



2025-2030
**COMPREHENSIVE
OUTDOOR
RECREATION PLAN**

Acknowledgements

Common Council of the City of Kaukauna

Mayor Anthony J. Penterman

Marty DeCoster (District I)

Jennie Eggleston (District I)

Kelli Antoine (District II)

John Moore (District II)

Brian Schell (District III)

Mary Jo Kilgas (District III)

Pennie Thiele (District IV)

Marty Schumacher (District IV)

Planning and Community Development Department

Dave Kittel, Director of Planning and Community Development

Adrienne Nelson, Associate Planner

Community Enrichment and Recreation Department

Terri Vosters, Community Enrichment and Recreation Director

Michelle Mielke, Community Enrichment and Recreation Office Assistant

Cassie Kohls, Administrative Assistant 1000 Islands

Public Works Department

John Neumeier, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Jake Van Gompel, Street Superintendent

Chuck Rasmussen, Parks Technician

Human Resources Department

Andrea FencI, Marketing and Communications Manager

Kaukauna Public Library

Ashley Thiem-Menning, Library Director

Gavin Schmitt, Library Assistant Local History

Jenny Schink, Library Assistant Communications Coordinator

Contents

Chapter 1. Introduction and Statement of Need.....	5
Chapter 2. Park and Recreation Standards.....	7
Chapter 3. Summary of Past Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans	9
Chapter 4. Description of the Social Characteristics of the Planning Region	14
Chapter 5. Physical and Historical Characteristics of the Planning Region	15
Chapter 6. Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory	18
Chapter 7. Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment.....	22
Chapter 8. Recommendations for Areas of Focus	67
Appendix:	71

Chapter 1. Introduction and Statement of Need

The City of Kaukauna is located in Outagamie County on the Fox River in the northern part of the Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah Metropolitan Statistical Area. Per the Wisconsin Department of Administration Demographic Services Center, Kaukauna has an estimated population of 18,250 (estimate current as of January 1, 2024).¹ This represents a roughly 6.79% population increase since the 2020 Census (approximately 1,161 persons). The city encompasses an area of approximately 4,898 acres, or 7.65 square miles. Kaukauna is the northeastern-most city of the eight incorporated municipalities known collectively as the Fox Cities.

Recreational planning is a process that relates the leisure time of people to space. It involves both social science and environmental design in order to develop multiple ways to use time, space, energy, and to accommodate recreational needs. Successful urban spaces are guided by several social principles, including, but not limited to:

- Facilitating frequent and regular use by residents.
- Reinforcing a sense of belonging to an identifiable community.
- Encouraging interest and exploration through exposure to cultural and historical events.
- Framing meaningful and memorable experiences.

This comprehensive outdoor recreation plan uses standards provided through the National Recreation and Parks Association as a guide to determine the size and service areas for parks and facilities that should be made available. However, it is important to note that these standards only provide general rules of thumb. The provision of park space alone does not necessarily meet a community's needs. The true standard of a park is the level of community use and engagement.

The responsibility for managing Kaukauna's parks and recreational facilities lies with the four-member Health and Recreation Committee of the Common Council and the eight-member Board of Public Works. The decisions of these groups are subject to full Common Council approval. During the peak season, which lasts from May to August, a crew of four full-time and eight part-time seasonal summer employees manage park maintenance under the direction of the Street Superintendent and the Street Foreman. There is a possibility that one-to-two additional full-time staff will be needed in the future.

¹ Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2024 Municipal Population Estimates as of 1/1/2025. Accessed online on June 9, 2024.

Reservations for park areas and pavilions are made each year beginning the first workday of January. A copy of current fees, charges, rules, and regulations is available on the City of Kaukauna's website: www.kaukauna.gov.

The vision for this plan aligns with the strategic plan and is used to help us envision how we hope to see the City of Kaukauna's parks and open spaces in the future and helps us to set goals and implement a strategy to meet those goals and fulfill a future vision.

This vision is as follows:

Be a community of choice by connecting residents, businesses, and visitors to natural resources, recreation, economic opportunities, and quality of life through forward thinking, inclusivity, and sustainable advancements.

Chapter 2. Park and Recreation Standards

In order to help guide the park planning process, it can be helpful to identify a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities that can serve as a benchmark for evaluating the adequacy of a park system. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents as compared with other communities, and to plan for future facilities based on projected population growth. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) collects annual, nationwide data on parks and recreation agencies within the United States. This data can be compared to see how the City of Kaukauna measures both nationally and regionally, as well as by population.

2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review

	National	Midwest	Population (less than 20,000)	Population (20,000 to 49,999)	City of Kaukauna
Number of residents per park	2,411	1,796	1,001	2,071	503
Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents	10.2	12.8	10.9	9.2	26.0
Number of residents per playground	3,737	2,597	2,000	3,320	1,173
Percent of parks & rec agencies providing indoor multiuse courts	29%	33%	21%	29%	Not provided

Number of residents per indoor multiuse court	23,273	8,195	5,250	14,667	Not provided
Percent of parks & rec agencies operating recreation centers	63%	71%	44%	59%	Not provided
Number of residents per recreation center	32,091	25,024	9,875	27,517	Not provided
Number of programs offered annually	250	262	45	164	211

Overall, the City of Kaukauna exceeds many of the general standards at the national level. The city currently does not have an indoor recreation facility to utilize court space, but some indoor programing is available, such as dance programming.

Chapter 3. Summary of Past Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans

In the early 1970s, the Fox Valley Council of Governments prepared a comprehensive plan for the community which included an analysis of future park needs. This plan was updated by the City in 1992 for the 1992-1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan, in 1998 for the 1998-2002 Open Space and Recreation Plan, in 2003 for the 2003-2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan, in 2010 for the 2010-2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan, and most recently in 2019 for the 2019-2024 Open Space and Recreation Master Plan. For this most recent update the name has been changed to the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to better reflect changes in the industry.

1992-1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Total # City Owned Parks & Open Spaces: 15

The following goals were put forth in this plan:

1. Maintain a community system of park and recreation facilities that will meet the needs of Kaukauna residents in a cost effective manner.
2. Ensure that open space and recreation facilities are designed to meet the special needs of all residents, including the elderly and handicapped.
3. Conserve, protect, and improve the natural resources of Kaukauna.
4. To encourage the continued provision of open space and park facilities in newly developed areas of the City.
5. Promote the City of Kaukauna's historical significance in future recreation planning.
6. Provide for citizen involvement in the long-range planning of park and recreation facilities.
7. To provide an action plan for future park and open space improvements with an expenditure analysis presenting financial cost estimates, and a priority system recommending an order for improvements.

Improvements were suggested for the following parks:

1. Grignon Park
2. Horseshoe Valley Park
3. La Follette Park

4. Central Park

1998-2002 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Total # of City Owned Parks & Open Spaces: 15

The plan noted that, in 1996, the City acquired 10.99 acres for the future Jonen Park. This future park was not added into the total number of parks because it had not yet been developed.

The goals for this park plan remained the same as in previous plans.

2003-2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Total # of City Owned Parks & Open Spaces: 20

The following parks and open spaces were added in this plan: Friends and Family Sculpture Garden and Heritage Parkway Trail, Little Tykes Tot Lot, Hydro Park, Kelso Park and Pond, and Jonen Park. Lawe Street Park was renamed to Veterans Memorial Park and Ring of Honor.

The goals for this park plan remained the same as in previous plans.

2010-2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Total # of City Owned Parks & Open Spaces: 27

The following parks and open spaces were added to this plan: Skate Park, Nature View Park, Konkapot Trail/Preserve, Van Epern Park and Pond, Anderson Park, Kaukauna Dog Park, and Rapid Croche Picnic Area.

The following goals were put forth in this plan:

1. To establish a community wide system of parks, open spaces and park facilities that will provide all residents of Kaukauna with adequate recreational opportunities.
2. To conserve, protect and improve the natural resources of Kaukauna.
3. Promote the City of Kaukauna's historical significance in future recreation planning.

4. To encourage cooperation with adjacent municipalities, the Kaukauna School District, local groups and organizations, and developers to maximize the cost-effectiveness of providing open space and recreational facilities.
5. To encourage continued involvement of Kaukauna residents when planning for park and recreational development.

2019-2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan

The 2019-2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan was the first of the park plans to include information on the process of gathering community input. A digital/paper survey was completed by 357 participants, a public open house was attended by one resident, an inventory of 35 different parks was completed, and an inventory on wayfinding signage was completed.

Total # of City Owned Parks & Open Spaces: 37

The following parks and open spaces were added to this plan: Aquatic Center and Archery Range, Eagle Plaza, Gathering of the Pike Plaza, Grignon Mansion, Haas Road Park, Interactive Learning Garden at the Kaukauna Public Library, Nelson Family Heritage Crossing, Quarry Point Park, Trestle Park, and Vaudette Plaza.

The plan included the following vision statements:

1. The City of Kaukauna is a place where residents of all ages and abilities have access to high quality parks and open spaces that provide space for passive or active recreation, that encourage non-digital play, and that help achieve better health outcomes for residents.
2. The City of Kaukauna is a place where residents of all ages and abilities can safely navigate the community on-foot, by bike or by alternative (non-vehicular) forms of transportation to safely access the many amenities of the community.
3. The City of Kaukauna is a place where unique natural features are preserved, protected and made accessible for all residents to enjoy.

The following goals and objectives were put forth in this plan:

1. Ensure connectivity by trail and sidewalks for all residents.
2. Implement a master planning process for the municipal pool.
3. Allow dogs in more municipal parks and open spaces.
4. Maintain and expand quality neighborhood parks and natural open spaces.

5. Invest in destination-worthy improvements in regional/local parks.
6. Implement a wayfinding signage effort.
7. Strive for inclusivity in design.
8. Utilize community events to connect and cross-promote parks and open spaces.

Improvements were suggested for the following parks:

1. La Follette Park
2. Horseshoe Valley Park
3. Thelen Park
4. Glenview Park
5. Fieldcrest Park
6. Strassburg Park
7. White City Park
8. Grignon Park

The following were accomplished during this plan:

Goal 1

1. The downtown alley and pedestrian alley reconstruction project was completed.
2. Additional walks and a 3-way stop were added to improve pedestrian access to Horseshoe Valley Park.
3. Staff applied for and received an 80% design and construction grant from WisDOT for reconstruction on Kenneth Avenue/3rd Street.

Goal 2

1. The City's Aquatic Center was renovated in 2024. The new Aquatic Center includes two water slides, an aqua climbing wall, and an over 4,000 square foot splash pad.

Goal 3

1. Dogs are now allowed in Central Park, Fassbender Park, the Kaukauna Dog Park, Kelso Park and Pond, the Konkapot Trail/Preserve, Nature View Park, Nelson

Family Heritage Crossing, Rapid Croche Picnic Area, Thilwerth Park, and Van Epern Park and Pond.

Goal 4

1. A pavilion was constructed at Jonen Park and playground area was improved.
2. Parking lot pavement was replaced at the Aquatic Center and Horseshoe Valley Park.
3. Many trees were replanted in various city parks.
4. The 1000 Islands boardwalk update was completed.
5. Siding was replaced at the 1000 Islands Environmental Center.
6. Updates, including new targets, were made to the archery range.

Goal 5

1. The first phase of the Disc Golf Course at Grignon Park was completed. Dead and declining ash trees and significant amounts of buckthorn were removed in order to extend and reconfigure fairways and tee pads. New concrete tee pads were installed, as well as new baskets, and seating was replaced.

Goal 6

1. The City partnered with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to conduct a wayfinding signage inventory and gap analysis study. The implementation of wayfinding signage is still underway.

Goal 7

1. La Follette Park received updated accessible playground equipment and new pickleball courts. Plans for updated restroom facilities are underway.

Goal 8

1. Increased efforts have been made on the city website and social media platforms to promote Kaukauna's wide variety of parks and amenities.
2. In 2024 alone, 28 events were held with the assistance of city staff which brought over 25,000 people to Kaukauna.

Chapter 4. Description of the Social Characteristics of the Planning Region

In designing and implementing a successful comprehensive and outdoor recreation plan, consideration must be given to the social characteristics of the region. These characteristics help offer critical insights on how Kaukauna measures up to other communities as well as what updates and improvements would be most beneficial to the community as a whole. Understanding these social characteristics also helps staff to ensure that all demographics are represented in the proposed plan. There are many great resources to gather this information and, when a project is being undertaken, the most up-to-date information should be used to assist in the creation of new parks, trails, or upgrades. Below is a simple summary of important information on the demographics and characteristics of the City of Kaukauna which was gathered by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. This data was pulled by staff in January of 2025 and is taken from the latest census data.



Chapter 5. Physical and Historical Characteristics of the Planning Region

Kaukauna has a wide variety of physical and historical characteristics that influence the use of its parks and other open spaces.

Topography

The terrain in Kaukauna ranges from flat to areas that are fairly steep and rolling. Ravines and sloped areas along the Fox River provide interesting terrain for the City's park system. Examples of parks and open spaces situated within this sloping topography include Riverside Park, La Follette Park, Horseshoe Valley Park, Grignon Park, and the 1000 Islands Environmental Center. It is a noted issue among Public Works staff that some of these steeper areas are difficult to mow safely, making them ideal candidates for natural plantings instead.

Woodlands

Impressive stands of old growth trees are located in La Follette Park, Riverside Park, Horseshoe Valley Park, and Grignon Park, while the City's newer parks possess much younger trees. Additionally, the 1000 Islands Conservancy Zone is home to 350 acres of woodland and river area. One issue of note is the emerald ash borer. The emerald ash borer has devastated the City's ash tree population, and Public Works staff are working on planting new, non-ash trees in parks and open spaces.

Waterways

Approximately three and a half miles of the Fox River are located within Kaukauna's municipal boundaries. Canal and riverfront property has been developed for residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational uses. Some undeveloped land and publicly owned open space still exists along the riverfront in Kaukauna. There are 5 watersheds in Kaukauna; Lower Fox, Konkapot, Plum, Garners, and Apple Creek. State and national attention has been given to the Lower Fox River basin as the industrial and agricultural runoff challenges have been directly tied to declining water quality and poor aquatic habitat. This has the potential to negatively impact water recreation, such as boating and fishing, in Northeast Wisconsin.

Land Use

The predominant land use in the City of Kaukauna is residential. Almost the entire western half of the City's south side has been developed residentially, and residential growth continues to expand to the south and to the east in Kaukauna. In the northern part of Kaukauna, residential units expand all the way to Interstate 41, although there is notably more of an industrial presence in this area. The planned addition of a new middle school building located in southern Kaukauna brings additional opportunities and challenges for both residential growth and the growth of the City's parks and open spaces.

History

Kaukauna's history begins with the Fox River. The primary travel route through northeast Wisconsin, native peoples such as the Menominee went up and down the river for generations. When French explorers and later European settlers entered Wisconsin, whether staying or passing through on their way to the Mississippi, passing by Kaukauna was unavoidable.

Due to the rapids, only the bravest – or most foolish – travelers would go through Kaukauna without a brief portage over land, in what is today lower Grignon Park. What started as a Menominee-French trading post grew into a settlement, with the 1837 mansion on site preserving that story and surveying the developments all around as Kaukauna grew: the canal and locks, the quarry that provided material to construct a city, the various paper mills, and more. Standing on the Grignon Mansion porch, 200 years of Kaukauna history can be seen in a single panorama view.

As Kaukauna grew throughout the 1800s, and the residents moved away from the river, recreation was still centered on the Fox. Pleasure boating replaced Durham boats, fishing wasn't just for sustenance, and swimming on a humid summer day was a must.

The earliest parks were private enterprises and often required an admission fee. The south side had Eden Park, on what is now Brill Street, which featured a number of amusements and traveling bands. Later attempts by the City to purchase this park for public use fell through, resulting in the development of nearby La Follette Park in the 1920s. This park became the primary recreation area for residents living on the south side of Kaukauna. Its grand opening was such a massive celebration that members of the La Follette family were on hand for ribbon cutting and speeches. Naming a park after a then-current political family may strike us today as odd (not to mention partisan!) but, in retrospect, seems quite prescient. Few politicians have impacted Wisconsin more than Robert La Follette.

The north side private park was owned by the Lawe family on land that now includes Park School. This is, of course, why Park School has its name. There was no admission fee to the Lawe property, and as long as children refrained from any vandalism, they were welcome at any time.

For north side river access, the City turned to Andrew Black, who owned hundreds of acres on West Wisconsin Avenue. Carved out from woodlands he owned, an area known as Tourists Park was created. As the name implies, its target audience was people passing through the area. A boat landing allowed people to come and go by water, but many more were showing up in their Model T and camping on site, using the park's grills and other amenities. Tourists Park was transformed into Riverside Park in the 1930s thanks to the WPA, a Depression Era program that put unemployed men to work on various infrastructure projects. Improved retaining walls were added for boating, and the camping areas were beautified. Following the Depression, upkeep was done through a collaboration between the City and the local Boy Scouts, who maintained a cabin in the park.

The 1000 Islands Conservancy Zone is often called Kaukauna's "gem" or "diamond in the rough." Its creation and preservation is a long story of political will and collaboration with Thilmany Pulp and Paper. We must thank the City leaders in the 1930s and 1940s, particularly Mayor Louis Nelson, for their foresight. Many, many acres that could have become prime real estate will instead be preserved forever, allowing children to learn about nature and giving residents miles of trails without having to go very far to enjoy them.

As neighborhoods developed, they could not be considered complete without a neighborhood park for people to come together and enjoy a cookout or play an impromptu game of baseball. Some parks are named simply for their streets (Thelen, Glenview) while others identify the groups that formed their individual communities. Strassburg Park is so named for the heavy German influence of the people who settled there from the German-French Alsace region. White City Park is said to come from the housing put up by Monroe Wertheimer for Thilmany employees – the exteriors were all whitewashed, creating a so-called white city.

As Kaukauna grows, so too does its park system. New parks, including Anderson and Haas, are built as the boundaries expand, and the existing parks are continually remodeled to be more accessible and match recreation trends.

Chapter 6. Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory

The city of Kaukauna features 37 city-owned parks and open spaces, which have been classified as one of three types of parks (regional, local, or neighborhood) or one of two types of open spaces (urban or natural). These 37 open spaces make up 458 acres of dedicated park and open space in the city and feature a wide range of settings, amenities, and natural environments. There are a number of privately owned and operated open spaces, as well as school-owned parks, that contribute an additional 270 acres.

Types of Park and Open Spaces

Regional Parks

Regional parks are among the City's largest parks and have unique features that serve as a draw for the greater region.

Amenity Inventory	1000 Islands Environmental Center	Aquatic Center and Archery Range	Dog Park	Doty Bayorgeon Recreation Area	Grignon Mansion	Horseshoe Valley Park	Hydro Park
Ball Diamond				X		X	
Batting Cage				X		X	
Concession Stand		X		X		X	
Crushed Gravel Trail	X		X			X	
Dogs Permitted			X				
Fishing	X						
Football Field				X			
Grass/Natural Trail	X						
Grills	X						
Historic Markers / Educational Kiosks	X				X		X
Ice Skating						X	
Indoor Restrooms	X	X		X	X	X	X
Kayak Launch	X						
On-Street Parking	X				X	X	X
Parking Lot	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Paved Trail							X

Playground Equipment	X	X		X		X	
Rentable Shelter	X					X	X
Seasonal Restrooms (Portapotties)	X		X				
Sledding Hill						X	
Swimming Pool		X					
Track				X			
Volleyball Court		X					

Local Parks

Local parks are smaller than the City's regional parks and serve as a destination primarily for residents.

Amenity Inventory	Glenview Park	Grignon Park (Upper and Lower)	Jonen Park	La Follette Park	Riverside Park	Skate Park
Accessible Playground Equipment				X	X	
Ball Diamond			X		X	
Basketball Court			X	X		
Batting Cage					X	
Boat Launch					X	
Concession Stand		X	X		X	
Disc Golf		X				
Fishing					X	
Grills		X		X	X	
Historic Markers / Educational Kiosks		X				
Indoor Restrooms		X	X	X	X	
On-Street Parking	X	X	X	X	X	X
Parking Lot		X	X	X	X	
Pickleball Court				X		
Playground Equipment	X	X	X	X	X	

Rentable Shelter		X	X	X	X	
Skateboarding Facilities						X
Sledding Hill		X	X			
Soccer Field		X	X			

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the City's smallest designated parks and serve primarily as destinations for neighborhood residents.

Amenity Inventory	Anderson Park	Fieldcrest Park	Haas Road Park	Little Tykes Tot Lot	Strassburg Park	Thelen Park	White City Park
Accessible Playground Equipment				X			
Ball Diamond					X	X	X
Basketball Court					X	X	
Grills					X	X	
Historic Markers / Educational Kiosks						X	
On-Street Parking	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Parking Lot							
Playground Equipment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sledding Hill							X

Natural Open Spaces

Natural open spaces are natural areas that are largely unprogrammed and undeveloped.

Amenity Inventory	Central Park	Kelso Park & Pond	Konkapot Preserve & Trail	Nature View Park	Quarry Point Park	Rapid Croche Picnic Area	Thilwerth Park	Trestle Park	Van Epern Park and Pond
Boat Launch									X
Crushed Gravel Trail			X		X				
Dogs Permitted	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X

Educational / Historic Kiosks					X		X		
Fishing	X	X			X	X	X		X
Grass / Natural Trail		X		X		X			X
Grills						X			
Kayak Launch								X	
On-Street Parking		X	X	X	X			X	X
Parking Lot	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
Paved Trail	X						X		
Seasonal Restrooms (Portapotties)			X			X			

Urban Open Spaces

Urban open spaces include plazas, pocket parks, and memorials.

Amenity Inventory	Eagle Plaza	Family & Friends Sculpture Garden and Trail	Fassbender Park	Gathering of the Pike Plaza	Interactive Learning Garden at the Kaukauna Public Library	Vaudette Plaza	Veterans Memorial / Ring of Honor	Fox River Boardwalk
Dogs Permitted			X					X
Fishing		X						X
Historic Markers / Educational Kiosks							X	X
Indoor Restrooms					X			
On-Street Parking	X	X	X			X		X
Parking Lot	X	X		X	X			X
Paved Trail	X	X		X				X

Chapter 7. Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment

Data Collection Process

Data collection efforts took place from January 2025 to April 2025. During that time, the City of Kaukauna incorporated community input through a number of mechanisms for the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan:

- A digital/paper survey for ages 19 and up, referred to as the “adult survey”.
- A digital/paper survey for ages 18 and under, referred to as the “children survey”.
- Three public open houses hosted at the Kaukauna Public Library.
- One public open house hosted at the Municipal Services Building.
- An inventory of park and open space conditions performed by the Public Works Department.

Digital/Paper Surveys. The digital and paper surveys used to gather feedback for the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan were designed using Microsoft Forms and Microsoft Word, respectively. The digital surveys were promoted on the City of Kaukauna website and social media platforms, and the survey was further “boosted” on Facebook through paid advertising. QR codes linking to the digital survey were posted at the Municipal Services Building, the Kaukauna Public Library, the SPAR Building, and the 1000 Islands Environmental Center. Paper copies of the surveys were also made available at these locations. The surveys were active for ten weeks from February 7th, 2025, to April 18th, 2025. In total, 362 people took the online survey for adults, 16 people took the online survey for children, 38 people took the paper survey for adults, and 17 people took the paper survey for children. Overall, feedback was received from 433 individuals.

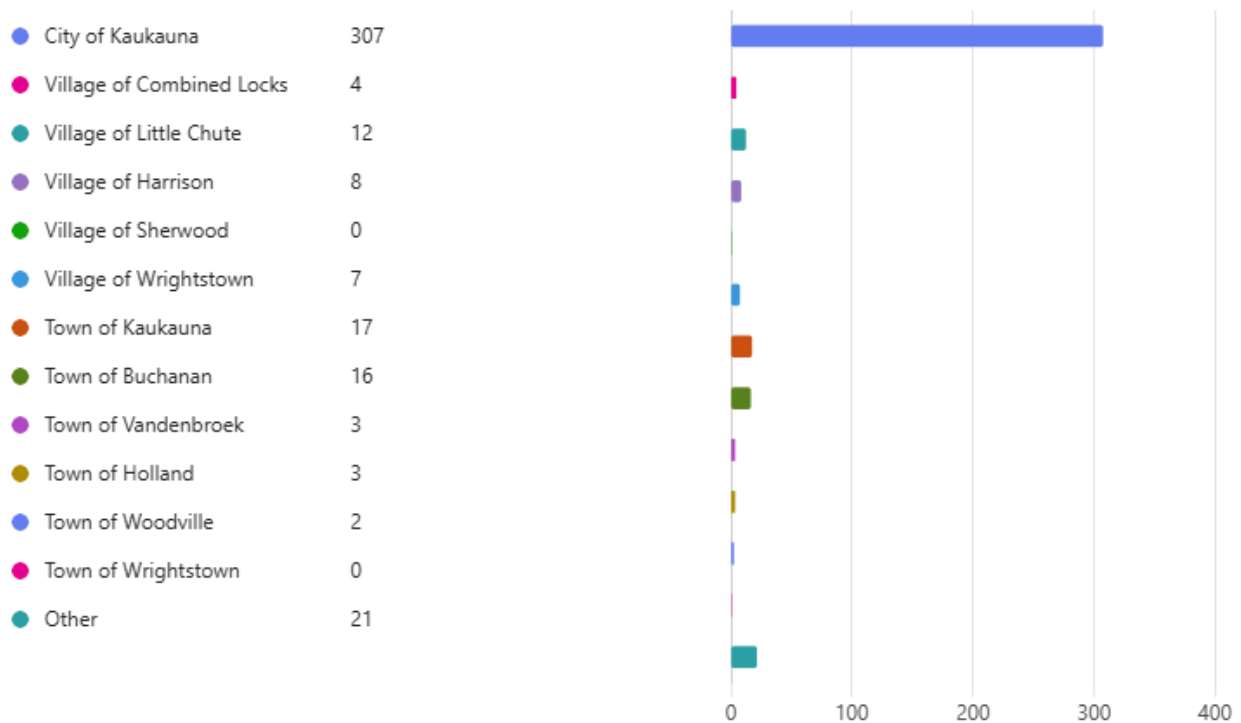
Public Open House. A total of four public open houses were hosted in March. Three of these open sessions were hosted at the Kaukauna Public Library following various classes in order to garner specific feedback from children and their parents on March 12th, March 18th, and March 28th. One public open house was hosted at the Municipal Services Building before a Common Council meeting on March 18th. The open houses featured stations where participants could share insights on park and recreational requests, areas of the community where there might be a need for future investment in park and recreational facilities, and a chance to share feedback and ask questions of staff. The open house events were promoted on social media. Although turnout was small, staff received extensive feedback from the tween/teen age group, a demographic that was underrepresented in the digital/paper surveys.

Inventory of Park and Open Space Conditions. From January 15th, 2025, to March 21st, 2025, city staff visited 26 different parks, open spaces, and recreational sites in the City of Kaukauna. The park amenities and conditions were inventoried at this time.

Please Note: The quotes listed below were pulled directly from the survey. No part of the commentary, including spelling, was altered.

Survey Results – Adult

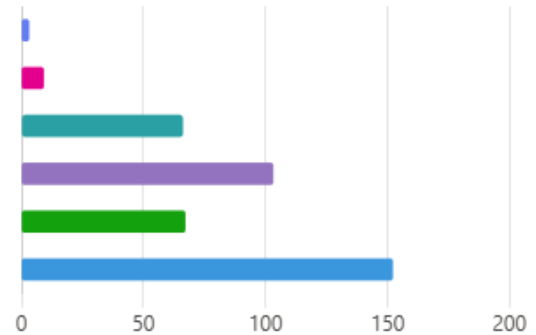
1. Where do you live?



Other municipalities listed included City of Appleton (7), City of Chilton (1), City of Menasha (1), City of Milwaukee (1), City of Neenah (1), Village of Fox Crossing (1), Village of Kimberly (3), Town of Freedom (4), and Town of Grand Chute (2).

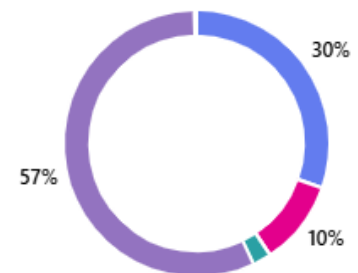
2. Please select your age range:

Under 18	3
18-24 years old	9
25-34 years old	66
35-44 years old	103
45-54 years old	67
55+ years old	152



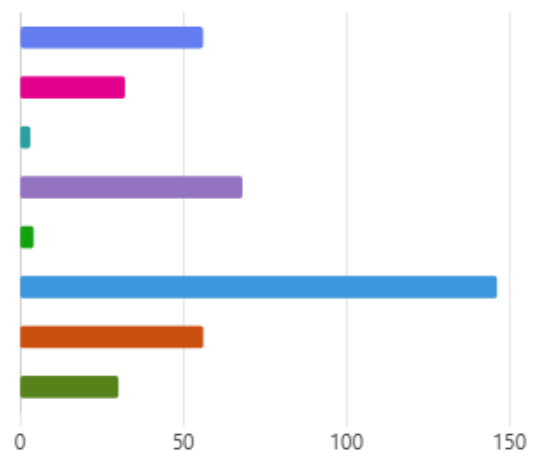
3. How do you usually travel to parks and open spaces?

On foot (walking or running)	121
On non-motorized wheels (bicycling, in-line skating, skateboarding)	41
On motorized wheels (electric bike, electric scooter)	9
By personal vehicle	226
By public transportation	1



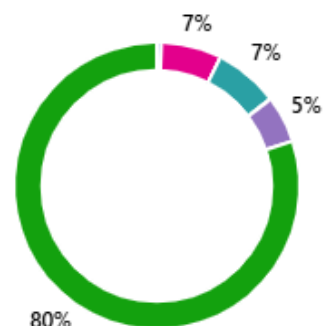
4. Who do you usually go to the park with?

I go by myself	56
I go with friends	32
I go with a sports league or club	3
I go with my partner/spouse	68
I go with my parents	4
I go with my children	146
I go with my grandchildren	56
I go with my pets	30



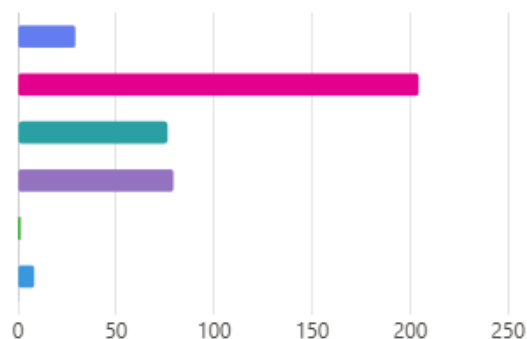
5. How long have you lived in the Fox Cities area?

● Less than 1 year	2
● 1-4 years	27
● 5-9 years	29
● 10-14 years	21
● 15+ years	317



6. How often do you use public parks or public outdoor spaces in the Fox Cities area? (Public parks are city, town, village, county, or state-owned and operated – i.e., not privately owned).

● Daily	29
● Weekly	204
● Monthly	76
● Seasonally	79
● Yearly	1
● Rarely or never	8



7. You indicated that you rarely or never use public parks or public outdoor spaces. Could you tell us more about why you do not utilize these spaces?

The following six responses were received from this open-ended question:

“Kids aren’t interested in going do to equipment”

“I have a dog, so if we are going to go somewhere outside, we usually bring him. dogs are not allowed in the parks, Which I completely understand”

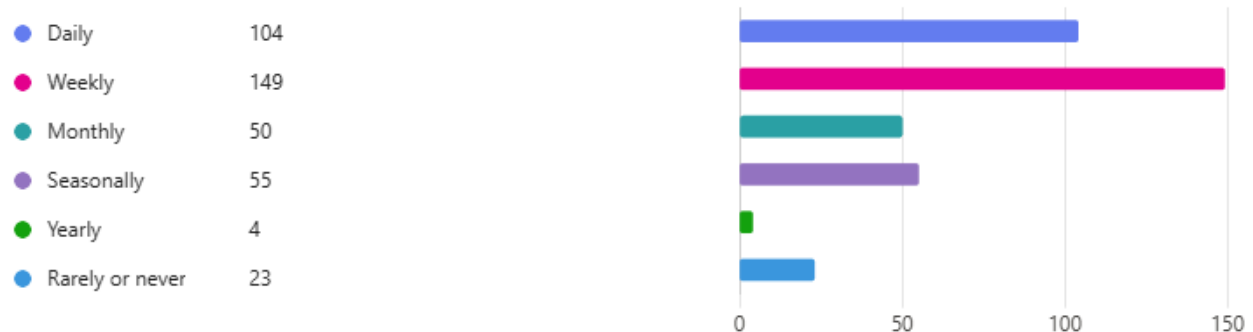
“Work to much”

“I would utilize them more often if there were pickleball courts in the parks.”

“Have no need to”

“We just usually don’t host things”

8. How often do you use things like sidewalks, trails, or bike lanes in Kaukauna to get around or for fun?

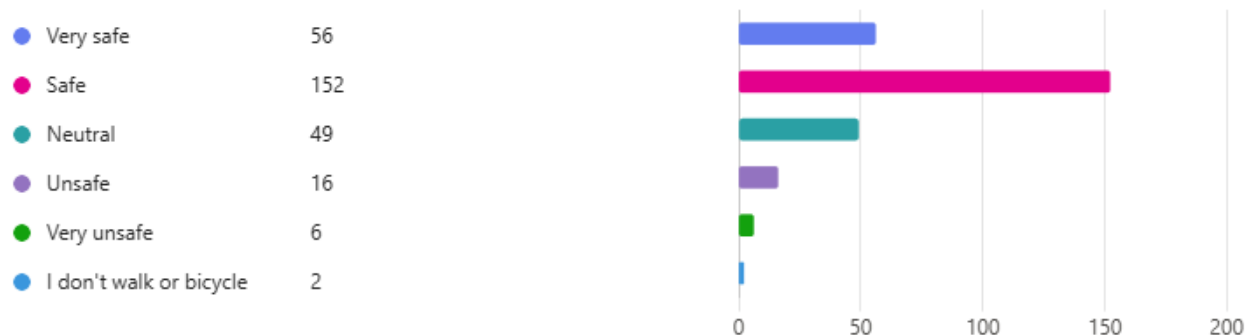


9. Would you be interested in answering two to three additional questions about bicycle and pedestrian amenities in the City of Kaukauna?



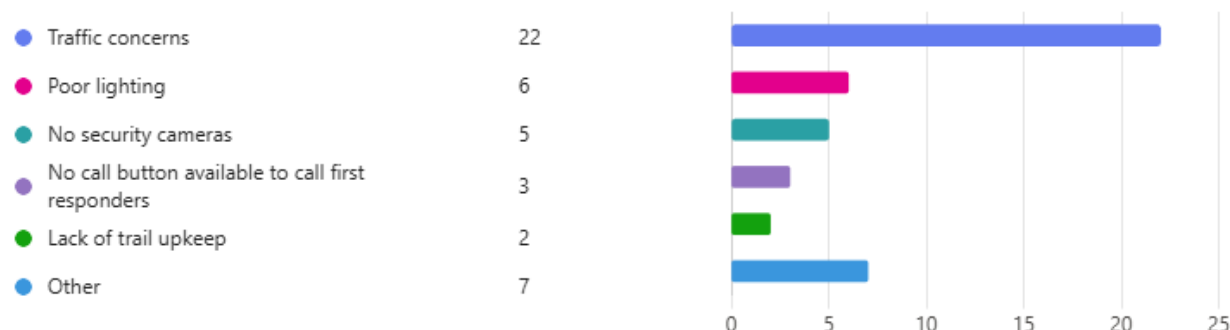
In the online survey, those who answered “yes” to question number nine were then directed to question number ten. In the hardcopy survey, question number nine was not included.

10. How safe do you feel walking and/or bicycling in the City of Kaukauna?



Those who answered “unsafe” or “very unsafe” to question number ten were then directed to question number eleven.

11. What makes you feel unsafe when walking or biking in Kaukauna?



Other answers included the following: loose dogs, poor street conditions, lack of bike lanes, lack of upkeep to parks, non-existent or piecemeal trails for biking, issues between bikers and other pedestrians, minimal marking at crossing intersections for pedestrians, lack of snow removal, and walk signals that do not last long enough for pedestrians to safely cross.

12. Do you think there are places in Kaukauna where the bike and walking paths are missing or need improvement? If yes, where?

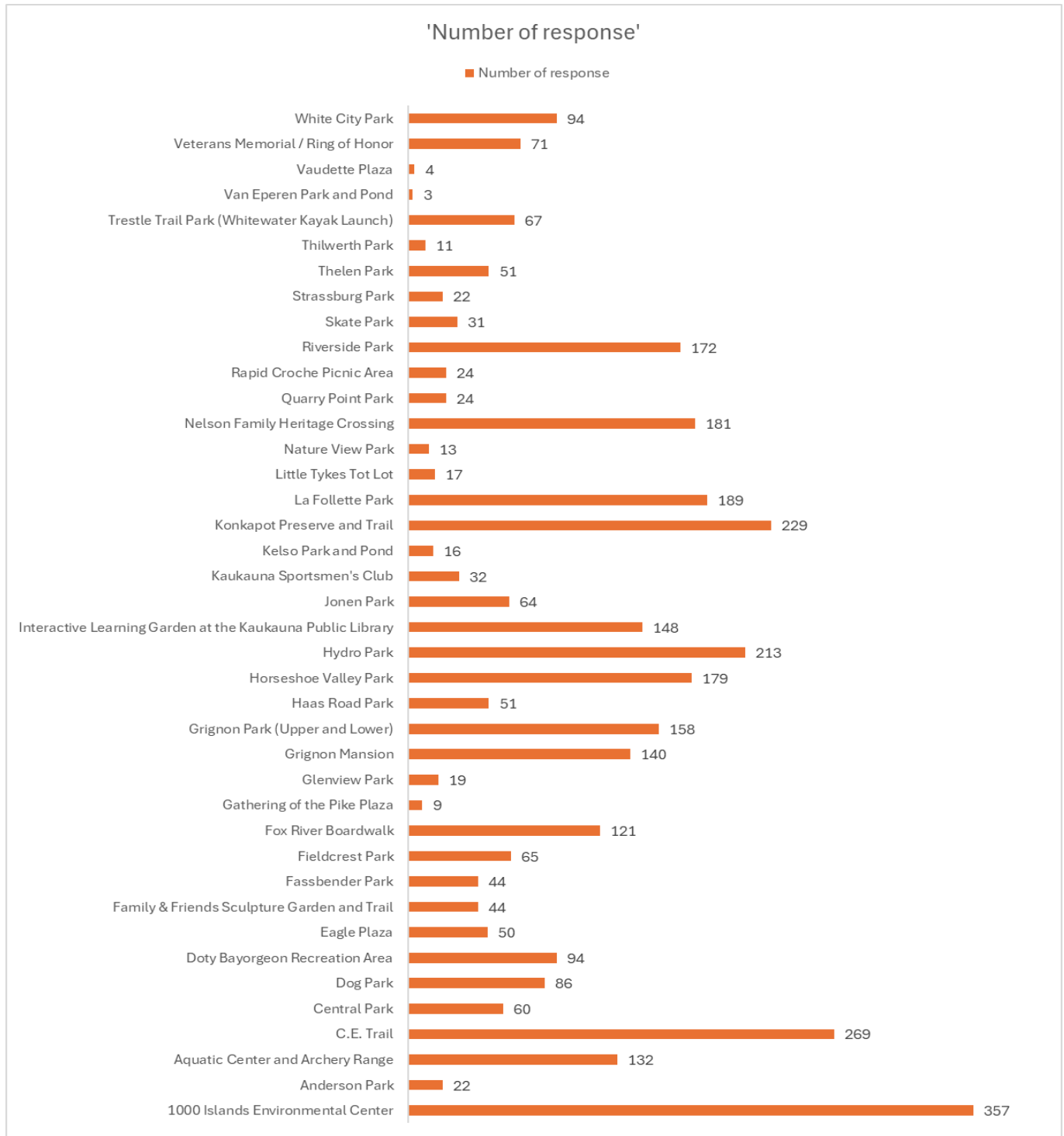
Responses were divided into general categories and ordered from most mentioned to least mentioned. Given the large number and variety of responses, only the top five were included. Direct quotes were taken to provide additional context.

1. Lawe Street/Crooks Avenue/HWY 55 (22)

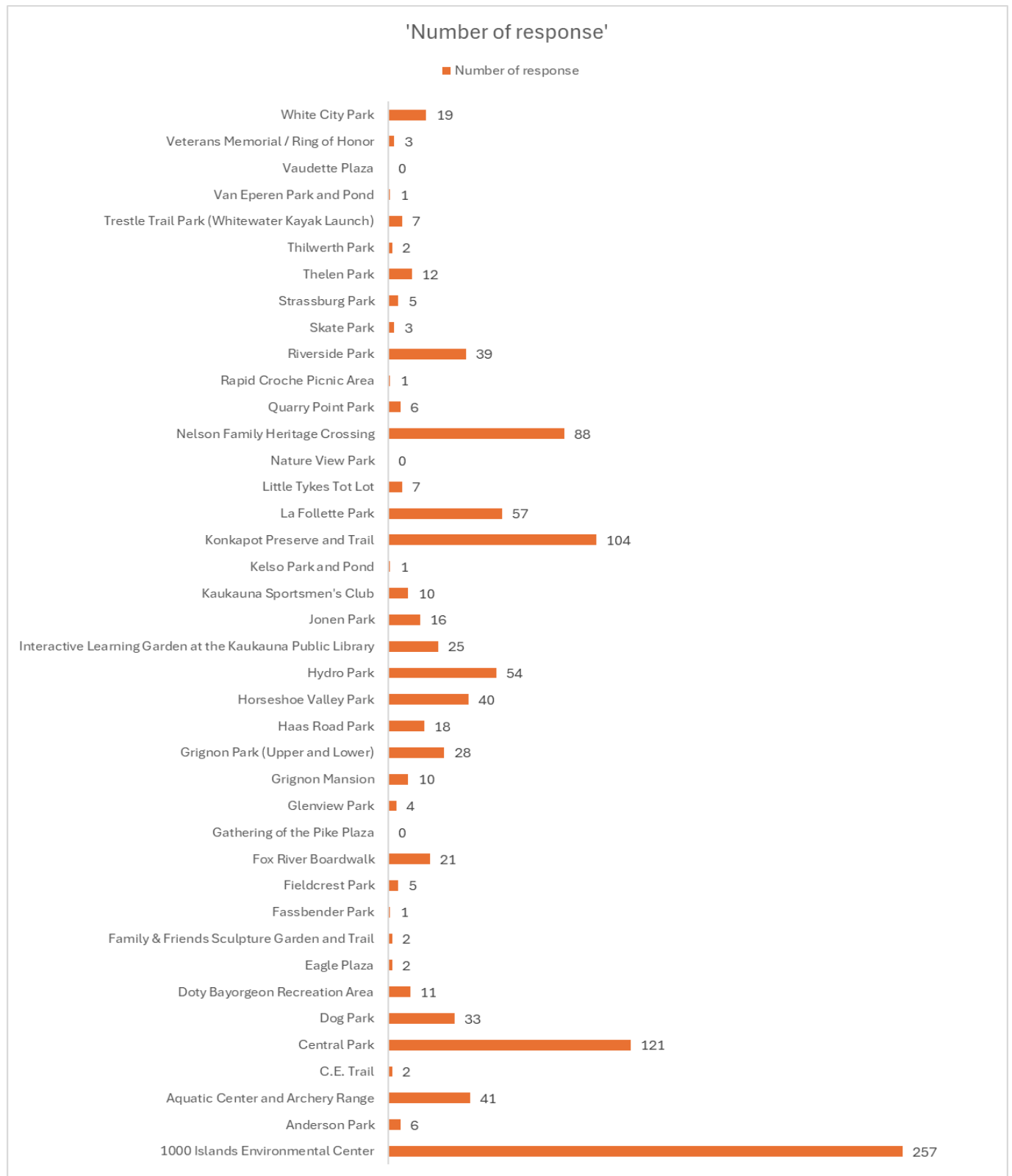
- “Yes 2nd street/crooks intersection but really crossing crooks anywhere except for the walkway by dicks CE”
 - “Laws street and Crooks have no room for bicycles.”
 - “sidewalks adjacent to STH 55 are too narrow”
2. Island Street/Dodge Street to 1000 Islands/Nelson Trail (21)
- “Yes, Dodge Street near the gun range and nature center outlook are. Many people walk or bike on that hill and it is extremely dangerous. In the morning the sun is blinding and it's almost impossible to see pedestrians on the road. Other times cars are going 40mph and you don't see pedestrians until you round the corner. There is just not enough space for them to safely walk. It's a miracle no one has been hurt there.”
 - “Only thing I can think of is a safe way to walk from downtown to 1000 Island.”
 - “We live on Dodge Street across from 1000 Islands and it always makes me very nervous with the number of people walking and biking and the very small shoulder on the road. I have seen or been part of (while walking) multiple close calls with cars going over the line and there not being anywhere for the walker/biker to go due to the hill. It would be amazing if a walking/biking path was added on the 1000 Islands side connecting the overlook and bike path in the woods back to the beginning of 1000 Islands and the baseball fields. I also think it would be great if we added the pedestrian lights near the overlook where many people cross to go to the bike path or up the stairs to hike the back wooded area as many people speed through that stretch of road and can be hard to see due to the curves.”
3. More trails, bike lanes, and connection points (14)
- “Ot doesn't feel like there are many actual walking trails in the area.”
 - “Yes totally need to make crossings and bike lanes. Need to connect bike paths. Need to make a connection using streets with clearly marked bike paths and crossings marked by paint or pedestrian crossing lights”
 - “Just about everywhere. The city really doesnt have any bike lanes.”
4. Roundabouts (9)
- “Roundabouts are very dangerous for crossing especially with littles on bikes so CE trail at 55 is tough and CE trail by kwik trip is tough”

- “Roundabouts along the CE trail are not safe to cross on foot or bike because of speeding and vehicles not yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks.”
 - “Roundabouts - we need to have warning lights or something put in place (similar to the crosswalk by dicks drive in) Specifically on the 55-CE roundabout. I’ve seen too many close calls with people going too fast and not paying attention to pedestrians going through there. When the new middle school is built we will only see more traffic and more people utilizing that roundabout as a crossing path increasing the risk of an incident with a pedestrian. Please considering adding warning signals to this roundabout and others in the city. I trust the pedestrians to do the right thing. I don’t trust the drivers using the roundabouts.”
5. Pave the Konkapot (8)
- “The surface of Kankapot Trail in areas are unsafe for biking the trails. The aggregate size is too large in sections, the surface isn’t compacted and typical bike tires are too narrow losing stability. This will be a significant safety concern when the new middle school opens and the trail becomes a school route for biking to class.”
 - “The konkapot trail is great, I would like to see the area blacktopped where it comes off of CE, the gravel is loose and it is very hard to maneuver the incline or decline”
 - “Yes. Please pave the Konkapot trail. It has been difficult for bikers, especially the last couple of years.”

13. Please select all of the parks and trails in the City of Kaukauna limits that you have visited or used in the last 12 months:



14. Please pick the three parks, trails, or open spaces you use the most in Kaukauna:



15. What other parks, trails, or open spaces have you visited in the Fox Cities this year that are not in Kaukauna? Why did you go there?

Respondents went to a wide variety of parks, trails, or open spaces located outside of Kaukauna. Responses were broken out by municipality and include the number of respondents who mentioned a particular location. Trails associated with a park were included in the park's total. Any park, trail, or open space that had fifteen or more mentions was bolded to designate it as a popular area. Responses that were generalized, such as "Appleton parks" or "Combined Locks trails" were not included in this list. Areas that were mentioned that are a part of Kaukauna, such as the Nelson Family Heritage Crossing or Camp Winnecomac, were not included in this list.

City of Appleton: Apple Creek Trail (7), Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve (2), **Bubolz Nature Preserve (21)**, City Park (10), Derks Park (3), Erb Park (6), Fox Trot Trail (1), Houdini Plaza (1), Jones Park (10), Lions Park (3), Lundgaard Park (4), Lutz Park (1), **Memorial Park (45)**, Newberry Trail (4), North Island Trail (1), Pierce Park (11), **Plamann Park (15)**, Telulah Park (10)

City of Chilton: Ledge View Nature Center (1)

City of De Pere: Voyageur Park (2)

City of Green Bay: Bay Beach Inclusive Playground (1)

City of Menasha: Heckrodt Wetland Reserve (**49**), Hidden Park Pond (2), Jefferson Park (5), Menasha Conservancy (1), Smith Park (2)

City of Neenah: Bill Miller Park (1), Fritse Park (5), Island Park (4), Jeweler's Park Trail (1), Kimberly Point Park (2), Liberty Park (1), Riverside Park (6), Shattuck Park (2)

City of New London: Mosquito Hill Nature Center (2)

City of Oshkosh: Menominee Park (3), South Park (2)

City of Sturgeon Bay: Potawatomi State Park (1)

City of Waupaca: Waupaca Dog Park (1)

Village of Combined Locks: Don Fries Recreation Area (5), Lindberg Park (1), Memorial Park (8), Van Zeeland Park (2)

Village of Fox Crossing: Fritsch Park (1), O'Hauser Park (3), Palisades Park (1)

Village of Harrison: Clover Ridge Park (1), Darboy Community Park (7), Farmers Field Park (1), Highline Trail (1)

Village of Hilbert: Calumet County Park (2)

Village of Kimberly: Kimberly High School (1), Memorial Park (3), Railroad Street Trail (2), **Sunset Park (18)**, Treaty Park (1), Verhagen Park (1)

Village of Little Chute: Creekview Park (1), Doyle Park (5), **Heesakker Park (20)**, Island Park Trail (2), Legion Park (1), Outagamie County Dog Park (2), Van Lieshout Park (8)

Village of Maribel: Cherney Maribel Caves County Park (1)

Village of Sherwood: **High Cliff State Park (48)**, Wanick Choute Park (4)

Village of Suamico: L. H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve (2)

Village of Wrightstown: Mueller Park (1)

Town of Amberg: Dave's Falls County Park (1)

Town of Buchanan: Springfield Park (1)

Town of Grand Chute: Arrowhead Park (3)

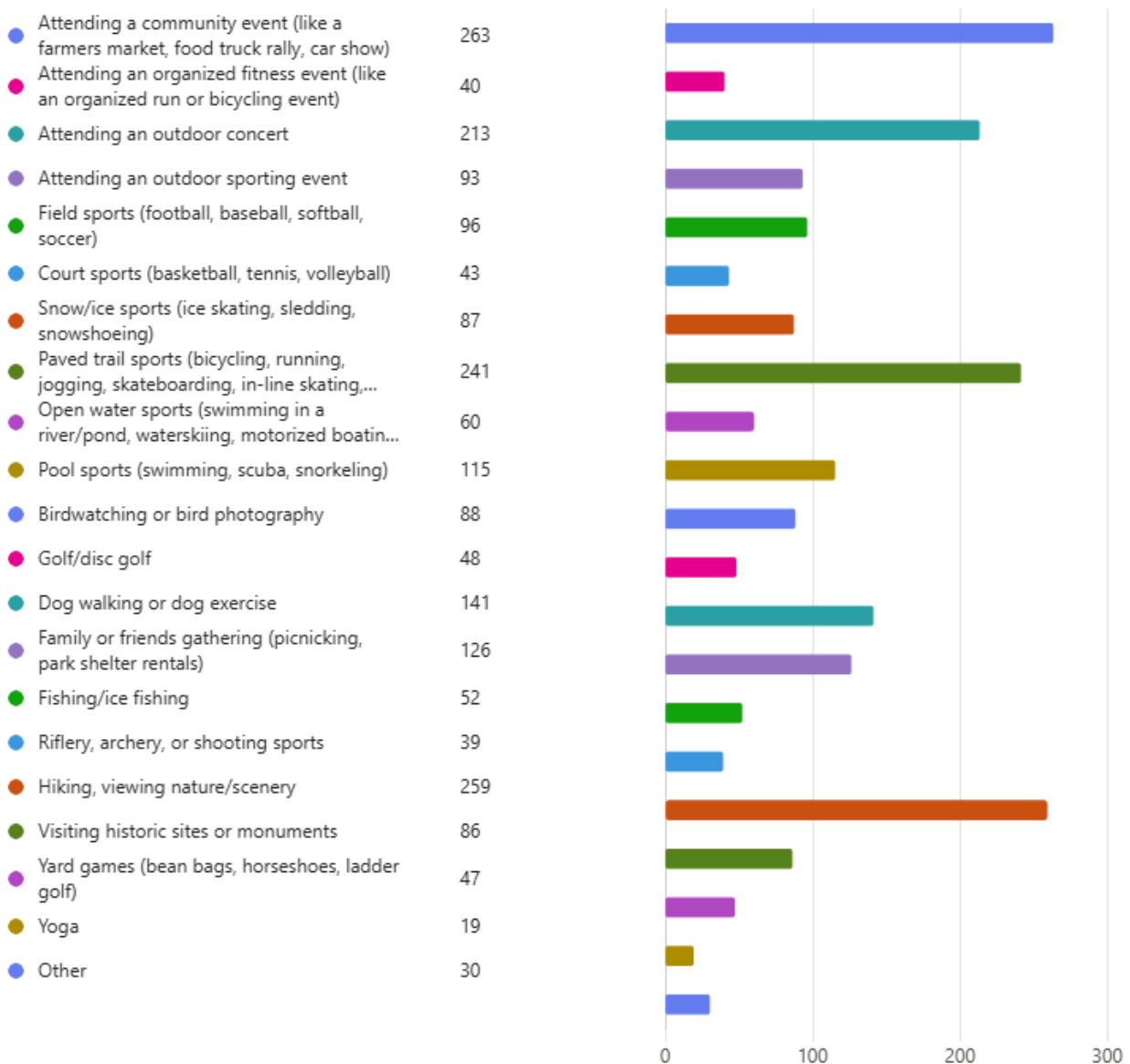
Multi-Municipality: Duck Creek Trail (1), East River Trail (1), Fox Cities Paper Trail (1), Fox River State Trail (11), Loop the Lake (6), Loop the Locks (2), Newton Blackmore Trail (1), Trestle/Friendship Trail (7), Wiouwash State Trail (4)

Respondents offered numerous reasons for going to parks outside of Kaukauna. Responses are listed below from the most mentioned to the least mentioned. Similar concepts were grouped together; for example, football was combined with soccer under the more general term of "field sports".

1. Availability and quality of walking, running, hiking, biking, ATVing, and horseback riding trails, both paved and nonpaved (75)
2. Playground equipment is newer, nicer, and more engaging (46)
3. Change of scenery, variety, different things to do (22)
4. More opportunities to be in nature and to see wildlife and native plants (19)
5. Pet friendly (16) vs. pets not allowed (1)
6. Lake, stream, or pool accessibility for swimming, fishing, or kayaking (16)
7. Attending festivals or other community events, particularly events involving music or art (14).
8. Closer to home, stores, work, etc. (13)
9. Availability of court sports, particularly pickleball (13)
10. Misc. activities such as camping, ziplining, or geocaching (11)

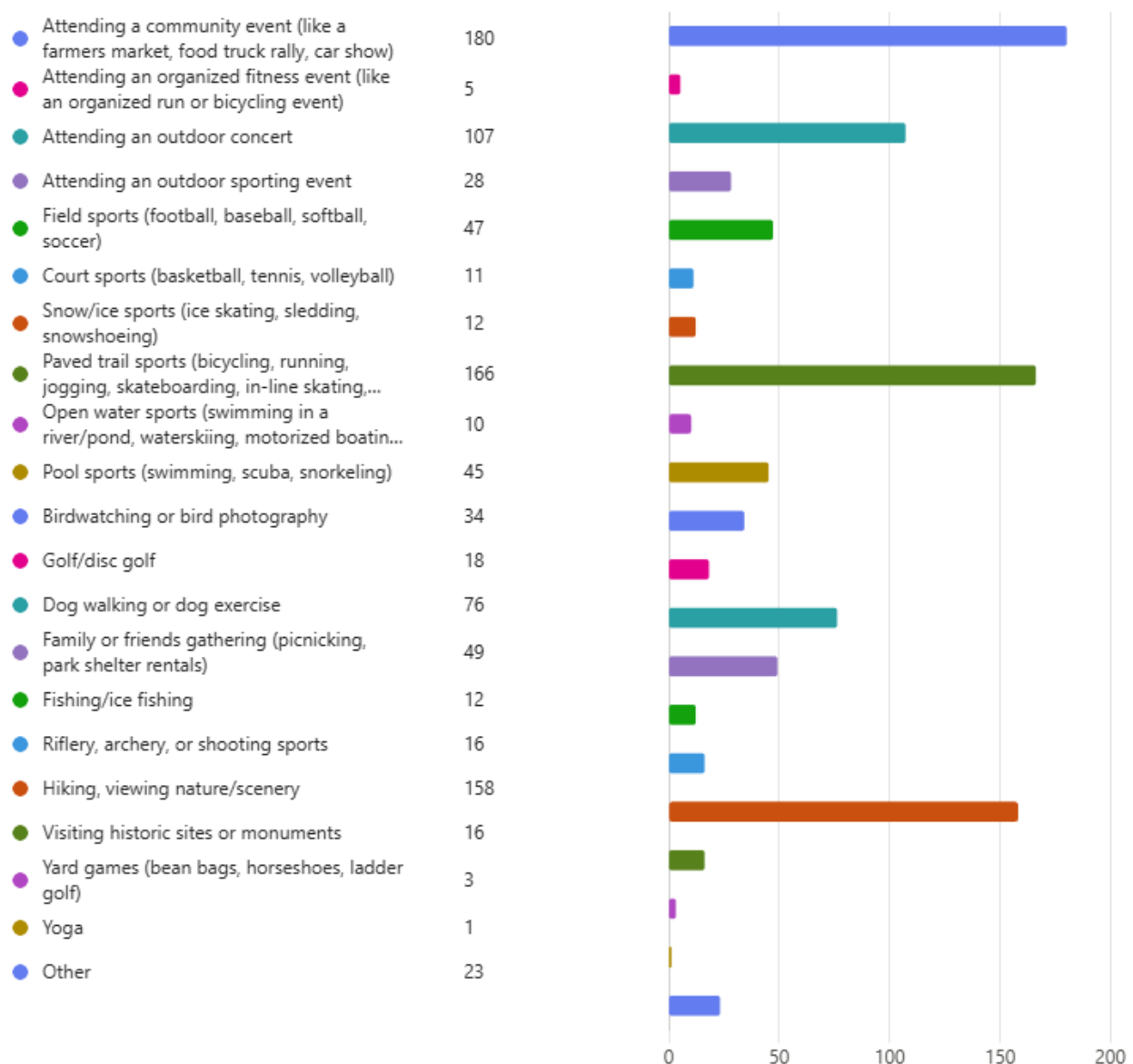
11. Accessible for a variety of ages (both younger and older kids) and different ability levels (11)
12. Availability of winter activities, such as ice skating, sledding, or snowshoeing (9)
13. Availability of pavilions and restrooms that are cleaner, more accessible, and closer to other amenities (8)
14. Availability of disc golf courses (7)
15. Other parks are better maintained, cleaner, and safer (6)
16. Availability of boardwalks and bridges (6)
17. Opportunities for quiet and solitude, less crowded (6)
18. Splash pads that are free and less crowded (6)
19. Availability of field sports (4)
20. Good for hosting events for family and friends, such as picnics (3)
21. Unique amenities such as zoos or gardens (3)
22. More recreational programming is offered (2)

16. Please choose the activities you enjoy doing in parks and open spaces in Kaukauna:



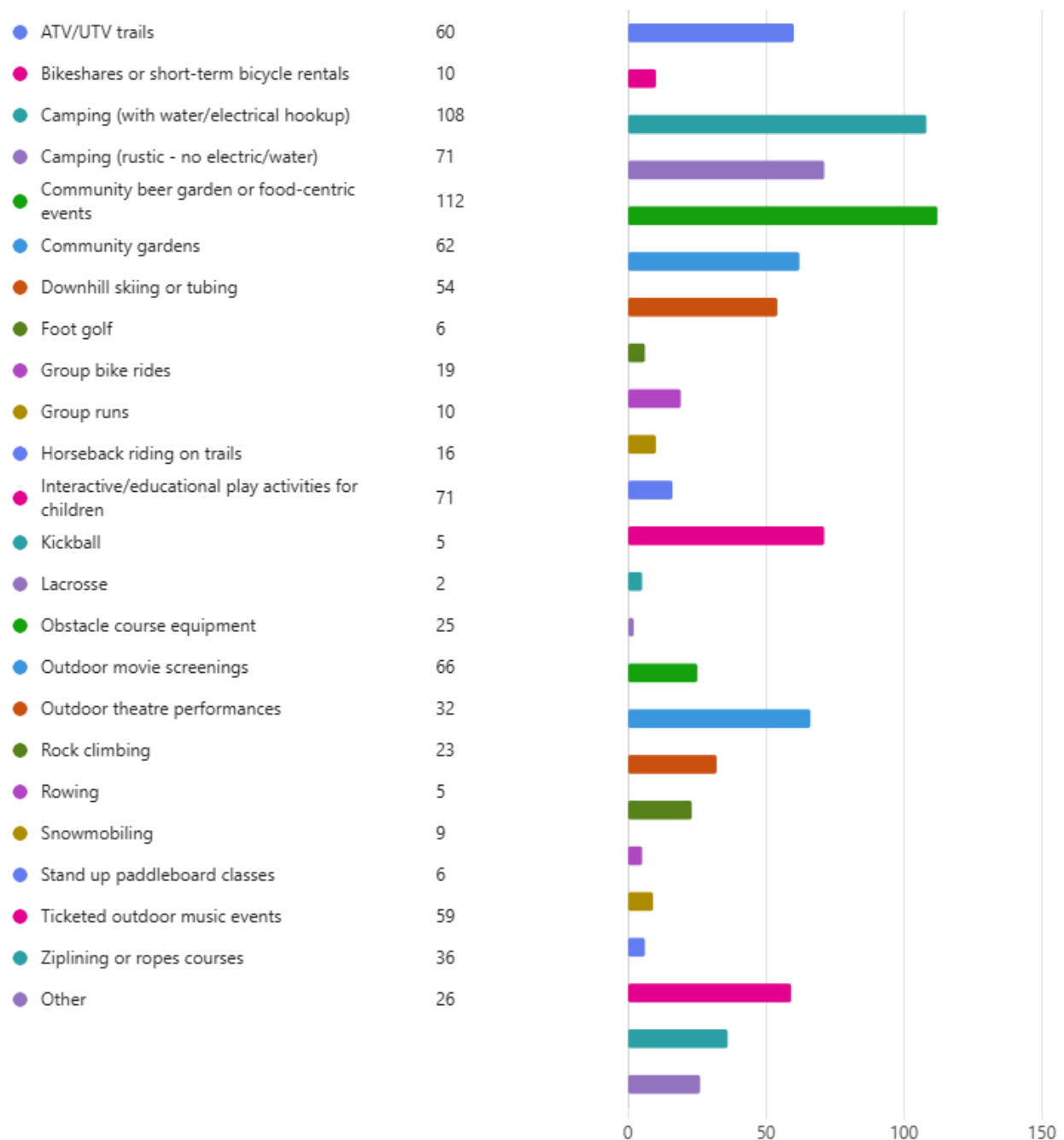
Other answers included the following: utilizing playground equipment, biking on non-paved or natural trails, attending environmental education events, attending art events, landscape/nature photography, playing pickleball, geocaching, and trying different parks. Playground equipment was mentioned fifteen times.

17. From the activities you picked above, what are the top three you do most often in Kaukauna:



Other answers included the following: utilizing playground equipment, attending environmental education events, attending art events, landscape/nature photography, and playing pickleball. Playground equipment was mentioned fifteen times.

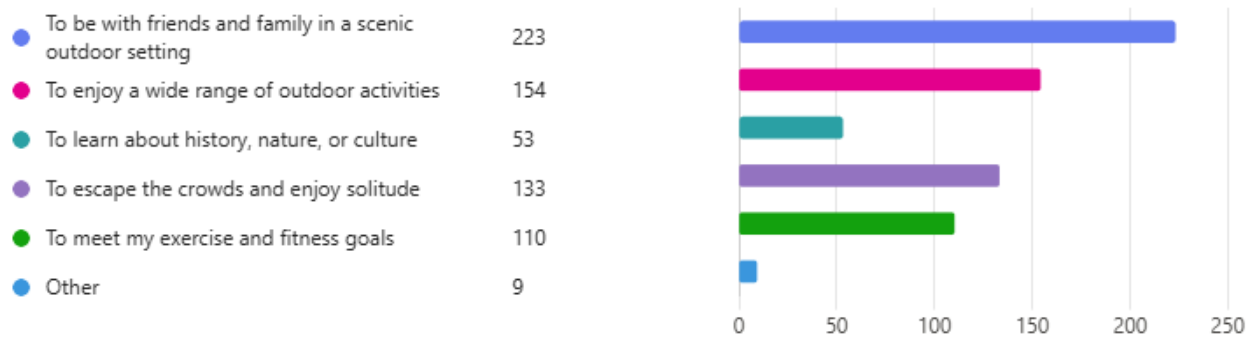
18. What activities or features do you use at least once a year at parks and open spaces that aren't offered in Kaukauna?



Other answers included the following: attending city band concerts, playing pickleball, attending art events, attending outdoor music events (not ticketed), mountain biking, snowshoeing, attending environmental education events, outdoor yoga, foraging, wine tasting, water bird watching, attending outdoor wrestling tournaments, kayak rentals, playgrounds, walking, botanical gardens, softball leagues, and beaches. Pickleball was

mentioned six times. It was also mentioned in the “Other” section that a local business, the Recyclist, hosts bike ride events.

19. Which best describes why you use parks and open spaces? You may select up to two.

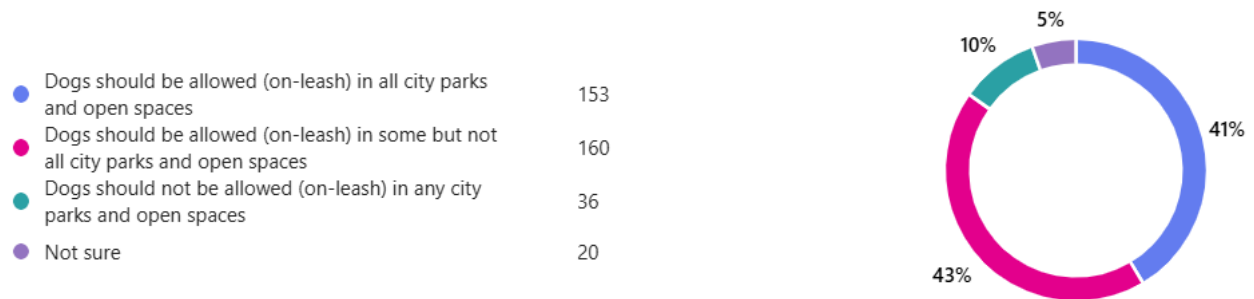


Other answers included the following: to walk, to give kids a safe place to play/to use the playgrounds, for youth sports, and to enjoy food, music, and art.

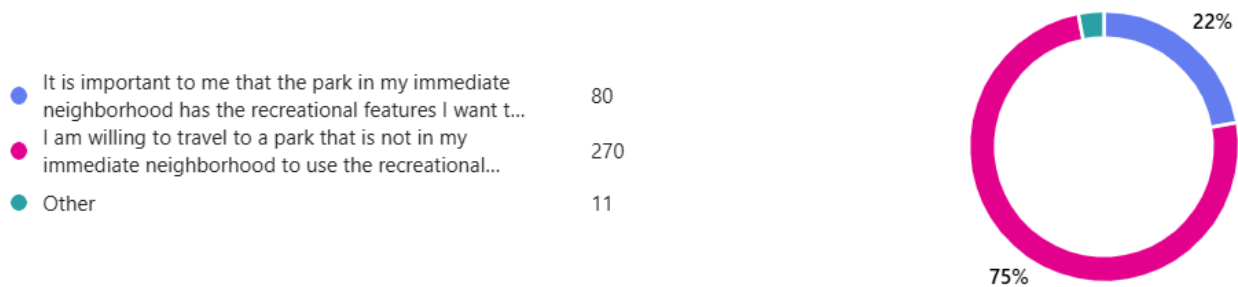
20. Rank these qualities by how important they are to you when thinking about local parks and open spaces (#1 being the most important to you, #8 being the least important to you):



21. Please select the statement below that best describes your feelings about dogs in parks:

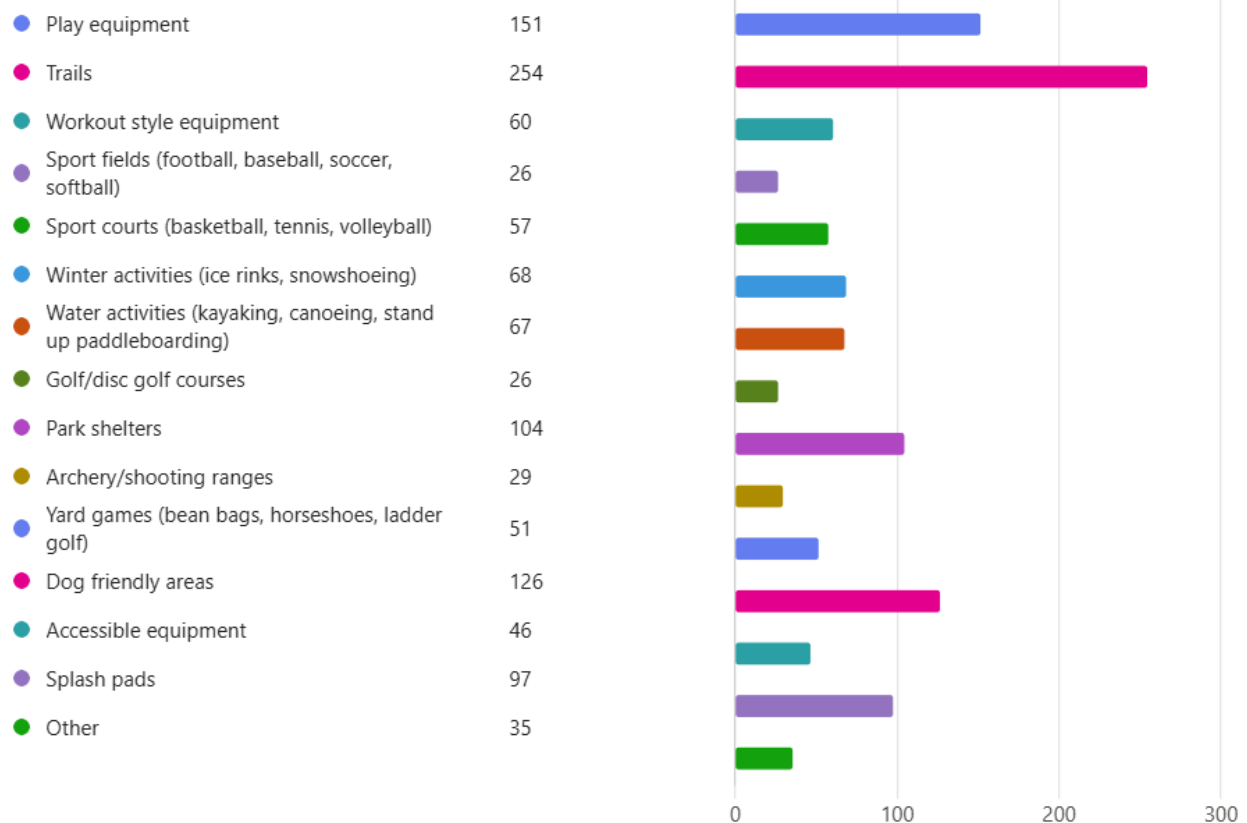


22. Which statement best matches your thoughts?



Respondents who selected the “Other” category fell somewhere in the middle. They would travel for a specific activity if it was not offered at their local park, but overall preferred recreational features closer to home. Some expressed that necessary features such as age-appropriate playground equipment, handy cap accessibility, and restrooms were not located at nearby parks, so they had to travel to parks with those amenities. Other suggestions included spreading out recreational features so each park had something special to it and including more “natural” parks.

23. What recreational features would you like to see more of?



Other answers included the following: pickleball courts, art lessons/other creative offerings for children and adults, a park designed for people with different abilities (like Memorial Park in Appleton), marked bike crossings at intersections, environmental education opportunities, clean and available bathrooms/porta-potties, an indoor pool, ziplines, gaga ball pits, more trees/natural shade, rustic camping, curtains you can open and close on park shelters to block rain, ATV/UTV/golf carts, space for wildlife and birds, well maintained tennis courts, a higher quality skate park, more seating around the parks, music stages, outdoor bouldering/rock climbing, a “loose parts” playground, and mountain biking trails. Pickleball courts were mentioned nine times, and clean and available bathrooms/porta-potties were mentioned five times.

24. What are suggestions you have for how to improve the City of Kaukauna's parks, trails, and open spaces?

Responses were divided into general categories and ordered from most mentioned to least mentioned. Given the large number and variety of responses, only the top ten were included. Direct quotes were taken to provide additional context.

1. Updated playground equipment (25)

- "White City Park playground I think personally should be either tore down or revamped - I never see kids here and I imagine because it's so outdated with hardly anything for kids to stay stimulated with. Even the sand is not "fresh"."
- "Little Tykes Tot Lot and Thelen Park deserve an update! There are so many kids and in-home daycare providers in this area. When school is in session (NCLD and Tanner are in use), there is no where close for little ones to play"
- "Please upgrade Strassburg Park. The area has so many kids. It's sad to watch the kids try to play basketball on that cracked, tiny slab of concrete."

2. Trails, pedestrian safety (23)

- "Consider white-tinted asphalt sealant so the trails aren't burning hot in summer. Maybe a few more garbage cans along trails. Don't clear-cut all trees and leave no shade. Do replace lost trees."
- "Make bike trails safer and better connection among trails - it would help your downtown parking concerns if it were more bikeable and increase realtor scores"
- "Reduce traffic problems like speeding, failure to yield to pedestrians, etc. Add more lighted crosswalks in high traffic areas Add bike lanes to be able to more safely get to parks, trails of the pool"

3. Environmental efforts (15)

- "The best thing to do is lovingly tend the trees. Prune them for the health of the trees and not just for the powerlines. Keep planting a diverse variety of native trees. That would make this city way more beautiful, walkable, and bikeable."
- "I think there needs to be more pollinator friendly landscaping such as Monarch waystations or native prairies in our parks rather than full expanses of mown lawns. I think there needs to be more trees planted, especially now that all the ash trees are gone, the parks look barren. At glenview park, there needs to be more trees planted"

along the edge of the creek and the wooded area needs to be a wider strip.”

- “Stop mowing and start planting native plants and allowing restoration efforts to take over, create more paths and trails that people can enjoy parks in a guided environment on trails instead of gaping, dead lawns that don’t harbor any native insects & pollinators”

4. Dog friendly (14)

- “You need to allow dogs (on leash) at 1000 islands”
- “Allowing leashed dogs into some of the parks. It really is kind of silly that they aren't allowed, especially in someplace like hydro park where it is an interactive trail, it would probably get used more frequently if you could still through while walking your dog. Or on the trails at Grignon park. I personally wouldn't want dogs at 1000 Islands because of the boardwalk.”
- “Dogs allowed on leashes, with dog waste disposal sites. This would need to be enforced and ordinances adjusted accordingly!”

5. Improve sport related opportunities (13)

- “Please continue work on the Grignon disc golf course. I use it many times a week with my son.”
- “More tennis courts would be great”
- “Pickle ball/ volleyball at Anderson would be a dream”

6. Additional restrooms/keep restrooms open/update restrooms (11)

- “Having another bathroom option, even temporary portable (spring/summer/fall), by horseshoe 2 diamond. Young ages, potty training ages and/or baseball league age 5-8, they have little time to go to the bathroom between innings. If they need to go, especially girls, that is a big hill to "quickly" run the kids to the bathroom before they need to either bat or go back in the field. Parents and grandparents trying to hurry up the hill to get back to watch as well makes it difficult. Another bathroom option would be appreciated by spectators, parents, athletes and those using the trail that can start by that diamond.”
- “More restroom options during off season, water stations at more parks. I’d be willing to pay a small fee for a bathroom pass in the off season (like the yard waste disposal) if that helps eliminate the closures due to vandalism.”

- “Better access to warm bathrooms in the winter time. Kaukauna actually does a great job with porta potties year around which I am grateful for. 😊”
7. Additional shelters/shelter updates (11)
- “I would love to see more trees in the dog park for shade and shelter from the wind.”
 - “better shelters ..update them..nice to rent out..ex sunset park has kitchen facilities available to rent”
 - “It would be nice to have a shaded area/shelter at Haas St Park. It's fully in the sun and can get hot during the summer.”
8. Maintenance (8)
- “Work on that archery range, you have all that space and can only shoot 30 yards. Like stretch it out and let us shoot 60 yards. And maintain the the targets better, the maintenance has been a joke”
 - “We have to many parks and not enough staff to maintain them. Most of the parks need to be mowed and clean-up.”
 - “Focus on quality over quantity. There are so many low quality parks that are rarely used and are poorly maintained.”
9. More variety in activities and equipment offered for kids (8)
- “-Create a summer scavenger hunt or BINGO for kids to use the parks - draw for outdoor prizes (fishing tackle, sports equipment...etc). - Motivate kids to get outdoors. -Have a kid led farmer's market day. Only kids sell their craft food, produce - etc.”
 - “Create family friendly spaces that reflect how kaukauna values nature with natural looking and themed play scapes.”
 - “Activity directors, maybe college help employees, during the summer, at a few parks around the city. A rotating schedule to offer organized play times and activities for neighborhood kids to come join in on.”
10. Parking (6)
- “A very specific suggestion for parking issues, especially during ball season, at Horseshoe Valley Park, which is closest to me. I suggest moving the playground area to the open area near the pavilion & improving/updating the equipment (similar to La Follette Park), and adding more parking in the vacated playground space.”
 - “Improve parking/ getting around on foot in the hydro park/ farmers market lot”

- “All I said before more handy cap parking + better access to all places.”

Certain parks were mentioned as being in need of an updated/added playground, sporting facility, bathroom facility, or pavilion. They are listed below from most mentioned to least mentioned. Parks mentioned only once were not included.

1. Riverside Park (6)
2. Thelen Park (5)
3. Haas Road Park (5)
4. Little Tykes Tot Lot (4)
5. Horseshoe Valley Park (4)
6. La Follette (3)
7. Strassburg Park (2)

25. Do you have anything else you would like to share about parks, trails, and open spaces?

Responses were divided into general categories and ordered from most mentioned to least mentioned. Given the large number and variety of responses, only the top five were included. Direct quotes were taken to provide additional context.

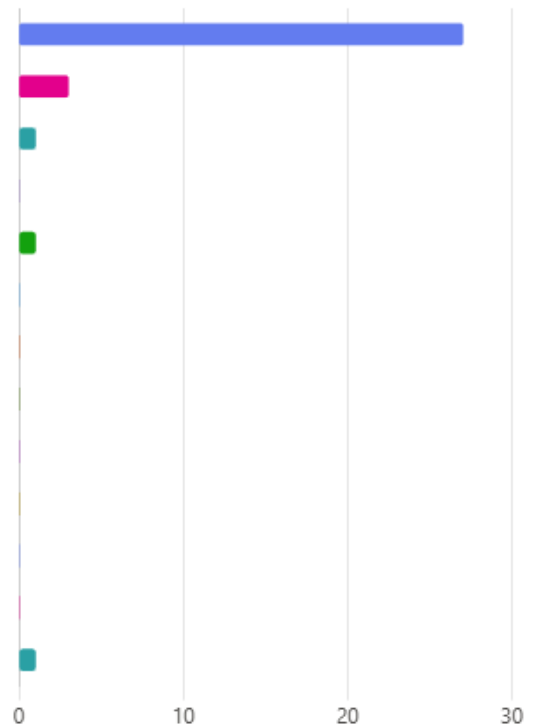
1. Positive comments (25)
 - “I think that Kaukauna has done a good job in maintaining and adding parks - so happy La Follette Park was upgraded.”
 - “I LOVE Kaukauna parks and trails and utilize them whenever I can (weekly + more in summer) despite not living here”
 - “We love using all the baseball diamonds that are available throughout Kaukauna. It is a nice perk when there is playground equipment as well when the kids can play as well afterwards. And bathrooms open to use. Majority of the time, we feel safe at all of them.”
2. Trails, pedestrian safety (9)
 - “Better biking. CE trail and river trails are a good start. Now connect a loop ride. And connect the river trails with clearly marked bike routes and safety high lighted neon painted street crossings and bike lanes”
 - “-Fix the sidewalks + curbs to the road -Stop cars from parking on sidewalk -Stop bicycle from using sidewalks especially the motorized ones”
 - “More connected and safer bike trails”

3. Better marketing, difficulty finding online (6)
 - “We love Haas rd park being that’s it nice, new and in our neighborhood, but it doesn’t show on maps/gps so I feel like others don’t know about it and it’s always empty. My son loves to go but it would be nice to see and play with others there”
 - “I believe Kaukauna has many hidden gems and if we highlight all the different parks and what they offer, I believe they would get used even more! Being outside and exploring in nature is so beneficial for all ages, especially our children. The more we can offer for families to get their kids out and about, the better!”
 - “-Kaukauna has a lot of parks already - maybe promote them more with events.”
4. Playground updates (6)
 - “Would love to see some of the old park equipment switched out with newer park playground equipment.”
 - “We have great parks and green areas. They just need to be updated!”
 - “New playground equipment”
5. Improve sport related opportunities (6)
 - “Fieldcrest basketball court is bowed in the center which is why I have never seen anyone using the basketball court. Would have been a great place for a couple of pickle ball courts.”
 - “Far stretch, but some type of zip line type activity, small or large, would be great!”
 - “Perhaps more pickleball courts would good to see, even as 1 is opening soon at Lafollette.”

Survey Result – Children

1. Where do you live?

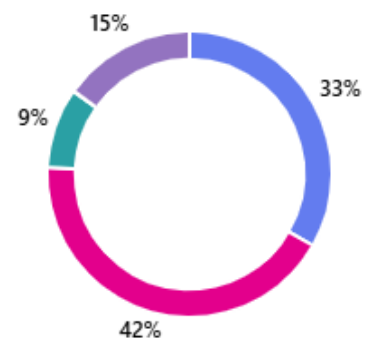
● City of Kaukauna	27
● Village of Combined Locks	3
● Village of Little Chute	1
● Village of Harrison	0
● Village of Sherwood	1
● Village of Wrightstown	0
● Town of Kaukauna	0
● Town of Buchanan	0
● Town of Vandenbroek	0
● Town of Holland	0
● Town of Woodville	0
● Town of Wrightstown	0
● Other	1



One respondent chose “Other” because they preferred not to answer.

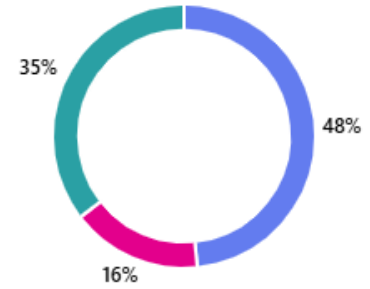
2. Please select your age range:

● Under 10	11
● 10-12 years old	14
● 13-15 years old	3
● 16-18 years old	5



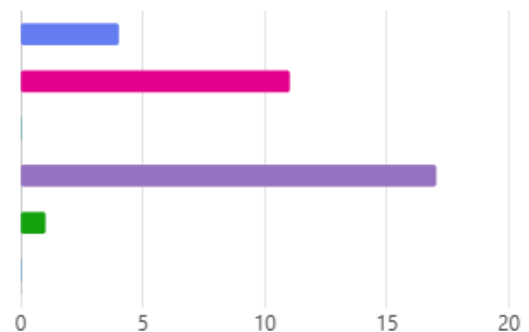
3. How do you usually travel to parks and open spaces?

● On foot (walking or running)	15
● On wheels (bicycling, in-line skating, skateboarding)	5
● By car	11
● By bus	0



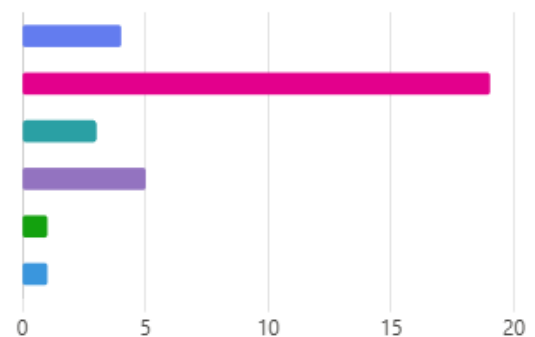
4. Who do you usually go to the park with?

● I go by myself	4
● I go with friends	11
● I go with a sports league or club	0
● I go with my parents	17
● I go with my grandparents	1
● I go with my pets	0



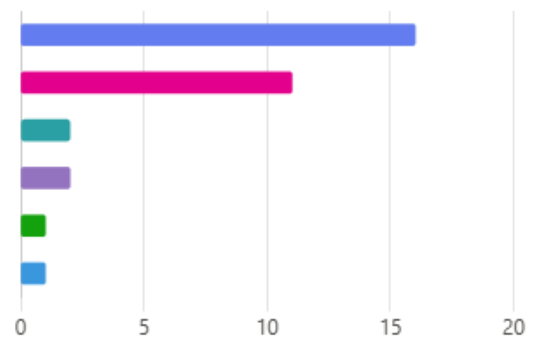
5. How often do you go to the park or an open space?

● Daily	4
● Weekly	19
● Monthly	3
● Seasonally	5
● Yearly	1
● Never	1



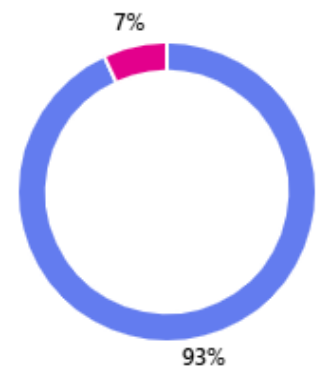
6. How often do you use things like sidewalks, trails, or bike lanes in Kaukauna to get around or for fun?

Daily	16
Weekly	11
Monthly	2
Seasonally	2
Yearly	1
Never	1



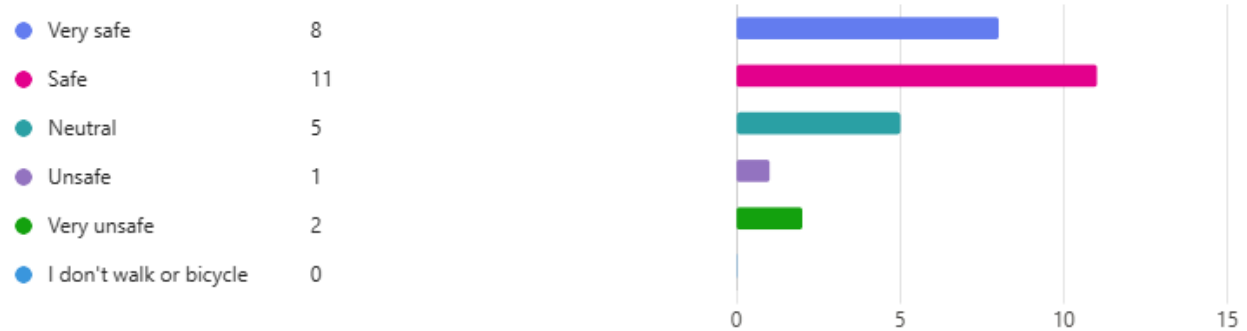
7. Would you answer one to two more questions about sidewalks and trails in the City of Kaukauna?

Yes	27
No	2



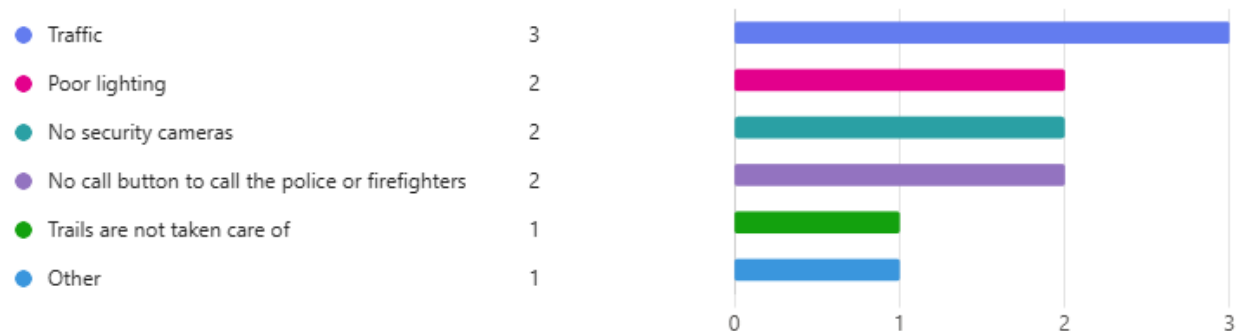
In the online survey, those who answered “yes” to question number seven were then directed to question number eight. In the hardcopy survey, question number seven was not included.

8. How safe do you feel walking and/or bicycling in the City of Kaukauna?



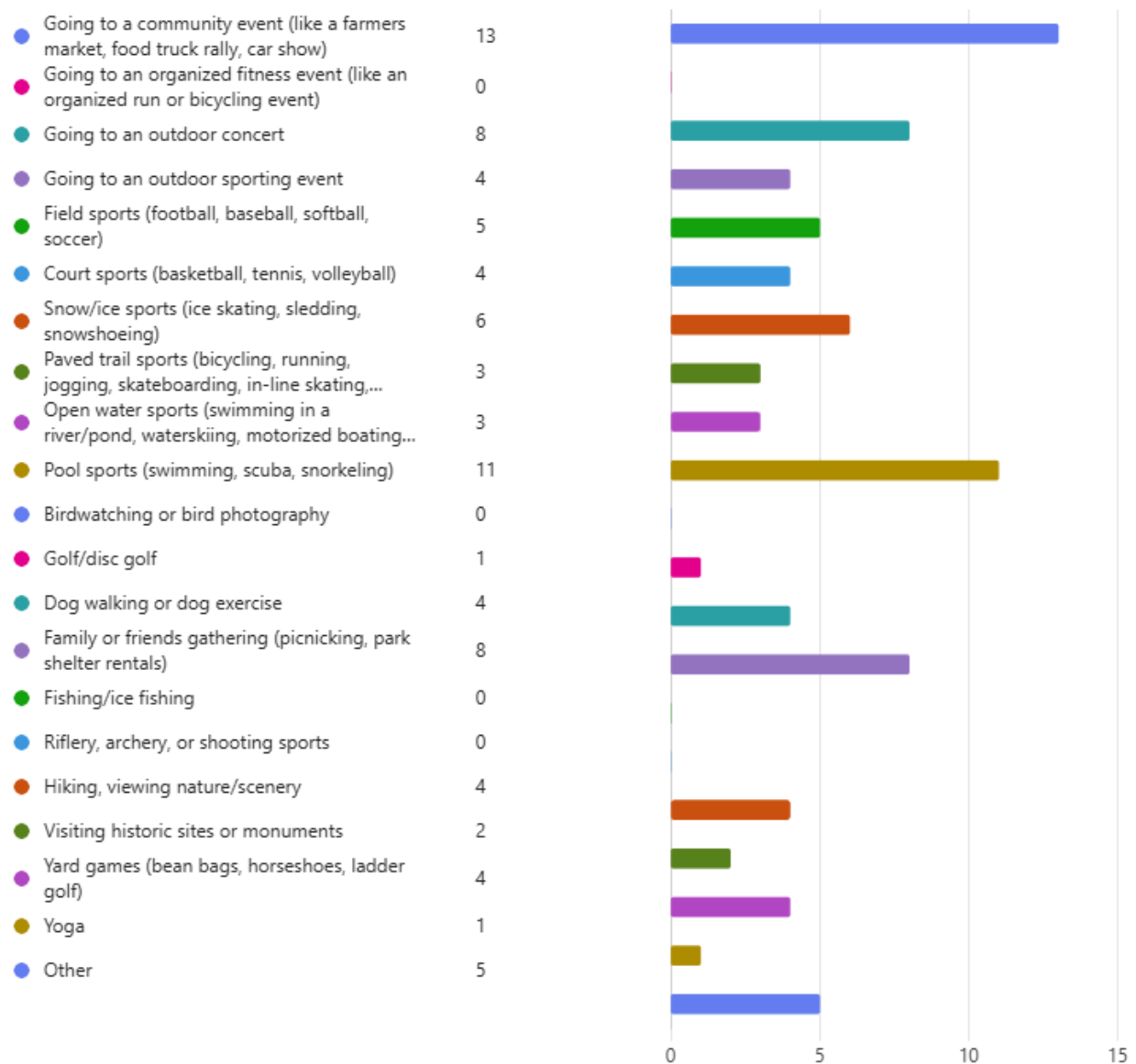
Those who answered “unsafe” or “very unsafe” to question number eight were then directed to question number nine.

9. What makes you feel unsafe when walking or biking in Kaukauna?



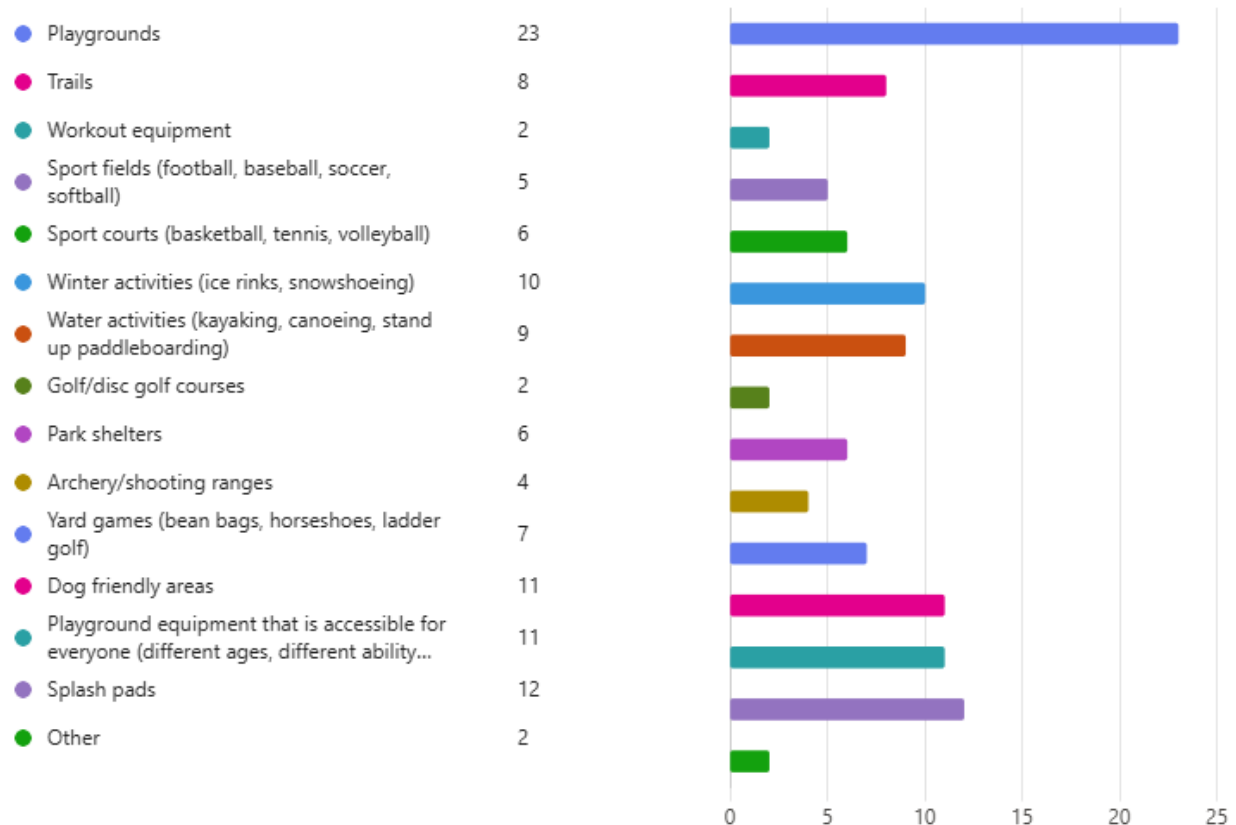
One respondent chose “Other” and stated the following: “No crossing guards. You guys literally have kids get hit all the time. Do something about it.”

10. Please select the top 3 activities you like to do at parks and open spaces in the City of Kaukauna:



Other answers included the following: playing on playground equipment, quadrobics, drawing, and calling friends.

11. What park and open space features would you like to see more of?



Other answers included the following: artwork from kids on display, cat friendly areas, places to camp, and pools.

12. What are suggestions you have for how to improve the City of Kaukauna's parks, trails, and open spaces?

Responses were divided into general categories and ordered from most mentioned to least mentioned. Only the top five were included. Direct quotes were taken to provide additional context.

1. Updated playground equipment (5)
 - "Updating to park equipment in residential areas like Jonen."
 - "Improve the equipment at horseshoe park."
 - "The playgrounds suck!! The only good ones are at the schools and now they are getting run down too"
2. Address safety, cleanliness concerns (5)

- “And have actual cameras there. Highschoolers like to sit and smoke in the shelters at parks like Horseshoe and Riverside.”
 - “Keep the racist kids out of the city.”
 - “By picking up litter off of the ground”
3. More amenities (4)
 - “Cleaning stations at playgrounds - wipes and sanitizer”
 - “More ice rinks”
 - “More stickers. More snacks.”
 4. Pet friendly (2)
 - “Let me bring my cat (please).”
 - “Make them pet friendly”
 5. More variety in activities offered (1)
 - “Maybe day camps during the summer”

13. Do you have anything else you would like to share about parks, trails, and open spaces?

Only two respondents offered additional feedback:

“Not much except that spaces around here are really fun and that would be better if you added to them”

“Make them safer and pet safe. I should be able to take my sisters to the park without worrying about the substance abusing teenagers hanging around the place.”

Public Open House Results

1st Library Listening Session – March 12th, 2025, 9:30 AM

The following comments were received from two members of the public. One comment came from the grandmother of one of the children attending the “Wonderful Ones Storytime”, the other comment came from the father of one of the children.

- Kaukauna should have more rentable pavilions with kitchens inside them to be used for hosting events. La Follette might be a good choice for this.
- Bring back summer park leaders.
- Have more cleaning stations available (hand sanitizers, wipes, etc.). This is especially helpful for parents of young kids.

2nd Library Listening Session – March 18th, 2025, 3:15 PM

The following comments were received from an estimated dozen tweens/teens attending the library's A.T.L.A.S. (At The Library After School) program as well as one mom attending with her daughter.

- The city should get ziplines. This was suggested by multiple ATLAS attendees. Suggested parks included White City, Riverside, and La Follette. Types of ziplines ranged from simple ones that could be reasonably done on playgrounds to more elaborate ones that would require harnesses. Parks outside of the city were referenced, including Citizen Park in Manitowoc and an unnamed park in Two Rivers.
- The city should get a slide with lights inside of it. It would need to be waterproof to protect the lights.
- More spinning features for kids to hang on and stand on were requested.
- A second ice rink location was requested.
- A second splash pad was requested, with the suggested location being La Follette.
- The city should have vending machines at parks that stock snacks and soda.
- There should be more monkey bars, including "swinging" monkey bars.
- Playgrounds should have "scavenger hunts" integrated into them – finding different items around the playground.
- There needs to be more indoor restrooms, especially ones with "child size" toilets that young children can actually reach.
- It would be nice to have trails for strollers around the park.
- There should be more obstacle course style equipment.
- There should be steeper slides.
- There should be sensory boards/panels at parks.
- Directions/labels/etc. should not only be in English. Other suggested languages included Spanish, Hmong, "Congolese" (French is the official language of the Congo, with four other national languages), and Braille. This would help to appeal to a diversifying community.
- There should be some metal open climbing structures.

- There should be a petting zoo.
- There should be more pet friendly areas.
- There should be more “aesthetically pleasing” locations. Suggestions on how to improve aesthetics were to have bridges going over bodies of water, mini waterfalls, and flower gardens.
- There should be a park by the library.
- There should be more drinking fountains.
- There should be more opportunities to interact and receive education on wildlife. Something along the lines of 1000 Islands having a reptile room, rodents, etc. for educational purposes.
- Put a stream at Horseshoe Park.
- There should be picnic areas with tents/huts.
- There should be a net playground at La Follette.
- There should be some rock-climbing walls. It was specified that these walls were not to be tall, but easily climbable with different angles and ways to get to the top.
- There should be a water park.
- There should be more jungle gyms.
- There should be a bungee jumping location.
- There should be a light up trampoline.
- There should be a large swing that lights up.
- There should be a hockey facility.
- Benches and tables need to be updated.
- There should be gaga ball pits.

3rd Library Listening Session – March 28th, 2025, 2:00 PM

No one attended this listening session.

City Hall Listening Session – March 18th, 2025, 5:00 PM

The following comments were received from two citizens: a father and his teenage daughter.

- Grignon feels less family friendly due to the disc golf course. People have gotten hit in the head by discs going wildly off course.
- There should be some push up stations/balance beams.
- There should be a playground at Hydro Park.
- There should be playground equipment at 1000 Islands.
- Ziplines were once again brought up.
- There should be music events at Fassbender.
- There are a lot of safety hazards at Strassburg, including rusted equipment, a basketball court that's uneven and cracked, and broken baby swings. It has so much opportunity, and it needs to be updated.
- The city should put a Gaga ball pit at Strassburg.
- The city should renovate or update the merry-go-round at Strassburg, but not get rid of it completely.
- The city should put a tennis court, pickleball court, or hybrid court at Strassburg.
- The city should put a pavilion at Strassburg.
- Bring back park leaders.

Inventory Results

The below parks, trails, and open spaces were inventoried by the Public Works Department. The following ratings were then assigned to different aspects of the park as well as to the park overall: needs improvement, unsatisfactory, satisfactory, good, very good, and not applicable. Full evaluation notes are available in the appendix.

Anderson Park – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: Good

Amenities: Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Nice newer park that could use some lighting along with more picnic tables.

Central Park – Satisfactory Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Satisfactory

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Unsatisfactory

Notes: Not much of a park besides 2 benches to sit on.

Doty Bayorgeon Recreation Area (Field 1) – Satisfactory Condition

Grounds: Satisfactory

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Satisfactory

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: For the age of everything at diamond 1 it is fairly in good shape. There are games all summer + most weekends.

Doty Bayorgeon Recreation Area (Field 2) – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Satisfactory

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: Diamond 2 is a nice facility for how much it gets used throughout the year. Just needs some updates.

Doty Bayorgeon Recreation Area (Football-Track) – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Satisfactory

Forestry/Horticulture: Unsatisfactory

Notes: Football field area is good, just needs some maintenance.

Doty Bayorgeon Recreation Area (Hardball Field) – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Satisfactory

Buildings: Good

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Nice facility just needs many updates.

Dog Park – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Good

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Nice dog park used by many people.

Fassbender Park – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Very Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Very Good

Notes: Nice little park. Not much to do but sit on benches.

Fieldcrest Park – Satisfactory Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Good

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: Could use updated playground equipment.

Friends & Family Sculpture Garden and Trail – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Good

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Small area to sit and relax.

Glenview Park – Satisfactory Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: None

Haas Park – Very Good

Grounds: Very Good

Playground: Good

Amenities: Satisfactory

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Very nice newer park. Could use some lighting and signage.

Horseshoe Park – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Satisfactory

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: None

Hydro Park – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Good

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: Very nice park, but doesn't offer anything for kids. The park is mainly used for special events.

Jonen Park – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Very Good

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Adding a pavilion with bathrooms in 2024 makes it a nice park.

Kelso Park and Pond – Good Condition

Grounds: Very Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Very Good

Buildings: Satisfactory

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: Park is mainly used for fishing.

Konkapot Preserve and Trail – Good Condition

Grounds: Satisfactory

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Satisfactory

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: N/A

Notes: It's a nice long trail to walk, run, or ride a bike.

La Follette Park – Good Condition

Grounds: Satisfactory

Playground: Good

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Satisfactory

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: This park is used heavily by people all spring, summer and fall. The pavilion is rented out every weekend in the summer. Many people come to the park because of the new playground. Park has had vandalism in the past but always fixed.

Little Tykes Tot Lot – Satisfactory Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: None

Grignon Park (Lower) – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Good

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Nice big area, would like to see more playground equipment. Could be rented out during summer but isn't. Sledding hill is a great feature.

Grignon Park (Upper – Disc Golf) – Satisfactory Condition

Grounds: Satisfactory

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: Big park that needs a lot of work.

Grignon Park (Upper – Sledding Hill) – Good Condition

Grounds: Satisfactory

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Good

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Very nice sledding hill that gets used a lot by sledders and disc golfers.

Nelson Family Trail – Very Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Very Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Very nice walking trail. Trail is used by many people.

Riverside Park (Lower) – Good Condition

Grounds: Satisfactory

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Satisfactory

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: The park is used all spring, summer, and fall with little league. Boat launch is free so many boaters come here. It just needs some updating.

Riverside Park (Upper) – Good Condition

Grounds: Satisfactory

Playground: Good

Amenities: Good

Buildings: Unsatisfactory

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: The pavilion is rented out every weekend in the summer for parties or family gatherings. It also gets rented out for special events. The park playground is used a lot from all age kids. The bathroom and pavilion need updates.

Skate Park – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: Good

Amenities: Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Nice little skateboard park.

Strassburg Park – Satisfactory Condition

Grounds: Satisfactory

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: Not much for kids or parents to do.

Thelen Park – Satisfactory Condition

Grounds: Satisfactory

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: None

Thilwerth Park – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Good

Notes: Not much to do but fish off walkway.

Trestle Trail Park – Satisfactory Condition

Grounds: Very Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Very Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: N/A

Notes: It only has a picnic table.

Veterans Memorial Park – Good Condition

Grounds: Good

Playground: N/A

Amenities: Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: Nice park to honor our veterans.

White City Park – Satisfactory Condition

Grounds: Satisfactory

Playground: Satisfactory

Amenities: Good

Buildings: N/A

Forestry/Horticulture: Satisfactory

Notes: It's a huge park with a lot of green space. The problem is everyone has to walk a long way to get to playground which usually involves walking down a hill and then back up a hill.

Chapter 8. Recommendations for Areas of Focus

After reviewing the park surveys, internal discussions among staff, and taking in all available feedback on our park system in the city, goals and areas of focus were established based on recurring themes. Those areas of focus/goals would be to improve the maintenance of the park system, to add more amenities throughout our park system, to beautify our parks so they're more attractive to all users, and to add more community events and opportunities in our existing parks. We have broken down these items further with tactics to help address these recurring themes that we have seen throughout the parks survey as well as in previous park plans.

Maintenance: Maintenance was a recurring item throughout the entire park survey and has also been a comment that has been received multiple times over the years. With a large park system, a more detailed plan for maintenance can be created to help prevent and better react to issues with park equipment and facilities. To help foster the focus on maintenance, staff has developed the following tactics:

- *Create and maintain a park conditions report:* this will help facilitate planning for which parks should be next for updates as well as preventative maintenance.
- *Create a process for park users to report a potential maintenance issue:* this will help ensure staff can be made aware of issues that previously may not have been known and to get items fixed as timely as possible.
- *Inspect parks semiannually for basic maintenance items:* this will help ensure parks are in continuous good order.
- *Investigate feasibility of a park foreman support position and specific park staff:* with over 30 parks, specific staff dedicated to maintenance of the parks may be beneficial not just for maintenance but also for long term park planning and updates. This should be explored in more detail for a cost-benefit analysis.
- *Investigate and implement security measures to help prevent vandalism:* The addition of cameras, lighting, or other items needs to be investigated with appropriate measures taken to help reduce vandalism in the parks.

Amenities: Amenities were another item that came up consistently throughout many of the survey comments. Amenities varied in type and in nature but seemed to focus on trails, trail connectors, pet friendly parks, and providing a variety of different types of amenities inside of the parks. Conversation has also occurred on how to best update a park to suit the needs of the area. To help focus in on these specific items, staff has created the following tactics:

- *Investigate small dog spaces at parks:* many residents are interested in allowing dogs at more parks, but many still like having areas where no pets are allowed.

Having smaller dog parks inside existing parks may provide the answer that hits on the concerns heard from our residents and other park users.

- *Create a public outreach policy for areas located near parks when they are scheduled to be updated:* this will assist in ensuring those near a neighborhood park can be a part of the planning for updates to the park they use the most and ensure designs on amenities are investigated thoroughly.
- *Produce digital and paper trail maps:* to better show existing amenities and trail connections. This will also assist in planning future trails to connect with other local amenities.
- *Improve and add on-street bike lanes:* provides clarity and safety to those biking in the community.
- *Find ways to increase ease of using trail connectors and safety (signage, routes):* improving wayfinding for trails and integrating with larger systems in neighboring communities.
- *Continue to investigate additional trails:* New trails should be investigated when and where a need is observed and when new growth from subdivisions or development creates a need or an opportunity.
- *Utilize national standards for park types (neighborhood, regional, etc..) for planning new amenities/upgrade to current amenities:* this will provide basic guidance on minimum standards as the community develops.
- *Create a permanent stage area:* with more musical events occurring in the city, a permanent stage would be a cost savings and provide an area for additional programming/events.
- *Create a plan for the redevelopment of Central Park:* Central Park has been underdeveloped for a number of years and a plan to delineate opportunities for this space should be created.
- *Create a service area map of parks to help guide need for future park areas:* this can be done by using GIS to provide insight on the areas served by current parks and overlaying with potential future growth to assist in determining future needs.

Community: Based upon the park survey responses as well as conversations with residents there is an interest in more community-style events and opportunities to be hosted inside of the park system. In an attempt to help increase and diversify community events in our existing parks, staff has developed the following tactics:

- *Determine feasibility of community gardens:* this has been asked for in the survey as well as from residents calling in and can help foster a better community environment inside of our parks. It should be investigated to see where and if a

community garden is feasible inside of the City of Kaukauna's Park system. This also would align with our strategic plan's community of choice.

- *Investigate feasibility of beer garden type events in the parks:* having beer gardens featured in neighborhood parks would be a beneficial way to have more community involvement inside of the park system. This should be investigated to see if or how it could be implemented based on staffing and any potential ordinance or legal concerns.
- *Highlight parks through social media:* some of the comments from the park survey and from residents seem to indicate that there may not be knowledge of all the parks and offerings of the City of Kaukauna. Highlighting our parks through social media more often may help promote our park system. The city started doing this before the survey started, so some of these concerns may have already been addressed.

Beautification: From the park survey responses as well as talking with residents, many have suggested ways of adding more flowers and plantings to the parks to make them more attractive. To further beautify the park system, staff has developed the following tactics:

- *Implement native plantings:* adding native plantings inside the parks will eliminate some maintenance items in the park system as well as add beautification items into the parks.
- *Create a beautification committee:* a group of residents to help with planting and maintaining additional flowers and other items as well as provide recommendations for adding more plantings into the community.
- *Create landscape areas at the entrances of regional parks:* creating specific landscaping areas at the entrances of some of our larger regional parks will add beautification to the system.
- *Add public art in park spaces:* investigate if murals or other forms of public art could be added into the park system to further beautify and enhance aesthetics throughout our park system.
- *Adopt a park/planter:* provide an opportunity for community engagement and beautification of the park system by creating a volunteer program to manage planter, plaza, or park depending on a volunteer's resources, ability, and desire to enhance the parks and community.
- *Community clean up events:* this ties community outreach and involvement with maintenance of the parks. Events could be held once or twice a year can assist in keeping the parks pristine and help accomplish smaller repair or enhancement

projects that staff may not be able to focus on due to other needs in the community.

It should be noted that, due to the unique nature of 1,000 Islands, there should be an updated strategic plan or specific park plan for this amenity in the city. This will allow for a more detailed look at that facility and assist in a long-term planning process to assist in budgeting and meeting the needs of the community.

Further Protecting Undeveloped Lands:

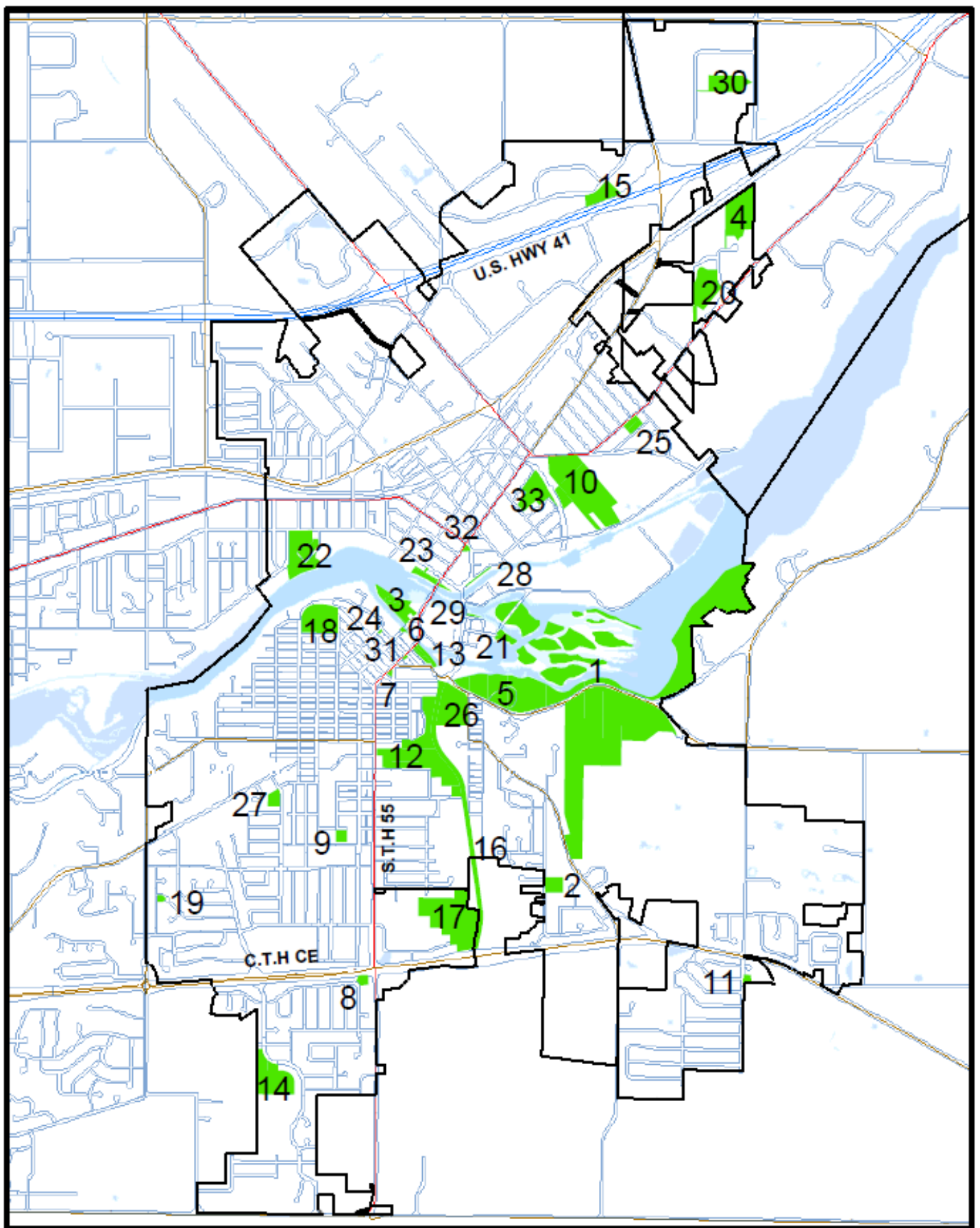
As the City continues to grow, being aware of the need for future parks and recreation land is important. One of the tactics above calls for creating a service area map to assist with this. The city should continue to review options to help develop new parks and update existing facilities with the possibility of impact fees, developer fees, or other opportunities.

Appendix:

Existing City Park Map.....71

Key To Existing City Park Map.....72

Map of Trails.....73



EXISTING CITY PARKS

1 inch = 2,625 feet
Date: 7/26/2019

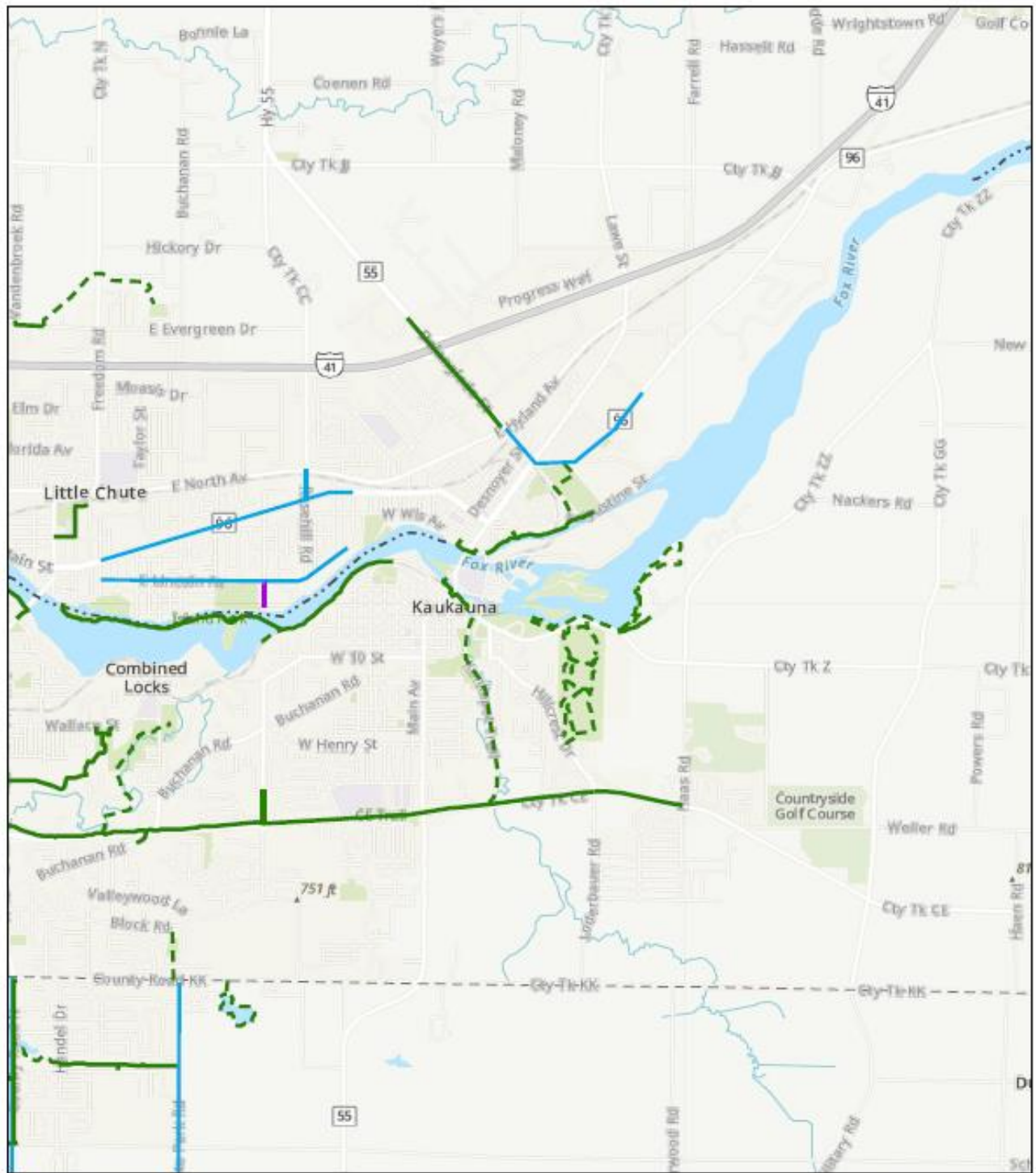
Key to Existing City Parks Map

1. 1000 Islands Environmental Center
2. Anderson Park
3. Central Park
4. Dog Exercise Park
5. Doty Bayorgeon Recreation Area
6. Eagle Plaza
7. Fassbender Park
8. Fieldcrest Park
9. Glenview Park
10. Grignon (Upper + Lower) Park
11. Haas Road (Future) Park
12. Horseshoe Valley Park
13. Hydro Park
14. Jonen Park
15. Kelso Park and Pond
16. Konkapot Creek Trail
17. Konkapot Preserve
18. La Follette Park
19. Little Tykes Tot Lot
20. Nature View Park
21. Quarry Point Park
22. Riverside Park
23. Friends and Family Sculpture Garden
24. Skateboard Park
25. Strassburg Park
26. Municipal Pool and Archery Range
27. Thelen Park
28. Thilwerth Park
29. Trestle Park
30. Van Eperen Park and Pond
31. Vaudette Plaza
32. Veteran's Memorial Ring of Honor
33. White City Park

Note:

Not included on the map is the Rapid Croche Picnic Area, interactive learning garden at the library, Gathering of the Pike Plaza (behind the Library) and the Nelson Family Heritage Crossing (part of the trail system).

Trails of the Fox Cities



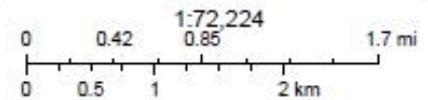
7/24/2025, 1:09:34 PM

Fox Cities Areas Trails

- Bike Route/Accommodation
- Bike Lane
- Off Road Paved Trail
- - - Off Road Unpaved Trail

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Water Trail

- - - Water Trail
- - - Water Trail
- - - Water Trail



County of Outagamie, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS

City of Appleton GIS
County of Outagamie, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS |