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Chapter 1: Introduction and Background Information

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background Information

Introduction

Communities throughout the country recognize that park land, recreation trails, and natural areas are key components of high-quality living environments. Open spaces provide a community with many benefits. These include supplying opportunities for outdoor recreation, promoting and accommodating a healthy lifestyle for residents, enhancing the aesthetic quality of a community, increasing property values, attracting visitors and tourists, shaping development patterns, and protecting the natural environment. With the development of this Plan, the Village of Slinger has recognized the importance of providing quality recreational opportunities to its residents and visitors.

The recommendations presented in the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan for the Village of Slinger will guide the acquisition, preservation, and development of land for parks, recreation trails, and other open spaces in the Village to meet the needs of a changing population. Such recommendations will also serve to protect and enhance the community's natural resource base into the future. Although this Plan addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community, it focuses more specifically on recommendations for development over the next five and 10 years. This Plan is also intended to incorporate, refine, and update the findings and recommendations presented in the Village's previous Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

This Plan was prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), which will qualify the Village for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The Plan must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification.

Park Facility Classifications

The park and open space planning process begins with the definition and classification of various park and open space facilities. The following is a list of the classifications of park and open space facilities used by this Plan. These definitions are used in later chapters of this Plan to measure the Village's performance against its established local standards for the provision of parkland. These standards are described in greater detail in Chapter 5.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are designed to provide both active and possible short-term recreation activities. In addition to playground equipment for preschool and school age children, facilities are likely to include open lawn, paved court areas, shelters, wading pools, outdoor ice rinks, and some off-street parking. Trees, open fields, and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks.

Community Parks

A community park is designed and developed for diversified use and contains facilities not found in a neighborhood park. It serves several neighborhoods, or in the case of small communities, it may serve the entire community. A community park is an area of diverse environmental quality. Community parks may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools as well as having natural qualities suitable for passive outdoor recreation such as walking, sitting, relaxing, and picnicking. Desirable facilities in community parks include those in neighborhood parks, along with swimming facilities, lighted ballfields, tennis courts, community centers, and adequate off-street parking. It is important that community parks be located on or near major thoroughfares and easily accessible by pedestrians and bicyclists. Landscaping and natural areas are also desirable in a community park.

Conservancy and Open Space Areas

Conservancy and open space areas include permanently protected areas of environmental significance or sensitivity, usually with public access and trails, but with limited opportunities for active recreational use. Acquisition of conservancy areas often has secondary benefits such as flood control or enhancement of adjacent private property values. They may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and shoreland setback areas, drainageways, stormwater management basins, environmental corridors, wildlife habitat, areas of endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants or restoration areas, scenic vistas, or environmentally constrained lands or open spaces as recommended in the Village's Comprehensive Plan. They may also be appropriate for utilities and walking trails.

School Facilities

School parks have many of the same characteristics as neighborhood or community parks, depending on their size. School parks primarily serve as locations for active recreational facilities associated with school functions; however, these sites can and do benefit the surrounding community during off-school hours. These parks may be owned and maintained by the municipality or the school district, but are open to all residents when not in use by the school.

Off-Street Recreation Trails

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

Multi-use paths are designed to accommodate bicyclists, walkers, runners, in-line skaters, etc. Such facilities are often located along railroad and street rights-of-way, rivers and lakeshores, and through parks and environmental corridors. In addition to their recreational benefits, multi-use paths often play a role in essential nonmotorized transportation. They can be an integral part of a community-wide bicycle network consisting of both off-street trails and on-street bicycle facilities such as bicycle lanes.

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

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

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

Description of Planning Area

The planning area includes all lands currently within the Village of Slinger's municipal limits and within the Village's adopted 1½-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction, which extends into the Towns of Polk, Hartford, Addison, and West Bend. State statutes enable the Village to plan (including park and recreation planning) within its extraterritorial jurisdiction.

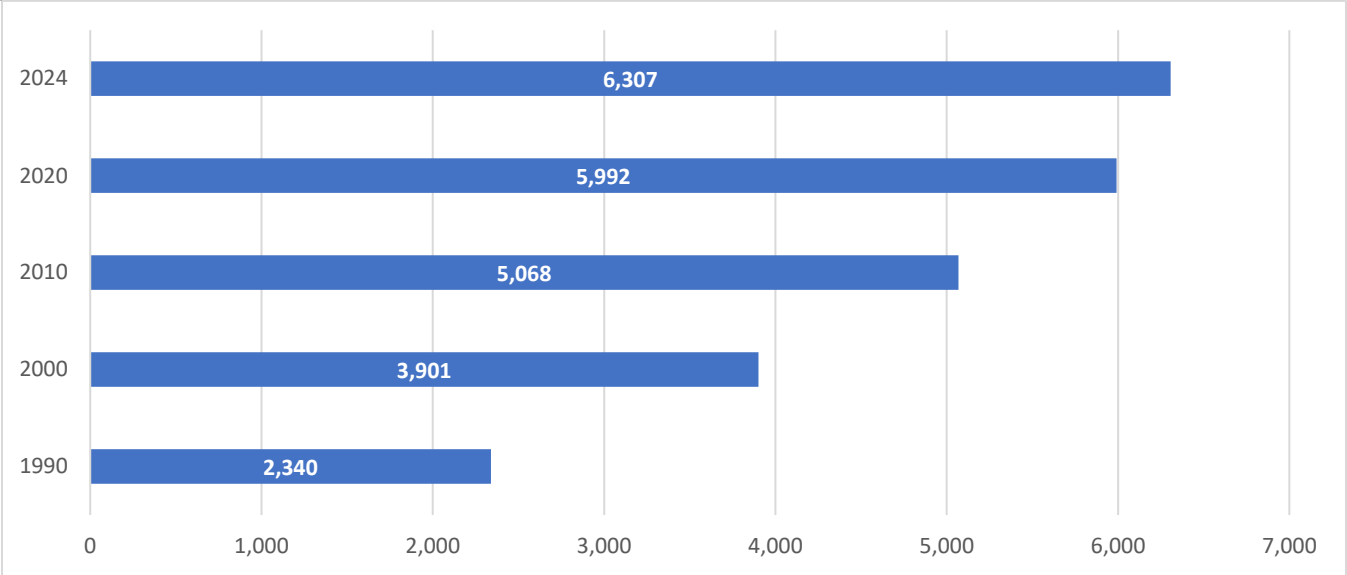


Demographics of the Village of Slinger

Population

Over the past 30 years, the Village has grown rapidly from 2,340 residents in 1990 to almost triple that figure in 2024 with 6,307 residents. The most explosive growth occurred during the 1990s and 2000s, where the Village grew by 54%. However, from 2010 to 2024, the pace of growth has decreased 24% over 14 years. This is an outcome of the Great Recession and housing market collapse that occurred in 2008.

Figure 1.1 Village of Slinger Population, 1990-2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 Census.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Population Projections

Prediction of the rate of future population growth is challenging and somewhat inexact. It should be noted that Slinger’s actual future population will depend on social and economic trends, market conditions, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations. The figure below depicts a chosen set of population projections.

These projections were derived using a variety of methodologies:

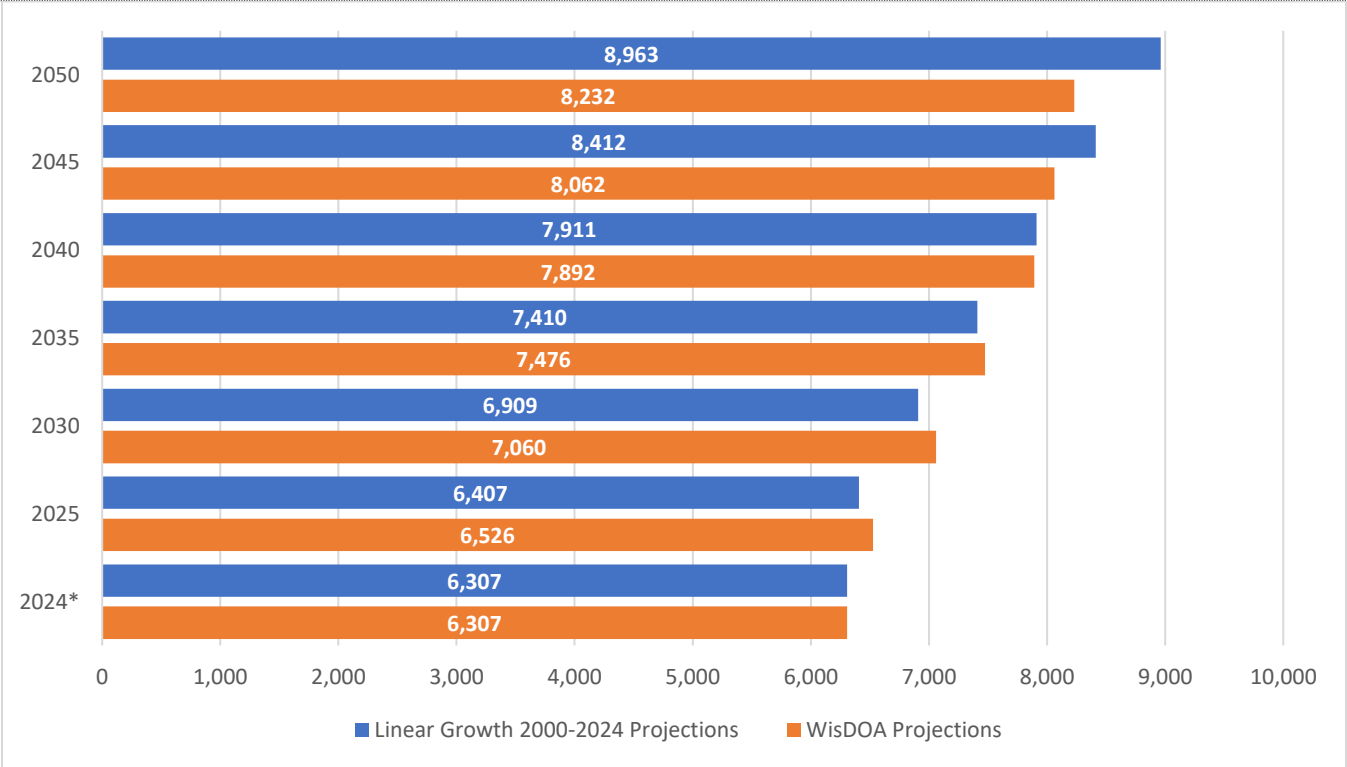
- **Compounded Growth Rate** for 1990-2024, 2000-2024, 2010-2024, and 2020-2024. These projections were determined utilizing the annual average percentage change over the time period and extrapolating that rate forward to 2050. The average annual percentage change for the four time periods ranged from 1.3% to 5% growth.
- **Linear Growth Rate** for 1990-2024, 2000-2024, 2010-2024, and 2020-2024. These projections were calculated using the average annual population change over the time period and projecting that rate forward to 2050. The average annual population change for the various time periods ranged from 78 to 117 new people per year.
- **Department of Administration (DOA) Projection.** In 2024, the State Department of Administration forecasted population change for all communities in Wisconsin based on 2020 U.S. Census data. While the Census data is six years old, the DOA’s projections for the Village of Slinger have stayed closely in line with linear projections.

As expected, the nine population projections result in a wide range of population growth scenarios. Projections for Slinger’s 2050 population range from 8,232 to 19,664, an increase of approximately 1,925 to 13,357 people. Tables containing all nine population projection scenarios are included in the Appendix of this Plan. After considering the various population growth scenarios, the Village will use the Linear Growth Rate Projection: 2000-2024 (which is based on actual population growth between 2000 and 2024) to calculate future park land

demand. With a projected 2050 population of 8,412, this projection was chosen because it represents both pre- and post-Recession trends but is also more modest, and likely more representative, than many of the other projections calculated.

Note: The Village’s previous Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2020) used the 2020-2018 Linear Growth Projections, which projected a 2040 population of 7,077. The population projections developed for this Plan show a higher rate of growth, based on more recent 2024 data rather than 2018 data.

Figure 1.2 Village of Slinger Population Projections, 2024-2050



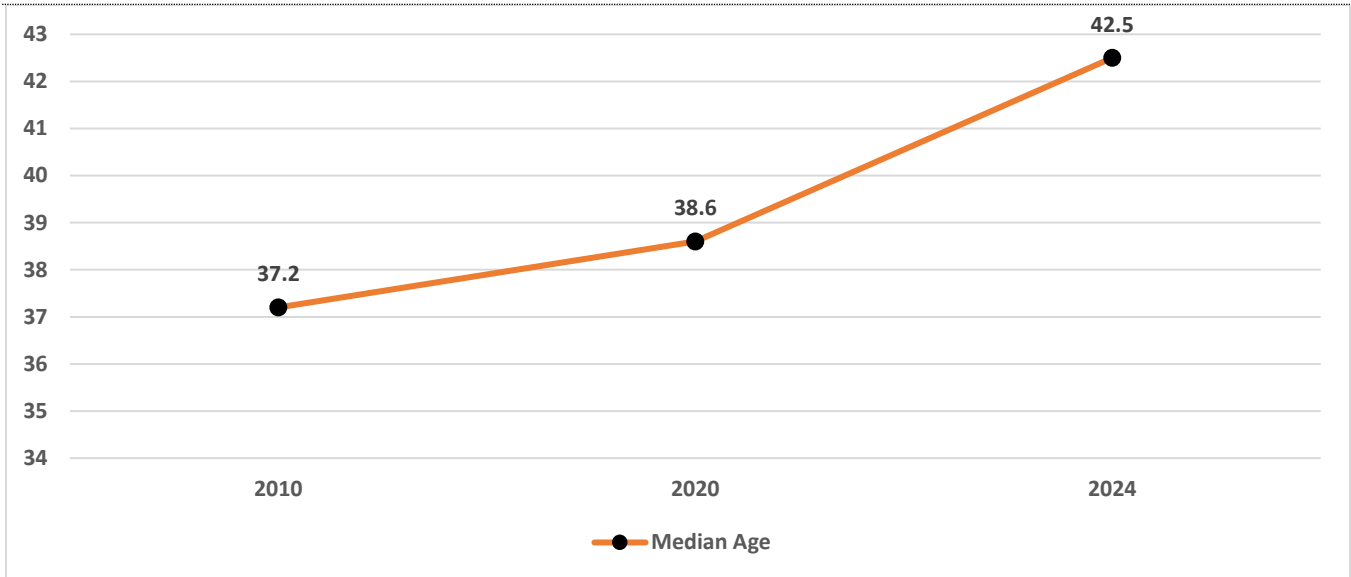
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 Census.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.
Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2013 population estimate.
1. The Linear Growth Projection was extrapolated based on the average annual population change between 2000 and 2024.

It is important for the Village to consider these projections in terms of future park and recreation planning, because as population grows, often so does the demand for recreational facilities and programs. Strategic planning of future park locations, facility maintenance and upgrades, and staffing allows communities to be more adaptable and prepared over time as the population grows and changes.

Age Distribution

The figures below present information about age demographics in Slinger. Overall, the Village is characterized by an aging population. Currently, approximately 17% of the population is over 65 and the median age of the total Slinger population is 42.5 years old, both metrics have increased since 2010. Additionally, 24% of the Village’s population is under 18; this figure has decreased from 27% in 2018. These trends, like those experienced in many neighboring communities, the county, and the state, are reflective of the aging population. With these changes comes the need to address and adapt municipal services to meet the needs of the community. In particular, an increasingly older population will have much different park and recreation needs than young families with children.

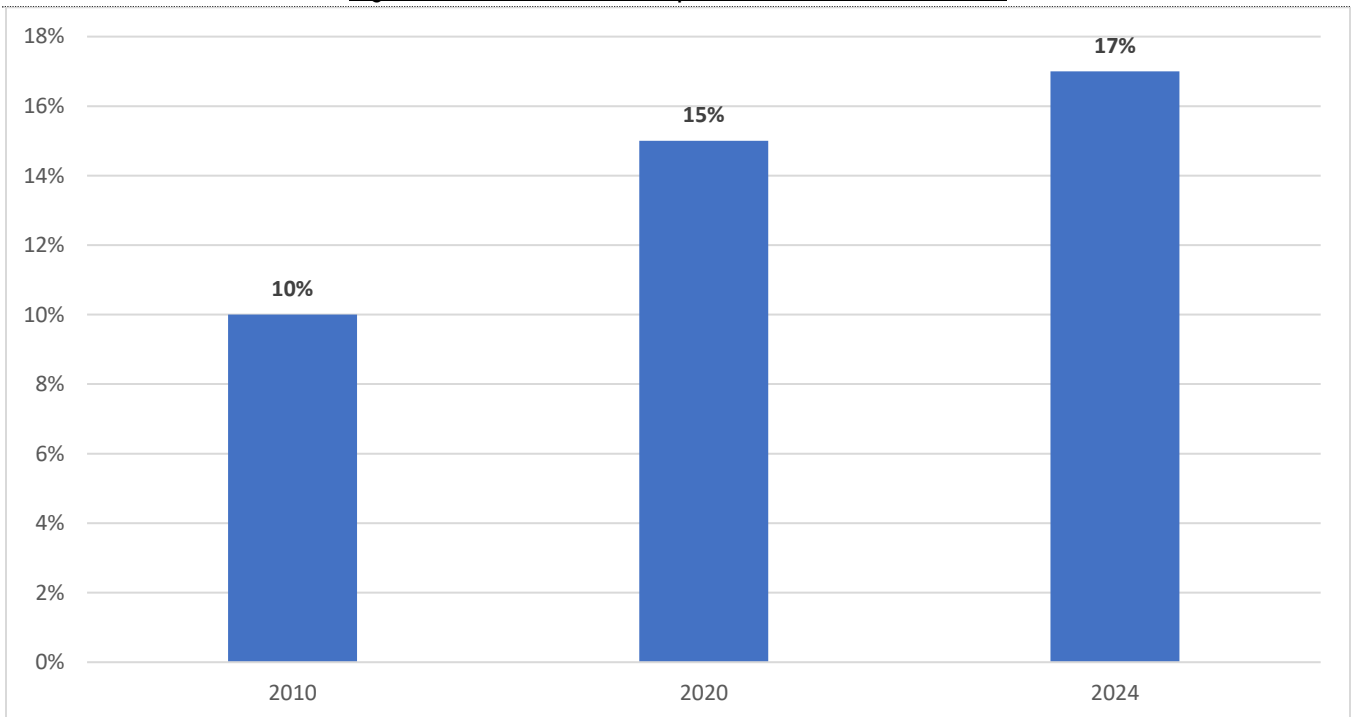
Figure 1.3 Median Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

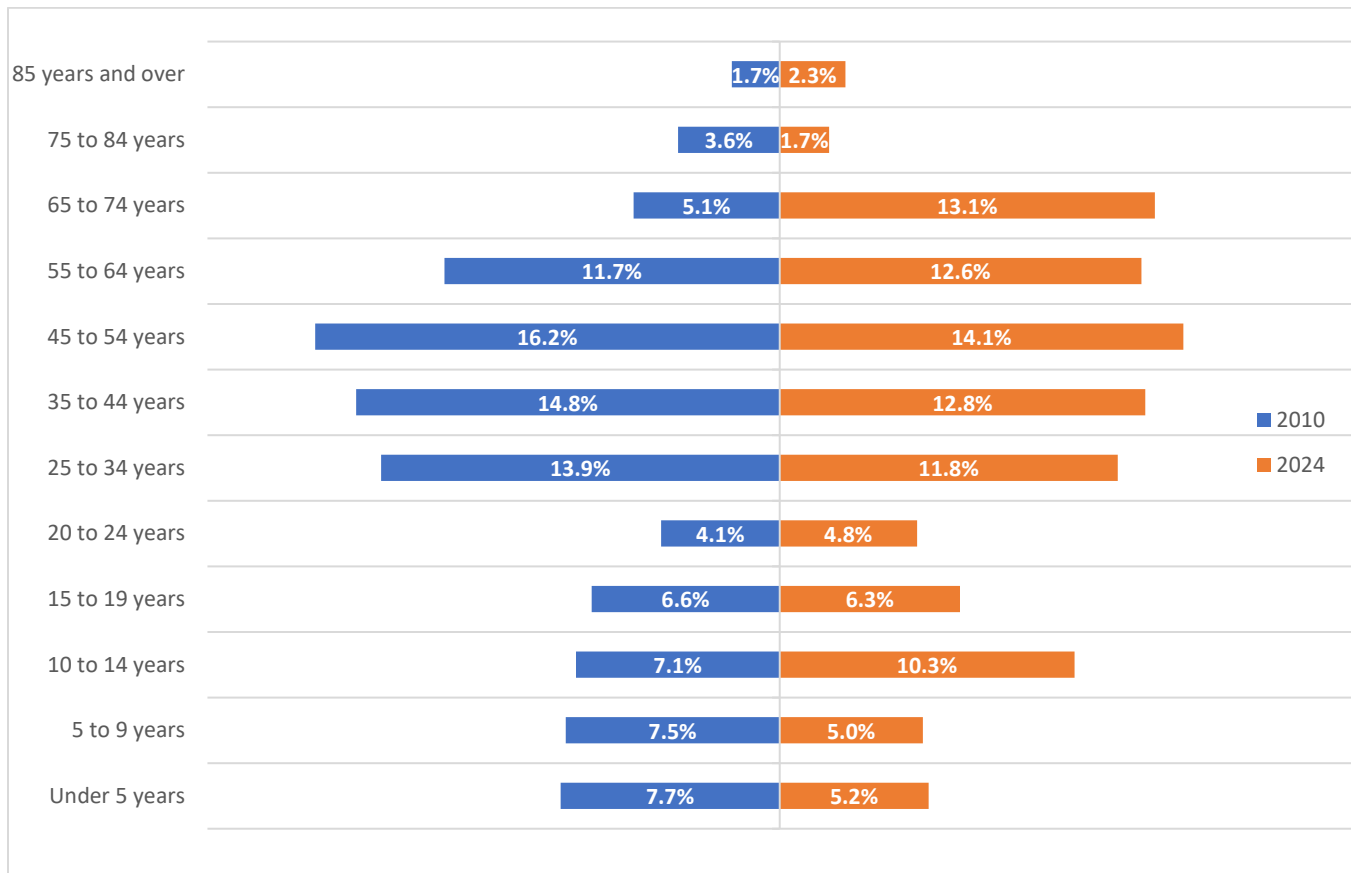
Figure 1.4 Percent of the Population Over 65 Years Old



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Figure 1.5 Population by Age Group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Race and Ethnicity

Slinger is characterized by a predominately White population. Race and ethnicity data depicts a relatively homogeneous population. However, it is important to be cognizant of future race or ethnicity shifts that may occur, as Slinger's park and recreation needs may evolve with social and cultural changes.

Figure 1.6 Race and Ethnicity

	2010	2020	2024
White	97%	92%	96%
African American	1%	1%	0%
American Indian	0%	0%	0%
Asian	1%	1%	1%
Two or More	1%	5%	2%
Other	0%	1%	0%
Hispanic and Latino	2%	4%	4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Households Characteristics

In 2024, the average household size in the Village was 2.3 persons per household, a notable decrease from 2.5 persons per household in 2010, pointing towards an aging population and fewer young families. Between 2000-2010, Slinger experienced dramatic increases in the number of new housing units. The pace of housing construction slowed down after 2020 but has picked up again in recent years.

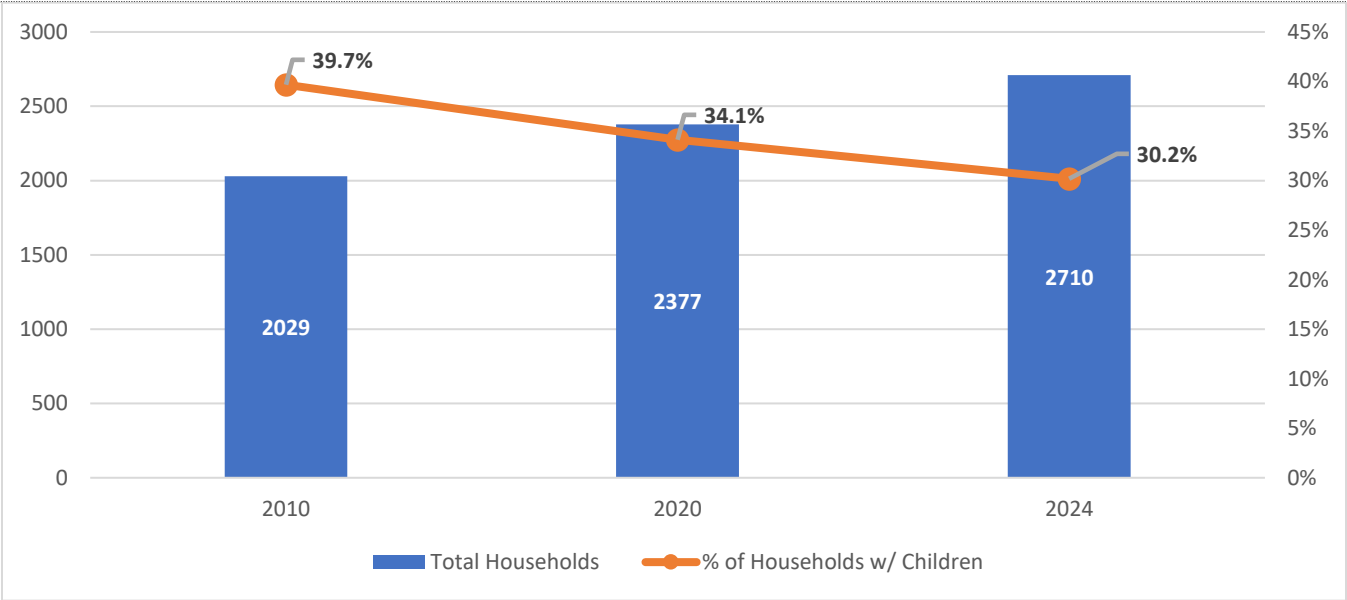
Related to park and recreation planning, one of the most important household characteristics to consider is the number of households with children. In Slinger, this figure has sharply decreased from 40% in 2010 to 30% in 2024. This significant shift will affect the park and recreation facilities and programming needs of the population, and Slinger should continue to monitor this trend over time.

Figure 1.7 Average Household Size

2010	2020	2024
2.5	2.4	2.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Figure 1.8 Total Households Compared to Percentage of Households with Children



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Public Health

Parks and recreation are directly related to the community’s overall public health by providing opportunities to participate in physical activities and promote active lifestyles. The following are key public health indicators for Washington County and its neighboring counties, in addition to the state. This information is important to assess how healthy Slinger is today and areas of focus for the future.

Washington County and its neighboring counties, Ozaukee and Waukesha, are in the top ten ranked counties in the state in terms of overall health outcomes. This ranking considers length of life, health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. Since the 2020 plan, the ranking for Washington County has fallen from #3 to #6. This trend compares with the increase in percentage of adult obesity and a decreased life expectancy. However, Washington, Ozaukee, and Waukesha are healthier than the state overall. However, one metric stands out from these trends: the percentage of adult obesity in Washington County is much higher than its neighboring counties. However, that statistic has risen for both counties and the state since the previous plan. Life

expectancy has also decreased for both counties and the state, which may be skewed by deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to consider these figures when prioritizing and investing in parks and recreational opportunities in the future. The Village will also continue to monitor public health trends as they relate to park, open space, and recreation needs.

Figure 1.9 Public Health Context

	Overall Health Outcome Ranking	Percentage of Adult Obesity
Washington County	6 out of 72	37%
Ozaukee County	2 out of 72	34%
Waukesha County	1 out of 72	32%
Milwaukee County	71 out of 72	39%
Wisconsin	N/A	38%

**2025 health outcomes rankings are a combination of factors including length of life, quality of life, health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment.*

Source: 2025 County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

Figure 1.10 Public Health Context, Continued

	Diagnosed with Diabetes*	Leading Cause of Death**	Life Expectancy***
Washington County	8%	Cancer (200 per 100,000)	79.6
Ozaukee County	7%	Heart Disease (273 per 100,000)	81
Waukesha County	7%	Cancer (190 per 100,000)	80.3
Milwaukee County	11%	Heart Disease (199 per 100,000)	74.3
Wisconsin	9%	Heart Disease (199 per 100,000)	77.8

**Source: CDC, 2022.*

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

****Source: National Center for Health Statistics - Natality and Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program, 2020-2022*

Physical Characteristics of the Village of Slinger

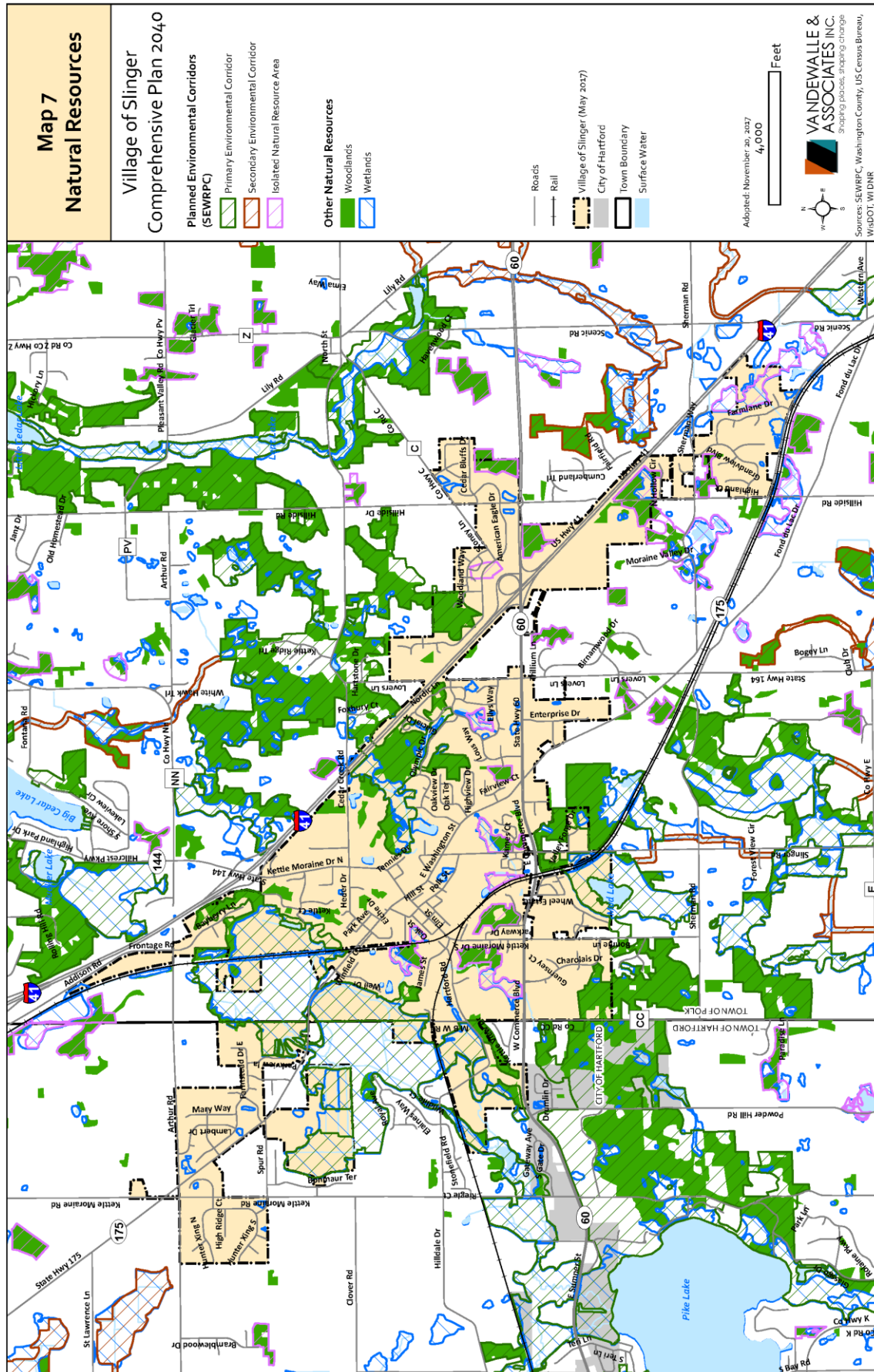
Slinger has a gently rolling landscape with two particularly steep hills: the water tower hill and the hill between Rotary Park and Fireman’s Park. There are no major water features within the Village, though there are small streams, ponds, and some wetlands. Canadian National and Wisconsin & Southern rail lines cut through the Village, with the Canadian National line heading north and the Wisconsin & Southern line heading northwest.

The Village continues to grow, with new homes built each year, predominately on the far north and south sides of the Village. In the older areas of the Village, some degree of redevelopment and infill development is likely to occur, resulting in additional residential units. Population growth and development will likely continue over the five-year life of this Plan. The Village of Slinger covers approximately 5.31 square miles. Based on current population estimates, the population density is approximately 1,188 people per square mile.

A map from the Village of Slinger Comprehensive Plan depicting environmental features in Slinger and the surrounding area is below.



Map 1.1: Natural Resources, Village of Slinger Comprehensive Plan



Topography

In general, the topography in Slinger is level to gently rolling, with low-lying areas associated with perennial stream valleys and wetland areas. The slopes in Slinger range significantly, given its location within the Kettle Moraine. Much of the developed areas are on gently sloped areas (0-11%); however, the Village has a significant number of areas with steep slopes (12-20%), and a few areas with slopes greater than 20%. These slopes are a primary contributor to the unique development pattern in Slinger, with many winding and meandering streets.

Water Resources

Slinger is located largely within the Rock River watershed – part of the larger Mississippi River drainage system. The easternmost portion of the Village is located within the Milwaukee River watershed, which is part of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River drainage system. There are no lakes in Slinger. There are lakes nearby, namely Big Cedar Lake, north of Slinger, in West Bend, and Pike Lake, west of Slinger, in Hartford. Both are considered to be major lakes (i.e., more than 50 acres). Mud Lake is south of Slinger in the Town of Polk and is considered a minor lake. Within Slinger, there are about 11 miles of perennial and intermittent rivers and streams. Floodplains in Slinger encompass approximately 1,195 acres, or about 12% of the Village.



Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Areas

According to the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), there are approximately 604 acres of primary environmental corridor in Slinger. This constitutes about 18% of the Village's land area. These corridors are generally located along perennial and intermittent streams and contain woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas.

Small concentrations of isolated natural areas are present in Slinger. These areas are disconnected from environmental corridors by urban development or agricultural uses, yet still play important roles such as providing wildlife habitat, good locations for passive parks and nature study areas, and natural diversity in the Village. According to SEWRPC, these areas comprise 5% of the Village.

Secondary environmental corridors serve as links between segments of primary environmental corridor and also contain remnant resources from primary environmental corridors that have been developed for intensive agricultural purposes or urban development. These secondary environmental corridors facilitate surface water drainage, maintain pockets of natural resource features, and provide for the movement of wildlife and the dispersal of plant seeds. Slinger currently has no secondary environmental corridors, but some may be designated in the future.

Prime Agricultural Lands

To be considered prime agricultural land, a property must be at least 35 acres in size, and at least half of it must contain soils that meet U.S. Soil Conservation Service standards. Although the Village is surrounded by a significant amount of prime agricultural lands, there are no such lands within the Village limits.



Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Economic Development

Tourism has a large economic impact on Wisconsin communities, accounting for \$25.8 billion in total economic impact for the entire state in 2024. In Washington County, tourism also provides a significant economic impact. The total economic impact for Washington County in 2024 was \$301 million which included:

- \$158 million in Direct Visitor Spending
- 2,252 Jobs
- \$76.5 million in Total Labor Income
- \$16 million in State and Local Taxes

Outdoor recreation also accounted for \$12 billion of Wisconsin's gross domestic product in 2024.

These two economic drivers of tourism and outdoor recreation can be a great asset for the Village to tap into for economic development. Previous tourism initiatives for the Village identified a few regional recreation draws to the area such as the Ice Age Trail, the Kettle Moraine State Forest Pike Lake Unit, Heritage Trails County Park, and Little Switzerland. In recent times, Slinger's parks, especially those with baseball and softball facilities, have also started to draw in visitors to the Village for youth sports tournaments.

Supporting improvements to the parks and trails system is a way to support and invest in the economic well-being of Slinger. The recommendations of this plan are a guide to tapping into tourism and outdoor recreation markets.

Chapter 2: Planning Process and Public Participation

Chapter 2: Planning Process and Public Participation

Planning Process and Opportunities for Public Input

The planning process began in January 2026 and concluded with adoption of the Plan on [REDACTED]. The key steps of the process are summarized below:

- Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board Meetings
- Public Survey (administered by Village Staff)
- Public Open House
- Park Board Recommendation
- Plan Commission Public Hearing and Recommendation
- Village Board Adoption

Process for Amendments

The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department should revisit this Plan at least once annually to determine if amendments should be brought to the Park Board. Recommended amendments to this Plan can be brought by community members or by Village staff to be considered by the Park Board. In these instances, amendments can be made as needed, using the same process used to adopt the Plan.

[Image Placeholder]

Summary of Past Park and Open Space Plans

Village of Slinger Outdoor Recreation Plan (1993)

This plan was prepared by the Village Park Board and provided an inventory of existing parks and open space, details on community needs, and recommendations for the future of the Department.

Village of Slinger Comprehensive Parks and Open Space Plan (2008)

This plan identified improvements to existing facilities that would upgrade and modernize existing facilities, in addition to installing new facilities within existing parks. This included new baseball and t-ball facilities, picnic areas and shelters, new playground equipment, and new lighting for ballfields.

Village of Slinger Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2014)

This plan determined that the Village had an adequate number of park and recreation facilities in accordance with National Recreation and Park Association standards. The plan identified needed improvements to existing facilities as well as new facilities within existing parks. It also identified improvements to make facilities ADA accessible and recommended that the Village complete a master plan for Breuer Park.

Village of Slinger Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2020)

The most recent plan determined that the Village of Slinger should continue to perform routine maintenance of current park facilities and equipment. It was recommended that the Village look to acquire additional parklands as appropriate to meet future recreational needs per the recommendations of this plan. The plan also identified park-specific recommendations to update and maintain the current park system – including recommendations to replace the swimming pond with a splash pad in what is now known as Rotary Park. This plan also included a conceptual master plan for Breuer Park.

Chapter 3: Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

Chapter 3: Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

Village of Slinger Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

The Slinger Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department is the only recreation department that serves the geographic area within the entire Slinger School District. This area, which includes communities such as Richfield and Allenton, includes over 15,000 people, nearly double the population of the Village of Slinger. This is an important consideration in planning for current and future recreation programming. The Department provides recreation programs for all, including sports, enrichment, fitness, arts, wellness, and outdoor activities, serving a wide range of residents. The Department offers numerous sports leagues for both youth and adult participants. In 2025/2026, the Department offered 19 different sports leagues to Slinger. Recreation guides for Slinger are printed seasonally and are published online three to four times a year.

The Forestry Department, housed within the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department, provides forestry services with the goal of promoting the health, safety, and beauty of all trees within the Village of Slinger. The Forestry Department provides tree removal, planting, trimming, and maintenance for approximately 2,500 trees located in Village parks, street terraces, or in the Village rights-of-way. In addition, the Forestry Department implements the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Slinger is recognized as a Tree City U.S.A. from the National Arbor Day Foundation for the Village’s ongoing efforts with its urban forest.



Village of Slinger Parks System

The Village of Slinger currently has 59 acres of developed park, recreation, and open space areas distributed among four public parks – Community Park, Rotary Park, Fireman’s Park, and Rueckl Fields Park. Once complete, Breuer Park has added an additional 67 acres to the park system, including 38 acres that are free of environmental constraints and potentially suitable for active recreation. Once developed, the Arboretum at Cedar Bluffs will add an additional 8.8 acres to the park system. These addition of the Arboretum will grow the park system to a total of 135 acres.

Figure 3.1 Village of Slinger Park System, 2026

Park Name	Classification	Total Size	Unconstrained Acres
Breuer Park	Community Park	67.25 acres	38.36 acres
Community Park	Community Park	7.85 acres	7.85 acres
Rotary Park	Community Park	10.53 acres	9.27 acres
Fireman’s Park	Neighborhood Park	13.83 acres	1.68 acres
Rueckl Fields Park	Neighborhood Park	12.58 acres	9.67 acres
Community Park Natural Area	Conservancy Area	14.23 acres	4.03 acres
Arboretum at Cedar Bluffs	Conservancy Area	8.84 acres	8.84 acres
Total		135.11 acres	79.70 acres

The following pages include an inventory of the Village’s parks, as well as Slinger School District and regional park and recreation facilities that are private, county, or state owned. Each Village of Slinger park is detailed with current recreational facilities/equipment, images, maps, a description of recent park upgrades, and remaining upgrades need to provide full ADA accessibility.

Map 3.1: Existing Park Facilities

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Community Parks

Community Park

128 Kettle Moraine Drive North

Community Park is the central hub of Slinger's park system. The Slinger community has offered broad support for maintaining and upgrading facilities in the park. Community Park consists of 7.85 acres in downtown Slinger and was completely renovated, with most of the facilities constructed after 2000. Given the high level of activity in Community Park, as well as its highly visible location in downtown Slinger, the park is integral to the growing success of the downtown area.

Park Facilities:

- Little League field with lighting
- Softball field with lighting
- Batting Cage
- Large park shelter with concessions and electricity
- Basketball court with lighting
- Playground
- Grass volleyball court
- Restrooms
- Concessions
- Off-street parking
- Community Park Trail: asphalt trail and boardwalk
- Trailhead for Ice Age Trail with Bike Repair Station
- Flag Pole
- Memorial
- Signage



The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department once contracted with a private company for concessions. Beginning in Spring 2026, Village staff manage operations for the concessions.

ADA Accessibility in Community Park

The open-air shelter, restrooms, concession stand, both ballfield dugouts, basketball court, and playground all meet ADA standards. The batting cage, sand volleyball court, and basketball court do not meet ADA standards. The batting cage and sand volleyball court are located behind the outfield fence of the smaller ballfield. This location makes accessibility difficult and cost prohibitive. Due to the large number of ADA upgrades completed in recent years, there are no plans to further meet ADA accessibility guidelines at this time.

Map 3.2: Community Park



Rotary Park

645 Baehring Drive

Located just north of E. Commerce Blvd/Highway 60, Rotary Park is Slinger's second-largest park at 10.53 acres. Canadian National and Wisconsin & Southern Railroad tracks to the north separate the park from the Slinger High School complex.

In 2021, the Village constructed a new splash pad and inclusive playground in the park. These two projects were immediately very popular among residents and they have turned Rotary Park into a year-round, vibrant attraction for the Village. In 2022, the park was renamed Rotary Park in appreciation of the generosity and continued support of the Slinger/Allenton Rotary Club. Prior to 2022, the park was known as Fireman's Park Annex.

Park Facilities:

- Splash pad
- Inclusive playground
- Two concrete ping-pong tables
- Two pickleball courts
- Two concrete foosball tables
- Concrete cornhole games (two sets)
- Warming house with concessions, community space, and restrooms
- Large park shelter with electricity
- Disc golf course
- Sledding hill
- Walking trail connecting to Fireman's Park
- Off-street parking
- Open space
- Signage



ADA Accessibility in Rotary Park

The new splash pad and inclusive playground are fully ADA accessible. The warming house, locker room, restrooms, and most of the outside areas are ADA accessible. The sledding hill does not meet ADA standards. There are no plans to make this site accessible. The Reflection Pavilion on top of the sledding hill is not accessible. There are no plans to make the pavilion accessible, as the updates are cost prohibitive.

Map 3.3: Fireman's Park & Rotary Park



Breuer Park

4262 STH 175

This 67.25-acre park is the newest addition to Slinger's park system. Over 32 acres of wetlands were dedicated to the Village by the developer of the adjacent Farmstead Creek neighborhood. A Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources assisted with the purchase of 55 acres of additional farmland immediately to the north of the wetland area. Since its completion, Breuer Park, has been very popular, attracting softball and baseball teams throughout the region. The Village's plans to continue to build out this park are described in Chapter 7.

Park Facilities:

- Two baseball/softball diamonds
- One full size baseball diamond
- Concessions with bathrooms and storage
- Recreational fields
- Off-street parking
- Playground
- Walking paths

ADA Accessibility in Breuer Park

This park has been built to meet ADA standards.

[Image Placeholder]

Map 3.4: Breuer Park



Neighborhood Parks

Fireman's Park

116 Parkway Drive

This 13.83-acre neighborhood park provides passive recreation and panoramic views of the adjacent Rotary Park and the northeastern portion of Slinger. This park is Slinger's oldest park and was developed on land donated to the Village by the Slinger Fire Department. A small shelter was dedicated in 1970 and was built with bricks donated from Slinger's former Storck Brewery smokestacks. The design and detailing of the pavilion are influenced by the Prairie School style of architecture.

Park Facilities:

- Large open-air shelter with electricity
- Small shelter with electricity, fireplace, and restrooms
- Basketball hoops
- Disc golf course
- Gazebo
- Off-street parking
- Picnic areas
- Playground
- Sand volleyball court
- Scenic overlook
- Walking trail/stairs to Rotary Park
- Walking and hiking trails
- Signage



ADA Accessibility in Fireman's Park

Fireman's Park is the Village's oldest park and the most difficult to update to accessibility standards due to its challenging topography. The open-air shelter is fully accessible. The restrooms and connection shelter do not meet standards. This facility is built into a hill, making accessibility extremely difficult. The playground is not currently accessible, as it is built on a hill near the small brick shelter and restrooms. The sand volleyball court is not accessible.

Plans to further meet ADA accessibility guidelines: Upgrade playground equipment and relocate playground to a different location that can be ADA accessible. Explore options to provide ADA-accessible restrooms.

Rueckl Fields Park

1030 Lou's Way

This park is located adjacent to Slinger Middle School and consists of 5.7 acres of land. Significant investments have been made since 2009, and few upgrades remain.

Park Facilities:

- Two little league fields with lighting
- Concessions building with restrooms and storage
- Fitness Course
- Open air pavilion with electricity
- Playground
- Picnic tables
- Open space
- Off-street parking
- Signage

ADA Accessibility in Rueckl Fields Park

Brendan's Playground, fitness course, the open-air pavilion, restrooms, concession stand, and the dugouts and bleacher area for both ballfields all meet ADA standards due to significant upgrades made to this park. The batting cage behind the outfield fences is the only facility that does not meet ADA standards.



Map 3.5: Rueckl Fields Park



Conservancy and Open Space Areas

Arboretum at Cedar Bluffs

515 Cedar Bluffs Way

This 8.8-acre wooded area is located on the east side of Slinger, north of E. Commerce Blvd/Highway 60. This park is currently undeveloped and lacks formal public access. Initial development of this park will likely include a scenic trail, as described further in Chapter 7.

[Image Placeholder]

Map 3.6: Arboretum at Cedar Bluffs (Undeveloped)



Community Park Natural Area – Ice Age Trail

End of Glen Hill Drive

This 14.2-acre area was acquired by the Village of Slinger through a Municipal Flood Control Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In 2020, the Village developed Community Park Trail through this area, which provided better public access to this grassy open space and to the nearby Ice Age Trail segment. Due to existing wetlands and the important flood control role this area plays, this park will remain in use for passive recreation, and no further development is recommended.

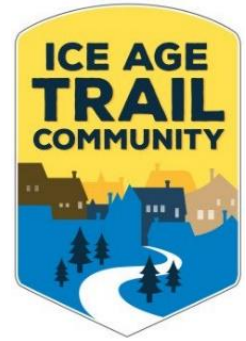
[Image Placeholder]

Map 3.7: Community Park Natural Area

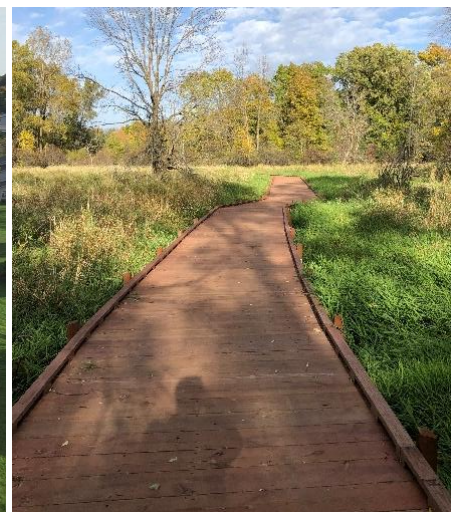


Off-Street Recreation Trails

Ice Age National Scenic Trail is the primary designated trail in Slinger. The 1.5-mile Slinger segment, which runs primarily on Village streets, starts on the southwest side from the CTH CC/STH 60 intersection and continues northeast on an abandoned road that leads to Howard Avenue and continues east to Kettle Moraine Drive and into the Village of Slinger. The segment passes Community Park before reaching its endpoint at the Cedar Creek Road intersection, connecting to the Pike Lake segment of the Trail. The Village has constructed an Ice Age Trail trailhead in Community Park and has constructed the Community Park Trail, which now runs through Community Park and provides an alternative to the on-street segment of the Ice Age Trail. The Community Park Trail has been designated as officially part of the Ice Age Trail.



Slinger has also been designated as an Ice Age Trail Community, which is a designation for communities near the Ice Age Trail intended to increase awareness of the Ice Age Trail and improve the quality of life in Wisconsin communities.



COMMUNITY PARK TRAIL

The Slinger Community Park Trail project involved the development of a new Ice Age Trail connector loop through Slinger Community Park and adjoining lands. Upon its completion in October of 2020, the Ice Age Trail Alliance designated the Slinger Community Park Trail as part of the official Ice Age Trail. The 1.2-mile trail primarily consists of a 10-foot-wide asphalt trail, at times using raised boardwalk where it traverses wetlands. Both the boardwalk and paved trail are open year-round and allow multi-modal use, including walking, bicycling, skating, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Amenities include trash receptacles, a rest area with trees and benches, bike racks, and wayfinding and interpretive signage. The trail traverses a natural and scenic area, meandering around Glen Hill Pond and through the unique Kettle Moraine landscape.

In addition, the Community Park Trail provides public access to a large Village-owned parcel. Currently, the Ice Age Trail in Slinger also runs on Village streets and sidewalks. The new trail provides an off-street, nature-oriented alternative to the on-street trail and connects to the Ice Age Trail in two locations, creating a loop.

The trail supports connectivity throughout the Village by enhancing and expanding access to several neighborhoods, Cedar Creek Road, Kettle Moraine Drive, Community Park, downtown businesses, Little Switzerland, Slinger Speedway, and other local destinations.

School Facilities

The Village of Slinger Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department and Slinger School District maintain a strong partnership. They have a cooperative agreement for maintenance in which the Department is contracted to maintain many of the facilities, including all of the fields. Furthermore, many of the School District's outdoor and indoor facilities are used for public recreation.

Slinger School District Outdoor Facilities

Slinger High School:

- 3 full size soccer fields
- 1 full size artificial turf football field
- 1 quarter-mile track
- 2 full size hardball fields
- 8 tennis courts

Slinger Middle School:

- 1 full size football field
- 6 basketball hoops
- 1 large lawn area used for soccer, baseball, and football practice

Slinger Elementary School:

- 2 acres of lawn area

- 1 large playground
- Addison Elementary School
- 2 soccer fields
- 2 large lawn areas (2 acres)
- 3 basketball hoops
- 1 little league field
- 1 full size hardball field
- 1 large playground
- 1 small playground

Allenton Elementary School:

- 1 large soccer field
- 1 small soccer field
- 1 full basketball court
- 1 large playground area

Slinger School District Gymnasiums

Slinger High School Gymnasium: This is the highest quality and most utilized gym in Slinger. The facility has wood floors, bleachers, and six basketball hoops. The gym is large enough to have two regulation-size courts running side by side as well as a large full-court main floor area. This accommodates two full-court basketball games played at the same time for tournament use or any type of recreational league games.

Slinger High School Auxiliary Gymnasium (Formerly Auditorium): This facility is connected to the main gym and can be separated by a large raised/lowered curtain. The auxiliary gym has one regulation-sized court with six hoops with a small section of bleachers. The side courts are not regulation size; however, they can be used as full courts for youth recreational leagues. There are two raised/lowered net batting cages.

Slinger High School Fitness Center: This facility is connected to the auxiliary Gym. The fitness center includes a large amount of weights and fitness equipment (elliptical machines, treadmills, etc.) It has two open areas; one on the main floor and one on the balcony, that can be utilized for recreational fitness programs/classes.

Slinger Performing Arts Center (Slinger PAC): This facility serves as the district performance center, providing a large stage area with audience seating. The stage area can be utilized for recreational programs/classes and their performances.



Slinger Performing Arts Center Lobby (PAC Lobby):

This facility is connected to the Slinger PAC. It is an open carpeted area with multiple tables and lounge furniture with available restrooms. The area can be utilized for multiple recreational programs/classes.

Slinger Middle School Gymnasium: This gym has one full-sized, regulation basketball court with 10 basketball hoops and wood floors. It also has a smaller auditorium area that features a small state and a non-regulation-sized court.

Slinger Middle School Auditorium: This facility doubles as an auditorium and a smaller supplemental gym to the primary gymnasium space at the Middle School. The space has two basketball hoops.



Addison Elementary Gymnasium: This small gym has one full-sized basketball court with six hoops. It also features a wooden floor and small stage. The baskets at this facility can be raised and lowered, which makes it another option for running camps and clinics for Slinger's youngest athletes. This facility is also used for before and after school programming during the school year.

Allenton Elementary Gymnasium: This is an extremely small, older facility with tile floors and does not have a regulation-sized basketball court. This facility is used for before- and after-school programming during the school year.

Slinger Elementary Gymnasium: This small gym has one full-sized basketball court with a wood floor, bleachers, six hoops and a stage. This facility is used for before- and after-school programs year-round.

Recreation Groups Utilizing Slinger School District Gymnasiums and Facilities

1. School Physical Education Classes
2. School Athletic Teams
3. School Choir
4. School Band
5. School Color Guard
6. Slinger High School Play
7. Slinger Recreation Department
8. Slinger HOOPS (Boys' Basketball)
9. Slinger Swish (Girls' Basketball)
10. Slinger On Base Club (Hardball)
11. Slinger Storm (Fast-Pitch Softball)
12. Slinger Set Volleyball Club
13. Slinger Soccer Club
14. Youth Soccer
15. Dance & Cheer Programs
16. Pom & Dance Programs
17. Red Rhinos Wrestling Club
18. Kool Kids Club (Before and After School Program)
19. Community Events & Performances
20. St. Peter's Catholic School - Slinger School District facilities



Regional Recreational Facilities

Private Facilities in and near Slinger

Little Switzerland (105 Cedar Creek Road): The ski resort opened in 1941 and has 18 ski runs on the front and back of the 66-acre hill, three terrain parks, and a chalet with a full-service restaurant, bar, game room, snack bar, and pro shop. The resort also has facilities for alpine adventuring, sand volleyball, and mountain biking.

Slinger Speedway (280 Cedar Creek Road): This 30-acre speedway has a quarter-mile, paved, oval, automobile track with 33-degree banked corners and an internal X for figure-eight racing. The facility holds races every Sunday evening (seasonally), which are open to the public for a fee.

The Kettle Recreation Center (1021 E. Commerce Boulevard): This multi-use recreation center with a bowling alley offers open bowling and organized leagues for all ages. It also includes a full restaurant, indoor golf simulators, and a game room.

Scenic View Country Club (4415 Club Drive): This 18-hole golf course is located in the Town of Polk, just south of Slinger, and consists of 217 total acres. The club has a clubhouse, restaurant, shower/locker facilities, and lounges.

Washington County Parks near Slinger

Heritage Trails County Park: This park consists of 234 acres of rolling Kettle Moraine hills, valleys, and meadows in the Town of Polk. This park provides many panoramic views, miles of hiking trails and picnic areas, mountain bike trails, and a disc golf course.

Washington County adopted a Mountain Bike Trails Master Plan for the park in 2024 that plans for 12 additional mountain bike trails over four phases.

Glacier Hills County Park: This park consists of 140 acres and is an excellent example of a glacier moraine with rugged terrain, wooded trails and picturesque views of Holy Hill. The park has 1,200 feet of Friess Lake frontage and provides amenities such as fishing areas, play equipment, a swimming beach, playfields, sand volleyball, a basketball court, cross-country ski trails, cabin rentals, a sled hill, and restroom facilities.



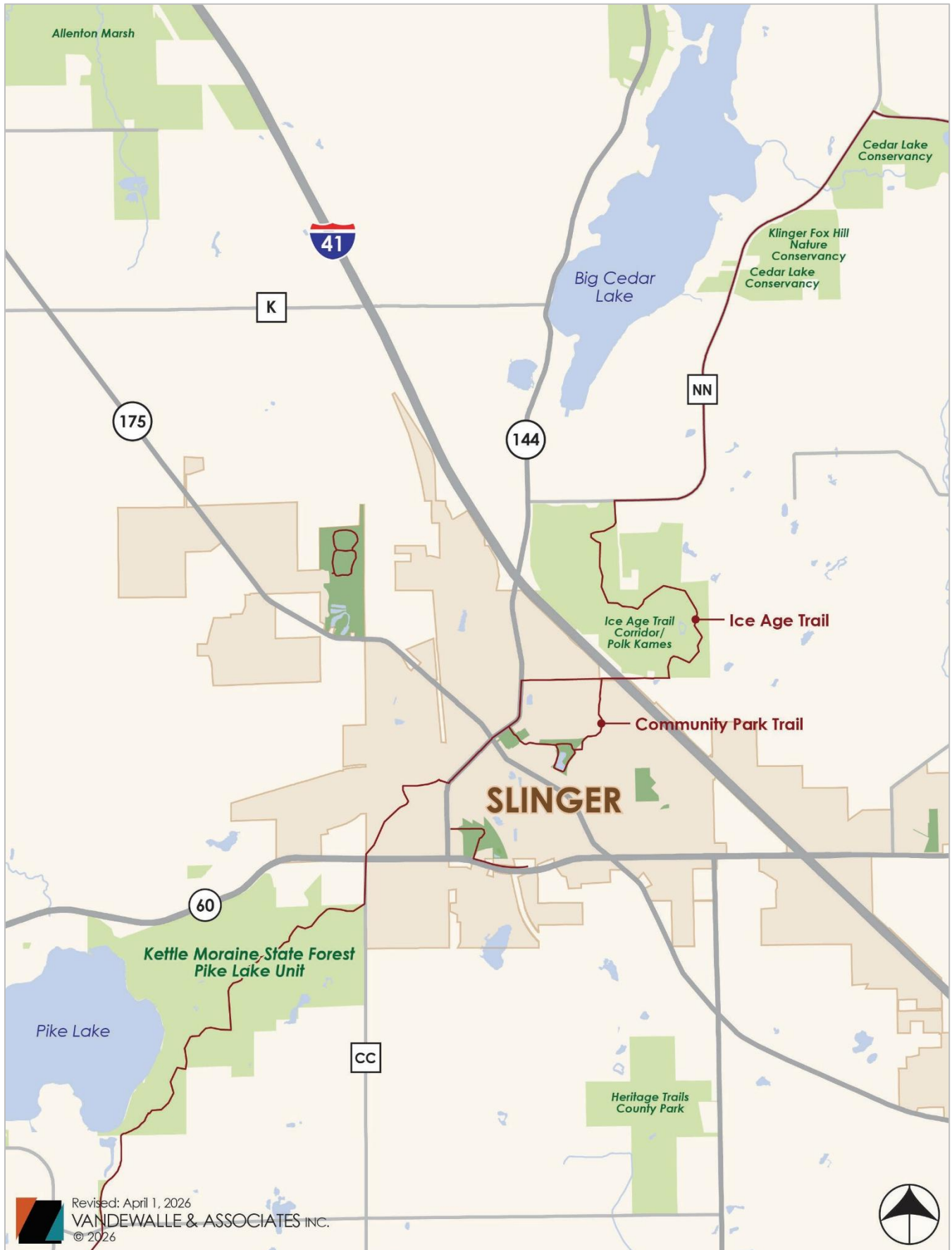
State Facilities near Slinger

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Pike Lake Unit: This 705-acre state forest and lake is in the middle of the Kettle Moraine, a strip of glacial landforms which extends through southeastern Wisconsin to Lake Winnebago. Pike Lake is on Highway 60 in the Town of Hartford, just between the City of Hartford and the Village of Slinger. The forest name refers to Pike Lake, a 466-acre, spring-fed kettle.

National Features near Slinger

Ice Age National Scenic Trail: The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is one of only 11 national scenic trails in the United States. The Trail stretches for 1,200 miles across Wisconsin, following the glacial moraines stretching from Door County to and through the Kettle Moraine area in Southeastern Wisconsin. Through strategic state and local partnerships, trail segments are being connected through land acquisition and easements. The Washington County portion of the Ice Age Trail is in the Kettle Moraine along its entire route through the County. Several notable kames, including Holy Hill, Powder Hill, and the Polk Kames, dominate the landscape. As the Trail passes through Slinger, it serves as a connection between the Polk Kames and the Pike Lake State Forest. The Ice Age Trail is designated only for hiking, but segments that run on-street, as well as the new Community Park Trail in Slinger, are available for multi-modal use.

Map 3.8: Regional Recreation Facilities Near Slinger



Slinger Recreation Programming

Village of Slinger Recreation Sports Leagues

In addition to a wide array of recreational activities, the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department offers numerous sport leagues for both youth and adult participants. In 2025/2026, the Department offered 19 different sports leagues to Slinger residents. The Department now has more than 100 different teams participating in the leagues listed. Those leagues include:

- 2nd-6th Grade Coed
- Basketball League
- 2nd / 3rd Grade Flag Football
- 4K T-Ball
- 4th-6th Grad Flag Football
- 4th-6th Grade Volleyball League
- Adult Coed Softball League
- Adult Women's Slow-pitch Softball League
- Beginners Baseball
- Boys Baseball AA
- Boys Baseball A
- Boys Baseball AAA
- Girls Softball Major
- Girls Softball Junior
- Little Gridders Flag Football
- Boys Rookie Baseball
- Girls Rookie Softball

Figure 3.2: Sport Associations and School District Facility Utilization

Name of Association	# of Teams/ Players	Facility Needs	Seasons	Practice Times	Comments
Slinger Little League Program 4 Years Old – Grade 8	35-45 Teams 300-400 Players	Community Park Softball Field Community Park Rueckl Fields Park 2 Little League Fields Middle School Football Field Breuer Park Fields	Spring Summer	Weekly, Various Times	Games are played Monday-Sunday on all fields. Ballfields are also used by Slinger Storm, On Base Club, Rebels, and others along with the Slinger High School Fast Pitch team and sometimes high school baseball.
Slinger Youth Flag Football Program 5K-Grade 6	16 Teams 175-190 Players	Community Park Softball Field Community Park Little League Field Breuer Park Athletic Fields	Fall	Wednesday, Thursday Evening, Saturday	This league has continued to grow each year. They now use both Community Park and Breuer Park for these leagues.
Slinger Youth Basketball Leagues Grades 2-6	8 Teams 88-96 Players	Addison Elementary School Gym	Winter	Wednesday Nights	These leagues are known to be “bounding back.” Both the girls’ and boys’ leagues have been growing in numbers in the past two years.
Slinger Youth Volleyball League Grades 4-6	6 Teams 60-72 Players	Slinger Middle School Gym	Winter	Monday Nights	This league is growing in popularity but is competing for gym space with various other leagues, teams, and organizations.

Name of Association	# of Teams/ Players	Facility Needs	Seasons	Practice Times	Comments
Slinger Select Basketball Teams HOOPS Boys, Grades 3-8 SWISH Girls, Grades 3-8	8 Boys Teams 6 Girls Teams 180 Kids	Slinger High School Gym Slinger Middle School Gym Slinger Elementary Addison Elementary Allenton Elementary	Winter	Sundays, Weeknight Evenings, Saturdays	This select team program is run in conjunction with the Slinger High School coaching staffs. These programs would like to expand; however, available gym space makes finding practice times difficult.
Teams Separate teams for each level, 9-14 On Base Club Baseball	2007: 4 Teams-50 Kids 2025: 8 Teams-90 Kids	Community Park Little League Field Rueckl Park 2 Little League Fields High School Baseball field School gyms for winter practices High School Practice Field Addison Elementary Ball Fields	Spring Summer Fall Winter	Weekdays Various Times, Weekend Tournaments	This program has been growing every year. They use every field in the Village. The addition of Breuer Park has greatly helped this program. Currently the program leases off-season, indoor practice space at a facility in Hartford.
Girls Fast Pitch Softball Team Ages 9-18 Slinger Storm	2007: First Year of Program 1 Team-14 Girls 2025: 6 Teams, 80 Girls	Rueckl Park 2 Little League Fields Community Park Little League Field Breuer Park	Spring Summer Fall Winter	Weekdays Various Times, Weekend Tournaments	This program has been growing every year. They use every field in the Village. The addition of Breuer Park has greatly helped this program. Currently the program leases off-season, indoor practice space at a facility in Hartford.
Slinger High School Girls Fast Pitch Team Freshman Team JV Team Varsity Team	Freshman Team 4 Kids JV Team 14 Kids Varsity Team 14 Kids	Rueckl Park 2 Little League Fields Community Park Little League Field High School Practice Field Breuer Park	Spring	Weekdays 3:00-5:00	The High School Fast Pitch softball teams use the Village parks for games because they do not have their own facility for these teams. Their usage adds additional strain on field availability. They also use Breuer Park for early season games and practices.

Monthly Activities in Slinger School Gymnasiums

Month	Activities	
January	- Boys Middle School Basketball Teams - Freshman Girls Basketball - Freshman Wrestling - Freshman Boys Basketball - High School Softball Skills and Drills - JV Boys Basketball - JV Girls Basketball - JV Wrestling - Recreation Department Adult Volleyball Open Gym - Recreation Department Boys Basketball League - Recreation Department Girls Basketball League - Recreation Department Open Gym Adult Basketball Over 40 - Recreation Department Open Gym Basketball Adult	- Recreation Department Open Gym Basketball Over 30 - Recreation Department Youth Volleyball Leagues - Red Rhinos Youth Wrestling - Slinger HOOPS Basketball Club and Tournament - Slinger On Base Club and Kool Kids Before and After School Program - Slinger Storm - Slinger SWISH Girls Basketball Club - Varsity Boys Basketball - Varsity Girls Basketball - Varsity Wrestling - Youth Soccer Open Gym - High School Soccer Open Gym
February	- Boys Middle School Basketball Teams - Freshman Boys Basketball - Freshman Wrestling - Freshman Girls Basketball - High School Soccer Open Gym - High School Softball Skills and Drills - JV Boys Basketball - JV Girls Basketball - JV Wrestling - Kool Kids Before and After School Program - Recreation Department Adult Volleyball Open Gym - Recreation Department Coed Basketball Camps - Recreation Department Coed Basketball League	- Recreation Department Open Gym Adult Basketball Over 40 - Recreation Department Open Gym Basketball Adult - Recreation Department Open Gym Basketball Over 30 - Recreation Department Youth Volleyball Leagues - Slinger HOOPS Boys Basketball Club and Tournament - Slinger On Base Club - Slinger Storm - Slinger SWISH Girls Basketball Club - Varsity Boys Basketball - Varsity Girls Basketball - Varsity Wrestling - Youth Soccer Open Gym

Month	Activities	
March	- Boys Middle School Track - Family Dance Night - Freshman Boys Basketball - Freshman Boys Tennis Practice - Freshman Girls Basketball - Freshman Girls Soccer Practice - Freshman Softball Practice - Freshman Track Practices - Girls Middle School Volleyball - High School Soccer Open Gym - High School Softball Skills and Drills - JV Boys Basketball - JV Boys Tennis Practice - JV Girls Basketball - JV Girls Soccer Practice - JV Softball Practice - JV Track Practices - Kool Kids Before and After School Program - Recreation Department Adult Volleyball Open Gym	- Recreation Department Open Gym Adult Basketball Over 40 - Recreation Department Open Gym Basketball Adult - Recreation Department Open Gym Basketball Over 30 - Recreation Department Youth Volleyball Leagues - Red Rhinos Youth Wrestling - Slinger HOOPS Boys Basketball Club - Slinger On Base Club - Slinger Storm - Slinger SWISH Girls Basketball Club - Varsity Boys Tennis Practice - Varsity Boys Basketball - Varsity Girls Basketball - Varsity Girls Soccer Practice - Varsity Softball Practice - Varsity Track Practices - Youth Soccer Open Gym
April	- Adult Open Gym Basketball - Boys Baseball Spring Training - Boys Middle School Track - Color Guard Practice - Faculty vs. Senior Basketball Game - Freshman Boys Track - Freshman Girls Fast-pitch - Freshman Girls Soccer - Freshman Girls Track - Girls Middle School Volleyball - High School Boys Basketball Open Gym - High School Girls Basketball Skills and Drills - High School Wrestling Open Gym - JV Boys Track - JV Girls Fast Pitch	- JV Girls Soccer - JV Girls Track - Kool Kids Before and After School program - On Base Club Youth Baseball Practice - Over 30 Open Gym Basketball - Over 40 Open Gym Basketball - Red Rhinos Wrestling - Slinger Storm Youth Fast Pitch Practice - Soccer Club Open Gym - Varsity Boys Track - Varsity Girls Fast Pitch - Varsity Girls Soccer - Varsity Girls Track - Youth Girls Basketball Skills and Drills
May	5th Grade Fun Night - Adversity Club Volleyball - Boys High School Open Gym Basketball - Boys Middle School Track - Color Guard Practice - Freshman High School Boys Track - Freshman High School Fast Pitch - Freshman High School Girls Soccer - Freshman High School Girls Track - Girls High School Skills and Drills Basketball - Girls Middle School Volleyball - JV High School Boys Track	- JV High School Fast Pitch - JV High School Girls Soccer - JV High School Girls Track - Kool Kids Club Before and After School Program - Open Gym High School Wrestling - Senior Class Pictures - Skills and Drills High School Girls Basketball - Varsity High School Boys Track - Varsity High School Fast Pitch - Varsity High School Girls Soccer - Varsity High School Girls Track

Month	Activities	
June	• Addison Elementary Awards Night • Adversity Club Volleyball Open Gym • Boys Basketball Open Gym • Boys Summer Basketball Camps • Girls High School Skills and Drills Basketball • Girls Summer Basketball Camps • Grid Iron Youth Football Equipment Hand Out • High School Graduation Ceremony	• High School Volleyball Open Gym • Kool Kids Club Day Care • Morning Basketball Shooting • Slinger Elementary Awards Night • Summer High School Physical Education Class • Summer School • Wrestling Clinic
July	• Boys and Girls Basketball Open Shooting • Boys Open Gym • Girls Skills and Drills Basketball • Kool Kids Club Day Care	• Open Wrestling • Summer School • Volleyball Open Gym • Youth Volleyball Camps
August	• Boys and Girls Basketball Open Shooting • Boys Open Gym • Freshman Volleyball • Girls Skills and Drills Basketball	• JV Volleyball • Kool Kids Club Day Care • Open Wrestling • Varsity Volleyball
September	• Boys and Girls Cross Country • Boys Freshman Soccer • Boys High School Open Gym Basketball • Boys JV Soccer • Boys Varsity Soccer • Freshman Volleyball • Girls Freshman Tennis • Girls JV Tennis • Girls Skills and Drills Basketball • Girls Varsity Tennis	• JV Volleyball • Kool Kids Before and After School Program • Middle School Track • Open Wrestling • HOOPS Youth Basketball Tryouts • Outdoor Sports Use Gyms in Case of Poor Weather • SWISH Youth Basketball Practices • SWISH Youth Basketball Tryouts • Varsity Volleyball
October	• Adult Basketball Open Gym • Boys and Girls Cross Country • Boys Freshman Soccer • Boys High School Basketball Open Gym • Boys JV Soccer • Boys Varsity Soccer • Freshman Volleyball • Girls Basketball Skills and Drills • Girls Freshman Tennis • Girls JV Tennis • Girls Middle School Basketball • Girls Middle School Track • Girls Varsity Tennis	• HOOPS Boys Basketball Practices • JV Volleyball • Kool Kids Before and After School Program • Middle School Track • Open Wrestling • Outdoor Sports Use Gyms in Case of Poor Weather • Over 30 Basketball Open Gym • Over 40 Basketball Open Gym • Pee Wee Recreation Programs • Storm Practices • SWISH Youth Basketball Practices • Varsity Volleyball

Month	Activities	
November	• Adult Basketball Open Gym • Boys Middle School Wrestling • Dodge Ball Tournament • Freshman Boys Basketball • Freshman Girls Basketball • Freshman Wrestling • Girls Middle School Basketball • HOOPS Boys Youth Basketball Club • JV Boys Basketball • JV Girls Basketball • JV Wrestling	• Kool Kids Before and After School Program • Over 30 Basketball Open Gym • Over 40 Basketball Open Gym • Red Rhinos Youth Wrestling Club • Storm Fast Pitch Softball • SWISH Girls Youth Basketball Club • Varsity Boys Basketball • Varsity Girls Basketball • Varsity Wrestling • Youth Soccer Club
December	• Adult Basketball Open Gym • Boys Middle School Wrestling • Freshman Boys Basketball • Freshman Girls Basketball • Freshman Wrestling • Girls Middle School Basketball • Girls Youth Basketball Tournament • HOOPS Boys Youth Basketball Club • JV Boys Basketball • JV Girls Basketball • JV Wrestling • Kool Kids Before and After School Program	• Middle School Band Concert • Over 30 Basketball Open Gym • Over 40 Basketball Open Gym • Red Rhinos Youth Wrestling Club • Saturday Morning Boys Basketball Camps • Saturday Morning Girls Basketball Camps • Storm Fast Pitch Softball • SWISH Girls Youth Basketball Club • Varsity Boys Basketball • Varsity Girls Basketball • Varsity Wrestling • Youth Soccer Club

Chapter 4: Mission, Goals, and Objectives

Chapter 4: Mission, Goals, and Objectives

Mission Statement of the Department of Park, Recreation & Forestry

To provide the Village of Slinger and its surrounding communities with quality of life enhanced through athletic, recreational, and leisure activities for all age groups.

2026-2031 Goals and Objectives

The Village has formulated specific goals and objectives that outline the Village's intent for the planning process. These goals and objectives serve as a guide for the Village in providing an excellent park and recreation system and fulfilling its mission.

Goal: A broad statement of direction and purpose. A goal should be based on the stated needs of the community.

Objective: A specific, measurable, actionable, and time-bound condition that must be attained in order to accomplish a particular goal.

Goal 1: Expand the Village's portfolio of active and passive recreational lands to meet current and future recreational needs.

Objectives:

- Acquire additional lands for active and passive recreational use based on current demand, demands created by a growing population, and environmental significance of the land. Maintain 10 acres of land suitable for active recreation for every 1,000 residents, per the Village's established standards.
- Prioritize the acquisition of lands that would help fill in gaps in the Village's park service areas.
- Analyze the location, size, and function of existing and proposed parks as annexations, residential development, or land use changes occur.
- Continue to add parks through land dedication as development occurs.
- Acquire lands suitable for park and recreation use by explicitly stating acceptable characteristics of land in the parkland dedication ordinance. Refer to the sample policy language on page 48.
- Evaluate land dedicated for parks to differentiate between land appropriate for active park use, land appropriate for open space only, and land requiring protection from development. Amend the Village zoning ordinance to protect sensitive environmental areas that should not be developed.
- Explore the need for special recreational facilities such as water recreation and facilities for indoor recreation.
- Continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, and the surrounding land use and natural resource features.
- Encourage construction and maintenance of smaller, private parks with multi-family residential developments.
- When possible, acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning. Parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.
- Prepare detailed plans for Village parks through master planning. Refer to sidebar.

Park Master Planning

What are the benefits to park master plans?

- Builds on the goals, recommendations, analysis, and action items of this Plan.
- Uses its own dedicated planning process focused on a single site to provide details that would not otherwise be possible at a Village-wide scale.
- Involves and gathers feedback from the public, stakeholders, and park users on the future development of the site.
- Results of the process yield a detailed site plan that is the basis for facility, trail, and site upgrades, maintenance, or development.

Goal 2: Ensure that open space, recreation facilities, and programs are designed to meet the needs of all residents, especially senior citizens and people with physical limitations.

Objectives:

- Pursue barrier-free access in all new park facility construction, play areas, and trails.
- Review annually programs provided by the Park Department to ensure maximum inclusion.
- Include programming and events that are both all ages and all abilities oriented.
- Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it applies to communication between the Park Department and the public.

Goal 3: Provide residents and visitors with safe and reliable park facilities and equipment throughout the park system.

Objectives:

- Continue funding the replacement of old and deteriorating recreation equipment at all parks.
- Continually monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure its longevity and safety.



Goal 4: Coordinate development review with all departments/agencies responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities.

Objectives:

- Consult and incorporate the needs identified in the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan before subdivision plats are approved. All new development should meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this Plan and implemented by the zoning ordinance and subdivision and platting ordinance.
- Evaluate land dedicated for parks to differentiate between land appropriate for active park use, land appropriate for open space only, and land requiring protection from development. Land requiring protection from development should be protected via the zoning ordinances.
- Continually evaluate and update the subdivision ordinance so that it adequately addresses the park and open space needs of new and existing Village residents.

Goal 5: Continue to develop interconnected multi-use trails that provide easy and safe access to all neighborhoods and parks.

Objectives:

- Initiate Village-wide multi-use trail planning to develop off-street trail connections within the Village and surrounding areas.
- Work with neighboring jurisdictions to develop off-street trail connections between Slinger, regional parks, and other destinations in Washington County.
- Emphasize the provision of safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle connections between parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and other destinations in ongoing planning and acquisition efforts.
- Establish bicycle paths and routes on local streets throughout the community to connect neighborhoods with schools, parks, and shopping.
- Inventory Village-owned land that could be incorporated into a multi-use trail system.

Goal 6: Take full advantage of available resources to support the maintenance and enhancement of the Village's park system.

Objectives:

- Pursue state and federal funding programs continually, which can aid in the purchase and/or development of desired park system improvements.
- Explore opportunities to partner with neighboring communities or athletic organizations to fund and develop multi-purpose parks, athletic facilities, and multi-purpose centers.
- Nurture the existing positive relationships with organizations and businesses that provide donations and volunteer time to aid in park system development.
- Update the Village's Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan every five years to maintain grant eligibility. Revisit the plan at least once annually and amend as needed.
- Pursue the development of revenue-generating recreational facilities and activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and the maintenance of existing facilities.
- Develop and continue the formal use, revenue, and maintenance agreements between the Village, the School District, and public recreation associations to help operate and maintain public recreation facilities in the Village. Agreements should be reviewed every two years.
- Encourage cooperative Village/School District/sports association development projects to help improve and expand recreational opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.



Goal 7: Grow the park budget, which will continue financing operations, maintenance, and capital improvements of existing parks, as well as allowing for future parkland acquisition and development of new facilities.

Objectives:

- Use the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan's Capital Improvements Program as a guide to establish yearly park budgets.
- Invest funds for the development of facilities that will maximize existing park and recreation areas and provide exciting recreational programs, with the intention of increasing park use.
- Continue funding the replacement of old and deteriorating recreation equipment at all parks.
- Regularly monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure its longevity and safety.
- Pursue creative ways to fund small-scale parks improvements such as banner advertising or concessions sales.
- Maintain partnerships with community organizations interested in supporting parkland acquisition and development.

Parkland Dedication Policy:
Accept Only Land Useable for Active Recreation for Parkland Dedications

Much of the Village's current park inventory includes wetlands, steep slopes, floodplain, and poorly-drained soils. These areas are not suitable for the intense level of activity that Village parks must accommodate, and they do not help the Village meet its goal of providing more open play areas and athletic fields. When the environmentally constrained lands are taken out of the equation, the actual rate of "unconstrained" parkland is lower than the Village goal.

Therefore, the following policy will now apply to all land to be dedicated for Village parkland:

The Village of Slinger shall limit its acceptance of parkland dedication (i.e. lands dedicated for the purpose of contributing toward the requirements of its parkland dedication ordinance) only to land area that is fully useable for active recreation uses at the time of dedication.

Example active recreation uses include:

1. Playfield areas for activities such as baseball, football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, and ultimate frisbee
2. Play court areas for activities such as basketball, pickleball, and tennis
3. Open field areas for pickup sports such as ultimate frisbee, flag football, soccer, and disc golf
4. Playground areas
5. Picnic shelters
6. Trails
7. Parking lots

Land area accepted for parkland dedication may include lands prepared by the developer so as to be fully useable for such purposes, as deemed appropriate by the Village.

For the purpose of contributing toward the requirements of its parkland dedication ordinance, the Village shall not accept any land area with one or more of the following attributes:

1. Containing any environmental feature typically contributing to an environmental corridor area, including:
 - a. Wetlands mapped by the WisDNR or Army Corp of Engineers;
 - b. Floodways mapped by FEMA on its FIRM Maps;
 - c. 100-year floodplains mapped by FEMA on its FIRM Maps;
 - d. Drainageways identified as perennial streams or intermittent streams on USGS maps or Washington County hydrography mapping – with a 25-foot wide buffer on each side of an intermittent stream and a 50-foot wide buffer on each side of a perennial stream;
 - e. Hydric soils as identified on Washington County soils, USDA, or WisDNR mapping as "Poorly Drained" or "Very Poorly Drained";
 - f. Steep slopes equal to or greater than 12% identified on Washington County topographic mapping; and,
 - g. Moderate slopes equal to or greater than 3% as identified on the topographic survey information provided during the land division process, or other topographic information provided by a registered engineer, surveyor, or landscape architect;
2. Containing any stormwater management area or facility such as a stormwater basin, infiltration area, manmade or naturally-occurring channel;
3. Land area of unsuitable shape, dimension, or accessibility, specifically lacking:
 - a. A generally rectangular or other regular shape, lacking narrow extensions;
 - b. A minimum cross-section dimension of 200 feet at any point;
 - c. A minimum public street frontage of 200 feet along one street for neighborhood parks, and along two streets for community parks.

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Chapter 5: Park, Recreation, and Open Space Standards

Chapter 5: Park, Recreation, and Open Space Standards

In order to guide the park planning process, it is important to establish a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents and to plan for future facilities based on projected population growth. Park and recreation standards are commonly expressed as a ratio of the number of minimum acres recommended per 1,000 residents.

The following section details the new local standards for park and recreational facilities. In the past, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provided guidelines suggesting that a park system be composed of a “core” system of parkland, with a total of six to 10 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population. Today, the NRPA emphasizes that because each community has its own unique social and economic characteristics, each community must decide for itself the most appropriate range, quantity and quality of recreational facilities within its fiscal limits. Even before the NRPA moved away from one-size-fits-all national standards, many communities determined that a locally-derived standard is best to guide the quality of the park system and the quantity of park lands provided.

Within each park classification description below, it is recommended that the Village use the local standards per 1,000 residents as its park acreage goal over the life of this plan.

Each park classification description includes the Village’s service area standard, park size standard, and the local acreage standard per 1,000 population.

Park and Recreation Standards by Facility Classification

Refer to Chapter 1 for more details about each type of park facility classification.

Community Parks

A community park is designed and developed for diversified use and contains facilities not found in a neighborhood park. It serves several neighborhoods, or in the case of small communities, it may serve the entire community.

- Local Service Area: One-half mile radius uninterrupted by busy roads and other physical barriers
- Local Size Standard: 15 to 50+ acres
- Local Acreage Standard: 8 acres per 1,000 people

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are designed specifically to accommodate residents living within the immediately surrounding area.

- Local Service Area: One-quarter-mile radius uninterrupted by busy roads and other physical barriers
- Local Size Standard: 2 to 14.99 acres
- Local Acreage Standard: 2 acres per 1,000 people

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Conservancy and Open Space Areas

Conservancy areas include permanently protected areas of environmental significance or sensitivity, oriented to passive recreational use.

- Local Service Area: N/A
- Local Size Standard: Sufficient to protect the resource
- Local Acreage: None. Conservancy areas with public access and walking trails are included in the overall community calculation of park and recreation space per 1,000 people. Conservancy areas without defined public access are not included in the total.

School Facilities

School parks primarily serve as locations for school-related active recreation; however, these sites often benefit the surrounding community during off-school hours.

- Local Service Area: Variable. Depends on function.
- Local Size Standard: None
- Local Acreage standard: None

Playgrounds

Playgrounds include outdoor areas provided for play for various age groups, containing recreational equipment such as slides and swings.

- Local Service Area: None
- Local Size Standard: None
- Local Standard: 928 square feet per 1,000 people

Off-Street Recreation Trails

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

- Local Service Area: None
- Local Size Standard: None
- Local Standard: 834 linear feet per 1,000 people

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National Recreation and Park Association Benchmarks

On an annual basis, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) compiles data from around the U.S. on park and recreational departments and services provided. A few of the most applicable metrics from the 2025 *Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks* are provided below.

Figure 5.1: 2025 Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks

Metric	Typical Park and Recreation Agency, per NRPA	Village of Slinger
Acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents	10.2 acres per 1,000 residents	20.31 acres per 1,000 residents
Number of residents served by one park	2,411 residents per park	901 residents per park
630Miles of trails maintained for walking, hiking, running, and/or biking	176.3 miles of trail	1.2 miles of trails
Number of full-time equivalent staff for every 10,000 residents	8.9 full-time equivalent staff	3 full-time equivalent staff

These benchmarks can be used to gauge how well Slinger is doing nationally and help Slinger determine its own local park standards.

Customized Village of Slinger Park Standards

In the Village’s previous Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2020) , the Village maintained the standard of 6to 10 park acres per 1,000 residents, which was based on NRPA guidelines. This Plan recommends maintaining an overall standard of 10 park acres per 1,000 residents for the provision of parkland. Currently, the Village exceeds this standard with 20.31 acres per 1,000 residents. However, with a quickly growing population, this standard will need to be assessed as new data gets released.

In addition, this Plan recommends specific standards by park facility classification, i.e., Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Conservancy Areas, and Recreational Trails. These standards were determined based on the Village’s previous standards, recommendations of Village staff and consultants, and consultation of standards utilized by comparable communities in southeastern Wisconsin.

Some of the Village’s current park inventory includes wetlands, steep slopes, floodplain, and poorly-drained soils. These areas are not suitable for the intense level of activity that municipal parks must accommodate, and they do not help the Village meet its goal of providing more open play areas and athletic fields. When accounting for existing neighborhood park acreage and community park acreage in Slinger, the Village has opted to count *only* land that is usable for active recreation purposes. When the environmentally-constrained lands are taken out of the equation, the amount of “unconstrained” park acreage is naturally somewhat lower than the total park acreage in the Village. Acreage figures for conservation and open space parks include both constrained and unconstrained lands, since those parks are not intended to provide open play areas and athletic fields.

Figure 5.2a provides a breakdown of the Village of Slinger’s current park acreage level of service based on an estimated 2024 population of 6,307. Based on the Village’s local standards, the Village currently has adequate park acreage.



Figure 5.2a: Park Acreage Level of Service, 2020

Facility Type	Total Park Acreage	Acres Per 1,000 Residents**	Village of Slinger Standards (Acres Per 1,000 Residents)	Acres Needed to Meet Village of Slinger Standards
Community Parks	85.63*	13.57	8.00	0.00
Neighborhood Parks	26.41*	3.10	2.00	0.00
Conservancy & Open Space Areas	23.07	3.64	0.00	0.00
Total	135.11	20.31	10.00	0

*Unconstrained acres only

**Based on 2020-2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates Population of 6,307

Figure 5.2b provides a breakdown of the Village of Slinger's current level of service for playgrounds and recreational trails. There are no deficiencies in the amount of playgrounds or recreational trails needed to serve Slinger's current population.

Figure 5.2b: Playgrounds and Recreational Trails Levels of Service, 2024

Facility Type	Amount	Amount per 1,000 Residents**	Village of Slinger Standard per 1,000 Residents	Amount Needed to Meet Village of Slinger Standards
Playgrounds	12,279 square feet	1,947 square feet	928 square feet	0.00 square feet
Recreational Trails	7,072 linear feet	1,121 linear feet	940 linear feet	0.00 linear feet

** Based on 2020-2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates Population of 6,307

Geographical Distribution of Service Areas

Map 6.1 depicts the service area of each park type based on its location within the Village. This analysis is utilized to determine the existing service coverage of the Slinger park system and informs recommendations for new park locations as discussed in Chapter 7.

Park service areas were divided into different distances based on their size, number of amenities, and ability to serve multiple recreational functions (see Chapter 1 for a complete description of each park classification). Municipalities often use a range of between one-quarter- to one-half-mile service areas surrounding neighborhood parks to account for walkability. Community parks typically increase that range (1-2 miles) because they offer community-wide amenities.

- 1/8-mile for mini parks
- 1/4 mile for neighborhood parks
- 1/2 mile for community parks

Slinger's existing service areas and service area gaps are depicted on Map 6.1 and discussed in Chapter 6.

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Chapter 6: Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment

Chapter 6: Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment

Review of Relevant Plans

Village of Slinger Economic Opportunity Analysis (2016)

This economic analysis identified economic opportunities in Slinger based on its unique characteristics and current assets. This report identified “Community Connectivity” as one of its five strategic initiatives. Many recommended trail connections from that report are reflected on Map 7.2 as future bicycle and pedestrian connections.

Bikeway and Trail Network Plan for Washington County (2019)

This plan makes recommendations to develop a countywide network of trails and routes as alternate modes of transportation, focusing on creating trails and routes that provide accessibility to essential services – such as schools, commercial centers and major employment centers – as well as creating a trail network that provides a rich variety of recreational experiences. Plan recommendations support development of a safe and accessible network of trails, which encourages active lifestyles, increases non-motorized transportation options, and links to established trails in Washington County and in adjoining counties.

The Recommended Bikeway and Trail Network Plan proposes an additional 348 miles of bikeway and trails throughout Washington County, and emphasizes seven priority corridors, which together would create a nearly continuous “all ages and abilities” network of bikeways and trails across the County. Two of these priority corridors are located near Slinger; they include:

- **West Bend to Slinger via Ridge Run Park and CTH NN:** This north-south route runs through some of the most scenic areas in Washington County and connects West Bend to Slinger. At the northern and southern ends of the route, the alignment runs parallel to existing hiking segments of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.
- **Pike Lake Unit to Heritage Trails Park to Loew Lake Unit:** Located south of the Village limits, this route connects several beautiful and scenic areas, taking advantage of open space in Kettle Moraine State Forest units and several County parks. The Wisconsin DNR is already planning to build a path in the Pike Lake Unit that would connect their campground on Powder Hill Road to Pike Lake.

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – 2024-2028

The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as a blueprint for state and local outdoor recreation planning through support of national initiatives, sets the course for recreation within the state by describing current recreation supply and trends, and provides a framework for future recreation development and focus.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has two overarching goals:

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

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The plan also introduces 11 main strategies to achieve the two goals of the plan:

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

Wisconsin Healthy Communities (2025)

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute has recently started recognizing communities throughout the state on their pursuit of improved public health through the designation of Wisconsin Health Communities. The purpose of the designation is to recognize and encourage local efforts that improve the overall community's health and well-being. It also aims to promote collaboration centered around health improvement. Communities are recognized as Gold, Silver, or Bronze depending on how well they are pursuing public health improvement efforts. Washington County has been designated at the Silver level.

The local and regional park and trail systems play a large component in the promotion and sustainability of improving public health. Many of the overarching goals of the Wisconsin Healthy Community Designation program are reflective of the community's overarching goals in this Plan.

Public Input on Future Park System Needs

Public Open House

A public open house will be held in the late summer of 2026 to gather input from the public on the draft plan. Comments from the public open house will be reflected here and in plan recommendations.

Public Hearing and Adoption

The Village of Slinger Plan Commission will hold a public hearing in the late summer of 2026 to consider the draft plan and adopt it.

Quantitative Needs Assessment / Future Park System Needs

Slinger's future recreation needs are determined by applying the recommended minimum acreage standards to the Village's projected future population. This type of future needs assessment is a critical component of this Plan. It is included in part, to satisfy Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617 and 236.29 regarding the collection of fees, and also to assist the Village with planning and budgeting for the development of future parks.

The Village's future standard was set at 10 acres per 1,000 residents in order to provide a consistent level of service as the Village continues to grow. The Village's future standard is comprised of 2 acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents and 8 acres of community parks per 1,000 residents. There is no future standard for conservancy and open space areas, although these areas are an important component of the Village's park and recreation system. This balance of community and neighborhood parks was selected due to a desire to provide a greater proportion of larger parks (i.e. community parks) as opposed to smaller parks (i.e. neighborhood parks), due to the comparatively high maintenance demands and costs associated with smaller parks.

The Village of Slinger also has established unique, local standards for playgrounds (928 square feet/1,000 residents) and recreational trails (834 linear feet/1,000 residents).

Based on these standards, Figures 6.1-6.3 show the minimum additional park acreage that will be needed to accommodate the Village's projected population in 2030, 2035, 2040, 2045, and 2050. (Population projections are described in Chapter 1.) These calculations assume that by 2030, the Arboretum at Cedar Bluffs will be

developed and classified as a conservancy & open space area by 2030. Therefore, the unconstrained acreage of each of the park has been added to the total park acreage.

The Village will need an additional 2.47 acres of neighborhood park land to accommodate the 2030 population. No additional community parks, playgrounds, and recreational trails will be needed through 2030.

Figure 6.1a: Park Acreage Needs, 2030

Park Type	Village Standard per 1,000 Persons (Acres)	2030 Total Acres	Acreage Needed in 2030 based on Village Standard*	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2030*
Community Parks	8.00	55.48	55.27	0.00
Neighborhood Parks	2.00	11.35	13.82	2.47
Conservancy & Open Space Areas	0.00	23.07	0.00	0.00
Total Acres	10.00	89.90	69.09	2.47

*Based on the 2030 projected population (6,909)

Figure 6.1b: Playground and Recreational Trail Needs, 2030

	Village Standard per 1,000 Persons	2030 Total Amount	Amount Needed in 2030 based on Village Standard*	Minimum Additional Amount Needed by 2030*
Playgrounds	928 square feet	12,279 square feet	6,412 square feet	0 square feet
Recreational Trails	834 linear feet	7,072 linear feet	5,762 linear feet	0 linear feet

*Based on the 2030 projected population (6,909)

The Village will need an additional 3.8 acres of community park land and 3.47 acres of neighborhood park land to accommodate the 2035 population. No additional playgrounds or recreational trails will be needed through 2035.

Figure 6.2a: Park Acreage Needs, 2035

Park Type	Village Standard per 1,000 Persons (Acres)	2035 Total Acres	Acreage Needed in 2035 based on Village Standard*	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2035*
Community Parks	8.00	55.48	59.28	3.80
Neighborhood Parks	2.00	11.35	14.82	3.47
Conservancy & Open Space Areas	0.00	23.07	0.00	0.00
Total Acres	10.00	89.90	74.1	7.27

*Based on the 2035 projected population (7,410)

Figure 6.2b: Playground and Recreational Trail Needs, 2035

	Village Standard per 1,000 Persons	2035 Total Amount	Amount Needed in 2035 based on Village Standard*	Minimum Additional Amount Needed by 2035*
Playgrounds	928 square feet	12,279 square feet	6,876 square feet	0 square feet
Recreational Trails	834 linear feet	7,072 linear feet	6,180 linear feet	0 linear feet

*Based on the 2035 projected population (7,410)

The Village will need an additional 7.81 acres of community park land and 4.47 acres of neighborhood park land to accommodate the 2040 population. By 2050, the Village will need 16.22 acres of community park land and 6.58 acres of neighborhood park land, for a total of 22.80 additional acres. 403 linear feet of recreational trails will be needed by 2050. No additional playgrounds will be needed through 2050.

Figure 6.3a: Park Acreage Needs, 2040-2050

Park Type	Village Standard per 1,000 Persons (Acres)	2040-2050 Total Acres	Acreage Needed 2040 based on Village Standard*	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2040*	Acreage Needed in 2045 based on Village Standard*	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2045*	Acreage Needed in 2050 based on Village Standard	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2050*
Community Parks	8.00	55.48	63.29	7.81	67.30	11.82	71.70	16.22
Neighborhood Parks	2.00	11.35	15.82	4.47	16.82	5.47	17.93	6.58
Conservancy & Open Space Areas	0.00	23.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Acres	10.00	89.90	79.11	12.28	84.12	17.29	89.63	22.80

*Based on the 2040 projected population (7,911), 2045 projected population (8,412), and 2050 projected population (8,963)

Figure 6.3b: Playground and Recreational Trail Needs, 2035 and 2040

	Village Standard per 1,000 Persons	2020 Total Amount	Amount Needed 2040 based on Village Standard*	Minimum Additional Amount Needed by 2040*	Amount Needed in 2045 based on Village Standard*	Minimum Additional Amount Needed by 2045*	Amount Needed in 2050 Based on Village Standard	Minimum Additional Amount Needed by 2050*
Playgrounds	928 sq. ft.	12,279 sq. ft.	7,341 sq. ft.	0 sq. ft.	7,806 sq. ft.	0 sq. ft.	8,318 sq. ft.	0 sq. ft.
Recreational Trails	834 linear ft.	7,072 linear feet	6,598 linear feet	0 linear feet	7,016 linear feet	0 linear feet	7,475 linear feet	403 linear feet

* Based on the 2040 projected population (7,911), 2045 projected population (8,412), and 2050 projected population (8,963)

Qualitative Needs Assessment

Although national benchmarks and local standards provide a good basis for formulating the recommendations in this Plan, a thorough assessment of the Village's existing facilities must include a more subjective analysis that takes into consideration those characteristics that make Slinger unique from other communities. Furthermore, the qualitative analysis will produce the following results:

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

Important qualitative factors to consider include the following:

Village Growth and Development: The Village's population is projected to grow over the next 10 years, increasing the demand for parkland and recreational facilities. Acquiring additional parkland may be a challenge for Slinger, as there is a lack of flat land suitable for active recreation within the Village and surrounding it. It will be important for Slinger to carefully balance the need for additional parklands, open space, and natural resource conservation with the demand for development. This may mean finding innovative and flexible solutions for providing these spaces and facilities, such as requiring small parks and playgrounds in conjunction with multi-family residential development. ARUP has the Playful Cities Design Guidelines that show how to incorporate play into the

fabric of the urban environment. The goal of playful cities is to incorporate design interventions that facilitate play for people of all ages. This could be as simple as painting games like hopscotch onto sidewalks or providing structures that can be used both for play and as seating. Areas in the Village of Slinger that could benefit from playful design are the downtown area, Community Park, and other Village gathering spaces.

One challenge to the parks system is that there are currently no parks south of E. Commerce Blvd/Highway 60 or east of I-41, both areas where residential growth is planned.

Unique Terrain and Topography: The rolling topography of the Kettle Moraine provides scenic vistas and tranquil pockets of development but allows limited opportunities for flat areas suitable for active recreation. This topography has also resulted in a road network that relies heavily on main thoroughfares, as many local streets do not provide full east-west or north-south connectivity. Thus, flat lands with good transportation access are in high demand in the Village, and needs for parkland compete with residential, commercial, and industrial development needs. In some cases, this has precluded the Village's ability to provide parks within walking distance of every residential neighborhood. The Village should proactively reserve locations for neighborhood parks and recreational trails within new neighborhoods and multi-family residential areas in the future.



Aging Population: The parks and recreation systems will need to adjust to the changing needs of an aging population. Passive recreation opportunities and recreational trails, emerging sports popular with seniors such as pickleball, and dog parks will become increasingly important. Recreational programming and events that can be enjoyed by all ages will also be important to engage the community as a whole.

Conservation and Open Space Areas: Special open space areas contribute significantly to the aesthetic and ecological integrity of a community. The Village should continue to pursue the preservation or conservation of significant ecological features within primary and secondary environmental corridors. As many areas in and around the Village are hilly or contain sensitive natural features, the Village may opt to provide a greater proportion of conservation and open space areas, particularly in locations where for parkland suitable for active recreation may be limited.

School Facilities: The quantitative analysis presented earlier in this chapter did not consider school parks and recreational facilities in the calculations. School park facilities serve many of the recreational needs of the residential neighborhoods that immediately surround them. However, school facilities are not consistently open to the public, and school-sponsored activities are given first priority. For this reason, it is important for the Village to provide and maintain an adequate number of its own facilities and parklands to accommodate programming needs and to meet local demand.

Known Issues and Challenges

This planning process has revealed areas in which the Village's recreational facilities could use improvement:

- Connect community destinations with bicycle and pedestrian trails, focusing on the schools, Village facilities, and local businesses; study safe crossings of STH 175, STH 60, and I-41.
- Provide more passive recreation options.
- Provide shade structures and drinking fountains at all baseball diamonds
- Provide additional bathrooms and storage at Breuer Park.
- Renovate the warming house at Rotary Park.
- Increase amount of recreational programming in Slinger, particularly for adults, seniors, and teens
- There are currently no parks on the east side of the Village or south of E. Commerce Blvd/Highway 60. Both are areas where residential growth is planned.



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[Map 6.1: Park Service Areas](#)

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Geographic Analysis

The distribution of parks and recreational facilities through the Village also provides a good indicator of how well the existing park system is meeting the needs of Village residents. Map 6.1 illustrates how effectively the park system serves the various areas of the Village. These service areas are based on the local standards identified in Chapter 5 of this Plan.

A park's service area is influenced by several factors, including the size of the park, location, transportation access, and natural or manmade barriers. Displaying park service areas based on these factors suggests locations where additional park facilities might be necessary to serve residents. For the purposes of this plan, barriers to community and neighborhood parks include I-41 and STH 60. These barriers are reflected in the service areas depicted on Map 6.1.

The central part of the community is well-served by community parks and neighborhood parks. The south and east sides of the Village lack neighborhood parks, which is in part due to the presence of I-41 and E. Commerce Blvd/Highway 60.

Existing residential areas lacking *community park* facilities include:

- Residential subdivisions south of E. Commerce Blvd/Highway 60 and in southeastern Slinger. Some of these areas developed prior to annexation by the Village.
- Residential neighborhoods and multi-family developments in east Slinger (east of I-41).

Existing residential areas lacking *neighborhood park* facilities include:

- Most residential areas on the north and northwest sides of Slinger, generally north of Community Park
- Residential subdivisions on the west side of Slinger, near Hilldale Drive.
- Residential subdivisions south of E. Commerce Blvd/Highway 60 and in southeastern Slinger. Some of these areas developed before being annexed into the Village.
- Residential neighborhoods and multi-family developments in east Slinger (east of I-41).

As the Village continues to grow, it will be necessary to acquire additional parklands so future residents have equitable access to parks and open space. I-41 is a considerable barrier to easily accessible parkland. Future residential growth on the east side of the interstate should be served by new neighborhood parks within walking distance.



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Chapter 7: Park, Recreation, and Open Space Improvements

Chapter 7: Park, Recreation, and Open Space Improvements

This Chapter includes recommendations for the Village of Slinger's park system. It includes both short-term action items to be accomplished within the next five years, as well as longer-term recommendations intended to be implemented over a 10- to 20-year period.

Village-wide Recommendations

Village-wide recommendations should be implemented over a 10- to 20-year period.

- Continue to perform routine maintenance of park facilities and equipment.
- Consistently collect the park impact fee to ensure that the Village's park system continues to serve the growing population.
- Acquire additional parklands as appropriate to meet future recreational needs per the recommendations of this Plan. Specific recommendations are found later in this Chapter.
- Update the municipal code to limit the Village's acceptance of required parkland dedication (i.e. lands dedicated for the purpose of contributing toward the requirements of its parkland dedication ordinance) only to land area that is fully usable for active recreation uses at the time of dedication. The Village should not accept any land area with environmental constraints such as wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, etc. as fulfilling the parkland dedication requirement. Update the municipal code to give the Village the ability to decide whether to require either parkland dedication or fee in lieu of dedication, on a case-by-case basis.
- Develop a Village-wide, barrier-free, multi-use trail system that connects Village parks, County parks, State parks, existing regional trails, and other natural and cultural resources in the region. Cooperate with various transportation agencies to provide safe crossings at major street and highway intersections.
- To the extent possible, retrofit all park facilities to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Park restrooms should be barrier-free and accessible to all users, as they are constructed or upgraded.
- Cover playground surfaces with a 10- to 12-inch layer of resilient safety surface such as sand, pea gravel, recycled rubber, or wood chips. The Village should consider using "WoodCarpet" or similar products that provide both resilient surfaces and wheelchair accessibility.
- As parks are upgraded, preserve existing trees wherever possible, and replace trees when it is not possible to preserve them. Trees, open spaces, and other natural landscape features not only add to the aesthetic value of the community, but also provide benefits such as flood control, improvements in air and water quality, and energy cost savings.
- Continue to provide options for low-cost or no-cost programming that can serve a broad population, regardless of household buying power. Explore expanding low-cost program offerings.
- Actively generate funds for park and recreation programs and park development, including private donations, fundraising activities, and grants.
- Maintain and create additional revenue-generating activities (concessions, advertising, fees, leases, etc.)
- Consider the creation of a subcommittee to improve joint use policies and agreements between the Village, School District, County, Friends of Slinger Parks, recreation associations, and other stakeholders.
- Explore the feasibility of working with local businesses to provide park amenities. For instance, park benches could be "sponsored" by residents or local businesses to offset the costs for purchase, installation, and maintenance.
- Continue showcasing the impact of the Slinger park and recreational system and its contribution to the Village's economy in order to maintain and increase funding.

[Image Placeholder]

Park-specific Recommendations

This Plan recommends the following improvements to existing parks. These recommendations were developed through input from the public, Village staff, and local officials.

Community Park

Given the high level of activity and attractions in Community Park, as well as its highly visible location in downtown Slinger, the park is central in the growing success of the downtown area. The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department introduced Music in the Park Events in the summer of 2019, which were enormously popular.

With the development and construction of Breuer Park, the Village has found popularity with the baseball and softball fields at the new park. Because of this, having two ballfields at Community Park has become less essential. This presents opportunity to provide gathering space. New gathering space could serve all Slinger residents and allow more of the park area to be used year-round and allow the park to be a vibrant community hub.

The Village of Slinger Downtown Vision and Strategy (2019) recommends that Community Park increase its presence as a community gathering space. The Vision recommends that additional features be incorporated in order to enhance the park's role as a community destination. Recommended improvements include one or more of the following: an amphitheater, plaza space for gatherings, trailhead amenities such as bike racks, public art, and added seating.

Overall, Community Park is central to the identity of Slinger and important to long-time residents. Special care and attention must be given to any updates to the park, while honoring the legacy that the park holds.

Five-year recommendations:

- Upgrade the playground area
- Upgrade lighting on small diamond
- Continue to maintain and create programming to support park's identity as a "town square" for special events and to help spur additional foot traffic and revitalization in Downtown Slinger
- Continue to develop and improve Community Park Trail



Rotary Park

Rotary Park is well utilized year-round. In 2019, the Village closed the beach permanently due to issues with the liner of the pond. In 2020-2021, the Village installed a splash pad and inclusive playground in place of the swimming beach. The Village has also added pickleball courts and concrete foosball tables to the former beach area.

Along with these improvements, there is still an ample amount of space with the opportunity to enhance this park and add more features such as bocce or an expansion of the Fireman's Park disc golf course. Long term, there is potential to renovate the existing pool building for community recreation space to better meet the current needs of the park.

Five-year recommendations:

- Evaluate and plan for future use of the barn structure and house and northern end of the park as year-round facilities
- Explore an off-street trail connection to Storck Street
- Expand the Fireman's Park disc golf course into Rotary Park

Fireman's Park

Fireman's Park is in excellent shape. The park continues to be popular with Slinger residents.

Five-year recommendations:

- Expand the disc golf course from a 9-hole course to an 18-hole course
- Explore options to provide ADA accessible restrooms
- Replace the existing playground with a nature scape playground
- Continue to improve existing trails
- Replace or upgrade parking lot
- Explore an off-street trail connection to Storck Street

Rueckl Fields Park

This park is currently in excellent condition. In the long term, there are opportunities for increasing the utilization of the wooded area to the west of the park, which is owned by the School District. This area could be used for trails and passive recreation and/or for environmental educational purposes. The Village should work in partnership with Slinger Middle School and other community stakeholders on future improvements to this area.

Five-year recommendations:

- Replace field lighting on small diamond
- Explore a possible addition to Brendan's Playground

Nature Scape Playgrounds

A nature scape playground, also known as a nature play space, is a type of playground that replaces metal equipment and structures with those made of natural materials such as fallen trees, logs, and large rocks. The idea of a nature scape is to incorporate nature into play spaces for children to encourage creativity and a sense of curiosity about the natural world.

NC State University's Natural Learning Institute (NLI), one of the leading research institutions for nature play, has a website with free resources for low cost nature scape design interventions:

<https://naturalearning.org/>



Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds

Breuer Park

Since the previous plan, the Village has developed the site according to the Breuer Park Master Plan. The park is popular among Slinger residents and visitors alike. The park has become an essential part of sports and recreational programming for the Village with recreational fields, baseball/softball diamonds, and concessions. The playground and walking paths have also become popular amenities. In recent months, residents and the Village have partnered together to find a space for a dog park within the park. Some suggestions for dog park development can be found in the sidebar.

Some other recommendations in this plan such as field lights come from the overall masterplan of Breuer Park. Breuer Park's popularity as a destination for baseball and softball continues to grow, making this the perfect time for the next phase of the park's development, allowing for night games and practices.

Five-Year recommendations:

- Construct a storage building with restroom facilities on the south side of the park
- Explore fundraising strategies for field lights
- Extend walking paths in Breuer Park to circle around the retention pond
- Develop a master plan and a maintenance plan for the potential dog park

Arboretum at Cedar Bluffs

Walking trails with benches should be developed in the Arboretum in order to provide access and to develop this natural area into a true Village of Slinger park.

The planned trails for the arboretum are meant to provide access to a natural area for the public. The paths will be made of wood chips and slope gently, making it suitable for a wide range of skill and activity levels. The trails are designed as a loop throughout the wooded area with linkages within the larger loop to create smaller loops.

Five-year recommendations:

- Implement the recommended trails depicted on Map 7.1
- Provide park signage at entrance

What Makes a Great Dog Park?

Many communities across the country have tackled the question of how to develop a dog park that best fits the needs of the population. While it is unlikely that it will be feasible to include every one of the following amenities in any given dog park, it is recommended that each of these attributes be considered in the development of any new dog park in the community.

- 5 to 10 acres in size.
- Water source for both humans and dogs.
- On-site parking.
- Relatively flat land with some naturally shaded areas (or shade structure).
- Clearly posted guidelines and rules for the park users.
- Designated walking path in addition to an open space area.
- Separate small and large dog areas.
- Benches, waste containers, and bag holders are dispersed throughout the park.
- Perimeter fencing and double-gated entryway.
- On-site restrooms.
- Partnership with the Humane Society, nonprofit, private entity, or volunteer organization to help operate, maintain, and sustain the park long-term.



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Map 7.1: Reserved for Arboretum at Cedar Bluffs Master Plan

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Community Park Natural Area

Due to existing wetlands and the important flood control role this area plays, this park will remain in use for passive recreation, and no further development of this park is recommended.

Five-year recommendations:

- Continue to develop and improve Community Park Trail
- Consider informational signage



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[Map 7.2: Recommended New Park and Trail Locations](#)

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Recommended New Parks

In identifying the potential locations for new parks, this Plan relied on the park and open space standards outlined in Chapter 5; the needs assessment conducted in Chapter 6, the existing park service areas illustrated in Map 6.2, and the future growth and development areas determined in the Village of Slinger Comprehensive Plan.

Community Parks

Community parks should be approximately 15 to 50+ acres and serve an area within a half-mile radius. Community parks are intended to accommodate visitors from the surrounding community and multiple neighborhoods.

Short-Term Recommendations: After Breuer Park is completed, Village's quantitative need for community park acreage is projected to be met through 2035. This Plan recommends no new community parks within the five-year period.

Long-Term Recommendations: The Village's quantitative need for community park acreage through 2050 is projected to be small, about 16 acres. The Village should look for opportunities to develop a community park on the south side of Slinger to help service coverage in the long-term.

Because there are no park facilities south of E. Commerce Blvd/Highway 60, this Plan recommends a future community park on the south side of the Village to serve existing and planned residential areas. An ideal location for this park would be the 60 acres of land recently owned by Slinger School District and intended for a future elementary school. As there is no timeframe established for the development of this school, the Village and the School District could partner to provide recreational facilities on this site in the interim. It is recommended that the park contain multipurpose athletic fields that can accommodate field sports such as soccer, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, rugby, and football. This park could also include an off-street recreation trail connecting the park to the planned residential areas and planned business park south of E. Commerce Blvd/Highway 60 and west of I-41.

Neighborhood Parks

Future neighborhood parks serve neighborhoods that are currently developed or on the cusp of developing, as well as areas that will develop in the more distant future. Neighborhood parks should be approximately two to 15 acres in size and serve an area within a quarter-mile radius.

Short-Term Recommendations: The Village is projected to need an additional 2.47 acres of neighborhood park acreage land by 2030. This Plan recommends no new neighborhood parks in the next five years, as the Village will focus on continuing to make improvements to Breuer Park, developing the nature scape playground at Fireman's Park, planning for a bike path on WI-175, and improving the Arboretum at Cedar Bluffs. The Village should continue to add neighborhood parks through land dedication as development occurs.

Long-Term Recommendations: As the Village is projected to need an additional 6.6 acres of neighborhood park land by 2050, the Village should continue to add parks through land dedication as development occurs. Refer to the suggested parkland dedication policy on page 48.

Beyond 2050, or if development exceeds the Village's population projections, this Plan recommends neighborhood parks to serve the Village's future growth areas – one on the east side past Cedar Crest Drive, one on the west side near the Ice Age Trail, and one near the Sherman Heights neighborhood. These areas are not currently well-served by neighborhood parks. The proposed park locations illustrated on Map 7.2 represent general location



suggestions and are not meant to imply specific park locations. This map is intended to ensure spatial uniformity for park service areas and is intended to inform stakeholders of the expectation for park and open spaces to be provided. In many cases, more precise park boundaries will be determined during the preparation of detailed development plans or when lands are acquired or platted.

Conservancy and Open Space Areas

In addition to developing neighborhood parks and community parks, the Village should continue to acquire or preserve environmentally significant lands as opportunities arise. The Village should also support other state, county, regional, and non-profit agencies in such efforts. Acquisitions should focus on those lands that have been designated as environmental corridor, and natural features such as woodlands and wetlands should be preserved and incorporated into development design.

Recommended Recreation Trails (Off-Street and On-Street)

Map 7.2 identifies proposed locations for future bicycle and pedestrian connections. Many routes are designed to connect different parts of the community by providing connections between parks and open spaces, residential neighborhoods, and shopping areas. Other routes are design to connect the Village to County parks, State parks, existing regional trails, and other natural and cultural resources in the region. Future trail connections also reflect recommendations from the Village of Slinger Economic Opportunity Analysis (2016), the Village of Slinger Comprehensive Plan (2017), and the Bikeway and Trail Network Plan for Washington County (2019).



Ideally, all bicycle and pedestrian connections shown on Map 7.2 would be developed as off-street, multi-purpose trails. More practically, some connections may need to be implemented on-street bicycle facilities such as bicycle lanes. Whether these connections can be provided as off-street trails or as on-street bicycle lanes will need to be determined through a separate study, with more in-depth analyses of the Village's road network, including traffic patterns and street widths.

Short-Term Recommendations:

- Complete trail projects within existing parks –providing a trail connection from Storck Street to Fireman's Park, upgrading trails in Fireman's Park, adding and extending trail in Breuer Park, and adding trails within the Arboretum.
- Continue to work with WisDOT to construct the proposed bike path on West Washington Street/WI-175.
- Cooperate with adjoining jurisdictions and transportation agencies – such as Washington County, adjoining Towns, SEWRPC, and WisDOT, in order to implement the regional trail network envisioned in the Bikeway and Trail Network Plan for Washington County.
- Prepare a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan which addresses recreational and nonmotorized transportation in and around the Village.

Long-Term Recommendations:

- Complete an off-street, multi-use trail network connecting all park, recreation, and school facilities within the Village.
- Explore safety improvements or an alternate crossing location where the Ice Age Trail crosses E. Commerce Blvd/Highway 60.

In coordination with WisDOT, the Village has been planning for an off-street bike path on West Washington Street/WI-175 that begins at Circle Drive and ends at Maple Avenue. The purpose of this section of trail is to provide a safe bike path on the bridge that crosses the railway by Maple Avenue. The path is expected to be 10ft wide and composed of concrete. Concrete barriers and raised curbs will be constructed to protect cyclists on the bridge and areas with tight curves.

Currently, only preliminary engineering drawings have been made.

Chapter 8: Implementation

Chapter 8: Implementation

In striving to achieve the vision and goals of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, specific follow-up actions will be required. This final chapter is intended to provide a roadmap for these implementation actions by identifying priority programs and actions. This Chapter, in combination with Chapter 7, should be utilized to help guide project implementation by the Village of Slinger over the next five years.

Plan Updates

The Plan was prepared in accordance with WisDNR guidelines, which will qualify the Village for matching state and federal grant funds. To remain eligible, the Plan must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification.

Based on this deadline, Slinger should update this

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2031 (i.e., five years after 2026), at the latest. A year prior to the update, the Village should review the CORP's implementation progress and determine the need for a full update and if use of a consultant is required. The Village should continue to monitor any changes to state or federal regulations related to grant eligibility over the next five years.

Capital Improvements Planning

After the adoption of this Plan, the Village should consider creating a new Park Improvement Capital Plan for 2027 and onward. The Village's new Park Improvement Capital Plan should be redesigned to incorporate and address the recommended park improvements found throughout this Plan.

For each recommended park improvement identified as part of this study, each project has a wide variety of variables associated with their implementation in each individual site where they are recommended to be developed. To estimate budgeting for each project, it is recommended that more detailed analysis related to the individual park site be completed to determine accurate cost estimates for specific projects. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements should be proactively planned to align with the CIP road improvement schedule.

Action Program - Capital Improvement Schedule

Capital improvements are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designated and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Routine maintenance, on the other hand, is considered to be the repair and upkeep of existing park facilities. Routine maintenance of park facilities (such as repainting of a park shelter building) does not appreciably increase the value or usefulness of the park and is traditionally funded through the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department's operations budget. Non-routine maintenance such as upgrading a facility to meet ADA guidelines is usually considered to be a capital improvement.

The capital improvements program for each park is a combination of several types of projects. These projects are ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the park. Generally, capital improvements are ranked based on their ability to 1) correct health and safety hazards, 2) upgrade deficient facilities, and 3) modernize adequate but outdated facilities.

Improvements to existing facilities rank the highest in the capital improvements program, while new facilities are usually ranked lower, according to their relative need in the park. Improvements that correct health and safety hazards are always the highest-ranking priority. Improvements that are deemed necessary through comparison to park and recreation standards are usually ranked the lowest.

[Image Placeholder]

Current Funding Resources and Donations:

The Village of Slinger Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department currently raises a significant amount of revenue to be dedicated towards expenses. For instance, in 2018 and 2019, the Department generated around 60% of the funds to be allocated towards expenses, while only 40% of the Department's budget came from Village taxes. This is a significant achievement, as most parks departments are more dependent on municipal taxation for expenses.

Village of Slinger Parks & Recreation Revenue

Sources:

- Sponsor banner sales
- Activity guide advertising
- Team sponsorships
- Concession stand sales
- Park rentals
- Sports leagues – Little League, Flag Football, Youth Basketball and Volleyball
- Adult sports leagues
- Tournaments
- Miscellaneous community programs and activities

[Image Placeholder]

Slinger Friends of the Parks and Recreation, Inc.

This nonprofit organization works in tandem with the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department and is dedicated to improving and maintaining Slinger's park and recreation system. This group was formed to offset the dependence on public tax dollars through fundraisers and donation programs. Benches and trees can be purchased for Slinger's parks in dedication of friends, relatives, or organizations.

Other Revenue Donations

The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department works closely with many local community organizations and local businesses. All of which have been extremely generous in support of the Department's programs and services.

Available Grant Funding Programs

This Plan was prepared in accordance with guidelines outlined by WisDNR to qualify the Village for grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), the State Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Program (ADLP), and the State of Wisconsin the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. This plan must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of Slinger and retains its WisDNR certification. A listing of available grant programs is found in Appendix B.

[The status of the Knowles-Nelson grant program is currently unknown if it will continue past 2026, more information will be known by June and this placeholder will be updated.]

Post-Adoption Considerations

Following adoption of this Plan, the Village, including staff, the Park Board, the Village Board, and other relevant groups, can consider a few steps to prepare for implementation of the plan. These include:

Community Project Prioritization: Utilize the Plan's recommendation and Action Plan Matrix to confirm Village priorities on projects it is most interested in exploring further.

Capital Improvement Planning: establish a Capital Improvements Plan for park improvements

Community Fundraising Infrastructure: Work with Village boards, committees, and citizen groups to identify fundraising opportunities and create or mobilize community fundraising campaign development and communication strategies.

Grant Exploration: Village staff, boards, and committees can begin identifying potential grant sources that match project priorities to determine application requirements and timelines. A list of common grant sources is included in the Appendix.

Plan Promotion and Awareness: Creating excitement and public interest in the this Plan and its recommendations is important to the successful implementation of its recommendations. The Village should work with its boards and committees as well as citizen organizations to raise awareness of the Plan following its adoption. Community ownership of the Plan, particularly from residents, is often critical in ultimately having the support needed to make investments in the Plan’s implementation.

Action Plan Matrix

Figure 8.1 provides a detailed list and timeline of the major actions that the Village intends to complete in implementing this Plan. Often, such actions will require substantial cooperation with other Village Departments, the Slinger School District, state and local governments, non-profits and volunteer groups, and local organizations and entities throughout the area. This list is not exhaustive, but includes actions that if taken over the next five years can accomplish the recommendations found in Chapters 7 of this Plan. The recommendations of this Plan and the actions described in Figure 8.1 are meant to provide guidance to the Village and its decision makers. Adoption of this Plan does not indicate that all of these recommendations will be pursued, but indicates the vision and opportunities for the future of the Village park and recreation system. The Village Board may choose to pursue additional actions or prioritize other actions as conditions change. Such determining factors include timing, public interest, and available resources.

The table has three different columns of information, described as follows:

Action Item: lists the actual steps, strategies, and actions recommended to implement key aspects of the Plan

Potential Partners: While the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department will led most Action Items, this columns lists Village committees, agencies, or other groups who could be partners

Implementation Timeframe: suggested timeframe and priority for the completion of each Action Item. Each timeframe is defined as follows:

- **Ongoing** means that the Action Item may be underway or will take place throughout and beyond the planning period and it remains a priority moving forward. Ongoing Action Items should be continuously reevaluated to make sure that progress is being made.
- **Short** means that the Action Item should be pursued over the next 1-2 years, following the adoption date of this Plan.
- **Medium** means that the Action Item should be pursued over the next 3-5 years, following the adoption date of this Plan.
- **Long** means that the Action Item should be pursued 5+ years, following the adoption date of this Plan.

Figure 8.1. Action Plan Matrix

Action Item	Potential Partners	Timeframe
Replace the existing playground at Fireman's Park with a naturescape playground.		Short
Construct a storage building with restroom facilities on the south side of Breuer Park.		Short
Extend walking paths in Breuer Park to circle around the retention pond.		Short
Implement the trails plan for the Arboretum at Cedar Bluffs.		Short
Finish development of the WI-175 bike path and begin construction.	WisDOT	Short
Develop a master plan and a maintenance plan for the potential dog park in Breuer Park.		Short

Action Item	Potential Partners	Timeframe
Prepare a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan which addresses recreational and nonmotorized transportation in and around the Village.		Medium
Explore a possible addition to Brendan's Playground in Rueckl Fields Park.		Medium
Expand the disc golf course at Fireman's Park from a 9-hole course to an 18-hole course, connecting to Rotary Park.		Medium
Evaluate and plan for future use of the barn structure and house and northern end of Rotary Park as year-round facilities.		Medium
Upgrade the playground area at Community Park.		Medium
Explore the feasibility of providing interim multipurpose athletic fields on the vacant School District property on the south side of the Village	Slinger School District	Long
Update the municipal code to limit the Village's acceptance of required parkland dedication only to land area that is fully usable for active recreation uses at the time of dedication.		Long
Develop a Village-wide, barrier-free, multi-use trail system that connects Village parks, County parks, State parks, existing regional trails, and other natural and cultural resources in the region.	County, WisDOT	Long
To the extent possible, retrofit all park facilities to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Park restrooms should be barrier-free and accessible to all users, as they are constructed or upgraded.		Long
Consider the creation of a subcommittee to improve joint use policies and agreements between the Village, School District, County, Friends of Slinger Parks, recreation associations, and other stakeholders.	Slinger School District, County	Long
Maintain and create additional revenue-generating activities (concessions, advertising, fees, leases, etc.)	Friends of Slinger Parks	Ongoing
Consistently collect the park impact fee to ensure that the Village's park system continues to serve the growing population.		Ongoing
As parks are upgraded, preserve existing trees wherever possible, and replace trees when it is not possible to preserve them.		Ongoing
Continue to maintain and create programming to support Community Park's identity as a "town square" for special events and to help spur additional foot traffic and revitalization in Downtown Slinger.		Ongoing
Complete trail projects within existing parks		Ongoing

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Appendices

Appendix A: Potential Funding Sources

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead- line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson						
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks	To acquire or develop public, nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	• \$4 million avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project	May 1	• A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required • Priority for land acquisition ▪ Projects must comply with ADA	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Urban Greenspace Program (UGS)	To acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas or to protect scenic or ecological features.	• \$1.6 million avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project	May 1	• A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required ▪ Projects must comply with ADA	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR)	To acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	• \$1.6 million avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project	May 1	• Funds available to acquire development rights in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial developments are in place. ▪ May include enhancements of outdoor recreation.	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Urban Rivers Grant Program (UR)	To acquire lands or rights in lands adjacent to urban rivers for the purpose of preserving or restoring them for economic revitalization or nature-based outdoor recreation activities.	• \$800,000 avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project	May 1	• A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required ▪ Projects must comply with ADA	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	To acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	• 50% local match per project • Land acquisition • Development of recreational facilities	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required.	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead- line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	To maintain, develop, rehabilitate, and acquire land for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails.	• Grant assistance to develop or maintain trails up to 80%. • Awards up to \$100,000. • Rehabilitation and maintenance of existing trails and trailhead facilities. • Development of new trails, trail linkages, and trailhead facilities with some restrictions on federal lands. • Acquisition of property for trails in areas with limited trail opportunities.	May 1	• Funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in, or which further a specific goal of a local, county, or state trail plan. ▪ Funds may be used on trails that are referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan ▪ Projects must comply with ADA.	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Statewide Multi-Modal Improvement Program (SMIP)						
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	To fund facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, including rehabilitating and operating historic transportation buildings and structures, restoring railway depots, and landscaping near transportation facilities.	20% required match	January 2026	▪ Construction projects must be over \$100,000. ▪ Non-construction projects must be over \$50,000.	WisDOT	https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/aid/tap.aspx
Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-U)	To fund a range of transportation-related activities, including projects on higher function local roads and local safety improvements.	WisDOT recommends federal funding be approved at the 80% maximum but allows Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Committees to provide as low as 50% federal funding at approval.	Spring 2026	▪ For 2022-2027 program development, total funds available are \$92.5 million.	WisDOT	https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/stp-urban.aspx

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead- line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Surface Transportation Program – Rural (STP-R)	To fund a wide range of transportation-related activities, including projects on higher function local roads and local safety improvements.	WisDOT recommends federal funding be approved at the 80% maximum but allows Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Committees to provide as low as 50% federal funding at approval.	Spring 2026	For 2022-2027 program development, total funds available are \$43.3 million.	WisDOT	https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/stp-rural.aspx
Other Programs						
Urban Forestry Grants	To fund tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness.	\$1,000-\$25,000 grants awarded with a 50% local match	October 2026	Urban forestry, training, and street tree inventory	Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/urbanforests/grants
Highway Safety Improvement Program	To improve state and local street or highway safety, reduce number and severity of crashes	10% local match per project	Late Summer 2026	Communities are encouraged to start working with the District Office.	WisDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	https://wisconsindot.gov/pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/hsip.aspx
PeopleForBikes	To improve bicycling in the U.S.		Fall 2026		People For Bikes	https://www.peopleforbikes.org/grants
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	To support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users.	\$200,000-\$50 million	Spring 2026	Eligible projects: • Develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan). • Conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan. • Carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.	US DOT	https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead- line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)	To increase bird populations and wetland habitat while supporting local economies and American traditions such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, family farming, and cattle ranching.	Up to \$2 million	Summer and Fall 2026	Projects must involve only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement, and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds.	US Dept of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service	https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-standard
AARP Community Challenge	Small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages.	• Average grant amount \$11,500. • 76% of grants less than \$15,000.	Spring 2026	• Improve public spaces, housing, transportation, and civic engagement. • Support diversity, equity, and inclusion. • Build engagement for programs under new federal laws. • Pursue innovative ideas that support people age 50 or older.	AARP	https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/
Private Donations	Local donations, fundraising and sponsorship opportunities by businesses and/or individuals					
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program	To revitalize comprehensive downtown programs, including streetscapes.	Technical Assistance	No Date	• General downtown program. • May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping.	National Main Street Center	https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/main-street/

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead- line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Aquatic Restoration Programs						
Surface Water Restoration and Management Grants	To provide cost-sharing for surface water protection and restoration. Funding available for education, ecological assessments, planning, and implementation.	- Grants cover up to 75% of costs. \$25,000-\$200,000, depending on type of grant.	Pre-application submission by Sept. 15, full application by Nov 15	Types of grants include: - Healthy Lakes & Rivers - Surface Water Restoration - Management Plan Implementation - Ordinance Development - Fee Simple Land Easement & Acquisition - Wetland Restoration Incentives	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html
Sustainability Programs						
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin	To fund many different kinds of projects that benefit wildlife.	Grants vary by type, some open to annual applications, and some by invitation only.	Varies	Types of grants include: - Bird Protection Fund - C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund - Norma and Stanley DeBoer Quiet Trails Fund	Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin	https://www.wisconsinconservation.org/grant-programs/
Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants	Among other priorities, offers grants that allow for pocket parks and community gardens as part of their funding.	Maximum \$500,000	Summer 2026	Types of grants: - Planning Grants - Implementation Grants	HUD	https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn/planninggrants
Urban & Community Forestry Program	Technical, financial, and educational assistance program, delivering nature-based solutions to ensure a resilient and equitable tree canopy.		August 2026	Some areas of focus: - Planning - Environmental Health	US Forest Service	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	To support community development activities to build stronger and more resilient communities.			Can include parks and similar green spaces.	HUD	https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg/

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead- line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program	To develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support.	\$20,000-\$50,000	January 2026	Ecological improvements may include one or more of the following: wetland, riparian, forest and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation, community tree canopy enhancement, water quality monitoring and green infrastructure best management practices for managing run-off.	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-program
Cornell Douglas Foundation Grants	For nonprofits to advocate for environmental health and justice, encourage stewardship of the environment, and further respect for sustainability of resources.	Average grant amount \$10,000.	Year-round	Some areas of focus: • Environmental Health & Justice • Land Conservation • Sustainability of Resources • Watershed Protection	Cornell Douglas Foundation	https://www.cornelldouglas.org/grants
Waste Management Charitable Giving	For nonprofits to provide renewal resources to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to conserve and maintain wetlands, wildlife habitats, and green spaces.	Not listed	Year-round		Waste Management	https://www.wm.com/us/en/inside-wm/social-impact/community-impact
Patagonia Environmental Grants	Support innovative work that addresses the root causes of the environmental crisis and seeks to protect both the environment and affected communities.	\$5,000-\$20,000, according to program	Varies		Patagonia	https://www.patagonia.com/how-we-fund/

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead- line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Walmart Foundation National Giving Program Grant	For non-profits that operate on a national scope through affiliates in many states around the country or through programs that operate regionally/locally but seek funding to replicate program activities nationally.	\$250,000 and above	Year-round	Areas of focus: • Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating • Sustainability • Women's Economic Empowerment • Career Opportunity	Walmart Foundation	https://walmart.org/how-we-give
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance	To provide professional services to help achieve conservation and outdoor recreation project vision.	Does not provide financial assistance or monetary grants.	March 1	Contact the state program manager to discuss the proposed project and current application process.	National Park Service	https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm

Appendix B: Table of Future and Existing Park Acreages

Name	Classification	Size	Constrained Acres	Unconstrained Acres
EXISTING PARKS				
Breuer Park	Community	67.25	28.88	38.36
Community Park	Community	7.85	0.00	7.85
Rotary Park	Community	10.53	1.26	9.27
Fireman's Park	Neighborhood	13.83	12.15	1.68
Rueckl Fields	Neighborhood	12.58	2.92	9.67
Community Park Natural Area	Conservancy	14.23	10.19	4.03
Total		126.28	55.40	70.86
EXISTING PARKS - By Park Classification				
Community Parks		85.63	30.14	55.48
Neighborhood Parks		26.42	15.07	11.35
Conservancy		14.23	10.19	4.03
Total		126.28	55.40	70.86

Name	Classification	Size	Constrained Acres	Unconstrained Acres
PLANNED PARKS				
Arboretum at Cedar Bluffs (by 2030)	Conservancy	8.84	8.44	0.40
Total		8.84	8.44	0.40

EXISTING + PLANNED PARKS - By Park Classification				
Community Parks		85.63	30.14	55.48
Neighborhood Parks		26.42	15.07	11.35
Conservancy		23.06	18.63	4.43
Total		135.11	63.84	71.26

Acres highlighted in yellow were used for Parkland Needs Assessment calculations in Chapters 5 and 6.

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Appendix C: Population Projection Scenarios

	2020*	2024**	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
WisDOA Projections	5,992	6,307	7,060	7,476	7,892	8,062	8,232
Linear Growth 1990-2024 (1)	5,992	6,307	7,007	7,590	8,174	8,757	9,341
Linear Growth 2000-2024 (1)	5,992	6,307	6,909	7,410	7,911	8,412	8,963
Linear Growth 2010-2024 (1)	5,992	6,307	6,838	7,281	7,723	8,166	8,693
Linear Growth 2020-2024 (1)	5,992	6,307	6,780	7,173	7,567	7,961	8,355
Compounded Growth 1990-2024 (2)	5,992	6,307	8,445	10,771	13,738	17,523	19,664
Compounded Growth 2000-2024 (2)	5,992	6,307	7,344	8,338	9,465	10,746	11,655
Compounded Growth 2010-2024 (2)	5,992	6,307	6,997	7,630	8,320	9,072	9,742
Compounded Growth 2020-2024 (2)	5,992	6,307	6,821	7,281	7,772	8,297	8,856

***Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census.**

****Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.**

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2024 population estimate.

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

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