

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN



March 2023

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INTRODUCTION

PLAN PURPOSE

The purpose of this Outdoor Recreation Plan is to explore the City of River Falls' existing outdoor recreation system and resources, anticipate future needs and demands, and identify actions for the city to implement the community's outdoor recreation vision. This document provides both a short term (2030) and long term (2045) horizon of outdoor recreation needs for the community. The short term needs analysis was completed to align with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) requirements to maintain eligibility for a variety of Federal and State aids to purchase land and add facilities to existing outdoor recreation lands through the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan. The required elements to comply with DNR guidance are outlined below. This plan was conducted in accordance with guidance found in Wisconsin Statute 23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The long term analysis was completed to align with the Focus River Falls planning process.

Outdoor Recreation Plan Required Components

A. Goals and Objectives

B. Definitions

C. Planning Process

D. Description of the Planning Region

- Social Characteristics
- Physical Characteristics

E. Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory

F. Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment

- Public Input Assessment
- Need Standards

G. Recommendations for Outdoor Recreation

- Action Program
- Operations and Maintenance
- Funding Programs

PLANNING PROCESS

The Outdoor Recreation Plan was developed as part of the Focus River Falls planning process that updated three crucial planning documents within the City of River Falls. This includes the Comprehensive Plan, establishing a broad long-range plan for the community, and the Bike and Pedestrian Plan, creating a system-wide functional plan for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The Focus River Falls process was an opportunity for the community to coordinate a long range planning across multiple topics and capitalize on engagement efforts and community conversations. The planning process began in the Fall of 2021 with the adoption of the plan in March of 2023. Overall, a four step process was used to develop the Outdoor Recreation Plan: Phase 1 of the planning process included building an understanding of current conditions within the city’s outdoor recreation system. Phase 2 utilized early engagement activities to establish goals for the community. Phase 3 explored opportunities for the system, including a qualitative and quantitative assessment of outdoor recreation needs. Phase 4, the final phase, identified recommendations and implementation actions and created this planning document.



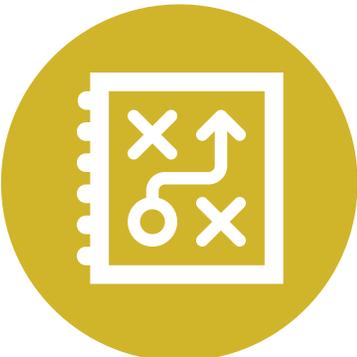
Phase 1: Data Collection



Phase 2: Goal and Strategy Development



Phase 3: Plan Element Exploration



Phase 4: Plan Recommendations and Review

Steering Committee

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board served as the Steering Committee to guide the development of the Outdoor Recreation Plan. Throughout the planning process, this group of seven people met to discuss community input, review deliverables, and the analysis that was gathered. Steering Committees were key to the success of this planning process and will continue to partner in the successful implementation of the recommendations.

Community Engagement

Collaboration with the public was an essential component in the development of the Outdoor Recreation Plan and will be needed for successful implementation. There were various opportunities for community engagement throughout this planning process. Each of the utilized tools are highlighted below. Unless identified below, the full details of each engagement activity are appended by reference within the Comprehensive Plan. The Focus River Falls process utilized **EngageRF** as the online engagement platform to share information and collect feedback.

	<h3>Early Engagement</h3>	<p>Early community engagement provided an opportunity to inform the public of the Focus River Falls planning process and understand current experiences, issues, and opportunities. Engagement activities included a community open house and online survey.</p>
	<h3>Community Conversations</h3>	<p>Community conversations were held midway through the planning process to test ideas and discuss opportunities and needs within the community. A specific recreation conversation invited representatives from various recreation activities (e.g., youth sports, fishing, gardening, kayaking) to the table.</p>
	<h3>Pop-Up Events</h3>	<p>Pop-up events were held throughout the planning process as an opportunity to connect with the community at various community events. Three pop-up events were held specifically to connect the community with the Outdoor Recreation Plan. Events at Art on the Kinni, Youth Football tournament, and Food Pantry provided the planning team with opportunities to discuss community needs with event attendees.</p>
	<h3>Community Needs Survey</h3>	<p>A community needs survey was used to understand the community's desires and needs for outdoor recreation. The survey was available through EngageRF and paper copies throughout community. The input collected through this survey provided a qualitative assessment of needs, as discussed in the Needs Assessment section of this plan. The full summary of the survey is provided in Appendix A.</p>
	<h3>Draft Plan Review</h3>	<p>The review of the draft plan occurred in multiple phases from staff and steering committee review to public review. The drafted plan was available to the public for comment and consideration alongside the other Focus River Falls plans.</p>

OUTDOOR RECREATION ROLES

The City of River Falls recognizes that parks, recreation, and open space are a cornerstone of the community’s identity. Recreation opportunities are essential to maintaining a good quality of life for community members and also an important draw to visitors from across the region. These resources provide places for people to interact socially, be physically active, and connect with the natural environment. Additionally, these resources are a key element of the identity of River Falls and support sustainability and resiliency goals. Access to a healthy lifestyle is directly tied to recreation options from both a mental, physical, and social perspective, and the city’s system provides accessible options for all ages and abilities. Through this planning process, the role of outdoor recreation within River Falls was solidified through community input. In addition to the development of this plan, Recreation was added as an additional plan element within the Comprehensive Plan to ensure the importance of recreation was woven into the City’s long range vision and future action.



Community Identity

Recreation is a pillar of the River Falls identity for both residents and visitors.



Physical Health

Recreation provides options for the community to be physically active.



Social and Mental Health

Recreation provides opportunities for people to connect with each other and the spaces around them.



Access to Natural Resources

Recreation provides access to the community’s natural resources from both a physical connection and learning opportunity.



Sustainability and Resilience

Recreation and open spaces support the community’s sustainability and resilience goals.



Tourism and Economic Development

Recreation is an economic and tourism driver in the community, bringing visitors and dollars into the community.

AMENDING THE PLAN

This Outdoor Recreation Plan is intended to serve as a living document used to guide decision making and investments. While the plan utilizes short and long term planning horizons to guide investments and decisions, it can and should be amended as needed to respond to changing trends and community needs. Ideally the plan should be updated every 5 years to align with the guidance of the WDNR but is recommended as needed for the City. For example, the first five year update may include a smaller update to revise inventory and demographics, followed by a larger update in ten years to align with the next Comprehensive Plan update.



KEY THEMES AND GOALS

Identification of key themes and goals for recreation within River Falls provides an opportunity to guide future decision making based on the input received from the community. The goals outlined below identify opportunities or conditions that the city would like to attain. Each of these goals is associated with a key theme that was identified early in the planning process from the early engagement with the community. These key themes identify important topics and focus areas that were highlighted through the experiences and perspectives shared by the community.

KEY THEME OUTDOOR RECREATION GOAL

Existing Facilities	River Falls has a well-maintained system of existing parks that include a variety of amenities and activities that serve the recreation needs of the community and visitors.
Existing Facilities and New Facilities	River Falls maintains active partnerships with the community and agencies to respond to emerging and changing recreation trends and needs.
Green Corridors	River Falls has a network of green corridors that include natural resources and community spaces that create opportunities to maintain and enhance resources and enhance social and recreational capital.
New Facilities	The River Falls Park System includes spaces for the community to gather and recreate in many forms, prioritizing spaces that create opportunities to connect with people and resources.
Resources	The River Falls Park System balances recreational needs, social opportunities, cultural celebration, and public art opportunities into its park infrastructure.
Overall System	River Falls has a park system that is accessible to all and provides spaces for people to connect and recreate in a manner that meets their needs – from organized sports to social celebrations.
Overall System	River Falls focuses on maintenance and operations of its existing investments to ensure safe, equitable, and accessible recreational opportunities for all.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

There are a number of conditions that influence recreation needs and future investments within a community. Conditions should be monitored to assess changes in recreational needs. Some of the more common factors to consider include:

- **The population is growing:** The community continues to grow in size as new residents are attracted to the City and students come to learn. There is a strong cohort of young adults in the community.
- **There are lots of children in the community:** In 2020, over 25 percent of the community was under the age of 19, and more specifically, 14.9 percent were under the age of 14. This section of the community covers a variety of recreational needs and desires – from programming to amenities.
- **A connection to natural resources is a big opportunity:** River Falls is home to a variety of diverse and natural resources that support habitats and ecosystems. Connections to these resources through the recreation infrastructure provides not only an opportunity to connect the community to the natural environment but as a mechanism to preserve and enhance these resources for future generations.
- **Recreation preferences change over time:** As the population and culture shift, the demand for various recreation activities can be expected to change. Recreational activity interest and trends ebb and flow, and new recreation trends rise to popularity quickly. For example, interest in pickle ball in the community has grown in popularity, overshadowing the desire and need for tennis courts. Changes such as these may be reflected in policy decisions to add or remove facilities within the City's recreation infrastructure.

28% of residents were between the ages of 20 and 30 in 2019.

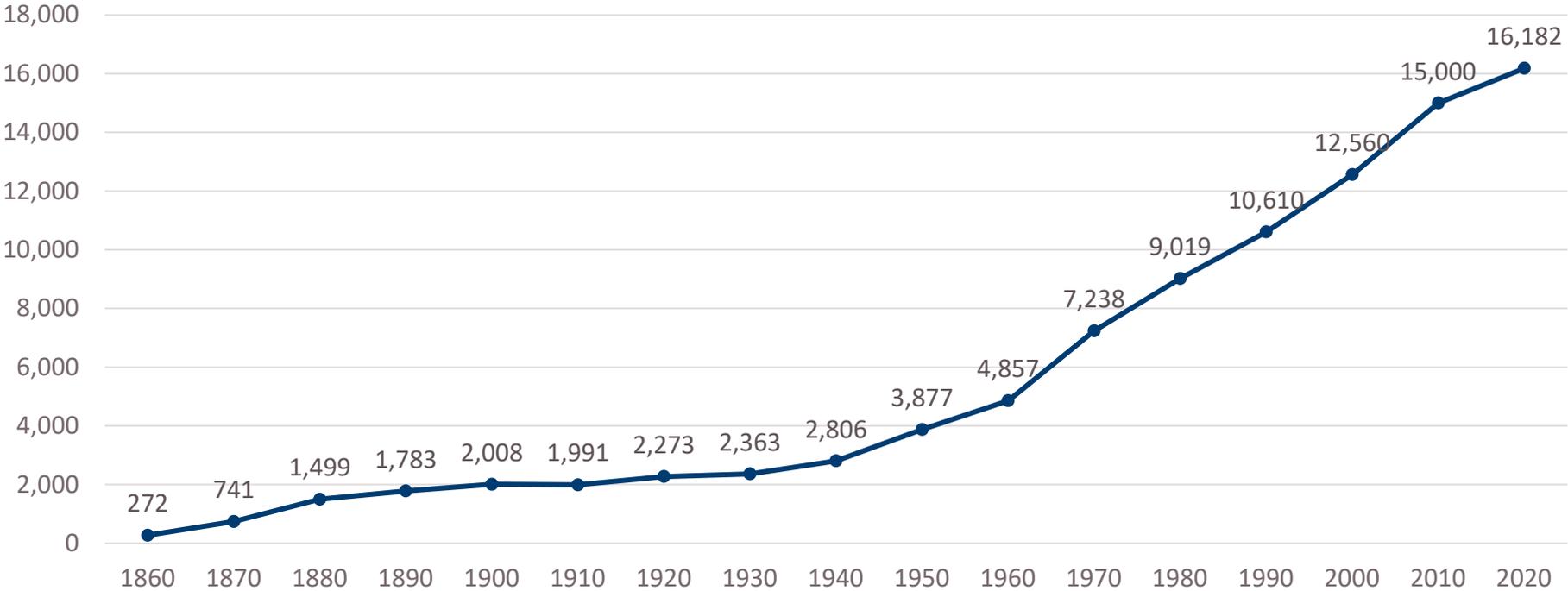
SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The social characteristics provide an understanding of the trends within a community. These highlights can be used to help inform the various recreational needs within River Falls.

Population Trends

The City of River Falls’ population has continued to grow for the last 100 years. Since 1860, there was only one-decade span that experienced a declining population (1900 to 1910). The 2020 US Census recorded a 7.9 percent increase from 2010, representing a population of 16,182 for the community. This is the slowest ten-year growth rate in 90 years (4.0 percent growth from 1920 to 1930).

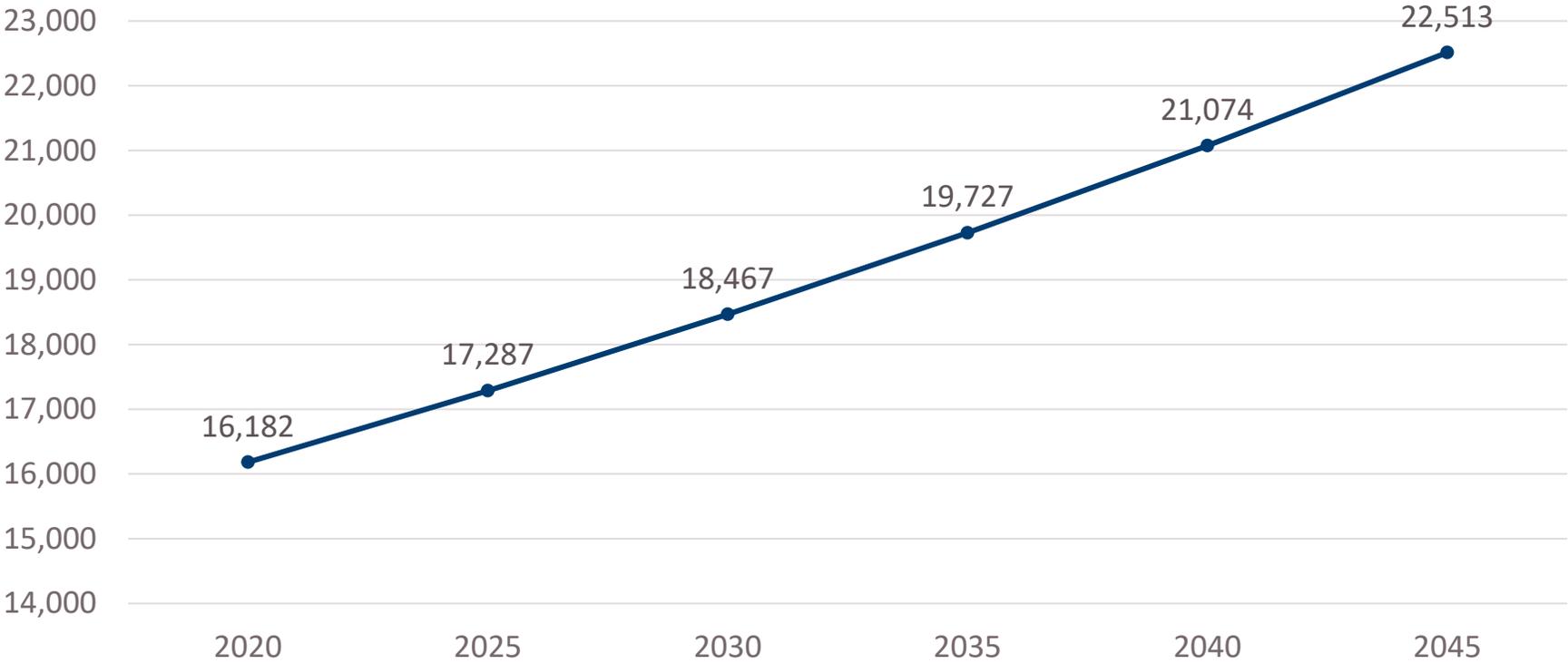
Figure 1. River Falls Population Over Time, 1860 to 2020



Source: US Census

As part of the Focus River Falls planning process, population projections were explored for the community. Historic changes, county projections, and other trends were explored to develop 5-year population projections through 2045 to inform the planning process. A 2045 population projection of 22,513 was selected to inform the Focus River Falls process. This projection represents an increase of 6.8 percent every 5 years for a total increase of 6,331 residents in the community over 25 years, or an average annual increase of 253 residents per year.

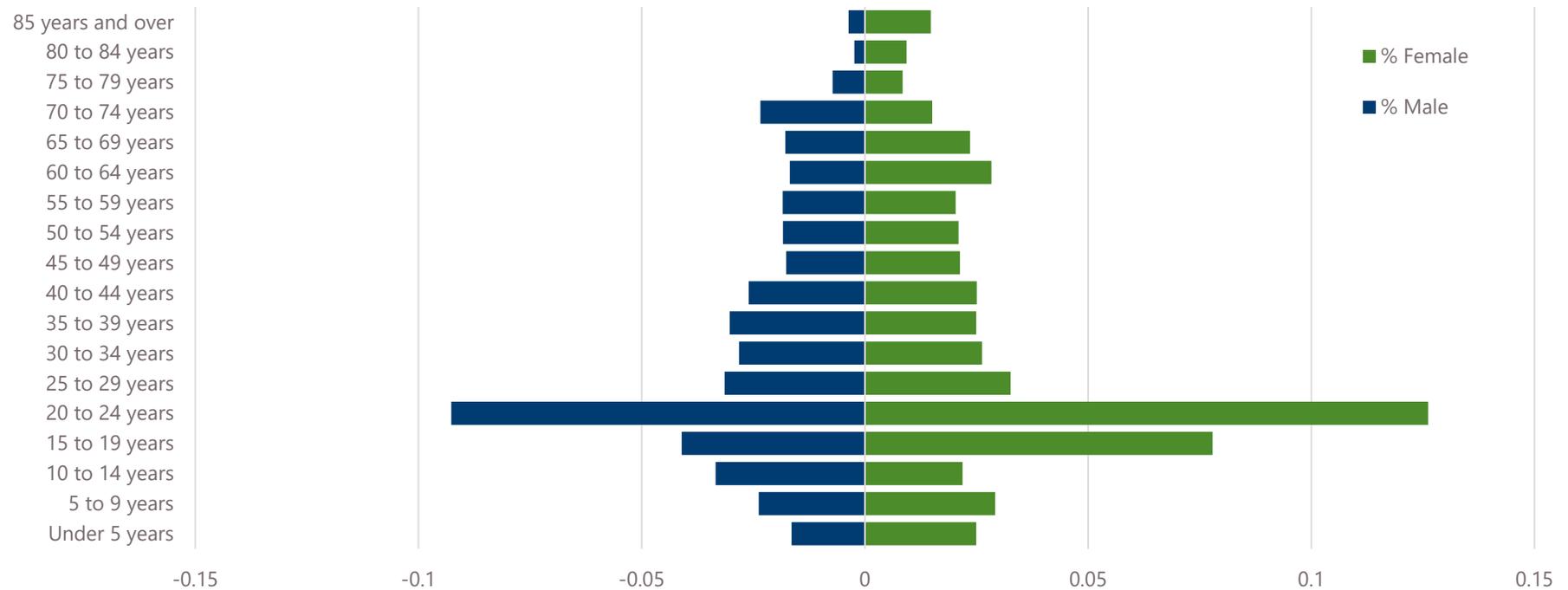
Figure 2. River Falls Population Projections, 2020 to 2045



Age

The age composition is generally balanced and supports a growing but steady population with higher cohorts between the ages of 14 and 44. The largest age groups for both genders are the 20 to 24 year-olds, followed by the 15 to 19 year-olds. This characteristic is likely tied to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and Chippewa Valley Technical College enrollment. Based on data from the National Center for Education Statistics, the School District of River Falls had a total of 3,517 school age children enrolled in 2020. The 2020 Census estimates the total senior population (55 and over) at 1,965 residents. River Falls has experienced consistent population growth for many decades, and two major contributors to growth is fertility, mortality and migration rates. Community with larger age cohorts in child bearing age, like River Falls, are likely to experience growth.

Figure 3. River Falls Population Pyramid, 2020



Source: 2020 ACS Estimate

Housing

In 2020, a total of 5,719 housing units were located within city limits according to the US Census ACS Estimates. A total of 5,904 housing units were estimated in 2022 according to the Updated Housing Demand Estimates for the City of River Falls report completed in October of 2022. The majority of homes in River Falls are detached single-family homes, followed by attached single-family units (i.e., duplex, or “twin home”) and large apartment complexes (20 or more units). Owner-occupied homes account for 52.5 percent of all household in River Falls, and 47.5 percent are renter-occupied. With larger percentages of renter-occupied and student housing, access to recreation facilities and uses is important to ensure a balance for all residents. This is an important consideration for neighborhood parks and how they support the characteristics of the surrounding neighborhoods.

River Falls Housing Characteristics, 2020 ¹ & 2022 ²				
5,904	52.5%	1985	\$357,000	\$896
Housing Units²	Owner-Occupied Units²	Median Year Built¹	2022 Median Sale Price²	Median Rent¹

Source: ¹US Census ACS Estimate, 2020; ²Updated Demand Estimates for the City of River Falls, Maxfield Research & Consulting, LLC

Employment

Demographic data is released at various intervals from the US Census, and 2019 employment data was the most recently available at the time the plan was drafted and is therefore used here. The top three industries in River Falls in 2019 were educational services, health care and social assistance, and accommodation and food service. There were 5,429 jobs in the community in 2019 and the three major sectors represented 52.6 percent of all jobs. A total of 1,349 of the jobs located in the community are held by River Falls residents. River Falls has a median household income of \$59,440, which is likely skewed by the large number of students living within city limits. Recreational employment is grouped within this data with arts and entertainment employment and accounts for 2.6 percent of all employment within the city. The largest industries can also help inform recreation usage (timing and location) based on generalized work hours and physical locations within the community. For example, the largest industry, Educational Services, includes employment that is generally held during normal business hours, offering recreation time in the weekday evenings and weekends.

Table 1. Employment by Industry

Industry	Count	Share	Industry	Count	Share
Ag., Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	0	0.0%	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	32	0.6%
Mining, Quarrying, Extraction	0	0.0%	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	317	5.8%
Utilities	38	0.7%	Management of Companies and Enterprises	17	0.3%
Construction	124	2.3%	Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	291	5.4%
Manufacturing	488	9.0%	Educational Services	1,108	20.4%
Wholesale Trade	64	1.2%	Health Care and Social Assistance	918	16.9%
Retail Trade	562	10.4%	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	145	2.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	49	0.9%	Accommodation and Food Services	829	15.3%
Information	23	0.4%	Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	118	2.2%
Finance and Insurance	204	3.8%	Public Administration	102	1.9%

Source: 2019 ACS Estimate

Social Characteristics Summary

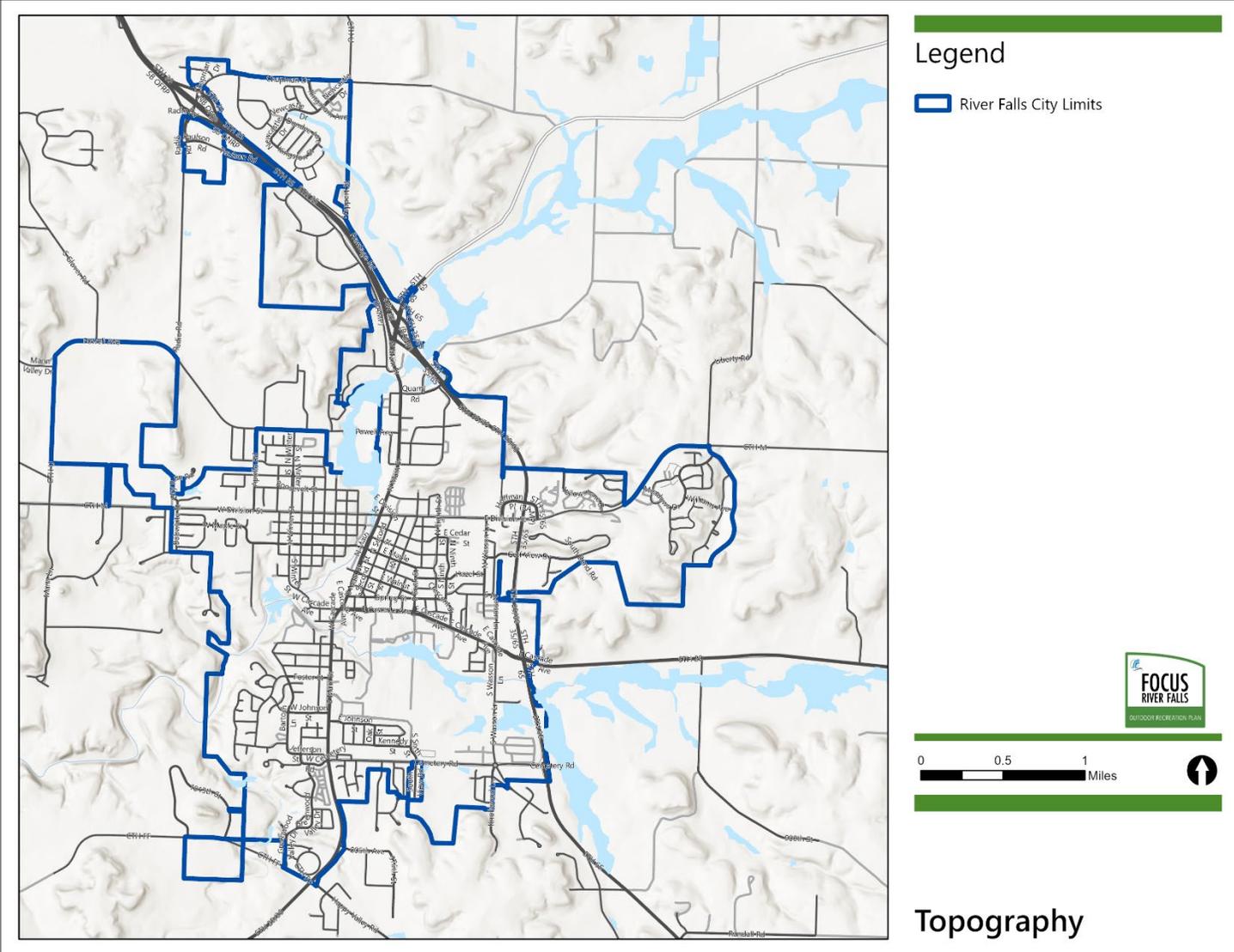
Social Characteristic	Continued growth projected for the next 20 years to a community population of 22,513 by 2045.	There are large groups of young adults and children, while older population groups have remained similar. The student population is the major contributor to this difference.	There are various housing situations and affordability levels that have individual recreation needs or desires.
Recreation Connection	River Falls is above average for the number of parks and acres of park when compared to communities of similar size. As growth occurs and population groups change, maintaining these ratios will require additional park development.	Recreation facility and activity needs vary by each age group and a diversity in offerings is important to connect to each group.	Neighborhood parks play an important role in supporting the surrounding neighborhood and responding to individual social characteristics.



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Topography

The physical landscape characteristics of a community are a key contributor to the balance of the built and natural environment, which is a defining natural feature of River Falls. The topography of the community is unique with many areas of slopes at an incline of 12 percent or greater. These areas are considered steep slopes and have development restrictions that must be considered for the preservation of existing open space, slopes and future recreation investments. River Falls' unique topography also present an opportunity from a visual and aesthetic perspective, as well as habitat connectivity and recreation corridors. The topography throughout the community presents unique challenges and opportunities for development, compared to



Topography

a generally flat landscape. This is an opportunity to explore ways that topography can influence recreation and open spaces or support future development.

The topography throughout the community is illustrated in the figure to the right. This figure provides the general topography of the community, where the relief shows higher and lower areas. For example, adjacent to the Kinnickinnic or other bodies of water are generally lower than other areas. Steep slopes are generally identified with a darker color. These areas are dispersed throughout the community.

Water

River Falls is bisected by the Kinnickinnic River, has two dam impoundments creating Lake George and the former Lake Louise, which was drained in 2020 because of a flooding event.. Within city limits, the river stretches approximately 2.5 miles from the northern boundary to the southwestern portion of River Falls. There are minimal wetlands in the community, they are mostly concentrated along S Wasson Lane. There is also a 100-year floodplain that extends along the river shores. Development restrictions are addressed in the City’s shoreland ordinance.

Parks, Trails, and Open Space

The community is well served by parks and trails, with a variety of options for pedestrians and bicyclists. There are over 90 miles of sidewalks, paths, and trails in River Falls, mostly consisting of paved sidewalks.

There are 28 city owned and maintained recreational spaces within city limits, which include a variety of sporting facilities, camp facilities, playgrounds, pavilions, outdoor stages, picnic areas, and pools.

There are a variety of open spaces located within the community that provide various uses and opportunities. There are five primary categories used to organize available open spaces within the community.

Trail Type	Length (Miles)	Township parks are included in the consideration of open space but not included within the city parks inventory because they are not managed by the city or located within city limits. However, these areas do provide a recreation function for the region and will be spaces that should be considered as the community grows.
Sidewalk	56.6	
Paved Path	21.2	
Dirt Trail	17.7	

Source: City of River Falls

Park or Open Space Category	Description	Number	Total Acres
Regional Parks	City parks that serve the entire community with amenities that cater to a broader audience.	4	128.0
Neighborhood Parks	City parks that are generally smaller and are designed to serve the neighborhood within a ½ mile.	11	65.3
Pocket Parks	Smaller park and recreation areas that provide a destination or small amenities and are intended to serve a broader audience.	7	2.2
Special Use Parks	Parks that provide a direct recreational function or use in the community, generally supporting one to three uses (e.g., event space).	1	125.6
Linear Parks	Park and recreation areas that provide a recreation and mobility function, supporting trail connections and recreation areas.	5	112.8
Total Parks		28	433.9
Cemetery	Existing cemeteries within the community.	3	28.4
Conservancy	A variety of open spaces identified for conservation and preservation. Examples include the DNR Kinnickinnic River Access and the School Forest.	31	568.9
Golf Courses	Includes areas dedicated to golf courses includes the course and any event or gathering spaces.	2	276.7
Stormwater Open Spaces	Open spaces dedicated to stormwater management, for detention, retention, or movement.	Many	187.3
Township Parks	Existing parks located and managed by adjacent towns.	5	41.3
Total Open Spaces			1,102.6
Total Parks and Open Spaces			1536.5

Historic Properties

Five locations within River Falls are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, two of which are directly connected to recreational and open spaces. The Glen Park Suspension Footbridge is of state significance, and the Glen Park Municipal Swimming Pool of local significance. These spaces are direct connections to the community’s culture and history and long standing importance of recreation.

River Falls has a Historic Preservation Commission who is always interested in pursuing preservation of the cultural resources in the City including nominating more properties for the National Register, educating the community and more.



Green Corridors

Through the Focus River Falls process, existing environmental and natural features within the community were analyzed. This process resulted in the identification of system of Green Corridors that creates a system of natural features and locations to support the community’s goals of natural resource preservation and enhancement. This system of green corridors includes steep slopes (slopes over 12 percent), park and conservancy areas, floodplain, and wetlands. The network of natural resources creates opportunities to preserve for future generations and further investments in the recreation system to support the enhancement of these areas. Further detail about the policy direction and investments of Green Corridors is available with the **Focus River Falls Comprehensive Plan**.



EXISTING PARK INVENTORY

In accordance with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource’s “Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans”, an inventory of existing publicly available outdoor recreation facilities and amenities should be completed to understand the current recreation infrastructure. This section outlines the various parks and facilities available within the community.



PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The thirty public parks in the community can be grouped together into various classifications that identify similar characteristics or offerings throughout the City. There are eight park and open space classifications that are used to define River Falls’ outdoor recreation sites. These classifications also align with the needs and standards recommended by the State of Wisconsin, specific to the size of each park type and the community members served.

<p>Pocket Park</p>	<p>A Pocket Park is a small site used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs. These parks may be found in any type of setting. Examples might include a downtown mini park or plaza, a memorial or historic site, or small open areas. These parks may be either active or passive but speak to a specific recreational need rather than a particular population density.</p>
<p>Neighborhood Park</p>	<p>Neighborhood parks are designed to meet the immediate active and passive recreation needs of those people living within a short distance of the park (usually between ¼ and ½ miles uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers). These parks may serve as the recreational and social focus of their neighborhood, helping to establish a neighborhood identity.</p> <p>The average neighborhood park serves from 500 to 1,500 people. Neighborhood parks commonly range from 5-10 acres in size. The design focus is typically on children (five to fifteen years old) and families, although the demographic composition of the neighborhood should determine if facilities for other population groups are warranted.</p> <p>Neighborhood parks will usually provide play apparatus for preschoolers and school age children. They typically provide informal recreational facilities, stressing versatility to accommodate multiple recreational pursuits. Examples include multi-purpose turf fields and paved court areas, and lawn areas that may be used for intermittent activities (horseshoes, lawn games, badminton, etc.) and seasonal activities (ice rinks, etc.). Other features found in neighborhood parks may include picnic shelters, restroom facilities, and maintenance or storage buildings. They may include passive recreation areas with naturalized landscaping.</p> <p>As neighborhood parks are intended to meet the needs of people living within a walkable distance, vehicle parking will usually be provided on the street, rather than in the park. Connections to the sidewalk and trail system, along with bicycle parking are great additions.</p>

<p>Regional Park</p>	<p>Regional Parks are designed to serve several neighborhoods or an entire community, with amenities that cater to the recreation needs of various groups. For example, neighborhood parks generally cater to younger children, while a regional park has amenities geared toward children, teenagers, and adults. Although size is not always a specific criterion for classifying parks, it is generally recognized that regional parks are more spacious than neighborhood parks or playgrounds. Regional parks throughout the State of Wisconsin have an average size of between 20 and 35 acres but may be larger. Regional parks have an effective service area of one to three miles, and are intended to serve an entire municipality.</p> <p>Regional parks provide a combination of intensive and non-intensive development ranging from play structures to trail systems. In addition to the kinds of amenities provided at neighborhood parks, regional parks may provide facilities such as swimming pools, formal playing fields, sports complexes, community centers, amphitheaters, and other facilities serving a large population base. Parking is typically provided within the park, with the amount determined based on the types of uses the park will accommodate.</p>
<p>Special Use Park</p>	<p>A special use park is often created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. Examples might include a sports park, water park or pool, arena, community center, fitness center, or theater/event center. These are needs that are not generally found in neighborhood or regional parks, greenways, or trail corridors, or may be incompatible with passive, nature-based outdoor recreation. The actual size of a special use park is determined by land availability and facility/market demand for special uses or recreation programs. These parks may be designed as a revenue-generating enterprise.</p>
<p>Linear Parks</p>	<p>Linear Parks include similar features to a greenway and are typically longer than wide. Linear parks support a variety of recreational functions, primarily including trails as associated uses. However, they may provide some other specific recreation uses at a trail head or similar facility.</p>
<p>School Park</p>	<p>School Parks include the recreational facilities and uses located at a public school that primarily serve the school but are also open to the public outside of school hours. Recreational features can include play equipment, sports fields, sport courts, and other multipurpose spaces.</p>
<p>Private Parks and Recreational Facilities</p>	<p>Private parks and recreation areas are sites owned by organizations, clubs, or homeowner associations, which provide public access to privately owned open space or recreational facilities. There are not any private parks and recreational facilities located within the community at this time. These parks and recreational facilities function similar to a neighborhood park, but for a defined group or area. The recreational value contributes to the overall amenities within the community, though the City has no management or control over the maintenance of the facilities.</p>

Trail System

A trail system is comprised of hard and soft-surfaced paths designed to accommodate some combination of hiking, walking, bicycling, mountain biking, skating, horseback riding, and similar activities. Nature trails are also included in the trail system. Trails may be designed for a single purpose, or as multi-use paths for several kinds of users (e.g., cyclists and pedestrians).

EXISTING CITY PARKS

There are 28 existing parks identified within the community that are managed by the City of River Falls and are publicly available to residents and visitors. These park spaces include over 400 acres of land and provide various active and passive recreation opportunities. The figure on the following page identifies the locations of each of the identified parks (see **Appendix B** for additional maps of these park areas). An inventory of the existing parks and facilities included the identification of parks by category, the amenities within each park, and the associated partners, each highlighted in the following pages.

City Park Amenities and Partnerships

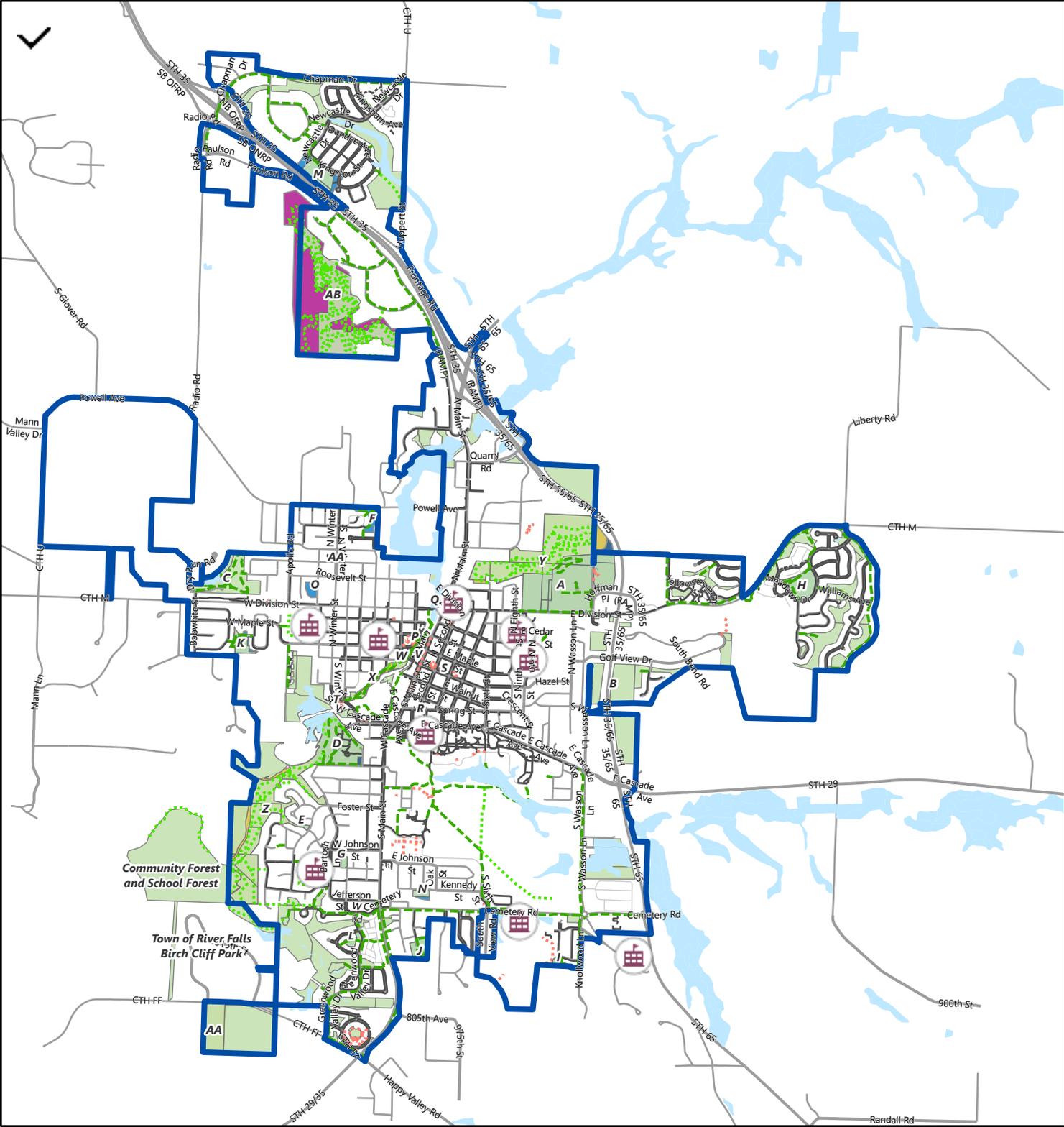
A variety of recreation resources are available throughout the City's park and open space areas. These facilities provide outdoor recreation opportunities for a range of ages, abilities, and interests and include opportunities for physical, social, and passive activity. The publicly available amenities within the School District are also identified to understand the full perspective of available amenities. The full inventory of publicly available amenities is included in **Appendix B**. An initial inventory was completed for the creation of this plan and ongoing updates will be made as park improvements are made and the inventory is updated. The City maintains relationships and collaboration with community groups and organizations to provide these publicly available amenities. These relationships are highlighted in the following table.



Organization or Community Group	Role/Description	Associated Facilities
School District of River Falls	<p>The City collaborates with the School District to utilize school parks and amenities to provide recreational program offerings managed by the Parks Department. This collaboration is solidified through Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) which identify roles and responsibilities for the use of these facilities. These MOUs provide the city use of facilities for city programming and note that all maintenance responsibilities are of the School District. The maintenance of these MOUs is a critical component for maintaining the current and future growth of programming.</p> <p>The School District also maintains the School Forest located outside of City Limits providing an additional recreational facility for the community.</p>	<p>School District Recreational Facilities School Forest</p>
University of River Falls	<p>The University of River Falls owns and manages many recreational and event facilities that serve the university community. Many resources are also available to the community for use through fees or event programs. For example, use of the tennis courts and other amenities is available for a fee or with facility admission.</p>	UWRF Facilities
Grow to Share	<p>Grow to Share is a community organization that manages the community garden located within Hoffman Park. The City and Grow to Share have an agreement for use of the park which notes that the use may need to be relocated if desired by the city. There are no current plans for relocation and coordination with Grow to Share would occur before notice of relocation.</p>	Hoffman Park
Kinnickinnic Off-Road Cyclists	<p>Kinnickinnic Off-Road Cyclists (KORC) has designed and maintains the biking and hiking trails within White Tail Ridge. The City and KORC have shared agreements regarding the use and maintenance of the trails within the park .</p>	White Tail Ridge
River Falls Baseball Council	<p>The River Falls Baseball Council (RFBC) is a charitable organization that was formed in 2011 and brought together local baseball organizations. The RFBC provides maintenance and operations responsibilities for the First National Bank Stadium in Hoffman Park.</p>	Hoffman Park
Youth and Adult Sports Associations	<p>There are number of youth and adult sports associations located within River Falls that support sports activities for all ages. The organizations team with the City and School District for use courts and fields for practices, games, and tournaments.</p>	<p>City and School District Recreational Areas</p>

Organization or Community Group	Role/Description	Associated Facilities
River Falls Disc Golf Club	The River Falls Disc Club is an organization of local disc golf enthusiasts who collaborate with the city for maintenance and operations of the two disc golf courses at Hoffman Park and Sterling Ponds Park. The club hosts tournament sand events on the courses throughout the year.	Sterling Ponds Park and Hoffman Park
Kinni Collaborative	The Kinni Collaborative is a local non-profit within River Falls committed to a free flowing Kinnickinnic River. The collaborative collaborates with the city and other organizations on a number of activities regarding open spaces and recreational areas. They also support activities and preservation of the Community Forest.	Kinni Pathway, Open Spaces, Community Forest
Kinnickinnic Land Trust	A community-based land trust dedicated to working with the community to conserve and protect the beauty and health of the Kinnickinnic River and its watershed. KRLT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and accepts donations in the form of membership dues, cash gifts, stock gifts, property, or development rights. Founded in 1993, the KRLT has over 600 members and has protected more than 3,000 acres and over 10 miles along the Kinni River. They also support activities and preservation of the Community Forest.	Open Spaces, Community Forest





Legend

- Park Names**
- A Hoffman
 - B Golf View
 - C DeSanctis
 - D Glen
 - E Brandon's
 - F Collins
 - G Hamilton
 - H Highview Meadows
 - I Knollwood
 - J Larson
 - K Rolling Hills
 - L Spring Creek
 - M Sterling Ponds
 - N Wells
 - O Westdale
 - P City Hall Plaza
 - Q Inlow
 - R Corner
 - S Ostness
 - T Power Plant Park
 - U North Winter Parkway
 - V Veterans Park
 - W Heritage
 - X Kinnickinnic Pathway
 - Y Mound
 - Z River Hills
 - AA River Falls Dog Park
 - AB Whitetail Ridge
 - Wetlands
- Sidewalks and Trails**
- Bridge
 - Tunnel
 - Underpass
 - Sidewalk
 - Paved Path
 - Dirt Trail
 - Other
 - Other
 - Open Space and Recreational Areas
 - Public and Private Schools



River Falls Parks

Regional Parks

DeSanctis Park

Size: 25.0 Acres



DeSanctis is a regional park located west of Downtown River Falls. Unique features include the historic Glover Station School, which has been remodeled (completed summer 2022) and is available as a rentable park facility. The school was built circa 1920 and was originally located four miles north of River Falls. Other features such as paved walking paths that loop throughout the park including a fitness trail.

Key Features:
Basketball (1/2 court)
Play structure
Fitness trail
Event space
Sledding hills

Glen Park

Size: 40.8 Acres



Glen Park is River Falls’ oldest park, located just west of the University of Wisconsin – River Falls campus. At this regional park, you can find several unique features such as the beautiful historic Swinging Bridge that crosses over the south fork of the Kinnickinnic River, as well as smooth paved trails throughout the park, indoor restrooms, and plenty of recreational spaces like soccer fields, pickleball, basketball courts, the first and only public pool and new splash pad. There are amenities for people of all ages to enjoy at Glen Park.

Key Features:
Soccer field
Sand volleyball
Basketball
Pickleball
Pool
Splash pad
Fishing area
Restrooms
Grills
Showers
Electric access
Event space

Hoffman Park

Size: 36.3 Acres



Hoffman Park is a large regional park that contains Tri-Angels Playground. Tri-Angels Playground was established in Hoffman Park in 2015 by Unlimited Play, a non-profit organization that focuses on accessible playgrounds. Tri-Angels Playground is a 12,000 ft play space featuring a design that meets (and surpasses!) ADA standards, so children of all abilities can play together without barriers. Hoffman Park also has plenty of opportunities for sports including softball, baseball, soccer fields, volleyball, skateboarding, and disc golf.

Two additional amenities within Hoffman Park provide a special use function to the regional park. Grow to Share Gardens and First National Bank Stadium are managed through collaboration with community groups and the City of River Falls.

The Grow to Share Gardens are located within Hoffman Park just north of First National Bank Stadium. The community garden plots are managed and maintained by Grow to Share, Inc., a non-profit organization. The garden not only provides a space for the community to grow their own produce, but the organization donates produce to local organizations (1,250 pounds in 2021) and provides volunteer and educational opportunities on site.

First National Bank Stadium is a collaboration with the River Falls Baseball Council and hosts 70 to 80 games per summer and is home to the River Falls Fighting Fish, American Legion and High School Varsity baseball teams. In addition to these regular games, the stadium hosts tournament events and other local events. Event amenities associated with the stadium includes concessions, restrooms, and event space.

Key Features:

- Accessible play space
- Softball Baseball
- Sand volleyball
- Basketball (1/2 court)
- Swings
- Camping
- Skateboarding ramp
- Disc Golf (9 holes)
- Drinking fountains
- Grills
- Electric access
- Event space
- Restrooms
- Community garden
- Baseball Field and Event Amenities

Golf View Park

Size: 25.9 Acres



Golf View Park is a regional park that provides a variety of uses east of the downtown district. The park is divided into two sections by the Highway-35/65 bypass with soccer fields on both sides. The park is part of the Cernohous Detention Basin.

The main features of Golf View Park include well-kept soccer fields and goalie nets. There is off-street parking which makes it home to many soccer games and events. Vehicle and pedestrian accessibility to the park is found off of Golf View Drive from Wasson Lane.

Key Features:

- Play structure
- Soccer field

Neighborhood Parks

Brandan's Park

Size: 0.8 Acres



Brandan's Park is a neighborhood park located southwest of Downtown, within the River Hills Subdivision. The park features a play structure, swing set, and open space. The park was created in 1983 and was renamed in 1988 in dedication to Brandan Jensen in the memory of his passing.

Key Features:

- Play structure
- Swings
- Open space

Collins Park

Size: 4.3 Acres



Collins Park is a neighborhood park located off County Hwy MM in west River Falls. There is a gazebo along with several benches and picnic tables. A paved trail goes throughout the park that is accessible for use for walking, biking, and rolling.

Key Features:

- Basketball (1/2 court)
- Play structure
- Open space
- Bike racks
- Open shelter
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Trash receptacles

Hamilton Park

Size: 1.1 Acres



Hamilton Park is a neighborhood park located southeast of Downtown and is accessible via Washington Street. Hamilton Park provides sports amenities with a baseball field and open space as well as play amenities with a play structure and swings. Additionally, the park has a grill and picnic tables for use.

Key Features:

- Baseball field
- Play structure
- Swings
- Open space
- Picnic tables
- Grill

Highview Meadows

Size: 10.0 Acres



Highview Meadows Park is a neighborhood park located in Highview Meadows subdivision off County Highway M. There are plenty of sports amenities like sand volleyball and 1/2 court basketball, as well as play amenities like swings and a horseshoe court. Other amenities include grills, bike racks, and picnic tables.

Key Features:

- Backstop
- Basketball (1/2 court)
- Horseshoe court
- Play structure
- Swings
- Open Space
- Bike racks
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Grills

Knollwood Park

Size: 1.8 Acres



Knollwood Park is located within Knollwood Subdivision and adjacent to River Falls High School. Knollwood features open space that is available for a variety of recreation uses, including a sledding hill in the winter months. The play equipment was installed within the park in 2022.

Key Features:

- Play structures
- Swings
- Sledding hill
- Open space

Larson Park

Size: 5.4 Acres



Larson Park is a neighborhood park located South of Downtown and University of Wisconsin – River Falls featuring plenty of sports and recreation options. Trails loop within and around the hill that is the central feature of the park. Local residents can use the hill for sledding during the winter months. The Town of River Falls is directly east of Larson Park. The trails in the park are accessible from Sorenson Street and connect to the Cemetery Road pedestrian/bicycle pathway.

Key Features:

- Sand volleyball
- Basketball (1/2 court)
- Play structures
- Swings
- Sledding hill
- Open space
- Bike racks
- Picnic table
- Benches
- Off-street parking

Rolling Hills Park

Size: 4.7 Acres



Rolling Hills Park is a neighborhood park located west of Downtown and the Kinnickinnic River off of W Division St. Rolling Hills features a several park amenities including a soccer field, half-court basketball, swings, and a sledding hill. The paved paths within the park weave throughout the open spaces. Off-street parking is also available within the park with access from Edgewater Drive.

Key Features:

- Soccer field
- Basketball (1/2 court)
- Play structure
- Swings
- Sledding hill
- Open space
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Off-street parking

Spring Creek Park

Size: 1.3 Acres



Spring Creek Park is located on Greenwood Valley Drive in the middle of the Spring Creek Estates Subdivision. The park offers a play structure with a climbing wall and three slides. There are many pathways that connect the community to the park.

Key Features:
 Basketball (1/2 court)
 Play structure
 Swings
 Bike racks
 Picnic tables
 Benches

Sterling Ponds Park

Size: 16.3 Acres



Sterling Ponds Park is a neighborhood park that can be accessed via Hwy 35 at the north end of River Falls. There is open space, along with several sports and play spaces including a sand volleyball court, half-court basketball, a sledding hill, and swings.

The Sterling Hill Disc Golf Course will be constructed within the Sterling Ponds Park area and will provide a second disc golf course within the community, providing 18 holes.

Key Features:
 Sand volleyball
 Basketball (1/2 court)
 Play structures
 Swings
 Sledding hill
 Open space
 Picnic tables
 Disc Golf
 Benches

Wells Park

Size: 1.7 Acres



Wells Park is a neighborhood park located south of Downtown and University of Wisconsin – River Falls and can be accessed via Cemetery Road or Main Street. The Park was developed in 1972 with wooden equipment and a tennis court.

Key Features:

- Tennis court
- Play structures
- Sandbox
- Swings
- Open space
- Picnic tables

Westdale Park

Size: 1.7 Acres



Westdale Park is a neighborhood park located west of Downtown and can be accessed via W Division St. This small neighborhood park features playground equipment and an open area that can be used for recreational purposes. There are also two picnic tables under the shade of a large tree for those who wish to picnic or just enjoy the outdoors.

Key Features:

- Play structures
- Swings
- Open space
- Picnic tables

Pocket Parks

Inlow Park

Size: 0.5 Acres

Inlow Park is located just north of downtown along Main Street. The park primarily includes off-street parking opportunities that connect the community to the Kinnickinnic River and destinations within Downtown River Falls.

Key Features:
Benches
Off-street parking

Corner Park

Size: 0.2 Acres

Corner Park is located at the intersection of 2nd Street and Spring Street near First National Bank. The land is a result of the skewed roadway intersection that resulted from one-way traffic movements. The park includes general open space and picnic tables.

Key Features:
Picnic tables

City Hall Plaza

Size: 0.7 Acres

Located outside of City Hall in Downtown, City Hall Plaza can be accessed via W Maple St. City Hall Plaza is adjacent to the Kinnickinnic River.

Key Features:
Benches
Interpretive
Signage

Ostness Park

Size: 0.1 Acres

Ostness Park is located in the northeast quadrant of Elm Street and 2nd Street and provides open space and refuge near Downtown River Falls. Picnic tables and benches provide social gathering spaces within the park.

Key Features:
Picnic tables
Benches
Off-street parking

Power Plant Park

Size: 0.1 Acres

The Power Plant Park is located on the eastern edge of the power plant lot off of Winter Street. The park includes green space and interpretive signage. There are also sidewalks to connect the community to the Kinnickinnic.

Key Features:
Trails
Signage

North Winter Parkway

Size: 0.3 Acres

North Winter Parkway is a special use park that runs along N Winter St, just west of Downtown near the unoccupied electric substation and Junction dam.

Key Features:
Open space

Veterans Park

Size: 0.3 Acres



Veterans Park is a special use park dedicated to the men and women of River Falls who served in the armed forces. It is located near Downtown and just east of the Kinnickinnic River, connected to Heritage Park by the Riverwalk Pedestrian Bridge over the river. The space also provides spaces that are used for live music space, serving as the special use of the park.

Key Features:

- Event space
- Drinking fountain
- Benches
- Off-street parking
- Historic elements

Special Use Parks

Whitetail Ridge

Size: 125.6 Acres



Whitetail Ridge is a linear park located off of State Rd 35 in north River Falls. The park features several miles of mountain biking trails, as well as a parking lot, drinking water fountain, and picnic tables.

Key Features:

- Drinking fountain
- Picnic tables
- Off-street parking
- Mountain biking

Linear Parks

Mound Park

Size: 24.6 Acres



Mound Park is a linear park located northeast of Downtown. It is adjacent to Hoffman Park and is located atop one of the largest hills in the city.

Key Features:
 Off-street parking
 Trails

River Hills Park

Size: 62.7 Acres



River Hills Park is a linear park located to the southwest of Glen Park along the Kinnickinnic River. The park includes the Kinnickinnic River Trail. This segment of the trail connects neighborhoods within the southern portion of the community to the river, tree stands, and other resources.

Key Features:
 Picnic tables
 Benches

River Falls Dog Park

Size: 15.8 Acres



River Falls Dog Park features a parking lot, small and large dog park areas, and plenty of benches and tables. It is located in south River Falls and accessed via County Trunk Hwy FF off of Hwy 35.

Key Features:
 Picnic tables
 Benches
 Off-street parking

Kinnickinnic Pathway

Size: 8.3 Acres



Kinnickinnic Pathway is located on the west side of the Kinnickinnic River, west of Downtown. It runs along the river with connections to Heritage Park, Veterans Park, and City Hall Plaza. The pathway can be accessed via W Division Street to the north or S Winter Street to the south.

Key Features:
 Fishing areas
 Open space
 Picnic tables
 Benches
 Off-street parking

Heritage Park

Size: 1.4 Acres



Heritage Park is a linear park featuring the Riverwalk Pedestrian Bridge that crosses the Kinnickinnic River and connects the park to Veterans Park and downtown River Falls. Heritage Park also has connections to several trails along the river.

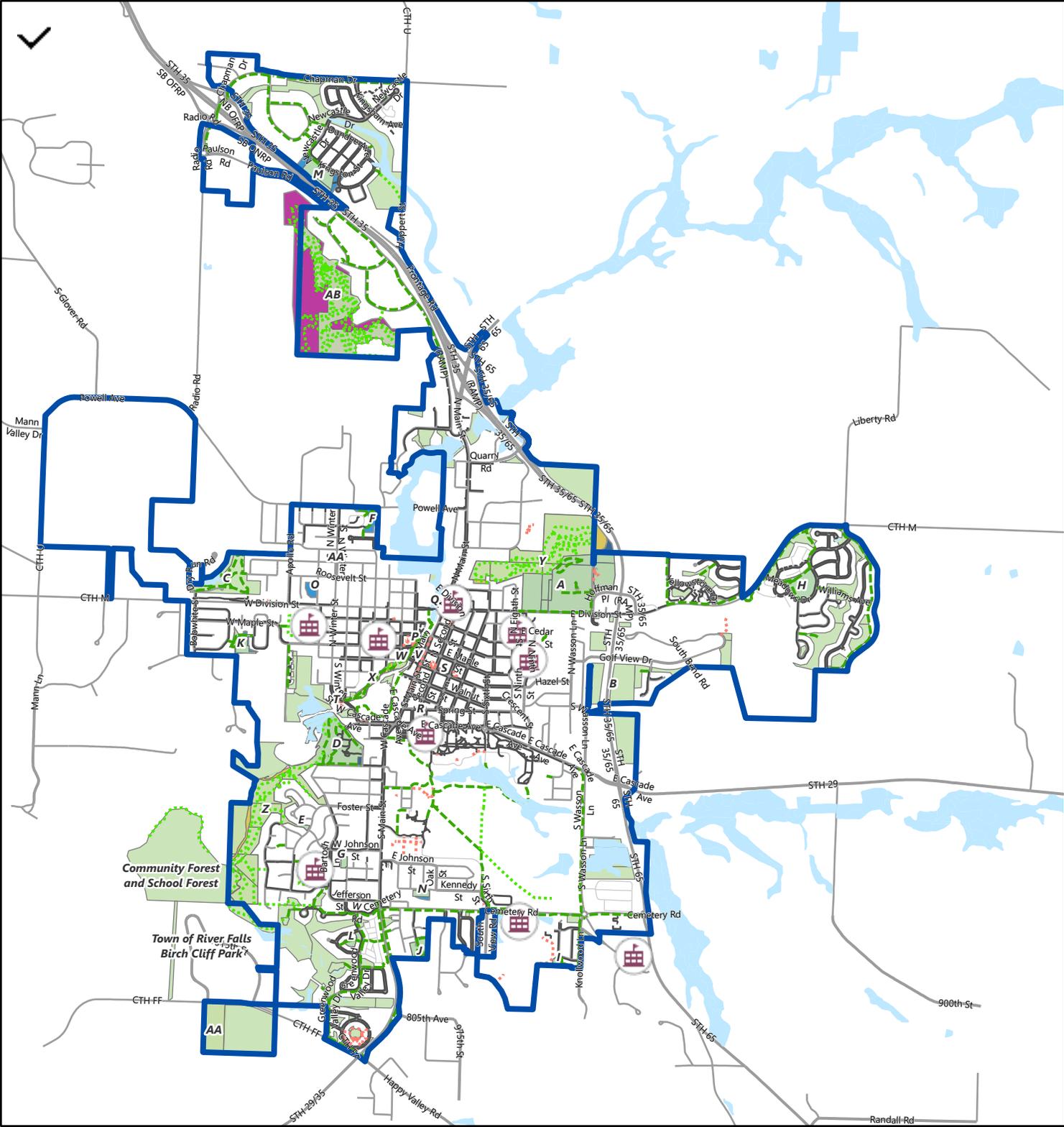
Key Features:

- Bike racks
- Benches
- Off-street parking
- Historic elements

EXISTING RECREATION TRAIL AND SIDEWALK SYSTEM

The City of River Falls has an extensive trail system of nearly 100 miles of recreational trails and sidewalks with varied resources and infrastructure. The use and general purpose for each of them provides options for all users and mobility types.

River Falls Recreational Trails and Sidewalks		
River Hills Park Trails	There are 3.35 miles of dirt trails within the River Hills Park that are included as part of the Kinnickinnic River Trail. This trail network provides recreational opportunities while also connecting the community to other locations.	Length: 3.4 miles
Whitetail Ridge Mountain Bike Trails	There are a range of available bike trails within Whitetail Ridge that provide mountain bike riding options for many skill levels. The trails are classified by skill level and the mile for each range from a quarter mile to over 3 miles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Trails: 2.4 miles • Intermediate Trails: 3.9 miles • Easy Trails: 1.2 miles • Skills Trails: 0.3 miles • Connection Trails: 0.5 miles 	Length: 8.3 miles
Mound Park Trails	There are 3.09 miles of dirt trails available within Mound Park that provide both a recreation and connection opportunity.	Length: 3.1 miles
Kinnickinnic Pathway Trails	The Kinnickinnic Pathway includes 1.0 mile of paved trails within the Kinnickinnic Pathway Linear Park.	Length: 1.0 miles
Dirt/Gravel Trails	There are multiple dirt or gravel trails within the community, providing over 17 miles of trails use.	Length: 17.3 miles
Paved Path	There are 18.4 miles of paved network trails within the community.	Length: 18.4 miles
Sidewalks	Nearly 48 miles of sidewalk were identified by the City throughout this process.	Length: 48 miles



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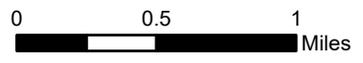
Park Names

- A Hoffman
- B Golf View
- C DeSanctis
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- E Brandon's
- F Collins
- G Hamilton
- H Highview Meadows
- I Knollwood
- J Larson
- K Rolling Hills
- L Spring Creek
- M Sterling Ponds
- N Wells
- O Westdale
- P City Hall Plaza
- Q Inlow
- R Corner
- S Ostness
- T Power Plant Park
- U North Winter Parkway

- V Veterans Park
- W Heritage
- X Kinnickinnic Pathway
- Y Mound
- Z River Hills
- AA River Falls Dog Park
- AB Whitetail Ridge
- Wetlands

Sidewalks and Trails

- Bridge
- Tunnel
- Underpass
- Sidewalk
- Paved Path
- Dirt Trail
- Other
- Other
- Open Space and Recreational Areas
- Public and Private Schools



Trail Network

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

An analysis of the existing parks, recreational lands, and open space provides an opportunity to understand if the current needs of the community are being met. This analysis can be formulated in two ways, a quantitative assessment and a qualitative assessment. Using the two assessments in combination provides an opportunity to balance the needs and findings from both to create an understanding of the full needs and desires of the community.

Quantitative Assessment: Analysis of the number of parks and resources compared to other communities

Qualitative Assessment: Analysis of the qualities of needs from community input

QUANTITATIVE ASSESSEMENT

The City of River Falls provides 433.9 acres of parkland, excluding school facilities, private facilities, special uses areas, and open space. Considering the community's 2020 population of 16,182 residents, there are 0.03 acres of parkland per person, or 26.8 acres per 1,000 people. Inclusion of the open spaces (1,102.6 acres) significantly increases the per capita parkland to 0.09 acres per person or 94.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. Typically, there are 10.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in the United States and for communities with under 20,000 residents, and 1,233 residents per park according to the National Parks and Recreation Area (NPRA).

River Falls exceeds the national standard for the acreage of parkland and the number of parks per 1,000 residents.

The city's total acreage and number of parks per 1,000 residents exceeds national standards for both the existing population in 2020 and the projected 2045 population. With the existing 28 parks, River Falls would meet the current NPRA average through a population growth to 34,524 residents. When the available open space is added to these calculations, the community far exceeds the minimum recommended standards.

Table 2. Existing and Projected Park Acreage and Number Demand

	Population	Park Acreage			Number of Parks		
		Existing Supply	Demand	Surplus/Deficiency	Existing Supply	Demand	Surplus/Deficiency
2020 (Existing)	16,812	433.9	216.9	217.0	28	13.6	14.4
2025	17,287	433.9	223.0	210.9	28	14.0	14.0
2030 (Short Term)	18,467	433.9	238.2	195.7	28	15.0	13.0
2035	19,727	433.9	254.5	179.4	28	16.0	12.0
2040	21,074	433.9	271.9	162.0	28	17.1	10.9
2045 (Long Term)	22,513	433.9	290.4	143.5	28	18.3	9.7



The NPRA also provides guidance for the number of parks per classification to support a community. These guidelines provide a low and high standard to respond to varied park needs within a community. Each of the park classifications provides an individual purpose and role within the community’s recreation infrastructure. Regional and Neighborhood Parks are the two primary park types in the community. **Based on NPRA guidance, River Falls will continue to have a surplus of available neighborhood park land through the 2045 population projections.** However, the acreage of regional parks within the community meets the low standard of 5.0 acres per 1,000 people but is deficient for the high standard for the 2020 population and beyond. Available open space and conservancy land within the community helps to close this gap, as there are hundreds of acres available well exceeding the deficient acreage. These lands provide similar open space and recreation functions to the regional parks but do have varied programming.

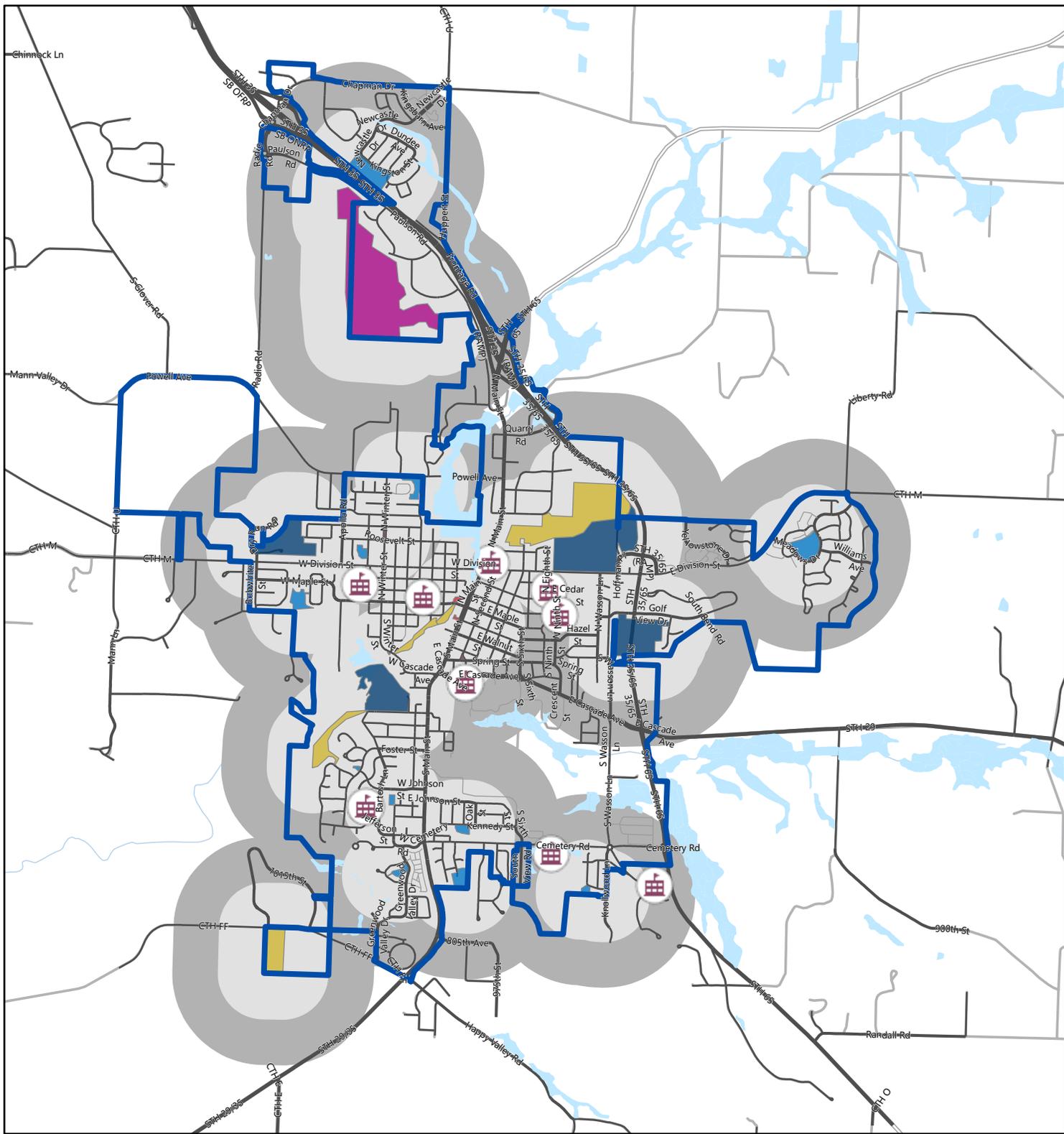
Table 3. Neighborhood and Regional Park Projected Demand

	2020		2030		2045	
	Need	Surplus/ Deficiency	Need	Surplus/ Deficiency	Need	Surplus/ Deficiency
Population	16,812		18,467		22,513	
Neighborhood Parks – 65.6 Acres						
Low Standard (0.25 Ac/1,000 pop)	16.8	48.8	18.5	47.1	22.5	43.1
High Standard (0.50 Ac/1,000 pop)	33.6	32.0	36.9	28.7	45.0	20.6
Regional Parks – 128.0 Acres						
Low Standard (5.0 Ac/1,000 pop)	84.1	43.9	92.3	35.7	112.6	15.4
High Standard (8.0 Ac/1,000 pop)	134.5	-6.5	147.7	-19.7	180.1	-52.1

While these metrics provide a benchmark to explore the overall needs of a community’s recreation system, the physical locations of the recreation network should also be explored to individualize this assessment to River Falls. The following pages explore a general quarter and half mile radii around the city’s parks to reveal gaps within outdoor recreation offerings. These radii represent a generally comfortable walking distance and respond to common service areas for a majority of the City’s parks. These figures explore only the park owned and operated by the City of River Falls and do not include recreation areas owned and maintained by other organizations (i.e., UWRF and School District facilities),

but the location of each is identified. Generally, a majority of the residential areas within city limits have access to a park facility within a quarter mile distance with very limited areas within a half mile. The two primary quarter mile gaps include the residential areas near the River Falls Golf Club and residential uses to the north of the University of Wisconsin - River Falls campus. While gaps are apparent using this assessment, there are other open spaces (River Falls Golf Club) or non-city owned recreation areas (UWRF) within these areas.



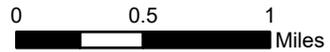


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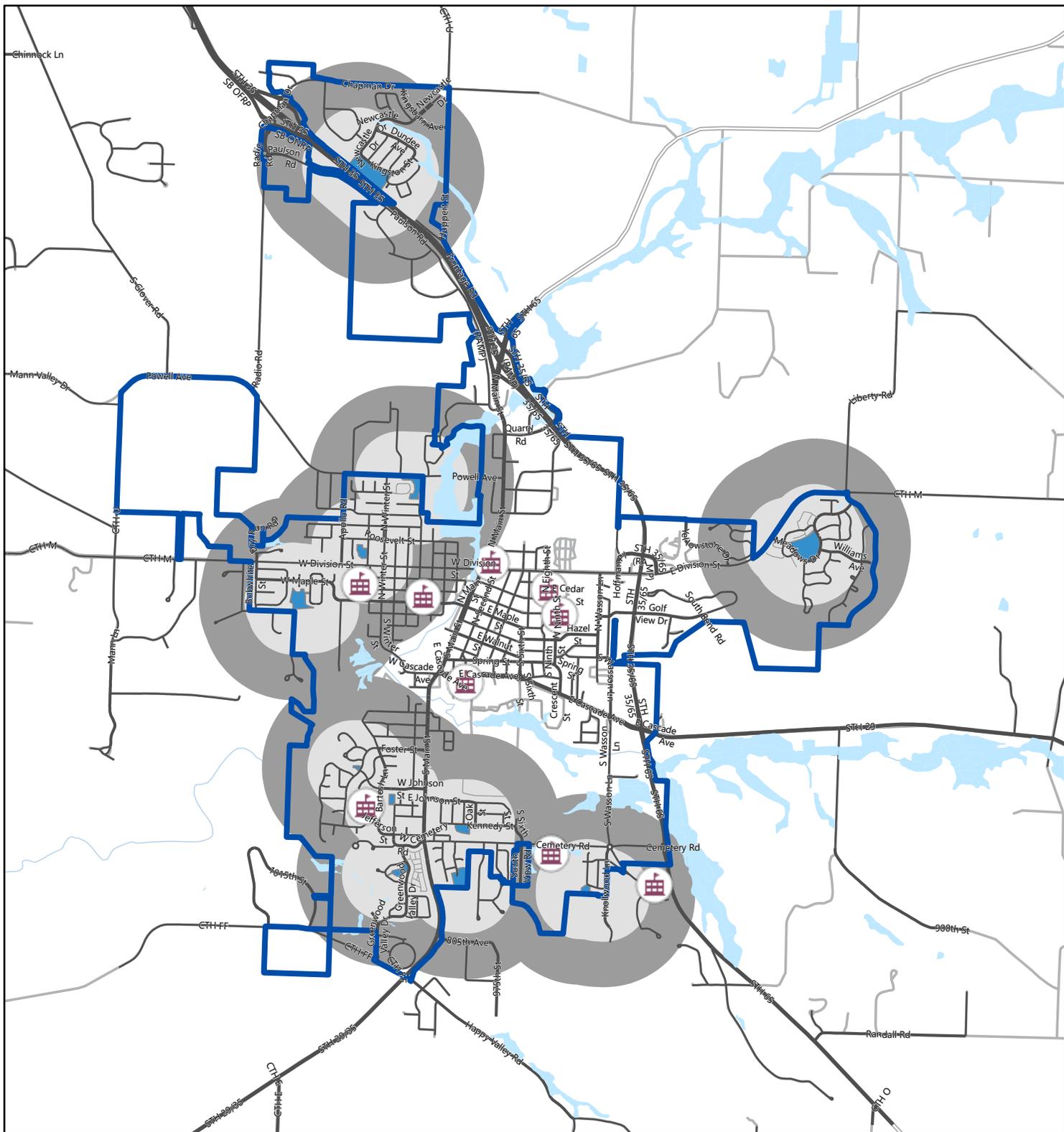
Park Classification

- Regional
- Neighborhood
- Pocket
- Linear
- Special Use
- 1/4 mile buffer
- 1/2 mile buffer
- Public and Private Schools
- Wetlands

The 1/4 and 1/2 mile buffers represent a comfortable walking distance for each park location. This distance also represent the general service area for neighborhood parks.



Park Service Areas

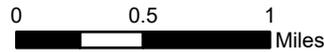


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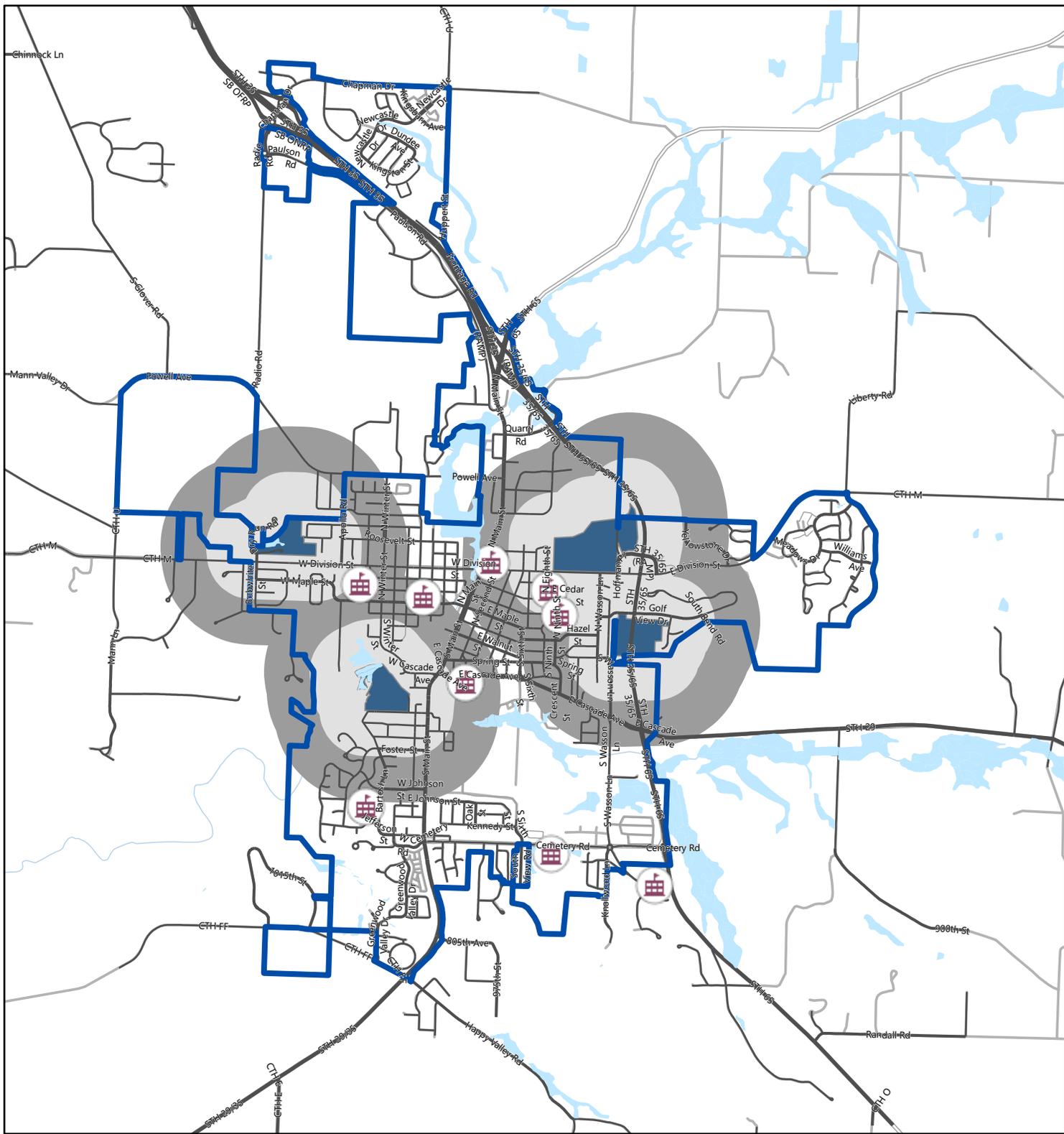
Park Classification

-  Neighborhood
-  1/4 mile buffer
-  1/2 mile buffer
-  Public and Private Schools
-  Open Space and Recreational Areas
-  Wetlands

The 1/4 and 1/2 mile buffers represent a comfortable walking distance for each park location. This distance also represent the general service area for neighborhood parks.



Neighborhood Park Service Areas

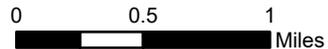


Legend

Park Classification

-  Regional
-  1/4 mile buffer
-  1/2 mile buffer
-  Public and Private Schools
-  Open Space and Recreational Areas
-  Wetlands

The 1/4 and 1/2 mile buffers represent a comfortable walking distance for each park location. This distance also represent the general service area for neighborhood parks.



Regional Park Service Areas

Park Amenities Assessment

The NPRA also provides guidance for the supply of park amenities/facilities to support the community’s population. The 2021 NPRA guidance was used to compare the existing publicly available facilities within River Falls to the NPRA recommendation for communities with a population under 20,000 residents. This assessment includes not only the facilities available within city owned parks, but all publicly available facilities or those that are generally available to the public at no fee. These publicly available facilities primarily include those on the School District of River Falls property. For example, playgrounds located on school properties were included in this assessment. However, the UWRF and Wildcat ice rinks were not included as they are only available for use at a fee. This assessment utilizes the NRPA’s guidelines to gauge the current, short term (2030), and long term (2045) needs based on the community population projections.

The results from this assessment give a snapshot of how the City of River Falls is performing, compared to similarly sized communities throughout the nation. However, the results represent only a quantitative assessment and the desires of the residents are not always accurately reflected by this preliminary analysis. The following table outlines the results of the needs assessment based on the NPRA standards, identifying where the community has a surplus of amenities (positive numbers greater than one) and where there may be a need for additional facilities (whole negative numbers). Overall, the results provide an overview of potential amenity needs for the next 10 and 25 years. When factoring all publicly available amenities, the community has an adequate number of amenities for the next 25 years. However, the analysis finds a deficit in the following amenities. This analysis identified a need for another full basketball court to support the existing population. However, there are a number of half courts available in the community that fulfill this need.

2020 Deficit	2030 Deficit	2045 Deficit
<p>1 Outdoor Ice Rink</p> 	<p>1 Pool</p> 	<p>1 Skate Park</p> 
<p>1 Full Basketball Court</p> 		

Table 4. Park Amenity Needs Assessment

Facility	Inventory		2020 Need			2030 Need			2045 Need		
	Park Facilities	Public Facilities*	Need	Park Surplus/Deficit	Public Surplus/Deficit	Need	Park Surplus/Deficit	Public Surplus/Deficit	Need	Park Surplus/Deficit	Public Surplus/Deficit
Soccer Fields	10	17	4.7	5.3	12.3	5.4	4.6	11.6	6.6	3.4	10.4
Softball Fields	2	7	3.0	-1.0	4.0	3.4	-1.4	3.6	4.1	-2.1	2.9
Youth Baseball Fields	1	8	5.4	-4.4	2.6	6.2	-5.2	1.8	7.5	-6.5	0.5
Adult Baseball Fields	1	9	2.0	-1.0	7.0	2.3	-1.3	6.7	2.8	-1.8	6.2
Football Fields	0	3	2.0	-2.0	1.0	2.3	-2.3	0.7	2.8	-2.8	0.2
Sand Volleyball Courts	7	9	2.6	4.4	6.4	3.0	4.0	6.0	3.6	3.4	5.4
Basketball Courts	1	3	4.0	-3.0	-1.0	4.6	-3.6	-1.6	5.6	-4.6	-2.6
Tennis Courts	1	22	5.9	-4.9	16.1	6.7	-5.7	15.3	8.2	-7.2	13.8
Pool	1	1	1.9	-0.9	-0.9	2.1	-1.1	-1.1	2.6	-1.6	-1.6
Skateboard Parks	1	1	1.5	-0.5	-0.5	1.7	-0.7	-0.7	2.0	-1.0	-1.0
Ice Rinks	0	0	1.6	-1.6	-1.6	1.8	-1.8	-1.8	2.3	-2.3	-2.3
Community Garden	7	7	1.8	5.2	5.2	2.1	4.9	4.9	2.5	4.5	4.5

*Public Facilities includes a total of all publicly available amenities in the community (including city owned parks).

QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

A variety of engagement opportunities were held during the Focus River Falls process that gathered qualitative input on outdoor recreation within the community. Specifically, a needs assessment survey was administered to collect community feedback on the city’s outdoor recreation needs and desires. The survey was available in two platforms, online via EngageRF and paper copies at key community locations, and the survey was active from September 1 to October 7, 2022. A total of 390 survey responses were collected from both residents (83 percent) and nonresidents (17 percent). Additionally, community pop-up events were held at Art on the Kinni (September 10th), a youth football game (September 17th), and food pantry (September 28th) to engage community members on the Outdoor Recreation Plan process and gather input to inform this assessment. Overall, the survey looked to gather feedback on park amenities and needs, accessibility in parks, mobility and recreation, and questions for youth. The detailed survey results are included in **Appendix A**. Key takeaways included an understanding of amenity and offering needs and support for future investment.

 **The community desires outdoor recreation opportunities in all seasons.**

44%

of respondents
recreate in the winter
months

While a majority of respondents recreate outdoors in the summer months, survey respondents identified that they like to get outdoors in all seasons. A number of ideas were shared for expanding winter recreation activities including public rink ice skating (111 responses), winter trails (72 responses), indoor recreation facilities (25 responses), sledding hills (20 responses), winter events (16 responses), and increased awareness of available rental equipment (15 responses).

 **There is a positive perspective of the recreation opportunities, but there is also room to grow.**

14%

of respondents noted
there are a variety of
offerings in River Falls.

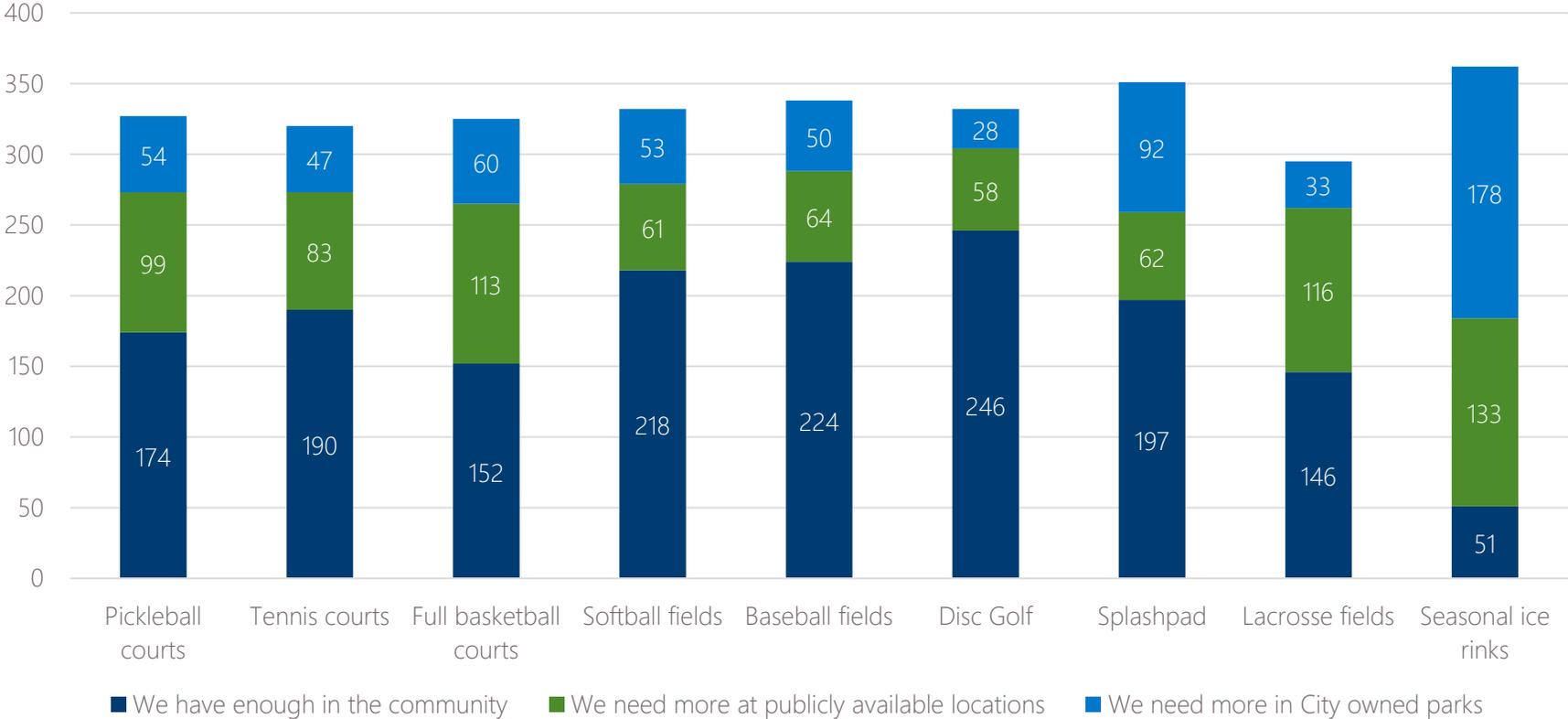
When asked to describe recreation in River Falls, the general response was a positive one. However, there were many opportunities identified to improve or enhance offerings. From the construction of new amenities to improving maintenance activities, community members support continued investment in the community’s recreation infrastructure. A number of respondents recognized the diversity of recreation offerings and amenities throughout the community. Other commented about the more diverse options throughout all areas of the community (e.g., neighborhood parks with greater diversity) and opportunities to create destinations.

There are a variety of amenities and activities available to support outdoor recreation.

49%

of respondents want to see more seasonal ice rinks

Survey respondents were asked to identify their perspective of needed amenities within the community based on the results of the quantitative needs assessment. Generally, respondents agreed that there is enough of each of the identified amenities in the community, other than lacrosse fields and seasonal ice rinks.





There is room to expand the amenities offered and support new outdoor recreation opportunities.

52%

of respondents support
all abilities
playgrounds

There are a variety of additional recreation offerings that survey respondents expressed interest in; however, there was not an overwhelming consensus of the ideas posed in the survey. A slight majority identified a desire for all-abilities playgrounds, natural playgrounds, kayak launches, and gardens supporting habitats were ideas that earned almost 50 percent of responses.

Many ideas were shared for expanding and enhancing recreation offerings in River Falls. Common themes included

- Additional trails and pathways for walking, hiking, and biking that improve connectivity
- More softball fields, particularly for youth
- Indoor recreation opportunities
- Expanded winter activities and recreation options



There are not many amenities that are too available in the community.

71%

of respondents did not
identify something
they would like to see
less of

Only 29 percent of respondents identified an amenity that they think River Falls has too much of. Through the 115 responses collected, there was little consensus. Overall, the number of play structures, unused open spaces, bars/beer gardens, and baseball fields were common responses, representing less than 4 percent of respondents.

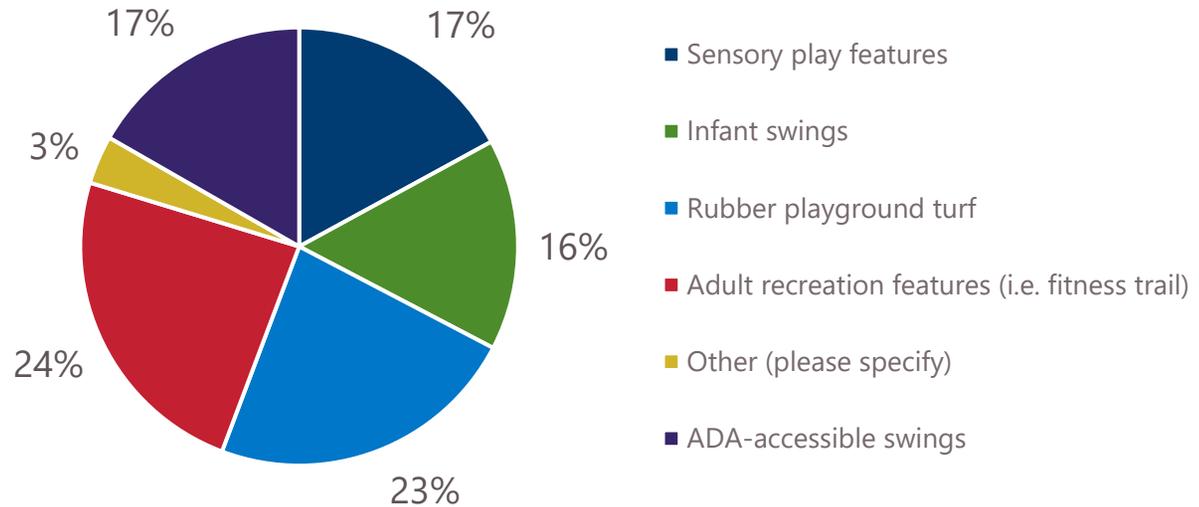


There may be room to make improvements to make recreation spaces more accessible to everyone.

14%

of respondents believe current offerings are inaccessible

While 57 percent of respondents find the community's recreation amenities accessible, there are 14 percent of respondents who disagree. There was general support for increasing accessible recreation facilities.



The community uses multiple modes of transportation to access outdoor recreation opportunities

38%

of respondents access outdoor recreation opportunities by walking or rolling

The respondents utilize varied modes of transportation to visit outdoor recreation designations. While the largest group of respondents drive to recreation, there are a large number who use other modes.

45% Drive

38% Walk or Roll

16% Bike



There are some common wishes from the community for recreation system.

33%

of respondents identified a wish for recreation amenities

Respondents identified a variety of desires for amenities they wish were available in a River Falls park. Common responses include:

- New Pool
- Skate Park
- Ice-Skating
- Community Center
- Softball field
- Splash Pad



There is support for indoor recreation investments.

85%

of respondents would like an indoor pool

Throughout survey responses the desire for additional indoor recreation opportunities could be found in multiple questions. From a community center to indoor gym space, the community would support investments in year-round indoor activities. Key amenities desired in this space include an indoor pool, indoor gym space, community gathering spaces, and workout equipment.

RELATED RECREATION PLANS

Kinni Corridor Plan

The City of River Falls adopted the Kinni Corridor Plan in 2019 to prepare a future vision for the Kinnickinnic (Kinni) River Corridor that meets residents’ needs and desires, reflects the values of the community, and protects the river for future generations. This multiyear planning process brought together the community, staff, and stakeholders to identify short-term and long-term improvements. The plan focuses recommendations and guidance to support a restored and ecologically healthy Kinnickinnic River in four areas – Natural Resources + River Ecology, Parks + Recreation, Land Use + Economic Development, and Access + Connectivity. The ten identified guiding principles were created from community input and informed the plan’s recommendations are highlighted in the table below. Since its adoption, the Kinni Corridor Plan has been actively used to guide decision making and inform the Focus River Falls process. Additionally, the city is actively working with the WDNR and the Army Corps of Engineers for the planning and execution of the dam removal.



Guiding Principles

Strengthen and support the Kinni Corridor’s:

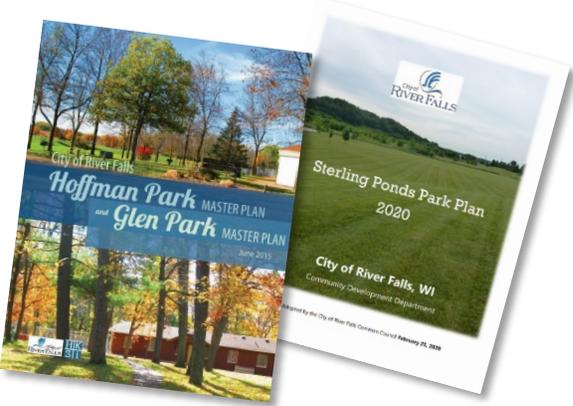
1. Heritage, culture, and community character
2. Social, environmental, and economic sustainability
3. Ecological health, performance, and stewardship
4. Inclusiveness and sense of place
5. Economic vitality
6. Mix of uses and activities
7. Physical, visual, and social connections
8. Public health and wellness
9. Resiliency
10. Commitment to community engagement

The planning process included extensive community engagement opportunities to inform the goals and recommendations of the plan. These engagement activities supplement the engagement received during the Focus River Falls process and were used to inform the qualitative assessment of this plan. Highlights of the community input that informed the implementation actions included within this plan are highlighted below.

<p>TOP 5 ACTIVITIES ON THE KINNI</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hiking/Walking 2. Paddling 3. Relaxing along the shoreline 4. Fishing 5. Picnicking 	<p>TOP 5 AREAS OF INTEREST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future of the dams 2. River ecology 3. Recreation/tourism 4. Main Street’s relationship to the river 5. Impacts to corridor neighborhoods 	<p>RIVER ACCESS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance river access for fishing, hiking, biking, and paddling 2. Create loop trails 3. ADA access improvements 4. Enhance visibility of river in the community 5. Improve parking
<p>PARKS/RECREATION/ NATURAL SPACE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add camping opportunities 2. Enhance fishing opportunities 3. Enhance paddling opportunities 4. Enhance birding opportunities 5. Enhance hiking opportunities 6. Enhance biking opportunities 7. More and enhance park spaces 8. More natural areas 	<p>MANAGEMENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mosquito control 2. Better habitat management is needed 3. Better management of public resources is needed 4. Control commercial use (paddling) 	<p>COMMUNITY INTEGRATION/CELEBRATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better integrate/connect the community with the river 2. Celebrate the river 3. Connect downtown better to the riverfront 4. Embrace the river 5. The river is the heart of the community

Park Master Plans

The City of River Falls has developed park master plans to explore opportunities and identify recommendations and actions for parks throughout the community. Specifically, these master plans identify short- and long-term actions that guide investment decision making. Master plans have been completed for three of the community’s parks – Glen Park, Hoffman Park, and Sterling Ponds Park. These two documents explore the existing conditions of the park and the community, combined with community input to inform the overall master plan and specific recommendations for each park. Implementation of these plans has already begun, and key actions have been incorporated into the recommendations of this plan. The city will continue to use the master plan process as a tool to identify opportunities and recommendations for specific parks that support the needs and desires of the community. Recent implementation of these master plans include:



Hoffman Park	Glen Park	Sterling Ponds Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain social gathering spaces • Maintain partnerships with community organizations that provide recreational offerings (e.g., River Falls Baseball Club and Grow to Share) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct parking lot and circulation improvements • Construct a new event building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of trails • Preserve and maintain the miniature sledding hill

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The current Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was developed in 2019 to guide outdoor recreation investment and action through 2023. Wisconsin DNR will pursue updates to respond to current needs and changing trends regarding recreation throughout the state. While no specific location improvements were identified for River Falls within the SCORP, the plan identifies five goals that align with the input gathered through this process.

1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation
2. Grow partnerships
3. Provide high-quality experiences
4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits
5. Enhance funding and financial stability



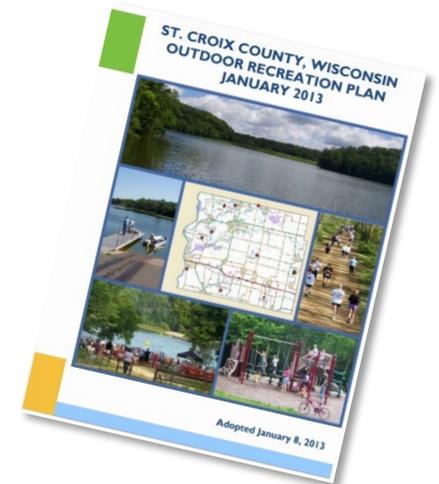
St. Croix County, Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan

St. Croix County developed an outdoor recreation plan in January of 2013 to guide the development of parks and recreation facilities in the county. The mission statement assembled within the plan focused on enriching physical, mental, social, and economic health of residents by creating and maintaining attractive, creative, efficient, responsive, and interpretive parks. The plan identifies improvements or investments that would support the goals of this plan, including trail extensions or connects within the greater county system.

Other Planning Efforts

Pierce County does not currently have a completed Outdoor Recreation Plan; however, the development of a plan is identified within their current Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, neighboring communities have adopted Outdoor Recreation Plans that identify local improvements and investment decision making.

The River Falls Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies Hoffman Park and open spaces along the Kinni as a future locations for emergency shelter infrastructure. Improvements should be considered along with park improvements.



RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIES

The following recommendations were identified through the analysis described within this plan. Existing master planning efforts for specific parks was also used to inform the short and long-term recommendations. The recommendations identified from the master plans should be updated and revised as master plans are updated. The identified priority of Low, Medium, and High correspond to the needs within the community as identified through public engagement and data analysis.

	Improvement	Priority	Timeline
Sterling Ponds	Construct additional park amenities including a picnic shelter, ballfield, and backstop	Medium	Short (2030)
	Construct additional walking and cycling trails within the park	Medium	Long (2045)
	Utilize native plantings and soft surface trails in areas not suitable for park development and where reduced maintenance is desired	Medium	Short (2030)
	Create opportunities to activate open spaces for practice facilities	High	Short (2030)
	Preserve and maintain the miniature sledding hill	--	Ongoing
Glen Park	Maintain the iconic Swinging Bridge as a pedestrian entry to the park from the north	--	Ongoing
	Maintain social gathering spaces for future use	--	Ongoing
	Implement pool improvements and reconstruction.	Medium	Long (2045)
	Construct a nature themed playground and remove smaller playground	Medium	Short (2030)
	Construct a multi-use sport court and ice rink	High	Short (2030)
	Complete east side plans for park upgrades	Medium	Short (2030)
	Develop and construct plans for access improvements from Cascade	Medium	Short (2030)

	Improvement	Priority	Timeline
Hoffman Park	Complete master plan update to better inform major renovation projects	High	Medium (2035)
	Continue to collaborate with Grow to Share regarding existing uses and explore future needs that support the needs of both the City of River Falls and Grow to Share	Medium	Short (2030)
	Maintain existing social gathering spaces and complete updates identified within the master plan update	Medium	Ongoing and Medium (2035)
	Construct parking lot and circulation improvements following the updated master plan guidance	Low	Long (2045)
	Construct a new event building with permanent restrooms and convert the existing building for maintenance uses following the updated master plan guidance	Medium	Long (2045)
	Construct multi-use trails to connect park amenities following the updated master plan guidance	High	Long (2045)
	Expand softball fields to meet tournament regulations and install new lighting in coordination with the River Falls Baseball Club	Medium	Medium (2035)
	Reconfigure volleyball courts with new containment infrastructure and lighting following the updated master plan guidance	Low	Medium (2035)
Kinni Corridor Plan	Continue to plan/design and seek funding sources for Lake George impoundment area as a future city park	High	Short (2030)
	Construct short term amenities, such as picnic facilities, interpretation, river access – paddling and fishing, and canoe/kayak storage, that can be implemented to provide activation of the area and improved with long-term actions	Medium	Medium (2035)
	Design and construct amenities within the Lake George impoundment area that support its future park designation. Amenities may include picnic facilities, multi-purpose building/picnic shelter/restrooms, outdoor amphitheater, nature play area, trails and boardwalks, stormwater facilities/wetlands, interpretation, river access – paddling and fishing, canoe/kayak storage	Medium	Long (2045)
	Continue to plan/design and seek funding sources for Lake Louise impoundment area as a future city park	High	Short (2030)
	Explore and construct amenity improvements that will activate the area in the short term including trails and boardwalks and birding facilities	Medium	Short (2030)

	Improvement	Priority	Timeline
Kinni Corridor Plan	Design and construct amenities within the Lake Louise impoundment area that support its future park designation. Amenities may include a nature center/trout fishing/learning center, trails and boardwalks, interpretation, birding facilities, river access – paddling and fishing, canoe/kayak storage	Medium	Long (2045)
	Identify opportunities to restore wetlands and ponds throughout the impoundment area that support wildlife habitat, healthy ecology, and water flow and create an amenity	High	Short (2030)
	Explore, design and implement new and enhancements to existing river access locations that support paddling and fishing access. Through implementation consider signage and regulations to reduce potential conflicts	High	Medium (2035)
	Provide new trailheads at key locations throughout the Kinni Corridor	Medium	Long (2045)
	Implement wayfinding to river access and trail locations, community facilities, and downtown destinations	High	Ongoing
	Continue coordination and planning with State partners to identify funding and implement a river restoration plan for the review of the dam and restoration of the Kinni in accordance with the Kinni Corridor Plan	High	Ongoing
	Plan/design and seek funding sources for future Trout Fishing/Learning Center	Low	Long (2045)
	Plan/design and seek funding sources to support community garden opportunities in proposed conservation easements	Medium	Medium (2035)
All Parks and Recreation Areas	Include accessible play features with the construction of new or improvements to any play structures	Medium	Short (2030)
	Consider non-traditional and natural elements with new park design and improvements including pollinator gardens, natural playgrounds, or sensory gardens	Medium	Long (2045)
	Utilize the green corridors as a planning tool with park improvements and investment planning to create opportunities to improve and enhance the community's natural resources	--	Ongoing
	Continue to provide recreation programming throughout the community that provides activities and programs for all ages and abilities.	--	Ongoing
	Annually assess the program offerings provided by the City of River Falls and make updates to respond to community needs and available staffing and resources.	--	Ongoing

Improvement		Priority	Timeline
All Parks and Recreation Areas	Support the enhancement of green corridors through the closure of gaps with new conservation lands or easements or the development of new parks.	Medium	Long (2045)
	Maintain active collaboration with the School District of River Falls regarding the use and maintenance responsibilities for sports fields and amenities that support recreation programming offered by the city.	--	Ongoing
	Collaborate with local organizations that provide recreation programming, services, or amenities throughout the community.	High	Ongoing
	Continue to maintain the city's parks, recreation, and open space facilities to the city's standard, providing safe and accessible amenities for all and during all seasons. Regularly assess staffing numbers and work plans to ensure proper maintenance of all facilities.	High	Ongoing
	Revisit the maintenance plans for each facility on a five year cycle to understand efficiencies and needed changes	High	Short (2030)
	Explore the location of a new Regional Park that fills a gap in the service areas and aligns with the growth areas of the Comprehensive Plan (e.g., Northwest or Southeast quadrants)	High	Medium (2035)
	Construct a new regional park	High	Long (2045)
	Update the Outdoor Recreation Plan every five years	High	Short (2030)
	Maintain the Town of River Falls' Birch Cliff Park as an recreation area when annexation occurs in the surrounding area.	Medium	Ongoing
	Support preservation and enhancement efforts with the School Forest and Community Forest.	Medium	Ongoing

Opportunity Projects

Improvement	Description	Priority
Passive recreation engagements	Create additional opportunities for passive recreation throughout the park and trail system, such as benches for sitting, picnic tables, and wildlife viewing opportunities. An example project would include the addition of new benches and gathering spaces in linear parks.	Medium
Community Center	Continue to monitor the community’s desires for a community center to meet the indoor recreation needs of residents and investigate funding options. Additional studies may be beneficial to explore the feasibility of building reuse and siting.	Medium
New Pocket Parks	Look for opportunities to purchase and develop smaller parcels of open space for recreational uses. Pocket parks are generally developed as the opportunity arises through other development activities. There is no standard for a targeted number of pocket parks.	Medium
New Trail Connections	Look for opportunities to purchase and develop new trail segments to connect less accessible areas within the community and align with the recommendations of the Bike and Pedestrian Plan.	High

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a primary tool for identifying planned expenditures and projects within the next four to five years. Parks and recreation improvements and investments are included within the CIP and are updated annually. This is a primary tool for implementation as short term improvements are estimated and approved by the City Council. The outdoor recreation improvements identified within the CIP are provided in **Appendix C**.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

This section summarizes the various tools that can be utilized to implement the River Falls Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Regulatory Tools

The Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance are the two key regulatory tools for implementing the Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Zoning Ordinance

The city’s zoning ordinance is a key tool for implementing long range planning activities within a community. While it is primary tool for guiding public and private investments, it is as also an important tool for ensuring that system improves align with a long range vision. There are two zoning districts that are directly connected to parks and open spaces within the community and continue to serve the community well.

Subdivision Ordinance

The zoning ordinance regulates the subdivision of land within the city’s jurisdiction. This process and implement various strategies and policies.

Acquisition Tools

Acquisition tools include the mechanisms that create new park and recreational areas. These tools can include land dedication, fee title acquisition, eminent domain, conservation easements, donations, private land trusts, and tax delinquent property forfeiture and foreclosure.

County Conservation Aids

Section 23.09 (12), Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 50, Wis. Admin. Code

Description Counties or recognized Indian tribes are eligible for 50% of the costs of carrying out fish or wildlife management projects that enhance fish and wildlife habitat or relate to hunter/angler facilities.

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin DNR	Applications are submitted throughout the year until funding is depleted	50% of Costs	Varies annually	Partnership with St Croix or Pierce County needed

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration

16 U.S.C. 777-777k, 64 Stat. 430

Description The WDNR prioritizes fisheries related projects (sport fish restoration, boating access, fishing piers) to identify projects eligible for a 75% cost share; the WDNR sometimes negotiates contracts and develops use agreements with municipal agencies for use of this funding for construction of boat landings and fishing piers.

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin DNR	Varies	50% of Costs	Varies depending upon tax revenue from fishing equipment sales	River Falls is eligible

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Section 23.09(20), Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 51, subchapter XII, Wis. Admin. Code

Description Funding to support the acquisition of land or conservation easements and development of facilities for public park and recreation areas used for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes.

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin DNR	May 1 st each Year	50%	Varies	River Falls is eligible

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Acquisition of Development Rights

Section 23.09(20m), Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 51, subchapter XV, Wis. Admin. Code

Description Funding to support the acquisition of development rights (conservation easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial development would provide or enhance nature-based outdoor recreation.

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin DNR	May 1 st each Year	50%	Varies	River Falls is eligible

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Urban Green Space

Section 23.09(19), Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 51, subchapter XIII, Wis. Admin. Code

Description Funding to support the acquisition of land and conservation easements for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes that will protect open natural space and land with scenic, ecological, or natural values in urban areas.

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin DNR	May 1 st each Year	50%	Varies	River Falls is eligible

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Urban Rivers

Section 23.09(19), Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 51, subchapter XIII, Wis. Admin. Code

Description Funding to support the acquisition of land or conservation easements and development of facilities for public park and recreation areas, including shoreline enhancements, for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes along urban waterways and riverfronts.

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin DNR	May 1 st each Year	50%	Varies	River Falls is eligible

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

LWCF Act of 1965, Public Law 88-578, 78 Stat. 897; 36 CFR Ch. 1, Part 59

Description Funding to support the acquisition of land and development and renovation of facilities for public park and recreation areas. Funding can support the purchasing of land, physical improvements, and construction of amenities. Projects that receive LWCF funding are protected in perpetuity in alignment with Section 6f requirements. Therefore, when LWCF funds are used, the park and amenities must remain or be relocated if impacts are experienced from other improvements (e.g., road construction).

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin DNR	May 1 st each Year	50%	Appropriated annually by Congress	River Falls is eligible

Recreational Boating Facilities (RBF) Grants

Section 30.92, Wis. Stats.

Description Funding to support feasibility studies and the construction of capital improvements related to the development of safe recreational boating facilities, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemical treatment of Eurasian water milfoil. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the DNR.

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin DNR	4 times per year	50%	Varies	River Falls is eligible

Recreational Trails Program

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act - Title 23 United States Code (23 U.S.C.)

Description Funding to cover the costs of maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands), and acquisition of easements or property for trails. Funds are available for both motorized and non-motorized trails. These funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of local, county or state trail plan included or referenced in a statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin DNR	May 1 st each year	50%	Varies upon fuel gas taxes	River Falls is eligible

Transportation Enhancements (Statewide Multimodal Improvement Program – SMIP)

Description This program funds projects that increase multi-modal transportation alternatives and enhance communities and the environment. Eligible activities include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists, acquisition of scenic easements or historical sites, scenic or historic highway programs, tourist and welcome centers, landscaping and other scenic beautification, historic preservation, rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation facilities, preservation of abandoned railway corridors, control and removal of outdoor advertising, archaeological planning and research, mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff or reduction of vehicle caused wildlife mortality, and establishment of transportation museums.

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin Department of Transportation	Applications accepted on even-numbered years	20%	Varies	River Falls is eligible

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)

Description This program provides funding for transportation projects that improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. Eligible projects include new transit services, ridesharing, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, alternative fuel technologies, and various public education and marketing activities designed to increase public awareness of air quality and transportation issues. The federal funds are available in counties that are classified as air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas for the federal criteria pollutant ozone

Administering Organization	Deadline	Required Match	Available Funds	Eligibility
Wisconsin Department of Transportation	Applications accepted on odd-numbered years	20%	Varies	River Falls is eligible

APPENDIX A – EARLY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

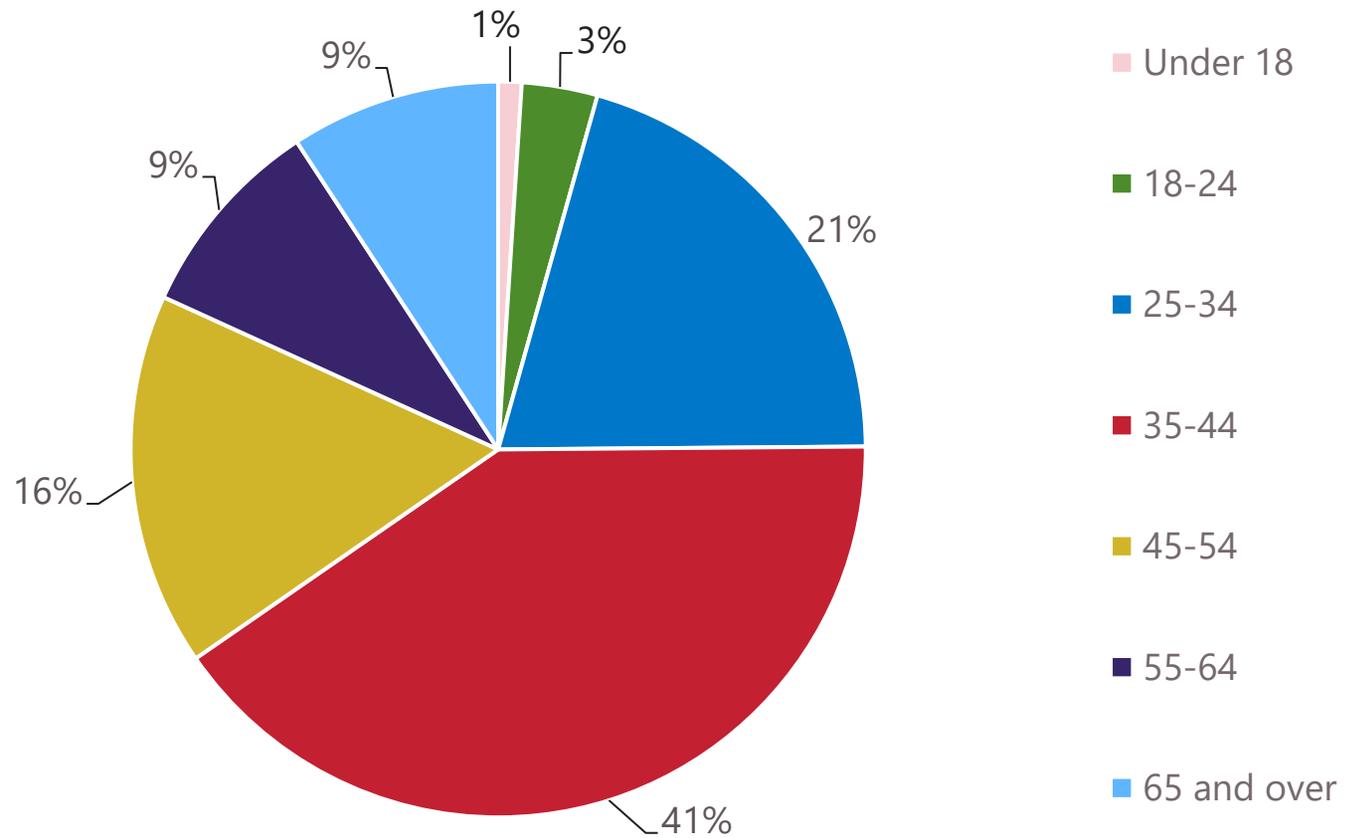
OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY SUMMARY

OVERALL ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

<p>What Engagement Occurred?</p>	<p>POP UP EVENTS Art on the Kinni (Sept 10) Youth Football (Sept 17) Community Food Pantry (Sept 24)</p>	<p>STAKEHOLDER CONVERSATIONS July 21, 2022</p>	<p>ONLINE SURVEY (open Sept 1 – Oct 7) 390 Total Responses</p>	
<p>How Did Engagement Occur?</p>	<p>Throughout engagement events and the online survey, our goal was to engage the community to understand gaps in outdoor recreation amenities and service offerings. Topics covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Amenities • Accessibility in Parks • Mobility and Recreation • Questions for Youth <p>In addition to three in-person pop up events and stakeholder conversations, there was an online survey option that was open from September 1st – October 7th. The survey was actively promoted on social media and an EngageRF community newsletter. Flyers were posted at local businesses and community parks and general comments about the EngageRF process via the city's mass utility mailing.</p>			
<p>People Want to See More...</p>	 <p>Ice Skating Rinks</p>	 <p>Winter Recreation Opportunities</p>	 <p>Splash Pads</p>	 <p>Indoor Recreation / Community Center</p>

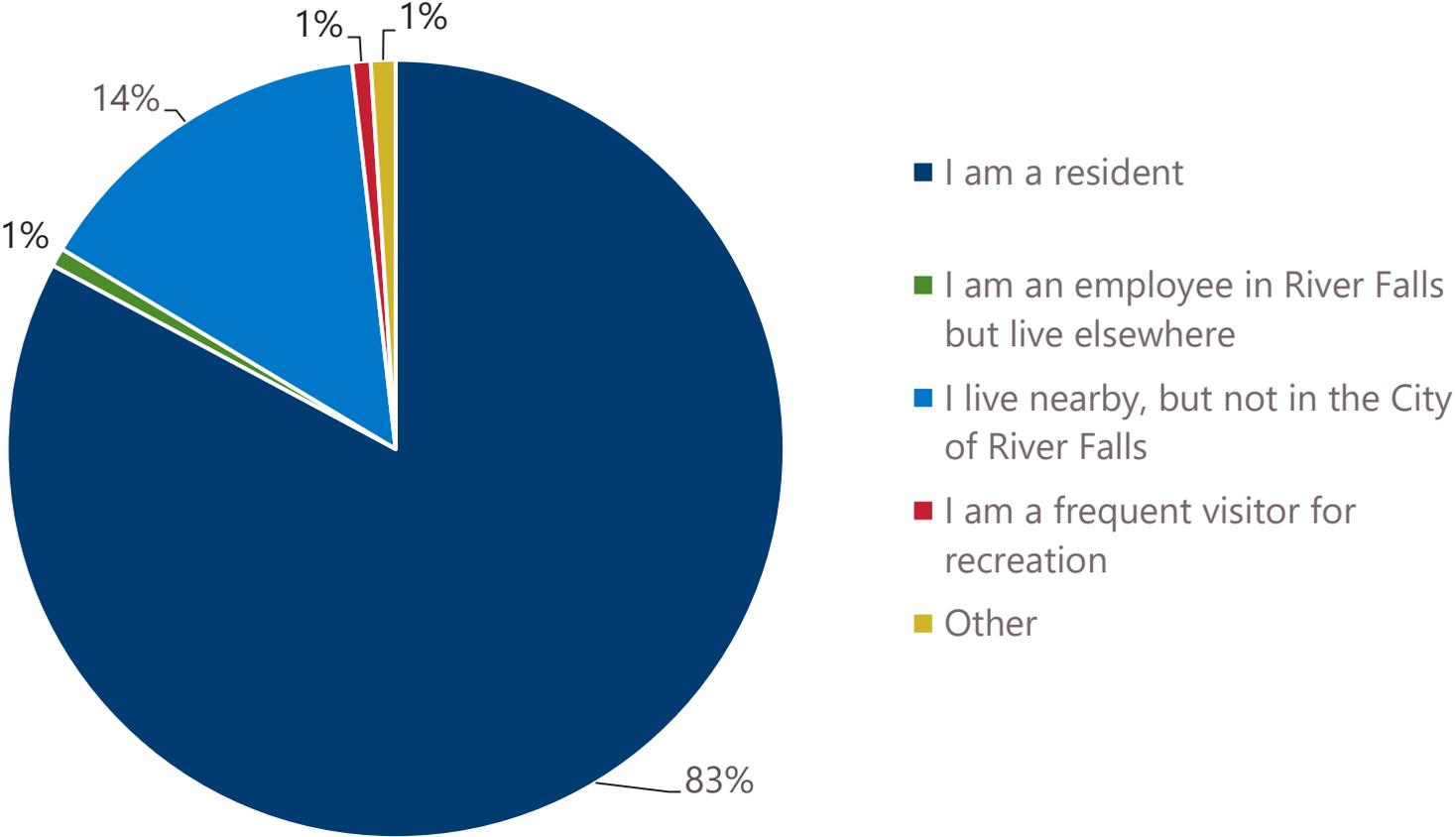
QUESTION 1: WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

Total responses: 390



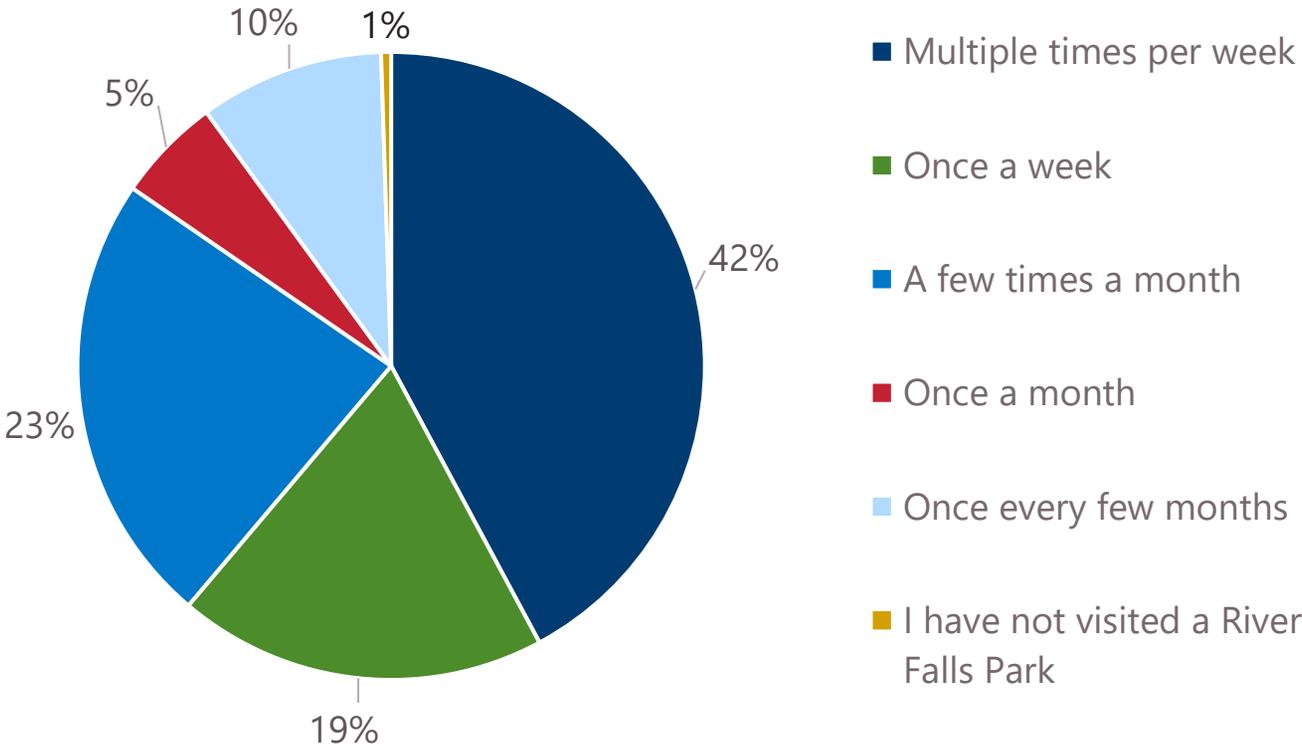
QUESTION 2: WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO RIVER FALLS?

Total responses: 390



QUESTION 3: HOW FREQUENTLY DO YOU VISIT A CITY OF RIVER FALLS PARK?

Total responses: 389



SIMILAR IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

- 'Once a week' and 'multiple times per week' were popular answers amongst In-person survey responses
- For less frequent park users, 'once every few months' was a popular answer.

QUESTION 4: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE RECREATION IN RIVER FALLS?

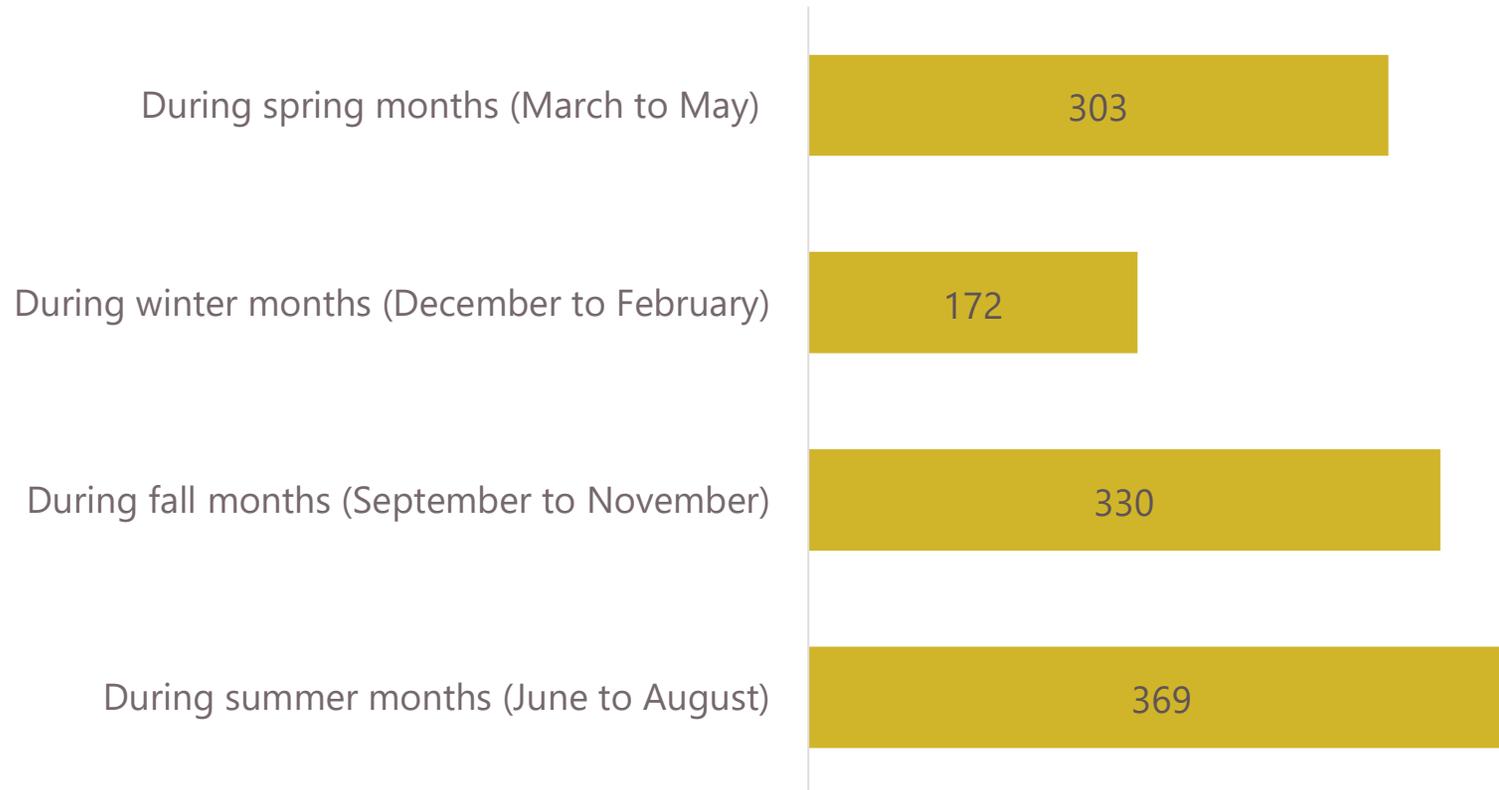
Total responses: 268

Top themes that emerged from responses included:

# of responses	Theme	Summary
76	Limited / Work in Progress	The parks are getting there but could use some more range of recreation options.
71	Good	The recreation in River Falls is good as is, there are enough options for parks and enough things to do.
53	Variety of options	There is a wide variety of recreation activities in River Falls (for example, play baseball/ softball/ soccer, walk along the trails on the river, etc.).
23	Okay	The recreation in River Falls is okay / average, lacking options especially in the winter and for indoor recreation.
14	Kid-friendly	The recreation in River Falls is kid-friendly, there are lots of options for kids / families with kids.
13	Could use updating	The recreation facilities / parks in River Falls could use updating (i.e. new facilities, or improved maintenance).

QUESTION 5: IN WHAT SEASON DO YOU TYPICALLY RECREATE OUTDOORS?

Total responses: 386



SIMILAR IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

- Generally, participants recreate outdoors during all-seasons.
- Summer recreation was the most popular in-person response, but spring recreation was more popular than fall recreation amongst in-person respondents. Winter recreation was the least popular season for both in-person and online results.

QUESTION 6: DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS OR IDEAS FOR IMPROVING AND EXPANDING WINTER RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN RIVER FALLS?

Total responses: 243

Top themes that emerged from responses included:

# of Responses	Theme	Summary
111	Public Ice Skating Rink	A public, outdoor, ice skating rink (free or run by volunteers, for ice skating and/ or hockey).
72	Winter Trails	Maintained / groomed outdoor trails for winter activities like cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and fat-tire biking.
45	Indoor Recreation Facilities	Community center for indoor sports in the winter (including a pool), or warming house at a park, indoor play space.
20	Sledding Hill	Make the current sledding hill safer and improve maintenance.
16	Winter Events	Host winter events / programming (i.e. club sports teams, candlelit walks, bonfires, etc.)
15	Rental Equipment	Increase awareness about UWRF rental equipment or have a system through the parks as well.

SIMILAR RESULTS - IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT

- 42% of participants voted for more seasonal ice rinks in city owned parks.
- Suggestions included winter mountain biking, hosting winter events, and providing indoor recreation options during winter months.

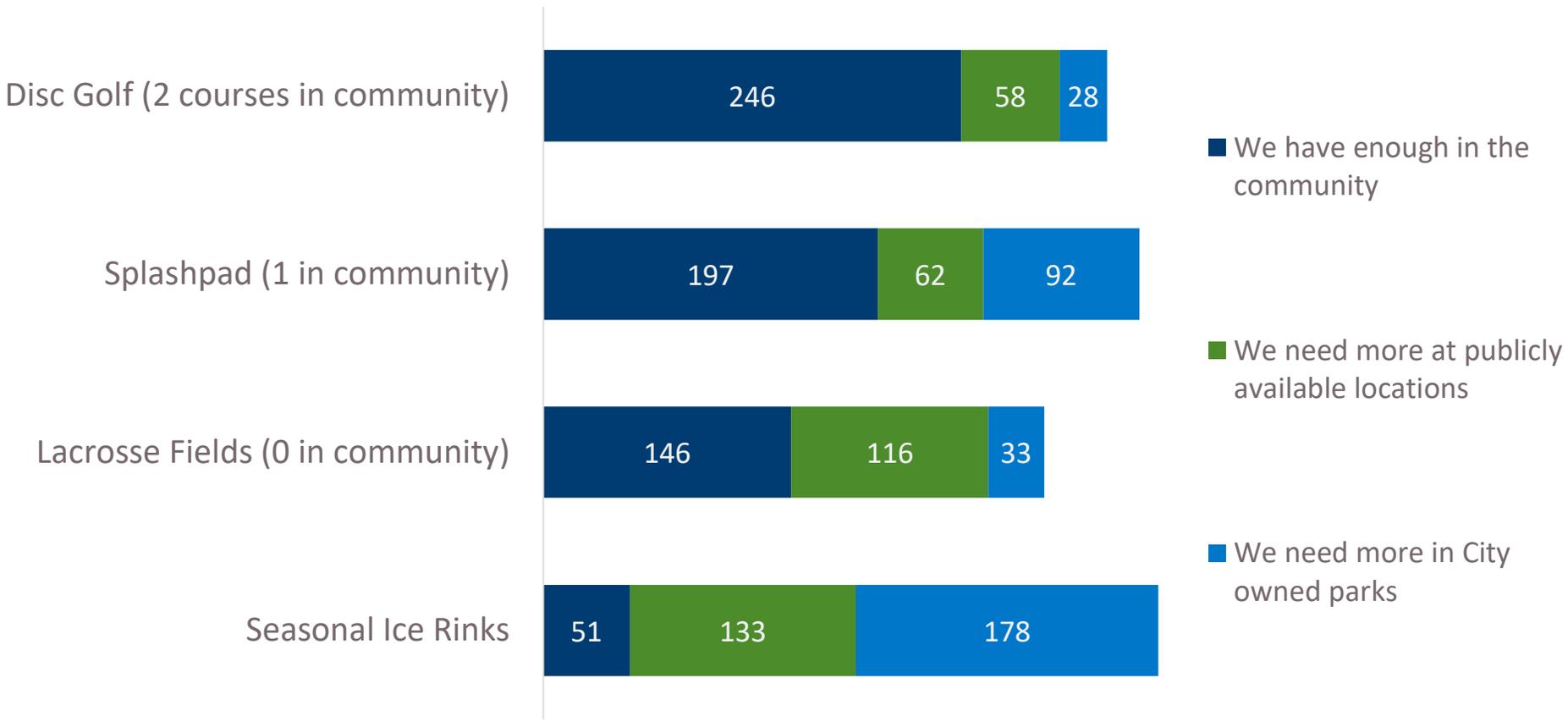
QUESTION 7: FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ADDITIONAL PARK AMENITIES ARE NEEDED IN THE COMMUNITY?

Total responses: 361



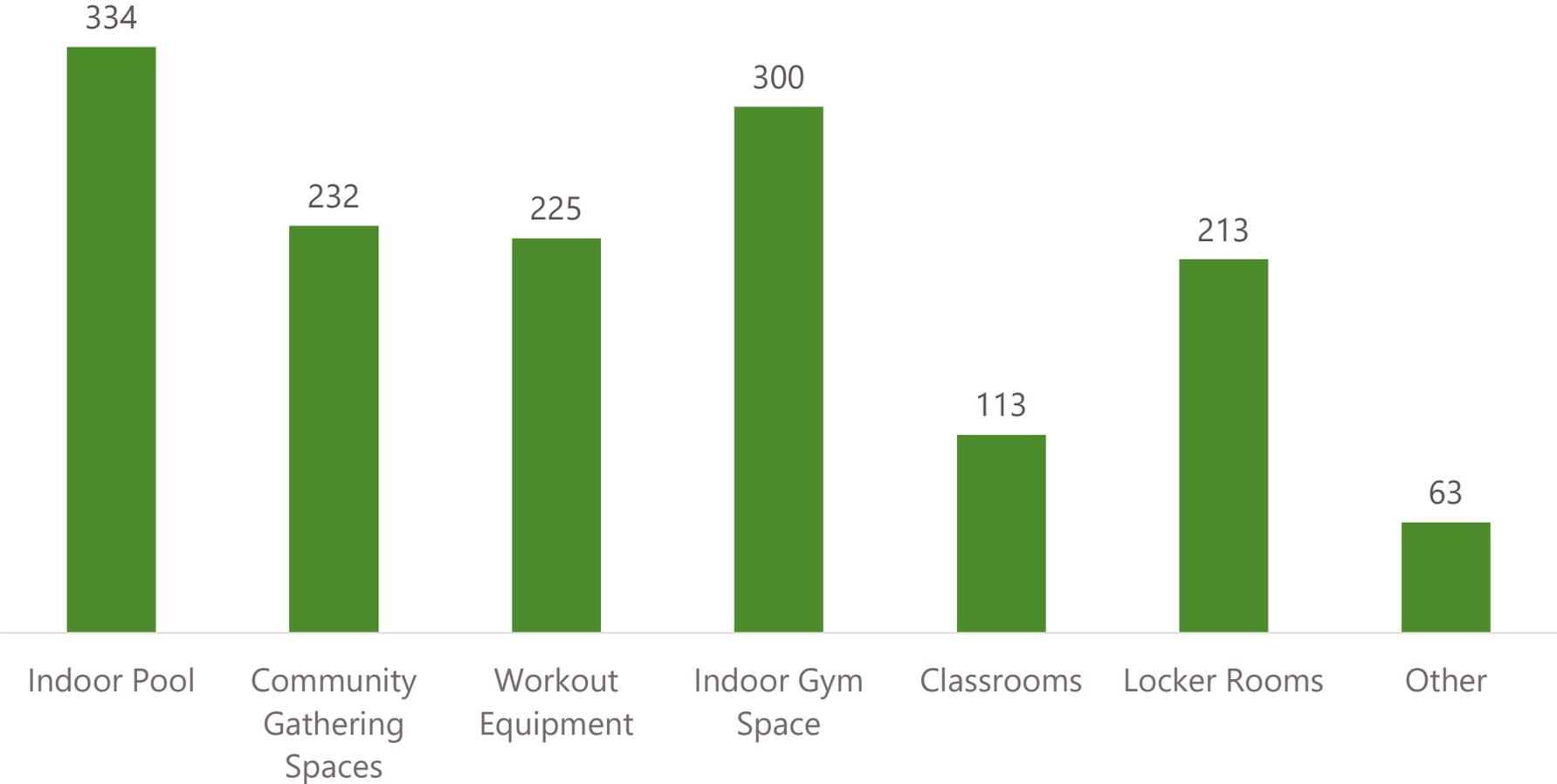
QUESTION 8: THE COMMUNITY HAS ACCESS TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES. PLEASE RANK YOUR PERCEPTION OF THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT IN NEW FACILITIES.

Total responses: 374



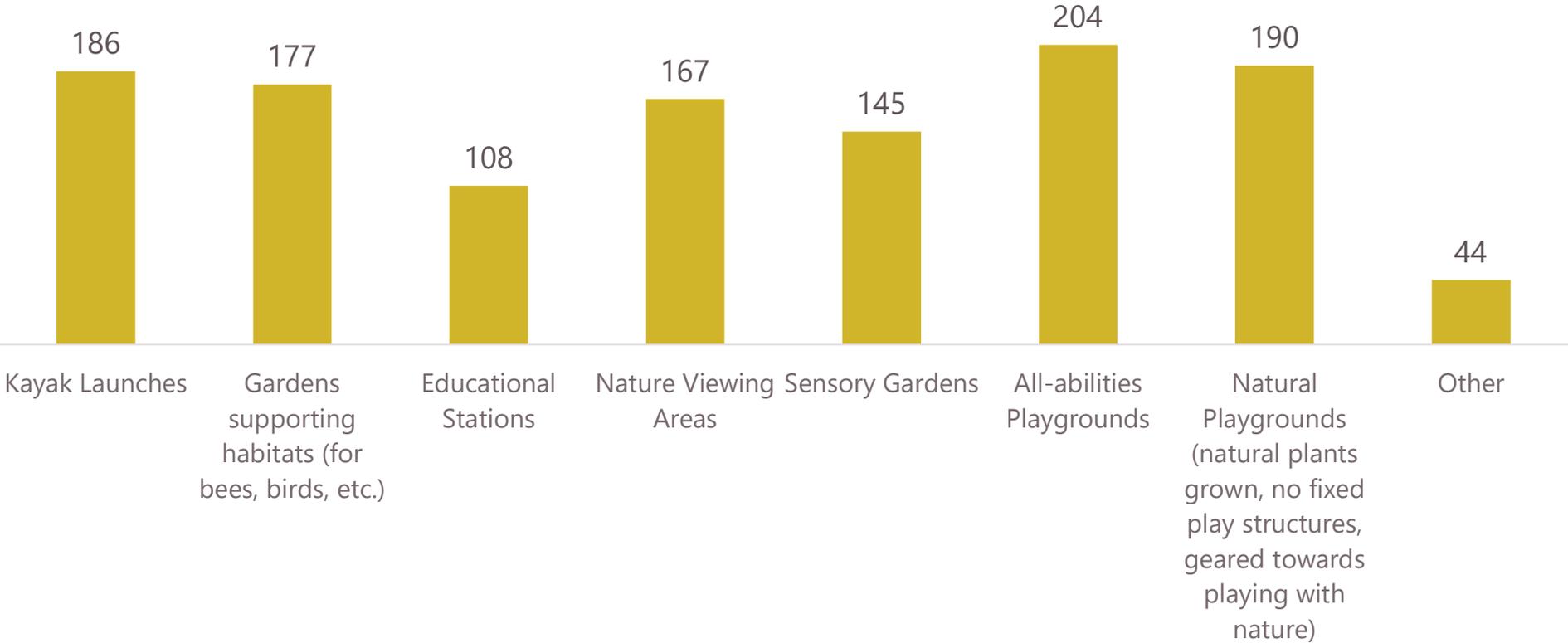
QUESTION 9: IF THERE WERE TO BE A COMMUNITY OR RECREATION CENTER IN RIVER FALLS, WHAT TYPE OF AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THERE? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

Total responses: 381



QUESTION 10: WHAT OTHER TYPES OF PARK AMENITIES OR DESIGN FEATURES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN RIVER FALLS PARKS? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

Total responses: 360



SIMILAR RESULTS - IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT

- Overall, participants would like to see a range of new amenities. Top responses included Kayak Launches, Nature Viewing Areas, Gardens Supporting Habitats, and All-abilities Playgrounds

QUESTION 11: WHAT AMENITIES DO YOU THINK RIVER FALLS HAS TOO MUCH OF? (I.E. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE LESS OF?)

Total responses: 115

Top themes that emerged from responses included:

Ranking	Theme	Summary
14	Play Structures	Play structures geared towards small children.
14	Unused Open Space	Unused open green space / field space / concrete space.
13	Bars / Beer Gardens	Bars, beer gardens, and events focused on alcohol.
13	Baseball Fields	The gravel at baseball fields makes it hard to use for other purposes, there are currently too many baseball fields at parks in River Falls.
6	Sports Facilities	Too much park space and money are dedicated to solely sports facilities.
6	Dog Parks	There are too many dog parks in River Falls, along with not enough dog leashing enforcement.

QUESTION 12: WHAT AMENITIES DO YOU THINK RIVER FALLS HAS TOO LITTLE? (I.E. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE/ SEE MORE OF?)

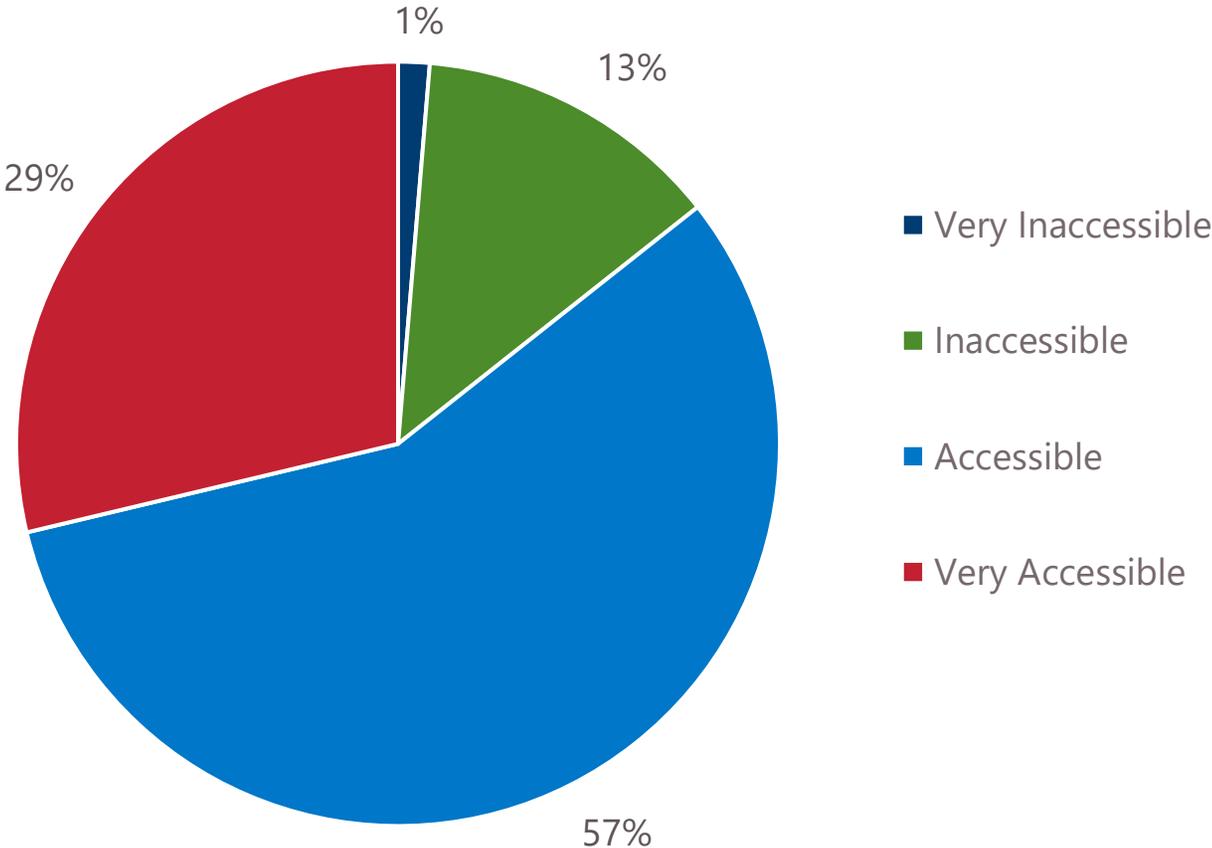
Total responses: 244

Top themes that emerged from responses included:

Ranking	Theme	Summary
64	Trails / Paths	More trails / paths for walking / hiking and biking, that provide more connectivity. Potential dedicated bike lane.
32	Softball Fields	River Falls needs more softball fields, particularly for youth softball.
29	Indoor Facilities	Indoor recreation opportunities / community center.
26	Pool	There is a need for an indoor pool and/ or an updated outdoor pool.
18	Winter Activities / Recreation	More opportunities for winter activities / recreation.
14	Ice Rink	There is a desire for a public ice-skating rink.

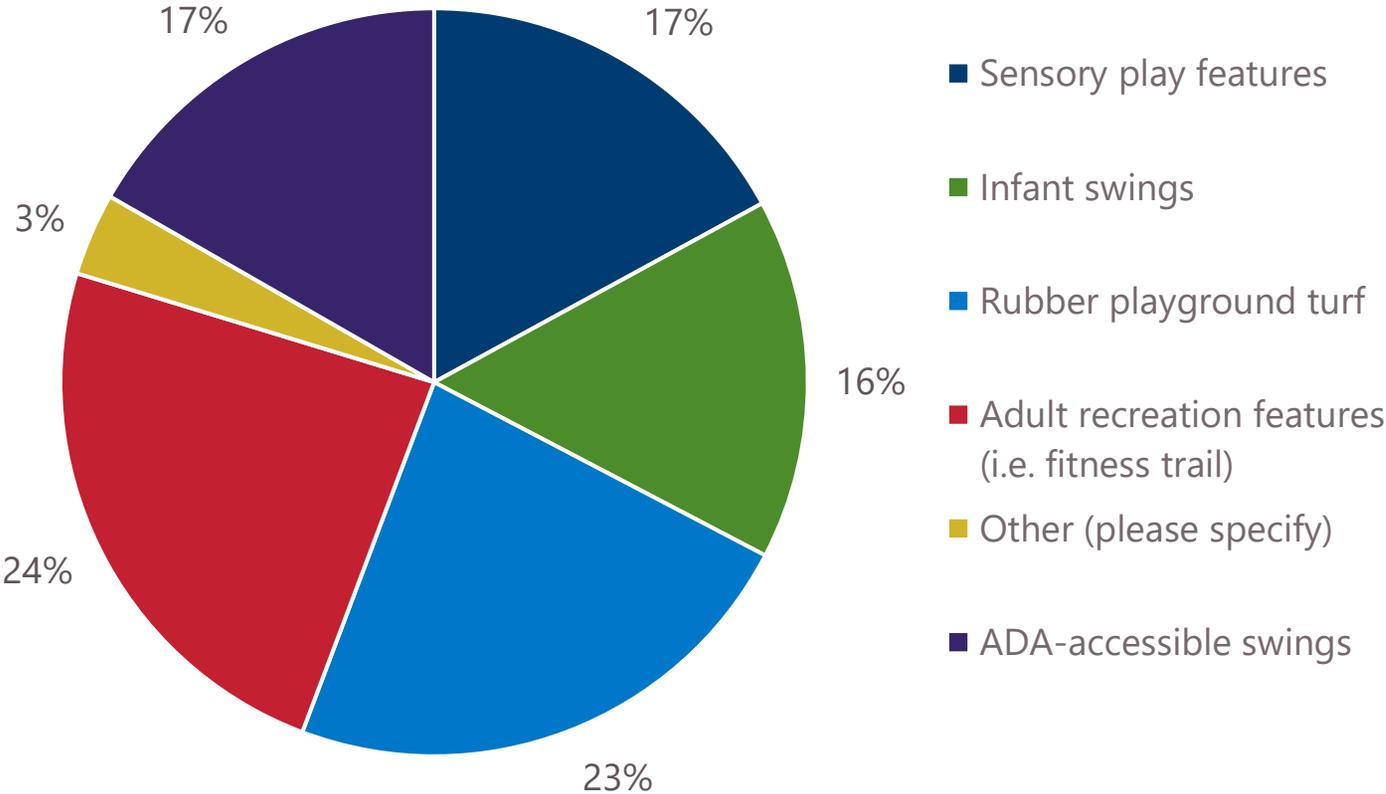
QUESTION 13: HOW ACCESSIBLE DO THE CURRENT OUTDOOR RECREATION OFFERINGS FEEL TO YOU?

Total responses: 376



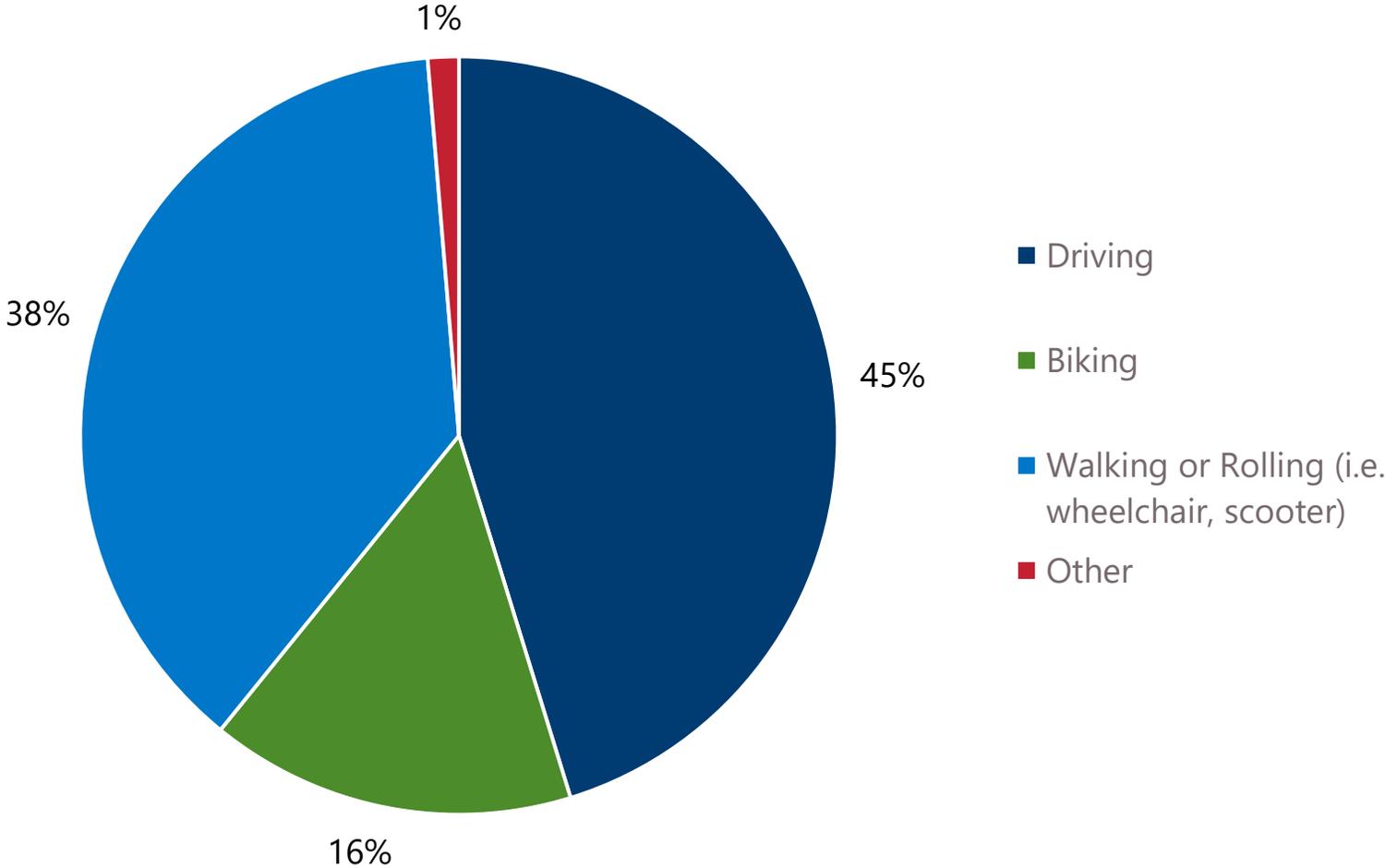
QUESTION 14: PLAYGROUNDS ARE A COMMON AMENITY AT NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IN RIVER FALLS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ACCESSIBLE FEATURES THAT CAN BE INCLUDED TO MAKE PLAYGROUNDS ACCESSIBLE TO A LARGE AUDIENCE. WHAT ACCESSIBLE AMENITIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN CITY PARKS? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

Total responses: 338



QUESTION 15: WHEN YOU PARTICIPATE IN OUTDOOR RECREATION, WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO GET TO THE OUTDOOR RECREATION DESTINATION?

Total responses: 378



QUESTION 16: DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR CONCERNS REGARDING THE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN?

Total responses: 91

Top themes that emerged from responses included:

Ranking	Theme	Summary
8	Dogs	Dog parks need improving / dog leashes should be enforced outside of dog parks.
7	Trail System	The trail system needs expanding and/or improved maintenance.
6	Sports Facilities	River Falls needs more sports facilities overall (indoor and/ or outdoor).
5	Indoor Facilities	River Falls needs more indoor recreation facilities (i.e. Community Center, indoor pool, shelters at parks).
4	Pedestrian Safety	River Falls needs to improve pedestrian safety (i.e. call buttons for emergencies, safer street crossings, safer ways to walk to a park, etc.).
4	Maintenance	Maintenance at recreation facilities (i.e. trails, sidewalks, etc.) needs to be improved, including during the winter.

QUESTION 17: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITY TO DO OUTSIDE?

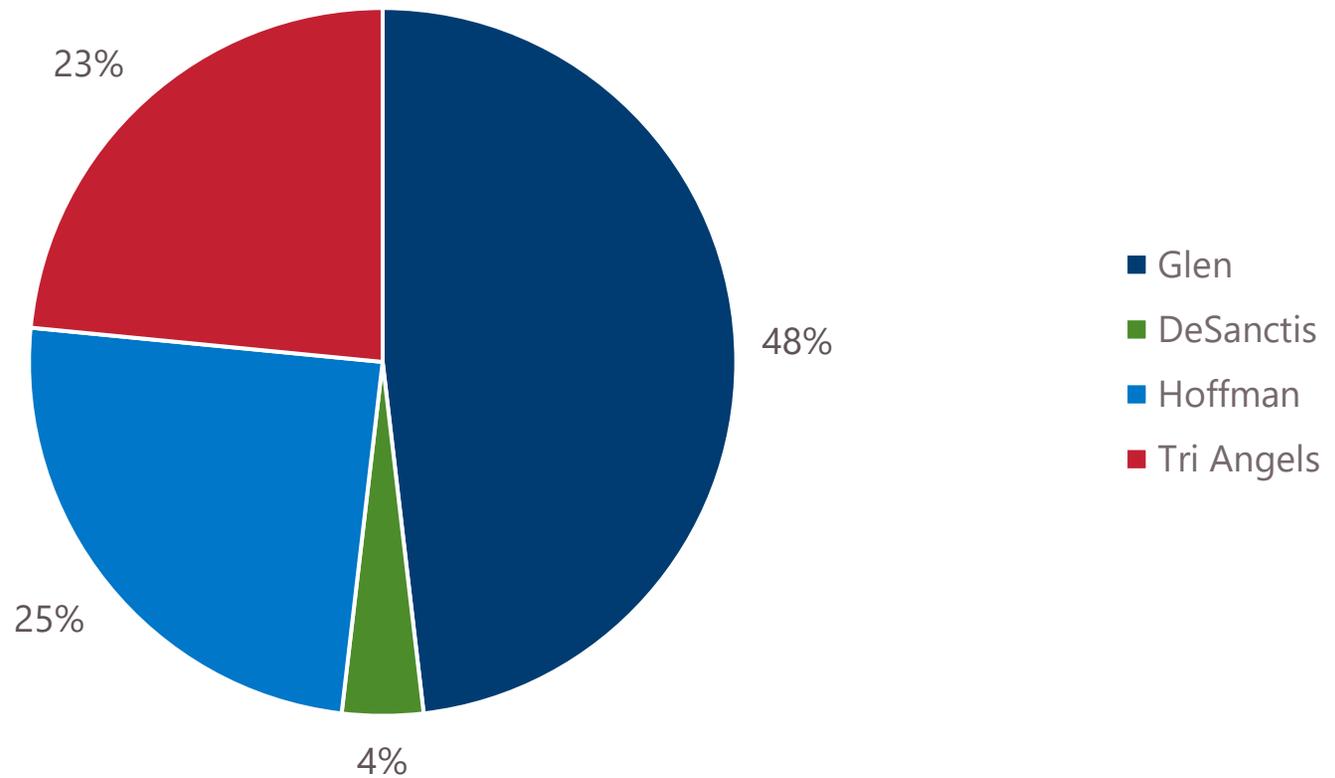
Total responses: 152

Top themes that emerged from responses included:

Ranking	Theme	Summary
59	Walking / Hiking	Activities including hiking, walking along trails or in neighborhoods, and walking to destinations (parks, libraries, etc.).
31	Biking	Activities including biking on trails and mountain biking.
19	Softball	Playing softball.
17	Swimming	Going swimming.
11	Baseball	Playing baseball.
11	Playgrounds	Going to playgrounds / playing at playgrounds.
8	Basketball	Playing basketball.
8	Golf	Going golfing.

QUESTION 18: WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE PARK IN RIVER FALLS? WHY IS THIS YOUR FAVORITE PARK?

Total responses: 159



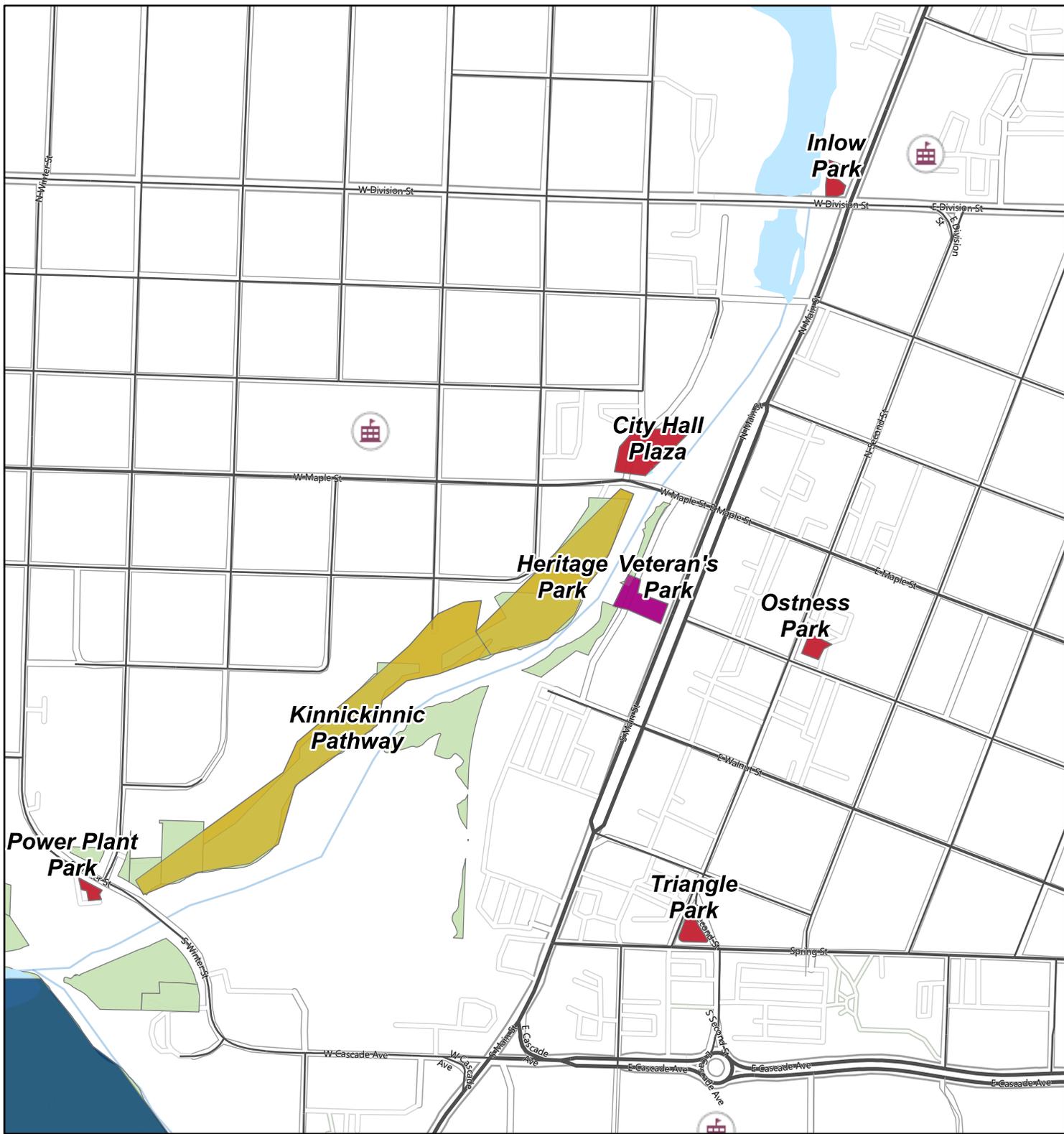
QUESTION 19: WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WISH WAS IN A PARK IN THE COMMUNITY?

Total responses: 127

Top themes that emerged from responses included:

Ranking	Theme	Summary
17	New Pool	Desire for a new pool (either bigger than existing park pool or an indoor pool).
12	Skate Park	Desire for a skate park, either included in an existing park or an indoor facility (potentially in a community center in the future).
6	Ice-skating	Desire for an ice skating rink.
6	Community Center	An indoor community / recreation center.
6	Softball Field	A new / additional softball field(s).
5	Splash Pad	A new / additional splash pad.

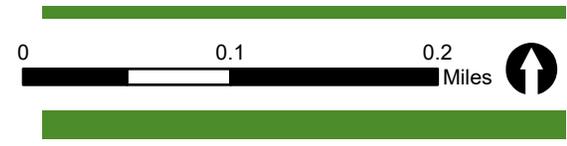
APPENDIX B – EXISTING PARK INVENTORY ITEMS



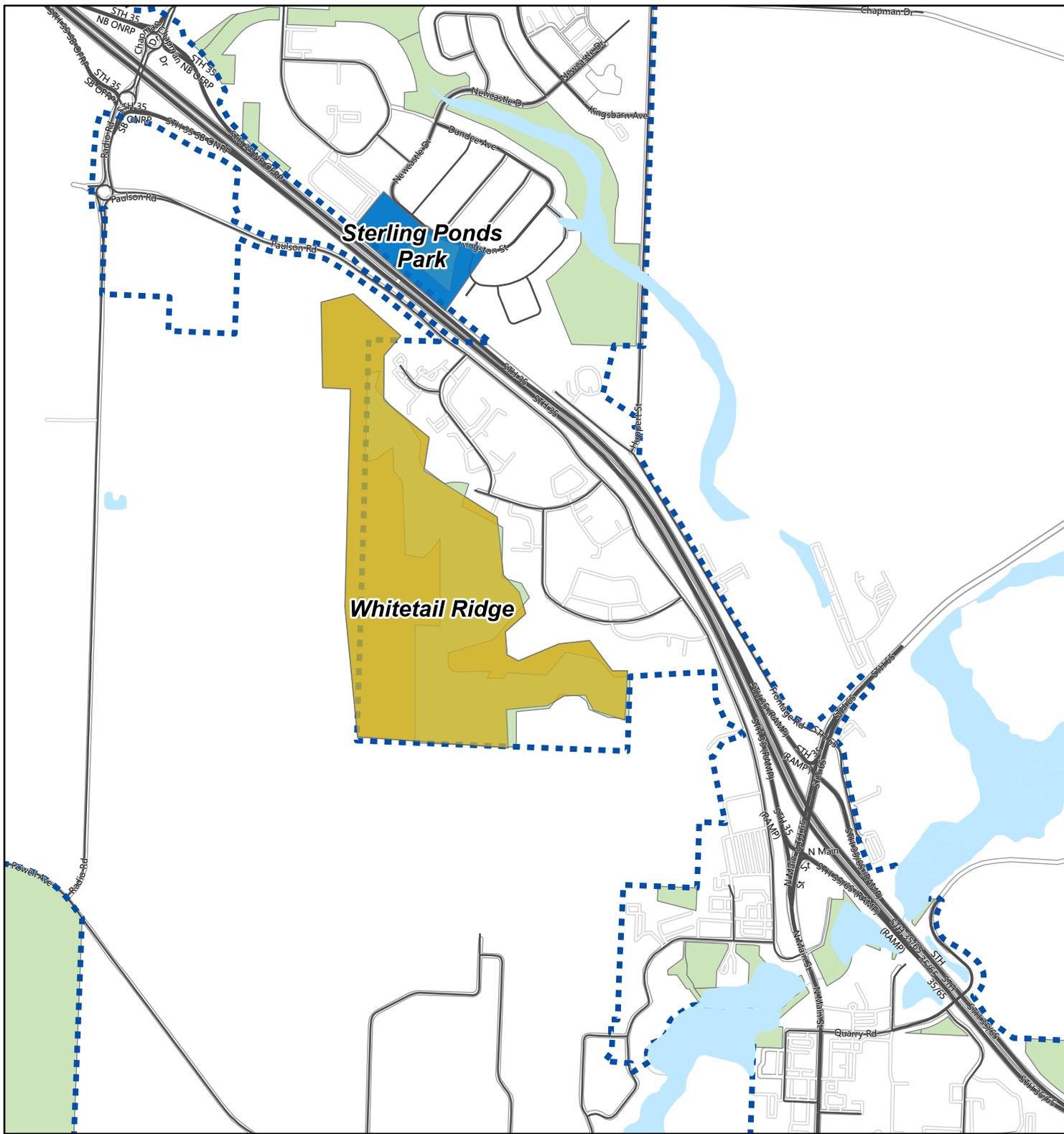
Legend

Park Classification

- Regional
- Neighborhood
- Pocket
- Linear
- Special Use
- Parks and Recreational Areas
- 🏠 Public and Private Schools



River Falls Parks Downtown Segment



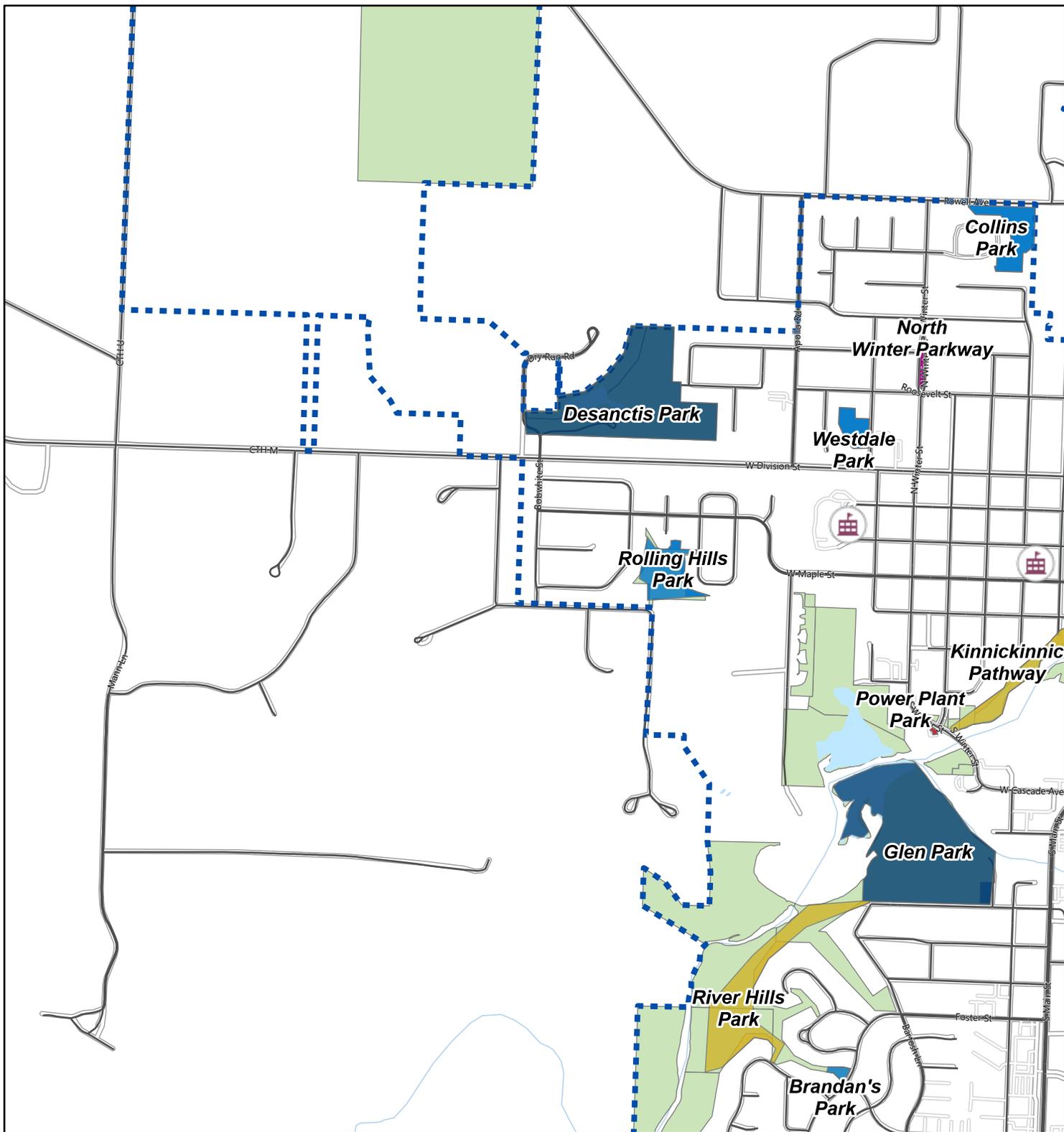
Legend

Park Classification

-  Regional
-  Neighborhood
-  Pocket
-  Linear
-  Special Use
-  Parks and Recreational Areas
-  Public and Private Schools



River Falls Parks Northern Segment



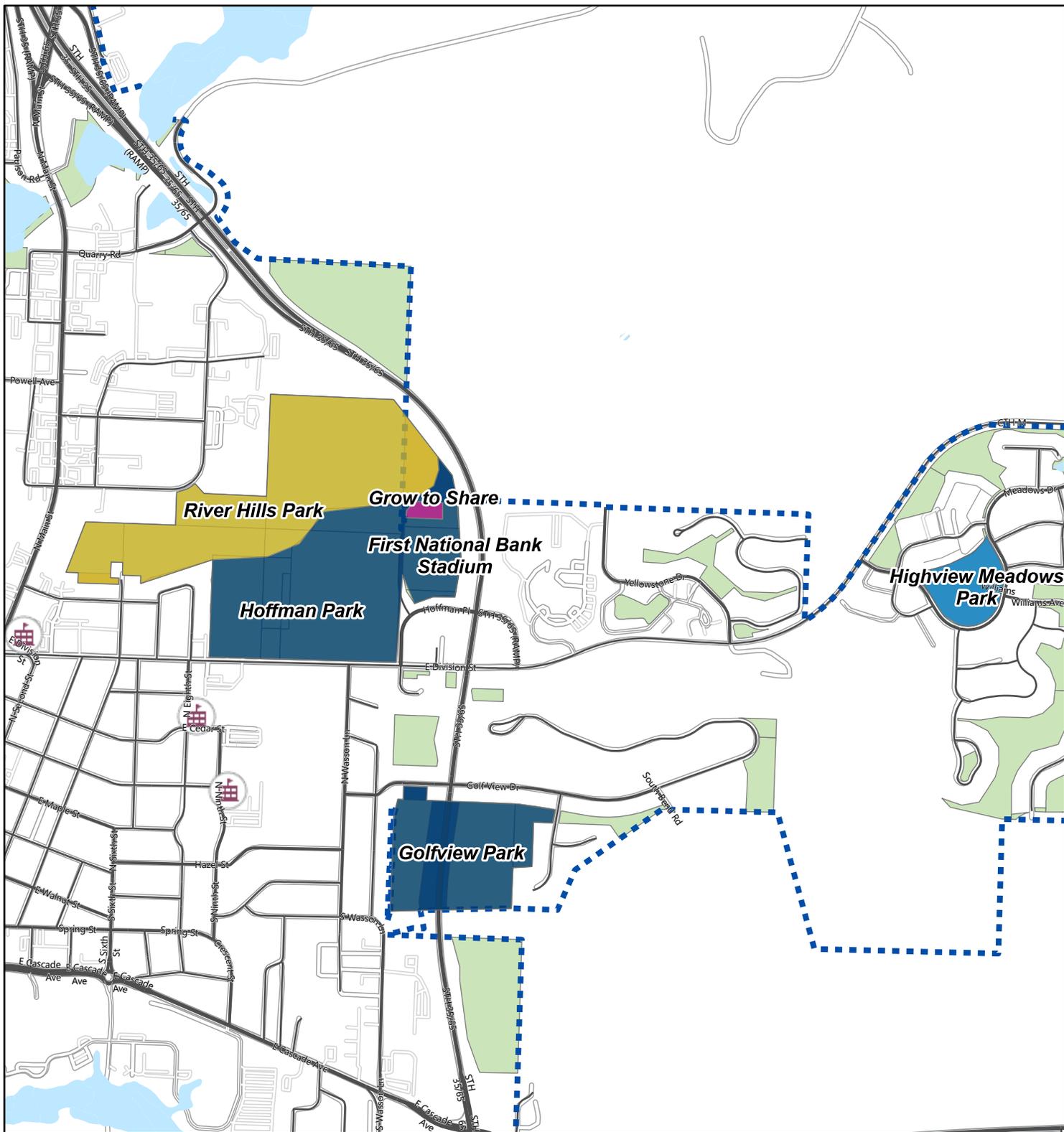
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Park Classification

- Regional
- Neighborhood
- Pocket
- Linear
- Special Use
- Parks and Recreational Areas
- Public and Private Schools



River Falls Parks Eastern Segment



Legend

Park Classification

- Regional
- Neighborhood
- Pocket
- Linear
- Special Use
- Parks and Recreational Areas
- Public and Private Schools



River Falls Parks Western Segment

APPENDIX C – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Year	Project	Description	Cost
2022	Knollwood Park Improvements	Install a playground, bench and bike rack within the park.	\$25,000
2022	Kinni Walking Trail Extension	Extend the Kinnickinnic/Rock Branch walking path from its current terminus at the Town of River Falls near Devin Lane along the Rocky Branch south to connect within existing paved trails in the Spring Creek Estates neighborhood.	\$5,000
2022	Sterling Ponds Park	Construct improvements to Sterling Ponds Park including signs, benches, topsoil, grass seed, grills, trash cans, ballfield backstop, picnic shelters and picnic tables.	\$108,768
2022	Resurface Pickle Ball Court	Resurfacing of existing pickleball court, recommended every 7-10 years	\$12,500
2022-2023	Wells Park Improvements	Improvements to Wells Park including upgraded playground equipment and resurfacing and painting of the tennis courts.	\$75,000
2022-2026	Replacement of Playground Equipment	Long term assessment and replacement of playground equipment in neighborhood parks.	\$75,000
2023	Whitetail Ridge Bathhouse/shelter/water	Construct a bathroom/shelter/shed at the entrance of the Whitetail Ridge trails.	\$150,000
2023	DeSanctis Park Trail Reconstruction	Reconstruct approximately 5,300 feet of existing trail.	\$150,000
2023-2026	Historic Interpretive Signs	Install interpretive signs along the existing paved portions of the Kinnickinnic Trail system near downtown to highlight the former locations of historic structures.	\$20,000
2024	Collins Park Trail Reconstruction	Reconstruct approximately 2,000 feet of existing trail.	\$40,000

Year	Project	Description	Cost
2025	Hanson Property Acquisition	Acquire approximately 3.87 acres adjacent and north of Hoffman Park with access to Hanson Drive. This acquisition will allow for expansion of Hoffman Park and better utilization of a land locked parcel.	\$300,000
2025	Lake George Trail-Replace Fishing Pier	Replacement of fishing pier along Lake George Trail.	\$18,000
2025	Glen Park Creativity Play Area	Implementation of the 2017 preliminary design including, but not limited to: play equipment, surfacing for all protection , and landscaping.	\$350,000
2026	Heritage Park River Access	Construct a river access point and canoe/kayak put in/take out at Heritage Park where parking is provided. Porta potties should be considered for the duration of the summer with the potential of a future public restroom at this location or within walking distance.	\$50,000