

## Chapter 5

# GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES & PROGRAMS

### 5.1 Goals, Objectives, Policies & Programs



This is a joint plan adopted by both the Village of Waunakee and the Town of Westport. Both communities will utilize this plan to guide development of subsequent parks, recreation, open space and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Most of the goals, objectives, policies and programs are relevant and appropriate in both jurisdictions. Any items specific to only one jurisdiction are explicitly identified.

Goals and objectives are presented here as desired outcomes; objectives are added under a goal only when there is the need to describe multiple desired outcomes not adequately captured in the goal statement. Policies and programs include both actions and policy rules – they are the methods proposed to achieve the goals and objectives.

## 5.1 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES & PROGRAMS

### GOAL 1 -PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATIONAL LANDS TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

Objective 1- There will be a range of park types and sizes to meet the varied needs of the community.

Objective 2- The number of parks in the community will increase in relation to growth in new development.

Objective 3- Acquire additional lands for active and passive recreational use based on current deficiencies, demands created by increasing populations, or the environmental and recreational significance of the land.

#### Shared Policies & Programs

1. The park system will include a range of park types including:
  - a. Mini-parks, such as Village or Town Center plaza spaces, typically less than one-acre in size, including features such as gardens, fountains, memorials, gazebos, and benches
  - b. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, typically

*2-5 acres in size, including features such as play equipment, picnic areas, tennis and basketball courts, and playfields suitable for informal activities, such as soccer or ball games.*

*c. Community parks and playfields, typically 5-20+ acres in size, including features found in neighborhood parks in addition to walking paths, community event space, shelters with restroom facilities, off-street parking, athletic facilities suitable for organized recreational, team and tournament play.*

*d. Nature Preserves/Greenbelts/Historic Markers, size varies, typically includes either woodlands, prairies, floodplains, wetlands, streams, critical wildlife habitats and other areas having cultural, scenic, or natural values.*

2. Require new developments to provide land or fees-in-lieu-of-land dedication sufficient to meet the parkland and trail needs generated by such development, based on the adopted parkland acreage policies of each respective community identified in this plan (see Village Policy #1 and Town Policy #1).
3. Land which is undevelopable (i.e. contains wetlands or floodplains) or proposed for stormwater management facilities shall not be counted toward the required amount of parkland dedication for new subdivisions.
4. Pursue additional land acquisition where existing neighborhoods are underserved by recreational land or where opportunities arise to add strategic parkland to the community which serves to implement one or more recommendations of this plan.

#### Village Policies & Programs

1. Maintain a level of service of at least 15 acres per 1,000 residents.
2. Collect park impact fees from new developments sufficient to meet the anticipated cost, on a per household basis, of providing park improvements at a level equivalent to the park standards adopted in this plan.

#### Town Policies & Programs

1. Maintain a level of service of at least 12 acres per 1,000 residents.

## **GOAL 2 -PROVIDE ADEQUATE ACCESS TO PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN SAFE WALKING DISTANCE.**

Objective 1- New parks will be strategically located within the neighborhoods that they are intended to serve in order to meet the geographic park service standards identified in this plan (see Shared Policy 1 and 2 below).

Objective 2- New residential subdivisions will have access to both neighborhood and community parks.

Objective 3- Provide barrier-free access to public parks and recreational facilities.

### **Shared Policies & Programs**

- 1. New residential subdivisions should be designed such that all residential lots are within a 1/3-mile or less distance from some type of public park and open space facility.*
- 2. New residential subdivisions should be designed such that all residential lots are within a 1.5-mile or less distance from a community park or community playfield.*

*3. Neighborhood parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place.*

*4. It is the preference of the community to dedicate larger neighborhood or community parks capable of supporting a range of recreational facilities as part of land dedications requirements in lieu of dedicating multiple small mini-parks and neighborhood playgrounds.*

*5. New parks and recreational facilities will meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and existing park facilities will be improved to meet ADA requirements as facilities are upgraded.*

### **Village Policies & Programs**

- 1. New parks should provide off-street parking spaces sufficient to meet the anticipated uses of the park. In many cases, smaller pull-in parking lots (e.g. those at Westbridge Park) can be utilized for neighborhood parks; however, larger off-street parking lots should be used for community parks and playfields to accommodate the increased number of users.*



### **GOAL 3 -PROVIDE A DIVERSITY OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO MEET THE VARIED NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY.**

Objective 1- The community's park system provides recreation opportunities for people of all ages, races, and socio-economic status.

Objective 2- The variety of recreational facilities will increase within the community.

Objective 3- The community's park system provides opportunities for multi-seasonal recreation activities.

Objective 4- Recreational tourism will increase within the community.

#### **Shared Policies & Programs**

- 1. Parks should be designed to include a range of age appropriate playground equipment. For example, play equipment for children ages 6-23 months, 2-5 years old, and 5-12 years old. Play equipment should be properly signed to denote the intended age range of the equipment.*

- 2. New parks, or upgrades to existing parks, should consider opportunities to provide new types of recreational facilities not already found within the community in addition to traditional facilities such as playgrounds.*

- 3. Pursue the development of revenue generating recreational facilities and activities, or those uses which can bring an influx of tourists to support area businesses, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.*

#### **Village Policies & Programs**

- 1. Recreational programs should provide opportunities for participation by residents of all ages, interests (i.e. sports and non-sports) and abilities.*

### **GOAL 4 -PROVIDE WELL MAINTAINED AND SAFE PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.**

Objective 1- Prevent and minimize injuries to users of public parks and recreational facilities.

Objective 2- Continually monitor and maintain existing park equipment and vegetation to ensure its longevity and safety.



### **Shared Policies & Programs**

1. Facility development and installation will be reviewed with safety in mind, adhering to accepted standards prior to installation including applicable Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards, American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standards, or American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
2. The Village/Town will make every effort to repair, replace, or remove park facilities that become broken or otherwise become a safety hazard. Upon learning of any defective park facility the Village/Town may post notice of a park closure or park facility closure until such time as corrective measures can be taken.
3. The Village/Town will make every effort to maintain the landscape at existing parks in good condition.
4. Investigate the increase use of low-maintenance ground cover in parks and conservancy areas.
5. Incorporate tree planting into neighborhood, community and special purpose parks.

### **Town Policies & Programs**

1. Any new tree planting will include no more than 25% of any one tree species. Only native tree species will be planted (no invasives).

### **GOAL 5 -ADEQUATELY FUND PARK AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS.**

Objective 1- Recognize the importance of an adequate park budget, which can financially address existing park maintenance and allow for future parkland acquisition and facility development.

Objective 2- Maintain a park and open space system that is sustainable with respect to annual maintenance and operations costs and servicing capacities of the community.

Objective 3- Continue funding the replacement of old and deteriorating recreation equipment in all Village/Town parks.

Objective 4- Continue funding to allow for future parkland acquisition and new facility development.

Objective 5- Invest funds for the development of facilities that will maximize existing park and recreation areas and providing recreational programs, with the intention of increasing park use.

Objective 6- Use all available funding resources to further enhance the quality of the community's park system.

### **Shared Policies & Programs**

1. The Village/Town will maintain a capital improvements plan to replace worn or damaged recreational equipment and facilities.
2. Use this plan as a guide to establishing future capital improvement plans and annual budgets.
3. As new lands are added to the park system, the Village/Town will budget sufficient funds for on-going maintenance and operations of park and outdoor recreation facilities. Long-range maintenance and operations costs should be taken into consideration at the time new parklands are acquired through land dedications or other means.
4. Pursue grant funding from state, federal, recreation associations, or corporations which can aid in the purchase and/or development of desired park system improvements.
5. Nurture existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteer help to aid in park system development.
6. Provide residents an opportunity to make a tax-deductible charitable gift to assist with the maintenance and development of the Village's/Town's park and recreational facilities (e.g. endowment fund).
7. Utilize fees in lieu of land dedication to upgrade the local park system.
8. Review parkland dedication requirements, fees in lieu of land dedication, and park impact fees on an annual basis and update as needed to reflect changes in official policies or market conditions.

### **Village Policies & Programs**

1. Establish a process for planning for and funding major regional recreational and athletic facilities that are not a part of the typical neighborhood and community park facilities. Examples of facilities with a broad regional benefit include:

a. *Swimming Pool/Water Park/Splash Pad*

b. *Indoor Athletic Complex*

*These are “special purpose” facilities that generally have a targeted user groups and are usually funded by a combination of private and governmental sources.*

## **GOAL 6 -PRESERVE AND ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AS PERMANENT OPEN SPACE AREAS.**

Objective 1- Coordinate siting of active parklands with environmental corridors.

Objective 2- Link active parklands together via environmental corridors

Objective 3- Use park and recreational lands as a means to promote environmental education and community history.

### **Shared Policies & Programs**

- 1. Utilize drainage ways, greenways, and environmental corridors as part of a permanent open space system suitable for passive recreation use, including nature walking, wildlife habitat preservation, and trail development. Such environmental areas are generally not suitable as neighborhood or community parks because of topography and drainage limitations.*
- 2. Where feasible and in the best interests of the community, consider siting active parklands adjacent to environmental corridors in order to expand the total amount of open space and to facilitate trail connectivity from active parklands to environmental corridors.*
- 3. Encourage public awareness of environmental and cultural resources by installing interpretative signage or historical markers within Village/Town parks. The Village/Town encourages the use of park facilities for outdoor environmental education.*

## **GOAL 7 -COORDINATE PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.**

Objective 1- Coordinate park and open space planning and development with adjacent governments, school districts, Dane County, state and federal agencies and other owners and managers of public, quasi-public and private open space lands in the community.

Objective 2- Coordinate the public use of indoor and outdoor school recreation facilities.

Objective 3- Coordinate subdivision review with all departments responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities.

Objective 4- Preserve areas planned for future parks and recreational trails from development.

Objective 5- Complete regular reviews and updates of this plan in coordination with the Village/Town Comprehensive Plan.

Objective 6- Provide opportunities for public participation in park and recreational facility development.

### **Shared Policies & Programs**

- 1. Provide copies of this plan to adjacent governments, Dane County Parks Department, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and non-profit bike and recreation associations operating in the area.*
- 2. Review and comment on parks and recreational plans of other adjacent governments.*
- 3. Participate in regional planning of parks and recreational needs, including staying in regular contact with the Capital Area Regional Plan Commission, the Dane County Parks Department, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.*
- 4. Where feasible and in the best interests of the community, consider siting active parklands adjacent to school properties in order to expand the total amount of open space and shared use of facilities.*
- 5. Consult and incorporate the needs identified in this plan before annexations, land divisions, or subdivision plats are approved to identify the appropriate types and locations of parklands, facilities, and trails impacted by the land use request.*
- 6. The Village/Town may use its Official Mapping powers to dedicate future park areas, recreational trails, bicycle and pedestrian facility rights-of-way in advance of development in order to prevent the loss of strategic public lands to other uses.*
- 7. Acquire lands suitable for park and recreation use by explicitly stating acceptable characteristics of land in the parkland dedication ordinance.*
- 8. This plan will be adopted as a component of the Village/Town Comprehensive Land Use Plan.*

9. *The Village/Town will update this plan every five years as a matter of best practice and to maintain eligibility for state and federal park and recreational grant programs.*
10. *Citizen involvement in planning and design of park and open space areas is encouraged.*
11. *Encourage cooperative Village/Town/School/Sports Association development projects to help improve and expand recreational opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.*
12. *Develop and maintain formal use/revenue/maintenance agreements between the Village/Town, State, other local governments, school district, or public recreation associations to help operate and maintain public recreation facilities in the Village/Town where appropriate. Agreements should be reviewed at least every five years, or annually as necessary.*

**Village Policies & Programs**

1. *Require developers to stub new water, sewer and electrical lines on the park side of the street, or bring a lateral to the park side of the street, so the Village can easily provide future water, sewer and electrical service to the park as it develops.*

**GOAL 8 -REDUCE MOTOR VEHICLE DEPENDENCY BY ENCOURAGING A MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK, ENSURING ACCESS TO BIKING AND WALKING ROUTES FOR ALL WHO CHOOSE OR REQUIRE THEM.**

Objective 1- Plan for pedestrian and bike connections between major generators and destinations of bike trips (such as residential neighborhoods, schools, and shopping).

Objective 2- Incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities in all new development projects, redevelopment projects, and reconstruction of existing roads.

Objective 3- Emphasize facilities that enable children to safely walk or bike to school.

**Shared Policies & Programs**

1. *Make improvements to better accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians as part of all new or upgraded road projects.*



2. Support the further study of the feasibility of establishing a pedestrian/bike ferry service across Lake Mendota, connecting Westport with downtown Madison.
3. Consider re-striping lanes to allow wider curb lanes with room for bicycles and narrower auto lanes as part of any new overlay or improvement project.
4. Provide signed and marked crosswalks in school zones, at signalized intersections, 4-way stops, and at midblock locations where there is a need to accommodate crossings. Consider adding advance crosswalk warning beacons and audible crossing signals where additional warning is deemed necessary, particularly along Main Street and Century Avenue. Consider using specially-surfaced, colored, and/or raised crosswalks in high-traffic areas.

### **Village Policies & Programs**

1. In the Village of Waunakee, sidewalks (minimum width noted in parenthesis below) are recommended in the following locations:
  - a. Commercial and industrial streets (five feet): Both sides of new and existing streets.
  - b. Residential streets (four feet): Both sides of all new streets, both sides of existing streets when adjacent to multiple family housing or streets that provide a route to a school, at least one side on other existing streets.

### **Town Policies & Programs**

1. Residential streets in the Town of Westport should be designed with four-foot paved shoulders along both sides to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

### **GOAL 9 -PROVIDE SAFE AND EFFICIENT PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ACCESS BETWEEN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS, SCHOOLS, PARKS, AND OTHER RECREATIONAL SITES.**

Objective 1- Refer to this Plan in review of development proposals (e.g. add it to a development review checklist), making sure that recommendations are included in developer’s plans.

Objective 2- Update comprehensive plans, park and open space plans, and zoning and subdivision ordinances as needed to ensure bicycling and pedestrian access.

Objective 3- Connect new neighborhoods with each other and to existing development to provide a variety of safe and efficient transportation options for bikers and walkers.

Objective 4- Promote the creation of new trails/paths to link existing residential centers and existing/proposed greenspace areas.





### **Shared Policies & Programs**

1. *Design neighborhoods to provide for multiple safe and direct bike and pedestrian connections in all directions.*
2. *Link major activity centers such as schools, libraries, parks, employment centers, and shopping areas through bicycle and pedestrian facilities.*
3. *Provide shortcuts to bicyclists and pedestrians wherever possible, through continuing paths from dead-end roads, across railroad tracks, or through long residential blocks and other barriers.*
4. *Plan for new destinations and activity centers in locations that are accessible or are made accessible to pedestrian and bicycle travel.*
5. *Provide connections between and within residential areas and major destinations with off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities.*

### **GOAL 10 -INTEGRATE THE WAUNAKEE-WESTPORT AREA BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SYSTEM WITH OTHER SYSTEMS.**

Objective 1- Coordinate the planning of recreational trails between neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions, such as DeForest, Windsor, Middleton, Madison, Dane County, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Objective 2- Continue to work with neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions such as DeForest, Windsor, Middleton, Middleton, Dane County, and the State on future bicycle and pedestrian system planning and improvements. Utilize enhancement grants when available.

Objective 3- Link the bike and pedestrian system with environmental corridor protection, community planning, and road improvement processes.

Objective 4- Emphasize pedestrian and bicycle connections with and between regional and state recreational areas, such as Governor Nelson State Park.

Objective 5- Coordinate planning efforts of new transportation corridors, especially the proposed North Mendota Parkway, to ensure proper consideration of trail connection development, and adequate green space protection.

Objective 6- Adopt a policy that encourages the linking of existing public lands and trails in the City of Middleton, Village of Windsor, Village of Waunakee, City of Madison and other surrounding communities

### **Shared Policies & Programs**

1. *Waunakee and Westport should make this Plan available to all communities and counties, state agencies, and non-profit agencies operating in the area.*
2. *Waunakee, Westport, Dane County, and the Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization should refer to this Plan when making transportation and land use plans and policies.*
3. *Seek to develop multi-use trails and footpaths along environmental corridors, such as Six Mile Creek and Dorn Creek, which are pleasant to use and provide logical travel corridors.*
4. *Protect and preserve the rail corridor running through Waunakee and Westport for future uses, including a potential mass transit option.*
5. *In the event that the existing rail corridor is abandoned, preserve the corridor for future recreational trails and transportation needs.*
6. *Support the designation of Six Mile Creek downstream from the Woodland-Arboretum Drive bridge as part of the Dane County Yahara Waterways Trail system.*
7. *Consider contributing local funds towards efforts for planning and land acquisition for regional county or state trail projects that would enhance the local trail system*

### **GOAL 11 -FOLLOW APPROVED STANDARDS TO CREATE A SAFE, CONVENIENT AND EFFICIENT BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SYSTEM.**

Objective 1- Promote the convenience of pedestrians and bicyclists with the same level of support as motorists—people should be able to bike or walk anywhere they can drive.

Objective 2- Consider the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists in an effort to reduce bicycle and pedestrian accidents.

Objective 3- Design all new facilities to meet American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

**Objective 4-** Provide on-street facilities for cyclists, wherever possible, including bike lanes on arterial streets and designated routes on low-traffic streets.

**Objective 5-** Provide appropriate levels of facility maintenance, such as ensuring that paved shoulders and bike lanes remain free of gravel and debris.

**Objective 6-** Provide facilities for safe traffic interaction at road and driveway intersections.

**Objective 7-** Trail plans and new trail corridors are coordinated in a manner that prevents incompatible uses or trail designs.

### **Shared Policies & Programs**

1. *Waunakee and Westport should adopt zoning and subdivision standards (as applicable) that meet the special needs of pedestrians and bicyclists, including the following:*
  - a. *Sidewalks on both sides of all new streets in the Village, and on new streets serving medium and high density residential areas, schools, and commercial areas in the Town;*
  - b. *Site planning standards designed to get pedestrians and cyclists safely from the street and sidewalks to the entrances of commercial, industrial, institutional, and multiple family residential projects;*
  - c. *Block lengths no greater than 800 feet in sewer service areas, 1,200 feet in unsewered areas or areas with larger lots;*
  - d. *New mid-block connections on existing long blocks (including blocks of parkland), where possible, to make bike and pedestrian connections more convenient (Waunakee: see ordinances Sec. 86-212 (b));*
  - e. *Mid-block connections where new development such as schools and shopping areas is proposed next to residential uses, to allow for easy travel;*
  - f. *Bike lanes, routes, or paths in new developments to connect new development to existing bike lanes, routes, or paths;*
  - g. *Bike racks in all new commercial and multi-family residential developments;*
2. *Consider implementing the following facilities and practices to make biking and walking more safe and pleasant:*
  - a. *Bike-safe sewer grates, railroad crossings, and other infrastructures;*
  - b. *Demand-actuated traffic signals that respond to bicycles;*
  - c. *Neck-downs and other traffic calming modifications on busy streets*
3. *Provide restrooms, drinking fountains, information kiosks, supply shops, wayfinding signage, and similar facilities along bicycle and pedestrian paths or routes.*
4. *Adopt access control regulations for arterial and collector streets with existing or planned parallel multi-use paths, to reduce the number of access drives.*
5. *On-street bicycle routes, lanes, and paved shoulders are preferred in the following locations:*
  - a. *Streets that have rights-of-way wide enough to provide for adequate separation between bicycles and moving and parked motor vehicles.*
  - b. *Streets having speed limits of no more than 35 miles per hour.*
6. *Discourage off-street bike paths along major streets where there is a high number of turning movements and side friction (e.g. multiple driveway access points).*
7. *Consider restricting “right turn on red” at intersections where significant pedestrian/bicycle-vehicle conflict exists.*
8. *Maintain and upgrade bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Village and Town. Basic maintenance and upgrades of existing sidewalks and bicycle trails/lanes should be included in the capital improvement programs and annual budgets. Work with community groups, neighborhood and homeowners associations to assist in maintenance.*
9. *Limit motorized vehicle access to bicycle and pedestrian facilities to those vehicles necessary to provide access for persons with disabilities or impaired mobility.*

## **GOAL 12 -DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAM.**

Objective 1- Support the school district on a youth education program for schools.

Objective 2- Provide a map of the entire bike system, and update it as new facilities are provided.

Objective 3- Educate the general public on needs and improvements for the system.

Objective 4- Integrate environmental awareness into signs and exhibits along the route system.

Objective 5- Respect and integrate historical and cultural resources into bicycle and pedestrian facilities when possible. Work with the appropriate state and local historical groups on historic and cultural review processes and any existing regulations.

### ***Shared Policies & Programs***

1. *Post bike route and wayfinding signs directing users to various paths, activity centers, and other destinations.*
2. *The Village and Town should work with the Dane County Sheriff's Department, the Waunakee Police Department, schools, and non-profit groups to facilitate an education and public awareness program. The program should include educating pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists about the law, and providing residents, employees, and visitors with a user-friendly map of the bicycle pedestrian system and destinations. Examples of activities include:*
  - a. *Encouraging events during Bike-to-Work Week (the third week in May).*
  - b. *Working with employers to promote alternatives to driving, like carpooling, and facilities for bicyclists, such as bike racks and shower/locker facilities.*
  - c. *Working with local media outlets to promote and increase awareness about bicycle and pedestrian safety and rights.*
3. *Distribute a full bicycle/pedestrian system user map as the system develops, and update this map as needed to reflect new routes or safety information.*

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