



Village of Cambridge, Wisconsin Park and Open Space Plan

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	i
Table of Contents	iii
Introduction	1
Background Information	3
A. General Regional Context and Village History.....	3
B. Natural Resources	3
C. Population and Demographics.....	4
<i>Figure 1: Population Trends</i>	5
<i>Figure 2: Village of Cambridge Population Projections</i>	5
<i>Figure 3: Age Distribution</i>	6
<i>Figure 4: Racial Distribution</i>	6
<i>Figure 5: Hispanic and Latino Distribution</i>	7
<i>Figure 6: Occupational Distribution</i>	7
<i>Figure 7: Household Characteristics</i>	7
<i>Map 1: Existing Park and Recreational Facilities</i>	11
Existing Park and Recreational Facilities.....	13
A. Mini-Parks.....	13
B. Neighborhood Parks.....	13
C. Community Parks.....	13
D. Regional Parks.....	13
E. Public School Parks.....	14
F. Lake and Creek Access Points.....	14
G. Trails	14
H. Other Recreational Facilities.....	15
I. “Special Open Space” Areas.....	15
Goals, Objectives, and Policies	17
A. Goals.....	17
B. Objectives	17
C. Policies	17
Park and Recreation Standards.....	19
National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Standards	19
A. Mini-Parks.....	19
B. Neighborhood Parks.....	19
C. Community Parks.....	20
D. School Parks	20
E. Special Open Space Areas.....	21
F. Recreation Trails.....	22
Analysis of Existing Park and Recreational Facilities	25
A. Quantitative Analysis	25
<i>Figure 8: Park Acreage Analysis, 2007</i>	25
<i>Figure 9: Existing Recreational Facilities</i>	26

B. Qualitative Analysis 26

C. Geographic Analysis 28

D. Future Park System Needs 29

Figure 10: Park Acreage Needs, 2015 29

Figure 11: Park Acreage Needs, 2025 29

Map 2: Existing Park Service Areas 31

Recommended Park and Open Space Improvements 33

A. Recommended Additional Parklands 33

B. Development of Unique Recreational Facilities 36

C. Recommended Recreation Trails 36

D. Recommended Improvements to Existing Parks 37

Map 3: Planned Park and Recreational Facilities 39

Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreational Facilities 41

A. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreational Facilities 41

Figure 12: Projected Parkland Dedication and Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication 41

B. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Playground Improvements 41

Figure 13: Projected Playground Improvements by Park Type 42

Figure 14: Projected Playground Fees 42

C. Total Impact Fee 42

Impact on Low-Income Housing 43

Implementation 45

Appendix A: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities 47

Appendix B: State and Federal Grant Program 49

Introduction

Communities throughout the country are recognizing that park land, recreation trails, and natural areas are key components of high quality living environments. Such open spaces provide a community with many benefits. These include supplying opportunities for outdoor recreation, promoting and accommodating a healthy lifestyle for residents, enhancing the aesthetic quality of a community, increasing property values, attracting visitors and tourists, shaping development patterns, and protecting the natural environment.

The primary purpose of this *Plan* is to proactively account for the Village's future park and recreation needs. Furthermore, the recommendations presented in the *Plan* will guide the acquisition, preservation, and development of land for parks, recreation trails, and other open spaces in the Village to meet the needs of a growing and changing population. Such recommendations will also serve to protect and enhance the community's natural resource base into the future. Although, this *Plan* addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community (through the year 2025), it focuses on recommendations for development over the next seven-year period.

This *Plan* is intended to incorporate and refine the previous findings and recommendations presented in the Village's 1988 *Park and Open Space Plan* and the *Village of Cambridge Smart Growth 2025 Comprehensive Plan*. It also reflects input from Village officials and staff.

This *Plan* was prepared in accordance with guidelines and criteria of a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan that will make it certifiable by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and will qualify the Village for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund. The *Plan* must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. This *Plan* was also prepared as a component of the Village's Comprehensive Plan, under Wisconsin Statutes 62.23 and 61.35, and is intended to serve as a detailed component of the Village's "Smart Growth" Comprehensive Plan under Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.

Background Information

A. General Regional Context and Village History

The Village of Cambridge is a small Village located 20 miles east of Madison straddling the border between Dane County and Jefferson County. State Highways 12 and 18 intersect in the Village, offering good transportation access to the Madison metropolitan area and the other communities surrounding of the Village. Because of its proximity to regional highway systems and to larger metropolitan areas, the Village and surrounding Towns have faced substantial development pressures over the last decade. The Village has a population of over 1,200 people, and the surrounding Towns of Oakland and Christiana together have populations totaling another 4,650 residents. In addition to the resident populations, visitors from outside the immediate area also make use of the boat landings on Lake Ripley, the recreational facilities in Cam-rock Park, and other public facilities.

B. Natural Resources

A survey of Cambridge's natural environment provides an important framework for guiding the park and open space planning process. There are several characteristics of the Village's natural landscape that will direct the development of future park and recreational facilities.

Climate

Southeastern Wisconsin's climate is characterized by four distinct seasons. Warm summers generally span the months of June through August. The winter months of December, January, and February are cold, with average temperatures below freezing. The region is characterized by temperate conditions in spring and autumn. The first autumn freeze typically occurs around the second week of October, and the last spring freeze is usually sometime during the first week of May.

Soils

As defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Village of Cambridge is dominated by two major soil associations.

- The Fox-Casco-Matherton association is predominant in the Jefferson County portion of the Village. This association is characterized by somewhat poorly drained, well drained, and somewhat excessively drained, nearly level to very steep soils that have a loamy subsoil and are underlain by sand and gravel. These soils have fair to good potential for commonly grown farm crops, as well as residential and other urban uses.
- The Batavia-Houghton-Dresden association is mostly found in the Dane County portion of the Village. This association includes soils ranging from well to poorly drained. These deep and moderately deep silt loams and mucks were formed in outwash material near streams or adjacent to glacial moraines. They are well drained and gently sloping to sloping but have slight to moderate limitations for most urban uses.

Water Bodies and Watersheds

The Village of Cambridge lies in the Lower Rock River Basin. This basin drains an area of 1,857 square miles, all of which lies within the glaciated portion of the state in the southeast upland soil-landform region. The basin is comprised of 15 watersheds, which range in land use from rural-agricultural to intensely urbanized. These 15 watersheds include larger, slow-moving, turbid water bodies such as the Yahara River, as well as cold water trout streams, such as the Rutland Branch of Badfish Creek and Spring Creek in the Badfish Creek Watershed.

The Village of Cambridge is located in the lower Koshkonong Creek Watershed. The watershed covers an area of 220 square miles, or 140,480 acres. Two-thirds of the land area is evenly divided between Rock and

Dane counties, with 26% of the remaining area in Jefferson County and 5% in Walworth County. The watershed includes Lake Koshkonong and the Rock River from Ft. Atkinson to the Indianford Dam. Other streams in the watershed include Saunders, Allen and Otter creeks, and a portion of the main stem of the Rock River. While the majority of wetlands in the watershed have been drained for agricultural purposes, many significant wetlands remain. In Dane County, the towns of Albion and Christiana have soil loss rates of 8.1 and 8.3 tons per acre per year, respectively. The town of Oakland in Jefferson County has the second highest total soil loss in the county. Such soil loss, coupled with wetland drainage and stream channel straightening, indicates significant amounts of sediment likely reaches the watershed's surface waters, adversely affecting habitat and water quality.

Koshkonong Creek flows through the Village of Cambridge. Lake Ripley, located east of the Village in the Town of Oakland, is the largest surface water resource near the Village. Other significant surface waters include Red Cedar Lake, located south of the Village in the Town of Oakland.

Vegetation

At the time of European settlement, much of southeastern Wisconsin was covered with prairie and oak savannah, oak woods, and lowlands. Since that time, most of the land has been converted to agricultural and urban uses. There are several stands of woodlands around the Village and there are three stands of woodlands within the Village, two in the far northern portion of the Village and one in the far southwestern portion. Currently, approximately 7% percent of the Village remains wooded. Dominant native forest types include oak-hickory and maple basswood.

Wildlife Habitat

Species of wildlife common to the southeastern Wisconsin region are rabbits, squirrels, woodchucks, raccoons, muskrats, and beavers. Larger mammals such as white-tailed deer, coyotes, and foxes also inhabit the region. Common bird species include pheasants, cardinals, robins, woodthrushes, great blue herons, and killdeer.

WisDNR's Natural Heritage Inventory program maintains data on the general location and status of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species and natural communities in the state. This program identifies there are 40 documented occurrences of rare or threatened species or communities in the Village and surrounding towns of Christina, Deerfield, Oakland, and Lake Mills. These included one butterfly, one bird, six fish, three frog, one turtle, eleven plant species, and seventeen natural communities.

C. Population and Demographics

Population

Over the past thirty years, the Village of Cambridge has experienced steady increases in its population. Figure 1 shows the Village's U.S. Census population from 1980 to 2005. These numbers are compared to population trends for the town of Oakland, Dane County, Jefferson County and the State of Wisconsin. Between 1990 and 2000, the Village's population grew approximately 14 percent. This is significantly greater than the state, Jefferson County, and Town of Christiana growth rates, slightly less than the Dane County growth rates, and significantly less than the Town of Oakland growth rates.

Figure 1: Population Trends

	1980	1990	2000	2005*	1990 – 2000 % Change
Cambridge	844	963	1,101	1,227	14.3%
Town of Christiana	1,209	1,182	1,313	1,419	11.1%
Town of Oakland	2,240	2,526	3,135	3,232	24.1%
Jefferson County	66,152	67,783	75,767	79,328	11.8%
Dane County	323,545	367,085	426,526	458,106	16.2%
Wisconsin	4,705,767	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,556,506	9.6%

Source: Department of Administration, 2004. *US Census Bureau, 2005

Figure 1 depicts three population projection methods. The first projection was prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. The 15-Year Straight Line Projection was calculated by determining the Village's average annual population change for the last 15 years and projecting that forward for the next 20 years. The 15-Year Compounded Projection was calculated by determining the average annual percent change over the last 15 years and projecting that forward for the next 20 years.

The Village expects that historic growth trends will continue. For this reason, this *Plan* rejects the DOA projections for the Village of Cambridge. For the purposes of this *Plan*, the Village will utilize the 15-Year Compounded Projection. Using this growth rate projection, the population of the Village is expected to grow to approximately 1,695 by 2025.

Figure 2: Village of Cambridge Population Projections

	2000 ¹	2005 ² Estimate	2010 Projection	2015 Projection	2020 Projection	2025 Projection
Department of Administration	1,101	1,227	1,261	1,328	1,401	1,480
15-Straightline Projections ³	1,101	1,227	1,315	1,403	1,491	1,579
15-Year Compounded Projection ⁴	1,101	1,227	1,330	1,442	1,563	1,695

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 population estimate

³ Extrapolated based on the average annual population change from 1990-2005 $((2005 \text{ pop} - 1990 \text{ pop}) / 15)$

⁴ Extrapolated based on the average annual percentage change from 1990-2005 (1.63 %)

The projections presented in Figure 2 will be useful for long-term park and recreational facility planning. However, it should be noted that the Village's actual future population will depend on social and economic trends, changes in the market, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations. Based on the 15-year Compounded projection, the Village's 2007 population is 1,267. The Village's projected 2008 population is 1,288.

Age Distribution

Figure 3 presents information about age demographics in the Village. Overall, Cambridge is characterized a higher median age (39.9 years in 2000) than the surrounding towns, counties or the State. This is the largely the result of the high percentage of retirees in the Village. Currently, 19.5 percent of the population is over 65, and another 18.8 percent is between 45 and 65 years of age. The relatively high percentage of retirees also skews the percentage of younger residents. Approximately 24 percent of the Village's population is under 18, which is fewer than in the surrounding towns and the State as a whole. However, the number of people under age 5 is actually higher than surrounding communities and indicates that the Village is becoming a more popular place to raise a family, and that demand for parks will likely come from younger as well as older residents.

Figure 3: Age Distribution

	Median Age	% under 5	% under 18	% over 65
Cambridge	39.9	6.6%	24.3%	19.5%
Town of Christiana	38.5	5.6%	27.2%	10.7%
Town of Oakland	39.5	5.9%	25.4%	12%
Jefferson County	36.6	6.3%	25.2%	12.6%
Dane County	33.2	6.1%	22.6%	9.3%
Wisconsin	36.0	6.4%	25.5%	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Racial Distribution

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, in 2000, Cambridge was characterized by a predominately “White” population (98.5% percent), as was Dane County (98.2 percent), Jefferson County (96.3 percent) and the State of Wisconsin (88.9 percent) (Figure 6). Furthermore, the proportion of “Black or African American” residents in Cambridge (0.1 percent) was comparable to Jefferson County (0.3 percent) but considerably lower than Dane County (4.0 percent) and the State (5.7 percent). The proportion of “Asian” residents was also less than both Counties and the State. These data depict a relatively homogeneous population.

Figure 4: Racial Distribution

	Village of Cambridge	Dane County	Jefferson County	State of Wisconsin
White	98.5%	98.2%	96.3%	88.9%
Black or African American	0.1%	4.0%	0.3%	5.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.9%
Asian	0.3%	3.5%	0.4%	1.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0%	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Some Other Race	0.5%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%
Two or More Races	0.5%	1.8%	0.9%	1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

For Census 2000: People who identify with the terms “Hispanic” or “Latino” are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories listed on the Census 2000 or ACS questionnaire – “Mexican,” “Puerto Rican,” or “Cuban” - as well as those who indicate that they are “other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino.” Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. The Census does not include Hispanic and Latino people in the racial distribution. They are considered to be an ethnicity. The Village of Cambridge had a significantly lower percentage of “Hispanic or Latino” residents than Dane County, Jefferson County and the State according to 2000 Census data.

Figure 5: Hispanic and Latino Distribution

	Village of Cambridge	Dane County	Jefferson County	State of Wisconsin
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	1.0%	3.4%	4.1%	3.6%
Not Hispanic or Latino	99.0%	96.6%	95.9%	96.4%
White Alone	98.1%	87.4%	94.3%	87.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Employment Characteristics

The Village's relative close proximity to urban centers such as the Cities of Madison, Janesville, and Milwaukee provides a wide variety of employment opportunities for Cambridge residents. In 2000, 71 percent of Cambridge's population age 16 and older was in the labor force. Figure 6 shows the Village's occupational distribution.

Figure 6: Occupational Distribution

Occupational Group	Percentage of Employed Labor Force
Management or Professional	34.1%
Service Occupations	13.7%
Sales and Office	33.6%
Farming, Fishing, Forestry	0.0%
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance	8.7%
Production, Transportation	9.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Household Characteristics

In 2000, the average household size in Cambridge was 2.32 persons per household. As shown in Figure 7, the average household size in the Village was slightly lower than that of the surrounding counties, the State, and the surrounding towns. Furthermore, the Village had a much lower proportion of owner-occupied housing than Jefferson County and the surrounding towns but a greater proportion than Dane County and the State.

Figure 7: Household Characteristics

	Total Housing Units	Total Households	Average Household Size	% Owner-Occupied
Cambridge	483	470	2.32	70.6%
Town of Christiana	492	468	2.81	81%
Town of Oakland	1,437	1,236	2.54	86.7%
Jefferson County	30,092	28,205	2.55	71.7%
Dane County	180,398	173,484	2.37	57.6%
Wisconsin	2,321,144	2,084,544	2.50	68.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Review of Existing Plans

Another critical step in the park planning process is an examination of past planning efforts in the Village. A comprehensive understanding of how the Village has evolved over time and how it has been planning for the future establishes guidelines for this *Plan's* recommendations. Moreover, a review of existing plans helps identify ways this *Plan* should be adapted so that it is consistent with the Village's ongoing goals, objectives, and policies, and to ensure it is coordinated with regional planning efforts.

Park and Open Space Plan: Village of Cambridge (1988)

In 1988, the Village prepared a *Park and Open Space Plan*. This plan presented the following recommendations:

- Emphasize the development of walkway and bikeway linkages to improve the interconnection between the different types of park and recreation facilities.
- Enhance the current passive recreation opportunities of Village Square Park by developing restroom facilities, making landscape improvements, and improving the current skating rink.
- Development of a downtown Community Center.
- Specific equipment and facility upgrades for existing parks including Westside Park and Greenway Park.
- Work cooperatively with the Town of Oakland and the Cambridge Foundation to upgrade facilities in Lake Ripley Park.
- Adopt a street tree ordinance that requires the placement of street trees in all public parks and along all public streets.

Of these recommendations the following have been implemented: The Amundson Community Center has been constructed, Westside Park is undergoing extensive upgrades including a new ice rink, paths, and playground equipment which will be completed by the end of 2007. Future plans for the park include a new shelter. The Village continues to work with the Cambridge Foundation on park improvements including those in Westside Park and other park and recreation projects such as restoration of the Village owned sanitary sewer ponds for recreation/habitat restoration purposes. The Village Subdivision ordinance contains requirements for sidewalks in new subdivisions and preservation of street tree terraces and easements, but does not establish standards for planting of new street trees.

Items not completed include development of a comprehensive pedestrian and bikeway network for the Village connecting different facilities (although the Village is conducting studies to do so), improvements to Greenway park have been limited to mowing of the eastern half of the park, the Village subdivision ordinance does not specify standards for the planting of street trees.

Village of Cambridge Smart Growth 2025 Comprehensive Plan (2005)

On January 25th 2005, the Village updated its 1996 Long Range Plan to comply with Wisconsin's 1999 Smart Growth planning legislation. The plan presented recommendations for the Village's parks and recreational facilities, as well as for natural resource areas. Since these recommendations were formulated so recently, many of them will be carried forward into this *Park and Recreation Plan*.

The plan's recommendations included:

- Preserve and protect surface water features, including the cultural and scenic resources associated with these stream corridors.
- Develop smaller, accessible neighborhood parks within residential areas to create a sense of identity for the neighborhood and a gathering place for its residents.
- Environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs), such as wetlands and floodways, should not be developed and should be placed in conservancy. These features should be included in the design of developments as integral amenities and in some cases maintained in common ownership and utilized in the design of stormwater management facilities.

- Parkways are recommended as linear parks typically along waterways. These parks are proposed to be primarily passive in nature, but could include trails, park benches, and/or picnic tables.
- Greater amounts of natural areas and other green space should be included in newly developed areas. Wetlands, watercourses, and other natural features should be integrated into new developments rather than ignored, redesigned, or destroyed.
- Propose a network of pedestrian/bicycle pathways connecting various parts of the Village to key destination points including existing trailways along Koshkonong Creek and regional resources including Cam-Rock Park and the Glacial Drumlin State Trail.

Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan 2006-2011 (2006)

This latest update to Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan was developed in cooperation with 26 Dane County local units of government, various other county and state agencies and 15 non profit conservation groups. The plan provides an inventory of the county's twenty six recreation parks as well as natural areas, forests, bicycle-pedestrian paths, water paths, and related recreation and open space assets. The plan also includes recommendations for improvements to and expansion of these parks areas, as well as identifying locations and recommendations for new parks and open space areas. Recommendations for the Village of Cambridge area include implementing improvements to and expansion of Cam-rock Park as recommended in the 2006 Cam-rock Park Master Plan (see below) and exploring the possibility of expanding the multi-use trail system in Cam-rock Park north through the Village and beyond at least as far as the Glacial Drumlin State Trail.

Cam-Rock Park Master Plan (2006)

Cam-Rock Park is a 422 acre park that includes lands on both sides of Koshkonong Creek between the Villages of Cambridge and Rockdale. The Park is classified as a recreation park by the Dane County Parks and Recreation Department and has miles multi use trails, three separate use areas with shelter facilities and play areas and mountain biking trails in Area #3 of the Park. The park also includes land classed as Natural Resource Areas. Plans for the park include additional land acquisitions through easements or purchase, prairie restoration at select spots, expansion of the trail system, including a hardened bicycle trail north to the Village of Cambridge, and various other enhancements such as bridges, kiosks, informational signage, shelters, parking areas, dog exercise areas, and a canoe-kayak landing with a launch point at Westside Park in Cambridge. The Plan recommends Village greenways and connector trails to augment and provide access to the Park. The Plan also includes recommendations for Dane County to work closely with the Village of Cambridge, the Village of Rockdale, the Cambridge Foundation and various other agencies and private entities to the share costs and responsibilities for plan implementation.

Dane County Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan (1999)

Dane County prepared the *Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan* in October 1999. This plan provides a vision and guidelines for growth, development, and land preservation in Dane County over the next two decades. The plan is intended to function as the primary policy document setting forth goals and objectives and a vision of how Dane County should grow and develop in a manner that preserves the natural resources and environmental quality of the County. A fundamental goal of the this plan is to guide and manage Dane County growth and development in a manner that will preserve the rural character, agricultural base, and natural resources of the countryside and contribute to the high quality of life and prosperity of the communities.

Bicycle Transportation Plan for the Madison Urban Area and Dane County (2000)

The Madison Area MPO prepared and adopted the Bicycle Transportation Plan in 2000. This plan identifies desirable bicycle and pedestrian facility routes throughout the Madison Metropolitan area and Dane County.

For less developed portions of Dane County, including the Cambridge Area, the plan focuses mostly on using existing road and highway rights-of-way to serve as bicycle routes between Dane County communities, parks, and other destinations. The level of improvements necessary for a given route depends on the capacity and

Average Daily Traffic of the proposed route. The plan also calls for separate, off road bicycle trails at locations where such facilities are necessary for safety or provide desirable recreation trails through parks and natural areas. The Plan identifies several programmed or proposed projects for the Village of Cambridge Area, including:

- Shoulder Paving/Bike Lane along CTH B between Cambridge and Rockdale.
- Shoulder Paving/Bike Lane along CTH B between Rockdale and STH 73.
- Shoulder Paving/Bike Lane on US 12/18 west of Cambridge and along STH 73 from US 12/18 to Deerfield and from US 12/18 south.
- Proposed Multi-use trail through Cam-Rock Park between Cambridge and Rockdale.
- Proposed Multi-use trail from Cambridge to the Glacier Drumlin State Recreation Trail north of the Village.

Jefferson County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (1997)

This plan developed a series of general park recommendations for Jefferson County based on an inventory and assessment of existing park and open spaces. General recommendations include the following:

- Consider preserving/acquiring areas around lakes for passive/natural activities.
- Identify 4-6 possible new sites for larger resource oriented parks.
- Attempt to bring Jefferson County Parks into a more typical “standard” (as defined by national and state standards) for the provisions of County parks.
- Consider incorporating hiking and other low impact trails as larger tracts of parkland become available.

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – 2005-2010

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) examines and assesses current and future recreational needs within the state. To aid in this process, Wisconsin was divided into a group of eight planning regions, each representing a loose collection of natural resource and tourism based assets. The Village of Cambridge is located in the Southern Gateway Planning Region.

One of the primary purposes of the SCORP is to identify shortfalls in recreation facilities across the state. This identification process relies on both primary data gathering techniques such as surveys, local park and recreation plans, as well as anecdotal comments on recreation user perceptions. In the Southern Gateways Planning Region, the SCORP identifies the following nature-based supply shortages: backcountry/walk-in camping, boat launches – carry-in, natural areas, public water access, and trails – hiking, and trails – horseback riding. The SCORP also includes the following developed recreation supply shortages: boat launches trailerable, camps – educational, dog parks, ice skating rinks, nature centers, picnic areas, sailboat clubs/rentals, tennis courts and programs, and trails – bicycle.

Several recreation needs are common throughout the state. Common deficiencies within the nature-based category include a shortage of parks, camping, carry-in boat launches, and certain trail types. These elements are, for the most part, provided at a federal, state, or county level of development. Within the developed setting category, local shortages such as basketball courts, ice skating rinks, trailerable boat launches, and dog parks are the most common.

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report

In the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report, the DNR identified those key places around the state that are critical to meeting Wisconsin’s conservation and outdoor recreation needs over the next 50 years. The Report identifies several sites in Dane and Jefferson Counties, including creating a network of connected open space from Lake Koshkonong and the Kettle Moraine Area.

Map 1: Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

The following is a summary of the existing park and recreational facilities within and in close proximity to the Village. These facilities are depicted on Map 1. A complete list of the facilities within each park is provided in Appendix A.

The Village maintains 4 parks. As of 2007, the Village had approximately 5.61 acres of parks and open space, encompassing one-tenth (.1) of its total land area. Of this total, the *Plan* classifies 1.8 acres in Greenway Park as conservancy land, and excludes this area from the standard park classifications discussed below.

A. Mini-Parks

Village Veteran's Park: This small 0.4-acre downtown park has historically functioned as a village green or village square surrounded by Village businesses. Facilities include park benches.

Founder's Park consists of two very small parcels totaling approximately .21 acres. Located southeast of the intersection of Main Street and Water Street, on either side of a private plaza, these small publicly owned lots provide informal public gathering space in which to socialize and relax while downtown. Given its close proximity to Village Veteran's Park and Westside Park, Founder's Park primarily serves the same segment of the population and geographic area. The Park currently includes benches and an information kiosk/community bulletin board is proposed.

Greenway Park: This 3.4-acre park is located in the southwest portion of the Village on either side of Madison Street. The eastern 1.6 acre portion of the park is graded level and mowed and is suitable for active recreation in an informal setting. There are no other improvements in the park at this time. The 1.8 acre portion west of Madison Street is heavily wooded and has low-lying topography. It may be feasible to create a multi use trail through the western part of the park to connect the existing neighborhood with future development further to the west and north. For purposes of this plan, only the eastern part of the park is classified as a mini-park, while the western portion is classified natural resource protection area.

B. Neighborhood Parks

Westside Park: This 1.6-acre park is owned and operated by the Village and centrally located to all developed parts of Cambridge. The park is located north east of Water Street and Pleasant Street. The Koshkonong Creek forms the northeastern boundary of the park and a bikeway trail connects the park to Cam-Rock County Park to the south. Facilities include an ice rink, restrooms, concession stand, playground equipment, and pedestrian/bike paths. Though less than the recommended size for a typical Neighborhood Park, its location, facilities, and use as a civic gathering place make it a neighborhood and community facility.

C. Community Parks

Lake Ripley Park: This 18 acre-park is located approximately one quarter of a mile to the east of the Village in the Town of Oakland. The park is owned and maintained largely through the Cambridge Foundation and fees are required for admittance to the park. While the park offers recreational opportunities for Village residents, the park's location and ownership arrangement mean that this park does not fully serve all of the functions typically associated with a community park. Facilities include a sand beach on Lake Ripley with bathhouse facility, swimming area, and waterslide; two tennis courts, 6 basketball goals, playground area, picnic areas including picnic tables and grills, and a shelter.

D. Regional Parks

Cam-Rock Park: This 422-acre Dane County Park includes land on both sides of the Koshkonong Creek from the Village southern border of the Village of Cambridge limits south to the Village of Rockdale. The

majority of the park is comprised of environmental corridor associated with the Koshkonong Creek but formal park facilities and amenities are located at various specific areas within the park. All together, facilities to date include three shelters and picnic areas, grills, play equipment, a softball field, mountain bike, cross country ski and nature trails, a camp area, sledding hill, and portions of a proposed hardened bicycle trail that will eventually connect the two Villages (an unhardened trail already connects the Village of Cambridge to areas further south). Although the proximity of Cam-Rock Park provides obvious benefits to Village residents, the predominantly passive recreation/environmental preservation character of the park, the Village's relative distance from active use areas of the park, and the fact that the park is intended to serve the wider region mean that this park cannot serve as an adequate substitute for mini-parks, neighborhood, parks, and community parks within the Village.

E. Public School Parks

The public schools in Cambridge are relatively accessible to Village residents both geographically and in terms of availability to the general public outside of school hours. School athletic fields are currently the only facilities in the Village capable of hosting formal team sports. School facilities also provide open space for less formal active recreation.

- Cambridge Elementary School: This 29 acre school campus includes a large athletic field with room for three soccer fields (including goals), one softball back stop, two basket ball goals, two playground areas, and an indoor community swimming pool that is open to the public when not in use by the school.
- Nicolet Middle School: This 4.5-acre area is owned and maintained by the school district. Facilities include field play areas and three softball diamonds.
- Cambridge High School: This 25-acre area is owned and maintained by the school district. Facilities include open field active recreation areas including two baseball diamonds, a football field, soccer field and an outdoor track.

F. Lake and Creek Access Points

The Koshkonong Creek runs through the Village and provides an opportunity to create one or more public canoe landings to provide access to this navigable waterway. The Cam-Rock Park Plan recommends that the Village create a canoe and kayak landing at Westside Park as part of the proposed water trail through Cam-Rock Park. Additional canoe and kayak landing locations may be possible elsewhere in the Village, such as the former Wastewater Treatment Site.

The Village is not located immediately adjacent to any lakes. A public boat landing is located on the southern shore of Lake Ripley in the Town of Oakland in Jefferson County. The landing is open to boaters from May until October and a fee for use is required. Two other public boat landings, located on the south shore of Lake Ripley off of State HWY 12, are noted on the Wisconsin Lakes.com website, but no details are provided.

G. Trails

While there are currently no formal bicycle or multi use trails in the Village, several pedestrian and bicycle accommodations can be found in the Cambridge area. These included 6.2 miles of mountain bike trails, 4.1 miles of multi-purpose unpaved trails, and 1 mile of paved bicycle trail found along Koshkonong Creek south of the Village in Cam-rock Park. The multi-use trail runs to the Village's southern border.

Further from the Village, the Glacial Drumlin trail is located north of the Village in the Town of Deerfield. This trail runs from the Village of Cottage Grove to the City of Waukesha.

Transportation and bicycle plans for Dane and Jefferson Counties identify roadways that are or are planned to be most suitable for biking. In Dane County, CTH PQ, CTH B and STH 73 are listed as suitable roads for

shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Ripley Road and Perry Road are considered suitable roads within Jefferson County.

The Village is currently exploring opportunities to create links to these existing and potential regional trails.

H. Other Recreational Facilities

In addition to public recreation facilities, the residents of Cambridge have access to a variety of other recreational resources:

- The Lake Ripley Country Club is a privately owned, 18-hole golf course located 3 miles from the Village Center immediately south of USH 12.

I. "Special Open Space" Areas

The Village owns a 46-acre property at the north end of the village adjacent to the west bank of the Koshkonong Creek. The property was formerly the site of the Village's wastewater treatment plant. With assistance from the Cambridge Foundation, the Village is currently exploring the feasibility of cleaning up and restoring 22 acres of the site, including restoring the ponds and adjacent property to a more natural state and stocking the ponds with native fish. The intent is to create a unique public park facility with opportunities to fish, bicycle, walk, or engage in other mainly passive recreational activities. Another goal is to connect this property with the rest of the Village with a multi-use trail recreation trail. Further in the future, the pond site and proposed trail along the Koshkonong Creek could conceivably be integrated into a regional trail and linear greenway system running from the Village of Rockdale south of the Village with the Glacier Drumlin State Recreation Trail to the north.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

In order to conduct a thorough and accurate planning process, it is important to establish a set of goals, objectives, and policies that will serve as the basis for the recommendations in this *Plan*.

Goals are broad statements that express general public priorities. Goals are formulated based on the identification of key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the park system.

Objectives are more specific than goals and are usually attainable through strategic planning and implementation activities. Implementation of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.

Policies are rules and courses of action used to ensure plan implementation. Policies often accomplish a number of objectives.

The following list of goals, objectives, and policies is based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this *Plan*, including citizen input and discussions amongst Village Staff and Parks Commission members.

A. Goals

1. Ensure the provision of sufficient parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of Village residents and visitors. Such facilities should accommodate special groups such as the elderly, the handicapped, and young children
2. Preserve the Village's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents

B. Objectives

1. Ensure that at least one park and recreation facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance (generally within $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile) for all Village residents.
2. Increase diversity of recreational opportunities (active and passive, resource and non-resource oriented) to meet the needs of various residents.
3. Provide safe pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to all parks and recreational facilities.
4. Balance acquisition and development of new parks and park land with maintenance and upgrading of existing park and recreational facilities.
5. Integrate the Village's park planning with surrounding Town, County, regional, and State open space preservation and recreation plans

C. Policies

1. The Village will provide a range of recreational opportunities for all citizens regardless of location, background, or ability.
2. The Village will attempt provide a diversity of recreational opportunities for different age groups and ensure that park facilities comply with ADA design guidelines.
3. The Village will continue to maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities where appropriate.
4. The Village will work to ensure that mini parks and neighborhood parks will be located throughout the Village so that every resident is within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of a public park. Neighborhood and mini-parks will be designed to act as neighborhood gathering places by providing multiple access points and providing at least minimal improvements such as landscaping, park furniture, and active play areas.

5. Parks will be integrated into the design of future neighborhood and development and linked by pedestrian and bicycle routes and/or greenways.
6. The Village will continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, surrounding natural features, and community needs
7. The Village will preserve environmentally sensitive areas and ensure their maintenance, either through public acquisition or the regulation of private lands.
8. The Village will attempt to acquire park and open space lands in advance of or in coordination with new development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facility planning.
9. The Village will continue to require parkland dedication or fees in lieu of parkland dedication from developers in order to meet the park recreational needs generated by new development and residents in accordance with the recommendations of this plan.
10. The Village will continue to work with the Department of Natural Resources, the Cambridge Foundation, and other entities to reclaim the former Village Wastewater Treatment ponds for fishing and other recreational activities.
11. The Village will continue explore opportunities to work cooperatively with the school districts to share recreation and open space facilities.
12. The Village will continue to work with the Cambridge Foundation and local Town governments to provide joint recreation facilities where deemed desirable or appropriate.
13. The Village will continue to coordinate with local, county, regional, and state planning entities to implement plans for Cam-rock Park
14. The Village will continue to coordinate with local, county, regional, and state planning entities to implement a regional bike trail system, including a bicycle trail linking Cam-rock Park with planned open space and recreational facilities within and to the north of the Village.
15. The Village will explore opportunities to coordinate with local, county, regional, and state planning entities to implement the goals of the Land Legacy Program.
16. The Village will provide signs to mark planned bicycle routes and trails within the Village.
17. The Village will amend its ordinances to ensure implementation of the recommendations and standards found in this *Plan*. All new residential development should comply with the park and opens space standards and recommendations outlined in this *Plan*.

Park and Recreation Standards

In order to guide the park planning process, it is important to establish a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents and to plan for future facilities based on projected population growth. As such, park and recreation standards are commonly expressed as a ratio of the number of minimum acres recommended per 1,000 residents. For example, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends that for every 1,000 residents, a community should provide 1 to 2 acres of neighborhood parks. NRPA standards will be used as a foundation for analysis. These standards are listed below.

Although such national standards provide acceptable target guidelines for the provision of parks and open spaces, a more thorough and accurate analysis of Cambridge's park system must emphasize the *local* demand for recreational resources. Therefore, a calculation of community-specific standards is more likely to identify those park system deficiencies that would not otherwise be captured by universal standards. Furthermore, a locally-derived standard will do a better job of taking into account the *quality* of the park system as well as the quantity of park lands provided. The Village's local standard will be identified and described in the next chapter: Analysis of Existing Park and Recreational Facilities.

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Standards

A. Mini-Parks

General Description: These parks offer specialized facilities that serve a centralized or limited population or specific group such as young children or senior citizens.

Service Area: Less than ¼ mile in residential areas

Desirable Size: 2,500 square feet to 2 acres

Acres per 1,000 Population: 0.25 – 0.5 acres

Basic Facilities and Activities:

- Coordinated play equipment and structures for pre-school and elementary school age children
- Conversation and sitting areas arranged to permit easy surveillance by parents
- Landscaped areas that provide buffering and shade
- Lighting for security at night (direct cut-off)
- Parking is typically not required

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Suited for intense development
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Located in close proximity to residential development
- Accessible by walking or biking
- Well buffered by open space and/or landscape plantings and separated from roadways by physical barriers, such as fences

B. Neighborhood Parks

General Description: These parks are designed specifically to accommodate residents living within the service area. They are often characterized by active recreational facilities such as baseball and soccer fields, but can also incorporate passive recreational areas for picnicking and nature-study.

Service Area: ¼ to ½-mile radius uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers

Desirable Size: 5 acres minimum; 5-10 acres is optimal

Acres per 1,000 Population: 1-2 acres

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and ice-skating rinks
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Lighting for security at night
- Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

C. Community Parks

General Description: Community parks are intermediate in size and are able to accommodate visitors from the surrounding community and multiple neighborhoods. These sites focus on both the developed aspects of the park, such as playfields and tennis courts, as well as the natural-resource amenities.

Service Area: ½ to 3 miles

Desirable Size: As needed to accommodate desired uses; 30-50 acres is optimal

Acres per 1,000 Population: 5-8 acres

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, biking/walking/skiing trails, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball courts
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park
- Community Center building with multi-use rooms for crafts, theater, restrooms, social activities, and senior adult use
- Lighting for security at night
- Adequate off-street parking spaces, where the size of the park and the neighborhood context allow

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- May include natural areas, such water bodies or wooded areas
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

D. School Parks

General Description: School parks have many of the same characteristics as neighborhood or community parks, depending on their size. As such, school parks primarily serve as locations for active recreational facilities associated with school functions; however, these sites can and do benefit the surrounding community during off-school hours. These parks may be owned and maintained by the Village or the school district, but are open to all neighborhood residents.

Service Area: Variable – depends on function

Desirable Size: Variable – depends on function

Acres per 1,000 Population: Variable – depends on function

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and ice-skating rinks
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Lighting for security at night
- Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

E. Special Open Space Areas

General Description: Areas of open space that can not be measured by a quantifiable standard because of their unique and diverse contributions to the community. Special Open Space Areas enhance an overall park and open space system by maintaining and improving the community's natural resource base, accommodating special activities that aren't included in other parks, and providing interconnections between isolated parks and recreation areas.

Examples of Special Open Space Areas are varied but can include those lands that accommodate passive or special recreational activities, such as golf courses, sledding/skiing hills, marinas, beaches, display gardens, arboreta, and outdoor amphitheaters, as well as lands that have been protected for their environmental significance or sensitivity and provide limited opportunity for recreational use. Examples of the latter may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelands and shoreland setback areas, drainageways, stormwater management basins, conveyance routes, environmental corridors or isolated natural areas as mapped by Dane and Jefferson Counties, wildlife habitats, areas of rare or endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants, and restoration areas.

Service Area: Variable—depends on function

Desirable Size: Variable—depends on function

Acres Per 1,000 Population: Variable -- most Special Open Space Areas are not included in the overall community calculation of park and recreation space per 1,000 persons

Basic Facilities and Activities: Variable, but some may include:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, skiing hills, biking/walking/skiing trails, skating rinks, and golf courses
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and natural study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, equipment storage/rental, concessions, and restrooms
- Signage, trail markers, trash receptacles, information booths
- Lighting for security at night
- Off-street parking spaces if appropriate to the area

F. Recreation Trails

General Description: Recreation Trails accommodate various outdoor activities, such as biking, hiking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, nature study, and cross-country skiing. A well-designed park system provides connections between parks and open space lands and effectively integrates urban and suburban areas with the surrounding natural environment by linking off-street trail segments with on-street bike routes. Recreation trails can be designed to serve different functions and to accommodate various, and sometimes conflicting, activities. Therefore, this section provides descriptions of the different types of recreation trails that this *Plan* will address and how recommendations will be formulated for each type of trail.

On-Street Bicycle Facilities

General Description: There are two primary types of on-street bicycle facilities: bicycle lanes and paved shoulders.

Bicycle lanes are areas of the road striped off for exclusive use by bicyclists. They are the preferred bicycle facility for urban arterial and higher volume collector streets (generally more than 2,000 vehicles per day). Striping bicycle lanes establishes designated traffic channels that promote an orderly flow by both bicyclists and motorists. Typically, bicycle lanes are established on roadways that are 32 feet or wider with no on-street parking. Shared bicycle/parking lanes generally function well where sufficient space is provided and the parking turnover rate is not too high.

Paved shoulders are not a bicycle facility per se, but rather a roadway condition that improves bicycle travel and bicyclist safety. They function much like a bicycle lane by separating the motor vehicle travel from bikes. Paved shoulders are ideal for higher volume streets or highways (more than 1,000 cars per day) with rural cross sections (i.e. no curb and gutter)

Treatment in this Plan: Although this *Plan* presents general recommendations regarding locations for future on-street bike facilities, more formal and detailed recommendations would require more in-depth analyses of the Village's road network, including traffic patterns and street widths.

Desirable Design Criteria for Bicycle Lanes:

- Minimum width should be 4 feet, or 5 feet along an arterial street.
- When used along side a parking lane, should be at least 5 feet wide and located to the traffic side of the parking lane.
- Where bike lanes and on-street parking is provided, minimum combined width should be 11 feet (13 feet where there is substantial parking or turnover of parked cars is high).
- Lanes painted with a bicycle pavement symbol or the words "bike lane" according to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards.
- Street signs should be used to identify bicycle lanes.

Desirable Design Criteria for Paved Shoulders:

- Minimum width should be 4 feet, or 5 feet where traffic speeds exceed 50 miles per hour.
- A stripe separating shoulder from roadway is recommended.
- These are generally not marked as an exclusive bike facility.

Linear Miles Per 1,000 Population: N/A

Off-Street Recreation Trails

General Description: There are two primary types of off-street recreation trails: multi-use paths and rural walking/hiking trails.

Multi-use paths are designed to accommodate bicyclists, walkers, runners, and in-line skaters. Such facilities are often located along railroad and street rights-of-way, rivers and lakeshores, and through parks and environmental corridors.

Rural trails provide connections between urbanized areas, and access to parks and open space areas. Walkways may be restricted to pedestrian use because of environmental conditions. In certain locations, they may also be suitable for equestrian and/or bicycle use. Rural walkways are often sited along creeks, streams, rivers, field boundaries, and other natural linear systems.

Treatment in this Plan: This *Plan* presents general recommendations for the location of future off-street recreation trails. However, the specific design and type of such facilities will not be identified in this *Plan*.

Desirable Design Criteria for Multi-Use Paths:

- In urban areas, paths should be a minimum of ten feet to accommodate two-way bicycle traffic. Paved surfacing is recommended to facilitate bike, walking, running, and skating.
- In rural areas, the path should be a minimum of eight feet wide, surfaced with limestone screenings or similar material.
- Avoid placement alongside roadways where multiple cross-streets and driveways are or will be present.
- Minimum 20 mph design speed.

Desirable Design Criteria for Rural Walking/Hiking Trails: Because these trail facilities often travel through sensitive environmental areas, they are generally not paved. Rather, they are surfaced with crushed limestone, wood chips, hard packed earth, or mowed grass.

Linear Miles Per 1,000 Population: The provision of trails is best related to an analysis of supply versus demand and the size of the community, rather than a single quantitative standard. However, a commonly accepted minimum standard for recreation corridors is 0.16 linear miles per 1,000 population.

Trailheads

General Description: Trailheads can provide visible access points to major off-street paths in the community's system. They generally provide a parking area, locational and directional maps or other information about the trail system. Some might contain restroom facilities, picnic tables, or benches for snacks or breaks. Such facilities should be sited with easy and direct access to the trail system.

Treatment in this Plan: This *Plan* will make general recommendations regarding the future location of trailheads. Suggestions will be based upon both existing and proposed park facilities and parking locations.

Desirable Design Criteria: N/A

Number of Facilities Per 1,000 Population: N/A

Analysis of Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the Village of Cambridge's existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the Village's existing park and recreation system will be evaluated in the following ways:

- An application of national park and recreational facility service standards to reliable population projections for the Village (quantitative analysis);
- A qualitative analysis of the Village's park system based on both an understanding of the Village's goals and objectives and an evaluation of the local demand for parkland and recreational facilities;
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park open space areas;
- Consultation with the Cambridge Foundation and the Village Trees and Parks Committee

The results of this analysis will serve as the basis for the recommendations presented in the next chapter of this *Plan*.

A. Quantitative Analysis

The following chart presents a comparison of NRPA's park and recreation standards (acres per 1,000 persons) to the Village's existing park system. As indicated in Figure 8, the Village currently has approximately 3.81 acres or 3.31 acres of parkland for every 1000 residents, not including school grounds. In general, NRPA standards recommend a minimum of approximately 10 acres of parkland per 1000 residents. However, it is not uncommon for Dane County and Jefferson County communities to maintain higher levels of service for parklands based on local demand for certain types of parks or facilities. The Village of Cambridge is currently underserved by neighborhood and community parks. Furthermore, the Village has higher than average demand for mini-parks, and exceptional opportunities and interest (both from local residents and regional entities) in developing trail based recreational facilities in connection with the park system.

Figure 9 presents an inventory of the total number of existing recreational facilities/equipment in the Village. Because the demand for such amenities varies substantially between communities, national standards will not be the sole factor use to analyze the adequacy of existing facilities. However, this component of the park system will be discussed in more detail in the qualitative analysis section of this chapter. A comprehensive inventory of the facilities in each of the Village's parks is located in Appendix A.

Figure 8: Park Acreage Analysis, 2007

Park Type	NRPA Standard Acres Per 1,000 persons	Recommended Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 persons*	Existing Village Park Acreage	
			2007 Acres per 1,000 persons	2007 Total Acres
Mini-Parks	0.25-0.5 acres	.31 - .63 acres*	1.8 acres	2.21 acres
Neighborhood Parks	1 – 2 acres	1.23 - 2.54 acres*	1.33 acres	1.6 acres
Community Parks	5 – 8 acres	6.13 - 9.8*	0 acres	0 acres
Total (not including school facilities)	6.25 – 10.5 acres	7.7 - 13 acres	3.13 acres	3.81 acres

* Based on 2005 population estimate (1,227)

Figure 9: Existing Recreational Facilities
(Includes School Facilities)

Facility	# of Existing Facilities in the Village
Baseball	2
League Softball	3
Sandlot Softball	1
Basketball (goals)	2
Playfields	2
Playgrounds	3
Tennis Courts	0
Soccer Fields	3
Picnic Area	1

B. Qualitative Analysis

Although national quantitative standards provide a good basis for formulating the recommendations in this *Plan*, a thorough assessment of the Village's existing facilities must include a more subjective analysis that takes into consideration those characteristics that make Cambridge unique from other communities.

Furthermore, the qualitative analysis will do the following things:

- Identify those park system deficiencies and strengths that are not captured by universal standards;
- Ensure that future parks and recreational facilities are tailored to meet the needs of Village residents; and
- Allow for the establishment of a more reasonable and specialized level-of-service standard by which the Village can plan its future park system.

Important factors to consider include the following:

- In general, the four existing Village-owned parks serve the Village's mini-park and some of the neighborhood park needs of the central, southern, and western portions of the Village. However, the location of existing neighborhood parks will not be adequate to meet the land area and the accessibility goals for the Village's park system, owing to growing distance and barriers in the form of traffic on USH 18 and USH 12, and growing distance between new residential development and existing parks in general. Existing and planned residential areas further to the north, west, and south of the Village will require additional parks. Furthermore, none of the parks currently provide enough area for the desired range of activities and amenities for neighborhood parks.
- Veteran's Memorial (Village Square) Park is highly suitable as a social gathering place and low intensity activities associated with Mini Park. However, it is not suitably equipped or located for most recreational purposes.
- Founder's Park is made up of two separate, very small parcels in the downtown that promote informal or casual social interaction and pedestrian use of the downtown. As such, they are useful public spaces. However, it is extremely limited in its ability to provide the other social and recreational opportunities of a standard mini-park.
- Greenway Park, despite being 3.4 acres in size, serves more as a mini-park owing to the fact that 1.8 acres are essentially an environmental conservancy area rather than an active use park serving the recreational and social needs of residents. The smaller portion of the park east of Madison Street on the other hand is highly suitable for a mini-park. Currently this area is graded and mowed, making it useable for a wide array of informal active recreational uses, although its limited extent and lack of facilities preclude installation of some larger active recreational uses such as baseball, football, or soccer fields. Improvements such as a landscaped seating area with park benches, a drinking fountain, and a small

playground for young children would improve its functionality as a mini-park. Addition of a recreation trail in the western half of the park is recommended to address the growing local interest in trail and nature based recreation.

- Westside Park has been characterized as a Neighborhood Park rather than a mini-park owing to its central location, high level of improvements, and multiple functions tailored to the community at large rather than just those residents living within one-half mile of the park. The park contains or is funded to contain improvements that include play ground equipment for the young; an ice rink that will give the park year-round appeal to active youth and adults, park furniture, restrooms, and concessions suitable for all ages, and a shelter that will be able to host both community and individual events. The Park is accessible from multiple directions (although access from USH 12 from the north can pose something of a barrier at times). In addition to the “standard” types of uses for this type of park, it is intended to act as a trailhead for a multi-use recreational trail and a water trail connecting Cam-Rock Park to the north end of the Village and beyond. Notable shortcomings of the park (evaluated against the criteria normally applied to neighborhood parks) include its relatively small size and lack of parking which precludes large scale active recreation, and limits capacity for larger community scale events. To provide a wider range of outdoor recreational uses and accommodate the above average demand for trail based recreation, the *Plan* recommends that the Village adopt a higher acreage standard for neighborhood parks and plan on creating one or more neighborhood parks of sufficient area and appropriate design to address these deficiencies.
- The Village has no community parks. Owing to its relatively small population, geographic extent, and existence of nearby community and regional parks, this has not been a critical deficiency in the past. However, as the Village grows away from its historic central core, the population of the Village and surrounding area communities increase, and recreational tastes and needs diversify, local demand for a larger, multi-use park or parks able to serve the whole community will also increase.
- The Village owns 46 acres of land that has the potential to be redeveloped as a Special Use Park, namely one or more man-made fishing ponds as well as providing enough area for recreation trails, a canoe-kayak landing on the Koshkonong Creek and other more conventional active and passive activities. However, the land is currently not useable for these purposes and significant improvements need to be made to fulfill this community goal.
- Cambridge High School, Nicolet Middle School, and Cambridge Elementary School athletic fields and playground spaces are far larger than the public parks owned directly by the Village and provide some of the active recreation functions and facilities of neighborhood or community level parks. The combination of formal athletic facilities, relatively central location, and accessibility when school is not in session provide tangible benefits to the community as a whole. One exceptional example of shared facilities is the community pool facility at Cambridge Elementary School. However, there are several reasons to exclude these facilities from consideration when determining the future park and open space needs of the Village. One lies primarily with the lack of availability of these facilities for extended periods. By necessity, school functions and events have priority over the needs of the general public. Second, while collectively providing for an array of recreational needs, the individual schools are not tailored to the needs of families, particularly those with very young children, or the elderly. Thirdly, even these facilities do not provide all of the facilities associated with neighborhood or community parks such as picnic areas, shelters or space needed by larger organizations or extended families for large social events, year-round bathroom and water facilities. Finally, the Village does not have direct authority over the accessibility, types or disposition of School District land and facilities.
- In a similar vein, while Lake Ripley Park west of the Village and Cam-Rock Park south of the Village are well planned and maintained parks capable of serving some of the park and open space needs of Village residents, these parks are intended for a wider constituency and not primarily geared to the local needs of Village residents. Furthermore, their locations outside of the Village impose problems in terms of accessibility, especially for those traveling on foot or by bicycle. Lake Ripley Park is owned by a private foundation and requires a fee for entrance. It is located in the Town of Oakland, a community with a

greater population than the Village of Cambridge. Cam-Rock Park, while contiguous with the Village, is primarily a resource protection and passive recreation park meant to cater to residents of the Dane County and beyond. The nearest active use area of Cam-Rock Park (Area 1) currently lies well outside of the Village limits. These two parks therefore do not contain the combination of accessibility, proximity, and active use facilities best met through mini, neighborhood, and community public parks and open space.

- The Village is surrounded by natural resource and other open space areas in the form of wetlands, wooded areas, and other features. These natural areas provide aesthetic, environmental, and health benefits beyond the recreational needs of Village residents and the Village should continue to protect, and where appropriate, acquire them. The Village should also recognize the value of incorporating these areas into a comprehensive and interconnected network of parks and greenways linking residents to other community facilities and providing opportunities for hiking, biking, and nature watching.
- There is strong interest by the Village and surrounding communities, Dane and Jefferson County, various private conservation and recreation organizations, and several state agencies to acquire additional natural resource lands and create an interconnected network of preserved natural open and recreational lands that includes large areas near the Village, especially to the north along the Koshkonong Creek. The Village should continue to develop its own nature based recreation and trail system and collaborate with other entities to integrate Village parks and trails into the regional system.
- Portions of the Village are underserved by sidewalks and bicycle routes. Historically, the Village was small enough and traffic light enough to make this less of a concern. As the population, land area, and traffic counts in the Village have increased, the Village has begun planning for improved pedestrian and bicycle circulation and safety. In recognition of the fact that public streets and trails not only provide improved access to public park and open spaces for all residents, but are themselves public recreation assets, the Village should continue its effort to create safe and inviting pedestrian bicycle routes, lanes, and trails, with specific facilities (signage, lighting, choice of on-street or off-street routes, etc.) tailored to local need.

C. Geographic Analysis

The location and distribution of parks and recreational facilities also provide a good indicator of how well the existing park system is meeting the needs of the Village's residents. To illustrate this distribution, Map 2 depicts the service areas of the Village's parks. These service areas are based on the NRPA standards identified in the Park and Recreation Standards chapter of this *Plan*.

An analysis of those parks owned exclusively by the Village of Cambridge indicates that residents in the central and southeast portions of the Village are all well served by mini-parks and are within ¼ mile of at least one park.

Residential areas at the north end of the Village near USH 18 particularly north of the highway are underserved by parks owing to distance and barrier to access that the highway increasingly poses.

Residential areas at the extreme west and east are underserved by public parks, although the Cambridge Elementary School, Nicolet Middle School and Cambridge High School Athletic Fields provide some opportunities for active recreation that are currently lacking in the Village-owned parks.

Lake Ripley Park to the east of the Village and Cam-Rock Park to the south of the Village provide Village residents with nearby active and passive recreational opportunities but active use facilities are located too far from or too inaccessible to Village residents to serve the same functions as mini or neighborhood parks. Furthermore the nature of their improvements do not serve all of the same functions typical of a community park, and in any case are primarily intended to serve residents other than Village residents.

Comparing existing parks to areas of planned residential growth as specified in the Village of Cambridge Smart Growth 2025 Comprehensive Plan, additional parks will be needed as the Village grows, particularly in the northern, western, and southern extremes of the Village's planned growth area.

A geographic analysis of Village and other recreation and open spaces reveals that none of the existing Village Parks are in locations that will allow for the expansion necessary to accommodate a full range of desirable active use facilities such as picnic shelters, ball diamonds, and fields at a neighborhood or community scale.

D. Future Park System Needs

Based on the analyses provided in the preceding sections of this chapter, the standard for the Village's future park acreage is 14 acres per 1,000 persons. The Village standards for specific types of park are as follows: 3 acres per 1,000 persons for Mini-Parks, 3 acres per 1,000 persons for Neighborhood Parks, and 8 acres per 1,000 persons for a Community Park. Based on these standards, Figures 10 and 11 show the minimal additional acreage that would be needed to accommodate the Village's projected population in the years 2015 and 2025. The 2015 population projection was selected to more accurately correspond to an amendment to Wisconsin Statute 66.0617 that requires municipalities to spend any impact fees within 7 years of collection. Land acquisition and improvement recommendations are based on what the Village can reasonably expect to accomplish in a seven-year timeframe.

Figure 10: Park Acreage Needs, 2015

Park Type	Village Standard Acres Per 1,000 persons	Recommended Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 persons*	2007 Total Acres	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2015
Mini-Parks	3.0	4.3	2.21	2.1
Neighborhood Parks	3.0	4.3	1.3	3.0
Community Parks	8.0	11.54	0	11.5
Total (not including school facilities)	14.0	20.1	3.81	16.7

* Based on 2015 projected population (1,442)

Figure 11: Park Acreage Needs, 2025

Park Type	Village Standard Acres Per 1,000 persons	Recommended Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 persons*	2007 Total Acres	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2025
Mini-Parks	3	5.1 acres	2.21 acres	2.9 acres
Neighborhood Parks	3 acres	5.1 acres	1.6 acres	3.5 acres
Community Parks	8 acres	13.6 acres	0 acres	13.6 acres
Total (not including school facilities)	14.0 acres	23.8 acres	3.81 acres	20.0 acres

* Based on Village's 2025 population projection (1,695)

Map 2: Existing Park Service Areas

Recommended Park and Open Space Improvements

The following recommendations are based on projected growth rates and distributional deficiencies identified in the preceding chapters of this *Plan*. Over the next 20 years, it is recommended that the Village acquire and develop land for one new community park, one new neighborhood park, and a minimum of 2.9 acres of land for mini-parks. In addition, it is recommended that over the next five years, improvements are made to three of the four existing parks. These minimum areas would be in addition to any lands needed for recreation trails, greenways, nature conservancy, and other unique and special open space areas and facilities.

Based upon 2025 population projections, these recommendations would satisfy NRPA's park and recreation standards, as well as the Village's local park standards. The timing of park land acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational facilities in the Village's developed and newly developing areas.

A. Recommended Additional Parklands

Map 3: Proposed Park and Recreational Facilities shows the approximate locations for future mini-, neighborhood, and community parks in the Village. These recommendations are based upon future growth areas. More precise park boundaries will be determined during the preparation of detailed neighborhood plans and when lands are acquired or platted. The following sections are general descriptions of the park recommendations for the Village of Cambridge.

Recommended Mini-Parks

Over the next 20 years, it is recommended that the Village acquire and develop 2.9 acres of land for additional mini-parks to serve new residential development. These parks should be integrated into the design of future neighborhoods based upon the following criteria:

- The park should be centrally located within the neighborhood and highly visible to the public. Close proximity (1/4 to 1/2 mile) to all or most neighborhood residents is a key defining attribute of mini-parks;
- The park should be easily accessible by biking or walking;
- The park should have enough space to accommodate a playground, some relatively level open space or small playfield, benches, and in some cases, a small hard surface play area such as half court basketball;
- Portions of land dedicated for Mini-Parks may be used for recreational trail purposes provided they are contiguous with and do not exclude the uses described above. Lands accepted for trail purposes separate from a mini-park should be at least 50 feet in width with landscaping terraces on both sides of the trail wide enough to accommodate trees, bushes, hedges or similar landscaping though widths as narrow as 25 feet may, at the discretion of the Village Board, be accepted for limited distances in areas with environmental or other terrain restrictions.
- The park should be well buffered by open space or landscaping and separated from roadways and adjacent private lots by landscaping, decorative fencing, and/or signage;
- The park should have obvious signage indicating that it is a public facility;
- Lands comprised of wetlands or floodplains, lands that are "left over" unwanted, or restricted for development, and areas designated for stormwater management or solely for pedestrian/bicycle trails will not satisfy the Village's parkland dedication requirement. However it may be appropriate to acquire parkland adjacent to undevelopable conservancy areas and greenway provided the land for the active recreations uses associated with mini-park are in *addition to* these areas.

Map 3 does not depict recommended mini-park sites because the precise locations of these parks will not be decided upon until development occurs and the land is acquired or platted. However, generally, these parks should be distributed throughout the Village's future residential areas to the west, southwest, south (between Cam-Rock Park and the Lake Ripley Country Club), and northwest.

Recommended Neighborhood Parks

It is recommended that the Village acquire and develop at least one neighborhood park over the next 20 years, the timing of which will coincide with the development of adjacent lands. The approximate recommended locations for future Neighborhood Parks are identified on Map 3.

One neighborhood park is recommended at the west end of the Village in the area south of State Highway 12 and north of Water Street (County Highway PQ). This area was selected because it is the largest contiguous area of planned residential development in the Village's planned growth area, is separated from the proposed Community Park north of Highways 12 & 18 (see below), and is furthest away from the active and passive park areas associated with Cam-Rock Park. There are also fewer areas mapped as environmental corridor than these other parts of the Village and therefore less guarantee of larger areas of preserved opens space unless active measures are taken to acquire park land.

An additional future Neighborhood Park has been recommended for the area south Water Street. If the development trends dictate, and the Village amends its Comprehensive Plan to allow additional residential development south of Water Street/County Highway PQ and west of Highland Road, it is recommended that an additional Neighborhood Park be developed to serve the larger area bound by Water Street, Cam-Rock Park, and the environmental corridor shown in Map 3.

Neighborhood Parks should be integrated into the design of future neighborhoods based on the following criteria:

- The park should be centrally located within the neighborhood and highly visible to the public. Close proximity (½ mile to 1 mile) to all or most neighborhood residents is a key defining attribute of neighborhood parks;
- The park should be easily accessible by biking or walking, but should also provide minimal parking (7 to 10 spaces) to accommodate visitors coming from further away;
- The park should be well buffered by open space or landscaping and separated from roadways and adjacent private lots by landscaping, decorative fencing, and/or signage;
- Each park should have enough space to accommodate a variety of both active and passive recreational facilities. These may include, but are not limited to: playgrounds for both younger and older children; picnic areas and/or shelters or pavilions; restrooms; open space/level playing fields; hard surface recreational areas such as basket ball or tennis courts; baseball/soft ball diamonds; skateboard/rollerblade areas; walking paths; Gardens and landscaped and/or natural areas with trees and natural vegetation.
- Portions of land dedicated for Mini-Parks may be used for recreational trail purposes provided they are contiguous with and do not exclude the uses described above. Lands accepted for trail purposes separate from a mini-park should be at least 50 feet in width with landscaping terraces on both sides of the trail wide enough to accommodate trees, bushes, hedges or similar landscaping, though widths as narrow as 25 feet may, at the discretion of the Village Board, be accepted for limited distances in areas with environmental or other terrain restrictions.
- Lands comprised of wetlands or floodplains, lands that are "left over" unwanted, or restricted for development, and areas designated for stormwater management or solely for pedestrian/bicycle trails will not satisfy the Village's parkland dedication requirement. However it may be appropriate to acquire parkland adjacent to undevelopable conservancy areas and greenway provided the land for the active recreations uses associated with mini-park are in *addition to* these areas.

Recommended Community Parks

This *Plan* recommends creation of a community park in the general vicinity shown on Map 3. The Village Smart Growth Plan recommends residential development for this area, and it is substantially cut off from existing park and school facilities south of US Highways 12 and 18. Furthermore, these lands were annexed and acquired by the Village in part to preserve some degree of community separation and open space between the Village and the Town of Christiana. Therefore, the opportunity exists for the Village to acquire the land for establishment of a community scale (30-50 acre) park. However, if residential development is directed to areas south of US Highways 12 and 18, then the Village may consider acquiring park land in other areas of the Village, possibly expanding a planned Neighborhood Park to fulfill the Community function. A third option is to create more than one medium size park, each 15-25 acres in size to serve as Community Parks. Under this scenario, the Village Fishing Ponds and Nature Area (discussed in greater detail under Special Open Spaces below) could be classified as one of these Community Parks, while an additional Community Park more tailored to active recreational purposes could be placed elsewhere.

Regardless of final configuration, this *Plan* recommends requiring the full land dedication and park land fee calculated in Figures 12 and 13 to meet the future community park needs of the Village be implemented by the Village.

This *Plan* recommends that the Village develop a specific plan for creation of at least one community park with a minimum reserve of 30 acres of land at final build out. Actual acquisition of the land and improvements could be phased to match the growth and needs of the community. Based on projected park acreage needs in Figure 11 and Figure 12, the Village will need to acquire a minimum of 10.6 acres for the community park by 2015 and 13.6 acres by 2025. Similarly, associated improvements to the community park could be phased as the population of the Village grows.

Design of the community park should at minimum include the following:

- The park should be easily accessible by biking or walking, but should also provide parking based types and scale of specific uses (e.g. league sporting events, community scale festivals, large private social gatherings) and the assumption that most users will reach the park by car to accommodate visitors coming from further away;
- The park should be well buffered by open space or landscaping and separated from roadways and adjacent private lots by landscaping, decorative fencing,
- Design of the park should include a system of signage for directing visitors to and around the park;
- Each park should have enough space to accommodate a variety of both active and passive recreational facilities. These may include, but are not limited to: playgrounds for both younger and older children; picnic areas and/or shelters or pavilions; open space/level playing fields; hard surface recreational areas such as basket ball or tennis courts; soccer/foot ball fields, multiple baseball/soft ball diamonds; skateboard/rollerblade areas; walking paths; multi-use trails; dog parks; arboretums, gardens and landscaped and/or natural areas with trees and natural vegetation.
- Lands comprised of wetlands or floodplains, lands that are “left over” unwanted, or restricted for development, and areas designated for stormwater management will not satisfy the Village’s parkland dedication requirement. While it may be appropriate to incorporate undevelopable conservancy areas, greenways, and recreational trails into as part of or *in addition to* acreage required for a community park, these areas can not by themselves satisfy the active use requirements set forth in this plan. Therefore the Village retains the right to only consider accepting or rejecting any dedication of natural conservancy lands to meet the land dedication requirement recommendations of this *Plan* deemed necessary to fulfill the active recreation purposes of a community park.

Special Open Space Areas

In addition to developing mini-parks, neighborhood parks, and a community park, the Village will continue work to acquire and/or improve various special open spaces of local or regional significance.

The Village owns 22 acres of property along the west bank of the Koshkonong Creek in Jefferson County, and has been designated “Cambridge Fishing Ponds and Nature Area” on Map #3:Future Parks. The property includes several ponds were previously part of the Village’s former wastewater treatment facility. The Village will continue to explore the idea of reconfiguring the ponds to a semi-natural state and stocking them with fish. The ponds and the property majority of the property would be configured primarily as a passive recreation/conservancy park. Multi-use recreation trails would run to and through the property, possibly forming a segment of a proposed regional multi-use trail connecting Cam-Rock Park with the Glacial Drumlin Trail to the north. Additional planned facilities could include a canoe-kayak landing on the Koshkonong Creek, a small playground area, parking and restroom facilities.

In addition to developing mini-parks; neighborhood parks, and a community park, the Village will continue to acquire environmentally significant lands within its planning area. Where possible, the Village will work cooperatively with county, regional, state, and non-profit efforts preserve and enhance environmentally and recreationally valuable land. Cam-Rock Park, the Koshkonong Creek environmental Corridor, and other areas needed for the proposed recreation trail connecting the park with the Glacier Drumlin Trail are all examples of areas that enhance the Village’s own park and open space planning and can in turn be enhanced by additional parkland or trail connections provided by the Village. One example is the possible extension of Village greenways or trails from Cam-Rock Park to Westside Park and through the proposed Scott subdivision.

One relatively isolated environmental area is located north of Cambridge Elementary School and west of Greenway Park. The Village Comprehensive Plan calls for a recreational trail to run through this area before turning north and connecting it to development and a possible Highway 12 bicycle path. The Village will examine options for preserving this area as private conservancy (through subdivision approval) and possibly acquiring this area for public park purposes. Although the preferred location for the proposed Neighborhood Park may be further to the west, it may be possible to add or at least connect this area via recreation trail to the proposed Neighborhood Park. Alternatively, the Village could expand Greenway Park into a neighborhood park through acquisition of this environmentally sensitive area and some additional non-environmental, active use land further to the west.

B. Development of Unique Recreational Facilities

Dog Park

The original plan for Cam-Rock Park included a large area south of Water Street and west of Highland Road reserved as a pet exercise area. While the Village is currently considering reserving this area for future Village growth and development, this *Plan* recommends that consideration be given to the growing popularity of dog parks when considering the design and location of Village parks and open space. Dog Parks are typically fenced off areas where dogs and other small pets are allowed without a leash. Typically, dog parks are a component of larger parks or larger greenways.

C. Recommended Recreation Trails

The Village is currently evaluating options for a multi-use trail connecting Cam-Rock Park south of the Village to the north end of the Village, with the long term goal of linking this trail to the Village’s Fishing Ponds and Nature Area (see “Special Open Spaces” above) and a regional trail linking the Village to the Glacier Drumlin Trail to the north. The favored route is depicted on Map 3 and would run a trail from Cam-Rock Park through Westside Park and along the west bank of Koshkonong Creek. This multi-use trail would serve regional as well as local needs. A number of alternative routes to the



preferred route exist, but these routes would primarily make use of existing street rights-of-way.

The Village Comprehensive Plan also recommends a recreation trail connecting Greenway Park with planned residential development to the west and north before being connected to bike a proposed bike bath in or near the US Highway 12 right-of-way. The approximate locations are shown on Map 3.

The Cam-Rock Park master plan identified possible locations for Village Greenways to connect Village residents with the Park at various points. These trails would enhance access to and enjoyment of the park by Village residents. The concept plan for the proposed Scott Subdivision includes a path that parallels the western border of Cam-Rock Park, with possible future extensions along through the environmental corridor that extends westward from the Park. This concept plan also recommends creating a greenway extending from the park and this proposed trail west through the proposed subdivision to form a connection with Waverly Drive.

This Park and Open Space Plan endorses all of the above greenway trail routes in the approximate locations shown on Map 3. The concept of connecting environmental corridors, parks, and other destinations such as schools should be encourage at other appropriate locations in the Village, particularly those areas where sidewalks and bicycle lanes on existing street right-of-way are absent or impractical.

Bicycle Facilities planning is also encouraged throughout the Village as part of a comprehensive Village Transportation Plan or specific Bicycle facilities plan and as a compliment to the Park and Open Space Plan. While not addressed in detail in the Park and Open Space Plan, the following should be considered when reviewing any future development proposals, subdivisions and public road or street redesign:

For all Collector and Arterial Road rights-of-way 80' feet or wider, paved bicycle/pedestrian trails at least 10 feet in width and separated by street or road pavement by a landscape or lawn terrace is preferred over in-street bicycle lanes or paved shoulder lanes. At minimum a path of this type need only be constructed on one side, but two is preferred in areas with multiple destinations on both sides and/or particularly heavy traffic volumes. This design feature is particularly important for all major arterials, especially US Highway 12, US Highway 18, State Highway 134, and any future frontage road paralleling these highways. In cases where the Wisconsin Department of Transportation or other agency retains jurisdiction, the Village should work proactively with these agencies to bicycle paths of this type into their designs as part of any future improvements. In the event that other agencies decline to install trails of this type, the Village should at minimum require paved shoulders of sufficient width and striped to clearly delineate a bicycle lane. The Village should also ensure that the local street and greenway pattern provides sufficient connectivity to allow bicyclists to avoid these major streets and roads within the Village boundaries.



D. Recommended Improvements to Existing Parks

Village Veterans Park: No major improvements beyond continued maintenance are planned at this time.

Foundation Park - The Village intends to place benches, some additional landscaping and possibly a community kiosk/bulletin Board, within this area.

Greenway Park - This Plan recommends installing two benches, a small playground set for young children, a drinking fountain, and a sign on the eastern half of the park. These improvements should be placed to preserve a large, uninterrupted open area suitable for multiple uses (e.g. touch football, Frisbee, etc.).

Westside Park – This Plan recommends completion of the improvements funded by the Cambridge Foundation. The Village should also add the segment of the multi-purpose trail connecting Cam-Rock Park to the proposed recreational trail through the Village to the north. Associated improvements should include a system of signage providing information to trail users, and possibly a canoe/kayak landing to serve the proposed water trail through Cam-Rock Park. The Village should also evaluate ways to meet increased parking demand associated with these uses.

Map 3: Planned Park and Recreational Facilities

Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreational Facilities

This chapter contains detailed capital cost estimates for providing the new park and recreational facilities recommended in this *Plan*. The information is intended to assist the Village with the budgeting and planning for future parks and to satisfy 66.0617 and 236.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes regarding parkland dedication, fees-in-lieu of dedication, and playground improvements impact fee collection. However, the adoption of this *Park and Open Space Plan* does not commit the Village of Cambridge to collecting these fees through an ordinance.

A. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreational Facilities

Based on the 15 year compounded population projection found in Figure 2, the Village population is estimated to be 1,288 in 2008 and 1,442 in 2015. Based on this projected increase of 154 persons by the year 2015 and the Village's standard of 14.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons, the Village should plan to spend an estimated \$48,400 in 2007 dollars for park land acquisition. Assuming the addition of 66 households, a fee-in-lieu of land dedication of \$733 per new dwelling unit would meet this demand. The alternative dedication of 1,423 square feet (.03acres) per dwelling unit would satisfy this requirement, if land dedication were preferred. However, land dedication per this provision must be suitable for the development of a mini, neighborhood, or community park. The Village will continue to accept conservancy and other open space areas as donations to the park system; but these lands will not count toward this land dedication requirement. The process for arriving at these calculations is described in detail below.

Figure 12: Projected Parkland Dedication and Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication

Calculation	Value
A. Projected Additional Population in 2015 (individuals)	154
B. Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2015 (dwelling units)	66
C. Calculated Additional Acres Needed ((Row A/1000)*14.0)	2.2
D. Calculated Land Dedication Requirement per Dwelling Unit in Acres (Row C/Row B)	.032
E. Land Cost per Acre Estimate (Based on an average cost per acre listed for comparable land sales in and near the Village.)	\$20,000
F. Projected Cost of Land Acquisition (Row C*Row E)	\$44,000
G. Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (Row F*10%)	\$4,400
H. Total Land Acquisition Cost (Row F + Row G)	\$48,400
I. Calculated Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication per Dwelling Unit (Row H/Row B)	\$733
J. Alternative Land Dedication per Dwelling Unit in Square Feet	1,423

B. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Playground Improvements

Each park type—mini, neighborhood, and community—should have a minimum amount of playground equipment/opportunities available. The cost of certain playground equipment varies with the age range of the intended users and the park type. Equipment in mini-parks is intended for smaller children, and the equipment available in larger parks must accommodate a wider age range of children. Additionally, hard-surface playground space is integral to the development of any park playground, as are benches and a drinking fountain. Figure 13 outlines the typical playground costs associated with each park type. A cost of \$791 per dwelling unit would be required to cover the costs associated with playground improvements.

Figure 13: Projected Playground Improvements by Park Type

	Mini	Neighborhood	Community	Totals
Play Equipment	\$53,000	\$80,000	\$100,00	\$233,000
Hard Surface Playground	\$15,000	\$22,500	\$30,000	\$67,500
Diggers/Rockers	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$9,000
Benches	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$10,500
Drinking Fountain	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$12,000
Total Estimated Budget	\$74,500	\$110,500	\$147,000	\$332,000
Typical Park Size per 1,000 Residents	3.0	3.0	8	14.0
Cost per Acre	\$24,833	\$36,833	\$18,375	\$23,714

Figure 14: Projected Playground Fees

Calculation	Value
A. Projected Additional Population in 2015 (individuals)	154
B. Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2015 (dwelling units)	66
C. Calculated Additional Acres Needed ((Row A/1000) * 14 acres)	2.2
D. Average Park Playground Improvement Cost per Acre Estimate	\$23,714
E. Projected Cost of Playground Improvements (Row C*Row D)	\$52,170
F. Calculated Playground Improvement Cost per Dwelling Unit (Row E/Row B)	\$791

C. Total Impact Fee

In the Village of Cambridge, impact fees will be imposed on each new dwelling unit unilaterally. By using the fees outlined in Figures 13 and 14 for park land and park improvements, **the total park fee per dwelling unit will be \$1,524**. In instances where development has dedicated lands, the collected fee will be \$791 per dwelling unit.

Impact on Low-Income Housing

As part of the public facilities needs assessment process, Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617 (4)(a)(3) requires estimating the effect of imposing impact fees on the availability of affordable housing within the community. The following analysis illustrates the typical impact of the Village's park fee(s) on an affordable housing unit in the Village of Cambridge.

For this type of analysis, it is first assumed that housing in the Village of Cambridge is affordable if:

- Costs of the monthly mortgage payment consumes no more than 30 percent of a household's adjusted gross income;
- Homeowners borrow no more than 2.5 times the Village of Cambridge's median household income for a home mortgage (which in 2000 was \$52,039 according to the U.S. Census 2000 data, and
- Homeowners would make a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the total home cost.

Based on these assumptions, if a home buyer is spending 2.5 times the Village's median household income for a home mortgage (\$130,098), and makes a 5% down payment, then an affordable house in the Village of Cambridge would cost \$136,603 or less. The average monthly mortgage payment on a \$136,603 dwelling unit would be \$909.66 per month, assuming a 5% down payment, a 30 year mortgage, and an interest rate of 7.5%.

The Village's fees for park land, park improvements, and trail improvements would be incorporated into the cost of the dwelling unit and mortgage payment. If one were purchasing a housing unit in a development that was required to pay the full park fee of \$ 1,524 (park fees in lieu of land dedication plus park improvements), the mortgage for the typical affordable housing unit from the example above would increase to \$138,126. The resulting monthly mortgage, again assuming the financing terms above, would increase to \$917.51 per month. The increase in the monthly mortgage payment resulting from imposition of the park fee would therefore be \$ 7.85 or less than 1%.

Therefore, this study concludes that the impact of the park fee on housing affordability would be negligible on the typical market-rate home. Nevertheless, the Village's adopted impact fee ordinance should allow – at the discretion of the Village Board - for a fee exemption or fee reduction on housing developments that provide low cost housing. Low cost housing is defined in the ordinance as any housing in which the household's income is restricted by low to not more than 80% of Dane County's median household income. Should a written request for this exemption or reduction from a developer be approved by the Village Board, the Village should not shift the reduced impact fee to any other residential development.

Implementation

The recommendations presented in this *Plan* will be phased over time. This phasing will be dictated by several factors, including private landowner decisions to develop their property for residential use and by the funding available to the Village to make necessary acquisitions or improvements.

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation, including state and federal grant programs (listed in Appendix C). It should be noted that funds from many of these grant programs are subject to change due to fluctuations in federal, state, and local budgets.

It is recommended that the Village update its parkland dedication, fees-in-lieu of parkland dedication and playground improvement fees in accordance with the recommendations of this *Plan*. These provisions will contribute to the acquisition of future parklands and the development of certain park facilities.

The park and open space improvements recommended in this *Plan* pertaining to recreation trails and special open space areas such as the Village's former wastewater treatment site should be incorporated into the Village's other capital improvements plans and programs. The Village should update its transportation plan and transportation related impact fees to plan and implement the recreation trails discussed in this *Plan*, but which may not be eligible for park land dedication and park impact fees. Under current State law, the Village may impose impact fees for transportation related improvements including those related to the proposed recreation trail as well as other bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

For additional funds to enhance parks and implement aspects of the plan (such as additional open spaces and regional recreation trails) not funded under the Village's parkland dedication or fees-in-lieu-of-dedication, the Village should coordinate efforts with other units of government (e.g. Dane County and Jefferson County), governmental departments and public agencies (e.g. school district, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), and private and non-profit agencies (e.g. The Cambridge Foundation) to help fund and implement the recommendations presented in this *Plan*.

Generally, the Village of Cambridge should continue to utilize its existing planning framework and regulations to implement the recommendations in this *Plan*. The Village should amend its subdivision ordinance to reflect the recommendations for parkland dedication presented in earlier in this *Plan*, and should continue to use the development review process to secure parklands and environmentally sensitive open spaces as development occurs.

Finally, the Village should update and review this *Park and Open Space Plan* regularly to reflect development of more detailed plans for individual parks, changes in State enabling laws governing park land dedications and fees, increases in the cost of land, and changing recreational needs. The State requires that local park plans be updated a minimum of every 5 years to ensure that it reflects current community needs and retains WisDNR certification requirements. However, the Village may want to update this Plan more frequently (such as bi-annually or as otherwise needed) to ensure land dedication and fees remain current.

Appendix A: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities

	Park Size (acres)	Baseball fields	Softball diamonds	Basketball goals	Playfields	Playgrounds	Tennis Courts	Soccer fields	Swimming pool	Picnic Area/ Pavilion	Restrooms (Y/N)*	Other facilities	Condition of Facilities
Mini-Parks													
Village Square (Veterans) Park	0.4										N	benches	Good
Greenway Park (Non-Environmental)	3.4 (1.7)				1						N	none	N/A
Neighborhood Parks													
Westside Park	1.6					1				1	Y	Ice skate rink, concession stand, restrooms, pedestrian/ bike Trails,	New/Good
Community Parks													
Lake Ripley Park** (Town of Oakland)	18.0			6		1	2			3	Y	Beach w/showers, restrooms, water slides, 78 picnic tables, 6 grills	Fair/Good
School Parks													
Cambridge Elementary School	29.0		1	2	1	2		2	1		N	Community swimming pool w/restrooms accessible to general public during limited hours.	
Nicolet Middle School	4.5		3								N		Good
Cambridge High School	25.0	2			1			1			N	football field, outdoor track, 2 volleyball courts	Good

*Indicates only those restrooms on-site and available to the public during hours open to general public

**Lake Ripley Park is not located in or owned by the Village of Cambridge and is accessible to Village residents on a fee-basis only.

Appendix B: State and Federal Grant Program

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative Agency	Contact
Wisconsin Stewardship Programs						
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)	To acquire or develop public, nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities	\$4 million avail. per yr. 50% local match per project	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required •Priority for land acquisition •Projects must comply with ADA 	WDNR	Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Urban Greenspace Program (UGS)	To acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas, or to protect scenic or ecological features	\$1.6 millions avail. per yr. 50% local match per project	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required •Projects must comply with ADA 	WDNR	Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Acquisition of Development Rights	To acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities	\$1.6 millions avail. per yr. 50% local match per project	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Funds available to acquire development rights in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial developments are in place. •May include enhancements of outdoor recreation. 	WDNR	Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)	To acquire lands, or rights in lands, adjacent to urban rivers for the purpose of preserving or restoring them for economic revitalization or nature-based outdoor recreation activities	\$800,000 avail. per yr. 50% local match per project	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required •Projects must comply with ADA 	WDNR	Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative Agency	Contact
Federal Programs						
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)	To acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities	50% local match per project	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required	WDNR with TEA-21 Funds	Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Recreational Trails Act	To provide funds for maintenance, development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of land for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails	50% local match per project	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in, or which further a specific goal of a local, county, or state trail plan. Funds may be used on trails that are referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan 	WDNR with TEA-21 Funds	Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218
Statewide Multi-Modal Improvement Program (SMIP)						
Transportation Enhancements Program	Providing facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. This program provides funding for rehabilitating and operating historic transportation buildings and structures, restoring railway depots, as well as streetscaping “Main Streets” and landscaping near transportation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded through TEA-21 20% required match 	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a grant program. 80% of funds are reimbursed if all federal guidelines are met Project must relate to surface transportation Construction projects must be over \$100,000 Non-construction projects must be over \$25,000 	WisDOT	David McCosh 608-246-5445

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative Agency	Contact
Surface Discretionary Grant Program (STP-D)	Provides flexible funds, which can be spent on a wide variety of projects, including roadway projects through the Federal-aid highway system, bridges, transit facilities, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Funded through TEA-21 •20% required match 	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Any project that fosters alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips •Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists •System-wide bicycle planning •Construction projects must be over \$100,000 •Non-construction projects must be over \$25,000 	WisDOT	David McCosh 608-246-5445
Federal Transit Administration Grants						
Section 5309 (old Section 3 discretionary funds)	Transit capital projects; includes intermodal facilities such as bicycle racks on buses and bicycle parking at transit stations; most funds are to be directed toward transit itself.	20% local match per project	Early Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Funding for this program is allocated on a discretionary basis •Congress/Administration can pick the projects; however, the authorization bill contains a list of specific criteria 	WisDOT Bureau of Transit	David Vickman 608-264-9532
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program	Funds projects that will reduce vehicle trips and miles; reduce emissions due to traffic congestion, or reduce the per mile rate of vehicle emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Funded through TEA-21 •20% local match 	In April of odd numbered years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Only available to Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Walworth, and Door Counties 	USDOT	David McCosh 608-246-5445

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative Agency	Contact
Section 402-Highway Safety Funds						
Community Programs Empowerment Program Enforcement Program	For bicycle and pedestrian safety, education, and training projects, including helmet promotion and purchases, sponsorship of rodeos, classes, and development of brochures	20% local match per project	October – December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Engineering and maintenance work not eligible for funding 	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	Michelle Ellias 608-245-2675
Highway Safety Program (Section 403)	Available for bicycle/pedestrian education. May also be used to develop safety classes for bicycle/pedestrian offenders	20%-50% local match per project	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •For communities that can document bicycle crashes related to motor vehicle violations •Funds new enforcement programs up to \$1000 	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	Michelle Ellias 608-245-2675
Research Projects	Funds the research needed to substantiate unique local needs for additional safety funding	20% local match per project	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A study of transit needs on public lands to assess the feasibility of alternative transportation modes (Section 3039) 	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	Michelle Ellias 608-245-2675
Other Programs						
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program	Comprehensive downtown revitalization program, which includes streetscape improvements		No Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •General downtown program •May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping 	National Main Street Center	Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Downtown Development 608-266-7531

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative Agency	Contact
Surface Transportation-Environment Cooperative Research Program	Evaluate transportation control measures. Improve understanding of transportation demand factors. Develop performance indicators that will facilitate the analysis of transportation alternatives	20% local match per project		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •\$ available for the development of national bicycle safety education curriculum •\$ available for grants to a national not-for-profit organization engages in promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety •\$ available for a study of the safety issues attendant to the transportation of school children to and from school and school-related activities by various transportation modes 	FHWA	U.S. Dept. of Transportation 202-366-4000
Urban Forestry Grants	Assistance for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness	\$1,000 to \$25,000 grants awarded with a 50% local match	October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Funding is prioritized for communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan, needing worker training, and needing to conduct a street tree inventory 	WDNR Urban Forestry	Jeff Roe 608-275-3256
Home Depot Community Improvement (Environmental) Grants	Assistance for forestry and ecology projects, clean-up beautification projects, recycling programs				Home Depot Community Affairs	Local Home Depot Store Manager