

2025 VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (CORP) APPENDIX

ADOPTED: 4.22.25



VANDEWALLE &
ASSOCIATES INC.

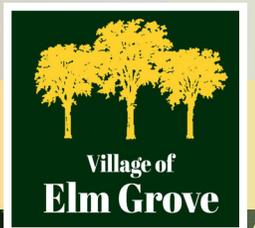


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PART 1: CHARACTERISTICS OF RECOMMENDED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

General Description:

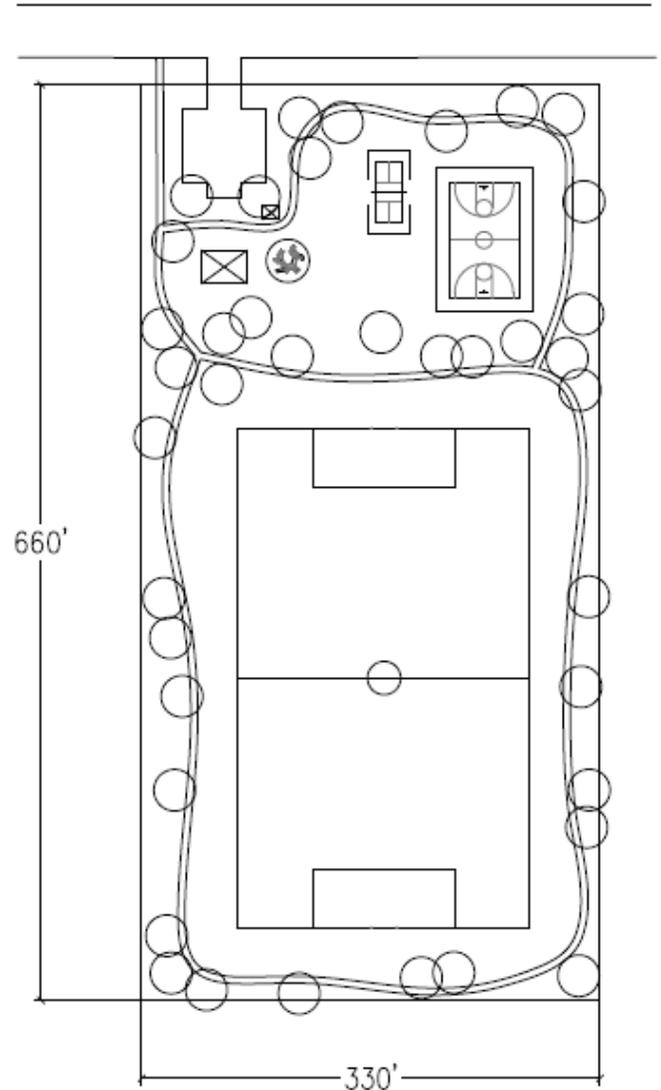
These parks are designed specifically to accommodate residents living within the service area. They are often characterized by active recreational facilities such as a playground or baseball and soccer fields but can also incorporate passive recreational areas for picnicking and nature-study.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreation facilities such as playground equipment, playfields (softball, soccer, football, etc.), pickleball/tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, shuffleboard areas, horseshoe courts, and ice-skating rinks.
- Passive recreation facilities such as internal trails (with connections to larger regional system), picnic/sitting areas, general open space, and nature study area.
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, concessions, and restrooms.
- Landscaped areas which provide buffering and shade.
- Lighting for security at night. Lighting must be designed to be directly cut-off and not spill into adjacent properties.
- Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces.

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Suited for intense development
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Geographically centered with safe walking and biking access
- May be developed as a shared school-park facility
- 1-10 acres in size



Model 5 Acre Neighborhood Park

COMMUNITY PARK

General Description:

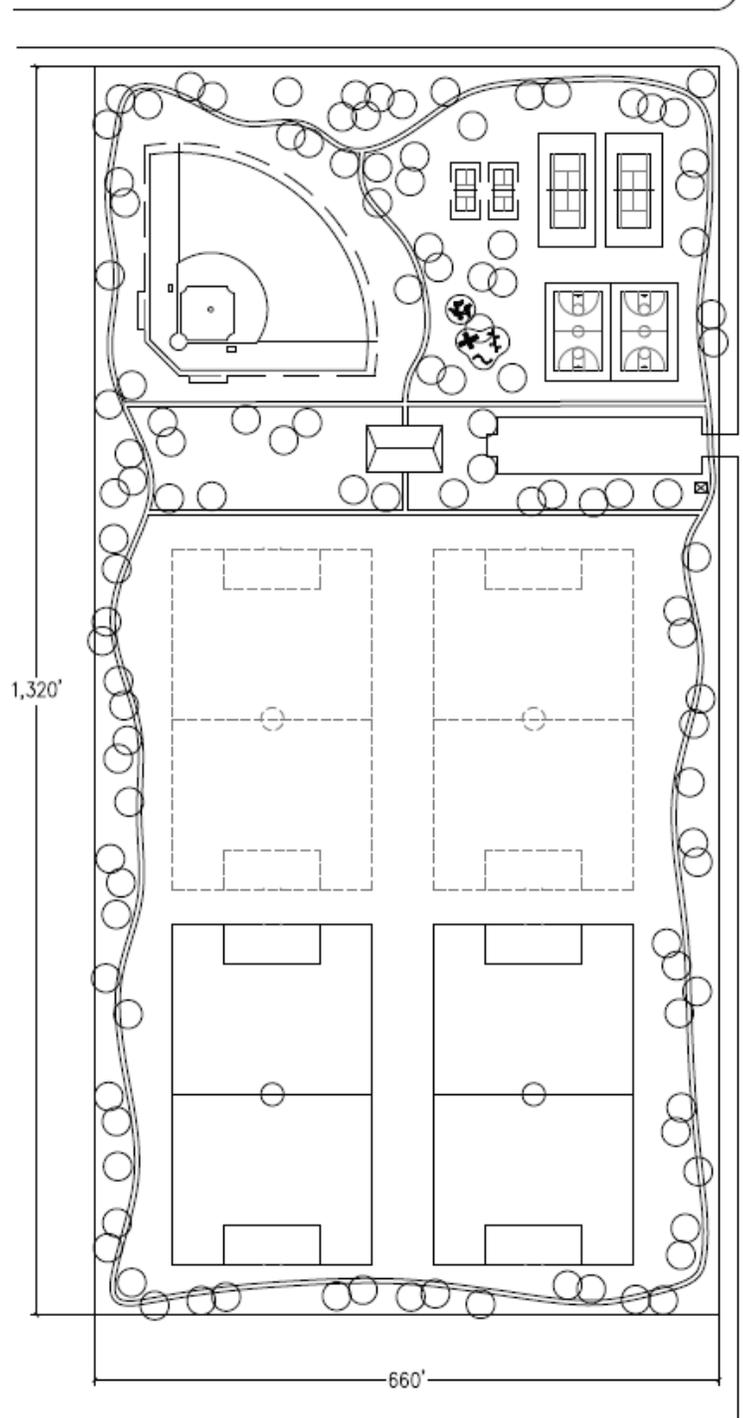
Community parks are larger in size and are able to accommodate visitors from the surrounding community and multiple neighborhoods. These sites focus on both the developed aspects of the park, such as playfields and tennis courts, as well as the natural-resource amenities.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

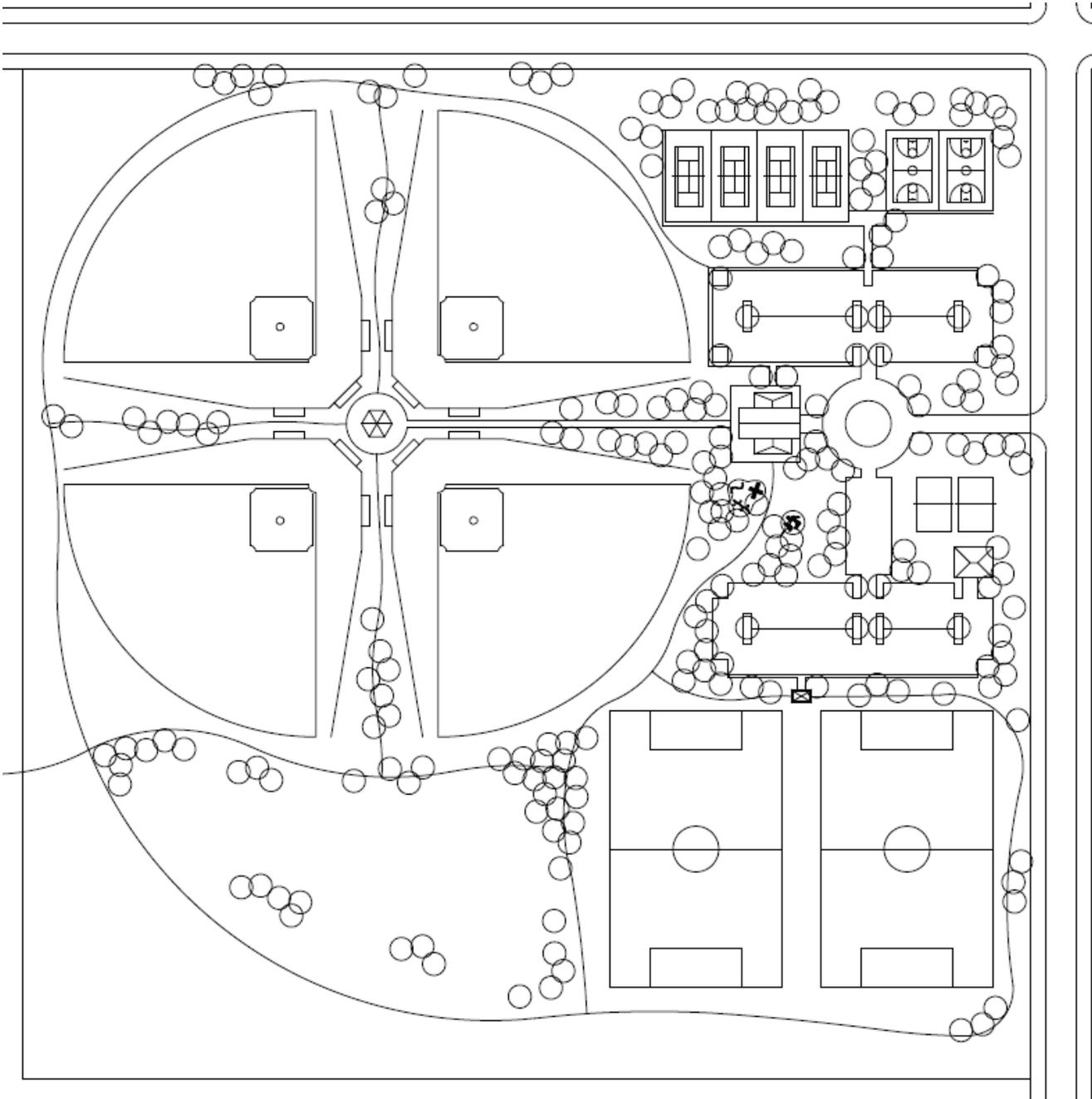
- Active recreation facilities such as playground equipment, playfields (softball, soccer, football, etc.), pickleball/tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, shuffleboard areas, horseshoe courts, ice skating areas, swimming pools, swimming beaches, archery ranges, disc golf areas, or dog parks.
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas, individual and group picnic/sitting areas, general open space and unique landscapes/features, natural study areas, and ornamental gardens.
- 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.
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, concessions, and restrooms.
- Landscaped areas which provide buffering and shade.
- Lighting for security at night. Lighting must be designed to be direct cut-off and not spill into adjacent properties.
- Adequate off-street parking spaces.

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Suited for intense development
- May include natural areas, such as water bodies or wooded areas
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Easily accessible for walking and biking
- Serves neighborhood and community recreational needs
- 10+ acres in size



Model 20 Acre Community Park



Model 40 Acre Community Park

SPECIAL USE PARKS AND FACILITIES

General Description:

Areas of open space that cannot be measured by a quantifiable standard because of their unique and diverse contributions to the community. Special Use Parks and Facilities 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 Use Parks and Facilities 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 amphitheatres, 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, wildlife habitats, areas of rare or endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants, and restoration areas.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- 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, and information booths.
- Lighting for security at night.
- Off-street parking spaces, if appropriate to the area.
- Historic/Cultural/Social – historic downtown areas, performing arts parks, arboretums, ornamental gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, public buildings, zoo, and amphitheatres

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Variable, depending on use

CONSERVANCY AREAS

General Description:

Permanently protected areas of environmental significance or sensitivity, generally with limited opportunities for recreational use. Acquisition of conservancy areas often has secondary benefits such as flood control or enhancement of adjacent private property values. May include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and shoreland setback areas, drainageways, stormwater management basins, environmental corridors, wildlife habitat, areas of endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants or restoration areas, scenic vistas, or environmentally constrained lands or open spaces as recommended in other adopted components of the City's Comprehensive Plan. These sites may also be appropriate for utilities and secondary recreational uses, such as trails.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Passive, nature-based, and low impact recreational facilities.

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Variable, depending on resource being protected.

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.

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, concessions, 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

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 areas and effectively integrates urban and suburban areas with the surrounding natural environment by linking off-street trail segments with on-street bike routes. 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.

Desirable Design Criteria for Multi-Use Paths:

- In urban areas, paths should be a minimum of 10 feet to accommodate two-way bicycle traffic. Paved surfacing is recommended to facilitate biking, walking, running, and skating. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards should be applied to all design, markings, and signage.
- In rural areas, the path should be a minimum of 10 feet wide but could be reduced to 8 feet for a short distance because of physical constraints. They are typically surfaced with limestone screenings or similar material.
- Avoid placement alongside roadways where multiple cross-streets and driveways are or will be present.

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, elevated boardwalks, or mowed grass.

ON-STREET BICYCLE FACILITIES

General Description:

There are a wide variety of on-street bicycle facilities including bike routes, bike lanes, cycle tracks, sharrows, bike boxes, and paved shoulders. Bicycle routes, bike boulevards, and sharrows are the pre-identified and preferred streets for bicycle travel within an urban area. Many times, they are marked by signage on or along the road. 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 of both bicyclist and motorist traffic. Typically, bicycle lanes are established on roadways that are 32 feet or wider. Depending on the size of the roadway and traffic volumes, bike lanes are typically buffered with striping, bollards, or on-street vehicle parking. An even greater level of separation is in the form of a dedicated on-street two-way separated path, referred to as a cycle track. This is usually used for one-way streets in areas that are the most heavily traveled by bicyclists, such as a downtown. Used in conjunction with other on-street facilities are bike boxes. These are dedicated painted areas for bicyclists to stop ahead of vehicles at potentially dangerous or heavily traveled intersections.

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 vehicles per day) with rural cross sections (i.e., no curb and gutter)

Desirable Design Criteria for Bicycle Lanes:

- Shared bicycle and vehicle lanes can be used on any lane width but should follow the AASHTO standards for marking and signage.
- Minimum width should be 5 feet.
- When used alongside a parking lane (minimum 7 feet), bike lanes should be at least 5 feet wide and located on the traffic-facing side of the parking lane.
- Where shared bike lanes and parallel on-street parking are used, minimum combined width should be 12 feet.
- Any lane markings or signage should meet the AASHTO standards.
- Street signs should be used to identify bicycle lanes.

Desirable Design Criteria for Paved Shoulders:

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



TRAILHEADS

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

PART 2: DATA INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Population Trends and Forecasts

FIGURE 2.1: POPULATION COMPARISON

Municipality	1990	2000	2010	2020	2022*	2000-2010	2010-2022
Village of Elm Grove	6,261	6,249	5,934	6,513	6,445	-5%	10%
Village of Thiensville	3,301	3,254	3,235	3,290	3,279	-1%	2%
Village of Brown Deer	12,236	12,170	11,999	12,507	12,593	-1%	4%
City of Glendale	14,088	13,367	12,872	13,357	13,227	-4%	4%
Village of Greendale	15,128	14,405	14,046	14,854	14,722	-2%	6%
Village of Whitefish Bay	14,272	14,163	14,110	14,954	14,804	0%	6%
Waukesha County	304,715	360,767	389,891	406,978	407,290	8%	4%
Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,686,986	5,893,718	5,882,128	6%	4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 – 2020 Census.

*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2022.

Predicting future population growth is challenging and somewhat inexact. It should be noted that Elm Grove’s actual future population will depend on social and economic trends, market conditions, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations. Figure 2.2 below depicts seven population projection methods. This set of projections was prepared specifically for this Plan and by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. All are projected through 2040. These forecasts provide the basis for determining future need for parks and open spaces.

FIGURE 2.2: VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE POPULATION PROJECTIONS

	2010	2022	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	% Change 2022-2045	Pop. Increase 2022-2045
WisDOA Projections*	5,934	6,445	5,990	6,000	5,860	5,625	-		
Linear Growth 1990-2022 ⁽¹⁾	5,934	6,445	6,462	6,491	6,520	6,549	6,577	2%	132
Linear Growth 2000-2022 ⁽¹⁾	5,934	6,445	6,472	6,516	6,561	6,605	6,650	3%	205
Custom: Linear Growth 2010-2022 + Caroline Heights^(1,2)	5,934	6,445	6,573	7,290	7,335	7,380	7,424	15%	979
Compounded Growth 1990-2022 ⁽²⁾	5,934	6,445	6,463	6,493	6,522	6,552	6,583	2%	138
Compounded Growth 2000-2022 ⁽²⁾	5,934	6,445	6,473	6,519	6,565	6,612	6,660	3%	215
Compounded Growth 2010-2022 ⁽²⁾	5,934	6,445	6,585	6,824	7,073	7,330	7,597	18%	1,152

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990-2020 Census.

*Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2013 population estimate.

1. Extrapolated based on the average annual population change over the given years.

1.2 Extrapolated based on the average annual population change over the given years, accommodating the expected population increase with the completion of the Caroline Heights development project of approximately 504 residents.

2. Extrapolated based on the average annual percent change over the given years.

These projections were derived using the following methodologies:

- **Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) Projection:** In 2013, the State Department of Administration forecasted population change for all communities in Wisconsin based on 2010 U.S. Census data.
- **Linear Growth Rate (1990-2022, 2000-2022):** These projections were calculated using the average annual population change over the time period and projecting that rate forward to 2040. The average annual population change for the various time periods ranged from -10 to 70 new people per year.
- **Custom: Linear Growth 2010-2022 + Caroline Heights:** These projections used the linear growth rate from 2010 to 2022 (43 new residents per year) to project the population from 2025 to 2045, but includes the expected 504

resident increase from Caroline Heights added by 2030, and averages the remaining growth to reach the projected population of 7,424.

- **Annual Compounded Percentage Growth Rate (1990-2022, 2000-2022, 2010-2022):** These estimations are determined utilizing the annual average percentage change over the time period and extrapolating that rate forward to 2040. The average annual percentage change for the three time periods ranged from -0.1% to 0.5% growth.

Age and Gender Distribution

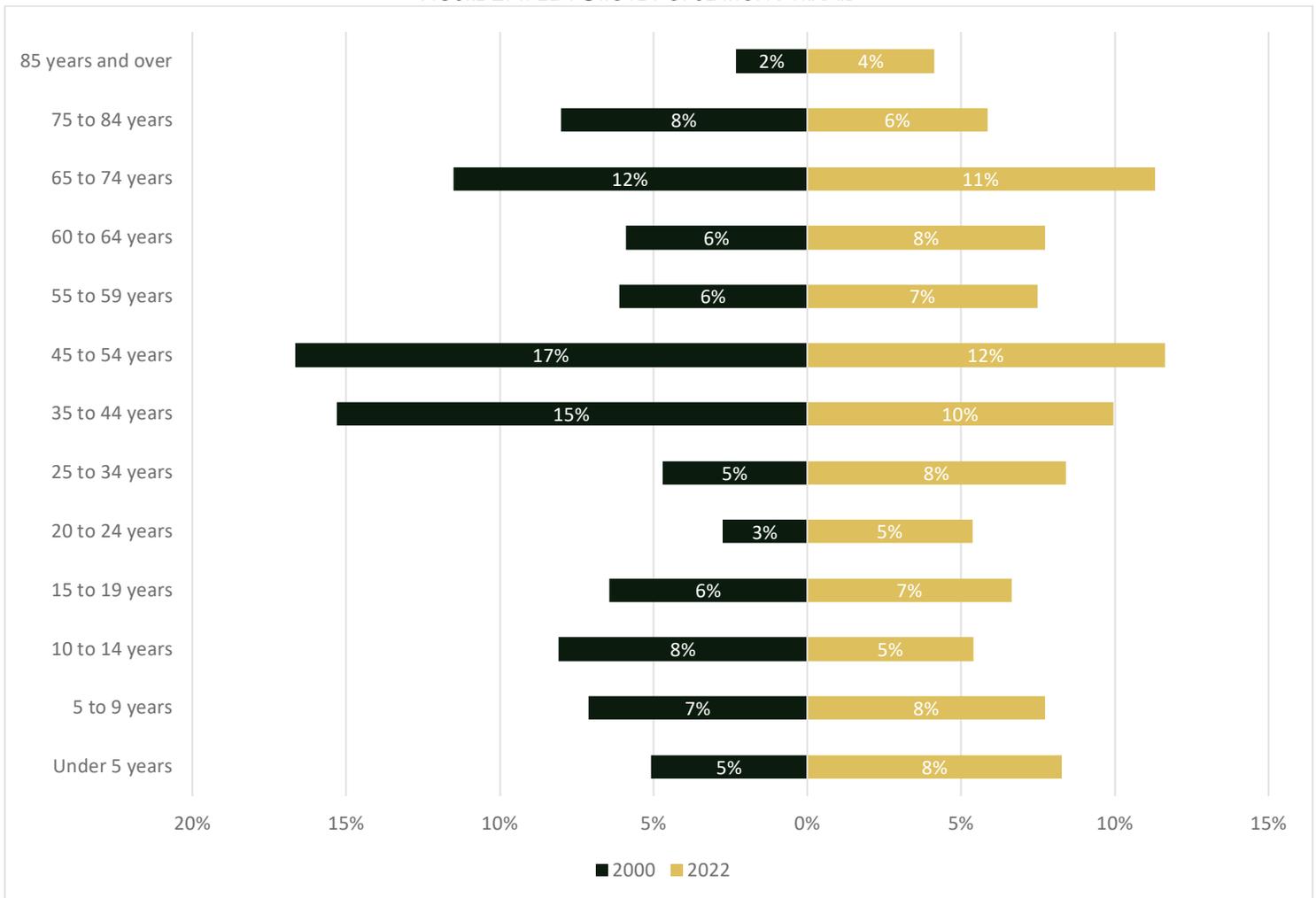
FIGURE 2.3: AGE DISTRIBUTION

	Median Age			Percent Under 18			Percent Over 65		
	2000	2010	2022	2000	2010	2022	2000	2010	2022
Village of Elm Grove	45	45	43	27%	24%	26%	22%	20%	21%
Village of Thiensville	43	45	46	21%	23%	15%	21%	21%	21%
Village of Brown Deer	42	42	43	20%	21%	20%	19%	17%	20%
City of Glendale	46	48	45	19%	17%	20%	25%	25%	26%
Village of Whitefish Bay	38	40	40	29%	29%	31%	12%	11%	15%
Village of Greendale	44	45	42	22%	21%	25%	20%	23%	22%
Waukesha County	38	42	44	26%	24%	21%	12%	14%	21%
Wisconsin	36	39	40	26%	21%	21%	13%	14%	19%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 2.4: ELM GROVE POPULATION PYRAMID



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

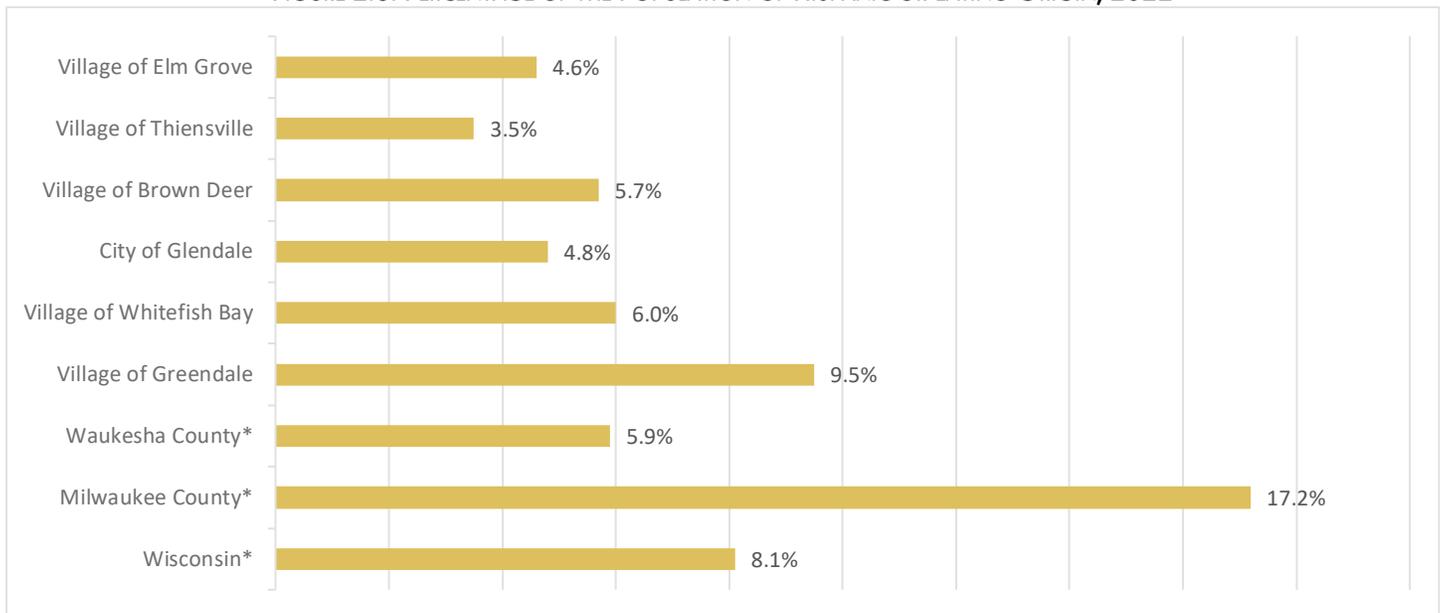
Racial & Ethnic Distribution

FIGURE 2.5: RACE AND ETHNICITY COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022

	White	African American	American Indian	Asian	Other	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino
Village of Elm Grove	88.8%	3.2%	0.0%	3.9%	0.4%	3.8%	4.6%
Village of Thiensville	88.2%	1.0%	1.1%	5.3%	1.6%	2.8%	3.5%
Village of Brown Deer	49.7%	30.8%	0.2%	6.0%	1.8%	11.5%	5.7%
City of Glendale	67.3%	17.6%	0.4%	7.1%	3.8%	3.9%	4.8%
Village of Whitefish Bay	87.2%	2.6%	0.1%	3.3%	2.0%	4.8%	6.0%
Village of Greendale	81.4%	1.7%	0.5%	5.9%	4.6%	5.9%	9.5%
Waukesha County*	86.8%	1.8%	0.2%	3.9%	1.5%	5.8%	5.9%
Wisconsin*	79.9%	5.9%	0.8%	3.0%	2.7%	7.6%	8.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 2.6: PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION OF HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN, 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2022; *2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 2.7: GREENDALE RACE AND ETHNICITY

Race	2000	2010	2020	2022
White	97%	95%	90%	89%
Black or African American	0%	1%	1%	3%
American Indian	0.1%	0%	0%	0%
Asian	2%	3%	2%	6%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	1%	1%	1%	2%
Two or More	0%	0%	6%	4%
Hispanic or Latino	2%	2%	3%	5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Household Trends

FIGURE 2.8: 2022 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTIC COMPARISONS

	Total Housing Units	Vacant Units	Percent Owner Occupied	Average Household Size
Village of Elm Grove	2,562	5.3%	89.2%	2.85
Village of Thiensville	1,652	6.1%	65.0%	2.07
Village of Brown Deer	5,865	5.8%	65.8%	2.20
City of Glendale	6,462	6.2%	68.0%	2.21
Village of Whitefish Bay	5,413	4.2%	81.5%	2.67
Village of Greendale	6,330	3.3%	68.9%	2.38
Waukesha County	172,177	4.4%	75.2%*	2.43*
Wisconsin	2,727,726	11.0%	67.9%*	2.31*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2022; *2023, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 2.9: 2020 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTIC COMPARISONS, CONTINUED

	Owner-Occupied Home Value	Median Owner-Occupied Costs per month with a mortgage	Gross Rent	Median Household Income
Village of Elm Grove	\$402,100	\$2,450	\$1,424	\$126,996
Village of Thiensville	\$316,500	\$1,770	\$1,179	\$85,542
Village of Brown Deer	\$209,300	\$1,641	\$991	\$88,164
City of Glendale	\$266,700	\$1,892	\$1,217	\$79,861
Village of Whitefish Bay	\$472,800	\$2,684	\$1,262	\$142,356
Village of Greendale	\$278,600	\$1,919	\$1,152	\$89,684
Waukesha County*	\$407,600	\$2,025	\$1,330	\$98,630
Wisconsin*	\$283,400	\$1,629	\$1,071	\$74,631

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2022; *2023, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 2.10: PROJECTED HOUSEHOLDS AND NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD

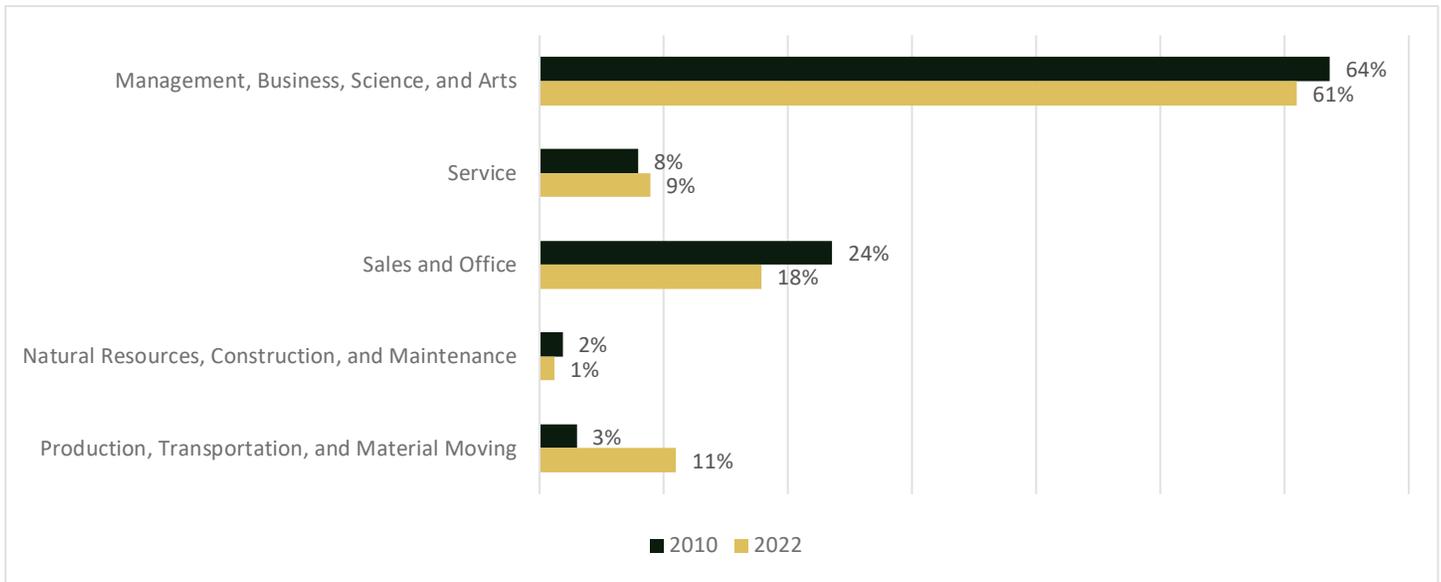
	Number of Households							Additional HHs 2025-2035	Additional HHs 2025-2045
	2010*	2022**	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045		
Linear Growth 1990-2022 ⁽¹⁾	2,326	2,191	2,267	2,278	2,288	2,298	2,308	20	40
Linear Growth 2000-2022 ⁽¹⁾	2,326	2,191	2,271	2,286	2,302	2,318	2,333	31	63
Custom: Linear Growth 2010-2022 + Caroline Heights ^(1,2)	2,326	2,191	2,306	2,558	2,574	2,589	2,605	267	299
Compounded Growth 1990-2022 ⁽²⁾	2,326	2,191	2,268	2,278	2,289	2,299	2,310	21	42
Compounded Growth 2000-2022 ⁽²⁾	2,326	2,191	2,271	2,287	2,304	2,320	2,337	33	66
Compounded Growth 2010-2022 ⁽²⁾	2,326	2,191	2,310	2,395	2,482	2,572	2,666	171	355
Customized Projected Average Household Size	2.49	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	-	-

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990-2010 Census.

**Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

***Projected household sizes were estimated based on the continuing the average household size reported in the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates data (2.85).

FIGURE 2.11: OCCUPATION BY INDUSTRY, ELM GROVE



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 2.12: PUBLIC HEALTH CONTEXT

	Overall Health Outcome Ranking*	Percentage of Adult Obesity
Waukesha County	2 of 72	34%
Dane County	7 out of 72	28%
Milwaukee County	70 out of 72	38%
Ozaukee County	1 out of 72	31%
Washington County	5 out of 72	33%
Wisconsin	N/A	34%

*2021 Health outcomes rankings are a combination of factors including length of life, quality of life, health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment.

Source: 2021 County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

FIGURE 2.13: PUBLIC HEALTH CONTEXT

	Diagnosed With Diabetes*	Leading Cause of Death**	Life Expectancy***
Waukesha County	7.3%	Cancer (194.5 per 100,000)	81.5
Dane County	5.9%	Cancer (142.5 per 100,000)	81.2
Milwaukee County	9.4%	Heart Disease (199 per 100,000)	77.6
Ozaukee County	6.4%	Heart Disease (210 per 100,000)	81.8
Washington County	7.0%	Heart Disease (204.8 per 100,000)	80.4
Wisconsin	8.8%	Heart Disease (201.4 per 100,000)	79.5

*Source: CDC, 2019.

**Source: 2017 Wisconsin Public Health Profiles. Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

***Source: Life Expectancy in Wisconsin 2010-2014. Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2016.

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PART 3: REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS AND REPORTS

A critical step in the park planning process is the examination of past planning efforts in the Village and other related municipal, county, and state plans. A comprehensive understanding of how the Village and its surrounding area have evolved over time and of how this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan can support additional future planning efforts helps establish guidelines for the recommendations and implementation strategies of this Plan.

Moreover, a review of existing plans helps identify ways this Plan can be adapted so that its goals, objectives, and policies align and coordinate with ongoing planning efforts within the Village, County, and region. The following is a summary of information from existing plans that informs the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the Elm Grove Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

PLAN REVIEW SUMMARY

Village of Elm Grove Comprehensive Plan (2007)

The Village's Comprehensive Plan, updated in 2007, provides guidance on how and where the Village might grow, develop, and change over the next twenty years. The Plan provides an overall vision, goals, objectives and policies, and specific issues and opportunities for the community, and covers all nine essential elements of the state statutes governing long-term comprehensive planning. Some of the key opportunities and recommendations within the Village's Comprehensive Plan include:

Transportation Goals:

- Encouraging pedestrian-oriented multi-modal designs that support a mix of uses to make walking and bicycling viable transportation options, minimizing traffic on existing streets.
- Plan and implement a comprehensive network of sidewalks, bicycle routes, and trails in the Village that serve neighborhoods, schools, parks, playgrounds, and activity centers.
- Continuing to develop a pedestrian system in the Village by installing sidewalks in new development and providing connections to schools and other pedestrian traffic generators, such as recreational spaces.

Policies for Bicycle and Pedestrian trail systems:

- Providing connectivity to trails within the Village as a loop and connecting to nearby regional trails to expand safe transportation options to a variety of users.
- Consider potential new pathway connections and renovations to improve pedestrian and bicycle access and safety.
- Encourage continued operations of public transit that accommodates persons who are physically challenged, and ensure that public and private pedestrian facilities and vehicular parking lots are compliant with ADA (American Disabilities Act) design standards.
- Consider developing a "walkable communities" initiative.

Additional recommendations include:

- Preserving valued natural features & characteristics of the Village to serve as wildlife corridors, recreational trails, and stormwater management areas.
- Protecting water quality
- Accommodating active and passive recreation areas
- Integrating neighborhoods and new development with parks, open space, and the public trail network
- Enhancing natural stormwater management

Many of the issues, opportunities, goals, objectives, and recommendations identified in the 2007 Elm Grove Comprehensive Plan are still relevant and applicable in 2025 and are reflected and supported throughout this Plan. This plan builds upon Comprehensive Plan information and recommendations, providing strategic updates to key areas to further advance and prioritize future park and recreation planning, development, upgrades, and integration into the community.

One of the Village's Comprehensive Plan goals is to encourage and support a range of transportation choices while providing access to natural areas and open spaces through the existing path and railway network. This CORP provides specific recommendations for the implementation of trail network expansions and multimodal transportation facility options that help accomplish this goal. Creating an integrated, efficient, and economical transportation system that offers mobility, convenience, and safety to meet the needs of all citizens is a goal supported by both this plan and the community's existing Comprehensive Plan.

Village of Elm Grove Downtown Master Plan Guidelines (2020)

The Village of Elm Grove Downtown Masterplan Guidelines, while not formally adopted, is a document meant to guide the vision that residents and various stakeholders have for Downtown Elm Grove and has been used in the implementation of numerous projects. This plan includes significant community input that was gathered through focus groups, surveys, and charrettes. This community input was used to guide the plan and to create a vision statement for Downtown Elm Grove:

Vision Statement: "Downtown Elm Grove is economically vibrant and functions as the social center of the community, providing a highly walkable, safe and comfortable environment for Village residents and daytime workers to enjoy throughout the year"

The plan puts an emphasis on creating a walkable downtown area for Elm Grove and creating a destination for social and recreational opportunities and activities. Since the Underwood Creek bisects through the center of the downtown area, it is identified as a valuable asset for the future of Elm Grove. While valuable to the community, the Underwood Creek has been hidden through channeling and covered by parking lots and pavement. Because of this, the plan recommends the daylighting of the creek to secure it as an opportunity for increased recreational and aesthetic purposes.

In November of 2024, the proposal to fund the daylighting of Underwood Creek was approved by the residents of Elm Grove. Plans for the Underwood Creek Daylighting Project include new pathway connections, natural stream improvements, and a new pocket park and gathering space.

A Long-Range Park and Open Space Plan for Waukesha County (2023-2027)

This Plan, prepared by Waukesha County details an inventory of the existing parks and facilities in Waukesha County, facility specific recommendations, preservation and protection initiatives, and ongoing projects and programs. This includes planning and acquisition priorities for regional bicycle, pedestrian, and water trail systems. Each of these plans are components of the greater County Comprehensive Plan.

Overall goals of each plan include:

- Provide sufficient park land and recreation facilities to meet the current and projected future demand of County residents without adversely affecting existing natural and cultural resources.
- Showcase and reserve the characteristics and diversity of the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the County.
- Preserve large tracts of natural and open space landscapes at urban fringe areas that will provide regional resource protection and recreation benefits.
- Protect lakes, rivers, and streams, including wetlands, high infiltration areas, and associated vegetative buffers to maintain high water quality, manage water quantity, and sustain water-related recreation throughout the County.

The Waukesha County Plan places a major emphasis on recommendations for land acquisition to accommodate new trails to connect existing and proposed parks, preserve natural resource sites, and for the expansion of already existing County Parks (more specifically Ryan Park and Retzer Nature Center).

Vision 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin

The Vision 2050 Plan, developed by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) serves as a region-wide comprehensive plan for Waukesha County and six other adjacent counties, providing guidance on how and where each County might grow, develop, and change over the next twenty years. The plan provides an overall vision, goals, objectives and policies, specific issues and opportunities for the region, and each plan covers all nine comprehensive planning elements as required by state statutes. Some of the key issues and opportunities include:

- The County is a growth community, in terms of both development and population.
- The dynamic of the County's populations is changing, in terms of an increasingly aging population, larger Hispanic and Latino population, and more educated population.
- Growth and changing population dynamics will have various implications including more diverse services needed, more annexations and land being taken out of agricultural use, increasing transportation and utility needs, and need for more multi-jurisdictional cooperation and planning.

The Plan inventories primary and secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural areas, and parks within the seven-county system. It also weaves park and recreation policies into the implementation framework of the plan with the overarching goals of encouraging the development of neighborhoods with walking access to parks and increasing the region's bicycle and pedestrian network to improve access to activity centers, parks, and recreational resources. In Elm Grove and the surrounding area, the Plan specifically identifies Bluemound Road, Pilgrim Parkway, North Avenue, and Watertown Plank Road as key recommended corridors for enhanced bicycle facilities. It also calls for the expansion of an off-street trail running north-south through the Village that connects to a larger trail network.

The Vision 2050 planning process and community input feature significant focus on encouraging the preservation of environmental corridors and assets, including parks and recreational open space, controlling residential and commercial development sprawl, and promoting more transportation options, such as sidewalks, multiuse trails, and high-quality bicycle infrastructure and facilities.

Many of the other issues and opportunities identified in the plan are still applicable in 2025 and reflect many of the goals, objectives, and policies mirrored and supported in this plan.

Wisconsin State Park System Strategic Directions (2015-2020) and Wisconsin Trail Network Plan (2003)

The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has developed these two plans for its entire systems of state parks and trails. There are not specific recommendations related to Elm Grove, however the plan identifies several area state trail facilities that should be considered in regional bicycle and pedestrian network connection planning. With Milwaukee County's extensive Oak Leaf Trail and Wisconsin's Hank Aaron State Trail located in close proximity to the Village and the Fox River Parkway located nearby, there are many opportunities to connect Elm Grove to National, State, and County recreational facilities.

The Wisconsin State Park System Strategic Plan set forth five strategic directions:

- Provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities and settings
- Conserve, manage, and interpret natural, cultural, and scenic resources
- Actively promote excellence in our workforce
- Strengthen the Wisconsin State Park System financial condition
- Build and strengthen outreach and partnerships

The Wisconsin State Trails Network Plan provides a vision for establishing trail network connectivity statewide; and focuses on abandoned rail, road, utility line, natural features and resources, interstate, and public lands. The plan recognizes the important role that trails developed by local units of governments serve as critical links. Under the plan, WDNR staff will continue to work with local governments and encourage them to connect trails onto this network as they update local plans.

The 2024-2028 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as a blueprint for state and local outdoor recreation planning through support of national initiatives, sets the course for recreation within the state by describing current recreation supply and trends, and provides a framework for future recreation development and focus. At the time of this plan's development, the SCORP was released as a draft. Because of this, some of the language that appears in this section may differ from the final approved SCORP.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has two overarching goals:

- Ensure that all Wisconsinites have equitable opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation, regardless of where they live or their ethnicity, gender, income, abilities, or age.
- Maintain and expand the sustainability of recreational opportunities in our state, ensuring that existing opportunities are well funded and have the support to grow and expand where needed.

The plan also introduces eleven main strategies to achieve the two goals of the plan:

1. Provide more opportunities for outdoor recreation close to home.
2. Provide needed recreation facilities.
3. Improve affordability of participation.
4. Develop and enhance mentoring programs.
5. Create more welcoming outdoor spaces.
6. Improve the distribution of information on recreation opportunities.
7. Expand and diversify funding sources.
8. Adapt to new conditions for outdoor recreation.
9. Adapt management of recreation opportunities and facilities.
10. Mitigate climate change.
11. Create an implementation plan that identifies desired outcomes as well as the group(s) to coordinate and advocate for outdoor recreation throughout Wisconsin.

Factors affecting participation in outdoor recreation:

- Participation in outdoor recreation activities spiked during the pandemic.
- Motivations to participate in outdoor recreation include improved physical, mental, social opportunities, and access to healthy foods.
- The most common barrier to participation in outdoor recreation is a lack of time.
- Other barriers include: the need for mentoring, providing information in multiple languages, and improving access to places.

The SCORP also notes that communities that face barriers to outdoor recreation may also face barriers to important needs such as healthy foods, living in places without pollution, and lack of access to quality early childhood recreation.

Many of the goals within the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan are also reflected in this Plan and were heard throughout the public participation process as goals directly applicable to the Village of Elm Grove.

Wisconsin's Changing Climate Report (2022)

The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI), a statewide collaboration of scientists and stakeholders formed as a partnership between UW-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, published a comprehensive study evaluating climate change impacts on Wisconsin communities.

Wisconsin's climate continues to change. In the 10 years since the 2011 WICCI Assessment report, new data shows continued warming, increases in rain and snow, and more frequent extreme rainfall events. The effects of climate change are felt in nearly every region in the state and affect the places we work and play, including farms, lakes and rivers, forests, and the built environment. All regions of Wisconsin have reported their wettest decade in recorded history over the past ten years, and average precipitation has increased by 17% (about five inches) since 1950. The average daily temperature across the state has increased by three degrees Fahrenheit over the same time period, and the last two decades have been the warmest on record. It is projected that extreme precipitation and weather events will increase in the future.

The report calls for actions by communities across the state to decrease carbon emissions and promote environmental and climate justice by investing in solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and associated climate impacts. Many of the goals, objectives, and recommendations of this Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan align with this report, serving to preserve the natural environment and decrease automobile dependency by providing alternative means of transportation to the Village of Greendale's various park and recreational amenities.

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (2006)

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 indicates that Elm Grove lies within the Southern Lake Michigan Coastal ecological landscape and borders the Southeast Glacial Plains. The report identifies one legacy site in Milwaukee County proximate to the Village of Elm Grove, the stream corridor of the Menomonee and Little Menomonee Rivers. In addition to these features, the area provides significant hiking, environmental and ecological studying opportunities near Elm Grove and several larger population centers. Continued forest management and strategic expansions of outdoor recreational facilities are important in maintaining the steadily growing urban area's natural features. The report recommends that the expansion of future recreational opportunities should be accomplished by restoring somewhat degraded natural areas to provide a range of hiking, biking, horseback, and other types of trails. To the greatest practical degree, buffering, linking, and expanding existing public lands would enable considerably more conservation and recreational opportunities.

Connect 2050 Wisconsin Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (2022)

Connections 2050 links statewide transportation policy to implementation, planning, programming, and other Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) activities. The plan calls for improved system integration for passengers and freight, as well as modernization to correct outdated infrastructure design and combine technological advancements with more traditional transportation infrastructure designs.

The Plan sets policy directions for the state trunk highway system, public transit, intercity travel, freight movement, bicycle and pedestrian travel, and funding, project scheduling and prioritization decisions. As part of the Connections 2030 planning process, WisDOT identified 37 System-level Priority Corridors. The corridor maps identify specific projects; however, the Plan does not guarantee that all potential projects will be implemented. Elm Grove is located in the Southeastern Wisconsin Metropolitan Planning Area – Milwaukee County.

Recommendations in the Elm Grove area include:

- Developing a Bus Rapid Transit and park and ride system serving I-94
- A proposed transit station nearby in Brookfield.
- A proposed commuter rail (i.e., Amtrak) and intercity rail through the Village
- A proposed urban regional bike and pedestrian trail

Some of these recommendations may have implications for future bike and pedestrian planning by the Village in relation to connecting and accessing parks, recreational facilities, and open space.

Wisconsin Healthy Communities (2019-2021)

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute has recently started recognizing communities throughout the state on their pursuit of improved public health through the designation of Wisconsin Healthy Communities. The purpose of the designation is to recognize and encourage local efforts that improve the overall community's health and well-being. It also aims to promote collaboration centered around health improvement. Communities are recognized as Gold, Silver, or Bronze depending on how well they are pursuing public health improvement efforts. While Elm Grove has not formally been recognized to this point, several surrounding communities have, including:

- City of West Allis (Milwaukee County) - Gold
- City of Greenfield (Milwaukee County) – Silver
- City of Menomonee Falls (Waukesha County) - Silver

Recommendations in this Plan can serve as the foundation for various initiatives that will support the creation of a healthier community in Elm Grove, including the activation of critical street network connections with multimodal transportation options, increased green space and park connectivity, and community programming at public amenities to support physical and social activity.

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PART 4: NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

The most important feature of the natural resource base in the Village of Elm Grove is the open land. Elm Grove is a fully developed suburb of Milwaukee with very little open land available. The protection and preservation of what little non-developed areas are left in essentially natural, open uses is critical to maintaining both the ecological balance and the natural beauty of the region and Elm Grove.

Since the Village of Elm Grove is physically constrained and almost entirely built-out, open space and natural areas a valuable asset for the community. These resources are critical to the long-term health, vitality, and sustainability of not only Elm Grove, but every community. Since these resources also help define a community and strongly affect its quality of life, they must be examined as a part of the planning process.

Because of the vital functions performed by natural, cultural, and open space resource features in and around the Village of Elm Grove, unplanned urban development into these areas is inappropriate and should be discouraged. The incompatibility of urban development within natural resource areas, for instance, can be evidenced by the widespread, serious, and costly problems that are often encountered when development occurs within these areas. Examples of such problems include failing foundations and structures, wet basements, excessive operation of sump pumps, excessive clear water infiltration into sanitary sewers, and poor stormwater drainage.



The Village is fully developed and contains two important secondary environmental corridors, the Dousman Ditch and Underwood Creek, a tributary of the Menomonee River. Elm Grove is also a designee of Tree City USA and boasts a healthy coverage of tree canopy. Since the Village is fully developed, it must ensure that any redevelopment or infill does not negatively impact these important resources. When redevelopment is proposed in close proximity to the environmental corridors and other natural areas, it is critical that the developer identify how they will address direct environmental impacts such as land and habitat disturbance, vegetation clearing, and the alteration of existing topography as well as secondary impacts such as stormwater runoff, increased impervious surfaces, and other impacts of the development.

The existing environmental corridors and expansive tree canopy, in combination with Village's well-planned park system, trail network, and preserved environmental corridors combine to help create the community's natural character. In order for the Village to maintain these features that make Elm Grove desirable to both new and existing residents alike, it must look into sustainable and responsible patterns of redevelopment that preserve the natural areas of the village and its extensive tree canopy. This Plan will examine ways to build upon the community's natural resources and character through coordinated park and recreational facility planning to establish and promote a community identity, while at the same time preserving natural features and overall character that makes Elm Grove unique.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Landscape and Topography

The topography of the Village has been principally influenced by the late Wisconsin stage of glacial action. Prior to urban development, Elm Grove consisted of rolling ground moraine, with hills and ridges interspersed with broad undulating plains. As the Village became developed, these land features have been manipulated to accept urban land uses. The topographic elevation of the Village ranges from 743.5 to 884.5 feet above sea level. The slope of the lands, to a great extent, determines the land use capabilities. As it relates to recreation potential, lands that are nearly level or have gentle slopes are best suited for active recreation playfields and playgrounds.

Most of the upland woodlands, prairies and savannas have been converted to residential land uses. Fire suppression and invasion of non-native species have degraded the quality of the remaining resources. Historic sedge meadows have been lost through ditching, tilling, hydrologic alterations, and the invasion of non-native grasses.

General Soils Information

Soil suitability is a key factor in determining the best and most cost-effective locations for new development. Modern engineering technology and practice can typically overcome most problems associated with the varying characteristics of soil types, however, the financial and environmental costs associated with certain soil quality limitations can be prohibitive to development. Problems that limit development on certain soils include slumping, poor drainage, erosion, steep slopes, and high-water tables. The bedrock of Elm Grove is made up of shale and dolomite underlying the glacial material in the area. Very poorly drained organic soils formed in the depression of old lakebeds and floodplains. The major soil association in Elm Grove is the Ozaukee-Morley-Mequon group with a subsoil of silty clay loam and silty clay formed in thin loess and silty clay loam glacial till on the moraines. Well drained, clay loam soils formed over outwash plains and stream terraces.

Productive Agricultural Lands

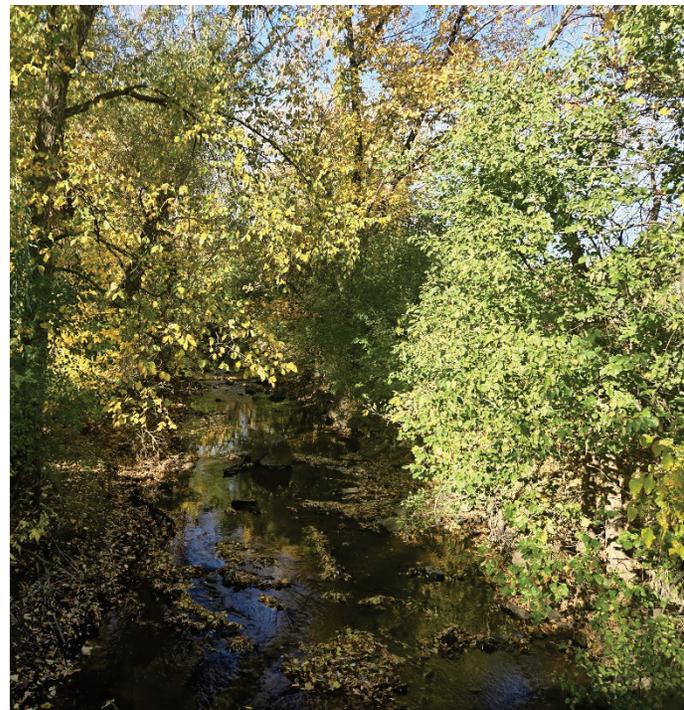
While farming and agriculture have a long history in Waukesha County, including its former title as “Cow County USA,” the amount of active agriculture land in the region has declined significantly as urban development has spread. There is no active agricultural land in Elm Grove.

Waterways

Within the State of Wisconsin, waterways are generally governed as a component of the State’s Public Trust Doctrine, as described in Article IX Section 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution, and interpreted over time by Wisconsin Courts and the State Attorney General’s office. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the public trust doctrine declares that all navigable waters are “common highways and forever free,” and are held in trust by the WDNR for the public. As a result of subsequent citizen action and court decisions, the public interest, once primarily interpreted to protect public rights to transportation on navigable waters, has been broadened to include protected public rights to water quality and quantity, recreational activities, and scenic beauty.

Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine requires the state to intervene to protect public rights in the commercial or recreational use of navigable waters. The WDNR, as the state agent charged with this responsibility, can do so through permitting requirements for water projects, through court action to stop nuisances in navigable waters, and through statutes authorizing local zoning ordinances that limit development along navigable waterways. The court has ruled WDNR staff must consider the cumulative impacts of individual projects in their decisions when reviewing projects that could impact Wisconsin lakes and rivers.

Surface water is one of the most important natural resources available in a community. Lakes, rivers, and streams offer enjoyment, peace, and solitude. Surface water provides recreational and tourism opportunities to anglers, boaters, hunters, water skiers, swimmers, sailors, and casual observers alike. Surface waters provide an end source for drainage after heavy rains, provide habitat for countless plants, fish, and animals, are a source of drinking water for many communities, and are a source of process water for industry and agriculture. Lands immediately adjacent to such waters have an abundance of cultural and archeological significance because they were often the location of Native American and early European settlements. For all these reasons and more, surface water is typically the most important natural resource a community contains.



Because of their importance, numerous federal, state, and local laws and regulations have been created to protect surface waters. They range from the commerce clause of the United States Constitution to county shoreland and floodplain zoning regulations. The most heavily regulated waters are those that are determined to be natural and “navigable.” All lakes, rivers, flowages, ponds, and streams, no matter how small, should be assumed to be navigable until determined otherwise by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). According to the WDNR Waterway and Wetland Handbook: “Using the direction in *DeGayner v. D.N.R.*, 70 Wis. 2d 936 (1975), a stream is navigable-in-fact if it is navigable by canoe or skiff on a recurring basis (i.e., annually during spring thaw) and has a discernable bed and banks.”

Wetlands & Floodplains

Wetlands are areas in which the water table is at, near, or above the land surface, and which are characterized by hydric soils and by the growth of wetland vegetation. Within the Village of Elm Grove, wetlands are found in the Underwood Creek drainage and Dousman Ditch environments.

Protection of wetlands is endorsed through federal, state, and local regulations because of their values for wildlife, flood control, water filtering capacity, vegetative diversity, and aesthetics. Within the Village, all officially delineated wetlands that are five acres or greater on private and public properties are protected through the Wetland Overlay District (W-1) (Village Code of Ordinances, § 335-27).

Floodplain areas in the Village are designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In cooperation with FEMA, the State of Wisconsin and the Village of Elm Grove actively enforce regulations limiting development within the designated floodplain area. Such areas are those potentially subject to the 100-year flood event adjacent to navigable waters. Properties outside of identified floodplain areas are not necessarily immune from flooding, as was evidenced in the significant flooding events that occurred in the Village during 1997 and 1998.

Development is strongly discouraged and generally prohibited in floodplains, so as to avoid both on-site and property damage both up and downstream.

The Village Code of Ordinances serves as a regulating tool that outlines measures for protection and uses within private and public acreage that is susceptible to flooding. The Village Floodplain Zoning Ordinance (Village Code of Ordinances, § 330) outlines general provisions and standards applicable to private and public acreage that is subject to periodic flooding. The ordinance establishes and defines two districts that comprise the flood plain: The Floodway District (FW) consists of the channel of a river or stream and those portions of the floodplain adjoining the channel required to carry the regional floodwaters. The Flood Fringe District (FF) consists of the portions of the floodplain between the regional flood limits and the floodway.

Both the floodway and flood fringe are further regulated through zoning overlay districts that specifically outline permitted and conditional uses that can occur within these areas (Floodway Overlay District; Village Code of Ordinances, § 335-28 and Floodplain Fringe Overlay District Village Code of Ordinances, § 335-29).

The floodplain boundaries are derived from the 1982 Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). To date, this represents the most accurate representation of the floodplain area in the Village of Elm Grove. However, remapping efforts have been initiated to establish a new floodplain boundary.

The primary impetus behind such efforts was the Village's \$12 million flood management project, which was approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the fall of 2005. This project has created additional wet and dry detention storage areas (to retain flood waters) as well as a diversionary culvert to reroute floodwaters away from the downtown area. Ultimately, these mitigation efforts have coalesced to reduce the overall floodplain area. It is anticipated that final FEMA approval of a revised floodplain area (based upon the components of the flood management project) should be secured in late 2008 or 2009.

Stream Corridors

Underwood Creek runs through Elm Grove from the northwest of the Village to the southeast, where it continues east to join the Menomonee River in Wauwatosa. The meandering creek drains and filters surface water runoff from the surrounding area and carries it into the larger Menomonee River system. Running through the heart of Elm Grove, Underwood Creek plays an important role in providing stormwater management and retention in the Village. Dousman Ditch is another stream that runs through the Village of Elm Grove and also plays an important role in stormwater management.



Environmental Corridors

Natural resource features in the Village of Elm Grove include corridors and acreage in which wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat and other features of environmental merit are concentrated.

Within Elm Grove, two “secondary” environmental corridors that possess natural resource merit have been identified by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC).

As defined by SEWRPC, environmental corridors are areas in the landscape that contain and connect natural areas, open space, and scenic or other resources. These corridors protect environmentally sensitive areas by providing linkages in the landscape and potential buffers between natural and human communities. SEWRPC uses a weighted system to differentiate between primary and secondary environmental corridors:

- Areas having a point value of 10 or greater with a minimum area of 400 acres and a minimum length of one mile are designated as ‘primary environmental corridor’.
- Areas having a point value of 10 or greater with a minimum area of 100 acres and a minimum length of one mile are designated as ‘secondary environmental corridor’.

The Dousman Ditch area along the western periphery of the Village is designated as a “secondary environmental corridor” due to its connectivity to natural resources that lie within the City of Brookfield. The Underwood Creek drainage that bisects the Village is classified as a “secondary environmental corridor.” Development is generally prohibited in environmental corridors, due to ordinances and statutes that regulate development in wetland and floodplain areas.

Environmental corridors are composites of the best elements of a natural resource base occurring in a linear pattern on the landscape. These corridors are essential to the preservation of habitat and ecosystem diversity and the preservation of natural beauty. Because environmental corridors are located in developed and developing areas, it is important to preserve and protect them as natural open space. Doing so serves the dual purpose of protecting environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources from disturbance and development and/or reserving lands needed for open space and recreational uses.

Environmental corridors are the most important individual elements of a natural resource base and have immeasurable environmental, ecological, and recreational value. Because of this, protection of environmental corridors from additional intrusion by incompatible land uses, and thereby from degradation and destruction, is an essential objective of this Plan. In addition, while inappropriate for development, environmental corridors can be ideal locations for passive recreational opportunities like trails, nature-oriented parks, and other low impact recreational uses. The Village’s 2007 Comprehensive Plan shows the location of these environmental corridors in the Village in Map 3 within the plan. In general, these areas are protected from development and are maintained in their existing conservation or open space use. Elm Grove’s environmental corridors are vital to the community’s drainage, water quality, recreation, wildlife habitat, and open space amenities.

Woodlands Areas

Woodland resources contribute to ecological and aesthetic merits of the community. The dominant tree species are Elm (*Ulmus*), Locust (*Gleditsia*) and Ash (*Fraxinus*). Naturally occurring native stands and specimen trees are commonly observed in the western section of the Village. In contrast, much of the eastern area of the community that once supported open agricultural fields has been planted with a variety of introduced native and non-native tree species. While the Village’s urban forest condition is fair, continued concerns of Dutch Elm disease and Ash decline may require more intensive treatment strategies, greater diversification of species and replanting in the future.

In 1990, Elm Grove enrolled in the Tree City U.S.A. program and maintains standards to ensure that a viable tree management plan is implemented. The Village adopted tree vegetation regulations as a component of Code of Ordinances in 1964 and augmented woodland management with Hazardous Tree regulation in 1990.

The Village prepared an Urban Forestry Strategic Plan (June, 2001) and a Street Tree Inventory Report (January, 2006) for the purpose of managing Elm Grove’s urban forest. The Village Forester also completed an Ash Tree Inventory in 2018 to document the health of the Village’s ash trees and their susceptibility to disease. These documents build on the Village’s history of decisions and actions to create and maintain woodland resources.

Noteworthy findings from the Street Tree Inventory Report include:

- A total of 8,245 trees and 903 planting sites were inventoried along Elm Grove’s street rights-of-way.
- Trees in the Village right-of-way are fairly young with 60% in the 1 - 10” diameter range.
- Total tree value for the Elm Grove inventory is \$5,105,498.31 or an average of \$608.45 for each inventoried tree.

Wildlife Habitat

Areas of the Village that remain in a natural condition continue to support a limited spectrum of native and migratory wildlife species. The Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus Affinis*) was spotted in the Village in 2022. This species of bumble bee is on the United States Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species list. In addition to non-game species such as songbirds, waterfowl and deer are present in limited populations. As delineated by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the highest value habitat in the Village correlates with secondary environmental corridors.

The Village of Elm Grove was officially designated a “bird sanctuary” in 1971 for the purpose of protecting avian species from being hunted or culled within the Village limits (Zoning Code of Ordinances, Chapter § 95-6). The Village of Elm Grove officially became a Bird City effective August 11, 2011. In June of 2022, the Village achieved a major milestone and was officially designated with a "High Flyer" status with Wisconsin Bird City. Through forestry management, the Village promotes preservation and enhancement of bird habitat to ensure quality habitat for resident and migratory birds.

Climate

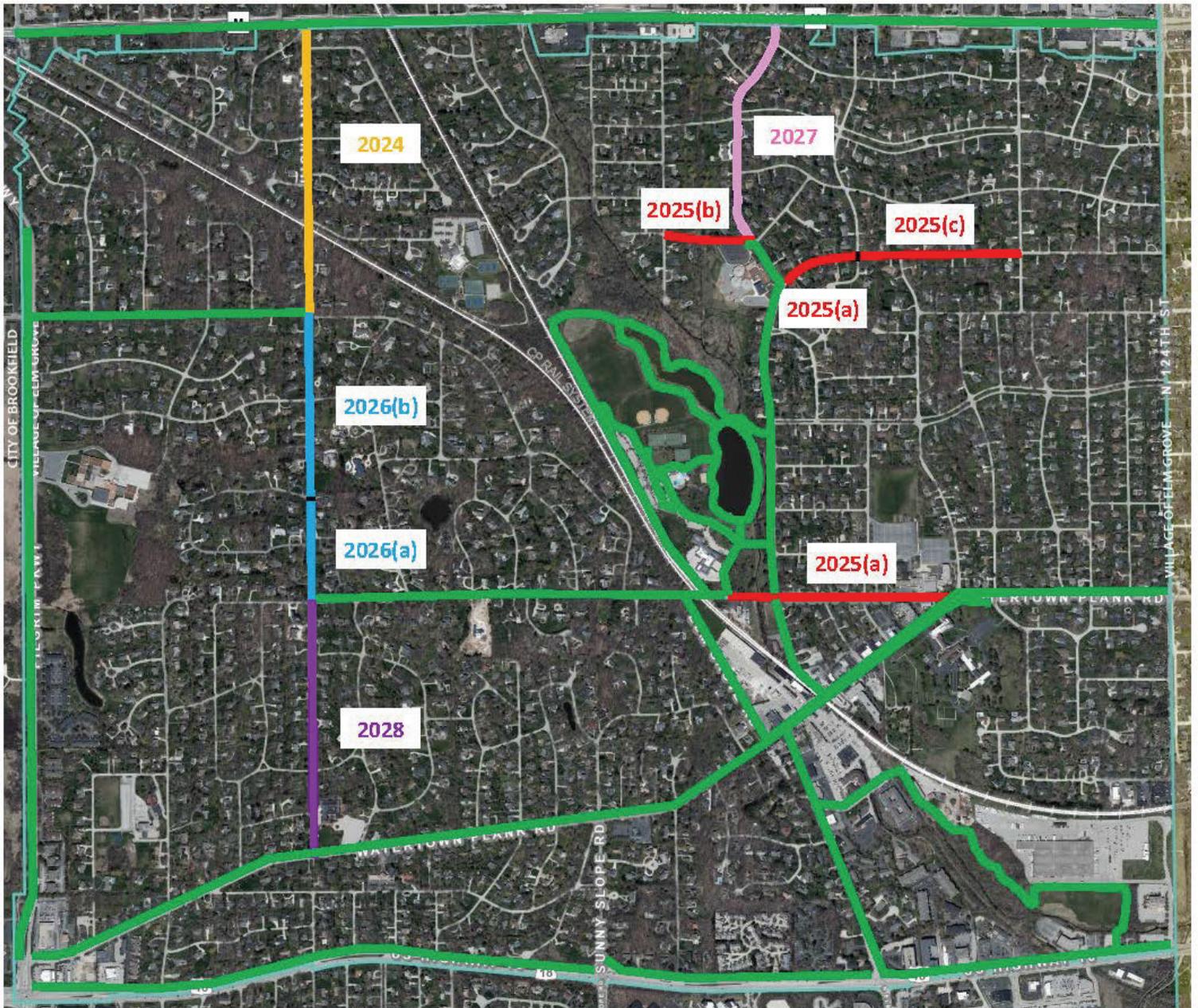
Climate is an important consideration for determining the range of recreational activities that should be provided for in the Village. The Elm Grove area has a continental climate characterized by significant changes in weather. Elm Grove spans four distinct seasons: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Temperatures can range from -20F in the winter to over 100F in the summer, with the average high temp being 28F in January and 82F in July. Precipitation within the watershed takes the form of rain, sleet, hail, and snow. The average rainfall in January is 0.5 inches, June is 3.7 inches, and August is 3.4 inches. Average snowfall in December is 5.3 inches. Recreational opportunities for residents of Elm Grove must be developed to provide seasonal activities that respond to the typical climate changes.

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PART 5: PATHWAYS COMMITTEE PLAN

The Elm Grove Ad Hoc Pathways Committee produced the recommendations depicted in Figure 5.1 to layout priority Pathway System Connections. The 2025 CORP used these recommendations as the foundation for the bicycle and pedestrian recommendations highlighted in the Plan document and in Map 3. In some cases, the CORP recommended extending connections beyond the plan below. These potential extensions represent the possibilities the Village could pursue if resources are available. Further consideration of the Pathway System could be reviewed as part of a Village Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

FIGURE 5.1: AD HOC PATHWAYS COMMITTEE PLAN



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PART 6: POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Figure 6.1 outlines a number of federal, state, and private grant programs that could be applicable to the Village and assist in the implementation of projects identified in the CORP. Grant programs are often cyclical in nature, with some being offered on an annual basis with distinct application windows while others accept applications on a first-come first-serve rolling basis. Additionally, political environments at the federal and state level, resource allocations, and administration priorities often impact the availability and eligibility of grant programs from year to year. Also, new programs are created and made available based on changing needs and resources. As Elm Grove looks to pursue grant resources in particular, the community will need to investigate the specifics of different grants to evaluate its applicability to the Village and the priority project before pursuing an application. This investigation and research could be completed by Village staff, elected officials, or members of a Village board or commission. The list below represents a snapshot of grant programs at the time of drafting the CORP, however, decision-makers should be sure to check program websites and other materials to confirm the accuracy of the grant information.

Key Programs for CORP Recommendations

Although additional research will be required before pursuing any grant application, the following programs have been identified as being particularly suited toward projects identified in the CORP:

Wisconsin DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program includes four state programs and two federal programs under one application, including the Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space (UGS), Urban River (UR), Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Typically due on May 1st each year, the Village could consider a Stewardship Program application to fund:

- Construction of the trail connecting the north side of Village Park to San Fernando Blvd. or Tonawanda School
- Construction of the Village Park fishing/paddle piers
- Construction or improvement to ballfields and potentially the playground at Village Park (confirm with WisDNR staff)
- Construction of park shelters and restroom facilities
- Land acquisition for additional parks and trails

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities Sparks Program The Sparks grants award between \$500 and \$5,000 to create more social connection opportunities in inclusive community spaces and activities for people with disabilities. Past grant awards have been used by communities to construct inclusive and accessible playgrounds, recreation spaces, and community events and activities. The Village could consider this grant to fund:

- Inclusive and accessible playground improvements and expansions in Village Park
- Inclusive and accessible playground improvements in any parks within Elm Grove
- Development or enhancement of inclusive recreational programming in the Village
- Expanding accessibility to community events and facilities, including WinterFest, Oktoberfest, etc.

Wisconsin DOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Funded by the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the TAP program funds projects that would have previously been eligible under the Safe Routes to School Program, Transportation Enhancements Program, and/or Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program. If this program is renewed and a new funding cycle is offered, the Village could consider this grant to fund:

- Priority Pathway connections to Elm Grove schools and parks
- Creation of an Elm Grove Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Wisconsin DOT Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program CMAQ funding can be used on a number of projects, including both construction and planning, to reduce dependence on individual vehicles and improve air quality. Eligible projects include bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The Village could consider this grant to fund:

- Priority Pathway connections to Elm Grove schools and parks
- Creation of an Elm Grove Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

FIGURE 6.1: POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)	To acquire or develop public, nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4 million avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required • Priority for land acquisition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects must comply with ADA 	Wisconsin DNR – Stewardship Program	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Urban Greenspace Program (UGS)	To acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas or to protect scenic or ecological features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.6 million avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects must comply with ADA 	Wisconsin DNR – Stewardship Program	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR)	To acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.6 million avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project 	<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. 	Wisconsin DNR – Stewardship Program	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Urban Rivers Grant Program (UR)	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$800,000 avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required • Projects must comply with ADA 	Wisconsin DNR – Stewardship Program	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	To acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% local match per project • Land acquisition • Development of recreational facilities 	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required.	Wisconsin DNR – Stewardship Program	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	To maintain, develop, rehabilitate, and acquire land for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant assistance to develop or maintain trails up to 80%. • Awards up to \$100,000. • Rehabilitation and maintenance of existing trails and trailhead facilities. • Development of new trails, trail linkages, and trailhead facilities with some restrictions on federal lands. • Acquisition of property for trails in areas with limited trail opportunities. 	<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 ▪ Projects must comply with ADA. 	Wisconsin DNR – Stewardship Program	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	To fund facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, including rehabilitating and operating historic transportation buildings and structures, restoring railway depots, and landscaping near transportation facilities.	20% required match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construction projects must be over \$100,000. ▪ Non-construction projects must be over \$50,000. 	WisDOT	https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dot.gov/Pages/dot.gov/astnce-pgms/aid/tap.aspx
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)	To encourage transportation projects that improve air quality, including efforts to enhance public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities, and rideshare programs.	Minimum project costs: Construction - \$200,000 Planning - \$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construction and planning for bicycle and pedestrian facilities 	WisDOT	https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dot.gov/Pages/dot.gov/astnce-pgms/aid/cmaq.aspx
Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-U)	To fund a range of transportation-related activities, including projects on higher function local roads and local safety improvements.	WisDOT recommends federal funding be approved at the 80% maximum but allows Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Committees to provide as low as 50% federal funding at approval.	For 2022-2027 program development, total funds available are \$92.5 million.	WisDOT	https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dot.gov/Pages/dot.gov/astnce-pgms/highway/stp-urban.aspx
Surface Transportation Program – Rural (STP-R)	To fund a wide range of transportation-related activities, including projects on higher function local roads and local safety improvements.	WisDOT recommends federal funding be approved at the 80% maximum but allows Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Committees to provide as low as 50% federal funding at approval.	For 2022-2027 program development, total funds available are \$43.3 million.	WisDOT	https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dot.gov/Pages/dot.gov/astnce-pgms/highway/stp-rural.aspx

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	To develop and implement on a continuing basis stand-alone safety projects designed to reduce the number and severity of crashes on all streets and highways.	Federal funding ratio usually 90%, requiring a 10% match of state and/or local funds.	Funds highway safety projects at sites that have experienced a high crash history. Emphasis is on low-cost options that can be implemented quickly.	WisDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program	https://wisconsin.gov/pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/hsip.aspx
Urban Forestry Grants	To fund tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness.	\$1,000-\$25,000 grants awarded with a 50% local match	Urban forestry, training, and street tree inventory	Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/urbanforests/grants
Recreational Boating Facilities Grants	To fund recreational boating facilities projects.	\$250,000 (or more) with a 50% local match.	Construction of facilities (ramps, launches, piers), trash skimming equipment, aquatic plant harvesting equipment, navigation aids	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/RBF.html
Sport Fish Restoration-Fishing Pier Grant	To construct fishing piers that are primarily designed to provide public access for shore fishing.		Eligible projects are fishing pier construction and renovations. Facilities that provide access to and amenities for fishing piers may also be eligible.	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SFR-FP
WEDC Vibrant Spaces Grant	To create robust community gathering spaces with multiple uses, usually in tandem with a commercial area.	\$25,000-\$50,000 with a 1:1 required match.	Public space enhancements, public signage and wayfinding, public infrastructure (bathrooms, lighting, electrical), seasonal equipment with the intent to use annually (tables, heaters, umbrellas, etc.)	Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation	https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/BCD-Vibrant-Spaces-Grant-Insert-25-2.pdf
Hazard Elimination Program	To improve railway-highway crossings	10% local match per project	Communities are encouraged to start working with the District Office.	WisDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	https://wisconsin.gov/pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/hsip.aspx
PeopleForBikes	To improve bicycling in the U.S.			People For Bikes	https://www.peopleforbikes.org/

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	To support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users.	\$200,000-\$50 million	Eligible projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan). • Conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan. • Carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan. 	US DOT	https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)	To increase bird populations and wetland habitat while supporting local economies and American traditions such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, family farming, and cattle ranching.	Up to \$2 million	Projects must involve only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement, and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds.	US Dept of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service	https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-standard
AARP Community Challenge	Small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average grant amount \$11,500. • 76% of grants less than \$15,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public spaces, housing, transportation, and civic engagement. • Support diversity, equity, and inclusion. • Build engagement for programs under new federal laws. • Pursue innovative ideas that support people age 50 or older. 	AARP	https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program	To revitalize comprehensive downtown programs, including streetscapes.	Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General downtown program. • May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping. 	National Main Street Center	https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/main-street/

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Management Grants	To manage and educate on AIS.	\$24,000-\$150,000, depending on type of grant	Types of grants include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIS Prevention • Clean Boats, Clean Waters • AIS Population Management • Early Detection & Response • AIS Research & Demonstration 	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Surface Water Restoration and Management Grants	To provide cost-sharing for surface water protection and restoration. Funding available for education, ecological assessments, planning, and implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants cover up to 75% of costs. • \$25,000-\$200,000, depending on type of grant. 	Types of grants include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Lakes & Rivers • Surface Water Restoration • Management Plan Implementation • Ordinance Development • Fee Simple Land Easement & Acquisition • Wetland Restoration Incentives 	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin	To fund many different kinds of projects that benefit wildlife.	Grants vary by type, some open to annual applications, and some by invitation only.	Types of grants include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Protection Fund • C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund • Norma and Stanley DeBoer Quiet Trails Fund 	Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin	https://www.wisconsinobservation.org/grant-programs/
National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program	Supports long-term wetland conservation by awarding up to \$1 million for wetland conservation projects.	Not listed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribes, local governments, conservation organizations, and private landowners are encouraged to work with state agencies to develop a project and submit an application. 	US Fish and Wildlife Service	https://www.fws.gov/story/national-coastal-wetlands-conservation-grants
Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant	To reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program.	\$25,000-\$900,000, depending on type of grant and recipient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can include parks and similar green spaces. 	FEMA	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods
Urban & Community Forestry Program	Technical, financial, and educational assistance program, delivering nature-based solutions to ensure a resilient and equitable tree canopy.		Some areas of focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Environmental Health 	US Forest Service	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program	To develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support.	\$20,000-\$50,000	Ecological improvements may include one or more of the following: wetland, riparian, forest, and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation, community tree canopy enhancement, water quality monitoring and green infrastructure best management practices for managing run-off.	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program-2022-request-proposals
Bruce Krier Charitable Foundation Education and Environmental Grants for Wisconsin-based Organizations	To support local education and environmental causes.	Funds principally but not limited to the counties of Sheboygan and Ozaukee.		Bruce Krier Charitable Foundation	https://brucekrierfoundation.org/grantmaking/guidelines/
Cornell Douglas Foundation Grants	For nonprofits to advocate for environmental health and justice, encourage stewardship of the environment, and further respect for sustainability of resources.	Average grant amount \$10,000.	Some areas of focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Health & Justice • Land Conservation • Sustainability of Resources • Watershed Protection 	Cornell Douglas Foundation	https://cornelldouglas.org/apply/
Lawrence Foundation Grants	For nonprofits to support environmental, education, human services, and other causes.	Not listed	Awards both program and operating grants with no geographical restrictions.	Lawrence Foundation	https://thelawrencefoundation.org/application-process
Waste Management Charitable Giving	For nonprofits to provide renewal resources to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to conserve and maintain wetlands, wildlife habitats, and green spaces.	Not listed		Waste Management	https://www.wm.com/us/en/inside-wm/social-impact/community-impact
Patagonia Environmental Grants	Support innovative work that addresses the root causes of the environmental crisis and seeks to protect both the environment and affected communities.	\$5,000-\$20,000, according to program		Patagonia	https://www.patagonia.com/how-we-fund/

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Walmart Foundation National Giving Program Grant	For non-profits that operate on a national scope through affiliates in many states around the country or through programs that operate regionally/locally but seek funding to replicate program activities nationally.	\$250,000 and above	Areas of focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating • Sustainability • Women's Economic Empowerment • Career Opportunity 	Walmart Foundation	https://walmart.org/how-we-give
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program	To provide professional services to help achieve conservation and outdoor recreation project vision.	Does not provide financial assistance or monetary grants.	<u>Contact the state program manager</u> to discuss the proposed project and current application process.	National Park Service	https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm
Solar for Good	To foster the expansion of solar power among nonprofits in Wisconsin.		Awards grant funding or solar panels to nonprofit organizations, helping them switch to clean, renewable, solar energy.	RENEW Wisconsin	https://www.renewwisconsin.org/solarforgood/
Sparks Grant	Provide people with disabilities more social connections by participating in inclusive, meaningful community activities.	\$500-\$5,000	Planning and implementation of inclusive and accessible playgrounds and other spaces	Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities	https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/sparks-grants/

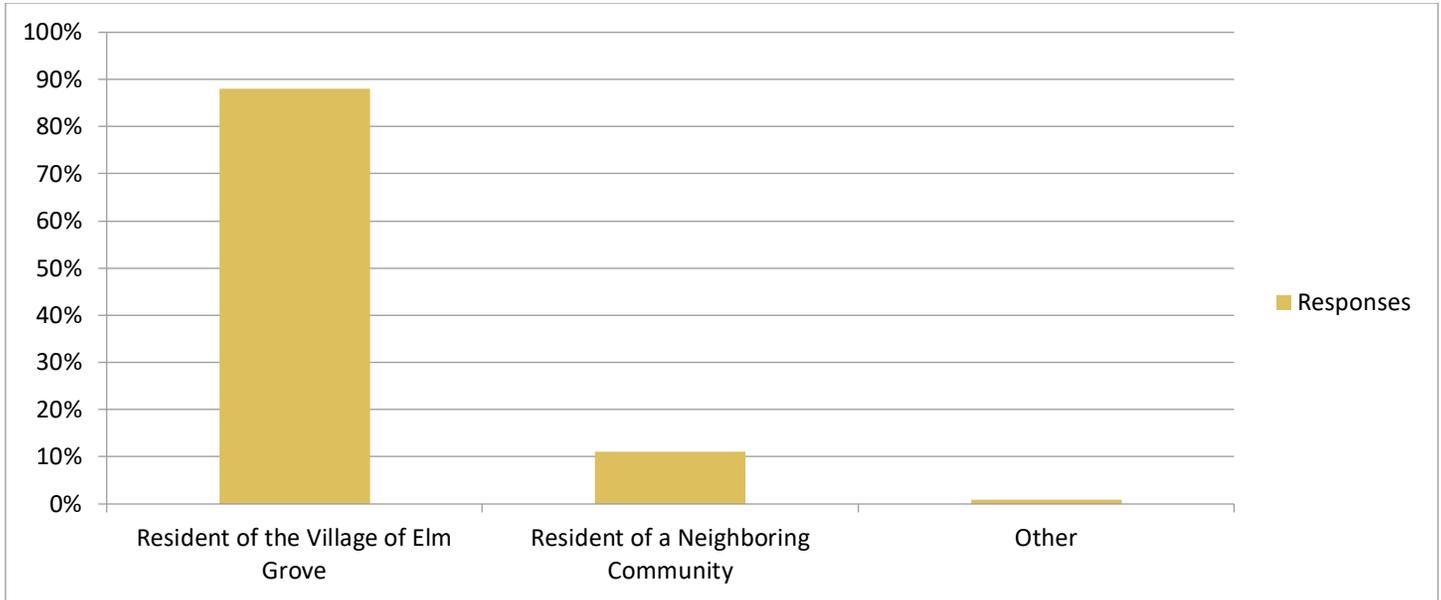
PART 7: PUBLIC INPUT RESPONSES

Online Public Survey

The Village of Elm Grove conducted an online survey via Survey Monkey from October 30, 2024 to November 20, 2024. In total, 448 people provided feedback. Overall, the survey focused on obtaining public opinion and feedback on the current levels of park use, current conditions, and future needs of the Elm Grove park and recreation system.

The results of the survey, along with the other public input generated during the process, were used to form the core recommendations of the Plan. The following is a summary of all responses received. In many cases, percentages total to more than 100 percent, as respondents were allowed to select more than one response. Additionally, comments written-in were summarized and inventoried below.

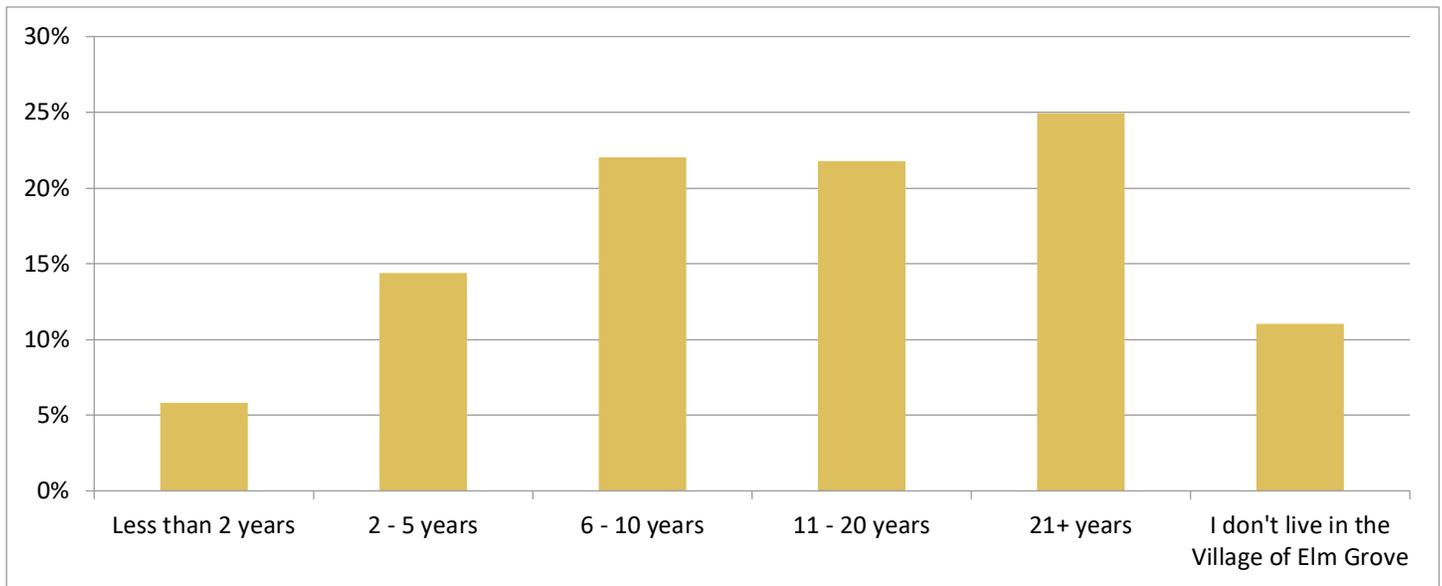
1. Please select the statement that best describes where you/your family live.



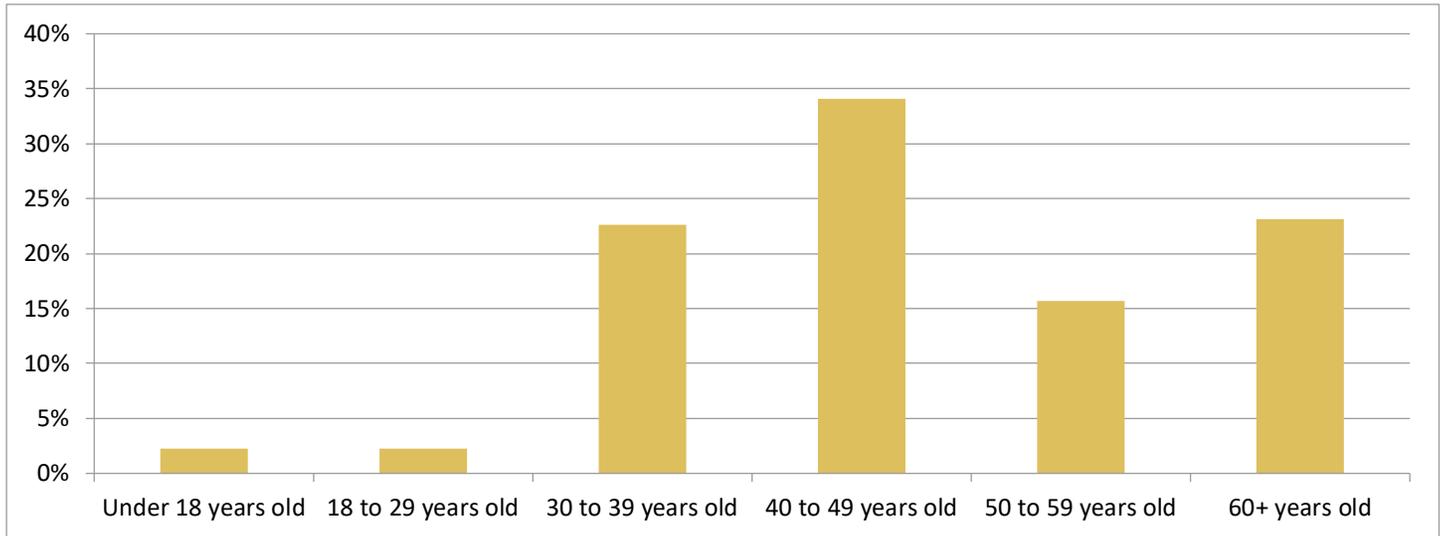
Neighboring communities and other locations:

- Brookfield
- Pewaukee
- Menomonee Falls
- Wauwatosa
- Oconomowoc
- Sussex
- Wauwatosa
- Indian Hills Estates
- City of Milwaukee
- Enderis Park Neighborhood – Milwaukee
- Fisher Woods, West Tosa

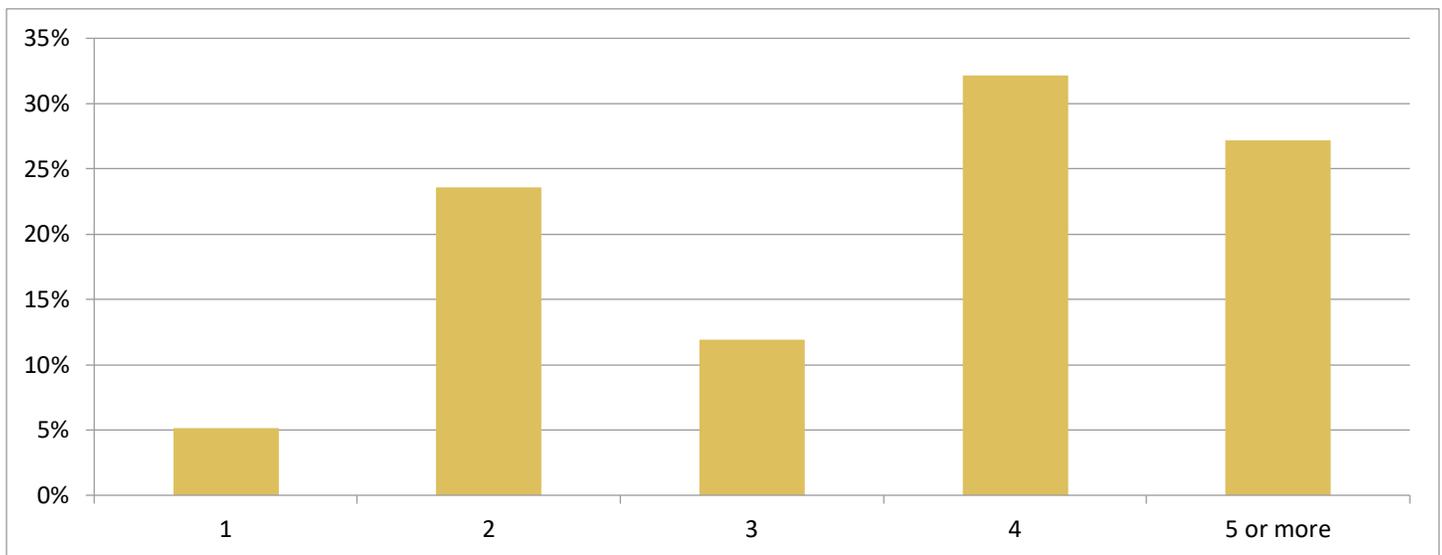
2. How long have you lived in the Village of Elm Grove?



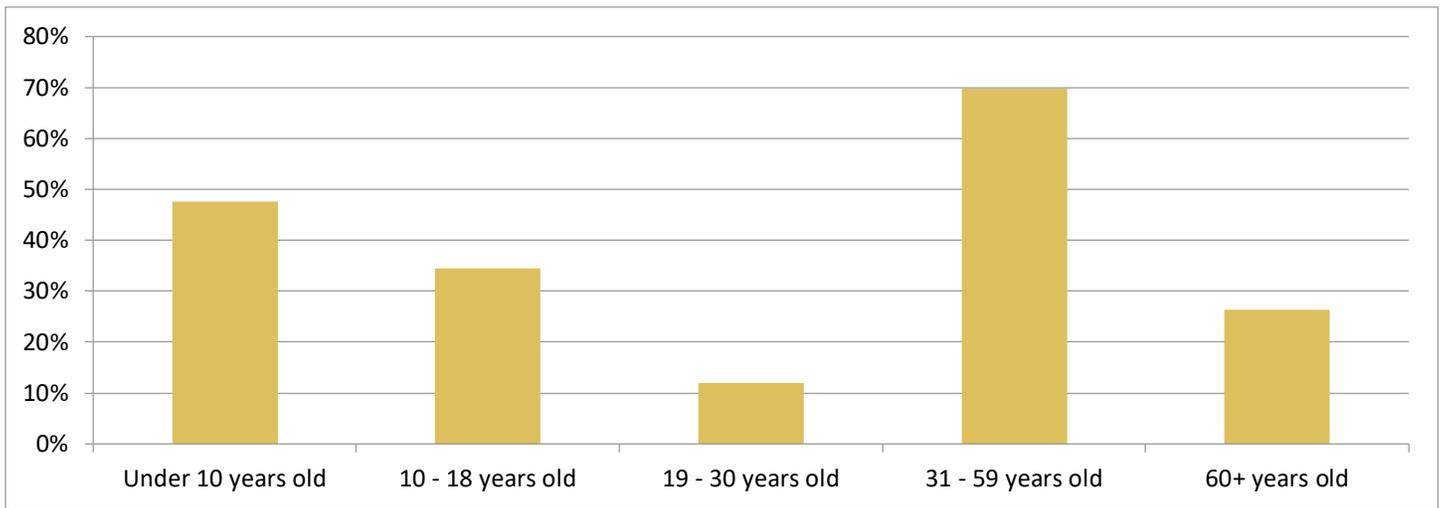
3. What is the age group of the person filling out this survey?



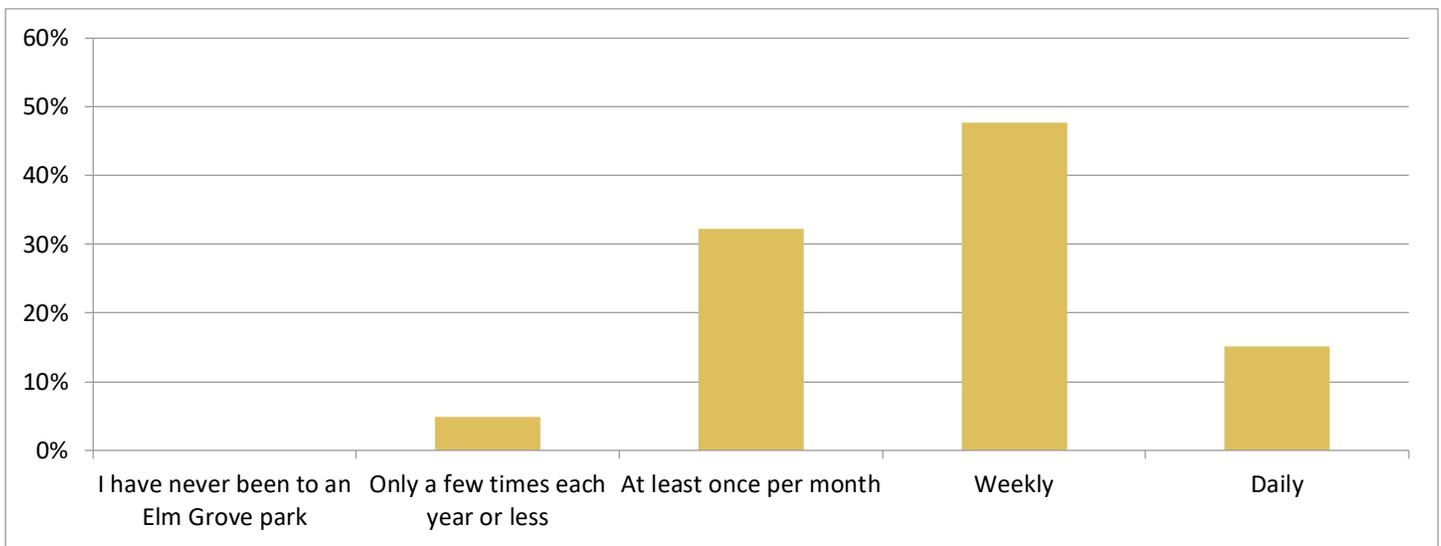
4. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?



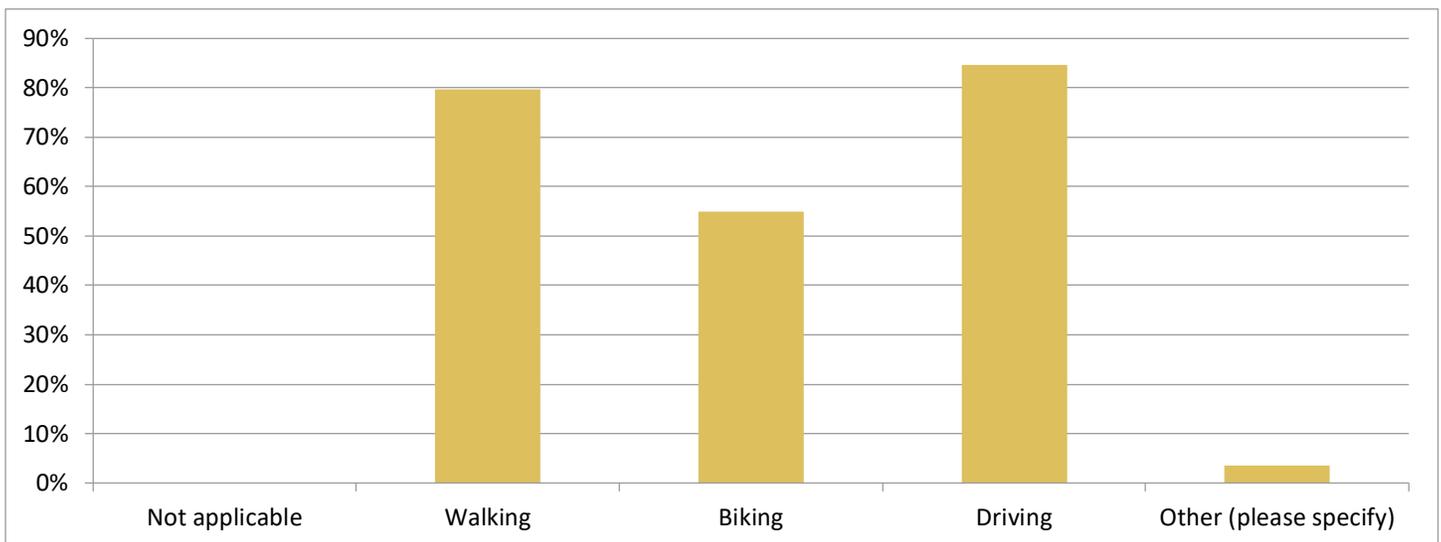
5. Including yourself, do any members of your household fall into the following age ranges? (select all that apply)



6. How often do you or members of your household visit a park in Elm Grove?



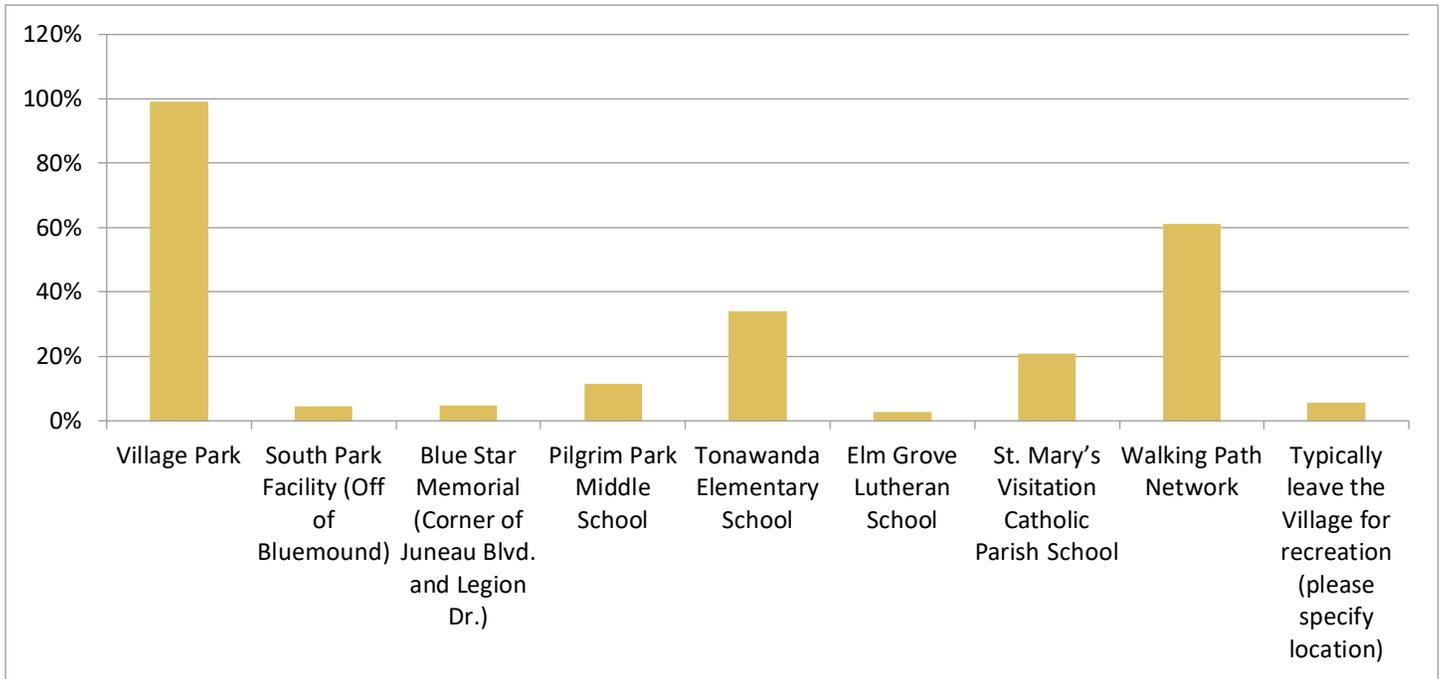
7. If you or anyone in your household has visited an Elm Grove park in the past year, how did you travel to the park(s)? (select all that apply)



Other comments:

- Running
- Soccer Games / Practices
- Soccer
- Scooter
- Rec sports
- Scooters
- Running
- Run
- Scooter, jogging
- Scooter
- Soccer, October fest, beer nights
- Scooter
- Scooter

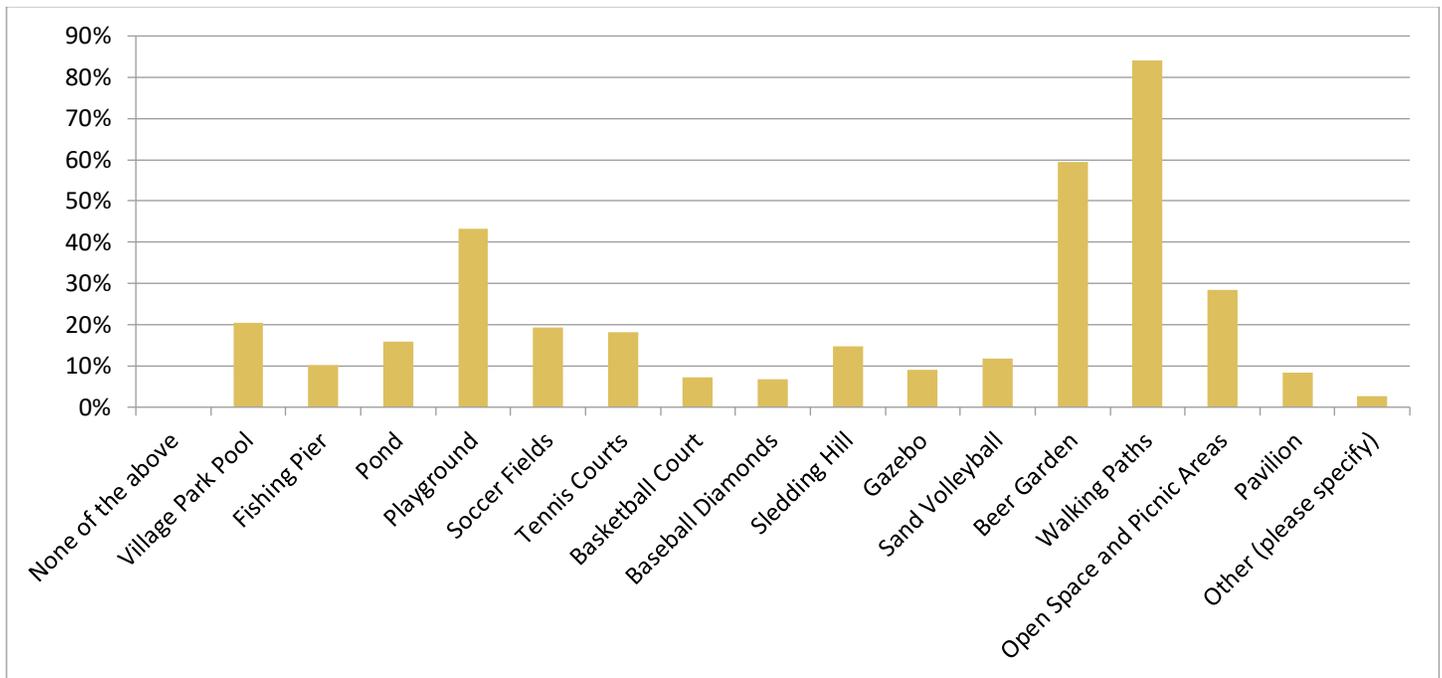
8. Please select the Elm Grove parks and recreation facilities that you or your family currently use most often (select up to 3 options below)



Other comments:

- Wirth Park, Voigt Soccer Park
- While we walk a lot in the Village, we often drive to Tosa for safer walking conditions/parkways/sidewalks.
- YMCA
- Krueger Park for pickleball
- Hiking at kettle Moraine
- various hiking trails - Kettle Moraine
- Mitchell Park, Fox Brook Park
- Lapham or county grounds
- County grounds
- Hart Park
- Trail system and walking paths
- Wirth Park
- I [walk] around Fowler lake or hike at kettle moraine
- Hank Aaron State Trail
- Dog parks
- Mitchell Park, Greenfield Park, Wauwatosa paths
- Wirth Park, Hidden Lake Park
- trails for safe biking and walking
- EBU Soccer park
- Neighboring towns

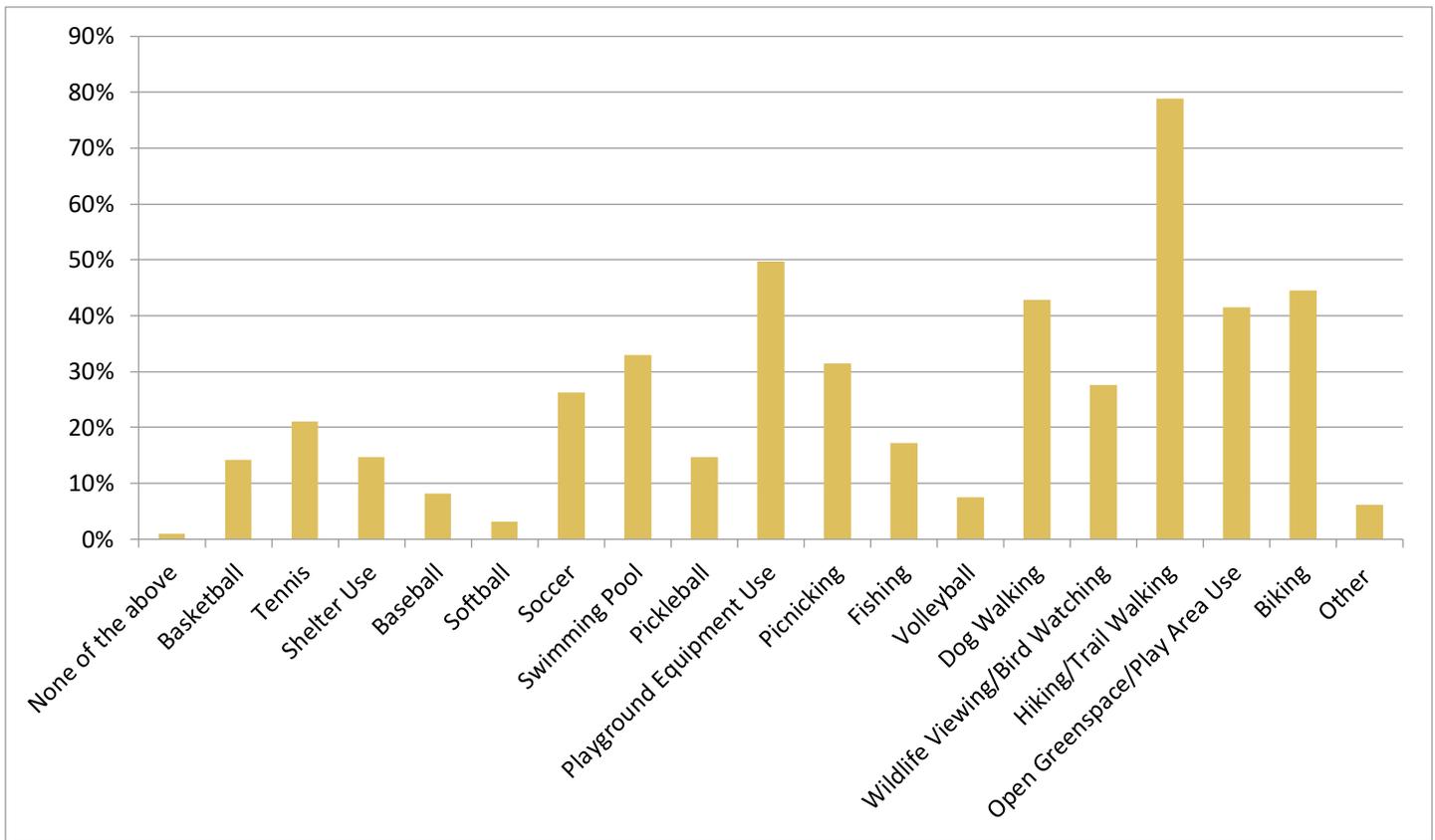
9. Please select the Village Park facilities or amenities you or your family currently use most often? (select up to 3 options below)



Other comments:

- Our kids love playing in the sand.
- Library
- You cannot call them sand volleyball courts, it is now a giant sandbox.
- Pickleball
- Special events
- Invasive weed task force
- pickleball courts
- sand box
- Green space (picnic tables) around the playground & beer garden area
- Pickleball

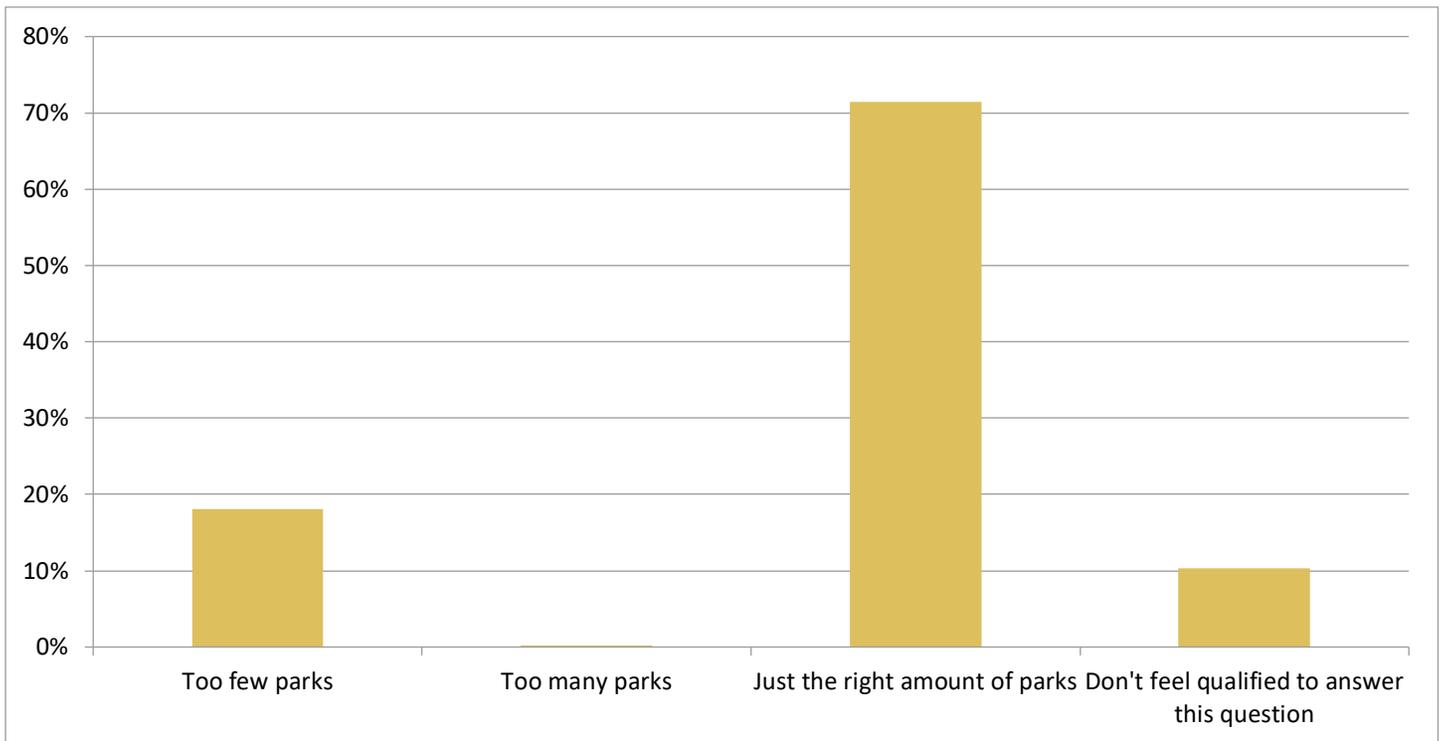
10. What activities do you or your family currently participate in at parks in the Village)? (select all that apply)



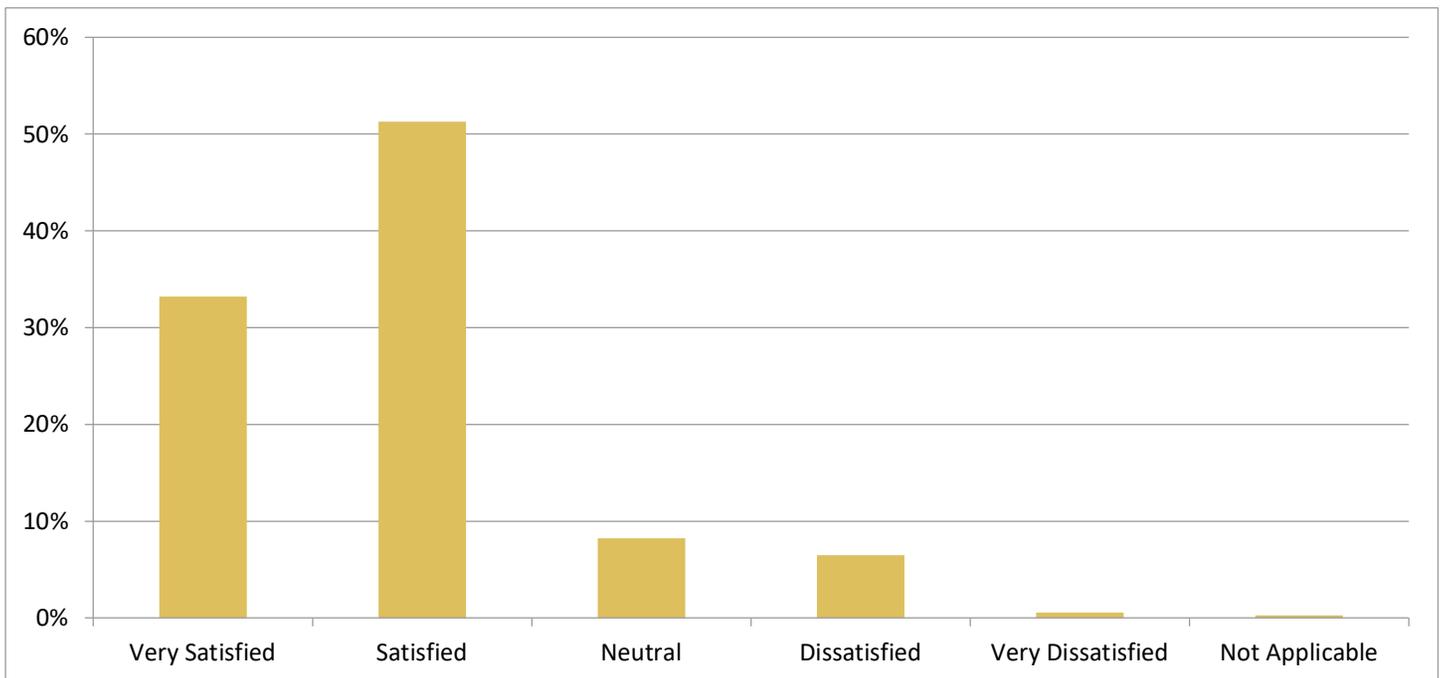
Other comments:

- Running
- Kayak in pond
- Running
- Beer Garden / Live Music
- Drink beer at beer garden
- Library
- Playing in sand- kids love digging in sand volley ball courts
- Sandbox
- My children use the sand volleyball courts for a sandbox
- Use sand Vball court as sandbox for kids
- Running
- Sledding
- Jogging
- Playing with sand in the volleyball area
- Running
- 4th of July, summer concerts, Octoberfest, Xmas train viewing, and walking
- Sledding hill
- Sledding
- Walking
- Running
- Running
- Beer garden and food trucks
- My toddlers scooter
- Beer Garden

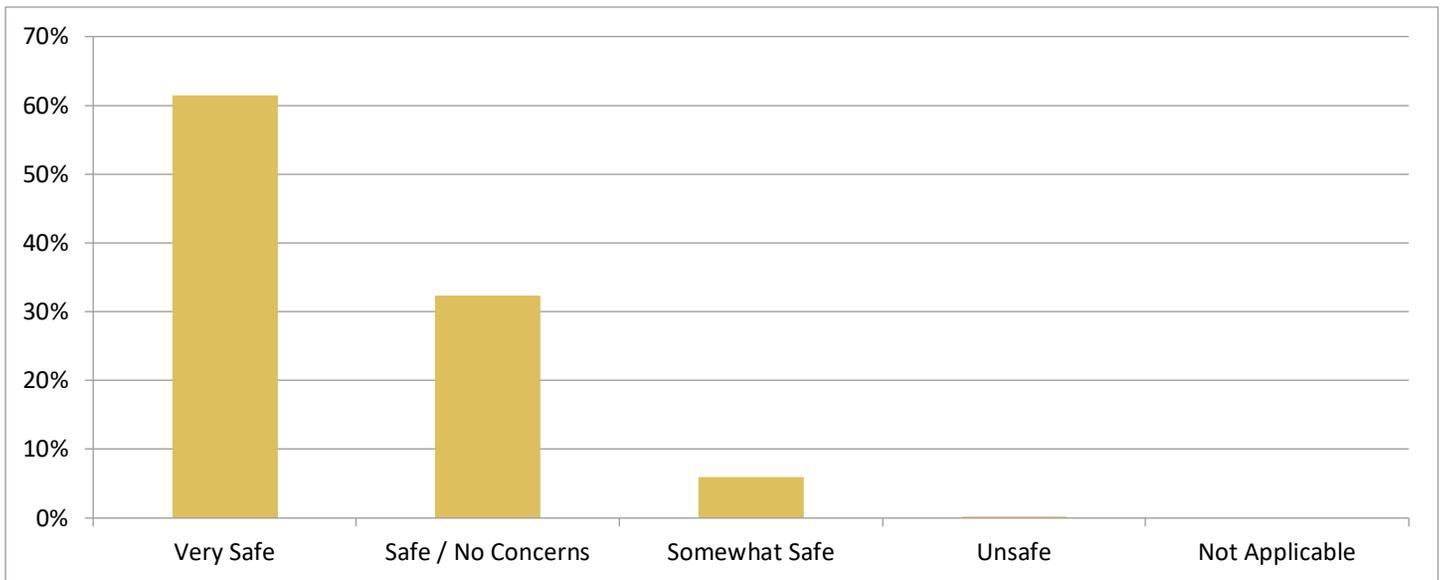
11. In your opinion, the Village of Elm Grove has:



12. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the level of maintenance and appearance of the Elm Grove parks system?



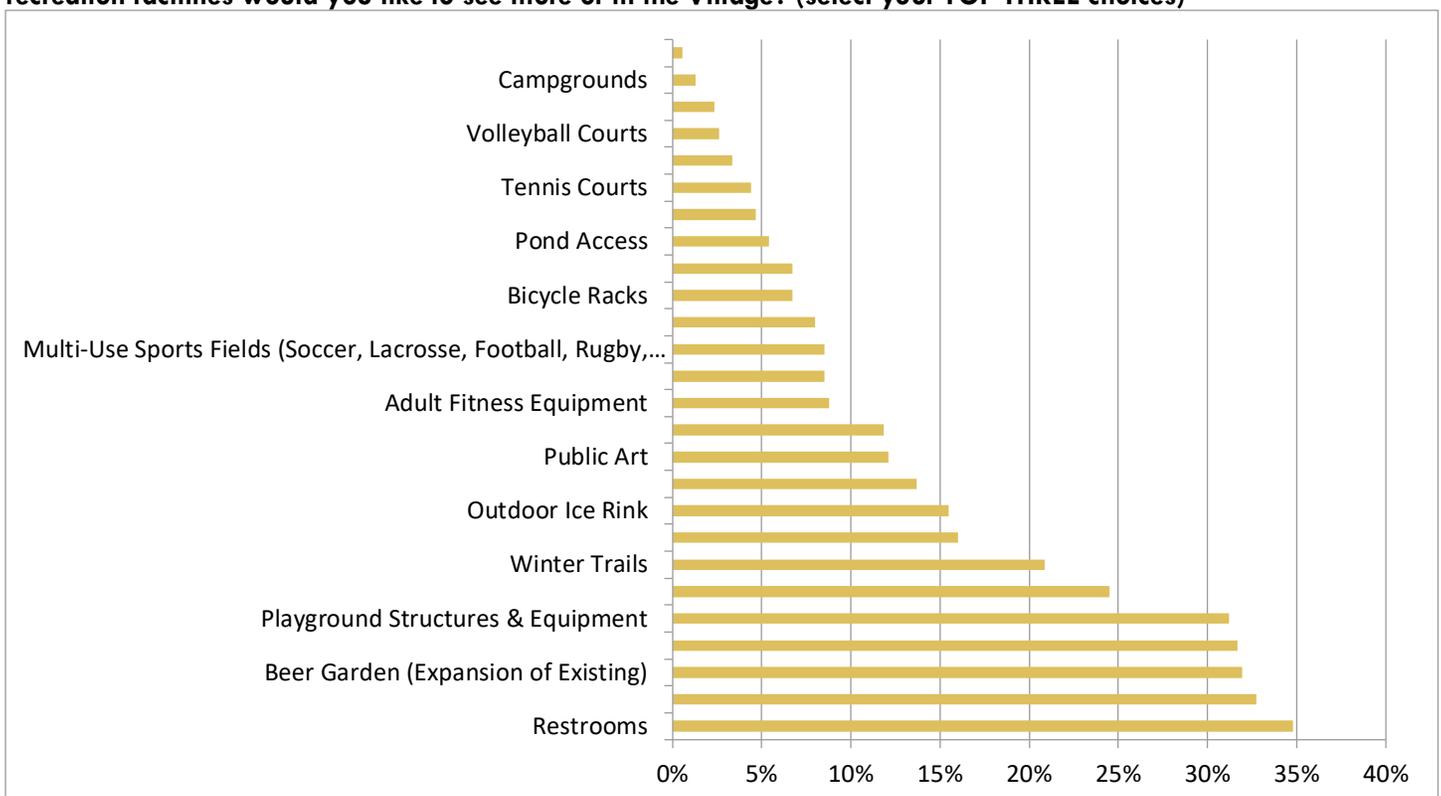
13. How would you describe your overall feelings of comfort and safety in Elm Grove's parks?



Other comments (summarized):

- Generally, there is a high perception of safety in the Elm Grove parks
- Safety improvements on the pathways, crosswalks, and connections to the park would make some residents feel safer as would more dedicated paths in the Village
- Visibility is important: areas of the park can feel dark, including the parking areas, playground, sand area, and path to bathroom as well as the walking paths and tall vegetation growth around the paths can feel uncomfortable
- There can be conflicts between pedestrians and other users of the paths and roads that travel at higher speeds including bicyclists, ebikes, scooters, and vehicles
- Maintenance of courts, paths, and restrooms contribute to feelings of safety – need to be well maintained and in good condition

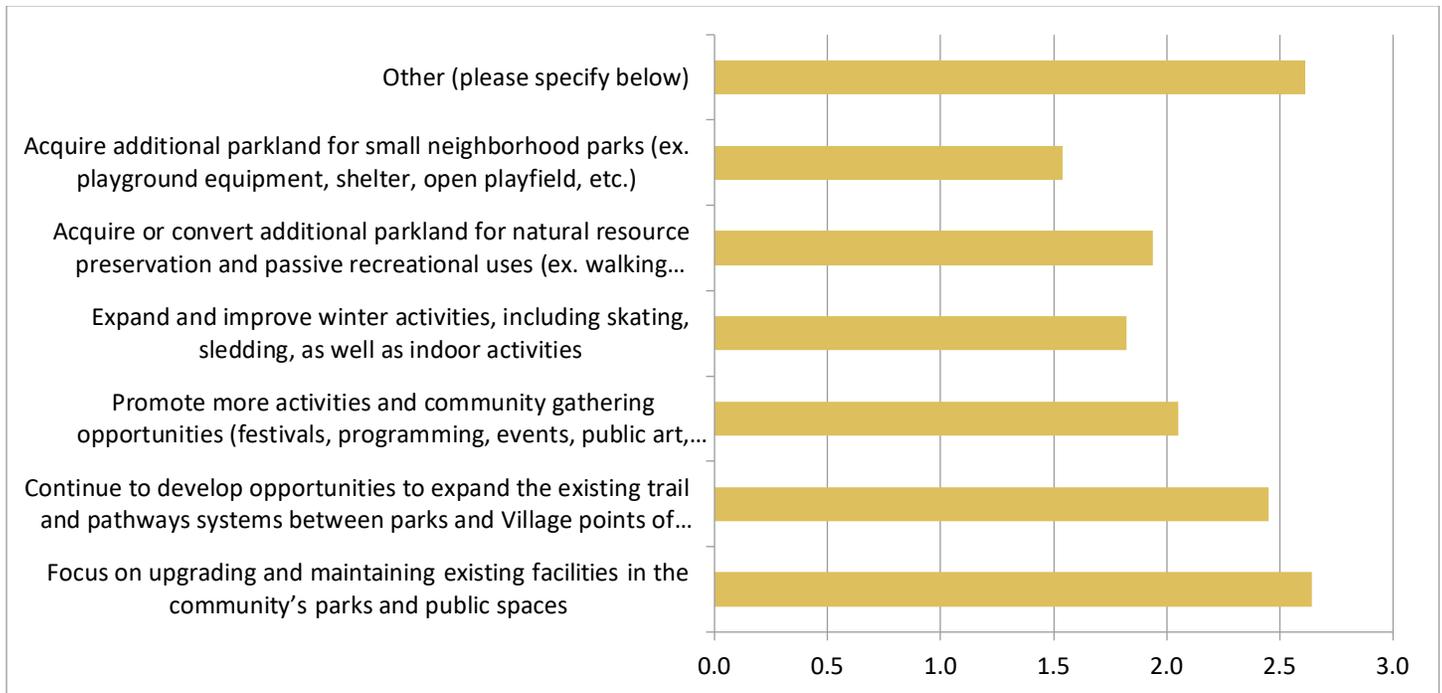
14. With consideration of purchasing costs, construction, and maintenance, which of the following types of park and recreation facilities would you like to see more of in the Village? (select your TOP THREE choices)



Other comments:

- Leave it alone
- Would love if there could be a way to access water to canoe/kayak with a CLEAN Pond
- Parking closer to soccer fields
- More trash cans are needed to the park; during the winter, the park paths are very limited, would love more; what about a permanent bocce court?; turn volleyball into a sandbox or build a sandbox so that children stay out.
- Would like bathrooms at pool to remain open longer
- Maybe upgrade bathrooms
- More lights by the playground
- I would love to see an enclosed dog park and also a community gardening area.
- Parking
- Managed native landscapes beyond parks
- As President of EBLL, prefer to see baseball fields in better condition and booked more regularly. I don't think EG needs more fields. As a resident of Brookfield, would like to see more walking/biking trail connectivity with Brookfield.
- Water refill stations
- Walking paths to the park
- Up to Date SAFE Play structures, not the dangerous ones there now!!!
- Garbage receptacles on piers
- Workout equipment on walking path
- added playground structures for the 6-9 year olds. equipment now is for pretty young
- Bocce courts
- Access to the park from the north side of the village. A path with a boardwalk from San Fernando Dr to the northern loop of the park paths. Eliminate the cut through used through the neighbors side and back yard.
- cleaner/refurbished restrooms
- expansion of the current useable park space by clearing dead and diseased trees in the northeast corner of the existing park and along the path south of the dump to the south park facility. Also access to a public restroom all year round. These facilities are present at the Waukesha County parks.
- Walkways
- General maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities
- Additional food/beverage
- Pool house with community room and concessions

15. With consideration of purchasing costs, construction, and maintenance, what are the top priorities for the Village to pursue over the next decade? Please indicate the level of priority for all of the categories listed below. (low priority, medium priority, high priority, no opinion)

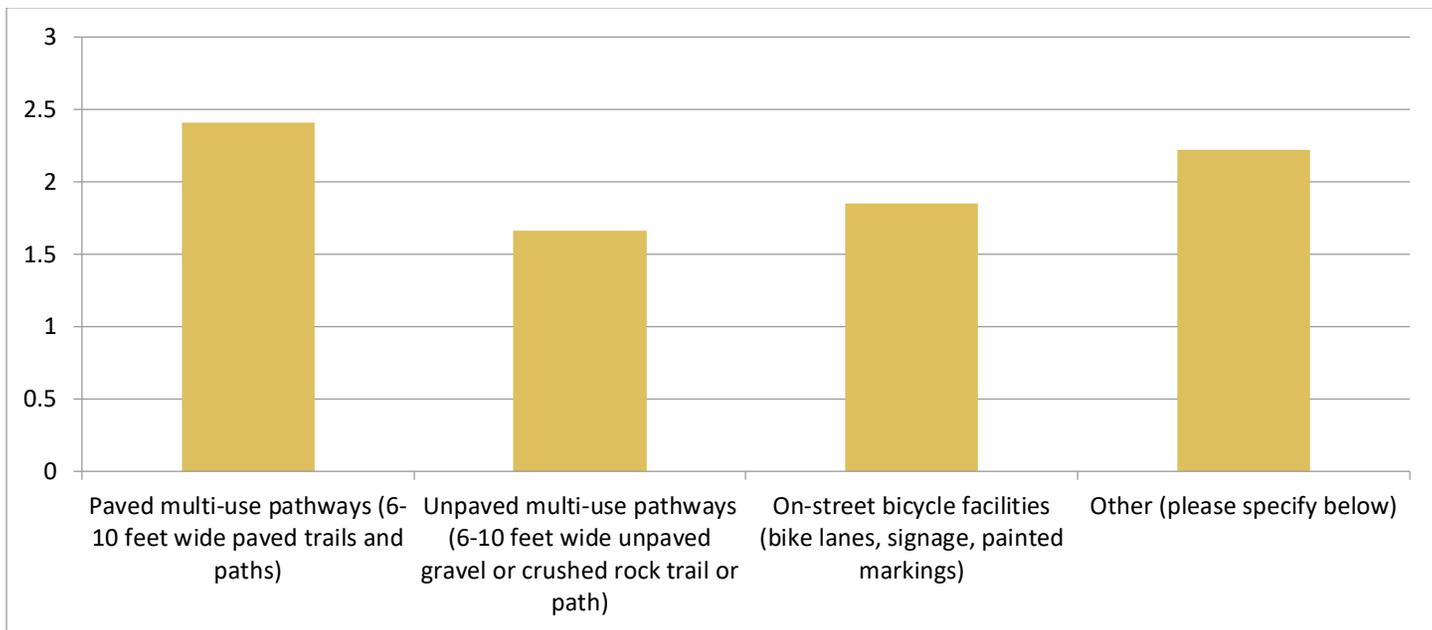


Other comments:

- Improved lighting
- Better maintain the park we have. Weeds around trees are a huge problem
- The bathroom facilities should really be improved and better maintained.
- Improve curb appeal of downtown EG...consider commissioning artist to paint grain silos
- Enhance parking options
- Update and keep clean bathrooms/locker rooms at Village Pool
- Complete pool replacement
- Install additional bathrooms at EG Village Park
- Improve quality of soccer fields at village park
- Cross country trail grooming and getting rid of the geese who have attacked me and soil all over.
- Would like to see better care of the softball/baseball fields and additional fields allowing for more usage and possible tournaments to be held
- Update/ resurface tennis courts
- I would love to see the playground equipment expanded at the village Park
- More trash cans are needed to the park; during the winter, the park paths are very limited, would love more; what about a permanent bocce court?; turn volleyball into a sandbox or build a sandbox so that children stay out.
- Make park bathrooms less gross
- Replace and improve playground at elm grove park. Open splash pad to the public the way other neighboring villages/cities have it (Sussex, Menomonee falls, hart park)
- Bathroom facilities near baseball and soccer fields
- Build dedicated pickleball courts
- Trash Receptacles
- Dog Park
- We need more walking paths. Without street lighting, it is hazardous to walk in the street. The Highland path needs to connect to Watertown Plank Rd.
- Add alternative bike route through Indian hill subdivision
- Village Park restroom (outdoor by the pool) updates, maintenance, expanded hours; more frequent port-a-potty cleaning schedule by the soccer fields.
- Bathrooms!!! Accessible 12 months of the year

- Restroom Updates at the Pool House
- Continue pathways. We used the new highland to Gebhart pathway several times per week. We love it.
- We have plenty of green space for our community. Perhaps maintain what we have and make sure kids can get there safely on the paths.
- Acquire or convert land into a community dog park
- Planting natives!
- Making the splash pad free to all park-goers
- Improve restroom and locker facilities
- Nature areas to diversify from Brookfield sprawl
- Expansion of existing village playground
- New play structure.
- Updating existing play structures (EG Playground)
- Most everything we have now, fits, and is appropriate, for the size of the village
- Add more connected walking paths in the village.
- Please turn a plot of land into “pea patches” as seen in other cities where residents can rent little plots of raised bed on the land and grow small gardens in the summer. We live in n arboretum bird sanctuary, so many people have wooded shady yards. Having a space to rent community garden space would be such an adorable and bonding gift to the community.
- Better use of the South Park facility and integrate the Caroline Heights property with a walking path
- A pathway with boardwalk from San Fernando Dr into the north side of the park.
- Update, expand, renew playground at Village Park. Use Wirth Park as an example.
- Would love to see the playground upgraded. The swings are a hazard - too close to the other play equipment. Kids are routinely at risk of getting kicked when they run past the swings.
- Upgrade bathroom facilities
- Our neighborhood has shared greenspace/open playfield and the expense is shared by the nearby residents via HOA fees.
- Mountain bike trails, perhaps along the river and/or railroad tracks?
- Maintenance of grounds for safety while walking
- Creating a fenced in area for dogs within the park would be high priority
- Update bathroom facilities
- Pathways are needed to make it safe for families to access main park and schools
- Dog park. So many of us enjoyed walking thru the park with our dog on leash. Such restrictions on where the dogs can be. I understand safety. But for many, these dogs are fur babies. We live here because of the greenery and open spaces. More places to include dogs would be great!
- Pilgrim Park needs work. The baseball field is non existent. It is a shame that a great field for people who live on the west side of the town do not have a close field and local baseball is suffering with the loss of a community field
- A dog park would be a great addition!
- More adult fitness and classes in afternoon
- No comment
- The current pool facilities, amenities, hours, and cost are ridiculous. That whole pool should be demolished and start from scratch. With so many local pools as competition, elm grove pool ranks lowest of ANY pool within a 1.5 mile radius
- Dog park

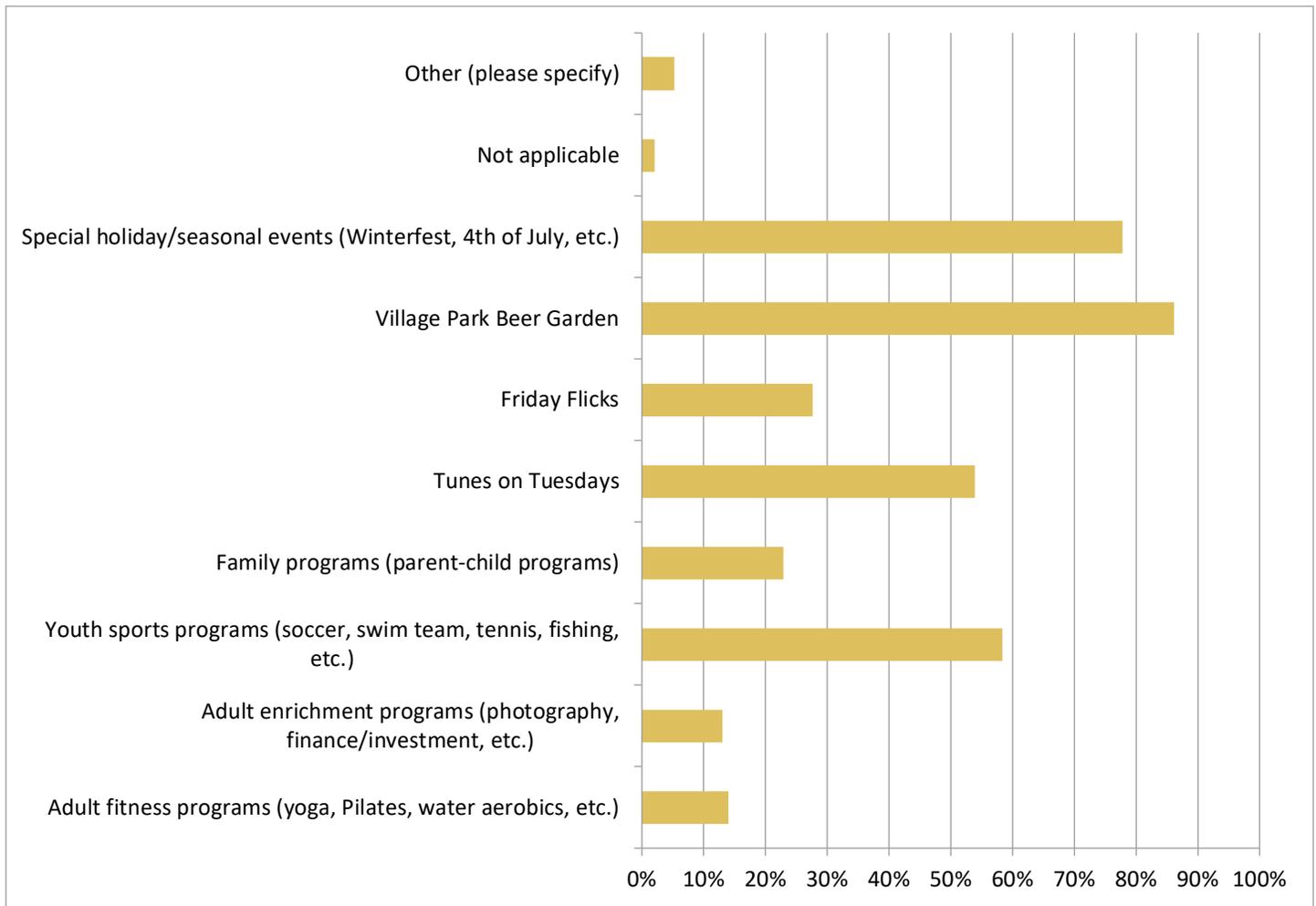
16. Which of the following types of active transportation facilities would you like to see more of in the Village? Please indicate the level of priority for each category listed below. (low priority, medium priority, high priority, no opinion)



Other comments:

- As per above, there needs to be a shoulder on roads for safer biking in the roads. I'm not sure there is ample space for that on many roads.
- Speed bumps on Highland or stop signs to slow down the new drivers(16yrs) that are in our community
- No need for more sidewalks
- Better paved pathways, particularly for all areas of the Village to be able to walk/bike off-street to Pilgrim Middle School without having to cross Pilgrim Road.
- Emphasis on safe, peaceful walking paths throughout Village
- Signage regarding e-bikes and scooters and pedestrian safety
- Pool needs updating. Also, more seating for beer garden but do not move from location for kids supervision
- Nature trails
- Other electric cart/golf cart to increase accessibility (and slow down traffic)
- Narrow the streets, too wide, promote higher speeds, more costly to maintain
- Love unpaved paths as an aging jogger, but will take paved pathways. Anything to be off the roads.
- Paths Not wider than 6'...10' too wide and a waste of money
- Its difficult to answer without knowing the location of these pathways
- The Train Crossings! They need to be safer. Arm, signage, painted markings - something needs to be done.
- None needed. We like it just the way it is.
- Cross walk and pedestrian crossing signs at intersection of Legion drive and Elmhurst Parkway
- I would like to see a pathway/bridge connecting San Fernando Drive and the Village Park.
- On-street bicycle facilities on legion would be nice for those folks whose speeds shouldn't be on the walking path.
- Streets in the village are narrow and there are many people who walk and walk with dogs in the streets. The village has no street lights and most people don't walk with lights or reflective s at night. I fear driving at dusk due to our streets. Need more walking paths like Juneau to Highland on east side of the village to get from 124th to Village Park.
- Finish Highland path and in 2025 all the way to Watertown Plank.
- Cross walks at park entrances.
- More walking paths. Multi use. Have the bikes use the path. Please drive reckless and safer for the kids to be on the paths
- Painted markings/student Walker/biker safety near Tonawanda Elementary School
- Pathway on Hollyhock from north Ave to Tonawanda

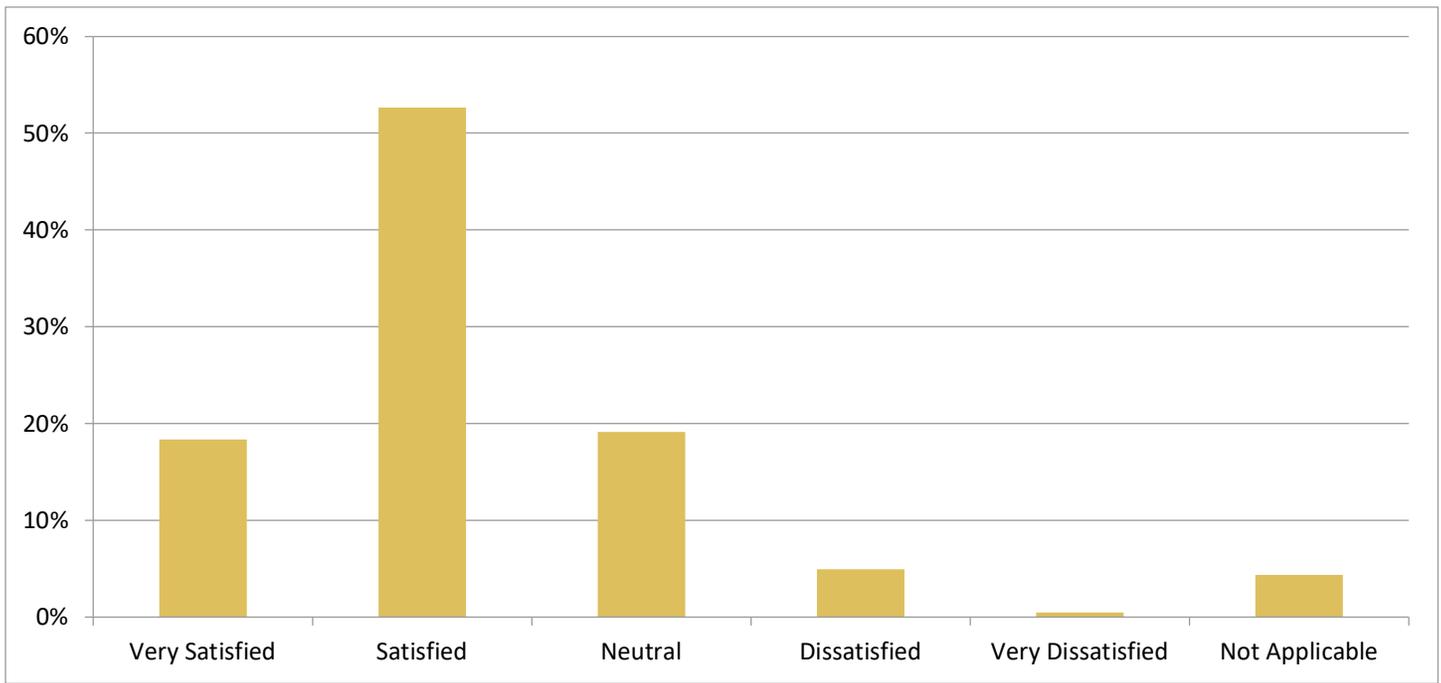
17. What Village recreational programs or events have you and/or your family attended or participated in? (select all that apply)



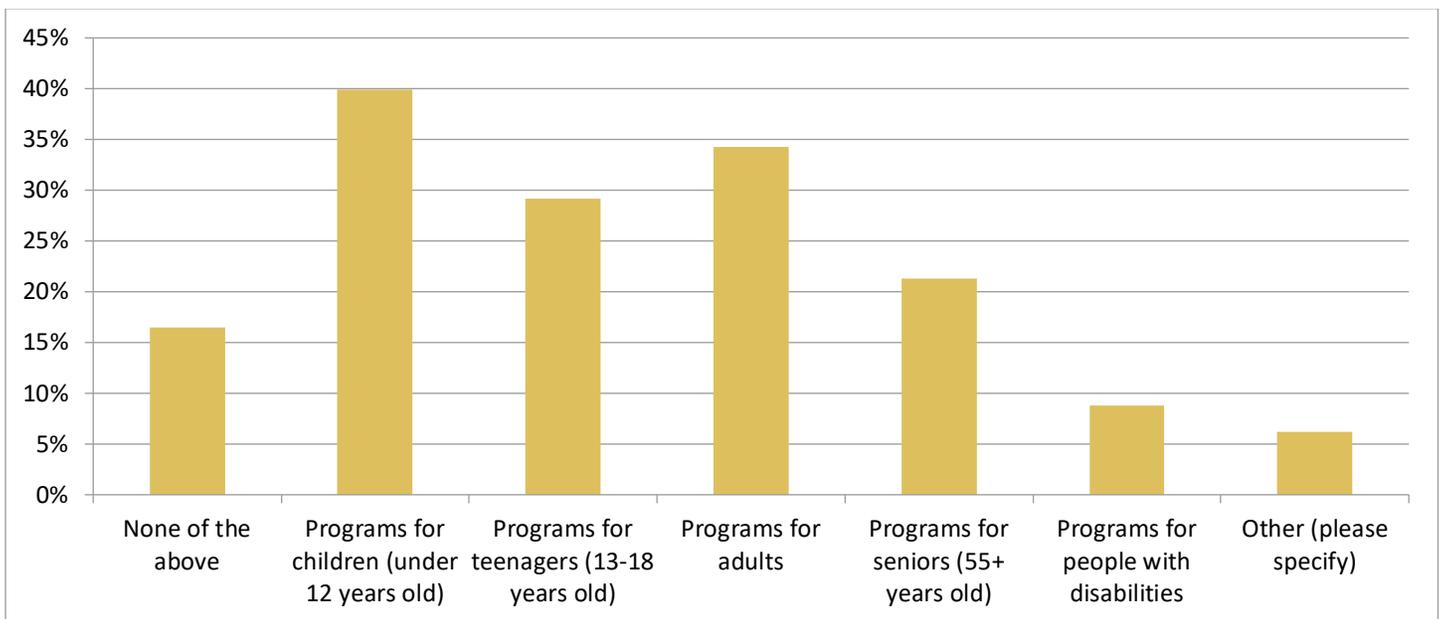
Other comments:

- Stuffies sleepover
- Library story time and summer events
- Summer camp
- German fest
- With all respect, the bike contest on the 4th is boring. We moved on from this.
- Swim lessons
- Adult softball
- Very disappointed that 4th of July games had to be cancelled.
- Camp out
- Bring back all the July 4th activities, bike decorating, bake contest, revolutionary war actors, games for kids & adults
- Library speakers programs
- Wine supply at beer garden. Add better adult tennis instruction.
- Family campout
- Camp elm grove many years ago
- Elm grove beatification events
- Campout.... We have attended all the events over the past 14 years
- Need more night to be able to rent the pool
- Adult parks and recreation

18. How would you rate your satisfaction with the overall quality of the Elm Grove recreation programs?



19. What additional recreational programs would you like to see offered in the community? (select all that apply)

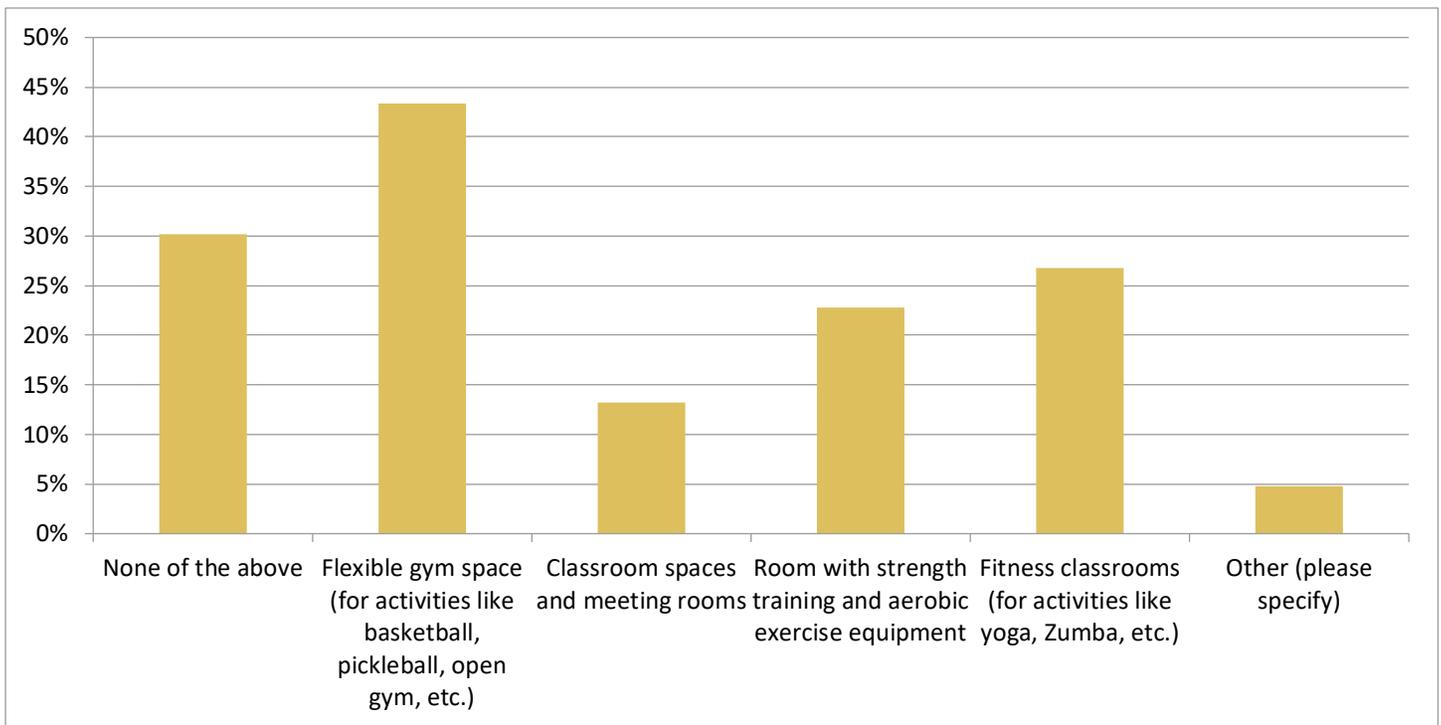


Other comments:

- How about new offerings. Your rec programs are the same offerings from 30+ years ago
- Photography course using iPhone
- I would like to see the tennis team and swim team offerings from the village Summer rec department expanded/improved. They are such a great idea, but we were disappointed in them this year.
- Not concerned about available programs. Focus in common areas and enhance them.
- Longer swim hours and season. The pool is closed too much.
- Pickle ball league
- fencing class and visual art class
- Birding and native plant education
- Programs for older adults-beyond 55 “seniors” classification. More enrichment programs for those around 75 and up

- perhaps a bit more structure with the children summer rec programs.
- Mom and me programs for babies and toddlers
- All ages
- I loved the dances at the Firehouse for teens back in the late 60's. I miss the lunch counter at the old pharmacy. So many more opportunities to connect,
- I like that we have additional programming through Brookfield. We are a small community so it is unrealistic to have too many offerings unless they are available at a reasonable cost to those outside our community as well. The difference in cost for EG residents to participate in Brookfield activities is ridiculous and seems to have gone up. Specifically team sports, t-ball and basketball which are not available in EG.
- Programs for families that work during the week. Classes on the weekends/evenings for kids.
- Expand the library
- Keep our fireworks
- Return the Oil painting classes even if it is linked to a neighboring Rec dept.
- I'd love to see some sort of junior counselor program for our tweens who are too old for camps but too young for employment. They could benefit so much from being apprentices to counselors. Babysitters club? Maybe also junior lifeguards who assist at swim lessons, etc. Parents are always posting on social media what to do with their tweens! Put them to work! :)
- Ice Cold Beer Festival (winter outdoors in a heated tent with a band))

20. With consideration of purchasing costs, construction, and maintenance, what indoor recreational facilities would you like to see offered by the Village, if any? (select all that apply)

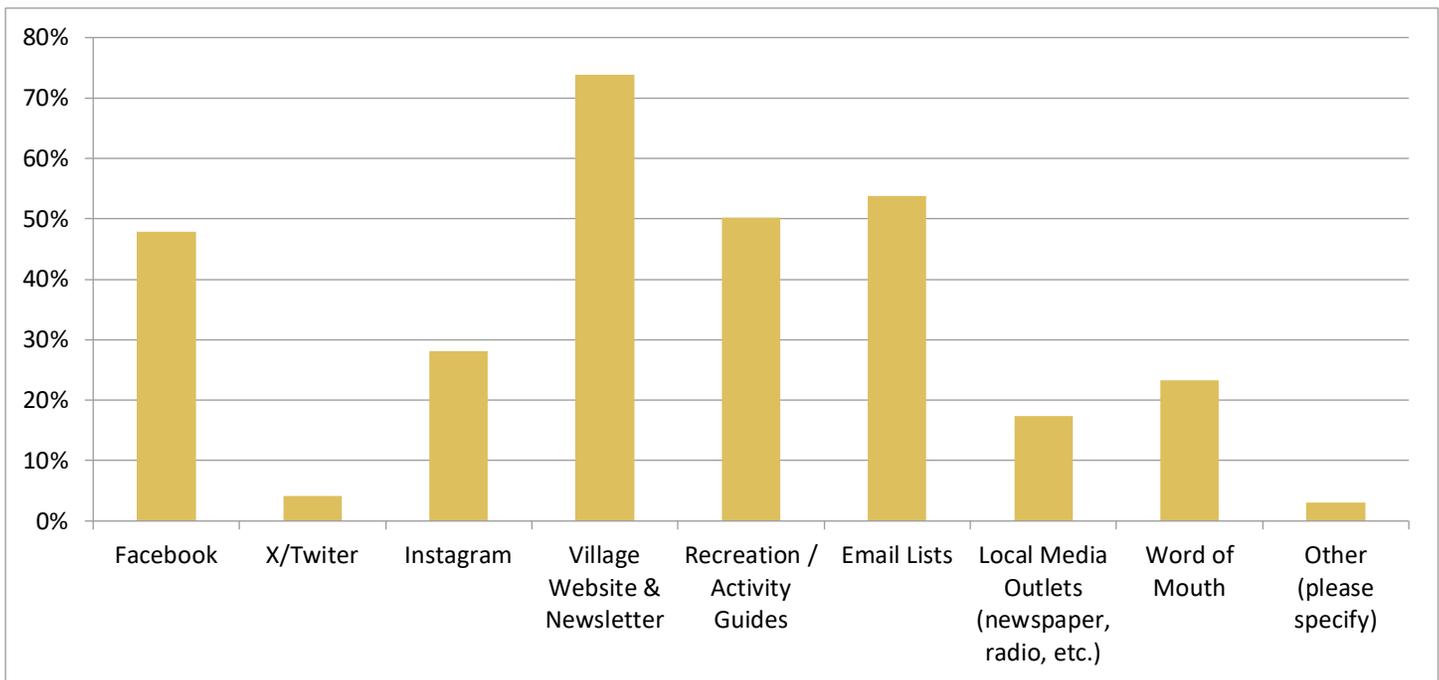


Other comments:

- Indoor play space for kids with indoor slides, climbing and play structures for kids (look up Rustad rec center in west Fargo, ND - thinking of something like that!)
- Pool replacement could be indoor/outdoor for max use
- Could we possibly rent the facilities, concern for overall costs
- Indoor community pool.
- Place for Yoga that doesn't get usurped every other week
- No opinion
- Would love a public meeting room, with windows, within the library building.

- I think our space is sufficient
- Evening fitness classes that work for those who work during normal business hours (evening and weekend)
- I feel that updating the Community & O'Neill rooms, along with the lower level restrooms, would be a wonderful investment.
- open up Elmbrook school facilities more
- So glad to have library and meeting rooms. Given limit resources I would prefer focus to be on outdoor green spaces. Most people in the area belong to gyms, have home gyms and/or other indoor options.
- We already have spaces for some of these activities, meetings, classes,
- Consider partnering with Elm Grove Women's Club for indoor use.
- Better pool locker room
- Indoor event space
- Partner with Elmbrook School District to use gym and classrooms like Brookfield Park and Rec

21. What is the best way for your household to stay informed of the Village's recreational opportunities? (select all that apply)



Other comments:

- Stroll and Leaves magazines
- Rec guide. Large print
- A rec book that is big enough to read please
- Signs by at four way stop by Village Park
- Announcements posted near the library
- elm grove news independent
- Elm Grove Junior Guild
- Signs and banners announcing events/sign-up times for
- mailed to the house
- Elm Grove-Independent
- Text messages

22. Please share any additional comments that could assist the Village in improving parks, trails, open space, or recreational facilities and programs. (fill in the blank below)

Comments (summarized)

There is a strong desire to maintain and enhance existing facilities, with a focus on pathways, playgrounds, and restrooms.

- Many residents appreciate the beer garden and its location near the playground, suggesting it fosters community connections.
- There is a call for better maintenance of park facilities, including restrooms, soccer fields, and pathways.
- Residents express a need for more advanced recreational programs and better scheduling to align with other communities.
- The community values natural spaces and suggests minimizing development to preserve the village's charm.
- There is interest in more pathways and bike lanes to improve safety and connectivity, especially for children traveling to schools and parks.
- Suggestions include adding a dog park, improving playground equipment, and making the splash pad more accessible.
- Residents are concerned about the cleanliness and maintenance of portable restrooms and suggest adding permanent facilities.
- There is a desire for more community events, better communication about activities, and more volunteer opportunities for teens.
- Some residents suggest increasing fees for non-residents using village facilities to offset maintenance costs.