

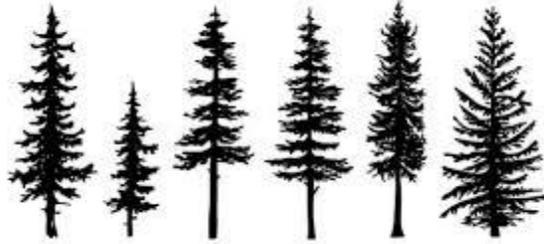
WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN



2024-2029







West Salem Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan

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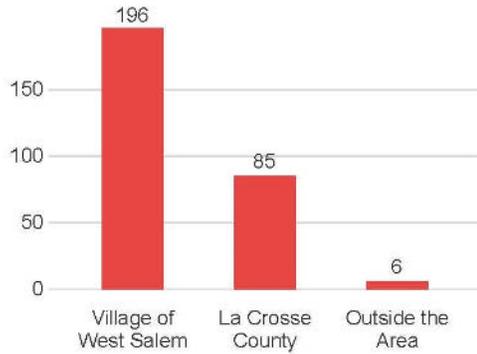
APPENDIX D: SURVEY RESULTS

West Salem Outdoor Recreation Survey Results

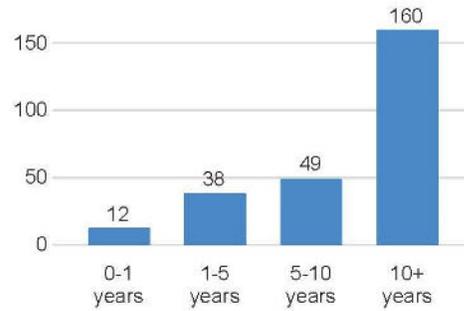




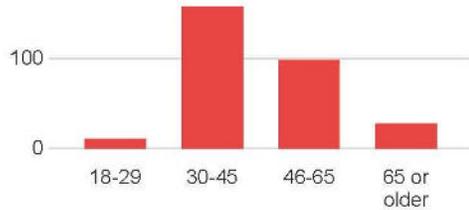
I live In:



How long have you lived in the Village of West Salem?



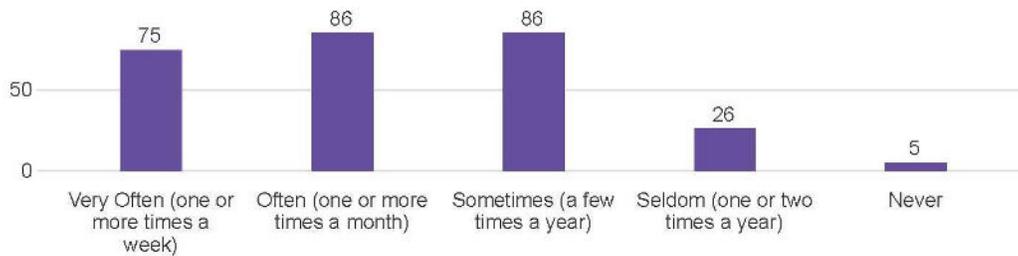
Which best describes the age group you belong too?



I Work In:

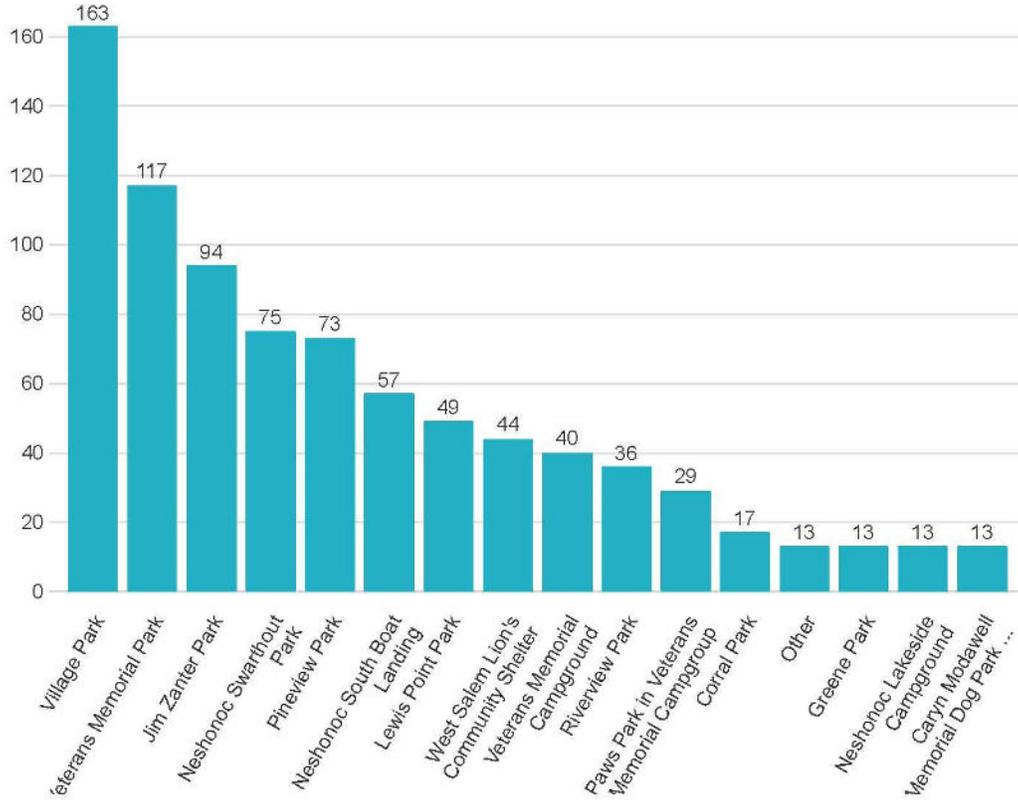


How often to you use the Village's parks and/or Outdoor facilities?





My Favorite Parks are... - Selected Choice



Other - Text

- Walking paths, connecting trails
- West Salem Elementary School park
- Kayak ramp by dam
- Barre Park
- Swarthout Park
- most suck
- Don't use the parks
- I use all the parks for walking and children playgrounds. Age 10
- Swarthout
- I don't know where most of these are, never heard of them.
- Walking down Tilson to boat landing.



What are your favorite outdoor recreation activities?

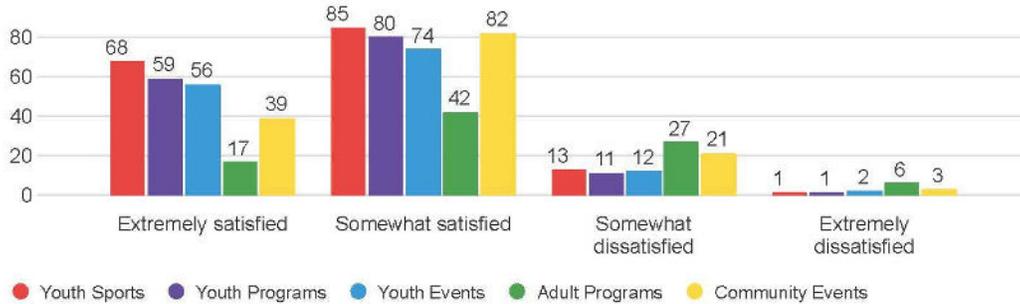
Field	Mean	Responses
Hiking	73.98	191
Organized Sports Activities: Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Swimming, Track, Volleyball, Sports Camps	71.35	144
Playground Activities	65.21	143
Other:	64.96	24
Swimming	63.77	138
Biking Trails Paved / Gravel	63.34	174
Canoeing / Kayaking / SUP board	62.26	174
Fishing	59.45	148
Camping	58.52	133
Running	57.71	76
Cross Country Skiing / Snowshoeing	54.89	82
UTV/ATV Riding	54.84	61
Boating	54.07	134
Wildlife Viewing / Bird Watching	51.85	111
Basketball	51.75	117
Picnicking	51.02	124
Pickleball	49.93	91
Mountain Biking / Bike Parks	46.86	80
Snowmobiling	35.87	52
Tennis	34.45	83

Other Activities





The West Salem Parks & Recreation Department offers a number of organized activities... How are we doing?



I would like to see the following organized sport, program or event in West Salem.

- Aquatic Center - is a must. We are the only town without one locally. It's very disappointing that we have to go somewhere else to experience more than a very basic swimming pool.. Inflatable water park on Lake Neshonic would be amazing. Why can't something like this be done to attract people to West Salem.
- Outdoor pickleball
- Senior center activities - card playing, games, etc.
- Mountain biking
- More opportunities for adult exercise programs
- Pilates Yoga
- Adult learning programs
- We need pickleball courts
- Adult volleyball
- Coed softball & running events.
- UTV event, fishing event, more adult events
- More games and sports for elementary kids
- A bike ride
- Adult yoga/meditation classes, ASL/sign language class
- More gymnastics clinics/options at the Panther Den. We are so excited for the one coming up, as the other area gymnastics options are a far drive.
- Soccer tournament
- Pickle ball, Fall baseball
- Lacrosse
- More concerts in the park. More kids day activities
- I would love to see some Pickleball courts. Our town is behind others it's the fastest growing sport in North America. Also the greene park needs playground equipment!!!!



Please address needs for public recreation facilities...

Field	Mean	Responses
Sledding Hill	2.59	199
Water Park / Splash Pad	2.57	194
Pickleball Courts	2.45	198
Boat / Kayak Rentals	2.45	199
Climbing Wall	2.43	196
Disc Golf Courses	2.22	189
Sand Volleyball Courts	2.21	189
Skate Park	2.19	192
Cross Country Skiing or Snowshoe Trails	2.15	191
Swimming Pool	2.14	201
Bicycle Park	2.14	196
ADA / Handicap Facilities	2.14	185
Winter Trails	2.04	191
River Access	2.03	194
Paved Walking and Biking Paths / Trails	2.00	201
Fishing Pier	2.00	195
Bird Watching / Wildlife Observation Sites	1.98	193
Park Basketball Courts	1.96	192
Open Play Turf Areas	1.92	188
Unpaved Walking and Biking Paths / Trails	1.90	197
Playgrounds	1.87	194
Covered Group Picnic Shelters	1.86	194
Lake Access	1.83	199
Tennis Courts	1.79	195
Ice Rink	1.75	189
Dog Park or Off Leash Trails	1.68	193
Village Baseball / Softball Fields	1.63	195
Soccer Fields	1.59	186



Most important park improvements needed in West Salem.

Field	Mean	Responses
Upgrading existing parks, recreation facilities, trails and open spaces	70.73	163
Expanding and developing the trail system for pedestrian and bike use	59.60	136
Acquiring and protecting land for natural open space	58.00	127
Developing new sport courts like pickleball, tennis, basketball	55.46	125
Acquiring more land for future parks	54.60	111
Concentrating on maintaining existing parks and facilities only	54.46	111
Developing a bicycle playground	52.67	92
Developing more sport fields like baseball, soccer, football	52.51	93
Improving access and parking for existing trails and park facilities	41.85	92
Developing more dog off-leash parks or trails	35.53	66



Other Park improvements not listed above:

Other Park improvements not listed above:

Just basic care and upkeep. To be clean and safe

Beach area

Desperately need improved beach area on Lake Neshonic. We like swimming at beach but it's not a nice beach at all with the sloped grass area and small, dirty access to water.

all abilities park of some sort to include children with dissabilities

Bathrooms

West Salem needs to improve out recreation by creating trails and trailhead for a city loop style trail that incorporates and connects neighborhoods to nature. Look at Black River Falls foundation trail as an example.

More natural wildflower and bee friendly areas

Beginner to moderate mountain bike trails along lake Neshonic.

My children enjoy water parks. If they just want to swim, we can go to the small pool by the high school but if we want to go to a water park we go to the one in Onalaska or Holmen. It would be nice to be able to stay in West Salem.

Restroom facilities for everyone including handicapped.

Village park needs all new updates. This park is the center of our village and it is so run down.

Handicap accessible should be very high on the list. Anytime a disabled/old spectator wants to get to a field (soccer) it is next to impossible. There should be paved availability to get to all seat areas for every activity.

Creating new shelter/restrooms in Village Park. Adding all ages/abilities playground equipment to existing parks (Greene Park currently no equipment). Planting native pollinator gardens in existing and new areas. Having a public ice skating rink in the winter. Building a skate park.

Sorry, i already said this but Pickleball and equipment in the greene park. That's a large neighborhood with no walkable equipment

We need an all abilities park

i would love for the village to put up and maintain an outdoor ice rink, it could be easily constructed by the lake neshonoc landing

Remember all ages, not just children when you make improvements. Children grow to be adults.

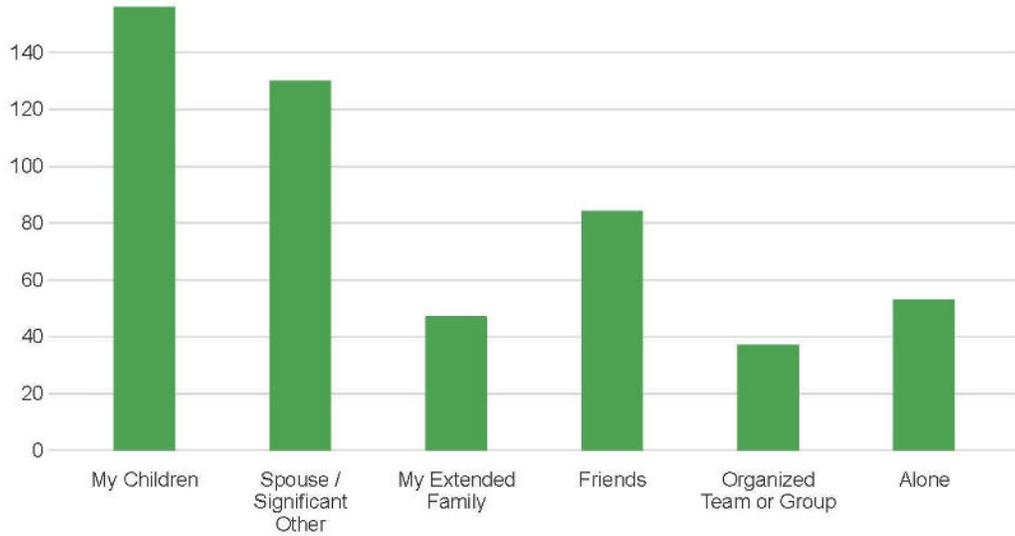
I think one of the biggest improvements necessary are more wheelchair/handicap accessible playgrounds/play equipment. I have no children with these needs, but when we are at a park with a parent of a child in a wheelchair, it makes me realize what a great need there is for this. All kids should have equipment to use at a village park!

Creating a place for public ice skating.

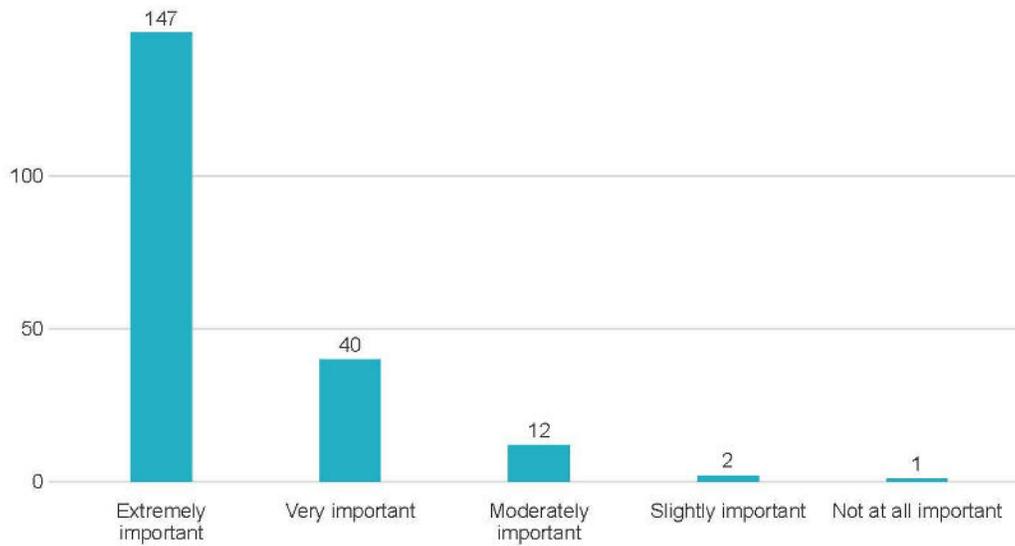
Hard to see the blue lines on the kids soccer fields, maybe use a more contrasting paint color. Would love to expand the walking/biking trails and water access. Pretty lighted outdoor ice rink with cocoa and skate rentals would be great. A ninja type playground for middle/older kids would be fun too. Expanding the pool to have a water park would be great as well. Even playing time for kids in sports as they are growing and learning. Some coaches are too competitive and kids in 5th 6th grade aren't being played much in games because they want to win.



Who most often participates with you in outdoor recreation activities?



Do you think outdoor recreation opportunities are important to improve the quality of life for your family and the Village of West Salem residents?





When leaving the area for recreational activities, please let us know where you went and what activity you were pursuing.

Yes, please let us know where you went and what activity you were pursuing. - Text

Lacrosse and Onalaska for tennis... our tennis courts should be regular color for tennis (blue and green). Besides the quality of work done on our existing courts is poor especially with the paint chipping off. Plus it's sad to have taken away the old courts with a backboard to practice against yourself to just have a poorly seeded "green space" especially since community members can't use the courts when the school is using them

La Crosse - Hixon forest, and experimental forest to cross country ski

Cross country skiing in Michigan

Madison using the trail system

La Crosse, Onalaska, Holmen

Aquatic Centers Sparta, Onalaska - often. Hiking trails Hixton, Trempeleau. Inflatable water parks - Deluth and WI Dells. Beaches - Black River Beach, Airport Beaches, Pettibone Beach La Crosse

Onalaska outdoor pickleball court.

hiking, swimming, bike park, all abilities park, boating

Experimental forest for hiking and cross country skiing. Granddads for biking. Other pools for bigger places.

Human powered trails to mountain bike.

Bangor experimental forest to hike and ski.

State parks

Mountain biking boating fishing bike trail riding la crosse area. We go to other area swimming pools like holmen

Hiking at various places in La Crosse and surrounding counties, traveling to bigger parks for my kids.

I have numerous times driven to the Sparta middle school to play pickle ball.

Variety

Hiking trails, Pickleball in the greater La crosse area

Perot to hike

Winter baseball training programs

Hixon

Onalaska, LAX, Holmen



Your BIG Idea!

If you could create the ideal outdoor recreation experience in the Village of West Salem, what would it be?

Your BIG Idea!

If you could create the ideal outdoor recreation experience in the Village of West Salem, what would it be?

Create a walking/biking path from East Garland to the dock in the county park.

Previously stated - aquatic center needed desperately. My 11 year old goes swimming every day and our pool is extremely small and boring. We are the only town locally without aquatic center. We go frequently to other towns to use the aquatic centers. Increased pool hours with better lifeguard coverage/no breaks. Improved beach desperately needed - bigger and cleaner with improved water access than sloped grassy area. Jet skis need to stay further from swim area and slow down by swim areas - major safety concerns. There should be a real beach created by the sandbar. Way better swim area there than by the beach. Need to better supply Lake Neshonic with fish. We call it "Lake No Fish". 20 years ago we caught huge fish on Lake Neshonic. Now you don't catch anything. Inflatable water park would be amazing. There is nothing like it in the immediate area. It would draw in crowds and revenue. Could be put on the far end of the lake where nobody goes ever. The lake is too overrun with boats and jet skis that are not respectful of swimmers. Hiking trails in the bluffs would be highly used.

Update the village park tennis courts to pickleball courts.

extended trails around the lake for biking, hiking and skiing. bike lane on lake road (my daughter almost was hit by a car, very unsafe now), a park our daughter can use! she walks with crutches and can only crawl on the park equipment. partnering with NASA (north american squirrel association) would help put in a park for all abilities.

More bike friendly. Trails through the woods by south boat landing. Sand volleyball. A non-school district run pool. Protect the lake road, it is treasured and used by so many. Thanks for asking!

Make a walking path from east garland around the 'bowl' and connect to the park by the fishing dock.

A single track mountain bike trail through the woods of one mile length.

Also, a small skateboard park with entry level half pipe and ramps to keep kids busy and challenged without having to spend money on a bike. Just a skateboard is cheap.

Usable trails for hiking or biking around the lake where you don't have to worry about getting hit by a car

Convert the old tennis courts in town to pickle ball courts. We need at least 4 courts, probably more as the sport grows.

Turn the old tennis courts at the village park into Pickleball courts.

Add more hiking trails.



Your BIG Ideal

If you could create the ideal outdoor recreation experience in the Village of West Salem, what would it be?

Indoor baseball training programs

An aquatic center with pools for all ages, slides and water playgrounds. We currently travel to all surrounding areas to visit theirs and for birthday parties. Or at least a large splash pad with other playground equipment also. A space with a climbing wall, jump park, foam pits, obstacle course, etc would be great too. Anything to encourage kids to be active and outdoors.

A sledding hill, with space for parents to gather. Bonus points if it has a fire and hot chocolate on the weekends. Extra bonus points if there is a small ice skating rink.

Bike trails that connect Lake Neshonic, the school area and multi access points to the Great River Trail. An aquatic center. An outdoor fitness park. A park similar to the Trane all abilities park would be great. Hiking and nature trails.

Build native plants and flowers into the recreational areas. Green spaces are essential for health. Splash pad and all abilities parks for kids would be nice too.

An outdoor bike park and trails. With a nice shelter for events. Decent seating for parents, if they are not riding, but watching their kids.

Trails for biking along lake neshonic for mountain biking and a pump track like in LaCrosse. Get rid of the tennis courts and build something useful, I live across from park and have never seen cornhole players only Criquet players. That space could be utilized in some new manner for better use by the community.

Sporting complex/ baseball, softball, soccer, tennis/pickle ball

A nicer beach area on the south side of lake Neshonoc. We always swim at the boat dock because the beach by the dam is full, and lewis point park is not safe or easily traversed with smaller kids. We usually have problems with teenage kids or college age kids too. It's not a family friendly area. The boat dock is great but busy with boat traffic.

I would get something around the lake so you can bike around it. I would also get established cross country ski trails on county land during the winter and keep the skate path maintained during winter I would organize connecting vets to neshonoc and offer more activities there to increase use



Q17 - Your BIG Idea! If you could create the ideal outdoor recreation experience in the Village of West Salem, what would it be?





INTRODUCTION

Outdoor Recreation in West Salem

The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to West Salem for the preservation, future acquisition, development, and improvements of outdoor recreation and open space facilities. The plan provides details of public recreation and open space areas within the Village. The plan will assist West Salem in meeting the present and future outdoor recreational needs of its residents.

The completion of this 5-year Outdoor Recreation Plan followed by the Village's adoption of the plan will make the Village's projects eligible for various state and federal funding programs through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Additionally, the preparation of the plan is an efficient way to plan for the allocation of funds to be placed toward future recreation opportunities in the community.

The inventory of outdoor recreation facilities is included in the document. A survey was presented to the community and over 300 residents responded. That input was used to develop this report and the survey report is included at the end of this document. This level of interest and participation suggests the community values recreation and the work of the Parks and Recreation Department, the Village, County, Schools, and individuals contributing to the entire system.

Potential projects for the future are identified based on input from staff and long-term planning initiatives regarding future maintenance, upgrades, and priorities for the Village's Park system. The goals and objectives are intended to guide future decisions for investment. They begin on the next page.

West Salem requested that the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission coordinate and prepare this Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Parks and Recreation Department, Recreation Committee, staff, and other units of government recognize the value of coordinating all outdoor recreational planning. The Village Board will adopt the Outdoor Recreation Plan before it is effective in the given jurisdiction.





Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Continue to maintain and improve the Village’s outdoor parks and recreation facilities.

Objectives: In addition to maintaining existing parks, the community will seek ways to improve existing facilities, upgrade or replace aging equipment, and develop new programming to best meet the needs of all citizens, including children, teenagers, the elderly, and individuals with mobility challenges.

Provide year-round outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities. Partner with the schools, private sector, clubs, County and State to provide access to the best facilities and programs.

Monitor the general overall condition of the Village’s outdoor recreation amenities annually and establish an outdoor recreation improvements program.

Goal 2: Use the Village’s financial resources efficiently and enhance outside funding opportunities for park and recreational needs of the community.

Objectives: Evaluate and prioritize recreation facility usage and needs.

Monitor state and federal grant programs for future park development. Apply for funds if appropriate.

Partner with the schools, private sector, clubs, County and State on project funding where appropriate.

Determine the costs and benefits of all recreational development prior to undertaking the project.

Goal 3: Protect and enhance the unique natural resources within West Salem and the area while providing and improving public access to these facilities and the waterways adjacent to them.

Objectives: Maintain an awareness of the vulnerability of the Village’s valuable natural resources.

Provide facilities that enable recreational users the opportunity to enjoy the Village’s natural assets without causing any adverse impacts on these resources.

Maintain the tree canopy by planting new and replacing trees both in the parks and elsewhere in the community.





Goal 4: Promote recreation as a way toward better public health and wellness.

Objectives: Work with our partners, media outlets, tourism, and others to promote our programming, facilities, events, and other recreational activities for the betterment of our community.

Goal 5: West Salem will focus on establishing and enhancing communication regarding our facilities, events, and programming using both technology and all available media outlets.

Objectives: We will maintain and improve our website, email, and presence on social media. Our objective is to use technology to improve our awareness in the community.

We also understand that for a section of our community more traditional methods of communication work best and will also use these traditional communication methods like news outlets, mail, posters, and direct contact.





West Salem Municipal Mission and Priorities

“The mission of the West Salem Parks and Recreation Department and Outdoor Recreation Committee is to permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, park land and recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

The West Salem Parks and Recreation Department exists to provide places and recreational opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.”



Review of Recreation Demand

Introduction

The planning of outdoor recreation facilities is of utmost importance for the development of healthy and viable communities. Three important parts of recreation planning are:

- (1) Determine the demand for several types of outdoor recreation activity,
- (2) Inventory the existing facilities which accommodate outdoor recreation activity,
- (3) Evaluate the existing facilities and determine the need for improvements or additions to meet the existing and anticipated recreational demand.

Recreational Demand

As we progress into a new century, events and issues that influence outdoor recreation in the future are changing. Issues which will influence future outdoor recreation activities include:

- Land use patterns are shifting,
- Ownership patterns in rural areas are changing,
- Budgets for operation and maintenance of recreation resources are not expected to increase.

In addition, the demographics of the Village are shifting. The Village’s median age as of 2021 is 42.9 years old, a 15.9% increase since 2010 (36.1 years old). As people age, recreation activities they participate in may change. The changes in family structure (an increase in single parent families) also change recreation choices.



For guidance on the demand for recreational outdoor activities, a review of the [Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\) 2019-2023](#) was conducted. During the development of the SCORP, numerous Wisconsin residents were questioned as to how often they participate in various recreation activities. Data was collected at 8 regional levels; West Salem lies in the Mississippi River Corridor.

5

This plan lays out **five** overarching goals for outdoor recreation.



1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation



2. Grow partnerships



3. Provide high-quality experiences



4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits



5. Enhance funding and financial stability





Favorite Places to Visit Based on Public Input (SCORP)

Of the people providing input, the majority (67%) selected the quality of trails as one of the top four most crucial factors in determining their favorite property to visit. This mirrors the results from the West Salem survey.

Wisconsinites have historically participated in outdoor recreation at higher rates than the national average.

Seventy-seven percent of SCORP respondents believe more outdoor recreational opportunities are needed in the Mississippi River Corridor Region. The opportunity that was most frequently selected as needed in the Mississippi River Corridor Region was more trails for hiking, walking, or running, which was selected by nearly half of respondents.

Future Recreation Needs From State Plan (SCORP)

Based on the 2019-2023 SCORP, the Mississippi River Corridor Region rates recreational activities as high, medium, or low relative to needs of the region. The groupings are as follows:

Future Recreation Needs - High	Future Recreation Needs - Medium	Future Recreation Needs - Low
Bicycling – touring/road riding	ATV/UTV riding	Dog sledding/ skijoring
Bicycling – mountain/off road	Bicycling – fat tire/snow	Dog training
Bird or wildlife watching	Fishing – lake from shore	Dog Trialing
Camping – developed	Fishing – ice fishing	Geocaching
Camping – primitive	Four-wheel vehicle driving	Off-highway motorcycle riding
Canoeing or kayaking	Horseback riding	Rock climbing
Cross Country Skiing	Horse cart driving	Sailing, windsurfing, rowing, etc.
Dog Walking	Hunting – migratory birds	Snowmobiling
Fishing – lake from vessel	Hunting – small game	Scuba diving/snorkeling
Fishing – river from vessel	Hunting – turkey	Whitewater rafting
Fishing – stream or shore wading	Motorboating (waterski, tubing)	
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	Swimming in lakes and rivers	
Hiking, walking, trail running	Target shooting – archery	
Hunting – big game	Target shooting – firearms	
Nature photography	Trapping	
Nature based education programs		
Picnicking		
Snowshoeing		
Visit a beach, beach walking		



Definitions

To assist in the interpretation and implementation of the West Salem Outdoor Recreation Plan, the following terms have been identified.

Community Park – A park designed to serve several neighborhoods and to provide many recreational opportunities for people of all ages.

Neighborhood Park – A park designed to serve the needs of the surrounding neighborhood or a specific recreational need.

Neighborhood Playground – A facility often provided in conjunction with a community school. It is designed to serve the needs of the surrounding neighborhood and can accommodate a variety of informal or active athletic activities.

Mini Park – A smaller park often with a specific purpose or connection to another facility.

Specialized Recreation Area – Areas restricted by design to certain uses and may not always be available for use by the public. Golf courses, historic sites, and conservancy areas are examples of specialized recreation areas.

Open Space – Primarily land and water that is owned or managed by federal, state, or local governments, or a conservancy organization that is preserved for public use. Examples include wetlands, woodlands, wildlife refuges, prairies/meadows, rock outcroppings, etc.

Pathways and Parkways – Spaces that are connections related to travel such as trail or water trail providing connectivity for recreation and/or transportation purposes.

Recreation Trail – A travel way established through construction or use and is passable by the following, including but not limited to foot traffic, bicycles, cross country skis, off road recreation vehicles, snowmobiles, etc.

Recreation Standards

One accepted way to measure the adequacy of a Village’s Park system is to determine the number of people the system serves or has the capacity to serve. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has set the following “rule of thumb” standards for designing recreation facilities:

Rule of Thumb” Standards
Neighborhood Playground: 2 acres per 1,000 people
Community Park: 5 acres per 1,000 people
Specialized Recreation Area: as needed

These standards are dependent on the physical and cultural features of a given Village. In this Outdoor Recreation Plan, one of the guidelines to be used to determine the adequacy of recreational facilities and areas is the standard of 12 acres per 1,000 people. It has been determined through the planning process that this standard is acceptable to apply in the West Salem recreational planning process. **We are pleased to report that West Salem exceeds all of these standards!**



Public Participation and Support

This plan was conducted with the participation of the Park and Recreation staff, the Park and Rec Committee, and citizens representing recreational interests in the community. Special thanks to Tony Degaetano and Cierra Wannemuehler who provide an exceptional amount of recreational programming, community events, and youth activities. I strongly encourage readers to visit the activities page and look at the brochures of offerings at: (<https://westsalemwi.gov/parks-recreation/activities-registration/>).

Stephen Cohen Rec Committee Secretary gave MRRPC a tour of the community and provided valuable insight.

The community also has a wealth of partners that help facilitate both programming and future development. (<https://westsalemwi.gov/parks-recreation/sponsors/>)

The development of this plan included a public survey and follow-up communication with some of the respondents. This document is included below.





PROPERTY INVENTORY

[West Salem Park Guide](#)

The outdoor recreational facilities in this community play a role in increasing the overall well-being and unity of the residents. These spaces are more than just physical structures, they act as sources for social interaction, physical activity, and creating a stronger connection with the natural environment. Some benefits to having well-planned recreational facilities are listed below.

1. **Community Health and Well-being:** Outdoor facilities provide spaces for residents to engage in physical activities, encouraging a healthier lifestyle. They also contribute to the physical and mental well-being of individuals across all age groups.
2. **Community Bonding:** These outdoor spaces serve as meeting points for community members. Parks become sites for family outings, picnics, and gatherings, which can create shared memories and a stronger sense of community.
3. **Economic Impact:** Outdoor recreation facilities contribute economically to the community. They attract visitors and tourists which can help stimulate local businesses.
4. **Conservation:** Outdoor facilities display the natural beauty of our region, showing locals and tourists how important it is to take care of the land. Residents who engage with these spaces often develop a greater appreciation for natural habitats. This can lead to increased awareness and participation in sustainable practices that benefit the environment.

Understanding and appreciating the importance of outdoor recreation facilities is so important for a successful community. What follows is an inventory of nature-based recreational activities available in West Salem. “Nature-based” is defined in the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as “activities that are related to natural resources and where experiences are enhanced with higher quality natural habitats.”

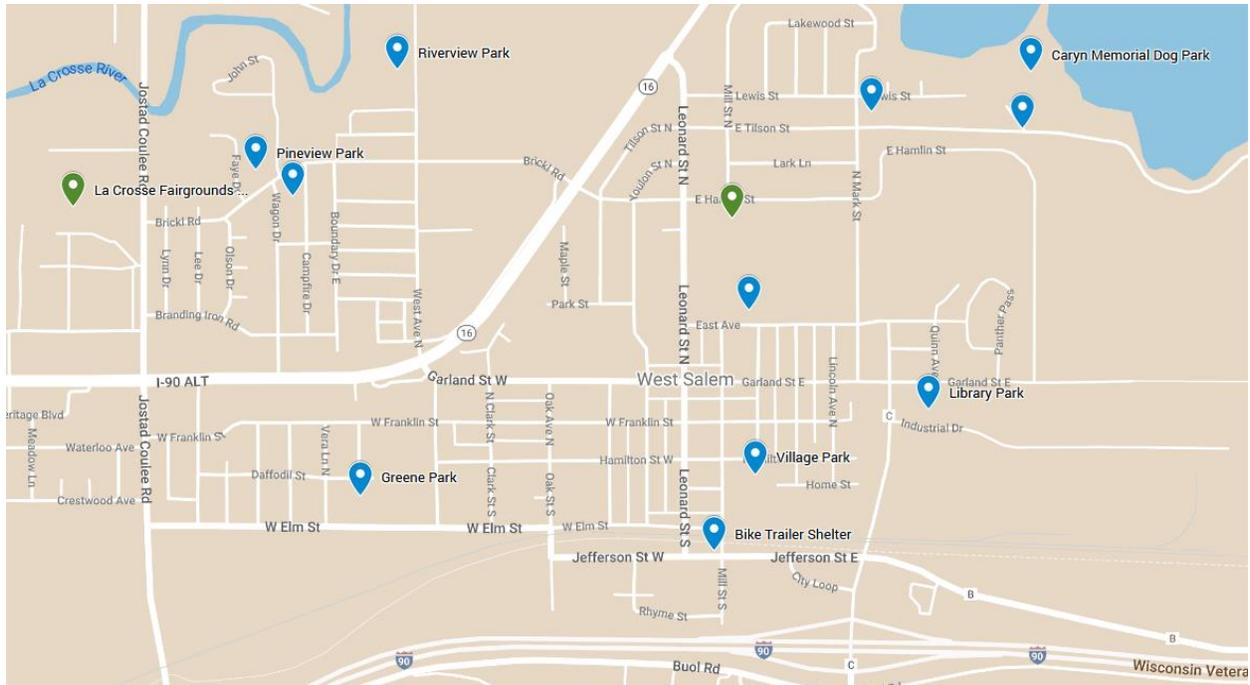


West Salem Recreation Facilities & Opportunities

Parks

The following pages contain an inventory of West Salem’s parks and outdoor facilities. For facilities the Village owns we have identified: Existing Facilities, Programs, Events & Revenue Generators, Issues, Current Maintenance Program, and Suggested Improvements. An interactive map of all facilities can be viewed online at:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1PdBZug1TCQOWQJK5AnjuE_b_OryBGOQ&usp=sharing





Village Park (Community Park)

Village Park is located at 121 Mill Street South and covers 4.890 acres. Although this is the smallest community park within the Village limits, it is home to many programs and events throughout the year. During the summer you can find Movies in the Park, Park & Rec Youth Baseball and Softball, and Concerts in the Park. During the fall there are Trunk-or-Treat and shelter rentals. The park is home to two separate play structures, two tennis courts, and two drinking fountains. You will also find a gazebo, concession stands, bathroom building and multiple locations with benches and picnic tables. The survey and public comments also showed this as a “Favorite” park with a strong priority for new pickleball courts.

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two separate play structure areas - slides, swings, monkey bars, climbing structures, merry-go-round • Gazebo • Bathroom building • Shelter building • Court of Honor • Concession stand • Lighted baseball field • Full court basketball court • Tennis Courts (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space • Raised flower bed • Paved walking trails • Grill • Drinking fountains (2) • Benches • Bleachers • Picnic tables • Trash receptacles • Park sign • On street parking
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Egg Hunt (spring) • Movies in the Park (summer/fall) • Trunk-or-Treat (fall) • Winter Wonderland (winter) • Park & Rec Youth Baseball/Softball (summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth programming (summer) • Park & Rec Adult Softball (summer) • Concerts in the Park (summer) • Shelter rental (spring/summer/fall) • Outside community use - June Dairy Days, West Salem Market, Boys & Girls Club, National Night Out
Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large main play structure is worn • Dead trees need to be taken down • Basketball court striping is faded • Tennis courts unusable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ADA access to playground • No ADA picnic tables • No bike parking



Village Park (Community Park) Continued

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care Trash removal Picnic table, bench and sign care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park facility maintenance (gazebo, play structure, shelter, bathroom building, concession stand, baseball field, basketball court, court of honor, walking trails)

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install pickleball courts in place of tennis courts (Priority from Survey and Public Comments) Sign landscaping Shelter building updates (windows, lighting electrical, fireplace, tables/chairs) ADA picnic tables Remove tennis courts Install pickleball courts in place of tennis courts (priority) ADA park structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball court resurface Replace baseball field lights with LED lights Bike rack Wheelchair accessible path to baseball field Baseball field turf Bike rack Update baseball concession stand Tree removal/replacement





Lion’s Community Shelter Park (Community Park)

Lion’s Community Shelter Park is located at 240 East Avenue and covers 9.333 acres. Lion’s Park is equipped with a large open sided shelter which is split in two. One side is utilized as a rentable shelter and the other side is utilized as an indoor training facility. A kitchen and bathrooms are used by both sides of the large shelter. This community park also houses Miller Field with amenities such as concession stands, covered dugouts, and multiple bleachers.

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosed shelter area • Open sided roofed pavilion • Meeting rooms (2) • Kitchen • Shelter Bathrooms • Drinking fountain • Large storage shed • Picnic tables • Bleachers • Batting cages with turf (2) • Park sign • Baseball concession area • Baseball concession bathrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball kitchen area • Miller Field • Bleachers • Media deck • Covered dugouts • Bleachers • Trash receptacles • Paved parking lot • Gravel parking lot • Lion’s Training Facility • 7 indoor batting cages with turf • Pitching machines & batting cage equipment • Keyless entry security system
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth programming (spring/summer) • West Salem baseball (spring/summer) • Legion baseball (summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter rentals • Outside community use - future facility rental
Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run down facility • Main walkway from sidewalk cracks • Gutters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen updates • Broken drinking fountain • Bathrooms



Lion's Training Facility (Community Park) Continued

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care Trash removal Picnic table, bench and sign care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WS School District baseball field maintenance Park facility maintenance (enclosed shelter, open air shelter)

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign landscaping Enclosed shelter paint Enclosed shelter floor Enclosed shelter tables/chairs ADA Picnic tables Update drinking fountains Wall vents Pull down doors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sidewalk/walkway Gutters Updated bathrooms Updated kitchen Locker / storage for training facility Shelter updates - tables/chairs, floor mats, Update windows - ones that can open New doors on rental side





Riverview Park (Community Park)

Riverview Park is located at 940 West Ave. North and roughly covers 10 acres. This community park offers summer activities, such as, Park & Rec Youth and Adult Baseball and field rental. In the spring they also offer West Salem youth baseball, fall high school softball, and fall soccer. Riverview is equipped with two baseball fields, two batting cages, and parking.

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighted baseball field with covered dugouts Unlit baseball field with covered dugouts Concession stand Batting cages with turf (2) Drinking fountains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benches Bleachers Picnic tables Trash receptacles Park sign Paved parking lot
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park & Rec Youth Baseball/Softball (spring/summer) Park & Rec Adult Softball (summer) Coulee Christian Baseball (spring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Salem JV Baseball (spring) Youth soccer (fall) High school softball (fall) Field rental (spring/summer)
Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congested parking for practices and games No restroom area No power to Riverview 2 Major puddles on infield after rainstorms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little to no shade for spectators Locks on concession stand are broken No bike parking

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care Trash removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic table, bench and sign care Park facility maintenance (baseball fields & concession stand)

Riverview Park (Community Park) Continued

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign landscaping • Bathroom structure • New heavy-duty concession stand locks • Re-crown baseball fields/add screenings • Riverview 2 parking • Riverview 2 lights • Riverview 2 scoreboard • Riverview 2 additional seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverview 1 gate along 1st base • Replace Riverview 1 lighting with LED lights • Shade awning over bleachers at Riverview 1 and 2 • Bike rack • Trees • Shade structure • Baseball field turf • Update interior and exterior of the concession stand





Lewis Point Park (Community Park)

Lewis Point Park is located at 950 East Tilson Street and covers 15.02 acres. With a lot of open space, picnic tables, gazebo, and grilling area, this community park is not only the largest community park in the Village of West Salem, but also provides a great habitat for wildlife and aquatic life since the park is also next to Neshonoc Lake. This park does not have or offer any events during the year, but Caryn Modawell Memorial Dog Park is within the park limits and is open all year round.

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gazebo Open space Grill Benches Picnic tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trash receptacles Park sign Paved parking lot Caryn Modawell Memorial Dog Park located within Lewis Point Park
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stairs leading to water are broken No marked trail to the point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping around gazebo Erosion

Program Details

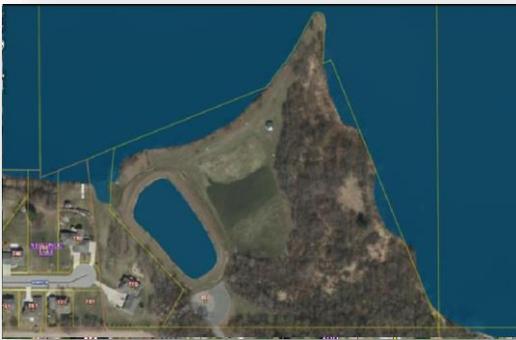
Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care Trash removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic table, bench and sign care Park facility maintenance (gazebo)



Lewis Point Park (Community Park) Continued

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign landscaping • Entrance gate • Picnic tables / Benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail leading to point • Stairs at the point • Bike playground project





Pineview Park (Neighborhood Park)

Pineview Park is located at 725 Faye Drive and covers 2.97 acres. This neighborhood park offers youth programs in the summer as well as soccer in the spring. This park offers a full basketball court, a play structure that includes a four-person merry-go-round. Since the park is set in the center field of Faye Drive, Wagon Drive, and Brickl Road, this space provides a safe environment for families with children. Pineview also provides parking on the fourth side of the park to ensure safety for all.

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open air shelter • Small storage shed • Play structure area - slides, swings, climbing structures, bucket spinners, merry-go-round, 4-person teeter-totter • Full court basketball court • Trash receptacles • Park sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space used for soccer fields • Grill • Drinking fountain • Benches • Bleachers • Picnic tables • Paved parking lot
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Soccer (spring/summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth programming (summer)
Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low on woodchips around play structure • Tree roots through play structure • Basketball court striping is fading • Water spigot leaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ADA access to playground • No ADA picnic tables • No bike parking

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care • Trash removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic table, bench and sign care • Park facility maintenance (play structure, shelter, basketball court, soccer fields)





Pineview Park (Neighborhood Park) Continued

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign landscaping• Benches• ADA picnic tables• Power to shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basketball court resurfacing• Water spigot/water fountain• Bike racks• Trees





Jim Zanter Park (Neighborhood Park)

Jim Zanter Park is located at 601 Lewis Street and covers 1.108 acres. This neighborhood park offers youth programs in the summer and soccer in the spring. This park has a lot of open space with a full sided play structure, a half-court basketball court with two basketball hoops, and paved walking trails that lead back into the surrounding neighborhoods.

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play structure area - slides, swings, climbing structures, bucket spinners • Open space • Half-court basketball court with 2 size hoops • Paved walking trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking fountain • Benches • Picnic tables • Trash receptacles • Park sign • On street parking
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth soccer (spring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth programming (summer)
Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low on woodchips around play structure • Dead trees need to be taken down • Basketball court striping is faded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ADA access to playground • No ADA picnic tables • No bike parking

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care • Trash removal • Picnic table, bench and sign care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park facility maintenance (play structure, basketball court, soccer field, walking trails)



Jim Zanter Park (Neighborhood Park) Continued

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign landscaping• Pour in place surfacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADA play structure• Bike rack





Corral Park (Mini Park)

Corral Park is located at 663 Wagon Drive and sits on 0.81 acres of land. This park is equipped with a half-court basketball court, picnic tables, and a play structure. Located between Wagon Drive and Campfire Drive, this park is perfect for families and the public to enjoy a safe environment. The park also provides on-street parking and open space.

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play structure area - slides, swings, merry-go-round, climbing structures • Half-court basketball court • Open space • Benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic tables • Trash receptacles • Park sign • On street parking
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	
Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ash trees recently removed • Bushes along property line do not look good • Basketball court striping is faded • No bike parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No ADA access to playground • No ADA picnic tables • Flooding in playground and basketball court after rain

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care • Trash removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic table, bench and sign care • Park facility maintenance (play structure & basketball court)

Corral Park (Mini Park) Continued

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign landscaping • Basketball court surfacing • Picnic tables • Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove bushes and replace with fence • Splash pad • Drinking fountain • Bike rack





Greene Park (Mini Park)

Greene Park is located at 675 Daffodil Street and covers 1.620 acres of land. This park is an open field used for soccer in the summer, spring, and fall. The park can be used for many other activities by the public.

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open space used for soccer fields Trash receptacles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On street parking Small storage shed for soccer equipment
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth soccer (spring/summer/fall) 	
Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care Trash removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic table, bench and sign care

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play structure Bleachers or benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic tables Open air shelter



Bike Trailer Shelter (Mini Park)

This mini park is located at 180 Jefferson Street East and covers 0.24 acres. This open space is home to open air shelters, bike racks, and access to the La Crosse River Trail. This small area where bikers and hikers can stop to take a break and relax. You will also find bike “fix-it” station and community map.

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open air shelter • Bike racks • Open space • Drinking fountain • Benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic tables • Trash receptacles • Park sign • Paved parking area • Bike fix-it station
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth programming (summer) 	
Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Railroad noise 	

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care • Trash removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic table, bench and sign care • Park facility maintenance

Improvement Options and Estimate



Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic tables 	



Caryn Modawell Memorial Dog Park (Mini Park)

Caryn Memorial Dog Park is located at 950 East Tilson Street which is also found within Lewis Point Park. This dog park covers 0.17 acres and has many amenities to keep not only your family, but your dog occupied. This dog park does have a fee drop box or users can buy an annual membership. The fees cover Village maintenance and updates as needed to the park. You will also see dog play structures, bleachers, and a paved parking lot.

Site Analysis Summary

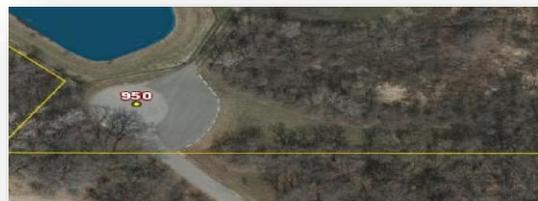
Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog park fee drop box • Dog play structures • Open space • Pet waste receptacle • Pet waste bag dispenser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches • Bleachers • Trash receptacles • Park sign • Shared paved parking area with Lewis Point Park
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog park fees 	
Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog play structures are worn • Holes along fence line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fenced entrance zone—issues shutting gate

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care • Trash/pet waste removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic table, bench and sign care • Park facility maintenance (play structure, fencing)

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete entrance • Dog play structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence and gate repairs • Fill in holes





Well House Park (Mini Park)

Well House Park is located on Buol Road when driving East towards Bangor, Wisconsin. This small plot of land is home to a fenced dinosaur statue. While there is no parking or any other amenities within the park's plot, the statue is a great attraction for families and other residents to walk and/or drive by.

Site Analysis Summary

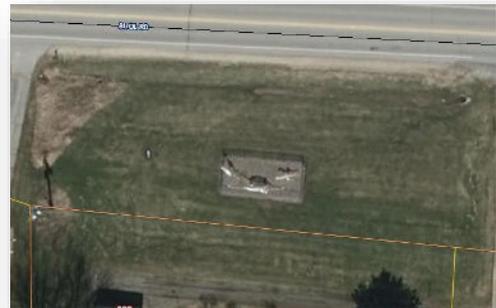
Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fenced dinosaur art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No parking area
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
Issues:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rusting of structures 	

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park facility maintenance (dinosaur statues)

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Painting 	



Library Park (Mini Park)

A new play structure has been added to the area adjacent to the West Salem Hazel Brown Leicht Memorial Library (part of the La Crosse County Library System) located at 702 Industrial Drive. Library park is a 0.50-acre park.

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play structure area - slides, swings, climbing structures • Benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash receptacles • Open Space
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Salem Hazel Brown Leicht Memorial Library programs (part of the La Crosse County Library System) 	
Issues:	
N/A (new park - no major issues at this time)	

Program Details

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing/trimming, tree/shrub care • Trash removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic table, bench and sign care • Park facility maintenance (play structure & open space)

Improvement Options and Estimate

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign recognizing donor • Picnic tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees • Additional park equipment



Map of Park locations

Parks in the Village of West Salem



Public & Private Outdoor Recreation Facilities

These facilities are located within or near the Village but are not directly controlled by the Village. However, they are still relevant to consider when evaluating the overall opportunities for outdoor recreation available to residents.

Neshonoc Lakeside Campground

Located on the northern edge of Lake Neshonoc, south of Highway 16, headed east of West Salem is this [campground](#). One of Western Wisconsin's premier camping destinations, it includes 284 sites, including RV sites, tent sites, and cabins. A variety of opportunities for outdoor recreation exist here, including classic lake activities such as fishing and boating, as well as bike trails. This is a private campground.



Veteran's Memorial Campground & Park



Located west of West Salem off of Highway 16 is this [campground](#), park, bike and hiking trails and new dog park. The campground is open from April 15 to October 15. This campground is located directly on the La Crosse River and the La Crosse River State Trail, providing an excellent opportunity for bikers and other trail users. There are also canoe facilities. There are over 100 sites at this campground. This campground is administered by La Crosse County.

La Crosse Fairgrounds / Speedway

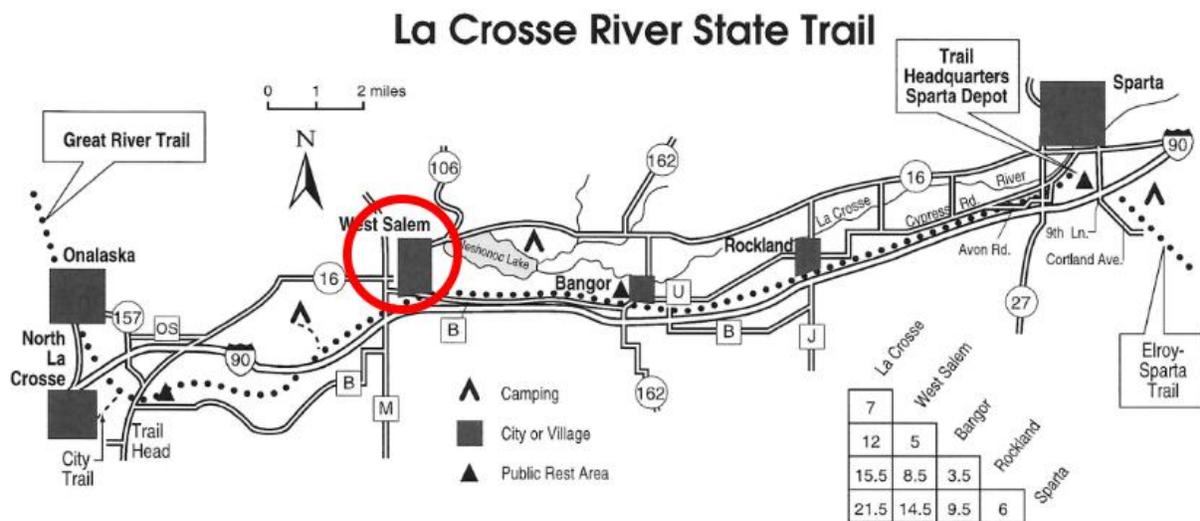
The [La Crosse Interstate Fair](#) is sponsored by the La Crosse County Agricultural Society. The Fairgrounds are located in in West Salem. The rest of the year the [Speedway](#) is a racetrack that hosts events from April to October. Mainly stock car races are held here – weekly racing every Friday night. Camping is also offered on the site.



La Crosse River State Trail

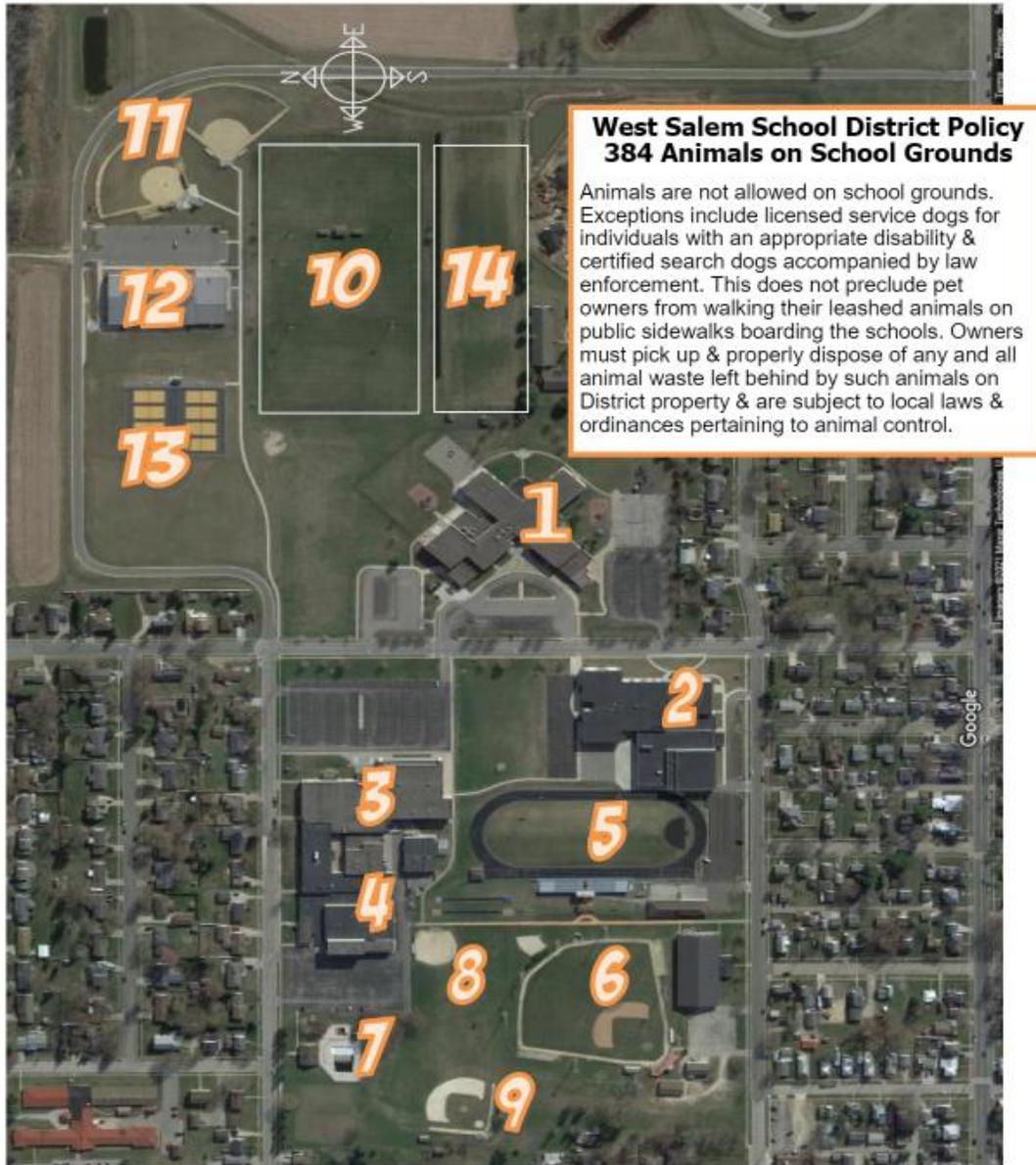
The 22-mile [La Crosse River State Trail](#) has been developed from the abandoned Chicago and Northwestern Railroad between Sparta and La Crosse. The trail is open to walkers and bicyclists spring through fall and snowmobiles in winter. Packed-limestone screenings provide a smooth surface for bicycling. Mileage markers are posted every half mile on the 7-mile section between La Crosse and West Salem.

Recently a pedestrian bridge was placed over La Crosse River near Veterans' Memorial Park to help complete a link from Onalaska to West Salem along Highway 16. This section of trail connects to the La Crosse River State Trail as well.



Other School District Facilities

WEST SALEM SCHOOL FIELDS



School District Facilities

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. West Salem Elementary School | 8. MS Softball Field |
| 2. West Salem Middle School / BGC | 9. HS JV Baseball Field |
| 3. West Salem High School | 10. Soccer Fields |
| 4. Heider Center | 11. HS Softball Fields |
| 5. Track & Football Stadium | 12. Panther Den |
| 6. Varsity Baseball Field | 13. Tennis Courts |
| 7. Swarthout Pool | 14. Practice Football Fields |



POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHICS, EDUCATION

Fact	West Salem village, Wisconsin
Population Estimates, July 1, 2022, (V2022)	5,289
Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2022)	5,281
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2022, (V2022)	0.20%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	5,277
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	4,799
Persons under 5 years, percent	4.00%
Persons under 18 years, percent	27.70%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	18.90%
Female persons, percent	51.80%
White alone, percent	90.50%
Black or African American alone, percent	0.10%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	0.00%
Asian alone, percent	3.00%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0.00%
Two or More Races, percent	5.90%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	2.00%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	89.40%
Veterans, 2018-2022	349
Foreign born persons, percent, 2018-2022	1.80%
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2018-2022	70.50%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2018-2022	\$244,100
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2018-2022	\$1,584
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2018-2022	\$588
Median gross rent, 2018-2022	\$1,111
Households, 2018-2022	2,018
Persons per household, 2018-2022	2.51
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2018-2022	86.80%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2018-2022	4.90%
Households with a computer, percent, 2018-2022	94.50%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2018-2022	91.60%
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2018-2022	97.00%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2018-2022	38.40%
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2018-2022	6.70%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	4.10%
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2018-2022	67.90%



Fact	West Salem village, Wisconsin
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2018-2022	62.80%
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000)	13,025
Total transportation and warehousing receipts/revenue, 2017 (\$1,000)	6,257
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2018-2022	18.8
Median household income (in 2022 dollars), 2018-2022	\$79,891
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2022 dollars), 2018-2022	\$38,310
Persons in poverty, percent	4.60%
Population per square mile, 2020	1,577.10
Population per square mile, 2010	1,404.10
Land area in square miles, 2020	3.35
Land area in square miles, 2010	3.42

ECONOMY

The economy of West Salem, WI employs 2.47k people. The largest industries in West Salem, WI are Health Care & Social Assistance (558 people), Manufacturing (331 people), and Educational Services (323 people). The highest paying industries are Manufacturing (\$192,673), Construction (\$63,281), and Transportation & Warehousing, & Utilities (\$62,260).





West Salem Overview

Natural Resources of West Salem

West Salem is located within Wisconsin's Western Upland. This area is in the Driftless Area, an area untouched by glacial activity. The name 'driftless' comes from the root word drift, also meaning till, and where no glaciers touched, no till could be deposited. The sculpted topography was carved out by glacial melt 11,000 years ago by retreating glaciers. What remains are scenic ridges and valleys that make up the area now commonly referred to as the "Coulee Region."

Size and Location: West Salem, in total, is 3.44 square miles, where 0.02 square miles of that is covered by water. The Village runs roughly 5.01 miles from West to East and 1.94 miles North to South. West Salem is surrounded by the Town of Hamilton and the cities of Onalaska and La Crosse 9.3 miles to the Southwest and the Village of Bangor 4.8 miles to the East. West Salem is in La Crosse County located along the La Crosse River.

Climate: The West Salem climate is continental, characterized by warm summers, cold winters, and moisture throughout the year. The coldest month of the year is January with an average daily high temperature of 27°F and the warmest month of the year is July with an average daily temperature of 84°F. Throughout the year, West Salem, on average, has 133.6 rainfall days. Annually, West Salem has 27.36 inches of precipitation. Precipitation is defined as rainfall and snow accumulation.

Soils: There is considerable variation of soil in West Salem. The most common soil type is Tarr sand on 15-60 percent slopes. The second is Merit silt loam on 20 to 45 percent slopes. The third is Norden silt loam, Hixton silt loam, Churchtown silt loam, and Seaton silt loam (driftless valley), with a slope of 20 to 30 percent and all moderately eroded.

Tar sand is on stream terraces, hills, and pediments. Slope gradients range from 0 to 6 percent. Tarr forms in siliceous pedi-sediment over siliceous sandy residuum from sandstone. Permeability is rapid and consists of very deep, excessively drained soils. Merit silt loam is similar in that it consists of very deep, well drained soils. But Merit silt loam forms in silty alluvium over loamy alluvium underlain typically by siliceous sandy alluvium on stream terraces and pediments. Permeability is moderate in the silty and loamy mantle and moderate to moderately rapid in the stratified sandy substratum.

Topography: Within the boundaries of the Village, elevation is fairly consistent and relatively flat. Just beyond the boundaries are dramatic elevation rises which help explain the location of the Village. This surrounding topography is a textbook example of the Coulee Region – the distinctive look caused by the lack of glaciers. Some segments of the Village do include such ridges.

Surface Waters: West Salem is home to Lake Neshonoc and has several tributaries from the La Crosse River within the Village limits. This lake is 606 acres with the deepest point reaching 11 feet. Lake Neshonoc provides multiple outdoor activities for the residents of West Salem as well as visitors. Neshonoc Lakeside Campground is found on the North side of the lake and obtains bike trail, boat ramp, and lake access. The campground has 284 sites and is open yearly from April to October. Tributaries from the La Crosse River present fishing and swimming access.



Social Characteristics

Population: In 2010, West Salem had a population of 4,799, as of 2020, the population has increased to 5,225. According to DOA, West Salem's population is predicted to increase by 2.63% from 2020 to 2022, leaving the total population by 2022 at 5,416. By 2030, the population is said to increase to 5,565 corresponding to MCD.

Population Age: According to 2021 U.S. Census Figures, West Salem had a median age of 42.9. This is an increase of 6.8 years since the 2010 Census and is higher than the median age of the State of 39.6, and the Nation of 38.8. The Village's percentage of population 65 years and older is 19.1%. This figure is higher than the State's percentage of 13.7%, and Nation's 16.5%. On the other end of the age scale, the percentage of the Village's population under the age of 20 was 31.6%, which was also higher than the State's 22%, and Nation's 23.1%.

Disability Characteristics: According to the 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 9.9% of the population of the Village of West Salem has a disability. Among those 75 and older, 37.4% have a disability. As the median age of the village increases as does the percentage of the population over 65, the percentage of residents with a disability will only increase. This should be kept in mind for outdoor recreation facilities – both assessing the accessibility of current facilities and designing new facilities to be as accessible as possible.

Median Household Income: Median household income in West Salem in 2021 was \$64,856 or 96% of the State median household income of \$67,080. Compared to a median income in 2018 of \$56,530, this represents a 4.03% annual growth.

Urban/Rural: According to the 2021 Census, there is no data provided for West Salem's population living in urban and/or rural areas. This is primarily due to the fact that the Village of West Salem is a rural area itself. Its urban counterpart being the City of La Crosse, 13.5 miles due West.

Land Use: According to the 2021 Statement of Assessment for La Crosse County, 85.6% of land in West Salem is residential and 12.0% of land is commercial. All other land uses make up 2.3% of land in West Salem.

Employment: According to the 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the largest sectors of employment in the Village were educational services, and health care and social assistance which employed 35.6% of workers, manufacturing employed 13.4%, and retail trade employed 10.8%.



LOCAL PRIORITIES & OBJECTIVES

Survey Results Summary and Community Input

Our survey yielded a strong response from the community with over 300 surveys returned as well as input from local groups and individuals. The entire survey and responses are included below. All the parks were well utilized, and people appreciated both the athletic programs and other programming (music, events, courts, etc.) presented by the community. Of significant interest was the maintenance and expansion of the trail system to connect West Salem to La Crosse, Onalaska and the lake as well as safe routes for biking in the community. Additional facilities, especially Pickleball, were often mentioned.

Lake Neshonoc was an issue often mentioned and this will require a strong partnership with the County and State. There is some City and County owned land that can be further developed in the future. We have also incorporated many of the suggestions in our recommended park updates.

We hope to review the “Big Ideas” section of our survey periodically for new ideas and potential projects moving forward.

IMPLEMENTATION & PRIORITIES

West Salem Priorities, Objectives & Action Items for 2024-2029

We have included several guidelines for the implementation of this plan moving forward. First our goals and objectives will serve as a guideline for making good decisions.

Next, we included very specific needs for each publicly owned facility and park in our plan. We will use our goals and community input combined with our partners and available resources to complete as many of these projects as possible over the life of this plan.

Finally, we will review our survey results and other community input to develop new trails, parks, and facilities that will serve the community for years to come. In many cases this will involve working with our partners like the County, State, or others to minimize the impact on our taxpayers.

Goals From Earlier in Plan

Goal 1: Continue to maintain and improve the Village’s outdoor parks and recreation facilities.

Goal 2: Use the Village’s financial resources efficiently and enhance outside funding opportunities for park and recreational needs of the community.

Goal 3: Protect and enhance the unique natural resources within West Salem and the area while providing and improving public access to these facilities and the waterways adjacent to them.

Goal 4: Promote recreation as a way toward better public health and wellness.

Goal 5: West Salem will focus on establishing and enhancing communication regarding our facilities, events, and programming using both technology and all available media outlets.

Suggested Improvements from Earlier in Plan

Village Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install pickleball courts in place of tennis courts (Priority from Survey and Public Comments) • Sign landscaping • Shelter building updates (windows, lighting electrical, fireplace, tables/chairs) • ADA picnic tables • Remove tennis courts • ADA park structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball court resurface • Replace baseball field lights with LED lights • Bike rack • Wheelchair accessible path to baseball field • Baseball field turf • Bike rack • Update baseball concession stand • Tree removal/replacement



Lion's Training Facility

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign landscaping • Enclosed shelter paint • Enclosed shelter floor • Enclosed shelter tables/chairs • ADA Picnic tables • Update drinking fountains • Wall vents • Pull down doors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalk/walkway • Gutters • Updated bathrooms • Updated kitchen • Locker / storage for training facility • Shelter updates - tables/chairs, floor mats, • Update windows - ones that can open • New doors on rental side

Riverview Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign landscaping • Bathroom structure • New heavy-duty concession stands locks • Re-crown baseball fields/add screenings • Riverview 2 parking • Riverview 2 lights • Riverview 2 scoreboard • Riverview 2 additional seating • Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverview 1 gate along 1st base • Replace Riverview 1 lighting with LED lights • Shade awning over bleachers at Riverview 1 and 2 • Bike rack • Shade structure • Baseball field turf • Update interior and exterior of the concession stand

Lewis Point Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign landscaping • Entrance gate • Picnic tables / Benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail leading to point • Stairs at the point • Bike playground project

Pineview Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign landscaping • Benches • ADA picnic tables • Power to shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball court resurfacing • Water spigot/water fountain • Bike racks • Trees



Jim Zanter Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign landscaping • Pour in place surfacing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA play structure • Bike rack

Corral Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign landscaping • Basketball court surfacing • Picnic tables • Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove bushes and replace with fence • Splash pad • Drinking fountain • Bike rack

Greene Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play structure • Bleachers or benches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic tables • Open air shelter

Bike Trailer Shelter

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic tables 	

Caryn Modawell Memorial Dog Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete entrance • Dog play structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence and gate repairs • Fill in holes

Well House Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting 	



PLANNING PROCESS

The West Salem Recreation Committee worked with Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) to develop this plan. Together they created a survey to solicit public input on outdoor recreation facilities and activities offered in West Salem. These surveys were posted on MRRPC's website, West Salem Website, distributed to park programming participants, and local social media outlets.

Information from the survey was taken to develop local priorities and objectives for the future planning of West Salem outdoor recreation facilities. The list of priorities and objectives will be referenced frequently by staff to secure funding for projects. This plan will be reviewed and updated every 5 years to keep priorities and objectives current. Municipalities will be given the opportunity to update local municipal plans and adopt the plan once the planning process is completed.

APPENDIX A: Funding

Grant/Funding Opportunities

Funding Programs: Funding for recreational development can come from several sources, both public and private. Most funding for this type of development comes from public local funds. Primarily, local funds come from a number of sources including the sale of bonds, allocations from the local tax base, and donations from individuals and organizations. Non-local funding can come from a number of sources, either in the form of a grant or a loan. Currently, the DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Rural Development (RDA) provide competitive funding relating to outdoor recreation.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



The [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Grant Programs](#) is a main source of funding for outdoor recreation facilities. The Stewardship Program, administered by the DNR, is a fund designed to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, protect land sensitive to environmental degradation, conserve and restore wildlife habitat and protect water quality. As a prerequisite to the following WDNR funding programs, applicants must first submit a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, such as this plan, or a master plan that has been approved by resolution by a local governing unit, or a plan of a higher unit of government. Applicants submitting qualifying comprehensive outdoor recreation plans or master plans may receive eligibility to

apply for funding for up to five years. The DNR's priority for funding is land acquisition, followed by facility development.

Rural Development Administration (USDA - Rural Development)

The [USDA](#) provides a loan program, which provides Community Facility Project Loans to applicants with areas of less than 20,000 people, for the purpose of constructing, enlarging, or improving community facilities for health care, public safety, or public services. These loans should be secured with bonds or notes pledging taxes, assessments, or revenues.



There are many Rural Development programs that are different areas of community development that could provide loans, or possibly grants, if criteria are met for income and utility rates, for facilities in the communities that are smaller in size.



Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) Wisconsin Department of Transportation



The [Wisconsin Department of Transportation TAP program](#) provides funds for non-traditional projects within programs called the Safe Routes to School Program, Transportation Enhancements, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program. The TAP program provides up to 80 percent reimbursement grants for approved projects that target transportation-oriented pedestrians and bicycle planning and construction projects.

Community Development Block Grant, Department of Administration

The [Wisconsin CDBG program](#) funds support infrastructure and facility projects for communities. Examples of eligible projects include improvements, repairs, or expansions of streets, drainage systems, water and sewer systems, sidewalks, and community centers.



Grant Finder



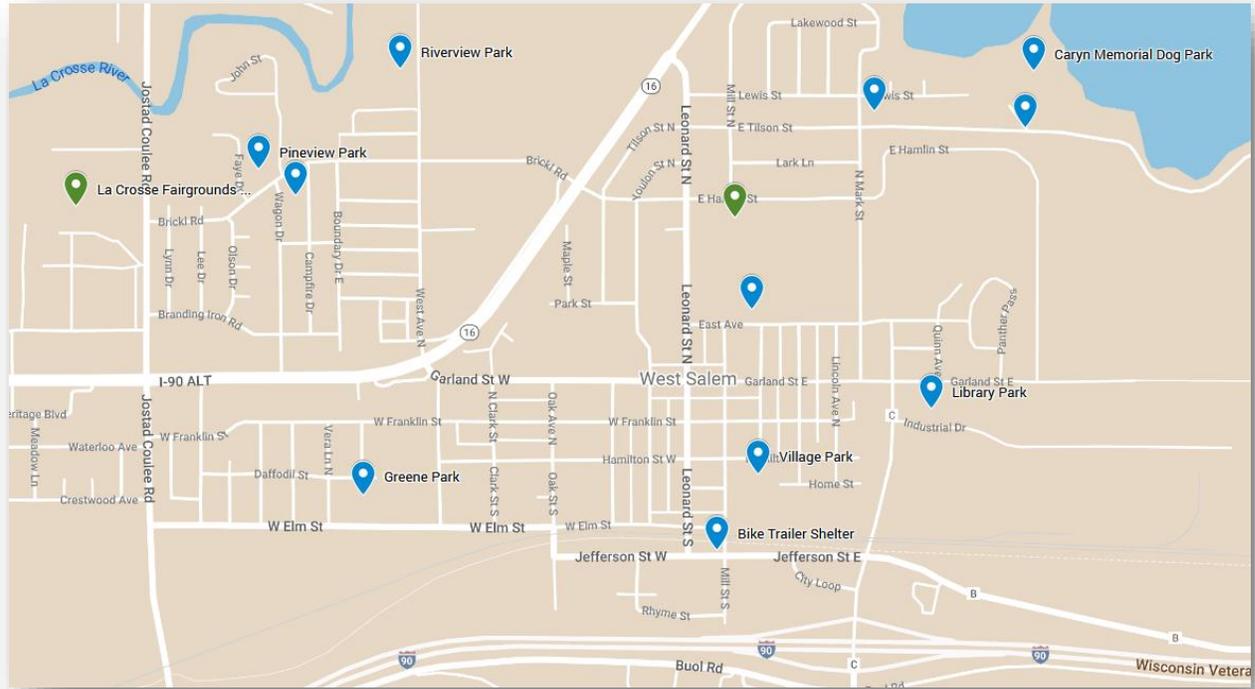
The Wisconsin League of Municipalities is adding [GrantFinder](#) as a new service for their members to identify eligible grants. This Grants database will identify state, federal, corporate and foundation grants available to local governments. This is a free service for League members.



APPENDIX B: MAPS & TABLES

Maps

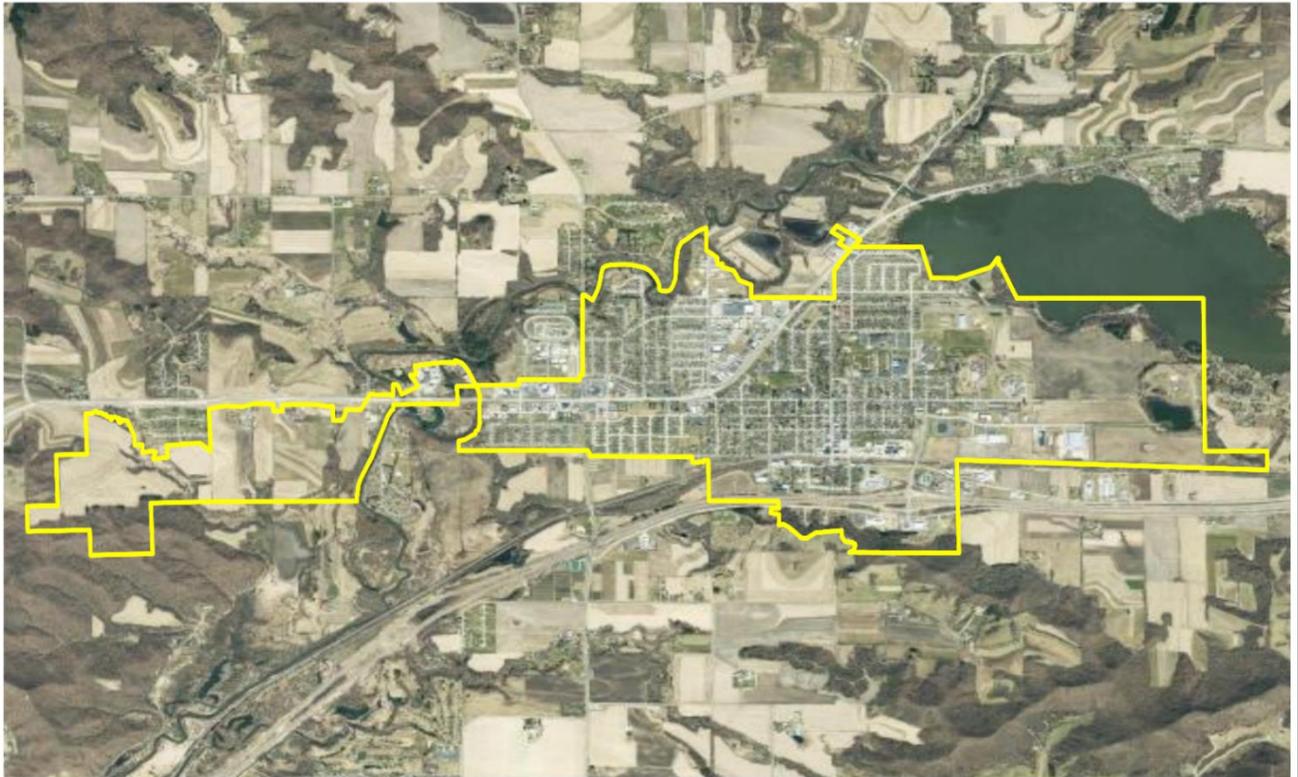
Map West Salem Facilities





Map West Salem

Village of West Salem



 Village Boundary

0 0.6 1.2 2.4 Miles

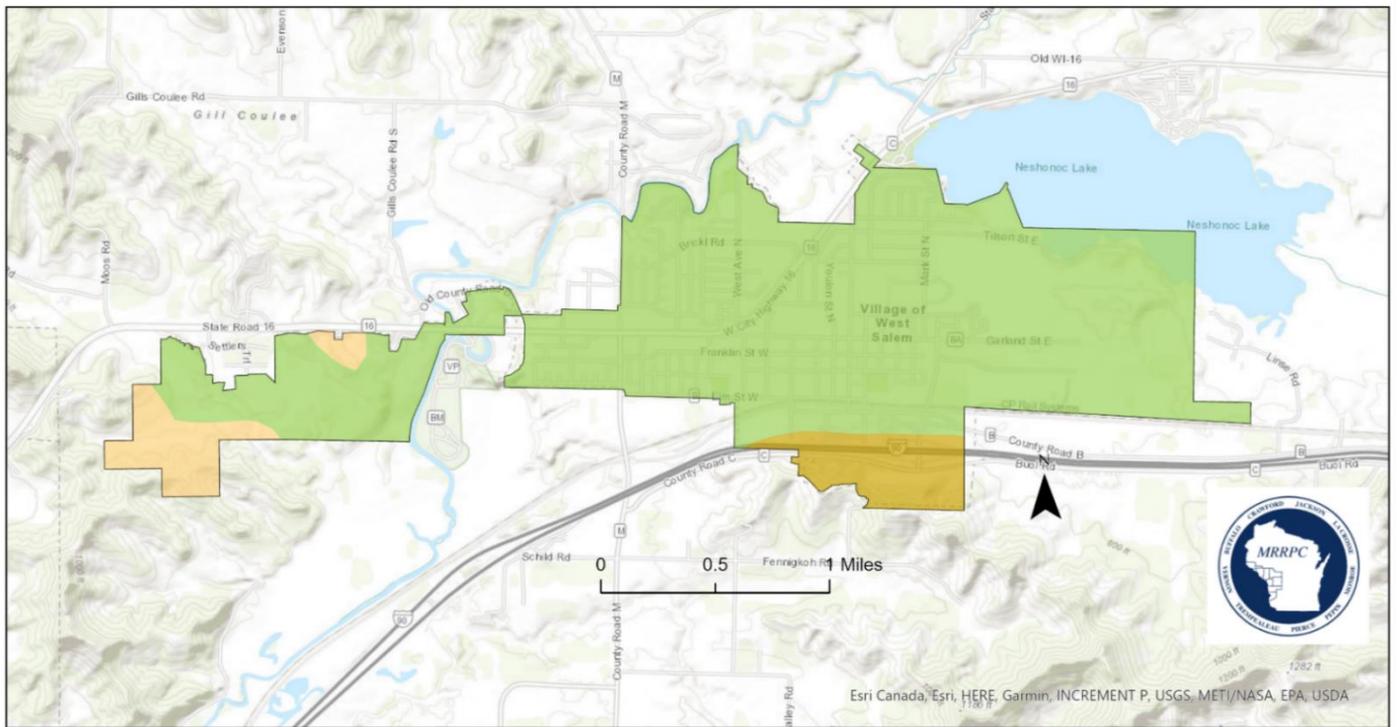




Map West Salem Land Types

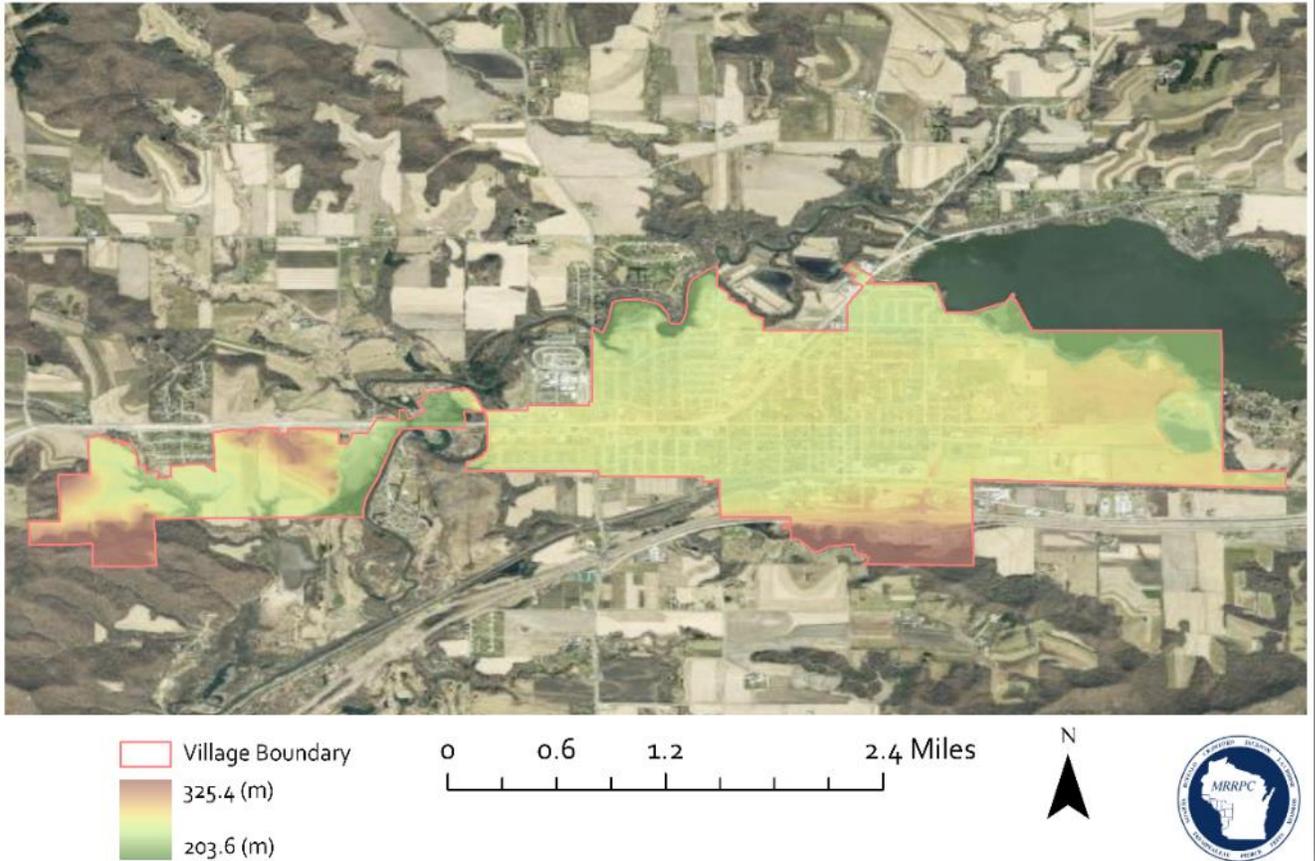
Land Types of Village of West Salem

- Boone Valleys and Hills
- Rountree Ridges, Tunnel City Hills, and Valleys-South
- Trempealeau Sandstone Hills



Map West Salem Elevations

Elevation of Village of West Salem





TABLES

Table 1. Population & Future Projections

Municipality	Census 1980 ⁽¹⁾	Census 1990 ⁽¹⁾	Census 2000 ⁽¹⁾	Census 2010 ⁽¹⁾	Census 2020 ⁽¹⁾	Change (%) 1980 to 2020	Projection 2030 ⁽²⁾	Projection 2040 ⁽²⁾	Projected Change (%) 2020 to 2040
West Salem	3,276	3,611	4,540	4,799	5,277	61.1	5,565	5,790	9.7%
La Crosse County	91,056	97,904	107,120	114,638	120,784	24.6	129,830	131,500	8.9%
Wisconsin	4,705,642	4,891,599	5,363,715	5,363,675	5,893,718	9.0	6,375,910	6,491,635	1.8%

Sources: 1) Decennial U.S. Census – U.S. Bureau of Census, 2) Wisconsin Department of Administration – Demographics Service Center

Table 2. Household Population & Future Projections

Municipality	Households					Persons Per Household				
	2020 ⁽¹⁾	2025 ⁽²⁾	2030 ⁽²⁾	2035 ⁽²⁾	2040 ⁽²⁾	2020 ⁽¹⁾	2025 ⁽²⁾	2030 ⁽²⁾	2035 ⁽²⁾	2040 ⁽²⁾
West Salem	2,048	2,127	2,199	2,251	2,300	2.42	2.40	2.38	2.37	2.35
La Crosse County	50,388	51,968	53,262	54,159	54,929	2.71	2.65	2.64	2.65	2.58
Wisconsin	2,491,980	2,600,528	2,697,887	2,764,510	2,790,309	2.38	2.35	2.33	2.29	2.27

Source: 1) Decennial U.S. Census – U.S. Bureau of Census, 2) Wisconsin Department of Administration – Demographics Service Center

**Table 3. Age Characteristics**

Age	Total	Percent
Under 5 years	202	3.90%
5 to 9 years	689	13.20%
10 to 14 years	414	7.90%
15 to 19 years	347	6.60%
20 to 24 years	117	2.20%
25 to 29 years	130	2.50%
30 to 34 years	366	7.00%
35 to 39 years	249	4.80%
40 to 44 years	354	6.80%
45 to 49 years	238	4.60%
50 to 54 years	301	5.80%
55 to 59 years	530	10.10%
60 to 64 years	290	5.60%
65 to 69 years	377	7.20%
70 to 74 years	257	4.90%
75 to 79 years	70	1.30%
80 to 84 years	126	2.40%
85 years and over	168	3.20%
Selected Age Categories		
5 to 14 years	1,103	21.10%
15 to 17 years	253	4.80%
Under 18 years	1,558	29.80%
18 to 24 years	211	4.00%
15 to 44 years	1,563	29.90%
16 years and over	3,852	73.70%
18 years and over	3,667	70.20%
21 years and over	3,548	67.90%
60 years and over	1,288	24.70%
62 years and over	1,187	22.70%
65 years and over	998	19.10%
75 years and over	364	7.00%
Summary Indicators		
Median age (years)	42.9	(X)
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	102.4	(X)
Age dependency ratio	95.8	(X)
Old-age dependency ratio	37.4	(X)
Child dependency ratio	58.4	(X)

Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates, S0101 Age and Sex



Table 4. Soil Types & Definitions

Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres	Percent (%)
115vC2	Seaton silt loam, driftless valley, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	52.9	2.4
115vD2	Seaton silt loam, driftless valley, 12 to 20 percent slopes, moderately eroded	73.9	3.4
115vE2	Seaton silt loam, driftless valley, 20 to 30 percent slopes, moderately eroded	22.5	1.0
11600	Churchtown silt loam, 20 to 30 percent slopes, moderately eroded	19.9	0.9
126B	Barremills silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	55.1	2.5
202C2	Lambeau silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	0.1	0.0
202D2	Lambeau silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, moderately eroded	9.5	0.4
213D2	Hixton silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, moderately eroded	16.9	0.8
21300	Hixton silt loam, 20 to 30 percent slopes, moderately eroded	6.7	0.3
253D2	Greenridge silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, moderately eroded	0.4	0.0
25400	Norden silt loam, 20 to 30 percent slopes, moderately eroded	23.5	1.1
312B2	Festina silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes, moderately eroded	47.5	2.2
318A	Bearpen silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, rarely flooded	24.0	1.1
336B	Toddville silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	624.4	28.6
424B	Merit silt loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	438.8	20.1
424D2	Merit silt loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, moderately eroded	8.4	0.4
424E	Merit silt loam, 20 to 45 percent slopes	46.2	2.1
434B	Bilson sandy loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	206.2	9.5
434C2	Bilson sandy loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, moderately eroded	13.2	0.6
446A	Merimod silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	30.6	1.4
456A	Bilmod sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	8.9	0.4
551A	Impact sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	21.0	1.0
556A	Mindoro sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	30.0	1.4
561B	Tarr sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes	6.9	0.3
561F	Tarr sand, 15 to 60 percent slopes	66.7	3.1
562B	Gosil loamy sand, 1 to 6 percent slopes	94.0	4.3
562C	Gosil loamy sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes	6.4	0.3
566A	Tint sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	0.4	0.0
569A	Newlang muck, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	12.9	0.6
625A	Arenzville silt loam, channeled, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	9.5	0.4
626A	Arenzville silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	5.9	0.3
628A	Orion silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	0.3	0.0
629A	Ettrick silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	2.3	0.1
666A	Absco loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	25.1	1.2
1145F	Gaphill-Rockbluff complex, 30 to 60 percent slopes	4.2	0.2
1743F	Council-Elevasil-Norden complex, 20 to 45 percent slopes, rocky	12.8	0.6
2013	Pits, gravel	7.9	0.4
2030	Udorthents and Udipsamments, cut or fill	90.0	4.1
W	Water	53.6	2.5
Total		2,179.7	100.0

Source: Soil Report, Land Capability Classification, Web Soil Survey

**Table 5. Employment**

	Total	Percent (%)
Population 16 years & over	3,852	
In workforce	2,531	65.7
Employed	2,472	64.2
Unemployed	59	1.5
Armed Forces	13	0.5
Occupation		
Management & Business	1,197	48.4
Service Industry	314	12.7
Sales & Office	492	19.9
Natural Resources & Construction	170	6.9
Production & Transportation	299	12.1

Source: U.S. Census Data; ACS – 5 Year Estimates Data Profiles

Table 6. Employment Age Characteristics

	Total	Percent of Total (%)
Age (Years)	3,852	
16 to 19	279	57.7
20 to 24	117	89.7
25 to 29	130	93.1
30 to 34	366	84.7
35 to 44	603	93.7
45 to 54	539	80.7
55 to 59	530	81.7
60 to 64	290	62.8
65 to 74	634	24.0
75 and over	364	2.2

Source: U.S Census Data; ACS 5 – Year Estimates Subject Tables (S2301)



APPENDIX C: ADOPTION RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 6.24 **Resolution to Adopt the West Salem Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2024-2029 as the Official Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the Village of West Salem, Wisconsin**

WHEREAS, the Village of West Salem, Wisconsin, through the West Salem Parks and Recreation Department and the Recreation Committee, in cooperation with Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, has developed and updated a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (hereinafter referred to as "Plan") for the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village of West Salem participated in the Plan update; and

WHEREAS, the Plan lists available outdoor recreation facilities and identifies foreseeable outdoor recreation demand for the Village of West Salem; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies specific recommendations and priorities for improving the recreational facilities and opportunities within the Village of West Salem; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to have a community outdoor recreation plan on file with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in order to be eligible for certain State and Federal cost-sharing financial aids for the development or improvement of outdoor recreation facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of West Salem Village Board hereby adopts the Village of West Salem Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2024-2029, as the official comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the Village of West Salem.

ADOPTED by the Village of West Salem Board of Trustees this 7th day of May, 2024.

VILLAGE OF WEST SALEM

Scott Schumacher, Village Board President

(SEAL)

Teresa L. DeLong, Village Administrator



APPENDIX D: SURVEY RESULTS

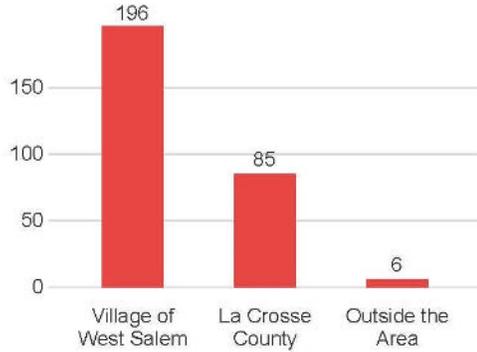
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West Salem Outdoor Recreation Survey Results

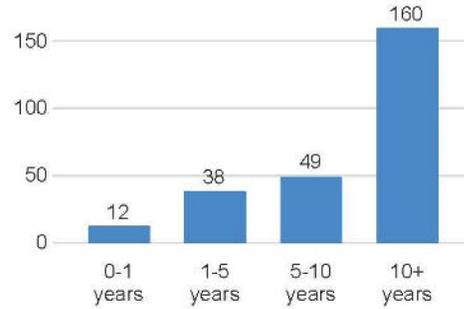




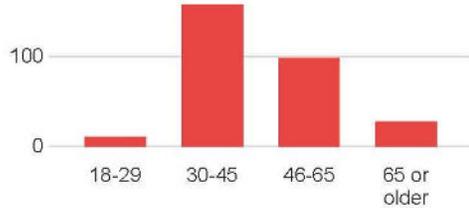
I live In:



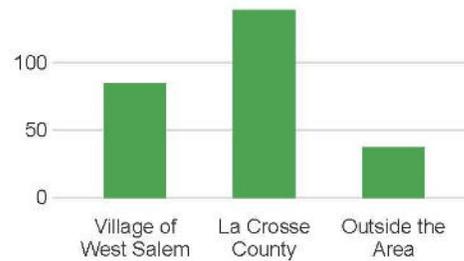
How long have you lived in the Village of West Salem?



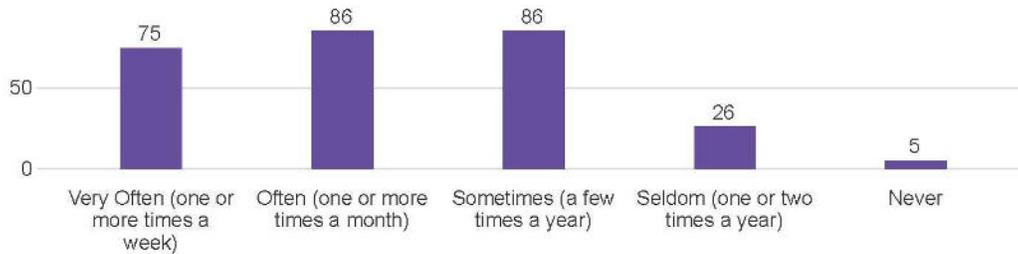
Which best describes the age group you belong too?



I Work In:

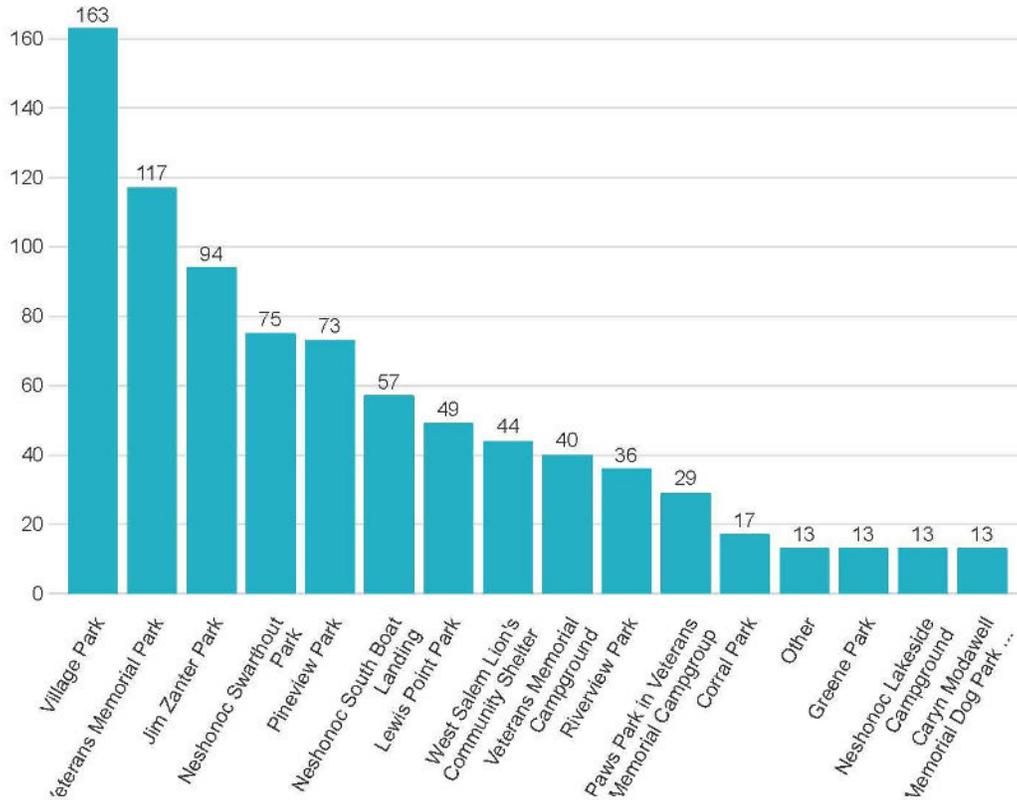


How often to you use the Village's parks and/or Outdoor facilities?





My Favorite Parks are... - Selected Choice



Other - Text

- Walking paths, connecting trails
- West Salem Elementary School park
- Kayak ramp by dam
- Barre Park
- Swarthout Park
- most suck
- Don't use the parks
- I use all the parks for walking and children playgrounds. Age 10
- Swarthout
- I don't know where most of these are, never heard of them.
- Walking down Tilson to boat landing.



What are your favorite outdoor recreation activities?

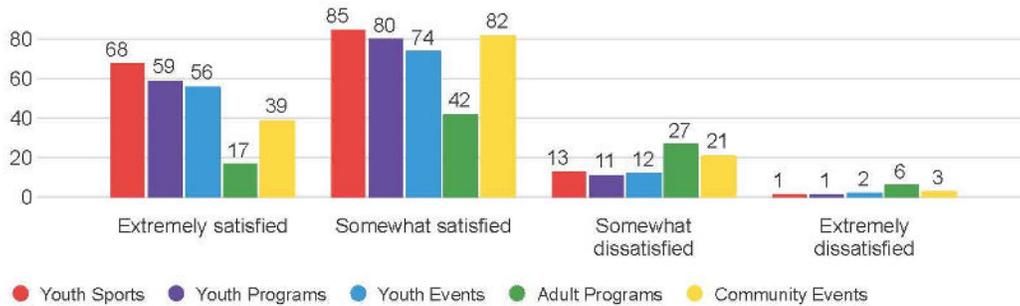
Field	Mean	Responses
Hiking	73.98	191
Organized Sports Activities: Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Swimming, Track, Volleyball, Sports Camps	71.35	144
Playground Activities	65.21	143
Other:	64.96	24
Swimming	63.77	138
Biking Trails Paved / Gravel	63.34	174
Canoeing / Kayaking / SUP board	62.26	174
Fishing	59.45	148
Camping	58.52	133
Running	57.71	76
Cross Country Skiing / Snowshoeing	54.89	82
UTV/ATV Riding	54.84	61
Boating	54.07	134
Wildlife Viewing / Bird Watching	51.85	111
Basketball	51.75	117
Picnicking	51.02	124
Pickleball	49.93	91
Mountain Biking / Bike Parks	46.86	80
Snowmobiling	35.87	52
Tennis	34.45	83

Other Activities





The West Salem Parks & Recreation Department offers a number of organized activities... How are we doing?



I would like to see the following organized sport, program or event in West Salem.

- Aquatic Center - is a must. We are the only town without one locally. It's very disappointing that we have to go somewhere else to experience more than a very basic swimming pool.. Inflatable water park on Lake Neshonic would be amazing. Why can't something like this be done to attract people to West Salem.
- Outdoor pickleball
- Senior center activities - card playing, games, etc.
- Mountain biking
- More opportunities for adult exercise programs
- Pilates Yoga
- Adult learning programs
- We need pickleball courts
- Adult volleyball
- Coed softball & running events.
- UTV event, fishing event, more adult events
- More games and sports for elementary kids
- A bike ride
- Adult yoga/meditation classes, ASL/sign language class
- More gymnastics clinics/options at the Panther Den. We are so excited for the one coming up, as the other area gymnastics options are a far drive.
- Soccer tournament
- Pickle ball, Fall baseball
- Lacrosse
- More concerts in the park. More kids day activities
- I would love to see some Pickleball courts. Our town is behind others it's the fastest growing sport in North America. Also the greene park needs playground equipment!!!!



Please address needs for public recreation facilities...

Field	Mean	Responses
Sledding Hill	2.59	199
Water Park / Splash Pad	2.57	194
Pickleball Courts	2.45	198
Boat / Kayak Rentals	2.45	199
Climbing Wall	2.43	196
Disc Golf Courses	2.22	189
Sand Volleyball Courts	2.21	189
Skate Park	2.19	192
Cross Country Skiing or Snowshoe Trails	2.15	191
Swimming Pool	2.14	201
Bicycle Park	2.14	196
ADA / Handicap Facilities	2.14	185
Winter Trails	2.04	191
River Access	2.03	194
Paved Walking and Biking Paths / Trails	2.00	201
Fishing Pier	2.00	195
Bird Watching / Wildlife Observation Sites	1.98	193
Park Basketball Courts	1.96	192
Open Play Turf Areas	1.92	188
Unpaved Walking and Biking Paths / Trails	1.90	197
Playgrounds	1.87	194
Covered Group Picnic Shelters	1.86	194
Lake Access	1.83	199
Tennis Courts	1.79	195
Ice Rink	1.75	189
Dog Park or Off Leash Trails	1.68	193
Village Baseball / Softball Fields	1.63	195
Soccer Fields	1.59	186



Most important park improvements needed in West Salem.

Field	Mean	Responses
Upgrading existing parks, recreation facilities, trails and open spaces	70.73	163
Expanding and developing the trail system for pedestrian and bike use	59.60	136
Acquiring and protecting land for natural open space	58.00	127
Developing new sport courts like pickleball, tennis, basketball	55.46	125
Acquiring more land for future parks	54.60	111
Concentrating on maintaining existing parks and facilities only	54.46	111
Developing a bicycle playground	52.67	92
Developing more sport fields like baseball, soccer, football	52.51	93
Improving access and parking for existing trails and park facilities	41.85	92
Developing more dog off-leash parks or trails	35.53	66



Other Park improvements not listed above:

Other Park improvements not listed above:

Just basic care and upkeep. To be clean and safe

Beach area

Desperately need improved beach area on Lake Neshonic. We like swimming at beach but it's not a nice beach at all with the sloped grass area and small, dirty access to water.

all abilities park of some sort to include children with dissabilities

Bathrooms

West Salem needs to improve out recreation by creating trails and trailhead for a city loop style trail that incorporates and connects neighborhoods to nature. Look at Black River Falls foundation trail as an example.

More natural wildflower and bee friendly areas

Beginner to moderate mountain bike trails along lake Neshonic.

My children enjoy water parks. If they just want to swim, we can go to the small pool by the high school but if we want to go to a water park we go to the one in Onalaska or Holmen. It would be nice to be able to stay in West Salem.

Restroom facilities for everyone including handicapped.

Village park needs all new updates. This park is the center of our village and it is so run down.

Handicap accessible should be very high on the list. Anytime a disabled/old spectator wants to get to a field (soccer) it is next to impossible. There should be paved availability to get to all seat areas for every activity.

Creating new shelter/restrooms in Village Park. Adding all ages/abilities playground equipment to existing parks (Greene Park currently no equipment). Planting native pollinator gardens in existing and new areas. Having a public ice skating rink in the winter. Building a skate park.

Sorry, i already said this but Pickleball and equipment in the greene park. That's a large neighborhood with no walkable equipment

We need an all abilities park

i would love for the village to put up and maintain an outdoor ice rink, it could be easily constructed by the lake neshonoc landing

Remember all ages, not just children when you make improvements. Children grow to be adults.

I think one of the biggest improvements necessary are more wheelchair/handicap accessible playgrounds/play equipment. I have no children with these needs, but when we are at a park with a parent of a child in a wheelchair, it makes me realize what a great need there is for this. All kids should have equipment to use at a village park!

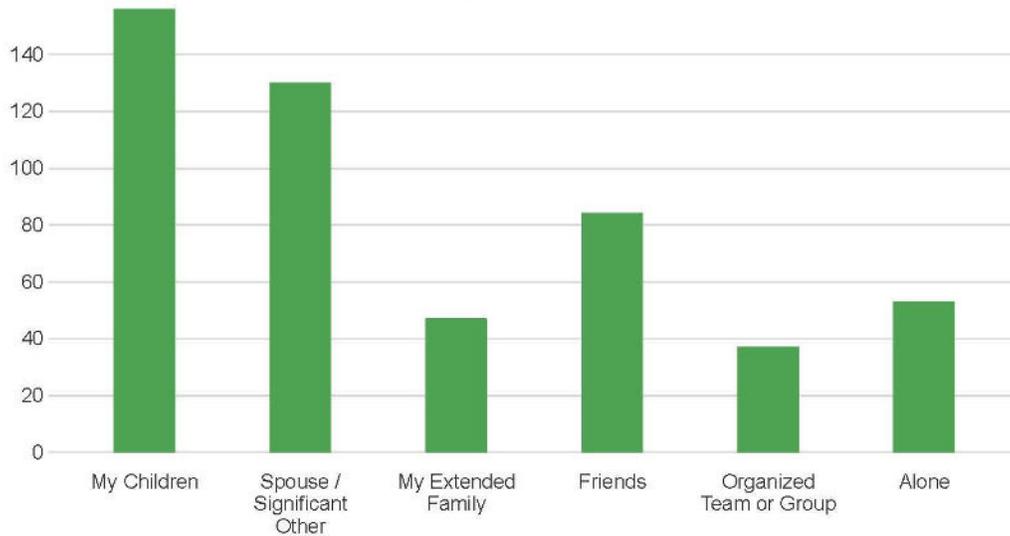
Creating a place for public ice skating.

Hard to see the blue lines on the kids soccer fields, maybe use a more contrasting paint color. Would love to expand the walking/biking trails and water access. Pretty lighted outdoor ice rink with cocoa and skate rentals would be great. A ninja type playground for middle/older kids would be fun too. Expanding the pool to have a water park would be great as well. Even playing time for kids in sports as they are growing and learning. Some coaches are too competitive and kids in 5th 6th grade aren't being played much in games because they want to win.

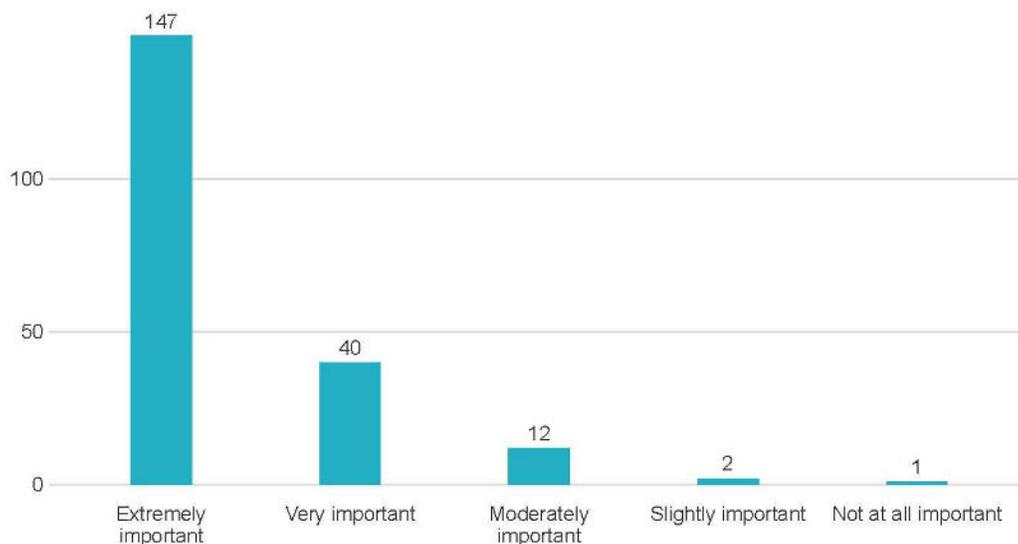




Who most often participates with you in outdoor recreation activities?



Do you think outdoor recreation opportunities are important to improve the quality of life for your family and the Village of West Salem residents?





When leaving the area for recreational activities, please let us know where you went and what activity you were pursuing.

Yes, please let us know where you went and what activity you were pursuing. - Text

Lacrosse and Onalaska for tennis... our tennis courts should be regular color for tennis (blue and green). Besides the quality of work done on our existing courts is poor especially with the paint chipping off. Plus it's sad to have taken away the old courts with a backboard to practice against yourself to just have a poorly seeded "green space" especially since community members can't use the courts when the school is using them

La Crosse - Hixon forest, and experimental forest to cross country ski

Cross country skiing in Michigan

Madison using the trail system

La Crosse, Onalaska, Holmen

Aquatic Centers Sparta, Onalaska - often. Hiking trails Hixton, Trempeleau. Inflatable water parks - Deluth and WI Dells. Beaches - Black River Beach, Airport Beaches, Pettibone Beach La Crosse

Onalaska outdoor pickleball court.

hiking, swimming, bike park, all abilities park, boating

Experimental forest for hiking and cross country skiing. Granddads for biking. Other pools for bigger places.

Human powered trails to mountain bike.

Bangor experimental forest to hike and ski.

State parks

Mountain biking boating fishing bike trail riding la crosse area. We go to other area swimming pools like holmen

Hiking at various places in La Crosse and surrounding counties, traveling to bigger parks for my kids.

I have numerous times driven to the Sparta middle school to play pickle ball.

Variety

Hiking trails, Pickleball in the greater La crosse area

Perot to hike

Winter baseball training programs

Hixon

Onalaska, LAX, Holmen





Your BIG Idea!

If you could create the ideal outdoor recreation experience in the Village of West Salem, what would it be?

Your BIG Idea!

If you could create the ideal outdoor recreation experience in the Village of West Salem, what would it be?

Create a walking/biking path from East Garland to the dock in the county park.

Previously stated - aquatic center needed desperately. My 11 year old goes swimming every day and our pool is extremely small and boring. We are the only town locally without aquatic center. We go frequently to other towns to use the aquatic centers. Increased pool hours with better lifeguard coverage/no breaks. Improved beach desperately needed - bigger and cleaner with improved water access than sloped grassy area. Jet skis need to stay further from swim area and slow down by swim areas - major safety concerns. There should be a real beach created by the sandbar. Way better swim area there than by the beach. Need to better supply Lake Neshonic with fish. We call it "Lake No Fish". 20 years ago we caught huge fish on Lake Neshonic. Now you don't catch anything. Inflatable water park would be amazing. There is nothing like it in the immediate area. It would draw in crowds and revenue. Could be put on the far end of the lake where nobody goes ever. The lake is too overrun with boats and jet skis that are not respectful of swimmers. Hiking trails in the bluffs would be highly used.

Update the village park tennis courts to pickleball courts.

extended trails around the lake for biking, hiking and skiing. bike lane on lake road (my daughter almost was hit by a car, very unsafe now), a park our daughter can use! she walks with crutches and can only crawl on the park equipment. partnering with NASA (north american squirrel association) would help put in a park for all abilities.

More bike friendly. Trails through the woods by south boat landing. Sand volleyball. A non-school district run pool. Protect the lake road, it is treasured and used by so many. Thanks for asking!

Make a walking path from east garland around the 'bowl' and connect to the park by the fishing dock.

A single track mountain bike trail through the woods of one mile length.

Also, a small skateboard park with entry level half pipe and ramps to keep kids busy and challenged without having to spend money on a bike. Just a skateboard is cheap.

Usable trails for hiking or biking around the lake where you don't have to worry about getting hit by a car

Convert the old tennis courts in town to pickle ball courts. We need at least 4 courts, probably more as the sport grows.

Turn the old tennis courts at the village park into Pickleball courts.

Add more hiking trails.





Your BIG Ideal

If you could create the ideal outdoor recreation experience in the Village of West Salem, what would it be?

Indoor baseball training programs

An aquatic center with pools for all ages, slides and water playgrounds. We currently travel to all surrounding areas to visit theirs and for birthday parties. Or at least a large splash pad with other playground equipment also. A space with a climbing wall, jump park, foam pits, obstacle course, etc would be great too. Anything to encourage kids to be active and outdoors.

A sledding hill, with space for parents to gather. Bonus points if it has a fire and hot chocolate on the weekends. Extra bonus points if there is a small ice skating rink.

Bike trails that connect Lake Neshonic, the school area and multi access points to the Great River Trail. An aquatic center. An outdoor fitness park. A park similar to the Trane all abilities park would be great. Hiking and nature trails.

Build native plants and flowers into the recreational areas. Green spaces are essential for health. Splash pad and all abilities parks for kids would be nice too.

An outdoor bike park and trails. With a nice shelter for events. Decent seating for parents, if they are not riding, but watching their kids.

Trails for biking along lake neshonic for mountain biking and a pump track like in LaCrosse. Get rid of the tennis courts and build something useful, I live across from park and have never seen cornhole players only Criquet players. That space could be utilized in some new manner for better use by the community.

Sporting complex/ baseball, softball, soccer, tennis/pickle ball

A nicer beach area on the south side of lake Neshonoc. We always swim at the boat dock because the beach by the dam is full, and lewis point park is not safe or easily traversed with smaller kids. We usually have problems with teenage kids or college age kids too. It's not a family friendly area. The boat dock is great but busy with boat traffic.

I would get something around the lake so you can bike around it. I would also get established cross country ski trails on county land during the winter and keep the skate path maintained during winter I would organize connecting vets to neshonoc and offer more activities there to increase use

