



Town of Middleton
2019 Comprehensive
Outdoor Recreation Plan



04.28.2020

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This document is a guide and is only advisory. The Town of Middleton exceeds all standards for parks and open space (5,900 sq. ft. per resident) and intends to add parks only on an as-needed basis. This is in addition to approximately 1,500 acres of parks being added on the West edge of the Town.

Town of Middleton
Resolution No. 20200402-1

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2019 TOWN OF MIDDLETON COMPREHENSIVE
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (CORP)**

WHEREAS, the Town of Middleton Board adopted the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Middleton Park Commission, together with the citizens of the Town of Middleton, by way of a survey and public meetings, have prepared an update to said Plan; and

WHEREAS, the provision of parks, open space, and outdoor recreation is important to the quality of life of the residents of the Town of Middleton; and

WHEREAS, Town of Middleton adoption of an up-to-date CORP is required for the Town to remain eligible for cost sharing grant programs administered through the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Middleton's 2019 CORP encompasses a general outline and plan for the park, open space, and outdoor recreational development of the Town; and

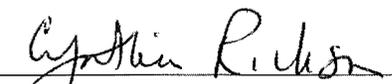
WHEREAS, the Park Commission of the Town of Middleton on December 9, 2019, by a unanimous vote, recorded in its official minutes, approved the 2019 CORP and recommended approval of the CORP to the Town Board; and

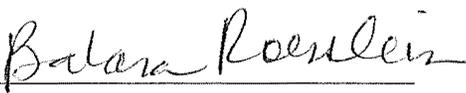
WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Middleton, having determined that the 2019 CORP is consistent with the Town Comprehensive Plan's goals, objectives, and policies, and is in proper form and content for adoption in order to protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the Town of Middleton.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Middleton, Wisconsin, that the 2019 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is hereby adopted.

Adopted this 20th day of April, 2020.

Approved this 20th day of April, 2020.


Cynthia Richson
Chair, Town Board


Barbara Roesslein
Town Clerk

Posted 04/24/2020

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I. Introduction and Plan Purpose

The Town of Middleton Board and Park Commission present this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) to ensure that adequate park, open space and recreational resources are available for both current and future residents of the Town. Access to outdoor recreation is an important predictor of community health and wellness. Parks, trails, and sports facilities provide convenient, safe, and attractive spaces for people to get outside. Time spent outdoors is associated with a number of important health factors, including improved physical and mental health, better connected communities, and more active citizens.

It is important to note that this plan is an advisory document. It will serve as a policy guide for both the Park Commission and the Town Board over the next five years. The Plan will be subject to modification on an annual basis to account for changes to physical and economic conditions.

This Plan has been developed by the Park Commission using information from the previous 2013 CORP, the results of a 2018 survey of Town residents, recent projects and expenditures, and several other relevant park planning documents. The purpose of this Plan is to outline the recreational goals and objectives over the next five years including suggested improvements to be made to support those goals and objectives. A prerequisite for participation in various state and federal outdoor recreation grant programs is the adoption and acceptance of local comprehensive outdoor recreation plans by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

This Plan consists of a description of the planning method and planning area, an inventory of existing resources and facilities, a needs assessment, an action plan, and finally an operation, maintenance and funding plan. This CORP also includes a five (5) year Capital Improvement and Maintenance Program for parks and recreation areas. The goals and objectives appearing in Section 6 of this document form the basis for the rest of the plan and will guide the decisions of the Park Commission and the Town Board in the future.

The governing body of the Town of Middleton is the Town Board. The Town of Middleton Town Board also has village power authority under the Wisconsin Statutes in order to act for the health, safety, and welfare of the public. In addition, the Town Board is responsible for the preparation and adoption of the Annual Town Budget.

The Town of Middleton Park Commission is comprised of 7 members who are appointed by the Town Board to serve statutory, 7 year staggered terms in an advisory capacity to the Town Board. The Town Board Chair also appoints annually a Town Board member to serve as a liaison to the Park Commission.

Beginning in the 1970s, the Town of Middleton has transitioned from a predominantly rural community to a blend of farms, single-family homes, and low density suburban residential developments. The Town of Middleton entered into Intergovernmental Agreements with the cities of Madison (1994 & 2002) and Middleton (1994) that were designed to accommodate and control growth and development in the eastern portion of the Town.

As the Capitol region continues to grow, increasing population presents the Town with the challenge of maintaining a balance between traditional Town management concepts and offering a diverse set of recreational amenities, facilities, and services for residents. The desire of the Town to maintain its "rural character" dictates that development opportunities incorporate substantial open space and that significant lands be devoted to parks, trails, open space and recreation areas.



II. Definitions

The Town of Middleton provides parks, open spaces, and trails. These amenities are divided into 6 categories based upon standards established by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The Town also uses a unique 'Natural Trail' designation outside of the NRPA categories to denote trails with minimal improvements due to terrain or sensitive landscape areas.

Note that under Town of Middleton ordinances parks and conservancies are categorized differently than the NRPA standard. The Town uses two categories for parks: active and passive. Mini-parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks are active parks, while nature areas and conservancies are included in the passive park category. Appendix 4 contains a map of all Town park locations and service areas, and Appendix 5 contains a map of nature areas and conservancies. NRPA categories are:

1. Mini-Parks

Mini-parks are the smallest park classification. They address limited or isolated recreational needs, or unique recreational opportunities. Mini-parks may also be used to serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as young children or senior citizens.

Past classifications of mini-parks were often oriented toward active recreation. The updated classification of mini-parks has a broader application that includes both active and passive uses. Passive uses might include picnic areas, arbors and sitting areas.

Location Criteria: Location of a mini-park is based more on servicing a specific recreational need or taking advantage of a unique opportunity than demographics or population density. Service areas can vary. In a residential setting, the service area is usually less than ¼ mile in radius. Accessibility by trails or low-volume residential streets increases the opportunity for use.

Size Criteria: Typically, mini-parks are approximately one acre or less in size.

Parking: Parking lots are not generally required for mini-parks, unless there is no available on-street parking.

Site Selection Criteria/Guidelines: The site for a mini-park should exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for its intended uses. The variance in topography and vegetation should reflect these uses. Vegetation may be used to enhance the aesthetic qualities of the park and to buffer it from the neighboring residences. The following key concerns should be taken into account:

- Serving a specific recreational need
- Ease of access from the surrounding area
- Links to neighborhood trails

Development Parameters: Mini-parks are generally not intended to be used for programmed activities. Providing one acre or less space will tend to prevent team sports as there would be insufficient space for these activities. Parking is typically not required. Site lighting may be considered to enhance security and safety.

Note: Developers may be required to dedicate and improve mini-parks as a condition for approval of a land division. Developers may also be required to provide playgrounds as part of the required infrastructure for a mini-park. However, the fees otherwise owed by a developer for the development are reduced by the cost of the land dedicated for the park and the cost of the playground equipment.

II. Definitions, continued

2. Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. They should be developed for both active and passive uses geared specifically for those living within the service area. It is important to accommodate a wide variety of age and user groups, including children, adults, elderly and other special populations. The character of the park site should be drawn from the neighborhood to create a sense of place.

Location Criteria: The service area of a neighborhood park should encompass a ¼ to ½ mile radius uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers. Neighborhood parks should be centrally located within this service area. The service area may vary depending on development diversity and density. The park site should be accessible from throughout the service area via trails or low-volume residential streets. Residents are much less likely to use a neighborhood park if they perceive it to be difficult to access or not within a reasonable walking distance.

Size Criteria: The primary determinants of a neighborhood park's size will be demographics and population density. Five acres is generally accepted as the minimum size necessary to provide a variety of recreational activities. Seven to ten acres is considered optimal.

Parking: Neighborhood parks should provide between 15 to 30 off-street parking spaces.

Site Selection Criteria/Guidelines: The following key concerns should be taken into account when selecting a site:

- Ease of access from the surrounding neighborhood
- Central location
- Linkages to trail network

Development Parameters/Recreation Activity Menus: Neighborhood input will be considered in determining the development program for each park. Neighborhood parks should support a balance of active and passive uses. Neighborhood parks are not intended to be used for programmed activities that result in overuse, noise, or parking problems. Potential active recreation uses include: play structures, playfields, tennis courts, informal ballfields, volleyball courts, horseshoe areas, or ice skating rinks. Potential passive recreation uses could include: internal trails, picnic and sitting areas, **and** open space.

3. Community Parks

Community parks are larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. The focus of a community park is on meeting the recreational needs of multiple neighborhoods or large sections of the community. Additionally, community parks may serve to preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. They allow for group activities and other uses that are not feasible or desirable at the neighborhood level. Community parks should also be developed for both active and passive recreational activities.

Location Criteria: Community parks should serve two or more neighborhoods. The service area should generally be ½ to 3 miles in radius; however, the quality of the natural resource base should play a significant role in site selection. The park site should be accessible via arterial and collector streets as well as the local trail system.

Size Criteria: A community park's size will be determined by demographics, population density, natural resources, and recreation demand within the service area. An optimal size may be between 15 and 20 acres, but the actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate the desired uses.

II. Definitions, continued

Parking: Community parks should provide parking commensurate with the activities contained within the park.

Site Selection Criteria/Guidelines: Natural character and existing resources should play a significant part in site selection for a community park. Sites that preserve unique landscapes or that provide recreation opportunities not otherwise available should be given special emphasis. Ease of access from throughout the service area and relationship to other park facilities should also be considered during site selection. Where feasible, community parks should be located adjacent to natural resource areas. This serves to expand the recreational opportunities available and enhance the general perception of surrounding open space. The following key concerns should be taken into account when selecting a site:

- Natural character of the site
- Ease of access
- Relationship to other park areas

Development Parameters/Recreation Activities Menu: Community input should be one of the primary determinants of the development program for a community park. Reserved and programmed uses are compatible with and acceptable in community parks.

Potential active recreation uses include: play structures, formal play fields/ball fields, game courts (tennis, volleyball, basketball, etc.), disc golf areas, horseshoe areas, and ice skating rinks. Potential passive recreation uses include internal trails, open space, ornamental gardens, facilities for cultural activities, unique landscapes and natural features.

4. Nature Areas/Conservancies

Nature areas and conservancies are lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetics/buffering. Such areas can include:

- Individual sites exhibiting natural resources
- Lands that are unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential, such as parcels with steep slopes and natural vegetation, drainage ways, surface water management areas and utility easements
- Protected lands, such as wetlands or shorelines

Location Criteria: Natural resource availability and opportunity are the primary factors in determining location.

Size Criteria: The size of nature areas and conservancies will depend upon resource availability and opportunity.

Parking: Parking may be required at natural resource areas depending on their size and proposed uses.

Site Selection Criteria/Guidelines: Areas that exhibit significant and/or unique natural resources, or that provide specific environmental or recreational benefits, should be considered as potential nature areas or conservancies. Some examples are:

- Green space/community separation areas
- Hiking trails or trail connections
- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Historically significant areas

II. Definitions, continued

Development Parameters/Recreation Activity Menu: Natural resource areas can provide some passive recreational uses. Development should be limited to preserve the integrity of the resource.

5. Primary Recreational Trails

Primary Recreational Trails are multipurpose trails often located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. These trails serve as major links between various Town parks and facilities as well as other destinations. The Town envisions a future interconnected network of primary recreational trails serving all parts of the Town. Primary recreational trails should be planned and designed with the following concepts in mind:

- Emphasize harmony with the natural environment
- Tie the various parks and conservancies together to form a comprehensive park and trail system
- Protect users from vehicular traffic
- When/if physically and economically feasible, consider established trail standards (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials "AASHTO" / Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines "ADAAG")
- Facilitate travel by bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

See Appendix 3 for further discussion of trails.

6. Secondary Recreational Trails

Secondary Recreational trails are intended to serve smaller areas than primary recreational trails. Secondary recreational trails allow neighborhood residents to access the primary recreational trail network. Secondary recreational trails may be located adjacent to or within utility easements or along artificial drainage ways provided that the trails do not interfere with utility or drainage purposes. Secondary recreational trails should be located within road rights-of-way only when necessary.

Town Ordinances provide that the Town may request that developers construct secondary recreational trails as part of the plat approval process at the developers' expense.

Up to 20 lineal feet per new residential dwelling unit may be required.

7. Natural Terrain Trails*

In some situations, a trail on undisturbed, or minimally disturbed ground, of width sufficient for walking or hiking purposes, may be appropriate. Such trails are compatible with and retain the natural landscape and character of an area. Natural Terrain trails mostly follow the existing topography and ground surface and should be considered among the alternatives in a trail planning process. Natural Terrain Trails are either Primary or Secondary Recreational Trails.

* Natural Terrain Trails is a unique trail category to the Town of Middleton, and is not used by NRPA or other agencies.

III. Plan Development Process and Amendment Procedures

Description of Process

The development of this CORP began in March 2018. That month, the Town contracted with a public engagement consultant, Brian Koenig of K12 Associates, to make a public survey available to residents. The survey queried respondents' recreational preferences to determine which of the Town's recreational facilities are being used and how often. Survey questions also asked where residents would like to see future park and open space facilities, and what types of recreational activities they prefer. Exactly 900 people responded to the survey, with some electing to skip certain questions that were not applicable. After closing the survey, the consultant aggregated response data and made it available to the Town for review. See Section IV for a discussion of the survey results.

The Town, in consultation with Vierbicher, held a CORP kickoff meeting during the regularly scheduled Park Commission meeting on October 8, 2018. The agenda for this meeting consisted of a presentation by Vierbicher to explain the purpose of the CORP, outline the planning process, review the goals and objectives of the past CORP, and discuss the results of the public survey. Vierbicher and the Park Commission closed the kickoff meeting by discussing responsibilities for task completion and discussing a date for the second CORP planning meeting.

After the kickoff meeting, Vierbicher updated elements of the existing CORP that had changed since its 2013 publication such as maps and data tables, while Town staff and appointed officials completed the existing Recreational Facilities Inventory spreadsheet.

The second meeting consisted of a review of the existing park inventory spreadsheet, a discussion of proposed improvements to existing facilities, Plan Goals, Objectives, and Actions, and a review of updated park and trail maps. Vierbicher staff noted comments made by Park Commission members and public attendees to incorporate into the draft plan and prepare for the third meeting.

After reviewing the data and feedback attained throughout the process, Town staff developed a Capital Improvement Plan to guide investment in park & recreation amenities over the next 5 years.

Next, the project team finalized the draft version of the Plan and held a two-hour open house meeting for additional feedback from Town residents on proposed Goals, Objectives, and Actions. Feedback from the open house was incorporated into the CORP, and the Park Commission reviewed it a final time and recommended the Plan for approval by the Town Board at their meeting on December 9, 2019.

The final document was presented to the Town Board at their January 21, 2020 meeting and discussed at subsequent meetings. The Town Board officially adopted the CORP at their April 20, 2020 meeting.

III. Plan Development Process and Amendment Procedures

Amending the Plan

Due to unforeseen changes to economic or physical conditions in the Town, updates to the CORP are periodically required to ensure it remains an effective guide. The Town may review the CORP each year, and may amend the Plan using the same process that was undertaken to create it or an alternate process as determined by the Town Board. Proposed amendments may be presented at public meetings where citizens, Town staff, and elected officials may offer input. After public input is gathered, finalized amendments shall be presented to the Town Board for adoption. It is recommended that the CORP be updated at least every five years so the Town remains eligible for all available funding opportunities and to adequately reflect current recreational priorities.

The Park Commission will incorporate funding intended to meet the Capital Improvement Plan and the Annual Operating Plan into the Parks and Recreation Budget, which is typically submitted to the Town Board in August or September each year for approval by the Town Board.

IV. 2018 Survey Results

The Park Commission distributed an online survey in the Spring of 2018 after extensive work to draft, edit, and finalize survey questions. The survey was available to be completed from March through April 2018, and a total of 900 responses were received from residents throughout the Town. The goal of the survey was to determine residents' opinions on Town park and recreation facilities and amenities to guide the Town's maintenance and possible development of these facilities. Results from the survey were used by the Park Commission to develop the Goals and Objectives, Action Plan, Park and Open Space Planning Standards, and Capital Improvements Plan included in this document.

The specific purpose of the survey was to determine what park and recreation facilities are used most frequently, what types of recreation activities are most common among residents, the desire of residents to see certain facilities and amenities (including trails) improved, expanded, or added, and opinions of Town residents on certain park and recreation facility maintenance funding mechanisms. The survey included a combination of multiple choice and open-ended questions. A summary of the responses provided to the multiple-choice questions is as follows. A more detailed summary of survey responses is included as Appendix 8, and full results are available at the Town Hall.

- Respondents are generally pleased with existing park, conservancy, and trail amenities available in the Town.
- Recreational trails, conservancies, and playgrounds and equipment are more frequently used than horseback trails, tennis courts, basketball courts, soccer, and baseball fields.
- A strong majority (85%) of respondents indicated that additional trails and connecting trails are important.
- 900 people submitted responses to the survey.
- Respondents were split roughly evenly between the following three areas of the Town: North of Highway 14, Between Mineral Point Road and Highway 14, and South of Mineral Point Road.
- About 75% of respondents living south of Mineral Point Road wish to see either a large community park or one or more small neighborhood parks south of Mineral Point Road.
- Half of survey respondents are dog owners (431 people or 49.7% of all survey respondents), and of those who own dogs, over three-quarters of respondents (76%¹) expressed a desire for an off-leash dog exercise park and slightly less than half (186 people or 44.6%) desired more on-leash trails.
- 559 people or 66.9% of respondents have used Town recreational facilities "many times" in the past 12 months, while a quarter of respondents have used Town recreational facilities "at least once." Only about 69 people or 8.3% of respondents marked that they have not used Town recreational facilities in the past 12 months.
- A strong majority of respondents (71%²) indicated it is important to have a safe bike-pedestrian crossing at Mineral Point Road near West Middleton Elementary School.
- Pope Farm Conservancy is the recreational area used most frequently.
- A majority of respondents (430 people or 56.7%) selected "Yes, definitely" when asked whether they would support purchasing land to protect green space or increase natural areas. Another 185 people or 24.4% marked "Maybe."

¹ 76% is a combination of the 189 people or 44.2% who answered 'Very Important' and 139 people or 32.5% who answered 'Somewhat Important'

² 71% is a combination of the 374 people or 48.1% who answered 'Very Important' and 179 people or 23% who answered 'Somewhat Important'

IV. 2018 Survey Results

Several open-ended questions on the survey also yielded useful information. Highlights include the following, with the full results included in the Appendix:

- Many respondents favored invasive species management practices that avoid pesticides and other toxic chemicals.
- Many respondents expressed the desire to have more recreational facilities in the Town.
- Of the 428 dog owners who responded to a question about interest in a dog park, 189 said it was 'very important' to add an off-leash dog park, 139 said it was 'somewhat important', and 100 said 'not important'.
- Respondents expressed a desire for the addition of more trails and paths, both on and off-road, for walking and bicycling in the Town as part of an overall comprehensive, interconnected Town route system.
- Several respondents expressed a desire for a splash pad.

V. Progress Since the 2013 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Town delivers high-quality park and trail recreation amenities to Town residents. The following outlines the major accomplishments of the past five years:

Parks Acquired:

- Vosen Memorial Park was acquired and developed during the process of developing the Daybreak Valley subdivision.
- Spruce Hollow Park was developed (previously acquired).

Park Amenities Added/Developed:

- A skating rink and auxiliary parking were added to Pioneer Park/Pioneer Lands.
- Rubber mulch replaced wood mulch around play structures at Pioneer Park.
- An ADA access point was added to Pioneer Park.
- **A cricket field was added at Settler's Prairie Park.**
- The surface condition and drainage were improved for the soccer field at Voss Park.
- A portion of the paved trail between the ball diamonds at Pioneer Park was reconstructed with wider pavement and drainage improvements. The new wider trail also connected to the new parking lot on the Pioneer Lands south of Pioneer Park.
- A recreational trail crossing of Mineral Point Road (CTH S) at the intersection with Pioneer Road was constructed in conjunction with Dane County's reconstruction of Mineral Point Road in 2019. The intersection/crossing improvements include traffic signals, crosswalks, and medians to accommodate Recreational trail users with a delineated crossing.
- Public Recreational Trails were constructed in Spruce Hollow subdivision to the corner of Pioneer Road and Mineral Point Road.
- A Public Recreational Trail was constructed across Lot 1 of Sauk Point Estates.

Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy:

Between 2013 and 2018, the Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy provided valuable landscape management services to the Town. While their contributions are too numerous to list in their entirety, the following tasks are a sample of the work they did to maintain Pope Farm

Conservancy:

- Tagging of Monarch Butterflies
- Controlling the Pale Indian Plantain
- Invasive Species Control
- Blue Bird Trail

V. Progress Since the 2013 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Habitat Restoration Projects (completed by Adaptive Restoration at the direction of the Park Commission and Town staff and as approved by the Town Board):

- Cherrywood Forest: Interseeded with native seeds provided by Dane County Parks and the Friends of Pope Farm Park Conservancy (2017, 2018, 2019). Ongoing activities include biennial prescribed burns, woody and herbaceous weed management and overseeding to add diversity.
- Hickory Woods Conservancy: A memo was prepared in 2016 outlining options for restoring the undeveloped area to prairie and savanna; however the area remains in agricultural production.
- Noll Valley Oak Savanna: The Town has conducted prescribed burns and invasive weed management within the conservancy, with the objective of maintaining the savanna plant structure and diversity of this rare ecosystem. This preserved oak savanna supports over 150 native plant species.
- Goth Conservancy: The Town of Middleton was awarded Dane County Environmental Council Community Partners Grants in 2013 and 2014 for restoring 1.5 acres of prairie at the Goth Conservancy. After receiving the grants, the Town proceeded with continuing the site preparation process and securing the seed for the prairie planting. The restoration includes over 88 prairie species, seeded in May and November 2014. The seed mix included donations from Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy (2 donations) and Dane County Parks of 46 prairie species. Since 2014, management has included controlling invasive species, prescribed burning and thinning of understory species. Prairie and woodland areas were overseeded in 2019 with seed donated by Dane County Parks and the Friends of Pope Farm. Over 11 acres of the 20-acre Park have been seeded and restored to native prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland vegetation. The Park has two interpretive signs.
- Pope Farm Conservancy: In 2016-17 the Town updated the vegetation management plan for this site, outlining vegetation maintenance expectations and standards for the Conservancy. Ongoing activities include routine invasive weed management and prescribed burning. Several interpretive signs are maintained by the Friends of Pope Farm.
- Settlers Prairie: The Town is implementing a vegetation management plan (2013) for this site. Ongoing activities include management of invasive species, removal of non-oak tree species, regular prescribed burning and overseeding. In 2018 a degraded old field strip was converted to prairie using seed donated by Dane County Parks and the Friends of Pope Farm.

The following developments have occurred since 2013, providing new Town park or trail land:

- Nature's Cove subdivision
- Meadow Road subdivision
- Aspen Meadow subdivision
- Daybreak Valley subdivision
- Welcome Home subdivision
- Tumbledown Farm subdivision
- Cherrywood Ridge subdivision
- Cardinal Prairie subdivision
- Easement acquired across Wagner Dairy Farm on Rocky Dell Road (no trail built to date).
- Easement acquired across parcel number 070832393607 on Mid-Town Road near intersection with Shady Oak Lane (no trail built to date).

VI. Plan Goals & Objectives

The following are statements that will apply in general to all Town parks and trail endeavors of the Town Park Commission as approved by the Town Board. The Town of Middleton will consider the CORP goals and objectives as a template for the future park development and maintenance only within the financial abilities of the Town's resources and the approval of the Town Board. Each of the five goals are followed by several objectives that state the policies and philosophies that will be used to implement the goals.

1. Develop and maintain existing parks.¹

- Evaluate current lands and facilities and assess the physical and economic feasibility of development, including court/field additions, playgrounds, prairies, etc.;
- Perform safety and maintenance inspections, drawing on Town staff expertise;
- Ensure that Town parks and facilities make reasonable accommodations to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to the extent physically and economically feasible;
- Provide information to the public on the existing facilities;
- Evaluate reservations, park usage, park facilities, and park rules annually.

2. Develop and maintain existing trails.

- Enhance the existing neighborhood trail systems and their interconnections;
- Explore connections to regional trail systems (Dane County, City of Madison, City of Middleton, Ice Age Trail, etc.);
- Determine and evaluate trail functionality, usage and surfaces as trails are developed;
- Ensure that trails make reasonable accommodations to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) when/if physically and economically feasible;
- Provide information to the public on the existing trail system;
- Evaluate trails usage and trail rules annually.

3. Acquire new land for parks/trails/conservation areas.

- When financially feasible and practical, acquire lands to protect scenic and environmentally sensitive resources and native natural areas;
- Identify and acquire lands for green space when feasible and practical, particularly lands that will create natural municipal boundaries and buffers;
- When financially feasible and practical, acquire additional land and evaluate land dedications to determine active and passive recreational use and conservation based on current demand, demands created by increased future population, and the conservation value of the land;
- Emphasize protection of wildlife and plant life, watershed areas, aquifer recharge areas, and specifically the historical vegetation of the area including native oak savanna and prairie areas.

¹: "Parks" includes the definition of Active Parks and Passive Parks as defined by Town Ordinance § 359-1(2) and (3).

VI. Plan Goals & Objectives

4. Manage capital and maintenance costs for activities and development.
 - Ensure aesthetics and safety measures are consistent with available financial and other resources;
 - Consider and plan for the long-term expense of maintenance of land and equipment when developing parks, trails and open space;
 - Conduct financial analyses as to the type of improvements proposed to ensure adequate maintenance funding will be available prior to construction.
 - Explore mechanisms to encourage park funding/investment/revenue generation.

5. Identify and support recreational and community activities.
 - Identify recreation program needs of Town residents through periodic surveys and other mechanisms;
 - Determine economic feasibility of recreation programs;
 - Acquire or improve facilities for recreation programs when financially feasible and practical;
 - Implement and monitor local recreation and education programs when financially feasible and practical;
 - Evaluate program effectiveness;
 - Develop programs to encourage volunteer groups to assist in maintaining parks, trails and conservancies.

VII. Park and Open Space Planning Standards

Establishment of Park and Open Space Planning Standards

Historically, guidelines used to identify the future recreational needs of a community were provided by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). These guidelines categorize parks by the level of service each is intended to provide and are a required part of the parks and recreation facilities planning process as outlined by the State of Wisconsin. The guidelines recommend 6.25 to 10.5 acres of park and recreation area per 1,000 people. This guideline includes mini-parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks, but does not include conservancies.

NRPA discontinued publication of park planning guidelines in 1995 due to the belief that providing 'standards' to a very diverse set of communities was not providing meaningful guidance. In 2015 NRPA resurrected the guidelines in a new format based on data collected through the PRORAGIS system. This data provides typical ranges for each data set, and users can drill down to compare themselves to similar communities. Following is a summary of data collected in 2018 for jurisdiction population of less than 20,000 or population density less than 500 per square mile (the smallest categories).

Based on NRPA data, the typical agency has one park for every 1,318 residents and 10.8 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Comparatively, the Town currently has 106.8 acres of park land (not including conservancies) and approximately 6,440 residents, which equals 16 acres per 1,000 residents. Specific outdoor amenities are typically offered at the following rates (residents per facility; first statement is NRPA typical, statement in parenthesis is current Town provision):

- Playgrounds: 1 per 6,132 residents (Town's is 1 per 644 residents)
- Basketball courts: 1 per 7,869 residents (Town's is 1 per 2,147 residents)
- Tennis courts: 1 per 5,462 residents (Town's is 1 per 1,610 residents)
- Youth Baseball: 1 per 6,628 residents (Town's is 1 per 920 residents)
- Youth Soccer: 1 per 5,584 residents (Town's is 1 per 585 residents)

The Town currently exceeds all of these standards projected out to 2040 even if no additional facilities are improved. (See Appendix 9 for details).

The NRPA 2018 Report also includes information on staffing and budgets for various size communities. Communities with fewer than 20,000 residents have between 4.8-18.1 park and recreation full time employee (or equivalent) staff. Annual operating expenditures for communities with less than 500 residents per square mile are between \$545,254-\$3,538,280 or \$16.01-\$86.23 per capita. The Town's total recreation budget for 2018 was \$205,050, which is \$31.84 per capita.

The recommended guidelines have been modified when considering what standard is established for Town park planning to take into consideration the topography, physical barriers, particular demands and characteristics unique to the Town of Middleton. Town park planning standards directly impact the Town's park and recreation facilities and capital improvements planning. Park space standards for the Town are incorporated into the calculation of the current Town park fee in-lieu-of land dedication.

The Town's planning standards far exceed NRPA guidelines for each park and recreation facility category—see Appendix 9 for a comparison of Town standards vs. NRPA guidelines. The park and facility planning standards presented here, as well as the Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan included in this document are presented in an attempt to better match planned parkland and amenities with future maintenance obligations, while still maintaining a robust parks system. This was informed by feedback received from residents who completed a park and recreation needs analysis survey conducted in 2018.

VII. Park and Open Space Planning Standards

Park and facility planning standards are summarized below, with further detail in Appendix 9.

Table 1: 2019 Park Planning Standards

Type of Park	Town CORP Planning Standard ¹	Existing Acres	Existing Acres Per 1,000 Town Residents	(Surplus) or Deficiency Under Current Standards ¹	Total Acreage Needed in 2040 to Meet Town CORP Planning Standards ³	Assessable Additional Acreage Needed by 2040 ⁴
Mini-Park	0.9	7.8	1.20	(1.81)	7.75	-0.1
Neighborhood Park ⁵	5.7	47.5	7.4	(10.79)	47.48	0.0
Community Park	6.2	51.5	8.0	(11.57)	51.65	0.1
Nature Area / Conservancy	21.3	177.7	27.6	(40.53)	177.43	-0.3
Total Open Space	34.1	284.5	44.2	(64.70)	284.30	-0.2

1: Acres per 1000 residents.

2: Based on WI DOA estimated 2018 population of 6,440.

3: Based on WI DOA predicted 2040 population of 8,330 (includes existing acreage and additional acreage necessary to meet Town CORP planning standards).

4: Attributable to new development and assessable to Developers.

Note: The above table does not include any recreational lands controlled by other governmental entities aside from the Town of Middleton.

VIII. Action Plan

The Town Park Commission has developed this action plan to accommodate existing and future parks, open space and recreation needs of Town residents. The action plan is based on prior Town plans, the results of Town resident surveys, the current development policies of the Town Plan Commission and Town Board, guidelines from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund money (administered by WI DNR), and other DNR administered grant programs will be considered to fund components of this plan.

The following principles frame the action plan:

- Park and trail development and maintenance are appropriate functions of the Town and are conducted by the Park Commission in an advisory role to the Town Board. The Park Commission also solicits input from neighborhoods and/or interest groups.
- The CORP is a part of the Town's comprehensive planning and reflects the Town's commitment to encouraging cluster development and conservation design.
- The Town encourages the preservation of open spaces, greenways, wetlands, woodlands, natural areas and scenic areas. As the Town continues to develop, preservation of these areas through public or private ownership will assure preservation of the traditional visual character of the Town.
- The CORP may be regularly reviewed and updated with complete revisions every five years.
- It is recognized that in areas to be developed, the recreational needs of the population will need to be met as much as financially feasible and practical. Providing neighborhood parks in small subdivisions may be cost-prohibitive. Mini and community parks may be a solution for meeting many of these needs.
- Community parks may serve the needs of the people who do not live in subdivisions.

The following actions are linked directly to the Goals and Objectives given in Section 2.

Goal #1: Develop and Maintain Existing Parks

1. Evaluate and possibly update existing park development plans to ensure sufficient use of facilities to justify maintenance cost, best use of land area, and a competitive range of outdoor amenities for Town residents.
2. Periodically conduct park facility and infrastructure assessments, considering changes in response to citizen input, safety concerns, financial feasibility, and equipment obsolescence.
3. Consider increasing the visibility and residents' knowledge of park assets through any of the following means: installation of decorative information kiosks that display rules, regulations, and trail maps; increased online information, and/or a regular parks feature in the Town's newsletter. Update the park facility inventory as improvements are made.
4. Evaluate parks and recreational facilities for accessibility improvements where feasible.
5. Review possible expansion of Pioneer Park into Town-owned adjacent land south of the park.

Goal #2: Develop and Maintain Existing Trails

1. Improve existing trail easements when financially feasible and practical (identify specific trails annually).
2. Develop an interconnected trail system that allows for an east/west corridor of trails and a north/south corridor of trails when financially feasible and practical.
3. Consider anticipated use of trails (i.e., dogs, bikes, etc.) and types of trail surfaces (i.e., crushed stone, grass, asphalt, etc.) and associated future maintenance costs when planning new trail connections or routes.
4. Properly document existing maintained public recreational trails and trail easements.
6. Consider clearly marking existing maintained public recreational trails.

VIII. Action Plan

Goal #3: Acquire New Land for Parks/Trails/Conservation Areas

1. Coordinate acquisition of easements when financially feasible to interconnect the trail system. The Town's goal is to provide 2.84 miles of Town-owned and maintained primary trails per 1,000 residents by 2040.
2. Coordinate with developers, land owners, the general public, potential donors and the Plan Commission to acquire lands during land dedication and plat reviews. Land should be acquired to address existing or projected deficiencies in the types of parks/nature areas/conservancies shown in Appendix 9, or to preserve exceptional landscape features.
3. Identify and facilitate access to off-road paths and parks.
4. Encourage on-site land inspections by a Park Commission member(s) and Public Works and Town Services Committee member(s) prior to making recommendations on land acquisition for parks or public recreational trail easements.
5. Review reports, as appropriate, when acquiring new lands to assist in identifying critical areas for wildlife and plant life protection.
6. Consider off- and on-road bicycle route options to establish the connection of major facilities, including parks and schools, with residential areas.
7. Improve trail network continuity by acquiring trail easements and reviewing locations where trails intersect with public streets. See Appendix 6 for priority trail easement acquisition locations and locations of trail/street crossings to be evaluated and possibly improved. All action items noted in Appendix 6 are subject to Town Board approval after consideration of financial feasibility and practicality.

Goal #4: Manage Capital and Maintenance Costs for Activities and Development

1. Budget annual parks and open space maintenance costs in a manner so as not to exceed available and estimated future Town resources.
2. Coordinate with Town staff, Plan Commission, Finance Committee, Public Works Committee, Tourism Committee, and Town Board to make sound fiscal decisions.
3. Make use of federal, state, county and private grant opportunities as well as private donations to help with land acquisition efforts and the development of park, recreation, and trail improvements when feasible
4. Consider coordination with and support of organized athletic groups regarding maintenance and development of park facilities in a cost effective manner.
5. Implement management plans for tracking capital and maintenance (current and future) costs in parks.

Goal #5: Identify and Support Recreational and Community Activities

1. Encourage civic, service, individual and neighborhood donations of time, money and materials to help with organization and maintenance of activities and activity spaces. Strengthen relationships between the Park Commission and volunteer groups.
2. Consider collaboration with the Middleton-Cross Plains School District on joint use of Town and School District recreational facilities. The advantages of such an agreement include the avoidance of facility duplication, combined use of prime land, monetary savings to the Town and the School District and greater diversity in recreational opportunities.
3. When feasible, consider collaboration opportunities with adjacent local governments, UW-Madison, outdoor recreation groups, and local property owners.
4. Investigate small scale, zero-budget recreational programs to determine demand for such programs and potential impact on Town staff time and resources. Utilize existing area indoor and outdoor facilities.
5. Match construction of amenities in existing and planned parks with planning standards, as shown in Appendix 9 when financially feasible and practical.



IX. Operation, Maintenance, and Funding Plan

Operation and Maintenance

The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) in Appendix 7 lists both major maintenance projects and construction of new park improvements. The CIP lists all work anticipated for Town parks, conservancy properties, and trails for the next 5 years, with cost estimates.

The Town's parks and conservancies need to be maintained at a level of quality necessary to preserve the original intended use of that property. Maintenance projects generally have short durations and use of the park/trail is not significantly disrupted. General examples of weekly/monthly/yearly maintenance items include: mowing, replacing mulch, and maintenance of equipment and amenities.

In addition to the maintenance items called out in the CIP, which tend to be longer-term in nature, the Town's actual and budgeted park maintenance from 2016-2018 is summarized in the chart below:

Table 2: Park Maintenance Budget Summary

Category	2016	2017	2018
Budgeted Expenditures	\$119,669	\$213,250	\$223,190
Actual Expenditures	\$261,629	\$181,693	\$187,845
Expenditures per Parcel (2016 & 2017 are actual; 2018 is budgeted. Assumes 3,053 parcels.)	\$85.70	\$59.51	\$61.53

The Town has been able maintain a high-quality park system and avoid accruing deferred maintenance obligations. Specific maintenance projects that don't reoccur each year will be prioritized by need and impact for each year of this plan and weighed with other general fund budgetary items when the overall Town budget is developed. The projects and maintenance items listed in the CIP will only be completed at the time they are included in annual Town budgets and when the Town Board approves the actual expenditure (when they determine the expense to be financially feasible).

The Town has also developed a "Parks and Trails Maintenance Cost Tool" spreadsheet that shows the costs of various park/conservancy related activities, such as mowing, weed trimming, spraying, fertilizing, mulching, playground equipment repair, prairie maintenance, trail maintenance, and other activities. The maintenance spreadsheet breaks down costs of each item/activity and how much the activity costs per year. For example, the total cost per year of park mowing is derived by taking the anticipated fuel cost, fuel use, labor cost, and equipment cost to derive a total cost per year and a cost of mowing per acre of park per year. This spreadsheet is used by the Town to plan budgets and make sure that land to be added to the park system can be adequately maintained.

IX. Operation, Maintenance, and Funding Plan, continued

Funding Plan

Adoption of this plan by the Town Board on the recommendation of the Park Commission is fundamental and the first step toward implementation of this plan. The Town of Middleton Park Commission will initiate implementation by project according to priority and depending on funding and approval by the Town Board. In general, the Park Commission recommends the lowest cost approach to establishment of a quality parks system by following these guidelines:

- Whenever possible, practical and desirable, acquire land through developer dedications or cash donation in lieu of land;
- Acquire and develop parkland with County, State and Federal matching funds;
- Encourage landowners abutting Town parks to gift lands to the Town;
- Encourage resident participation in planning and implementation of park development;
- Plan effectively to eliminate waste and to increase utilization;

Existing and future funds from fees collected in lieu of land dedication are to be utilized for capital improvements in the high priority projects. Additional park funding may come from a combination of Federal, State, County and non-profit organization matching grants, and the annual parks budget. Maintenance of all parks will be funded from the Town's general fund. The Park Commission, Public Works and Town Services Committee, and the Town Board will consider the Town's ability to fund the maintenance of existing parks, trails and open spaces when considering the acquisition and new development of public spaces.

Potential Grant Funding Sources

The DNR partners with communities and organizations to expand outdoor recreation via the following grant programs. Up to 50% grant assistance is available to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. The following is a list of programs compatible with typical Town recreation development. See Appendix 9 of the Wisconsin SCORP for complete list.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Subprograms

Stewardship Local Assistance grants provide opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation activities where the primary focus or purpose is the appreciation or enjoyment of nature. Such activities include hiking, bicycling, wildlife or nature observation, camping, nature study, fishing, hunting, picnicking, cross-country skiing, canoeing and multi-use trail activities.

1. Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)

- Helps communities acquire land for public nature-based outdoor recreation and improve community recreation areas.
- Funding Priorities: ADLP funding priorities include projects that:
 - Support a local CORP
 - Support multiple uses
 - Are of regional/statewide significance
 - Result in a first-of-a-kind facility for the applicant
 - Involve two or more governmental agencies
 - Provide accessible recreation opportunities
 - Have other priority characteristics specified in statute/code



IX. Operation, Maintenance, and Funding Plan, continued

2. Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR)

- To protect natural, agricultural, and forest lands that provide nature-based outdoor recreation by purchasing development rights and compensating landowners for limited future development on their land.
- Funding Priorities: The following types of property are given priority consideration:
 - Land with water frontage
 - Land that provides a buffer between developed and natural areas
 - Land that connects existing natural resource protection areas
 - Land within DNR project boundaries
 - Land with other priority characteristics specified in statute/code

Federal Recreation Grant Programs

The Federal LWCF and RTP Grant Programs have unique eligibility criteria and funding priorities. Availability of grants under these programs depends on the amount and timing of grant funds made available from the federal government.

1. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

- Supports development of high-quality outdoor recreation amenities in local communities
 - Generally, all acquisition and development projects that are eligible under the ADLP, UGS, and UR Stewardship subprograms are also eligible for LWCF grants. In addition, projects that provide outdoor recreation facilities that are not exclusively nature-based, such as active sports facilities, are eligible for LWCF grants. Some exceptions apply, such as cases where the applicant intends to meet their match requirement with federal funds.
- Funding Priorities: LWCF funding priorities include projects that:
 - Meet the needs of urban areas;
 - Provide recreation opportunities for diverse populations;
 - Acquire land in areas with limited outdoor recreation facilities;
 - Provide multi-use and multi-season facilities;
 - Enhance or preserve natural beauty;
 - Are proposed by applicants which have financial resources to adequately maintain and operate the project; and
 - Have other priority characteristics specified in law/code.

2. Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

- The RTP program provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. RTP grants are to be used on trail projects that further a specific goal or are included in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) or a local plan referenced in the SCORP.
- Funding Priorities: RTP funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan included or referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.
 - 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 property for trails in areas with limited trail opportunities.



Appendix 1:
Planning Region

Appendix 1: Planning Region

The Town of Middleton is located in the western half of Dane County, bordered on the east by the cities of Madison and Middleton, on the north, west and south by the Towns of Springfield, Cross Plains and Verona respectively. Most of the eastern one-half of the northern portion of the original township has been annexed by the City of Middleton. Much of the eastern one-half of the southern portion of the original township has been annexed by the City of Madison.

Per the March 28, 2002 boundary agreement with the City of Madison, the City will eventually annex all areas south of Blackhawk Road and east of Pope Farm Conservancy and Pioneer and Meadow Roads. The remaining Town area consists of agricultural land, small farms, scattered individual homes, small subdivisions, and several major subdivision areas. The Town has limited commercial areas and a limited number of traditional agricultural entities that continue to operate. Non-traditional agriculture such as tree farms, non-metallic mineral extraction, landscape businesses, and stables are significant commercial entities in the Town.

Much of the Town of Middleton remains zoned "Agricultural." The Town of Middleton has not adopted "Exclusive Agricultural Zoning" to allow the Town to promote growth, in part due to the proximity of the neighboring urban development. Dane County is responsible for zoning administration and enforcement in the Town. The majority of home sites in the Town have traditionally been located on lots of ½ acre or more. The relatively large lot size increases distances between homes, and from homes to parks, and the low density of housing development contributes to the suburban / semi-rural character of the Town. The Town facilitates and directs development in a way that protects the semi-rural character and valuable natural resources and landscapes of the Town that make it a distinctive place. Open space is generally dedicated with new lot development to create an overall density of development of approximately 1 lot per 1.5 acres.

A. Social Characteristics

Table 3: Town of Middleton Population Trends

Year	Population Estimate	% Change
1998	4,123	----
2003	4,998	21.22%
2008	5,622	12.48%
2013	6,021	7.10%
2018	6,440	6.96%

Source: DOA Demographic Services

Past Trends

Table 3 shows the growth patterns in the Town of Middleton between 1998 and 2018, using statistics from the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA). The DOA estimated the Town of Middleton's population to be 4,123 in 1998. The Town's population in 2018 was estimated to be 6,440, which is equivalent to an approximately 2.3% growth rate per year, compounded.

The number of households in the Town grew steadily between 2000 and 2010. According to the U.S. Census and the DOA, the number of households in the Town increased by 348 for a total of 2,344. Since the 2010 Census, the number of new housing units constructed per year is 15.6. From 2010 to 2015, the average household size in the Town decreased slightly from 2.93 to 2.88, which is lower than the average in 2000 of 2.90 persons per household.

Appendix 1: Planning Region

Table 4: Town of Middleton Population and Household Growth

Category	2010 ¹	2020 ²	2025 ²	2030 ²	2035 ²	2040 ²
Population	5,877	6,695	7,180	7,635	8,000	8,330
# Households	1,996	2,344	2,538	2,723	2,879	3,016
Persons Per Household	2.93	2.85	2.82	2.79	2.77	2.75
% Increase in Population from 2010 Population	n/a	13.9%	22.2%	29.9%	36.1%	41.7%

Population Projections

The Wisconsin Department of Administration prepares population estimates and projections for all municipalities in the state. Table 4 reflects the population estimates and projections for the Town of Middleton.

1—Source: U.S. Census (2010 Census)

2—Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration Demographic Services

Demographics

In recent years, the Town of Middleton has transitioned from a traditional rural township to a more complex blend of limited traditional agriculture, non-traditional agriculture, suburban developments and rural single-family homes. Recent information indicates a definite trend toward a slightly older median age as well as a steady increase in the number of new residents in the Town. Table 5 provides a breakdown of the Town's population by age group.

Table 5: Town of Middleton Age Distribution, 2017

Age	Number	% of Total
Under 5 Years	425	6.89%
5 to 9 Years	674	10.92%
10 to 14 Years	388	6.29%
15 to 19 Years	368	5.96%
20 to 24 Years	95	1.54%
25 to 29 Years	161	2.61%
30 to 34 Years	240	3.89%
35 to 39 Years	471	7.63%
40 to 44 Years	422	6.84%
45 to 49 Years	468	7.58%
50 to 54 Years	646	10.47%
55 to 59 Years	536	8.68%
60 to 64 Years	568	9.20%
65 to 69 Years	308	4.99%
70 to 74 Years	229	3.71%
75 to 79 Years	88	1.43%
80 to 84 Years	33	0.53%
85 Years and Over	52	0.84%

According to the 2017 American Community Survey, the Town of Middleton is 49.8% male and 50.2% female, and predominantly white. Over 96% of occupied housing units are owner-occupied as opposed to renter-occupied.

Economy

The majority of residents in the Town of Middleton travel outside of the Town for employment, as the Town only has small, isolated areas of non-residential development. Almost 69% of residents age 25 to 64 have attained a Bachelor's Degree or higher, and 82.7% of residents in this age group are employed. The Town of Middleton has an unemployment rate of 2.6%, compared to 3.0% in Dane County, and 3.9% in Wisconsin (2017 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau).

Source: 2017 U.S. Census American Community Survey



Appendix 1: Planning Region

B. Physical Characteristics

Transportation System

The Town's transportation system consists of one U.S. highway (14), two county highways (M and S), and a set of local roads providing access to various subdivisions. Major north-south connections include Timber Lane, which acts as the Town's western boundary, Rocky Dell Road in the northwestern part of the Town, Meadow and Moundview Roads in the southwest of the Town, as well as Twin Valley Road and Pioneer Road in the central and southern parts of the Town. Primary east-west connections include, from south to north: Midtown Road (which forms the southern boundary of the Town), Valley View Road, Mineral Point Road, Old Sauk Road, U.S. Highway 14, and Airport Road. Blackhawk Road also runs east-west, from Twin Valley Road in the Town to Deming Way in the City of Madison. The only other significant transportation facility within the Town is a freight-only railroad line operated by Wisconsin and Southern Railroad Company that runs east-west along the south side of U.S. Highway 14.

Natural Landscape

In addition to the agricultural land, small farms, scattered individual homes, small subdivisions, and several major subdivision areas, the Town also has limited commercial areas and a limited number of traditional agricultural entities that continue to operate. According to a "Natural Systems Land Use Feasibility Study" done for the Town in 1990 by Dr. James Zimmerman and Kenneth Kailing, "The landscape in Middleton is still characterized by rolling uplands with remnant, marshy pot-holes, open prairie and oak savanna, and by steep wooded slopes, humped ridges, and deep ravines connected to the broader, flat valley of Black Earth Creek. The Town contains a wealth of natural geologic features including rocky bluffs, sink holes, ravines, caves, and sandstone or limestone outcroppings." The Town strives to protect and preserve its most important natural features and resources to the extent possible through public land preservation, as well as protective measures in Town land division ordinances.

Water Resources

The Town contributes to the Black Earth Creek, Sugar River and Pheasant Branch Creek watersheds. A popular and productive trout stream, Black Earth Creek, transverses a portion of the Town along Highway 14. There are some marshy areas in the Town, and some artificial ponds, but the natural pond areas that originally were in the Town have been annexed by neighboring municipalities with the exception of the Old Lake Middleton area, which has been acquired by Dane County. Dane County hopes to restore this wetland/pond in the future.

Flora and Fauna

The Bureau of Endangered Resources, part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, maintains a database of threatened and endangered species and their locations throughout the state. The Bureau also maintains the state's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI). This program maintains a database of the status and locations of rare and endangered species found or potentially found throughout the state. In order to protect these species, their specific locations are not provided.

The Department of Natural Resources provides free online tools for tracking endangered resources through its Natural Heritage Inventory portal. Users can determine what endangered plants and animals are present in certain locations throughout the state using the Department's web mapping tools and working lists of endangered species and habitats. The Department relies on its own personnel to track and update the inventory, as well as members of the public who report new species in geographic areas.



Appendix 1: Planning Region

Endangered species and habitat that have been found in the Town of Middleton include:

Species

- Prairie Vole
- Hairy Wild-petunia
- Azure Bluets
- Lake Sturgeon
- **Blanding's Turtle**
- Purple Milkweed
- Silphium Borer Moth
- Pugnose Shiner
- Roundstem Foxglove
- Rusty Patched Bumble Bee
- Rope Dodder
- Knotweed Dodder
- Swamp Darner
- Plains Gartersnake
- Ornate Box Turtle

Habitats

- Shrub-carr
- Stream-fast, hard, warm
- Emergent marsh
- Southern sedge meadow
- Springs and spring runs, hard
- Southern Dry-Mesic Forest

Further information about endangered species is available through the Wisconsin DNR at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/NHI/data.asp?tool=township>

Climate and Soils

The Town of Middleton is located in a temperate climate zone with four distinct seasons. The Town of Middleton has cold winters and hot, humid summers. According to The Weather Channel, the average high temperature in July is 83°F, while the average high temperature in January is 27°F. Average monthly precipitation peaks in June at 4.89 inches, and dips to 1.24 inches in January.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service has developed a County Soil Survey for each Wisconsin county. These surveys include soil association maps that delineate landscapes that have a distinctive proportional pattern of soils. The soil types in one association may occur in another, but in a different pattern. The Dane County soil survey shows that the following soil associations are found within the Town of Middleton.

Dodge-St. Charles-McHenry

The Dodge-St. Charles-McHenry association is the predominant soil type in the northwestern quarter and a portion of the southeastern corner of the Town. This association is characterized by both well-drained and moderately well-drained soils with a silt loam subsoil, and is underlain by sandy loam glacial till. These soils typify a varied landscape that is characterized by drumlins and moraines.

Batavia-Houghton-Dresden

The Batavia-Houghton-Dresden association is found throughout the Town. This association is characterized by both well-drained and poorly drained, deep and moderately deep silt loams and mucks underlain by silt, sand, and gravel. These soils were formed by outwash material near streams or adjacent to glacial moraines.

Plano-Ringwood-Griswold

The third predominant soil association, found in the southern half of the Town, is the Plano-Ringwood-Griswold association. This association is characterized by moderately well-drained and well-drained deep silt loams underlain by sandy loam glacial till.

Appendix 2:

Review of Relevant Plans

Appendix 2: Review of Relevant Plans

A. Town of Middleton

The previous CORP was adopted in October 2013 by the Town of Middleton Board of Supervisors, and served as an update of the 2008 CORP. The 2013 CORP outlined recreational goals and objectives over the next five years, including specific improvements to be made to achieve those goals and objectives. The Plan also included a description of the planning method and planning area, an inventory of existing resources and facilities, a needs assessment, an action plan, and finally an implementation and funding plan. A five (5) year Capital Improvement and Maintenance Program for parks and recreation areas is also included in the 2013 CORP.

B. Dane County

Dane County adopted a Parks and Open Space Plan (POSP) in 2018. The Plan's goals and objectives are intended to last until 2023 and allow the County to apply for stewardship grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The planning process included five public meetings, establishment of a Facebook page and an interactive web page, and a public electronic survey to gather resident feedback on planning goals. The primary focus of the plan is on resource and recreation needs: identifying significant cultural, historical, and natural resources for protection, preservation, and/or restoration; and identifying local recreation needs and providing and accessible, equitable, and inclusive recreation amenities. Recommendations of the Plan include developing wetland mitigation measures, addressing population needs, and planning and adapting to changing environmental conditions.

The results of the public survey (partially or completely filled out and submitted by 1,178 respondents) indicate high satisfaction overall with the value and diversity of lands and recreation opportunities provided by Dane County Parks. As for improvements, respondents were most interested in seeing more of the following:

- Land acquisition and natural resource management
- Hiking trails, bicycle/pedestrian trails, mountain bike trails, disc golf, and dog parks
- Connectivity of land, trails, and facilities
- Winter disc golf and winter access for hiking/trail running
- Places to hike with dogs off-leash
- Restrooms and shelters
- Facility for elderly or those using wheelchairs
- Activities to attract youth and connect them to nature
- Walk-in or rustic campsites
- Better park maps, trail mileage, information, etc. at parks

Specific recommendations in or near the Town of Middleton include:

1. Potential new dog park location in the southwest portion of the Town of Middleton or southeast of the Town of Cross Plains.
2. Black Earth Creek Natural Resource Area

According to the POSP, "Some of the lands along the creek are owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as public fishing and wildlife habitat areas. Future land acquisitions would seek to fill in the gaps between existing publicly owned lands and protect the scenic quality of the stream corridor." The POSP acknowledges the completion of a master plan for the Sunnyside Seed Farm property in the Town of Middleton and has the following recommendations:

Appendix 2: Review of Relevant Plans

- “Acquire “Old Mud Lake” north of USH 14 and additional headwater lands immediately south of USH 14 with the help of multiple partners for future wetland restoration projects.”
 - “Expand Sunnyside Seed Farms property west and south along the creek, and north to expand future park, access and recreation potential.”
 - “Continue working with the Groundswell Conservancy on its identified priority areas within the project boundary, including acquisition of conservation easements from ridge top to ridge top between Cross Plains and Mazomanie.”
 - “Investigate allowing hunting on county lands adjacent to WDNR public hunting grounds where compatible with other park uses.”
 - “Begin implementation of the Sunnyside master plan.”
 - “Continue discussions with the Town of Middleton, American Transmission Company (ATC), and WDOT on future road and transmission line improvements that impact the Black Earth Creek Sunnyside Unit Wildlife Area property.”
 - Continue to foster planning of the future Black Earth Creek Trail.
3. 5-Year Shared Trail Use Initiatives
- Black Earth Creek Trail - Middleton to Mazomanie - 13.4 miles
 - Work with Gateway to the Driftless and ad hoc planning groups to review the existing plan and identify update opportunities.
 - Update trail vision and standards based on input from stakeholders and local units of government.
 - Consider rename of entire trail to Black Earth Creek Trail to foster seamless identity and renewed planning environment.
 - Prepare a phased implementation plan that includes land acquisition recommendations.

C. 2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) completed the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in December 2018. States are required to update their SCORPs every five years to remain eligible for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program. The SCORP provides recommendations to guide public outdoor recreation policy and planning decisions, guides the use of LWCF fund money that comes to the state, and provides guidance for other DNR administered grant programs. Development of the SCORP was informed by a statewide survey of Wisconsin residents regarding participation in outdoor recreation activities and opinions about future needs. The focus of SCORP recommendations is on activities that are related to natural resources and where experiences are enhanced with higher quality natural habitats. Top priority needs include providing more nature-based recreation opportunities near urban centers, particularly trails and water and shore access for fishing, boating, and swimming.

Five Overarching Goals for Outdoor Recreation:

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

Appendix 2: Review of Relevant Plans

SCORP Survey Results:

Ninety-five percent (95%) of state residents engaged in at least one of the measured outdoor recreation activities in the past year. The top ten activities with the highest participation rates were:

1. Walking/running on sidewalks/roads (81%)
2. Picnicking/tailgating/cookout (74%)
3. Driving for pleasure (73%)
4. Attending outdoor festival or music event (69%)
5. Hiking/walking/running on trails (68%)
6. Visit a beach/beach walking (65%)
7. Attending outdoor sporting event (64%)
8. Visiting a historic site (57%)
9. Bird/wildlife watching at home (55%)
10. Swimming in lakes/ponds/rivers (54%)

Within the southern gateway region (in which the Town of Middleton is located), the top five activities with the highest participation rates were:

1. Walking/running on sidewalks/roads (84%)
2. Attending outdoor festival or music event (71%)
3. Driving for pleasure (70%)
4. Attending outdoor sporting event (62%)
5. Visiting a nature center (52%)

Note: Survey methodology changed between the 2014 and 2019 CORP updates; thus a comparison with previous results is not meaningful.

The survey also asked about opinions on issues impacting the future of outdoor recreation. The top concerns (selected from a list of options) were:

1. Assuring clean air and water in Wisconsin (53%)
2. Having adequate funding to manage the state's land and water and fish and wildlife resources (44%)
3. Introduction of invasive land and water species (42%)
4. Society's disconnect with nature (40%)
5. Maintaining abundant populations of fish and wildlife (39%)

D. Town of Middleton Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Middleton adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan in December 2019 that outlines the long-range perspective of the Town for planning decisions over a twenty-year period. The plan acknowledges the importance of protecting the Town's natural resources and environmentally sensitive lands through preservation of natural areas, as well as the provision of lands through the use of lot and development design that protect environmentally sensitive areas. In conjunction with this, the Town has subdivision ordinances that call for and require preservation and provision of open space.

Appendix 2: Review of Relevant Plans

Additionally, the transportation section of the Comprehensive Plan calls for the improvement of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and an increase in the awareness of other transportation options. The Future Land Use map included in the Comprehensive Plan was drafted in conjunction with the 2019 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in its designations of future land use in that natural and recreational areas owned and operated by the Town of Middleton or Dane County within the Town are shown on this map.

Appendix 3:

Existing Resources and Facilities

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

A. Parks and Open Spaces

Mini Parks

Vickiann Park (1.4 acres)

Located at Vickiann Street and Ox Trail Way. This small park area has a free play field and is surrounded by residences. Development of this park began in 1990, when it was graded by the National Guard; seeding, clean-up and some landscaping were completed by neighborhood residents.

Playground Equipment: Two play sets and swings.

Other Amenities: One picnic table, 3 benches, and free play field. No dogs allowed.



Entrance Sign to Vickiann Park



Playground at Vickiann Park

Enchanted Valley Park (2.6 acres)

Located on Westman Way in the Enchanted Valley subdivision. The park contains a play structure, swings, a volleyball court, a basketball court, a baseball diamond with backstop, benches, soccer goals, a picnic shelter with electrical service, some landscaping and a two-stall handicapped accessible parking area. Neighborhood residents did all of the initial development work using materials provided by the Town.

Playground Equipment: Merry-go 'round, play set, four regular swings and one baby swing.

Other Amenities: baseball field, basketball court, volleyball court, three picnic tables, two benches, 16'x12' shelter, bike rack, and free play field.



Entrance Sign to Enchanted Valley Park



Playground at Enchanted Valley Park

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Murphy Park (2.1 acres)

Located on Springton Drive and adjacent to Highway 12 in the northeastern part of the Town. The park was developed in 2007.

Playground Equipment: Play set and swings.

Other Amenities: One picnic table, benches, and free play field. No dogs allowed.



Murphy Park

Summit Ridge Park (0.9 acre)

Located on Summit Ridge Road in the Summit Pass subdivision. Development of this park began in 2007. The play area was upgraded in 2012 with rubber mulch and a concrete border, and path connections to the park from the surrounding neighborhood were added. The park includes a picnic table.

Playground Equipment: Play set and swings.

Other Amenities: One picnic table and free play field.



Entrance Sign at Summit Ridge Park



Playground at Summit Ridge Park



Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Mini Parks

Vosen Memorial Park (0.8 acre)

Vosen Memorial Park was acquired and built as part of the development of the Daybreak Valley subdivision.

Playground Equipment: Play set

Other Amenities: Two benches, bike rack, and trash can.

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Neighborhood Parks

Hickory Woods Park (12.5 Acres)

Located on Stonewood Drive in the Hickory Woods subdivision. This park was originally 3.7 acres in size. In 1992, 8.8 acres were added with the platting of the Third Addition to Hickory Woods. Park development began in 1989. Neighborhood residents did the initial development work using materials provided by the Town. The park was graded and seeded, landscaped, and trees planted in the early 1990's. Off-street parking was added in 2003.

Playground Equipment: Two play sets and other play equipment.

Other Amenities: Soccer field, baseball field, basketball court, walking trails, 24' x 12' shelter, three picnic tables, restroom facility, and off-street parking.



Entrance Sign at Hickory Woods Park



Playground at Hickory Woods Park



Hickory Woods Park

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Neighborhood Parks

Cherrywood Acres Park (5.3 Acres)

Located on the north side of the intersection of Mineral Point Road and Swoboda Road. This park has been improved with leveling, seeding and tree plantings. In 1997, the Town constructed one soccer field and paved some off-street parking. In 2000 and 2002, additional trees were planted. In 2012, the remainder of the parking area was paved, after previously being expanded in 2001.

Playground Equipment: Play set and swings.

Other Amenities: Soccer field, free play field, restroom facility (enclosed porta-potty), and off-street parking including accessible parking.



Entrance Sign at Cherrywood Acres Park



Soccer Field at Cherrywood Acres Park

Voss Park (6.3 Acres)

Located on the southwest side of the intersection of Mineral Point and Swoboda Roads. The park is flat and grassy. The park's perimeter has been landscaped with over 100 trees and with some wildflower plantings around the outside of the soccer fields. Off-street parking was added in 2003. This parking adjoins a private 20.6 acre prairie restoration and pond area owned and maintained by the Cherrywood Neighborhood Homeowners Association, Inc. The soccer field was resodded and regraded in 2010 to improve drainage.

Playground Equipment: None

Other Amenities: Soccer fields (2), baseball field, restroom facility (seasonal porta-potty), off-street parking, two benches, free play field, and information kiosk (bulletin board).



Entrance Sign at Voss Park



Voss Park

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Spruce Hollow Park (2.6 Acres)

Located at Bay Laurel Lane and Bell Vine Court, Spruce Hollow Park was developed as part of the Spruce Hollow subdivision.

Playground Equipment: Play set and swings.

Other Amenities: Shelter, four picnic tables, two benches, free play field, bike rack, electricity, and accessible off-street parking.

Ed Tallard Park (20.8 acres)

Located along the north side of Airport Road, approximately 1,000 feet west of Evergreen Road. The park is named for Ed Tallard, a former Town Chairman who ended 31 years of service in 2002. In 1984, Rolf and Marie Quisling donated 20 acres to the Town. In 2001, this land was traded to the City of Middleton for land that was formerly the Quisling Christmas Tree Farm and a small part of the Quisling Sod Farm. The eastern portion of the property was incorporated into sports fields and an off-leash dog park developed by the City of Middleton. Trails have been established through the conifers on the property.



Trail at Ed Tallard Park

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Community Parks

Pioneer Park (32 acres)

Located southwest of Pioneer Road and Old Sauk Road near the Town Hall. This land was purchased in 1989 to provide a new site for the Town Hall and a new large park area for organized sports, recreational land and open space. The site was purchased with a 50% matching grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The parkland portion of the site consists of approximately 27 acres, and the Town Hall portion is approximately 4.5 acres and includes the 1998 addition that houses the West Precinct of the Dane County Sheriff's Department. The parkland is deed-restricted to park and recreational uses.

The park currently includes the following facilities and amenities:

- Regulation baseball field
- Regulation softball field with lights
- Two softball fields without lights
- Two tennis courts
- Basketball court
- Regulation soccer field
- Walking and hiking trails (gravel and paved)
- Play set for small children
- Play set for older children
- Swing sets
- Three picnic shelters (one with electrical service)
- Two ponds and a natural area with walking trail for wildlife viewing
- Ice skating rink
- Concession stand and shelter with restroom facilities and electrical service
- Approximately 110 off-street parking spaces including accessible parking



Shelter at Pioneer Park



Playground at Pioneer Park



Entrance Sign at Pioneer Park



Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Settlers Prairie Park (19.5 acres)

Located at the intersection of Airport and Bergamot Roads. The Prairie Home Estate plat dedicated approximately 8 acres for a park. In the Spring of 1997, the Town purchased an additional approximately 12 acres of land adjacent to the original park area. The additional land was acquired with the assistance of a 50% grant from the WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. In 1997, the Town constructed one regulation soccer field, one practice soccer field, a large shelter (with electrical service) and paved, off-street parking. Between 2000 and 2002 the Town added a baseball/ soccer field, playground, walking trail and off-street parking to the west side of the park. In early 2013 the Town adopted an ecological assessment and management plan for the wooded and prairie areas of the park.

The park now includes:

- Six soccer fields
- One softball field
- One volleyball court
- Two play sets with slides, mini swings
- Two shelters, the larger is 26'x37'
- Two restroom facilities
- Seven picnic tables
- Two tennis courts (2008)
- A cricket field
- Gaga ball



Entrance Sign at Settlers Prairie Park



Shelter at Settlers Prairie Park



Playground at Settlers Prairie Park

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Nature Areas and Conservancies

Pope Farm Conservancy (105.3 acres)

Located between Blackhawk, Old Sauk and Twin Valley Roads. This property was purchased as a natural area for educational interpretation (with over 40 interpretive signs), walking trails and wildlife viewing. The conservancy is permanently restricted as open space.

Dogs are not allowed in the Conservancy.¹ Amenities at the conservancy include:

- Restrooms
- Drinking water
- Rotating demonstration crops
- Walking trails (including some accessible routes)
- Horseback trails and trailer parking
- Off-street parking (including accessible parking)
- Capitol viewing area
- Six stone amphitheaters
- Seven miles of walking trails
- Six prairie/savannah restoration areas
- Three educational gardens
- Four information kiosks
- Cross-country skiing
- Bike parking
- Electricity



Entrance Sign at Pope Farm Conservancy



Interpretive Trail at Pope Farm Conservancy



Students Visiting Pope Farm Conservancy

1: Note that dogs are generally not allowed in conservancies; Goth and Pope Farm were called out since they are the Town's most popular conservancies.

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Applewood Hills (3.5 acres)

Located at the southeast corner of the Applewood Hills subdivision. This Town-owned conservancy abuts the City of Madison's Lois Lowry Park. The conservancy can be accessed from Applewood Drive.

Cherrywood Forest (5.0 acres)

Located in the Cherrywood Forest subdivision on outlot 3. The nature area contains a walking path through a wooded area that can be accessed from Kempfer Lane.

Cherrywood Nature Area (Sabaka Trail) (2.8 acres)

Located in the Cherrywood subdivision behind Lots 1 through 4. The nature area can be accessed from Sabaka Trail.

Cherrywood Nature Area (3.8 acres)

Located at the south end of Swoboda Road in the southwestern portion of the Town. The area can be accessed from Swoboda Road.

Cherrywood Acres (Oak Savanna Conservancy) (1.3 acres)

Located on Swoboda Road between Almor Drive and Magellan Drive, this area serves as a conservancy and is the site of a restoration of oak savanna.

Enchanted Valley Conservancy Area (2.6 acres)

Located within the Enchanted Valley subdivision. This area is connected via Toepfer Road and an easement to Enchanted Valley park.

Goth Conservancy (19.6 acres)

Located on West Old Sauk Road, adjacent to the Pheasant Point and Sauk Point Estates subdivisions. This conservancy was gifted to the Town by Royce Goth. Document #2148244, as recorded with Dane County, specified restricted uses for the site. The Town has undertaken some development of the conservancy including clearing of underbrush and undesirable trees, preparation of a wild flower and native grass restoration area, installation of a grape arbor, installation of a 1-mile trail system for hikers, and the installation of a parking lot. The parking lot is located on Old Sauk Road. Dogs are not allowed in the Conservancy.¹

Hickory Woods Conservancy Area (19.7 acres)

Located on four parcels set aside within the Hickory Woods Subdivision. The conservancy can be accessed from Stone Wood Drive between Meadow Valley Road and Fountain Drive.

Moraine Highland Conservancy (4.1 acres)

Located on the northwest corner of Mound View and Moraine Ridge Roads. This conservancy serves as a viewing area, parking lot, and public entrance to the 80-acre Valley View section of the Ice Age Trail. Leashed dogs are allowed on trails.

Noll Valley Oak Savanna Conservancy (5 acres)

Located on the eastern border of the Noll Valley subdivision. This natural area was chosen for its vistas and oak savannas and it has been designated for prairie/oak savanna restoration. Uses are restricted on the site. In 1989, an agreement between the developer and the Town regarding the management and use of this natural area was recorded with Dane County as Document #2123836. Access to the area is on Noll Valley Road.

1: Note that dogs are generally not allowed in conservancies; Goth and Pope Farm were called out since they are the Town's most popular conservancies.

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Pheasant Point Woods (3.2 acres)

Located on Almor Drive just south of Summerfield Drive. This site contains many mature oak, hickory and black walnut trees. Trails were constructed in the woods in 2002 and along the recreational trail easements that connect the woods to Shoveler's Sink and to the trail system to the east.

Valley Woods (.5 acre)

Located at Valley Woods Circle.

White Oak Woodland (1.3 acres)

Located on the northern border of the Noll Valley subdivision. This property has been designated for woodland/oak savanna restoration and uses there are restricted. The Ice Age Trail traverses the east and north boundaries of Noll Valley subdivision and passes through both Oak Savanna Park and White Oak Woodland. In 1989, an agreement with the developer and the Town regarding the management and use of this natural area was recorded with Dane County as Document # 2123836. The area can be accessed from Ice Age Lane via the Ice Age Trail.

Other Areas Dedicated to the Town (23.7 acres)

This category also includes approximately 23.7 acres of land that has been dedicated to the Town, but not designated for any specific recreational uses. See Appendix 5 for a map of other areas dedicated to the Town.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail and Path Network

The map in Appendix 6 shows bicycle and pedestrian trails and routes in the Town of Middleton, divided into the following categories:

- Existing Town Routes With Easements
- Planned Route With Easements
- Planned Route Without Easements
- No Planned Routes Easements Acquired
- Routes Planned by Others
- Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (Within Town)
- Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (City of Middleton)
- Status Uncertain

As evident by the above categories, the map depicts current usable bicycle and pedestrian trails and paths, both on-road and off-road, as well as routes that are planned by the Town and others, and routes owned and maintained by others. The Town works to acquire easements for trails that match its planned trails map, and the Town also works to construct trails in areas where easements have already been acquired. Off-road trails owned and maintained by the Town, and those planned, are of various surface types including grass, natural surface, or crushed stone. In-lieu of placing planned trails across many of the larger tracts of land in the Town, the map depicts "Route Connection Endpoints" as well as descriptions about how trails are to attempt to establish connections in those areas.

Currently, 13.31 miles of primary trails are owned and maintained by the Town and open to the public. The Town plans to expand the primary trail network to 23.64 miles by 2040. The Town's standard for trails is 2.84 miles of primary trails per 1,000 residents by the year 2040. All planned trails will be constructed by 2040. The Town also maintains several miles of secondary trails which primarily serve to connect neighborhoods to the primary trail system. See Appendix 6 for a map of all Town trails.



Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Beyond the established route system, Town roads are heavily used by bicyclists for recreational and commuting purposes.



Areas in the Town Where Dogs Are Permitted

Dogs are permitted, on-leash, in Ed Tallard Park, on the trails in Cherrywood conservancy and Moraine Highland Conservancy, and on the public recreational trails in Stonebrook Estates and Prairie Homes Estates. An off-leash dog park exists in the City of Middleton adjacent to Ed Tallard Park. Dogs may be permitted in other Town Parks and on

Town Trails as the Town determines from time to time. Dogs are not permitted in most conservancies. Interested users are encouraged to check with Town staff for up to date information on where dogs are permitted. Dogs on-leash may also be permitted on other non-Town owned recreational lands.

Accessibility for Persons With Disabilities

In order to conform with The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in regard to programs, services, and facilities a government entity must follow numerous requirements. The Act, as structured, first defines broad mandates followed by prescriptive technical or physical descriptions on recognized methods that best achieve the mandates. Title II of the ADA, **relating to requirements of government entities, states that “no qualified disabled individual may be denied the benefits of services, programs, or activities by state or local governments or their agencies, nor be excluded from participation in those benefits.”** This mandate is supported by technical requirements in Title III through the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

Simply put, this definition dictates that a government entity must have some type of established program in place to accommodate individuals with disabilities for nearly everything the entity provides. It further dictates that an accommodation must be “reasonable”. This includes such issues as readily achievable both physically and financially.

For a government entity this accommodation can be made through a program or a physical means. For example, if an existing concession stand counter is not at an accessible height the government entity may opt to provide food to a wheel-chair bound patron by directly handing it to them via a side door rather than physically lowering the counter. This flexibility is only afforded to government entities. Private businesses currently must make physical modifications retroactively.

This “flexibility” to accommodation for government entities provides more accessibility options but also produces a “gray” area as to what constitutes a “reasonable” accommodation. There are no rules that state unequivocally that one approach be used over another. The U.S. Justice Department ultimately decides the extent to which an accommodation is “reasonable”. Where published technical guidelines are available they are strongly recommended to be followed to minimize conflicting interpretations. Otherwise in the concession example stated above, if this accommodation was contested in court, it may be acceptable on a temporary



Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

basis but not on a permanent basis. In addition without a specific policy, regulations relating to government agencies and those required for service organizations may also produce a similar “gray” area.

This plan recommends the utilization of adopted accessibility guidelines for the Town of Middleton to minimize interpretation conflicts and in the absence of adopted guidelines the use of draft guidelines and/or accommodation programs. Furthermore it is recommended that policies be developed between the Town of Middleton, Dane County, and the various service or other organizations that utilize Town Parks and recreational facilities that clearly define the public accommodation responsibilities for the spaces each occupies.

County-Owned Facilities in Town

Old Lake Middleton

Dane County acquired land in 1993 that was originally part of the wetland area known as “Old Lake Middleton”. The property consists of approximately 102 acres and is located north of Highway 14 and west of the Middleton Industrial park. The property was formerly part of the James Hinrichs farm and had been used as cropland for many years. The area was drained by means of extensive tiles and pumps in order to allow cultivation of crops. The Dane County Outdoor Recreation Plan (which has not been endorsed by the Town) recommends that the County acquire additional land north of Highway 14 and additional headwater lands immediately south of Highway 14 for future wetland restoration projects.

In 2020, Dane County purchased 79 acres from the Hellenbrand family immediately west of the Heinrichs property on the north side of Highway 14. The County plans to restore part of ‘Old Mud Lake’, a 140 acre wetland near the headwaters of Black Earth Creek. This would reduce flooding in the area by preventing about 5.9 million gallons of water from flowing downstream annually.

Black Earth Creek Sunnyside Unit Wildlife Area

Formerly owned by the children of Randall Swanson, this property, located north & south of Hwy 14 in Section 7, was purchased by Dane County in 2004 and 2005 as part of the Dane County Conservation Fund Program. Mr. Swanson had farmed the property since the 1940’s. He also worked as a teacher and county agent, and served on the University of Wisconsin faculty as the first farm safety specialist in the country. Mr. Swanson used the property as a place to invent and adapt new and better ways of farming. Dane County worked in cooperation with the Town of Middleton, the National Heritage Land Trust and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.

In 2005, the Town provided \$1.25 million for land acquisition and development of the park. This wildlife area has 292 acres of varied terrain and is open to the public as a conservancy area. A “Black Earth Creek Wildlife Area—Sunnyside Unit Master Plan” for the area was completed by the County in 2011 with close guidance from the Town and Town residents, and the plan is now being implemented.

Dane County is looking to partner with adjacent landowners who may wish to dedicate land as an extension to the park.

City of Middleton Facilities

The City of Middleton operates a broad-based recreation program that is available to all residents of the Middleton-Cross Plains School District.

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

The City of Middleton also owns and operates Pleasant View Golf Course, a 27-hole course located north of Blackhawk Road and west of Pleasant View Road. The course is open to the public on either a membership or daily fee basis. A new 9-hole addition opened in 2002.

Located at Pleasant View Golf Course, the Middleton Bike Park was opened in 2010 following a partnership of the City of Middleton and Capital Off-Road Pathfinders to get it constructed. The park is designed for recreational mountain biking, and consists of a pump track, jump line, and short single-track loop.

The City of Middleton initiated operation of the Walter Baumann Aquatics Center in 1998. The Center is located at 2400 Park Lawn Place in the City of Middleton. The Town of Middleton contributed \$250,000 toward the cost of construction through ten annual payments of \$25,000 each. The City has also developed several soccer and baseball/softball fields at Quisling Park on Airport Road.

The City of Middleton has two off-leash dog exercise areas - one located on the west side of County Highway Q, just south of County Highway K. The other off-leash dog park was recently established by the City of Middleton next to Tallard Park.

Middleton-Cross Plains School District Owned Facilities in Town of Middleton

West Middleton Elementary School

Located on the south side of Mineral Point road, adjacent to Tumbledown Golf Course. The school site consists of 18 acres.

Sunset Ridge Elementary School

Located on the north side of Airport Road, adjacent to the Enchanted Valley subdivision. The school site consists of 23 acres.

Both schools have:

- Play apparatus
- Soccer fields
- Basketball courts
- A gymnasium
- Softball field(s)

Privately Owned Facilities in Town of Middleton

Blackhawk Ski Area

Located on Blackhawk Road. The Blackhawk Ski Area is a large, privately owned facility consisting of approximately 60 acres. The facility is used for ski jumping, downhill skiing, athletic training, hiking and cross-country bicycle racing. Memberships are available to the general public.

Tumbledown Golf Course (also known as 'Pioneer Pointe')

Located on West Mineral Point Road, Tumbledown Golf Course is a privately-owned, public golf facility. The daily fee course includes a clubhouse and practice facility. A redevelopment plan of the Tumbledown Golf Course was conditionally approved in 2019. The proposed plan is named Pioneer Pointe and includes primarily residential properties around a 13 hole public golf course. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2020.



Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Privately Owned and Association Conservancy Land With Residential Easements/Trails

Cardinal Point Estates

Over 20 acres of deed restricted private conservancy area (outlots) are included in this subdivision. In 2002, the Town developed over 1 mile of trails along the recreational easements in the outlots. The conservancy area can be accessed from Swoboda Road.

Cherrywood Acres

The Town owns a 15-foot wide recreational trail easement around the entire perimeter of this plat. In 2002, a pedestrian trail was developed on portions of the west side of the plat. The trail can be accessed in Cherrywood Acres Park off of Swoboda Road.

Cherrywood Neighborhood Homeowners Association, Inc.

This 20-acre recreation area consists of a prairie restoration and a pond. The Town has access via two recreational easements and abutting roads. The recreation area can be accessed from Voss Park, or off of Swoboda Road and Sequoia Trail.

Glacier's End

The Ice Age Trail has received an easement over several outlots in this plat. The Ice Age Trail has developed and maintains a trail from Mid-Town Road to Saracen Way.

Grandview Estates

A 30-foot wide public recreational easement is located on the east side of the 14 acres of deed restricted private conservancy area. The easement can be accessed from Serene Court.

Noll Valley

The Town owns a 4-foot wide easement along the west side of the central conservancy area in this plat. The easement can be accessed from Noll Valley Road.

Northern Lights Estates

The Town gave this plat final approval in 2003. The plat provides the Town with a recreational easement in the steep wooded portion of the property. This easement links to the easement in the southern portion of the 1st Addition of Prairie Homes Estates and is planned to be part of a trail that links to Dane County's Old Lake Middleton Park.

Pheasant Point 1st Addition

A 15-foot easement runs the entire length of the southern and eastern boundaries of the subdivision. In 2002, most of the easement was developed into a usable pedestrian trail. The easement can be accessed from Caribou Road, through the Pheasant Point Conservancy on Almor Drive, and from Timber Lane.

Prairie Home Estates

A 48.3-acre deed restricted private conservancy area is included with this subdivision. Approximately 34 acres has been restored to native prairie with the remainder of the conservancy in woodland, which could possibly be restored to an oak savanna. In 2002, the Town developed pedestrian trails along its easements. The conservancy and trails are primarily accessed from Bergamot Way and Ellington Way.

Prairie Home Estates - 1st Addition

A 28-acre deed restricted private conservancy area is included in this subdivision. The Town received an easement for approximately one mile of recreation/nature trails. The trails can be accessed from Summit Ridge Road, Meadow Valley Road, and Ellington Way.

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Sauk Point Estates

8.8 acres of deed restricted private conservancy area are included in this subdivision. The Town received easements for extensive lengths of recreational trails through the conservancy area. In 2001, the Town built a 0.6 mile long graveled trail. The trails can be accessed from Summerfield Drive, Swoboda Road, Almor Drive, and Welcome Drive.

Sauk Prairie Estates

8 acres of deed restricted private conservancy areas are included in this subdivision. In 2001, the Town received an easement and built a 0.4 mile long recreational trail through the conservancy area. The trail can be accessed from Heather Knoll Lane.

Stonebrook Estates

61.2 acres of deed restricted private conservancy areas are included in this subdivision. In 2008 the Town developed a 0.6 mile long trail along the recreational easement. The trail can be accessed from Timber Lane or Bergamot Way via a trail in Prairie Home Estates.

Whispering Winds

14.8 acres of deed restricted private conservancy areas are included in this subdivision. In 2001, the Town received an easement and paid for the grading of recreational trails through the conservancy areas connecting to the west edge of Hickory Woods Park. In 2002, the Town marked and mowed a trail over this easement. The easements can be accessed from Highfield Road and Meadow Valley Road.

Existing Recreational Programs and Opportunities

Baseball and Softball

The youth baseball program (which includes baseball, T-Ball, and softball) has continued as a major youth activity since its inception in 1968. The program, centered at Pioneer Park, includes players and coaches residing in and near the Town. Some Town residents participate in the City of Middleton baseball program. These programs are open to all residents of the Middleton-Cross Plains School district, including Town of Middleton residents. City of Madison teams are not open to Town of Middleton residents.

Pioneer Park includes one regulation baseball field, a regulation softball field with lights, and two softball fields without lights. The Town provides the physical facilities (fencing, lights, bleachers, etc.). In addition, the Town has contributed \$4,000 per year toward the operating expenses along with field maintenance, electricity, restroom supplies and fertilizer. Settlers Prairie Park also has a softball diamond with a grass infield.

The West Middleton Youth Baseball and Softball, Inc., a non-profit group, funds uniforms, tournament fees and umpires. The Association generates revenue through participation fees, facility use charges, and profits from concession sales.

Soccer

There are several soccer teams whose membership comes primarily from the Town of Middleton. Soccer participation is high among Town youth. The following is a listing of the locations and number of soccer fields provided by the Town:

- Settlers Prairie Park (6)
- Cherrywood Acres Park (1)
- Hickory Woods Park (1)
- Voss Park (1)

Appendix 3: Existing Resources and Facilities

Four additional soccer fields are available at schools within the Town, with two fields each at West Middleton Elementary and Sunset Ridge Elementary.

Basketball

There is an active youth basketball program, the "Bluebirds", centered at the West Middleton Elementary School gym. The Bluebirds team is coached by volunteers. Children of ages ten to fourteen are selected to participate based on age, skill and order of sign-up. The program runs from November through March of each year.

Hiking/Equestrian Activity/Walking/Cross-Country Skiing

Town residents presently use both public and private lands for hiking, equestrian activities, walking, and cross-country skiing. As the Town's open lands are developed into home sites, consideration will be given to preserving access space for these trail-related activities.

The Ice Age Trail, currently being developed in the State of Wisconsin, transverses terrain that is located in the Town. The Town continues to cooperate with the development of this National Trail. The Noll Valley plat has provided easements to the Ice Age Trail and Moraine Highland includes access and trail property. In addition, the Glacier's End plat also provides access to the Ice Age Trail.

Cross-country skiing sites include Pope Farm Conservancy and Pleasant View Golf Course in the City of Middleton.

Appendix 4 PARK SERVICE AREAS

Town of Middleton, WI

Park Type Legend

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Mini Park

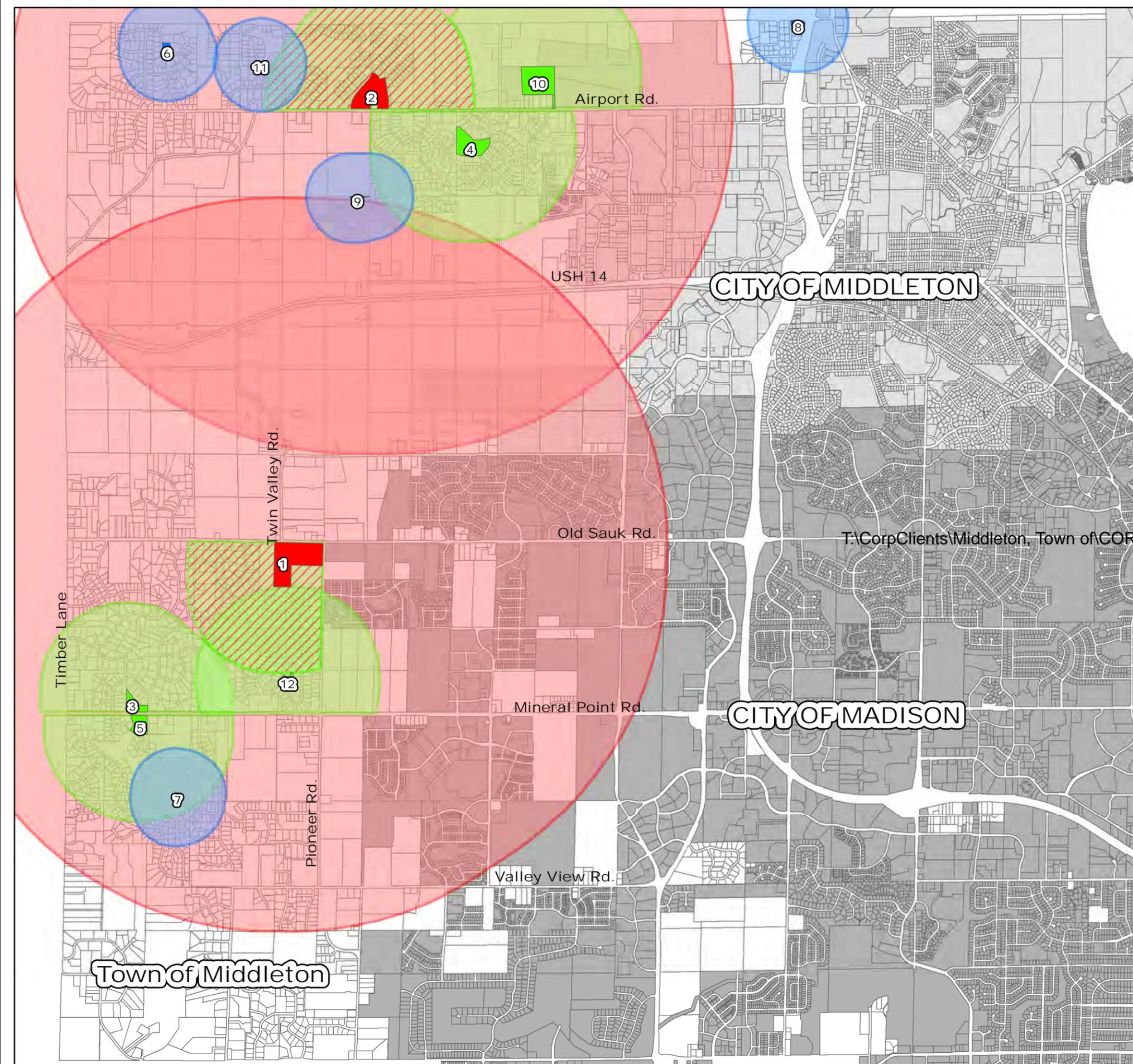
Service Area Legend

- Community Park Service Area (2 mile radius)
- Community Park Neighborhood Service Area (1/2 mile radius)
- Neighborhood Park Service Area (1/2 mile radius)
- Mini Park Service Area (1/4 mile radius)

Parks Index

- ① Pioneer Park
- ② Settler's Prairie Park
- ③ Cherrywood Acres Park
- ④ Hickory Woods Park
- ⑤ Voss Park
- ⑥ Enchanted Valley Park
- ⑦ Vickiann Park
- ⑧ Murphy Park
- ⑨ Summit Ridge Park
- ⑩ Ed Tallard Park
- ⑪ Vosen Memorial Park
- ⑫ Spruce Hollow Park

- City of Middleton Parcels
- City of Madison Parcels
- Town of Middleton Parcels



APPENDIX 5 NATURE AREAS & CONSERVANCIES

Town of Middleton, WI

Legend

 Named Nature Areas / Conservancies

1. Applewood Hills
2. Cherrywood Nature Area
3. Cherrywood Acres Oak Savannah Conservancy
4. Enchanted Valley Conservancy Area
5. Moraine Highland Conservancy
6. Noll Valley Oak Savannah
7. Pheasant Point Woods
8. Goth Conservancy
9. Pope Farm Conservancy
10. Valley Woods
11. White Oak Woodland
12. Hickory Woods Conservancy Area
13. Cherrywood Forest

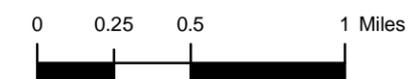
 Other Areas Dedicated to the Town

14. Public Area Between Mathias and Kempfer Streets
15. Glacier's Woods, Outlot 3
16. Glacier's Woods, Outlot 4
17. Pheasant Point I, Outlot 2
18. Pine Manor Estates, Outlot 1

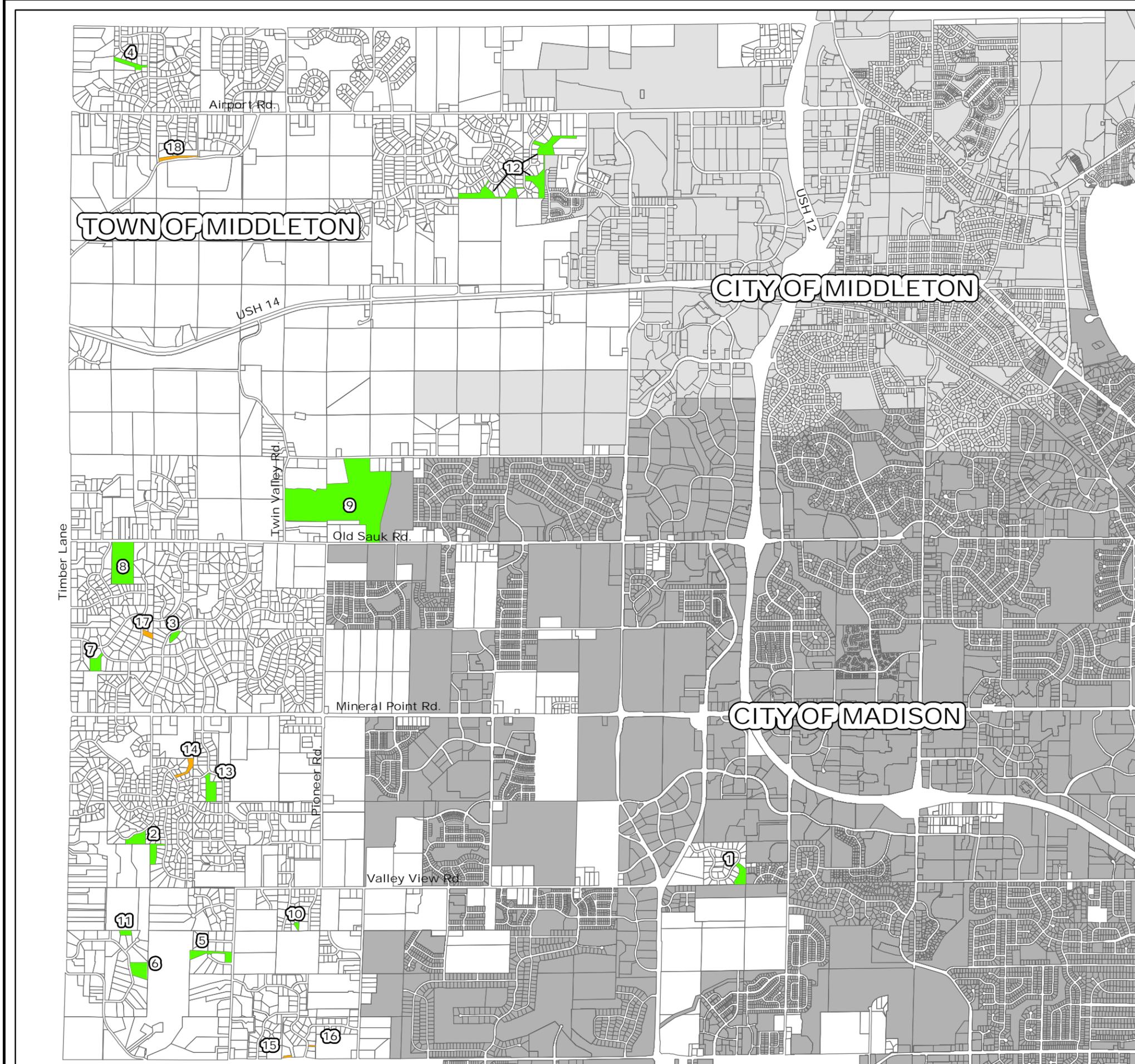
 Town of Middleton Parcels

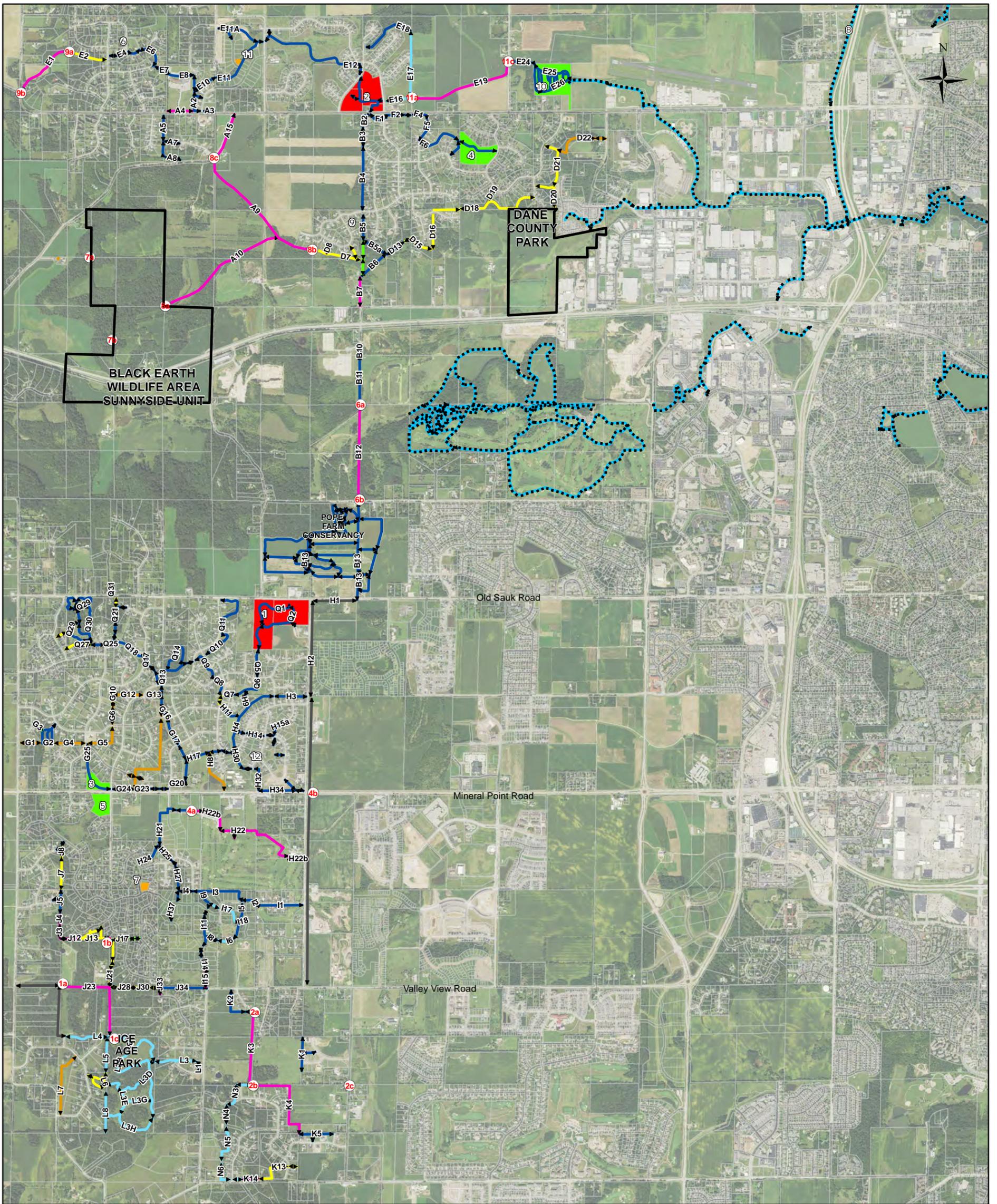
 City of Middleton Parcels

 City of Madison Parcels



04/15/2020





Town of Middleton Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes

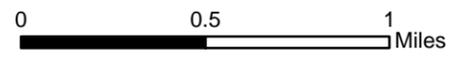
- Ultimate Town Bicycle/Pedestrian Routes**
- ①a Route Connection Endpoints*
 - Status Uncertain
 - Existing Town Routes With Easements
 - Planned Route With Easements
 - Planned Route Without Easements**
 - No Planned Routes Easements Acquired
 - Routes Planned By Others
 - Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (Within Town)
 - Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (City of Middleton)

* Town plans to connect endpoints; specific routes to be determined as properties are developed.
 ** Exact Route to be Determined

Town of Middleton Parks

- Park Type**
- Community Park
 - Neighborhood Park
 - Mini Park

- Parks Index**
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| ① Pioneer Park | ⑦ Vickiann Park |
| ② Settler's Prairie Park | ⑧ Murphy Park |
| ③ Cherrywood Acres Park | ⑨ Summit Ridge Park |
| ④ Hickory Woods Park | ⑩ Ed Tallard Park |
| ⑤ Voss Park | ⑪ Vosen Memorial Park |
| ⑥ Enchanted Valley Park | ⑫ Spruce Hollow Park |



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Appendix 6: Existing and Planned Trails

Planned Trails

1. Acquire easements and construct Primary Recreational Trail Across the Wagner Properties (see Trail Segment E19 on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes Map and on Action Map 1)
2. Construct Primary Recreational Trail in existing easement (see Trail segment E16 on Action Map 1)
3. Acquire easements and construct Primary Recreational Trail From Pope Farm Conservancy to Pioneer Park (see Trail Segment H1 on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes Map and on Action Map 2)
4. Acquire easements and construct Primary Recreational Trail Across From the Welcome Home Subdivision to the intersection of Pioneer Road and Mineral Point Road (see Trail Segments H22 and special planning area 4a to 4b on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes Map and on Action Map 3)
5. Acquire easements and construct Primary Recreational Trail Across From across the Sunset Ridge Elementary School adjacent to Airport Road (see Trail Segment A4 on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes Map and on Action Map 4)
6. Construct Primary Recreational Trail in front of the West Middleton Lutheran Church property to connect the Spruce Hollow subdivision to the Mineral Point Road/Pioneer Road intersection (see Trail Segment H34b on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes Map and on Action Map 3)
7. Acquire easements and construct Primary Recreational Trail across the Coyle property to connect the Cardinal Prairie subdivision to Valley View Road (see Trail Segment I15 on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes Map and on Action Map 5)
8. Construct Primary Recreational Trail within Town trail easements to connect the Ice Age Trail to Saracen Way (see Trail Segments K13 and K14 on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes Map and on Action Map 6)

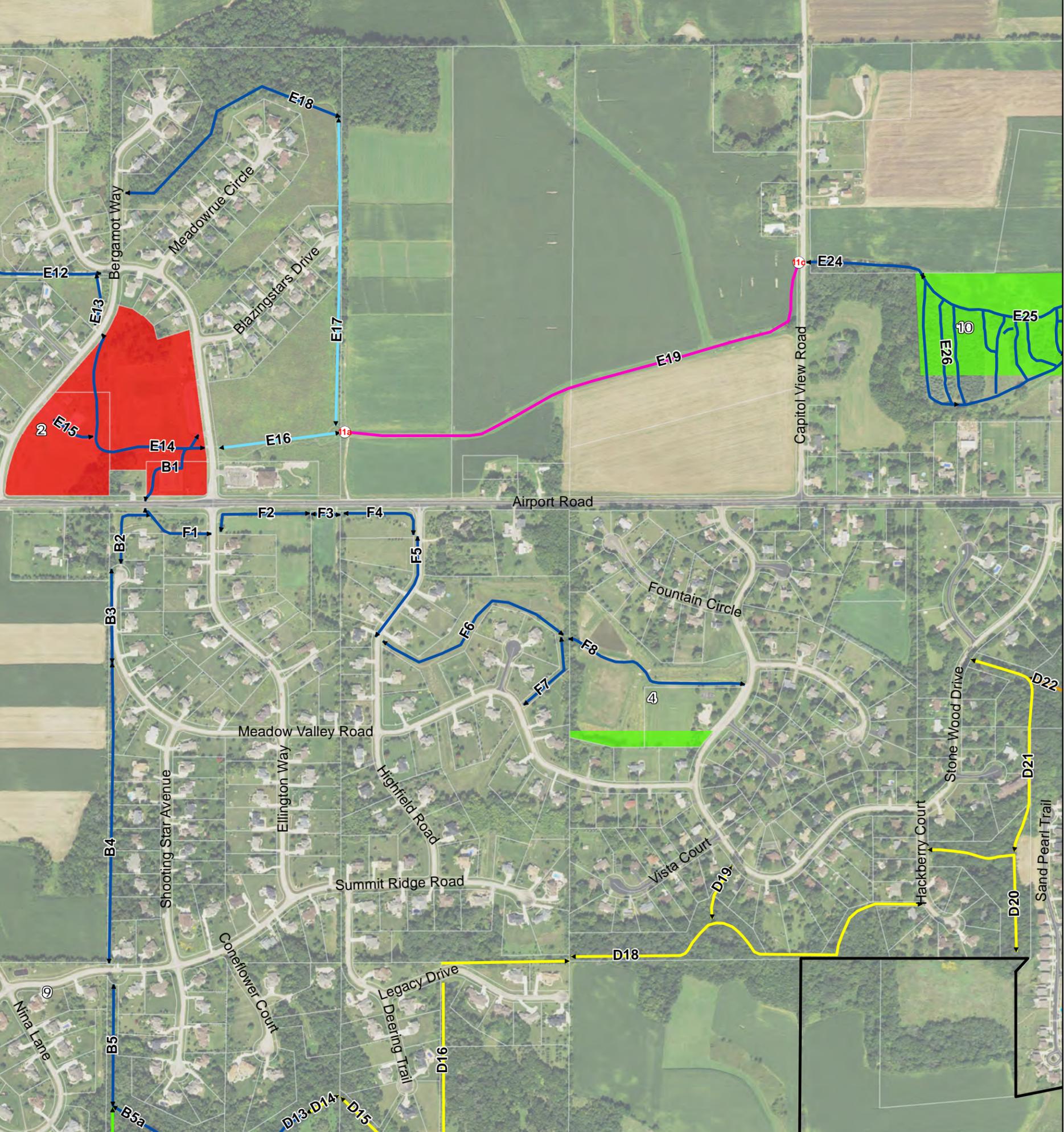
Street Crossings

1. Improve trail approaches to new signalized crossing of Mineral Point Road at Pioneer Road (See Location 1 on Action Map 3)
2. Install Valley View Road Crossings to connect trails in the Tumbledown Neighborhood to the trails in Blue Glacier Valley (See Location 2 on Action Map 5)

Action Items:

Trail Segment E19 - Acquire easements and Construct Primary Recreational Trail

Trail Segment E16 - Construct Primary Recreation Trail



Action Map 1: Wagner - Settlers Prairie Town of Middleton Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes

- Ultimate Town Bicycle/Pedestrian Routes**
- Route Connection Endpoints*
 - Status Uncertain
 - Existing Town Routes With Easements
 - Planned Route With Easements
 - Planned Route Without Easements**
 - No Planned Routes Easements Acquired
 - Routes Planned By Others
 - Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (Within Town)
 - Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (City of Middleton)

* Town plans to connect endpoints; specific routes to be determined as properties are developed.
 ** Exact Route to be Determined

Town of Middleton Parks

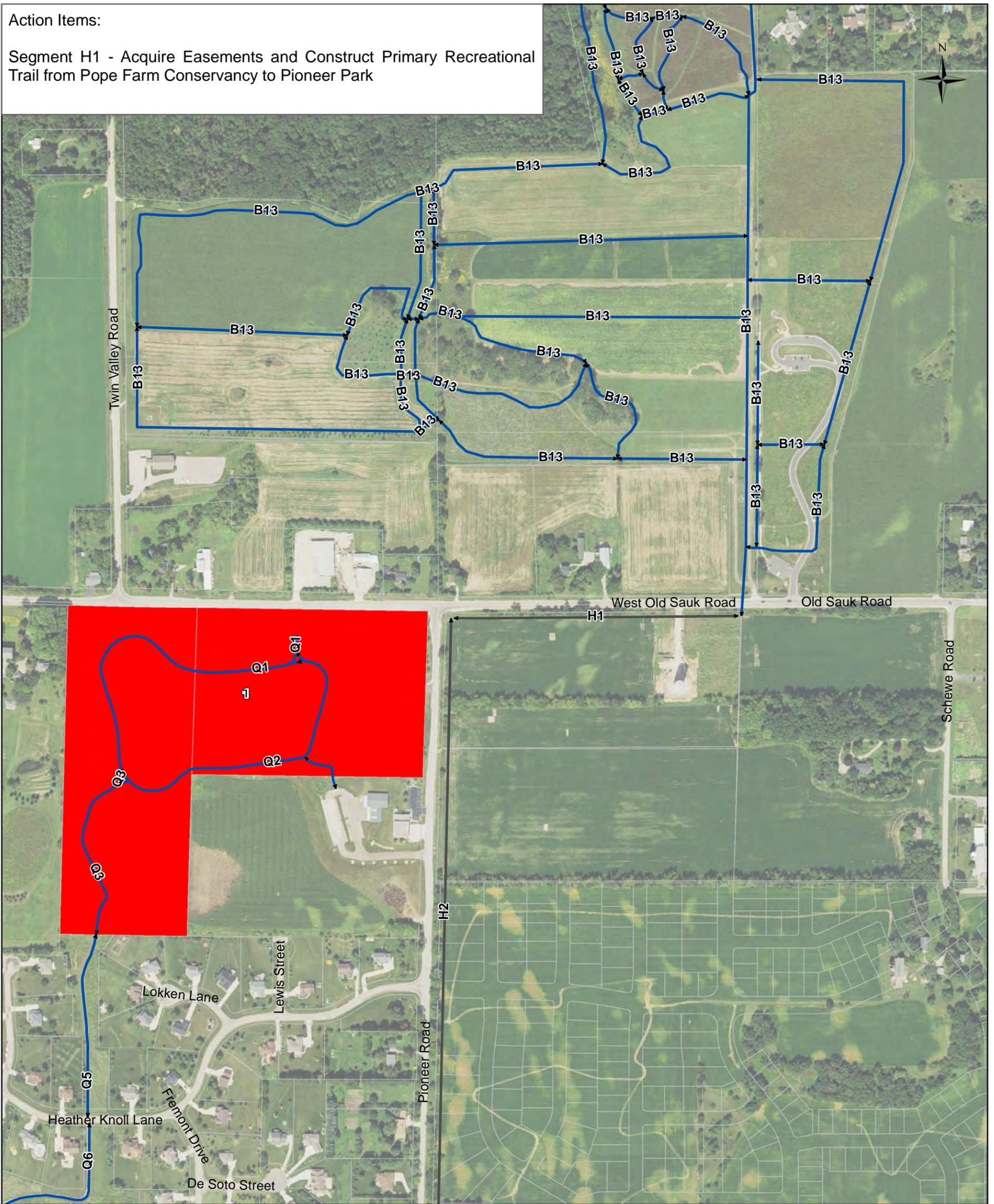
- Park Type**
- Community Park
 - Neighborhood Park
 - Mini Park
- Parks Index**
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| ① Pioneer Park | ⑦ Vickiann Park |
| ② Settler's Prairie Park | ⑧ Murphy Park |
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| ④ Hickory Woods Park | ⑩ Ed Tallard Park |
| ⑤ Voss Park | ⑪ Vosen Memorial Park |
| ⑥ Enchanted Valley Park | ⑫ Spruce Hollow Park |



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Action Items:

Segment H1 - Acquire Easements and Construct Primary Recreational Trail from Pope Farm Conservancy to Pioneer Park



Action Map 2: Pope - Pioneer Town of Middleton Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes

Ultimate Town Bicycle/Pedestrian Routes

- 1a Route Connection Endpoints*
- Status Uncertain
- Existing Town Routes With Easements
- Planned Route With Easements
- Planned Route Without Easements**
- No Planned Routes Easements Acquired
- Routes Planned By Others
- Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (Within Town)
- Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (City of Middleton)

* Town plans to connect endpoints; specific routes to be determined as properties are developed.
 ** Exact Route to be Determined

Town of Middleton Parks

- Park Type
- Community Park
 - Neighborhood Park
 - Mini Park

Parks Index

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| ① Pioneer Park | ⑦ Vickiann Park |
| ② Settler's Prairie Park | ⑧ Murphy Park |
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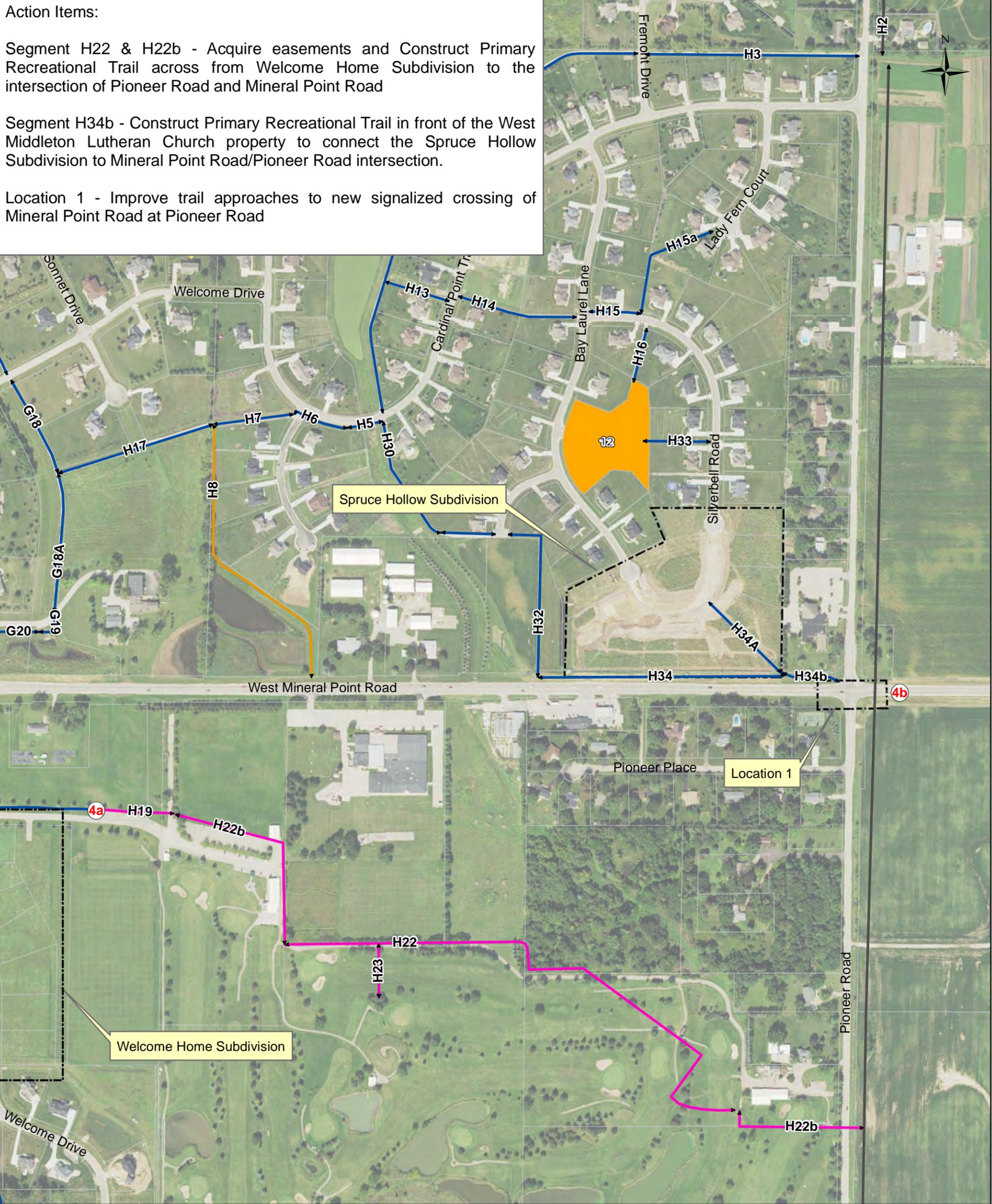


Action Items:

Segment H22 & H22b - Acquire easements and Construct Primary Recreational Trail across from Welcome Home Subdivision to the intersection of Pioneer Road and Mineral Point Road

Segment H34b - Construct Primary Recreational Trail in front of the West Middleton Lutheran Church property to connect the Spruce Hollow Subdivision to Mineral Point Road/Pioneer Road intersection.

Location 1 - Improve trail approaches to new signalized crossing of Mineral Point Road at Pioneer Road



Action Items:
 Segment A4 - Acquire easements and Construct Primary Recreational Trail across the Sunset Ridge Elementary School adjacent to Airport Road



Action Map 4: Sunset Ridge Town of Middleton Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes

- Ultimate Town Bicycle/Pedestrian Routes**
- ①a Route Connection Endpoints*
 - Status Uncertain
 - Existing Town Routes With Easements
 - Planned Route With Easements
 - Planned Route Without Easements**
 - No Planned Routes Easements Acquired
 - Routes Planned By Others
 - Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (Within Town)
 - Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (City of Middleton)

* Town plans to connect endpoints; specific routes to be determined as properties are developed.
 ** Exact Route to be Determined

Town of Middleton Parks

- Park Type**
- Community Park
 - Neighborhood Park
 - Mini Park

- Parks Index**
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| ① Pioneer Park | ⑦ Vickiann Park |
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| ④ Hickory Woods Park | ⑩ Ed Tallard Park |
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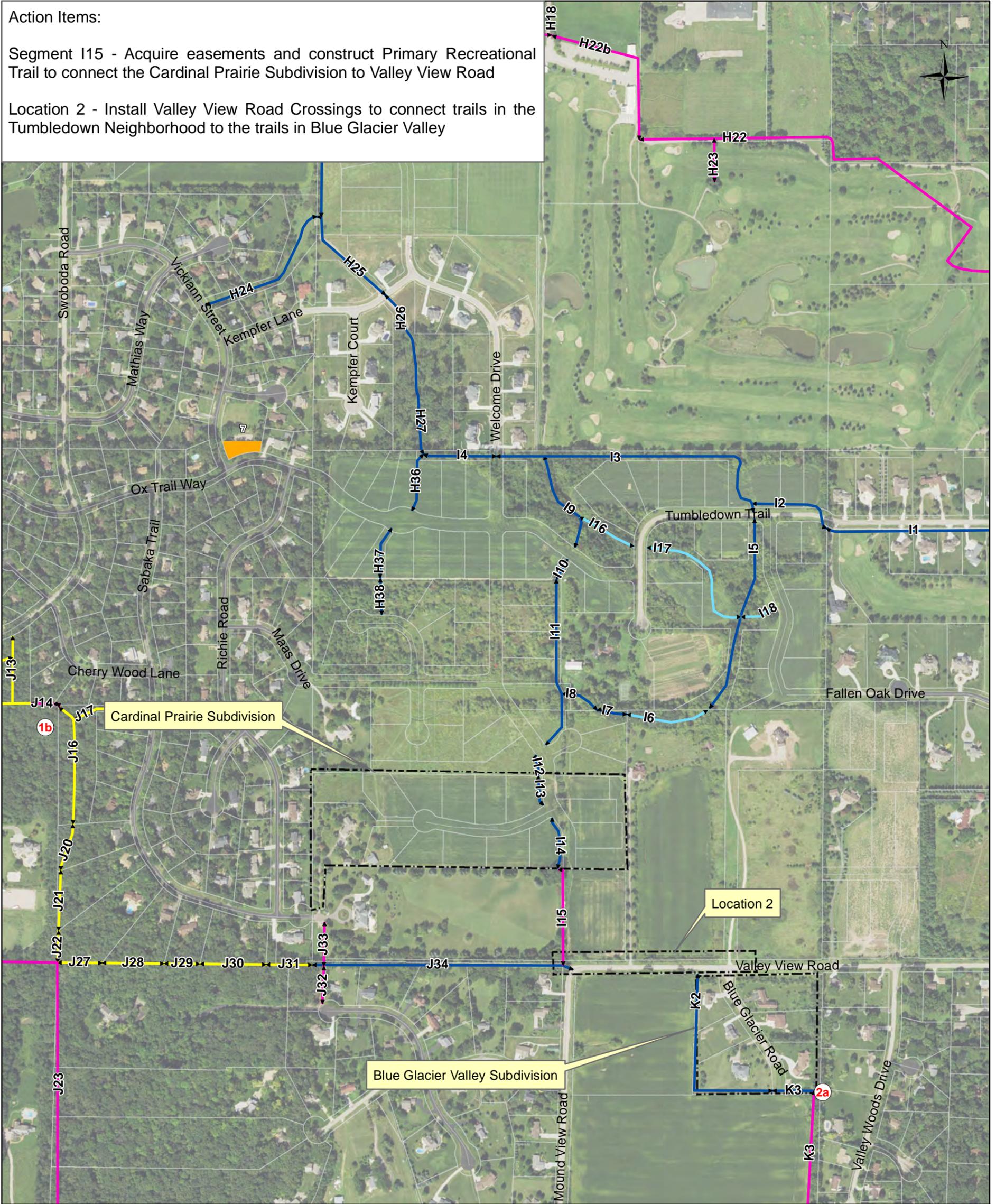


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Action Items:

Segment I15 - Acquire easements and construct Primary Recreational Trail to connect the Cardinal Prairie Subdivision to Valley View Road

Location 2 - Install Valley View Road Crossings to connect trails in the Tumbledown Neighborhood to the trails in Blue Glacier Valley



Action Map 5: Valley View Town of Middleton Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes

Ultimate Town Bicycle/Pedestrian Routes

- 1a Route Connection Endpoints*
- Status Uncertain
- Existing Town Routes With Easements
- Planned Route With Easements
- Planned Route Without Easements**
- No Planned Routes Easements Acquired
- Routes Planned By Others
- Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (Within Town)
- Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (City of Middleton)

* Town plans to connect endpoints; specific routes to be determined as properties are developed.
 ** Exact Route to be Determined

Town of Middleton Parks

Park Type

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Mini Park

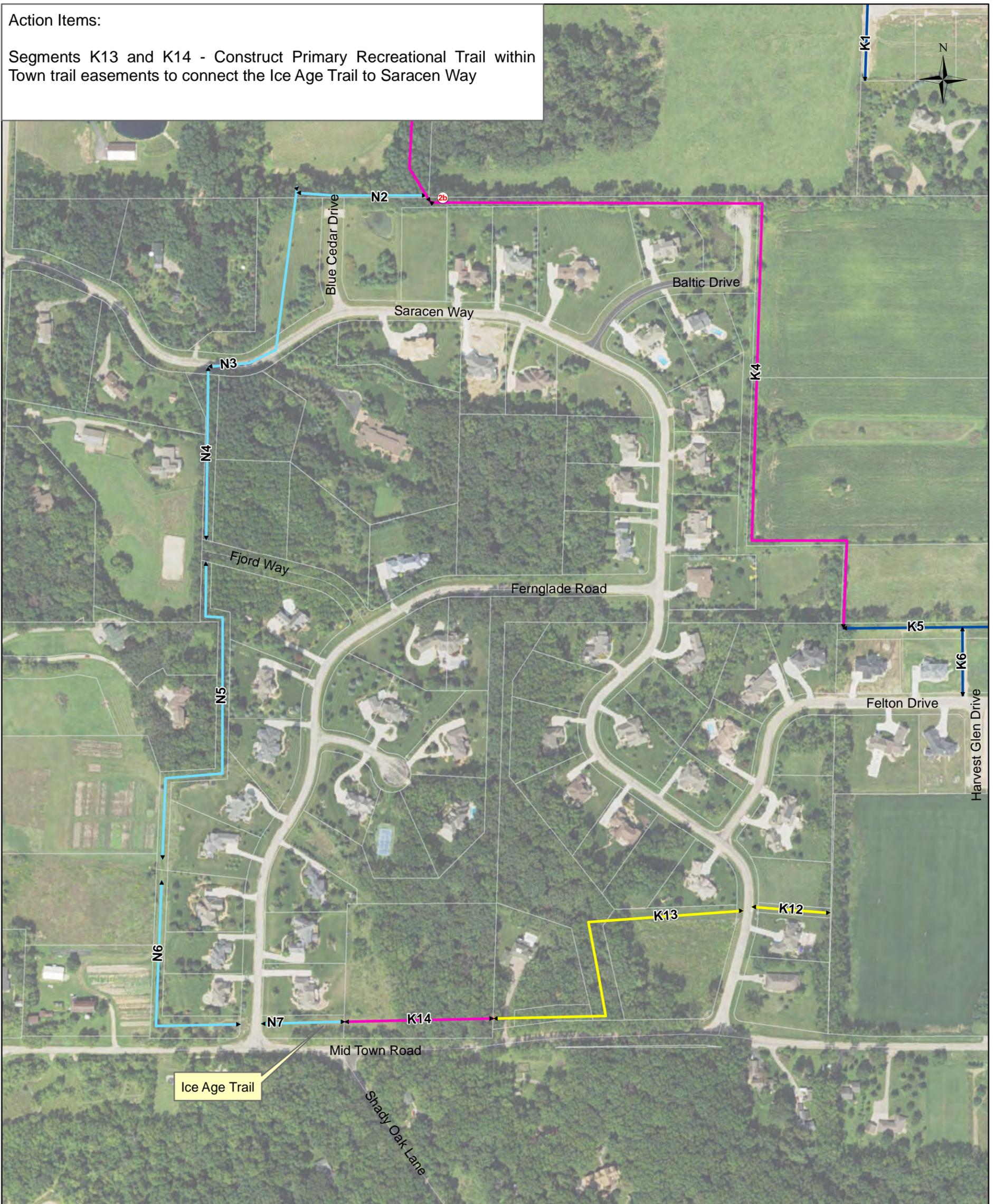
Parks Index

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| ① Pioneer Park | ⑦ Vickiann Park |
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| ③ Cherrywood Acres Park | ⑨ Summit Ridge Park |
| ④ Hickory Woods Park | ⑩ Ed Tallard Park |
| ⑤ Voss Park | ⑪ Vosen Memorial Park |
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Action Items:

Segments K13 and K14 - Construct Primary Recreational Trail within Town trail easements to connect the Ice Age Trail to Saracen Way



Action Map 6: Glaciers End/Glacier Woods Town of Middleton Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes

Ultimate Town Bicycle/Pedestrian Routes

- ⓐ Route Connection Endpoints*
- Status Uncertain
- Existing Town Routes With Easements
- Planned Route With Easements
- Planned Route Without Easements**
- No Planned Routes Easements Acquired
- Routes Planned By Others
- Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (Within Town)
- Improved Routes Owned and Maintained By Others (City of Middleton)

* Town plans to connect endpoints; specific routes to be determined as properties are developed.
 ** Exact Route to be Determined

Town of Middleton Parks

Park Type

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Mini Park

Parks Index

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
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| ② Settler's Prairie Park | ⑧ Murphy Park |
| ③ Cherrywood Acres Park | ⑨ Summit Ridge Park |
| ④ Hickory Woods Park | ⑩ Ed Tallard Park |
| ⑤ Voss Park | ⑪ Vosen Memorial Park |
| ⑥ Enchanted Valley Park | ⑫ Spruce Hollow Park |



Appendix 7:

Five Year Capital Improvements Plan

**Capital Improvement Plan
CORP 2019 - 2023**

Park Facility	Item		Project Type*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Mini-Parks									
Enchanted Valley	Basketball - resurface, paint lines		Maint			\$ 500			
Enchanted Valley	Volleyball - 20 yds of sand		Maint		\$ 200				
Enchanted Valley	Resurface Parking Lot (Two handicap stalls)		Maint			\$ 350			
Enchanted Valley	Replace handicap signs		Maint			\$ 60			
Enchanted Valley	Bench repair					\$ 200			
Murphy Park	Needs 40 yards of mulch		Maint		\$ 1,160				
Murphy Park	Tree planting		Devel	\$ 2,000					
Summit Ridge Park	New Shelter		Devel				\$ 28,000		
Summit Ridge Park			Devel						
Vickiann	Spinner - Playground		Devel	\$ 2,450					
Vickiann	Mulch	11.54 cubic yards/wood	Maint	\$ 1,160		\$ 335			
Vickiann	Three Benches - new boards, 6 hours labor		Maint			\$ 206			
Vosen Memorial Park		replace rubber mulch	Devel						
Neighborhood Parks									
Cherrywood Acres	Concrete border	est. avg. of \$20/square foot	Devel					\$ 4,400	
Cherrywood Acres	Crackfill and reline parking lot		Maint			\$ 512			
Cherrywood Acres	Replace signage		Maint						\$ 1,725
Hickory Woods Park	regrade pea gravel - 2019	replace pea gravel with wood mulch	Maint	\$ -		\$ 7,640			
Hickory Woods Park	Concrete border		Devel			\$ 250			
Hickory Woods Park	Resurface basketball court		Maint	\$ 490					
Hickory Woods Park	Pave Parking lot (when stonewood is redone est. \$3/sq. ft. asphalt) and add berm near port-a-potty (\$1,500 est.)		Maint					\$ 5,400	
Hickory Woods Park	Land management - 5 acres	Use study budgeted in 2020				\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900
Hickory Woods Park	Lease or develop prairie or possibly mountain bike?	land use study under Engineering fees	Devel	\$ 1,500					
Voss	Fix backstop netting	repair - misc.	Maint						
Voss	needs new sign		Maint		\$ 1,725				
Voss	needs trees		Devel		\$ 1,000				
Community Parks									
Pioneer	Repave and reline parking lot (striping = \$550, resurfacing \$0.50/sq. ft. front parking lot is 28,710 sq. ft.)		Maint						\$ 15,000
Pioneer	Basketball & tennis court - crack fill		Maint		\$ 3,575				

**Capital Improvement Plan
CORP 2019 - 2023**

Park Facility	Item		Project Type*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pioneer	add infield mix, waupaca sand, and turface mix to all baseball infields		Maint		\$ 25,000				
Pioneer	Field #2 needs practice pen net	quote for the netting behind the hitter. You can get 14 ft of just baseball netting for \$3	Maint		\$ 110				
Pioneer	Nylon net in front of dugout on Field 1 to prevent damage to new fence	This should be budgeted for when the fence is fixed to prevent balls from smashing into and degrading the new fence	Maint			\$ 500			
Pioneer	Field #1 needs fence work from home to east dugout; Field #2 fence repair	repair fence only on field 1 and field 2.	Maint		\$ 3,500				
Settler's Prairie	Plant trees		Devel		\$ 1,000				
Settler's Prairie	restore fenceline year 2				\$ -	\$ 1,200			
Settler's Prairie	Resurface and reline parking lot		Maint						\$ 1,550
Settler's Prairie	Handicap sign		Maint	\$ 25					
Settler's Prairie	Trails		Devel	\$ 500					
Settler's Prairie	Tennis Court - crack fill		Maint	\$ 2,680	\$ 2,680				
Settler's Prairie	vegetation management (Adaptive Restoration)		Maint	\$ 1,200	\$ 3,950				
Settler's Prairie	establish prairie in .08 acre strip		Devel		\$ 1,500				
Nature Areas/Conservancies									
Cherrywood Forest	Establish open space		Devel	\$ 2,000					
Cherrywood Forest	Trail - pave	2013 estimate was 72,560	Devel			\$ 74,000			
Cherrywood Forest	vegetation management (Adaptive Restoration)		Maint	\$ 2,100	\$ 5,560	\$ 5,560	\$ 5,560	\$ 5,560	\$ 5,560
Pheasant Point Woods	vegetation management (Adaptive Restoration)		Maint	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
Goth conservancy	management plan - Adaptive restoration		Maint	\$ 1,200	\$ 9,450	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Goth conservancy	gravel in parking lot - 2,400sq ft?	\$13/ton - a ton typically covers 100 square feet/11 square yards	Maint					\$ 3,120	
Goth conservancy	Restoration of 4 acres - south grassland		Devel		\$ 4,000				
Pope Farm Conservancy	spillway erosion project	Grant awarded	Devel		\$ 50,000				
Pope Farm Conservancy	erosion in the ravine	grant application - Spillway erosion project in 2020 proposed budget			\$ 15,000				
Pope Farm Conservancy	East Trail	work with MCPASD			\$ -				
Pope Farm Conservancy	Prairie Maintenance (takeover from FOPFC and ongoing)				\$ 22,270	\$ 22,270	\$ 22,270	\$ 22,270	\$ 22,270

**Capital Improvement Plan
CORP 2019 - 2023**

Park Facility	Item		Project Type*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pope Farm Conservancy	signs - what/which? Front entrance/park sign est.		Maint			\$ 2,000			
Pope Farm Conservancy	ADA Compliant Bathroom		Devel			\$ 8,000			
Pope Farm Conservancy	Fencing around perimeter				\$ 1,000				
Pope Farm Conservancy	Overflow parking entrance needs paving		Devel	\$ 2,500					
Tallard Conservancy	Parking - reseal and restripe		Maint						\$ 1,550
Tallard Conservancy	removal of invasives		Maint		\$ 1,200				
Noll Valley Savanna	vegetation management (Adaptive Restoration)		Maint		\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
General Conservancy/Outlot Maintenance			Maint		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Miscellaneous Park Development Upgrades			Devel		\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Park Maintenance Misc . Supplies etc.			Maint		\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Port-a-potty service			Maint		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Utility Service			Maint		\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100
Machine Rental (mulch spreading, etc)			Maint		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Equipment Repairs			Maint		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Trails									
Safe Crossings									
Citizen activated lighting			Devel						
	Tapco - Materials available	Generalized quote listed for single intersection - \$6,490 City of Madison Blair/E Main: \$20,000			\$ 6,490				
Airport Rd	Consider following crossing locations: by Sunset Ridge Elementary School, Settler's Park, and Ed Tallard Park	board removed 2020 budget item	Devel						
Old Sauk Rd	Consider with New Elementary School and likely future Middle School		Devel						
Where ever trails cross Town roads	Adding signs and road crossing paint stripes on Town roads at and before Trails Crossing		Devel						
Other trail considerations									
Cherrywood Ridge Trail	grass segment of 150' between crushed stone trails of Cardinal Prairie	crushed stone trails are \$35 per linear foot	Maint			\$ 5,250			

Capital Improvement Plan

CORP 2019 - 2023

Park Facility	Item		Project Type*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dog Friendly Trails (and also most Parks and Conservancies)	Consider making most of the Parks Trails, Conservancies Trails, and other Trails acceptable for Dogs on leash. (Similar to City of Middleton. Also Madison has similar program on trial program since 2017 and has expanded it.) If yes, consider signage and dog waste stations.	If yes? Signage and bags - We spent \$300 or so on poo bags last year. How many more stations? There are 5 mini parks, 4 Neighborhood parks, 2 community parks, & 14 conservancy areas One station in Tallard Estimated costs of Pet Waste Stations run around \$400 to \$600 depending on amenities (signage, bag dispensers, waste cans, bags are about \$50/case)	Devel						
Future Trail Segments									
Consider paving New and some existing major trail segments	Major Trail Segments (new or those in need of major repair) consider constructing / converting them to paved asphalt trail segments. With the consideration	Est cost to pave trails is \$50/linear foot	Devel						
Gravel	Maintenance		Maint	\$ 569	\$ 569	\$ 569	\$ 569	\$ 569	\$ 569
Cement	Maintenance		Maint	\$ 233	\$ 233	\$ 233	\$ 233	\$ 233	\$ 233
Grass	Maintenance		Maint	\$ 2,191	\$ 2,191	\$ 2,191	\$ 2,191	\$ 2,191	\$ 2,191
Pioneer Park and other misc.	Maintenance		Maint		\$ 6,500				
Cherrywood Forest	Repair of North/South Trail	FEMA Project			\$ 30,000				
Stonebrook Trail	Swale Construction	FEMA Project			\$ 26,000				
Settler's Prairie	Repair asphalt trail				\$ 1,500				
New Trail Signage			Devel	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Upgrade Trail Signage			Main.	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Rubber Mulch - determine if replacing:	It cost \$35,000 to put rubber mulch in Pioneer Park								
	Enchanted Valley								
	Summit Ridge								
	Vickiann	\$ 43,320							
	Vosen Memorial								
	Spruce Hollow Park								
	Pioneer	\$ 45,000							
Stain Benches	Voss		Maint	\$ 30					
Stain Shelters	Hickory Woods	\$ 54,000	Maint	\$ 30					
	Settler's Prairie	\$ 58,000	Maint	\$ 100					
Engineering Expenses									
Engineer Meeting Prep and Attendance			Maint	\$ 2,102	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000

**Capital Improvement Plan
CORP 2019 - 2023**

Park Facility	Item		Project Type*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Corp			Devel	\$ 5,236					
Research ADA, trail safety and ADA Signage			Devel	\$ 121	\$ 4,000				
Hickory Woods Land Use study			Devel		\$ 1,500				
West Middleton to Mineral Point Road Connection	evaluate possibilities		Devel		\$ 3,500				
Settlers Prairie to Tallard connection	evaluate possibilities		Devel		\$ 2,500				
Pioneer to Pope Farm Connection	evaluate possibilities		Devel		\$ 2,500				
Miscellaneous Small Park and Trails Projects					\$ 3,000				
Planning for Pioneer Rd/Mineral Point Rd Access to Welcome Drive Subdivision			Devel		\$ 9,000				
Update Parks and Trails Maintenance Cost Tool			Devel	\$ 2,000					
Commision Member Per Diems			Maint		\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Park Development Wages		Budgeted		\$ 6,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Baseball Wages					\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Trail Development		Ahmad and Pioneer Pointe	Devel		\$ 140,000				
TOTALS				\$34,598	\$254,763	\$173,126	\$100,123	\$85,043	\$104,948

* Denotes whether the work is maintenance ("Main.") or new ("Devel").

Appendix 8:

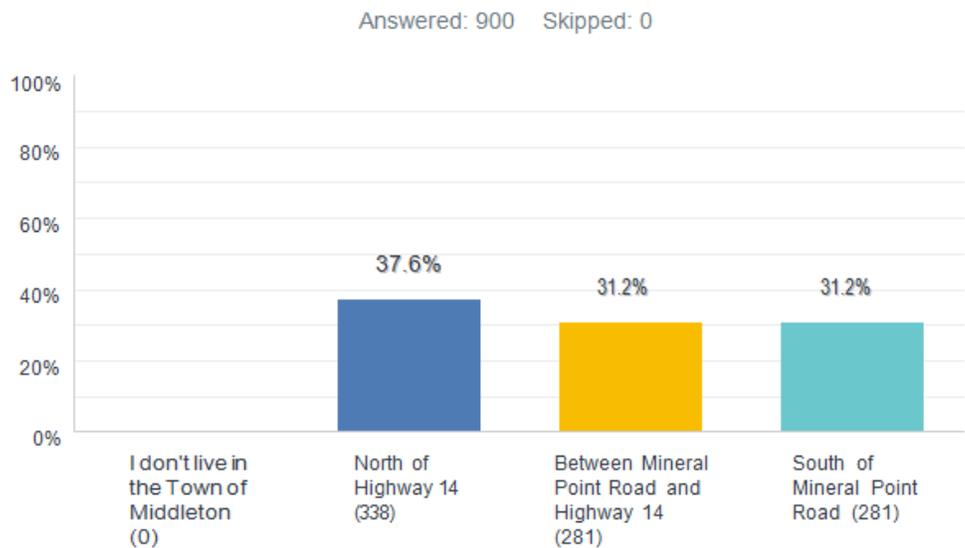
2018 Parks Survey Results

(note: Complete survey results are available at Town Hall)

The Park Commission distributed an online survey in the Spring of 2018 after extensive work to draft, edit, and finalize survey questions. The survey was available to be completed from March through April 2018, and a total of 900 responses were received from residents throughout the Town. The goal of the survey was to determine residents' opinions on Town park and recreation facilities and amenities to guide the Town's maintenance and possible development of these facilities. Results from the survey were used by the Park Commission to develop the Goals and Objectives, Action Plan, Park and Open Space Planning Standards, and Capital Improvements Plan included in this document.

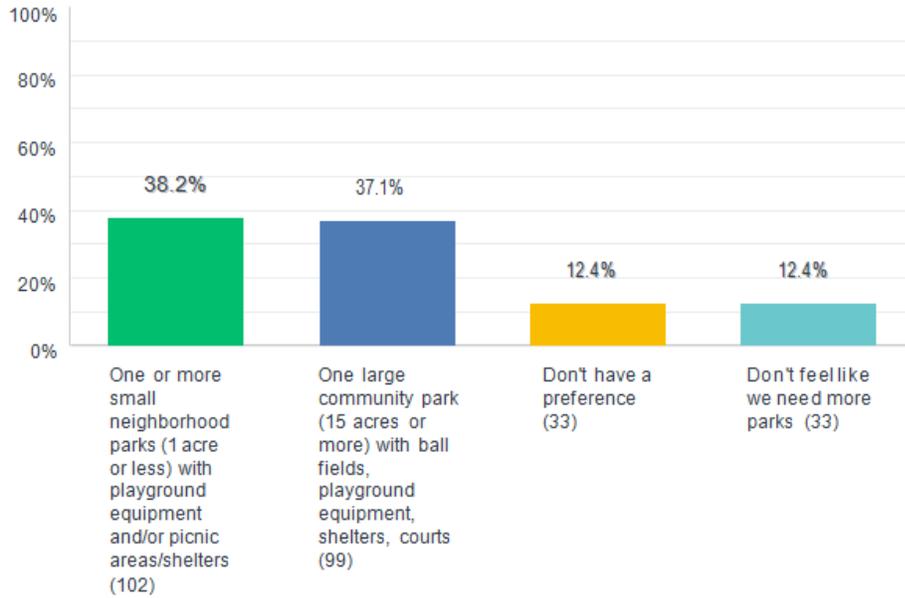
Complete survey results are available at the Town Hall.

Q1 What area of the Town of Middleton do you live in?



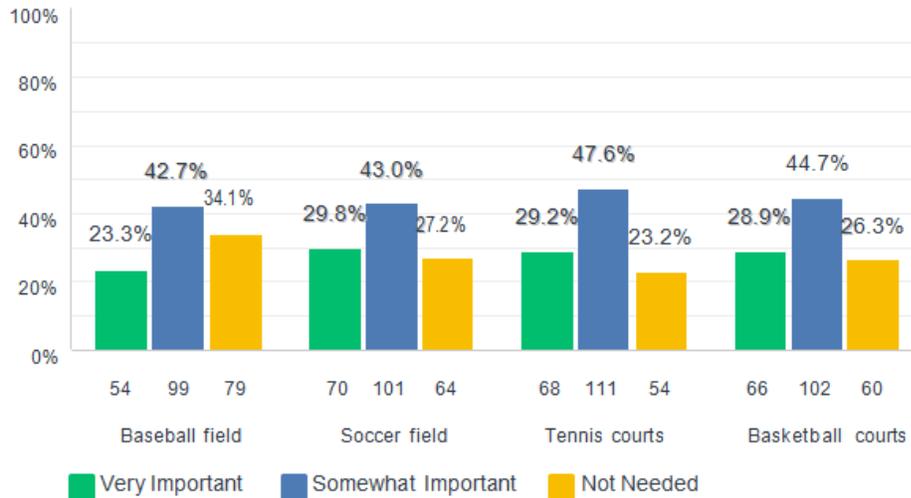
Q2 The Park Commission is considering additional parks for the area south of Mineral Point Road. Below are the park options being considered. Please select the option you prefer.

Answered: 267 Skipped: 633

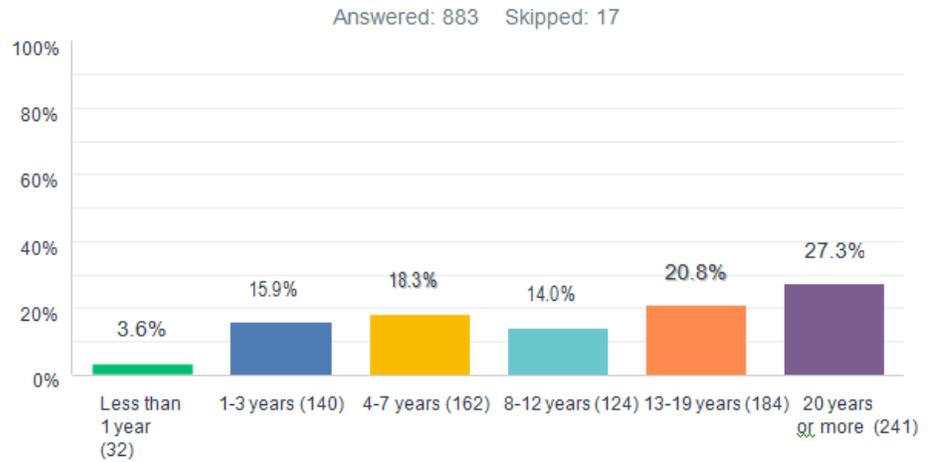


Q3 If the Town did create a larger community park, what type of sports activities do you think would be important to have there?

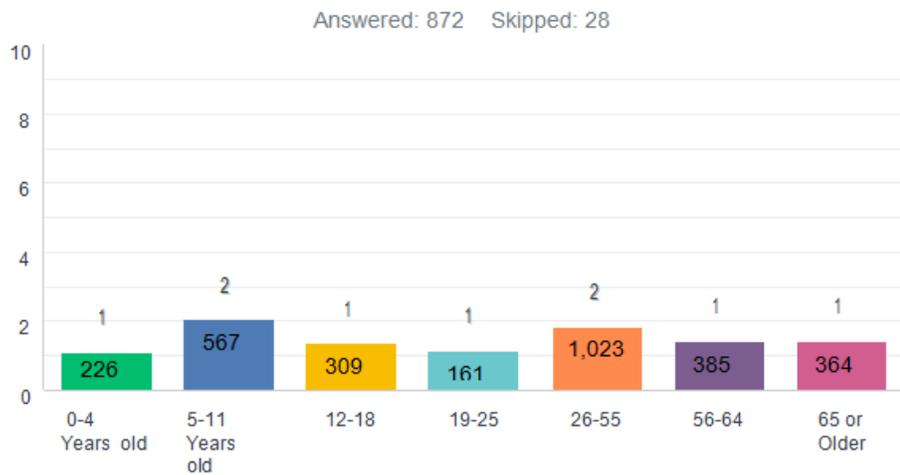
Answered: 249 Skipped: 651



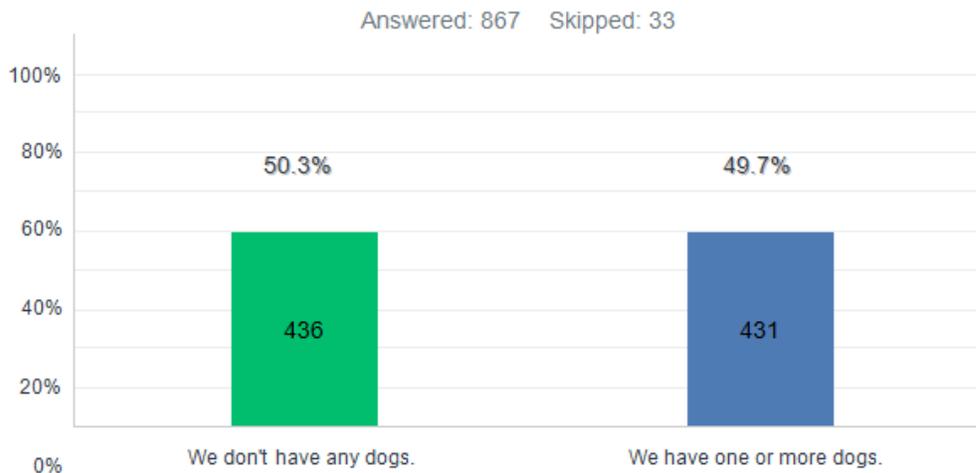
Q4 How long have you lived in the Town of Middleton?



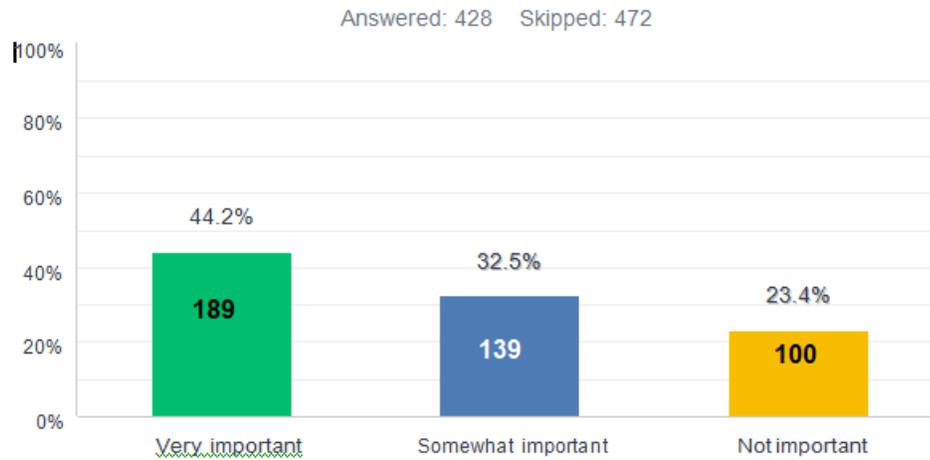
Q5 Please write in the number of people in your household who are in the age categories below. (If 0 in any category leave blank)



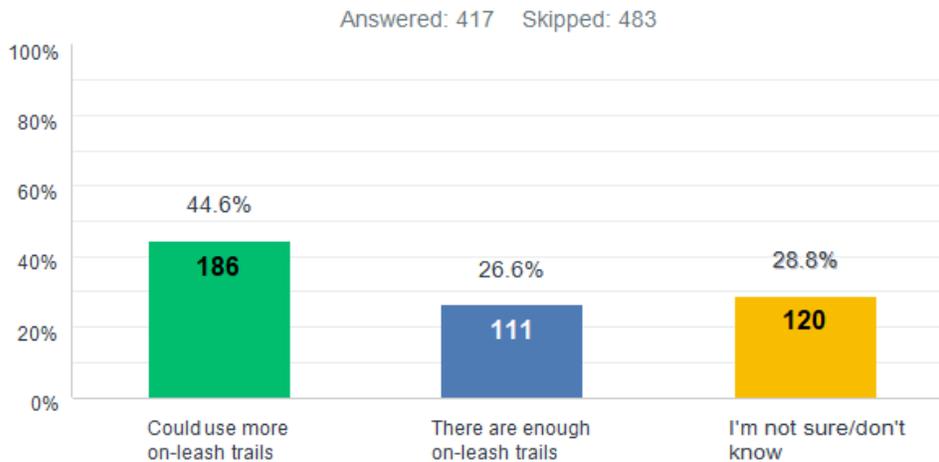
Q6 Do you have dogs in your household?



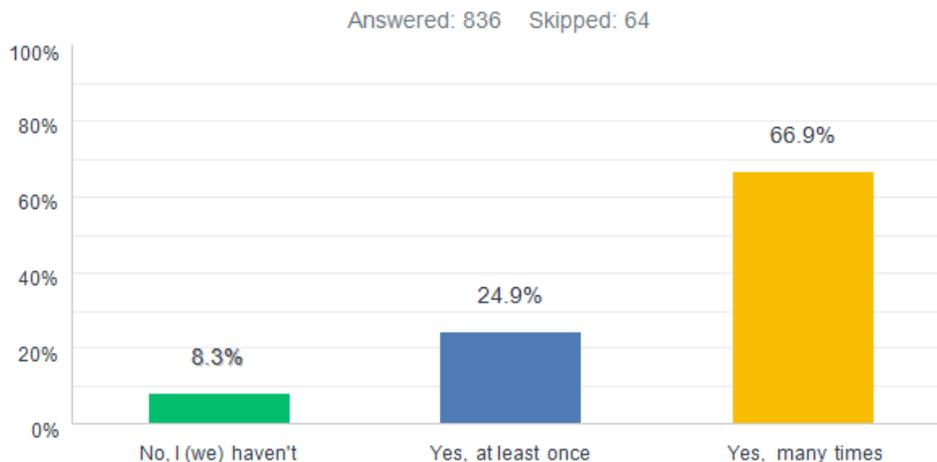
Q7 How important do you think it is for the Town to add an off-leash dog park?



Q8 How do you feel about the number of on-leash trails the Town currently provides?

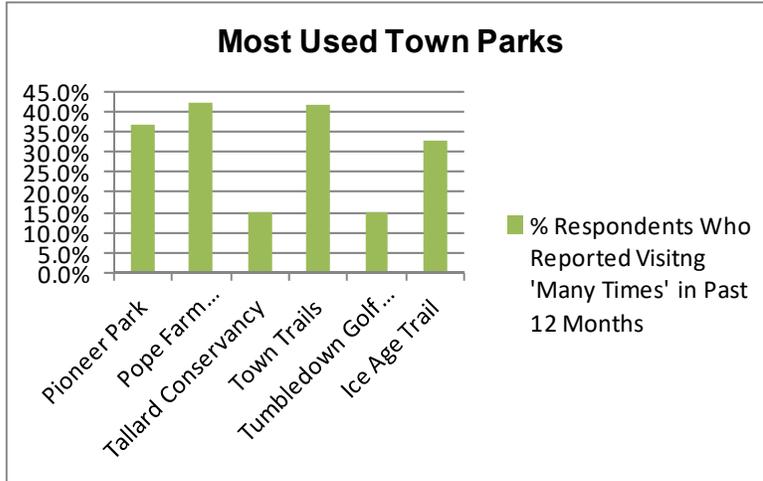


Q9 In the past 12 months have you or anyone in your household used the Town's trails or parks, including hiking trails, playgrounds and sports fields?



Q10 Below is a list of Town parks, conservancies and recreational facilities. Please indicate how often you have used any one of these in the last 12 months?

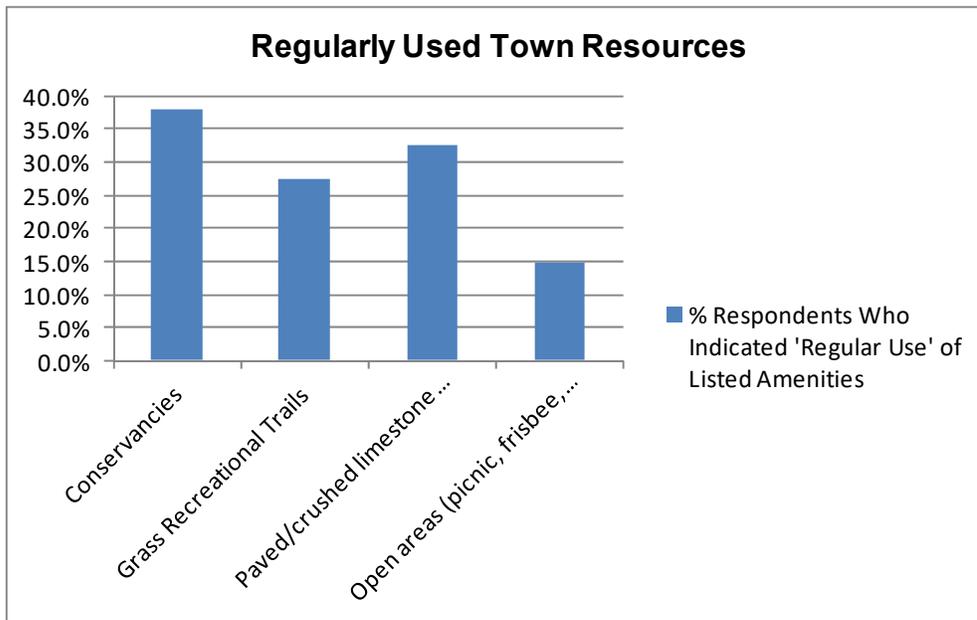
Answered: 820 Skipped: 80



The chart at left shows the most heavily used parks. This was taken from survey responses, based on a minimum of 15% of respondents reporting using each park 'many times' over the last 12 months. Full survey responses are available at the Town Hall.

Q11 The Town of Middleton has a variety of recreational opportunities and facilities in our parks and conservancies. In the last 12 months how often have you or someone in your household used any of the Town resources listed below?

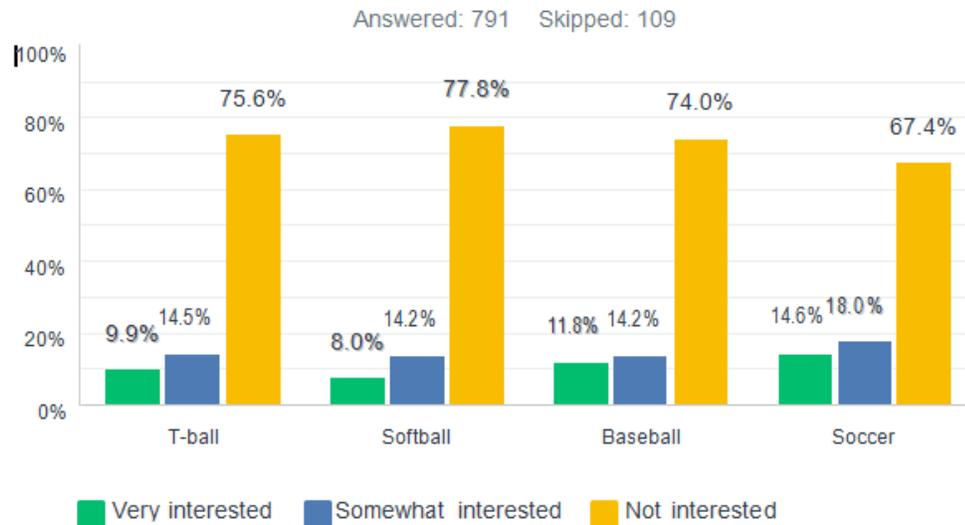
Answered: 804 Skipped: 96



The chart at left shows the most regularly used resources. This was taken from survey responses, based on a minimum of 15% of respondents reporting 'Regular Use' over the last 12 months. Full survey responses are available at the Town Hall.

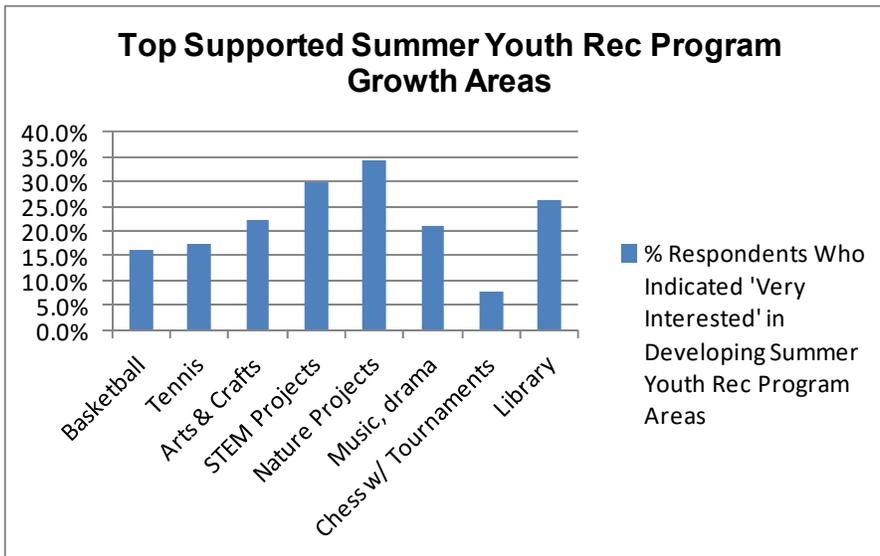


Q12 Below are summer youth recreation program that are currently offered in Town parks. There is a fee for participation. What level of interest does your family have in these programs?



Q13 If you are interested in the Town of Middleton developing additional summer youth recreational programs, what type of programs would you like to see added?

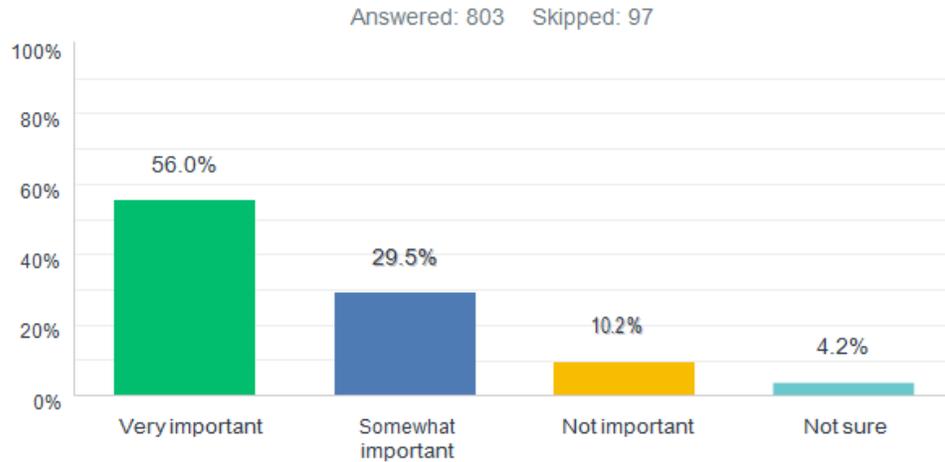
Answered: 755 Skipped: 145



The chart at left shows the top supported potential summer youth rec. program areas. This was taken from survey responses. Full survey responses are available at the Town Hall.



Q14 The Town of Middleton Park Commission works to obtain property easements to link existing trails with schools, parks, neighborhoods and trails in surrounding communities. How important is it to you that the Town continue to obtain these easements, extending existing trails?



Q15 Are there missing trail connections you would like to see? Where would you like connections added? (Please enter your comments below)

Answered: 281 Skipped: 619

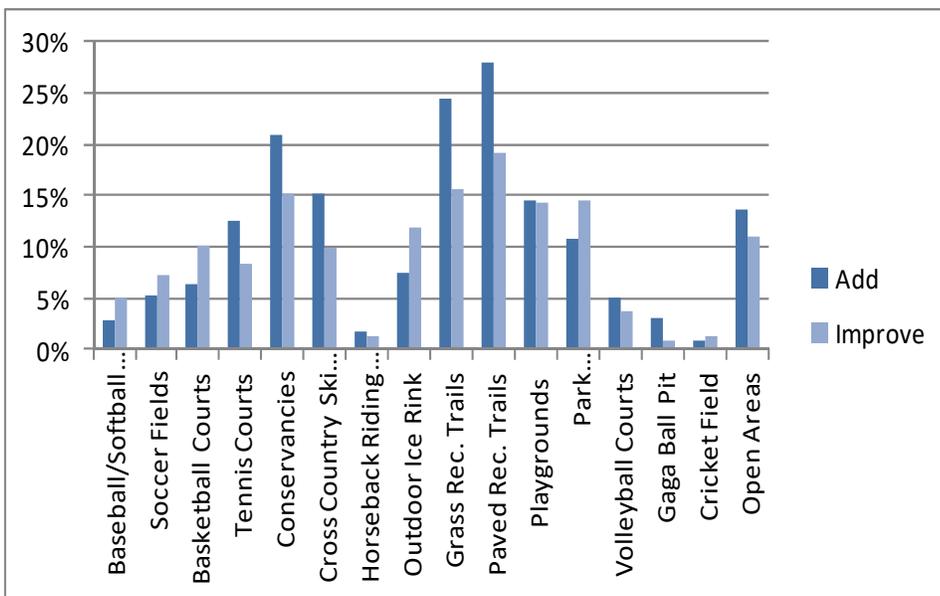
Summary of Responses:

- West Middleton Elementary to adjacent neighborhoods:
 - A tunnel under Mineral Point Rd from West Middleton Elementary to neighborhood
 - Cherrywood Neighborhood to West Middleton Elementary (2 comments)
 - Valley View to Mineral Point near West Middleton Elementary
- Bike Lanes:
 - Dedicated bike lane east of Town Hall and on Mineral Point Rd
 - Airport Rd & Schneider and/or paved path through the conservancy that goes from Bronner Rd through to the Montessori School and extends to Capitol View which connects to the gravel trail leading to the soccer fields and dog park along the airport bike path (2 comments)
- Mineral Point Crossing:
 - Some sort of connection across Mineral Point (anywhere) that didn't include actually crossing the road
 - A safer connector crossing Mineral Point Rd near Pioneer Road and another further west at Timber Lane
- Tallard Park to Settler's Prairie (3 comments)
- Connect trails to schools, parks, and surrounding trail systems
- Between Old Sauk and Noll Valley and across Midtown Road. Mostly Noll Valley up to Mineral Point.
- Ice Age Trail (3 comments)
- Stonebrook Estates to Tallard Conservancy
- More dog friendly trails
- Better trail information needed first

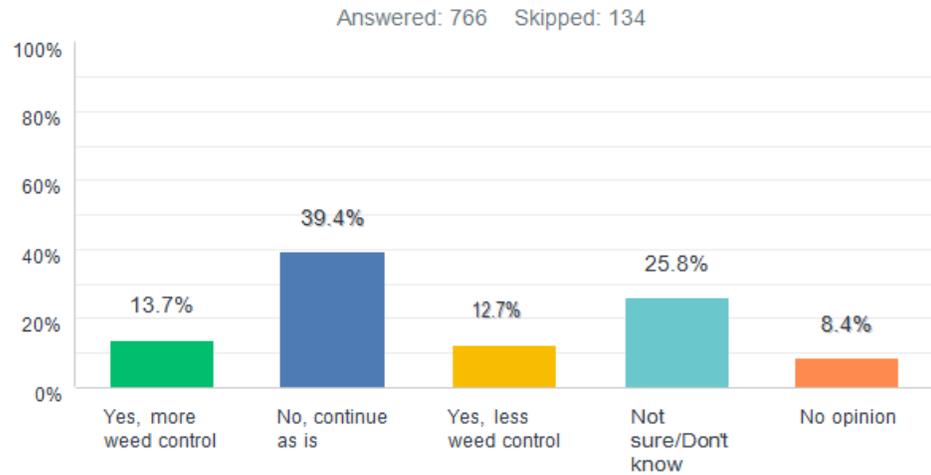
- Autumn Ridge, The Willows, Old Sauk near Pope Farm
- Cherrywood Forest to Ice Age Trail
- Whispering Winds and Settler's Prairie to Sunset Ridge Elementary.
- Bear Claw Way & Adjacent Neighborhoods to Madison & Verona bike paths
- Woodstone Neighborhood to existing trails
- Prairie Home Estates to trail that ends at Capital View Drive
- Morel's development area (2 comments)
- Enchanted Valley- trails never developed
- Pioneer Park to Pope Farm Conservancy
- More connections between Mineral Point and Old Sauk, Pioneer and Timber Lane
- Trail connections to Cross Plains and City of Middleton
- Airport Rd needs more trail connections

Q16 Which Town outdoor recreational facilities would you like to see improved or more added?

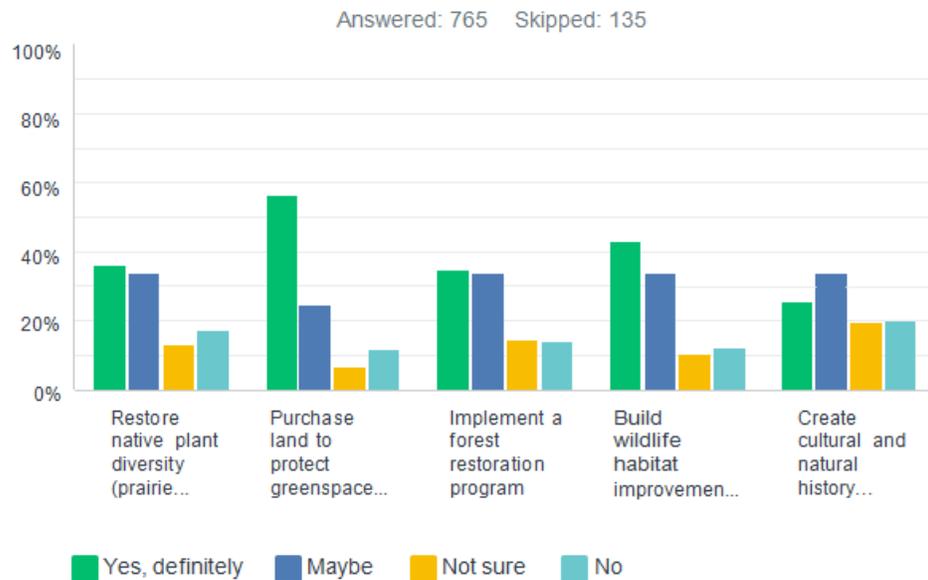
Answered: 760 Skipped: 140



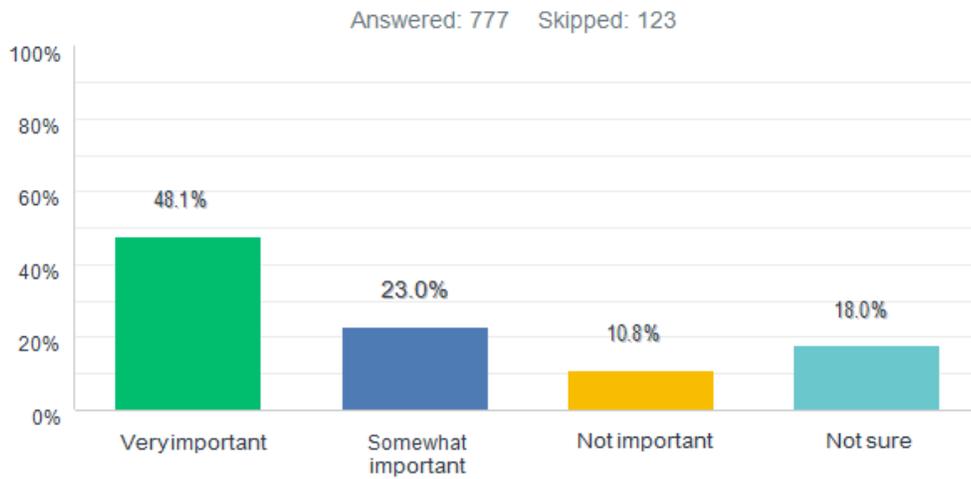
Q17 Do you think the Town should change its approach to managing weeds in the parks and on trails? (pick the one best response)



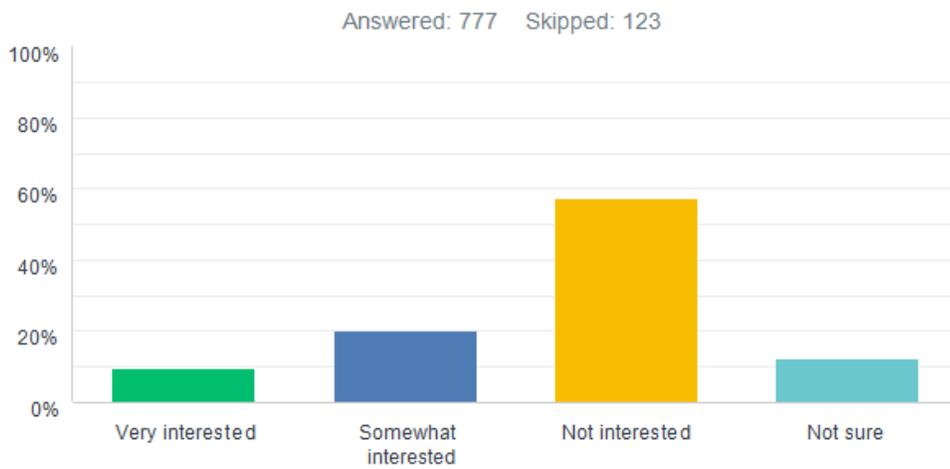
Q18 Would you support using Town financial resources for any of the following?



Q19 How important do you think it is to add a safe bike-pedestrian crossing on Mineral Point Road near West Middleton Elementary School?

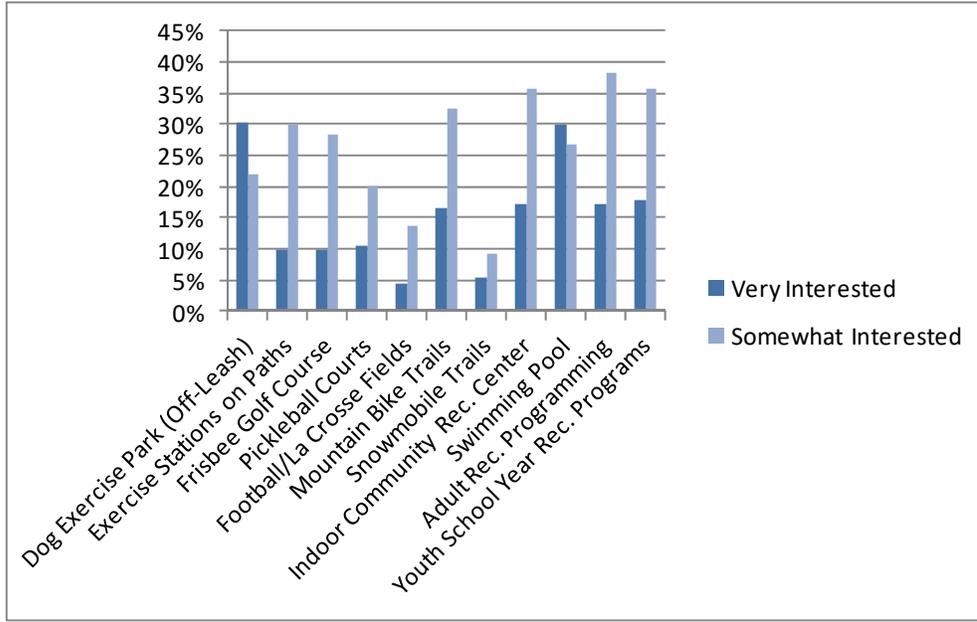


Q20 If the Town of Middleton created park-and-ride facilities, would you be interested in using them?



Q21 Below are some outdoor recreational facilities and programs the Town of Middleton DOES NOT offer currently. Which facilities or programs below would you be interested in seeing in the Town?

Answered: 765 Skipped: 135



Appendix 9:

Park and Facility Planning Standards

Town of Middleton - 2019 CORP Park and Facility Planning Standards

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Type of Park	Updated 2018 CORP Planning Standards (Acres per 1000 residents)	Existing Acres	Existing Acres Per 1,000 Town Residents (Based on 2018 population of 6,440)	NRPA Recommended Standard/Amount (ac/1000)	(Surplus) / Deficiency under current Town planning standards ¹	Acreage needed in 2040 to meet Town planning standards set in column B ²	Assessable Additional Acreage Needed by 2040 ³
Mini-Park	0.9	7.8	1.2	0.25 - 0.5 acres/1000	(1.81)	7.75	-0.1
Neighborhood Park	5.7	47.5	7.4	1 - 2 acres/1000	(10.79)	47.48	0.0
Community Park	6.2	51.5	8.0	5.0 - 8.0 acres/1000	(11.57)	51.65	0.1
Nature Area/Conservancy	21.3	177.7	27.6	No standard given	(40.53)	177.43	-0.3
Total Open Space	34.1	284.5	44.2	8.5-10.8 ⁴	(64.70)	284.30	-0.2

¹ Estimated (2018) population based on WI DOA **6440**

² Planned (2040) population based on WI DOA: **8330**

³ Formula for determining Assessable Acreage: (2040 population)*(standard)-(existing acres + absolute value of the deficiency)

⁴ NRPA Median Data for Town Jurisdiction Type (8.5 ac) and Population Less than 20,000 (10.8 ac)

* Assuming 2.8 persons/household, this means 675 households will be added between now and 2040 according to these projections

A	B	C	D	E	F
¹ SPECIAL PARK AMENITIES					
Type of Amenity	Updated 2018 CORP Standards (Facilities per 1000 residents)	Existing Amenities	(Surplus) / Deficiency under current Town planning standards	Amenities needed in 2040 to meet Town planning standards set in column B	Assessable Amenities (Can be assessed to developers)
Playground	1.44	10	(0.73)	12.00	2.0
² Free Play/Soccer Field	2.52	21	(4.77)	20.99	0.0
³ Baseball/Softball	0.96	7	(0.82)	8.00	1.0
Tennis Courts	0.48	4	(0.91)	4.00	0.0
⁵ Basketball	0.72	3	1.64	6.00	1.4
Volleyball	0.24	2	(0.45)	2.00	0.0
⁶ Outdoor Skating Rink	0.12	1	(0.23)	1.00	0.0
Ampitheatre	0.96	8	(1.82)	8.00	0.0
Restroom Facilities	0.96	6	0.18	8.00	1.8
Park Seating	3.72	21	2.96	30.99	7.0
Park Shelters	1.2	8	(0.27)	10.00	2.0

¹ These amenities are not necessarily located in a specific Park Facility

² Includes a field 100 yards by 60 yards.

³ Includes a fence 280 feet from home plate with 30 feet on each side for space, screenings in in base paths.

⁴ Includes a court 60 feet by 120 feet with back and side space.

⁵ Pavement area is 104'x70' corresponding to a High School size court.

⁶ Assume a rink is 200'x85' with a sand/gravel base, plywood walls and piped in water for the ice.

Appendix 10:

Open House Input Summary

Appendix 10: Open House Input Summary

The following pages contain a summary of comments and written feedback collected at the Town's CORP Open House held on October 22, 2019 at Town Hall.

1. A resident believes that the trail easements shown near his home on LeFlore Court are not secured (J32 and/or J33).
2. A gentleman who lives west of Sunset Ridge Elementary said that his neighbors have been waiting for years for the north rail to connect to the City of Middleton. He said he wants to lobby the Town to build segment E19 (Wagner property).
3. Park Commissioner Kulis asked if we had standard trail sections. With new Park Commissioners, we should send them our latest cross-sections.
4. Commissioner Kulis also said that trail segments J13-J21 are being maintained, but he wanted to know if it was the Town or another party.
5. The added goal of providing safe crossings over Mineral Point Road and across Airport Road will likely not be well-received with the Board. We need to discuss this with staff to see how to proceed.
 - One resident noted that this goal seemed financially irresponsible (as in would cost way more than it would ever be worth to residents). He listed the (Ice Age Trail) overpass over Hwy 12 as an example.
6. One resident noted that they are aware of at least one person who removes trail markers on or near their property, presumably to deter people from using the trail.
7. One resident prepared several written suggestions to improve the CORP:
 - Additional Goals:
 - A. Hold annual listening sessions with adjacent local governments, outdoor recreation interest groups, friends groups and property owners who live near Town parks and conservancies to identify problems, define mutual goals and seek opportunities for collaboration.
 - B. Actively foster collaborative partnerships within the community to manage and maintain public parks and open spaces and sponsor compatible outdoor activities.
 - Threats:
 - A. Government cannot satisfactorily manage its parks and conservancies because it lacks sufficient funding and staff to meet the demands of users.
 - B. The continued use of agrichemicals in Town parks and conservancies will meet (is meeting) with increased resistance and challenge from a public that perceives a substantial risk to the health and safety of their children.
 - i. The Town currently approves the broad application of glyphosphate and neonicotinoids to control vegetation and pests in its parks and conservancies consistent with current DATCP and EPA regulations.
 - ii. Town residents and visitors to Town parks are aware that glyphosphates are currently banned by 18 nations, 13 US states ban their use in public parks, golf courses, and near public schools, and neonicotinoids were banned for outdoor use by the European Union on 30 May 2018.
 - C. Climate change has increased the severity and frequency of erosion and flooding that damages or destroys public infrastructure and stresses native habitats.



Appendix 10: Open House Input Summary (Continued)

- i. Urban development increases impervious surfaces and alters natural drainage ways, wetlands and infiltration areas, which exacerbates the severity of runoff events.
 - ii. Native habitats are stressed by climate change and more susceptible to non-native and native invasive species and pests.
 - Opportunities:
 - A. Collaboration:
 - i. Provide Town of Middleton parks and conservancies with a minimum base of funding and staff time to encourage collaboration from neighbors, park users and friends groups to provide a higher level of development, management, and maintenance at their favorite or nearest Town property.
 - ii. Encourage local schools, universities, friends and other organized interest groups to develop and collaboratively implement outdoor activities and education programs at Town properties.
 - B. Agrichemical Use:
 - i. Reduce or eliminate chemical pesticide/herbicide use on Town properties.
 - ii. Manage crop fields at Pope Farm in collaboration with the UW Department of Ag to demonstrate low-use and no-use pesticide/herbicide crop production
 - C. Climate Change:
 - i. Encourage the UW to establish on-going research projects in the Town to monitor the effects of climate change, habitat restoration, and biodiversity. (Previous UW studies included monitoring erosion, nutrient and runoff modeling, and wild bee foraging behavior).
 - ii. Encourage citizen science on Town properties to monitor change. (Current examples include Monarch tagging and bluebird nesting success).
 - iii. Preserve wetlands and infiltration zones to mitigate erosion and flooding. (Public land acquisition, zoning and building permits, and private land management all have a role. They deserve mention in the CORP but are more appropriate for a land use plan).
 - D. Extensive acreage at the Pope Farm Conservancy and elsewhere in the Town provides opportunities for community gardens. (Note: the Wisconsin SCORP grant guidance includes grants for non-commercial community gardens).
- 8. Discussion:
 - It is clear that government cannot do the whole job alone because tax dollars and staff are always insufficient to meet public demands. The Town's demographic profile shows that its citizens are highly educated, relatively wealthy, and include a diverse base of people willing to collaborate with government to make the place they live, work and play better by sharing their expertise, time, and money to support management and programming at local parks and conservancies. Collaboration isn't easy and it takes time for all collaborators to learn how to do it.
 - The Wisconsin Park System relies on collaboration. "Collaborations on trails, nature areas, parks as a community involvement and assistance effort: Friends groups have been an important part of Wisconsin's recreational culture since Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 1.71 was put into place in July of 1989. That code encourages the establishment of non-profit Friends groups to support, assist and promote". (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/friends.html>).

Appendix 10: Open House Input Summary (Continued)

- Fostering collaboration with Town residents, NGO's, Middleton-Cross Plains School District, the UW-Madison, adjacent jurisdictions and state agencies are opportunities that should be identified and developed. The draft CORP would benefit from listening sessions with interest groups (e.g. West Middleton Youth Baseball and Softball Club, Audubon, Master Gardeners, Prairie Enthusiasts, Friends of Pheasant Branch, Black Earth Creek Watershed Association, Friends of Pope Farm Conservancy, other groups) to identify mutual goals and opportunities for collaboration.
- Town government may choose to follow DATCP and EPA rules for agrichemical use on public properties or it may take proactive steps to decrease and eliminate chemical use where possible. There is an opportunity for the Town, in collaboration with the UW, to take well-considered steps and lead on this issue before it becomes more contentious.
- The Town's geographic location in the headwaters of three watersheds, its extensive conservancies, and proximity to the UW provide opportunities for research on the impact of climate change, habitat restoration, biodiversity, soil erosion, hydrology, and water quality.
- There is extensive acreage and supporting infrastructure (parking and water) at the Pope Farm Conservancy and other Town properties to support community gardens. The Master Garden Association (<https://www.mamgawi.org>) and the Madison Garden Network (<https://danegardens.net>) are two among many potential collaborators.
- The current CORP draft is a good start. The Town may choose to use the document to satisfy grant requirements or as a document that provides vision and leadership in a community that both values its public spaces and is willing to collaborate with Town government to make the places they live, work, and play better.

9. Other thoughts:

- The CORP would benefit from text and tables that clarify relevant Town Ordinances and park definitions. Section 4-5-1 and select other ordinances should be included as an appendix. For example:
- Issues of concern in parks and conservancies that are either not addressed in the plan or require some clarification include:
 - A. If Town trails are 'passive' parks, then 4-5-1(a)(3) should be amended for clarity to read, "Passive park" shall mean a park or trail designated for passive uses."
 - B. Herbicide and pesticide use: Many residents support control of invasive weeds; many residents oppose the use of chemical herbicides and pesticides in parks and conservancies. Survey support for weed control should not be construed as support for the chemical treatment of weeds in public spaces, particularly where children play. The use of glyphosates and neonicotinoids is a rising public issue.
 - C. Use of drones or other motorized devices are implicitly prohibited in conservancies because they are motorized. No-drone signs are now common in National Parks and Town Conservancies should be similarly posted.
 - D. 504 compliance and Town trails: To what degree will Town parks and conservancies be 504 compliant? If the intent is 'reasonable access' then state it as such and state that some trails or portions thereof will have limited accessibility. If the intent is that all trails will be compliant, then state it as such and provide a compliance schedule and cost estimate in the plan.

Appendix 10: Open House Input Summary (Continued)

- One commission member expressed concern over funding for park improvements, and interest in exploring mechanisms to encourage private funding/investment.

10. Feedback Forms:

- Large events should be kept in active parks and out of conservancies/passive parks
- It would be reasonable and practical to allow dogs on leash in more areas
- Planning resilience for weather disasters
- Ways we can stop/slow global warming
- Park and ride area
- Include open areas and green space that absorb rainwater and allow it to evaporate and don't contribute to runoff in our values, goals and plans
- Add a goal of: Use park lands and open space in Town of Middleton to help prevent and mitigate climate change
- Connect the trails in Cherrywood to the Ice Age Trail access on Mound View Road (pedestrian and bike traffic on Mound View Road is dangerous due to high volume of usage, no shoulder in many areas, in many areas limited sight distances for passing safely)
- Consider managing natural areas and trails to enhance habitat and prevent the spread of invasive species
- Emphasize maintenance and improving what we have is wiser than spending money on expanding the park system
- Get more volunteer groups educated and involved in our natural areas
- Consider how to encourage "community"
 - A. Dog parks, skate parks, ice rinks, cross country ski trails, usable grills at the parks/playgrounds, community pool, rec center, give people a "purpose to gather", outdoor ice rinks (full size), outdoor theater for movies, plays, concerts, school events etc.
 - B. Give people a purpose to gather
- Kids have to be able to cross Mineral Point Road via bike/walking
- Concession stand at Settlers Prairie Park