

The Village of
HARRISON

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR
RECREATION PLAN 2022

The Village of Harrison Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2022 was approved and adopted by the Village Board at the May 31, 2022 Village Board meeting. Approved meeting minutes may be found at the end of this document.

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**All photo and image credit GRAEF unless noted otherwise*



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Chapter 1

Harrison Today

A Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is a tool for communities to create a vision for their parks, recreation, and public open spaces. The planning process uses community engagement to establish the vision desired by the community, and then combines it with a review of similar communities to provide comparisons and benchmarks. The plan is intended to guide park development and recreation program decisions for a period of five years.

The adopted plan enables the Village to apply for grant funding from the WI Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) Stewardship Program for park development projects, the preservation of land and water-based natural assets, and recreational boating and access projects on Lake Winnebago.

Related Plans



Kimberly Area School District
Safe Routes to School
Action Plan 2018



Town and Village of Harrison
CORP 2015-2019



Wisconsin Statewide CORP
(SCORP) 2019-2023

DOCUMENT PURPOSE

Inventory

List and evaluate Harrison's existing outdoor recreation and park facilities and recent improvements.

Benchmark

Compare the extent, quality, and level of service of Harrison's outdoor recreation facilities against similar communities.

Needs Assessment

Identify the needs of community members through engagement, survey, and analysis of current conditions and opportunities.

Long Range Planning

Provide a framework and guide for the long-term development and operation of Harrison's parks and outdoor recreation facilities and programs.

Recommendations

Provide a list of recommended actions to the Village for the next five years for Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) of parks and recreational facilities.

“CORP” stands for “Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan” and is used throughout the document. CORP plans are used across the State of Wisconsin to guide park and recreation planning and apply for grant funding.

PLANNING CONTEXT

Development of the 2022-2026 Harrison Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan involved a combination of public outreach, engagement with Village Staff and elected officials, and the application of updated national recommendations for parks and recreation planning. A review of local, regional, and state plans was also conducted to ensure consistency with the parks and recreation goals of all relevant jurisdictions. This plan was prepared with assistance from GRAEF, a planning consultant, and adopted by the Village Board. The former Town and Village of Harrison last updated its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2015 with assistance from the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC). This process should be completed every five years.

Effective local planning relies on the active participation of residents to ensure relevancy and sensitivity to community priorities. The COVID-19 pandemic presented an ongoing challenge and opportunity during the planning process of this CORP. In person engagement was supplemented with online engagement as well as promotion through postal mailings to all Village residents.

This plan draws upon past goals, objectives, and recommendations combined with new considerations and updated standards for parks and recreation planning. Many past goals have been reaffirmed while new ones are identified. The adopted plan will serve as a guide for park development over the next five years. This is the first plan to guide the Village of Harrison’s outdoor recreation following incorporation and the annexation of significant town land.



▲ Map by GRAEF | Data: ESRI, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

HARRISON HISTORY, LOCATION, & POPULATION

The Village of Harrison encompasses over 32 square miles of land area, or approximately 20,400 acres. A portion of the Village of Harrison was incorporated from the former Town of Harrison on March 8, 2013 because of its substantial growth. After the incorporation, both the Village of Harrison and the Town of Harrison entered into a boundary agreement that reunified both the Town of Harrison and the Village of Harrison into one community known as the Village of Harrison.

The terrain is flat to gently rolling, with some hillier areas. Elevations range from 700 feet above sea level in the north to over 1,000 feet above sea level in areas adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment in the south near High Cliff State Park. The community borders approximately 8.25 miles of the northeast Lake Winnebago shoreline.

VILLAGE PROFILE

Smaller communities like Harrison are growing and continuing to attract families and businesses from larger communities, resulting in gradual changes in expectations from the community towards higher levels of park and recreation services.

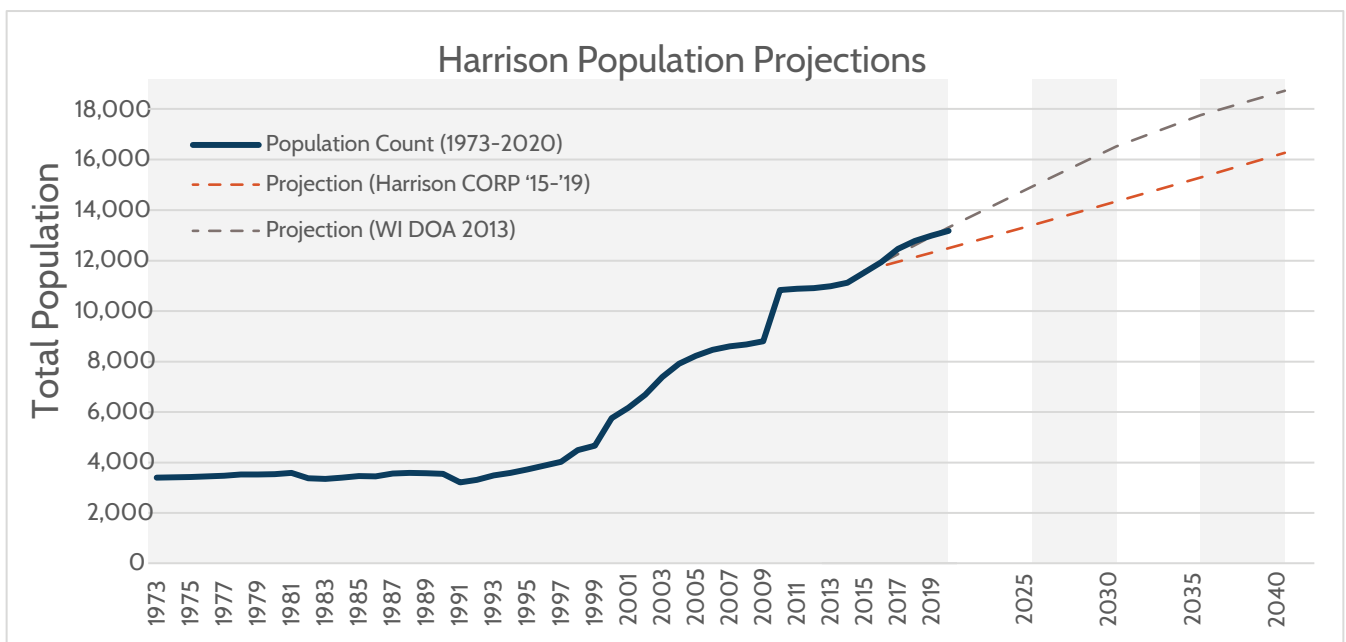
SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Harrison’s population is increasing. Since 1990, Harrison’s population nearly doubled every ten years, increasing from 3,185 in 1990 to 10,839 in 2010. By 2020, Harrison’s population had reached 13,185, outpacing projections from the Wisconsin Dept. of Administration calculated in 2013 by nearly 1,000 residents. Harrison is expected to exceed 18,000 residents by 2040 at its current rate of growth, approaching 15,000 residents by 2025. Calumet County is expected to grow modestly over the same period.

The Village of Harrison is one of the fastest growing communities in Calumet County.

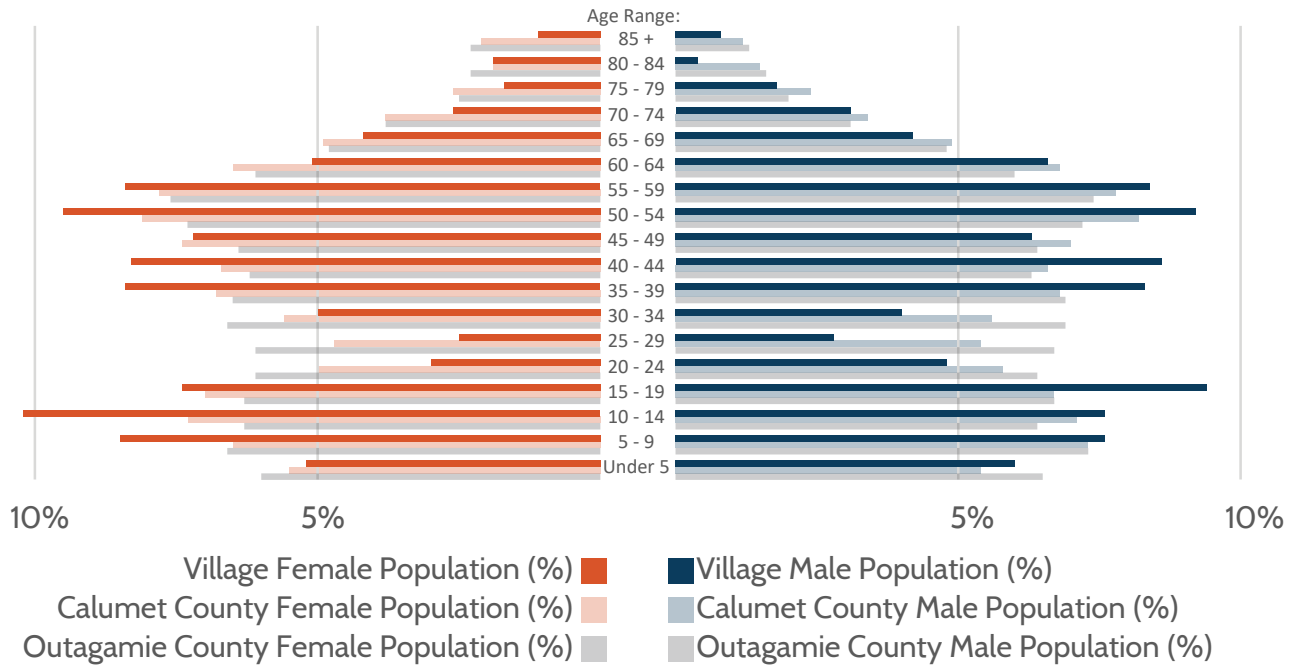
Harrison grew nearly 25% from 2015-2020.

▲ Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration



▲ Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Harrison CORP 2015

Village of Harrison Age and Sex Pyramid



▲ Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2019

AGE & SEX PYRAMID

Compared to Calumet County and Outagamie County (a neighboring county), Harrison’s age distribution is significantly different. Harrison has an over-representative amount of children aged 5-19, especially females 10-14 and males 15-19. It is important to consider teenage population when planning for the increased demand for parks and recreation facilities to give older children appropriate activities.

Residents age 35-44 and 50-59 are some of the largest age groups in the Village. It is likely that many of these age groups are parents of children of all ages or “empty nesters” with children of adult age living in other communities.

While Harrison has a smaller population currently in retirement age (65+), this population will likely increase as residents currently 50-59 retire over the next decade. This will lead to a steadily increasing overrepresented retiree population, requiring appropriate recreational facilities for older age groups.



17%

of the residents of Harrison are between 50 and 59 years old



25%

of the residents of Harrison are between 5 and 19 years old

▲ Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2019

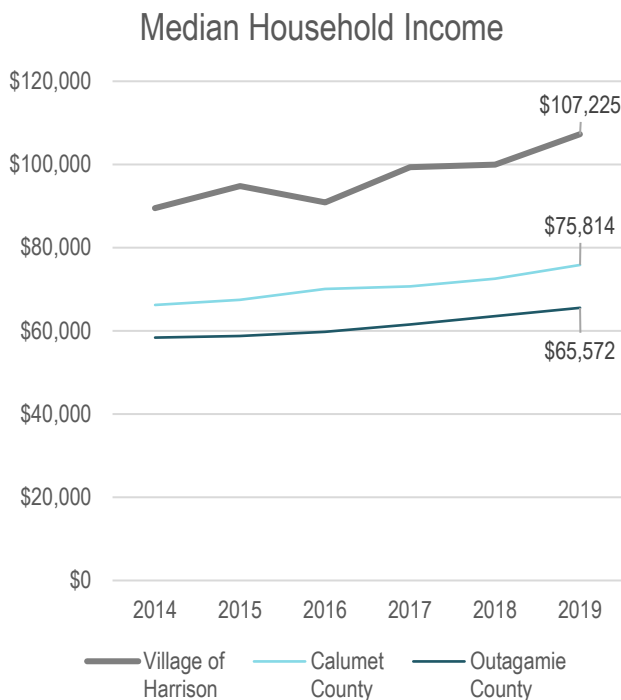
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The income of Harrison’s residents is steadily increasing, and it is steadily outpacing the income gains of Calumet and Outagamie Counties. Harrison’s 2019 median household income was \$107,225. Higher incomes represent strong consumer spending power and potentially greater expectations for recreational amenities in the community. Higher income communities tend to have greater amounts of parks and facilities per resident. Community engagement to gauge interest in paid recreational opportunities such as facility rentals, ice skating, and special events may be appropriate.

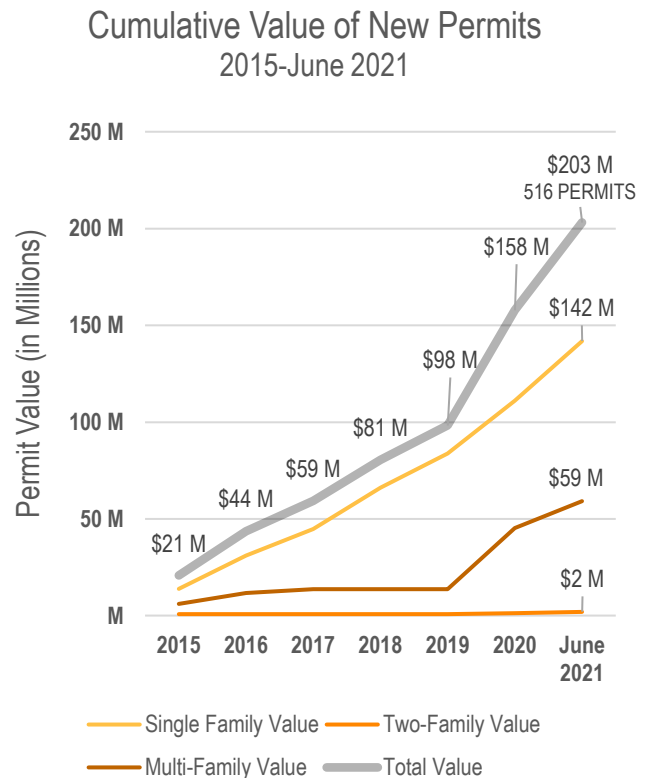
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Harrison’s capacity to grow also depends on available land and the permitting of new residential development. Since 2015, 516 permits for new residential structures have been filed in the Village. Of these permits, most are single-family structures; however, multi-family permits represent a large amount of total residential value added. Based on median home value of new homes, it is estimated that 673 new housing units have been added since 2015 at the time of this document’s writing (June 2021), or 96 per year.

Harrison’s Future Land Use Plan recognizes approximately 3,827 acres of land for future residential development. An analysis of this land and its capacity/need for new parks (Park Buffer Analysis) is included in Chapter 4 of this document: Community Needs Assessment.



▲ Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2014-2019



▲ Source: Village of Harrison

RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

| Statistic | Estimate |
|--|---------------|
| Median value of homes built after 2014 (ACS 5-Yr '19) | \$373,700 |
| Total value added (Village of Harrison) | \$203,152,387 |
| Estimated new multi-family units (Multi-family value divided by median value) | 159 |
| Total estimated new units (New single family and 2F units + multi-family value added divided by median value, Village of Harrison, ACS 5-Yr '19) | 673 |
| Average household size (ACS 5-Yr '19) | 2.86 |
| Capacity for new residents in new housing units (Estimated new units x avg household size) | 1,923 |
| New residents 2015-2020 (WI DOA) | 2862 |
| Average new units per year (Estimate) | 96 |
| Capacity for new residents per year in new units (New units per year x average household size) | 275 |
| Actual growth rate (Residents per year 2015-2020) | 572 |

▲ Source: As noted above. GRAEF calculations unless otherwise specified



673

New homes built in Harrison since 2015

▲ Source: Village of Harrison

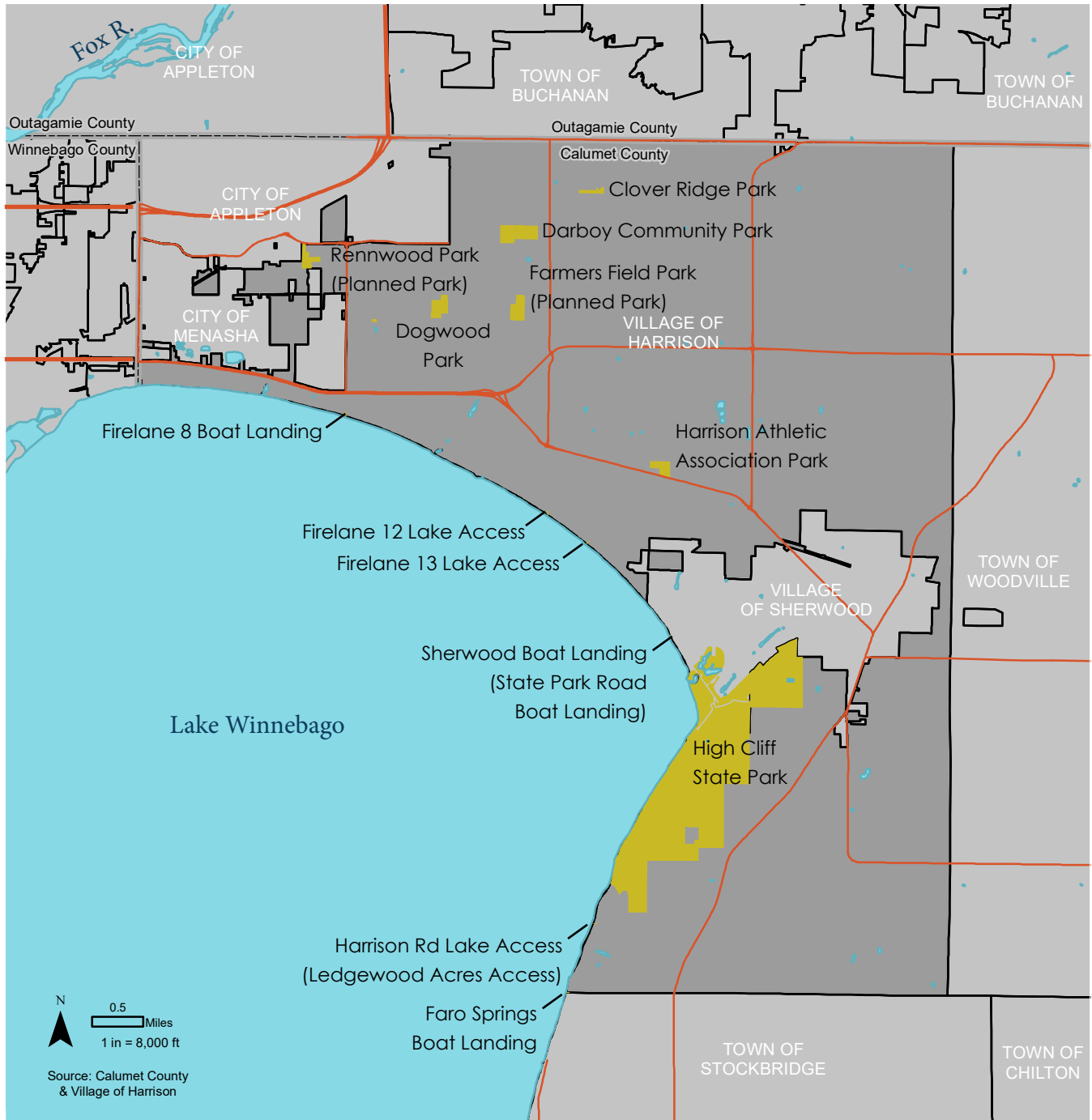


▲ An example of new subdivision construction in central Harrison, north of Lake Winnebago.



▲ An example of new multi-phase single-family subdivision development plans in central Harrison, north of Lake Winnebago.

Village of Harrison Parks



▲ Map of the Village of Harrison parks by GRAEF. Source: Calumet County GIS and Village of Harrison

| EXISTING DEVELOPED PARKS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------|--------------|---------|------------------|--|--------------|--|--|--------------|--|--|---------------|--|----------|
| | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Mini</th> <th>Neighborhood</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dogwood</td> <td>Darboy Community</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Clover Ridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> PLANNED PARKS (LAND SET ASIDE FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT) </td> </tr> <tr> <th>Neighborhood</th> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Farmers Field</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Rennwood</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Mini | Neighborhood | Dogwood | Darboy Community | | Clover Ridge | PLANNED PARKS (LAND SET ASIDE FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT) | | Neighborhood | | | Farmers Field | | Rennwood |
| Mini | Neighborhood | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dogwood | Darboy Community | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Clover Ridge | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PLANNED PARKS (LAND SET ASIDE FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Neighborhood | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Farmers Field | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Rennwood | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| EXISTING DEVELOPED PARKS | | | |
|--|------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Special Use | State | Trails | School Parks |
| Harrison Athletic Association | High Cliff | Highline Trail | Sunrise Elementary School |
| Firelane 8 Boat Landing | | Noe Trail | Woodland Elementary School |
| Firelane 12 Lake Access | | Darboy Park | |
| Firelane 13 Lake Access | | Other local trails | |
| Sherwood Boat Landing (State Park Road Boat Landing) | | Friendship State Trail | |
| Harrison Road Lake Access (Ledgewood Acres Access) | | Lake Park Road Trail | |
| Faro Springs Boat Landing | | | |

EXISTING PARKS & PLANNED PARKS

The Village of Harrison has a growing park facility inventory and a strong natural resource base. The Village also has public school facilities and indoor recreation facilities available. CORPs should keep an up to date inventory of all park facilities, amenities, and assets for effective planning.

Since the last planning period (2015-2019) the Village has identified locations for 3 additional park sites, doubling the number of Village-owned parks. One of these sites, Dogwood Park, has had a playground installed and is open to the public. The Village also encompasses High Cliff State Park managed by the State of Wisconsin and six special use boat launches and access areas for access to Lake Winnebago. Most parks in Harrison are distributed in the Northwest portion of the Village where the bulk of residential development exists.

Many private facilities for recreation existing in Harrison including a 163+ acre golf course, one private park, one sports complex, and church facilities with playing fields.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Harrison's natural resources are some of its strongest assets. The natural environment, Lake Winnebago, proximity to High Cliff State Park, and several environmental corridors make it easy to access and appreciate the natural environment.

Harrison has two significant waterways, the Killsnake River in the southeast and the Kankapot Creek in the northeast. The Kankapot Creek flows into the Fox River and ultimately into Green Bay and Lake Michigan. The Killsnake River flows into the Manitowoc River and ultimately into Lake Michigan. Other minor waterways in Harrison flow into Lake Winnebago. More information on Harrison's physical characteristics may be found in Chapter 5 of this plan.

2.8 miles of trails traverse the Village of Harrison in addition to 6.7+ miles of trail provided by the Friendship State Trail.

INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

There are no public or Village-owned indoor facilities; however, Harrison includes the Lake Park Sportzone and the Lake Park Swim and Fitness Center. These private indoor facilities offer basketball courts, baseball diamonds, soccer, volleyball, swimming pool, and a fitness center.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

Harrison has two parks combined with schools sites. Sunrise Elementary School and Woodland Elementary School have park facilities including baseball diamonds, basketball courts, football, playgrounds, and soccer.



▲ Grading for a new sledding hill at Farmers Field Park

3 New Planned Park Sites Since 2019

1. Farmers Field Park
2. Rennwood Park
3. Dogwood Park (now open)

PARK SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

FACILITIES

Harrison has several recreational facilities throughout the Village. While compared to larger communities, Harrison has fewer types of facilities overall, more facilities are being added over time as new parks are developed. Tennis courts, a sledding hill, and pickleball courts are some examples of new facilities anticipated to come to Harrison over the coming years.

PROGRAMMING

The Village of Harrison does not currently offer any recreational programming. However, park facilities are used by various recreational groups.

STAFFING

Harrison currently does not have a separate parks and recreation department. The Village utilizes crew from the Highway Department to help mow and maintain park facilities.



▲ Youth baseball game at Harrison Athletic Association Park

HARRISON'S PARKS


By the numbers

4.7 Acres of park per 1,000 residents

4,162 Harrison residents per park

7 Playgrounds in Parks and schoolgrounds

 **8** Soccer fields in Parks and schoolgrounds

 **3** Baseball fields and softball fields in Parks and on schoolgrounds

DARBOY COMMUNITY PARK



WHAT'S IN THE PARK?

- 2 Basketball Courts
- 4 Developmental Soccer Fields
- 3 Mini Soccer Fields
- 3 Beach Volleyball Courts
- Multi-use trail
- 2 Baseball Backstops
- 1 Tennis Court
- 6 Pickleball Courts
- Playground
- Pavilion
- Nature Trail
- Fire pit

DOGWOOD PARK



▲ Source: Bob B on Google Images 2021

WHAT'S IN THE PARK?

- Playground

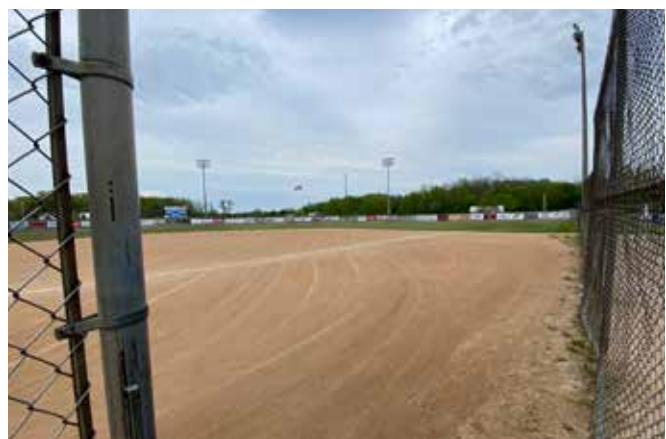
CLOVER RIDGE PARK



WHAT'S IN THE PARK?

- Playground equipment
- Multi-use trails
- Picnic area

HARRISON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION PARK



WHAT'S IN THE PARK?

- 2 Ball diamonds
- Volleyball
- Playground equipment
- Picnic area
- Pavilion

EXISTING PARK FACILITIES & AMENITIES

| Harrison Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------|----------|------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|------------|---|
| | Acreage | Ball Diamonds | Basketball | Boat Ramp | Camping | Concessions | Fishing | Football | Golf | Ice Skating | Landscaping | Parking | Playground | Pickleball | Picnic Area | Restrooms | Shelter | Sledding Hill | Soccer | Swimming | Tennis | Trails | Volleyball | |
| Mini Park | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dogwood | 0.85 | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Neighborhood Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clover Ridge | 6.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | X | | | | | | | | X | |
| Darboy Community | 17.6 | | X | | | | | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | X |
| Farmers Field (Planned) | 18.5 | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | X | | | | | | |
| Rennwood (Planned) | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| School Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunrise Elementary | 10 | | X | | | | | | | | | X | X | | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| Woodland Elementary | 10.86 | X | X | | | | | X | | | | X | X | | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| Special Use Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harrison Athletic Association | 16.5 | X | | | | X | | | | | | X | X | | X | X | X | | | | | | | X |
| Firelane 8 Boat Landing | 0.21 | | | X | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Firelane 12 Lake Access | 0.29 | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Firelane 13 Lake Access | 0.27 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sherwood Boat Landing | 0.26 | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harrison Rd Lake Access | 0.72 | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Faro Springs Boat Landing | 0.15 | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

EXISTING PARK FACILITIES & AMENITIES

| Harrison Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------|----------|------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|------------|
| | Acreeage | Ball Diamonds | Basketball | Boat Ramp | Camping | Concessions | Fishing | Football | Golf | Ice Skating | Landscaping | Parking | Playground | Pickleball | Picnic Area | Restrooms | Shelter | Sledding Hill | Soccer | Swimming | Tennis | Trails | Volleyball |
| Privately Owned Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Shore Golf Club | 164.98 | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| North Shore Woods Nature Conservancy | 16.52 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shady Rest Driving Range | 34.01 | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Christ the Rock Church | 59.57 | X | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Mt. Calvary Baptist Church | 15.00 | X | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | X | | | | |
| The Barn | 6.20 | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | X |
| Trails (in miles) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Highline Trail | 1.12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Noe Trail | 1.07 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Darboy Park | 0.41 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Other Local | 0.21 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Friendship State Trail | 6.7+ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| State Park | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| High Cliff | 1145 | | | X | X | | X | | | | | X | X | | X | X | | | | X | | X | X |

Chapter 2

The Process

PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process began with a Discovery phase where the project team gathered data and visited each of Harrison’s existing parks and park sites slated for future park development. This included an inventory and assessment of park facilities and amenities. As Harrison’s park system is still developing, each park site varies —from a fully-developed park such as Darboy Community Park, to undeveloped land set aside in a new residential subdivision such as Rennwood Park on the Village’s far northwest side.

In this study, parks that are planned but not used by the public yet are referred to as “Planned Parks.” Residents and park users may not be familiar with the Planned Parks in the village. In later sections of this study those Planned Parks will be discussed in more detail as a vision and recommendations are made to help guide budgeting and implementation decisions over the coming years.

Following the inventory and assessment, the project team embarked on two tasks: public engagement and a peer community review. Both of these tasks taken together help create the needs analysis that will guide the vision and recommendations later in this plan. The public engagement identifies the direction the community sees for itself. The peer community review provides important data about the types and number of park amenities found in similar communities around the county. When reviewing peer community data, municipalities are selected that are similar in size and rural/urban character. This gives the planning team benchmarks to aid in planning.

The public engagement was an important part of the process because it provides a vision taken



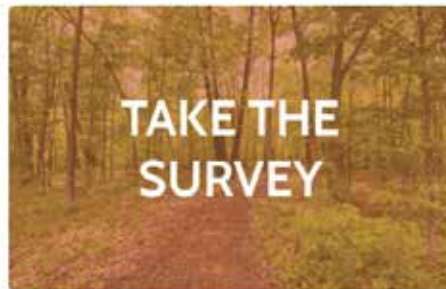
- ▲ The process started with collecting background information on the existing and planned parks. Community engagement helped provide insight into what the community would like to see developed in their parks and open space. The needs analysis used peer communities from around Wisconsin and national benchmarks to better understand Harrison’s current parks. This information was analyzed to formulate the vision categories, which developed into the recommendations. A draft report with community input, and final report completed the project.

directly from the residents and park users. Online engagement was conducted through a project website with several features including a community survey and comment map. A pop-up event was held during a summer event with flyers to promote the project website and opportunities to provide feedback. Because community feedback was so important to forming the vision for Harrison's future parks, a project postcard was mailed to every household in the Village to promote the community survey and ask for participation.

The results of the visioning engagement is in the next section of this report and is a critical piece to forming the vision in this plan.



Add comments to the map!

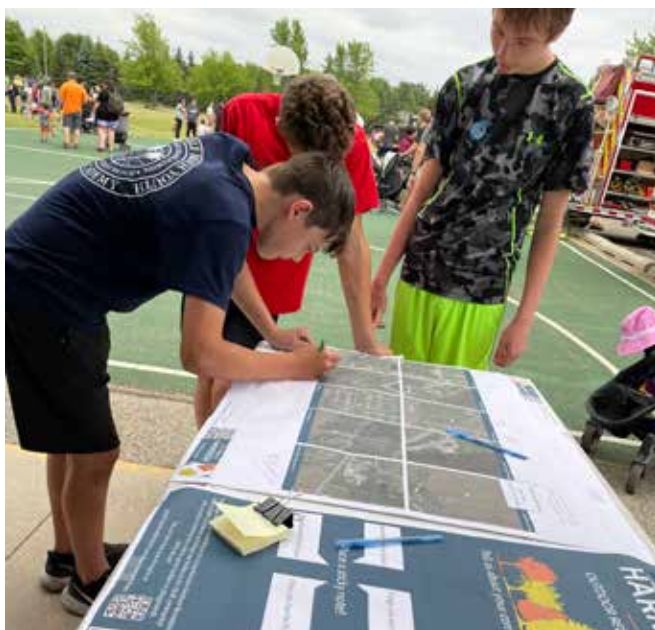


Take the survey!



Want to learn more?

- ▲ ABOVE: The public engagement website offered multiple options for respondents to participate and offer their vision for the future parks system, including a map for comments and a community survey. TOP RIGHT: At the pop-up event in Darboy Community Park participants were offered a "I ♥ Harrison's Parks!" sticker.



Harrison residents, We want to hear from YOU!

The Village of Harrison is updating its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Feedback from residents will help us guide investments in parks and recreation facilities. We have created a survey and website to share information about the planning process and gather feedback from residents. Please consider taking 5-10 minutes to share your thoughts using the information below.

Survey Closes Nov. 15th

Open your smart phone camera:

Scan me!

Questions include:

- How satisfied are you with the quality of Harrison's parks?
- Do you think Harrison has enough public land for sports facilities or outdoor recreation?
- What activities/amenities do you think Harrison's parks need more of?
- In the future, should the Village budget monies annually to begin development of a more comprehensive trail/pathway system?
- And more!

You can submit feedback by completing our **Parks and Recreation Survey** and learn more about the project at: graef.mysocialpinpoint.com/harrison-outdoors

The Village of HARRISON
OUTDOOR RECREATION

- ▲ Postcard mailed to all residents to promote participation in the community survey and online engagement.
- ◀ Pop-up event held in Darboy Community Park on June 23, 2021 during Summer Fun in the Park.

Chapter 3

Community Engagement

Where should Harrison’s parks head in the next five years? This is a question asked through multiple engagement opportunities during the course of the project, to village leaders, park users, and residents.

POP-UP EVENT IN THE PARK

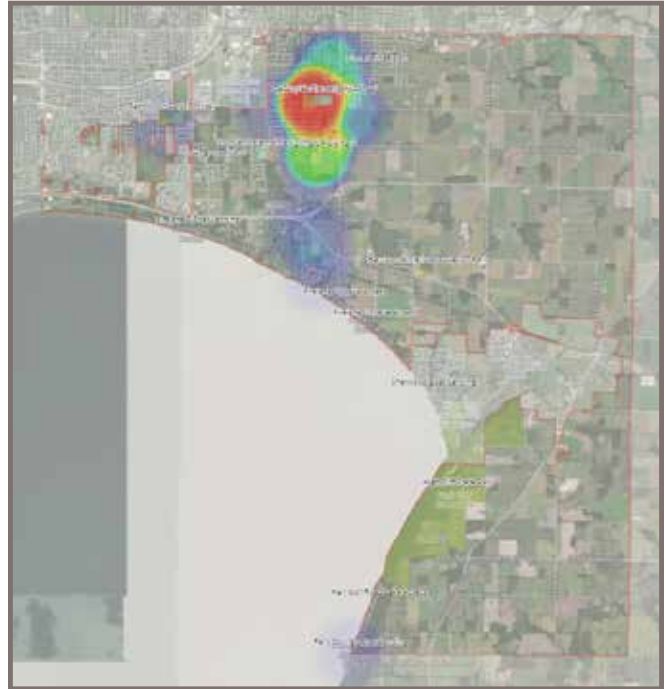
The first phase was an event at Darboy Community Park held Wednesday, June 23, 2021 from 5:30-7:30 pm during Summer Fun in the Park. The event was geared towards all ages, bringing dozens of residents to interact and learn about the comprehensive outdoor recreation planning process. Large poster boards were printed and mounted for public comment with space to write. Village officials were present to meet and greet the community along with the planning staff who were able to answer any questions about the status of park planning and listen to input from residents.

MAP COMMENTS

The team received comments on maps at both the in-person event writing on printed maps, and on the project website in the map comment button. The interactive map allowed residents to place comments on a virtual map to relate comments to specific locations. The map included the locations of all Harrison park lands and shows comments in clusters around certain places, such as Darboy community Park which received 16 unique comments online of the total 34 comments.

DARBOY COMMUNITY PARK. Residents wrote comments in support of a splash pad, skate park, tennis, and pickleball. Some asked if new facilities like pickleball courts would include equipment for public use. Other comments asked for improvements to existing basketball court surfaces or opposed expansion of the number of soccer fields.

Interactive Map: Comment heat map



Interactive Map: Darboy Park



▲ The images above show maps of where comments were placed during online public engagement on the project website.

CLOVER RIDGE PARK. Residents wrote comments in support of disc golf and soccer.

FARMERS FIELD PARK. Residents requested a dog park, means of access and sidewalks, and transparent communication about the timeline and plans for its development. Residents were excited to see the park completed. Other comments suggested adding tennis or pickle ball courts or an archery range. Winter recreation activities were also popular among commenters hoping for a sledding hill.

FIRELANE 13. Residents wrote in support of softball and boat oriented recreation.

RENNWOOD PARK. Residents requested playground equipment and a skate park be added to the new park development.

OTHER FACILITIES. Residents mentioned the desire for more baseball facilities and bike repair stations. Residents also expressed interest in educational tree identification cards to be updated and expanded.

PATHS AND TRAILS. Several comments mentioned paths and trails. Many noted the difficulty crossing County Route N. Another noted feeling unsafe walking along roads with no sidewalks while accompanying children. Another suggested additional paved paths to connect parks and neighborhoods.

NEW FACILITY IDEAS. Many mentioned or supported the addition of gaga ball.

FARMERS FIELD PARK AND OTHER NEW PARKS. Several comments requested the completion of planned facilities and amenities in Farmers Field so that it may become operational.

VILLAGE LEADERS & STAFF MEETINGS

Throughout the course of the project, the planning team met with Village staff, and periodic reviews of materials were distributed to the Village Board for review and comment. This feedback was incorporated into the plan document.



▲ Public engagement at the pop-up event at Darboy Community Park



COMMUNITY SURVEY

The community survey received 521 total participants. A snapshot of who responded to the survey is below. A majority of respondents:

- have lived in Harrison for over 10 years (58%)
- live north of highways 10/114 in the urbanized areas of Harrison (78%)
- live close to a Harrison park (71%)
- have visited a Harrison park more than 10 times in the past year (51%)
- have not participated in recreational programs in Harrison in the past year (63%).

While most of the respondents live north of highways 10/114, the responses are distributed from across the Village: from the area south of highways 10/114 (11%), in the rural area north of Sherwood (9%), and other areas (2%).

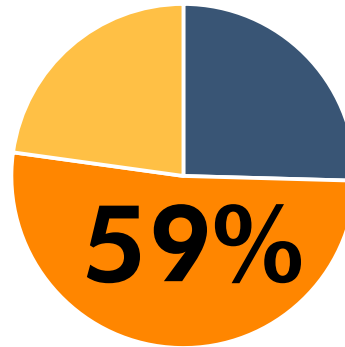
Overall, the respondents have a level of satisfaction with the quality of the parks in Harrison. The survey results do indicate a strong desire by the community for the Village increase the amount of park land for outdoor recreation, sports facilities, walking and biking trails, and small neighborhood parks. In fact, trail development and connectivity was an area of high interest from the engagement activities. Some comments focused on safety and connections across the Village, others indicated a desire for more trails overall. Trails was the top vote getter when asked what activities/amenities that you'd like more of, and when asked about if the Village should budget monies annually for the development of a comprehensive trail system, a whopping 77% of respondents said yes.

INSIGHTS

Most of the online survey responses were received following a postcard mailing to all residents promoting the online survey. Higher numbers of rural respondents were engaged following this

Does Harrison have enough public land?

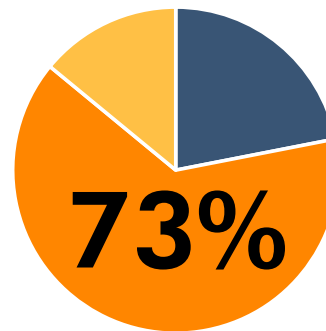
Sports Facilities



Responded No:
not enough land for sports facilities

■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't know

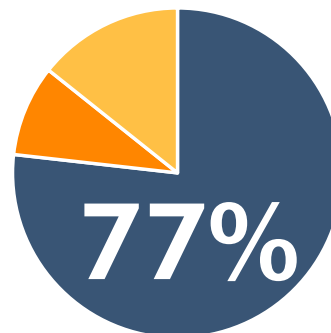
Outdoor Recreation



Responded No:
not enough land for outdoor recreation

■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't know

Should the Village budget annually to begin development of a comprehensive trail system:



Responded Yes:
budget for a trail system

■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure

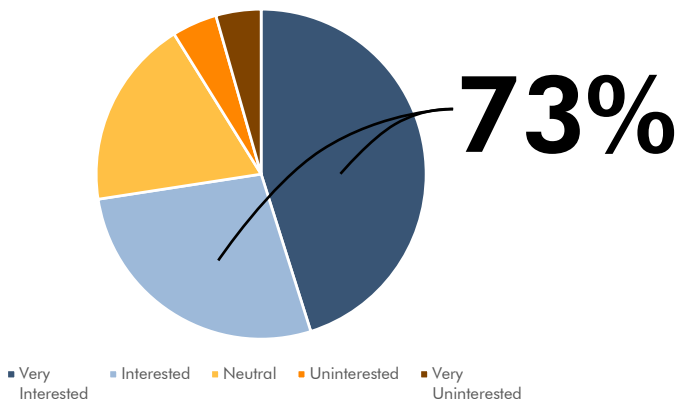
Results show overwhelming support for land acquisition for more parks:

73% support more land for small parks

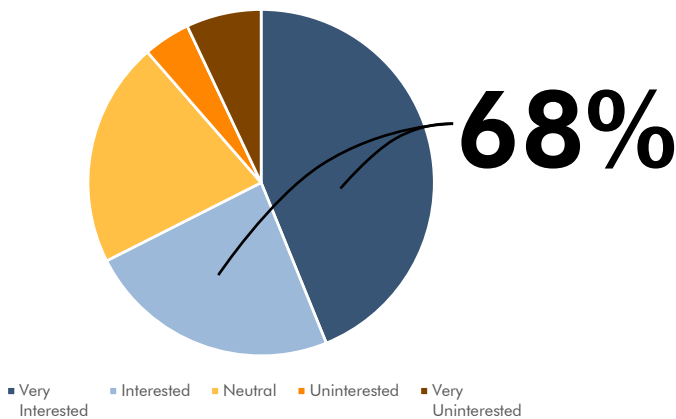
68% support more land for large parks

Survey question asked if Harrison should acquire more land for:

Small Neighborhood Parks



Large Community Parks



mailing in comparison to the in-person engagement in the summer at Darboy Community Park.

In addition, many of the online survey responses were received during or directly after the in-person community engagement at the Summer Fun in the Park event at Darboy Community Park and the subsequent public hearing about facilities in the park. This suggests that there is a high level of interest in the park planning process, and that in-person events can help to drive awareness and participation in the planning process, even if the participation happens online after the fact.

Major themes of comments, likes, and dislikes about Harrison's Parks included:

LIKES: Green space and nature, cleanliness and maintenance, and living nearby parks, trails, and facilities.

DISLIKES: Inadequate space, inadequate activities for teens and older children, outdated facilities and bathrooms, and the lack of pools, ice skating, bike paths across busy roads, and facilities designed for children and people with disabilities and mobility impairments.

Safer road crossings were also a major concern regarding the connectivity of the trail network and access to parks from different neighborhoods.

MAJOR THEMES: Harrison residents overwhelmingly support the development of new trail facilities within the community. Other popular responses include some basic amenities like bathrooms, shade trees, and shelters as well as new types of winter recreation such as sledding hills and ice skating.

Community priorities and preferences in this summary may be used to provide local context and insight in the Peer Communities Comparison analysis in the following section.

I Travel Outside of Harrison to...

Residents were asked to identify park and recreation facilities which they must travel outside of Harrison to access. These answers demonstrate ways Harrison could meet the existing needs of residents. Responses included the following:

- Splash pads and Swimming (4x)
- Dog Park (2x)
- Baseball/Softball (2x)
- Zipline (2x)
- Disc Golf
- Ice Skating
- Skate Parks
- Archery



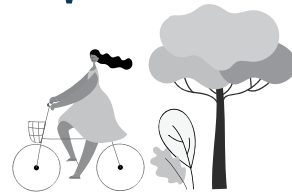
65% interested
in acquiring land for small
neighborhood parks



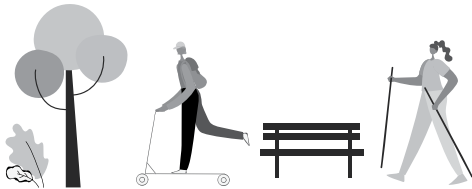
71%
of respondents live
close to a park



#1 trails for hiking and biking ranked highest on the list of park needs



75% support developing a trails system



64% support more winter recreation



TOP 10 desired amenities

- Walk/bike trails
- Nature trails
- Restrooms
- Sledding hills
- Shelters
- Shade trees
- Playgrounds
- Ice skating
- Disc golf
- Native landscaping

Chapter 4

Needs Assessment

NEEDS STANDARDS

The methods for assessing community parks and recreation needs have changed over the past few years with the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) moving away from a standards-based calculation. The previous Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for Harrison evaluated parks and facilities using benchmarks based on a set of standards developed by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) in 1995. These standards were used to determine “need” for parks and facilities in the Village measured in terms of “10 acres per 1,000 residents,” from which a “deficit” or “surplus” would be derived. These standards came from the NRPA, and the NRPA has since moved away from using a one-size-fits-all approach to evaluating communities’ parks and facilities. Instead, the NRPA publishes an annual report with metrics that allows communities to benchmark their parks and facilities against their peers. Metrics from the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review are used in this needs assessment as a comparison point for the Village of Harrison’s parks and facilities.

Priorities and conclusions drawn about park and facilities needs in this analysis are derived from community engagement and peer community comparison as recommended by the NRPA. In comparing this plan and the 2015 Harrison CORP, the recommendations will not necessarily increase based on population growth, but rather how Harrison compares to nearby communities.

COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT

The NRPA defines peer communities based on data disaggregated by population size and region. The Village of Harrison is categorized by the smallest population category: Under 20,000 residents. With a current population approaching 13,000 and a future population to surpass 18,000 by 2040, Harrison is projected to remain within this category for the foreseeable future. The NRPA also produces reports for peer communities disaggregated by state. These reports are created by voluntary participation in the **NRPA Agency Performance Survey**, which collects data from 1,000 municipalities for 25 of the most critical park and recreation metrics (though not every municipality answers every question). In addition to nearby, similar sized municipalities, the following composite categories are included in some of the following peer community comparisons:

NATIONAL PEER COMMUNITIES

This category includes over 100 communities participating in the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Survey whose population is under 20,000 residents. The data is not disaggregated further. Data is represented in median value unless otherwise specified.

WISCONSIN PEER COMMUNITIES

This category includes 7 communities in Wisconsin participating in the NRPA Survey whose population is under 20,000 residents. Data is not disaggregated further, and is represented in median value unless

otherwise specified. Although this is a small survey sample, it does provide additional insight when included with the specific peer communities from Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties included in this analysis. Broader participation in the NRPA Agency Performance Survey by communities in Wisconsin would strengthen the available data for such analysis.

In addition to the composite metrics above, 5 peer communities have been selected for the peer community comparison in this analysis. It is unknown whether the individual communities below are included in the WI Peer Communities composite data from the NRPA:

Grand Chute, Town of
 County: Outagamie
 2020 Population: 23,227

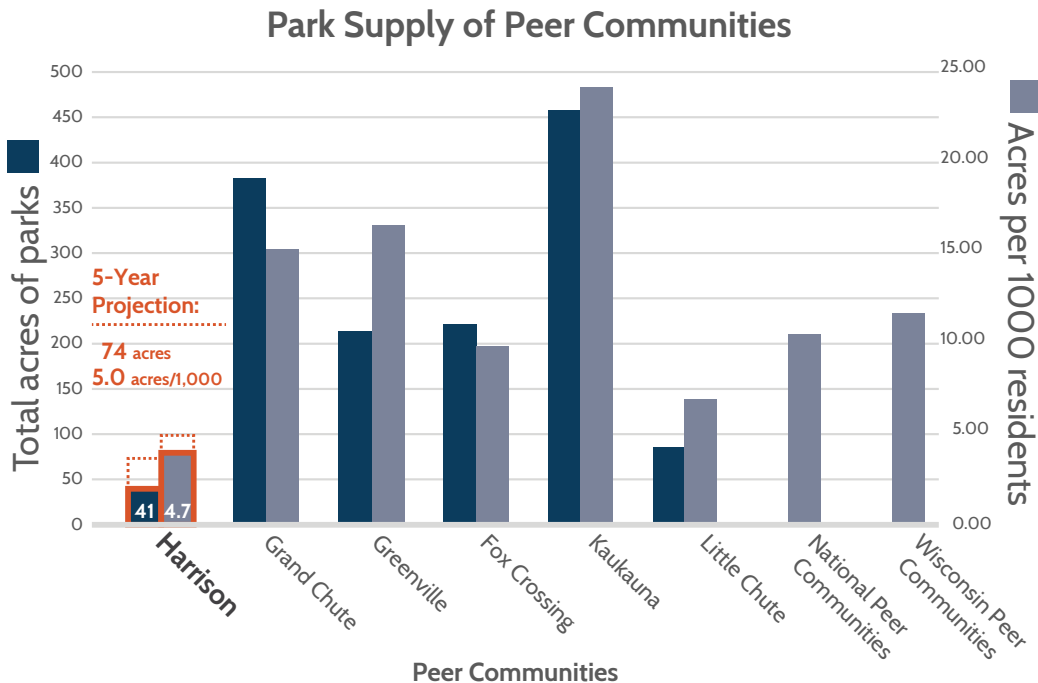
Greenville, Town of
 County: Outagamie
 2020 Population: 12,267

Fox Crossing, Village of
 County: Winnebago
 2020 Population: 19,090

Kaukauna, City of
 County: Outagamie
 2020 Population: 16,363

Little Chute, Village of
 County: Outagamie
 2020 Population: 11,947

Harrison, Village of
 County: Calumet
 2020 Population: 13,185



▲ Source: WI Department of Administration, Fox Crossing CORP 2017, Grand Chute CORP 2018, Greenville CORP 2015, Kaukauna CORP 2019, Little Chute CORP 2016, NRPA

SUMMARY OF NRPA METRICS

The NRPA collects 25 key metrics benchmarking parks, open space, and recreation facilities across communities. Based on availability of data and richness of conclusions, the following metrics have been included in this analysis.

OPEN SPACE METRICS

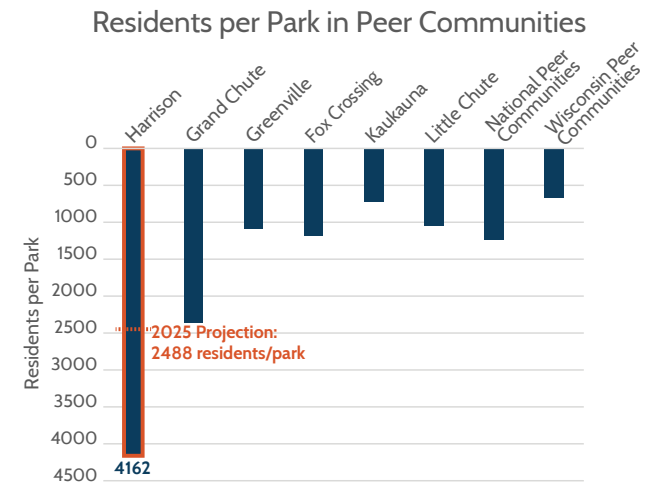
ACRES OF PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS. Although the NRPA has updated this standard which was included in previous recommended CORP standards, it is still a useful starting point. However, instead of producing a rigid “deficit” or “surplus,” the numbers are shown in comparison to peer communities.

RESULTS. Harrison has fewer acres of parkland per 1,000 residents than all peer communities. Once the planned expansion of park facilities for Dogwood, Farmers Field, and Rennwood Parks is added, Harrison will have an additional 33.6 acres of parkland, an 83% increase. However, without additional park acquisition, this only increases the # of acres/1,000 residents from 4.7 to 5.0 based on 2025 population projections.

RESIDENTS PER PARK. Residents per park is a metric which helps offset the effect which exceptionally large or small parks may have on measuring Acres of Parkland per 1,000 residents. People often walk or drive between 0.25 and 2.0 miles to access their local parks. One or two large parks may satisfy the needs of parts of a community, but a distribution of parks is necessary for coverage by proximity. The Harrison Parks and Recreation Community Survey received multiple comments recognizing the difficulty of accessing parks for residents who lived further away.

RESULTS. Using Harrison’s Mini and Neighborhood parks in the comparison (Darboy Community Park, Clover Ridge Park, and Dogwood Park), Harrison

performed the worst among its peers. While adding 3 additional parks from the future facilities planned would double the number of parks, the projected population increase by 2025 will offset much of this improvement, leaving Harrison underserved compared to peer communities.



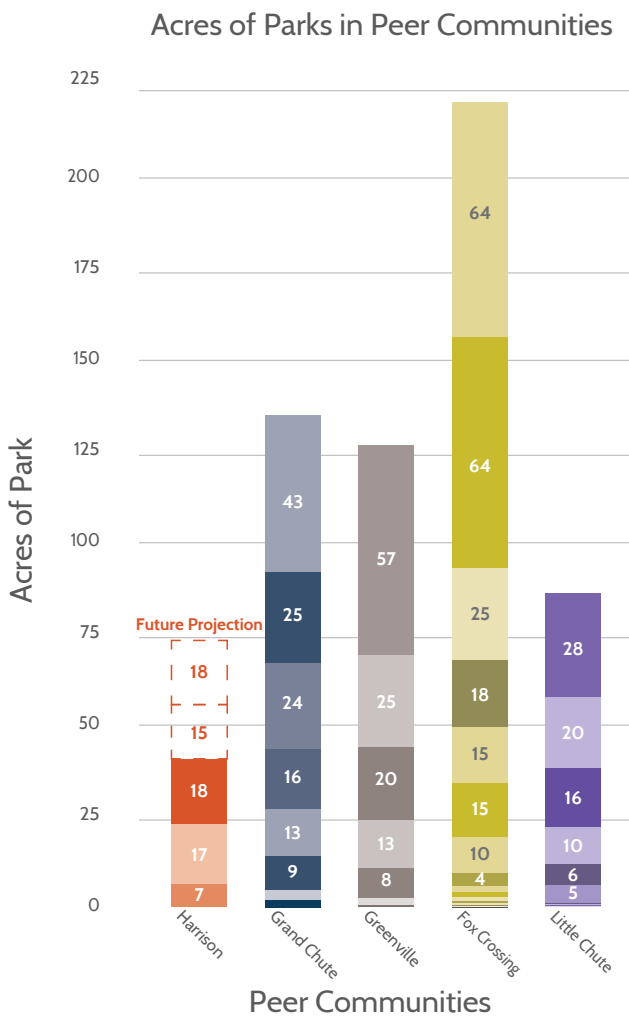
▲ Source: WI Department of Administration 2018 Population Estimates, Fox Crossing CORP 2017, Grand Chute CORP 2018, Greenville CORP 2015, Kaukauna CORP 2019, Little Chute CORP 2016, NRPA

ACRES OF PARKS IN PEER COMMUNITIES. When considering the acquisition of new land for parks and open space, the distribution of park size is a useful comparison to determine whether large, medium, or small tracts of land are appropriate. Having different sized parks helps distinguish the purpose, programming, and population which the facilities attract. Smaller and pocket parks tend to have low intensity uses and attract residents from only a quarter mile radius, while larger parks may host large community, recreation, and sporting events and attract people from 2 or more miles away. Regional and State Parks such as High Cliff State Park attract people from even further.

RESULTS. Harrison has multiple medium sized parks, each around 17 acres. The planned expansion to new park facilities includes two new parks of this size, and one pocket park with Dogwood Park at 1 acre in size.

The Village may focus on acquiring smaller tracts of land for small and pocket sized parks to serve better park distribution and improve proximity to parks for underserved areas. A park buffer analysis is included in this section to recognize areas of opportunity for the acquisition of lands for smaller parks. The boat launches and smaller waterfront properties owned by the Village may be an opportunity to expand the current parks inventory.

PROGRAMMING AND FACILITIES METRICS

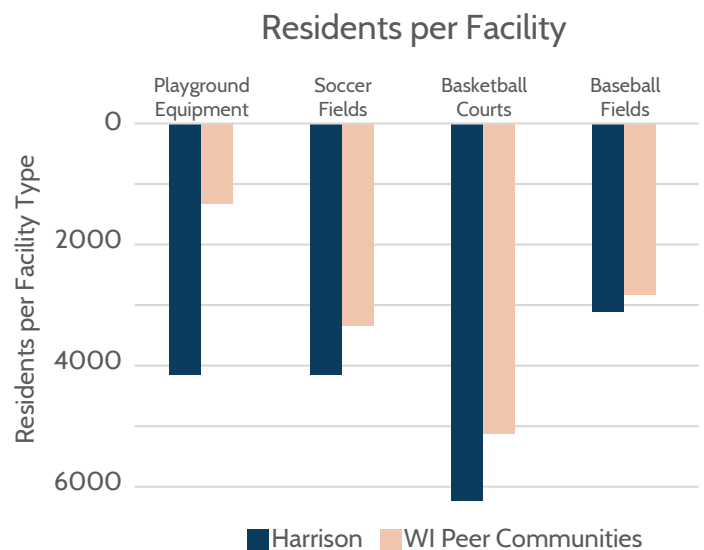


▲ Source: Fox Crossing CORP 2017, Grand Chute CORP 2018, Greenville CORP 2015, Kaukauna CORP 2019, Little Chute CORP 2016, NRPA

POPULATION PER FACILITY. The Harrison Parks and Recreation Community Survey asked residents which facilities and amenities they think Harrison needs more of. Within the top 10 responses to this question were trails, playgrounds, soccer fields, basketball courts, and baseball fields. These facilities are included in the NRPA Agency Performance Survey for benchmarking the number of residents per each facility type.

RESULTS. Harrison underperformed the median benchmark for Wisconsin Peer Communities under 20,000 residents. The largest disparity was in playgrounds, with nearly 3x the number of residents per playground compared to peers. Sports facilities also underperformed compared to the median, but only by a small amount.

MILES OF TRAIL. Trails were the most popular response to expand and improve in the Harrison Parks and Recreation Community Survey. Both



▲ Source: WI Department of Administration, Fox Crossing CORP 2017, Grand Chute CORP 2018, Greenville CORP 2015, Kaukauna CORP 2019, Little Chute CORP 2016, NRPA

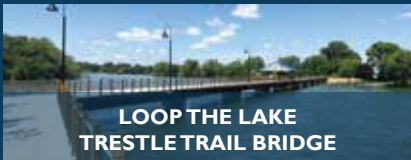
Peer Community Highlight: Loop the Lake and the Friendship Trail



MIRON BRIDGE CROSSING THE MENASHA CHANNEL



LOOP THE LITTLE LAKE BUTTE DES MORTES TRAIL



LOOP THE LAKE TRESTLE TRAIL BRIDGE

Lake Winnebago is home to the Loop the Lake initiative to connect communities to each other and to nature through the development of a continuous trail system. The trail is part of the larger Friendship Trail plan between Manitowoc and Steven's Point, which passes through Little Lake Butte des Morts and on towards the Village of Harrison through Menasha, Fox Crossing, and Neenah. The trail is also complete between Forest Junction and Brillion.

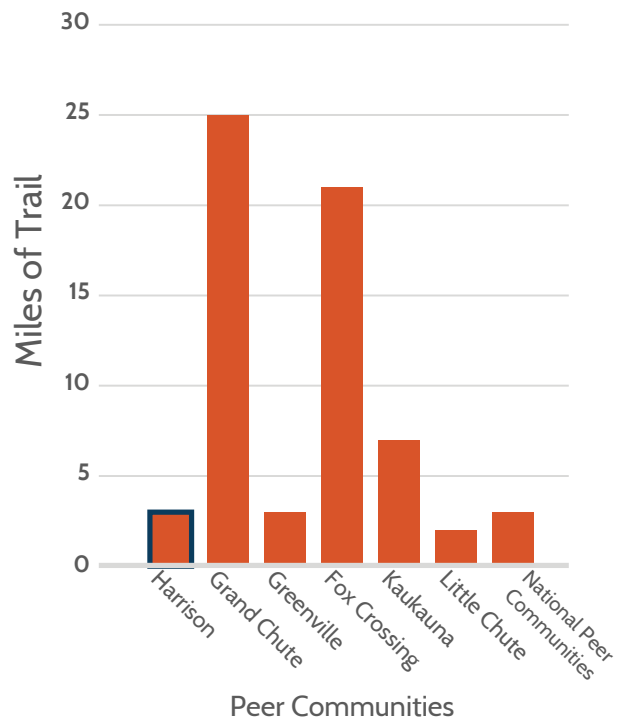
Highlights of the trail system include the Trestle Trail Bridge, an adapted abandoned railroad bridge which is the longest recreational trail crossing a body of water in the state of Wisconsin, a new bridge spanning the Neenah channel, and another bridge spanning the Menasha channel. The projects have successfully transformed once blighted areas into popular community recreational assets, celebrating local history. The system celebrates the natural environment and the enduring history of the people who call the communities it connects home.

recreational (walking, biking, paved) and nature (hiking, bird watching, paved or unpaved) trails are popular amenities in many Wisconsin communities where residents can enjoy the unique natural environment and recreational activities during fair weather.

RESULTS. Trail distribution is highly varied among Harrison's peer communities. While it matches or outpaces a few, it vastly underperforms compared to others. Since trails are recognized as one of the top community priorities for improvement, expansion, and connection, it is appropriate for Harrison to recognize opportunities to build new trails.

PER CAPITA SPENDING. Benchmarking spending per capita is an important metric which reveals the general expectations residents have in their region

Miles of Trail in Peer Communities



▲ Source: Fox Crossing CORP 2017, Grand Chute CORP 2018, Greenville CORP 2015, Kaukauna CORP 2019, Little Chute CORP 2016, NRPA

for Outdoor Recreation amenities and facilities, in this case, the East Central Wisconsin region. It also helps inform what level of tax burden or impact fees are appropriate for budgeting the operating expenses for a parks system.

RESULTS. Harrison currently spends about 1/4 of the expenses compare to the median peer community in Wisconsin on operating expenditures for parks. This is due to the relatively lean facilities provision and lack of a Parks Department, dedicated parks staff, or programming provided by the Village. Local amenities and open space, especially the provision of green space and trees, has been shown to be important for attracting new residents to communities competing for population, leading to higher property values and stronger tax base. Increased investment in parks and open space amenities is likely to lead to spillover effects to the local economy.

PROGRAMMING. Dozens of facility types and recreational programming are possible for Outdoor



▲ Clover Ridge Park contains mature trees, playground equipment, and picnic tables.

Median Per Capita Operating Expenditures on Parks



▲ Source: Village of Harrison, NRPA



▲ Park agencies of similar-sized communities are often responsible for programming social recreation events and performing arts. Image shows a sign for an evening event at City Green in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

| Top 10 Park Amenities/Programming Types in Harrison Community Survey | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Present in... | Active Trails | Nature Trails | Playground Equipment | Soccer Fields | Sledding Hills | Disc Golf | Basketball Courts | Ice Skating | Baseball Fields | Tennis Courts |
| Harrison | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Grand Chute | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Greenville | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Fox Crossing | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Kaukauna | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Little Chute | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

▲ The top 10 amenities heard from the community survey results, and which are present in Harrison and the other comparison communities in Northeast Wisconsin. Source: Fox Crossing CORP 2017, Grand Chute CORP 2018, Greenville CORP 2015, Kaukauna CORP 2019, Little Chute CORP 2016

Recreation Plans, and determining in which to invest requires intentional community engagement to recognize which facilities will have the most demand and serve the greatest population. The Harrison Parks and Recreation Community Survey asked residents which facilities and amenities they would like more of in the Village. Residents may be traveling outside of Harrison to access facilities which they can't enjoy within the Village.

RESULTS. Of the 10 most requested facility types which residents indicated they want more, 6 are present within Harrison's parks. Amenities such as bathrooms, shelters, and shade trees were omitted from this analysis to focus on recreation facilities, although they were combined into the same question in the community survey. Of these desired amenities, many peer communities have most if not all of the facilities most desired by Harrison residents. The above table illustrates which communities have at least one of the

amenities. Also of note is that the survey question as respondents which amenities they would like more of, which the above table indicates if there is at least one. Residents have expressed interest for an increase in the number of amenities overall. Harrison may consider expanding its provision of recreational facilities to retain and attract residents who see them as a valuable local amenity. Specifically, Harrison may invest in disc golf and an ice skating rink. Current expansion plans include the final completion of sledding hills and tennis courts in Farmers Field and Darboy Community Park respectively.

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFFING. Harrison currently has no dedicated Parks and Recreation staff, but provides maintenance through other Village departments. Staffing was a recommendation of the previous 2015-19 CORP and remains a recommendation of this Plan. Parks and Recreation staff are responsible for the coordination of park operation, maintenance, activities, and programming.

RESULTS. Wisconsin peer communities under 20,000 have a median of 8.9 Full Time Employees (FTE) equivalent per 10,000 population. Nationally, the median community under 20,000 population has 10.9 FTE's per (total), while the 25th percentile (i.e. the bottom quarter of communities or "lower quartile") has 5.4 FTE's. Harrison may use these benchmarks when planning the staffing for a new Parks Department.

PARK SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

The Village of Harrison is growing substantially, and has been since the mid 1990s. Because of this growth, it is important to recognize the need to acquire and develop new park space as residential areas are built. A park buffer analysis may be used to recognize the level by parks a given neighborhood or location has. Areas not fitting within at least one park buffer are considered "underserved," meaning they cannot easily walk to a park in their community.

Since many Harrison residents drive, a park buffer of 0.50 miles has been used as opposed to the typical 0.25 mile buffer recommended for urban areas. The dotted line within each buffer indicates a 0.75 mile buffer, indicating a somewhat adequate level of service for the area.

The Future Land Use Plan for Harrison recognizes an area of land (outlined in purple) outside the existing developed parcels (in yellow) which are planned to be developed or developable as population increases. Undeveloped parcels (in

green) are those which have no property assessed improvements as of 2021, but are classified as residential or agricultural (the primary land use converted to residential). This analysis is used to begin determining the total amount of park land necessary for acquisition in the future for the long range growth of Harrison.

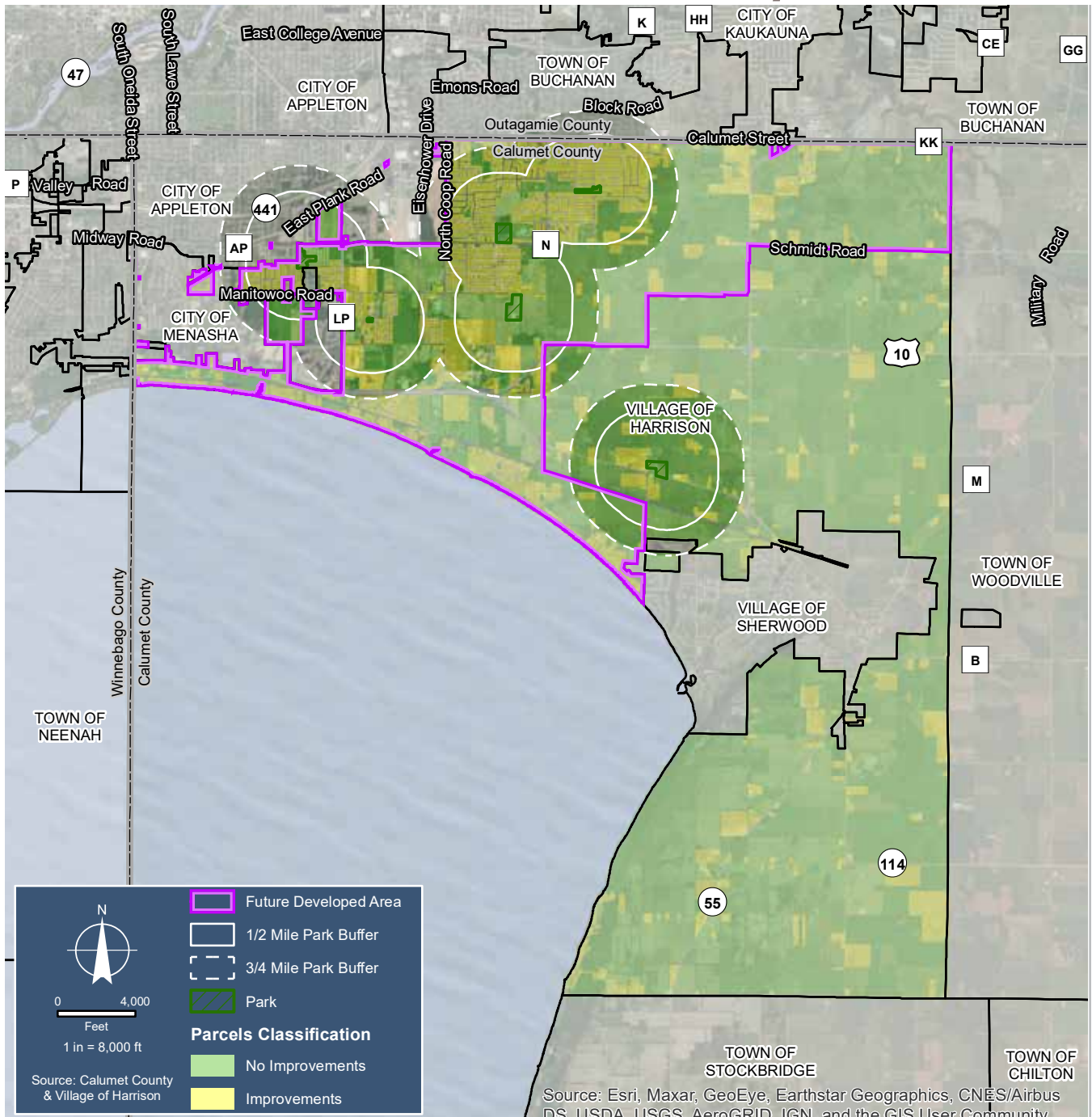
FUTURE GROWTH NEARBY PARKS (0.50 mi). Within the 1/2 mile park buffer, there is 1.069 square miles of undeveloped land (684 acres). Using the average dwelling units per acre (DUA) of a fully developed census tract in Harrison, an approximate number of future dwelling units may be projected:

$$\begin{aligned} 684 \text{ acres} \times 1.55 \text{ gross DUA} \times 2.86 \text{ per household} \\ = \\ 3,032 \text{ residents} \end{aligned}$$

The average household size for Harrison is 2.86 (ACS 5 Year '19). Therefore, approximately 3,032 more residents may live within 0.50 miles of Harrison's current parks. Harrison is projected to grow by approximately 1,600 residents by 2026 and by 5,000 residents by 2040 from 2021.

FUTURE GROWTH UNDERSERVED BY PARKS. At least 1,968 new residents will live outside the existing park service areas by 2040. Harrison is projected to achieve 5.0 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents, and peer communities have closer to 12.0 acres of parks per 1,000. In order to serve approximately 2,000 new residents with parks in the growth area, between 10-24 additional acres of parks should be acquired. **New park acquisition does not need to occur within the 5-year planning period of this Plan so long as currently undeveloped park land is developed over the planning period, and residential development occurs at the pace and in the geographic areas as anticipated in this analysis.**

Planned Park Service Area Analysis



▲ The diagram above illustrates existing and planned park locations in Harrison and each park's service area in concentric rings around the park sites. The green shaded area illustrates undeveloped land, and the yellow shade represents residential development. The service area of the existing and planned parks geographically covers a majority of residential development, with the exception of residential in the far north and far south areas of the Village. It is anticipated—based on the analysis of pace of residential construction and the areas identified as future residential land use in the Village—that the current and planned park site's service areas will accommodate this future growth in the coming 5 years. Source: Map by GRAEF | Data: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

While overall park acreage and locations are suited to Harrison today and in the next several years, the Village lags behind its peers in several categories: facilities, programming, and staffing.

The charts at right illustrate how Harrison’s facilities compare to other communities in Wisconsin of a similar size. In the coming years, planning for additional facilities will help the Village offer amenities similar to its peers.

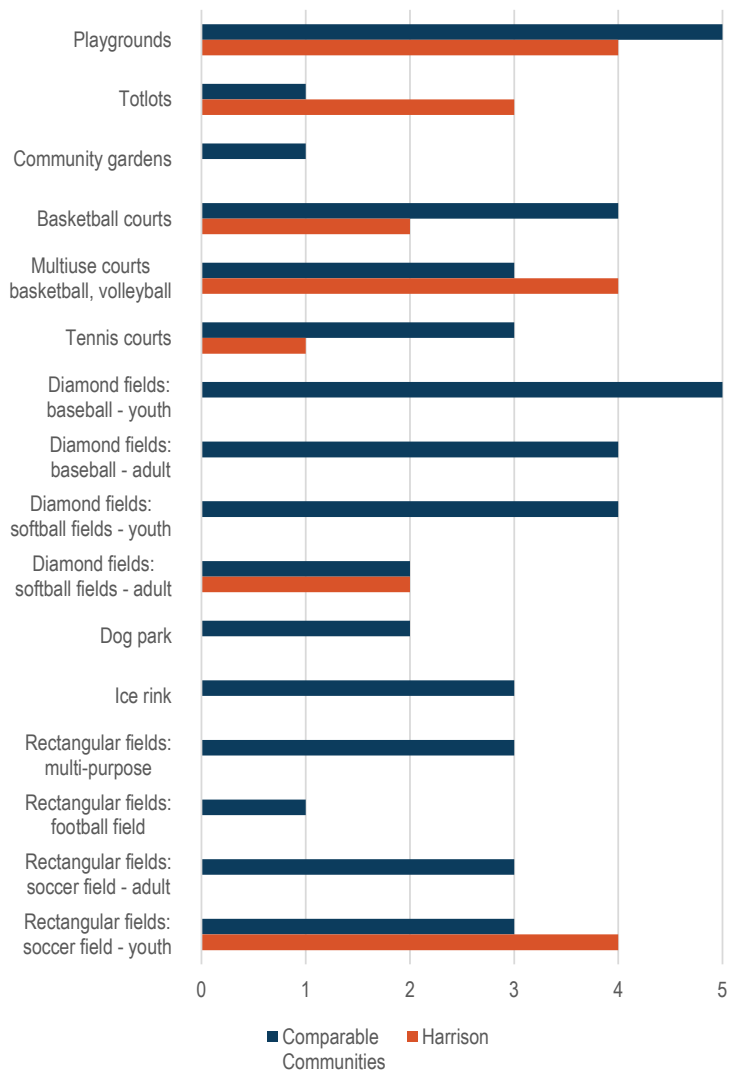
Below is a summary table of the types and number of facilities that are considered in the recommendations.

Recommendations for New Harrison Facilities

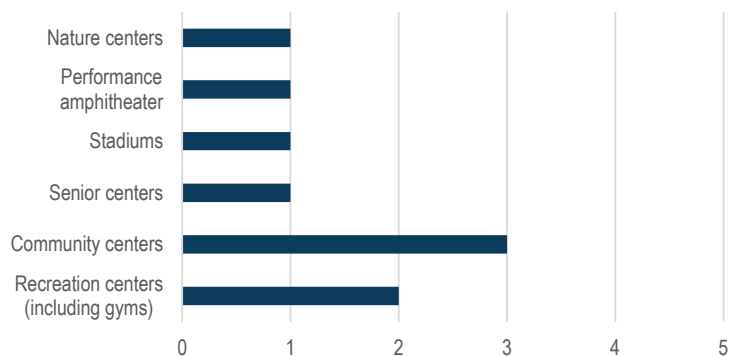
| NUMBER | FACILITY TYPE |
|--------|---------------------|
| 1 | Playground |
| 1 | Community garden |
| 2-3 | Diamond fields |
| 2 | Basketball courts |
| 2 | Tennis courts |
| 1-2 | Dog parks |
| 1-2 | Ice rinks |
| 1-3 | Multi-purpose field |
| 2-3 | Adult soccer fields |

- ▶ Charts at right illustrate the types and number of facilities and activity areas offered by other Wisconsin communities similar in size to Harrison. Source (Comparable Communities data): NRPA.

Outdoor Park Facilities Comparison Between Harrison and NRPA Comparable Communities



Activity Areas Offered by Comparable Communities



Chapter 5

Vision

The community profile, demographic trends, and community growth patterns, combined with the public engagement and what we heard from leaders, staff and the residents, work together to create the vision for the plan for the next five years of the park system in Harrison.

The following sections are meant to inspire and provide direction for the future of Harrison's parks. Each section—Build, Stewardship, Design, Community, Service, and Connect—contain information that takes the concepts uncovered during the first phase of the project, and creates a framework for development into a series of action items. These action items are found in the next chapter, Chapter 6 Implementation.

BUILD

The Build section focuses on what the community needs, what the community said it wants, and identifies locations and considerations for existing and future parks.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship section focuses on the natural environment and physical characteristics of the Village, and how biodiversity, conservation, sustainability, and green infrastructure can be brought into the park system—providing a way for residents to connect with the natural beauty of the Village.

DESIGN

The Design section uses the information from the Stewardship section and expands that into a brand of park system to develop a palette of materials for plants, paving, buildings, and signage.

COMMUNITY

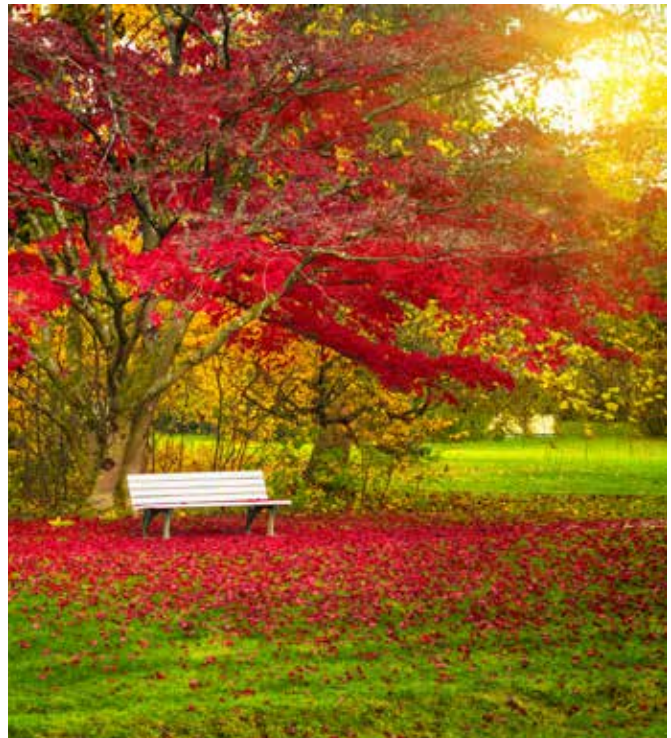
The Community section focuses on the changing demographics of the community and what it means to create park spaces that have both social spaces and physical amenities for all ages and abilities.

SERVICE

The Service section focuses on amenities, programming, responsibilities and staffing for a growing park system to consider. It also discusses valued partnerships for programming, volunteers, and philanthropy.

CONNECT

The Connect section focuses on connectivity and mobility within the Village. As one of the top amenities desired by residents, and feedback showed proactive acquisition was desired also, this section helps provide direction for future steps in this important mobility and connectivity issue.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1 Project park, trail, and recreation facility needs based on periodic review of community growth and community needs.

-
- 1.1 Ensure that environmental and aesthetic qualities of the community are considered when planning for park and recreation development, including preservation of natural resource areas.
 - 1.2 Assess park and facility needs as new subdivisions are developed to ensure that new residents are adequately served.
 - 1.3 Promote cooperative efforts with surrounding communities to provide recreational facilities and programs as well as adding new facilities and programs.
 - 1.4 Engage the Harrison community in all park and recreation facility planning efforts, including public meetings, community surveys, and pilot or demonstration projects within the parks.
-

2 Ensure that Harrison’s parks and natural beauty are accessible to all residents.

-
- 2.1 Ensure that all Harrison residents have access to park facilities close to their home.
 - 2.2 Develop a system of multi-modal trails, paths, and safe on-street facilities that are clearly marked with wayfinding and connect Harrison residents to park and public facilities.
 - 2.3 Enhance the safety of multi-modal trail connections, especially to park facilities, through the development of safe road crossings.
 - 2.4 Design active and passive recreational areas and facilities which can be used by citizens with mobility impairments.
 - 2.5 Plan for amenities and recreation programming for residents of all ages, providing for varied interests.
 - 2.6 Enhance communication of available park and recreation facilities and improvements to Harrison residents.
 - 2.7 Develop new “Village of Harrison” branding in place of existing “Town” branding.
-

3 Encourage and promote water-oriented recreation such as fishing, boating and swimming.

3.1 Promote and endorse efforts to improve water quality, access, and navigability to Lake Winnebago.

3.2 Take advantage of the opportunity to promote and maintain the boat launches that are in the Village.

4 Continue to provide exceptional quality of facilities and maintenance of all existing parks and public spaces.

4.1 Provide adequate resources and personnel to maintain current recreational facilities and ensure that maintenance of existing facilities is balanced with the development of new parks and facilities.

4.2 Develop Master Site Plans for each park site to help guide future development.

5 Identify, preserve, cultivate, and protect areas which are environmentally significant, and which hold historic value.

5.1 Identify and incorporate historic areas or structures in the development of new parks.

5.2 Encourage the use of natural features, such as floodplains, wetlands, and woodlands, as passive recreational areas.

5.3 Protect significant wildlife areas, including the escarpment areas.

5.4 Encourage biodiversity and habitat for wildlife in Harrison by planting native plant landscaping and trees in Harrison parks that can be used for education and passive enjoyment.

BUILD

The park system in Harrison is in a growth mode. The Village has set aside over 30 acres of land for future parks, under development now. This land, combined with the existing parks, provides the framework for the recommendations for new facilities, amenities, and activity areas. The review of comparable national and Wisconsin communities in the NRPA database, combined with what was heard during the community engagement, leads to a series of recommendations to guide development of the current and planned parks in the Village.



▲ Example of exercise stations, to be located along trails. Source: Outdoor Workout Supply

▼ Design idea of a gazebo structure to add shade for seating.



▲ Example of lighting along trails for safety and aesthetics.



WATERFRONT POCKET PARK

Select a location for enhancements, potential water views or other amenities. Consider Firelane 12 Lake Access or Firelane 13 Lake Access, as screening acquisition may be reasonably achieved.

- Overlook
- Benches
- Natural area informational signage
- Fishing dock
- Public viewing pier or on-shore deck
- Landscaping and habitat
- Native riparian plantings
- Constructed fish/amphibian habitat
- Native aquatic and upper banks plantings
- Birdhouses

CREATE A WINTER DESTINATION

Winter amenities at various parks is great to consider overall. Specifically, build on the sledding hill at Farmers Field Park and create a winter destination with amenities:

- Park sign - entrance sign and directional signage
- Shelter, warming hut in winter
- Trail around the park for snowshoeing and skiing
- Lighting:
 - Festive lighting for sledding hill (festoon lights)
 - Accent lighting to promote a sense of place during the months when the sun sets earlier
 - Trail lighting (bollards or similar pedestrian scale)
 - Parking lot
- Electrical:
 - Allow electrical hookup for future festival of lights type activities
 - Food trucks and food vendors
- Landscaping/wildlife
- Focus on planting for winter interest such as evergreen, berries, and textured tree bark
- Reindeer, or other visiting animals



Images on this page illustrate a winter destination feel that could be brought to Harrison's parks. Source: GRAEF and Canva.

ACTIVITIES & FUN

Sports facilities are a large part of any park district. Equally important is to plan for all ages and abilities to get outside and enjoy nature. The following suggestions can be included in existing and future parks. Including options like obstacle course equipment, disc golf, and community gardens are alternates to organized sports leagues.

Particularly in the past two years, the value of parks and open space in our community has continued to rise. While it's still important to provide active recreation and sports facilities for youth and adults, communities are increasingly looking to have spaces for all ages and all abilities.

Spending time outside can reduce stress. Even 20 minutes a day can be helpful. A recent Park Pulse Survey by the NRPA (October 2021) indicates that over half of U.S. adults spend at least 30 minutes outside every day.

With a growing teen population in Harrison today, it's more important than ever to think about activity areas and facilities that provide productive, safe, fun places for teens to socialize with their friends and get outside.

ALL ABOUT DOGS

The pet industry has been on the rise, and in the past two years families added dogs to their household in record numbers. With the population growing, adding community facilities for dog families to get outside and exercise is even more important for communities to consider.



▲ Ideas for dog park development in the Village



▲ Disc golf idea for a Village park



▲ Obstacle course playground equipment.
Source: Minnesota Wisconsin Playground



▲ Skate parks provide space for all ages and families.

| PARK | BUILD IDEAS | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Darboy Community Park | Complete the pickleball and tennis court facilities (painting, nets, etc) | Flora and fauna identifier signage | |
| Clover Ridge Park | Disc golf Parking lot | Flora and fauna identifier signage Community garden | Pollinator and native plantings |
| Dogwood Park | Lighting | Gazebo or similar shelter | |
| Harrison Athletic Association Park | New playground equipment | Exercise stations Multi-use trail | Specialty LED color-changing lighting |
| Lake Access | Picnic gazebo or pavilion | Lighting Benches | Indigenous habitat Birdhouses Upper bank planting |
| Farmers Field Park (Planned Park) | Create park master plan with public input. Consider utility extension timing | Winter destination amenities: ski/snowshoe trails, warming shelter, fire ring, festoon lights, ice rink, sledding hill | Playground equipment Soccer fields Diamond fields Sidewalks to connect into the park |
| Rennwood Park (Planned Park) | Create park master plan with public input | Playground equipment | Basketball court |
| Future Parks | Exercise stations Obstacle course equipment Basketball courts | Playground equipment Dog park Skate park | Performance amphitheater Community center Community garden |

STEWARDSHIP

There is an opportunity in Harrison’s parks to focus on biodiversity, habitat, and connection with nature in parks. While many may have a single-family home with a grassy back yard perfect for play, the park system has the ability to bring the wonderment of the greater community’s natural beauty to an accessible site nearby. The parks can contain indigenous plants and animal habitat, or provide access to the expansive waters and vista of Lake Winnebago.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Village of Harrison is located within a rich ecological community, allowing the Village to promote preservation and conservation efforts vital to the health of the environment. In this chapter, we will explore the natural resources relevant to the Village and show how a healthy environment benefits peoples’ everyday lives.

The Village sits on an interbasin divide between the Lake Winnebago watershed and Garner Creek sub-watershed which ultimately drains into the Fox River and Lake Michigan. This means that the Village influences Lake Michigan and the 30 million people that rely on its water.

The Village of Harrison is primarily located in the Southeast Glacial Plains Ecological Landscape with some of the northern portion located within the Central Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape. As defined by the WDNR, there are 16 Ecological Landscapes within Wisconsin based on ecological or environmental attributes. WDNR states that Ecological Landscapes can be used to “identify the best areas of the state to manage

for different natural communities, key habitats, aquatic features and native plants and animals from an ecosystem management perspective.” The Southeast Glacial Plains Ecological Landscape has the highest aquatic productivity for flora and fauna of any other Ecological Landscape in the state. By supporting these aquatic features, Harrison can continue to attract those interested in fishing and ecotourism at large.

GARNERS CREEK SUB-WATERSHED

The dominant fish species remaining in the creek system are those tolerant of the environmental degradation Garner Creek has experienced. As the habitat quality decreased, more fragile fish are dying. According to a 2020 Draft Garners Creek Watershed Assessment, the Garner Creek sub-watershed is determined as being low quality. Garner Creek is listed on the State’s 2020 303(d) list of impaired waterways as required by the Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act. WDNR defines impaired waterways as having no cleanup plan in place. Specific impairments of Garner Creek include chronic aquatic toxicity from chloride pollution and degraded biological habitat from phosphorus and sediment and total suspended solids pollution. Hydrological modification, stormwater impacts, and stream-bank erosion and failure are common throughout



▲ View from Fire Lane 8 Boat Landing in Harrison looking out over Lake Winnebago

the watershed. Watershed degradation has direct effects on communities. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a healthy watershed can combat the damages that come from extreme weather events. Infrastructure, potable water supplies, and vegetation all benefit from healthy watersheds. Nationally in 2017, watersheds had a total average annual monetary benefit of \$2.3 Billion.

LAKE WINNEBAGO

Lake Winnebago is directly southwest of the Village and located in Fond du Lac, Calumet, and Winnebago Counties. It is 137,700 acres and the largest lake entirely located within Wisconsin. Lake Winnebago is listed as one of the best places to fish, year-round. Notably, the lake has a self-sustaining Sturgeon population and is home to one of two systems in North America where Sturgeon can be harvested with a spear. The Lake Winnebago watershed-and thus the popular fishing destination-is threatened by runoff pollution as well as waste.

Sturgeon populations are also likely to continue to decline as temperatures rise due to climate change and the quality and quantity of spawning and nursery habitats decreases. WDNR conducts annual fish surveys that outline significant findings for prominent water systems in the state.

HIGH CLIFF STATE PARK

The High Cliff Escarpment State Natural Area is located within the Village boundaries of Harrison and the Village of Sherwood.

According to the WDNR, cliffs are crucial to the life cycle of mammals, birds, herptiles, and specialized invertebrates. WDNR also lists the Southeast Glacial Plains as having the best opportunities to manage dry cliff opportunities. Sustaining cliff communities like High Cliff State Park is important, because cliffs create an important habitat for plants and animals. These plants and animals contribute to the stability of the environment. Increase in pests like rodents and insects as well as disease-carrying animals are common results of habitat loss.



▲ Rocky Cliffs at High Cliff State Park Source: WI Dept of Natural Resources

TOPOGRAPHY AND WETLANDS

Wetlands are a part of a community's green infrastructure and can play a crucial role in maintaining a community's resiliency against rising temperatures, flooding, and air and water quality. Per the United States Environmental Section 502 of the Clean Water Act defines green infrastructure as strategies that use plant or soil systems, permeable surfaces, or landscaping to manage stormwater. Specifically, wetlands can be vital for water quality improvement and flood protection as well as adding natural beauty. Wetlands located within the Village of Harrison on agricultural or undeveloped lands are particularly important to conservation.

There is a small wetland south of CTH-KK, bordered by State Park Road, Friendship Drive, and Schmidt Road. A large swath of land in mid-Harrison features prominent wetlands. The wetlands stretch West to Lake Winnebago and meet the Harrison-Sherwood border. They are bordered by Woodland Road to the North and residential development to the South. The last prominent wetland area is located on the southeast portion of Harrison. It follows a tributary of Kankapot Creek and Killsnake River.

The relationship between agriculture and wetlands is interdependent. Historically, wetlands have created land well suited for agricultural purposes, because they support fertile soils, reduce erosion, retain and cultivate nutrients, as well as mitigate the effects of droughts. However, converting wetlands for agricultural purposes can lead to decreased water quality through nutrient or pesticide pollution and habitat degradation for fragile plants and animals. Converting wetlands for residential development also increases flood risks by replacing permeable soil with impermeable pavement concrete, or bare soil. Not only are wetlands important for drainage issues within village limits, but their health also has implications for water quality on a much larger scale outside of Village boundaries.



Largemouth Bass | Source: UW Madison



Smooth Cliff Brake | Source: Missouri Dept. of Conservation



Rusty Woodsia | Source: Maryland Biodiversity Project



CONNECT WITH THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF HARRISON

System-wide suggestions for the parks in Harrison:

- Work with a naturalist, arborist, and/or citizen science group to conduct a tree and wildlife survey of Harrison’s parks and public lands.
- Develop a Harrison-specific guide to native plants, habitat, and pollinators, using WDNR resources as a base.
- Identify areas in existing and future Harrison Parks that can be “naturalized” with native plants and trees.
- Fund-raise for these planting areas or find wildlife “sponsors” (local businesses, advocacy groups, neighborhood organizations) and install them in highly visible and accessible areas.
- Work with the public works staff, and possibly community volunteers, to determine a maintenance plan for the naturalized planting areas so that sensitive plants are not damaged or neglected.
- Consider installing rain gardens with native vegetation in park areas that are consistently wet or flooded.
- Consider establishing community gardens alongside pollinator gardens to increase awareness of pollinator benefits and increase resident interaction with the Harrison environment.
- Develop and install informational signage about the new planted areas, native trees, community gardens, and/or pollinator gardens.
- Create recreational/educational programming centered around Harrison plants and wildlife, using “naturalized” areas in parks as outdoor classrooms.



▲ Working together to care for the land can bring a deeper connection to a place.

DESIGN

Many park systems develop a brand identity that is used in the development of park amenities, facilities, signage, and programming materials.

Currently, the landscape in the parks in Harrison is a pleasant blend of mowed grass and shade trees, but it could include so much more. As described in the previous Stewardship section, natural beauty abounds in the Village. Public parks are one way for community members to connect with nature, and thereby understand, value, and protect these resources.

The current Village park signage could be up for a refresh. Most of the system includes reference to the former “Town” of Harrison. Starting with a new brand and logo for the parks, a new system



- ▲ The Village’s park signage—installed prior to incorporation into a village—still references the Town of Harrison.

of signage can be implemented throughout the parks and trails. The logo and signage can celebrate local history, educate the public about indigenous species and the environment, and create an identity for the newly incorporated Village.



- ▲ Decorative bicycle rack reflecting the identity of a waterfront town.



- ▲ Examples of a style of branding and logo from a park system.
- ◀ The City of Waukesha, Wisconsin, captured its identity of a community on the Fox River through public art sculptures of foxes situated at various locations around downtown. Photo source: Pinterest.

PARK BRANDING AND LOGO DEVELOPMENT

A system-wide parks branding development includes more than a logo. A brand is how individuals perceive an experience. When someone thinks of Harrison's parks, what do they think of? What kind of experience does the Village envision for park goers? Creating a place-based brand starts with the community. Steps the Village can take include:

- Conduct a community survey focused on community identity and connection with the Harrison landscape.
- Work with a designer to select three potential symbols for Harrison's parks (plant or animal).
- Ask community members to vote on the symbol that they like best.
- Work with a designer to develop logo and branding options based on the selected symbol.
- Incorporate the symbol/logo into overall park system signage, trail signage, and potentially other sculptural or decorative park elements.
- Fabricate and install new park signage.



- ▲ Examples of developing an icon or logo and using it on signage and markers in the parks.

MATERIALS PALETTE

Material choices in Harrison’s parks help to define community identity and character. Consistency in material and planting palette also help to mark park property and provide orientation for users. Materials can reference Harrison’s natural heritage and rural character.

WOOD

Heavy timber construction provides a natural feel while steel joinery alludes to the recent agricultural legacy. Black Locust decking is a sustainable, durable and lightweight choice that blends with the natural setting. Black Locust trees (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) are a durable, rot-resistant hardwood species. Black Locust starts a light golden tan, but the wood is known for its changing color and ages to a fine gray patina.



▲ Black Locust decking is a durable, sustainable wood for outdoor uses. Source: New York Botanical Garden



▲ Heavy timber with steel joinery. Source: vermonttimberworks.com



▲ Heavy timber construction can be combined with limestone foundations and post bases in pavilions and other park structures. Above a heavy timber theatre with stone post bases. Citizen’s Park in Barrington, Illinois. Source: vermonttimberworks.com

LIMESTONE

Limestone when used in landscaping and signs references the Niagara Escarpment landform present in Harrison and High Cliff State Park. This beautiful and unique feature of Harrison’s natural landscape can be celebrated in park design and serve as a unifying theme in the parks system branding. Limestone, especially with a rough, unpolished surface, can be used in retaining walls, steps, and accents, as well as incorporated into building design as facade, foundations or post bases.

As a beautiful reference to Harrison’s natural history, limestone helps maintain a community identity and sense of place grounded in Harrison’s unique location.

PLANT PALETTE

Plant selection is another way for Harrison to distinguish itself and develop a consistent park identity. Using a recommended list of plant choices and plant pairings will add character, emphasize the natural amenities present in High Cliff State Park’s distinctive ecosystem, and reflect the richness of Harrison’s waterfront landscapes.

The Stewardship section of this document discusses the benefits of incorporating “naturalized” planted areas into park landscapes. By selecting plants that provide year round color and interest, these areas can be incorporated into the design plan for the parks and maintain an aesthetic motif alongside the hardscape materials discussed above.

As outlined in the Stewardship section of this document, Harrison is fortunate to be situated in a landscape with the highest aquatic productivity in Wisconsin. Diversifying the array of plants in the parks will support the maintenance of clean water systems by reducing runoff pollution. Additionally, beautiful and hardy indigenous plants can be chosen to compliment the ferns, brakes and woodland plants of High Cliff State Park.



▲ Stacked limestone retaining wall



▲ Limestone paired with timber and Corten steel in signage.



▲ Limestone boulders used as accents in a lawn seating area.

PRAIRIE GARDEN

Pair a prairie garden with entrance signs and south facing building facades, around field edges and in open areas that are underutilized or difficult for growing turf grass. In addition to being drought tolerant, these plants will attract butterflies and other pollinators.



▲ Source: prairienursury.com

Butterfly Weed

Bergamot

Joe Pye Weed

Cone Flower

Columbine

Phlox

Prairie Blazingstar

Prairie Dropseed

Smooth Aster

Ironweed

Goldenrod

Black-Eyed Susan

FOREST GARDEN

Forest gardens can be designed around limestone accents and walls to evoke the atmosphere of shady fern forests at High Cliff State Park. Use these under trees instead of turf and on the north side of buildings.



▲ Source: prairienursury.com



Woodland Aster

Virginia Bluebells

Smooth Cliff Brake

Maidenhair Fern

Columbine

Trillium

Black Snakeroot

Rusty Woodsia

Wild Geranium

Lady Fern

Cinnamon Fern

Tall Bellflower

In sunny areas, such as around signs, near south facing building and in open fields, a garden palette modeled after a prairie ecosystem can be used. The plants have the added benefit of attracting pollinators such as butterflies. Shady areas near woods or north sides of buildings can be identified for gardens reflecting the woodland plants of the area. When paired with limestone accents, these shady gardens specifically suggest the ecosystem of High Cliff State Park and celebrate its unique habitat.

As Harrison continues to build support for winter recreation activities, special consideration can be given to providing plants with winter interest that can be enjoyed all year round. Evergreen plants provide a backdrop of color while indigenous hollies, such as Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), hold bright red fruits late into the season.

Many indigenous deciduous trees and shrubs provide winter beauty through distinctive bark texture and color. Dogwood varieties such as Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*, synonym *stolonifera*) have vibrant red bark that stands out beautifully against a winter snow. Birch tree such as White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) have an appealing clumping structure and textured bark that accents a winter landscape. Its peeling bark is also a favorite for kids to play with.

Many indigenous Wisconsin plants have sturdy stems and seed heads that can stand up to harsh winters and snowfall, providing cover and food to birds and other animals throughout the winter. Purple Coneflower, with its large, spiny seed heads, really stands out against the white backdrop of snow.

Sturdy grasses such as Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) and Switchgrasses (*Panicum virgatum*) can stand up through long winters and add texture and movement. The upright stalks offer an eye-catching vertical element.



▲ Sweet Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa* sp.) after a fresh snow. Source: lakewingra.org



▲ Winterberry Holly. Source: provenwinners.com



▲ White Birch. Source: EEK Wisconsin



ESTABLISH A PARK BRAND IDENTITY AND MATERIAL PALETTE

System-wide suggestions for the parks in Harrison:

- Work with a designer to develop a park logo for use in signage and materials.
- Incorporate consistent wood decking materials for boardwalks and platforms such as sustainable Black Locust.
- Utilize heavy timber and steel joinery in pavilions and other park structures as a nod to the natural and agricultural surroundings.
- Use limestone in architecture as needed for post bases, signage and facades.
- Use limestone in landscaping for steps, retaining walls and accents, similar to local limestone in Harrison’s natural areas.
- Develop a palette of planting materials for common conditions such as sunny, shady and wet areas.
- Utilize indigenous trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses that provide structure, texture and color during winter months.

◀ Material palette from top: unpolished limestone, heavy timber with steel joinery, forest plant palette reflecting the High Cliff ecosystem, Black Locust decking.

COMMUNITY

Parks are a valuable resource in a community to provide social and recreational spaces. Many communities strive to provide social spaces for gathering, enjoying the arts, or playing games. Small pocket plazas, larger community gathering spaces, and community centers are development ideas that would bring more of this type of space to the Village. According to the comparable communities assessment using NRPA data, similar-sized communities have amenities such as an amphitheater for outdoor concerts; a nature center; and a community center for recreation, meetings, and senior and teen programming.

While certain facilities may be specific to certain age groups—such as youth soccer, for example—the social spaces suggested (this page and following page) are flexible and can appeal to a wide range of ages, abilities, and interests. This can provide great value to residents, and can be incorporated into current and future parks.



▲ From teen study groups to book clubs, community centers provide social spaces for a diverse range of residents in the community. These types of facilities can provide valuable meeting space, and rental space for parties and functions.



▲ Michael J. Walsh Plaza in De Pere, Wisconsin uses movable tables and chairs for greater flexibility for families and persons with disabilities.



▲ A splash pad was among the most desired amenities. Water nozzles can be integrated into plaza spaces, as shown above, or water play can be offered in a traditional child splash pad amenity.



▲ Bayshore in Glendale, Wisconsin, uses flexible outdoor space designed to be used for a variety of programming and events, including concerts or movie night.



- ▲ Strength training and yoga classes are examples of the types of programming for all ages that could be offered.
- ▼ Art in public spaces has the power to bring the community together. Art can help define the community's identity and bring out its unique character and sense of place.



- ▲ Getting outside to play can be more than playing sports. Communities are embracing games and providing spaces for socialization, such as an outdoor ping pong table, and thinking about accessibility for all residents.
- ▼ Horseshoe pits are a great way for friends and family to spend time together outside.



- ▲ Community gardens are places for neighbors to come together and share experiences of growing their own food, connecting with nature, and teaching others. These types of community spaces can be particularly valuable in areas of higher densities and multi-family residences where outdoor space is limited.

SERVICE

The Village is in a period of growth, following a relatively recent incorporation from a town into a village. While certain park amenities and programming were not present in Harrison during its years as a town, now with incorporation and growth comes opportunities to provide residents with additional opportunities.

Throughout this plan, there have been references to other park agencies throughout Wisconsin and across the country. This has been provided to offer a benchmark for future planning. It is meant to be aspirational and provide guidance to craft the future park system that matches the specific desires of the Harrison community.

This plan document provides recommendations for a five-year planning window. Budgetary limits and decisions are real considerations by the elected officials, and suggestions contained in this plan respect that only so much can be added any given year. On the other hand, during public engagement, constituents clearly stated a desire for more park offerings. These factors together set the stage for recommendations for the incremental growth of the village's park system: park staff and providing programming.

PROGRAMMING & STAFFING

When looking across the country, the NRPA data can provide options for consideration for the Village. In the table following, the darkest orange cells illustrate which are the most common programming offerings in similar sized communities and communities within the Great Lakes region. This, combined with community and stakeholder input, can guide decisions to add programming in the coming five years.

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

| Harrison | Other WI Communities | Responsibilities of Agencies (Majority of Comparable Wisconsin Communities are tasked with the following) |
|----------|----------------------|--|
| ✓ | ✓ | Operate and maintain park sites |
| | ✓ | Operate and maintain indoor facilities |
| | ✓ | Provide recreation programming and services |
| ✓ | ✓ | Operate, maintain, or manage trails, greenways, and/or blueways (TGB) |
| ✓ | ✓ | Operate, maintain, or manage special purpose parks and open spaces |
| | ✓ | Conduct major jurisdiction wide special events |
| | ✓ | Have budgetary responsibility for its administrative staff |

▲ A comparison of the agency responsibilities from a majority of Wisconsin comparable communities compared to Harrison's parks today. Source: NRPA.

Staffing at similar agencies is almost 9 FTE (full time equivalent) employees. This is likely based on the comparison agencies offering more amenities and programming. As the Village determines a growth strategy for programming, so will the need for staff grow. A recommendation would be to begin with a full-time staff person and two seasonal staff persons to assist with programming during the summer months.

USE AGREEMENTS

In Harrison's parks today several organizations provide organized activities in two parks: Darboy Community Park and Harrison Athletic Association Park. This programming has been well-attended and functions as a key way for the community to

come together and recreate outside in the Village. Currently, key activities are listed below.

Darboy Community Park

- Fun in the Summer, by Darboy Kiwanis. Typically five events throughout the summer.
- Youth soccer leagues, by Kimberly Area Soccer Association (KASA). Typically several nights per week throughout the summer.

Harrison Athletic Association Park:

- Adult softball leagues, by Harrison Athletic Association. Typically several nights per week throughout the summer.
- Youth baseball leagues, Typically several nights per week throughout the summer.

The challenge with shared facilities can be coordination of scheduling and fully utilizing each park space. As discussed in previous sections of this plan, the Village has less park space per resident compared to other similar-sized communities. How

the Village manages the use of current park space available is important to park equity considerations for community members. Working with user groups to adequately plan for the full use of the parks is one step the Village can take in the coming year to better plan for future park facility needs.

RECOMMENDED STEPS:

A few key steps are recommended for the Village to take steps into providing more amenities and programming:

- Meet with user groups and establish user agreements to fully utilize current parks and provide equitable access to residents.
- Develop a list of three preferred programming offerings.
- Hire a full-time staff person dedicated to parks and programming. Follow with seasonal staff to assist with programming and activities.



▲ Youth baseball in Harrison Athletic Association Park in the summer of 2021.



▲ The Darboy Kiwanis hold four summer events in the community. The above photo is from the “Touch a Truck” event in July 2021. This was part of the Fun in the Summer series hosted by the Darboy Kiwanis. This family-friendly event featured games, refreshments, and a display of emergency vehicles to explore. Shown above is the ThedaStar helicopter landing in the park.

Programming Offered by Park and Recreation Agencies

| | Population (across U.S.) | | Region |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | Less than 20,000 | 20,000 to 40,000 | Great Lakes |
| Themed special events | 84% | 89% | 86% |
| Social recreation events | 81% | 89% | 84% |
| Team sports | 82% | 94% | 81% |
| Fitness enhancement classes | 69% | 88% | 77% |
| Health and wellness education | 71% | 83% | 79% |
| Individual sports | 64% | 79% | 74% |
| Safety training | 63% | 67% | 67% |
| Aquatics | 59% | 70% | 68% |
| Racquet sports | 59% | 70% | 65% |
| Performing arts | 48% | 66% | 67% |
| Cultural crafts | 41% | 62% | 57% |
| Martial arts | 44% | 67% | 56% |
| Visual arts | 43% | 58% | 59% |
| Natural and cultural history activities | 39% | 53% | 61% |
| Trips and tours | 47% | 61% | 57% |
| Golf | 28% | 45% | 50% |
| Running/cycling races | 39% | 45% | 50% |

PROGRAMMING

As Harrison looks to grow parks programming, similar communities can provide a guide for future offerings:

- Themed special events
- Social recreation events
- Team sports
- Fitness enhancement classes
- Health and wellness education
- Individual sports
- Aquatics
- Racquet sports



- ▲ Special events, such as outdoor movie night or a concert in the park, is a great way for the community to get outside and socialize.
- ◀ The darkest orange cells of the table at left illustrate programming options most offered by communities of a similar size to Harrison, and communities within the Great Lakes region. Source: NRPA Agency Performance Review, 2021. Findings use data from Park Metrics, NRPA's park and recreation agency performance benchmarking tool, from 2018-2020.

CONNECT

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

The miles of trails among local northeast Wisconsin comparable communities varies, but Harrison is similar when compared nationally against other communities with a population less than 20,000. When considering that trail development and connectivity ranked very high during the community engagement, compared to other aspirational communities locally, Harrison is considerably lower. The Village of Harrison has 2.81 miles of dedicated trails within its boundaries for walking and cycling. As the rapidly growing community develops, creating and maintaining a trail system to connect residential areas to recreation facilities, schools, and businesses becomes increasingly important.

Trail development is considered a high priority for recommendations in this plan. Opportunities to grow the trail system are included in this section.

REGIONAL TRAIL PLANNING

Harrison's position on Lake Winnebago connects the community to precious natural resources



▲ Trail in wooded area of Darboy Community Park

and park facilities across the region. One way the region is looking to increase connections between communities and improve access to the waterfront is through the Loop The Lake initiative. Part of the larger Friendship Trail plan to connect Manitowoc and Steven's Point, passing through Little Lake Butte des Morts and on towards the Village of Harrison through Menasha, Fox Crossing, and Neenah, the Loop the Lake trail is a great example of how the region is improving connectivity.

The Village has three main multi-use trail connections: Highline (1.12 miles), Noe Road (1.07 miles), and Friendship State Trail (6.7 miles). Additionally, there are snowmobile trails following an east-west direction mostly south of USH 10, then to High Cliff State Park and Lake Winnebago.

There is current planning taking place to connect the Friendship Trail to High Cliff State Park, through Harrison. This work is being coordinated through the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) with participation from Harrison and surrounding communities.

LOCAL PRIORITIES

The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission published the 2018 Kimberly Area School District Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Action Plan for use by the Village of Harrison and surrounding communities to identify and walking, bicycling, and driving barriers. This plan is a useful guide to local trail and pedestrian planning relevant to this CORP. The Kimberly Area SRTS Action Plan identifies several locations within the Village of Harrison for trail and sidewalk improvements. While not the direct focus of this CORP, the pedestrian and bicycle connections identified in the SRTS plan contribute to the goal of this CORP to ensure that Harrison's parks are accessible to all residents.

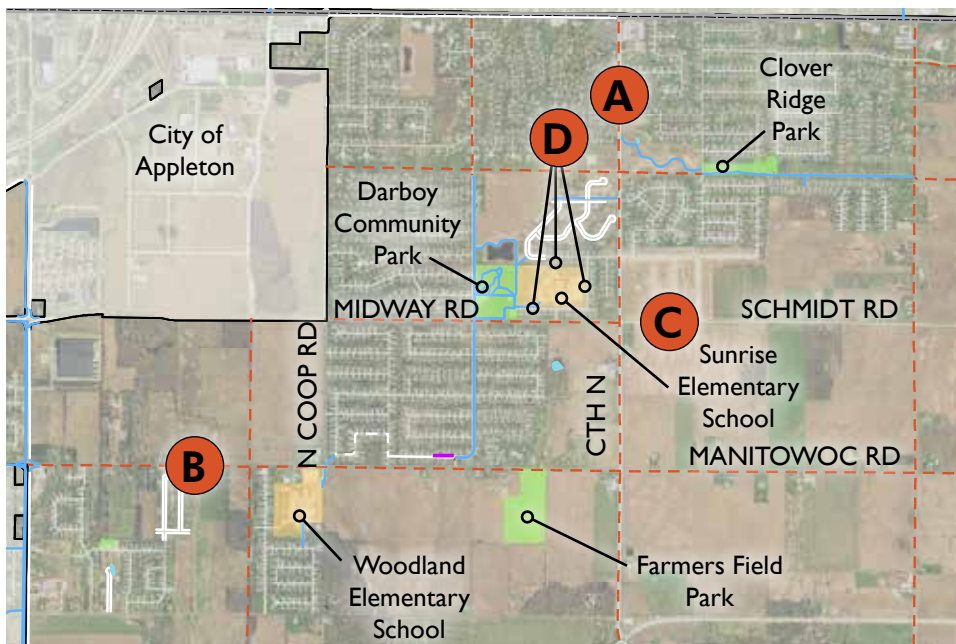
Improvements recommended for these routes are illustrated in the following enlarged map, and include a 10-foot wide off-road multi-use path on the eastern side of County Highway N which

would connect to the Friendship State Trail to the south. More 10-foot wide off-road multi-use paths are recommended along the southern side of Manitowoc Road and the northern side of Midway & Schmidt Roads eastward towards the future Farmers Field Park. Sidewalk installation is recommended for the streets serving Sunrise Elementary where there are currently none along with safe crossing points. More information on the recommended improvements and individual school action plans can be found in the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's Kimberly Area School District Safe Routes to School Action Plan.



▲ Child's bike parked at the side of the road at Clover Ridge Park

CONNECTIONS ENLARGED MAP #1 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS RECOMMENDATIONS



| Existing Trails | Proposed Trails |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Unspecified | Unspecified |
| Sidewalk | Bike Lane |
| Hike | Pond Access Trail |
| Hike and Bike | Sidewalk |
| Bike | |
| Horse and Bike | |
| Multi-Use | |

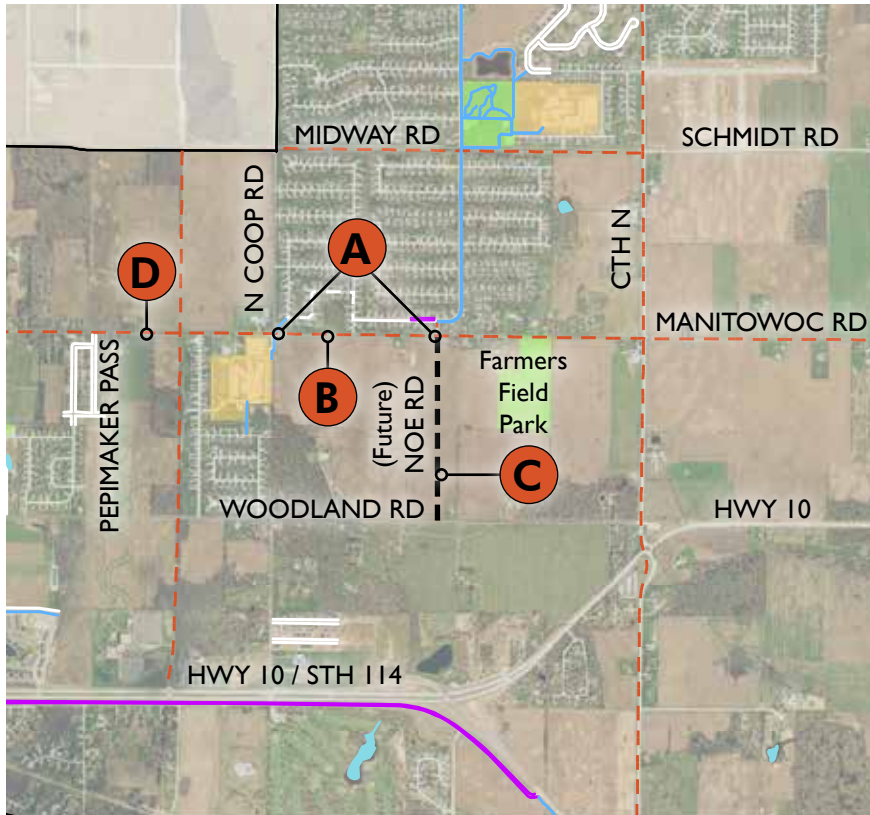
◀ Existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Source: Calumet County and Village of Harrison

The Kimberly Area SRTS Action Plan makes sidewalk and trail improvement recommendations for seven key streets and roads in the Village of Harrison, four of which are high priority. These four routes are:

- A** County Highway N from County Highway KK to State Highway 10 (in progress 2022)
- B** Manitowoc Road from County Highway LP to N Coop Road
- C** Midway & Schmidt Roads from N Coop Road going east past County Highway N (in progress 2022)
- D** Skippers Lane, Exploration Ave, and Hoelzel Way around Sunrise Elementary

CONNECTIONS ENLARGED MAP #2 FARMERS FIELD PARK AND PARK SERVICE AREA

LEGEND FOR ENLARGED MAPS



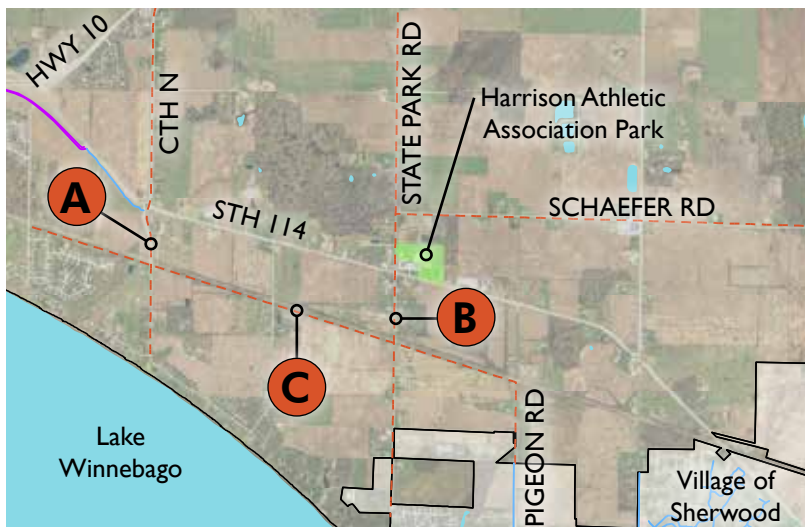
| Existing Trails | | Proposed Trails | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | Unspecified | | Unspecified |
| | Sidewalk | | Bike Lane |
| | Hike | | Pond Access Trail |
| | Hike and Bike | | Sidewalk |
| | Bike | | |
| | Horse and Bike | | |
| | Multi-Use | | |

Recommended priority trail connections:

- A** Safe crossings at Noe and N Coop Roads
- B** Trails on the north and south sides of Manitowoc Road between N Coop Road and Farmers Field Park entry
- C** Trails on the east and west sides of the future Noe Road
- D** Trail on the south side of Manitowoc Road between N Coop Road and Papermaker Pass

▲ Existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
Source: Calumet County and Village of Harrison

CONNECTIONS ENLARGED MAP #3 HARRISON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND PARK SERVICE AREA

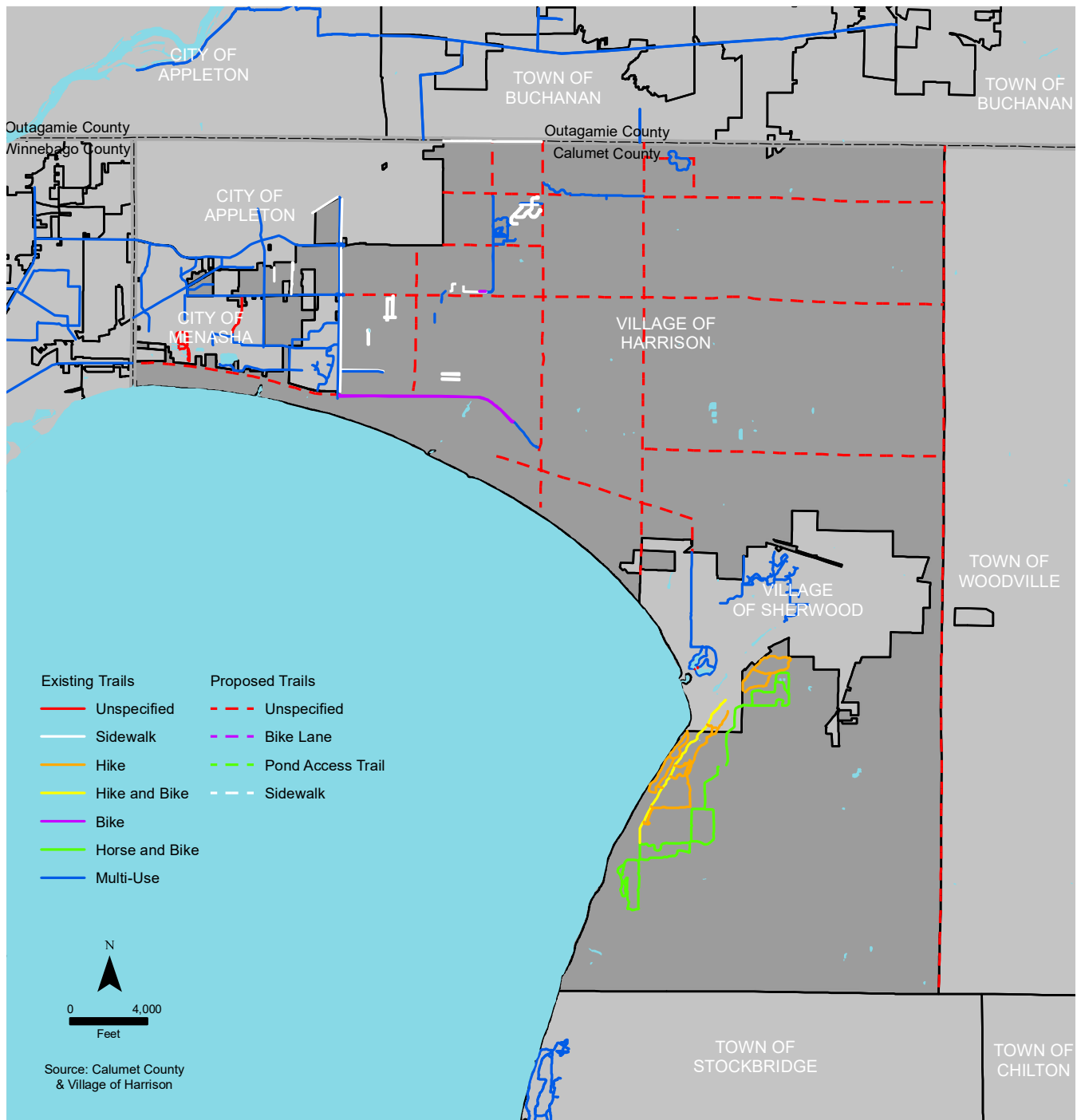


Very minimal residential uses are in the nearby vicinity of Harrison Athletic Association Park. The priority recommendations focus on regional connections:

- A** Connect STH 114 to Lake Winnebago and the planned Friendship State Trail
- B** Trail on State Park Road between the park entrance and the planned Friendship State Trail
- C** Friendship State Trail from N Shore Road to Pigeon Road

▲ Existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
Source: Calumet County and Village of Harrison

Bicycle & Pedestrian Connections



▲ Existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Source: Calumet County and Village of Harrison

Catalog of Trail Types

The following trail types can be used during the design phase of the trail implementation projects and is meant to illustrate the types of trails that the Village can consider.



Shared Use Path

A shared use path can accommodate many different types of users - bikers, walkers, runners, rollerbladers, etc - and can be found in urban, suburban, and rural areas alike.



Sidepath

A sidepath is a shared use path that follows closely alongside of an existing roadway. It may be next to the street or separated by landscaping.



River Trail

A river trail is simply a shared use path, accommodating pedestrians, cyclists, rollerbladers, and runners, that follows alongside a riverway and through the park/conservation land that surrounds these riparian areas.



Catalog of Trail Types

The following trail types can be used during the design phase of the trail implementation projects and is meant to illustrate the types of trails that the Village can consider.



Bike Lane

A bike lane is a defined and marked area on the roadway for cyclists to travel. Bike lanes can be striped only (as shown above), or painted green for greater visibility.



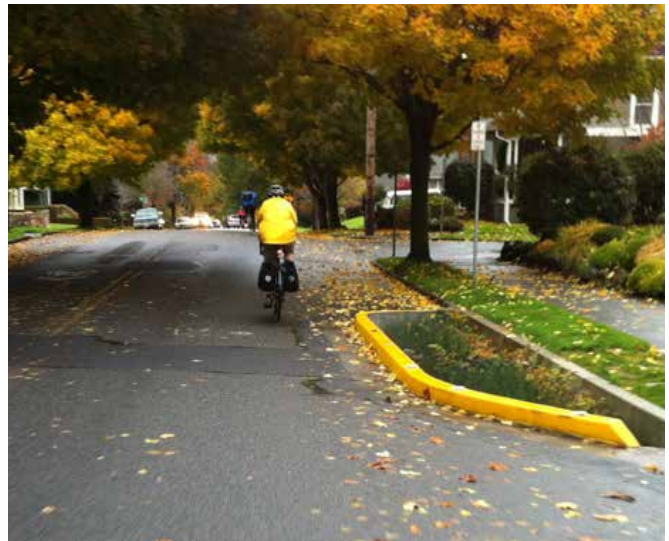
Paved Shoulder

Ensuring that rural and suburban roadways are designed with paved shoulders allows cyclists and walkers to safely navigate streets with light traffic.



Minor Enhancements

Minor enhancements to roadways, such as signage, ensuring drive lanes are marked, and pavement is smooth enough for bike travel, helps keep Harrison's roads safe for all.



Traffic Calming

Bumpouts, raised intersections, and small traffic circles are examples of tools that can be used to flow vehicular traffic, making streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

Chapter 6

Implementation

1 Project park, trail, and recreation facility needs based on periodic review of community growth and community needs.

- 1.1 Ensure that environmental and aesthetic qualities of the community are considered when planning for park and recreation development, including preservation of natural resource areas.
- 1.2 Assess park and facility needs as new subdivisions are developed to ensure that new residents are adequately served.
- 1.3 Promote cooperative efforts with surrounding communities to provide recreational facilities and programs as well as adding new facilities and programs.
- 1.4 Engage the Harrison community in all park and recreation facility planning efforts, including public meetings, community surveys, and pilot or demonstration projects within the parks.

| A ADMINISTRATION | P PROGRAMMING | S SYSTEM-WIDE | F FUTURE PARKS | L LAKE ACCESS |
|--|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Update the park service area map annually and assess the geographic location of residents to park locations and programming opportunities. | Consider hiring seasonal staff on an as-needed basis to support new Parks and Recreation staff members. | | Acquire land for new parks to serve residents outside of existing park service areas, as new subdivisions are developed outside of the current park service areas, or if density patterns change. | |
| Initiate outreach to neighboring communities to see if they would be interested in participating in an annual meeting to collaborate around recreational options such as trail planning, programming, etc. | Make a plan and budget money to add recreation programming within the next five years. | | | |
| Meet with park user groups to discuss current facility use and needs as well as planning for future facilities. | | | | |

2 Ensure that Harrison’s parks and natural beauty are accessible to all residents.

- 2.1 Ensure that all Harrison residents have access to park facilities close to their home.
- 2.2 Develop a system of multi-modal trails, paths, and safe on-street facilities that are clearly marked with wayfinding and connect Harrison residents to park and public facilities.
- 2.3 Enhance the safety of multi-modal trail connections, especially to park facilities, through the development of safe road crossings.
- 2.4 Design active and passive recreational areas and facilities which can be used by people with mobility limitations.
- 2.5 Plan for amenities and recreation programming for residents of all ages, providing for varied interests.
- 2.6 Enhance communication of available park and recreation facilities and improvements to Harrison residents.
- 2.7 Develop new “Village of Harrison” park branding and a materials palette that highlights the natural beauty of the Village.

| A ADMINISTRATION | P PROGRAMMING | S SYSTEM-WIDE | F FUTURE PARKS | L LAKE ACCESS |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Evaluate the primary routes between the neighborhoods to each park to ensure that there are adequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities to accommodate families with children and residents with mobility issues. | Create at least one recreational program designed for teenagers. | Conduct a wayfinding plan for the park system that includes the parks, multi-use trail system, and directional signage. Create a trail implementation plan based on priority trail locations. | As new subdivisions develop and land is reserved for park development, proactively acquire easements or land for multi-use trail development to connect the park to the neighborhood and to other community recreation amenities. | Provide accessible paths for non-motorized lake access at two key locations on Lake Winnebago. |
| Budget for park signage on a yearly basis to implement the recommendations of the wayfinding study. | Implement a summer movie night program. | Create new safe walking routes and crossing points to promote safe access, especially based on community feedback. | | |
| Work with user groups to develop park use and rental agreements, for the fields and courts that are used by recreational leagues and associations. | Organize a food truck rally at Village Hall on a summer night when ballgames are scheduled. | Engage residents around community identity and Harrison’s natural environment and work with a designer to develop branding and a materials palette. | | |
| Create a park map for the Village and add new park facilities as they are developed and become publicly accessible to increase community awareness of existing parks and facilities. | | Develop new park and trail signage with new Village of Harrison Parks branding. | | |

3 Encourage water-oriented recreation such as fishing and boating, promote access to lake vistas, and protect water resources.

3.1 Promote and endorse efforts to improve water quality, access, and navigability to Lake Winnebago.

3.2 Take advantage of the opportunity to promote and maintain the boat launches that are in the Village.

| A ADMINISTRATION | P PROGRAMMING | S SYSTEM-WIDE | F FUTURE PARKS | L LAKE ACCESS |
|---|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Participate in water quality improvement efforts for the Lake Winnebago watershed. | Sponsor and/or lead a resident group for the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance Annual Watershed Cleanup. | | | Include green infrastructure in park site improvement plans where runoff impacts Lake Winnebago. |
| Review and adopt a protective area buffer for waterway and wetland areas to be applied to new development and encouraged for redevelopment. | | | | Create a plan to develop a small pocket park at one of the boat launches for passive recreation such as picnicking, fishing, and sight-seeing. |

4 Continue to provide exceptional quality of facilities and maintenance of all existing parks and public spaces.

4.1 Provide adequate resources and personnel to maintain current recreational facilities and ensure that maintenance of existing facilities is balanced with the development of new parks and facilities.

4.2 Develop Master Site Plans for each park site to help guide future development.

| A ADMINISTRATION | P PROGRAMMING | S SYSTEM-WIDE | F FUTURE PARKS | L LAKE ACCESS |
|--|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Hire two new staff members through the formation of a new Parks Department focused on park planning, development, maintenance, and programming and evaluate the need for additional hires on a yearly basis. | | Develop a list of maintenance items and schedule for inspections. | | |

5 Identify, preserve, cultivate, and protect areas which are environmentally significant, and which hold historic value.

5.1 Identify and incorporate historic areas or structures in the development of new parks.

5.2 Encourage the use of natural features, such as floodplains, wetlands, and woodlands, as passive recreational areas.

5.3 Protect significant wildlife areas, including the escarpment areas.

5.4 Encourage biodiversity and habitat for wildlife in Harrison by planting indigenous plant landscaping and trees in Harrison parks that can be used for education and passive enjoyment.

| A ADMINISTRATION | P PROGRAMMING | S SYSTEM-WIDE | F FUTURE PARKS | L LAKE ACCESS |
|---|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| Develop a Harrison-specific guide to indigenous plants, habitat, and pollinators, using Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) resources as a base. Provide the guide as a resource for local nature trails and sight-seeing. | Create at least one recreational program focused on education about local ecology, indigenous species, and natural resources. | Consider installing rain gardens with indigenous vegetation in park areas that are consistently wet or flooded or to prevent contaminated runoff from entering Lake Winnebago. | As part of the Harrison-specific guide, develop a list of approved native plant and tree species for recommended use in new parks and public open spaces. | |
| Consider working with a naturalist, arborist, and/or citizen science group to conduct a tree and wildlife survey of Harrison’s parks and public lands. | Consider establishing community gardens alongside pollinator gardens to increase awareness of pollinator benefits and increase resident interaction with the Harrison environment. | Consider the need for hiring a naturalist and/or arborist on a part time or contract basis to assist the Village in identification and care of existing plants and trees within the parks and planning for additional park plantings, including trees and native landscaping. | | |
| Work with the public works staff, and possibly community volunteers, to determine a maintenance plan for the naturalized planting areas so that sensitive plants are not damaged or neglected. | Create recreational/ educational programming centered around Harrison plants and wildlife, using “naturalized” areas in parks as outdoor classrooms. | Raise funds for planting areas or find wildlife “sponsors” (local businesses, advocacy groups, neighborhood organizations) and install them in highly visible and accessible areas. | | |
| Identify areas in existing and future Harrison Parks that can be “naturalized” with indigenous plants and trees. | | Develop and install informational signage about the new planted areas, indigenous trees, community gardens, and/or pollinator gardens. | | |

DARBOY COMMUNITY PARK



Darboy Community Park is the most developed and utilized park in Harrison, featuring annual community events like Summer Fun in the Park and recreational facilities for use by community organizations. Darboy Community Park is considered fully developed with several facilities included on its grounds, and it is served by electric and water utilities. The park also connects to the Village trail network and features a nature trail within it.

Voices

from the community

What does this park need?

- ▷ Splash pad
- ▷ 3 Soccer Fields
- ▷ Basketball Court Resurfacing
- ▷ Pickleball and Tennis
- ▷ Skate Park

WHAT'S IN THE PARK?

- 2 Basketball Courts
- 4 Developmental Soccer Fields
- 3 Mini Soccer Fields
- 3 Beach Volleyball Courts
- Multi-use trail
- 2 Baseball Backstops
- 1 Tennis Court
- 6 Pickleball Courts
- Playground
- Pavilion
- Nature Trail
- Fire pit

ACTION ITEMS:

- Provide adequate budgeting for maintenance of existing trees and vegetation.
- Analyze usage numbers and times; survey user characteristics; evaluate needs for expanded facilities and parking
- Meet with Sunrise Elementary School for feedback on cooperative efforts and shared improvements.
- Provide improved, clearly identified trails with signage extending into wooded northern portion of park.
- Improve signage for street crossings at Midway Road from all directions. Consider new marked crossings of Noe Road at Strawflower and Moonflower Drives, similar to Blazing Star Drive.
- Existing trail is accessible; consider accommodating accessibility with wooded area paths
- Implement user agreements for sport fields with organizations. Install motion-activated lighting or video-monitoring for security of facilities.
- Promote recent and future park improvements at Summer Fun in the Park events.
- Add Village logo to existing monument signs.
- Incorporate rain gardens adjacent to parking lot areas as stormwater management demonstration.
- Post locations and regulations for nearest boat launch.
- Incorporate signage or monumentation for adjacent cemetery.
- Improve north wooded area trail surfaces and signage; consider improvements for community gathering in scouting open space.
- Incorporate identification of protected species into signage.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

| 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|------|
| Complete pickleball and tennis court facilities (painting, nets, etc.) (\$50,000–250,000) | New trail and identifier signage (<\$50,000) | Install lighting (\$50,000-250,000) | Improve fire pit area and upgraded benches (<\$50,000) | |
| Resurface basketball courts (<\$50,000) | | Improve street crossings (<\$50,000) | | |



- ▲ Nature identifiers can be simple or as part of a designed signage system. Materials should be durable to withstand weather conditions.



- ▲ The scouting fire pit area could receive upgraded seating with a rustic theme. Pictured bench is from Mount Zion Park in Ironwood, Michigan.

DOGWOOD PARK



Dogwood Park is a mini park in the southwest region of the Harrison suburban area near the intersection of Manitowoc Road and Lake Park Road. Recently developed, the park includes sanitary and water utility hookups and electricity. The park includes a playground and plans for a gazebo. The park will be operational during daytime hours.

- WHAT'S IN THE PARK?**
- Playground

ACTION ITEMS:

- Install light poles.
- Consider the installation of a gazebo or similar shelter.
- Create a master plan for future park improvements

| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
| | Lighting (<\$50,000) | Gazebo (\$50,000–250,000) | | Baseball backstop (<\$50,000) |
| | Picnic tables (<\$50,000) | | | |

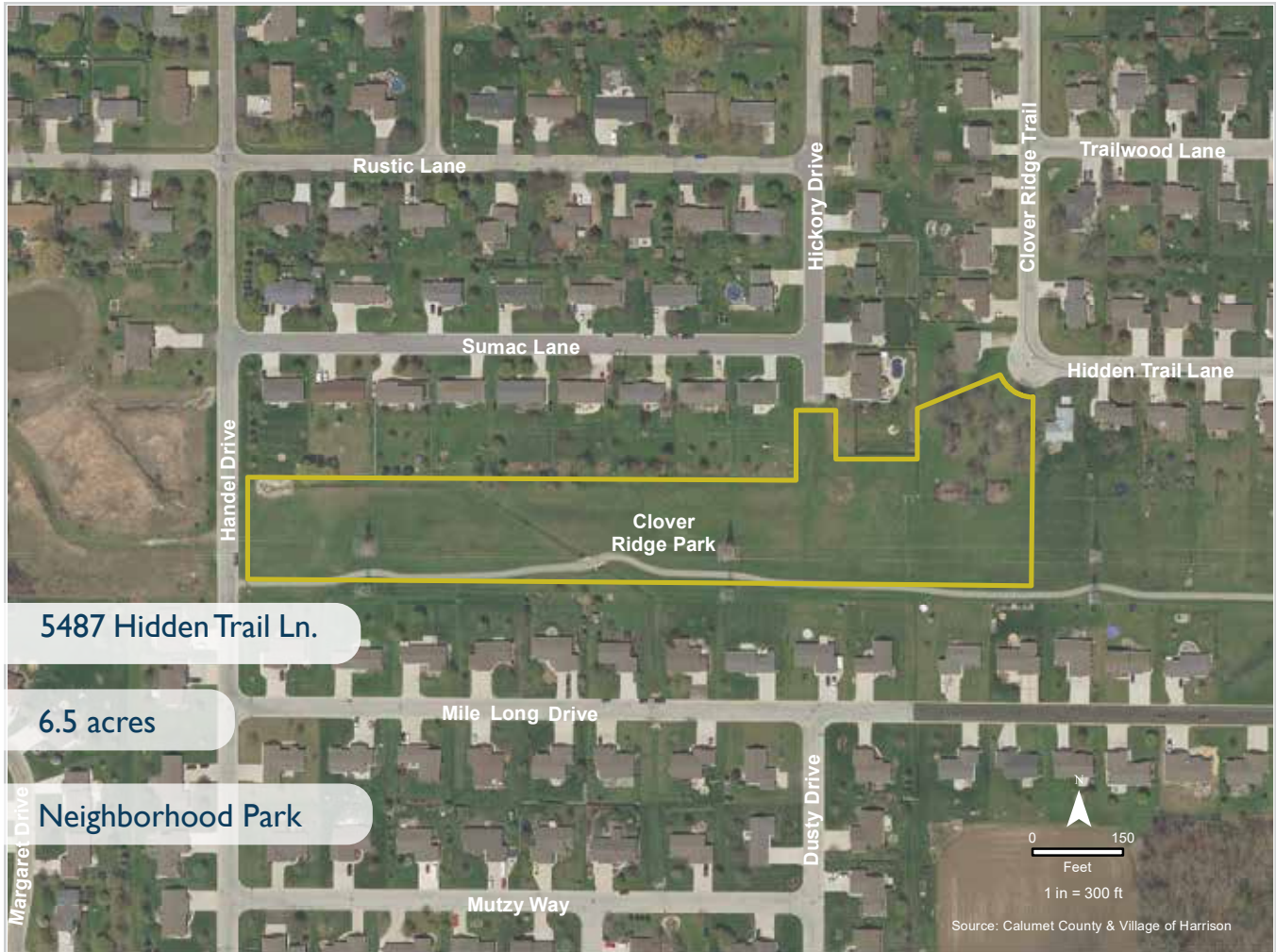


- ▲ A gazebo can provide a shaded area for picnicing or relaxing on a bench.



- ▲ Bringing in landscape furniture with materials that mimic the park brand—such as this rustic wood table with Corten frame—reinforces the connection to Harrison as a special place. Many manufacturers offer accessible options. Pictured is the Drifter picnicset by Streetlife. Source: Streetlife

CLOVER RIDGE PARK



5487 Hidden Trail Ln.

6.5 acres

Neighborhood Park

Clover Ridge Park is a small park that sits adjacent to a 0.70 mile long section of trail running between Handal Drive and State Park Road. The formal park area that connects to Hidden Trail Lane includes benches and playground equipment. Behind it is a several acre park with overhead utility cables spanning the length along the multi-use trail. There is a bridge crossing a drainage ditch and culvert in the west/central part of the park running northeast to southwest.

WHAT'S IN THE PARK?

- Playground equipment
- Multi-use trails
- Picnic area

Voices

from the community

What does this park need?

- ▷ Frisbee Golf
- ▷ Soccer



- ▲ Disc golf was requested in Clover Ridge during community engagement.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Collaborate with schools and other area organizations to plan a kick-off event for planting native landscape for habitat and pollinators.
- Consider installing disc golf nets in the open areas of the park available during daytime hours.
- Provide limited off-street parking lot extending from Hickory Dr.
- Extend trail west through Van’s Road Pond property to future CTH N trail.
- Establish a trail connection at the entrance of the park. Improve connection(s) and crossings at Handel Rd., Cumberland Dr., and State Park Rd.
- Identify available open space for community garden.
- Add Village logo to existing monument sign
- Create a master plan for future park improvements.
- Incorporate rain gardens with off-street parking improvements.
- Consider working with a local organization and/or community volunteers to implement community gardens.
- Consider locations for game play such as bocce and horseshoes.

| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|------|
| 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
| | Disc golf (<\$50,000) | Parking along Handel Drive (\$50,000–250,000) | Install game pits for horseshoes and bocce (<\$50,000) | |
| | Community gardens (<\$50,000) | Rain gardens incorporated into parking (<\$50,000) | | |
| | Fall pollinator garden planting (<\$50,000) | Indigenous plantings with identifier signage (<\$50,000) | | |



▲ Holding a pollinator planting event at the park is a way to get the community involved in the parks.



▲ A community garden is a great way for neighbors to share experiences and knowledge.

HARRISON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION PARK



The Harrison Athletic Association Park is a mid-size park used for youth baseball and adult softball recreation. Concessions are run during games by the Harrison Athletic Association in the pavilion. The park also includes a small playground, and a picnic area.

WHAT'S IN THE PARK?

- 2 Ball diamonds
- Volleyball
- Playground equipment
- Picnic area
- Pavilion



◀ Many communities embrace small urban spaces to host community events. Harrison could incorporate an area appropriate for a small musical group to set up for an outdoor concert. Paving and electrical are important infrastructure considerations. Inviting food vendors or food trucks creates a fun event. Pictured is James Street in De Pere, Wisconsin.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Meet with the athletic association to discuss selection criteria for the addition of all-ages obstacle course equipment alongside updating the existing playground equipment.
- Include free wi-fi within the park.
- Reach out to local restaurants and food trucks to find a day per month to have a food vendor or food truck at the park/village hall.
- Install outdoor ping pong tables or other outdoor games.
- Consider an interactive art wall installation.
- Install lighting to increase visibility. Consider the addition of LED color-changing programmable lights in one area of the park to create a festive, artistic feeling in the park that can change with the day and season.
- Create a master plan for future park improvements
- Consider working with a local organization and/or community volunteer to implement community gardens.
- Consider a small hardscape area with electrical suitable for small musical acts to perform.

| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
| | Exercise stations (<\$50,000) | Specialty LED lighting (\$50,000–250,000) | New playground equipment (\$50,000–250,000) | Paved area for music (<\$50,000) |
| | | Public wi-fi (<\$50,000) | Consider game installation such as ping pong, horseshoes, or bocce (<\$50,000) | |



▲ While getting outside often means a chance to disconnect from our devices, communities are considering public wi-fi in parks. This can aid keeping parents and families connected during practices and after-school activities. Parks are also social spaces, and how we define friends and family spans the globe. Sharing experiences with friends and family while out enjoying our community is one way to stay connected.



▲ Integrating specialty lighting in the park near Village Hall provides seasonal interest and provides placemaking opportunities during the time of year when the sun sets early. Image shows Fountain Park at the library in Sheboygan. During the summer it is a fountain and plaza, and in the winter it maintains its identity as a place with a seasonal color-changing LED light display.

FARMERS FIELD PARK (Planned Park)



Manitowoc Rd.

18.5 acres

Neighborhood Park

Farmers Field is a planned neighborhood park approximately 0.5 miles south of Darboy Park. Noe Road will be extended from the north, connecting streets to access the park at a new western entrance. Preliminary grading has been completed for two championship sized soccer fields.

WHAT'S IN THE PARK?

- Sledding hill
- Graded for soccer fields
- Parking

Voices

from the community

What does this park need?

- ▷ Dog Park
- ▷ More sidewalks to access the park

- ▶ Dog amenities were requested for this park during the community engagement.



ACTION ITEMS:

- Ensure that there are safe walking routes to Farmers Field Park, including crossing points.
- Complete construction of major development items and open to the public by the end of the planning time frame for this CORP (5 years).
- Consider proactively extending utilities to facilitate the expedient completion of the park development and address the current deficit of park land in the community.
- Consider working with a local organization and/or community volunteer to implement community gardens.
- Develop a Winter destination design for structures, hardscape, plantings and amenities: fire ring, warming hut, festoon lights, winter interest landscape (such as evergreen, berries, bark texture).

| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
| Complete soccer fields (\$50,000–250,000) | Sidewalks and crossings to park and at entry (<\$50,000) | Diamond fields (\$50,000–250,000) | Indigenous landscape installation at key locations with informational markers (<\$50,000) | Winter destination elements and warming structure (>\$250,000) |
| | Accessible route from parking to seating area. Provide flexible and accessible seating options. (<\$50,000) | Perimeter accessible multi-use trail (\$50,000–250,000) | Dog-friendly dog run area (<\$50,000) | Install new plantings with emphasis on winter interest (\$50,000–250,000) |
| | Complete parking lot paving and install sidewalks to amenities (\$50,000–250,000) | Install obstacle course style equipment and playground (\$50,000–250,000) | Utility extensions (>\$250,000) | |



▲ A winter destination considers activities for all ages.



▲ Create a winter destination during skating and sledding season. Source: Roberto Nickson on Unsplash.com

RENNWOOD PARK (Planned Park)



Rennwood Park is a planned neighborhood park south of Midway Road between East Plank Road and Lake Park Road, on the west side of the suburban area of Harrison. There is currently no road/driveway access to the planned site. The site will become accessible after the areas adjacent are developed as neighborhoods.

WHAT'S IN THE PARK?

- Rennwood Park is a future planned park without current facilities.

Voices

from the
community

What does this park need?

▷ Playground equipment

▷ Skate Park

ACTION ITEMS:

- Create a master plan for future park improvements.
- Consider incorporating trails within the park.
- Ensure connectivity into the park from surrounding residential neighborhoods and adjacent apartments.
- Plan for safe crossings across Midway Road.
- Develop and open the park by 2026.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

| 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Master plan (<\$50,000) | Playground (\$50,000–250,000) | Gazebo (\$50,000–250,000) | Community garden (<\$50,000) |
| | | Multi-use trail (\$50,000–250,000) | Picnic shelter (>\$250,000) | |
| | | Parking (\$50,000–250,000) | Benches (<\$50,000) | |
| | | Basketball court (\$50,000–250,000) | | |



- ▲ Picnic shelters provide a place out of the elements and adds shade to the park. Additional outdoor spaces can be an added benefit near multi-family communities with limited indoor gathering spaces



- ▲ Community garden plots can provide added outdoor space in neighborhoods with multi-family residential.



- ▲ Trails for hiking and biking topped the list during the community engagement. Rennwood Park provides an opportunity to incorporate trails into a wooded area.



- ▲ Incorporate playgrounds into parks near neighborhoods with young children.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Projects envisioned in this plan can be funded in one of several ways:

- General fund
- Park impact fees
- Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), if within a district and eligible
- Philanthropic donations and fundraising
- Grant funding, with or without matching or contributing local funds

General Fund

General fund dollars are allocated annually during the village budgeting process. To date, maintenance projects are completed by Village Department of Public Works staff. In the future, the Village may opt to develop a separate parks budget for staffing, programs, maintenance, and capital improvements.

Park Impact Fees

At the time of development, several fees are collected from the developer, including park impact fees. These fees fund the park development fund and are held in reserve until needed for design and construction of the park. Park projects—for example in Rennwood Park—have park development fees available and can be used to fund those improvements.

TID

The Village currently has four active Tax Incremental Districts (TID). A municipality can fund public infrastructure and other eligible costs for projects within a TID so long as the costs are eligible and included with the TID project plan.

Fundraising

Working with local community organizations, particularly ones with a mission related to youth, parks, or recreation, are great partners for advancing this plan. Active organizations such as the Darboy Kiwanis Club hold events in the Village parks and may be poised to participate in a capital campaign with the Village to raise money for some of the larger structures such as a pavilion or gazebo.

Another strategy would be for the Village to actively request donations to help build the parks. Donations could be organized for:

- Benches
- Trees
- Community gardens
- Pollinator gardens, or a “plant the pollinator garden” event
- Trail signage
- Plant identifier signage or marker
- Fire pit and benches upgrade at Darboy Community Park
- Fire ring and benches at Farmers Field Park

Grants

The Wisconsin DNR administers four Stewardship grant programs, awarded annually, with applications currently due May 1.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Programs:

- Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)
- Urban Green Space (UGS) grants
- Urban Rivers (UR) grants
- Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR)

Additionally, Wisconsin DNR administers two federal programs:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Recreation Trails Program (RTP)



I ❤️
HARRISON'S
Parks!



Appendix

VILLAGE OF HARRISON BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 31, 2022

A regular meeting of the Village of Harrison Board was called to order at 6:00pm at the Harrison Municipal Building, W5298 Hwy 114, Menasha, WI 54952 on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, roll call was taken.

- Present:** President Blackmer, Trustees: Baldwin, Bartlein, Brantmeier, Handschke, Lancaster, and Van Hefty.
Staff: Manager Heiser, Assistant Manager Mommaerts, Operations Manager Funk, Fire Chief Gerl, Lieutenant Voland, and Clerk Tessen.
Public: 18 citizens and Times Villager reporter Judy Hebbe

4. Correspondence or Communications from Board and Staff

- a) Trustee Van Hefty requested the trustee listing and CORP updates be made to the website.
- b) Direction to staff to post more updates on projects and road construction on our Facebook page.
- c) Direction to staff to include an article on scam prevention in the next newsletter.
- d) Direction to staff to report the amount spent on parks in 2021 and balance of the Park Impact Fund.
- e) TDS started installing fiberoptics in the Village.

5. Corrections and Approval of the Previous Meetings Minutes

*MOTION: Lancaster/Van Hefty to approve the minutes from May 10, 2022, with 2 edits.
Motion Carried 7-0*

6. Public Comments

Please be advised per State Statute section 19.84(2), information will be received from the public; be further advised that there may be limited discussion on the information received; however, no action will be taken under public comments. It is the policy of the Village that there is a three-minute time limit per person. Time extensions may be granted by the President. Please register your name on the sign-in sheet prior to the start of the meeting.

- a) Jerry Lopas spoke of concerns with the road project on Ravine Court. Residents would have liked to have had their driveways done at the same time as the street and apron, but none of the asphalt companies was willing to do these smaller projects.
- b) Susan Anderson spoke requesting the Board to limit the time during the work week for outdoor live music.

7. Reports from staff are on file at clerk's office.

- a) Harrison Fire Rescue
- b) Calumet Co. Sheriff Department
- c) Village Manager
 - i. Budget Report
- d) Planning and Zoning
- e) Parks and Trails
- f) Public Works Department/Engineering
- g) Harrison Utilities
- h) Clerk-Treasurer (Statement of Income and Expenses)

8. Approval of Bills and Claims for April 2022

*MOTION: Lancaster/Bartlein to approve the Bills and Claims for April 2022 as presented and circulated.
Motion Carried 7-0*

9. Unfinished Business for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

- a) Proposed Revision of the Sound Amplification Ordinance
(Note: this is in reference to Ordinance V15-12; Chapter 28 Sec. 28-111 through Sec. 28-130 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances)

*MOTION: Handschke/Bartlein to approve Ordinance V22-05 Revising Ordinance V15-12 as shown on pages 1 to 3 of the handout with the exception of reducing the filing time to 21 days and keeping the 30-day filing, and the document be edited to standard ordinance format with President and Clerk signatures.
Motion Carried 6-1 (Baldwin opposed)*

- b) Take from the Table the Waverly Beach revised Outdoor Amplification Application

No Action Taken - Due to the passage of Ordinance V22-05, creating changes to Chapter 28 Sec. 28-111 through Sec. 28-130 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances, the Outdoor Amplification Application is null and void.

10. New Business for Discussion, Consideration, and/or Action

President Blackmer requested item 10. m) be brought forward on the agenda, hearing no objections it was so moved.

- m) Harrison Utilities 2020 Audit presented by Erickson & Associates

*MOTION: Handschke/Bartlein to approve the 2020 Audit of Harrison Utilities as presented and circulated.
Motion Carried 7-0*

- a) Variance for Private Road Development – Tom Klister – Old Highway Rd & North Shore Rd

*MOTION: Lancaster/Brantmeier to approve the variance for a private road on Old Highway Road and North Shore Road on the condition that the private road complies to the exact specifications currently required for urbanized roads.
Motion failed: 0-7*

MOTION: Van Hefty/Baldwin to approve the variance for a private road on Old Highway Road and North Shore Road as presented and circulated.

Roll Call vote:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>President Blackmer - Aye</i> | <i>Trustee Brantmeier - Nay</i> | <i>Trustee Bartlein - Aye</i> |
| <i>Trustee Baldwin – Aye</i> | <i>Trustee Handschke - Nay</i> | <i>Trustee Lancaster – Nay</i> |
| <i>Trustee Van Hefty - Aye</i> | | |

Motion Carried: 4-3

- b) No Mow May Official Village Policy

*MOTION: Handschke/Lancaster to table this item until February of 2023.
Motion Carried: 6-1 (Baldwin opposed)*

- c) Renewal of Liquor and Tobacco License Applications:
 - i. Bobbers, LLC
 - ii. Menasha Entertainment LLC

- iii. Cimarron, Inc.
- iv. Two Pair of Dice, LLC
- v. Darboy Corner Store, Inc.
- vi. Lake Park Pub, Inc.
- vii. North Shore Golf Club, Inc.
- viii. Kenneth A. Sprangers
- ix. Waverly Beach LLC
- x. Salt, LLC
- xi. Vargas Bros., LLC

MOTION: Handschke/Bartlein to approve the Renewal of Liquor and Tobacco License Applications on the condition they are in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, including not owing the municipality any debt.

Motion Carried: 7-0

- d) Special Event w/ Street Closure Application – Bailey Drive Block Party

MOTION: Bartlein/Brantmeier to approve the Special Event Application for the Bailey Drive Block Party as presented.

Motion Carried: 7-0

- e) Special Event Application – High Cliff Triathlon routes through Harrison

MOTION: Handschke/Baldwin to table this item until June 14, 2022, to allow the organizers to sign a contract with Calumet County Sheriff's Department.

Motion Carried: 7-0

- f) Resolution V2022-09 Amending Resolution V2022-06 adopting a new Municipal Ward Plan and to Combine Municipal Wards for Voting Purposes

MOTION: Lancaster/Bartlein to approve Resolution V2022-09 Amending Resolution V2022-06 adopting a new Municipal Ward Plan and to combine Municipal Wards for voting purposes as presented.

Motion Carried 7-0

- g) Resolution V2022-10 Preliminary Assessment Resolution – 2022 Resurfacing Program – Hoelzel Haven Subdivision

MOTION: Handschke/Bartlein to approve Resolution V2022-10 Preliminary Assessment Resolution – 2022 Resurfacing Program – Hoelzel Haven Subdivision as presented.

Motion Carried 7-0

- h) Certified Survey Map – Green Meadows on Lake Park – Lake Park Rd & Midway Rd

MOTION: Van Hefly/Bartlein to approve the Certified Survey Map for Green Meadows on Lake Park at Lake Park Rd & Midway Rd as presented and circulated.

Roll Call vote:

*President Blackmer - Aye
Trustee Baldwin – Aye
Trustee Van Hefly - Aye*

*Trustee Brantmeier - Aye
Trustee Handschke - Aye*

*Trustee Bartlein - Aye
Trustee Lancaster – Aye*

Motion Carried: 7-0

- i) Certified Survey Map – Parcel 40160 - N8222 State Park Road

MOTION: Van Hefty/Bartlein to approve the Certified Survey Map for Parcel 40160 - N8222 State Park Road as presented and circulated.

Motion Carried: 7-0

- j) Certified Survey Map – Woodland Road Subdivision - 8842 Kasten Road

MOTION: Van Hefty/Bartlein to approve the Certified Survey Map for Woodland Road Subdivision - 8842 Kasten Road as presented and circulated.

Motion Carried: 7-0

- k) Possible Right-of-Way Land Purchase for Midway Road Trail Project

MOTION: Baldwin/Lancaster to approve the Right-of-Way Land Purchase for Midway Road Trail Project as presented and circulated.

Motion Carried: 7-0

- l) Approve Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

MOTION: Handschke/Brantmeier to approve the presented and circulated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan with corrections of any typos.

Motion Carried: 7-0

- m) Approve Harrison Utilities 2020 Audit
This item was brought forward of 10. a)

- n) Donation of Playground Equipment to Harrison Athletic Association

MOTION: Handschke/Lancaster to approve donating two toy dinosaurs to the Harrison Athletic Association.

Motion Carried: 7-0

- o) New Meeting/Agenda Software paid with ARPA Funds

MOTION: Baldwin/Bartlein to approve the use of \$251,000 in ARPA funds to purchase the Granicus software package that includes meeting management, online forms/permits with online payment options, and a new website as presented and circulated.

Motion Carried: 7-0

- p) Online Form/Permit Submission & Payment Software paid with ARPA Funds
Action taken in combination with item o)

- q) New Telephone System paid with ARPA Funds

MOTION: Lancaster/Brantmeier to approve the use of ARPA Funds and to approve the contract from Corporate Network Solutions, Inc. for a new phone system for the municipal building, water utility, and fire stations in the amount of \$10,050.60 as presented and circulated on the condition that the system is capable of adding more phone lines if needed.

Motion Carried: 7-0

- r) New Network Server paid with ARPA Funds

MOTION: Handschke/Baldwin to table this item until June 14, 2022.

Motion Carried: 7-0

11. Future Agenda Items

- a) Preliminary Plat – Green Meadows on Lake Park - Lake Park Rd & Midway Rd
- b) Development Agreement for Atlas Drive – Atlas Construction – County Road N
- c) Fire Department Request for Using ARPA Funds (June 28, 2022)
- d) ATV/UTF Use in the Village
- e) Special Event Permits – Types and Authority to Approve
- f) Playground Equipment at Yard Waste Site
- g) Discussion/Action on a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Bartlein/Baldwin to adjourn.

Motion passed 7-0

Minutes submitted by:



Vicki L. Tessen, WCMC
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved on June 14, 2022



I ❤️
HARRISON'S
Parks!

