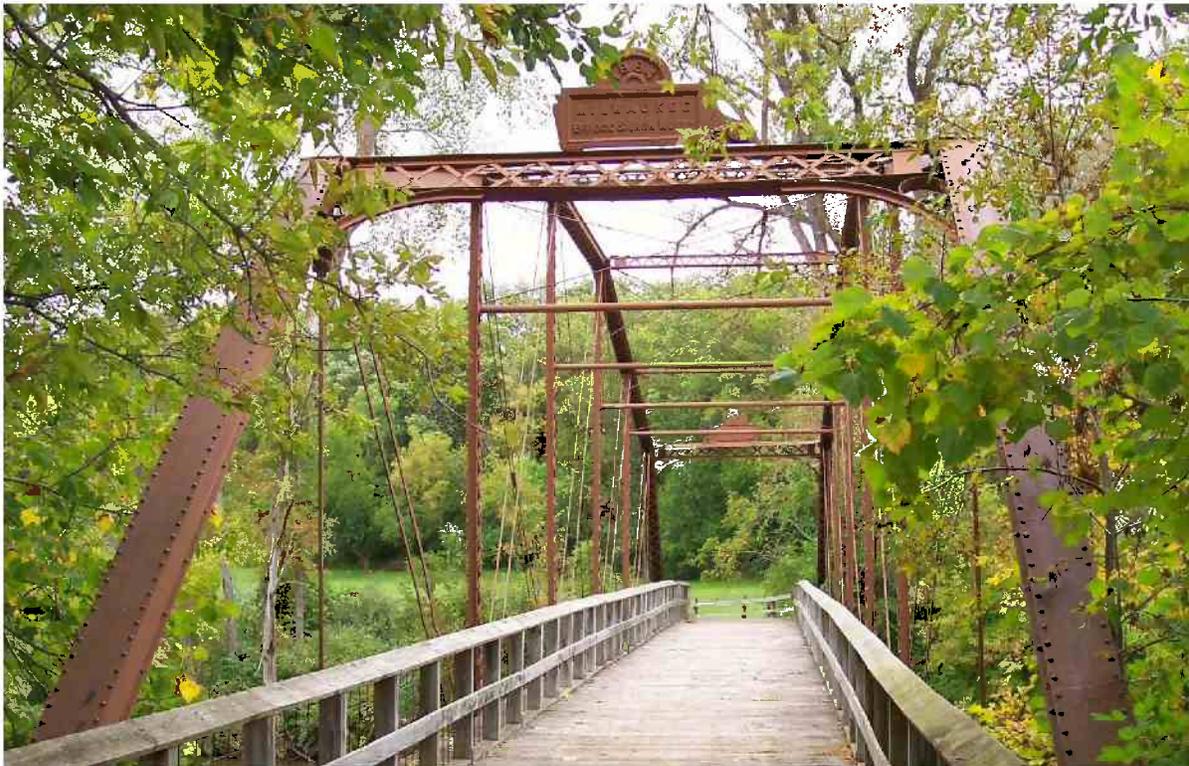


City of Baraboo, Wisconsin

**COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION PLAN**

**2012-2016**



**Baraboo Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department**

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**CITY OF BARABOO COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

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## INTRODUCTION

The City of Baraboo Park and Recreation Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. The Parks and Recreation Commission serves as an advisory group to professional staff in the City's Parks and Recreation Department. The Commission may exercise certain powers according to City statutes, with the approval of the City Council. The Council consists of nine elected Alderpersons who direct the Park Commission to carry out adopted policies and acts on recommendations of the Commission.

This document is presented by the City of Baraboo Park and Recreation Commission to address the task of ensuring that adequate park and recreational resources are available for both present and future residents of the City. This plan recognizes that the City of Baraboo has many needs and opportunities that can best be met through planning and implementation through the involvement of residents, private recreation associations, the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Park and Recreation Department Staff.

The City and adjacent land is home to many natural landscape features which include bluffs, rock formations, winding river rapids, forested areas and farmland. The City lies in the middle of one of the state's top tourism destinations, and borders the state's most popular park, Devils Lake. Another state park and the various Wisconsin Dells vacation attractions lie several miles north of the City. With many visitors, a growing population and a large number of natural resource treasures, the City needs to continue to protect and enhance local park and trail areas.

The development of this document evolved from considerations included in the City of Baraboo 2006 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Sauk County and State of Wisconsin Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans, meetings with area youth groups, residents and sports associations and goals and objectives developed by the Park and Recreation Commission. This document meets the City's requirement to be eligible for participation in State and Federal funding, and provides fundamental planning direction for future City parks and recreation issues.

Through the recommendation of this Plan, the Park and Recreation Commission hopes to enhance the quality of life in the City of Baraboo by focusing on our existing natural resources and preserving our outdoors for the continued enjoyment of our residents and visitors. This plan is considered fundamental to the achievement of that goal.



## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**Goal 1:** Assure sufficient park lands and trails to meet the needs of present and future populations.

**Objectives:**

- Determine the “carrying (use) capacity” of existing parks;
- Formulate recommendations for the quality, quantity and location of park and recreation land needs, in conjunction with an acquisition program;
- Recommend the acquisition of land and easements for city-wide and neighborhood needs, according to its potential recreational value.

**Goal 2:** Design parks which balance the capacity of park areas with individual and group recreational user needs.

**Objectives:**

- Identify park facilities and assess the feasibility and economic possibilities of future development;
- Identify anticipated population changes as well as present and future recreational needs of citizens for individual neighborhoods and for the City;
- Make park facilities ADA accessible to the extent physically and economically feasible;
- Determine anticipated recreation program use of parks and facilities, based on present use and projected population changes;
- Acquire funding to assist in the acquisition and development of additional recreational space.

**Goal 3:** Develop a trail system linking schools, bike paths, parks, the Ice Age trail, and other community places of interest.

**Objectives:**

- Identify current and future school and park sites, Ice Age and other area trails and other places of local and regional interest;
- Develop and implement a Trails Plan coordinated with other interested groups;
- Ensure ADA compliant accessibility to the extent economically and physically feasible.
- Identify future funding sources available to enhance local and regional trails.

**Goal 4:** Develop and implement City administered recreation programs designed to meet the needs of City residents.

**Objectives:**

- Identify recreation needs of City residents through periodic surveys and other mechanisms;
- Project future growth patterns and recreational needs;
- Identify existing recreation programs provided by school, municipal, for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in order to avoid duplication;
- Determine the economic feasibility of each recreation program;
- Evaluate program effectiveness during and at the conclusion of each season.

**Goal 5:** Maximize efforts to reduce the costs of park operation and maintenance.

**Objectives:**

- Conduct a site analysis of existing parks to determine maintenance and operations problems which could be corrected by design or redevelopment;
- Interview operations personnel to identify excessive maintenance problems for each park;
- Recommend planning considerations for present and future parks that will reduce maintenance;
- Dispose of excess park property deemed to have little or no recreational value;
- Consult with Focus on Energy and Alliant Energy advisors on energy usage reduction methods.

## PLANNING METHOD AND REGION

### A. Planning Region

The City of Baraboo is located in the eastern half of Sauk County, bordered on the east by the Town of Greenfield, on the north by the Town of Fairfield, on the west by the Village of West Baraboo and Town of Baraboo, and on the south by the Town of Baraboo as shown in Map 1. Baraboo has a large and successful downtown located near the center of the community and commercial areas located mainly at the eastern entrance of the city along the Highway 33/8<sup>th</sup> Street corridor and the Highway 12 corridor along the west boundary of the City. Much of the industrial areas encompass the southwest corner of the City.

Home sites in the City are mixed with both smaller lots of less than ¼ acre as well as larger lots of ¼ acre or more. The relatively large lot size increases distances between homes, and from homes to parks, and the low density of housing development has been the trend in new subdivision developments.

The terrain of the area is generally rolling, with many steep wooded hillsides. Unique features in the City include a fast moving shallow stretch of the Baraboo River and the surrounding Baraboo Bluffs which include many natural features, most notably Devils Lake State Park and natural areas. The City contributes to the Baraboo River watershed. The Baraboo River runs through the southern portion of the City. The aerial photo maps and the City of Baraboo map show the City's Parks, Recreational Trails and Green Spaces.

Recent demographic studies and plat development activities indicate that the City's population will continue to increase. Table 3 reflects population data for the City of Baraboo in the period of 1970 - 2010.

Table 1 below reflects the increase in the City's equalized value in recent years. Though decreasing over the past two years, mirroring a national trend, overall the City of Baraboo's equalized value has significantly increased over the last 6 years.

**Table 1**  
**City of Baraboo - Equalized Value of Real Estate**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Equalized Value</b>
2005	\$694,969,200
2006	\$762,698,100
2007	\$809,308,600
2008	\$863,781,600
2009	\$841,546,200
2010	\$829,682,300

**B. Parkland Definitions and Standards**

A variety of standards for size, location, and number of park facilities have been proposed by governmental agencies. A selected sample of these standards are shown in Table 2 below. These standards are to be used only as guidelines for the development of local plans. Topography, physical barriers, specific demands, demographics, and other conditions have been taken into consideration in the development of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the City of Baraboo. Table 2 below identifies examples of standards to be used as guidelines for the acquisition and development of park facilities.

**Table 2  
Park Land Standards and Guidelines**

COMPONENT	USE	SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE SIZE	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTIC
Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as young children or senior citizens.	Less than ¼-mile radius	1 acre or less	.25 to .5A	Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to housing.
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, playground apparatus area, skating.	¼ to ½-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0A	Easily accessible to the neighborhood resident-geographically centered with safe walking and bike access.
Community Park	May include areas suited for active uses-such as athletic complexes, or areas of passive uses-such as walking, viewing, or picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods . 1 to 2 mile radius.	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.
Total Close to Home Space = 6.25-10.5 A/1,000					
Linear Park (Trails)	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, cross-country skiing. May include active play areas.	No applicable standard.	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use.	Variable	Built or natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, and roads that link other aspects of recreational or community facilities, such as school and other park areas.
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.	No applicable standard.	Sufficient to protect the resource.	Variable	Variable, depending on the resource being protected.

Source: Roger Lancaster: *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. National Recreation and Park Association.

**C. Impact of Population Growth on Park and Recreation Facilities**

It is important that the City continue to acquire potential parkland due to the expected future growth of Baraboo and Sauk County. Scenic hilltops, wooded areas, wetlands, and desirable parcels are attractive for development. The location of future City parks and recreation facilities must take into consideration the future growth of the area. In addition, the City must define and implement a strategy to coordinate the development of recreational trails and green space corridors in cooperation with the county and neighboring villages and towns, coordinating trail linkages, regional park projects and financial resources when possible.

Population Projections:

Table 3 reflects the population estimates and projections for the City of Baraboo. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated the City’s population as 12,048 as of January 1, 2010.

**Table 3  
City of Baraboo Population**

Year	Population	Change	Percent Change
1970	7,931	x	x
1980	8,081	+150	1.86
1990	9,203	+1,122	12.20
2000	10,711	+1,508	14.08
2010	12,048	+1,337	11.10
2020**	13,277	+1,423	10.72
2030**	14,429	+1,152	7.99

Population Source: State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, Bureau of Demographic Services  
\*\*Projected Population.

Table 4 shows a breakdown of the population by age group.

**Table 4  
Age Distribution**  
*Source: 2010 Census*

Age	Number	Percent	% Change
Under 5 years	792	6.6	-0.1
5 to 14 years	1,601	13.5	-0.3
15 to 24 years	1,443	11.9	-1.3
25 to 34 years	1,753	14.6	-0.5
35 to 44 years	1,557	12.9	-2.5
45 to 54 years	1,681	13.9	1.5
55 to 64 years	1,340	11.1	3.5
65 to 74 years	807	6.7	0.2
75 to 84 years	623	5.1	-1.1
85 years and over	451	3.7	0.6



## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### A. Overview

The City of Baraboo's outdoor recreation needs have been determined by demographics, available land, demand for facilities and services, survey results and future development and growth projections. This evaluation has resulted in identifying needs relating to park facilities, recreation programs, trails, and other considerations. While various definitions and standards outlined earlier have been used as a guide, every effort has been made to ensure the unique needs of the City of Baraboo are represented accurately.

Table 5 below indicates the number of new home building permits issued by the City of Baraboo in the period of 2005-2010. The City enforces a parkland dedication ordinance that generates Segregated Parks Fees and adds parkland to the City when new development occurs. The recent decline in new construction mirrors the national slowdown on new home construction, and follows a large boom in construction nationally as well as locally in 2003-2005.

**Table 5**  
**New Home Permits 2005 – 2010**

<b>Year</b>	<b># of Permits</b>
2005	26
2006	13
2007	15
2008	13
2009	9
2010	6



## **B. Community Survey**

In 2011, the City of Baraboo offered an online survey to City residents seeking information regarding City park and recreation programs and facilities.

The survey inquired which recreational activity or park resource had highest priority or need. Primary interest was in acquisition and development of additional bike/pedestrian trails, continued improvements to the Civic Center, the continued acquisition and protection of greenspace, and improvement/expansion of youth recreation programming. Continued development of the Dog Park also ranked very high.

Highest priorities identified from the survey are the following:

- 1) Expansion of Ochsner Zoo
- 2) Expansion of the Riverwalk trail system
- 3) Acquisition/preservation of more greenspace
- 4) Improvement of the Civic Center
- 5) Expansion of the Dog Park

It is important to view the results of any survey as primarily an indicator of trends rather than concrete evidence to be acted upon without further evaluation. However, it is interesting to note that several of the survey respondents supported a slight increase in the amount of their taxes designated to park and recreation activities. 95% of respondents suggested increasing parks and recreation expenditures. Most respondents who favored increasing expenditures suggested doing so by seeking more grants and donations or requiring developers to pay higher fees. Respondents overwhelmingly felt that current fees charged for park and recreation programs were acceptable at the levels they are at. It will be important for the Department to continue to analyze this data annually.

## C. Bicycle Safety

The issue of bicycle safety needs to be addressed at several community levels. Local safety personnel (police) often times take on the lead role, assisted by schools which have many bicycle users. The City Parks and Recreation Department has a large role as well with its trail system. The main concern for bike safety is the safe access to parks, schools and area recreation facilities.

The trend in residential development has been for larger home sites located in subdivisions at the edge of populated communities. Car and truck traffic has increased significantly as a result of these development activities. In many cases, inadequate space for bicycles and pedestrians have been planned for in connecting these new subdivision with places of interest, including schools and parks, that a resident can access without the use of an automobile.

Many of these subdivisions have significant numbers of children, who have limited transportation options. The addition of bike lanes on or adjacent to reconstructed state, city or county roads is a priority when new roadways are being planned.

The following routes have been identified as potential bicycle safety hazards and require evaluation and potential future improvement to allow for bike lanes or crossings:

- State Highway 33 (8<sup>th</sup> St./8<sup>th</sup> Ave.)
- County Highway T (8<sup>th</sup> St. to City View Rd.)
- State Highway 113 (Water St.)
- State Highway 123 (Walnut St.)
- US Highway 12
- South Boulevard.

The ongoing planning of the Baraboo Riverfront Corridor along with the completion of the Circus World to Effinger trail segment has addressed many of the issues along Water Street. The relocation of US Hwy 12 on the western boundary of the City has taken into account the issue with a bicycle crossing at Terrytown Rd. Additional crossings and adjacent bike routes should be developed and promoted.

Recommendations: The cost of street or trail construction and maintenance combined with limited financial resources makes this a difficult issue to resolve. The following recommendations should be considered as long-term solutions:

- Target the short segments most in need of improvement as the first priority;
- Seek design and funding assistance from Federal, State and County sources;
- Target specific lands for acquisition of additional right-of-way or easements as development occurs;
- Form a coalition of interested residents to develop the City of Baraboo as a national “Bicycle Friendly Community”;
- The Parks and Recreation Commission should stay informed and involved with any local road construction projects to ensure that bike routes are being considered when possible.

## EXISTING RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

### A. General Overview

Locations of existing parks and recreation areas are shown on Map 1. Park service areas are often reviewed to provide easy access to facilities for each neighborhood.

### B. City Owned Park and Recreation Facilities

#### 1. Mini Parks

➤ **Kiwanis Park** *Water Street*

This park (1.8 acre) includes a gazebo, access to Riverwalk, canoe landing, overlook area, grill and picnic tables.

➤ **Nanny Park** (formerly Pocket Park) *5<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Oak Street*

This downtown park (.15 acre) serves as a rest stop for busy shoppers and includes benches, a picnic table, drinking fountain and playground equipment.

➤ **Ritzenthaler Park** *12<sup>th</sup> Street & Barker Street*

This small park area (.67 acre) has a basketball court, drinking fountain, gazebo, ADA path, swing set, monkey bars, picnic tables, 2 play structures and is surrounded by residences.

#### 2. Neighborhood Parks

➤ **City View Park** *Parkview Drive & 19<sup>th</sup> Street*

In 2004 this park (5.68 acres) was added. Current amenities include a picnic shelter, picnic tables, play structure and an open play area. Future considerations include an interpretive trail adjacent to the 2 acre pond.

➤ **Langer Park** *4<sup>th</sup> Street & Remington Street*

This (3.21 acres) park contains an ADA path, backstop, swing set, play structure, parking lot, lighted junior soccer/football field, winter ice skating rink, picnic tables, picnic shelter, restrooms and basketball court.

➤ **Hoppe Felts Park** *Madison Avenue*

Included in this (3.5 acres) park is an ADA path, basketball court, climbing structure, drinking fountain, gazebo, swing set, sand volleyball court, picnic tables, play structure and an open play area.

➤ **Statz Park** (formerly Broadway Park) *1<sup>st</sup> Avenue & Broadway*

Statz Park (3.13 acres) received a new name and facelift in 2011. The park includes Riverwalk access, parking lot, lighted baseball field, bleachers, restrooms and a drinking fountain. Future improvements may include a small picnic shelter and batting cages.

➤ **Weber Park** *Elm Street & Grove Street*

This park (1.8 acres) contains an ADA path, basketball court, gazebo, play structure, swing set, open play area, picnic tables and a winter ice skating rink.

### 3. Community Parks

#### ➤ **Attridge Park** *2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue*

This park (11.09 acres) includes an ADA path, parking lot, basketball court, 4 sand volleyball courts, historic pedestrian bridge, community garden, picnic tables, access to the Riverwalk, play equipment and 2 storage sheds.

#### ➤ **Campbell Park** *South Boulevard*

This multi-use park (4.67 acres) includes an ADA path, bathhouse with restrooms, outdoor lighted swimming pool, wading pool, picnic shelter, drinking fountain, swing set, play structure, 2 parking lots (128 stalls), picnic tables, skate park, 4 lighted tennis courts and 2 Quickstart tennis courts.

#### ➤ **Deppe Park** *Lake Street*

This special use park (3.9 acres) includes an ADA path, fishing pier, 1 acre fishing pond, picnic tables, gazebo and grill.

#### ➤ **Mary Rountree Evans Park** *2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue & Park Street*

This athletic park (13.91 acres) includes an ADA path, lighted baseball diamond, batting cages, bleachers, concession stand, drinking fountain, open play area, play structure, parking lot, picnic shelter, picnic tables, access to Riverwalk, restrooms, scorers booth and storage building.

#### ➤ **Steinhorst Park** *15<sup>th</sup> Street & Parkgate Drive*

This park (15.5 acres) has a drinking fountain, swing set, play structure, picnic shelter, picnic tables, maintenance shed, open play area, 3 soccer fields, parking lot, restrooms, and sledding hill.

#### ➤ **Ochsner Park** *8<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Park Street*

This large park (25.98 acres) includes an ADA path, access to Riverwalk, drinking fountain, play structures, swing set, grills, 1,800 square foot brick house, maintenance building, parking lot, picnic tables, 3 picnic shelters, restrooms, open play areas, backstop and nature viewing areas.

#### ➤ **Pierce Park** *Highway 123/Walnut Street*

Another large park (25.99 acres) that contains an ADA path, 4 lighted softball fields, 2 batting cages, bleachers, concession stand, drinking fountain, swing set, play structure, parking lot, maintenance building, 26,000 square foot pavilion, picnic tables, 2 picnic shelters, restrooms and open play area.

### 4. Special Use Areas

#### ➤ **Civic Center** *1<sup>st</sup> Street & Ash Street*

The Civic Center (2.5 acres) is a 56,000 square foot, four story building built in 1927. Included are City Parks and Recreation Department offices, Boys and Girls Club of Baraboo, Senior Citizens Organization, meeting rooms, storage rooms, weight room, fitness room, locker rooms, restrooms and an indoor basketball court. A \$950,000 renovation was completed in 2011 replacing and upgrading HVAC and electrical equipment.

➤ **Dog Park** *Hill Street & Mill Race Road*

This park (2.2 acres) includes a fenced in dog exercise area with benches, picnic tables, water and dog agility equipment. Off street parking is available and planned for improvement.

➤ **Ochsner Park Zoo** *Park Street & Zoo Lane*

This small fenced in zoo (2 acres) includes restrooms, concession stand, drinking fountain, office building, storage buildings and exhibits including monkey, black bear, llama, timber wolf, deer, bobcat, goat, pig, pheasant, owl, prairie dog and lynx.

➤ **Pumphouse** *Manchester Street & Mill Race Road*

This former Water Department facility (2.5 acres) was acquired by the Parks Department in a conversion of the Woolen Mill property to the Sauk County Historical Society. The site is adjacent to the Baraboo River and includes a historic building and garage slated for future improvement.

5. **Natural Area, Conservancy and Green Space Preservation Areas**

➤ **City Forest** *Terrytown Road & US Highway 12*

This former school forest (32 acres) was given to the City in 2003. The heavily forested area consists of a variety of plant species, but is located along a very busy commercial area which threatens the wildlife contained within it. In addition, the City of Baraboo has several parcels of land that are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. However, because of size, terrain or location, most of these parcels are not developable as places for traditional parkland. Most of the parcels are too small to be of significant value.

- **Barringer Greenway** (.11 acre)
- **Grotophorst Greenway** (.31 acre)
- **Hackets Hollow Greenway** (1.35 acre)
- **Hollenbeck Greenway** (.11 acre)
- **Myron Greenway** (2.38 acres)
- **Water Department South** (16.6 acres)

The Water Department South area holds value as a future expansion area for the dog park and/or a small picnic area or arboretum and should be considered as a potential future park acquisition.

C. **Privately Owned Facilities In the City of Baraboo**

➤ **Baraboo County Club** *State Highway 123*

This privately owned Country Club (88.9 acres) offers an 18-hole golf course with public access. The clubhouse area is open to the public.

**D. School Facilities in the City of Baraboo**

- **East Elementary School** (publicly owned) 6.35 acres includes basketball court, playground equipment, ball diamond, open play area
- **GLW Elementary School** (publicly owned) 5.5 acres includes 2 soccer fields, basketball court, playground equipment, open play area
- **South Elementary School** (publicly owned) 10 acres includes basketball court, playground equipment, ball diamond, open play area
- **West Elementary School** (publicly owned) 1.9 acres includes playground equipment, ball diamond, open play area
- **Middle & Senior High School campus** (publicly owned) 51.49 acres includes baseball diamond, softball diamond, football field, soccer field, tennis courts, track, bleachers, open play area
- **UW Baraboo/Sauk County campus** (publicly owned) 64.9 acres includes nature trail, disc golf course, tennis courts, soccer field, open play area.
- **St. John’s Elementary School** (privately owned) 2.12 acres includes basketball court, playground equipment, ball diamond, open play area
- **St. Joseph’s Elementary School** (privately owned) .5 acres includes basketball court, playground equipment, open play area

**Table 6  
Summary of Available Parklands**

	Total Parks	Mini Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Community Parks	Greenways/ Conservancies
National Standard for Park Acres Per 1000 Population	6.25 -10.5	.25 - .50	1.0 – 2.0	5.0 – 8.0	variable
Baraboo Park Acres Per 1000 Population	9.77	.23	1.47	8.1	4.41

**OTHER OPEN SPACE AREAS**

School Recreation Areas (Public & Private)	142.76
Special Use Areas	12.4
Golf Courses	88.9

**Table 7  
Recreational Facility Standards**

	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Softball Fields	Baseball Fields	Soccer Fields	Community Center	Playgrounds	Swimming Pools	Skateparks	Picnic Shelter	Ice Skating Rink
National Recreational Facility Standard Per 1000 Population	.20	.50	.20	.20	.20	.20	.10	.33	.05	.06	.50	.01
City Recreational Facilities Per 1000 Population	.42	.34	.42	.34	.18	.34	.09	.92	.09	.09	1.25	.17
Total Baraboo Recreational Facilities Per 1000 Population	.84	1.0	.42	.75	.25	.68	.09	1.42	.18	.09	1.25	.25

\* The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), which created these standards, recognizes and accepts that regional standards differ from national standards due to the unique climate and demographics of an area.



**Table 8  
Park Amenities**

	Attridge Park	Campbell Park	City View Park	Deppe Park	Dog Park	Kiwanis Park	Langer Park	Mary Hoppe Felts Park	Mary Roundtree Park	Nanny Park	Ochsner Park	Pierce Park	Pumphouse	Ritzenthaler Park	Statz Park	Steinhorst Park	Weber Park
Baseball Field									X			X			X		
Basketball Court	X						X	X						X			X
Bicycle Path						X			X		X		X		X		
Canoe Launch						X							X		X		
Dog Exercise				X	X												
Fishing	X			X		X			X		X		X		X		
Ice Hockey												X					
Ice Skating							X					X					X
Picnic Tables	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
Playground	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
Restrooms		X					X		X		X	X			X	X	
Sand Volleyball	X							X									
Shelter		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X
Skatepark		X															
Sledding																	X
Soccer							X				X					X	
Softball Field												X					
Swimming Pool		X															
Tennis Courts		X															
Zoo											X						

## **ACTION PLAN**

The Parks and Recreation Commission has developed an action plan to meet existing and future park and recreation needs. This action plan is based on prior park plans of the City, requests of citizen user groups, development of the City and on recommendations of the Department of Natural Resources and other public and private groups.

### **A. General Recommendations**

- 1) The City park, recreation, and open space planning process should be coordinated with the City's and County's comprehensive planning effort.
- 2) This CORP document should be updated to maintain constant eligibility for Federal and State funding. This updating should include reviews of needed capital improvements, parkland acquisitions, and a review of resident requests on a regular basis.
- 3) The annual cost of maintaining park facilities should be planned so as not to exceed available and future resources.
- 4) Donations of time, money, equipment and land should be encouraged from local civic and service clubs and individuals.
- 5) The City should make maximum use of grant opportunities to help with land acquisition efforts and the development of park and recreation improvements.
- 6) The City should seek to preserve and expand facility use agreements with the school district and other neighboring entities concerning the use of park and recreational facilities.
- 7) When possible, in an effort to maximize open space acreage and allow for organized linear greenway connections to schools, parks and recreational areas, the City should encourage cluster development in future residential developments. In cluster development, residential streets are characterized by a compact design and the reduction of the total area devoted to thoroughfares and individual lots, allowing for more open space acreage.

### **B. Trails Planning**

The Trails Plan exists as a link all of the other park, conservancy and community resources. For those who use bicycles, trails may not only serve as a recreational use, they may also serve as commuter travel to work or shopping. For those who do not have access to automobile travel, trails may be the only safe route to get from one point to another in the community.

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the Riverwalk, a two mile stretch of asphalt that follows the Baraboo River through the heart of Baraboo, with easy access to the river, several parks, downtown shopping district, the Civic Center, Ochsner Park Zoo, Circus World Museum and the dog park. The Riverwalk is also part of the Ice Age Trail, a 1,200 mile national scenic trail established in 1980.



Current uninterrupted stretches of the Riverwalk run from the western edge of the City to Kiwanis Park (near Ash Street) and from Circus World Museum to the eastern edge of the City. The middle of the trail is accessed by sidewalk, and is part of planning along with the city's Riverfront Redevelopment Project. It will be important that this final section remains a central part of the final riverfront design.

Additionally, the City continues to work with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Wisconsin DNR and Sauk County on connecting the Baraboo segment to Devil's Lake State Park in the south and Mirror Lake State Park in the north.

Other considerations should be made when new parks, school or residential developments are planned within the City. Table 9 includes trail projects considered as priorities in the 2012-2016 planning period.

### **C. Parks Planning**

The City has added several parks over the past 10 years without adding any personnel to maintain the additional acreage. This staffing shortage has created a strain on responses to work orders. The Department should begin pursuing additional personnel to account for the additional workload, consider contracting out some services, or reduce labor-intensive management of some properties.

It is important to consider ADA guidelines when developing any new facilities, as well as improving accessibility to existing facilities when able. The newer park additions have been able to keep up to ADA requirements, but several aging facilities will require replacement soon and when making any repairs or replacements, all efforts to provide an accessible environment should be implemented. It should be noted that the terrain of the area doesn't always allow for required accessible slopes or access points. In these cases, it remains important to protect natural areas or to provide access points to these places of interest even if ADA standards cannot be met. However, if ADA access cannot be met, a similar, alternate adjacent access point should also be provided to maximize facilities with accessibility points.

Currently, the City is providing parkland within suggested standards, however a growing population with changing needs will require additional acquisitions and developments to remain with those levels. Table 10 includes parks projects considered as priorities in the 2012-2016 planning period.

**D. Special Use Area Planning**

The remote industrial location of Deppe Park, as well as potential runoff from the adjacent golf course, makes the value of this park questionable as a fishing pond. Consideration should be made to move the fishing pond to City View Park which boasts a larger pond with a lower concentration of runoff chemicals for the fish population, as well as location situated in a residential district.

The Civic Center is completing a \$950,000 mechanical upgrade and aesthetic and ADA improvements should follow to maintain the public usability of the facility. The roof will need replacement within the next 5 years, and tuck pointing along the exterior of the building will be needed as well within the next 10 years. The locker rooms currently display the greatest need for interior attention and offer poor accessibility and outdated, inefficient design. After mechanicals and exterior structure concerns have been upgraded satisfactorily, accessibility issues should be addressed.

The dog park sits in a low area near the Baraboo River serving as a drainage area for many years. With the heavy use the park receives, many common areas (entrance gates) are muddy and difficult to access for much of the year. Staff is currently working on several plan options to alleviate this annual problem. Additionally, the City will need to monitor the use and consider expansion to avoid overcrowding. There is space located across Hill Street from the existing dog park. Parking will need to be improved as well as supplying water to the park in the near future. Connection is currently available across the street at the old dog pound building.

The old pumphouse area presents a great opportunity as a “gateway” to the City for Ice Age Trail users as well as those travelling the canoe trail on the river. The historic building will need major renovations to be used as a shelter or information building. The entire pumphouse/dog park area presents almost 20 acres of prime recreational lands with adjacent high quality wetlands. These special use areas could be combined to provide a large Community Park with multiple special uses focused on birdwatching, canoeing, pet exercise, walking, biking and enjoying nature.



**Table 9  
FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN**

The following action plan is a five year guide for capital improvements of the Baraboo Park system. As with the previous plans, implementation depends largely on availability of funds through the budget process and other sources.

<b>2012</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Other</b>
Renovate Pumphouse	Pumphouse		100,000
Pave Parking Lot	Dog Park	7,500	7,500
Lighting Renovation	Statz Park		18,000
Renovate Band Shelter	Ochsner Park	10,000	10,000
Replace Playground Equipment	Campbell Park		20,000
Replace Foul Ball Netting	Pierce Park	6,500	
New Basketball Court	Steinhorst Park	4,800	4,800
New Walking Path	Steinhorst Park	12,000	12,000
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>44,800</b>	<b>172,300</b>
<b>2013</b>			
New Playground Equipment	Steinhorst Park		20,000
Riverwalk Extension & New Bridge	Mill Race Road	38,000	114,000
New Canoe Landing	Pumphouse	3,500	
Concession Building Remodeling	Pierce Park	10,000	10,000
Roofing Replacement	Civic Center		200,000
New Picnic Shelter	Statz Park	4,000	8,000
New Pool Play Area	Campbell Park	7,500	7,500
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>46,000</b>	<b>355,500</b>
<b>2014</b>			
New River Otter Exhibit	Ochsner Park Zoo	10,000	300,000
New Ball field Lighting (field #4)	Pierce Park	10,000	20,000
New Picnic Shelter	Attridge Park	8,000	8,000
New Playground	Langer Park		20,000
Parking Lot Improvements	Pierce Park	20,000	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>48,000</b>	<b>348,000</b>
<b>2015</b>			
New Picnic Shelter	Steinhorst Park	8,000	8,000
Tuckpointing	Civic Center		250,000
New Playground Equipment (field #4)	Pierce Park		15,000
Pave Parking Lot	Ochsner Park (lower)	30,000	
New Garden Shed	Attridge Park	5,000	5,000
New Basketball Court	City View Park	5,000	5,000
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>48,000</b>	<b>283,000</b>
<b>2016</b>			
New Picnic Shelter	Ochsner Park	12,000	12,000
Overlook Construction	Kiwanis Park (Oak Street)	25,000	50,000
New Gazebo	Ochsner Park (lower)	5,000	5,000
Replace Playground Equipment	Weber Park		22,000
Expand Dog Park	Dog Park	10,000	10,000
New Playground Equipment	Ritzenthaler Park		15,000
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>51,500</b>	<b>114,000</b>

## FUNDING PLAN

While the implementation of different aspects of this plan are contingent on available funding, both internal (budget, impact fees, staffing) and external (grants, donations, volunteers), adoption of the CORP is to be understood as a “roadmap” to guide the City in park and recreation development. With this in mind, the Parks and Recreation Commission has selected the following items to be considered as priorities.

### A. Priority Projects (*in order of importance*):

- 1) Continue renovations of the Civic Center.
- 2) Continue the upgrades to Pierce Park facilities.
- 3) Renovate the Band Shelter at Ochsner Park.
- 4) Renovate the Pumphouse facility and property.
- 5) Continue the development of the Riverwalk to coincide with Sauk County, State of Wisconsin, and Ice Age Trail Plans.
- 6) Finish the Ochsner Park Zoo renovation plan.
- 7) Continue development of dog park facilities.
- 8) Promote the Baraboo River as a local water trail to attract users.
- 9) Provide for additional athletic facilities as the need requires.
- 10) Improve cyclist routes in the City and pursue Bicycle Friendly Community status.

### B. Funding Plan

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the lowest cost approach to funding park projects by following these guidelines:

- 1) Acquire land through developer dedications or cash donation in lieu of land.
- 2) Acquire and develop parkland with County, State and Federal matching funds.
- 3) Encourage landowners adjacent to City parks and other desirable locations to donate lands.
- 4) Encourage resident participation in planning and implementation of neighborhood parks.
- 5) Encourage local interest groups and other organizations such as The Friends of the Baraboo Zoo and Friends of the Dog Park to assist in fundraising and grant writing opportunities to share facility development costs.
- 6) Effective and thorough planning to eliminate waste and to increase utilization.

Maintenance of all parks and facilities will be funded from the City’s general fund. Developer fees collected in lieu of parkland will be utilized for capital improvements in the high priority projects in the area of which the development took place.

## UPDATES AND ANNUAL REVIEWS

The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is intended to continue to evolve as the City's population increases, new priorities are identified, funding is available and capital improvement projects are accomplished. While some of the projects identified may not be completed within the timeframe of this document, several projects contained may never be completed or may change in scope. Additionally, other projects and acquisitions will be completed that are not mentioned in this Plan, pending new funding, public needs or other community considerations. It is important to recognize that as any living document, this Plan is subject to changes and modifications, and is to be used only as a guide for community direction in future parks and recreational planning.

The Outdoor Recreation Plan shall be reviewed each year and updated as needed. The Parks and Recreation Commission will hold Public Hearings as necessary for the purpose of informing residents about any modifications or updates to this Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Department conducted an online survey of City residents in 2011 and should plan to do another survey before 2016 for the purposes of soliciting public input regarding the parks and recreation space needs of the City of Baraboo.



## Capital Improvement Summary

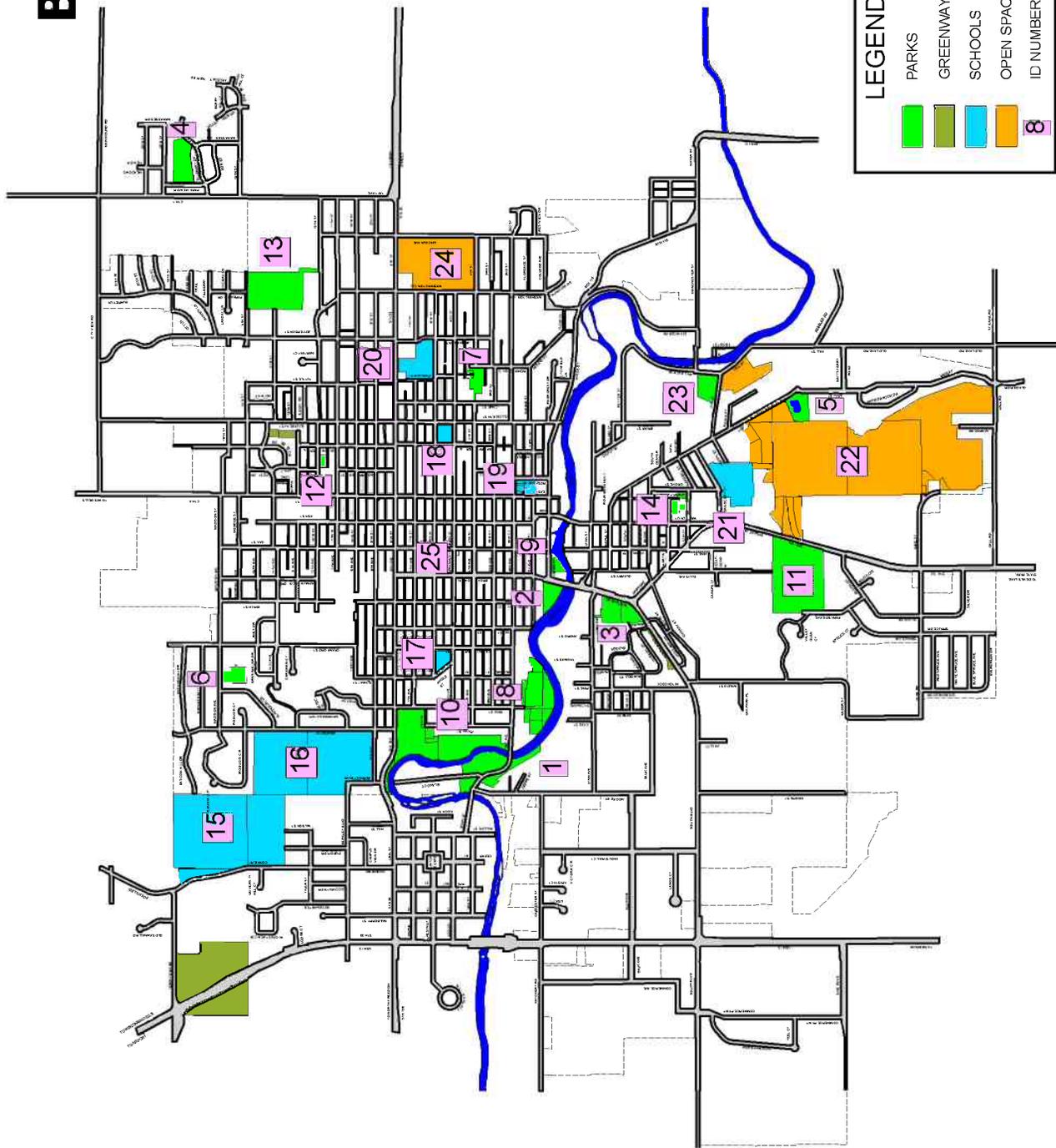
<i>Location</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>
Attridge Park	New Picnic Shelter			x		
	New Community Garden Shed				x	
Campbell Park	New Pool Play Area		x			
	Replace Playground	x				
City View Park	New Basketball Court				x	
Civic Center	Replace Roof		x			
	Tuckpointing				x	
Dog Park	Pave Parking Lot	x				
	Expand Park					x
Langer Park	New Playground Equipment			x		
Ochsner Park	Replace Band Shelter	x				
	New River Otter Exhibit (Zoo)			x		
	Pave Drive and Parking Lot				x	
	New Gazebo (lower)					x
	New Picnic Shelter					x
Pierce Park	Replace Foul Ball Netting	x				
	Remodel Concession Stand		x			
	New Lighting (Field 4)			x		
	Parking Lot Improvements			x		
	New Playground Equipment (Field 4)				x	
Pumphouse	Renovate Building	x				
	New Canoe Landing		x			
Ritzenthaler Park	Replace Playground Equipment					x
Riverwalk	Extension (Mill Race Road)		x			
	New Bridge		x			
Statz Park	Lighting Replacement	x				
	New Picnic Shelter		x			
Steinhorst Park	New Basketball Court (south)	x				
	New Walking Path	x				
	New Playground (south)		x			
	New Picnic Shelter (south)				x	
Weber Park	Replace Playground Equipment					x

# BARABOO PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

NUMBER	PARK NAME
1	ATTRIDGE PARK
2	STATZ PARK
3	CAMPBELL PARK
4	CITY VIEW PARK
5	DEPPE PARK
6	HOPPE FELTS PARK
7	LANGER PARK
8	MARY MOUNTREE PARK
9	OAK STREET PARK
10	OCHSNER PARK
11	PIERCE PARK
12	RITZENTHALER PARK
13	STEINHORST PARK
14	WEBER PARK
23	DOG PARK
25	NANNY PARK

NUMBER	SCHOOL NAME
15	U.W. BARABOO
16	SENIOR HIGH - MIDDLE SCHOOL
17	WEST SCHOOL
18	ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL
19	ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
20	EAST SCHOOL
21	SOUTH SCHOOL

NUMBER	OPEN SPACE NAME
22	BARABOO COUNTRY CLUB
24	SAUK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS



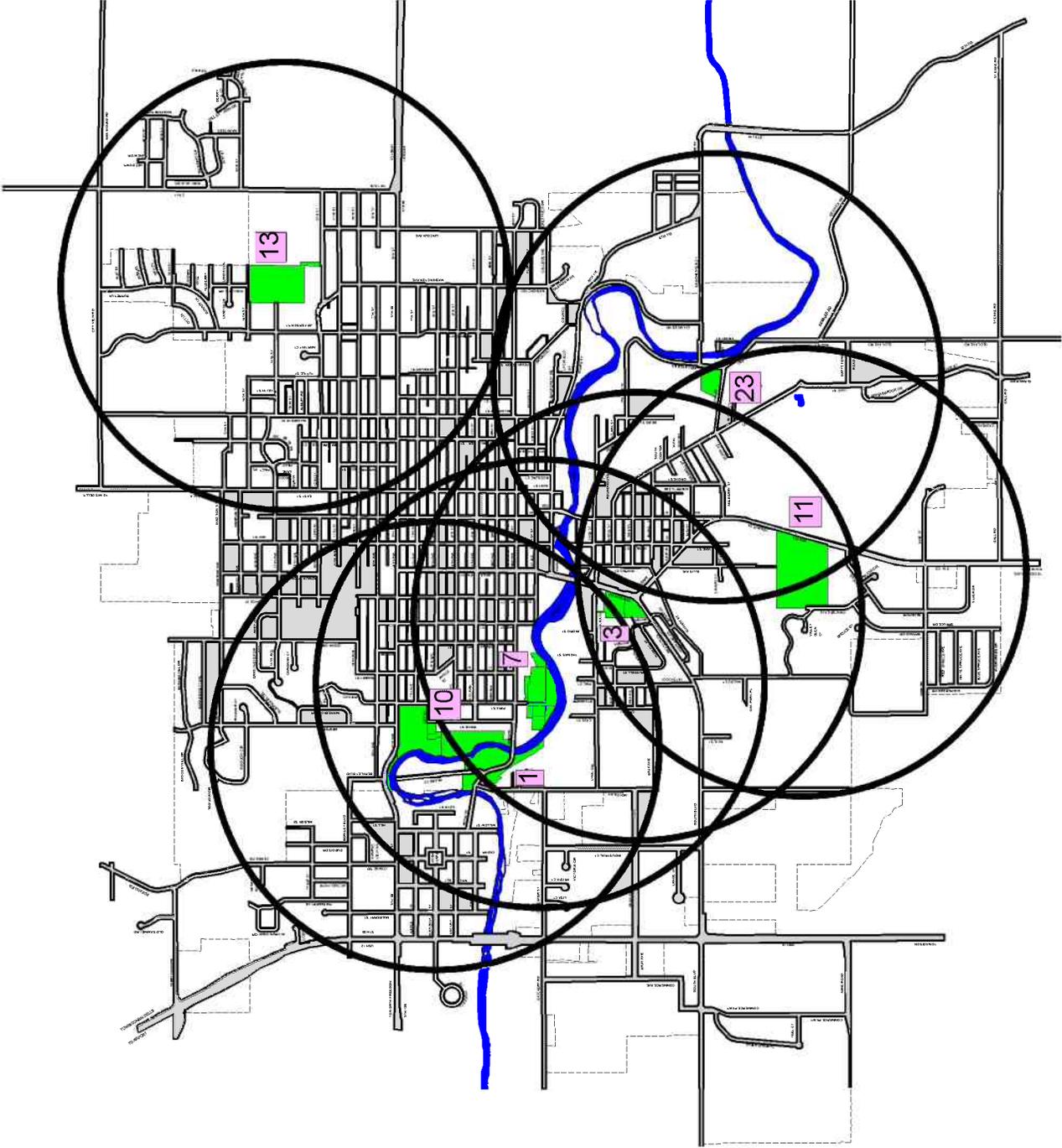
LEGEND	
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	PARKS
<span style="color: olive;">■</span>	GREENWAYS
<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span>	SCHOOLS
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	OPEN SPACE AREAS
<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8</span>	ID NUMBER

# BARABOO COMMUNITY PARKS

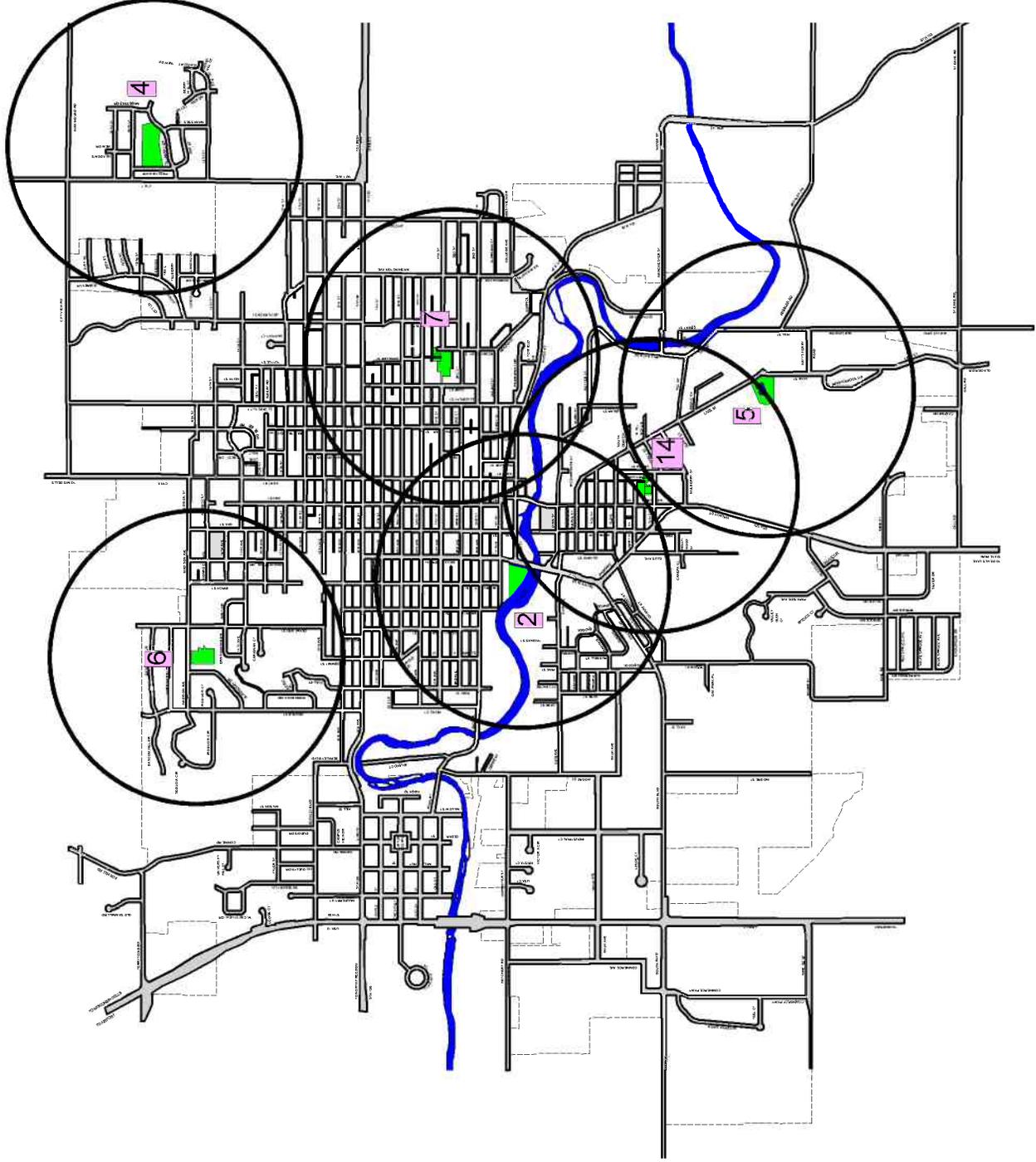
**LEGEND**

1	ATTRIDGE PARK
3	CAMPBELL PARK
8	MARY ROUNTREE PARK
10	OCHSNER PARK
11	PIERCE PARK
13	STEINHORST PARK
23	DOG PARK

○ 3/4 MILE RADIUS



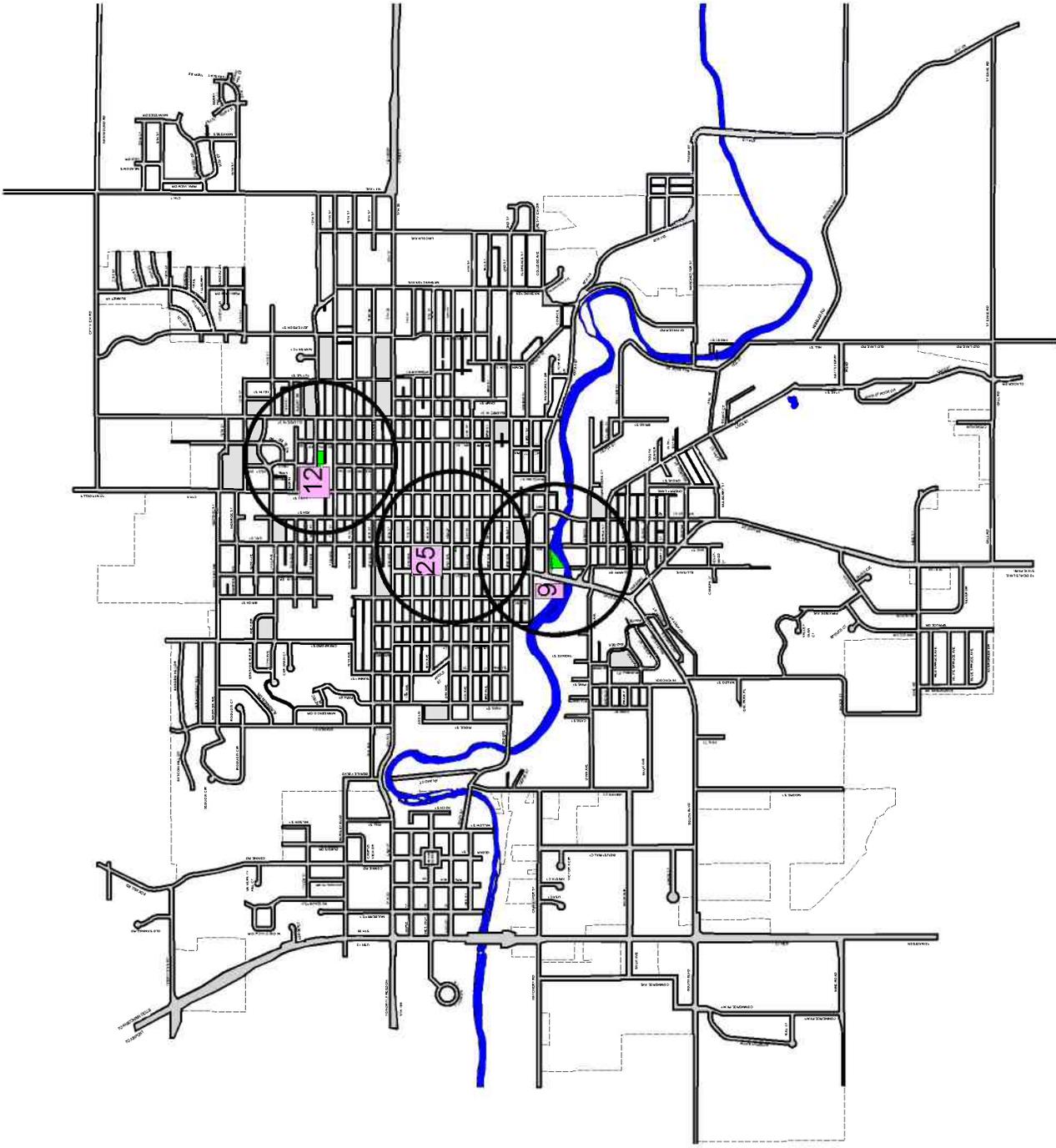
# BARABOO NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



# BARABOO MINI PARKS

**LEGEND**

- 9 OAK STREET PARK
- 12 RITZENTHALER PARK
- 25 NANNY PARK
- QUARTER MILE RADIUS



# BARABOO RIVERWALK

**LEGEND**

- EXISTING RIVERWALK
- PROPOSED RIVERWALK

