VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD

PARKS + RECREATION MASTER PLAN



ADOPTED | APRIL 11, 2023

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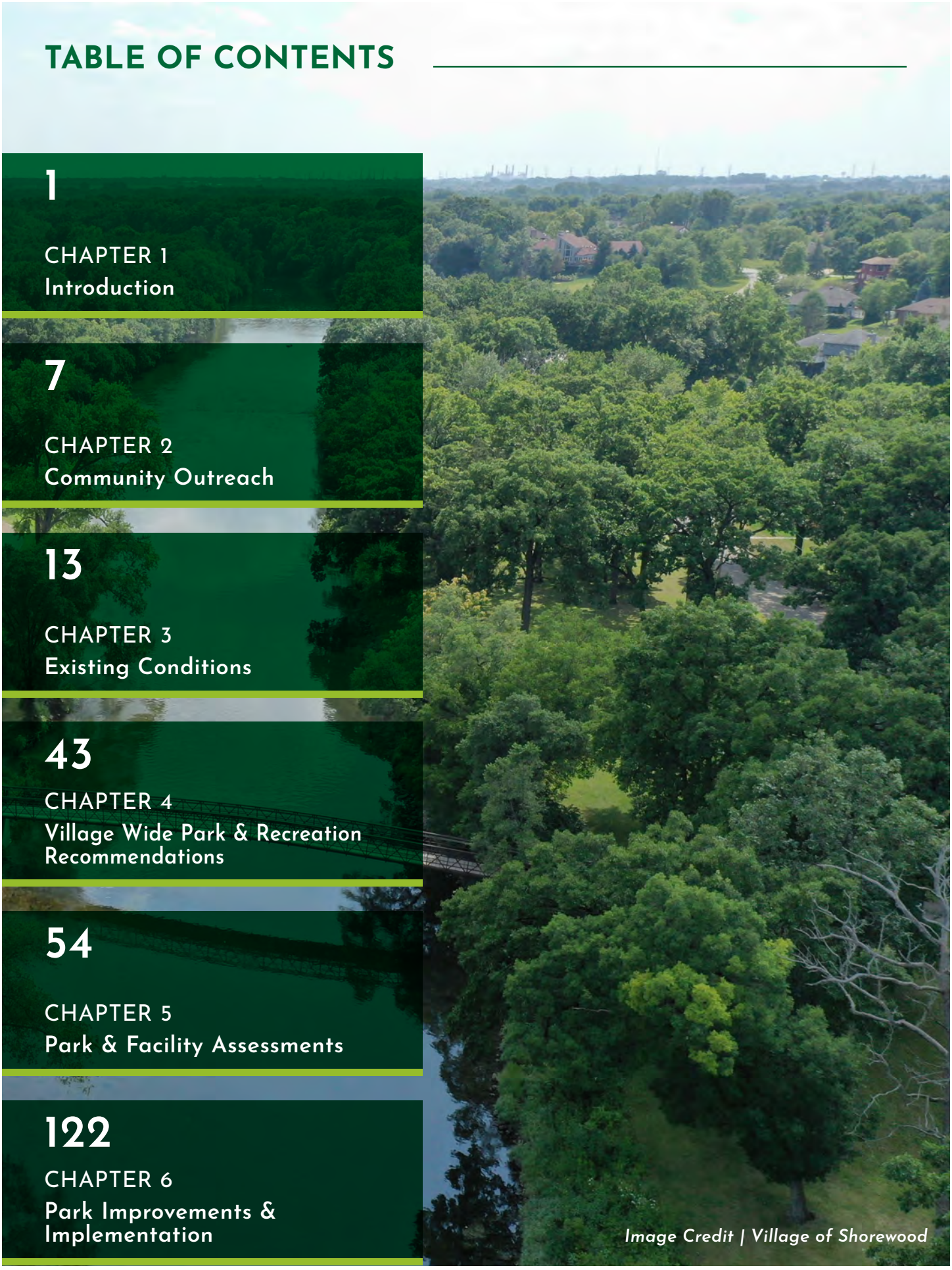

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CHAPTER 1
Introduction

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The Village of Shorewood is a southwest suburb of Chicago. The north and east sides of the municipal borders are adjacent to the City of Joliet, with Interstate I-55 as the principal divider separating Shorewood and Joliet. The DuPage River flows through the heart of the Village, giving life to rich recreational resources such as parks, open spaces, and forest preserves. The Village offers residents an ample variety of accessible public open spaces. Among these are eighteen (18) public parks of various sizes managed by the Shorewood Public Works Department. In addition, the Forest Preserve District of Will County manages one (1) forest preserve within the Village, and two (2) others nearby. Aside from the public park spaces, a twenty-one-mile (21), off-street, shared-use path system links residential neighborhoods, recreational destinations, and community amenities in Shorewood.

This chapter covers an overview of the Park Master Plan Purpose and Objectives, descriptions of the Planning Process, and the Public Outreach Process used to create this plan.

PURPOSE AND USE OF THE PLAN

This Park Master Plan evaluates the Village's network of parks and recreational facilities, assesses their existing conditions, and provides recommendations for enhancement to the system based on public input, staff input, and site visits. This Parks Plan was completed in conjunction with the 2023 Comprehensive Plan to ensure consistency and integration of recommendations. This Master Plan should be reevaluated periodically to ensure it reflects changes and growth as the years advance.

This plan incorporates information gathered during a series of in-person public engagement events and online surveys, together with professional analysis. This Master Plan reflects the community's desire to enhance existing facilities while creating a vision for future uses, access, amenities, maintenance, and visual qualities of the park system. The Village strives to provide and promote a high-quality parks and recreational system to ensure the community's quality of life. The recommendations and guidelines provided in this plan should function as a decision-making tool for the Village, serving as a blueprint for the future with an array of short- and long-term actions for existing and future parks and recreational facilities. Using this plan will also assist the Village in preparing and receiving relevant State and Federal grant applications.

PLANNING PROCESS

The Plan initiative was launched along with the Village's 2023 Comprehensive Plan and shared some of the survey and engagement events to seek the public's initial input on their thoughts of the park services in Shorewood. Site visits and fieldwork were conducted between September and December 2022 to analyze existing conditions and develop recommendations. A meeting with Village staff was held in September to gain insight into the existing park services, programs, and management. The planning team hosted an in-person Open House in the Village Hall to interact with stakeholders through exhibits, maps, and digital polls to collect their input on topics including parks and recreation. After information and data were collected, Teska compiled the draft plan. A public hearing before the Plan Commission was scheduled on March 22, 2023, to allow the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to be included as part of the overall Comprehensive Plan. Finally, the Village Board reviewed and voted to approve the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on April 11, 2023.



ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Village currently has an array of park and recreational resources serving the community. These facilities and programs serve as a treasured part of local residents' life. However, on-going maintenance and improvements are needed to continue to attract park visitors and provide a friendly and safe experience. As Shorewood continues to grow, additional parks and recreational sites would also improve park accessibility. The two (2) lists below present existing issues that affect the services and functions among the Village parks and potential opportunities to expand park and recreation services.

ISSUES

- Aging park facilities and designs nearing the end of their useful life and need for enhanced landscaping in some of the older parks.
- A growing desire for an indoor recreational complex and public swimming facilities.
- Missing Neighborhood or Mini Parks in some neighborhoods that are not covered by the existing service areas.
- Gaps in the shared-use path system, which are the subject of calls for improvement by the Plan Steering Committee and the public.
- Not enough recreational facilities along the DuPage River.
- Since no park district serves Shorewood, the Village has the financial responsibility to maintain all park facilities.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Skilled and committed staff who strive to continuously improve the Village's parks.
- Responsive public who are interested and concerned with the park services in the Village.
- Comprehensive parks and recreational events organized by the Village of Shorewood and other organizations.
- Strong relationships between the Village and fire district, school district, library district, township, and other municipal governments.
- A stable and strong tax base supporting the Village's financial position.

RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS AND INTEGRATION

This plan builds on Shorewood's previous plans and policy documents. Each work provides a historical understanding of the community, presents concepts for community improvements, recognizes challenges, and ultimately sheds light on practical solutions in the form of recommendations and strategies. In some cases, recommendations of these plans that have not yet been implemented and remain relevant to the community are carried forward and integrated into this update. Below are key findings from past plans:

2007 PARK FACILITY STUDY & LAND ACQUISITION PLAN

- Identified Shorewood's existing parks and natural resource areas & assessed status/conditions, quality, and quantity.
- As of 2007, Shorewood had adequate park and open space lands (by area) according to the National Park & Recreation Association (NRPA) standards. However, most parkland is within the DuPage River floodplain. The DuPage riverfront is a very valuable natural resource but is limited due to its use as a passive park space and during chronic wet conditions.
- Recommended improvements include acquisition, maintenance, and preservation of natural areas along the floodplain of the DuPage River as an open space corridor; also repair or install new facilities to meet NRPA standards and goals.
- The current trail system serves Shorewood well, but additional connections can provide residents with alternative transportation and recreational use; NRPA suggested Shorewood have systematic and consistent acquisition, easement agreements, and development along natural corridors and transportation corridors linking key community elements.
- Also recommended that Shorewood create a park classification system with three (3) classes: Mini Park (residential land usage typical of R-1 due to land availability is often found near or in a light industrial zoning district).
- As Shorewood grows to the west, additional park space will be needed.

2010 RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN

- The purpose of this plan is to preserve and protect the natural resources along the DuPage River, which recommends generating a guide for making necessary improvements and any eventual, suitable development within the study area to promote a strong identity.
- Align planning efforts with efforts already underway, specifically working together with partners of the DuPage River Trail to advance this regional link.
- Strategies for enhancing the study area are intended to be incremental, which should include community engagement and partnerships.
- The Riverfront Master Plan was the catalyst for the Village to create the Jefferson Street and Route 59 TIF District in 2016, which covers most of the study area in the Master Plan. The establishment of the TIF district allows the Village to partner with the private sector to help fund redevelopment consistent with the Village's vision for the area. Building upon this, in 2018, the Village adopted a TIF Core Area Plan. This subarea plan focuses specifically on the area at Route 52 and Route 59. This subarea plan provides guidance on land acquisition, development goals and objectives, infrastructural improvements, and future land use for the subject area.
- Due to IDOT's major roadway improvement projects in Shorewood—especially along Jefferson Street and Route 59—many of the suggested development concepts in the Riverfront Master Plan have yet to be launched. Some land along the subject project streets will be acquired by IDOT for construction. However, the Village continues to explore and recruit development for the properties in the area that are not directly impacted by the transportation project.

SHOREWOOD 2022-2027 PARKS CAPITAL PLAN

- The document presents a survey of existing conditions of Village parks conducted by the Village staff and outlines the according park improvements with the possible project timelines.

2016 WILL COUNTY BIKEWAY PLAN

- It is Will County's first planning effort to develop a countywide bikeway network.
- The plan aims to expand transportation choices, enhance connectivity, improve safety, enhance bicyclist comfort, promote bicycling benefits, and enhance cohesion in the County as a whole.
- Two (2) out of fifteen (15) regional bikeway corridors pass through the Village of Shorewood: Black Road Corridor and DuPage River Corridor.

2020 KENDALL COUNTY MULTI-USE TRAIL PLAN

- The plan was developed by the Kendall County Government.
- In the long-term vision, several regional trail paths are proposed for extension through Shorewood via existing streets to connect the adjacent municipalities and the unincorporated area in the County.

2013 MINOOKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

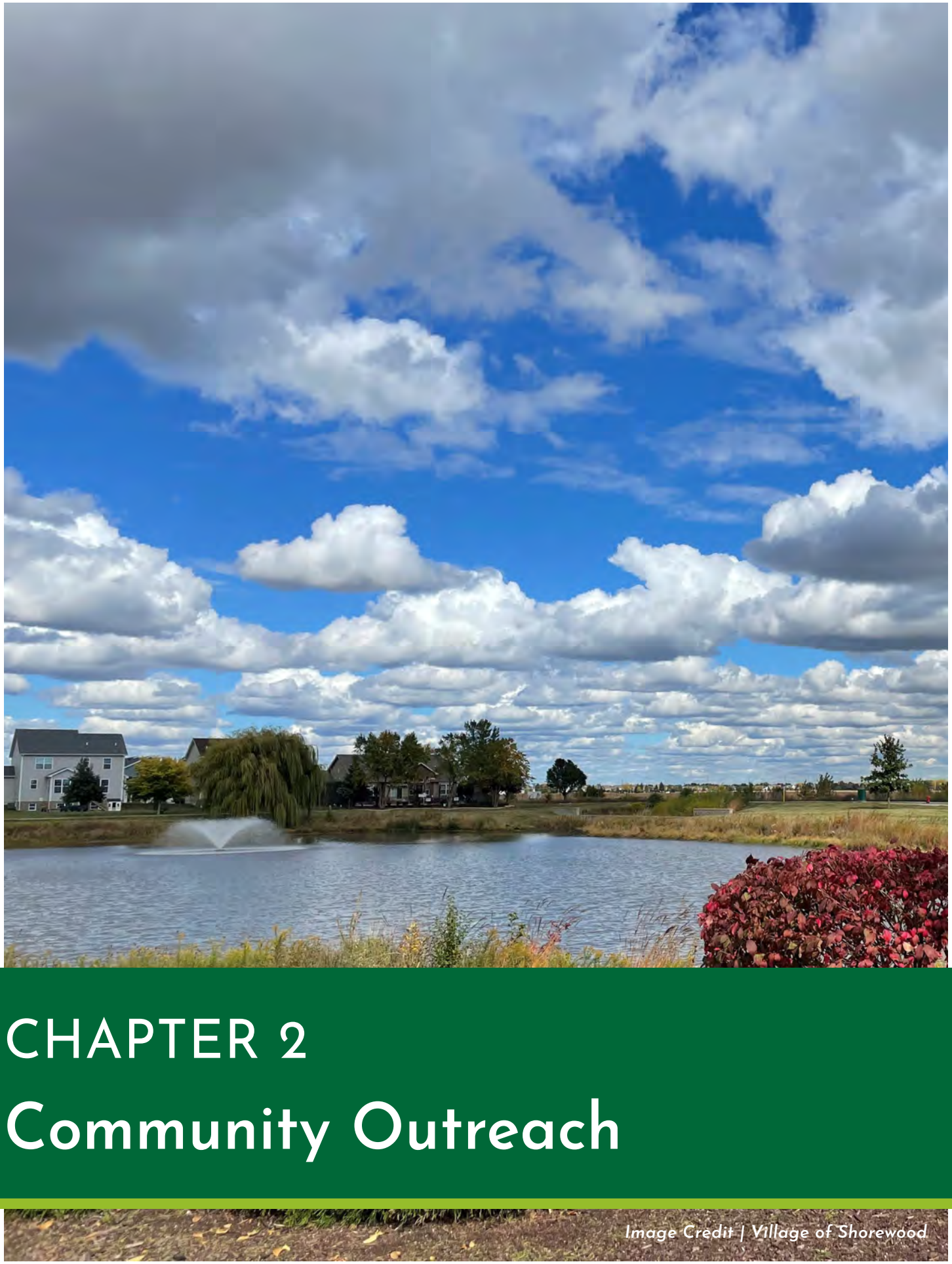
- The 2013 Comprehensive Plan indicates that several planned trails or paths may be extended into the Village of Shorewood. They are along the existing streets such as Ridge Road and County Line Road, and along Aux Sable Creek.



Image Credit | Village of Shorewood



Image Credit | Village of Shorewood



CHAPTER 2
Community Outreach

Image Credit | Village of Shorewood

It is critical to hear and understand local residents' desire for park and recreation facilities before proposing any improvements. As part of the Shorewood Comprehensive Plan packet, this Parks and Recreation Master Plan received the public's input through online surveys and an in-person Open House event.

During the kickoff stage of the Comprehensive Plan project, to understand the experience of living in Shorewood and provide residents an opportunity to express their thoughts and expectations to the Village, an online survey containing twenty (20) questions was available for the community. From March 31 to May 2, 2022, the Village received three hundred seventy (370) responses. Some of the highlights related to parks and recreation are as follows:



52% of the responses deem that the parks in Shorewood meet their expectations. ***27%*** of the responses think that the parks need improvements. ***17%*** believe that the parks exceed their expectations.



16% of the responses choose more connectivity of sidewalks and bike trails as a top need in Shorewood and ***15%*** choose more recreational facilities as a top need in Shorewood.



46% think new trails/better trail connections should be the top priority for improving open space, parks, and recreation in the Village.



31% of those who rarely or do not use parks in Shorewood deem that the Village lacks amenities, features, and programs they want to use.



58% of the respondents visit or use Shorewood's parks, paths, and recreational facilities and programs two (2) or more times per month. **44%** of the respondents visit or use a nearby park district's parks, paths, and recreational facilities and programs two (2) or more times per month.



Swimming is the most mentioned key word for the recreational activities or programs that the respondents would like to do if offered in Shorewood.



82 responses out of three hundred seventy (370) answered the question: "If you feel that you do NOT have adequate access to open space, parks, and recreation, where should something new be added?" suggest adding more access to parks at the following locations: Route 59/Black Road, the DuPage River, Hammel Woods Preserve, Towne Center, River Crossing Subdivision, and Black Road/River Road.



Some other thoughts and suggestions include: develop the riverfront area with trails and amenities, provide winter recreational facilities, build indoor sports facilities, host more events for teenagers, maintain and upgrade the existing facilities.

An Open House was held on October 19, 2022. A Parks and Recreation station was set up showing existing conditions of parks and a location map. The station allowed participants to write down their thoughts about each park's strengths and opportunities for improvement. The majority of the comments focused on adding new functions and facilities, planting more trees, and renovating the aging facilities. To understand residents' views on how the Village should progress in an interactive way, an interactive polling tool was also used to collect feedback from residents on how the Village should progress. After scanning the QR code to join the poll, participants were asked to submit their preferences and priorities for types of developments; open space and recreational options; events and programs; community services and amenities; community character; economic development; housing, transportation, and infrastructure; etc. Ranging between 0 and 5, higher numbers represent higher priorities, as submitted by the participants.

>> SEE THE POLL RESULTS ON PAGE 11

The poll results indicate that participants generally prioritized the development and improvement of public open space and recreation facilities in the Village. Improving walkability and bike-ability by linking popular destinations like forest preserves, the DuPage River, etc., is important to contributing positively to the character of the community. In terms of upgrading parks and open spaces, all three (3) options (more trees and plants, better maintenance of facilities, and more parks) are evenly preferred. Plus, while the participants would like to see enhancements to the facilities, more programs for all age groups in the public open spaces are likewise welcomed.







Ranging between 0 and 5, higher numbers represent higher priorities, as submitted by the participants.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER (QUESTION 2 OF 5)

Bike-ability & walkability to reach more destinations	**4**
Bike-ability & walkability for recreation	**4.2**

COMMUNITY CHARACTER (QUESTION 3 OF 5)

Greater use of DuPage River as asset/amenity/destination	**4**
A gathering place for community events & hanging out	**4.1**

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Construct and operate a public outdoor pool	**2.7**
Building new Troy Library in Towne Center	**2.8**
Expand trails to incorporate forest preserve	**3.9**
Construct and operate a public indoor recreation center	**3.5**

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Add more trees and flower beds to existing parks	**3**
Improve maintenance of existing park facilities	**3.3**
Provide a park within walking distance of every home	**3.3**

PARKS AND RECREATION

Provide more programs for seniors	**3.3**
Provide more programs for adults	**3.2**
Provide more programs for teens	**3.5**
Provide more programs for kids	**3.4**



Image Credit | Village of Shorewood



CHAPTER 3
Existing Conditions

Image Credit | Village of Shorewood

Many of the residential neighborhoods in the Village contain at least one (1) park. Parks vary in size and are designed in a family-friendly manner. Sidewalks and bike paths throughout the Village help to make the parks accessible to their surrounding areas. This chapter examines the existing infrastructure and resources and provides suggestions for possible improvements.

DUPAGE RIVER

Shorewood notably began as a resort and fishing community, and the DuPage River remains the Village's chief natural asset. This twenty-eight-mile-long (28) tributary of the Des Plaines River enters the Village from the north by Black Road, generally following Interstate I-55, and exits the current southern Village boundary at Mound Road. The river is crossed by several major streets in the Village, including Black Road, Jefferson Street/U.S. Route 52, Illinois Route 59, Seil Road, and Mound Road. Hammel Woods Preserve, one (1) of the most popular outdoor leisure destinations in the region, is located by the river between Black Road and Jefferson Street. The Preserve features a trail system that has the potential to be extended along the riverfront area in Shorewood. Five (5) village parks are also located along the river. Since the 1996 flood event that impacted many residents, the Village has realized the importance of revitalizing the riverfront area. Enhancing this rich natural resource potentially will attract an increasing number of residents to its leisure functions, ideally also spurring economic development and growth. The Village has acquired over two point eight million dollars ($2,800,000) in private property with the assistance of Federal Emergency Management Association Flood Mitigation funds for future planned development.



Image Credit | The Forest Preserve District of Will County

The DuPage River corridor was identified in the 2007 Comprehensive Plan for further study and action. On August 10, 2010, the Village adopted the Riverfront Master Plan (Ordinance No. 10-1588) to provide a vision and to guide the Village on recreational enhancements and community development along the river corridor. Some of the suggested improvements for the parks along the DuPage River in the 2010 Riverfront Plan will echo the content proposed in this 2023 Parks and Recreational Master Plan. Some of the critical strategies are:

- Identify key destinations along the DuPage River that will draw visitors and patrons from Shorewood and beyond.
- Provide trail access for a variety of users including hiking, biking, rollerblading, and cross-country skiing.
- Designate parking areas and boat launches for vehicular and boat access as well as places for secure supervision and emergency services. Establish a gateway design system to the north, along with bridge enhancements, signs and wayfinding, and a strong architectural character at the intersection of Interstates I-55 and I-80.
- Explore opportunities for public partnerships, grant funding, revenue generation opportunities, and shared costs at every turn.
- Provide strong maintenance to the DuPage River for riverfront improvements through water quality enhancement, shoreline stabilization, meaningful access points, and educational stewardship.

FOREST PRESERVES

The Village of Shorewood's development boundary encompasses both Will and Kendall Counties. The two (2) major drainage basins passing through the Village—the DuPage River in the east and Aux Sable Creek in the west—contribute a variety of recreational resources and destinations for the community to enjoy, including eight (8) preserves in both counties.

WILL COUNTY

Benefiting from the DuPage River and its watershed, there are seven (7) nature preserve sites within and near Shorewood in the Will County jurisdiction: Hammel Woods, Rock Run, Colvin Grove, Lake Chaminwood, Lake of the Woods, Hastert-Bechstein, and Birds Junction Marsh. These preserves are maintained and managed by the Forest Preserve District of Will County.

Hammel Woods Preserve is located along the DuPage River between Theodore Road and Jefferson Street, and Route 59 and Interstate I-55. This four-hundred-forty-five-acre (445) preserve is part of the DuPage River preservation system and was acquired between 1930 and 2011. All three (3) access points are located in Shorewood. Crumby Recreation Area and DuPage River Access are on Black Road and Route 59 Access is on Route 59, north of Jefferson Street. This forest preserve provides ample habitats for various forest and wetland creatures and plant species. In addition to its natural environment, Hammel Woods is a popular destination for a variety of outdoor activities. The Preserve features a one-and-a-half-mile-long natural surface trail and a three-and-a-half-mile-long (3.5) paved surface trail for biking, hiking, and snow activities in winter. An

eleven-acre (11) off-leash dog park is located at the DuPage River Access on Black Road. Within the dog park, a fenced two (2) acres of land is exclusively for dogs under thirty-five (35) pounds. Camping is also permitted at the DuPage River Access. There are six (6) campsites for group rental, with a capacity of up to eight (8) people per site. Along with camping, picnicking is a popular activity at Hammel Woods. Four (4) picnic shelters are available across the preserve, hosting users from twenty-five (25) people to one hundred twenty (120) people. As a preserve close to water, users can conduct water-related activities such as fishing and canoeing/kayaking near the DuPage River Access and Route 59 Access.



Hammel Woods Preserve
Image Credit | The Forest Preserve District of Will County

Rock Run Preserve encompasses areas south of Pandola Avenue, west of Essington Road, east of Interstate I-55, and north of Jefferson Street in Joliet. Two (2) access points are available: Black Road Access and Paul V. Nichols Access on Essington Road, north of Black Road. The Black Road Access point is only three thousand feet (3,000') east of Hammel Woods and the two (2) Preserves are connected by a shared-use path and a pedestrian bridge along Black Road. As part of the Rock Run preservation system, the three-hundred-twenty-acre (320) preserve conserves more than one thousand four hundred fifty (1,450) acres and was acquired between 1990 and 2009. Rock Run Preserve accommodates a diversity of habitats such as forests, prairies, and wetlands for wildlife and plants. In terms of amenities, Rock Run Preserve provides half mile of crushed limestone trail and eleven (11) miles of paved Rock Run Greenway Trail for hiking, running, and biking. The trails also connect to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)'s I&M Canal State Trail and the Joliet Junction Trail. Moreover, two (2) picnic shelters are available at each access holding twenty-five (25) to sixty (60) people. Shoreline fishing is permitted on a quarry pond at the Black Road Access.



Rock Run Preserve
Image Credit | The Forest Preserve District of Will County

Colvin Grove Preserve is located south of the Joliet Airport and west of Houbolt Road. This Preserve encompasses one hundred seventy-five (175) acres of land and conserves more than one thousand four hundred fifty (1,450) acres. It was acquired between 1991 and 2007. Habitats such as forests and wetlands host a diversity of bird and plant species.

Lake Chaminwood Preserve is a one-hundred-twenty-acre (120) preserve located on Shepley Road, west of Interstate I-55, in Troy Township. It was acquired between 2000 and 2011 as part of the DuPage River preservation system, which conserves more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) acres. Historically, the site was used for quarry mining. Lake Chaminwood Preserve protects a thirty-five-acre (35) lake, a twelve-acre (12) lake and a portion of the DuPage River with associated wetland habitat. Other than its rich and lively natural functions, the preserve also provides a diversity of recreational amenities for activities including a half-mile (0.5) paved trail and a picnic shelter which can accommodate up to twenty-five (25) people. Fishing, canoeing/kayaking, and boating are also permitted here.

Lake of the Woods Preserve is a three-acre (3) unimproved preserve. It is located east of River Road and north of Mound Road in Shorewood. This preserve was acquired in 1998 as part of the DuPage River preservation system, conserving more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) acres.

Hastert-Bechstein Preserve is a seventeen-acre (17) unimproved preserve located east of River Road and north of Shepley Road in Troy Township. This preserve is part of the DuPage River preservation system, which conserves more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) acres. It protects forest habitat and the DuPage River, and is home to various plants such as glade mallow.



Colvin Grove Preserve
Image Credit | Openlands



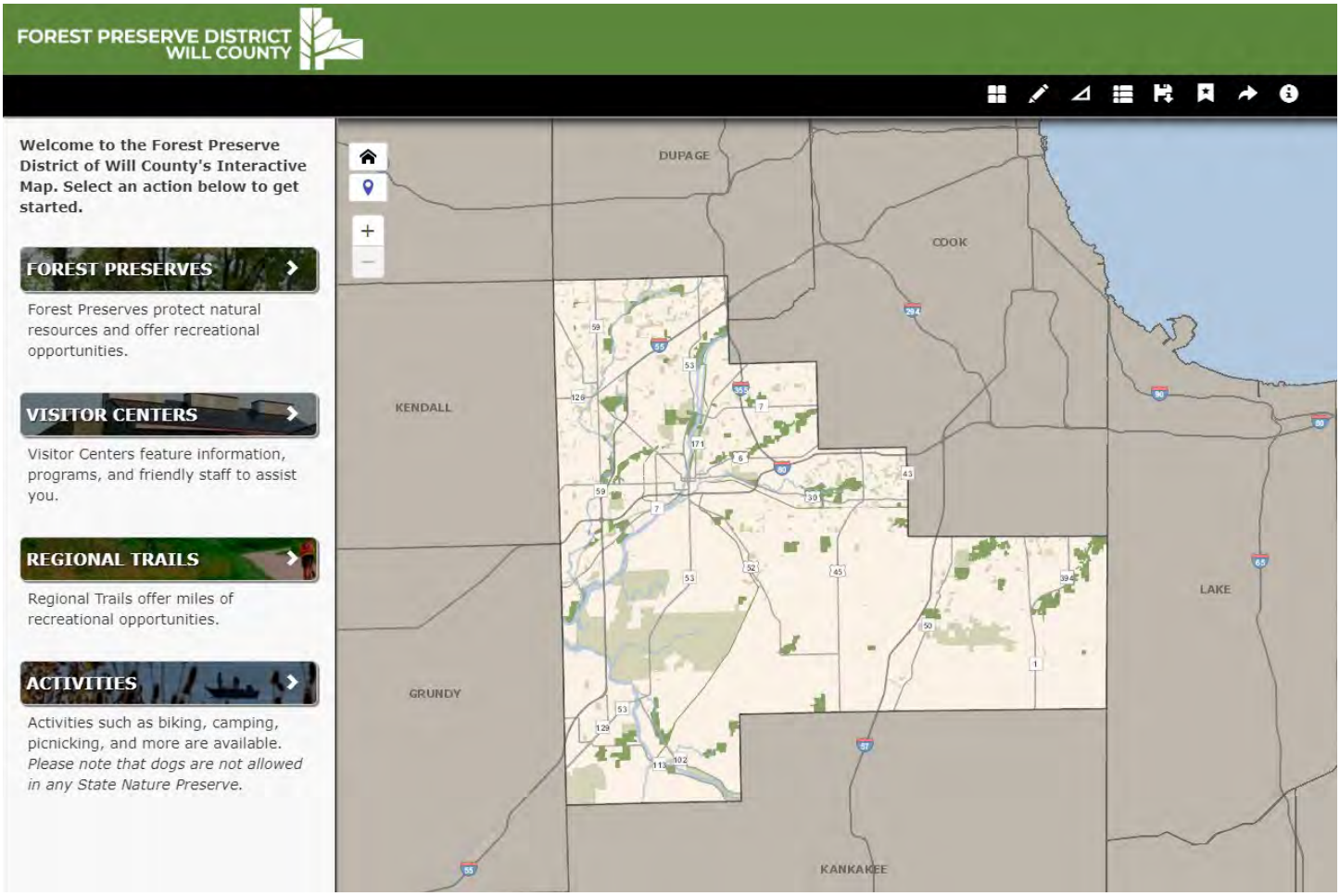
Lake Chaminwood Preserve
Image Credit | The Forest Preserve District of Will County

Birds Junction Marsh is located north and south of Camelot Road and west of Interstate I-55 in Troy Township. This fifty-eight-acre (58) was acquired in 1995. It is part of the DuPage River preservation system, conserving more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) acres. The preserve is home to seventy (70) plus species and plants such as the hooded violet and sickle pod. It also protects a diversity of habitats including forest, savanna, and wetland. (Source: The Forest Preserve District of Will County)

For more information on the mentioned Preserves, please visit the Forest Preserve District of Will County at: https://www.reconnectwithnature.org. The website provides an interactive GIS map https://map.reconnectwithnature.org/publicwebmap showing the existing nature preserves, visitor centers, regional trails, and available activities in each forest preserve in Will County.



Wildlife
Image Credit | The Forest Preserve District of Will County



KENDALL COUNTY

Baker Woods Forest Preserve is located on the north side of U.S. Route 52 and east of McKanna Road. The main forest area is along Aux Sable Creek. This two-hundred-fifty-acre (250) preserve is great for outdoor activities. Fishing is permitted in Aux Sable Creek. A three-mile (3) trail system is available across the Preserve with a vehicular access point on Route 52, east of the Creek. Three (3) shelters are available on the natural trail along the Creek for picnics and other family events. Ellis House and Equestrian Center, which provides event space for family and business events, is featured at this Preserve, with an entrance on McKanna Road.



Baker Woods Forest Preserve
Image Credit | Google Earth

OTHER RECREATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

In addition to the public parks and Forest Preserves in or near Shorewood, some private providers offer recreation resources to residents. Most of the private recreational resources are fitness businesses and are membership-based. The target members of those fitness establishments are teenagers or older. Given the extensive number of private options for dance, personal training, and similar recreation providers, there is no need for the Village to try to replicate these programs.

Business	Address	Services
Orangetheory Fitness	956 Brook Forest Ave, Shorewood	Gym/Personal Training/Group Class
Shorewood Fitness	337 Vertin Blvd, Shorewood	Gym/Personal Training/Group Class
Esporta Fitness	1745 Illinois Route 59, Plainfield (in Joliet)	Gym/Personal Training/Group Class
Treadfit Shorewood	570 Brook Forest Ave, Shorewood	Gym/Group Class
Rise Above Fitness	221 Brook Forest Ave, Shorewood	Personal Training/Group Class
Elite Fitness Training Studio	700 W Jefferson St, Suite 2, Shorewood	Personal Training/Group Class
Rudy's Gym	400 Earl Rd, Shorewood	Personal Training/Group Class
Essence Of Life Shorewood	401 Earl Rd, Shorewood	Yoga Studio
CrossFit Mettle and Honor	353 Airport Dr, Joliet	Personal Training/Group Class
Lou Vonn Fields (Troy Baseball Complex)	21961 S. River Rd, Shorewood	Sports Complex
Goltz Park (Whiteford Youth Baseball)	930 NE. Frontage Rd, Joliet	Sports Complex
Revolution Dance Studio	850 Brook Forest Ave, Shorewood	Dance Studio
Encore Dance Productions	700 W. Jefferson St #13, Shorewood	Dance Studio
Starr Dance Studio	403 Earl Rd #E, Shorewood	Dance Studio
Rhino Sports Academy	301 Gregory Ct, Shorewood	Baseball Club

Table 3.1 | Existing Recreational Businesses in Shorewood and the Adjacent Municipalities

There are two (2) baseball fields in the Shorewood area: Lou Vonn Fields and Goltz Park. Both baseball fields are home-based by independent baseball leagues which recruit youth players under nineteen (19) years old and host training sessions and games.

The ***Lou Vonn Fields*** (a.k.a. Troy Baseball Complex) is located on River Road, south of Interstate I-80. The facility contains three (3) youth baseball fields. It is the home base for Troy Baseball League. The Troy Baseball League offers two (2) programs: In-House and Travel programs. The In-House program is for boy and girl players from four (4) to fourteen (14) years old. They play other teams within the program either at this facility or the surrounding municipalities' facilities. The Travel program is for youth players from eight (8) to fifteen (15) years old. The players in this program play half of the games at this field and travel to play other teams from associates in the region. The League divides participants into five (5) age groups or divisions: Shetland - 4-6, Pinto - 7-8, Mustang - 9-10, Bronco - 11-12, and Pony - 13-14. The participations are membership-based and charged.



Lou Vonn Fields
Image Credit | Troy Titans Baseball League

Goltz Park, where the Whiteford Youth Baseball League is based, was constructed in 1968. It is located on Frontage Road, just east of Interstate I-55 and north of Black Road. Currently, the park provides three (3) baseball fields and two (2) tee-ball fields. The Whiteford Youth Baseball League also offers the same five (5) age groups as the Troy Baseball League. It organizes regular training and hosts regional tournaments.



Goltz Park
Image Credit | Whiteford Youth Baseball League

Lastly, the Troy Community Consolidated School District 30-C, which serves the Village of Shorewood, is also a major resource. They provide recreational facilities in the community. The Village has collaborated with the school district in the past by utilizing its school properties.

SHARED-USE PATH SYSTEM

There is a growing system of pathways in the Village of Shorewood. Shared-use paths allow for two-way, off-street travel by bicyclists, pedestrians, skaters, wheelchair users, runners, persons with limited mobility, and other non-motorized users. They can be located next to roadways like a wide sidewalk and typically called a side path. They can also be installed in parks, along rivers, utility rights-of-way, and linear greenways. Safety is always a top priority for path systems. Motor vehicles are prohibited from accessing shared-use paths, and crossings with streets should be equipped with pedestrian signage, crosswalks, and stoplights (if necessary). Currently, this twenty-three-mile (23) system links most of the parks to make the public open spaces accessible to the community. The shared-use paths in the Village are differentiated from sidewalks as they are wider (eight to ten feet) and typically surfaced with asphalt.

The current shared-use path system contains multiple gaps. The gaps are caused by undeveloped land and older neighborhoods which are not equipped with pedestrian paths. Also, along several through-streets that connect multiple neighborhoods, sidewalks and shared-use paths are interchangeably installed. The inconsistent widths of the paths impact user experience. Lastly, regional connections are also lacking, which deters people from utilizing non-motorized transportation between communities.

All parks are connected to the Village shared-use path system. For convenience and to encourage more park visits, bicycle parking facilities are necessary for the parks. Currently, eight (8) out of fifteen (15) improved parks in the Village are equipped with bicycle racks. They are either gate/fence style or loop/wave style. According to the Bicycle Parking Guidelines published by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP), the existing styles in the Village should be avoided due to inefficient or user-unfriendly issues. The Village should replace the existing bicycle



Example of Shared-Use Path along a Street in Shorewood
Image Credit | Google Earth

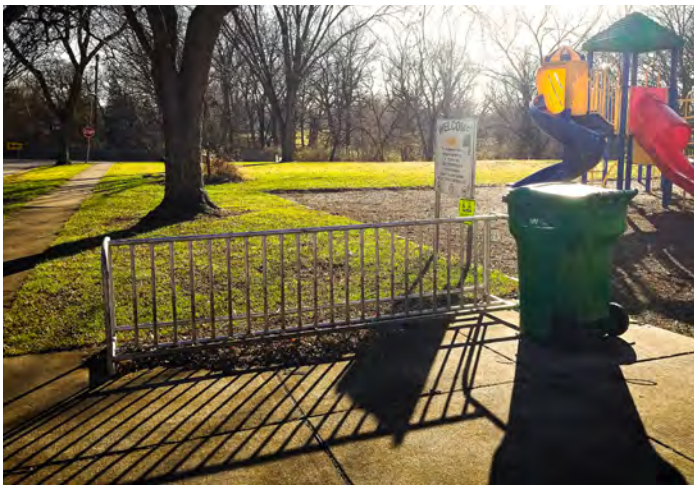


Example of Shared-Use Path in a Forest Preserve in Shorewood
Image Credit | Google Earth



Dead-Ended Shared-Use Path Due to Vacant Land
Image Credit | Google Earth

racks with the recommended style when conducting park renovations or routine maintenance. Other than the style issue, it should also be noted that the bicycle racks are not being used properly for bicycle parking. Many of them are utilized to secure the wheeled trash receptacles, which should be avoided; the wheeled trash receptacles should be replaced with permanent metal ones.



Example of Existing Bicycle Racks in Shorewood

RECOMMENDED BICYCLE RACKS

When it is time to replace existing bicycle racks and to install additional ones, the Village should adopt one or more styles recommended by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. The following visuals from the Association present proper examples for bicycle rack designs, along with descriptions of their applications. Improper styles Improper styles:

RACKS FOR ALL APPLICATIONS

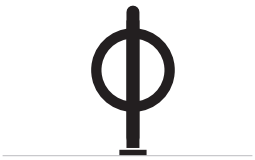
When properly designed and installed, these rack styles typically meet all performance criteria and are appropriate for use in nearly any application.

INVERTED U
also called staple, loop



Common style appropriate for many uses; two points of ground contact. Can be installed in series on rails to create a free-standing parking area in variable quantities. Available in many variations.

POST & RING



Common style appropriate for many uses; one point of ground contact. Compared to inverted-U racks, these are less prone to unintended perpendicular parking. Products exist for converting unused parking meter posts.

WHEELWELL–SECURE



Includes an element that cradles one wheel. Design and performance vary by manufacturer; typically contains bikes well, which is desirable for long-term parking and in large-scale installations (e.g. campus); accommodates fewer bicycle types and attachments than the two styles above.

Image Credit: Essentials of Bike Parking, Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals

BICYCLE RACKS TO AVOID

The following bicycle rack styles are not recommended due to inconvenient and inefficient usages. As mentioned earlier, most of the existing bicycle racks in the Village fall within the categories below. If the Village plans to renovate parks or construct new parks, the bicycle racks depicted below should be avoided.

RACKS TO AVOID

Because of performance concerns, APBP recommends selecting other racks instead of these.

WAVE
also called undulating or serpentine



Not intuitive or user-friendly; real-world use of this style often falls short of expectations; supports bike frame at only one location when used as intended.

SCHOOLYARD
also called comb, grid



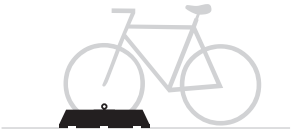
Does not allow locking of frame and can lead to wheel damage. Inappropriate for most public uses, but useful for temporary attended bike storage at events and in locations with no theft concerns. Sometimes preferred by recreational riders, who may travel without locks and tend to monitor their bikes while parked.

COATHANGER



This style has a top bar that limits the types of bikes it can accommodate.

WHEELWELL



Racks that cradle bicycles with only a wheelwell do not provide suitable security, pose a tripping hazard, and can lead to wheel damage.

BOLLARD



This style typically does not appropriately support a bike's frame at two separate locations.

SPIRAL



Despite possible aesthetic appeal, spiral racks have functional downsides related to access, real-world use, and the need to lift a wheel to park.

Image Credit: Essentials of Bike Parking, Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals

PARK CLASSIFICATION

The Shorewood Public Works Department maintains eighteen (18) public parks in the Village, comprising a total of approximately one hundred seventy-three (173) acres. The average size of a park is approximately nine point six (9.6) acres in Shorewood with a range between zero point three (0.3) and forty-nine point eight (49.8) acres. Out of the eighteen (18) parks, four (4) are passive open spaces with no park amenities. According to the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines (1996), parks can be classified based on size, service area, Level of Service (LOS), and designs. Each classification serves a specific need in the community. The classifications used in the Village of Shorewood are:



Community Park



Neighborhood Park



Mini Park

Park classifications are developed from the NRPA guidelines to fit within the context of the community. They are not only determined by acreage, but also by functions and designs. Currently, Shorewood offers two (2) Community Parks, eleven (11) Neighborhood Parks, and five (5) Mini Parks.

In addition to the public parks, there are three (3) private parks/playgrounds in the Village encompassing four (4) acres of land. One (1) is located in the Walnut Trails subdivision and the other two (2) are in the Edgewater subdivision. These private parks feature children's playgrounds and are maintained by the local homeowner associations. The sizes and functions of these private parks make them consistent with the Mini Parks in the Village. Currently, the Village has no plan on acquiring these parks.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

To identify the classifications of parks in the Village and their service statuses, the Level of Service (LOS) criterion is utilized. It was first introduced in the Park, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines (1996) by NRPA and is a standard evaluation of park facility usage and park availability managed by park and recreation agencies across the country.

"The purpose of the publication is to underscore the most important objective of the park and recreation planning process; to ensure that a community knows how to go about securing enough of the right kind of land to provide the scale of park and open space system the citizens desire." (Park, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines, James D. Mertes, 1996)

	Shorewood	Morris	Ottawa	Minooka	Yorkville
Population (Census 2020)	18,186	14,163	18,840	12,758	21,533
Total Acres of Parks	173	85.91	525	200	268
Acres per 1,000 Population	9.5	6.07	27.9	15.7	12.4

Table 3.2 | Comparison Table of Level of Service Among Shorewood and Other Municipalities

Level of Service analysis helps agencies determine minimum acreage of parks and open spaces required based on population, in order to satisfy resident demand and to ensure quality of services in the community. It also provides a benchmark for comparing the parks' infrastructural availability with other communities, so it can adjust its development goals and objectives accordingly. For example, above is a comparison table (Table 3.2) of LOS among Shorewood and a few neighboring communities based on acres per thousand (1,000) population. The national average for all communities is ten point four (10.4) acres per thousand (1,000) residents

The NRPA recognizes the importance of the level of service as:

- ***An expression of minimum acceptable facilities for citizens of every community.***
- ***A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.***
- ***A basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide system of parks, recreation areas, and open areas. (James D. Mertes, 1996)***

It should be also noted that the LOS analysis is not capable of considering the unique characteristics of each community such as demographics, climate, culture, and so forth, to fully satisfy the needs of all communities across the country.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks are the largest parks among the three (3) classifications providing facilities for the entire Village. They are usually equipped with significant athletic complexes and other facilities for active recreation that are normally not compatible with Neighborhood Parks, such as facilities for athletic training and competitive sports. Community Parks are designated to serve a three-mile (3) or more radius with a size ranging from fifteen (15) acres to fifty (50) acres. Their Level of Service (LOS) is typically between five (5) and eight (8) acres per thousand (1,000)



Cene's Four Seasons Park

population. Community Parks accommodate a mixture of events and facilities, often including sport courts such as basketball and tennis, and fields such as baseball, football, and soccer. Community Parks can also be used as multipurpose venue spaces hosting occasional or seasonal events, and often providing any needed structures and amenities. Other elements that assist in serving all age groups include concessions, playgrounds, pavilions, trails, and path systems. Community Parks need convenient and accessible locations as they serve the entire Village. Off-street parking facilities are necessary.

In Shorewood, Cene's Four Seasons Park is the only developed Community Park, and it is equipped with a comprehensive range of sport facilities and park amenities. River's Edge Park, which will feature a variety of recreational and sports amenities and a botanic-garden-style open space, will be another Community Park once it is completed.



Cene's Four Seasons Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood Parks provide residents with recreational and open space facilities within walking distance of their homes. Their size ranges from one (1) acre to fifteen (15) acres. To maintain walkability, residents would have a Neighborhood Park within a half-mile (½) radius of their home. The Level of Service (LOS) should be between one (1) and two (2) acres per thousand (1,000) population. The design of Neighborhood Parks should be all-age friendly but accommodate more active recreation activities with larger spaces for sports and playground facilities. Passive activities and facilities should also be included, such as walking, sitting, and picnicking. These parks often include elements such as playgrounds, picnic tables, practice sports fields, and trail systems. In terms of parking availability, park patrons may utilize the nearby streets with off-



Wynstone Park

street parking provided depending on the actual size and activities in the parks.

In Shorewood, Towne Center Park, Country West Park, Ca-Crest Park, Seil Road Park, Heartland Park, Little Coyote Park, White Tail Park, Wynstone Park, Shorewood Park, River Crossing Park, and West Shore Park are identified as Neighborhood Parks.

MINI PARKS

Mini Parks (a.k.a. Pocket Parks) serve a concentrated or limited population area and address a specific recreational need. Mini Parks typically serve a walkable radius in a neighborhood, which is one-quarter (¼) mile. They are typically less than one (1) acre in size. The Level of Service (LOS) should be between zero point two (0.2) and zero point five (0.5) acres per thousand (1,000) population. Mini Parks should be designed to be all-age friendly and can be either active or passive with limited amenities or both such as a tot lot, a pavilion, benches, and picnic tables; and should be connected by a trail system. Off-street parking is not needed as residents are encouraged to walk to these parks or they can park on nearby neighborhood streets. As a park directly serving the immediate surrounding residents in a neighborhood, a Mini Park should be located internal to subdivisions and away from major roads.

In Shorewood, Huntington Park, Kits Korner Park, Diana Park, River Oaks Park, and Fawn Park are identified as Mini Parks.

An inventory was conducted to understand the current facilities and maintenance conditions within Village parks. Based on the 2022 inventory, the Shorewood Park Matrix (Table 3.3) on Pages 30 and 31 reflects the current inventory of parks, their acreage, classification, and amenities.

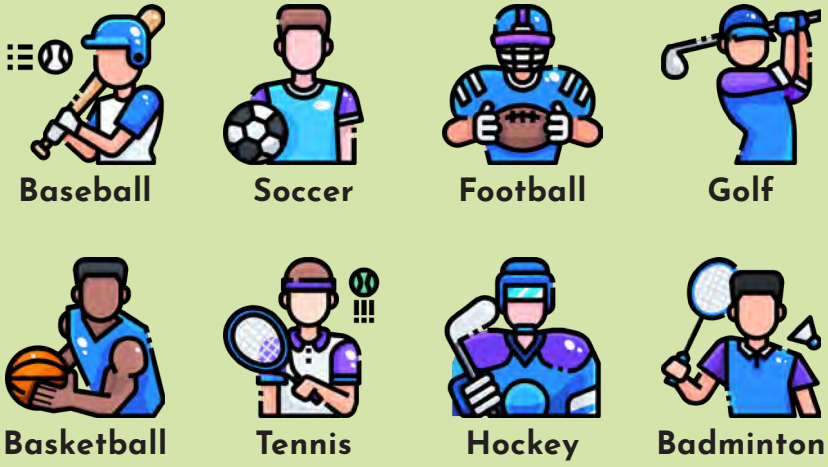


Fawn Park

ACTIVE RECREATION VS. PASSIVE RECREATION

Active recreation refers to a structured individual or team activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment.

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF ACTIVE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES?

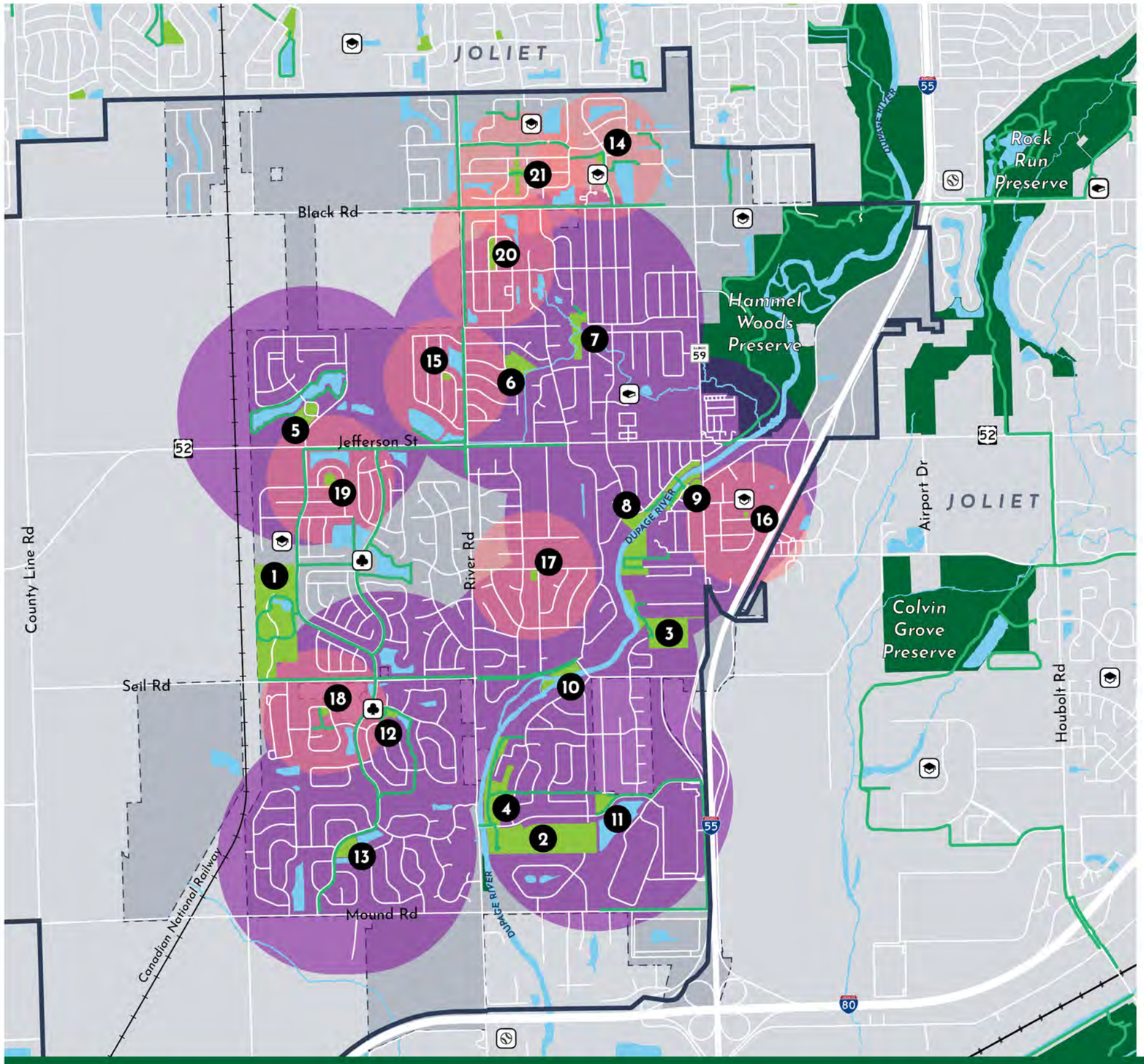


Passive recreation refers to recreational activities that do not require prepared facilities like sports fields or pavilions. Passive recreational activities place minimal stress on a site's resources; as a result, they can provide ecosystem service benefits and are highly compatible with natural resource protection.

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF PASSIVE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES?



(Source: EPA -- Meeting Community Needs, Protecting Human Health and the Environment: Active and Passive Recreational Opportunities at Abandoned Mine Lands)



Community Park

1. Cene's Four Seasons Park
2. River's Edge Park

Pocket Park

14. Huntington Park
15. Kits Korner Park
16. Diana Park
17. River Oaks Park
18. Fawn Park

Private Park

19. Walnut Trails Park
20. Edgewater South Park
21. Edgewater North Park

Neighborhood Park

3. Shorewood Park
4. River Crossing Park
5. Towne Center Park
6. Country West Park
7. Ca-Crest Park
8. West Shore Park
9. Little Coyote Park
10. Seil Road Park
11. Heartland Park
12. White Tail Park
13. Wynstone Park

- Neighborhood Park Service Area (1/2 Mile Radius / 10-Minute Walk)
- Mini Park/Private Park Service Area (1/4 Mile Radius / 5-Minute Walk)

- Park/Open Space
- Nature Preserve
- Village Boundary
- Water
- School
- Library
- Private Community Clubhouse
- Sports Field
- Existing Shared-Use Path/Trail
- Village Development Boundary
- Railroad

N

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Mile

April 2023

VILLAGE OF Shorewood ILLINOIS

teska

Existing Parks and Trails in Shorewood

CHAPTER 3 | **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

	Classification	Acres	Fitness Equipment	Baseball/Softball Fields	Basketball Courts	Bocce Ball Courts	Canoe/Kayak Access	Community Gardens	Bag Toss Boards	Dog Parks	Disc Golf	Horseshoe Courts	Pickleball Courts	Playgrounds	Sled Hills	Soccer Fields	Splash Pads	Swimming Pools	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Ice Rinks	Pavilions	Picnic Tables	Benches	Restrooms	Lights	Grills	Bike Racks	Drinking Fountains	Accessible Ramps	Trail Connections	Parking	Trash Receptacles	Landscaping Edging
Cene's Four Seasons Park	CP	49.8	3	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	3	0	0	2	0	1*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	L	Y	C
River's Edge Park	CP	32.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
Shorewood Park	NP	19.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	L	Y	N
River Crossing Park	NP	18.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Towne Center Park	NP	3.3	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	S+L	Y	N
Country West Park	NP	5.1	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	S	Y	C
Ca-Crest Park	NP	6.1	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	S	Y	P
West Shore Park	NP	15.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	4	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	S	Y	N
Little Coyote Park	NP	7.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	S	Y	C
Seil Road Park	NP	3.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Heartland Park	NP	3.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	S	N	N
White Tail Park	NP	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	S	Y	C
Wynstone Park	NP	4.5	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	S	Y	N
Huntington Park	MP	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	S	Y	C
Kits Korner Park	MP	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	S	Y	C
Diana Park	MP	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	S	Y	N
River Oaks Park	MP	0.8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	S	Y	C
Fawn Park	MP	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	S	Y	C
Total		173.1	8	4	4	1	0	1	6	0	18	4	8	13	2	3	2	0	2	1	1													

Table 3.3 | Existing Park Inventory Table

Classification: MP = Mini Park; NP = Neighborhood Park; CP = Community Park
Parking: S = Street Parking; L = Parking Lot
Landscaping Edging: C = Concrete; P = Plastic; N = None
*Ice Rink: Seasonal

NRPA PARK METRICS

The second tool for the inventory analysis is the NRPA Park Metrics. It was previously known as PROGAGIS system and has replaced the previous Areas and Facilities Standards since 2009. It is the most current and comprehensive source of data for park and recreation agencies to help agencies effectively manage and plan their resources and facilities. The former database compared local and national averages, while the newer NRPA Park Metrics database allows users to produce reports for comparing the number of facilities with the surrounding communities and/or state/national averages, generating a more nuanced analysis. This tool follows the statement of the NRPA that each community should be considered on an individual basis in order to tailor the most appropriate range, quantity, and quality of recreational facilities within the district's fiscal limits.

Acreage of Park Land per thousand (1,000) Residents is adopted in the following analysis, as it is the most common unit used for expressing equal opportunity. According to The 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review, nationally, the typical park and recreation agency has ten point four (10.4) acres of parkland for every thousand (1,000) residents in the jurisdiction. For jurisdictions with fewer than twenty thousand (20,000) residents, this number rises to twelve point nine (12.9). Shorewood falls below the criterion as it has nine point five (9.5) acres of parkland for every thousand (1,000) residents in the Village. However, it should be noted that forest preserves are not included in the calculation since they are owned and maintained by the Forest Preserve District of Will County; also, they are either not in Shorewood completely or located in the neighboring municipality. If the Hammel Woods Forest Preserve were included, as part of the site is within the Village boundary, thirty-four (34) acres of parkland are available for every (1,000) residents in Shorewood.

Utilizing another metric of the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review, the typical agency has one (1) park for every two thousand three hundred twenty-three (2,323) residents. In jurisdictions that serve fewer than twenty thousand (20,000) residents, there is one (1) park for every one thousand two hundred thirty-three (1,233) residents. In Shorewood, there is one (1) park for every one thousand ten (1,010) residents. If the Hammel Woods Forest Preserve is included in the population, the number will decrease to nine hundred fifty-seven (957).

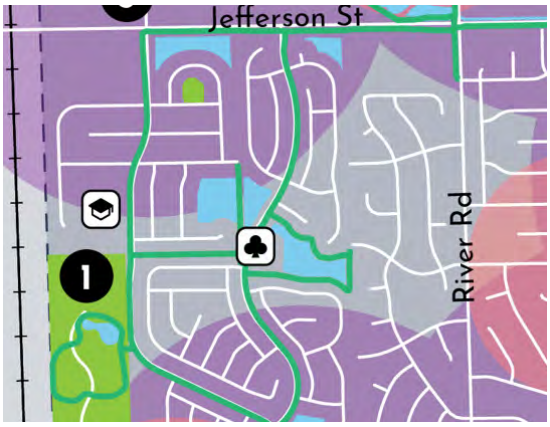
As mentioned earlier, the NRPA's Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines (1996) indicate different service area radii for each type of park: one-quarter-mile (¼) radius for Mini Parks, half-mile (½) radius for Neighborhood Parks, three-mile (3) radius for Community Parks. In addition, the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA), in cooperation with The Trust for Public Lands and the Urban Land Institute, has established a goal of providing a park within a ten-minute (10) walk of all municipal residents in the United States. A ten-minute (10) walk approximately equals a half-mile (½) radius. The ParkServe analysis tool owned by Trust for Public Land indicates that eighty percent (80%) of the residents in Shorewood are within a ten-minute (10) walk of a park.

The existing Cene's Four Seasons Park is well-located to meet Shorewood's Community Park needs. Neighborhood Parks in the Village provide coverage of most neighborhoods. Mini Parks, which aim to fill in the gaps of Neighborhood Parks and convenience residents with shorter walking distances, can cover most of the Village neighborhoods. However, the following areas (in gray) are not covered by a Neighborhood or Mini Park service radius:

Parks	Acres	National Average (Ac./1,000)	Comparable Acres	Acres Surplus/ Deficit
Community Parks	82.4	8.0	145.5	-63.1
Neighborhood Parks	87.5	2.0	36.3	51.2
Mini Parks	3.2	0.4	7.3	-4.1
Total	**173.1**	**10.4**	**189.1**	**-16.0**

Table 3.4 | Comparison Table of Shorewood Park Acres to National Standards

PARK SERVICE GAPS



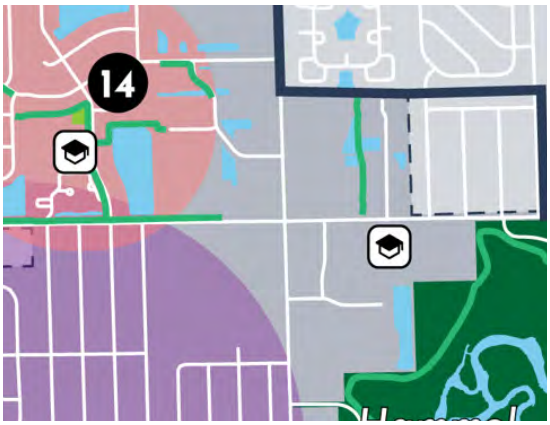
THE AREA ENCLOSED BY JEFFERSON STREET, RIVER ROAD, CN RAILROAD, & SEIL ROAD.

This gap area is mostly Hunt Club subdivision. The Shorewood Glen subdivision to the west is a gated community with its own private clubhouse. Therefore, a public park is not feasible in that subdivision. Other than the gated community, there are four (4) open lots in this area. However, three (3) of them are used for stormwater management. The only possible lot that is closest to the gap area for park development is on the northeast intersection of River Road and Oxford Lane. However, this approximately half-acre (½) lot is on a busy street (River Road), which makes it challenging for pedestrians' safe access. Lastly, a 0.3-acre open lot on Buckingham Place in the Hunt Club subdivision was petitioned to the Village for no park development in the subdivision by the local residents. Therefore, this area will have no recommended locations for a new park in order to fill the gap. The residents in the Hunt Club subdivision may use River Oaks Park by Ranchwood Drive and Colonade Road.



THE AREA NORTH OF BLACK ROAD

Currently, there is one (1) Mini Park adjacent to Trinity Christian School on Shorewood Drive. More parks are needed and there are possible locations in this area. Plus, there are undeveloped land parcels along Black Road in between the CN Railroad and River Road, which will be most likely developed as residential subdivisions. More park development opportunities will appear when development proposals are submitted.



THE AREA NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF BLACK ROAD AND ILLINOIS ROUTE 59

This area is mostly identified for commercial, business, and light industrial uses and has very limited open spaces for new parks. While Hammel Woods Preserve is not a municipal park, it is a substitution for a recreational destination to cover the service gap in this area.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Examining the facilities provided in the parks in Shorewood is critical to ensure service quality and attractiveness for users. Two (2) data resources are utilized to analyze the sufficiency of recreational facilities: 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review and 2021-2025 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) created by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

2022 NRPA AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Each year, the NRPA conducts surveys of park agencies across the country in order to ascertain the facilities offered in comparison to the municipality's population and compiles the survey data into a performance review document. The 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review highlights twenty-seven (27) of the most critical park and recreation metrics collected from the NRPA Park Metrics database. While every community is unique, there are some national and state standards that are worth considering when evaluating local recreational facilities. The following table compares available facilities in Shorewood to these national standards. A negative number in the Surplus/Deficit column suggests a deficit, while a positive number indicates the Village has more of that type of facility than the national average. Table 3.4 on the next page indicates the minimal quantity of facilities needed in order to 'catch-up' to the nation's average level. Other than tot lots, playgrounds, and basketball courts, all other major park facilities are in deficit compared to other agencies at the same population level.

2022 KEY FINDINGS OF NAPA PERFORMANCE REVIEW

10.4

Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents

0.89

Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTEs) per 1,000 Residents

$93/year

Operating Expenditures per Capita

	Median Number of Residents per Facility					
Facilities	**All Agencies in the US**	**Population Less than 20,000**	**Facilities in Shorewood**	**Number of Facilities Needed In Shorewood**	**Surplus/ Deficit**	**Minimum Number of Additional Facilities**
Baseball Fields (Adult)	20,127	7,954	3	2.3	-0.7	1
Basketball Courts	7,403	3,750	5	4.9	0.2	0
Community Gardens	30,140	8,773	1	2.1	-1.1	2
Dog Parks	43,586	11,100	1*	1.6	-0.6	1
Pickleball Courts	14,714	3,446	4	5.3	-1.3	2
Playgrounds	3,750	1,986	11	9.2	1.8	0
Soccer Fields (Adult)	13,200	8,017	3	2.3	0.7	0
Softball Fields (Adult)	14,302	5,667	3	3.2	-0.2	1
Swimming Pools	38,000	8,637	2**	2.1	-2.1	1
Tennis Courts	5,608	2,723	5***	6.7	-4.7	2
Tot Lots	11,983	6,642	11	2.7	8.3	0
Volleyball Courts	18,232	5,400	1	3.4	-2.4	3
Ice Rinks	16,887	7,997	1****	2.3	-2.3	3
	Miles of Trail by Jurisdiction Population					
	All Agencies	Population Less than 20,000				
Trail (Miles)	14	3	21			

Table 3.4 | Comparison Table of Shorewood Park Acres to National Standards

Source: 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review Figure 3: Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities – Population Per Facility (By Prevalence and Population Per Facility)

*The existing dog park is in the Hammel Woods Preserve managed by the Forest Preserve District of Will County

**The swimming pools are private facilities

*** Three (3) of the tennis courts are private facilities

****A seasonal ice rink is available in Cene's Four Seasons Park

2021-2025 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

The Illinois SCORP is developed every five (5) years to evaluate the outdoor recreation needs of Illinois residents while considering the state's natural resources, recreational lands and facilities, and evaluating economic impacts to outdoor recreation in Illinois. SCORP provides aid for recreation professionals in planning the protection, development, and acquisition of additional natural resources. This plan provides an analysis of demographic characteristics of Illinois residents, analyzes outdoor recreation supply and demand through surveys of recreation providers and residents throughout the state in 2020, and suggests recommendations and implementation strategies to further develop outdoor recreation opportunities in Illinois. (Source: 2021-2025 SCORP, IDNR)

The most recent SCORP was conducted during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, which significantly lowered the response rate and thus impacted the accuracy of the inventory survey. Therefore, the 2020 inventory data is not utilized for analysis in this plan.

Other than the data analysis on Page 36 (Table 3.4), the residents in the community also expressed their desires for adding additional recreational facilities. According to the Open House event on October 19, 2022, the park facilities on the right side are mentioned by the participants for higher availability and accessibility.

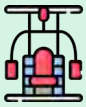
When a deficit for a certain type of park facility is indicated, the Village should conduct further surveys and public outreach to better understand residents' interests and demand for the facility. If strong community support is identified, an appropriate location would need to be identified.

POPULAR PARK AMENITIES MENTIONED BY SHOREWOOD RESIDENTS IN THE OPEN HOUSE ON OCTOBER 19, 2022


Dog park


Pickleball court


Basketball court


Exercise equipment


Volleyball court


Ice rink


Soccer field


Swimming pool


Canoe/kayak launch

PROGRAMMING

The Village of Shorewood offers the community a family-friendly recreational programs. From holiday markets in Towne Center Park to pickleball sessions in Cene's Four Seasons' Park, the Village strives to provide residents with events and recreational programs throughout the year. Quality programming not only enriches the public's life with various leisure activities and events, but also helps foster bonding and engage relationships through enjoying the Village's parks and facilities together.

The Village has an online event platform and calendar (https://shorewoodil.recdesk.com/Community/Program), which provides information such as event name, date, time, location, targeted age groups, and availability. The public may view and sign-up for events. Local businesses which intend to host events and classes may also contact the Village to promote theirs on the platform. The Village's social media pages and newsletters also promote major village events to encourage public participation.

Most of the events take place between April and December and use the main Village parks such as Cene's Four Seasons Park and Towne Center Park. Many seasonal and festival events are hosted in the Village parks and open spaces. Events like Party in the Park, Summer Movie Nights, OktoBREWfest, and Holiday Market, have been successful at attracting crowds and promoting the Village's image.

Besides the larger-scale public events, numerous smaller events or programs organized by nonprofit organizations, hobby clubs, and public agencies are also active in the Village. Based on the events held in 2022, the most popular recreational events center around sports and outdoor activities such as pickleball, golf, and football. They were held in Community and Neighborhood Parks. For example, several exercise groups have been active in the







Image Credit | Village of Shorewood

Village running fitness classes and even 5K run/walk events. Events and classes run by nonprofit organizations that are not sports-focused, such as arts, music, puzzles, and so forth, may book spaces in the Village Hall or school buildings.

The Village categorizes recreational programs by age groups: youth, teen, and adult. Youth participants are between two (2) and eleven (11) years old; teen participants are between twelve (12) and seventeen (17) years old; adult participants are eighteen (18) years old and above. As mentioned, all events are family-friendly. Sports and active events are specially designed and open for participants under 18. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village ran multiple sports programs out of one (1) of the school's gyms in Troy School District. Recently, the Village has received approval from Troy School District to begin using gym space for upcoming events.

As the Village of Shorewood has been successfully maintaining the programming in the Village and has attracted a good number of participants throughout the year in general, the Village should continue hosting and recruiting events that are:

- Low risk of disease and injury
- Maintain a high level of mental and physical functioning
- Promote an active lifestyle

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Village of Shorewood offers a range of recreational programs to residents of all ages. In addition, the Village partners with local sports clubs to provide team sports like baseball, softball, and soccer. Partners include:

Table 3.5 provides a comparison of the number of recreational programs offered by the Village of Shorewood and two (2) comparable communities – the City of Yorkville and the Frankfort Park District. As the table shows, Shorewood compares very favorably to Yorkville, generally offering as many or more programs than Yorkville. However, it should be noted that in Yorkville, the City partners with Senior Service Association to provide programs to seniors at their Beecher Community Center. This table excludes those programs provided by this outside organization. In contrast, the Frankfort Park District offers their residents many more programs in all age categories. These additional offerings do come at a cost (see the Operations section for a comparison of recreational budgets).

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The Village of Shorewood offers residents a wide range of programs both independently and in partnership with local recreation providers. No specific gaps are evident from this analysis. The Village recreation staff should continue to monitor program participation and listen to residents regarding interest in new programs as they are currently doing.

	Shorewood	Yorkville	Frankfort
Pre-School/Early Childhood Programs (Under 4)	8	7	15
Youth Programs (5-10)	13	13	38
Teen Programs	3	0	11
Adult Programs	14	3	30
Total Programs	38	23	94

Table 3.5 | Recreational Program Offerings, Winter 2023

Source: Websites/program guides available on-line in January 2023

Notes:

1. Excludes major team sports.
2. 2020 Populations: Shorewood – 18,186, Yorkville – 21,533, Frankfort Park District – 18,850.
3. Listed programs were offered – but in all communities some programs were canceled if not enough participants signed-up.

OPERATIONS

While many communities in Illinois have separate Park Districts that focus solely on parks and recreation, the Village of Shorewood maintains and operates their own programs. The Village has a small staff (two full-time and one part-time employee in 2022) that coordinates and manages events and recreational programs in the Village. Parks are maintained by the Village's Public Works Department, with a staff of three (3) full-time employees in the Parks Division: one (1) Division Foreman, one (1) Certified Playground Safety Inspector, and one (1) Maintainer. The Parks Division is a branch in the Public Works Department and is led by the Public Works Director and Assistant Public Works Director. During the summer, the Public Works Department hires up to eight (8) seasonal employees with a majority assigned to the Parks Division to help with mowing responsibilities.

The Village's staffing and budget information is compared in the following table to several nearby communities of similar size. Yorkville is like Shorewood, in that the municipality provides parks and recreation services rather than a separate park district. They do differ a little in structure, as they have a quasi-independent Park Board that oversees parks and recreation activities and a full-time Executive Director. The Frankfort Park District is also provided as a comparison as they serve a similar population but do so independently of the municipal government.

The mission of the Shorewood Parks and Recreation Department is to provide diverse year-round leisure opportunities through the preservation of open space, park settings, recreational programs, and special events for the citizens of Shorewood. The benefits of leisure services are especially designed to meet the physical, mental, cultural, and social needs of our residents and visitors to our community, while enhancing the overall quality of life in Shorewood.

OPERATIONAL COMPARISON

	Shorewood	Yorkville	Frankfort
Population	18,186	21,533	18,850
Program Revenue	$51,694	$527,941	$910,000
Property Tax and Other Revenue	$1,030,927	$1,691,328	$2,040,000
Total Expenditures	$1,082,621	$2,219,269	$2,950,000
Per Capita Expenditure	$59.54	$103.06	$156.50
Parks and Recreation Full-time Staff	5.5	13.5	14.0
Staff per 1,000 population	0.3	0.63	0.74

Table 3.6 | Comparison Table of Operation Costs Among Shorewood and Other Municipalities

Notes:

1. Frankfort Park District (not municipal)
2. 2020 Fiscal Year Information, taken from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports
3. Expenditures listed are just for normal operations and exclude capital expenditures for new or renovated facilities.
4. National average expenditures are at $93 per capita.
5. National average number of full-time employees is 0.87 per 1,000 population.

Several observations can be made from this comparison:

1. Both Yorkville and Frankfort provide many more recreational programs than are currently available in Shorewood, thus the higher program revenue. For example, Yorkville has in-house baseball and softball leagues where in Shorewood these leagues are run by private organizations. We found the number of events offered in each community to be generally similar.
2. Shorewood's expenditures per resident are significantly less than these comparable communities.
3. Both Yorkville and Frankfort have dedicated Park Boards and Executive Directors that advocate for parks and recreational facilities and programs. This likely results in greater services and related expenditures.

OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

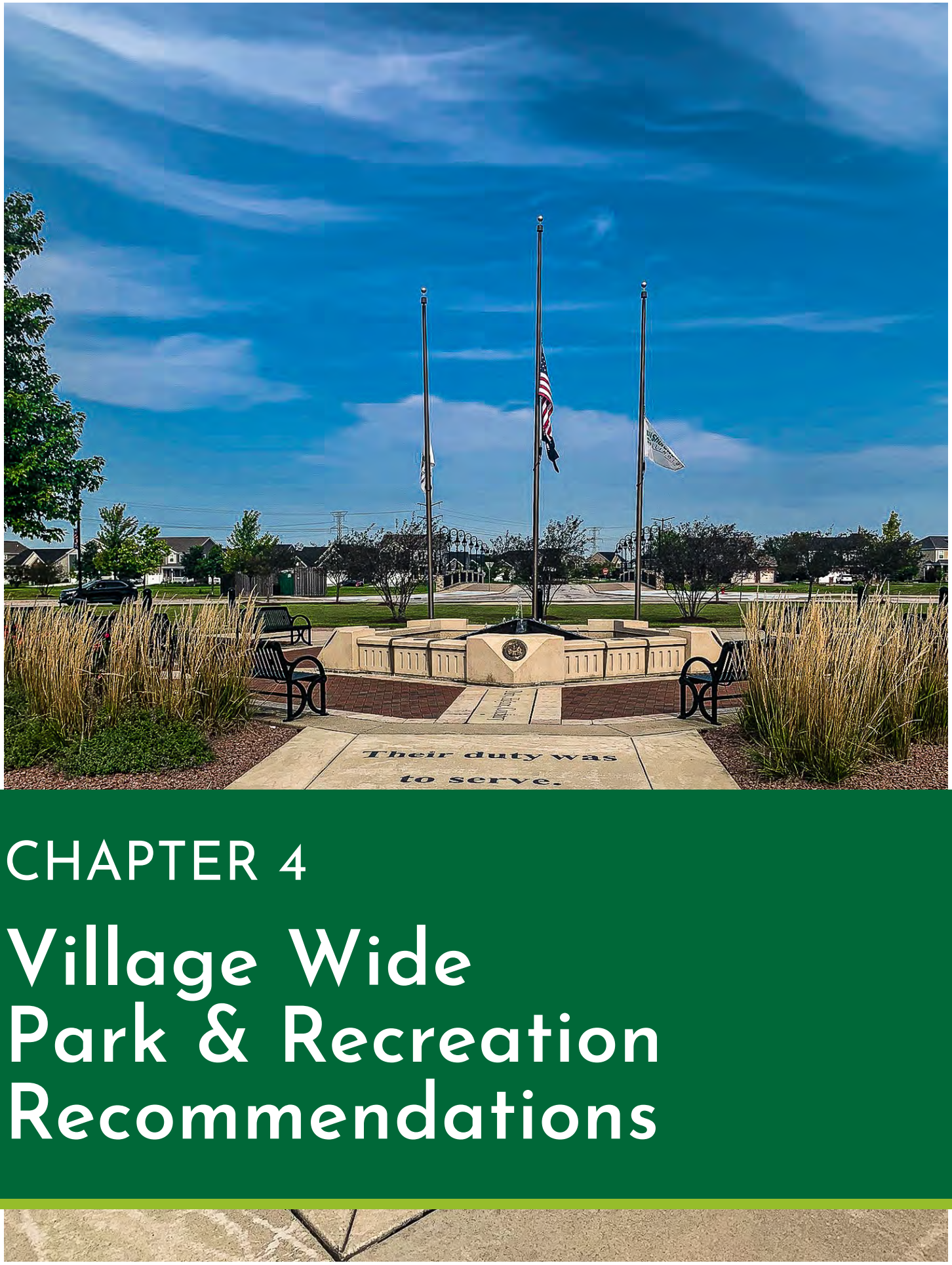
While creation of an independent Park District is always an option for Shorewood, it is not a recommendation of this plan. Creation of a Park District would require voter approval and significant educational and promotional effort on the part of dedicated volunteers to promote and explain the advantages of a Park District to voters. While not impossible, given the need to add an additional line item to residents' property tax bills and historical opposition to referendums to raise taxes, this plan assumes that a Park District will not be created in Shorewood.

However, given strong resident interest in parks and recreation, consideration of creation of a dedicated Park and Recreation Board, and the potential addition of a Parks and Recreation Director position, are concepts worth exploring for the Village of Shorewood. The ultimate decision on both ideas would be up to the Village

Board. A Parks and Recreation Board would provide the Village with a dedicated group of volunteers that could advocate for parks and recreation in the Village. This Board could be advisory, like a Planning Commission, in that it develops plans, discusses relevant issues, and makes recommendations to the Village Board. If the Village desired, this Board could also have more authority over staffing and budget allocation similar to the Park Board in Yorkville. If the Village decided to consider an Executive Director position, this person would likely supervise recreational programs and park maintenance (the park maintenance function is currently managed by the public works department).



Image Credit | Village of Shorewood

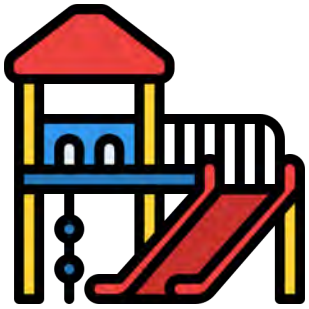


CHAPTER 4

Village Wide Park & Recreation Recommendations

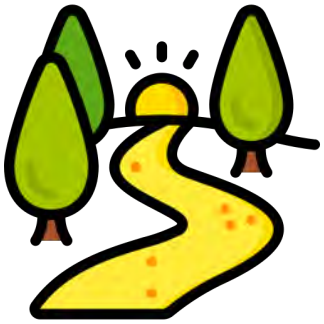
This chapter comprises initiatives recommended for the Village of Shorewood to aid in guiding planning decisions. The recommendations are created based on fieldwork, public input, and goals and objectives in the Comprehensive Plan.

1 *Improve access and explore new park locations.*



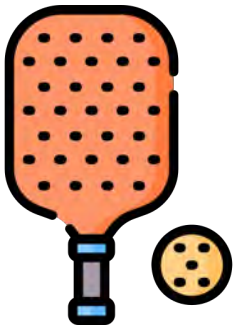
- As the Village's population expands, increase total acreage of park and open space proportionately to maintain at least ten (10) acres per thousand (1,000) residents.
- Plan for potential park areas for the undeveloped land in the west. The primary focus should be on adding Neighborhood Parks within future residential areas. The Village should also plan for at least one (1) new Community Park in the western growth area.
- Improve pedestrian crossings, ramps, and access to parks and public amenities through improved ADA accessibility, cross walks, etc.

2 *Expand shared-use path connectivity.*



- Extend the existing shared-use paths to eliminate gaps.
- Improve the visibility of the shared-use paths by installing signage and surface markings.
- Provide amenities such as bike repair stations and benches at key locations across the shared-use path system in the Village to improve user experience.
- Extend the shared-use paths along the DuPage River to connect with the Village-wide path system and link to nearby forest preserves.
- Continue working with other municipalities and agencies to develop intergovernmental programs to improve regional connectivity.

3 *Maintain and upgrade the existing park amenities in the Village.*







- Identify an appropriate location, reserve funds, and install four (4) to six (6) additional pickleball courts. Potential locations include Cene's Four Seasons Park and Heartland Park, Identify a location and develop a dog park for Shorewood residents. Given the existing dog park in Hammel Woods, a location in the southern or western part of Shorewood would be appropriate – perhaps in the new River's Edge Park. If there is increased demand, consider expanding the community garden space at Cene's Four Seasons Park.
- While there is community interest in a swimming pool, such facilities are very expensive to develop and maintain, often creating a financial strain on the organization responsible for operations. In addition, some Shorewood residents do have access to private swimming pools associated with local homeowners' associations. If residents continue to desire a community swimming pool, it is recommended that a location and budget be developed and the item taken to the voters for their approval. These cost estimates should include annual operating costs for operations and maintenance as swimming pools can be very expensive to operate and revenue from any admission charge can be variable based on weather conditions. If developed, a swimming pool would best be in a Community Park like Cene's Four Seasons Park or a future Community Park on the west side of Shorewood.
- While the comparison to state and national standards suggests a need for up to three (3) additional tennis courts, no additional courts are recommended. Two (2) factors play into this recommendation. The first is very little interest expressed by residents. This is despite trends of increased tennis participation nationally of about one





million (1,000,000) new players in 2022 according to the U.S. Tennis Association. The second reason is lack of available space in existing parks. When a new Community Park is developed in the western growth area, additional tennis and pickleball courts should be considered within that future facility by comparing the Village's park inventory to national and state averages.

- The existing sand volleyball court at West Shore Park appears underutilized, and few residents suggested a need for additional courts during the community outreach phase of this planning effort. Two (2) new volleyball courts are included in the concept plan of the new River's Edge Park to address the public's desire for volleyball courts. Replace or repair worn-out or outdated park facilities through tracking of assets and their life expectancy, annual facilities inspections and regular maintenance, and inclusion of replacements in the capital improvement program.

- Purchase the same brands of park amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, play equipment, etc. for easier maintenance and management. Replace the wheeled trash receptacles with decorative cast-iron style permanent receptacles to improve the appearance of parks. A typical thirty-two-gallon (32) decorative cast-iron style trash receptacle costs $1,000. For the existing sixteen (16) Neighborhood and Mini Parks, if each Mini Park is equipped with one (1) permanent trash receptacle and each Neighborhood Park is equipped with two (2), the cost of replacement will be $27,000 for twenty-seven (27) decorative cast-iron style trash receptacles.

- Replace the existing bicycle racks with inverted U-shaped racks. A typical inverted U-shaped bicycle rack is 22 x 2 1/2 x 34" which can lock up to three (3) bicycles.



Each rack usually costs between $200 – $300. Based on the existing availability, a typical Neighborhood and Mini Park in Shorewood may need at least three (3) inverted U-shaped bicycle racks. A Community Park like Cene's Four Seasons Park may need at least ten (10) racks. The total material cost for the new bicycle racks can be between $14,000 and $20,500 for the existing eighteen (18) parks.



- Install light poles that are aesthetically harmonious with parks. The majority of the light poles in the Village parks are outdated street-style poles. Many of them are in need of replacement due to age and declining conditions. The new light poles should be pedestrian-oriented and aesthetically pleasing in order to improve the image of the parks and provide safety for pedestrians. A typical decorative light pole for parks may cost $14,000.



- Update park signage and related landscaping.
- Replace all plastic and rubber playground edgings with a concrete beam (or bordering paved walkway).
- Work with school districts to maximize opportunities for public use of playgrounds and recreational amenities.

4 *Develop program offerings.*



- Continually monitor program participation and satisfaction, and regularly survey residents on desired programs, and evolve program offerings accordingly.
- Involve more all-age unofficial clubs and organizations in Village events.
- Continue to partner with local organizations to provide sports activities to residents and promote recreational clubs and organizations in the Village.

- Continue to attract and expand affiliate sports teams to utilize the athletic facilities in Cene's Four Seasons Park.

5 *Review and update, as needed, the regulations for Dedication of Park Lands and Payment of Fees in the Village Code of Ordinances (Title I, Chapter 9).*

- Evaluate the criteria and requirements for determining land dedication or fees to ascertain whether the existing ones satisfy the Village's needs for park lands to serve future residential development.
- Update the fees, density, and cash contribution tables to reflect the most current market and development trends in the region.

6 *Optimize administrative collaboration and management.*

- Discover and expand partnerships with other jurisdictions, organizations, athletic affiliates, and clubs to fill any possible shortages and gaps in recreational infrastructure and resources.
- Establish a routine evaluation and survey program with a database to keep track of facility usage, condition, and maintenance so they can efficiently address community needs.



Image Credit | Village of Shorewood

FUTURE PARKS AND SHARED-USE PATHS

The master plan identifies multiple improvements and development for future parks and shared-use path extensions. The recommended enhancements will take many years to achieve and may be scheduled upon the annual Capital Improvement Plans drafted by the Village of Shorewood.

SHARED-USE PATH EXTENSIONS

The main goal for the proposed shared-use paths is to ensure connectivity in the community. Within the built area of Shorewood, many neighborhoods are not equipped with sidewalks or shared-use paths. Plus, there are multiple missing sections of shared-use paths along many streets that would cause confusion and safety hazards for non-motorized transportation users. Therefore, when identifying shared-use path extension opportunities, several types of streets should be considered for a higher priority. On the Map of Proposed Parks and Trails, the sections of proposed shared-use paths labeled High Priority should be considered for construction within five (5) to ten (10) years. Most of the collector and arterial streets, if both sides are not covered by sidewalks yet, should be equipped with shared-use paths on one (1) side. All other shared-use paths that are visioned west of the railroad tracks are long-range planning. They are inspired by the Village of Shorewood's Future Land Use Map and Transportation Network and Will and Kendall Counties' bikeway plans. These long-range shared-use paths should be taken into consideration when developing vacant land.



Image Credit | Village of Shorewood

PARK EXPANSIONS

For park expansions, the current number of parks and open spaces can cover most of the community with their good accessibility and density. As the Village continues to expand towards the west in the Planned Development Boundary, more parks would be necessary to serve future populations moving into the area. The future park expansion vision in this plan focuses on the area between the railroad tracks and Aux Sable Creek. According to the Future Land Use Map in the 2023 Village Comprehensive Plan, of five thousand seven hundred (5,700) acres of the western planning area, the majority is identified as single-family residential (5,108 acres) with several locations identified for multi-family residential development (105 acres). Given this large future growth area, Shorewood could ultimately add another forty-two thousand (42,000) residents. Given current growth rates and trends, it is likely the Village may never grow to reach these numbers. However, adding new parks to support actual development will be critical to maintaining Shorewood's quality of life.

Use Type	Total Acres	DU/AC **	Total DU	Pop./DU *	Total Pop. in Western Area
Single-Family Detached	4,951	2.6	12,873	2.89	37,202
Single-Family Attached	157.5	6	945	2.39	2,259
Multi-Family	45	18	810	1.91	1,547
Community Commercial	22.5	0	0		0
Corridor Commercial	67.5	0	0		0
Mixed Use	157.5	0	0		0
Institutional	45	0	0		0
Ridge Road Subarea	254	0	0		0
Ridge Road Subarea TH	60	6	360	2.39	860
Total Non-S/F Detached	749				
Total Area	5,700				
		Total Dwelling Units and Pop.	14,988		41,868

Table 4.1 | Future Population Growth in the Western Expansion Area in Shorewood

* Based Shorewood Park Cash Contribution Table – 3-bedroom units S/F & TH, and 2-bedroom M/F

** Based on R-1 - 12,000 sf lots

To find out how many parks would ultimately be needed for the western planning area, it is critical to adopt a unit value to set a standard for estimation. Based on The 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review produced by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), jurisdictions with fewer than twenty thousand (20,000) residents average twelve point nine (12.9) acres of parkland for every thousand (1,000) residents in the jurisdiction. However, the national average for all communities is ten point four (10.4) acres per thousand (1,000) residents. Based on this ten point four (10.4) acres

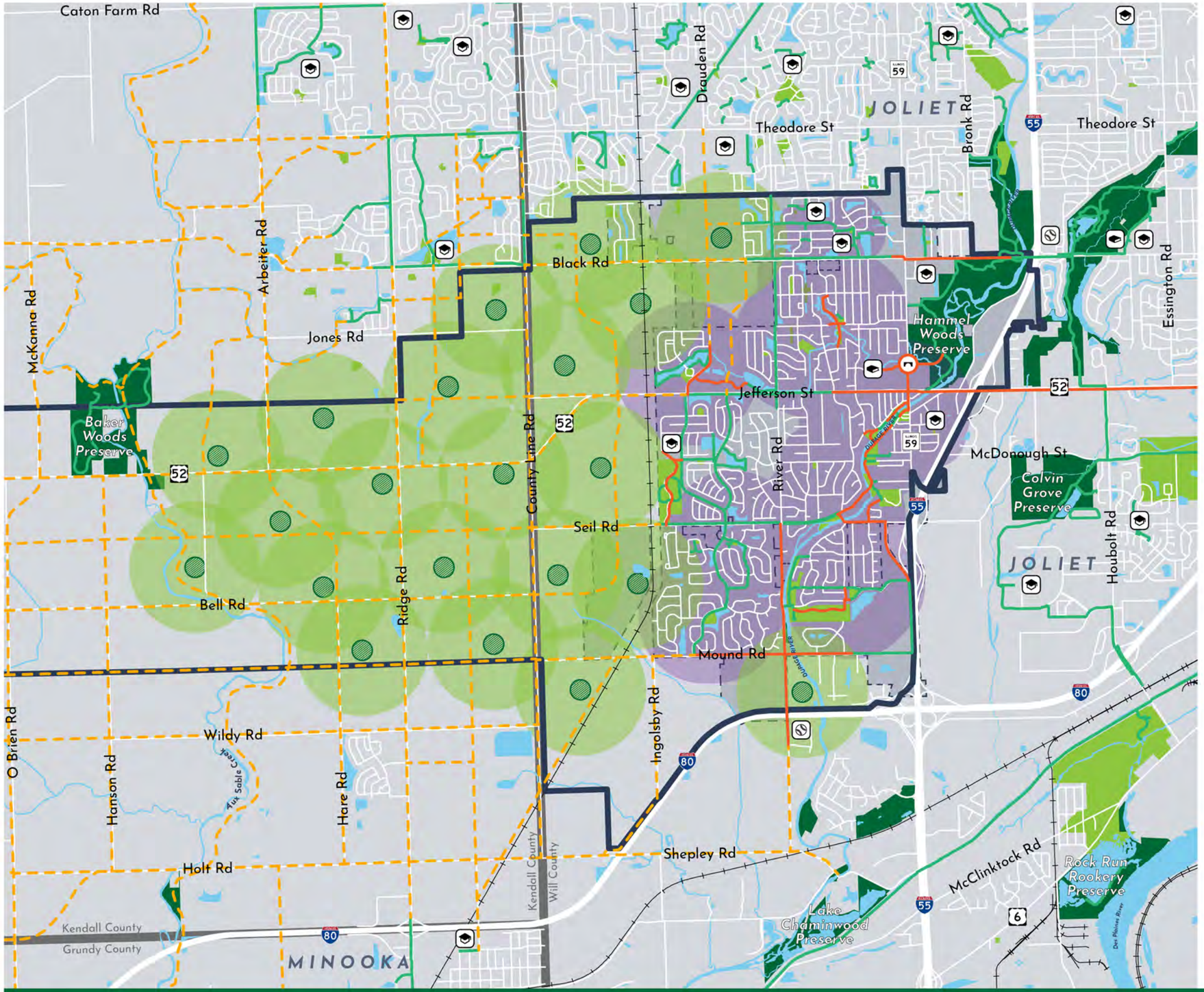
per thousand (1,000) residents, approximately four hundred fifty-three (453) acres of additional parks and open spaces, including Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Mini Parks, would be necessary to serve the current population in the Village and the additional possible forty-two thousand (42,000) new population in the western planning area.

In addition to analyzing the population projection for the western planning area, through using a typical Neighborhood Park's area (five acres) and service area radius (half-mile radius/ten-minute walk), the simulation indicates that at least twenty-one (21) Neighborhood and Mini Parks will be necessary to cover the area and maintain the current service level. In terms of Community Park, it is possible that additional Community Parks would be needed. The Future Land Use Map indicates that the Village will embrace population increment as more residential and economic development opportunities are possible in the west. To determine how many Community Parks would be sufficient for the west area, research was conducted to compare the Community Parks in nearby communities.

City	Population (2020)	Number of Community Parks	Average Population Per Community Park
Shorewood	18,186	2	9,093
Oswego	34,585	2	17,293
Naperville	149,540	8	18,693
Plainfield	44,762	3	14,921
Romeoville	39,863	4	9,966
Channahon	13,383	2	6,692
Joliet	150,362	1	150,362
Lockport	26,094	1	26,094
		Median Number	16,107

Table 4.2 | Comparison Table of Community Parks Among Shorewood and Other Municipalities

The analysis above (Table 4.2) shows that approximately every sixteen thousand (16,000) people share one (1) typical Community Park. If Shorewood continues experiencing residential expansion and receiving population increases as mentioned earlier, it would be proper for the Village to identify two (2) or more new locations in the west for a Community Park. The future Community Park should be located at an accessible location with streets that have high capacities to be able to hold high traffic volumes for special events.



- Existing Shared-Use Paths/Trails
- Proposed Shared-Use Paths/Trails -- High Priority
- Proposed Shared-Use Paths/Trails -- Long-Term
- Proposed Pedestrian Overpass
- Area Covered by Existing Neighborhood and Mini Parks
- Area Covered by Possible Parks/Open Spaces (1/2 Mile Radius / 10-Minute Walk)
- Possible Park/Open Space Sites

- Park/Open Space
- Nature Preserve
- Village Boundary
- Water
- School
- Library
- Private Community Clubhouse
- Sports Field
- Village Development Boundary
- County Boundary
- Railroad

N

0 0.5 1 Miles

April 2023

VILLAGE OF Shorewood ILLINOIS

teska

Proposed Parks and Trails in Shorewood



CHAPTER 5

Park & Facility Assessments

This chapter provides an assessment of current issues and opportunities for improvement in each park. The assessment focused on existing facility conditions, design, missing amenities, and overall park layouts. The condition assessment includes playground facilities, landscaping, athletic facilities, lawn, stormwater management, and park furniture. Site visits and observations conducted by Teska contributed most of the findings and the relevant recommendations for potential improvements. In addition, residents' comments during the Open House contributed some of the recommendations. Air photographs were utilized for base maps in this plan and photos of facilities and general images were taken for each park. It should be noted that the following existing conditions analyses for each park are based on the site visit in September 2022. The conditions of parks may be changed upon the actual maintenance schedule.

COMMUNITY PARKS

CENE'S FOUR SEASONS PARK

Cene's Four Seasons Park is located on Seil Road, east of the CN railroad and ComEd easement. This fifty-acre (50) Community Park is the largest park in the Village and functions as a sports hub, containing three (3) softball fields, four (4) pickleball courts, two (2) basketball courts, two (2) tennis courts, and two (2) soccer fields. This winter, the Village installed a seasonal ice-skating rink in the park to serve the demand from the community. The rink is open from ten (10) a.m. until nine (9) p.m. Sunday through Thursday and until ten (10) p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The facility is weather-dependent, and conditions may change daily. The softball fields are capable of hosting tournaments, as bathrooms and a concession stand are available in a permanent structure. A large pavilion that accommodates at least twenty (20) picnic tables is next to the restrooms. The softball field has its own parking lot, capable of holding at least one hundred sixty (160) vehicles. It should be noted that the parking lot has been used heavily and the striping is worn out. In addition, due to the isolated nature of the parking lot and lack of landscaping islands, the parking lot has been used for car stunts as tire marks are visible on the ground. The rest of the athletic facilities in Cene's Four Seasons Park are congregated south of the softball fields. The area is defined by a loop walking trail and has its own parking lot. A retention pond is located south of the softball fields' parking lot, separating the two (2) zones. Even though the pond is connected by a creek, algae blooms in the water due to lack of water movement. A pavilion provides sheltered seating space for picnics. A children's playground is mulched with concrete edging. However, the mulched area covers significantly more area than is needed for this playground. The tennis courts, pickleball courts, and basketball courts are adjacent to each other near the children's playground. On the west side of the main driveway, the hill is the highest point in Shorewood and is known for sledding activities in winter and early spring. A path has been created along the north side of the hill due to numerous users. The path has been hardened by frequent usage and lost most of its grass. On the southeast corner of the park, along the borders, there is a community garden for residents.

Additional enhancements and maintenance will improve the user experience. The entrance sign is mostly blocked by the landscaping, which needs to be trimmed and maintained. Also, the welcome sign in the park is located at a less-visible spot and could be replaced with a new one. This park was built in 2002, and some facilities are nearing their life expectancy. A rebuild project for the park area is recommended in the Village's Capital Improvement Plan in 2027.










Shorewood

RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscaping

- Shrink the mulched area around the playground equipment
- Install a bubbler system in the pond to promote water circulation and minimize algae growth
- Trim, at a minimum, and ultimately redesign the landscaping around the monument sign at the entrance
- Plant more trees along the main drive, around the pond, and along park edges

Facilities

- Improve the parking lots by redrawing the markings and adding landscaped islands
- Add additional pickleball and tennis courts
- Add new fitness stations along the trail
- Consider temporary water play features during summer
- Plan a dog park
- Install a volleyball court
- Upgrade the baseball/softball fields to meet higher standards for higher-level tournaments

Pavement

- Paint crosswalk markings and install pedestrian crossing signs at the intersections of the internal driveway and loop shared-use path
- Improve the existing and add more sidewalk ramps using ADA design guidelines
- Consider a shared-use path from Parkside Drive to connect to the park
- Extend the shared-use path south of Auburn Lakes Drive to the park
- Install a paved path that goes to the top of the hill
- Construct a shared-use path along the internal driveway to connect the softball parking lot and the shared-use path along Seil Road
- Expand the internal trail loop to the back of the baseball fields and along the ComEd easement

Signage

- Install a new re-designed park information sign
- Install directional signs within the park

Cene's Four Seasons Park Existing Conditions









Landscaping

1. Shrink the mulched area around the playground equipment
2. Install a bubbler system in the pond to promote water circulation and minimize algae growth
3. Trim, at a minimum, and ultimately redesign the landscaping around the monument sign at the entrance
4. Plant more trees along the main drive, around the pond, and along park edges

Facilities

5. Improve the parking lots by redrawing the markings and adding landscaped islands
6. Add additional pickleball and tennis courts
7. Add new fitness stations along the trail
8. Consider temporary water play features during summer
9. Plan a dog park
10. Install a volleyball court
11. Upgrade the baseball/softball fields to meet higher standards for higher-level tournaments

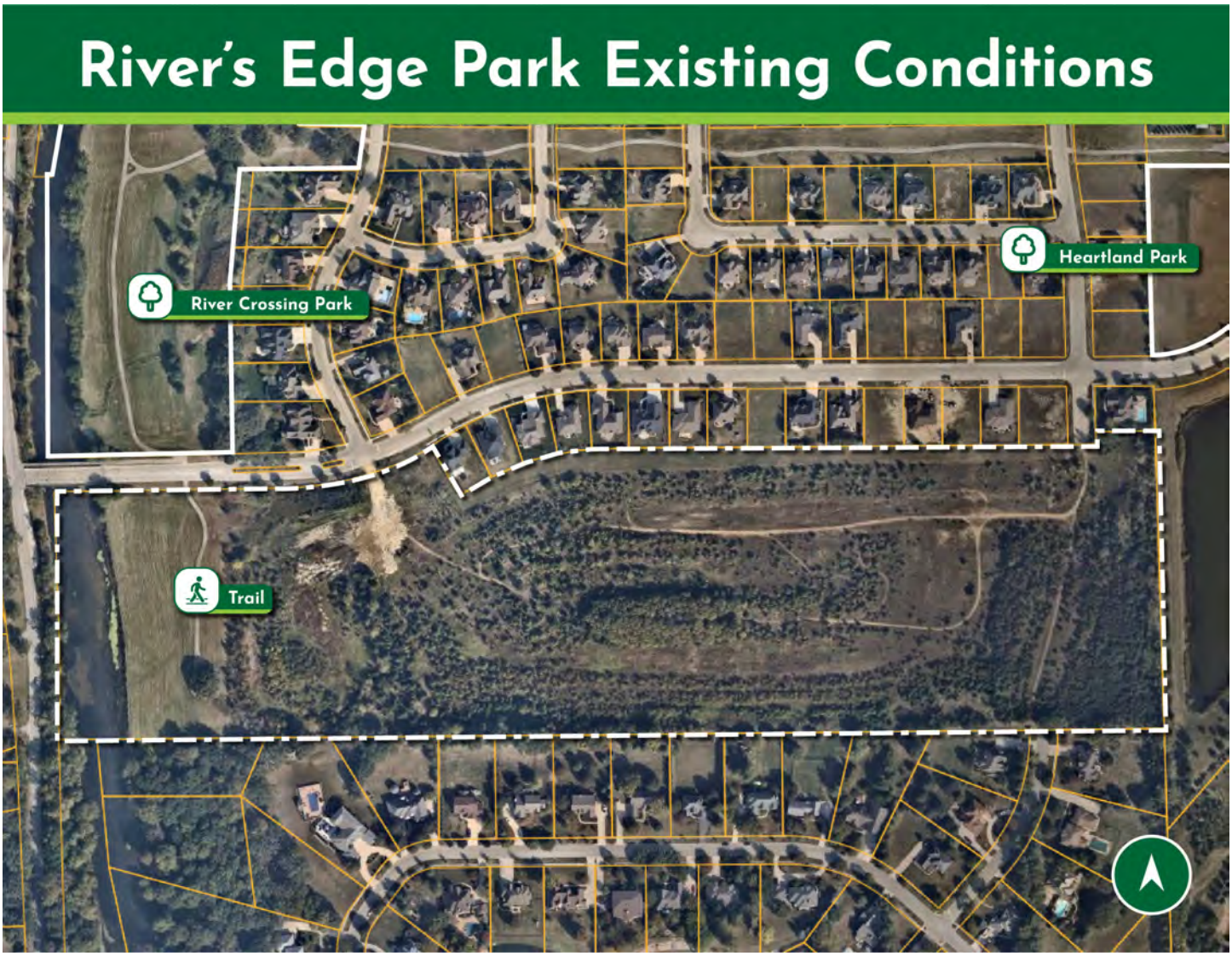
Pavement

12. Paint crosswalk markings, and install pedestrian crossing signs on Wynstone Drive
13. Improve the existing and add more sidewalk ramps using ADA design guidelines
14. Consider a shared-use path from Parkside Drive to connect to the park
15. Extend the shared-use path south of Auburn Lakes Drive to the park
16. Install a paved path that goes to the top of the hill
17. Construct a shared-use path along the internal driveway to connect the softball parking lot and the shared-use path along Seil Road
18. Expand the internal trail loop to the back of the baseball fields and along the ComEd easement

Signage

19. Install a new re-designed park information sign
20. Install directional signs within the park

Cene's Four Seasons Park Recommendations



RIVER'S EDGE PARK

River's Edge Park is a thirty-two-point-six-acre (32.6) open land located on the south side of River Crossing Road in between States Lane and Lakewoods Lane. It is adjacent to River Crossing Park and near Heartland Park, which are both currently open land. In October 2021, the Village of Shorewood purchased the subject land for park use.

The Village has launched a park development project for River's Edge Park, which will be the second Community Park in Shorewood. An open house took place on June 16 at the Village Hall to welcome the community's input on the open park site. On September 13, 2022, the Village Board voted to approve the Master Plan for River's Edge Park. The approved park plan features a mix of active and passive functions and designs to satisfy a variety of recreational needs for the future users. Playground equipment, volleyball courts, kayak accesses, and other active and intensive uses will be concentrated in the western part of the property, near the river. An extensive paved trail system, including story walk and spiral pathways, will run across the park site to provide park users an accessible and fun place to jog, walk, and ride bicycles. Ample open lawn area will encompass most of the park to allow for flexibility of activities

and events. Other than recreational facilities, benches and shelters will be available as well. There will be vehicular parking sites on both ends of the park. Lakewoods Lane in the east will extend to connect to the Lake of the Woods Subdivision. To avoid speeding traffic and excessive cut-through traffic, the proposed street extension is curved, featuring a roundabout to calm traffic, as well as a parking lot. This project is designed for multiple development phases, with a flexible timeline to suit the needs of the Village. Currently, the Village has been working on the first phase, which includes the trails on the western part of the site, the river access, half the playground, the volleyball courts and a partial parking lot.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



SHOREWOOD PARK

Shorewood Park is a nineteen-acre (19) neighborhood park located in between the DuPage River and Route 59, just north of Seil Road. The park can be accessed by car from Route 59 and by a walking/bike path on River Bluff Drive. The park sign on Route 59 is too small to be easily noticed by through traffic on Route 59. The parking lot for the park is accessible through the Route 59 entrance, being connected by a driveway. This driveway is unilluminated, generating safety concerns at night. Currently, the parking lot pavement is aged and needs to be repaved.

Shorewood Park features a nature preserve setting and is mostly covered by mature trees. In terms of facilities, this park is known for its disc golf course. Two (2) portable toilets screened by privacy fences are in the middle of the park. There are some benches throughout the park and a few picnic tables placed on concrete pads. Trash receptacles in the park are barrels, which are different from most of the parks in the Village.


Shorewood Park











RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscaping

- Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

- Install U-shape bike racks
- Replace the wheeled trash receptacles with permanent trash receptacles
- Remove the abandoned information kiosk
- Install education materials teaching about types of trees and the ecological community as well as the disc golf sport
- Install light poles in the park and along the entrance driveway
- Reflect the improvements suggested by the 2010 Riverfront Master Plan
- Maintain and enhance the frisbee golf course facilities in the park

Pavement

- Repave the parking lot and paint parking stall markings
- Extend the shared-use path along the DuPage River from Amendodge Drive to connect West Shore Park and Little Coyote Park
- Build a pedestrian bridge across the DuPage River and extend the future shared-use path to connect to Seil Road Bridge and Seil Road Park

Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without designed landscaping on Route 59; the park sign needs to be highly visible when traveling on Route 59
- Install another park sign at the end of Amendodge Drive
- Install a new re-designed park information sign



Image Credit | 2010 Riverfront Master Plan



Landscaping

1. Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

2. Install U-shape bike racks
3. Replace the wheeled trash cans with permanent trash cans
4. Remove the abandoned information kiosk
5. Install education materials teaching about types of trees and the ecological community as well as the disc golf sport
6. Install light poles in the park and along the entrance driveway
7. Reflect the improvements suggested by the 2010 Riverfront Master Plan
8. Maintain and enhance the frisbee golf course facilities in the park

Pavement

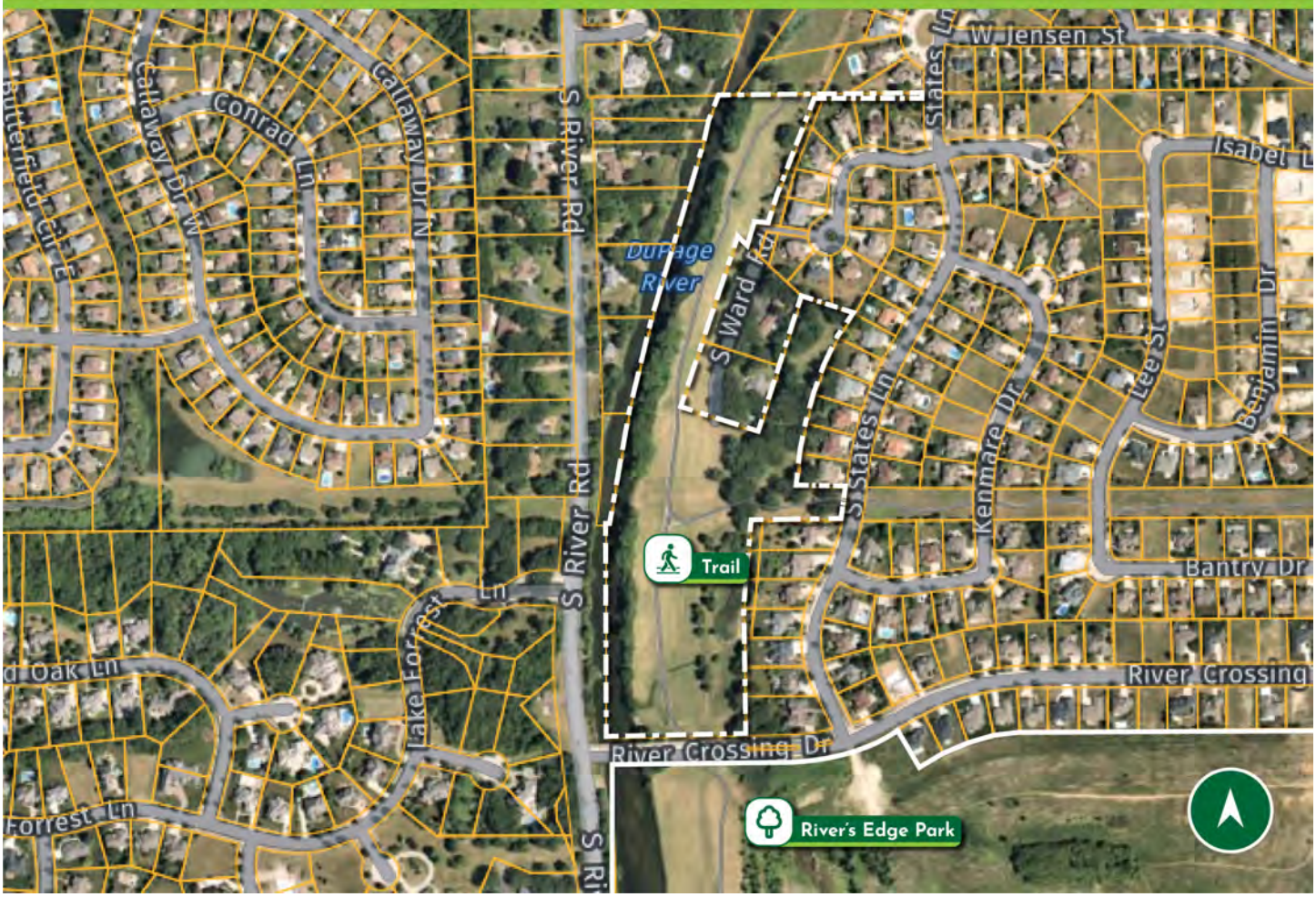
9. Repave the parking lot and paint parking stall markings
10. Extend the shared-use path along the DuPage River from Amendodge Drive to connect West Shore Park and Little Coyote Park
11. Build a pedestrian bridge across the DuPage River and extend the future shared-use path to connect to Seil Road Bridge and Seil Road Park

Signage

12. Install a new park sign with or without designed landscaping on Route 59; the park sign needs to be highly visible when traveling on Route 59
13. Install another park sign at the end of Amendodge Drive
14. Install a new re-designed park information sign

Shorewood Park Recommendations

River Crossing Park Existing Conditions



RIVER CROSSING PARK

River Crossing Park is a nineteen-acre (19) open land located between Jensen Street and River Crossing Drive, along DuPage River. Currently, there is a ten-foot (10') wide shared-use path passing through the site and providing connections to other trails in the Village.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Facilities

- Add several benches and trash receptacles along the shared-use path

Pavement

- Paint crosswalk markings, and install pedestrian crossing signs at the intersection of the shared-use path and the River Crossing Road
- Improve the sidewalk ramps using ADA design guidelines
- Extend the shared-use path to River's Edge Park

Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping on River Crossing Drive and States Lane
- Install a new re-designed park information sign





Facilities

1. Add several benches and trash cans along the shared-use path

Pavement

2. Paint crosswalk markings, and install pedestrian crossing signs at the intersection of the shared-use path and the River Crossing Road
3. Improve the sidewalk ramps using ADA design guidelines

Signage

4. Install a new park sign with or without landscaping on River Crossing Drive and States Lane
5. Install a new re-designed park information sign

River Crossing Park Recommendations

Towne Center Park Existing Conditions



TOWNE CENTER PARK

Towne Center Park is a three-acre (3) park adjacent to the Village Hall. The park is surrounded by Towne Center Boulevard and connected by Wynstone Road to access Jefferson Street/US Route 52. By virtue of location, this park serves as a primary focal point for the community resulting in additional use and the need for a higher level of maintenance compared to other parks within the Village.

The park contains three (3) main zones: Patriot Park, the amphitheater, and the playground. Patriot Park is surrounded by Towne Center Boulevard and serves as the center of the park. The square is highlighted by a plaza that features a pentagonal-shaped fountain with a five-pointed star in the center. The star is the structure from which the water emerges. The pavement around the fountain is comprised of red bricks engraved with veterans' names and war information. There are eight (8) benches surrounding the fountain and three (3) flag poles that contain the flags of the United States, Illinois, and Shorewood facing northwest. A loop walking path paved with bricks follow the shape of the park. A nicely landscaped area at the entrance of Patriot Square faces Wynstone Road without blocking the view of the flags.

The amphitheater area is another major gathering space in the park. The space is mostly covered by lawn and has one (1) sheltered stage and five (5) rows of concrete-based seating. A circular walk path defines the boundary of the amphitheater space, and a stretch of the walking path extends into the detention pond as an elevated path. An all-age activity area is located south of the amphitheater. A children's playground, containing slides, swings, a splash pad, and a pavilion encompasses the center of the activity area. Some adult-focused facilities such as bag toss boards and a bocce ball court are also provided. Additionally, there are several pieces of fitness equipment available. Benches are located throughout Towne Center Park.

The park was constructed in 2010. By 2030, many of the park's facilities will reach the end of their useful life and may need renovation. The Village's many events in this park are popular, and it may be worth exploring the possibility of enlarging the amphitheater and planning for more parking spaces in the future.



Image Credit | Village of Shorewood










Their duty was
to serve.
Our duty is to
remember.





Signage and Maintenance

1. Install a park sign with designed landscaping
2. Install a new re-designed park information sign
3. Clean and paint/sealcoat the pedestrian bridge
4. Power wash and repaint the playground surface

Towne Center Park Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS

Signage & Maintenance

- Install a park sign with designed landscaping
- Install a new re-designed park information sign
- Clean and paint/sealcoat the pedestrian bridge
- Power wash and repaint the playground surface

Country West Park Existing Conditions



COUNTRY WEST PARK

Country West Park is a five-acre (5) park located northeast of the intersection of Greenfield Road and Rushwood Avenue. The park is comprised of a playground, a half-basketball court, and open space. Most of the open space is dedicated to two (2) large detention areas, one (1) on each side of a ditch that runs east-west through the center of the park. In the playground area, there are two (2) slides and two (2) swings installed in a mulched area with concrete edging. A pavilion with picnic tables is located next to the playground. A drinking fountain, barbecue grills, and bike racks are also available in the park. A half-basketball court is located on the north side of the park, across the ditch, and at a distance from the playground. There are a few mature trees in the park to create some shade.

The welcome sign is worn out. A ditch passing through the park serves the retention pond in the Fox Bend subdivision, cutting off pedestrian circulation between the two (2) sides of the park. The isolated basketball court is too distant from the major activity area and too close to the adjacent residential houses, which may create a nuisance for the residents. The basketball court pavement is aged, with weeds squeezing through the surface. There is a stretch of sidewalk along

the north edge of the park that goes nowhere. A light pole is installed by the sidewalk. However, the wooden light pole structure is old and rotten. The wheeled trash receptacle is tied to the bike racks which blocks the use of the racks themselves for bicyclists. This twenty-year-old park has surpassed its life expectancy and has tentatively been scheduled for renovation in 2026.




Country West Park











RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscaping

- Add fences for the ditch that is near the sidewalk along Greenfield Road to avoid potential safety issues for pedestrians
- Plant more naturalized plantings along the ditch to create a wider and more attractive buffer
- Plant several large-leafed deciduous trees (maple, linden, etc.) near the playground for shade
- Replant or trim the shrubs along the park border in the south
- Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

- Replace the existing light poles with new ones that fit in residential neighborhoods in style
- Eliminate the half basketball court in the back.
- Add new facilities near Greenfield Road. Seek residents' input on what new facilities they would like to have in the park
- Replace and unify the benches with new ones made of durable materials
- Remove the benches that are not near the playground
- Install at least one (1) permanent trash receptacle
- Replace the existing bike racks with U-shape bike racks
- Consider a dog park
- Consider a community garden

Pavement

- Create an internal trail loop in the park
- Add at least one (1) bridge crossing the ditch
- Improve the sidewalk ramps using ADA design guidelines
- Paint crosswalk markings, and install stop signs and pedestrian crossing signs at the intersection of Rushwood Avenue and Greenfield Road

Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
- Install a new re-designed park information sign



Landscaping

1. Add fences for the ditch that is near the sidewalk along Greenfield Road to avoid potential safety issues for pedestrians
2. Plant more naturalized plantings along the ditch to create a wider and more attractive buffer
3. Plant several large-leafed deciduous trees (maple, linden, etc.) near the playground for shade
4. Replant or trim the shrubs along the park border in the south
5. Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

6. Replace the existing light poles with new ones that fit in residential neighborhoods in style
7. Eliminate the half basketball court in the back
8. Add new facilities near Greenfield Road. Seek residents' input on what new facilities they would like to have in the park
9. Replace and unify the benches with new ones made of durable materials
10. Remove the benches that are not near the playground
11. Install at least one permanent trash can
12. Replace the existing bike racks with U-shape bike racks
13. Consider a dog park
14. Consider a community garden

Pavement

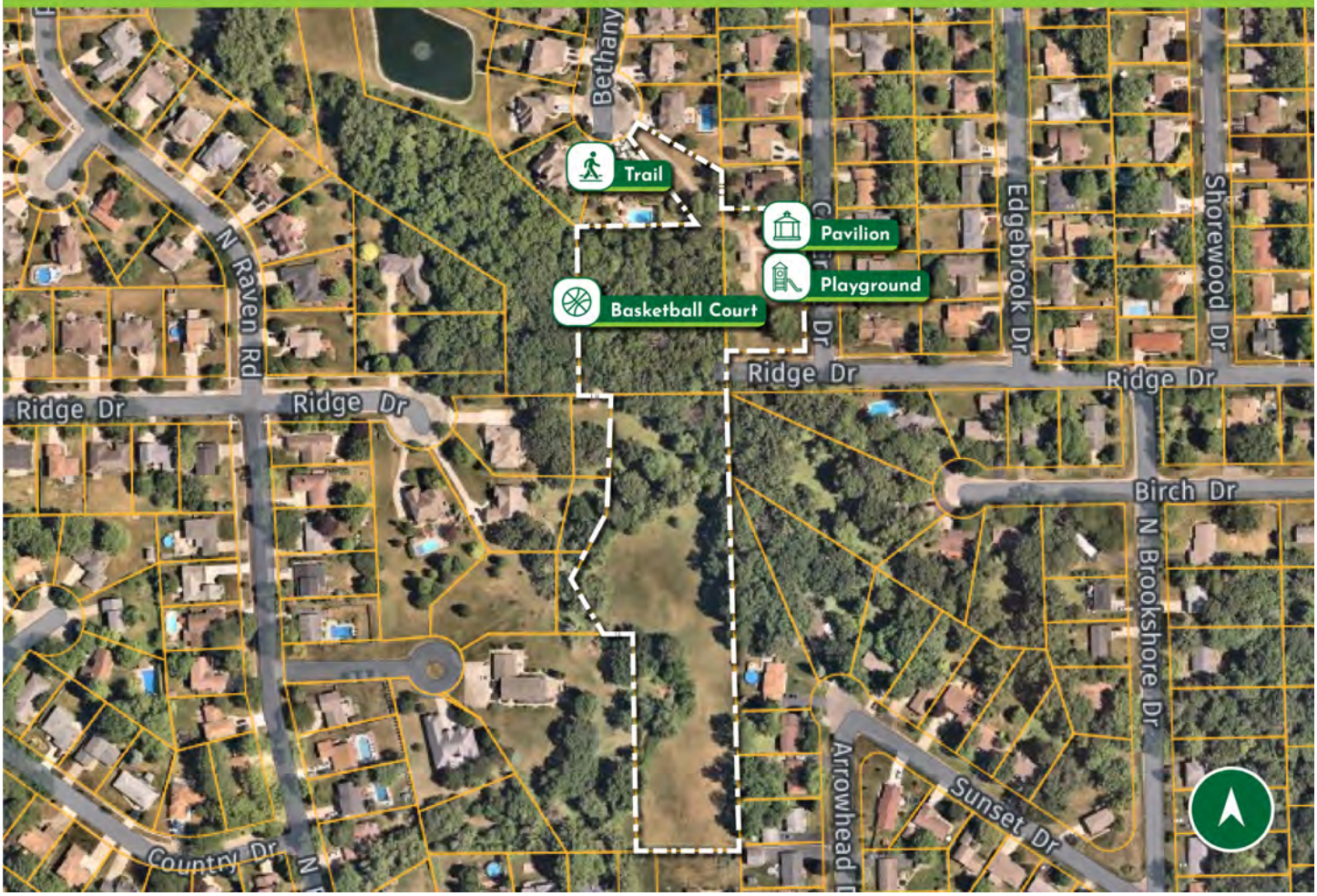
15. Create an internal trail loop in the park
16. Add at least one bridge crossing the ditch
17. Improve the sidewalk ramps using ADA design guidelines
18. Paint crosswalk markings, and install stop signs and pedestrian crossing signs at the intersection of Rushwood Avenue and Greenfield Road

Signage

19. Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
20. Install a new re-designed park information sign

Country West Park Recommendations

Ca-Crest Park Existing Conditions



CA-CREST PARK

Ca-Crest Park is a six-acre (6) neighborhood park located on the northwest corner of Ca-Crest Drive and Ridge Drive. It can be accessed directly from Ca-Crest Drive and from Bethany Drive by a path connected to the north side of the park. This park is well-covered by shade, with several mature trees in the main area and an adjacent forested area to the west. The park is split into an activity area and a forested nature area. The activity area consists of a playground, a pavilion with picnic tables, and a half-basketball court. The playground is mulched and split into two (2) sections: slides and swings. The half-basketball court is smaller than a standard half-court, and is simply paved with concrete, without painted lines. A drinking fountain is provided. Several benches are available for seating. There is no permanent trash receptacle in the park. A wheeled trash receptacle is tied to a bicycle rack. A stream runs through the forested area of the park, roughly northwest to southeast. On the west side of the stream, the forested area continues, reaching the cul-de-sac at the eastern end of this section of Ridge Drive. An informal and unpaved path connects Raven Court to Ridge Drive and the park.

The park is in need of renovation. The welcome sign at the park entrance is old and stained. The

landscaping around the park sign needs new plantings. The plastic edging around the mulched playground is worn and broken and needs to be replaced with a permanent material such as concrete. The pavilion's wooden structure is aged, showing visible cracks on the supports. While the half-court basketball court is functional, it is not designed to a standard dimension. Behind the backboard, there is a ten-foot-tall (10') metal fence to prevent basketballs from going into the woods. The concrete pavement in the basketball court is aged and has multiple cracks that have been invaded by weeds. The playground facilities are showing their age with faded and chipped paint. The benches in the park are inconsistent in style, with several metal benches and one (1) wooden bench, which is rotten, with faded paint. The sidewalk and shared-use path also have cracks filled with weeds and uneven surfaces which might cause safety hazards. Along the northern border of the park, there is a row of less healthy and poorly maintained shrubs which shield the neighboring house from park users. While the park does have illumination, the light poles are streetlight style and height with wood poles.

This park was built in 1997 and needs renovation. On December 5, 2022, the Village hosted a public Open House to listen to residents' ideas. Two (2) concepts were presented to the attendees and Concept A was preferred. Concept A revamps the park site with a different layout and new facilities such as a half basketball court, playground equipment, and fitness stations. The active area will move south of the existing entryway path to utilize the current open land. Also, a small garden accompanied with educational signage will be located where the swings currently stand. Concrete sidewalks are planned across the park site to ensure full walkability in the park. As the Village continues working on the project timeline, this park renovation project aims to take place in late Summer 2023 and the majority of the construction will be completed by the end of 2023.











RECOMMENDATIONS

Facilities

- Develop the main park site to be consistent with the approved park reconstruction plan

Pavement

- Provide a paved shared-use path connecting dead-ended Ridge Road and Raven Court
- Plan a paved shared-used path starting from Rollingwood Drive and ending by Robin Hill Drive and Cardinal Place



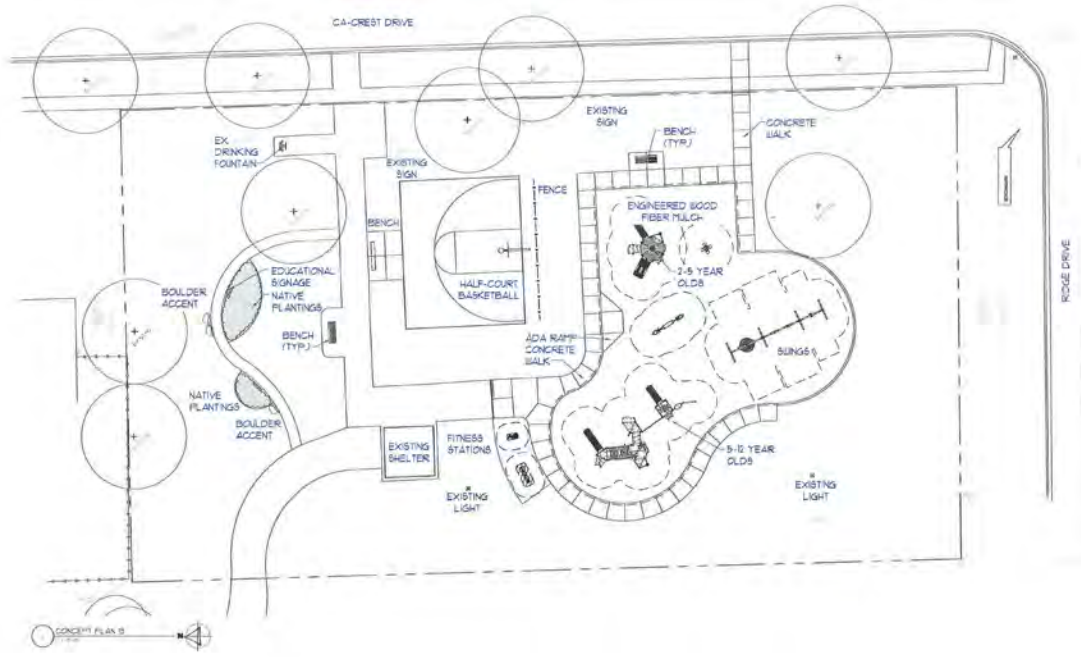
Facilities

1. Develop the main park site to be consistent with the approved park reconstruction plan

Pavement

2. Provide a paved shared-use path connecting dead-ended Ridge Road and Raven Court
3. Plan a paved shared-used path starting from Rollingwood Drive and ending by Robin Hill Drive and Cardinal Place

Ca-Crest Park Recommendations



VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD - 2022 PARK RECONSTRUCTION
TRIA ARCHITECTURE JSD
CA-CREST PARK CONCEPT PLAN B
11/21/2022

IMAGERY CONCEPT B



VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD - 2022 PARK RECONSTRUCTION
TRIA ARCHITECTURE JSD
CA-CREST PARK IMAGERY B
11/21/2022

Image Credit | Village of Shorewood

West Shore Park Existing Conditions



WEST SHORE PARK

West Shore Park is located on the west side of DuPage River, along Westshore Drive between Brookshore Drive and Picnic Street. This fifteen-acre (15) neighborhood park is well-shaded by the mature trees along the DuPage River. There are also several trees around the activity area that have been planted in the last ten (10) years. The main activity facilities include a splash pad, a rubber-paved playground, a swing, a beach volleyball court, four (4) horseshoe pitching lanes, four (4) concrete bag toss boards, and a walking trail. Because of the natural landscape in the park, there is a hill in the west part of the park that is used for sledding activities. Amenities-wise, there are two (2) pavilions, one (1) big and one (1) small, and four (4) portable toilets screened by privacy fences. Trash receptacles are all wheeled on site. Benches and drinking fountains are also available across the park. Since it is by the DuPage River, this riverfront park has some features related to water. There is a step for people to reach the water or to fish. Also, there are some educational signs in the park detailing the flooding history that has impacted the neighborhood.

While this park has been a quiet spot due to its location along the river, some additional maintenance work is needed. Excessive tree seeds have fallen onto the volleyball court and could be cleaned up. A diseased tree was spotted near the bag toss board, and it should be removed. This is park was built in 2013, and should be considered for renovation in 2031.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscaping

- Remove the seeds and leaves falling from trees in the sand volleyball court
- Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

- Replace the existing light pole with a new one that fits in residential neighborhoods in style
- Install U-shape bike racks
- Replace the wheeled trash receptacles with permanent trash receptacles
- Stain the fences enclosing the porta-potties
- Develop the area of the park east of the DuPage River to be consistent with the 2010 Riverfront Master Plan

Pavement

- Extend the trail over the river with a new pedestrian bridge to connect Oakwood Drive

Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
- Install a new re-designed park information sign







Landscaping

1. Remove the seeds and leaves falling from trees in the sand volleyball court
2. Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

3. Replace the existing light pole with a new one that fits in residential neighborhoods in style
4. Install U-shape bike racks
5. Replace the wheeled trash cans with permanent trash cans
6. Stain the fences enclosing the porta potties
7. Develop the area of the park east of the DuPage River to be consistent with the 2010 Riverfront Master Plan

Pavement

8. Extend the trail over the river with a new pedestrian bridge to connect Oakwood Drive and eventually connect to Shorewood Park

Signage

9. Install a new park sign with or without designed landscaping
10. Install a new re-designed park information sign

West Shore Park Recommendations

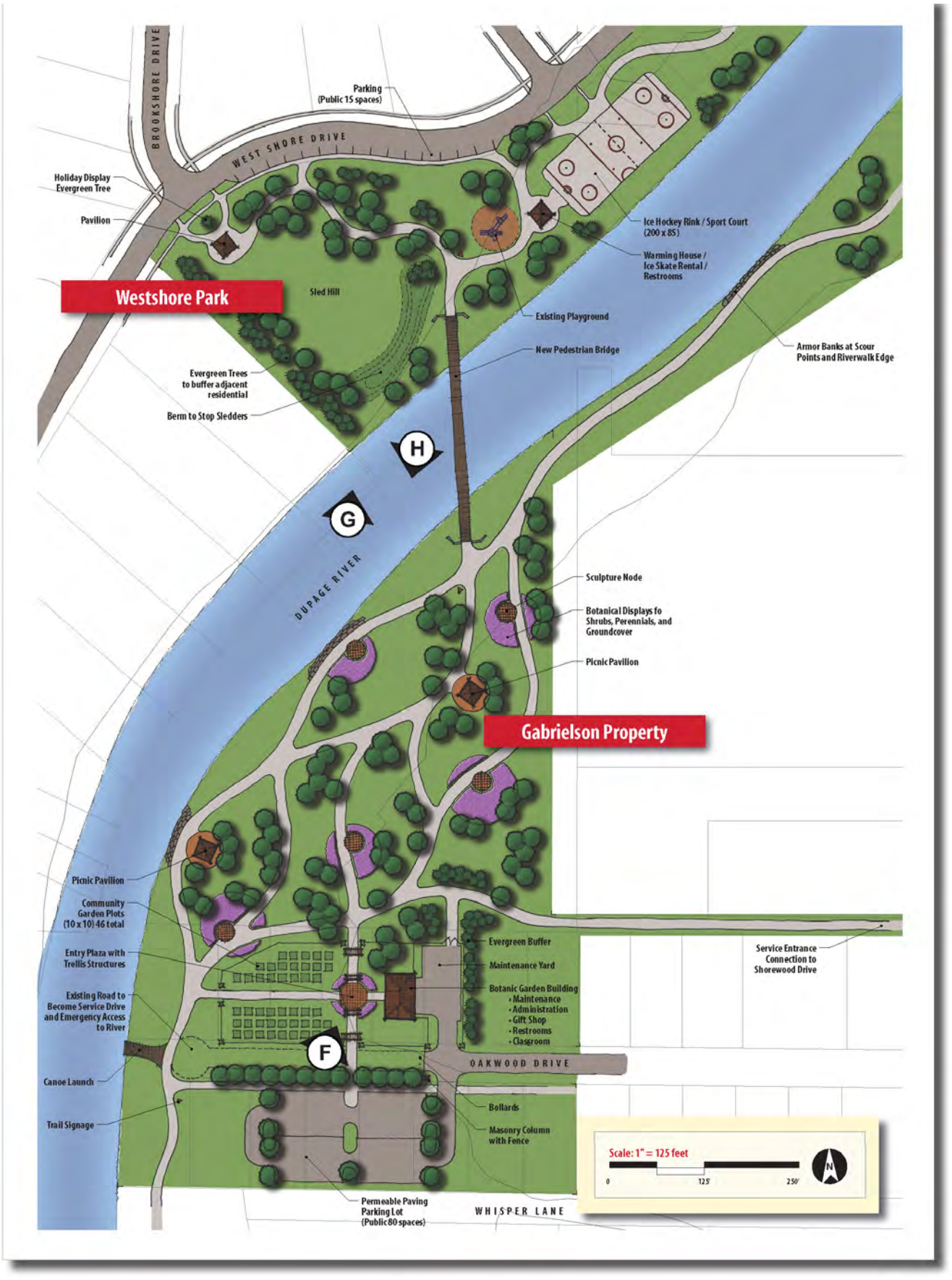


Image Credit | 2010 Riverfront Master Plan

Little Coyote Park Existing Conditions



LITTLE COYOTE PARK

Little Coyote Park is a seven-point-five-acre (7.5) neighborhood park located on the east side of the DuPage River on Clark Drive. It comprises a playground area near Meyers Street and Clarks Drive, open space along both sides of the DuPage River, and several lots between Riffles Drive and Trout Street. The park not only serves the nearby neighborhoods, but also has a pedestrian bridge dedicated in 1986 to connect the west side of the river. This park has a few facilities for everyday use, such as a small, mulched playground. Amenities like a bench, a wheeled trash receptacle, a few bicycle racks, and a flagpole are also present in the park. It should be noted that many of the plants and trees in the park should be trimmed, as they have become overgrown. In addition, the pedestrian bridge shows some rust, build-ups, and spiderwebs which should be cleaned up. This park was built in 2002 and would be appropriate for renovation in 2028 according to the Village's capital improvement plan. This park has been expanded over the years through acquisition of lots within the DuPage River flood plain. A redesign of the park would be appropriate, potentially removing some of the former roads in the northeast corner of the park and providing additional recreational amenities appropriate within a river flood plain.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Landscaping

- Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

- Replace the existing light pole with a new one that fits in residential neighborhoods in style
- Install U-shape bike racks
- Replace the wheeled trash receptacles with permanent trash receptacles
- Maintain the flag poles and the flags
- Develop the park site to be consistent with the 2010 Riverfront Master Plan



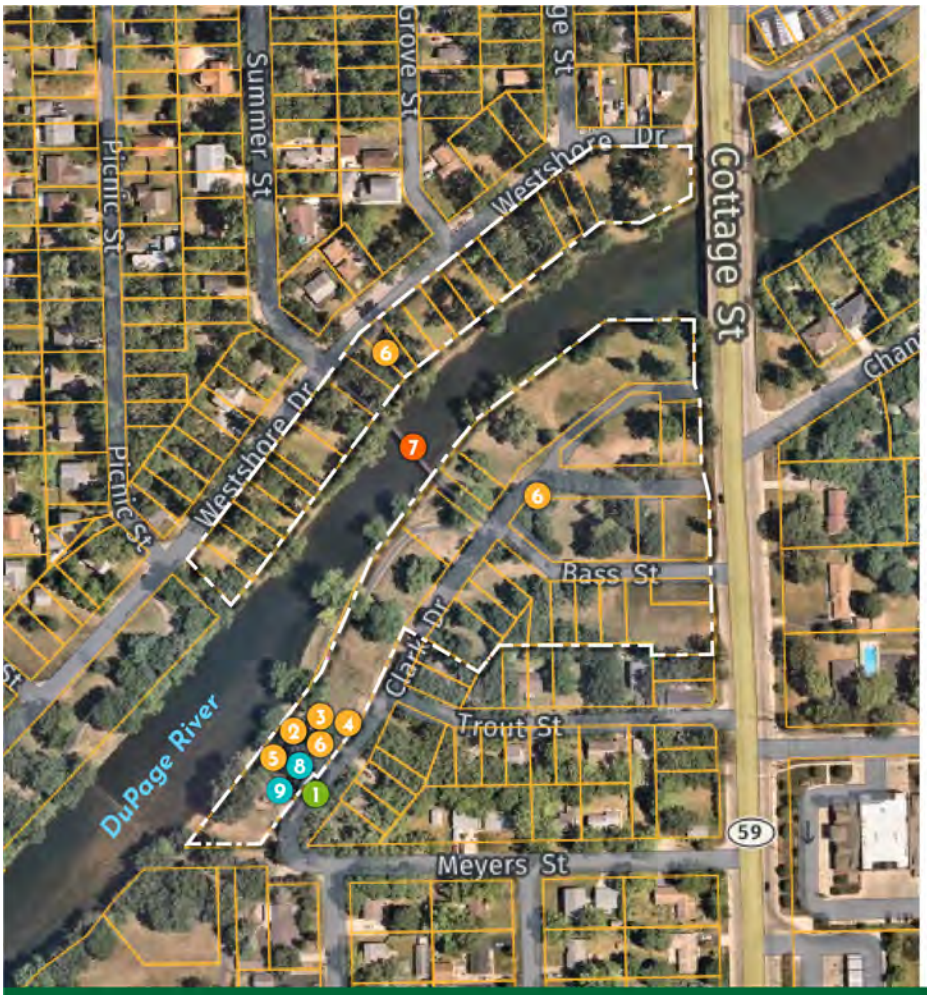
Pavement

- Remove the build-ups on the pedestrian bridge



Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
- Install a new re-designed park information sign



Landscaping

1. Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

2. Replace the existing light pole with a new one that fits in residential neighborhoods in style
3. Install U-shape bike racks
4. Replace the wheeled trash cans with permanent trash cans
5. Maintain the flag poles and the flags
6. Develop the park site to be consistent with the 2010 Riverfront Master Plan

Pavement

7. Remove the build-ups on the pedestrian bridge

Signage

8. Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
9. Install a new re-designed park information sign

Little Coyote Park Recommendations



Image Credit | 2010 Riverfront Master Plan

Seil Road Park Existing Conditions



SEIL ROAD PARK

Seil Road Park is at the intersection of Seil Road and the Seil Road bridge. While it does have a park sign identifying the site, the park is a three-point-six-acre (3.6) open space with neither facilities nor amenities. The park is subject to somewhat frequent flooding due to its location along the DuPage River.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscaping

- Plant additional flood-tolerant trees

Pavement

- Build a pedestrian bridge crossing the DuPage River as part of the Seil Road Improvement Project
- Paint crosswalk markings, and install pedestrian crossing signs at the intersection of Raven Road and Seil Road per IDOT roundabout plan

Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping





Landscaping

1. Plant additional flood-tolerant trees

Pavement

2. Build a pedestrian bridge crossing the DuPage River as part of the Seil Road Improvement Project
3. Paint crosswalk markings, and install pedestrian crossing signs at the intersection of Raven Road and Seil Road per IDOT roundabout plan

Signage

4. Install a new park sign with or without landscaping

Seil Road Park Recommendations



HEARTLAND PARK

Heartland Park is located on River Crossing Drive near Lakewoods Lane. Currently, this three-acre (3) open land is covered by turf with no other facilities except for a trail connecting River Crossing Park. While there is no development plan enacted for this open park site, the Village primarily intends to encourage active events by adding outdoor sports facilities to the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscaping

- Plant clusters of deciduous trees to provide shade and beauty to the park

Facilities

- Add several benches and trash receptacles, and a pavilion
- Add four (4) to six (6) pickleball courts
- Add one (1) basketball court

Pavement

- Paint crosswalk markings, and install pedestrian crossing signs on River Crossing Drive and Lakewoods Lane
- Paint road markings for the on-street parking spaces along the park site on River Crossing Drive

Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
- Install a new re-designed park information sign



Image Credit | Google Earth



Landscaping

1. Plant clusters of deciduous trees to provide shade and beauty to the park

Facilities

2. Place several benches and trash cans, and a pavilion
3. Add four to six pickleball courts
4. Add one basketball court

Pavement

5. Paint crosswalk markings, and install pedestrian crossing signs on River Crossing Drive and Lakewoods Lane
6. Paint road markings for the on-street parking spaces along the park site on River Crossing Drive

Signage

7. Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
8. Install a new re-designed park information sign

Heartland Park Recommendations

White Tail Park Existing Conditions



WHITE TAIL PARK

White Tail Park is a one-point-five-acre (1.5) neighborhood park located on Callaway Court, east of Wynstone Drive. The park is adjacent to the Kipling Estates' private community center. The park is connected by a Village walk trail, which divides the private community center and White Tail Park. It should be noted that the trail pavement has multiple cracks that have been filled with weeds. The park sign and a welcome sign are installed at the entrance on Callaway Court. The landscaping around the signs needs to be thinned as plantings almost block the park sign. The welcome sign is visibly worn, needing replacement. This park is not completely shaded by trees, but there are several ornamental trees in the park. The main facilities at this park include a playground and a pavilion. The playground is mulched and wrapped with concrete edging. Wheeled trash receptacles are available on-site. A few of them are tied to bicycle racks in the park, which may cause inconvenience to bicycle riders. Since the park was constructed in 2000, some of the facilities, particularly the playground equipment, are beyond their normal life expectancy and have been suggested for renovation in the Capital Improvement Plan 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscaping

- Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign



Facilities

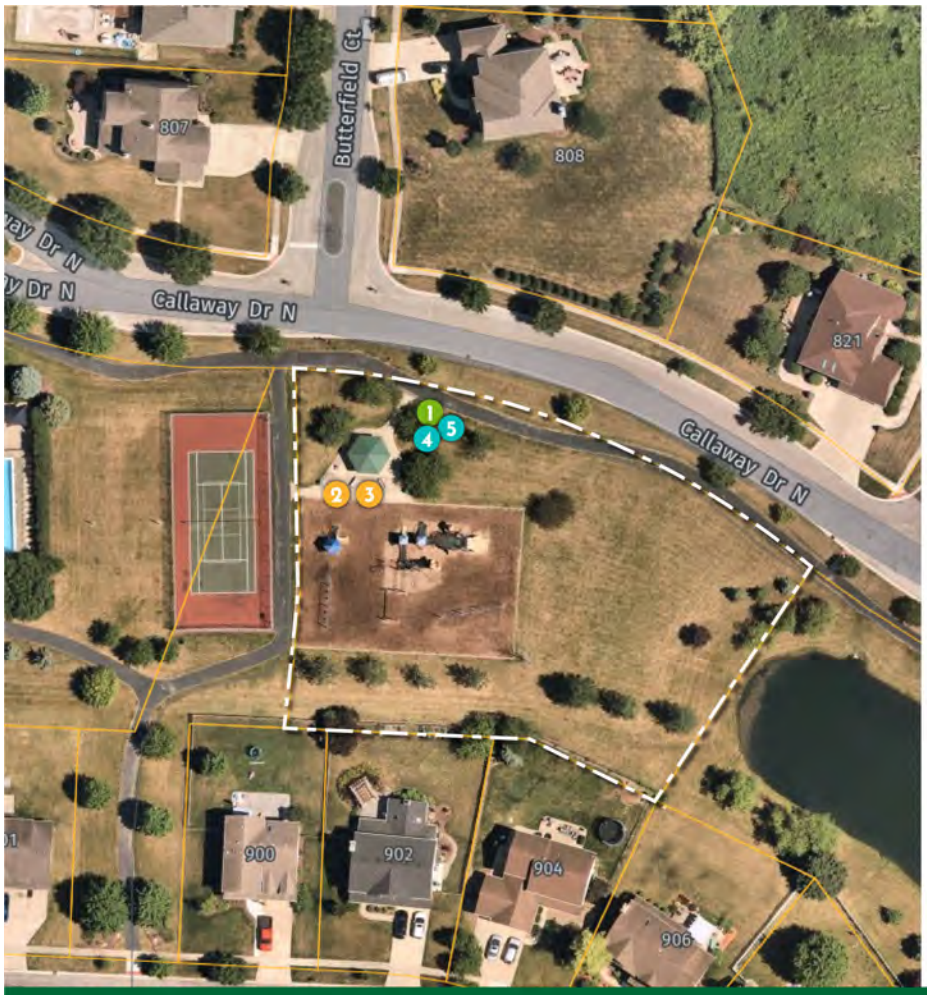
- Replace the existing bike racks with U-shape bike racks
- Replace the wheeled trash receptacles with permanent trash receptacles



Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
- Install a new re-designed park information sign





Landscaping

1. Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

2. Replace the existing bike racks with U-shape bike racks
3. Replace the wheeled trash cans with permanent trash cans

Signage

4. Install a new park sign with or without designed landscaping
5. Install a new re-designed park information sign

White Tail Park Recommendations



WYNSTONE PARK

Wynstone Park is a four-point-five-acre (4.5) neighborhood park located on Wynstone Drive in the Kipling Estates subdivision. This is a newer park which provides a variety of facilities. A circle trail links the village trail as well as the facilities in the park. There are four (4) main activity sections: playground, splash pad, soccer field, and softball practice field. The playground is paved with rubber materials in various colors. There are swings, slides, and climbing facilities available for children and the usage conditions seem on a good level. However, the pavement of the playground shows damage, as there are a few patches of rubber missing on the ground. There is a large pavilion with picnic tables located between the playground and the splash pad. The pavilion is well-designed using masonry for the supports. Other than the major facilities, there are several types of fitness equipment allocated along the loop trail in the park, along with benches and drinking fountains. Trash receptacles are upgraded in this park as they are permanent and solar-powered. There is a screened, portable toilet area located near the playground. Even though this park is designed well, landscaping maintenance can continue to be improved as in other parks in the Village. The

landscaping in front of the park sign needs to be trimmed so that the sign won't be blocked by the plants. In addition, the plants around the welcome signage need to be cleaned up. The welcome sign itself should be replaced. This is one (1) of the newest parks built in 2017. By 2032, some facilities in the park may be nearing the end of their useful life and the park may be in need of renovation.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscaping

- Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign



Facilities

- Replace the existing bike racks with U-shape bike racks
- Replace damaged sections of the playground mat area to avoid chipped surfaces or tripping issues



Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
- Install a new re-designed park information sign





Landscaping

1. Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

2. Replace the existing bike racks with U-shape bike racks
3. Replace damaged sections of the playground mat area to avoid chipped surfaces or tripping issues

Signage

4. Install a new park sign with or without designed landscaping
5. Install a new re-designed park information sign

Wynstone Park Recommendations



HUNTINGTON PARK

Huntington Park is a zero-point-eight-acre (0.8) Mini Park located adjacent to Trinity Christian School on the west side of Shorewood Drive at Mazalin Drive. The park is well-used by students from the adjacent school, particularly during recess. The park features a playground, a pavilion, and a drinking fountain, and is connected by two (2) Village trails. One (1) runs southward along Shorewood Drive to join the trail along Black Road. The other shorter trail runs along the north side of the Trinity School campus, extending to Richards Drive. Due to the proximity of the neighboring school, no parking is permitted along Shorewood Drive.

The park is generally in good condition with a nicely mowed turf lawn, good mulching, and sturdy equipment. However, the park shows its age and exhibits a few maintenance issues. The welcome sign is outdated and worn out. Also, the park needs a permanent trash receptacle, as the only means of waste disposal available is a wheeled Waste Management trash receptacle. The trail has visible cracks which are filling with weeds. In terms of park design, the park is treeless, with the only shade provided by the pavilion structure. On an ideal capital improvement schedule, this park would be due for renovation in 2029.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscaping

- Plant clusters of deciduous trees to provide shade and beauty to the park
- Install concrete edgings around the mulched area
- Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign



Facilities

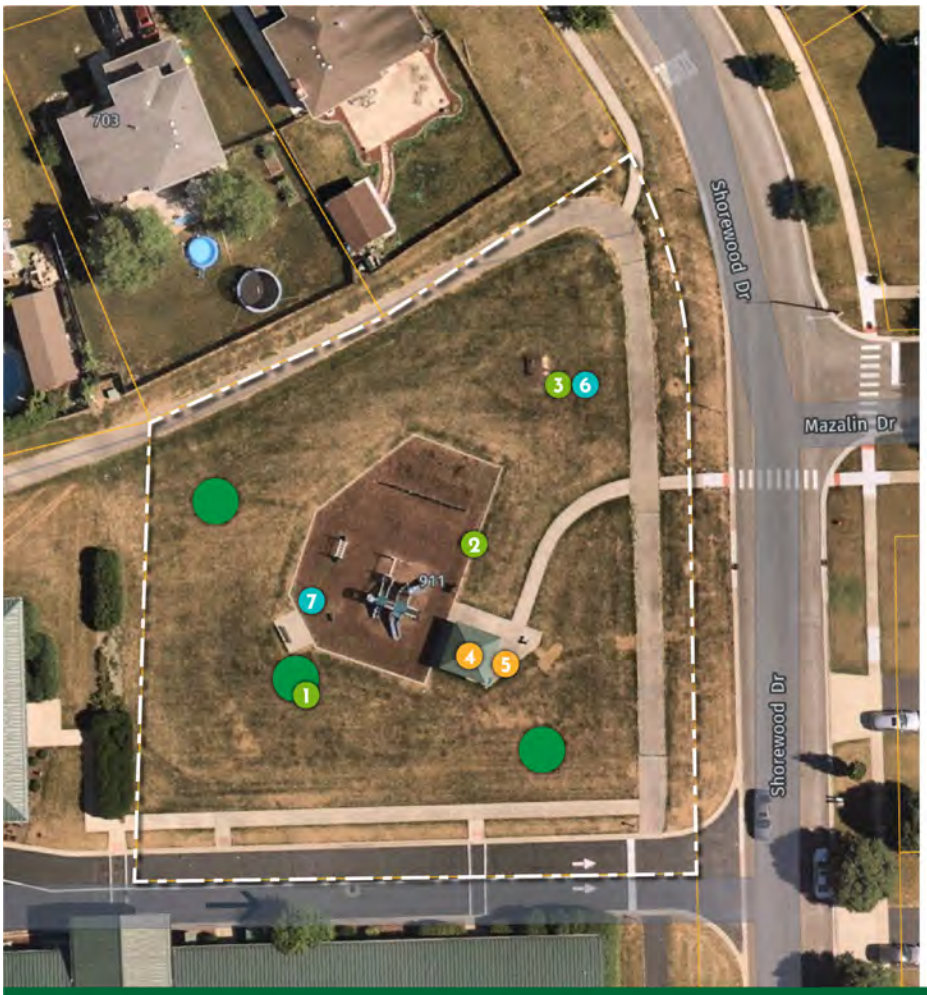
- Paint the pavilion
- Replace the wheeled trash receptacles with permanent trash receptacles



Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
- Install a new re-designed park information sign





Landscaping

1. Plant clusters of deciduous trees to provide shade and beauty to the park
2. Install concrete edgings around the mulched area
3. Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

4. Paint the pavilion
5. Replace the wheeled trash cans with permanent trash cans

Signage

6. Install a new park sign with or without designed landscaping
7. Install a new re-designed park information sign

Huntington Park Recommendations

Kits Korner Park Existing Conditions



KITS KORNER PARK

Kits Korner Park is a zero-point-five-acre (0.5) park located on the southeast corner of Turnbridge Drive and Savoy Drive. This Mini Park was built in 1998 for two (2) to five (5) years old children, comprised of a playground with limited open space. The mulched playground has a slide complex, three (3) sets of swings, a seesaw, and a simple cover functioning as a pavilion with a picnic table underneath. There are a few trees planted on site. The mulch in the playground and the plastic edgings are wearing out. The playground facilities show visible scratches and abrasions from years of usage. The welcome sign is old. A wheeled trash receptacle is tied to the sign.

The park facilities have exceeded their expected life and are recommended for a rebuild by the Village Public Works Department. The Village conducted two (2) public open houses on this park redesign on June 16 and 23, 2022 to hear from the public about what they would like to see in a re-designed park. On September 27, 2022, the Village Board approved a contract for the park update project. Improvements will include new playground equipment and surface, site furniture, pedestrian circulation features, and landscaping. The project is scheduled to be completed in March, 2023.


Kits Corner Park


WELCO




No
Ball Playing





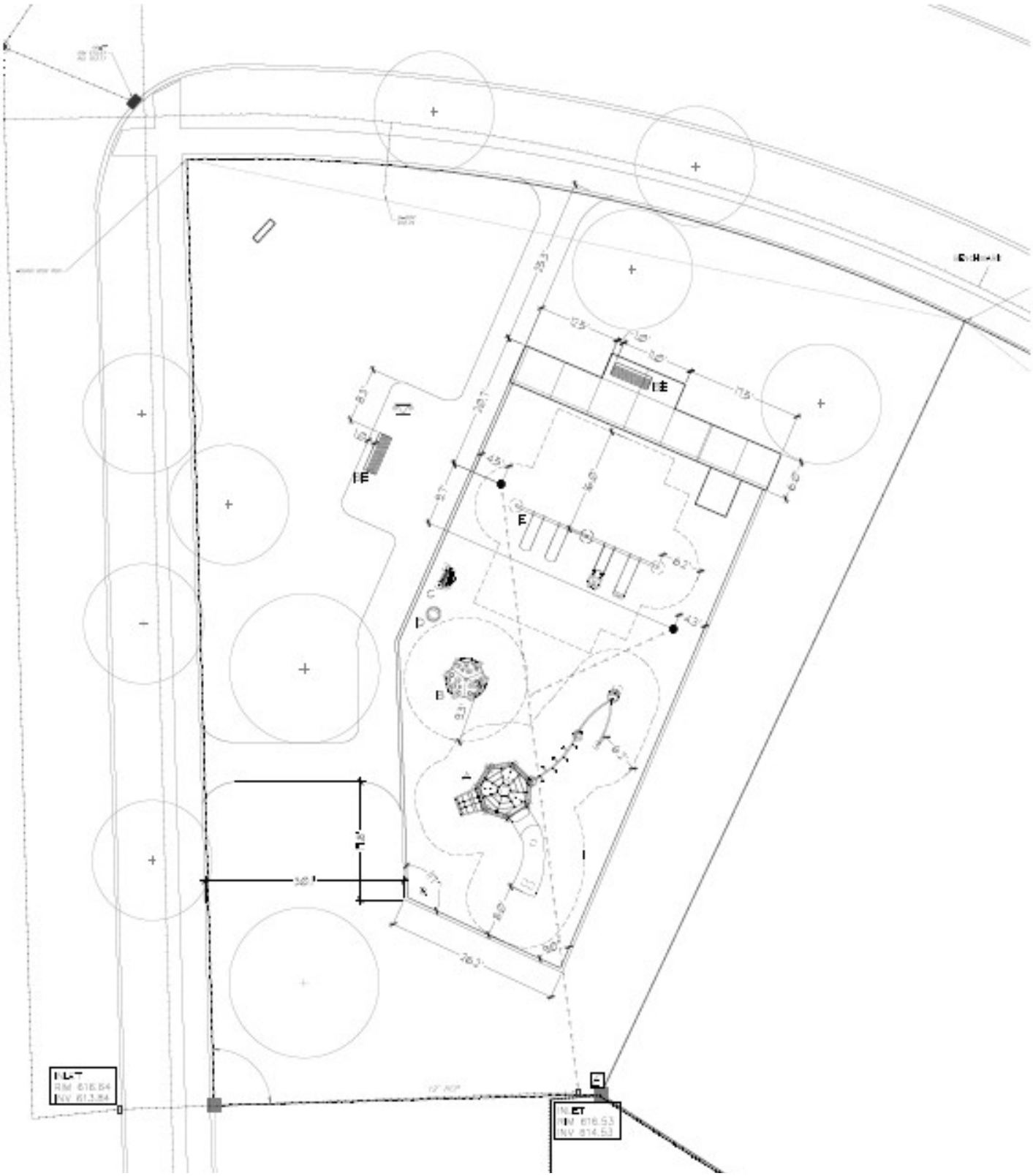


Image Credit | Village of Shorewood



DIANA PARK

Diana Park is a zero-point-three-acre (0.3) park located on Diana Avenue between Helene Street and Laura Street. It is a Mini Park that occupies a single-family residential lot. As a Mini Park, it provides very limited facilities including a mulched playground and a small shelter. The park used to be located at 213 Diana Avenue on the south side of the street. As a park built in 1998, it has surpassed its life expectancy. The Village has launched a redesign project for the park and will relocate to its new location at 204 Diana Avenue with new playground equipment, site furniture, landscaping, and improved pedestrian connectivity to the school. Open houses were hosted for the public on June 16 and 23, 2022. On September 27, 2022, the Village Board approved a contract for the park update project. Construction began in Fall 2022 with completion set for Winter 2022-2023.





Image Credit | Village of Shorewood



RIVER OAKS PARK

River Oaks Park is a zero-point-eight-acre (0.8) park located at the southwest corner of Ranchwood Drive and Colonade Road. This Mini Park was built in 1999 providing facilities such as a playground, a full-size basketball court, and a pavilion. Benches and wheeled trash receptacles are provided within the park. There is a set of bicycle racks at the park sign as well. The playground features multiple choices of play equipment, such as swings, rides, and climbing bars. The mulched area is bordered by concrete edging. However, unwanted weeds can be found in thein the playground's mulch. The basketball court is full-size, which is less common in Shorewood. It is paved with rubber and marked with lines. However, the weed issue also happens in this park, spreading out in the playground's mulch. Meanwhile, the landscaping around the park sign needs maintenance, as it has grown excessively and blocked the sign. While this park has some grown trees, it certainly could stand a few more trees in the open space. The age of the park has exceeded its life expectancy and has been recommended for renovation in 2023 by the Village.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Landscaping

- Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

- Replace the existing light pole with a new one that fits in residential neighborhoods in style
- Replace the existing bike racks with U-shape bike racks
- Replace the wheeled trash receptacles with permanent trash receptacles
- Resurface the basketball court
- Renovate the pavilions with a new roof



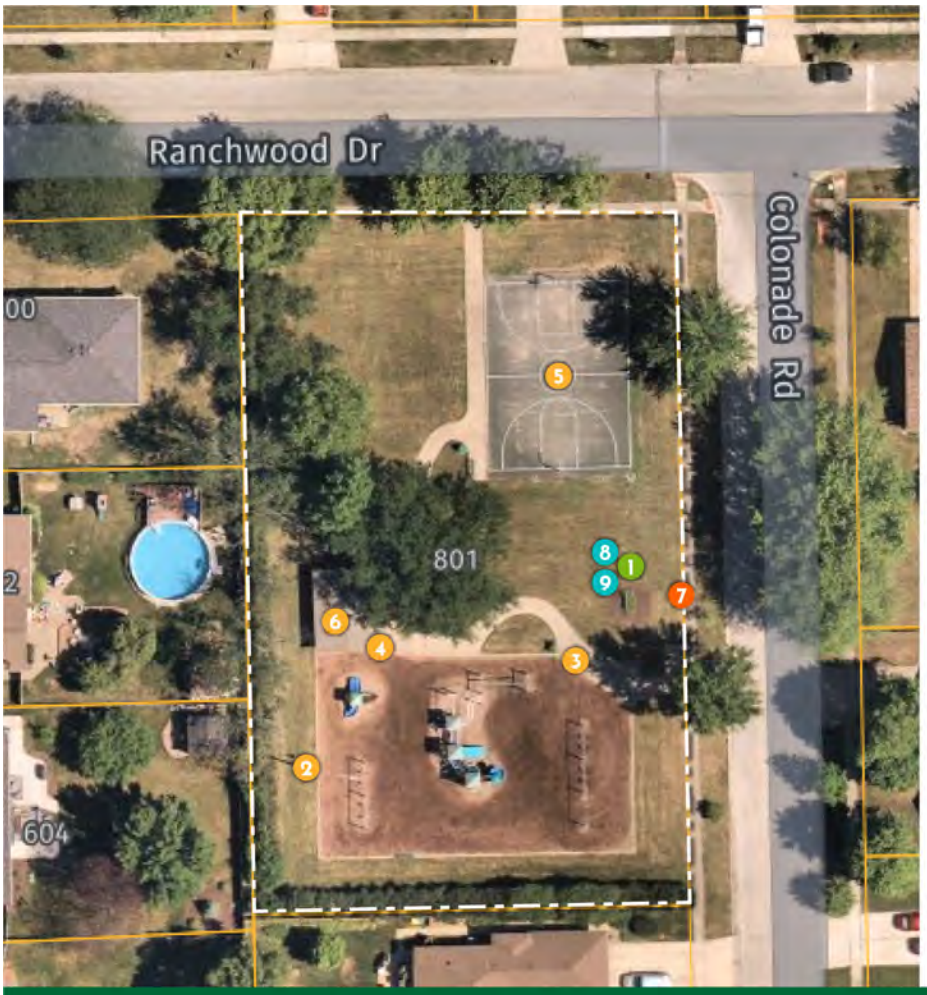
Pavement

- Repave the sidewalks along the park



Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
- Install a new re-designed park information sign



Landscaping

1. Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

2. Replace the existing light pole with a new one that fits in residential neighborhoods in style
3. Replace the existing bike racks with U-shape bike racks
4. Replace the wheeled trash cans with permanent trash cans
5. Resurface the basketball court
6. Renovate the pavilions with a new roof

Pavement

7. Repave the sidewalks along the park

Signage

8. Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
9. Install a new re-designed park information sign

River Oaks Park Recommendations



FAWN PARK

Fawn Park is a zero-point-eight-acre (0.8) Mini Park on Fieldstone Drive in a townhome community. This 0.8-acre mini park features a mulched children's playground. The slide has fallen victim to multiple instances of graffiti and engravings. Also, the park signs' landscaping areas should be addressed. The welcome sign is dated. The bicycle rack is rusty and blocked by the tied, wheeled trash receptacle. As a park built in 2000, it is recommended to be reconstructed in 2024 by the Village's capital improvement plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscaping

- Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign



Facilities

- Replace the existing bike racks with U-shape bike racks
- Replace the wheeled trash receptacles with permanent trash receptacles
- Build a pavilion for the existing picnic table to provide shade for parents while watching their kids
- Revamp the playground equipment



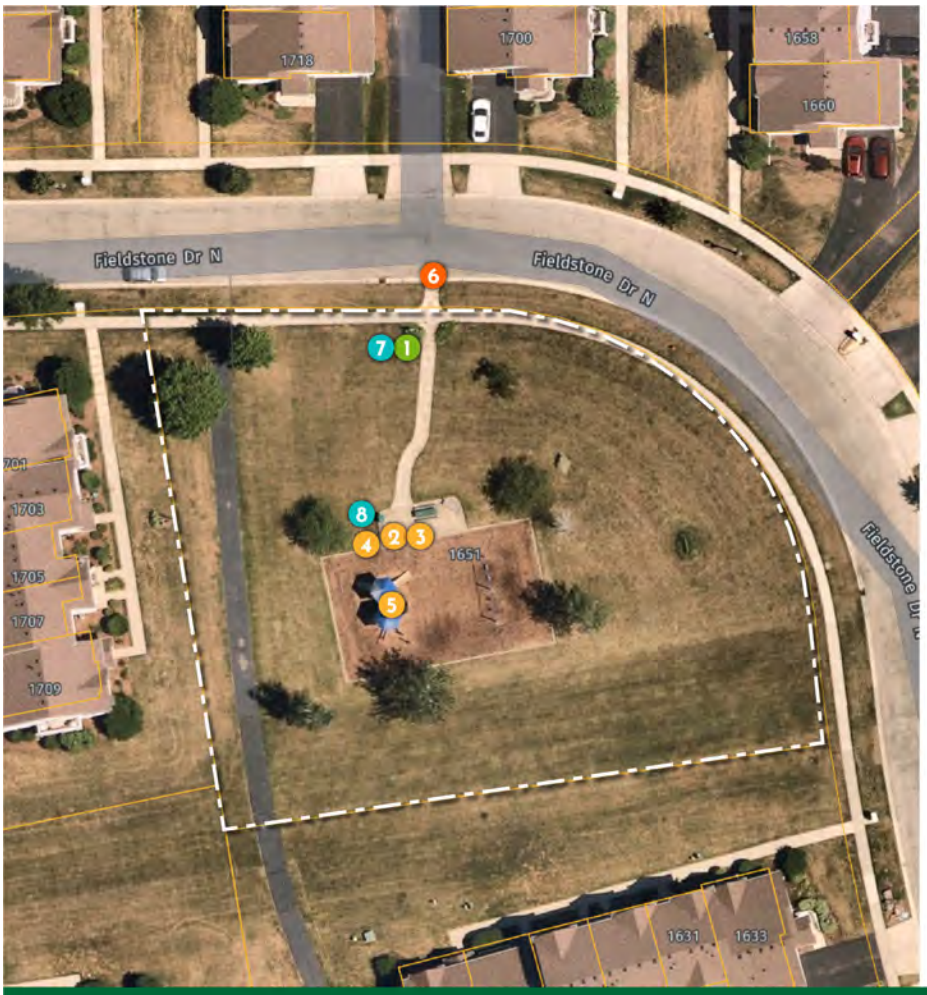
Pavement

- Improve the sidewalk ramps using ADA design guidelines



Signage

- Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
- Install a new re-designed park information sign



Landscaping

1. Clean up the outgrown plants around the park sign

Facilities

2. Replace the existing bike racks with U-shape bike racks
3. Replace the wheeled trash cans with permanent trash cans
4. Build a pavilion for the existing picnic table to provide shade for parents while watching their kids
5. Revamp the playground equipment

Pavement

6. Improve the sidewalk ramps using ADA design guidelines

Signage

7. Install a new park sign with or without landscaping
8. Install a new re-designed park information sign

Fawn Park Recommendations



CHAPTER 6

Park Improvements & Implementation

Image Credit | Village of Shorewood

This chapter aims to suggest grants and partnership opportunities that are available for park improvements and trail development.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

BASEBALL TOMORROW GRANT

This non-profit organization reviews applications for funds to finance a new program, expand or improve an existing program, undertake a new collaborative effort, or obtain facilities or equipment necessary for youth baseball or softball programs. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis and awards average forty thousand dollars ($40,000).

To learn more about the grant program, visit: *https://www.baseballydf.com/apply*

INCLUSIVE RECREATION: TOMMY WILSON MEMORIAL GRANT

The Tommy Wilson Memorial Grant supports individuals with disabilities, providing funds to support recreational activities (e.g., equipment, housing, registration fees, and facilities). Applications are accepted once per year in December. Grants are awarded for up to one thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500) total per year.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: *https://www.shapeamerica.org/grants/tommywilsonmemorialgrant.aspx?hkey=d5a87643-bfa8-4438-9b30-ab7bea2a6f93*

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION GRANTS (LWCF)

This federal grant is a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) per project and matches up to fifty percent (50%) of the project cost to help purchase land to be used for public access and recreational facilities. Grants are open to any local government, city and county, and public school.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: *https://www.doi.gov/lwcf*

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION GRANT (PARC)

The Park and Recreational Facilities Construction Act provides grants to eligible local governments for park and recreation unit construction projects and land acquisition. Agencies of local governments are eligible for this award. However, school districts are not eligible. All applicants must complete all five (5) grantee pre-award requirements statewide per Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) State Statute 30 ILCS 708/1. PARC grants must be used for "bondable" or "brick and mortar" projects. The priority of the program is the renovation or construction of indoor recreation facilities since they are not eligible under other IDNR grant programs. PARC Grant covers seventy-five percent (75%) of capital project cost for most applicants, and ninety percent (90%) of capital project cost for disadvantaged communities.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: *https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/pages/parc-grant.aspx*

OPEN SPACE LANDS ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT (OSLAD)

The OSLAD grant matches fifty percent (50%) of a parks and recreation project and is similar to PARC, but the rating system is evaluated differently. In order to apply for OSLAD, a master plan must be completed for the park in the application. The plan is considered for funds, scoring higher if it includes activities or equipment that isn't found anywhere else in the community. Grants up to seventy hundred fifty thousand dollars ($750,000) are awarded for acquisition projects and four hundred thousand dollars ($400,000) can be awarded for renovation projects. Applications are evaluated on Statewide Outdoor Recreation Priorities and Project Need (60%), Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Priorities (10%), Project Concept and Site Characteristics (15%), Local Planning (10%), and Other Considerations (10%). The largest category, Statewide Outdoor Recreation Priorities and Project Need is based on the following criteria:

- Thirty-five percent (35%) - Extent of the project to address the following major outdoor recreation/ conservation priorities identified in the state plan:
    - Protection or enhancement of a state or locally significant natural area;
    - Protection or enhancement of significant wildlife habitat;
    - Protection or enhancement of natural wetland areas;
    - Promoting conservation education opportunities;
    - Promoting recreational use of Illinois's surface waters;
    - Protection or recreational use of linear greenways;
    - Inter-agency cooperation in providing and/or effectively utilizing local recreation resources;
    - Enhancing recreational opportunities for minority and less affluent populations;
    - Use of resource conservation elements and native landscaping;
- Twenty-five percent (25%) - Local needs assessment in comparison of existing supply of recreational facilities per capita and existing supply of local open space/ parkland acreage.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: *https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/Pages/OpenSpaceLandsAquisitionDevelopment-Grant.aspx*

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP)

Transportation Alternatives (TAP) funds provide funding for a variety of generally smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities; construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas; community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management; environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trails; safe routes to school projects; and vulnerable road user safety assessments. This grant is funded through a proportional set-aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program. Eligible activities include most historically funded activities such as "Transportation Enhancements," the Recreational Trails

Program, and the Safe Routes to School programs. The Village may receive up to eighty percent (80%) reimbursement for eligible project costs. The remaining twenty percent (20%) is the responsibility of the Village.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/factsheets/tap.cfm

FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)

The Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Federal funds generally provide up to eighty percent (80%) of the project cost (with higher amounts permitted in States with a higher percentage of public lands), and require project sponsors to provide the remaining amount in matching resources (generally at least twenty percent). Some project sponsors provide more than sixty percent (60%) of the funds from non-Federal sources.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/AEG/pages/federalrecreationaltrailsprogram.aspx

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) was established as a stand-alone Federal-Aid program through the passage of SAFETEA-LU, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act. Federal participation for the SRTS Funding Cycle 2021 is eighty percent (80%), requiring a twenty percent (20%) local match. The funding ranges from twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) to twenty hundred fifty thousand dollars ($250,000) per project. This grant is a reimbursement progra – The sponsoring agency is responsible for supplying the upfront cost of the project and will be reimbursed by IDOT in accordance with all procurement policies. The qualified projects must be infrastructure projects focusing on students from kindergarten through eighth grade. All infrastructure projects must be completed within a 2-mile radius of the school.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/local-transportation-partners/county-engineers-and-local-public-agencies/safe-routes-to-school/index

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS (WFPO)

The WFPO program, managed by Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, provides for cooperation between the Federal government and the States and their political subdivisions to address resource concerns due to erosion, floodwater, and sediment and provide for improved utilization of the land and water resources. It also provides technical and financial assistance to States, local governments, and Tribal organizations to help plan and implement watershed restoration projects. The subject watershed needs to be equal or less than two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) acres. Also, agricultural benefits must be at least twenty percent (20%) of the total benefits for the project.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-and-flood-prevention-operations-wfpo-program

ILLINOIS BOAT ACCESS AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (BAAD)

The Boat Access Area Development (BAAD) Program provides financial assistance to local government agencies for the acquisition, construction, and expansion/rehabilitation of public boat and canoe access areas on navigable public bodies of water in Illinois. The program provides up to a hundred percent (100%) of approved project construction costs and ninety percent (90%) of approved land acquisition costs. Grant awards are limited to a two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) maximum for motorized launch sites and eighty thousand dollars ($80,000) maximum for non-motorized launch sites.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: *https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/Pages/BoatAccessAreaDevelopmentProgram.aspx#:~:text=The%20Boat%20Access%20Area%20Development%20(BAAD)%20Program%20provides%20financial%20assistance,on%20Illinois'%20lakes%20and%20rivers*

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PROGRAM (OHV)

The Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) grant program financially supports government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and other eligible groups or individuals to develop, operate, maintain, and acquire land for off-highway vehicle parks and trails. These facilities must be open and accessible to the public. The program can also help restore areas damaged by unauthorized OHV use. The maximum grant amount is three hundred fifty thousand dollars ($350,000) and the grant does not require local matching funds.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: *https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/Pages/OffHighwayVehicleProgram.aspx*

ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (ITEP)

ITEP, administered by IDOT, provides funding for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. Some eligible project types include: pedestrian/bicycle facilities, streetscapes, conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to trails, historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, and vegetation management in transportation Right-of-Way. ITEP is a reimbursable grant program and the maximum ITEP award is capped at three million dollars ($3,000,000). Preliminary engineering, utility relocations, construction engineering, and construction are eligible for funding at an eighty/twenty (80/20) match. Acquisition of right-of-way and easements and Street Lighting are eligible for funding at a fifty/fifty (50/50) match.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: *https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/local-transportation-partners/county-engineers-and-local-public-agencies/funding-opportunities/ITEP*

ILLINOIS BICYCLE PATH GRANT PROGRAM

The Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program was created to financially assist eligible units of government to acquire, construct, and rehabilitate public, non-motorized bicycle paths and directly related support facilities. The grants are up to two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) per project and can cover up to fifty percent (50%) of project cost.

To learn more about the grant program, visit: https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/grants/pages/bikepathprogram.aspx#:~:text=What%20is%20the%20Bike%20Path,land%20for%20bike%20path%20development

PARTNERSHIPS

TROY COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 30C

The Village of Shorewood and School District 30C have formed a good working relationship in which the School District allows the Village to utilize the properties and facilities for events and programs. This relationship is beneficial to the community as more events can take place in a variety of facilities and attract more attendees. Both agencies should continue the collaboration to create event and program ideas to satisfy community demand. When planning for community events, including local businesses for sponsorships would help alleviate the financial burdens to the Village government. Local businesses may help more events become reality with their financial support.

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF WILL COUNTY (FPDWC)

There are seven (7) natural preserves managed by FPDWC around Shorewood and two (2) regional bikeway corridors going through the Village. A partnership between the Village and FPDWC would be a great platform to discuss trail systems and other community requests. FDPDWC has been taking the lead on executing the 2016 County Bikeway Plan. It will be constructive for the Village to work with the District to build the sections of the regional trail network in Shorewood. Also, as residents have requested easier pedestrian access to Hammel Woods, it would be necessary for the Village to collaborate with the District to respond to the demand. Furthermore, a partnership would be helpful to organize and lead recreational events and programs for the community.

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COLLABORATION

The municipal and development boundaries of Shorewood abut Joliet and Minooka. The Village also encompasses portions of both Will and Kendall County. It would be beneficial for the Village to enhance partnerships with other jurisdictions such as adjacent communities, County governments, regional agencies, IDOT, and other partners/stakeholders to cooperate on planning and implementation efforts such as shared-use path and park planning as well as event and program planning.

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ADOPTED | APRIL 11, 2023