

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH



VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH, WI **2024-2029 COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**



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Andrew Borner - Member

Village of Ellsworth Village Board Members

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VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH

The Village of Ellsworth Outdoor Recreation Planning Committee & Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission



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Introduction

The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to the Village of Ellsworth for the preservation, future acquisition, development, and improvement of outdoor recreation and open space facilities. The plan provides details of public recreation and open space areas within the Village, along with general information on recreation opportunities on school, Village, and State properties in the area. The plan will assist Ellsworth 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 this plan is an efficient way to plan for the allocation of funds to be placed toward future recreational opportunities in the community.

An inventory of outdoor recreation facilities is included in the document. A survey was posted on the Village's website and distributed by the Recreation Department to gather feedback about outdoor recreational facilities and opportunities. Staff provided input regarding the long and short-term goals of the Village's outdoor recreation parks and outdoor spaces. Potential projects for the future and long-term planning initiatives regarding future maintenance and priorities for the Village's Park system are identified based on input from staff. The goals and objectives are intended to guide future decisions for investment.

Ellsworth requested the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) to coordinate and prepare this Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Plan will be adopted by the Village.



Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Continue to maintain the Village's outdoor park and recreation facilities

- **Maintain and improve the accessibility** of the Village's existing outdoor recreation facilities.
- **Strive for new and existing facilities to meet the needs of all citizens**, including children, teenagers, the elderly, and individuals with mobility challenges.
- **Provide year-round outdoor recreation**, improved facilities, and additional outdoor opportunities.
- **Monitor the general overall condition** of the Village's outdoor recreation amenities annually and establish an Outdoor Recreation Improvements Program.

Goal 2: Protect and enhance the unique natural resources within the Village

- **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 resources** without causing any adverse impacts on these resources.

Goal 3: Use the Village's resources efficiently and enhance funding opportunities for park and recreational needs of the Village

- **Evaluate recreation facility usage.**
- **Explore opportunities for both new park and recreational facilities, equipment and the expansion of existing parks.**
- **Monitor state and federal grant programs** for future park development. Apply for funds if appropriate.

Goal 4: Provide and improve public access to outdoor recreation land and water

- **Gather input regarding the Village's outdoor recreation facilities.** These entities could include WDNR, clubs, the school district, and others.

Goal 5: Promote recreation to improve public health and wellness

- **Improve the coordination and cooperation** of the Village and other public or private entities in developing and using all current and future outdoor recreation areas.

Goal 6: Upgrade and Diversify Recreation Facilities

- **Renovate our playgrounds** with inclusive and innovative equipment, aiming to serve a broader demographic, including children with different abilities.
- **Establish dedicated pickleball courts** by converting suitable spaces, accommodating the sport's growing popularity.

- **Explore the use of existing facilities or the development of new structures to serve as Storm shelters** for the community. As new facilities are built, we should consider design with the structural integrity to provide shelter from tornadoes or severe weather conditions for both our citizens and visitors.
- **Explore opportunities for new flat green space** to enable more youth activities.

Goal 7: Work with our Partners to Create Versatile Community Spaces and Events

- **Work with area companies, clubs, associations, organizations, coaches, leaders, all the volunteers, and other government entities to maintain and grow** recreational opportunities and special events in Ellsworth.
- **Initiate a collaborative project** for a multipurpose indoor space by partnering with local schools or businesses, providing a venue for sports, meetings, and cultural events.
- **Seek partnerships and community support for a regular entertainment series or** concert series in a park. This series could eventually lead to a permanent venue like a stage or bandshell.
- **Design and install a water feature/splash pad** in a community park that can be used by our citizens and visitors.

Goal 8: Enhance Awareness and Utilization of Recreation Resources

- **Update the Village's website to include all existing facilities** to better inform the community of the Village's recreation facilities.
- **Implement a comprehensive digital marketing strategy** to promote recreation facilities on Google Maps and in social media.
- **Launch a "Recreation Spotlight" in our quarterly newsletter** featuring different parks, facilities, and upcoming events, encouraging community participation and feedback.

Goal 9: The community will seek to enhance and expand our network of Trails, Sidewalks, Walking Paths and Safe Routes to Schools and other Public Facilities

- **Working with our developers, schools, businesses, County, and State Government** we will look for opportunities to enhance and develop bike and pedestrian facilities for safe transit and exercise in the community.
- **The Village will seek to connect existing systems** when appropriate to develop a more user-friendly environment.

Description of Planning Area

Natural Resources

Ellsworth is located within the State's Western Upland. This area is in the Driftless Area, an area untouched by glaciers. 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.

Size and Location: Ellsworth has a total area of 3.8 square miles, all of which is land. The Village is located within the center of Pierce County, along Wisconsin's West Coast. Ellsworth is only about 10 miles from the main channel of the Mississippi River and the State of Minnesota.

Climate: The Ellsworth 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 24°F and the warmest month of the year is July with an average daily temperature of 81°F. Ellsworth annually receives approximately 34.88 inches of precipitation.

Soils: There is considerable variation of soil in Ellsworth. This variation is documented in Map 1 in Appendix A.

Topography: The eastern portion of Ellsworth is lower in elevation than the rest. Steep slopes lead west to the rest of the village. The lack of glaciated terrain explains these steep slopes, which are characteristic of the Driftless Area. See Map 2 in Appendix A for reference.

Surface Waters: A small creek flows through part of the Village, Isabelle Creek. The creek starts near the Village of Ellsworth and flows south until it reaches the Mississippi. There have been concerns of environmental degradation in this flowage – however, the DNR is monitoring the situation.

Groundwater: Groundwater is often an ignored natural resource, perhaps due to how invisible it is. Ellsworth's groundwater is a very important natural resource that if adversely affected, can have serious impacts on human health and wellbeing. Certain types of soil are more susceptible to allowing groundwater contamination and should be protected.

Most of the water used in rural areas is groundwater. If the groundwater becomes contaminated, there are few alternative sources of potable water for local residents. The prominent depths identified within the Village of Ellsworth are between 61 and 120 feet. Wellhead protection plans/ordinances and animal waste management ordinances are the most prevalent methods of groundwater protection in Pierce County at this time.

Social Characteristics

Population: Table 1 in Appendix C details the population trends in Ellsworth over the last four censuses along with 2030 and 2040 projections for future populations of Ellsworth. In 2020, Ellsworth had a population of 3,348, which is projected to grow to 3,670 in 2030, and 3,725 in 2040. Ellsworth is expected to grow about 10.1% from 2020 to 2040. This growth will be quite manageable, as it will be somewhat less than the dramatic growth Ellsworth has experienced in the past 40 years. This growth outstrips Wisconsin as a whole. Much of this growth is attributable to proximity to the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area. Saint Croix County, immediately north of Ellsworth, is predicted to be the fastest-growing county in the State. The projected growth of Ellsworth, as well as all of Pierce County and surrounding area, will place more demands on outdoor recreation facilities and increase the need for an updated outdoor recreation plan.

Population Age: According to the 2021 American Community Survey (see Table 2 in Appendix C), Ellsworth had a median age of 41.5. This is an increase of 6.0 years since the 2011 American Community Survey. It is older than both the State's median age of 39.6 and the Nation's median age of 38.4. This is quite young for a predominantly rural area and indicates that Ellsworth is home to many young families with children. This should be considered when considering the facilities needed. The percentage of the population under 18 was 26.5%, which was higher than the State's 22.0% and Nation's 22.5%. The percentage of the population 65 and older was 13.7%. This figure is lower than the State's percentage of 17.0% and Nation's 16.0%. These characteristics should be considered when planning Ellsworth's future needs for outdoor recreation. While Ellsworth is still quite a young community, it is increasing in age and will experience a growth in its older population. Facilities that can be utilized by many ages should be prioritized.

Disability Characteristics: According to the 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 14.7% of the population of the Village of Ellsworth has a disability. Among those 75 and older, 36.2% 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 taken into account for planning 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 Ellsworth in 2022 was \$71,814 or 116% of the State median household income of \$61,747.

Urban/Rural: According to the 2020 Census, Ellsworth with its 1,467 housings units and a population of 3,348 is considered rural. Communities with 2,000 housings units or a population of 5,000 define an urban area. However, Ellsworth has somewhat of an urban character, with many residents living in relatively small lots. The small lot dweller does not have the capability to provide a myriad of extensive outdoor recreation experiences on his or her own land. Therefore, they are more dependent upon a public park system which offers a broad range of outdoor opportunities including hunting, hiking, camping, and picnicking.

Land Use: According to the 2021 Statement of Assessment for Pierce County, 80.5% of the land in Ellsworth is residential and 13.4% of the land is commercial. All other land uses make up 6.0% of the land in Ellsworth. As almost all the land in the Village is built up, this makes the creation of new recreational facilities much more difficult, so the focus should be on maintaining and improving what already exists. According to the Village's Comprehensive Plan, there are some areas zoned for future parks.

Employment: According to the 2020 Census, the highest categories of employment were public administration, educational services, and healthcare.

Review of Recreation Demand (From State SCORP)

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 recreational 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; Village of Ellsworth lies in the Mississippi River Corridor.

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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 Village of Ellsworth 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 Village of Ellsworth 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.

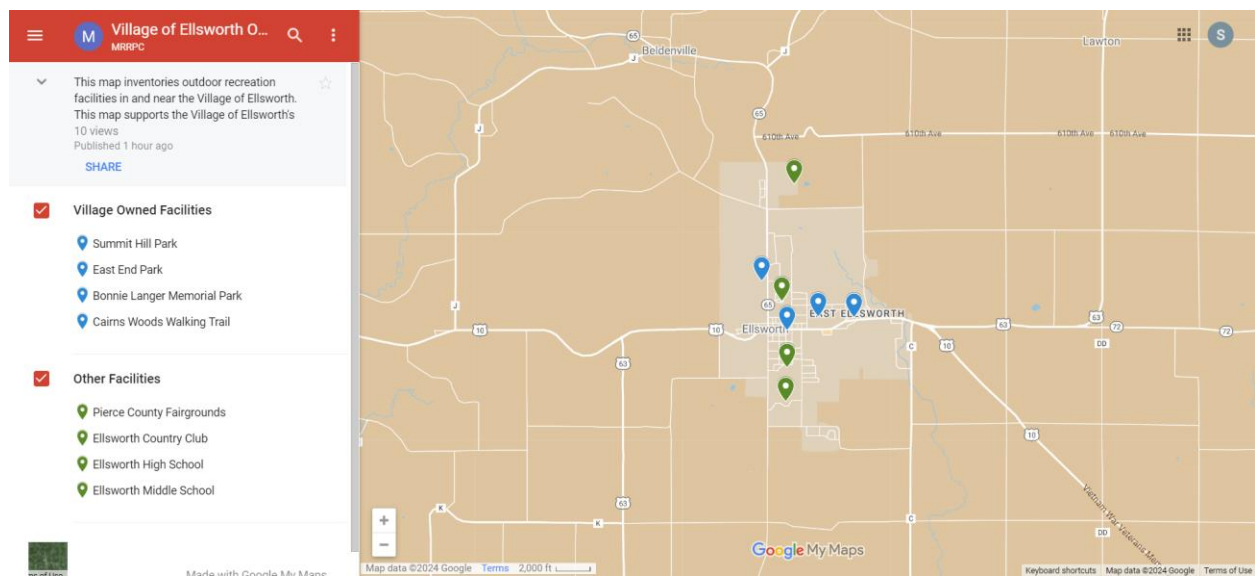
Recreation Standards

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.

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 Village of Ellsworth recreational planning process. **We are pleased to report that the Village of Ellsworth meets all these standards!**

Property Inventory

This section is an inventory of nature-based recreational activities available to residents of the Village of Ellsworth. “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.” This section is divided into subsections based on who controls and operates the recreational facilities. There is a map of all facilities in Appendix B, as well as an interactive map of the same facilities online, which can be found at https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1mmcHL66no-DH3Q1PU5m7jVR3yr_jlJw&usp=sharing.



Village of Ellsworth Owned Parks and Recreation

These facilities are directly controlled by the Village and the adoption of this plan makes them eligible to apply for Department of Natural Resources administered financial aid programs. The Village can establish plans and carry them out by Village Board action.

Summit Park

Located near the center of Ellsworth, Summit Park encompasses 16 acres of land and can be accessed via W. Grove Street and W. Summit Ave., which has parking available. The park is equipped with various amenities, such as picnic tables, shelters, grills, drinking fountains, playground equipment, tennis courts, softball field, volleyball courts, concession stand, restroom facility, and park benches. The Bob Young Ball field is located within Summit Hill Park and serves as the home of the Ellsworth Hubber Baseball Team, making it a popular destination for active recreation. Additionally, the park is also utilized for passive recreation and festival activities.



Park Name: Summit Park

Type: Community Park

150 W Grove St - Ellsworth, WI 54011

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelters Playground Equipment Tennis Courts The Bob Young Ball field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Softball Field Volleyball Courts Concession Stand Restroom Facility Park Benches
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ellsworth Hubber Baseball Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Baseball High School Tennis Program

Maintenance Program Details / Notes

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Maintenance of Grounds and Equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Restrooms Partner with Ball Teams on Field Maintenance

Improvement Option and Future Plans

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade Playground (potential ADA) Create New Pickle Ball Courts Trail or Designated Path around Park Potential expansion / land acquisition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storm Shelter / Restroom Facility Upgrade Both Ballfields Potential Skate / Bike Park

East End Park

In the early 1900s, a group of business professionals from East Ellsworth joined forces to construct the Park Pavilion. Now gone, a pillar from the original pavilion remains standing in East End Park today.

East End Park can be found near the East Ellsworth business district, on Hwy 10 and E. Wall St., with off-street parking available off N. Crosscut Street. Event participants, locals and tourists passing through Ellsworth often frequent the park, which is well-regarded by the public.



Park Name: East End Park

Type: Community Park

East Main Street - Ellsworth, WI 54011

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic Pavilions Playground Equipment Grills Picnic Tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Basketball Hoops Drinking Fountain Restroom facility Park benches
Programs, Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer Fun Series Farmers Market Cheese Curd Festival hosted by Chamber of Commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pumpkin in the Park Public Library Programing Other seasonal events

Maintenance Program Details / Notes

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Maintenance of Grounds and Equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Restrooms

Improvement Options and Future Plans

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade Playground (potential ADA) Explore and Build Pavilion / Bandshell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storm Shelter / Restroom Facility Improve Facilities for Events

Cairns Woods Walking Trail

Cairns Woods is a gorgeous woodland area situated on Cairns Street, just off Highway 65 North. In 1949, the Village of Ellsworth purchased the 34-acre property at a discounted price, thanks to Gertrude Cairns' generosity and in honor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Cairns. The park was initially meant to be used as an educational demonstration forest. However, in the late 1970s, it was neglected, and its ownership was unclear to the Village leadership. In 2018, community members became interested in developing new trails in Ellsworth to support outdoor recreation. They identified Cairns Woods as an ideal location and approached the Village's Parks, Recreation, and Development Committee with a proposal to restore the trails for public use.

The once overgrown and lost trails at Cairns Woods have been restored and are now perfect for exploring and spending time with family in nature. The Ellsworth Public Library even includes the park in their youth and family programs seasonally. Spring and Fall are particularly stunning at Cairns Woods Park, thanks to the beautiful wildflowers and autumn colors of basswood, red oak, elm, and hard maple trees. Ellsworth Trails has plans to make additional improvements to the park, such as a trailhead kiosk, a small, dedicated gravel parking area, and a rustic open-air classroom. Donations for these upgrades are being accepted from businesses and community members who share their vision for more recreational opportunities in Ellsworth.

Park Name: Cairns Woods Trail Type: Trail / Specialized Recreation Area

Cairns Street, just off Highway 65 - Ellsworth, WI 54011

Site Analysis Summary

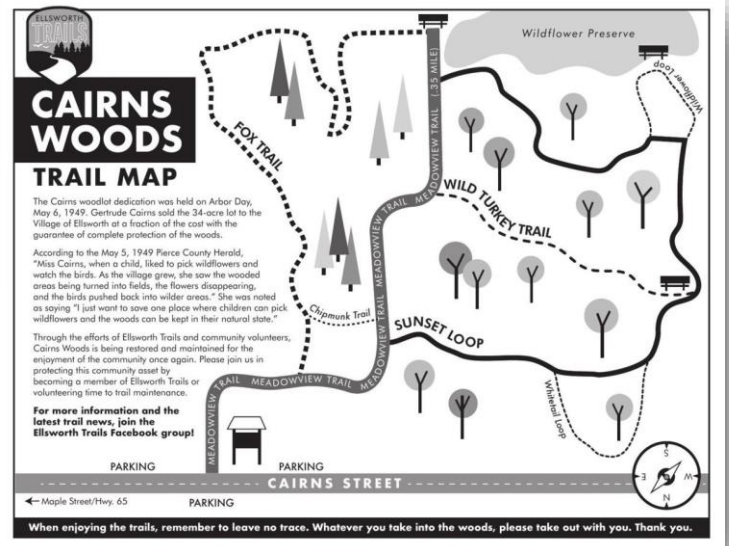
Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails Parking Lot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park benches
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ellsworth Public Library Programing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter Walk

Maintenance Program Details / Notes

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Maintenance of Trails 	

Improvement Options Cairns Woods Walking Trail

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trailhead kiosk / Signage Rustic open-air classroom Potential grooming for Cross Country Skiing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve dedicated gravel parking area Future expansion (Potential public private partnerships)



Bonnie Langer Memorial Park

Located at 339 W. Main St., the corner of Main St. and Chestnut St., this 0.042-acre park provides green space and picnic table in the business district.



Park Name: Bonnie Langer Memorial Park

Type: Community Park

339 W. Main St - Ellsworth, WI 54011

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic Table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Feature
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Picnics 	

Maintenance Program Details / Notes

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Maintenance of Grounds and Equipment 	

Improvement Options

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add shade feature More seating options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve water feature

Crossing Meadows Park Area

Located in the Crossing Meadows Business Park, this 1.95-acre area is owned by the Village. Currently not used as a park, the community will explore best use options over time.



Park Name: Crossing Meadows Park Area

Type: Neighborhood Park

Crossing Meadows Business Park - Ellsworth, WI 54011

Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open field under water tower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking lot
Programs, Events & Revenue Generators:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free play 	

Maintenance Program Details / Notes

Maintenance Program:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Maintenance of Grounds and Equipment 	

Improvement Options

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore potential best use of space (i.e. playground, pickle ball court, picnic facility, sports courts) 	

Other Public and Private Outdoor Recreation Facilities

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

School Recreation Facilities and Areas

Public school outdoor recreation facilities can be eligible for State Stewardship cost share funding if the district adopts an outdoor recreation facilities plan, and the facilities that are proposed for funding assistance will be available to the general public. The Ellsworth High School grounds consist of roughly 8.4 acres of public space, which includes a ball diamond, playground equipment, and a large grassy area for field games. During the summer, there is a youth baseball program, and in the winter, the field is turned into a skating rink, complete with a warming house. Additionally, the middle school features a 9-hole disc golf course. The Ellsworth Community School District also operates a forest – the Ellsworth Middle School Forest.



Klaas-Jonas Community Pool

The [Klaas-Jonas Community Pool](#) is located at 312 West Panther Drive in Ellsworth Wisconsin, next to the Ellsworth Community Middle School. This pool was built in 1999 and has a zero-depth entry level that increases to 4'6". The length of the pool is 25 meters with 8 lap lanes beginning at a depth of 3'6" and increasing to 12'. This pool also offers a diving board and water slide.



We take pride in providing this pool 12 months of the year by offering an open-air pool in the summer months and covering it with a dome during the winter months; providing warmth and originality for our year-round activities! The Klaas-Jonas Community Pool offers many activities such as water aerobics classes, lap swim, open swim, swimming lessons, movie nights, organized activities, pool parties and rentals and much more!

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2024 – 2029

Pierce County Fairgrounds

The [Pierce County Fairgrounds](#) cover a larger area, but around 15 acres are open to the public for outdoor recreational activities throughout the year, separate from the annual County Fair. Visitors can find a shelter, picnic tables, and toilets on this site. Additionally, some of the buildings are heated and serve as community meeting spaces beyond their use during the fair. The fairgrounds also offer space for camp trailers and camper units during the annual County Fair, as well as other events. Camping facilities are available for visitors during these events.



141ST FAIR • ELLSWORTH, WI

Small Towns.
Big Hearts.

August 8th to
August 11th, 2024

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8TH

7:00am	9:00am	10:00am	11:00am	12:00pm	1:00pm	2:00pm	3:00pm	4:00pm	5:00pm	6:00pm	7:00pm	8:00pm	9:00pm	10:00pm	11:00pm
Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House	Open House

**SCAN FOR
TICKETS**

715-273-6874
364 N MAPLE ST | ELLSWORTH, WI

NO PETS ON FAIR GROUNDS
CERTIFIED SERVICE ANIMALS ONLY
NO CHECKS OR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
ATM AVAILABLE ON FAIR GROUNDS

NO REFUNDS, NO RAIN DATES.
ALL SALES ARE FINAL.

WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED!
www.piercecountyfairgrounds.com/tickets.php

ALL FREE Entertainment located in Maple
Shelter, unless otherwise indicated.

GATES ARE OPEN
Thursday, Friday, Saturday - 9am - 8pm
Sunday - 10am - 5pm
8th Only - 9:00 Season - 7 & under Free

**FREE PARKING
ON THE GROUNDS**

**CHURCH OF CASH
7PM, THURSDAY
AUGUST 8TH
AT THE GRANDSTAND
with Allison Dye
Opening**

Trimbelle Recreation Area

A local gem, this recreation area is located approximately 5 miles west of Ellsworth on County Road O just 1/2 mile south of US Highway 10.

The main feature of this property is access to all for trout fishing opportunities along the Trimbelle River. No fees are required to enjoy this property. Visitors can experience a .25 mile long paved hiking trail loop that has 4 trail spurs to access the Trimbelle River. There are four small picnic shelters available. The property is open to visitors from sunrise to sunset.

Other amenities include a spacious parking lot, disabled fishing access to the Trimbelle River, trout habitat structures, 4 small shelters with picnic tables, on 32 acres of river frontage & forest. The majority of this property is river bottom with over 750 feet of river frontage. For more information visit the Pierce County Parks website [here](#).



Nugget Lake County Park

[Nugget Lake County Park](#) features a full-service campground, open year-round. The park is located south of Ellsworth at N4351 County Road HH in Plum City. Located in Rock Elm & Union Townships, this 752-acre park, established in 1974, is the flagship of the Pierce County Parks Department. The main feature of the park is Nugget Lake. The 116-acre lake is nearly two miles long and is entirely surrounded by forested property managed by the county. The lake's primary feature is fishing, but its scenic beauty also draws a large number of outdoor enthusiasts.

Approximately 25% of the parkland is developed for outdoor recreational activities. The main outdoor recreational activity is camping. The park provides a 55-site modern campground complete with electrical sites and comfort station. The campground also has several other amenities that include swing sets, a playground and camping cabins. The park also provides environmental educational programs; nature movies are shown at an outdoor amphitheater every weekend between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Campers and various small groups participate in the nature programs that are conducted on a weekly basis.

The park also has over six miles of maintained hiking/ski trails located throughout a variety of natural resource systems. The backdrop for the trail system is the Rock Elm Creek and Plum Creek. The meandering creeks converge in the center of the trail system and continue on as Plum Creek. Located throughout the trail system are various sites that contain interpretive and educational information. Several scenic overlooks and rest areas are also located throughout the trail system.



Lee-Kay Family Educational County Forest

The educational forest is located approximately 3 miles west of Spring Valley on State Highway 29. The property is open to visitors from sunrise to sunset and no fees are required to enjoy this property.

Experience a .6 mile long self-guided hiking trail loop that has over 15 individual tree identification and interpretation markers, with the most abundant trees being oak, maple and basswood. The trail can be utilized in the winter for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. The parking lot will accommodate buses. For more information, visit their website [here](#).



Ellsworth Country Club

Located just outside Village boundaries in northern Ellsworth, the [Ellsworth Country Club](#) is a nine-hole golf course open to the public at an affordable rate. Events also occur here, including weddings, baby showers, reunions, and birthday parties.



Additional Recreation

Ellsworth is the hub of Pierce County's 210 plus miles of snowmobile trails, a favorite wintertime sport. Several nearby streams provide outstanding trout fishing. Ellsworth is near many recreational options, including the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, state and county parks, and hiking trails.



Planning Process

The Village of Ellsworth Outdoor Recreation Planning Committee worked with the MRRPC to develop this plan. Together they created a survey to solicit public input on outdoor recreation facilities and activities offered in the Village of Ellsworth. These surveys were posted on MRRPC's website, the Village of Ellsworth's website, and local social media outlets.

Information from the survey was taken to develop local priorities and objectives for the future planning of the Village of Ellsworth's outdoor recreation facilities. The list of priorities and objectives will be referenced frequently by Village of Ellsworth staff to secure funding for projects. This plan will be reviewed and updated every five years to keep priorities and objectives current.

Our Partners in Recreation

Outdoor recreation in the Village of Ellsworth is a partnership with a number of entities from various sectors of the community specifically, [The Ellsworth Community Youth Rec Association](#) works to educate and inform the general public about more than fifty youth sports programs and activities for the Ellsworth School District Area. The organization also provides a tax-deductible means for associations and individuals to support and sponsor youth sports and other activities in our community. We are pleased to offer our facilities to this group and all of their partners.

The [Ellsworth Hubbers](#) are Ellsworth's men's amateur baseball team and member of the Wisconsin Amateur Baseball League's St. Croix Valley Division. They play their home games at Bob Young Field in Ellsworth's Summit Park.

Our [Chamber of Commerce](#) and businesses in the community work together to plan, host, promote and facilitate many of our special events. Our [Library](#) takes reading into the parks. The [Cheese Curd Festival](#) is sponsored not only by the [Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery](#) but also [dozens of other companies](#), the Village, and hundreds of volunteers. [The Ellsworth Trails Association](#) is here to create safe, multipurpose trails throughout the community to inspire outdoor recreation and improve connectivity. [Our Chamber](#) also works hard to promote a wide range of recreational facilities for the entire family. Whether you like to fish, hunt, golf, swim, snowmobile or ride ATV's, the Ellsworth area has it all.

Ellsworth would like to thank these companies, clubs, associations, organizations, coaches, leaders, all the volunteers, and others for their participation in our recreational programming.

Implementation

These priorities, objectives, and action items were developed over a yearlong process of discussion and collaboration with diverse stakeholders of the Village of Ellsworth. Priority has been given to projects that it is believed both have the ability to receive funding, have public support, and most importantly will improve the outdoor recreation opportunities for the citizens of the Village of Ellsworth and encourage those from outside the Village of Ellsworth to discover what we have to offer. These objectives will focus on lands that the Village of Ellsworth owns itself or can purchase in the future, and on ways that the Village of Ellsworth can work with local, state, federal, and other government agencies to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities. We will also continue to work with our community partners to create the best possible outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities available for Ellsworth.

Goals from Earlier in the Plan

Goal 1: Continue to maintain the Village’s outdoor park and recreation facilities

Goal 2: Protect and enhance the unique natural resources within the Village

Goal 3: Use the Village’s resources efficiently and enhance funding opportunities for park and recreational needs of the Village

Goal 4: Provide and improve public access to outdoor recreation land and water

Goal 5: Promote recreation to improve public health and wellness

Goal 6: Upgrade and Diversify Recreation Facilities

Goal 7: Work with our Partners to Create Versatile Community Spaces and Events

Goal 8: Enhance Awareness and Utilization of Recreation Resources

Goal 9: The community will seek to enhance a expand our network of Trails, Sidewalks, Walking Paths and Safe Routes to Schools and other Public Facilities

Specific Improvements from our Park Inventory

Improvement Options and Future Plans Summit Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade Playground (potential ADA) • Create New Pickle Ball Courts • Trail or Designated Path Around Park • Potential expansion / land acquisition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Shelter / Restroom Facility • Upgrade Both Ballfields • Potential Skate / Bike Park

Improvement Options and Future Plans East End Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade Playground (potential ADA) • Explore and Build Pavilion / Bandshell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm Shelter / Restroom Facility • Improve Facilities for Events

Improvement Options and Future Plans Cairns Woods Walking Trail

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailhead kiosk / Signage • Rustic open-air classroom • Potential grooming for Cross Country Skiing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve dedicated gravel parking area • Future expansion (Potential public private partnerships)

Improvement Options and Future Plans Bonnie Langer Memorial Park

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add shade feature • More seating options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve water feature

Improvement Options and Future Plans Crossing Meadows Park Area

Improvements Suggested:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential best use of space (i.e. playground, open space, pickle ball court, picnic facility, sports courts) 	

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 several 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.

[Acquisition & Development of Local Parks \(Stewardship\)](#)

Eligibility & Purpose: Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access and park support facilities). Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

[Friends of State Lands \(Stewardship\)](#)

Eligibility & Purpose: Grants from this program help improve facilities, build new recreation projects and restore habitat on state properties. This grant program is part of Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

[Friends of State Parks and Forests \(Heritage Trust Fund\)](#)

Eligibility & Purpose: Grants from this program assist in the maintenance and operations of state parks, southern state forests, state trails or state recreation areas. A Friends Group must have established an endowment fund for the benefit of the property.

[Habitat Area \(Stewardship\)](#)

Eligibility & Purpose: Protects and restores important wildlife habitat in Wisconsin in order to expand opportunities for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, trapping, hiking, bird watching, fishing,

nature appreciation and wildlife viewing. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) - State Program

Eligibility & Purpose: This Federal program encourages creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the DNR for this program are split between DNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities. Grants cover 50% of eligible project costs.

Recreational Trail Program (RTP)

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties, towns, cities, villages, WI Tribes, and incorporated organizations may apply for grant funding for the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with the state snowmobile or ATV programs and Stewardship development projects.

State Trails (Stewardship)

Eligibility & purpose: Applications for grants under this subprogram must be for properties identified as part of the [State Trail system](#). It is possible for sponsors to nominate additional trails for state trail designation. The Streambank Protection Program protects water quality and fish habitat in Wisconsin by establishing buffers along high-priority waterways. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Urban Green Space (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants help buy land or easements in urban areas to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Urban Rivers (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants help buy land on rivers flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

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.

[Recreation Economy at USDA - Economic Development Resources for Rural Communities](#)

Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) Wisconsin DOT



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.



FEMA

[Safe Rooms or Storm Shelters](#) are hardened structures specifically designed to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) criteria and provide near-absolute protection in extreme wind events, including tornadoes and hurricanes. Publication 361 (FEMA P-361), Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms.



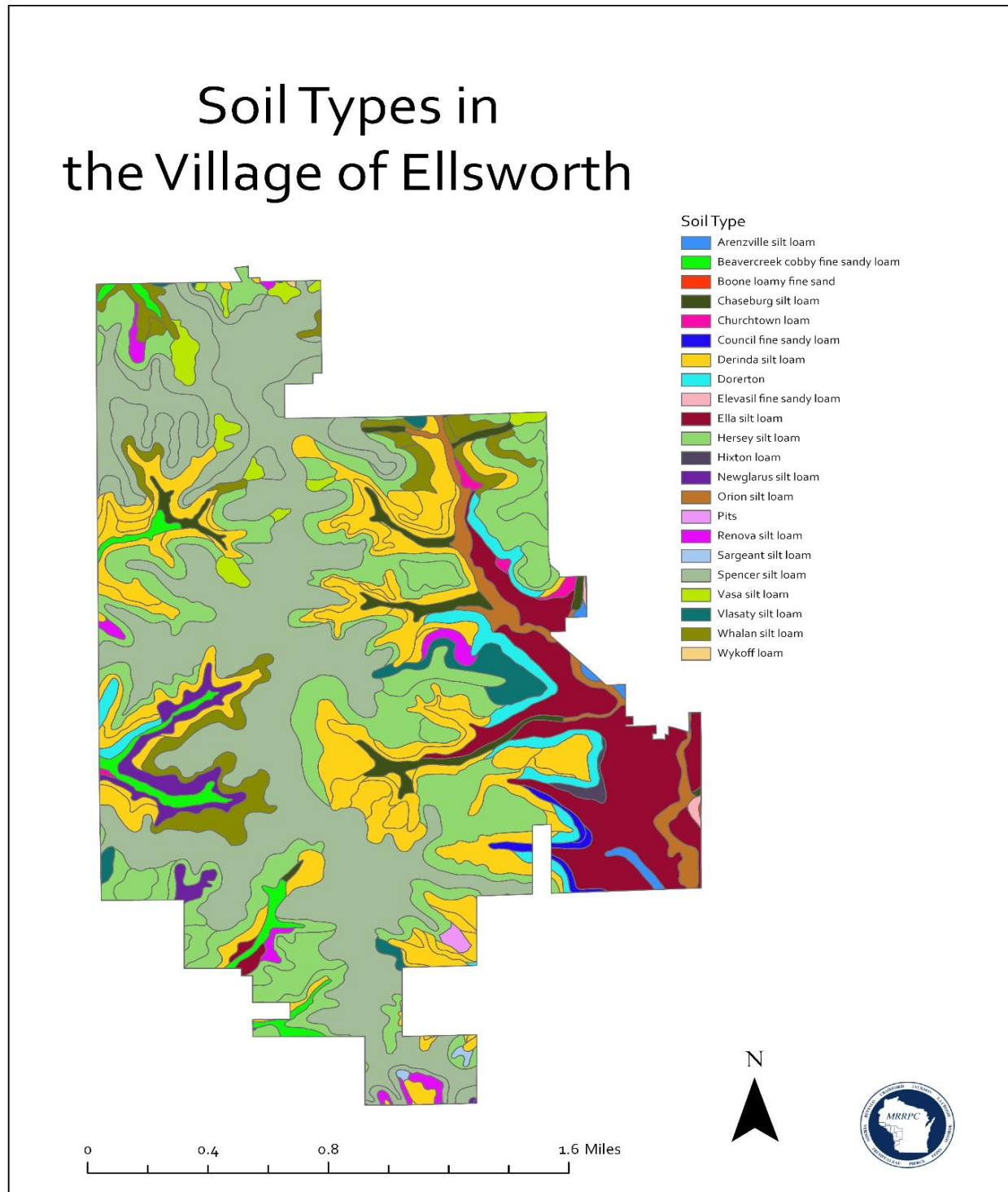
Grant Finder



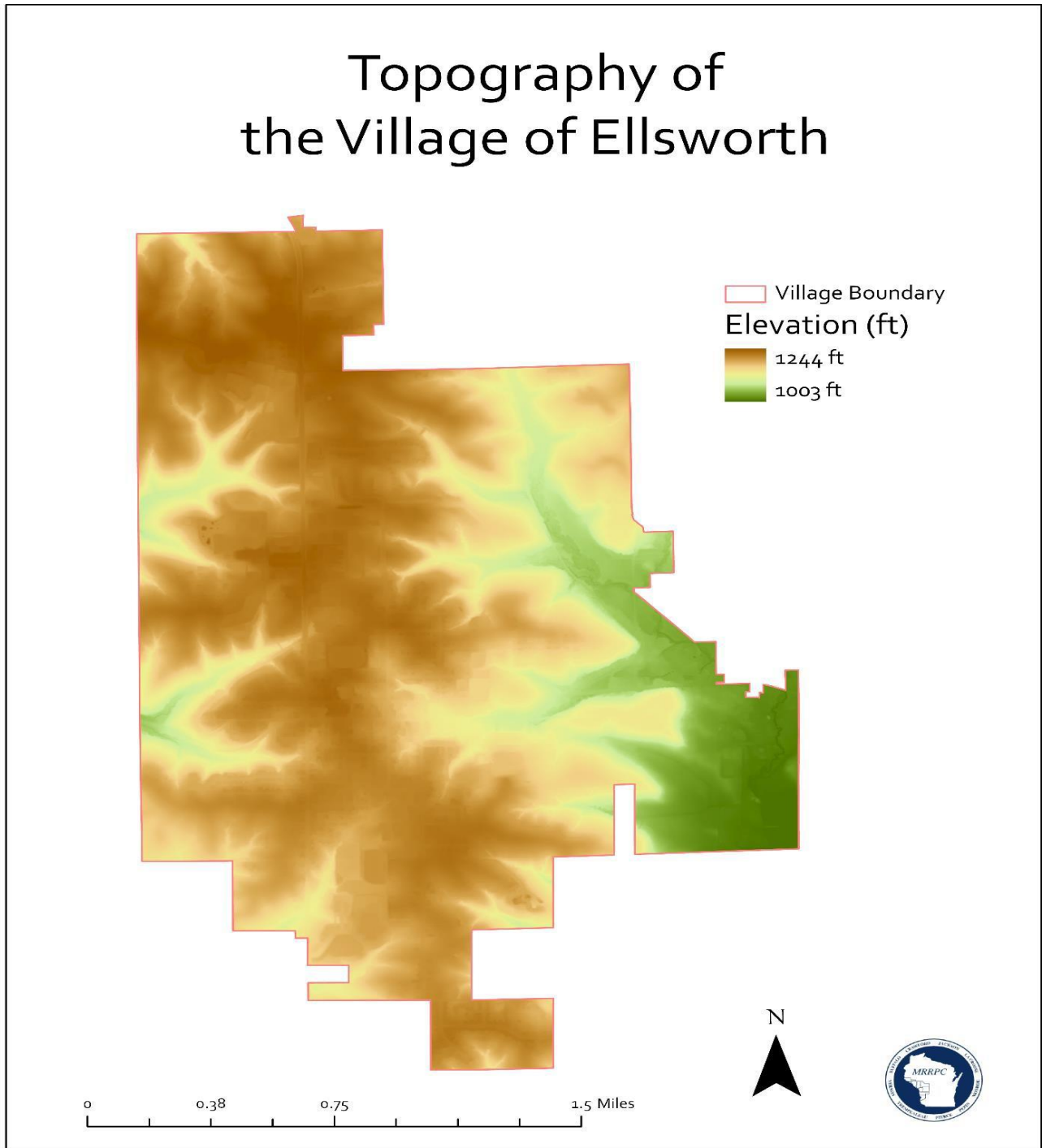
The Wisconsin League of Municipalities is adding [GrantFinder](#) as a new service for their members to identify eligible grants. This Grants database will identify state, federal, corporate and foundation grants available to local governments. This is a free service for League members.

Appendix B: Maps

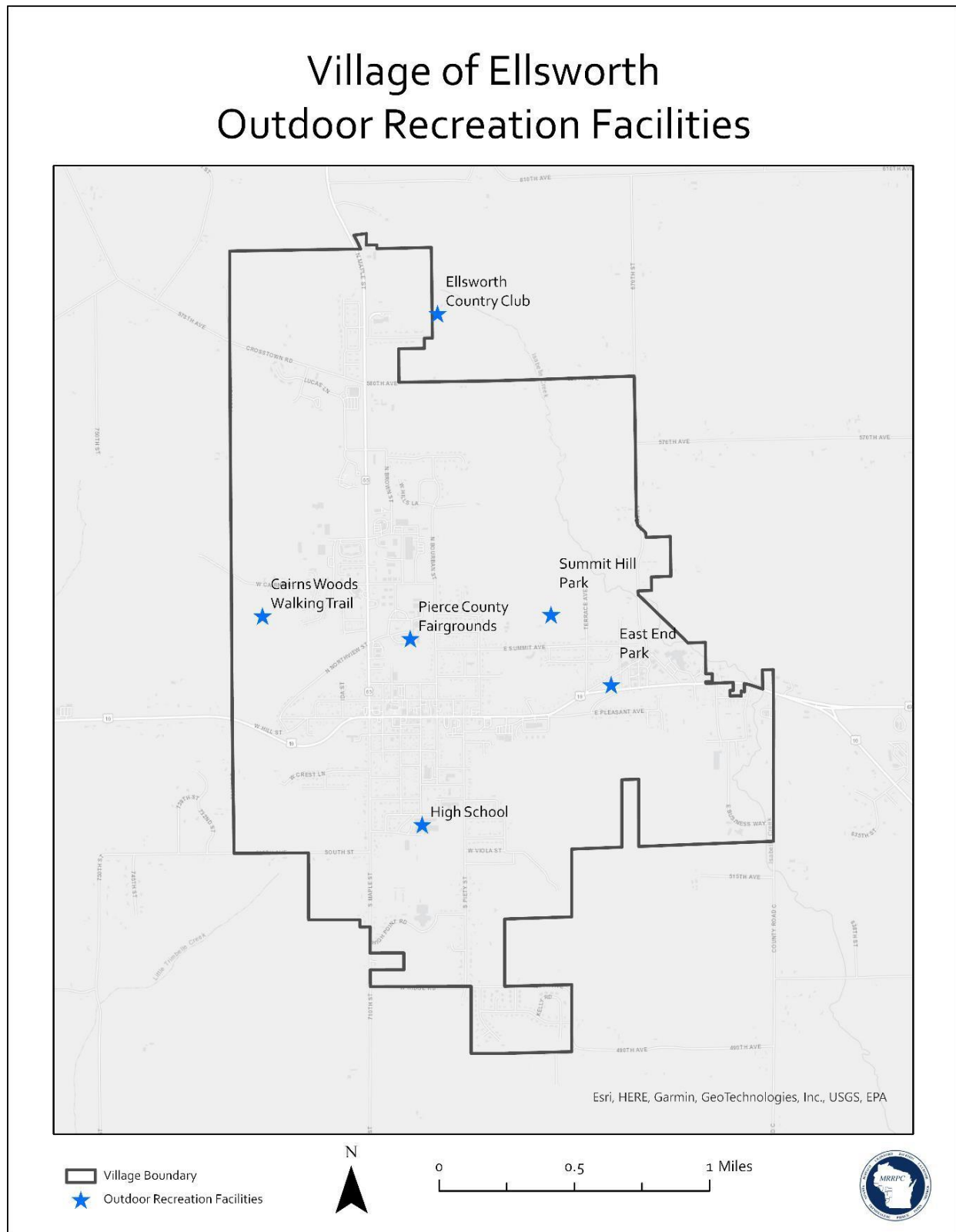
Map 1 Soil Types



Map 2 Topography

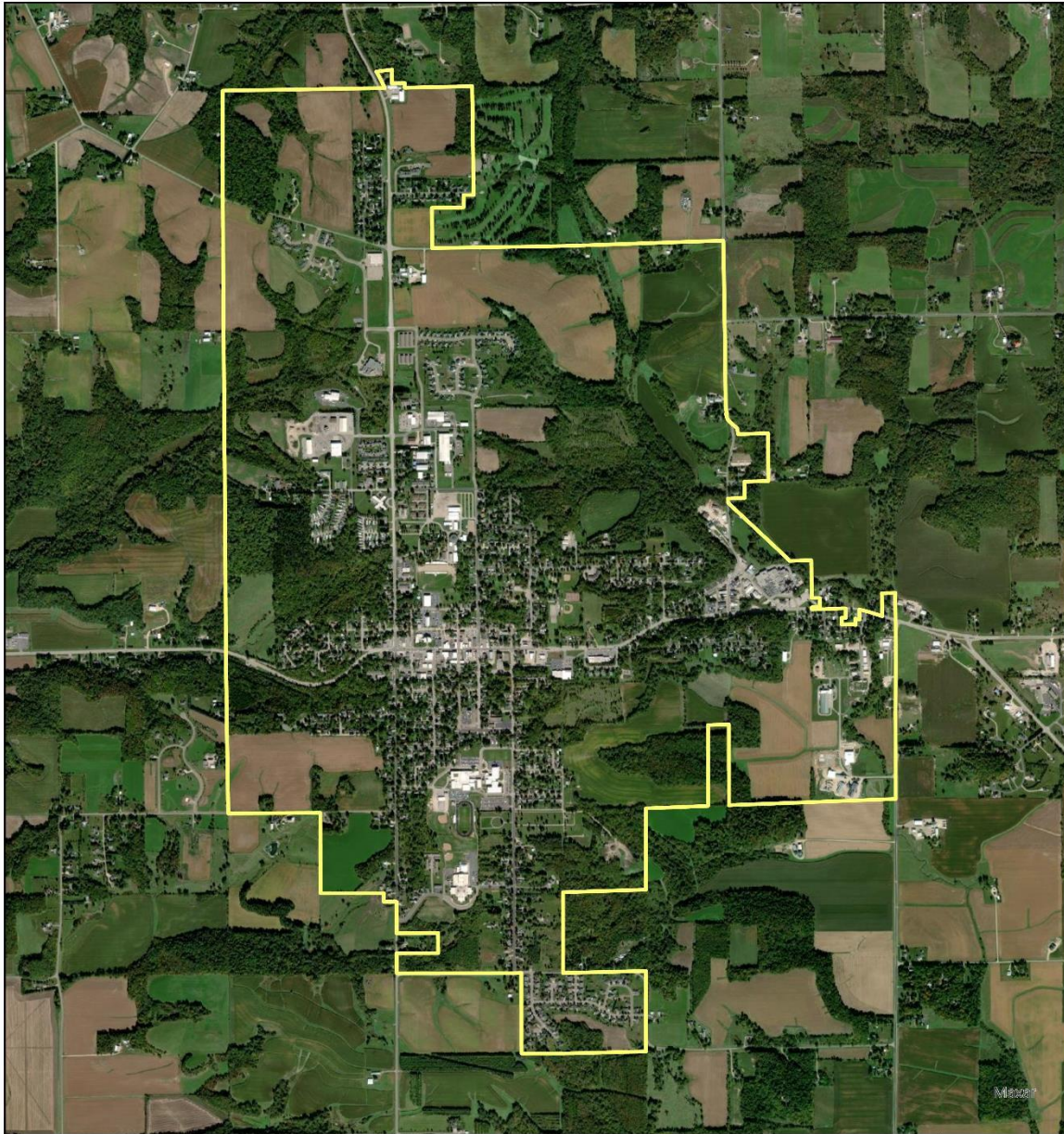


Map 3 Outdoor Recreation Facilities



Map 4 Village of Ellsworth

Village of Ellsworth



 Village Boundary



0 0.5 1 Miles



Appendix C: 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
Ellsworth	2,143	2,706	2,909	3,284	3,348	56.2%	3,670	3,725	10.1%
Pierce County	31,149	32,765	36,804	41,019	42,212	35.5%	46,125	46,825	9.9%
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 Populations & 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⁾
Ellsworth	1,225	1,260	1,290	1,300	1,305	2.55	2.51	2.5	2.46	2.44
Pierce County	16,562	17,292	17,869	18,239	18,480	2.58	2.54	2.5	2.45	2.45
Wisconsin	2,491,980	26,000,528	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

	Total	Percent
Total population	3334	(X)
Age		
Under 5 years	150	4.5%
5 to 9 years	213	6.4%
10 to 14 years	325	9.7%
15 to 19 years	285	8.5%
20 to 24 years	123	3.7%
25 to 29 years	114	3.4%
30 to 34 years	209	6.3
35 to 39 years	147	4.4%
40 to 44 years	374	11.2%
45 to 49 years	163	4.9%
50 to 54 years	261	7.8%
55 to 59 years	356	10.7%
60 to 64 years	157	4.7%
65 to 69 years	178	5.3%
70 to 74 years	86	2.6%
75 to 79 years	91	2.7%
80 to 84 years	68	2.0%
85 years and over	34	1.0%
Selected Age Categories		
5 to 14 years	538	16.1%
15 to 17 years	195	5.8%
Under 18 years	883	26.5%
18 to 24 years	213	6.4%
15 to 44 years	1252	37.6%
16 years and over	2567	7.7%
18 years and over	2451	73.5%
21 years and over	2298	68.9%
60 years and over	614	18.4%
62 years and over	539	16.2%
65 years and over	457	13.7%
75 years and over	193	5.8%
Summary Indicators		
Median age (years)	41.5	(X)
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	91	(X)
Age dependency ratio	67.2	(X)
Old-age dependency ratio	22.9	(X)
Child dependency ratio	44.3	(X)

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

Table 4 Employment

	Total	Percent (%)
Population 16 years & over	2,567	
In workforce	1,831	71.3
Employed	1,673	62.2
Unemployed	158	6.2
Armed Forces	9	0.8
Occupation		
Management & Business	445	26.6
Service Industry	210	12.6
Sales & Office	304	18.2
Natural Resources & Construction	325	19.4
Production & Transportation	389	23.3

Source: U.S. Census Data; ACS – 5 Year Estimates Data Profiles (DP03)

Table 5 Employment Age Characteristics

	Total	Percent of Total (%)
Age (Years)	2,567	
16 to 19	206	52.9
20 to 24	123	58.5
25 to 29	114	92.1
30 to 34	209	68.4
35 to 44	521	90.4
45 to 54	424	76.7
55 to 59	356	77.0
60 to 64	157	84.7
65 to 74	264	15.5
75 and over	193	0.0

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

Appendix D: Survey Results

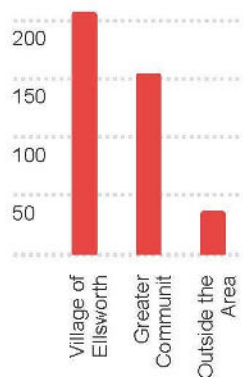
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THE VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH PARK AND RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

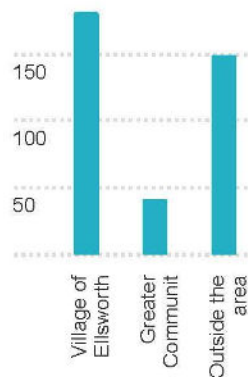


Demographics

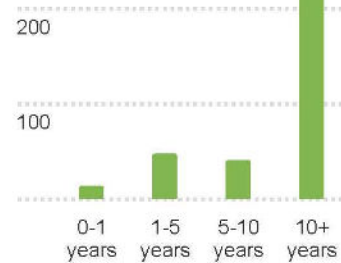
I live In:



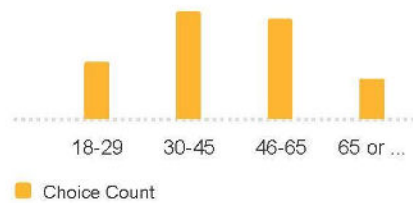
I Work In:



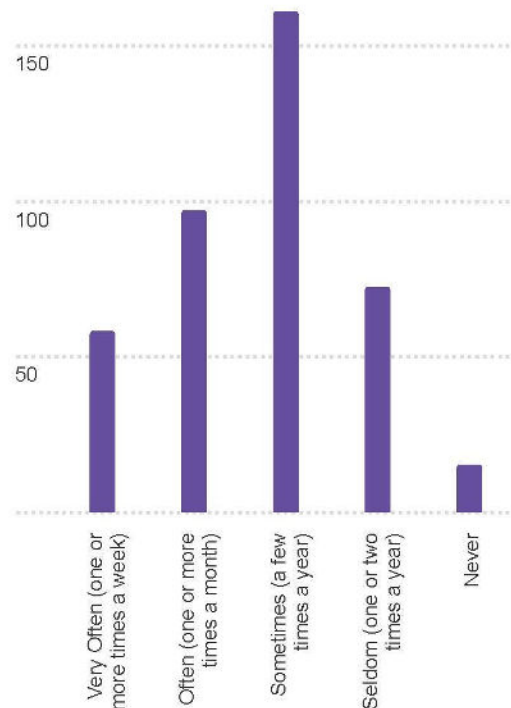
If you are a Village of Ellsworth resident, how long have you lived here?



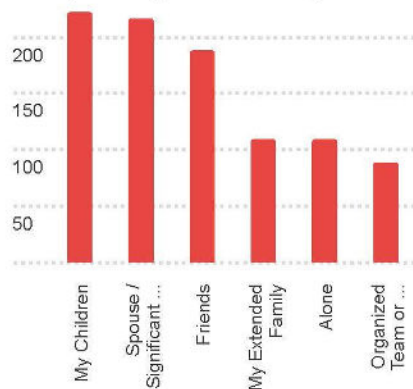
Which best describes the age group you belong too?



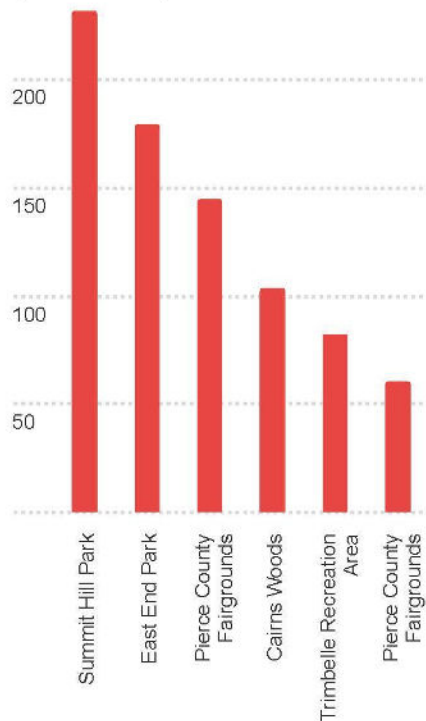
How often to you use the Village's parks and/or outdoor facilities?



Who participates with you...



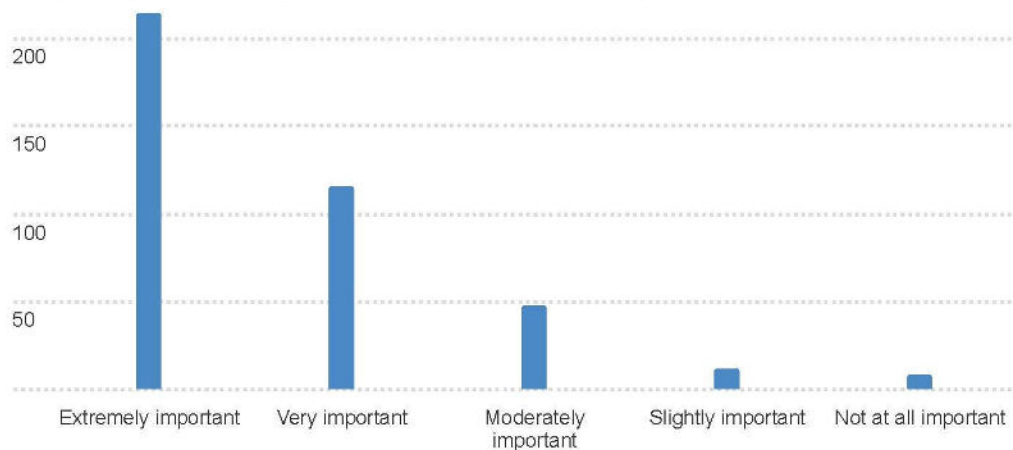
My favorite parks are...



Other - Text

Glen Park in River Falls
 School forest
 Summit hill but that one slide is hard for smaller kids
 Elementary school playground
 Community pool
 School playground
 Ellsworth Elementary School
 School
 Elementary School
 All parks/fairgrounds
 Nugget
 Ellsworth Elementary School
 Elementary
 Middle School outdoor classroom
 Ellsworth Elementary Playground
 ees or st. francis playgrounds
 School Parks
 south
 Anywhere on the Rush
 Ellsworth Community School District - school forest

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



Field	Mean	Responses
Hiking	65.23	255
UTV/ATV Riding	64.80	199
Swimming	64.57	229
Biking and Hiking Trails	60.94	282
Boating / Water access (nearby)	60.72	234
Playground Activities	60.32	241
Organized/Group activities: Baseball, Softball, Soccer, etc.	59.36	204
Wildlife Viewing / Bird Watching	57.64	194
Picnicking	53.33	242
Camping	52.83	202
Ice Skating and Sledding	51.20	163
Pickleball	49.83	181
Snowmobiling	47.95	124
Running	45.42	137
Cross Country Skiing / Snowshoeing	42.97	126
Basketball	37.89	146
Tennis	35.40	136

Other Favorite Rec Activities (not on list) WORD CLOUD...

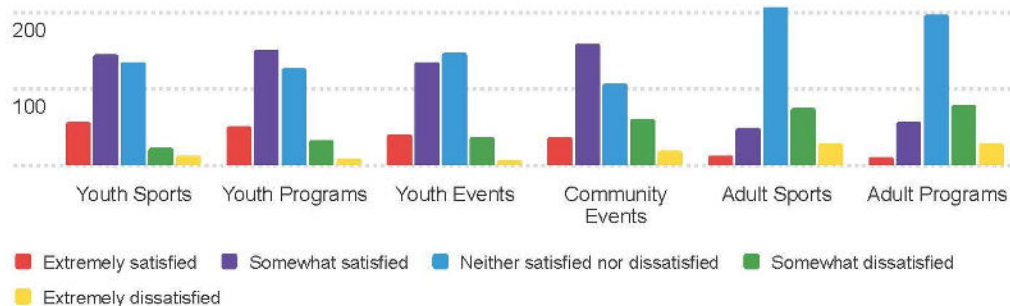


Other Favorite Rec Activities Text Responses...

Other: - Text

Walking
Walking
Fix sidewalks for safety
Updates to current parks to have theme park like fairy park in Prescott or castle park in Hudson
walking
I prefer access to natural settings to enjoy leisure activities
Dog walking
Any music events
Softball
Splash pads in neighboring communities
Would like to see mire hiking paths into town. Dog park needed. More family orientated
Pokemon go
Mountain Biking
Walking the dog
Horse riding
Fishing
Gold mining, rock hunting
dog park interest
walking
Golfing

The Community partners with a number of organizations and surrounding communities how satisfied are you with...





I would like to see the following sports, programs, or events.

I would like to see the following sports, programs, or events.

More family & town events for the community.

Many more affordable Pickle ball lessons, etc. Hiking with small groups, at various abilities. Events to attend outside the area, even overnights or several days, with coach buses and guides.

More funsters support! They are amazing!!!

Better sports fields/facilities are needed. The facilities do not align with the great sports talent here in our community.

pickle ball

More adult programs such as pickleball, tennis, basketball, etc.

Movie theater. Fix sidewalks for safety. UTV trails.

I honestly do not know a lot regarding adult activities. I do think the youth programs have improved and are doing well; however, I would like to see more kids involved. I feel our facilities are extremely lacking and do not compare with others in our conference. Especially the baseball, softball, and football facilities. They are to the point of being embarrassing.

Need Pickleball courts, fix up the baseball and softball fields, Need biking trails

More sports or programs for 1st grade and under.

Sports or activities for 3-6 year olds. Sports for girls in elementary. Tennis and soccer and swim team.

Live music in the park or fairgrounds.

Community garden

Baseball that is 1 day a week for 1 hour just for fun for kids who don't want to or cant bc of work do 2 days for 2 hours. Love the once weekly soccer that is currently happening at middle school but other students for free.

We have to go to River Falls for all of our Toddler activities because they either are not offered or very limited in Ellsworth

Pickleball

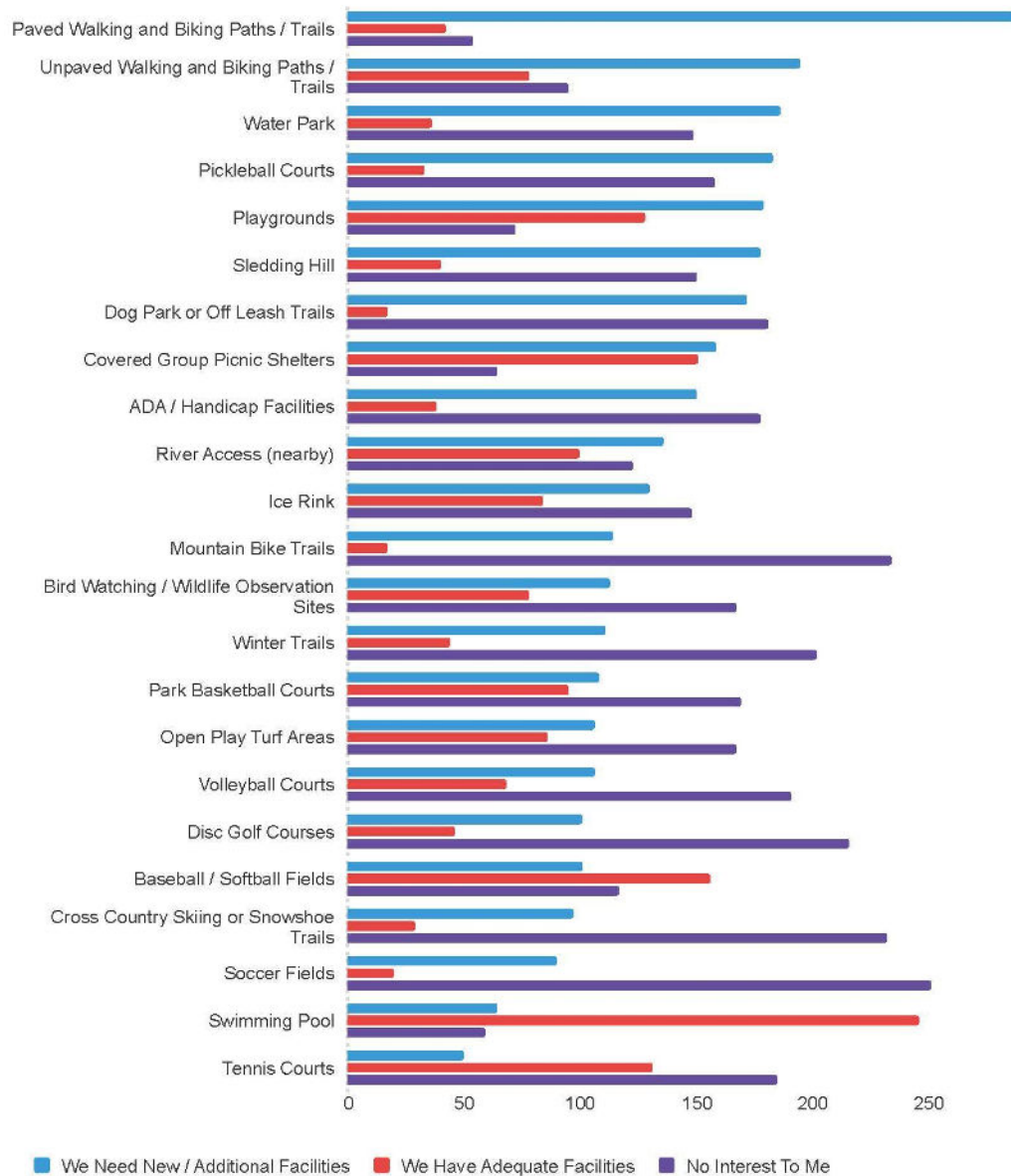
pickle ball

Groups or programs for more toddler age that are afternoons/weekends.

I'd love to see more adult sports to play like softball, and basketball

pickle ball, music in the park for adults.

From the list below, please address needs for public recreation facilities...



Other Public Recreation Facilities...

Other, describe: - Text

We should be working toward connecting with trails in neighboring towns to create a network of trails for biking/hiking/walking. Also, there should be connections to our current trails. You shouldn't have to drive to walk the trails. This could be accomplished over time with smarter planning.

pickle ball

This might fall under paved walking paths, but a nice running path where you can avoid traffic and running in the village streets.

New sidewalks, the ones we have are horrible! And no one shovels in the winter

Fix current sidewalks for safety

Splash pad, additional play ground equipment at current parks, skate park

NO DOGPARK IN TOWN. PUT IT BY SHOPKO

FIX The Courts, fields that are there - AKA - Summit Field is embarrassing

We need bike paths in town

splash pad for littles

A dome for indoor sports such as softball, baseball, soccer, etc.

Community event center to go to.

Pokemon go

new football field

Man built lake with beach and boating activities

Playgrounds on the south side of Hwy 10 are owned by the school district and St Francis. The playground at St Francis now has no trespassing signs which feel very unwelcoming. The Ellsworth Elementary playground is used consistently by many people including people from out of town. The grass area is also used consistently for soccer.

Splash Pads

I like summit park but there are no easy way for my toddler to climb up for a slide. There's only a ladder to the big slides. We need better baby/toddler swings at the parks. They're pretty wobbly.

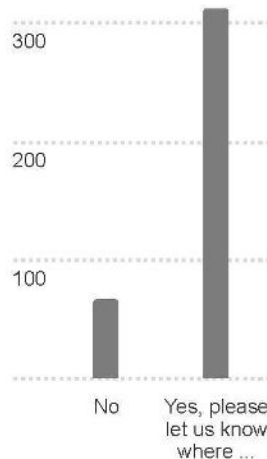
Public food forest and gardens

dirtbike trails

Most important park improvements needed in Village of Ellsworth.

Field	Mean	Responses
Upgrading existing parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open spaces	73.63	336
Expanding and developing the trail system for pedestrian and bike use	70.40	312
Developing new sport courts like pickleball, tennis, basketball	61.26	268
Acquiring and protecting land for natural open space	59.92	263
Acquiring more land for future parks	58.08	241
Improving access and parking for existing trails and park facilities	57.75	260
Developing more dog off-leash parks or trails	57.37	232
Concentrating on maintaining existing parks and facilities only	57.25	247
Developing more sport fields like baseball, soccer, football	54.30	226

I have traveled to specifically pursue outdoor recreational activities.



If Yes, 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

Glen Park Splash Pad

Many states & parks and family town fun. Check out Park City, Utah. Many states/towns offer many fun activities. I walk & hike everywhere I travel. I also Geo Cache (which Ellsworth could offer) in all Countries I travel.

River Falls, Pickle Ball.

Water park and splash pad, and the beach.

Hiking in red wing. Also boating in red wing

Red wing, River Falls, Prescott

Biking, hiking, fishing, pickleball, snowshoeing, x-country skiing

Prescott and river falls, pickle ball

Red Wing, water park, hiking, bird watching. Softball & volleyball.

Access to functional baseball fields

River Falls & Minnesota

red wing, mountain biking, hiking

Hiking

Willow river state park. Hiking, being in nature.

hiking, gym space, baseball fields - Red Wing, Hudson, River Falls

Pickleball, bike trails, children sports events, hiking trails

River falls: disc golf, splash pad, parks and hiking Hudson: hiking Red wing: swimming, parks, disc golf

biking, hiking, and nature trails

Walking paths

Water park

Your BIG Idea!

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

Your BIG Idea!

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

Make a multi Geo Cache that would bring outside vistors to town and we could offer a seek and find a couple times a year.

In all inclusive handicap accessible playground and a splash pad area.

Cleaner, safer playground area, with multiple sections.

A connected network of walking/hiking/biking trails. Ideally, this would circle the village connecting the main downtown with east end and the creamery. Perhaps Cairns Woods trails and the Fairgrounds could be part of the trail "network". There is a misconception that people won't bike or walk because of the hills and this is not true. There are many regions across the country that have hilly and steep terrain and residents still enjoy walking/hiking/biking. Some prefer the challenge of hills.

While not entirely "recreational", a small amphitheater in East End Park would allow for more concerts and performances in the park. The park is an amazing gathering space and very visual in the downtown. With the right improvements this park could be a true gem for our community!

I would like to see Summit Park connected to Main Street, not for vehicles but for pedestrians accessing the park. Making a "grand" pedestrian entrance to the park from Main Street would add visual appeal to that middle part of the downtown and make the park more prominent.

We need to do a better job thinking strategically and planning with the future in mind. Prescott is currently working on a trail system that will connect to Washington County's trail system. We could be looking to connecting into that trail system, as well as connecting to River Falls with a bike trail.

We need to get creative and incorporate some sort of water feature into the plan. Perhaps there's a way to tap into the natural springs here to create a landscaped feature that would provide a wildlife habitat for birds, etc. It would add visual and sensory appeal. Check out River Prairie Park in Altoona for a great example.

pickle ball courts

A large park where you can have both baseball/softball fields (instead of being way down in Hager City), picnic area, playground equipment, tennis/pickleball courts and possible walking/running path.

I know it's a long shot but it's something to work towards.

Ellsworth has no cohesive plan for youth activities. It's a bunch of hodgepodge one field here, two fields there. All are mediocre. We excel at nothing. The high school athletics depends on village resources also. Other neighboring towns seem to manage one location with amenities. Bathrooms. Concessions. Parking. We need to be unified.

Create functional sports facilities for youth and high school. Currently lack baseball field for most of the spring high school baseball season.

Just to replace the sidewalks and make people shovel them!!!! Someone is going to seriously get hurt walking on these sidewalks!!!

Fix current sidewalks for safety!!

Walkable attractions that bring people to our businesses and community. Think river falls parks downtown. Make people want to hang out in even when the cheese curd festival is over.

Dog park

A walking/running, biking path that goes around Ellsworth. Example, start at the fair grounds, head North on 65 to 580th ave/crosstown rd, going east to railroad ave down to the Creamery, go west on hwy 10 to North Grant street ending back at the fair grounds.

Baseball and Softball Complex with additional facilities such as - walking/running path, playground, maybe even mini golf, etc. Turf football field for multiple uses. Upgrade the locker room at the pool.

An outside sporting event area serving many sports for youth and adults (handicapped accessible) with biking and hiking trails nearby.

Utilize Summit Park instead of focusing everything on the East End Park. There is room to have events there, is very family friendly, and is not located on the highway.

Play ground equipment like tri angels park in river falls with a splash pad, disc golf course, skate park, tons of room to run around with shelter area to eat and relax. With access to hiking/biking trails

Fully inclusive playground for all children, and a splash pad area!

We would have an updated playground with a splash pad, bonus would be that it was handicap accessible. We would have a walking/bike trail that cut through town and went into the woods. (Lengthen the path behind the fairgrounds) We would have the same facilities that we have now for baseball, football, and tennis. I would also include a fenced dog park for those with dogs and a playground at the fairgrounds. I would also include a big sledding hill with a dedicated skating rink and maybe an outdoor space for school aged kids to hang out outside under the library.

Outdoor music concerts, entertainment events. I think we have a lot of things for athletic minded people to do outdoors. A lot of older or disabled people can't enjoy most of those things.

Appendix E: Resolution

**Village of Ellsworth
Pierce County, Wisconsin
Resolution No. 2025-01**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2024-2029 AS THE OFFICIAL
COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Village of Ellsworth and an ad hoc plan update committee representing various stakeholder groups, in cooperation with Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, has developed and updated a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the Village; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Ellsworth participated in the plan update; and,

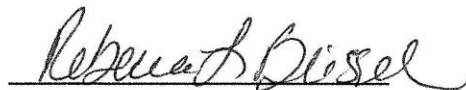
WHEREAS, the plan lists available outdoor recreation facilities and identifies foreseeable outdoor recreation demand for the Village of Ellsworth; and,

WHEREAS, the plan identifies specific recommendations and priorities for improving the recreational facilities and opportunities within the Village of Ellsworth; 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 Ellsworth, Village Board hereby adopts the Village of Ellsworth Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2024-2029 as the official comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the Village of Ellsworth.

Dated this January 6, 2025.



Rebecca Beissel
Village Board President



Brad Roy
Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Notes

<https://www.villageofellsworth.org/>

<https://www.villageofellsworth.org/our-community/village-parks>

https://www.villageofellsworth.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf7246/f/uploads/design_ellsworth_summary_report-web.pdf

https://www.villageofellsworth.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf7246/f/pages/ellsworth_demographic_report_03-22.pdf

<https://romewi.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/SplashpadQA.pdf> Splash pad costs...

Photo Links

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/yv5howtyy51nurr2had0m/AHeWVFROptj9xIJpojzVUYs?rlkey=lw42hfgbh6ocj3pbn2zoxmfat&e=1&st=9r09r667&dl=0>