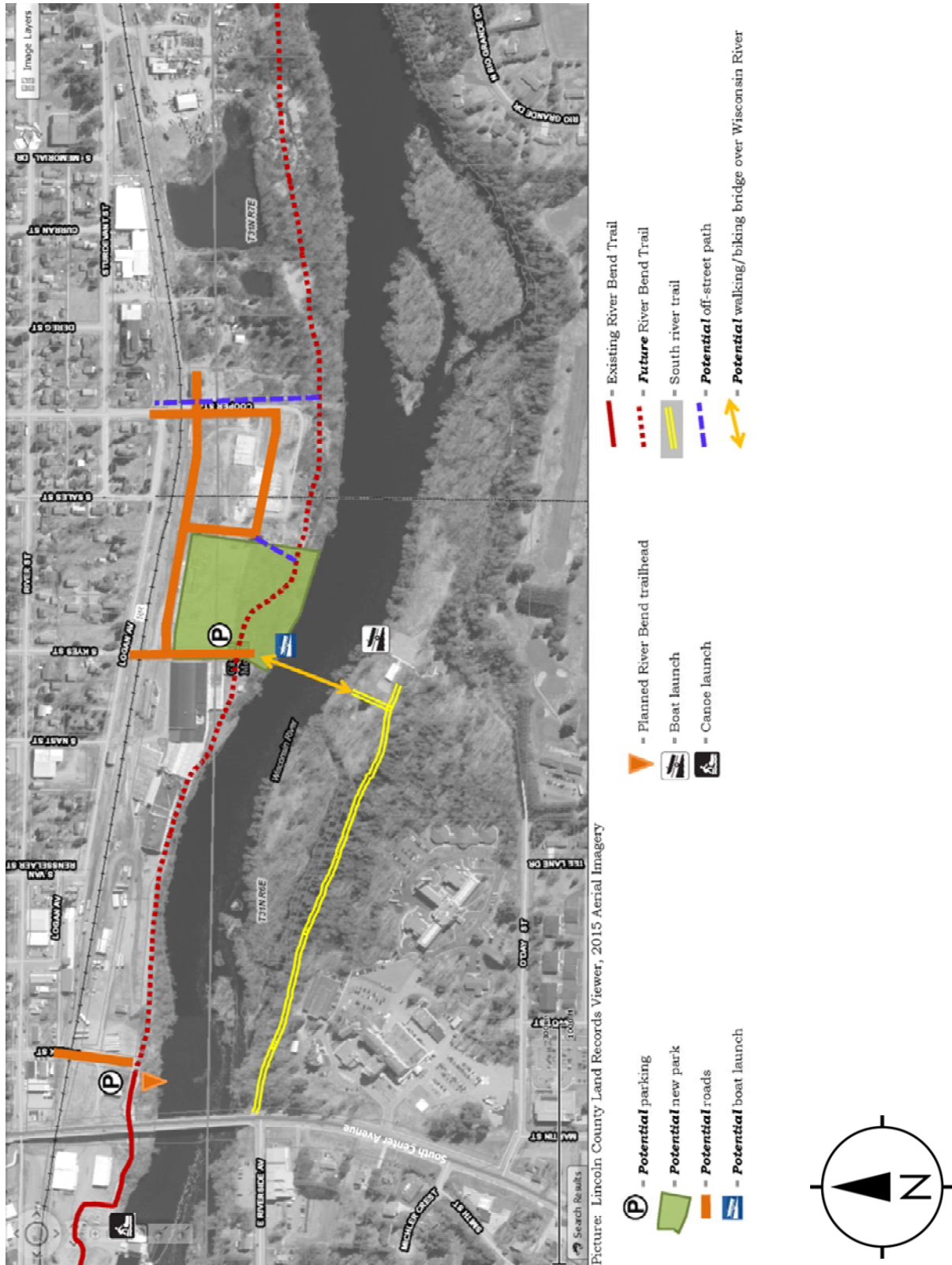


Figure 4 Potential Future Skatepark

Recommendations:

1. Put State Highway 64 in front of the library and skatepark on a “road diet” per the Merrill Bike & Pedestrian Plan, to make it easier for pedestrians to access the skatepark from the Middle School area.
2. Fully reconstruct skatepark on new concrete pad where existing skatepark and the adjacent tennis court are located.

NOTE: Fully design the park first, because there may be ramps or partial inground bowl designs that would be incorporated into the pad.

3. Install durable skatepark features that are:
 - a. Low maintenance; and
 - b. Engineered for skateboards, inline skates, and BMX bikes.



Chapter 7 **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

There are a variety of strategies available for implementing this plan. These strategies include using land use tools and government programs to realize attainment of this plan's goals and objectives.

Shoreland Zoning

Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program established statewide minimum standards for shoreland development. Counties are required to adopt and administer shoreland zoning ordinances that meet or exceed these minimum requirements. The statewide minimum standards for county shoreland zoning ordinances are found in Chapter NR 115, Wis. Admin. Code. The City of Merrill administers the zoning within Merrill.

Public Access to Waterways

State regulations for subdivisions require dedication of public access when the land along waterways is platted.

LAKE AND STREAM SHORE PLATS [236.16(3) WISCONSIN STATUTES]

- (a) All subdivisions abutting on a navigable lake or stream shall provide public access at least 60 feet wide providing access to the low watermark so that there will be public access, which is connected to existing public roads, at not more than one-half mile intervals as measured along the lake or stream shore except where greater intervals and wider access is agreed upon by the department of natural resources and the department, and excluding shore areas where public parks or open-space streets or roads on either side of a stream are provided.

NR 1.93 Access in platted subdivisions. Under s.236.16 (3), Wis. Stats., the DNR has authority to recommend wider access at less frequent intervals than are prescribed in the statutes. The DNR shall consider waiver of the 60-foot access requirement only where the DNR determines:

- (1) It will be advantageous to public interests in navigable water;
- (2) Adequate space for access users and adequate buffering for private property is assured by access wider than 60 feet where possible; and
- (3) The access that would result provides an equal or greater opportunity for public access than would be provided by dedication at statutorily prescribed intervals and the 60-foot width.

Park Dedication

Subdivision regulations can be used to require residential land subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use. Neighborhood parks may be acquired in this manner in newly developing residential areas. Local landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this

form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of some communities.

Conservation Subdivisions

Conservation subdivisions are characterized by common open space and clustered compact lots. A variety of housing types or the same type of housing may be allowed. The purpose of a conservation subdivision is to protect farmland or natural resource open spaces while allowing for the maximum number of residences under current community zoning and subdivision regulations. In some cases a greater density (density bonus) may be offered in the local ordinance to encourage this approach. Generally, this tool is used for parcels 40 acres and larger, or where the community maps natural resource corridors or natural features that they want to preserve. A conservation subdivision maintains the same level of overall density as a conventional subdivision, but individual lot sizes are smaller, and the community receives open space.

Use of Easements

Open space and public recreation use of private land may be acquired by easement. With an easement, certain rights are granted to the public for a specific period of time and the private owner is compensated for that public use. In purchasing an easement, the public body acquires a right either to use the land in a specific manner or to restrict the use to which an owner may put their land. For example, the rights to establish public hiking or fishing access to a waterway may be purchased through an easement.

Leases

Leases may be used as measures to use or protect land until more permanent measures may be found. By leasing parcels of land, the land remains on the community's tax rolls and can be renegotiated or non-renewed by the property owner if the monetary prospects for another use proves overpowering.

Another leasing method involves outright purchase of land by the community. The community then leases the land to a private party or organization with use restrictions placed on the land. Under this method, the community receives some monetary return on its investment and retains control over the use of the land.

Program Costs

A community should carefully watch operations and maintenance costs when setting up a parks program. A too ambitious acquisition and/or development program can easily lead to annual costs larger than the community can afford to meet. Recreation facilities like golf courses and swimming pools, for example, require large annual maintenance investments to continue.

Capital Improvements

Community officials should develop five year capital improvements programs for recreation that reflect implementation of proposals made in their plans and the priorities they place on them. To be functional, the program must be flexible and be subjected to annual review.

In developing a recreation program, care should be taken that the annual cost of maintenance does not exceed an amount the community can afford to pay. Too often, an ambitious program can lose community support as a result of prohibitive maintenance costs.

Monetary Aid Programs

State and federal financial and technical aid programs are designed to assist communities with meeting recreational needs. A list of these programs exists in Attachment D.

The Stewardship Fund is a state provided comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of several state and federal aid programs such as Local Park Aids and LAWCON, combined with new programs, such as the Urban Rivers Program. Attachment E gives an explanation of the Stewardship Program. For additional information go online to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

A requirement for application to the Stewardship Fund is for the local community to have a DNR approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Plan is designed to meet that requirement. For additional information contact:

Community Services Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland, WI 54501

Besides state and federal aid programs, there are other sources of funding such as private foundations, trust funds, and civic and recreation organizations.

Lifetime Activities

Community and school officials responsible for recreation should place greater emphasis on land areas and facilities that can support "lifetime" recreational activities. Falling into this category are activities like golf, tennis, all target sports, horseshoes, cross country skiing, skating, running, volleyball, handball, badminton, back packing, and canoeing. Many schools have programs aimed at teaching recreational activities that people can participate in for a lifetime.

Winter Activities

All communities should provide winter outdoor recreation facilities. Skating and sliding sports (sledding, tobogganing, and skiing) can generally be provided without large investments. Skating, for example, can be as involved as providing rinks for ice hockey or as simple as flooding a small area of a school playground. Likewise, merely blocking off a lightly traveled street with a suitable slope can frequently provide a sliding area.

Specialized Facilities

Encourage development of specialized facilities by the private sector. Specialized facilities such as golf clubs, intensive use ATV areas, and ski resorts can be an important adjunct to public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

Municipal and School District Cooperation

Promote cooperation between municipalities and school districts in meeting recreational needs. With good planning, cooperation may take the form of joint land acquisition and/or facilities development cost sharing. Increased municipal use of existing school facilities during non-school hours should also be encouraged.

Senior Citizen Involvement

Involve senior citizens in community park development and beautification, and provide recreational facilities for their use. Although senior citizens often compose a significant proportion of the total community's population, they are often neglected in recreational planning. Benches placed near neighborhood parks and play areas and non-intensive sports facilities such as horseshoe pits located in community parks help to provide a place for the senior citizens. Small, passive use parks and gardens located near nursing and retirement homes should also be encouraged. In addition, senior citizens can provide invaluable assistance in beautifying parks and open spaces and can thereby become more involved in community group life.

Service Group Involvement

Involve organized service groups in park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports areas and neighborhood parks. Traditionally, service groups and recreation organizations, such as Lions Club, V.F.W., softball leagues, and snowmobile clubs have played an active role in the development of such facilities. Continued volunteerism of this type should be encouraged. In addition, service groups could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources by providing organization and volunteer labor.

Community Beautification

All communities should recognize that community appearance is an important component of a recreation program. Maintained streets and sidewalks, attractive trees and shrubs, well cared for homes and commercial buildings, and neatly landscaped home lawns, public open space, and parks are principal contributors to community beautification. Such a program is most rewarding to persons engaged in passive recreation.

Adopt-A-Park Program

A program which encourages local groups to adopt-a-park or segment of trail or stream could be organized similar to the very successful *Adopt a Highway* program. The groups could volunteer their time to maintain and beautify the county's recreational system, allowing more county funds to provide major improvements.

ATTACHMENT A

Park Design and Location Criteria

From: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

Park Design and Location Criteria

This section is presented in the interest of assisting park and recreation agencies in the development of a system of parks and recreation areas. A recreation system is composed of many different components, the combination of which provide facilities and landscapes for outdoor recreation. Many entities are involved in the development and management of recreational areas and facilities for a community or region. Facilities provided by these entities should be complementary and serve a particular geographic area or recreational need. For this plan, parks and recreation areas have been classified on the basis of their service areas. They are described as the following:

▪ Mini Park	▪ School Park
▪ Neighborhood Park	▪ County Park
▪ Community Park	▪ State Park
▪ Special Use Park	▪ State Forest

Mini Park

1. Definition Summary:

A play lot or playground provides space for parental supervised recreation of toddlers and young children within a neighborhood, or as part of a larger neighborhood or community park and urban center, including retail shopping areas.

2. Size Objectives:

0.5 to 1.5 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally within a neighborhood of a half mile radius or population of 2,000-3,000. Mini parks may be included in parks that serve a larger population or service area.

4. Location Objectives:

Located in protected areas with separation from street traffic and high visibility; serving local neighborhoods and adjoining schools, libraries, or police and fire facilities.

- Population Ratio to Acreage: 0.25 to 0.5 acre per 1,000 population to achieve a park unit size that serves 2,000 to 3,000 people.

5. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The size of a play lot or playground may range from as small as 2,500 sq. ft. to 1.5 acres.* Amenities offered by these facilities generally include sand play areas, play apparatus, play equipment, and other special child-oriented features. The service radius for these parks in

terms of distance from population served is limited to less than a quarter mile, or within a super block space, unless the playground is incorporated into a larger park. (*Stand-alone play lots require more land area than play lots incorporated into larger parks.)

6. Orientation:

Small geographic areas, sub-neighborhoods, or neighborhoods, when combined with a larger park unit, serves youth ranging in age from toddler to 12 years, with adult supervision. Playgrounds also serve important needs in city business districts and inner city areas where a mix of commercial and recreation activity is desired.

7. Function:

Provides outdoor play experiences for youth under parental supervision. Generates neighborhood communication and provides diversion from work and domestic chores. Promotes neighborhood solidarity.

Neighborhood Park

1. Definition Summary:

A neighborhood park, by size, program, and location, provides space and recreation activities for the immediate neighborhood in which it is located. It is considered an extension of neighborhood residents' "out-of-yard" and outdoor use area.

2. Size Objectives:

5 to 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally a one mile radius, but actually defined by collector street patterns which form the limits of a neighborhood or recreation service area. Population served may range from 2,000 up to 5,000.

4. Location Objectives:

Centrally located for equitable pedestrian access within a definable neighborhood service area. Adjoining or adjacent to an elementary school, middle school, high school, fire station, or library, if possible.

5. Program Objectives:

Compatible with the neighborhood setting and park site constraints. Generally includes the following facilities, which are determined with public input as to use and activities:

- a. Parking for 10 to 20 vehicles.
 - 1) On-street parking is acceptable if negative impact to residential units can be mitigated. On-site parking is preferable as a planning objective.
 - 2) Bike racks with Class II trail connections where possible.
- b. Restrooms
 - 1) Men's restroom with 2 water closets, 2 urinals, 2 lavatories.
 - 2) Women's restroom with 3 water closets and 2 lavatories.
 - 3) Utility and minimum park janitorial storage space.
- c. Tot lot/children's play area
- d. Family event/group picnic facility
- e. Informal family picnic area with benches and tables
- f. Unstructured turf grass play area/play or practice field for children, young adults, and families.
- g. Sport facilities—compatible with neighborhood setting and park site constraints.
 - 1) Basketball—half court, full court, or tri-court configuration
 - 2) Volleyball area
 - 3) Softball field/soccer practice or game overlay
 - 4) Other features as needs or site conditions allow

6. Orientation:

Serves all age groups, with an emphasis on youth and families in neighborhood settings.

7. Function:

To provide a combination of active recreation and passive activities, both outdoor and indoor facilities and special features as required or needed.

8. Space, Design and Service Area:

A minimum size of 5 to 25 acres with amenities including sports facilities, picnic areas, swim facilities, cultural activities, arts, crafts, and individual passive activities. The park should primarily serve a defined neighborhood area population of 2,000-5,000. Distance from this neighborhood will vary depending on urban development pattern, zoning, and densities in the respective neighborhoods being served. Efforts should be made to allow easy pedestrian access to the park.

Community Park

1. Definition Summary:

A community park, by size, program, and location, provides space and recreation activities for a defined service area, the entire city, or significant geographic segment of the city's population.

2. Size Objectives:

Usually more than 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally a 2 to 5 mile radius within the city and adjacent neighborhoods outside of city limits.

4. Location Objectives:

Centrally located if planned to serve a particular geographic segment of the city. Located adjoining or immediately adjacent to a collector street providing community-wide vehicular access, thereby reducing neighborhood traffic impacts. Connected with Class II on-street and/or off-street community trail and bike lane system. Adjoining or adjacent to an elementary, middle, or high school if possible.

5. Program Objectives

Elements that fulfill the service area, park facilities and recreation program demands. The following facilities may be compatible with community setting and park site constraints:

- a. Off-street parking calculated to satisfy demand of park and recreation activities provided. Includes bike racks and a public transit station at the site as well as both on-site and street parking.
- b. Restrooms designed to accommodate the level of park and recreation activities provided and the number of people served. Restrooms should be located within a reasonable walking distance from children's play equipment and other high-use areas.
- c. Community recreation center
- d. Park maintenance and equipment storage building
- e. Tot lot/children's play area
- f. Group picnic shelters
- g. Family picnic facilities
- h. Sport/recreation facility fulfilling the overall city demand

Appropriate program elements include:

- 1) Community pool/water feature
- 2) Soccer fields
- 3) Softball, little league baseball, junior pony league baseball
- 4) Football
- 5) Roller hockey/skateboard area
- 6) Tennis courts
- 7) Basketball courts
- 8) Amphitheater/performing arts center
- 9) Volleyball (indoor and outdoor)
- 10) Jogging trails
- 11) Other facilities as desired and as permitted under park site plan
- 12) Concessions (food and beverage)

6. Orientation:

Multi-purpose service area or community-wide recreation resource serving most or all of the population.

7. Function:

Provides opportunities for a diverse mix of indoor and outdoor recreation, including walking and bicycling, outdoor performances, various programmed and non-

programmed field sports, swimming, and special events.

8) Space, Design, and Service Area:

The minimum space for a community park is 15 acres. Facilities typically provide for some sports activities, through emphasis is on passive cultural and community centers with recreational programming and organized activities. The community park may serve populations within a 2 to 5 mile radius, a scope that would allow residents of other communities to use the park as well.

Special Use Park

1. Definition Summary:

A special use park is often designed as a revenue-generating enterprise created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. A special use park may also be a sports park combined with enterprise activities and administered as a community recreation resource.

2. Size Objective:

The actual size of a special use park is determined by land availability and facility/market demand for special uses or recreation programs.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Community or area-wide and determined by the type of recreation program, special events or use activities.

4. Location Objectives:

Determined by the property opportunity, service area and size objectives.

5. Program Objectives:

Special use parks require facility programming that is user- or market-driven and based on community needs or economic and service principles for public and private partnerships. The magnitude and type of special use facilities may include:

- a. Water play park
- b. Amphitheater
- c. Festival/swap meet/farmers market
- d. League/individual sports complex
- e. Fitness/entertainment center
- f. Skateboard/in-line hockey park

g. Recreation programs and classes

6. Orientation:

Provides recreation programming, sports and special event attractions and activities for all age groups.

7. Function:

Special events, fairs, festivals, expositions, symposiums, sports, community gatherings, ethnic/cultural celebrations, plays and numerous other recreational programs and activities.

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The minimum size for special parks varies depending on intended use and programming.

School Park

1. Definition Summary:

By combining the resources of two public agencies, the school park classification allows for expanding the recreational, social, and educational opportunities available to the community in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Depending on the circumstances, school park sites often complement other community recreation or open lands. As an example, an elementary/middle school site could also serve as a neighborhood park. Likewise, middle or high school sports facilities could do double duty as a community park or as youth athletic fields. Depending on its size, one school park site may serve in a number of capacities, such as a neighborhood park, youth athletic fields, and a location for recreation classes. Given the inherent variability of type, size and location, determining how a school park site is integrated into a larger park system will depend on case-by-case circumstances. The important outcome in the joint-use relationship is that both the school district and park system benefit from shared use of facilities and land area.

2. Size Objective

The optimum size of a school park site depends on its intended use. The size criteria

established for neighborhood park and community park classifications may apply.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Neighborhood park and community park classifications criteria should be used to determine school park functions and area served. For planning purposes, the degree to which school lands, including building or facilities, meet community needs depends on the specific inter-local agreements formed.

4. Location Objectives:

The location of a school park site will be determined by the school district based on district policy. Coordinated city and school district planning allows for siting, acquisition, and facility development to be responsive to community needs. Service areas for school park sites will depend on the type of use and facilities provided.

5. Program Objectives:

The criteria established for neighborhood parks and community parks should be used to determine how a school park site is developed and programmed. If athletic fields are developed at a school park site, they should, where feasible, be oriented toward youth rather than adult programs. Establishing a clearly defined joint-use agreement between involved agencies is critical to making school park relationships workable. This is particularly important with respect to acquisition, development, maintenance, liability, use, and programming of facility issues.

The orientation of school park projects is typically for neighborhood and community recreation services. The functions may include sports, recreation classes, passive recreation activities, and other recreation programs suitable to an elementary or secondary education school.

County Park

1. Definition Summary:

A county park provides sufficient park and recreation area to meet the needs of county residents. County parks consist of land that is specifically set aside for active and passive

recreation uses, and that accommodates large gatherings, special events, and individual users. County parks offer a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities, and may provide areas that do not primarily serve a recreational purpose such as protected natural areas, historic areas, and special use areas.

2. Size Objectives:

The size of recreation parks varies greatly from park to park, but with the exception of those parks that serve a special use or are trail corridors, a recreation park should consist of a minimum of 100 acres of land. Each park should be of sufficient size to accommodate the estimated use and to allow for the operation and maintenance of planned recreational facilities.

3. Service Area Objectives:

County parks provide for a regional user group and serve primarily county residents. Special facilities like camping and trails are also used by tourists and visitors to the county.

4. Location Objectives:

The land should have high recreational potential and be able to withstand intensive and extensive recreational activities. Land should have potential to accommodate large groups of people. Land for corridors should be located so as to connect to communities, parks, and open spaces. The potential for future land acquisition should be taken into account.

5. Program Objectives:

Development should be appropriate for intended use and should accommodate moderate to high use. Development and planning should consider the physical condition and characteristics of the land and recognize potential environmental or structural limitations that might require intensive maintenance. County parks may include the following facilities:

- a. Camping/group camping
- b. Picnic areas
- c. Recreational trails (hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, equestrian, cross-country ski, snowmobile, etc.)
- d. Play areas

- e. Swimming beaches
- f. Water access
- g. Fishing access
- h. Shelters
- i. Restrooms
- j. Shower facilities
- k. Sport fields (basketball, volleyball, softball, etc.)
- l. Pet exercise area

6. Orientation:

Multi-purpose service area and regional recreation resource serving a significant portion of a county or multi-county population.

7. Function:

To provide sufficient parks and recreation areas to meet the needs of the people of the county.

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The size of a county park should be a minimum of 100 acres. Facilities vary by park. Some parks offer active recreation (camping, recreational trails, etc.), while others provide passive recreation (scenic lookouts, picnic areas, beaches, etc.). Most parks provide both active and passive recreation. County parks provide for a regional user group and serve primarily county residents, through special facilities also serve tourists and visitors to the county.

State Forest

1. Definition Summary:

A state forest consists of well blocked areas of state owned lands that are managed to benefit present and future generations of residents, recognizing that forests contribute to local and statewide economics and to a healthy natural environment. State forests practice sustainable forestry. The management of state forests is consistent with the ecological capability of state forest land and with the long-term goal of maintaining sustainable forest communities and ecosystems. Benefits of maintaining these ecosystems include soil protection, public hunting, protection of water quality, production of recurring forest products, outdoor recreation, native biological

diversity, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and aesthetic value. The range of benefits provided in each state forest reflect its unique character and position in the regional landscape.

2. Size Objectives:

Typically between 1,000 and 250,000 acres, but can be larger or smaller.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally a 100 mile radius. State forests typically provide close-to-home recreational area. Day users typically travel approximately 50 miles one-way to reach state forests, while overnight users tend to travel further, approximately 100-150 miles one-way. Travel to state forests can, however, exceed 160 miles for longer vacation stays and travel to "destination areas."

4. Location Objectives:

Areas with large blocks of land.

5. Program Objectives:

State forests must meet ecological, economic, social, and cultural needs. Elements are compatible with the natural resource setting and park site constraints. Facilities may include the following:

Current Level of Supply:

Hiking trails	1,256 acres per linear mile of trail
Cross-country ski trails	2,551 acres per linear mile of trail
Snowmobile trails	639 acres per linear mile of trail
Equestrian trails	559 acres per linear mile of trail
ATV trails	1,795 acres per linear mile of trail
Camping sites	1 campsite per 265 acres

6. Orientation:

Multi-purpose service area and regional recreation resource serving a significant portion of a state or regional population.

7. Function:

To provide for nature conservation, provide income to forest owners, supply raw materials to the wood processing industry, and provide public recreation.

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The size of a state forest is determined by the extent of the area's natural resources and

recreation capabilities. There is no minimum or maximum size for a state forest. Facilities are not universal and vary by forest. The geographic location of the forest and the natural resources present dictate recreation available at the site. State forests serve large geographic areas of a state or region.

State Park

1. Definition Summary:

A state park, by size, program, and location, provides space for outdoor recreation and education about nature and conservation. These parks serve a significant geographic segment of a state or regional population. State parks aim to preserve, protect, interpret and enhance the scenic and cultural resources of the state.

2. Size Objectives:

Parks must be large enough to accommodate a reasonable mix of outdoor recreational activities. Typically, parks are between 500 and 3000 acres, but can be smaller (<20 acres) or larger (>10,000 acres).

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally a 100-mile radius. State parks typically provide close-to-home recreational areas. Day users generally travel approximately 50 miles one-way to reach state parks, while overnight users tend to travel further, approximately 100-150 miles one-way. Travel distances to state parks can often exceed 160 miles for longer vacation stays and trips to "destination areas."

4. Location Objectives:

Siting of Wisconsin State Parks is typically based on five criteria developed by John Nolen. These criteria are: 1) large size to serve a large number of citizens, 2) accessibility to major population areas, 3) a healthful, natural setting, 4) reasonable cost for land acquisition, 5) land possessing "decidedly uncommon charm and beauty." All, or a combination of these criteria are used to determine where to site a state park.

5. Program Objectives:

Elements that fulfill the service area, park facilities and recreation program demands.

Elements are compatible with the natural resource setting and park site constraints. Developments may include the following facilities:

Current Level of Supply:

Hiking trails	196 acres per linear mile of trail
Surfaced bicycle trails	860 acres per linear mile of trail
Mountain bike trails	549 acres per linear mile of trail
Nature trails	1,871 acres per liner mile of trail
Cross-country ski trails	430 acres per linear mile of trail
Snowmobile trails	426 acres per linear mile of trail
Equestrian trails	400 acres per linear mile of trail
Picnic sites	0.05 acres per picnic table
Camping sites	1 campsite per 29 acres
Parking stalls	Year-Round = 1 stall for every three visitors
Swimming beaches	17 linear feet per 1,000 users

5. Orientation:

Multi-purpose service area and regional recreation resource serving a significant portion of a state or regional population.

6. Function:

To provide for public recreation and education of conservation and nature study. To preserve, protect, interpret and enhance the scenic and cultural resources of the state.

7. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The size of a state park is determined by the extent of the area's natural resources and recreation capabilities. There is no minimum or maximum size for a state park. Facilities are not universal and vary by park. Some parks offer active recreation (camping, boating, mountain biking trails, hunting etc.), while others offer passive recreation (scenic lookouts, picnic areas, beaches, etc.). Most provide both active and passive recreation. The geographic area and the natural resources present dictate recreation uses and facilities present in the park. State parks serve large geographic areas of a state or region.

ATTACHMENT B

Facility Design Standards

From: National Recreation and Park Association

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS				
Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes
Badminton	Singles--17' x 44' Doubles-20' x 44' with 5' unobstructed area on both sides	1622 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	¼ - ½ mile. Usually in school recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking or biking access.
Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	46' - 50' x 84' 50' x 84' 50' x 94' with 5' unobstructed space all sides.	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	¼ - ½ mile. Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood/community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Handball (3-4 wall)	20' x 40' with a minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance.	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall, 1000 sq. ft. for 3-wall.	Long axis is north - south. Front wall at north end.	15 - 30 min. travel time, 4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose building. 3-2 all usually in park or school setting.
Ice Hockey	Rink 85' x 200' (Min. 85' x 185') Additional 5000 22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	Long axis is north - south if outdoors.	½ - 1 hour travel time. Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multipurpose facility.
Tennis	36' x 78'. 12 ft. clearance on both ends.	Min. of 7,200 sq. ft. single court area (2 acres per complex)	Long axis north - south	¼ - ½ mile. Best in batteries of 2 - 4. Located in neighborhood/community park or near school site.
Volleyball	30' x 60'. Minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 4,000 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	½ - 1 mile.
Baseball 1. Official 2. Little League	Baselines - 90' Pitching distance-60.5' Foul lines - min. 320' Center field - 400'+ Baselines - 60' Pitching distance - 46' Foul lines - 200' Center field - 200' - 250'	3.0 - 3.85 A min. 1.2 A min.	Locate home plate so pitcher is not throwing across sun, and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound to run east-northeast.	¼ - ½ mile. Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
Field Hockey	180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 1.5 A	Fall season - Long axis northwest or southeast. For longer periods, north/south	15 - 30 minute travel time. Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Football	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 1.5 A	Same as field hockey.	15 - 30 min. travel time. Same as field hockey.
Soccer	195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with 10' minimum clearance on all sides.	1.7 - 2.1 A	Same as field hockey.	1 - 2 miles. Number of units depends on popularity. Youth popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to fields or neighborhood parks.
Golf - Driving Range	900' x 690' wide. Add 12' width each additional tee.	13.5 A for min. of 25 tees.	Long axis is southwest - northeast with golfer driving northeast.	30 minute travel time. Park of golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately operated.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (continued)				
Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes
¼ mile running track	Over-all width - 276' length - 600'. Track width for 8 - 4 lanes is 32'.	4.3 A	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest - southeast, with finish line at north end.	15 - 30 minute travel time. Usually part of a high school or community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
Softball	Baselines - 60' pitching distance - 45' men. 40' women Fast pitch field radius from plate - 225' Slow pitch - 275' (men) 250' (women)	1.5 - 2.0 A	Same as baseball. indimensions for 16".	¼ - ½ mile. Slight difference. May also be used for youth baseball.
Multiple use court (basketball, tennis, etc.)	120' x 80'	9,840 sq. ft.	Long axis of court with primary use north and south.	1 - 2 miles, in neighborhood or community parks.
Archery range	300' length x minimum 10' between targets. Roped, clear area on side of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90' x 45' with bunker.	Minimum 0.65 A	Archer facing north + or - 45 degrees.	30 minutes travel time. Part of a regional/metro complex.
Golf 1. Par 3 (18 hole) 2. 9-hole standard 3. 18-hole standard	Average length varies -600 - 2700 yards. Average length 2250 yards Average length 6500 yards.	50 - 60 A Minimum of 50 A Minimum 110 yards	Majority of holes on north/south axis	½ - 1 hour travel time 9-hole course can accommodate 350 people/day 500 - 550 people/day. Course may be located in community, district or regional/metro park.
Swimming pools	Teaching - min. 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3-4 ft. Competitive - min. 25 m x 16 m. Min. of 25 sq. ft. water surface per swimmer. Ration of 2 to 1 deck to water.	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually 1 - 2 A sites.	None, but care must be taken in siting life stations in relation to afternoon sun.	15 to 30 minutes travel time. Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching competitive and recreational purposes with enough to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
Beach areas	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sa. ft . of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be a 3-4 A supporting area per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	½ to 1 hour travel time. Should have a sand bottom with a maximum slope of 5%. Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas. In regional/metro parks.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

ATTACHMENT C

Federal & State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

DNR Community Services Specialist
Rhineland Office
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland WI 54501

Acquisition of Development Rights (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: Helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Eligibility & Purpose: Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

ATV Enhancement

Eligibility & Purpose: Annual grant to a non-profit organization that promotes the safe and wise use of ATVs, ATV riding, and ATV education.
Maximum Grant Amount: \$297,000 per year
Match Requirement: none

ATV Patrols

Eligibility & Purpose: Issued to Wisconsin county sheriff departments that participate in ATV enforcement efforts.
Maximum Grant Amount: \$495,000, shared with all participating patrols
Match Requirement: none

ATV Trails

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties, towns, cities, villages, and tribes can apply for funds to acquire, insure, develop, and maintain ATV trails, areas, and routes.
Maximum Grant Amount: none
Match Requirement: none

Boat Enforcement Patrol

Eligibility & Purpose: Issued to Wisconsin counties and municipalities that participate in boating enforcement efforts.
Maximum Grant Amount: \$1.2 million - \$1.4 million, shared with all participating patrols up to 75 percent reimbursement
Match Requirement: none

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program

Eligibility & Purpose: Tier 1 is designated for smaller projects that add transient boating infrastructure to the area. Tier 2 is awarded to larger projects, and are competitively judged at the national level.

Maximum Grant Amount: Tier 1 – up to \$100,000 per state; Tier 2 – varies depending on national competition and other factors. Awarded projects are fully funded as long as funds are available.

Match Requirement: 25 percent

Conservation Capacity: Ice Age Trail

Eligibility & Purpose: This two-year grant is awarded to an organization that supports the development, maintenance, protection, and promotion of the Ice Age Trail.

Maximum Grant Amount: \$74,200 per year

Match Requirement: \$25,000 per year

Conservation Capacity: Urban Land Conservation

Eligibility & Purpose: This two-year grant is awarded to an organization that builds the capacity of urban conservation in the state. The grant is defined in statute to support urban forest protection, water resource enhancement, or other urban open space objectives. Eligible applicants must be 501(c)(3) organizations.

Maximum Grant Amount: \$74,200 per year

Match Requirement: \$25,000 per year

County Conservation Aids

Eligibility & Purpose: To provide counties and tribal governing bodies with financial assistance to enhance fish and wildlife programs.

Maximum Grant Amount: Allocated per county

Match Requirement: 50 percent

County Forest Acquisition (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: This program is meant to expand nature-based recreational opportunities by adding lands in the county forest system. This grant is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

Friends of State Lands (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: Grants from this program help improve facilities, build new recreation projects, and restore habitat on state properties. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Habitat Area (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: Protects and restores important wildlife habitat in Wisconsin in order to expand opportunities for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, trapping, hiking, bird watching, fishing, nature appreciation, and wildlife viewing. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – State Program

Eligibility & Purpose: This is a Federal program administered in all states that encourages creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the DNR for this program are split between DNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities.

Match Requirement: 50 percent

Motorized Stewardship Grants

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants may be used by counties, towns, cities, villages, and tribes for new bridges on existing funded trails, major bridge reconstruction/rehabilitation and rehabilitation of funded trails.

Match Requirement: 20 percent

Recreational Boating Facilities

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants may be used by counties, towns, cities, villages, tribes, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations for recreational boating facility projects.

Match Requirement: 50 percent

Recreational Trail Aids (RTA)

Eligibility & Purpose: Municipal governments and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed up to 50 percent of total project costs. This program may be used in conjunction with the state snowmobile or ATV programs and Stewardship development projects.

Maximum Grant Amount: \$45,000 (\$200,000 every third calendar year)

Match Requirement: 50 percent

Shooting Range Grant Program

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties, cities, villages, townships, other governmental agencies or units, clubs or organizations, businesses or corporations, and educational institutions can apply for assistance in outdoor shooting range construction, including: backstops and berms, target holders, shooting benches, baffles, protective fencing, signs, trenches, gun racks, platforms, restrooms, and other items considered essential for the project by the department. Indoor ranges may be eligible as well, including classroom, storage, and restroom facilities.

Match Requirement: 50 percent

Snowmobile Patrols

Eligibility & Purpose: Wisconsin county sheriff departments that participate in snowmobile enforcement efforts

Maximum Grant Amount: \$396,000, shared with all participating patrols

Match Requirement: none

Snowmobile Trail Aids

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties and tribes can apply for funding to provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment.

Sport Fish Restoration (SFR)

Eligibility & Purpose: Used to construct fishing piers and motorboat access projects.

Match Requirement: 50 percent

State Trails (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: Applications for grants under this subprogram must be for properties identified as part of the State Trail system. It is possible for sponsors to nominate additional trails for the state trail designation. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Urban Green Space (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants help buy land or easements in urban areas to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Urban Rivers (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants help buy land on rivers flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

UTV Trail Aids

Eligibility & Purpose: This is a companion to the ATV Trail Aids. Counties, towns, cities, villages, and tribes can apply for funds for maintenance for trails, minor development, gates, and signing.

Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs

Bike & Ped Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program

Purpose: Funds projects that construct or plan for bicycle or bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

Hazard Elimination Program

Purpose: Bicycle and pedestrian projects are now eligible for this program. This program focuses on projects intended for locations that should have a documented history of previous crashes.

Incidental Improvements

Purpose: Bicycle and pedestrian projects are broadly eligible for funding from most of the major federal-aid programs. One of the most cost-effective ways of accommodating

bicycle and pedestrian accommodations is to incorporate them as part of larger reconstruction, new construction and some repaving projects. Generally, the same source of funding can be used for the bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as is used for the larger highway improvement, if the bike/pedestrian accommodation is “incidental” in scope and cost to the overall project. Overall, most bicycle and pedestrian accommodations within the state are made as incidental improvements.

Local Transportation Enhancements (TE)

Purpose: Funds projects to increase multi-modal transportation alternatives and enhance communities and the environment. Projects include bicycle or pedestrian facilities, landscaping or streetscaping, and the preservation of historic transportation structures.

National Scenic Byways Program

Purpose: The National Scenic Byways Program provides grants to States and Indian tribes to implement projects on highways designated as National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads, America’s Byways, State scenic or Indian tribe scenic byways. Eligible activities include planning, development, or implementation of a corridor management plan, safety improvements to accommodate byway travelers, facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, rest areas, turnouts, highways shoulder improvements, overlooks, or interpretive facilities, access to recreation enhancements, resource protection, tourist information, and byway marketing.

Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in the Parks Program

Purpose: The program aims to enhance the protection of national parks and public lands and increase the enjoyment of those visiting them, by providing funds to support public transportation projects in parks and public lands. Non-motorized transportation systems such as facilities for pedestrians, bicycles, and non-motorized watercraft are also eligible.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Purpose: Safe Routes to School programs encourage children in grades K-8 to walk and bike to school by creating safer walking and biking routes. Projects must be within 2 miles of a school that has a SRTS plan, and funding requires a 20% match.

Surface Transportation Program (STP)

Purpose: These funds may be used for public transportation capital improvements, car and vanpool projects, fringe and corridor parking facilities, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and intercity or intracity bus terminals and bus facilities.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Purpose: The Transportation Alternatives Program allocates federal funds to transportation improvement projects that “expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life, and protect the environment.”

Federal Assistance Programs

All other federal programs are listed under Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs.

Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) – National Park Service

Purpose: The Challenge Cost Share Program supports local projects that promote conservation and recreation, environmental stewardship, education and engaging diverse youth participants. Local project partners work with National Park Service parks and programs to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. NPS administered parks and programs are eligible such as National Trails, Heritage Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.,

One-third of the CCSP pot is earmarked for National Trails System Projects. Thus supporting work under the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241-51), such as: National Scenic and Historic trails, National Scenic and Historic Trails in parks, National Recreation Trails, and rail-trail projects.

For additional information about this program and the application process, please contact the CCSP Program Coordinators for Wisconsin:

CCSP Program Coordinators
National Park Service
700 Rayovac Dr., Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program – National Park Service

Purpose: The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. The national network of conservation and recreation planning professionals partner with community groups, nonprofits, tribes, and state and local governments to design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreation opportunities.

ATTACHMENT D

Outdoor Recreation Online Survey Results

Compiled by: NCWRPC

City of Merrill 2017 ORP Survey

Response Summary

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

[SUMMARY](#) → [DESIGN SURVEY](#) → [COLLECT RESPONSES](#) → [ANALYZE RESULTS](#)

Survey Design

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey
Created on 5/4/2017

51 QUESTIONS | **16** PAGES

Survey language: **English**

Theme: **Rhineland**

No logo added ⓘ

No logic added ⓘ

[EDIT DESIGN](#)

[PREVIEW SURVEY](#)

Responses and Status

TOTAL RESPONSES: **289**

OVERALL SURVEY STATUS: **CLOSED**

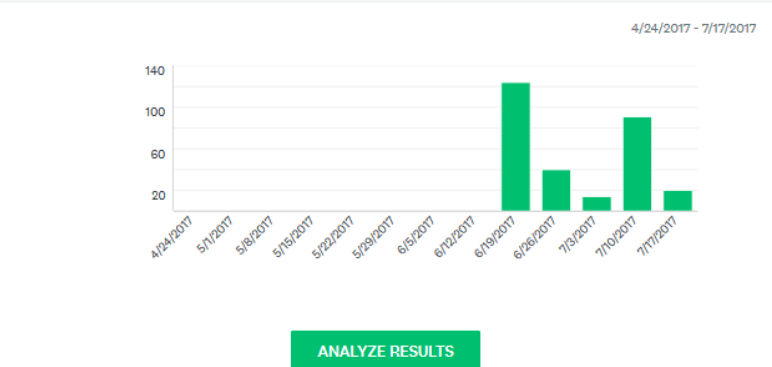
RESPONSE ALERTS: You don't get them. [Manage Alerts](#)

Collectors

CLOSED
Foto News
Created: 6/16/2017
20 RESPONSES COLLECTED

CLOSED
Social Merrill
Created: 5/19/2017
269 RESPONSES COLLECTED

Responses Volume



2017 Merrill Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP) Survey Results Summary

The City of Merrill advertised the survey link on their Facebook page twice, which is where most of the responses came from. The survey link was also advertised in the Merrill Foto News; and was posted on the City's website, and the Merrill Park's website.

We received 289 responses to the Survey. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had slightly smaller response groups.

There were 206 respondents who shared the intersection that was closest to their house. A map of these respondent's intersections shows that all neighborhoods in Merrill were represented. See Q37.

Through an IP address analysis of who took the survey it appears that only 13 IP addresses are at least duplicated, which could mean that someone took it twice. By cross-tabulating these duplicate IP address' responses with the question asking for the nearest intersection to their house, the results show that most of these duplicates could be people taking the survey at work. Only two of these duplicates showed the same street intersection, and neither intersection was typed the same. So it appears that nobody "stuffed the ballot box."

About 2/3rds of the respondents were female (66.4% female, 33.6% male). Respondents came from all age groups, with a strong showing of over 17% in all age groups except "younger than 25," which had less than 3% of all respondents.

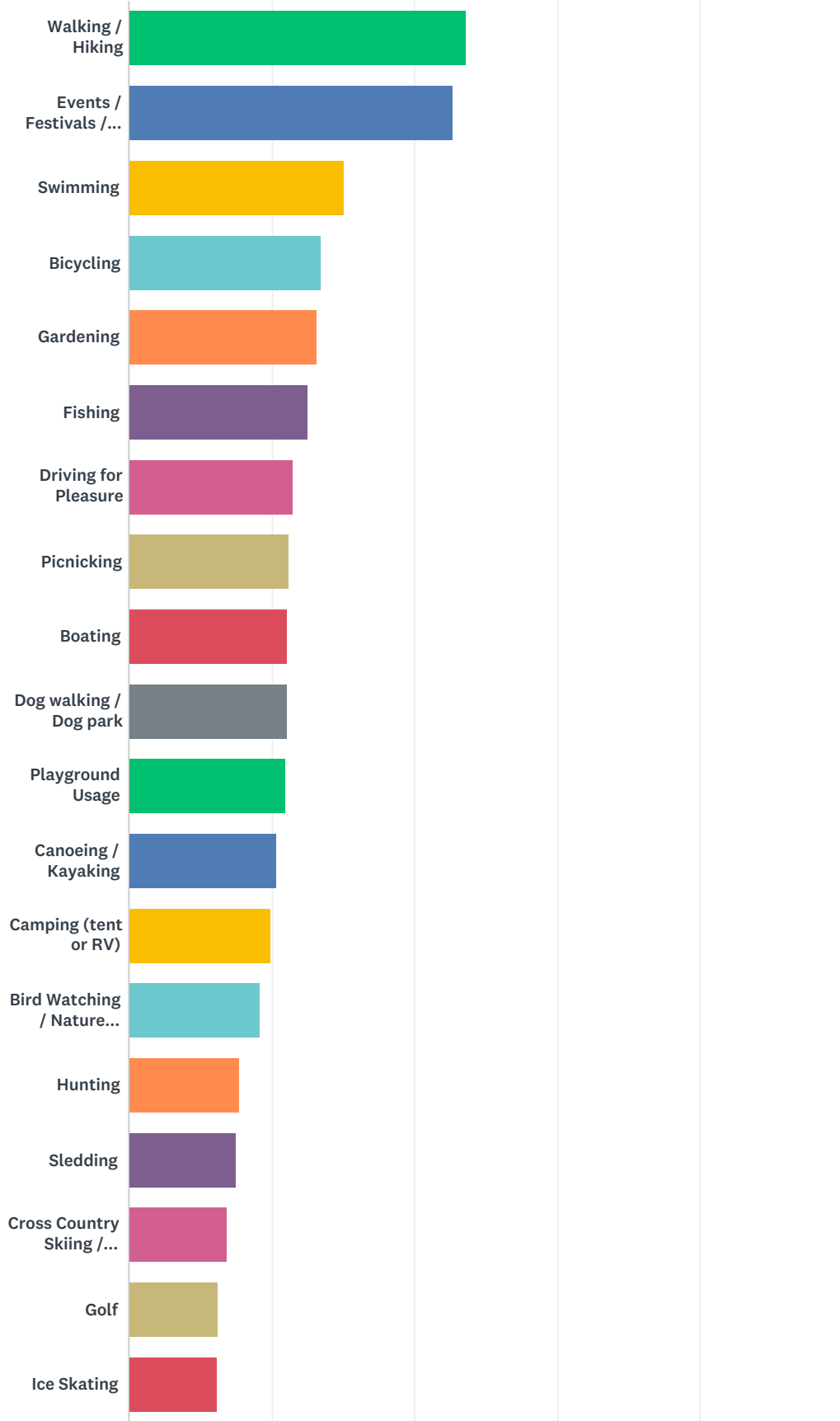
Key Findings of the ORP Survey:

- **(Q1)** The top recreational activities, in order, that respondents participated in during 2016 are:
 1. Walking/hiking 82%
 2. Events / Festivals / Fairs 79%
 3. Swimming 52%
 4. Bicycling 47%
 5. Gardening 46%
 6. Fishing 44%
- **Q2** What potential outdoor recreational opportunities should be developed in the Merrill area?
 - More Walking/Biking trails (either and both included) 71 responses
 - Improve/create new skate park 36 responses
 - Improve kayaking (provide rentals – 4) 20 total responses
 - Create/improve disk golf 19 responses
 - Establish a dog park 14 responses
 - Provide cross-country skiing/snowshoe trails 13 responses

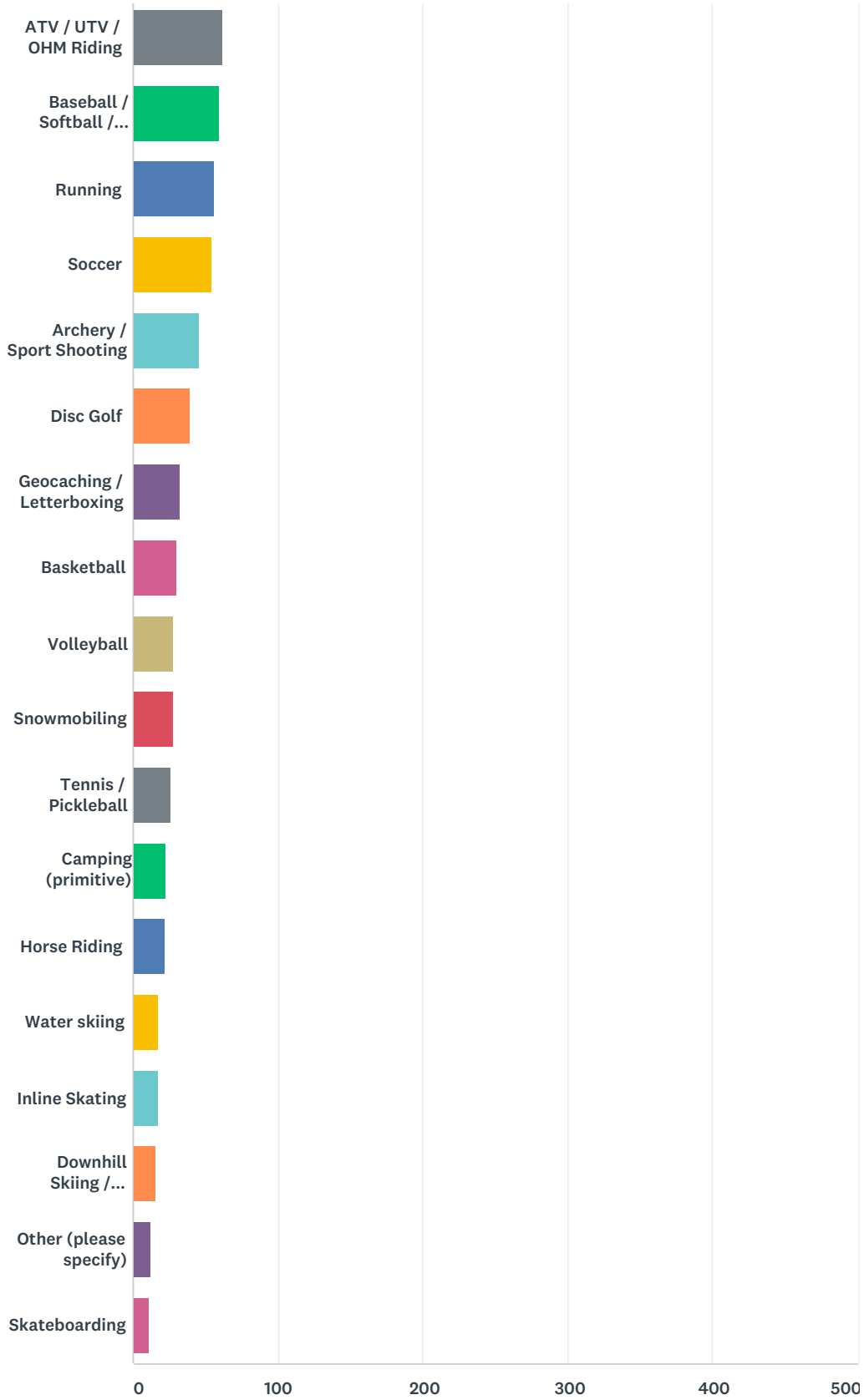


Q1 Which recreational activities did you participate in during 2016? (Choose all that apply.)

Answered: 289 Skipped: 0



City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey



Answer Choices	Responses
Walking / Hiking	81.66% 236
Events / Festivals / Fairs	78.55% 227

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

Swimming	52.25%	151
Bicycling	46.71%	135
Gardening	45.67%	132
Fishing	43.60%	126
Driving for Pleasure	39.79%	115
Picnicking	38.75%	112
Boating	38.41%	111
Dog walking / Dog park	38.41%	111
Playground Usage	38.06%	110
Canoeing / Kayaking	35.99%	104
Camping (tent or RV)	34.26%	99
Bird Watching / Nature Viewing	31.83%	92
Hunting	26.64%	77
Sledding	25.95%	75
Cross Country Skiing / Snowshoeing	23.88%	69
Golf	21.80%	63
Ice Skating	21.45%	62
ATV / UTV / OHM Riding	21.45%	62
Baseball / Softball / T-ball	20.76%	60
Running	19.72%	57
Soccer	18.69%	54
Archery / Sport Shooting	15.92%	46
Disc Golf	13.84%	40
Geocaching / Letterboxing	11.07%	32
Basketball	10.38%	30
Volleyball	9.69%	28
Snowmobiling	9.69%	28
Tennis / Pickleball	9.00%	26
Camping (primitive)	7.96%	23
Horse Riding	7.61%	22
Water skiing	6.23%	18
Inline Skating	6.23%	18
Downhill Skiing / Snowboarding	5.54%	16
Other (please specify)	4.50%	13
Skateboarding	4.15%	12

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

Total Respondents: 289

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Do not like new pool style or location. Miss the old pool. We did family pass every summer there. Wasted our money on it last year, my kids don't even like it!	7/19/2017 8:45 PM
2	Rodeo	7/16/2017 9:04 AM
3	U	7/15/2017 1:17 PM
4	Sitting at Council Grounds State Park reading a book	7/14/2017 11:16 AM
5	None.	7/13/2017 4:50 PM
6	Roller skating rink would be wonderful for the winter months/birthday parties	7/13/2017 1:47 PM
7	Bocce Ball, Foot Golf.	7/11/2017 1:25 PM
8	Foot Golf, Bocce Ball.	7/11/2017 1:18 PM
9	Would have done more but was ill most of summer.	7/10/2017 7:01 PM
10	climbing	7/2/2017 8:42 PM
11	playground for the handicap	6/22/2017 5:30 AM
12	None	6/19/2017 3:16 PM
13	I	6/19/2017 2:44 PM

Q2 What potential outdoor recreational opportunities should be developed in the Merrill area?

Answered: 164 Skipped: 125

Answer Choices	Responses	
1.	100.00%	164
2.	68.90%	113
3.	49.39%	81

#	1.	Date
1	Maintain & improve dog park	7/21/2017 6:27 PM
2	Dog park	7/19/2017 10:20 PM
3	Bike/walking trail	7/19/2017 10:10 PM
4	Improvements to the Dog Park	7/19/2017 10:08 PM
5	Renaissance Festival	7/19/2017 10:00 PM
6	The Merrill Dog park	7/19/2017 9:42 PM
7	A dog park IN the city...old empty lot, fairgrounds, Prarie River, somewhere with water, bathrooms, easy access	7/19/2017 9:10 PM
8	Put a dog park in the city	7/19/2017 8:45 PM
9	Tubing	7/18/2017 9:55 AM
10	MOVE SKATE PARK INTO STREETER SQUARE.	7/17/2017 11:36 AM
11	Skateboarding park	7/17/2017 9:58 AM
12	Geo caching	7/16/2017 6:29 PM
13	winter festival (outdoor)	7/16/2017 1:58 PM
14	More horse back riding trails or large organized ride could bring in lots of money	7/16/2017 1:01 PM
15	new skateboard park	7/16/2017 7:33 AM
16	expand/improve walking trails	7/15/2017 9:48 PM
17	continue to develop bike trails	7/15/2017 9:47 PM
18	Walking/hiiing trails	7/15/2017 9:27 PM
19	Water usage boating	7/15/2017 9:26 PM
20	More bike routs	7/15/2017 8:25 PM
21	More nature trails	7/15/2017 5:47 PM
22	bicycle trails	7/15/2017 5:39 PM
23	Outdoor kids events	7/15/2017 4:49 PM
24	Fitness trail (Council Grounds used to have one)	7/15/2017 4:11 PM
25	Something for kids in winter....	7/15/2017 3:49 PM
26	Disc golf (frisbee)	7/15/2017 3:21 PM
27	More running/walking trails	7/15/2017 2:18 PM
28	Bicycle trails	7/15/2017 2:06 PM
29	Bicycle trails	7/15/2017 2:04 PM
30	Continued expansion of the river bend trail	7/15/2017 1:17 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

31	LOVE the music at the gazebo, please work with organizations to allow this to continue!	7/15/2017 12:54 PM
32	Snowmobiling	7/15/2017 10:50 AM
33	Add roof to grandstand	7/15/2017 10:45 AM
34	I'd like to see the disc golf courses expand.	7/15/2017 10:42 AM
35	Playground more suitable for young children (1-3)	7/15/2017 10:33 AM
36	Bar & restaurant with outdoor seating along the water	7/14/2017 11:16 AM
37	Outdoor movie theater	7/13/2017 6:13 PM
38	Roller skate	7/13/2017 5:57 PM
39	Updated skatepark at new location	7/13/2017 5:20 PM
40	Pickleball	7/13/2017 4:08 PM
41	Roller rink	7/13/2017 1:47 PM
42	Lions hill.	7/13/2017 1:29 PM
43	Community days and Forrest Hills	7/13/2017 9:43 AM
44	Picked ball	7/13/2017 8:15 AM
45	Splash pad	7/13/2017 6:28 AM
46	Rethink/redesign the skate board park ,the fence looks terrible and the tennis court never seems to be used next to it.Work at updating it and make a couple of small versions of a skate board park in other areas.Ask for community suggestions.	7/12/2017 11:10 PM
47	Small play ground with equipment for younger youth	7/12/2017 9:54 PM
48	Hiking Trail development	7/12/2017 7:35 PM
49	More horse friendly trails	7/12/2017 5:03 PM
50	More safe access to fishing for children and disabled individual's	7/12/2017 3:31 PM
51	Better skateboard park for kids	7/12/2017 3:28 PM
52	Dog Park	7/12/2017 2:59 PM
53	Further extension of bike/walk trail	7/12/2017 1:50 PM
54	more disc golf	7/12/2017 1:13 PM
55	down hill skiing	7/12/2017 12:44 PM
56	An actual 18 hole disc golf course (pay to play) near Council Grounds State Park, that can host PDGA sanctioned tournaments.	7/11/2017 8:54 PM
57	Better dog park	7/11/2017 4:55 PM
58	Paintballing	7/11/2017 2:25 PM
59	Bocce Ball	7/11/2017 1:25 PM
60	Bocce Ball	7/11/2017 1:18 PM
61	Bocce ball court	7/11/2017 12:29 AM
62	canoe to Brokaw	7/10/2017 7:01 PM
63	new skate board park	7/10/2017 10:11 AM
64	Geocaching	7/10/2017 10:11 AM
65	Enhanced skateboarding	7/7/2017 11:48 AM
66	Camping	7/6/2017 10:23 PM
67	Continue the River Bend Trail advertise to visitors at the council grounds sign the trail at the exit of the council grounds	7/6/2017 9:31 PM
68	Bike trails	7/6/2017 8:16 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

69	Hiking /Biking	7/6/2017 12:25 AM
70	Extend bike and pedestrian trails	7/5/2017 11:03 PM
71	Skate Board Park	7/5/2017 2:29 PM
72	New skateboard facility	7/4/2017 7:04 PM
73	Canoe landing at Stange's Park	7/3/2017 8:00 AM
74	river bend trail	7/3/2017 6:44 AM
75	hiking trails	7/2/2017 8:42 PM
76	Bigger skate and bike park.	7/2/2017 9:39 AM
77	A slash pad for little ones and disabled individuals.	7/2/2017 9:26 AM
78	More ATV/UTV trails and trail access	7/2/2017 8:41 AM
79	Skateboarding	7/2/2017 8:30 AM
80	More trails/access ATV/UTV	7/2/2017 8:30 AM
81	Hiking trails	7/1/2017 7:27 PM
82	More walking/hiking/biking trails	6/30/2017 12:43 PM
83	we've a pretty good variety right now	6/30/2017 10:53 AM
84	Nicer skate park	6/29/2017 9:18 PM
85	skate park	6/29/2017 5:53 PM
86	expand bike/hiking trail	6/29/2017 4:43 PM
87	Off road walking/biking trails to connect parks and schools.	6/29/2017 2:43 PM
88	Continued development of riverbend trail	6/29/2017 2:34 PM
89	tubing/kayaking down the Prairie or Wisconsin Rivers	6/29/2017 1:20 PM
90	More bike and walking trails that will connect throughout the city of Merrill	6/29/2017 1:10 PM
91	Additions to the River Bend Trail/Prairie River Trails	6/29/2017 9:14 AM
92	More bike trails	6/28/2017 10:23 PM
93	Far better skate park	6/28/2017 11:47 AM
94	Expansion of the River Bend Trail	6/28/2017 6:59 AM
95	Updated playgrounds	6/27/2017 4:19 PM
96	Expand the River Bend Trail to the MARC	6/27/2017 1:23 PM
97	More bike/walking trail that connects around the city. ie Green Circle.	6/26/2017 8:07 PM
98	More trails	6/26/2017 1:06 PM
99	upgrde the skate park	6/25/2017 8:56 PM
100	Disc Golf courses #1 finish what is started and consider one near or with the state park entrance	6/24/2017 6:14 PM
101	resurface the tennis courts at Stange's Park	6/23/2017 2:54 PM
102	pickleball	6/23/2017 12:17 PM
103	Kayaking routes	6/23/2017 10:26 AM
104	Free swimming	6/22/2017 11:13 PM
105	Bike trails	6/22/2017 6:48 PM
106	Music festivals	6/22/2017 4:44 PM
107	none	6/22/2017 3:06 PM
108	Corn Hole tournaments	6/22/2017 11:53 AM
109	Snow mobile & RV trails	6/22/2017 11:21 AM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

110	Regional Skate/Bike park	6/22/2017 9:52 AM
111	Regional Skate park	6/22/2017 9:51 AM
112	continuation on the River Bend Trail	6/22/2017 7:38 AM
113	more activitiessports for the disabled & elderly	6/22/2017 5:30 AM
114	Additional running trails	6/21/2017 6:03 PM
115	More events, festivals, fairs (things for young people with small children to do)	6/21/2017 5:19 PM
116	Walking paths	6/21/2017 1:12 PM
117	BMX track/Skate park	6/21/2017 10:59 AM
118	Skateboard park	6/20/2017 11:48 PM
119	fishing tournaments	6/20/2017 8:30 PM
120	Batting cages	6/20/2017 8:28 AM
121	all parks should be dog parks as well	6/20/2017 6:49 AM
122	More easy access fishing spots along the river	6/20/2017 5:51 AM
123	Disc golf	6/20/2017 2:43 AM
124	Country music events that will bring people to merrill	6/19/2017 10:29 PM
125	Handicapped fishing piers	6/19/2017 10:11 PM
126	More bike/ than asking trails	6/19/2017 10:10 PM
127	More indoor recreation for winter	6/19/2017 10:09 PM
128	Playground at center park	6/19/2017 10:04 PM
129	More toddler activities	6/19/2017 9:54 PM
130	Biking routes/ lanes leading into the city from country	6/19/2017 9:46 PM
131	Better skateboard park for youth. MARC is a good location.	6/19/2017 9:30 PM
132	Cycling	6/19/2017 7:26 PM
133	New skate park, new location	6/19/2017 6:57 PM
134	Update little league fields	6/19/2017 6:42 PM
135	Disc Golf	6/19/2017 6:35 PM
136	Kayaking/canoeing	6/19/2017 6:09 PM
137	Outfitter on the wi river to rent kayaks, sup boards etc	6/19/2017 5:48 PM
138	Skate park	6/19/2017 5:45 PM
139	Better Skatepark	6/19/2017 5:32 PM
140	More walking trails (like the river bend trail)	6/19/2017 5:25 PM
141	More campgrounds?	6/19/2017 5:18 PM
142	Disc Golf	6/19/2017 5:06 PM
143	Paintball	6/19/2017 4:46 PM
144	cross country ski trails	6/19/2017 4:46 PM
145	New skatepark	6/19/2017 4:42 PM
146	Championship disc golf course	6/19/2017 4:26 PM
147	More inexpensive family activities	6/19/2017 4:00 PM
148	Splash pad	6/19/2017 3:16 PM
149	Family fishing derbis	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
150	Lacrosse	6/19/2017 2:29 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

151	Mini golf	6/19/2017 2:11 PM
152	weekend events with music like Riverfest	6/19/2017 2:08 PM
153	more cross-country skiing trails	6/19/2017 2:06 PM
154	BICYCLING!!!	6/19/2017 2:03 PM
155	Skateboarding	6/19/2017 2:01 PM
156	Paved bike trail on Hwy 107 out of Merrill that goes all the way to Tomahawk.	6/19/2017 1:58 PM
157	Skateboard park	6/19/2017 1:56 PM
158	skateboard park	6/19/2017 1:55 PM
159	Better surfaces/trails for inline skating	6/19/2017 1:48 PM
160	A bike path up pier street	6/19/2017 1:48 PM
161	Snowshoeing/Crosscountry skiing	6/19/2017 1:45 PM
162	Unsure	6/19/2017 1:36 PM
163	Cycling	6/19/2017 1:33 PM
164	Splah pad	6/19/2017 1:30 PM
#	2.	Date
1	Add improvements to skate park	7/21/2017 6:27 PM
2	Campground	7/19/2017 10:20 PM
3	X country ski/snowshoe	7/19/2017 10:10 PM
4	Playground geared towards children with physical/developmental issues	7/19/2017 10:08 PM
5	Harvest Festival	7/19/2017 10:00 PM
6	The Merril dog park	7/19/2017 9:42 PM
7	Improve the existing dog park. Closer park, water, shelter from sun and wind, bathrooms, agility equipment, etc	7/19/2017 9:10 PM
8	Improve the existing dog park, agility equipment, water, shade, shelter from weather	7/19/2017 8:45 PM
9	MAKE A BIGGER BASKETBALL COURT ON STREETER SQUARE	7/17/2017 11:36 AM
10	Put dock back in at Otts park	7/17/2017 9:58 AM
11	Kayaking	7/16/2017 6:29 PM
12	Dog splash day	7/16/2017 1:01 PM
13	continue to improve & extend Riverbend trail to Marc & East	7/16/2017 7:33 AM
14	continue to develop walking trails	7/15/2017 9:47 PM
15	Bathrooms at stanges	7/15/2017 8:25 PM
16	Kayaking club	7/15/2017 5:47 PM
17	"Date nighT" events	7/15/2017 4:49 PM
18	Cart rides on River Bend for elderly	7/15/2017 4:11 PM
19	More places open/advertised to walk indoors in winter	7/15/2017 3:49 PM
20	Develop where the old pool is at stange park	7/15/2017 2:18 PM
21	Bicycle lanes	7/15/2017 2:06 PM
22	Events that bring the community together	7/15/2017 1:17 PM
23	Allow Merrill Riders Club affordable access to arena	7/15/2017 12:54 PM
24	Move 4th of July back to fairgrounds	7/15/2017 10:45 AM
25	concerts all year round indoors and outdoors	7/13/2017 6:13 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

26	Skate park	7/13/2017 5:57 PM
27	new tennis courts	7/13/2017 5:20 PM
28	Renting boats or water skiing/tubing	7/13/2017 1:47 PM
29	Empty space right across from factory on mill St.	7/13/2017 1:29 PM
30	Star gazing talks	7/13/2017 9:43 AM
31	Zip line	7/13/2017 6:28 AM
32	Partner more with the river bend trail	7/12/2017 11:10 PM
33	Climbing opportunities	7/12/2017 7:35 PM
34	Continue Riverbend trail	7/12/2017 3:28 PM
35	Walking club	7/12/2017 1:50 PM
36	Actual concerts in the park at Normal Park. Not just the city band, but acoustic musicians and other Wisconsin bands.	7/11/2017 8:54 PM
37	More fall festivals	7/11/2017 4:55 PM
38	Foot Golf	7/11/2017 1:25 PM
39	Foot Golf	7/11/2017 1:18 PM
40	Fitness trail	7/11/2017 12:29 AM
41	swings in shaded areas on trails	7/10/2017 7:01 PM
42	Scavenger hunts	7/10/2017 10:11 AM
43	Prairie River Trail development	7/7/2017 11:48 AM
44	Hiking	7/6/2017 10:23 PM
45	Continue the RBT to prairie trails and Tomahawk and Wausau	7/6/2017 9:31 PM
46	Rollerblading trails, smooth roads	7/6/2017 8:16 PM
47	Snow shoe trails	7/6/2017 12:25 AM
48	More kayak opportunities	7/5/2017 11:03 PM
49	Disc Golf	7/5/2017 2:29 PM
50	Expand River Bend Trail	7/4/2017 7:04 PM
51	camp sites	7/2/2017 8:42 PM
52	A New more up to date skate board and Bike park .	7/2/2017 9:26 AM
53	Keep progressing on the River Bend Trail	7/2/2017 8:41 AM
54	Keep progressing on the River Bend trail	7/2/2017 8:30 AM
55	Pickelball courts	7/1/2017 7:27 PM
56	Self guided historic walking tour similar to Wausau Andrew Warren historic district.	6/29/2017 9:18 PM
57	kayak landing	6/29/2017 5:53 PM
58	Skate board park improvements	6/29/2017 2:43 PM
59	Develop a trail north along the prairie river	6/29/2017 2:34 PM
60	city wide biking and walking groups with trails, paths, & bikeways	6/29/2017 1:20 PM
61	More community gardens	6/29/2017 1:10 PM
62	Nice skate park	6/28/2017 10:23 PM
63	More things for kids 12-18yo more centerly located to make them easily accessable, keeping kids out of trouble.	6/28/2017 11:47 AM
64	Further development of the Riverbend trail	6/27/2017 4:19 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

65	Adventure Racing	6/27/2017 1:23 PM
66	Something in Stan's Park...like a splash pad. Make it beautiful again, since it is the center of our town.	6/26/2017 8:07 PM
67	downhill skiing/ snowboarding	6/26/2017 1:06 PM
68	build a disc golf course	6/25/2017 8:56 PM
69	level the park across the river from PRMS, specifically by the old pool, so you can finish one of the disc golf courses mentioned in number 1	6/24/2017 6:14 PM
70	continue to develop the River Bend Trail	6/23/2017 2:54 PM
71	disc golf	6/23/2017 12:17 PM
72	MORE and LONGER bicycle trails - not mountain bikes, but for regular/hybrid bikes. There should be a nice packed gravel trail in the city forest. Or connecting the MARC to the city?	6/23/2017 10:26 AM
73	Dog water park	6/22/2017 11:13 PM
74	Expand the fair	6/22/2017 11:53 AM
75	fishing area development	6/22/2017 11:21 AM
76	More River Bend Trail	6/22/2017 9:52 AM
77	More River Bend Trail	6/22/2017 9:51 AM
78	continuation on the River Bend Trail	6/22/2017 7:38 AM
79	Better maintenance of current facilities	6/21/2017 6:03 PM
80	Something unique to this area like a zoo, Gus Macker, etc....	6/21/2017 5:19 PM
81	ATV trails working to a connection point of other trails in the county and parking lot	6/21/2017 10:59 AM
82	Tennis courts	6/20/2017 11:48 PM
83	ATV/utv	6/20/2017 8:30 PM
84	More bike trails, what's happening already is great	6/20/2017 5:51 AM
85	Broom ball	6/20/2017 2:43 AM
86	Enlarge dog park	6/19/2017 10:11 PM
87	Improved playgrounds	6/19/2017 10:10 PM
88	Beaches	6/19/2017 10:09 PM
89	Ice rinks	6/19/2017 10:04 PM
90	More kid activities during evening and weekend hours	6/19/2017 9:54 PM
91	Cross country skiing/ snow shoe trails	6/19/2017 9:46 PM
92	Continue expanding Riverbend Trail	6/19/2017 9:30 PM
93	River bend trail additions.	6/19/2017 7:26 PM
94	Curling park- bring in revenue	6/19/2017 6:57 PM
95	More Group Running Opportunities	6/19/2017 6:35 PM
96	Biking	6/19/2017 6:09 PM
97	Wall climb	6/19/2017 5:45 PM
98	More entertainment at the gazebo	6/19/2017 5:25 PM
99	N/a	6/19/2017 5:18 PM
100	Skateboarding	6/19/2017 5:06 PM
101	Basketball courts	6/19/2017 4:46 PM
102	Kayak/canoe rentals	6/19/2017 4:42 PM
103	More bike routes	6/19/2017 4:26 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

104	None	6/19/2017 3:16 PM
105	Family picnics	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
106	Tennis Courts	6/19/2017 2:29 PM
107	Splash pad	6/19/2017 2:11 PM
108	paved biking trails	6/19/2017 2:06 PM
109	Cross country skiing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	6/19/2017 2:03 PM
110	tennis courts	6/19/2017 1:55 PM
111	Cross country skiing on River Bend Trail	6/19/2017 1:48 PM
112	Iceskating	6/19/2017 1:45 PM
113	Mini golf	6/19/2017 1:30 PM
#	3.	Date
1	Love idea of having handicap park??	7/21/2017 6:27 PM
2	Playgrounds	7/19/2017 10:20 PM
3	Chalkfest	7/19/2017 10:08 PM
4	Stanges park	7/19/2017 9:42 PM
5	Put pool back in old location	7/19/2017 9:10 PM
6	Both handicap accessible, running water, shade, bathrooms!	7/19/2017 8:45 PM
7	MAKE SMALL PARKING AREA FOR 6 CARS AT STREETER SQUARE	7/17/2017 11:36 AM
8	Hiking	7/16/2017 6:29 PM
9	continue to develop more supervised park events for all ages	7/15/2017 9:47 PM
10	More concerts	7/15/2017 8:25 PM
11	Running clubs	7/15/2017 5:47 PM
12	Picnic In the park	7/15/2017 4:49 PM
13	Make lions park better for baseball	7/15/2017 2:18 PM
14	More benches	7/15/2017 12:54 PM
15	more basketball courts	7/13/2017 5:20 PM
16	River rafting	7/13/2017 1:47 PM
17	more 5K races (walks and runs)	7/13/2017 9:43 AM
18	Zoo	7/13/2017 6:28 AM
19	Connect parks with trail system & mapping	7/12/2017 7:35 PM
20	Indoor winter walking space	7/12/2017 3:28 PM
21	canoeing club	7/12/2017 1:50 PM
22	Businesses with outdoor seating should be placed near the River Bend Trail (Breweries, Ice Cream Shops, Smoothies, Coffee/Tea Shops, Burgers and Fries, etc.)	7/11/2017 8:54 PM
23	Kayak club	7/11/2017 4:55 PM
24	Roller Hockey	7/11/2017 1:25 PM
25	Disc Golf	7/11/2017 1:18 PM
26	more disc golf courses	7/11/2017 12:29 AM
27	more wheel chair/scooter access	7/10/2017 7:01 PM
28	Kayak rentals	7/10/2017 10:11 AM
29	Expanded disc golf	7/7/2017 11:48 AM

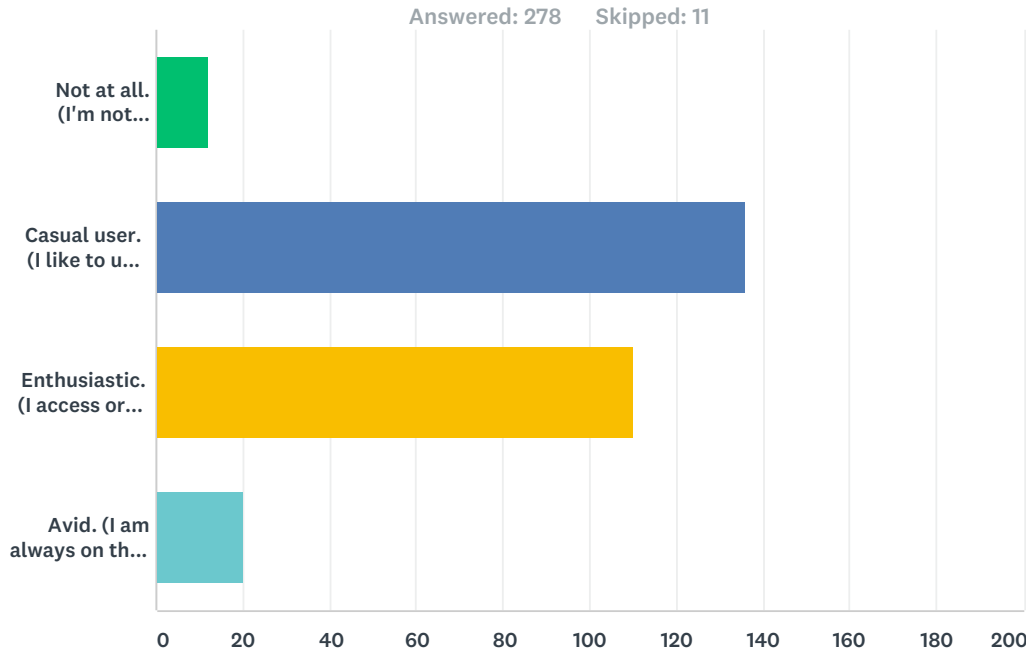
City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

30	Kayak and canoe rentals newood park to Merrill	7/6/2017 9:31 PM
31	Mini golf complex	7/6/2017 8:16 PM
32	Disc golf	7/6/2017 12:25 AM
33	Trails between parks	7/5/2017 11:03 PM
34	Park located on East Side of town (North of Hwy 64 and East of Center Ave	7/5/2017 2:29 PM
35	kayak and canoeing	7/2/2017 8:42 PM
36	Indoor arcade and boys and girls club	7/2/2017 9:26 AM
37	More snowshoeing trails	7/2/2017 8:41 AM
38	More snow shoe trails	7/2/2017 8:30 AM
39	kayaking	7/1/2017 7:27 PM
40	kayak landing!	6/29/2017 5:53 PM
41	Expanded or additional disc golf courses	6/29/2017 2:43 PM
42	Continue to develop bike friendly roads/trails with connection to Wausau and Tomahawk trails	6/29/2017 2:34 PM
43	enhance the cities arts, cultural and historic assets	6/29/2017 1:20 PM
44	Snow shoe/xc	6/28/2017 10:23 PM
45	Amending city eyesores,like the old pool site	6/27/2017 4:19 PM
46	Cultivation of Cannabis	6/27/2017 1:23 PM
47	Update the skate park. Expand it to the other court, since that is sitting empty and looks horrible.	6/26/2017 8:07 PM
48	larger/ more public access to lakes and beach fronts	6/26/2017 1:06 PM
49	small boat put-ins	6/25/2017 8:56 PM
50	install adequate directional signs to areas such as parks, schools, etc.	6/23/2017 2:54 PM
51	skateboard park	6/23/2017 12:17 PM
52	Cross country ski trails! We need trails in town - at the golf course and riverside park, perhaps.	6/23/2017 10:26 AM
53	Hiking trails	6/22/2017 11:13 PM
54	historical monuments	6/22/2017 11:21 AM
55	continuation on the River Bend Trail	6/22/2017 7:38 AM
56	Cross Country Skiing trials	6/21/2017 6:03 PM
57	Fishing tournaments, more hiking/biking trails, etc... to bring in tourists	6/21/2017 5:19 PM
58	Obstacle course	6/21/2017 10:59 AM
59	Disk Golf	6/20/2017 11:48 PM
60	tubing	6/20/2017 8:30 PM
61	How about a traithalon (bike, kayak, run) event?	6/20/2017 5:51 AM
62	Adult soccer league	6/20/2017 2:43 AM
63	Try to extend off street portion of River Bend Trail	6/19/2017 10:11 PM
64	Adult sports for beginners	6/19/2017 9:54 PM
65	Organized kid events at parks throughout the year	6/19/2017 9:46 PM
66	Riverbend trail have fishing spots on river	6/19/2017 6:57 PM
67	Shelter Areas in Parks	6/19/2017 6:35 PM
68	Walking/running	6/19/2017 6:09 PM
69	Rollerblading	6/19/2017 5:45 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

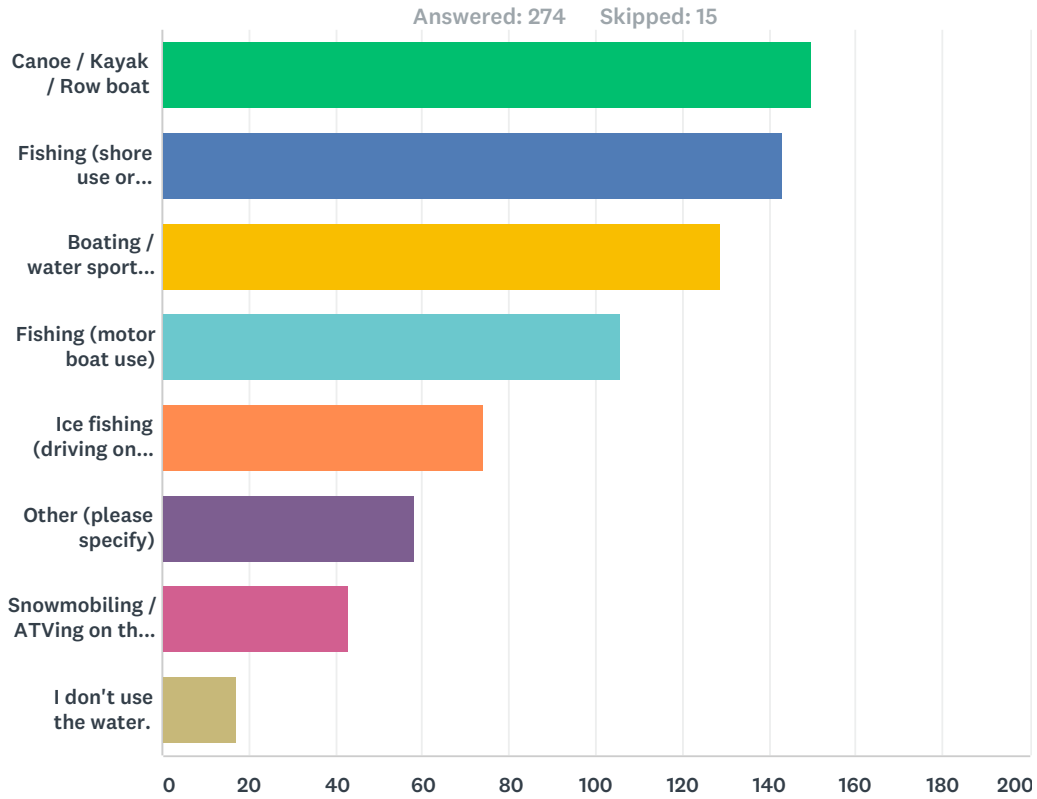
70	More entertainment at the Merrill fairgrounds	6/19/2017 5:25 PM
71	N/A	6/19/2017 5:18 PM
72	Bicycling	6/19/2017 5:06 PM
73	Trails	6/19/2017 4:46 PM
74	Art/music festivals	6/19/2017 4:42 PM
75	Longer pool hours	6/19/2017 4:26 PM
76	None	6/19/2017 3:16 PM
77	Movies in the park	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
78	Inline skating area	6/19/2017 2:29 PM
79	Nature playground	6/19/2017 2:11 PM
80	Kayaking	6/19/2017 2:03 PM
81	Better/ cleaner beaches	6/19/2017 1:30 PM

Q3 What type of water enthusiast are you?(Choose one.)



Answer Choices	Responses
Not at all. (I'm not interested in water recreation at all, not even with friends.)	4.32% 12
Casual user. (I like to use the water, but only do so occasionally.)	48.92% 136
Enthusiastic. (I access or go on the water regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)	39.57% 110
Avid. (I am always on the water or ice every chance I get.)	7.19% 20
Total	278

Q4 How do you use the water?(Choose all that apply.)



Answer Choices	Responses
Canoe / Kayak / Row boat	54.74% 150
Fishing (shore use or non-motorized winter use)	52.19% 143
Boating / water sport (motorized)	47.08% 129
Fishing (motor boat use)	38.69% 106
Ice fishing (driving on ice; car, ATV, or snowmobile)	27.01% 74
Other (please specify)	21.17% 58
Snowmobiling / ATVing on the ice	15.69% 43
I don't use the water.	6.20% 17
Total Respondents: 274	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Swimming	7/19/2017 10:01 PM
2	Swimming	7/19/2017 9:43 PM
3	Swimming	7/19/2017 9:11 PM
4	Swimming	7/19/2017 8:46 PM
5	Tubing	7/18/2017 9:56 AM
6	walking near it	7/15/2017 9:48 PM
7	Swimming	7/15/2017 5:48 PM

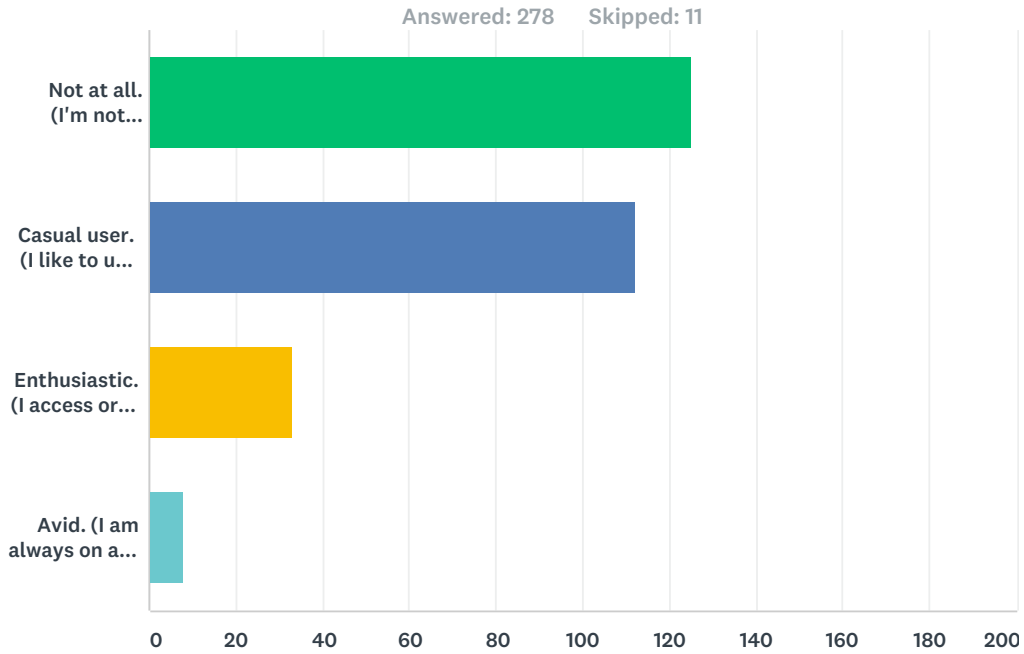
City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

8	Swimming	7/15/2017 10:39 AM
9	jet skiing	7/14/2017 11:16 AM
10	tubing	7/13/2017 6:13 PM
11	Swimming	7/13/2017 5:57 PM
12	Paddleboard	7/13/2017 8:16 AM
13	Swimming	7/13/2017 6:56 AM
14	Swimming	7/12/2017 9:54 PM
15	Swimming	7/12/2017 5:04 PM
16	Swim - prefer lake or river	7/12/2017 3:29 PM
17	swimming	7/12/2017 1:16 PM
18	Swimming in RAC pool.	7/12/2017 12:15 PM
19	Swimming	7/11/2017 8:55 PM
20	Swimming	7/11/2017 12:29 AM
21	sit on a dock and drop my feet in	7/10/2017 7:02 PM
22	Walking trails, parks around water	7/10/2017 10:12 AM
23	Sailing	7/6/2017 10:24 PM
24	Swimming	7/5/2017 5:00 PM
25	Lap Swim at indoor pool	7/5/2017 2:30 PM
26	swimming	7/5/2017 9:43 AM
27	hunting	6/30/2017 10:54 AM
28	Snowshoeing	6/29/2017 2:35 PM
29	inner tubing	6/29/2017 1:31 PM
30	Swimming	6/29/2017 1:18 PM
31	swimming	6/29/2017 1:10 PM
32	Admirer	6/28/2017 10:23 PM
33	Swiming	6/27/2017 1:24 PM
34	swim, picnic near the water, play at the beach, sunbathe	6/23/2017 2:56 PM
35	ride on friend or family boat	6/23/2017 12:18 PM
36	Swimming	6/22/2017 11:13 PM
37	swimming	6/22/2017 11:15 AM
38	friend's pontoon	6/22/2017 5:31 AM
39	Swimming	6/20/2017 11:50 PM
40	swimming	6/20/2017 6:49 AM
41	Swimming	6/19/2017 10:30 PM
42	swimming	6/19/2017 10:24 PM
43	swimming	6/19/2017 10:20 PM
44	Swimming/ beach	6/19/2017 10:09 PM
45	Swimming/floating	6/19/2017 9:20 PM
46	Swimming	6/19/2017 8:23 PM
47	Ice drags	6/19/2017 5:59 PM
48	Tubing	6/19/2017 5:49 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

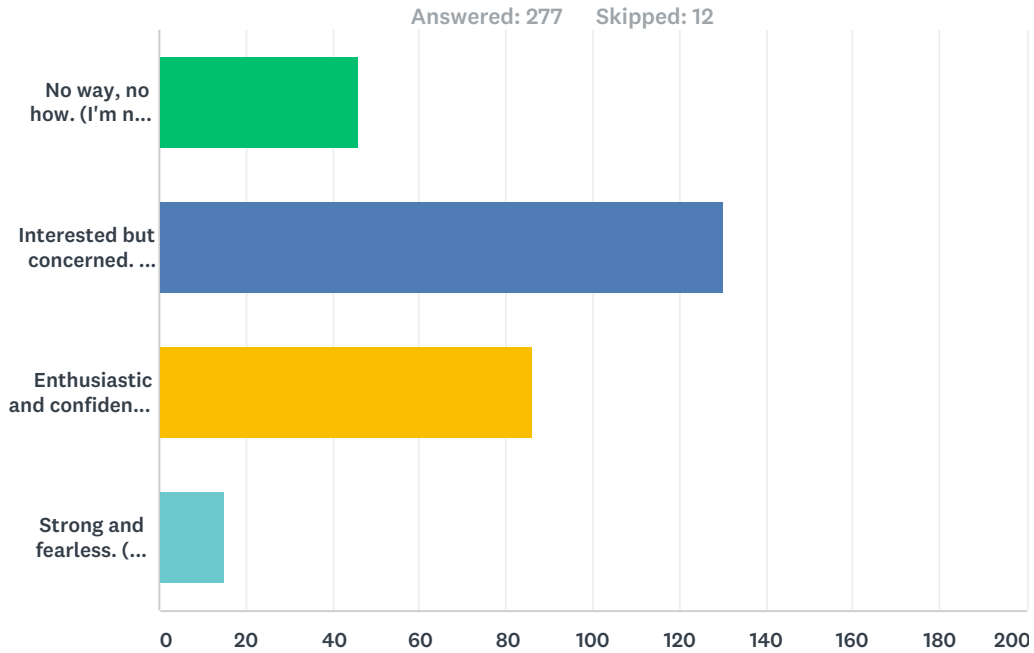
49	Swimming	6/19/2017 5:46 PM
50	Swimming	6/19/2017 5:08 PM
51	Swimming	6/19/2017 4:42 PM
52	Water exercise	6/19/2017 4:01 PM
53	Swimming	6/19/2017 2:30 PM
54	Ice drags	6/19/2017 2:26 PM
55	swimming	6/19/2017 2:09 PM
56	distance open water swimming. There are more and more open water races (1 mile, 2 mile)	6/19/2017 2:06 PM
57	Wade fishing	6/19/2017 1:59 PM
58	Ice Drags	6/19/2017 1:37 PM

Q5 What type of motorized vehicle (ATV / UTV / Off-Highway Motorcycle) enthusiast are you?(Choose one.)



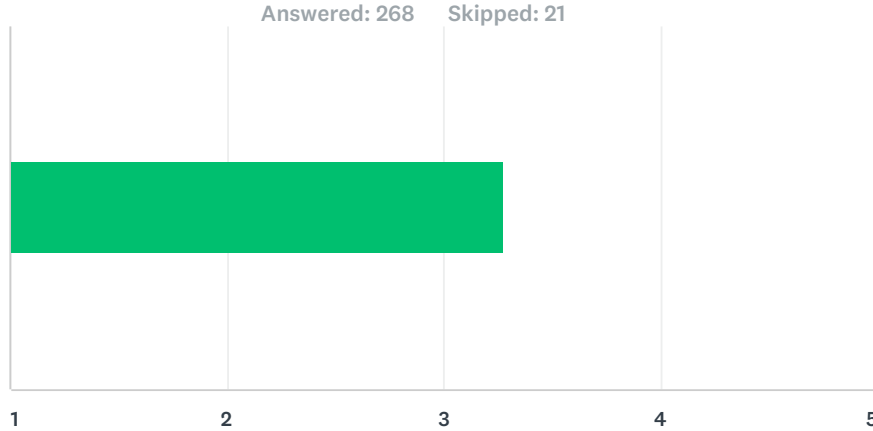
Answer Choices	Responses
Not at all. (I'm not interested in motorized recreation at all, not even with friends.)	44.96% 125
Casual user. (I like to use motorized vehicles for fun, but only do so occasionally, OR only on my own land.)	40.29% 112
Enthusiastic. (I access or go on motorized routes and trails regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)	11.87% 33
Avid. (I am always on a motorized vehicle every chance I get - all year long.)	2.88% 8
Total	278

Q6 What type of bicyclist are you? (Choose one.)



Answer Choices	Responses
No way, no how. (I'm not interested in biking at all, not even for recreation.)	16.61% 46
Interested but concerned. (I like riding, but don't do it regularly. I'm generally concerned that my route is not safe to ride, so I don't ride often. I definitely do not ride when the weather is bad.)	46.93% 130
Enthusiastic and confident. (I feel comfortable sharing the road with motor vehicles, but I prefer to ride on separate facilities like bike lanes. I may or may not ride in inclement weather.)	31.05% 86
Strong and fearless. (I am confident in my abilities and will ride regardless of roadway conditions, amount of traffic, or inclement weather.)	5.42% 15
Total	277

Q7 Rate the following proposal: Curb Extension Proposal:- Install crosswalk curb extensions along E. Main St to make crossing the road easier at intersections identified in the picture below.- Merrill Streets Dept. may coordinate painting the street with MAPS students.- Polka dots may need refreshing every other year.- Note: When curbs or Main Street need to be improved, then create permanent crosswalk curb extensions.



Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	3	877	268
Total Respondents: 268			

Question 7 Picture

FROM THIS:



Source: Imagery ©2017 Google, Map data ©2017 Google

E. Main St and S. Poplar St

TO THIS:



Source: Citylab, Jan 29, 2016, By Linda Poon

Austin, TX

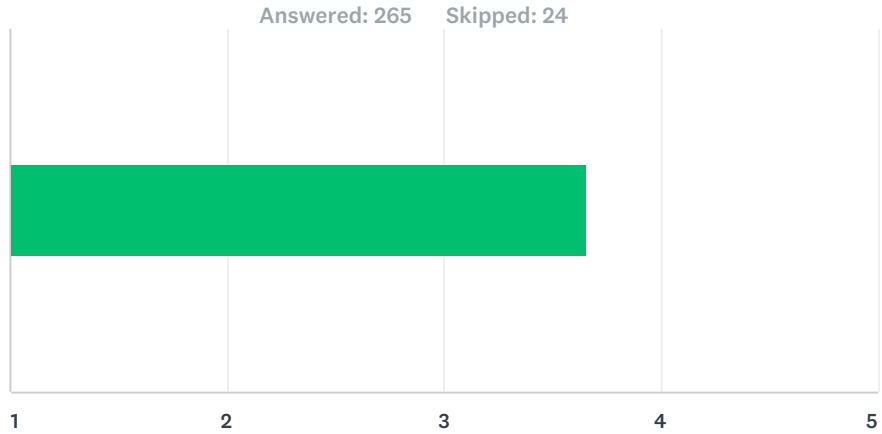
AT These ("●") Downtown Locations:



Source: 2015 Aerial Imagery

Downtown Merrill

**Q8 Rate the following proposal:Downtown Bike Parking Proposal:-
Add bike parking in downtown that is possibly
designed/constructed by high school students.- The racks would
be located between the sidewalk and the road in what is called
the sidewalk terrace.**




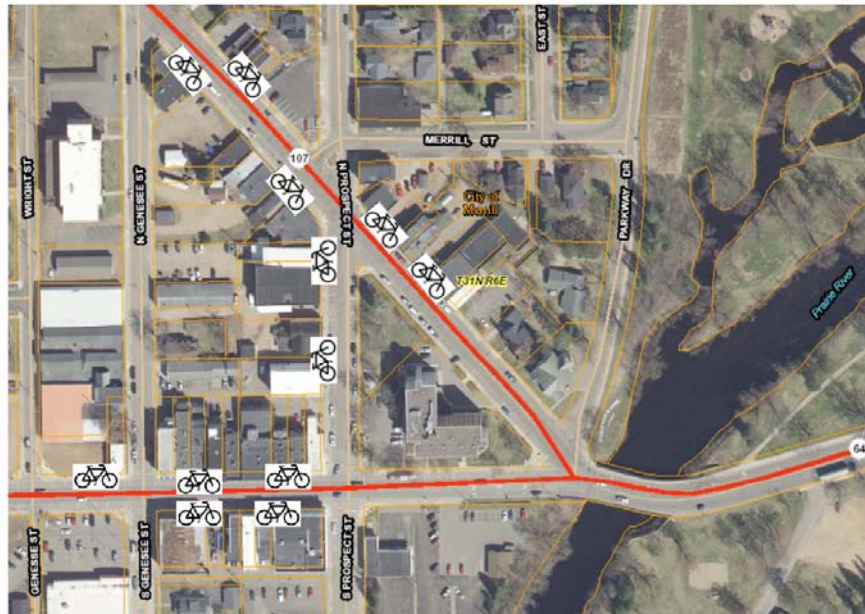
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	4	970	265
Total Respondents: 265			

Question 8 Picture




Picture: Lincoln County Land Records Viewer, 2015 Aerial Imagery

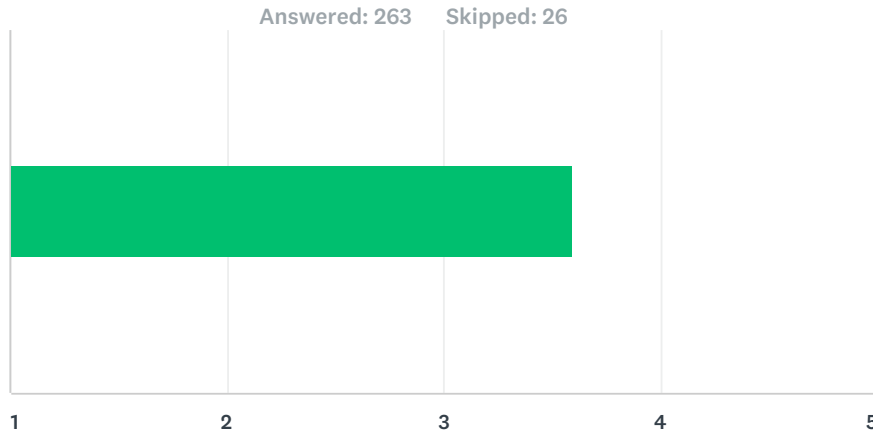
 = **Potential** general downtown bike rack locations



Picture: Lincoln County Land Records Viewer, 2015 Aerial Imagery

 = **Potential** general west side downtown bike rack locations

Q9 Rate the following statement: "Parklets should be an option in Merrill."



Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	4	946	263
Total Respondents: 263			

Question 9 Picture

Parklet *defined*

A parklet is a sidewalk extension that provides more space and amenities for business owners and citizens in one or more street parking spots.

Parklets provide an economical solution to the desire for wider sidewalks for seating, bike parking, or other amenities where narrow sidewalks restrict such uses.

A streets department, in coordination with other departments, establishes guidelines for the approval and installation of parklets either for exclusive use by a business or for the general public. This could be a seasonal or year-round installation.

Under such a program a business may request a permit for designing, maintaining, and installing a parklet either reserved for their patrons or for public use in front of their establishment.

There needs to be a direct way to identify if the space is public or not.

1. **Either** allow a business to use a parklet as sidewalk seating for their business and to appropriately identify it as such,
2. **Or** make the parklet publicly available and post the following sign:



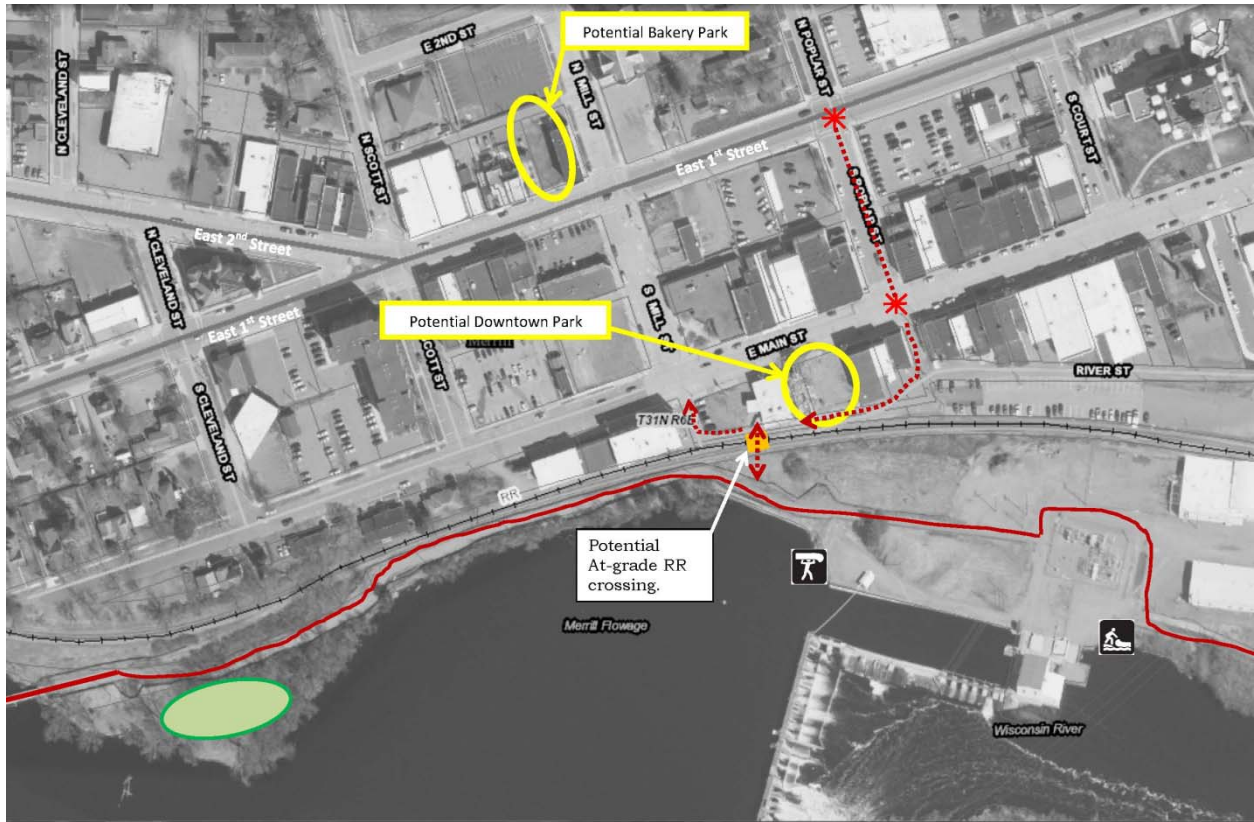
Sample text provide by San Francisco Planning Department.

This parklet includes public bike parking in one car parking spot, and public seating in another car parking spot.









Parklet example from San Francisco.

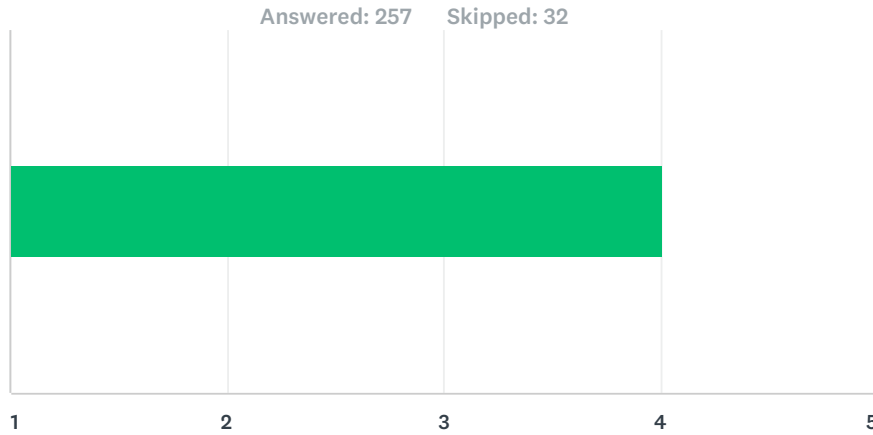
Picture for Questions 10 through 13



Lincoln County Land Records Viewer, 2015 Aerial Imagery

-  = **Potential** River Bend Wayfinding Sign
-  = **Potential** River Bend Connection
-  = **Potential** trailside park with shore fishing
-  = River Bend Trail
-  = Portage Take Out
-  = Canoe Put In

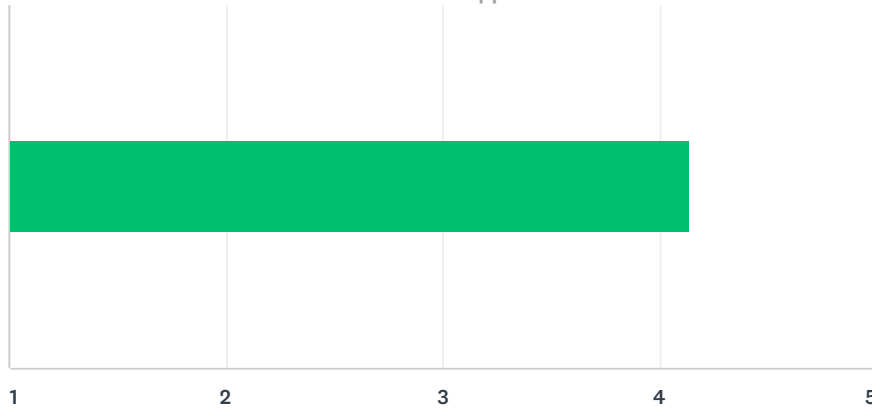
Q10 Rate the following statement: "If feasible, then there should be a trailside park with shore fishing."



Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	4	1,031	257
Total Respondents: 257			

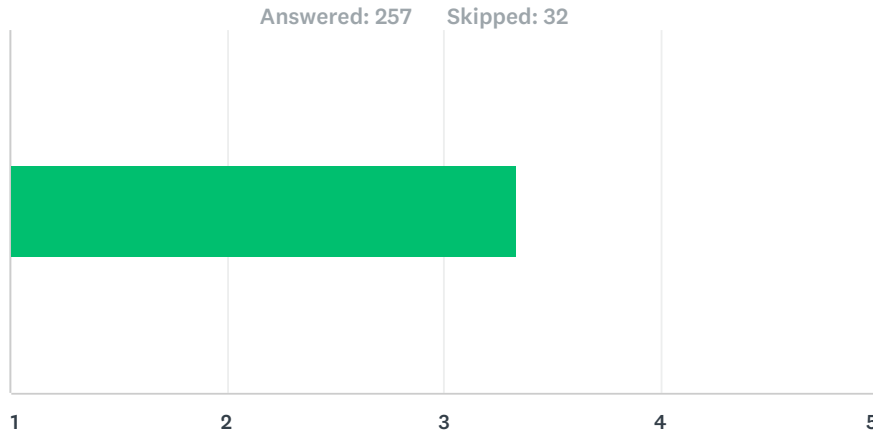
Q11 Rate the following statement: "The River Bend Trail should connect directly to downtown."

Answered: 257 Skipped: 32



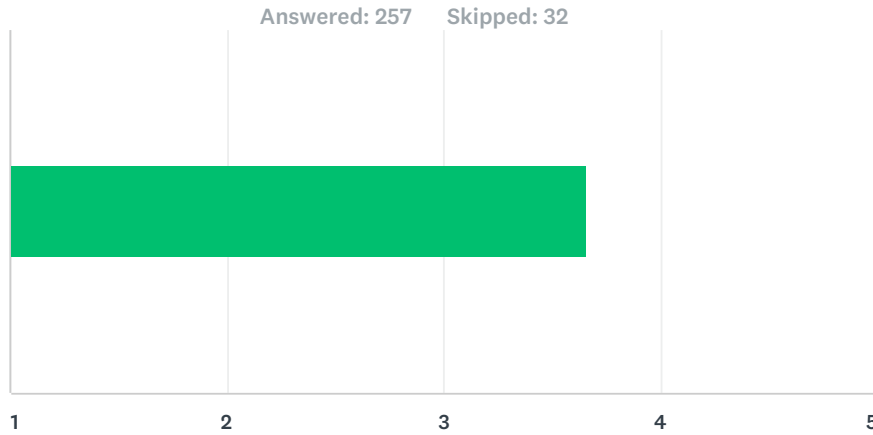
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	4	1,064	257
Total Respondents: 257			

Q12 Rate the following statement: "Potential Bakery Park in the above picture should become a park."



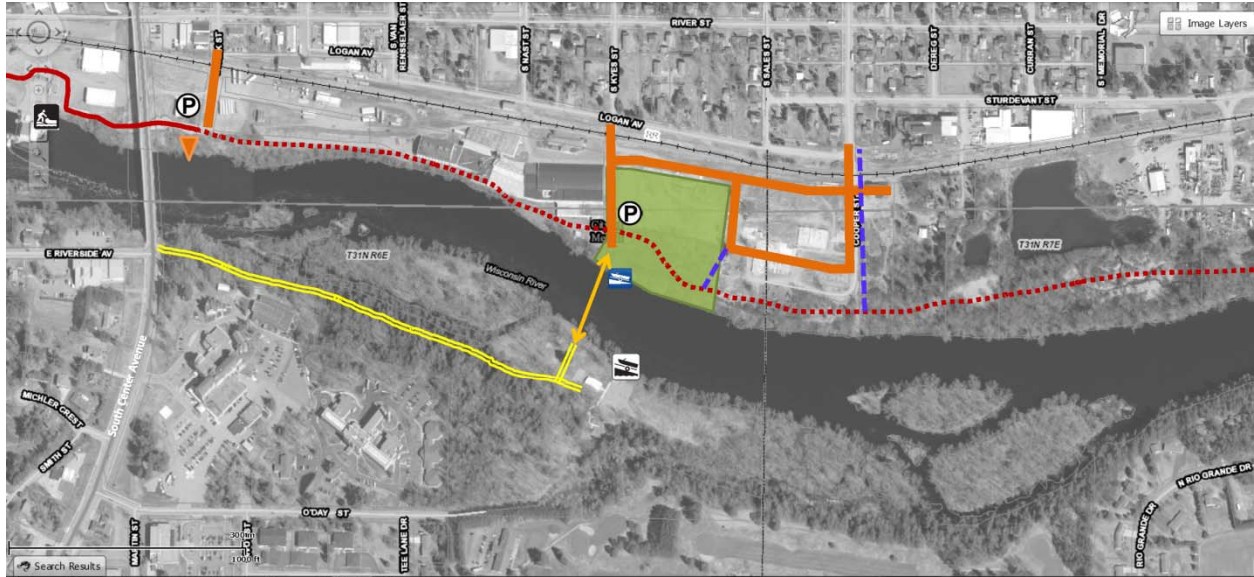
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	3	856	257
Total Respondents: 257			

Q13 Rate the following statement: "Potential Downtown Park in the above picture should become a park."















Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	4	941	257
Total Respondents: 257			

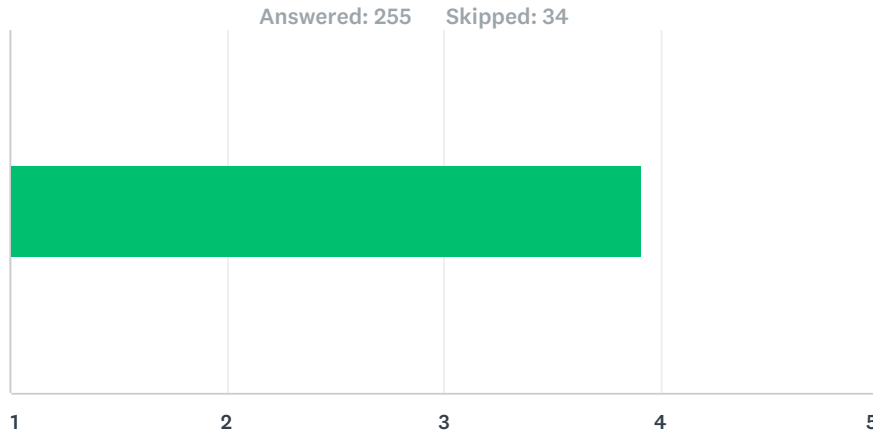
Picture for Questions 14 through 16



Picture: Lincoln County Land Records Viewer, 2015 Aerial Imagery

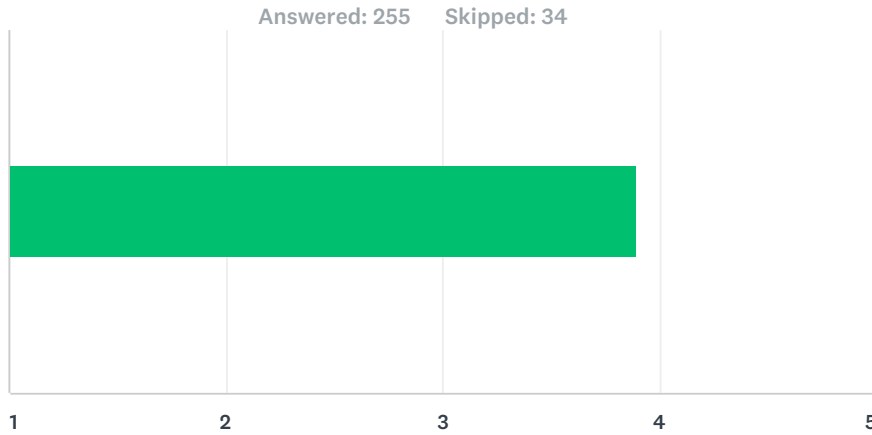
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
|  = Potential parking |  = Planned River Bend trailhead |  = Existing River Bend Trail |
|  = Potential new park |  = Boat launch |  = Future River Bend Trail |
|  = Potential roads |  = Canoe launch |  = South river trail |
|  = Potential boat launch | |  = Potential off-street path |
| | |  = Potential walking/biking bridge over Wisconsin River |

Q14 Rate the following statement: "Install a walking/biking bridge over the Wisconsin River (see location in picture)."



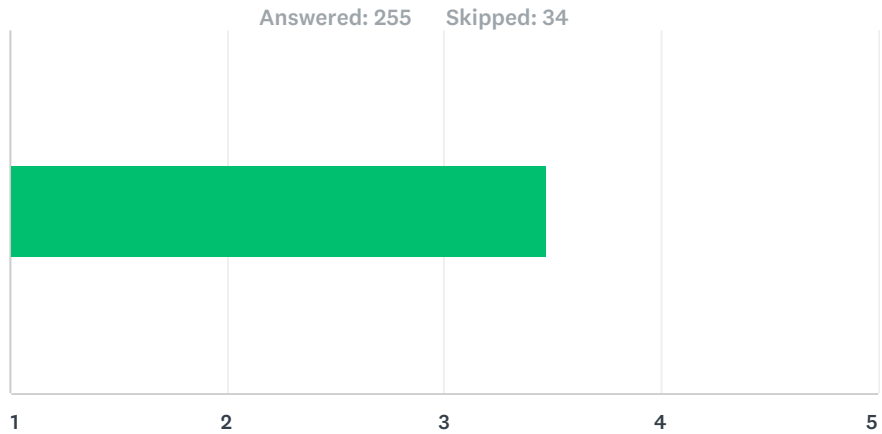
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	4	998	255
Total Respondents: 255			

Q15 Rate the following statement: "Create a new park (per picture) from some of Merrill's newly reclaimed riverfront."



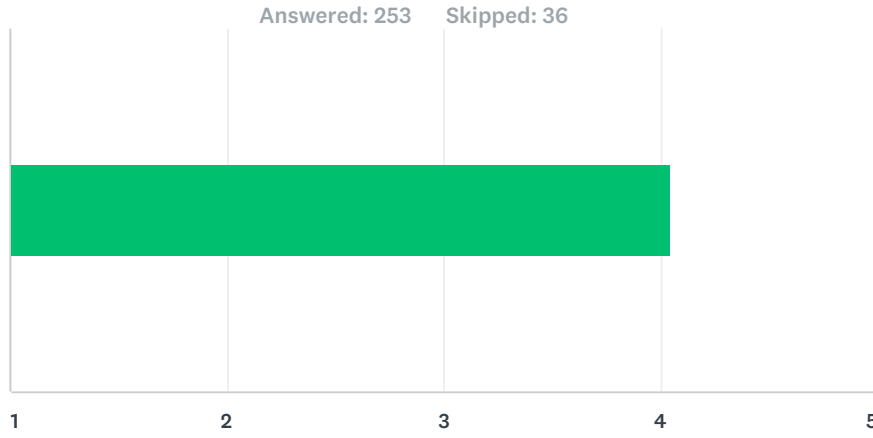
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	4	994	255
Total Respondents: 255			

Q16 Rate the following statement: "Add a boat launch with parking on the north shore of the Wisconsin River (per the picture)."



Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	3	886	255
Total Respondents: 255			

Q17 Rate the following statement: "Promote the Prairie River water trail (see picture) among citizens and visitors, after a canoe take-out is installed somewhere in the Stange Kitchenette Park area."



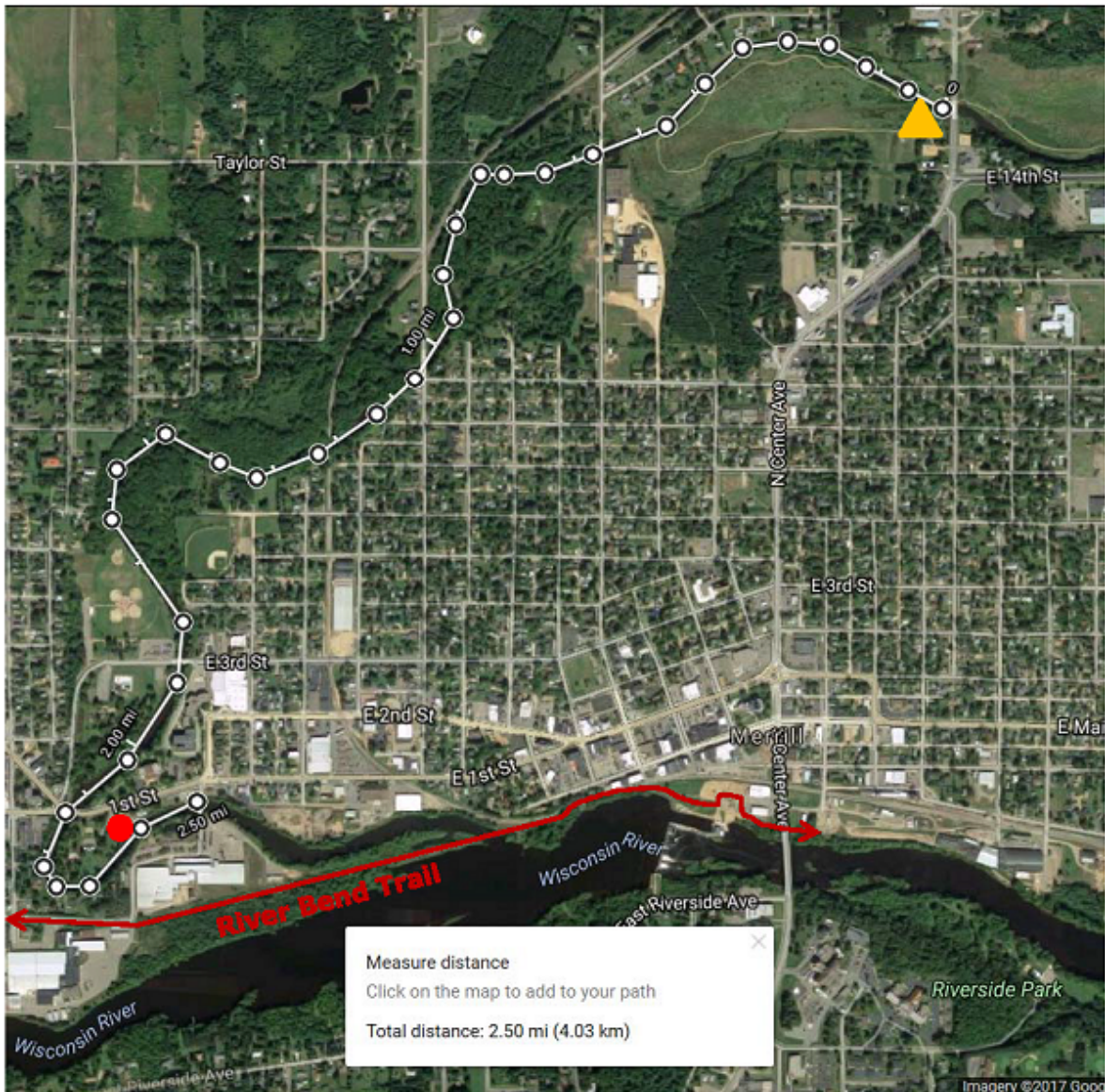
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	4	1,023	253
Total Respondents: 253			

Question 17 Picture

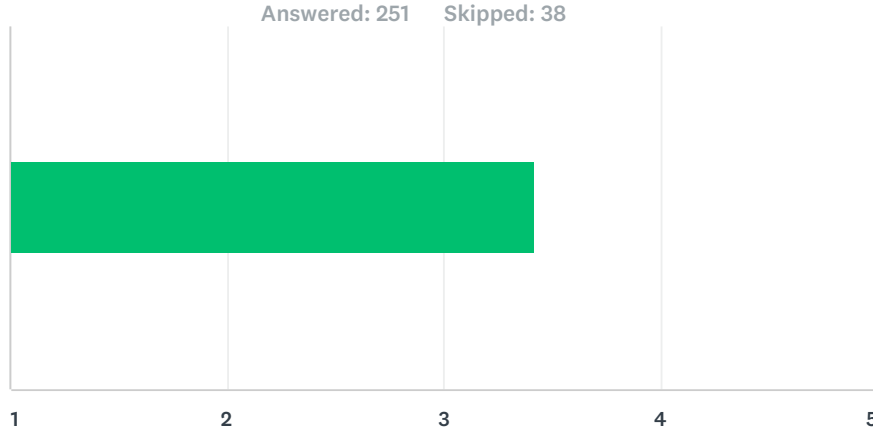
▲ Launch – Prairie Trails Park

● **Potential** canoe take out – Stange Kitchenette Park (or in the nearby vicinity)

Note: This potential trail would connect to the **River Bend Trail**.

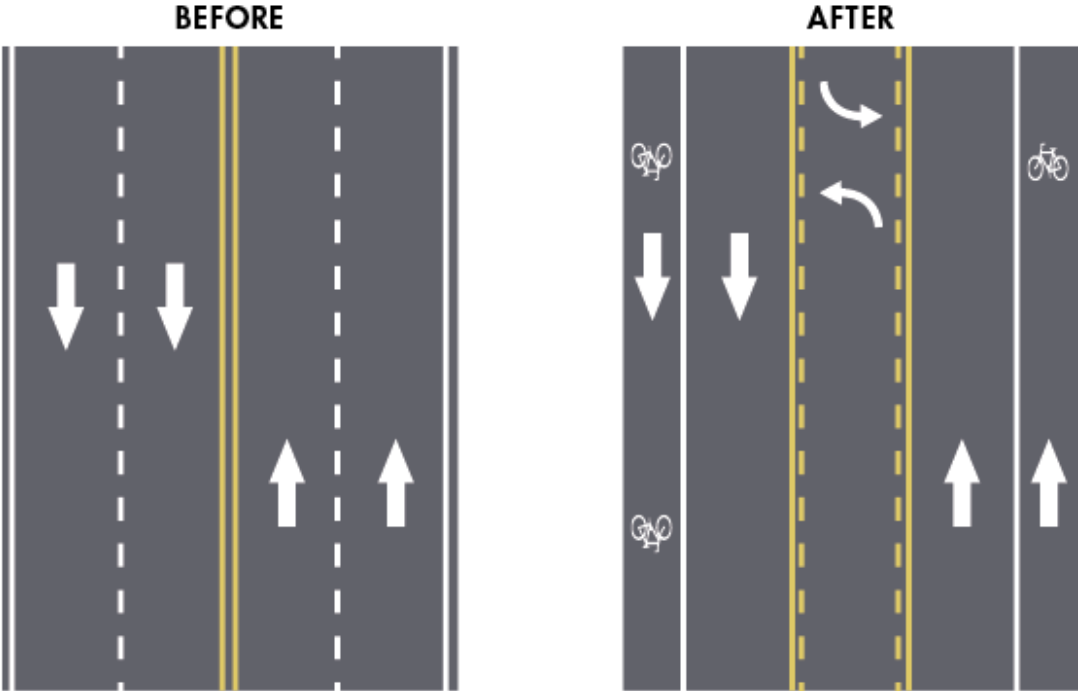


Q18 Rate the following possible improvement: "Put State Highway 64 in front of the library and skatepark on a "road diet" to make it easier for pedestrians to access the skatepark from the Middle School." Note: The traffic count in front of the library and skatepark was 7,300 vehicles. Federal guidelines note that roads with traffic counts of 15,000 vehicles or less are easy to put on a "road diet" without a reduction in capacity.



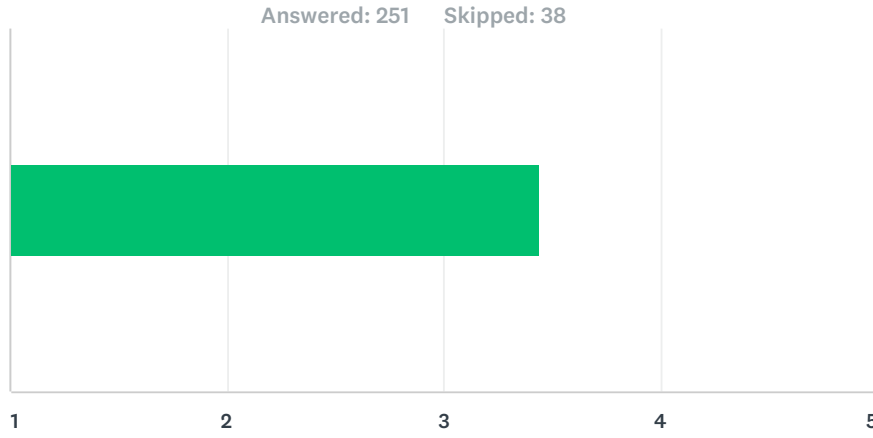
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	3	858	251
Total Respondents: 251			

Question 18 Picture



Sample "road diet."

Q19 Rate the following possible improvement: "Fully reconstruct skatepark features on new concrete pad where existing skatepark and adjacent tennis court are located. This would be an improvement and expansion of the existing skatepark."



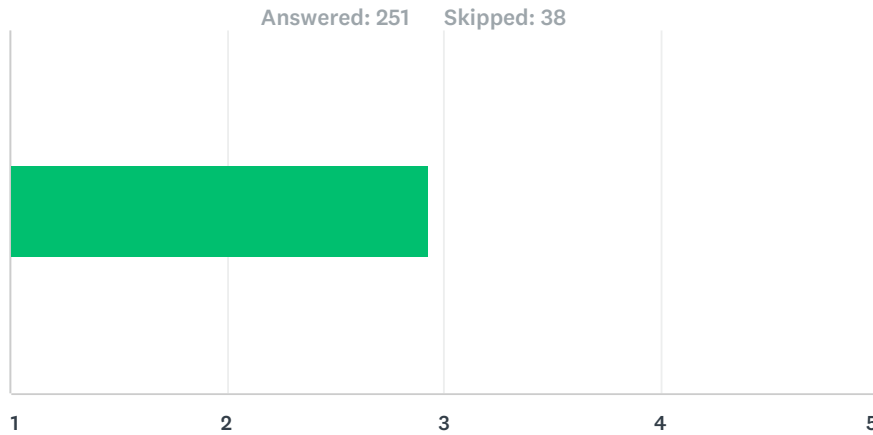
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	3	864	251
Total Respondents: 251			

Question 19 Picture



Potential skatepark expansion

Q20 Rate the following possible improvement: "Create small skatepark features within the following parks and school playgrounds: - Streeter Square Park, and Otts Park; and - Washington, Kate Goodrich, and Jefferson Elementary schools." Note: The City only has jurisdiction over parks. Any suggested school playground improvements would need approval from the school board.



Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
	3	737	251
Total Respondents: 251			

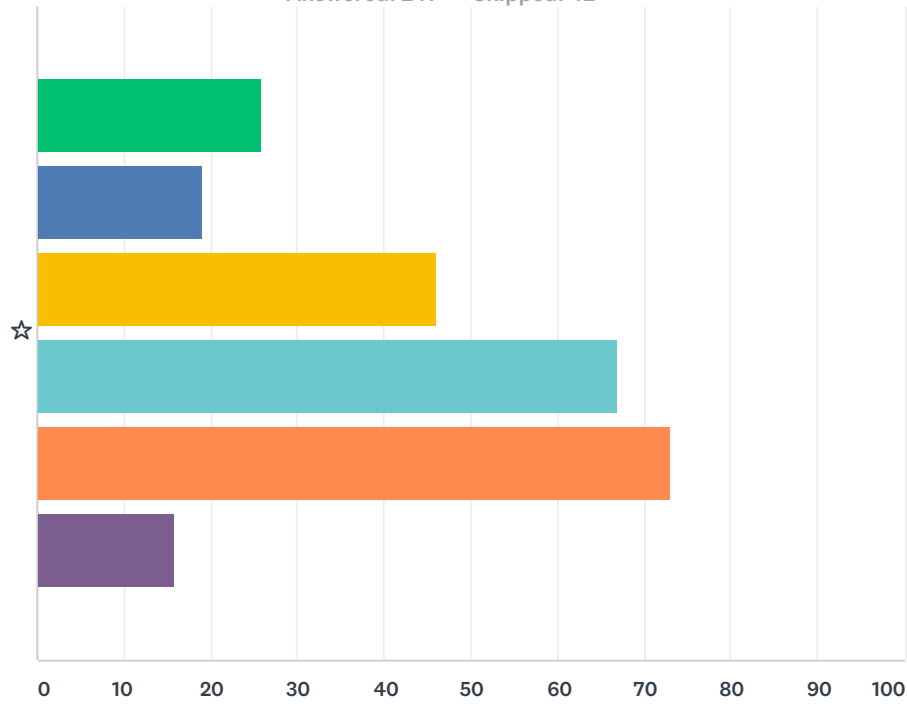
Question 20 Picture



Sample skate feature for a park or playground

Q21 Construct new restroom / shelter facility at Stange Park.

Answered: 247 Skipped: 42

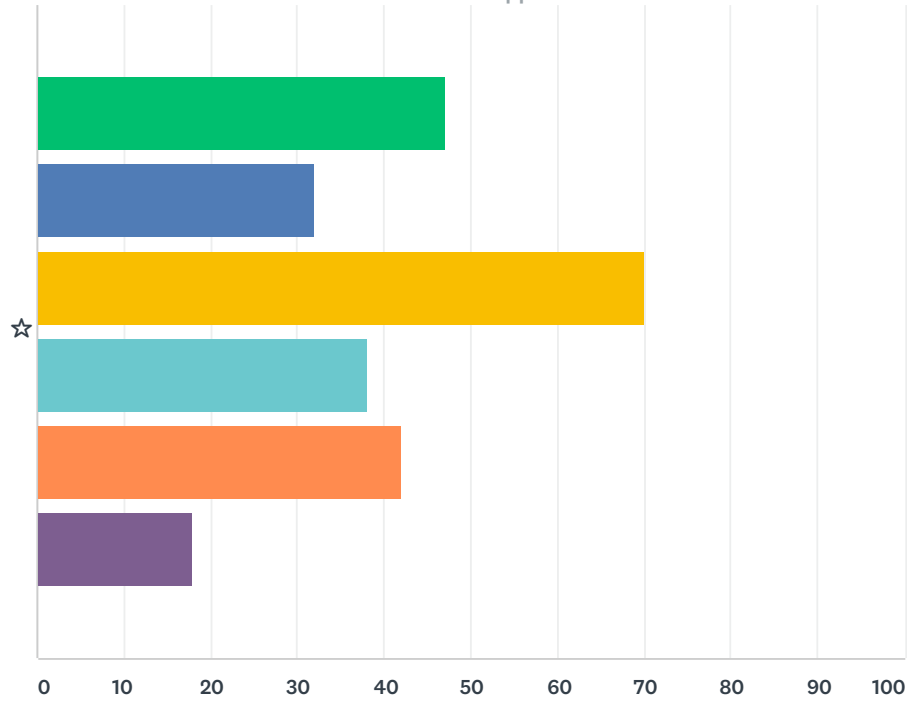


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	10.53% 26	7.69% 19	18.62% 46	27.13% 67	29.55% 73	6.48% 16	247	3.61

Q22 Pave Athletic Park's parking lot, replace lighting, and restore the wall.

Answered: 247 Skipped: 42

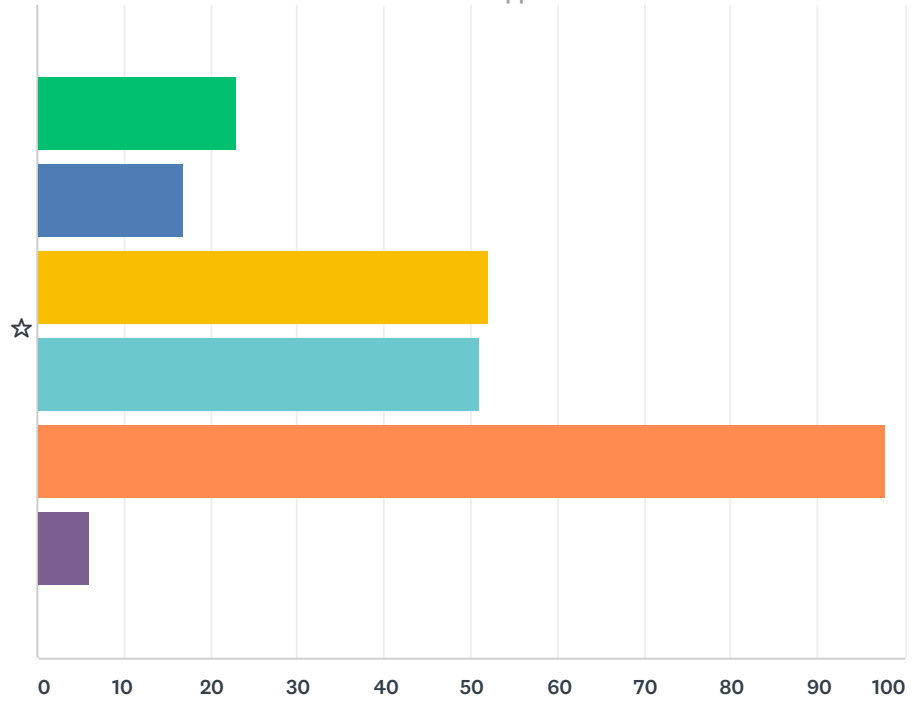


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	19.03% 47	12.96% 32	28.34% 70	15.38% 38	17.00% 42	7.29% 18	247	2.98

Q23 Continue bike route designation throughout Merrill.

Answered: 247 Skipped: 42

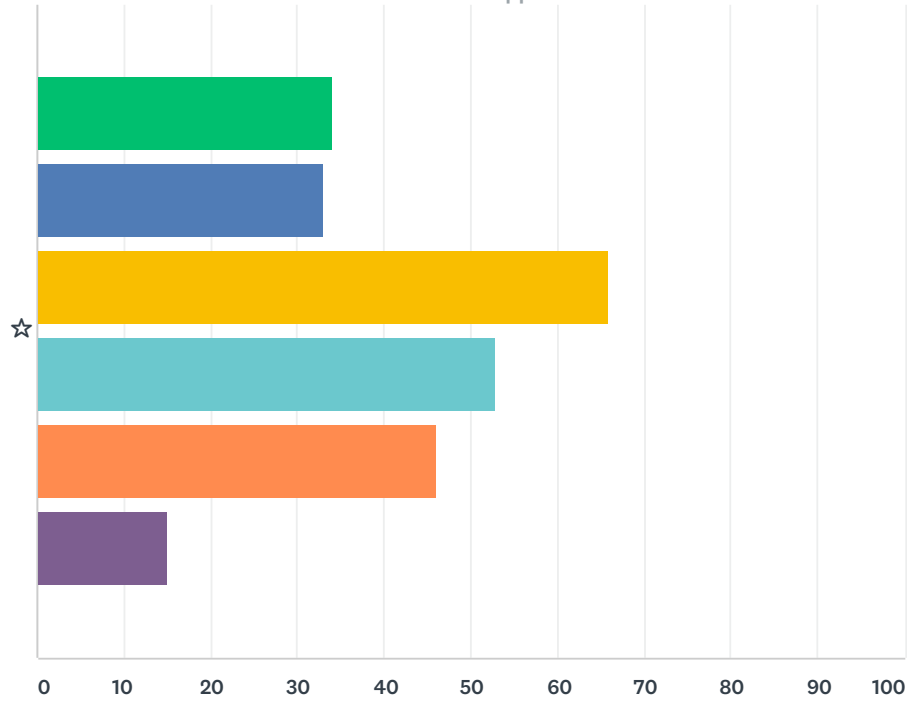


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	9.31% 23	6.88% 17	21.05% 52	20.65% 51	39.68% 98	2.43% 6	247	3.76

Q24 Install vault toilets at Prairie Trails Park.

Answered: 247 Skipped: 42

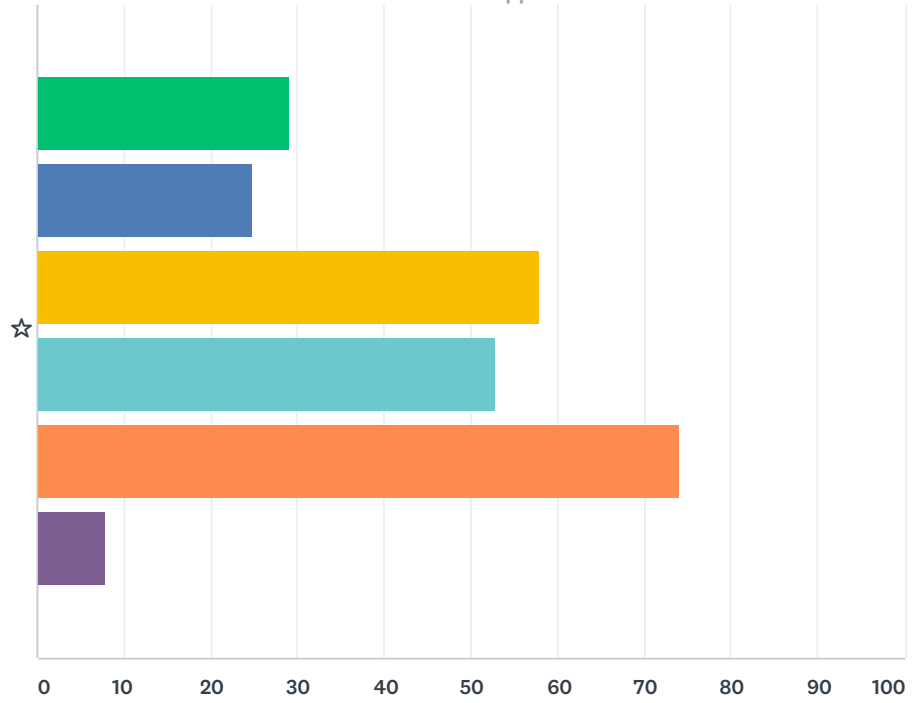


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	13.77% 34	13.36% 33	26.72% 66	21.46% 53	18.62% 46	6.07% 15	247	3.19

Q25 Install ADA playground at Normal Park.

Answered: 247 Skipped: 42

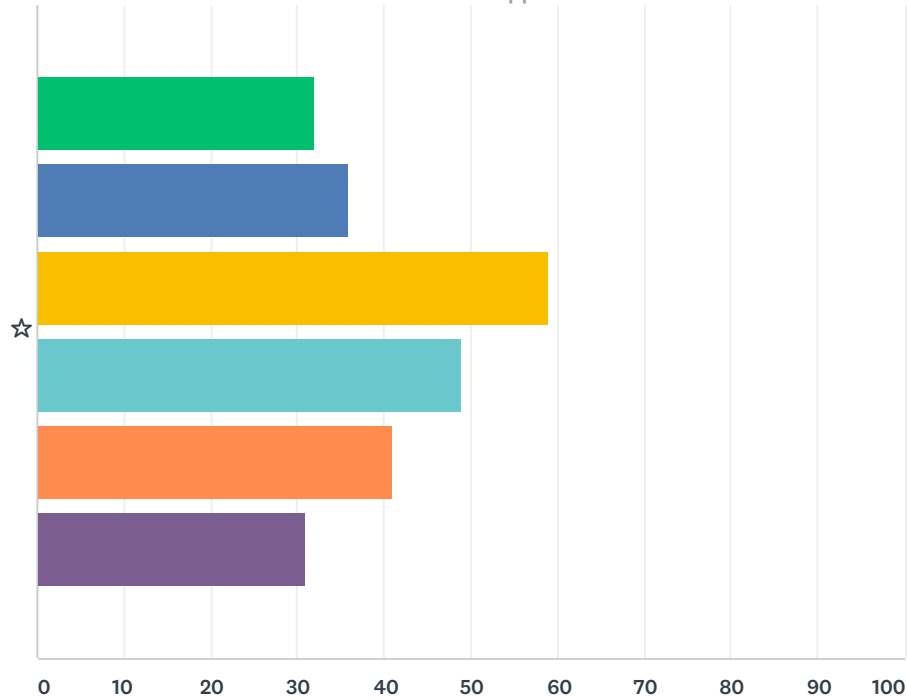


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	11.74% 29	10.12% 25	23.48% 58	21.46% 53	29.96% 74	3.24% 8	247	3.49

Q26 Continue bike trail work, install vault toilets, & construct shelter at City Forest.

Answered: 248 Skipped: 41

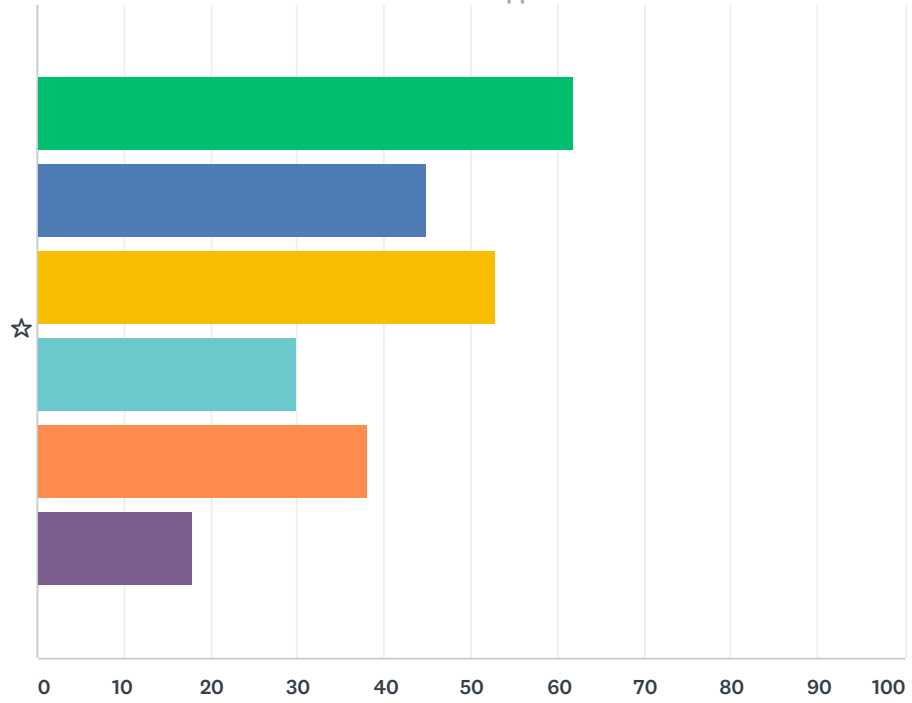


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	12.90% 32	14.52% 36	23.79% 59	19.76% 49	16.53% 41	12.50% 31	248	3.14

Q27 Continue disk golf initiative.

Answered: 246 Skipped: 43

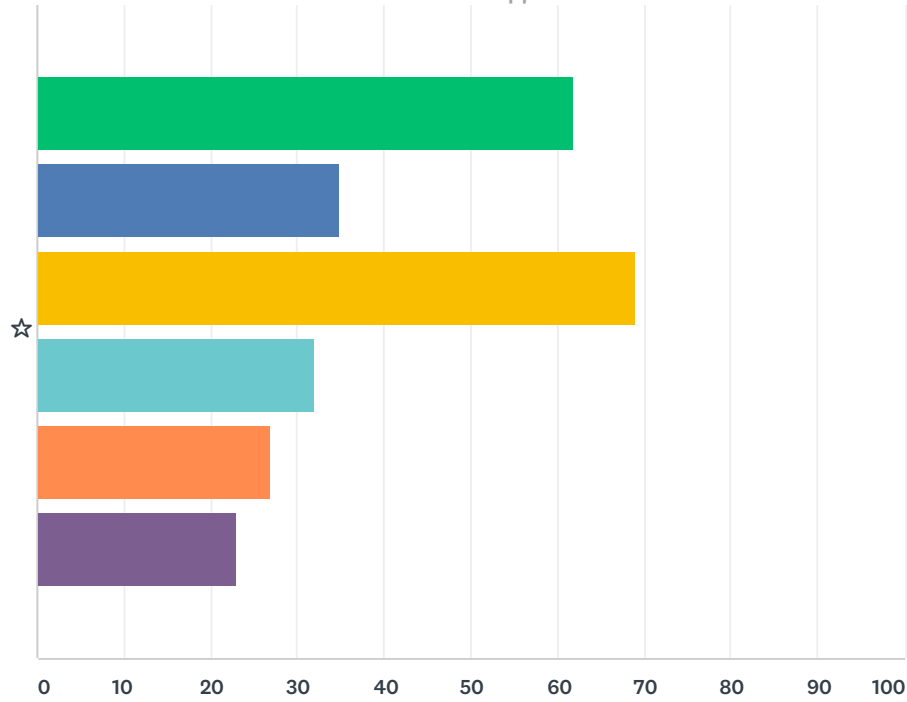


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
★	25.20% 62	18.29% 45	21.54% 53	12.20% 30	15.45% 38	7.32% 18	246	2.72

Q28 Complete new fence and replace lights at Otts Park's ball field.

Answered: 248 Skipped: 41

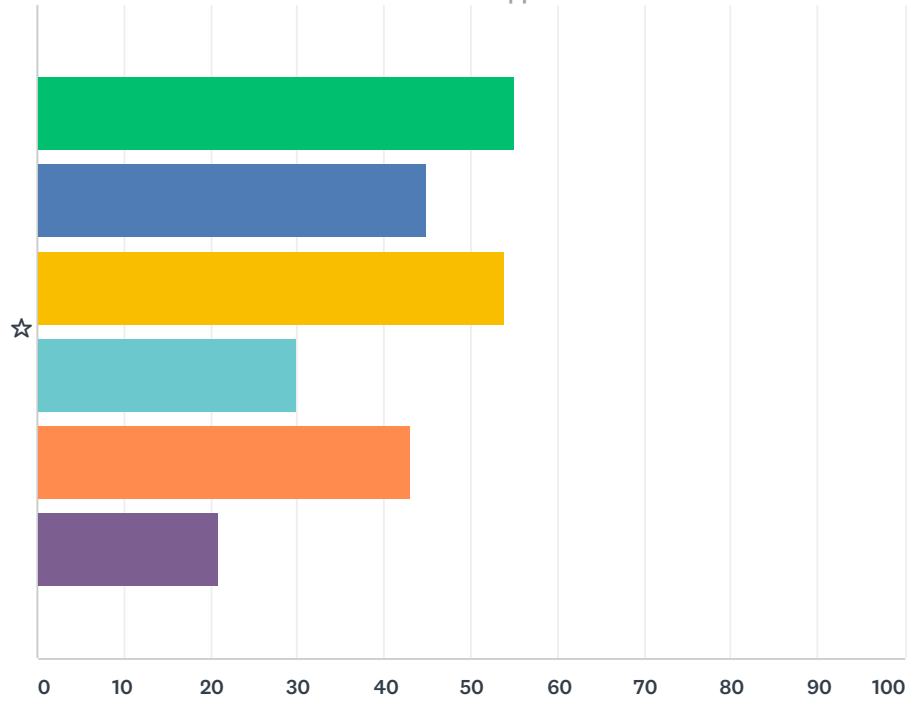


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	25.00% 62	14.11% 35	27.82% 69	12.90% 32	10.89% 27	9.27% 23	248	2.68

Q29 Extend potable water, and install amenities in dog park at the MARC.

Answered: 248 Skipped: 41

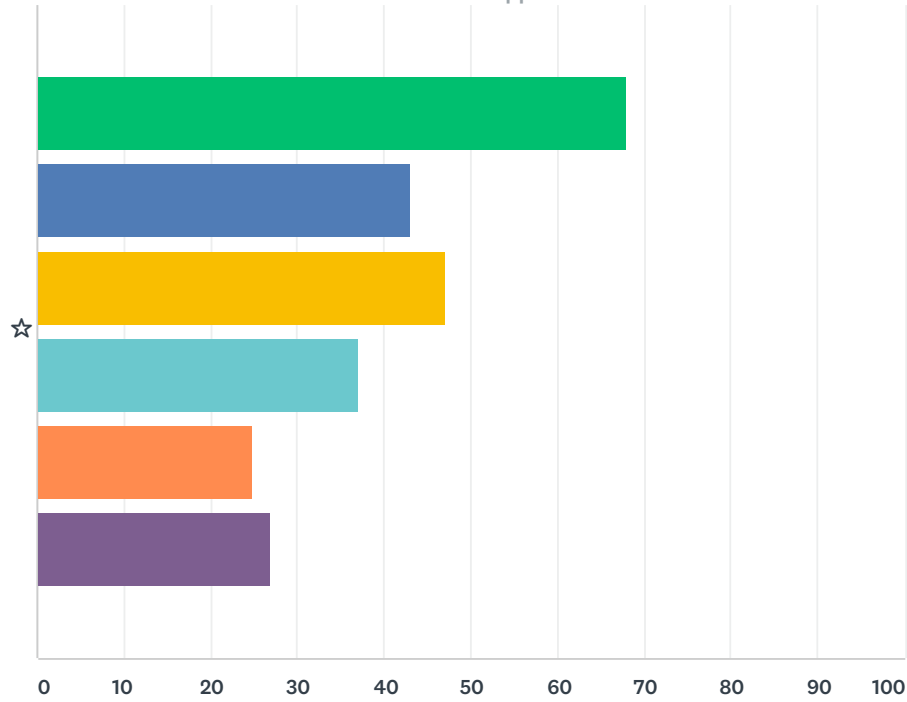


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	22.18% 55	18.15% 45	21.77% 54	12.10% 30	17.34% 43	8.47% 21	248	2.83

Q30 Explore having curling at the MARC (possibly in a building addition).

Answered: 247 Skipped: 42

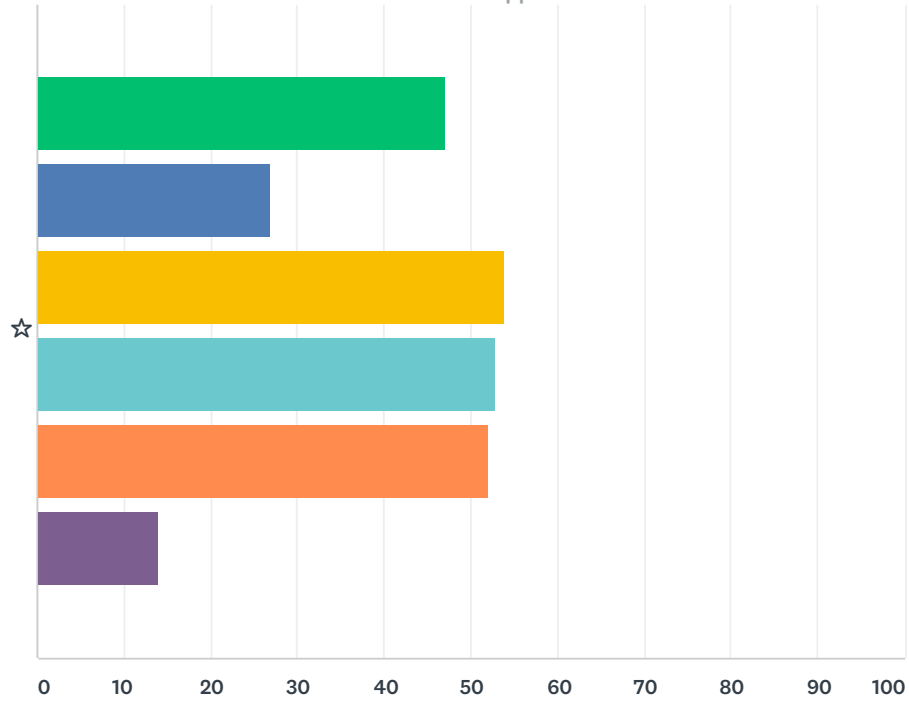


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	27.53% 68	17.41% 43	19.03% 47	14.98% 37	10.12% 25	10.93% 27	247	2.58

Q31 Install toilets at MARC baseball fields.

Answered: 247 Skipped: 42

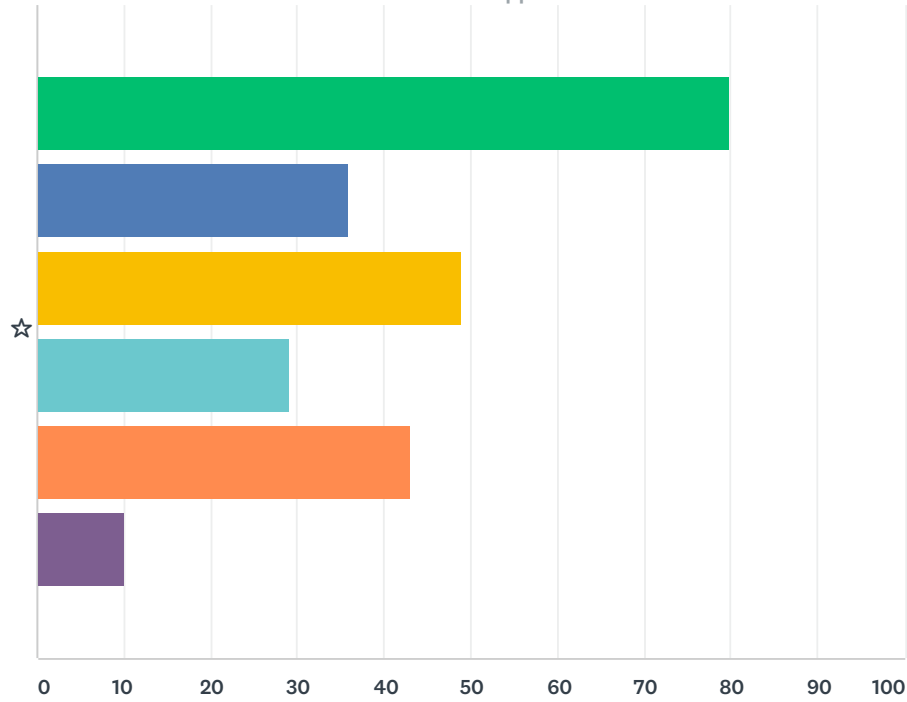


■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	19.03% 47	10.93% 27	21.86% 54	21.46% 53	21.05% 52	5.67% 14	247	3.15

Q32 Explore installing sculptures, carvings, or murals throughout City.

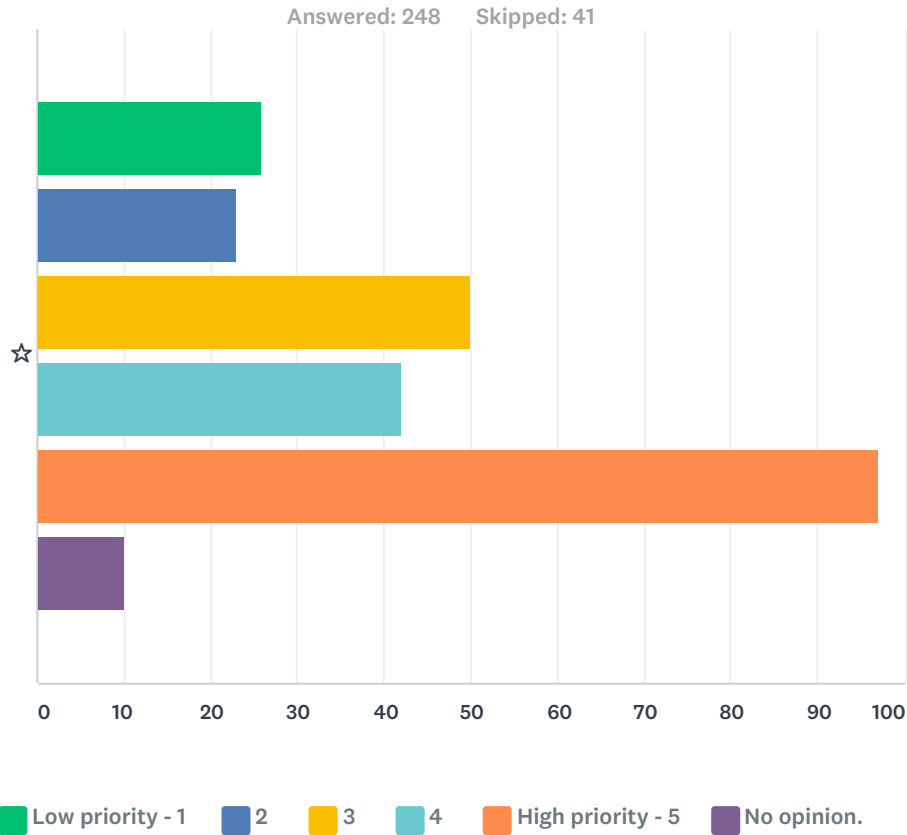
Answered: 247 Skipped: 42



■ Low priority - 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ High priority - 5
 ■ No opinion.

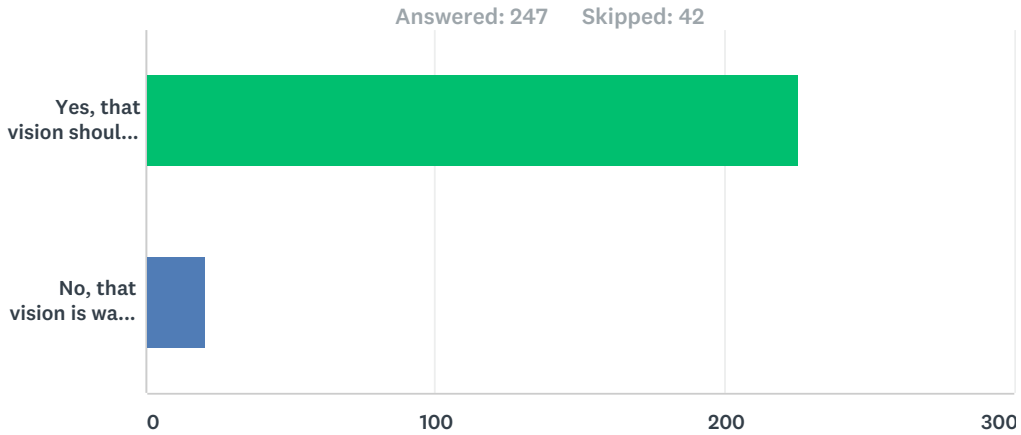
	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	32.39% 80	14.57% 36	19.84% 49	11.74% 29	17.41% 43	4.05% 10	247	2.66

Q33 Work on establishing River Bend Trail as a state trail.



	Low priority - 1	2	3	4	High priority - 5	No opinion.	Total	Weighted Average
☆	10.48% 26	9.27% 23	20.16% 50	16.94% 42	39.11% 97	4.03% 10	248	3.68

Q34 Does this vision still relate to how outdoor recreation should continue being developed for the next 5 years?(Choose one.)



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, that vision should provide continued guidance for outdoor recreation.	91.50%	226
No, that vision is way off and should be changed.	8.50%	21
Total		247

Q35 (Optional) Comment on the above vision statement:

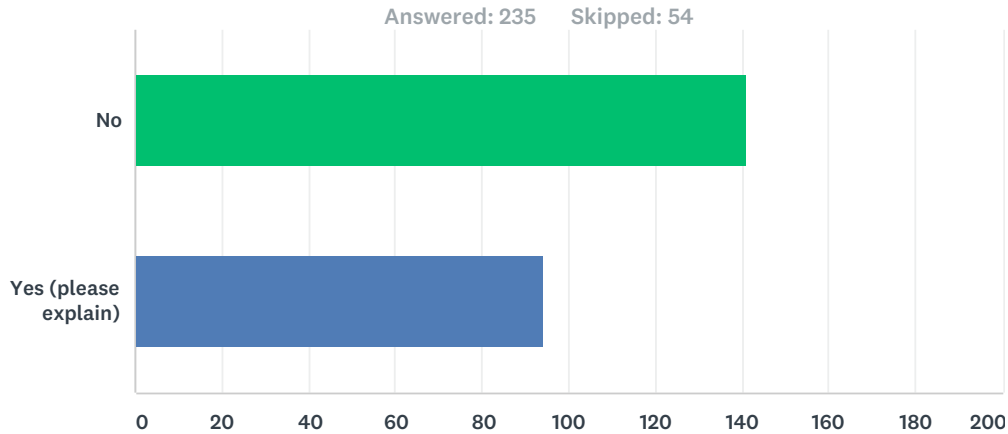
Answered: 32 Skipped: 257

#	Responses	Date
1	Keeps families active & draws visitors to our special town	7/21/2017 6:39 PM
2	As we are the city of parks, we need to have the best dog park in the state! We need visitors to go home and tell everyone how amazing it is! We need to meet requirements to be considered for agility, rally, and other competitions for canines. That would be an entirely new attraction to bring visitors to our city! Tourism brings in revenue...we need the dog park to be raised to higher than normal standards since Merrill is the city of parks! We need closer parking for those who can't walk far, running water for humans and canines, shelter from weather (shade and winter winds), we need to exceed expectations of a dog park!	7/19/2017 9:23 PM
3	I think we need to focus in areas that will get widely used by the community. Such as the MARC, Normal Park, etc. Prior to focusing on creating yet another park that doesn't get used or on the bike focus as most people in the community don't utilize bikes as our main mode of transportation and even with a bike lane, I would not take my children on the main roads due to safety concerns.	7/18/2017 10:10 AM
4	I THINK THAT STREETER SQUARE IS A WASTE OF SPACE. GET RID OF THE EXISTING SKATE PARK BY THE LIBRARY, MAKE A NEW SKATE PARK IN STREETER SQUARE. AND THEN EXTEND THE BASKETBALL COURT, MAKE IT A FULL SIZE COURT, PUT SOME DIAGONAL PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF BLOCK. KEEP SMALL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT THERE. THEN IT HAS A PURPOSE. IT IS HIGHLY VISIBLE AREA, ITS BY THE POLICE DEPT AND MAKES A NICE PARK...GETS RID OF TRAFFIC CONCERNS FOR KIDS, CLOSE ACCESS TO DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN!	7/17/2017 11:50 AM
5	need to make a concentrated effort to involve and ask for opinions from people who would be affected by the plan specifically. Need to make sure what the plan does not negatively affect existing homes and businesses, do not assume it is the best thing for others without getting their specific input. A general questionnaire to the all the public does not always cover this.	7/16/2017 11:00 AM
6	Good statement, but some ideas should also include whole city along with river areas.	7/15/2017 1:05 PM
7	The skate park is not the answer. Yes here are some kids that use it but there are too many unsupervised children that cause issues. too many people use the library and skate park as after school daycare for older children and it deters others from going. If it were removed from the middle school location so it wasn't an issue maybe development would be better. I would not allow my children to go there unsupervised and I don't even feel comfortable being there after experiences I have had.	7/15/2017 12:20 PM
8	I think the vision's focus on the Rivers puts too much emphasis on the trail and parks located along rivers. The 5 year plan should have as strong an emphasis on recreation away from the rivers	7/13/2017 5:34 PM
9	Eliminate taxes and spending. Privatize Parks & Recreation	7/13/2017 4:57 PM
10	I'd like to make sure that the investment in recreation prioritizes kids in Merrill's most vulnerable neighborhoods.	7/13/2017 10:03 AM
11	Curling opportunity is really something to look forward to!	7/12/2017 1:58 PM
12	The "celebrate heritage" part makes me think we need more logging or fur trapping and trading outdoor activities. Maybe a fitness trail would fit that vision. The waterways are also important to heritage. The city needs to help expand access to waterfront and watercraft rentals.	7/11/2017 12:40 AM
13	Where is this dog park? Need more... People in Wausau would drive up for a little day trip with pooch!	7/10/2017 7:10 PM
14	needs to be reviewed from time to time to be sure vision is on track	7/10/2017 10:23 AM
15	out dated	6/30/2017 11:04 AM
16	Include attracting new families and visitors to the city.	6/29/2017 9:30 PM
17	Leave out heritage	6/27/2017 2:09 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

18	The city of Merrill does not know how to take care of anything nice. The Parks and Rec Dept management is negligent in their work ethic.	6/24/2017 8:54 PM
19	Consider a lit water fountain (not a drinking fountain) near the park with the gazebo where music is played....it is the town's center park...showcase Merrill	6/24/2017 6:28 PM
20	sadf	6/22/2017 3:11 PM
21	It would be great to see the East side of the riverfront developed.	6/22/2017 2:27 PM
22	questions are leading. Just ask yes or no on each item on your dream list. We can't afford it all.	6/22/2017 11:33 AM
23	We have fantastic resources in Wisconsin & Prairie Rivers right here in Merrill. They can make Merrill a standout community in the area to attract increased tourism & business investment. We need to continue to carefully develop these natural resources.	6/21/2017 12:14 AM
24	We are the "CITY OF PARKS" ... PROVE IT...IMPROVE THEM, GIVE OUR CHILDREN THINGS TO DO, besides drugs and getting in trouble	6/19/2017 7:02 PM
25	I believe we need to do more to keep and attract the younger generation.	6/19/2017 6:51 PM
26	Eliminate the existing skate park and move it to Stanges Park.	6/19/2017 5:58 PM
27	Focus on more diversified outdoor opportunities, build/develop more parks.	6/19/2017 5:26 PM
28	First you have to have businesses downtown to get people to come downtown rather than simply go out to WalMart and to go to other cities to shop and have fun.	6/19/2017 4:08 PM
29	I fear this statement, admirable as it is, is also inaccurate. We do not have a heritage of offering diversified outdoor activities along the river(s). Where are our designated kayak or canoe routes? Where are the city-run bike trails? Where are the city-run XC ski trails? These, the silent sports of the northwoods, are offered in abundance in all surrounding communities. These sports generate tons of money for the communities that promote them. We really need to get on that. My family travels to other cities in Wisconsin to partake in these activities -- I would much rather do them here!	6/19/2017 2:12 PM
30	Put a focus on establishing a Paved bike path that starts at the MARC center and follows the WI River / Hwy 107 all the way to Tomahawk. There also should be a walking/biking bridge where the River Bend trail comes out near Park Street that connects to west end of Riverside Park	6/19/2017 2:10 PM
31	All optional park/play additions should be by volunteers and donations, no taxes to support "fun" for a few.	6/19/2017 1:59 PM
32	Great ideas. We need to make Merrill a place where people want to come. The river is a huge tool in helping that become a possibility. Cycling has really taken off over the last couple years and I think we need to cater somewhat to cyclists.	6/19/2017 1:43 PM

Q36 Do you have any other concerns or comments?



Answer Choices	Responses	
No	60.00%	141
Yes (please explain)	40.00%	94
Total		235

#	Yes (please explain)	Date
1	I would encouraging maintaining & improving the amenities we offer in Merrill - we need to continue showing new families we care & put our best efforts to show- this is a great place to live (or visit)??	7/21/2017 6:44 PM
2	Merrill has a lot of potential with 2 rivers and a state park as well as close proximity to hwy 51. Hopefully, these can be used to breathe new life into the city.	7/19/2017 10:32 PM
3	There should be a couple of Handicap accessible spaces installed right next to the dog park. There are several people who like/would like to be able to use the park but it is difficult for them to walk from the parking lot to the fenced in area. They want their animals to be able to run, which they aren't able to do freely because of the owners disabilities so it would be nice for them to have that option. Also, in reference to the dog park, we need to do a better job keeping the fence/gate in shape. For over a year the area by the gates of the large park had resettled out of the ground and was high enough for a medium size dog to escape. This is not OK when the park is suppose to be a safe place to take dogs. Fortunately, this was finally addressed a few months ago. However, I'm anticipating that after next winter, once things thaw, the same problem will occur. This is something that should always be immediately addressed.	7/19/2017 10:23 PM
4	I like almost everything that has been proposed. I use the Dog park the most, we would love to have running water out there. Also some sort of parking closet to the park woul be nice. My wife and I have run a fundraiser to try and improve the dog park. We have a dog named Nellie and she means the world to us.	7/19/2017 9:56 PM
5	Dog Park should be a top priority. On Facebook, go to Merrill Dog Park Friends and look in the document section, call Dan Wendorf, or Crystal Sanders 715-212-3251...any of those 3 and look at the goals list created by the public (over the course of 2 years) for the Dog Park. To many in the community working to hard with little to no results for the dog park. Would be nice to have one in the city too! (By graveyard where there is open field or by the river) The pool and location really suck! My children won't go to it anymore! We use to do a family pass every summer. Children used it daily and I nearly daily, the location was better before, plus you could just swim. My kids don't like how 'crowded' the new one feels and can't bike to it.	7/19/2017 9:32 PM
6	No	7/18/2017 6:15 AM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

7	PARK AREAS DOWNTOWN....I THINK GREEN SPACES WITH SITTING AREAS WOULD BE GREAT...NO NEED FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, BUT TO HAVE SPACE FOR SITTING WHEN YOU GET A ICE CREAM, OR SITTING AFTER A MOVIE, ETC....JUST A PLACE TO RELAX AND ENJOY HISTORICAL MERRILL. MAYBE A FOUNTAIN IN THEM OR ARTWORK. ATHLETIC PARK...ITS FINE TO REPLACE THE LIGHTS, FIX THE WALLS, BUT IS PAVEMENT NECESSARY?	7/17/2017 11:53 AM
8	Full in spots along the high visibility streets where flowering trees have died.	7/16/2017 2:09 PM
9	What was just stated is of strong concern. Too many times it seems in the name of progress others are stomped on (not on purpose) but just because sometimes we get lost on the positive effects on a project and forget to research the negative effects that can result because they do not concern those who will benefit.	7/16/2017 11:03 AM
10	I like the way our town is improving.	7/15/2017 7:22 PM
11	Looking at other cities and their summer and fall schedules, they have biking, running, walking kayaking and hiking clubs for all different levels of experience, that meet regularly! They have yoga in the park once a week, clear days and times with a rain location pre-specified.	7/15/2017 5:56 PM
12	Merrill has a large population of elderly people. They would enjoy the trail if there were rides to and from and on the trail. Skatepark should be upgraded no where for poor kids - not in sports to go	7/15/2017 4:26 PM
13	Re-establish Big Eddy Park	7/15/2017 3:32 PM
14	Find a new place for the skate park!!	7/15/2017 2:47 PM
15	I	7/15/2017 1:26 PM
16	Champagne street just off of Grand is used more frequently due to the truck route being moved from Taylor street to add the pedestrian lanes. There should be NO PARKING along this street as it makes it dangerous and difficult for a semi and motor vehicle to pass in opposite directions. Even more so near the hill turning onto the road from Grand Ave. here should also be sidewalks installed as children are expected to walk to the middle school as the school busses will not pick up middle school children from these neighborhoods. Children should not be expected to walk on a truck route with no sidewalks.	7/15/2017 12:24 PM
17	I don't think we need more parks in town. I believe updating and revamping our current parks would be a better use of money and time.	7/15/2017 11:59 AM
18	Who is paying for all these improvements?	7/15/2017 11:49 AM
19	I always valued the parks in Merrill when I was growing up. Now that I have a child (age 1) who is very active I want to take her to the parks as well. Unfortunately the activities/play equipment just aren't suitable for someone her size.	7/15/2017 11:06 AM
20	How are they asking if a park should be in the empty space downtown? They have budgeted over \$100,000 over two years to install it, where did that money go?	7/15/2017 10:52 AM
21	Where is the funding for all these possible projects coming from?	7/14/2017 7:00 PM
22	Please help develop biking & walking trails. Please help develop nicer and new frisbee golf courses.	7/13/2017 8:01 PM
23	It's common that residents often leave our community for fun or weekend activities. Also our city doesn't have a unique character or appeal, as the buildings say "older" buildings more than anything. Going into other tourist towns and cities, comments are readily made as to how quaint, beautiful and welcoming they are. Many areas of our city are run down, cluttered with resident's junk or stores are like a graveyard and closed.	7/13/2017 6:25 PM
24	I	7/13/2017 6:06 PM
25	I still think the idea of building a new skatepark away from its current location should be considered. I think Streeter Square is a very viable option that will bring attention to downtown. I understand the dilemma is parking but I am confident that the United Church of Christ parking lot would facilitate parking and I think the community finds parking just fine around that area during downtown events like the Christmas parade where Main Street parking is not allowed and alternatives must be found.	7/13/2017 5:37 PM
26	Privatize Everything. I have no intention of using the Parks & Recreation facilities and wish that all of this would be privatized.	7/13/2017 4:58 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

27	Merrill is called the city of parks and I think we should improve and add Parks and Recreation to the city the Riverbend Trail is a great asset to this town I am really looking forward to it continuing in each Direction especially out to Council Grounds. The trail makes bicycling very enjoyable as Merrill drivers are not very cautious of pedestrians or bicyclist	7/13/2017 4:20 PM
28	I'd like to make sure that the investments in recreation prioritize kids in Merrill's most vulnerable neighborhoods.	7/13/2017 10:03 AM
29	Riverside Park access road, O'Day Street, is dangerous and the road itself has developed areas of erosion. The shoulders need to be maintained and a walking path developed on the south side . Because of the terrain(hill) walkers and bikers cannot see cars coming around the curve.	7/13/2017 8:47 AM
30	Work together to make Merrill a better place to live, enjoy numerous outdoor activities and be creative.	7/12/2017 11:30 PM
31	Not a concern more of a suggestion. Has it been dicussed to have a bridge that connects athletic park to lions park?	7/12/2017 10:12 PM
32	Potable water at some point on or near the River Bend Trail would be a good addition.	7/12/2017 8:07 PM
33	I don't know what a vault toilet is. I hope it is better than a porta-potty.	7/12/2017 3:44 PM
34	Thanks for continuing the mission of improving the quality of life and healthy opportunities for our community!	7/12/2017 1:59 PM
35	I'd like to see the River Bend Trail connect to the Prairie River trails.	7/12/2017 12:36 PM
36	It's imperative this community creates incentives to draw back the intelligent youth that leave every year. The parks department has a unique opportunity to lay the groundwork for a systematic reorganization of the city to reset the dispicable track this city has been on for decades. Property values are low and businesses are leaving. The city needs to fix these problems now. Park and infrastructure investment can help make that happen.	7/11/2017 9:07 PM
37	We need a disc golf course that can be used during high water seasons. The MARC, Jack Pines, or Memorial Forest might be drier during certain times of the year. There needs to be work on a Northern Branch of the Riverbend Trail through Weinbrenner parking lot with a connection to Prairie Trails. Looping around Athletic Park could offer a new perspective on that facility. Somehow need to maneuver through Stanges Park or past the Middle School. Space between Historical Society and river. Riverside Park trails need attention. From K down to the park needs brush clearing and granite blocks and rock walls recovered. Southern trail beyond the field should be established and kept clear during summer months. Maybe room for disc golf expansion over there and on plateau above picnic shelter. Plug and play stages should be included in the Bakery Park and Pocket Park designs. Wausau has one behind their library along the riverfront. Kayak rental and launch points built above dam. The reservoir area seems pretty nice. Maybe rent from a place near downtown or State St and they drop you either in Council Grounds or along Prairie River. Eastern dog park. Indoor skate park facility. White cement building under Center Ave building would be ideal with that large garage. Bakery Park might be ideal for a bocce ball court. Drinking fountains on Riverbend Trail and Central and Western Downtown areas. Basketball courts need repaving. Two courts in one park would be nice. Better stanchions. Lights. Fix the court by Weinbrenner Outlet store because that could be an awesome court location. Could also be a good area for skate park features along the Riverbend Trail. Fix stairs by Lion's park or build a new set up the hill for sledding. Add stairs or switchback for common path up hill in Stanges Park leading to Merrill Ave. Bridge connecting Riverbend Trail to Riverside Park trail. Make a small park on the grassy area across from Briq's next to Franklin School apartments. Could be a small skate plaza. Design seating to allow it to be skated on. Establish a "Right to Roam" in the city/county/state modeled on European laws. Add a BMX course somewhere in the city. Fond du Lac has one as an example. Provide an indoor basketball court somehow. Change train bridges to Sixth Ward to pedestrian bridges and extend a branch of the Riverbend Trail to the West and connect Ott's Park. Picnic tables and gathering areas along Riverbend Trail. Add pedestrian bridge from Sixth Ward to Council Grounds. Maybe use islands to shorten bridges. Build up parking lot across 64 from City Hall into minimum 3 level parking garage to alleviate parking concerns in the area. Wifi in all parks. Skate park features, bike/pedestrian trails/routes, disc golf, community gardens, and dog friendly facilities in as many places as possible. Invest in community building and future economies.	7/11/2017 1:27 AM
38	Are the Fair grounds considered Park? Need more close parking for people who have limited distance and maybe a wagon for those who just want to look...	7/10/2017 7:12 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

39	Merrill "City of Parks" have several that are just open space and serve no recreational purpose	7/10/2017 10:25 AM
40	Extending the river Bend Trail is essential for bringing bikes through the city, connecting it with other trails and cities is needed. Connecting to council grounds to downtown with signage is imperative. An at grade railroad crossing by the Cosmo where the man was killed in a bike crash on the tracks is needed for downtown access from the trail. Put in a spillway where the ward a was, Merrill didnmore to wreck tourism and family fun by letting the dam to be taken out. A number of our current leaders have no idea possibly what we lost.	7/6/2017 9:43 PM
41	Thank you for all you do for us to enjoy outdoor recreation in the city. I love to utilize the park systems and programming with my family.	7/6/2017 8:24 PM
42	Although the addition of the proposed park along the River Bend Trail is a step in the right direction, I would call your attention to the fact that there STILL is not a park located in the densely populated area bordered by Hwy 64, Johnson Street, 14th Street and Center Ave. I mean a community park, NOT a property that does not fit the definition of a park. (Not Church Mutual, Not a school playground.) Crossing a busy street is necessary to gain access to any park in Merrill from the above mentioned location.	7/5/2017 3:00 PM
43	Although I think parks are very important, I did not like the idea of parks downtown as I am a mother of small children and having them play so close to downtown traffic makes me very nervous. Also as we live out in the country I have more concerns with safe biking there due to lack of paved shoulders and high speeds of vehicles. Not sure if city of Merrill has any influence over country roads though.	7/5/2017 9:55 AM
44	Why hasn't the Stange's Park former swimming pool site been leveled for use? I agree that it is not a good site for the past skatepark effort, but it could at least be leveled for general park use. Seems the City is holding that site hostage until something more specific is determined.	7/5/2017 7:24 AM
45	Make sure that any delinquent tax foreclosure properties that are adjacent to parks & recreation facilities or adjacent to rivers are evaluated if would enhance parks & recreation amenities. Bankers Square (downtown pocket park) will be constructed during summer 2017 - Tax Increment District No. 6.	7/4/2017 7:15 PM
46	Begin to promote small business opportunity along river bend trail. To tie city and trail together. Need good safe pedestrian access directly to river bend trail in heart of downtown. Currently, best access is to walk across train tracks next to theater. It's a good location for access, but very cumbersome and unsafe.	7/3/2017 7:04 AM
47	We visit Winter Garden FL every time we go to Orlando FL. Great bike route to and through the little town. We rent bikes on the trail. Check it out for ideas.	7/2/2017 9:56 AM
48	Support the extension of the River Bend Trail	7/1/2017 7:39 PM
49	Make the entrance points into Merrill more attractive! The entrance from the north on highway K (Center Ave) is TERRIBLE and looks like a slum area. The entrance to the east near Walmart doesn't have any kind of an entrance to the city and so you don't really know where the city starts. The entrance coming from the west has a small at least semi-attractive sign on the river side of highway 64 in a rest area. I would think some "park themed" signage or area would be appropriate and needed to help Merrill with it's "signature" in the Northwoods.	6/30/2017 12:54 PM
50	We need to make sure we are working to attract people to our city by creating opportunities for families to enjoy, while also having amenities for retirees and elderly.	6/29/2017 9:33 PM
51	Year round ice at the MARC now that events will be held at Festival Grounds building	6/29/2017 4:20 PM
52	Revitalize Stange Park	6/29/2017 1:14 PM
53	I think a good skateboard park should be placed by old pool park. Current location is small and dangerous. The kids deserve better, it has been well used and it needs a better, larger and safer location. There had been a plan to expand River Bend Trail to the north to Prairie Trail, I hope that is still in the plan. I like your idea of pit toilets in some locations that can be kept open year round.	6/28/2017 10:35 PM
54	Bathrooms at Stange's Park would not only be nice for the people using the Park, but for people who are using the shelter for parties,etc. Athletic Park is a beautiful baseball facility. We need to preserve it and the character it brings to the city.	6/28/2017 7:13 AM
55	On the skate park subject,I would like to specify that the existing site should only be considered if they are going to go forward with the "traffic diet" mentioned earlier. The current set up (poorly controlled intersection,insufficient crosswalks) is truly an accident waiting to happen.	6/27/2017 4:30 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

56	I remember the River Bend Trail pitch stating that downtown would be connected with the MARC/Council grounds. Why is the trail expanding in the opposite direction? I'm okay with this expansion but I would rather the original pitch be realized as it would be more beneficial to the community. Consider decriminalizing cannabis on a local level. I fully support the legalization of medicinal and recreational marijuana. The state of Wisconsin doesn't seem to be moving quickly on this national controversy so I believe the change needs to happen on a local level which will pressure the state. It's already happening in Wisconsin, research Monona, WI recent activity regarding marijuana laws. I believe this will do nothing but benefit our community. This is the next boom that will breath life into Merrill. But this is just one citizens opinion and we are many. Thank you for acknowledging my input with this survey. - We should have more surveys Have a good day.	6/27/2017 2:22 PM
57	Without going back and checking the survey, I do not recall any specific plan for the Stange's Park location. It still has not had any site improvement since the pool was removed other than denying it for a skate park, which I agree with by the way. Why hasn't the site at least been leveled instead of the unsightly pit that remains. The City is quick to come after homeowners that do not maintain property. So, clean that up please to at least offer the space to be available for whatever a group using the park may find it useful for. As the City of Parks, your Outdoor Recreation Survey included to much about downtown bike racks and crosswalks. I am already not a fan of the narrow Main St to accommodate the angle parking change.	6/26/2017 7:20 AM
58	"Heritage" includes historic districts and buildings. Getting serious about listing homes and buildings on historic registries instead of demolishing them is part of celebrating Merrill's heritage -- just as developing opportunities for young people to exercise and socialize. Skateboard parks and disc golf courses do NOT need to have buildings knocked down for them to exist. There is enough space here! Let's save the cool old stuff while making the cool new stuff!!! Merrill can -- and should be-- a multi-generational community. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to have our voices heard here!!! :-)	6/25/2017 9:10 PM
59	The Park and Rec Dept are poor stewards of my city owned properties and representatives of our town. Why do they want more properties when they cannot take care of anything decent?	6/24/2017 8:59 PM
60	Just some thoughts.... The disc golf courses offer something active and inexpensive to do for people of all ALL ages. It gives people something to "do" outside, if only for a bit, where you don't have to get to work out but can still get some exercise. This would be a cheaper option I think than the failed skate park citizen initiatives. I think the city could do this a make a commitment to that age group and others. Everyone knows money is an option but give them hope.	6/24/2017 6:32 PM
61	The city should do the needed maintenance and updates to current parks before developing new parks.	6/23/2017 12:33 PM
62	We have so many community improvements over the last 12 years of living in Merrill.	6/22/2017 7:07 PM
63	The city is now onboard with the River Bend Trail, that is a good development. The city needs to get development on the riverfront. Whether it be condos, business etc. Maybe have loaner bikes painted bright colors for citizens to use nice when visiting.	6/22/2017 12:08 PM
64	Merrill is spending money on real estate speculation and pet projects like crazy. Doing a very bad job of it at that. OK to have a master plan to work towards but for the love of God. Get spending under control. Invest in bringing in new jobs and not feel good window dressings.	6/22/2017 11:40 AM
65	Keep up the great work. The more experiences/interactions with nature we can provide to society, the better.	6/22/2017 10:00 AM
66	I think the angle parking should be discontinued! Merrill streets are too narrow & it's dangerous both when backing out from that parking & when pulling out from any near by side street. You have to pull into traffic before seeing if it's safe to pull into traffic. The intersection at Blaine & 2nd street is also dangerous; you again have to pull into the immediate lane to see if there's oncoming traffic coming from the left because of cars/trucks parked in front of Park City Credit Union!	6/22/2017 6:02 AM
67	Merrill is a wonderful community full of friendly, hard working people. There is allot to be proud of but the negative image Merrill receives from surrounding communities, I believe, keeps people away. Something unique or different than other communities have that could draw tourists in could change that. The more natural things for people to do (biking, hiking, canoeing, snowmobiling, etc.....) will serve Merrill well and for many years to come. Maybe a campground in one of our beautiful parks would bring in people?	6/21/2017 5:33 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

68	Need more ATV access to the north, from the city. Also the city should focus more on the youth for park development (BMX track and Better location for a larger better designed skate park)	6/21/2017 11:13 AM
69	It is wonderful that you want to beautify the city with parks and trails etc., but why not take a little break from that and focus on bringing more stores to the area . That is something this town really needs. And while your at it, put this at the top of your list.....straighten out the Main Street and put it back the way it was..take a survey on that...I think you'll be surprised at the number of residents that hate it this way....thank you	6/21/2017 12:19 AM
70	The parking on Main St is awful.	6/20/2017 8:43 PM
71	For folks who would like to try canoeing, paddle boating or kayaking, a rental business would be a great thing to have. Not everyone can afford to own one of these items, so this would allow low income people to participate in water activities.	6/20/2017 7:04 PM
72	Either add a sidewalk from park place to kitchenette park on the south side of 64, or add a lined crosswalk and a sign in the middle of the road near the entrance to kitchenette park so people can cross there more safely. It's dangerous.	6/20/2017 6:59 AM
73	Please continue work on Stanges Park. Level off the dirt from the pool removal and at least plant grass until funds for a shelter and bathrooms are available. Remove the tennis courts which are in a state of disrepair. Fix the concrete bridge to the library as well. This is one of the most prominent parks in Merrill and has important historical significance. Thank you for taking public opinion under consideration.	6/20/2017 3:30 AM
74	The merrill fire chief is a disgusting person! He's a liar and a bully. He should be removed from his current position. How about a survey on that?...at least 2/3 of merrill agree with me.	6/19/2017 9:38 PM
75	Anything that can be done to get people outdoors is a win. As an avid cyclist, I'm all for any improvements to that segment, the rivers edge trail gets a lot of use and it's great for us as a family to just go chill and not have to worry about traffic, if it would connect to council grounds and wal mart area that would be a dream. Any ideas in the survey were great. Keep up the good work. ????	6/19/2017 7:37 PM
76	Read previous comment	6/19/2017 7:02 PM
77	I am concerned about about how the pool is being run. I feel that an adult should be present (pool manager) at all times. The lifeguards are not mature enough to handle some of the situations that arise. The current swimming pool manager? is not mature enough either to have high school students being receptive to redirection. Too many breaks during swim time are not necessary. I realize water needs testing etc. and the guards needs some kind of break, but 15 minutes every 45 minutes is excessive and wasteful. If guards are on rotation basis, that takes care of required break times as public employees. This pool is such a beautiful showcase for Merrill and it needs better management immediately.	6/19/2017 7:01 PM
78	At the Aquatic center, a 15 minute break every 45 min is very excessive and a waste of money. This personal policy is not in place anywhere else, other water parks only take a 10 minute break every 90 min. This is a waste of taxpayer money that is being spent on lifeguards, at least make them punch out since it is their "break time". 5 minutes is more than enough time to take care of restroom breaks and even buy an ice cream cone. Think of how furious taxpayers/city hall would be if they found out that about a bakers dozen of teenagers had 1/4 of their paycheck coming from break time every day. Take care of this before someone goes public with what you are doing.	6/19/2017 6:40 PM
79	Canoe/Kayak takeout above dam needs to be improved by widening access at landing along shore. There is a paddling triathlon planned to start in 2018 and this is a planned take out point. Improvement would be appreciated by all paddlers, not just racers. This race is being planned already through Parks and Rec Dept.	6/19/2017 6:24 PM
80	Have docks off riverbend trail for easy fishing access	6/19/2017 5:59 PM
81	I feel the current Skatepark area is too small to adequately expand or improve the park. I believe the center area of town is key for a location but the current Skatepark is too small. The current Skatepark is used very, very, frequently and does deserve to be upgraded. Smaller skatepark-like structures will not be used because they are too basic and people will become very bored with them quickly. One larger, more complex, park with many varying skill level structures would be the best use of resources.	6/19/2017 5:47 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

82	The Park and Rec. committee needs to ask more questions during meetings and take public opinion more seriously. When the public present a concern or idea the city administrator should not immediately crush it with negative feedback.	6/19/2017 5:32 PM
83	The new road construction that was done on center ave is not a good idea. The four lanes was better than the two lanes and a turning lane.	6/19/2017 5:31 PM
84	The River Bend trail needs to continue along the river, not on sidewalks all the way to the MARC It's not safe as is for kids to get to the pool	6/19/2017 5:30 PM
85	Skateboard park and murals and sculptures should be one of the lower concerns. I would like to see more campgrounds in some of the bigger areas that are options to be turned into parks with water and electric sites! That will also bring money, business, and tourism into the area!	6/19/2017 5:28 PM
86	No comment.	6/19/2017 5:13 PM
87	I would like to see handicap parking in the downtown area.	6/19/2017 4:43 PM
88	I would like to know more on the budget and how funds will be raised!	6/19/2017 4:17 PM
89	Where will all the money come from for these amenities?	6/19/2017 4:08 PM
90	I would like to see the river bend trail have lights and extend all the way to the Marc. With water bottle fill up stations and toilets. Maybe a small snack shack along the way! Maybe public bike racks to rent. D.C. And NY and Chicago have them. It would bring in tourists!	6/19/2017 2:39 PM
91	Clean up Stanges Park. Last year when I walked it the bridges were crumbling and the little islands are choked with weeds. Get rid of the massive brush pile from the downed trees at Riverside Park. It is an eyesore and unsafe as well if kids are not closely monitored.	6/19/2017 2:25 PM
92	I really enjoy the Bierman Aquatic Center. The citizens of Merrill and surrounding areas are lucky!	6/19/2017 2:11 PM
93	Could we get a tow rope at lions for skiing in the winter(practice/bunny hill)	6/19/2017 1:54 PM
94	See prior comment. Great ideas! Make Merrill a destination.	6/19/2017 1:43 PM

City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation Survey

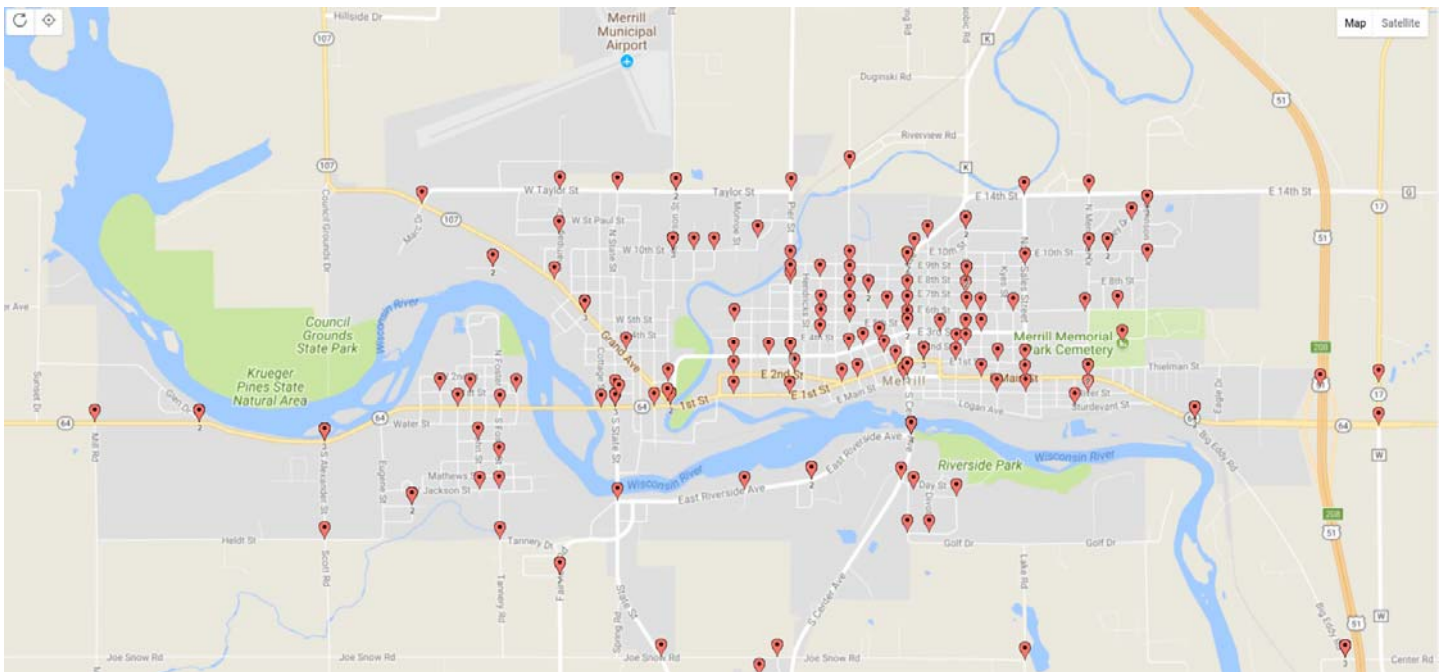
Q37 Please list the nearest intersection to your house.

Answered: 239 Skipped: 50

Of the total 239 people who answered this question, 204 provided an intersection, with the remaining 33 people listing an individual street or some other answer.

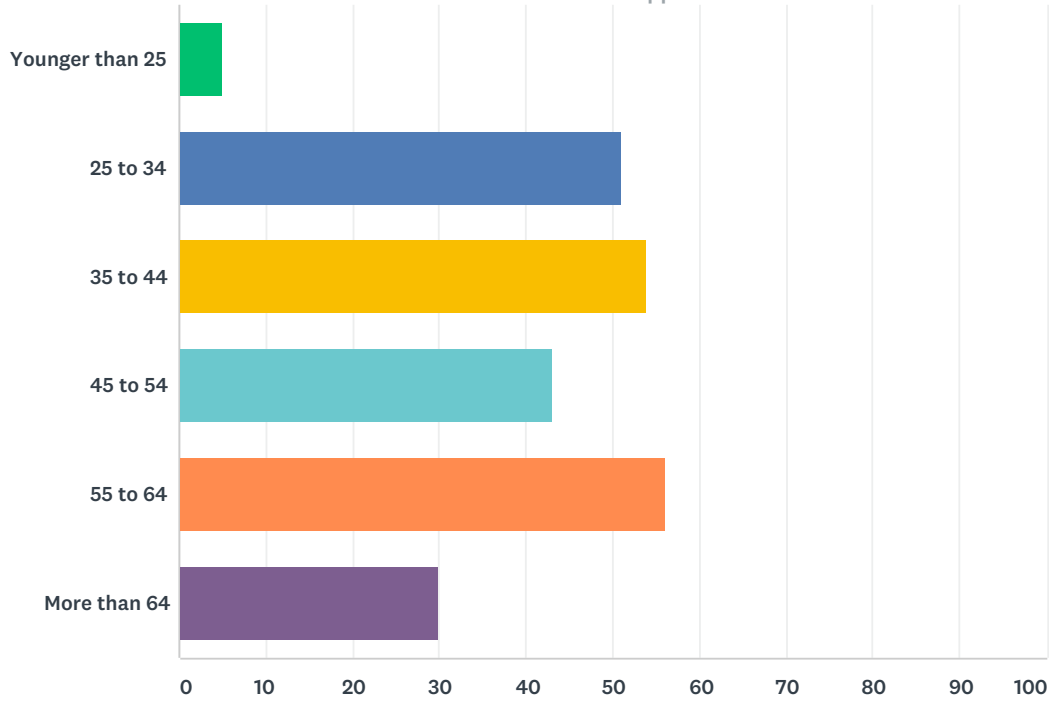
Of the 206 people who provided the intersection nearest to their house:

- 154 responses were from residents of Merrill; and
- 52 responses were from outside of Merrill



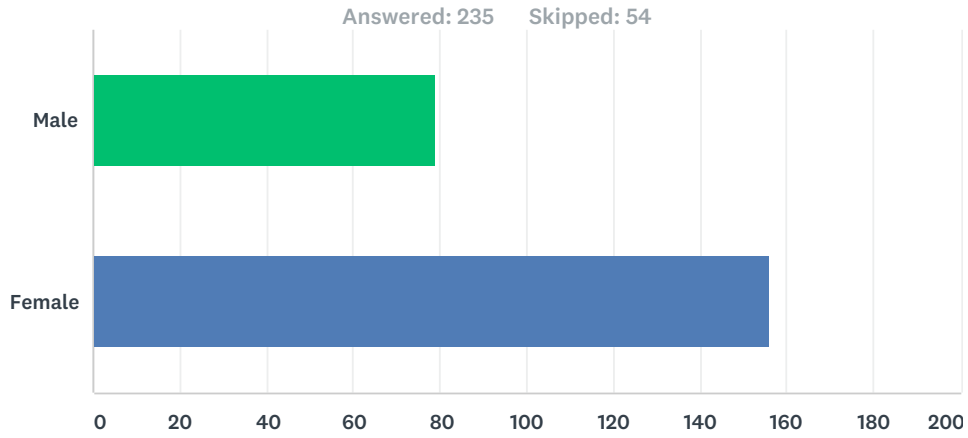
Q38 What is your age?

Answered: 239 Skipped: 50



Answer Choices	Responses
Younger than 25	2.09% 5
25 to 34	21.34% 51
35 to 44	22.59% 54
45 to 54	17.99% 43
55 to 64	23.43% 56
More than 64	12.55% 30
Total	239

Q39 What is your gender?



Answer Choices	Responses
Male	33.62% 79
Female	66.38% 156
Total	235

ATTACHMENT E

Senior Exercise Equipment

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Two Styles of Senior Playgrounds

Key Features of Style 1:

- concrete surface
- low impact exercises
- no seating
- wide open



The playgrounds generally cluster together low-impact exercise equipment that promotes balance and flexibility. Source: Xccent Fitness



Exercise stations and equipment specifically geared towards seniors promotes outdoor strength training, while raised bed gardens provide easy access to community gardening opportunities. (Source: Ida Gaye Gardens, by RVi Landscape)

Two Styles of Senior Playgrounds

Key Features of Style 2:

- soft surface
- low impact exercises
- many benches
- scenic



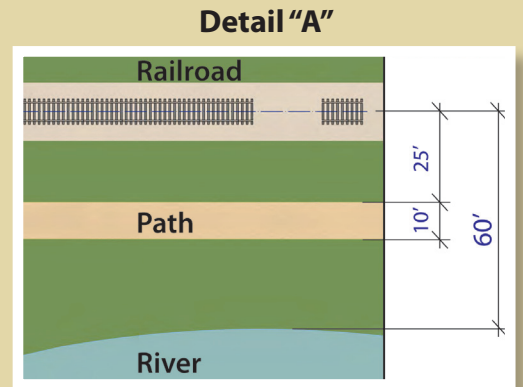
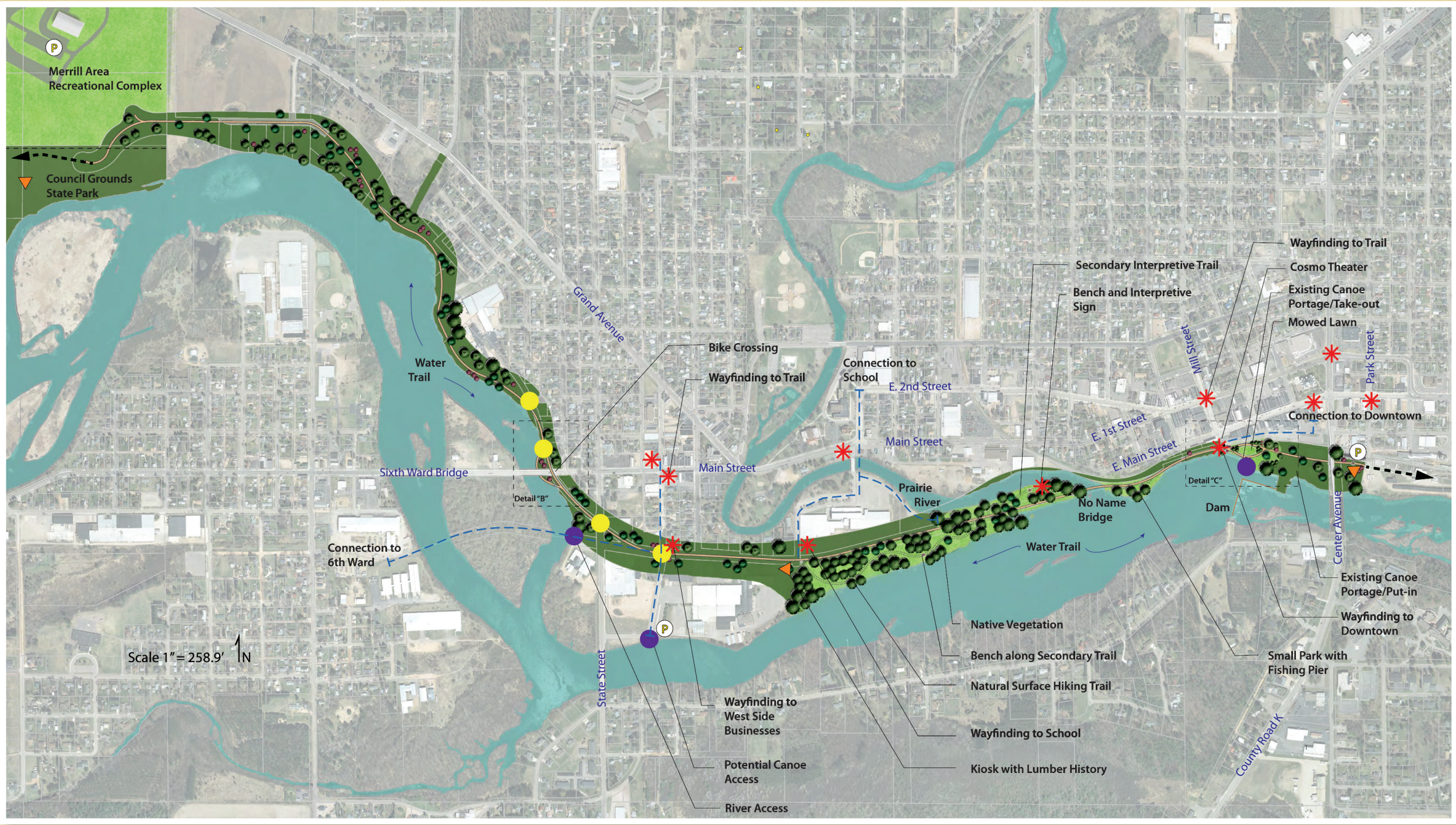
Elderly participants train on exercise machines at a pensioners' playground in Hyde Park in London, England. The outdoor facility features fun fitness equipment that offers a range of exercises to improve strength and flexibility and help adults continue active and healthy lifestyles in later years. Play areas for older people are popular in China and parts of Europe. (Source: Adrian Dennis/AFP/Getty Images)



ATTACHMENT F

River Bend Trail Maps


Compiled by: National Park Service & City of Merrill



Legend

- Wayfinding Sign
- Parking
- Water Access
- Neighborhood Access
- Kiosk
- Connections
- Railroad
- Trail Corridor
- Park Space

Note: Green corridor is for graphic reference only. It does not imply property acquisition.

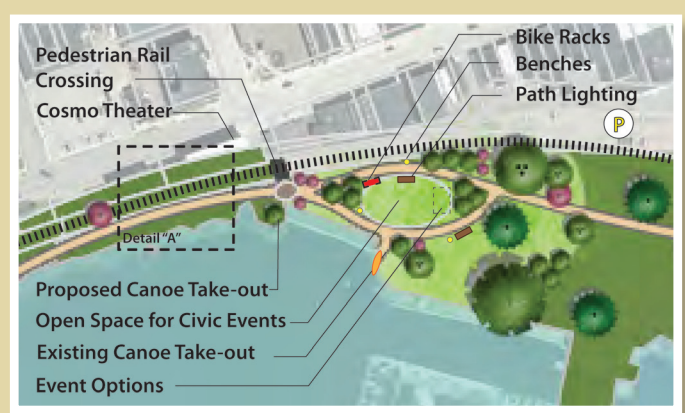


This project received a technical assistance grant from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation (RTCA) Assistance Program of the National Park Service.

Detail "B"



Detail "C"

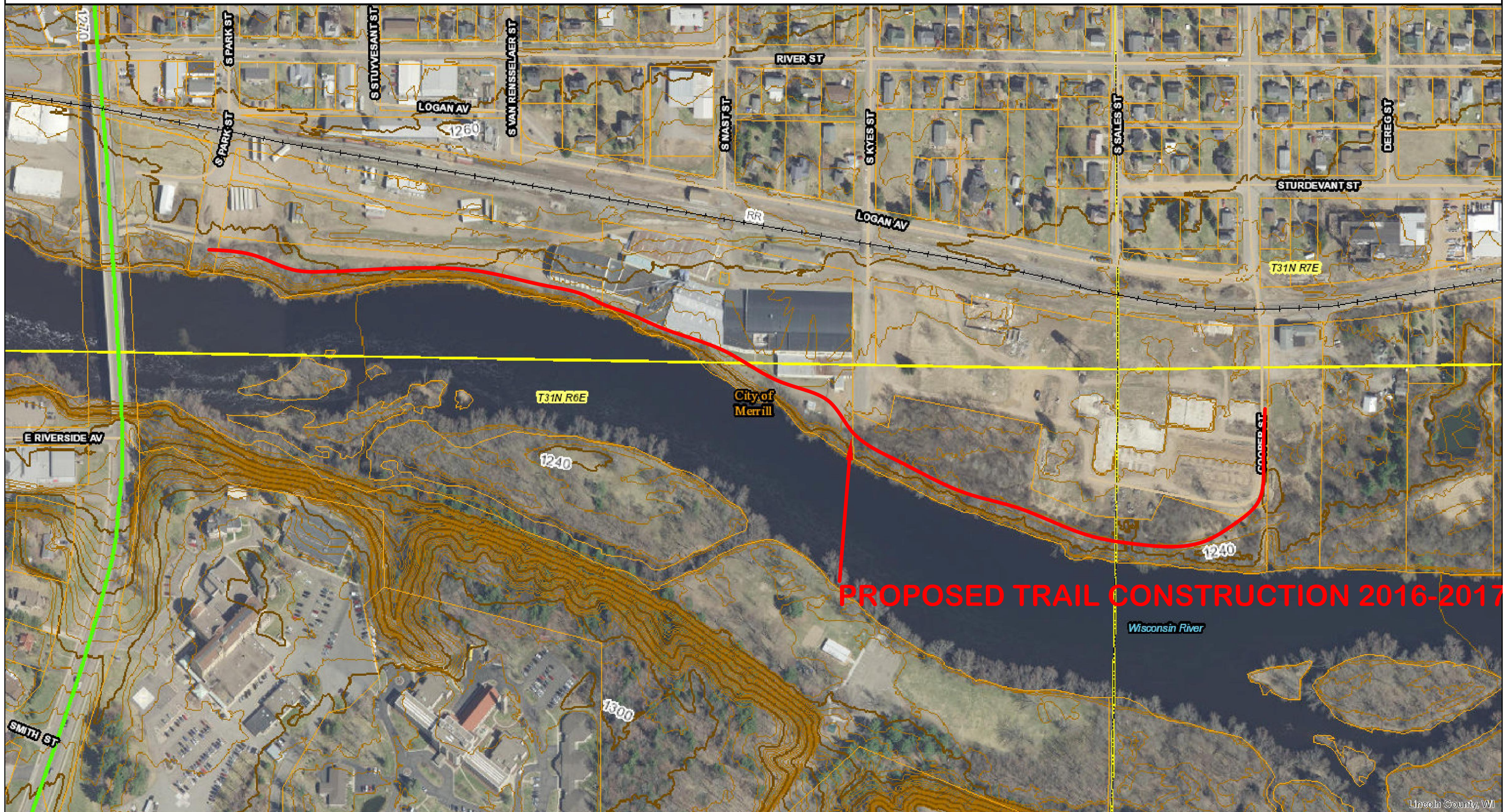


River Bend Trail of Merrill



River District Development Foundation of Merrill, Inc.

RIVER BEND TRAIL PARK STREET TO COOPER STREET EXPANSION



ATTACHMENT G

Possible Prairie River Tubing

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Possible Prairie River Tubing

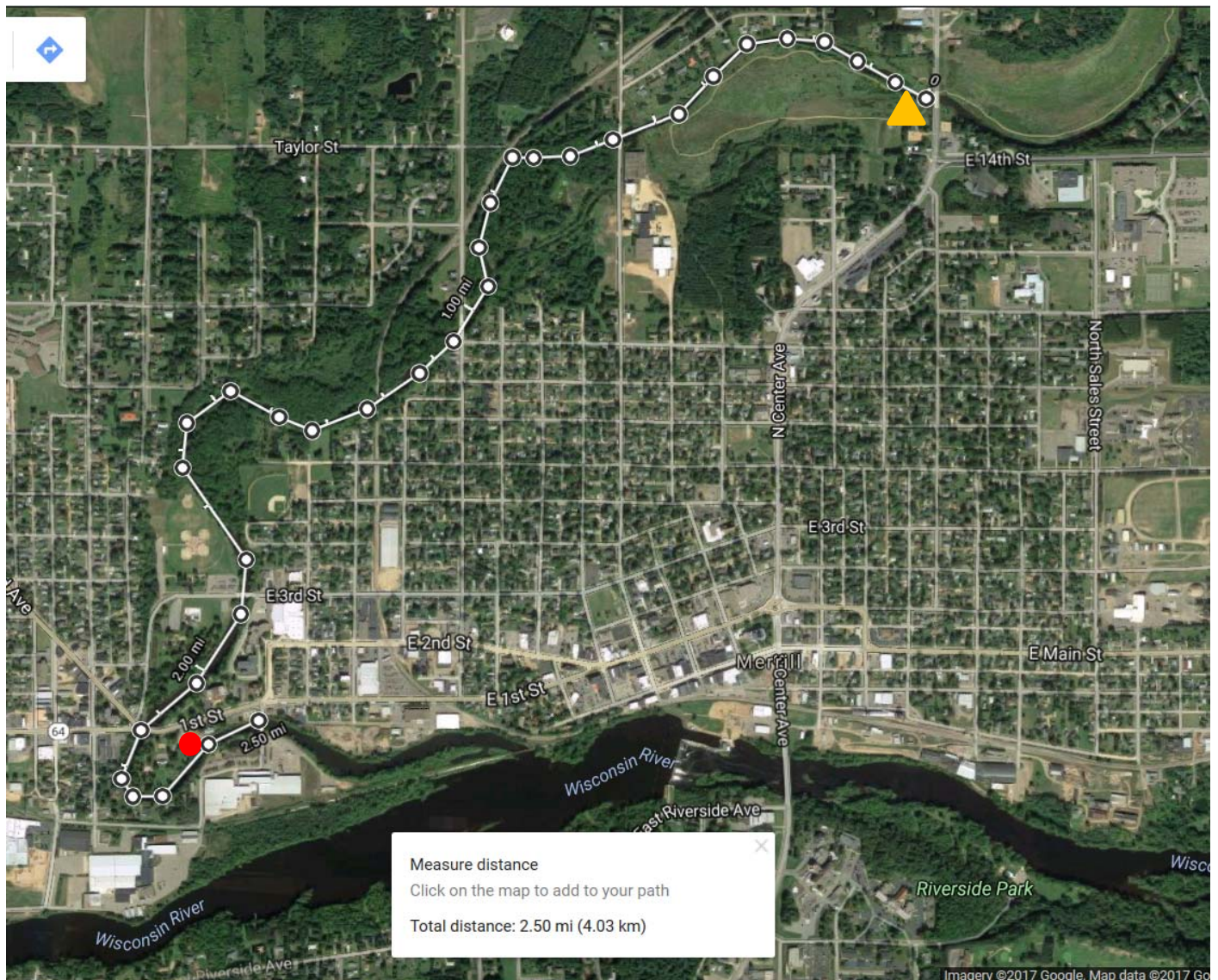
Prairie Trails Park has become very popular since it was developed in 2002. There could be about a 2.5 mile long Prairie River water trail between Prairie Trails Park and Stange Kitchenette Park. This is a scenic route through the heart of Merrill. No boat launches exist along the Prairie River, but the water depth and width can easily accommodate canoes, kayaks, and inner tubes.

Recommendation:

- Add a canoe/kayak launch (take-out) in the Stange Kitchenette Park area.
- Promote tubing on the Prairie River after launches exist on both ends of the water trail.

▲ Launch – Prairie Trails Park

● Take out – Stange Kitchenette Park (general area)



ATTACHMENT H

Parklet Ideas

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Parklet defined

A parklet is a sidewalk extension that provides more space and amenities for business owners and citizens in one or more street parking spots.

Parklets provide an economical solution to the desire for wider sidewalks for seating, bike parking, or other amenities where narrow sidewalks restrict such uses.

A streets department, in coordination with other departments, establishes guidelines for the approval and installation of parklets either for exclusive use by a business or for the general public. This could be a seasonal or year-round installation.

Under such a program a business may request a permit for designing, maintaining, and installing a parklet either reserved for their patrons or for public use in front of their establishment.

There needs to be a direct way to identify if the space is public or not.

1. **Either** allow a business to use a parklet as sidewalk seating for their business and to appropriately identify it as such,
2. **Or** make the parklet publicly available and post the following sign:



Sample text provide by San Francisco Planning Department.

This parklet includes public bike parking in one car parking spot, and public seating in another car parking spot.



Parklet example from San Francisco.

Possible Roll-Off Parklet

Possible Roll-Off Parklet

Need an area to eat ice cream that can be cleaned with a garden hose?

Park this in front of Bakery Park:

PUBLIC PARKLET

ALL SEATING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

City of Merrill Parks Department



A parklet in downtown San Francisco, CA

Add: Anti-Skateboard Guards

Roll-off Parklet Specifications:

- 10 yard, roll-off dumpster, (6-ft wide by 16-ft long) customized to add seating on one side and a sign.
- Ostrich Ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*).
- Groundcover that is low maintenance.
- Red and white reflective strips, as seen on truck trailers, on top two corners of both ends that face traffic.

ATTACHMENT I

Crosswalk Curb Extensions

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Crosswalk Curb Extensions

Recommendation:

Install crosswalk curb extensions along E. Main St to make crossing the road easier at intersections identified below.

Merrill Streets Dept. may coordinate painting the street with MAPS students.

Polka dots may need refreshing every other year.

Note: When curbs or Main Street need to be improved, then create permanent crosswalk curb extensions.

FROM THIS:



E. Main St and S. Poplar St

TO THIS:



Austin, TX

AT These ("●") Downtown Locations:



Downtown Merrill

ATTACHMENT J

Proposed Downtown Bike Parking

Compiled by: NCWRPC

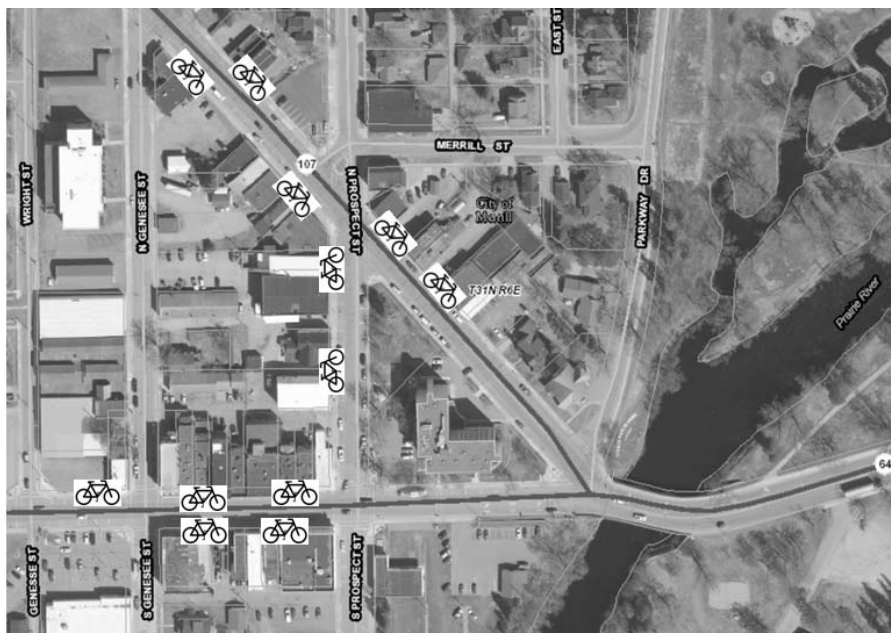
Proposed Downtown Bike Parking

Recommendations:


- Add bike parking, possibly designed/constructed by high school students, in downtown that meets the design guidelines in Merrill's Bike & Ped. Plan, and is located between the sidewalk and the street (see next page).



Picture: Lincoln County Land Records Viewer, 2015 Aerial Imagery



Picture: Lincoln County Land Records Viewer, 2015 Aerial Imagery

 = **Potential** general bike rack locations

Proposed Downtown Bike Parking

Use this diagram for locating bike racks between the sidewalk and the curb:

IS THERE ENOUGH ROOM FOR BIKE PARKING RACKS?

Layout for Hitch Type Bike Rack Installation
Between Curb and Sidewalk (Minimum Setbacks)

Hitch type bike rack

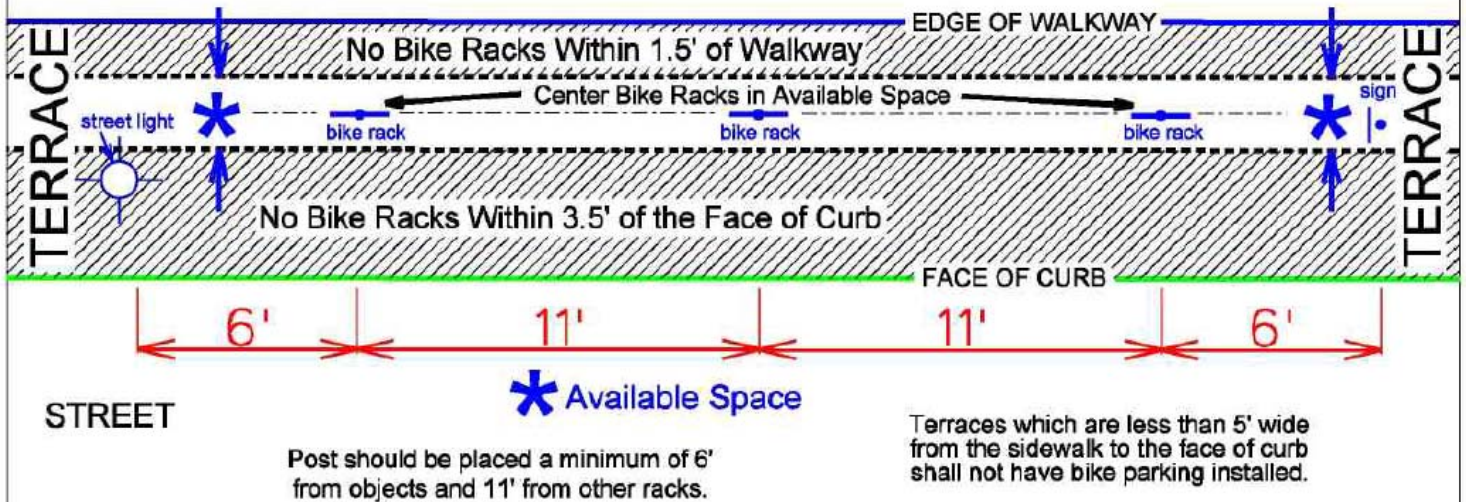


Connects to concrete or blacktop with four bolts

BUILDING OR RIGHT OF WAY LINE

WALKWAY

Sidewalks are at least 5' wide and may be wider in some locations.



Created by: Madison Traffic Engineering Department