

CITY OF WASHBURN
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NOTICE OF PARKS COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

DATE: August 10, 2022
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Washburn City Hall

This meeting may have members participating via tele or web conferencing. Public participants can listen to the proceedings on-line at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87275828714?pwd=RTVPZUtsRE5vOUw4T2lDbk5CRFQ5UT09> or by calling 888-788-0099 (Toll-free) and entering Mtg ID: 872 7582 8714 and Passcode: 081022. Limited seating will be available at the meeting and guests are asked to keep a six-foot distance.

Agenda:

- Call to Order/Roll Call
- Discussion & Action of Outdoor Recreation Plan (assets, priorities & projects)
- Adjournment

It is possible that members of, and possibly a quorum of, other governmental bodies including the Common Council of the City of Washburn are in attendance at the above meeting. No action will be taken by any governmental body other than the Parks Committee.

1. OUTDOOR RECREATION



1.1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Washburn recognizes that parks, recreation, and open space are essential to the quality of life for community residents. These resources provide an environment and setting where residents can engage in passive or active recreational pursuits. Parks and open space provide gathering spaces for families, social groups, and individuals, regardless of ability to pay. Recreational resources and programming; including community events hosted in public parks, are accessible by persons of all ages and abilities. These spaces also provide opportunities to engage in healthy activities in a relaxed, natural setting which contributes overall community wellness. Parks and open space also play an important role in protecting both ground and surface water, provide flood control functions and serve as critical habitat for plants and animals. Parks, outdoor recreation, and open space are also important economic resources to the City of Washburn. In addition to generating revenue from user fees, indirect spending within the community and economic activity generated is greatly important to local businesses.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT



This City of Washburn Outdoor Recreation Element of the comprehensive plan reviews and updates information on the physical infrastructure and lands that make up the City's parks, recreation, and open space system, and it provides guidance for future enhancement and expansion of the system. This element addresses Washburn's long-range park, recreation and open space needs but focuses primarily on needs over the next 5-year period (2021-2026). Submission of this element to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) maintains eligibility for a variety of Federal and State Aids to purchase land and to add facilities to existing outdoor recreation lands. Preparation of this element was conducted in accordance with guidance found in Wisconsin Statutes 23.30, Outdoor Recreation Program, and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).


1.3 PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PROFILE

Mini Parks		
 <p>Triangle Park 0.12 Acres</p> <p>This irregular pocket park is located at the intersection of N. Washington Ave/N. Central Ave. and W. 5th Street. This small park space provides minimal amenities and has no facilities.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flower gardens • Benches 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <p>Priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve current sidewalk, ADA compliant • Landscaping and vegetation as necessary • Provide space for public art • Replace/upgrade benches
 <p>City Hall Plaza 0.25 Acres</p> <p>Small plaza fronting City Hall along Bayfield St/Washington Ave. Key features include a fountain, walkway, flag poles, flower gardens and benches.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fountain • Lighting • Walkways • Flag poles • Flower gardens • Benches & picnic tables 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <p>Priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping as necessary • Replace/upgrade plaza lights • Replace/upgrade plaza walkways • Replace/upgrade benches & picnic tables • Install interpretive signage, including map with city parks

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Neighborhood Parks

 <p>East Side Tennis Courts <i>0.60 Acres</i></p> <p>Public recreation area located between E. Bayfield St. and E. 3rd St. Features fenced in tennis courts (asphalt), 1/2 court basketball, tennis backboard and benches.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis courts • Benches • Fencing • 1/2 court basketball court • Tennis backboard 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-envision public or community space • Improve storm water handling
 <p>Wikdal Park <i>0.88 Acres</i></p> <p>Community gateway park located at the intersection of W. Bayfield St. and N. 3rd Ave W. Site features benches, lighting, informational kiosk, picnic tables and flower gardens. This park hosts a number of community events during the year.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches • Lighting • Picnic tables • Flower gardens • Informational Kiosk 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <p>Priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare park development plan • Renovate flower gardens and landscaping as needed • Construct gazebo or band stage • Upgrade/Install utilities for outdoor lighting and restrooms • Construct ADA compliant walkways • Install drinking fountain • Place benches and picnic tables

 <p>Legion Park 1.12 Acres</p> <p>Park and public open space located along E. Bayfield St. and N. 1st Ave E. This site houses the city's veterans memorial and features flag poles, flower gardens, pathways, and benches.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veteran's Memorial • Flag poles • Flower gardens • Pathways • Benches & picnic tables • Bus stop shelter 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare park development plan • Extend utilities to park, with potable water • Replace pathways with ADA compliant walkways • Renovate and expand flower gardens and landscaping as needed • Upgrade/replace benches and picnic tables • Reimagine Veteran's Memorial • Provide space for public art
 <p>Jackie's Field 1.28 Acres</p> <p>Neighborhood park located at the intersection of E. 3rd St. and N 3rd Ave. E. Site features playground equipment, benches, picnic tables and a sandlot ball field with backstop. The open area also serves as a soccer field.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground set, swings and slide • Benches • Exercise equipment • Free Little Library • Sandlot ball field • Picnic tables • Gravel parking lot 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct covered picnic shelter • ADA compliant pathways throughout park • New backstop and fencing at ball field • Construction of soccer field • Extend utilities to park • Construction of restrooms; potable water • Add more picnic tables • Landscaping as necessary • Improve storm water handling • Explore feasibility of splash pad



Hillside Park
3.11 Acres

Neighborhood park located at N. 3rd Ave. W. and W. Hillside Dr. Site amenities include tennis courts (asphalt), ½ basketball court, sandlot ball diamond, tennis backstop, benches, and picnic tables.

Existing Facilities

- Playground
- 1/2 court basketball court
- Benches & picnic tables
- Tennis courts
- Sand lot ball diamond
- Tennis backstop

Recommended Improvements

- Resurface tennis courts
- Expand tennis courts
- Construct pickle ball courts
- Renovate, upgrade, and expand playground
- Extend utilities and potable water
- Construct covered picnic shelter
- Landscaping as necessary
- Construct ADA complaint pathways and access
- Renovate tennis court lighting
- Replace/upgrade benches and picnic tables
- Construct parking lot
- Install signage as necessary

Community Parks



Athletic Field & Skate Rinks
13.31 Acres

Located between E. Memorial Park Dr. and E. Pumphouse Rd. The property includes regulation softball, baseball, and Little League fields, two ice skating rinks, warming house, restrooms, and a concession stand. A groomed snowmobile trail also bisects the property.

Existing Facilities

- Regulation softball field with dugouts
- Regulation baseball field with dugouts and scoreboard
- Regulation little league field with dugouts
- Two ice rinks
- Restrooms, concession stand, warming building
- Parking and access road

Recommended Improvements

- Prepare park development management & usage plan for Athletic Fields Park
- Tree planting & landscaping
- Install electronic scoreboards at all fields
- Install lighting at fields
- Connect lakefront parkway walking trail through park
- Reconstruct east skating rink (hockey)
- Improve waterlines for ice rink flooding

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend waterlines to ballfields for irrigation & potable water • Install bleachers at all fields • Construct covered picnic pavilion(s) • Develop/construct pump track • Develop/construct curling rink • Install basketball hoops on blacktop at ice rink area • Update warming shed to be all year-round bathroom/concession usage • Improve storm water handling
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Waterfront Recreation

 <p>West End Park Boat Landing <i>0.38 Acres</i></p> <p>Public boat launch on Chequamegon Bay located just east of the campgrounds, at Lake Dr. and S 6th Ave W. Renovated in 2020 and features boat ramps, docks, and parking areas. Adjacent features include trailhead, fitness equipment, overflow camping, and beach.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat Docks • Boat Launch • Picnic Point • Beach • Overflow Camping Area • Paved & Grass Parking Area • Lakeshore Parkway Trailhead • Fitness Equipment • North Coast Community Sailing Instruction Storage Sheds 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve infrastructure (restrooms, parking, landscaping) • Expand parking to accommodate larger boat trailer parking • Stormwater management improvements. • Construct community center or pavilion (determine need and/or desire) • Expand Maritime Trail signage • Add picnic tables and benches
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Coal Dock Beach & Trail/Parkway Extension
0.52 Acres

Public beach located next to the Coal Dock. Includes access to a gravel trail and parkway extension. This site provides parking amenities as well as benches that overlook Lake Superior.

Existing Facilities

- Beach
- Parking
- Gravel trail
- Overlooks with benches

Recommended Improvements

- Upgrade parking at beach area
- Install stairway access from picnic area
- Install signage, interpretive and directional
- Replace/upgrade benches
- Install picnic tables
- Improve stormwater management and erosion
- Identify and install kayak launch area
- Develop yurt camping along overlook



Commercial Dock
2.04 Acres

Public access site at one of the last working bulk cargo docks on Chequamegon Bay. Site features a mooring bollard for commercial boats, fishing area and a small beach. This site is also a popular winter access to Chequamegon Bay.

Existing Facilities

- Mooring bollard for commercial boats
- Transloading and storage space available
- Fishing area
- Parking area for winter activities

Recommended Improvements

- Install better signage of area rules



Washburn Marina
18.74 Acres

Full-service marina located 3 blocks from the City’s commercial district, just west of the Commercial Dock. The Marina offers a variety of services including dockage, bulk cargo storage areas, boat ramps, a 150-ton boat lift, indoor and outdoor vessel storage, and vessel repair.

Existing Facilities

- 138 boat slips, plus 5 transient slips
- Piers & docks with electric and water hook-up
- Outdoor boat storage
- Boat lift
- Covered picnic shelter
- Store
- Petroleum sales
- Boat launch
- Fish cleaning station
- Paved and unpaved parking areas
- Restrooms & shower facilities
- Office building and repair building
- Lounge

Recommended Improvements

- Landscaping/aesthetic improvements as practical for operations, improve appearance of main entrance area.
- Build enhancements to/better delineate lakefront trail
- Relocate lakefront trail
- Construct additional 5-8 transient slips on Pier 4
- Repair and expand parking areas.
- Asphalt Central Avenue down to beginning of Coal Dock; delineate parking in that area; add riprap along shoreline
- Provide ADA dock/lift facilities to pier(s)
- Expand boat storage facilities



Thompson’s West End Park
22.02 Acres

Park and campground located at the foot of 8th Ave W. Site features include 50 campsites with utility hookups, showers, restrooms, dump station, two artesian wells, festival area, picnic area and shelter, swimming beach, playground, fishing pier, boat launch and docks.

Existing Facilities

- Campground
- Campsite cable hook-ups/electrical sites and WIFI.
- Shower & restroom facilities in ADA compliance.
- Information kiosk and payment pipe
- Sewage dump station.
- Two flowing wells.
- Festival area – across from pavilion.
- Covered picnic shelter.
- Picnic area.
- Swimming beach.
- Playground area.
- Boat launch & docks.

Recommended Improvements

- Revisit expansion of West End Park Master Plan for future improvements
- Improve park infrastructure (i.e., water & sewer, roads & parking, trails, signage, kiosk, hardscape, public facilities)
- Replace playground equipment.
- Add full-service picnic shelter/cabin
- Extend Lakefront Trail through park
- Construct year-round ADA compliant restrooms
- Develop better access to lake by pavilion (i.e., rollout dock, fishing pier)


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm water conveyance pond. • Volleyball sand area/pit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct roof structure over artesian wells and upgrade piping • Construct waterfront gazebo • Establish ADA compliant pathways and access trails, including a walkway from the playground/pavilion area to the bathrooms • Erosion control along lakefront • Improve existing campfire area by pavilion • Develop additional campsites/camping areas • Improve beach volleyball court • Invasive plant control as needed
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Lakefront Historic Walking Trail & Parkway
29.14 Acres


This Wisconsin Maritime Trail features a gravel walkway extending from 6th Ave. W. to 1st Ave. E. Features present include interpretive signage, picnic tables and benches, parking, bridges over ravines, native landscaping, and trailhead at 4th Ave. W.

<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel trail from 6th Avenue West to 1st Avenue East • Maritimes Trail & Historical signage • Picnic tables and benches • Parking & trail heads at 6th Avenue West, Washington Ave. & Marina. • Bridges over ravines • Fitness Area and Equipment • Natural habitat • 6th Avenue West to Washington Avenue is ADA accessible • Beaches, at 6th Ave and Washington Ave. trailheads 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review & update of management plan every three years. • Improve trail heads and parking lots. • Improve trail & bridges according to ADA standards. • Improve trail erosion, sedimentation, and native species plantings, factoring climate change. • Install additional benches and picnic tables. • Relocate trail within Washburn Marina. • Expand trail from 1st Avenue East to Memorial Park. • Renovate trail between Washington Avenue and Marina with switchbacks and bridges across
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		<p>ravines according to ADA standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand picnic or pet exercising areas. • Install pet waste stations at trail heads • Expand & improve Maritime Trails, historical and informational signage within parkway • Construct picnic pavilion & restroom at Washington Ave. Trailhead.
 <p>Memorial Park 25.85 Acres</p> <p>Park and campground located on E. Memorial Park Dr., overlooking Chequamegon Bay. Site features 50 campsites, dump station, playground, picnic areas, shower, and restrooms. Electric, cable TV and WI-FI Internet access is available at some sites.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campground • Covered picnic shelter • Dump station • Electric and cable TV service to some sites and WIFI. – Electric, Cable & Wi-Fi in all sites. • Playground • Historic kitchen building (no water, plumbing) • Picnic areas • Pathways and bridges across ravines • Restrooms and shower building • Information kiosk and payment pipe • Parking area • Archway Entrance (South 6th Avenue East) • Trail to lake access • Firewood shed 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare campground development plan • Improve park infrastructure (i.e., water & sewer, roads & parking, trails, signage, kiosk, land/hardscape, public facilities) • Replace playground equipment • Replace full-service picnic shelter/cabin • Update/remodel restrooms to meet ADA compliance • Pathways and access trails that comply with ADA • Erosion control along lakefront • Create/improve existing campfire area by pavilion • Develop additional campsites/camping areas (yurt, primitive, glamping) • Install beach volleyball /multi-purpose rec area • Invasive plant control as needed • Expand/connect park trail and old railroad to create inner city trail loop

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuild caretaker's house for historic purposes • Seek opportunities to acquire adjacent lands to expand Memorial Park
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Recreation Trail

 <p>Recreation Trail <i>5.34 Miles</i></p> <p>The City of Washburn purchased the majority of the former Chicago and Northwestern Railroad right-of-way within the city when the railroad abandoned service to the area in 1983. The right-of-way under municipal ownership has been converted into an off-road snowmobile and ATV trail.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Use Recreation Trail (ATV, snowmobile, bike, walk) 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install signage as required • Landscaping as necessary • Purchase or easement railroad right-of-way in private hands between Superior Ave. and Gary Road • Construct silent sports trail between 4th Avenue East and Superior Ave • Improve existing railroad grade to multipurpose trail to include walking, biking, skiing
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Public Open Space

 <p>Public Open Space <i>83.42 Acres</i></p> <p>Includes all of the undeveloped publicly owned land (non-park) that is primarily for outdoor recreation, passive outdoor enjoyment, and natural resource conservation.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p>	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p>
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<p>Public Lands - Thompson West End Park to South City Limits 37.40 Acres</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Use Recreation Trail (ATV, snowmobile, bike, walk) 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend Lakefront Trail from Thompson’s West End Park westward along lakefront to the south City limits (Summit Avenue) • Construct pedestrian bridge across Thompson Creek • Install signage along trails • Construct boardwalks over marshy areas of pedestrian trail
<p>School & Private Recreation Facilities</p>		
<p>Washburn Elementary School 16.65 Acres</p> <p>Athletic fields, basketball courts and playground equipment located on the Washburn Elementary School property along W. 8th St.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletic Fields • Basketball Courts • Playground 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct ADA compliant walkways. • Construct parking lot. • Install outside drinking water fountain. • Add landscaping and tree planting. • Construct ADA compliant restrooms. • Install fencing. • Implement stormwater best management practices. • Construct additional field sports facilities. • Install additional signage.
<p>Lake Superior View Golf Course 56.49 Acres</p> <p>Private 18-hole, par-66 golf course located on County Highway C in Washburn. Fee required.</p>	<p><u>Existing Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubhouse with deck. • Golf course & disc golf • Cross-county skiing • Winter fat-tire biking 	<p><u>Recommended Improvements</u></p>

1.4 ANALYSIS OF DEMAND AND NEED

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

An analysis of existing parks, recreational lands and open space is provided to determine whether the needs of city residents are being met. The City of Washburn currently provides about 215.2 acres of parkland, excluding open space. Considering the City's population of 2,051 residents (U.S. Census 2020), there are 0.10 acres of parkland per person, or 100 acres per 1,000 population. Inclusion of open space (83.4 acres) increases per capita parkland to 0.15 acres of parkland per person, or 150 acres per 1,000 population. According to the National Parks and Recreation Area (NPRA), typically there are 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in the United States, and the general benchmark for parkland acreage is 10.5 acres per 1,000 population.

Park Acreage Overall Supply/Demand

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Population	2,051	2,010	1,945	1,916	1,863
Supply	299	299	299	299	299
Supply (Per Capita)	0.146	0.149	0.154	0.156	0.160
Demand (10.5 Ac/1,000 Pop)	22	21	20	20	20
Surplus/Deficiency	+277	+278	+279	+279	+279

Park Acreage Projected Supply/Deficit by Park Type (Former NPRA Standards)

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Population	2,051	2,010	1,945	1,916	1,863
Mini-Parks					
<i>Low Standard (0.25 Ac/1,000 Pop)</i>	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.08	-0.07
<i>High Standard (0.5 Ac/1,000 Pop)</i>	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5
Neighborhood Parks					
<i>Low Standard (1.0 Ac/1,000 Pop)</i>	+4.9	+5.0	+5.1	+5.1	+5.1
<i>High Standard (2.0 Ac/1,000 Pop)</i>	+2.9	+3.0	+3.1	+3.2	+3.3
Community Parks					
<i>Low Standard (5.0 Ac/1,000 Pop)</i>	+3.0	+3.3	+3.6	+3.7	+4.0
<i>High Standard (8.0 Ac/1,000 Pop)</i>	-3.1	-2.8	-2.3	-2.0	-1.6
Special Use Areas (No Standard Applicable)					
Open Space (No Standard Applicable)					

Determining if a community's park and open space needs are being met can be difficult. The process is often not methodical and depends heavily on input from community residents, park and open space users, officials, and staff. Formerly, the National Recreation and Park Association published standards for park acreage per 1,000 population (Table X). This measurement shows the relationship between the City of Washburn population and available parkland. Current methodology calls on each community to determine its own standard, or Level of Service (LOS), tailored to an appropriate range, quantity, and quality of recreational site, facilities, and amenities within its budgetary constraints.

Park Acreage Per 1,000 Population

	Total Acreage	Acreage Per 1,000
Mini-Parks	0.4	0.2
Neighborhood Parks	7.0	3.4
Community Parks	13.3	6.5

GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The geographic location of parks, recreation, and open space facilities in relation to the community's population is an indicator of how well existing resources are distributed throughout the community. NRPA guidelines suggest that city residents should reside within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of some type of park or open space.

City Residents within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of Park or Open Space

C. Washburn Population 2,051 (2020 Census)	Residents	Percent
Estimated Population within 1/4 mile of a Park	1,523	74.3%
Estimated Population within 1/2 mile of a Park	2,051	100.0%
Estimated Population within 1/4 mile of Open Space	1,000	48.8%
Estimated Population within 1/2 mile of Open Space	1,951	95.1%
Estimated Population within Mini Park Service Area (1/4 mile)	763	37.2%
Estimated Population within Neighborhood Park Service Area (1/2 mile)	1,980	96.6%
Estimated Population within Community Park Service Area (1/2 mile)	2,051	100.0%

City Residents within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of Park or Open Space by Park

Park	Class	Estimated Population within 1/4 mile Radius	Estimated Population within 1/2 mile Radius
Small Triangle Park	Mini Park	527	337
City Hall Plaza	Mini Park	351	1,063
Hillside Park	Neighborhood Park	102	1,336
Jackie's Field	Neighborhood Park	349	832
East Side Tennis Courts	Neighborhood Park	265	802
Legion Park	Neighborhood Park	333	322
Wikdal Park	Neighborhood Park	403	94
Athletic Fields & Skating Rinks	Community Parks	62	555
West End Park Boat Landing	Waterfront Recreation	45	379
Washburn Marina	Waterfront Recreation	11	345
Commercial Dock & Beach	Waterfront Recreation	2	756
Thompsons West End Park	Waterfront Recreation	44	1,084
Memorial Park	Waterfront Recreation	62	1,083

Overall, park and recreation system resources are generally well distributed throughout the City of Washburn. Most City residents (74.3%) live within 1/4 mile of a park, while 100% reside within 1/2 mile of a park. Of the 2,051 City residents, nearly half (48.8%) live within 1/4 mile of public open space, while most (95.1%) reside within 1/2 mile of the City's open space resources, much of which is located along the City's waterfront.

1.5 REGIONAL AND STATE RECREATIONAL TRENDS

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION PLAN

The Wisconsin Statewide Recreation Plan (SCORP) evaluates outdoor recreation supply, demand, trends, and issues in Wisconsin. The 2019-2023 SCORP included a Recreation Opportunities Analysis conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to identify recreation needs for each of the 8 recreational regions in Wisconsin. The City of Washburn is within the 9-county Great Northwest Region of the state. High needs identified in the Recreational Opportunities Analysis for the Great Northwest Region include:



- ATV/UTV riding
- Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping - developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Fishing
- Four-wheel vehicle driving
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Hunting -big game
- Motor boating (including waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
- Off-highway motorcycle riding
- Swimming in lakes and rivers

BAYFIELD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

The Bayfield County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024 is a cooperative effort between Bayfield County and its many municipalities, which includes 25 towns, 2 cities (including the City of Washburn), as well as the Red Cliff Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, and several non-profits in the county. The plan identifies existing outdoor recreation-based infrastructure in Bayfield County while also listing foreseeable recreation facility needs.

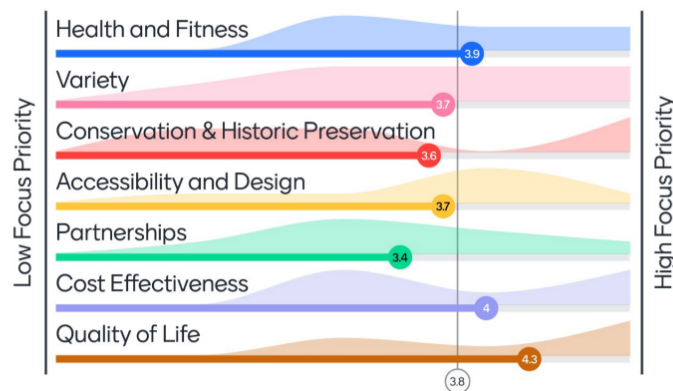
1.6 VISIONING

The vision framework for the Outdoor Recreation Element, prepared by the Washburn Parks Committee, was guided by the following basic principles.

- Plan should provide a guide for the sustainable development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities (sustainability related to economic and environment) things that are important include: maintenance, sustainability, balance place to live with place to come to visit, cost effectiveness, partnerships, conservation-minded, provide amenities that enhance the quality of life, people are drawn here because of nature and what we have.
- We need to continually engage and seek partners and we should be cautious about relying on partners too much. We should also create a partner list and communicate with partners as we develop a plan.
- We need to engage local residents; we need to determine what that engagement should look like (speak with people; page on City website; survey, etc.). We need to get lots of people's feedback, particularly from a diversity of generations and age groups.
- We also want to know what our visitors think/desire too as we develop the plan; we should make sure objectives and activities/projects are realistic and attainable. We also need to think about short-term and long-term maintenance. The plan should be a living document that can be updated.
- We could probably learn from other communities in our area related to how they created an outdoor recreation plan and engaged residents. Maybe we could get a presentation or meeting with them.
- Continue to visit and inventory City parks

These principles helped establish the core outdoor recreation planning focus topics, which were prioritized by the Parks Committee in March 2020.

Outdoor Recreation Planning Focus Topics



1.7 WASHBURN OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Overarching Goal: Provide a partnership-driven, cost-effective, conservation-based multi-purpose outdoor evolving recreation system that enhances the quality of life and sustainability for its infrastructure, residents, and visitors alike.

Focus Priority: Health and Fitness

Objective 1.1. Ensure healthy living activities and opportunities are easily accessible to residents and visitors through outdoor and indoor facility spaces.

Focus Priority: Variety

Objective 2.1. Offer various options and equitable opportunities for the public to participate in outdoor recreation experiences.

Focus Priority: Conservation & Historic Preservation

Objective 3.1 Invest in protecting outdoor and natural environments through historic preservation programming and conservation strategies.

Objective 3.2 Leverage the conservation and historic preservation investments through offering outdoor and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

Focus Priority: Accessibility and Design

Objective 4.1 Focus on creating and maintaining accessible outdoor recreation options and opportunities to facilitate a welcoming environment for locals and visitors balances healthy blend of natural and built environments for all to enjoy.

Focus Priority: Partnerships

Objective 5.1 Leverage and establishing new partnerships that provide representation in public, private, and non-profit sector collaboration that focuses on outdoor recreation.

Objective 5.2 Enable residents to provide feedback to enhance outdoor and recreational opportunities.

Focus Priority: Cost Effectiveness

Objective 6.1 Ensure that outdoor and recreation investments balance cost-effectiveness while leveraging opportunities that can benefit the community.

Focus Priority: Quality of Life

Objective 7.1 Promote lifestyle physical changes through investing in new and enjoyable outdoor recreational opportunities that encourage and challenge positive quality of life changes for residents and visitors.

Outdoor Recreation Development Policies

The City of Washburn's Outdoor Recreation Plan's needs were identified through a careful review of previous outdoor recreation assets and plans, on-site visits, and supported by the City of Washburn's Parks Committee and the city's administrative leadership, along with Northwest Regional Planning Commission staff's guidance of the process.

The following policies reflect and support the City of Washburn's Parks Committee's identified short-term project priorities and the necessary action steps towards implementing these policies accordingly.

1. Provide residents with opportunities to engage in recreational experiences throughout the city.
2. Evaluate potential recreation service gaps, emerging trends, and interests in outdoor recreation.
3. Collaborate with governmental, non-profit, and private entities to develop, maintain, and improve recreational facilities and resources for the benefit of the public.
4. Formalize user agreements with public, private, and non-profit partners for use and/or maintenance of city parks and recreational facilities.
5. Coordinate long range planning of parks and recreational resource with land use and the City's future land use map.
6. Manage parks and recreational facilities in a sustainable manner that promotes natural conditions, accessibility, safety standards, user needs, and emerging trends.
7. Maintain the Park Designated Fund as a means to support future park and recreational facility development and capital improvements.
8. Strive to balance city investments in parks and recreation development improvements between revenue generating facilities and other city parks and recreational assets.
9. Promote public awareness of the City's parks and recreational facilities through public meetings, wayfinding signage, maps, and other digital and print media.
10. Update the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan on a five-year cycle to maintain eligibility for state and federal grant programs.

Future Conceptual Improvements & Projects

The following is a list of conceptual outdoor recreational projects.

Inter-Community Trail

- Prepare recreational trail plan over abandoned railroad corridor between Washburn and Ashland for mixed use activities.
- Prepare recreational trail plan over abandoned railroad or existing highway corridors between Washburn and Bayfield for silent sports.
- Legal work to purchase lands and acquire easements as necessary.
- Surface trail with gravel or asphalt as warranted.
- Provide trail heads and parking as needed.
- Prepare maps and trail brochures.
- Undertake clearing and grade trail as necessary.
- Install bridges as necessary.
- Install signage as necessary.

Dupont Linear Park

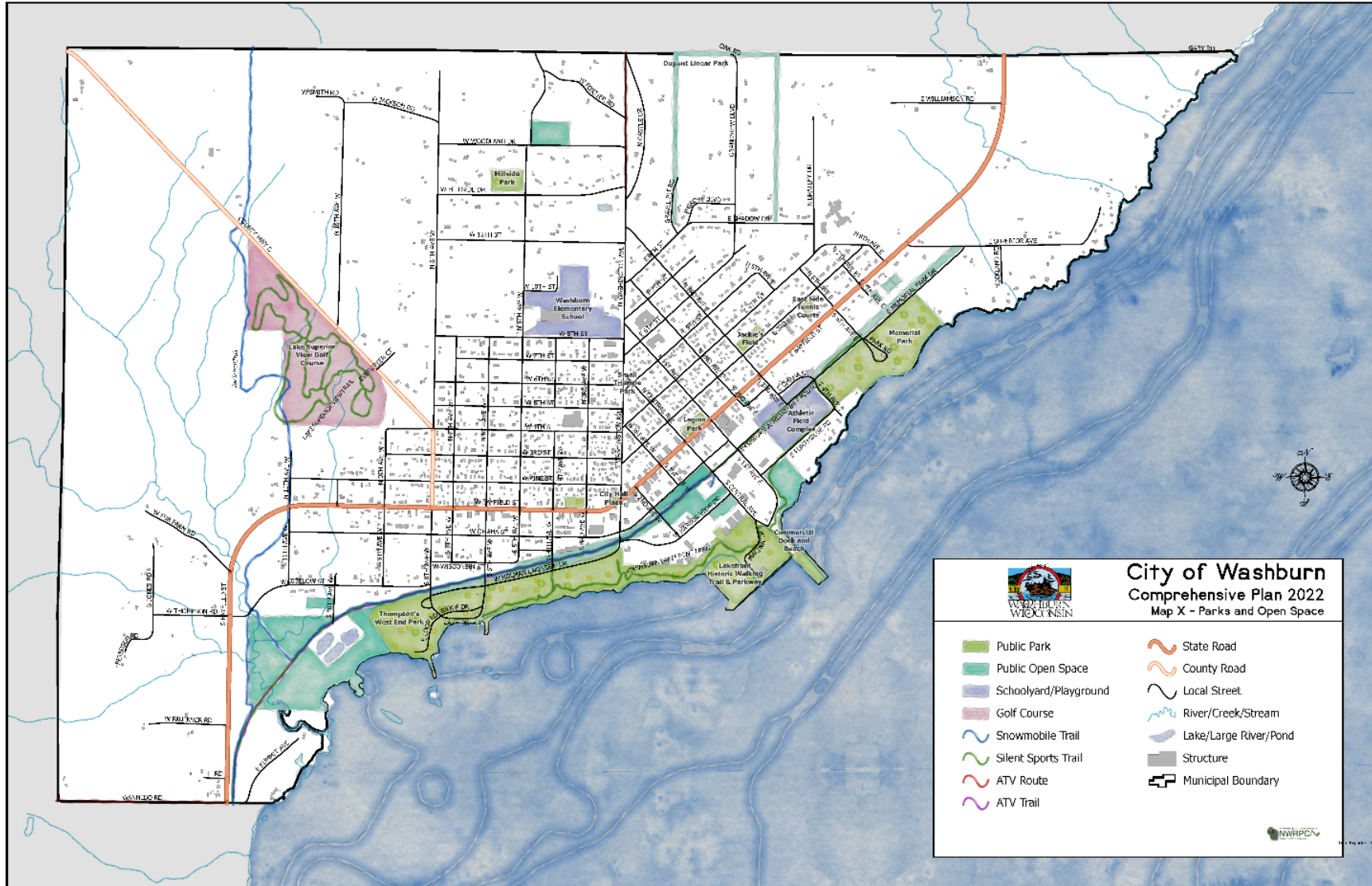
- Prepare park development plan.
- Provide clearing and grading of silent sports trail.
- Install benches.
- Surface trail with gravel.
- Prepare and publish maps and brochures of park.
- Purchase additional lands and easements as necessary to provide access to park, extend park, and establish trailheads.
- Provide signage as necessary.
- Install gates at access points to limit motorized vehicles.

Washburn Green Circle Trail

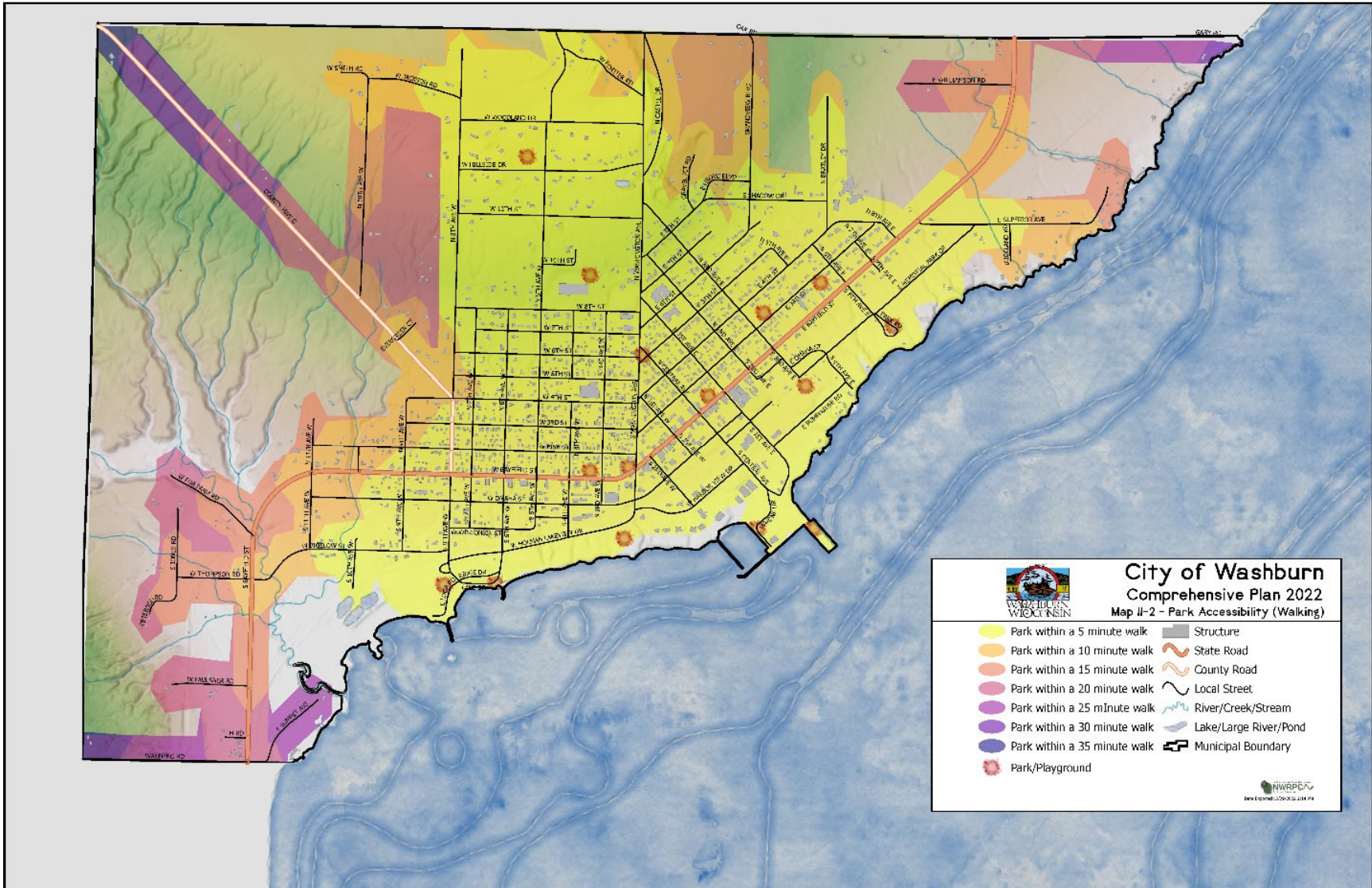
- Prepare trail development plan.
- Provide clearing and grading of silent sports trail.
- Install benches.
- Purchase trail maintenance equipment including ATV, trailers, and accessories.
- Surface trail with gravel.
- Install gates as necessary to limit motorized vehicles.
- Purchase additional lands and easements as necessary to provide access to park, extend park, and establish trailheads.
- Provide signage as necessary.
- Prepare and publish maps and brochures of park.
- Purchase of snowmobile and cross-country skiing trail grooming equipment.
- Bridge ravines and streams as necessary.

1.8 OUTDOOR RECREATION MAPS

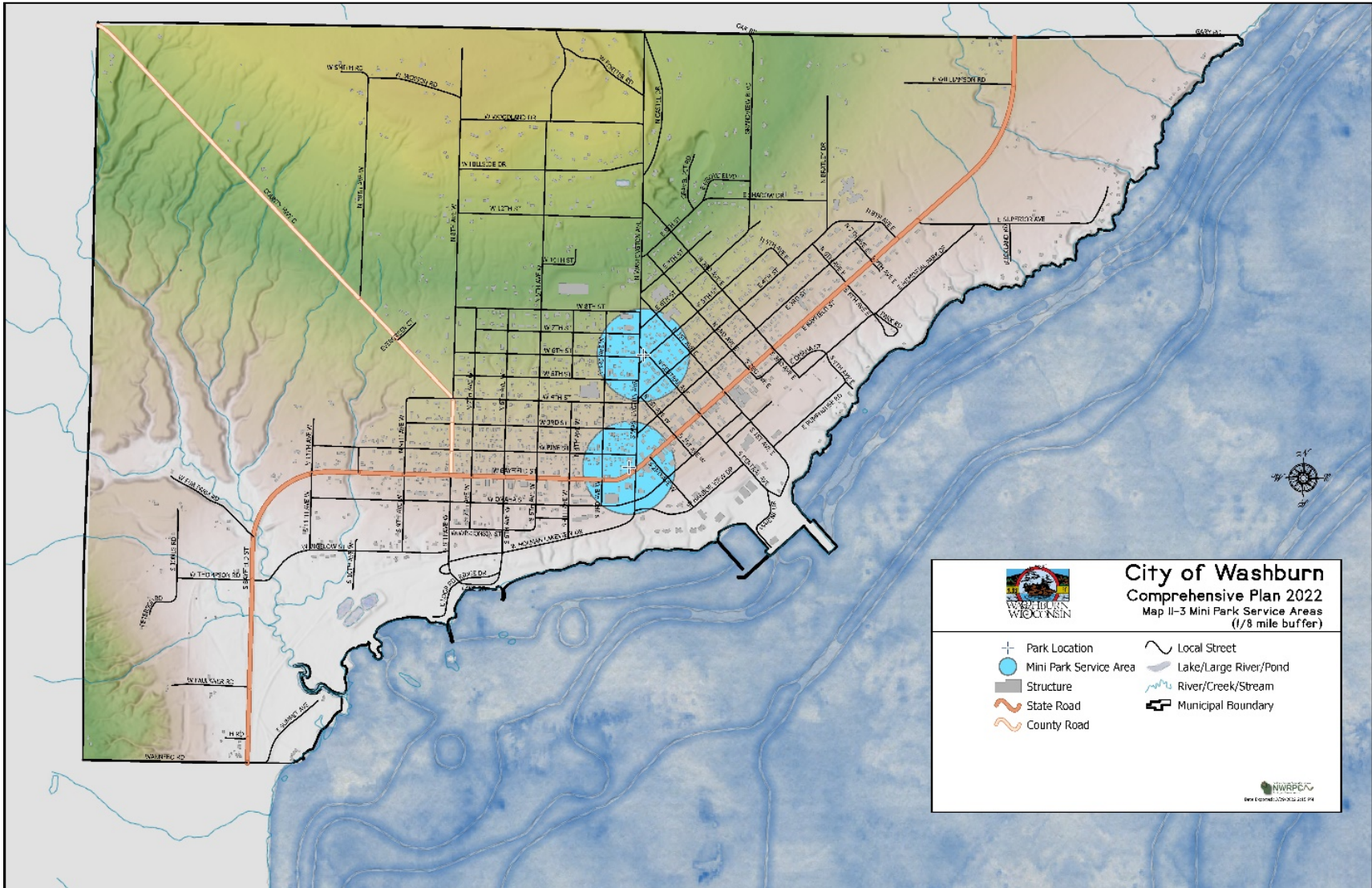
Parks And Open Space Map



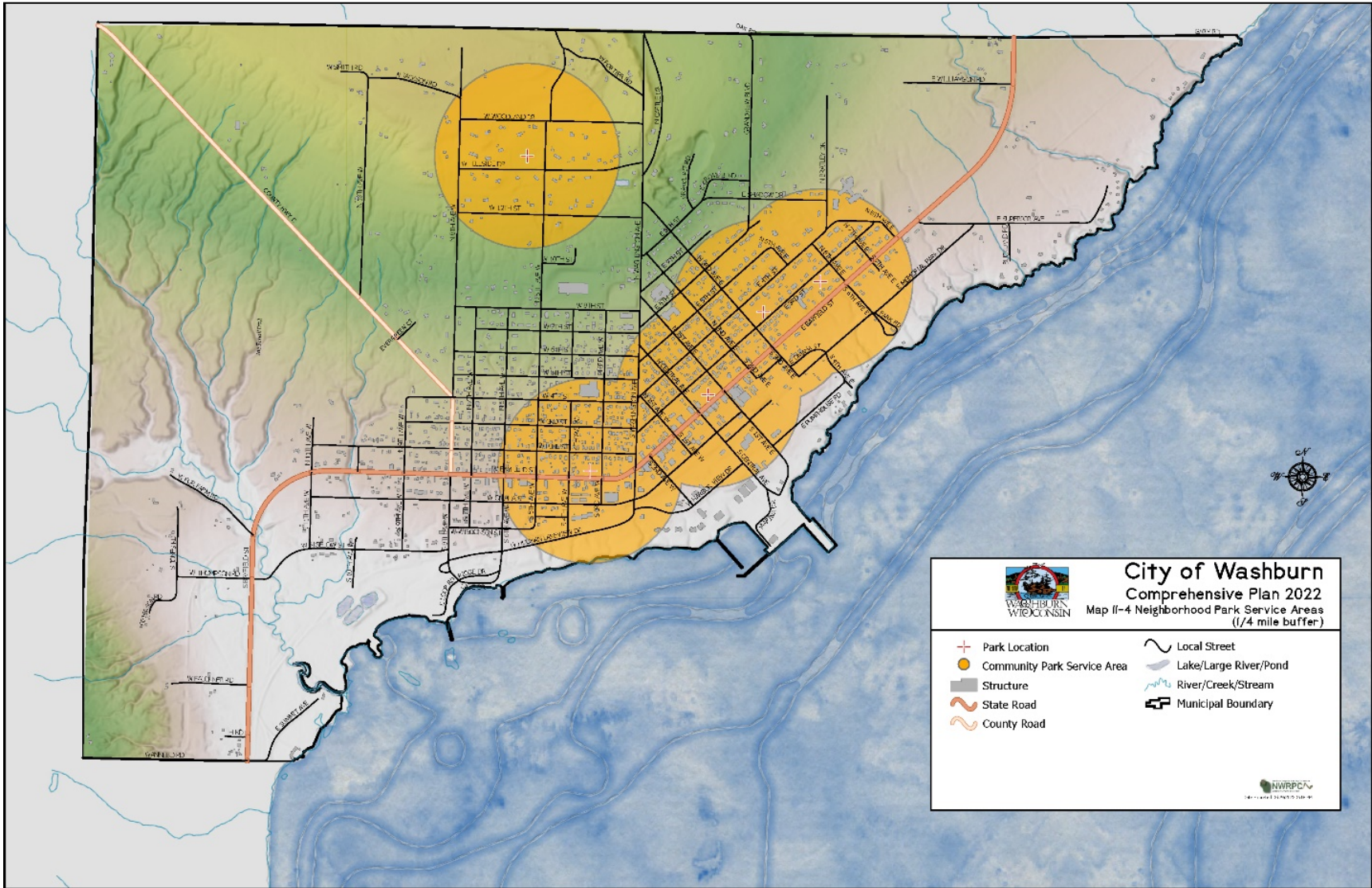
Park Accessibility Map (Walking)



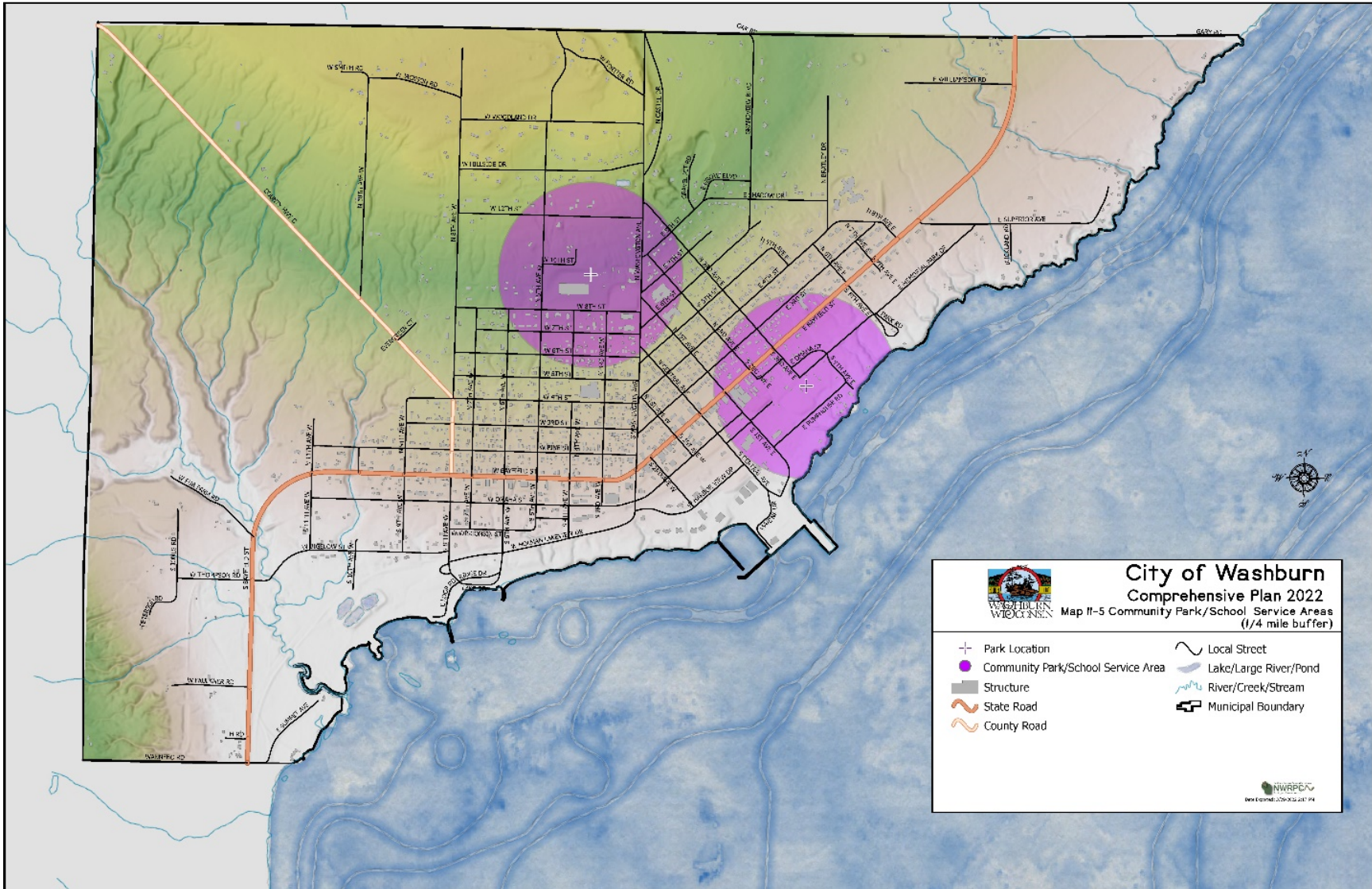
Mini Park Service Area Map (1/8 Mile Buffer)



Neighborhood Park Service Area Map (1/4 Mile Buffer)



Community Park Schools Service Areas (1/4 Mile Buffer)



Waterfront Recreation Service Area Map (1/4 Mile Buffer)

