

City of Darlington



Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

2020-2024

Approved By City Council on October 20, 2020

City of Darlington
COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2020–2024

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INTRODUCTION

Recreation is an important part of our lives. Increased demand for recreational opportunities, including outdoor recreation, has led to increased pressures on existing recreation facilities. To meet the demands that are being placed on these facilities, the community is typically expected to provide additional facilities or improvements that offer residents a wide range of quality recreation opportunities. The local community is also expected to provide these facilities in a manner that maintains the character and quality of life and the quality of the environment in which they live. Consequently, there is a need to provide for increasing recreation demands while protecting and enhancing the various resources for future generations.

Plan Objective

An important step in providing quality recreation opportunities is proper planning. Limited budgets at all levels of government and private agencies require that the most appropriate facility be placed in the most suitable location in order to meet the specific needs of the area that it is intended to serve.

An important step in this planning process is the development of the Darlington Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The plan is intended to serve as a guide for the development of parks and outdoor recreation facilities in the city. It is an update of the 2015 to 2019 City of Darlington Outdoor Recreation Plan and as such, ensures the continuation of an orderly process to identify the need for additional recreation facilities or improvements to existing facilities. The plan will also provide the Darlington Parks and Recreation Committee, and other local decision-making agencies and organizations with:

- Information on the status and condition of current outdoor recreation facilities;
- A foundation for coordinating recreation facility development and improvement projects; and
- The ability to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, and other related funding programs (see Appendix A).

The LWCF, Stewardship, and ATV Trail Aids Grant programs are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and can be used to assist in the construction of new outdoor recreation facilities as well as for the associated construction and improvement of existing recreational facilities throughout the city.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section of the plan presents the goals and objectives that are being used to guide the park and recreation program in the City of Darlington. There are four basic goals that address the community-wide system of parks, encourage coordinated planning in the operation and improvements of the parks, and promote the conservation/enhancement of natural resources for recreational purposes.

The goals are followed by a list of objectives. While each of the goals point toward a desired final outcome, the objectives are more specific in terms of listing the types of things that need to be worked on to achieve the goal. The goals and objectives serve as a guide for the preparation of plans for specific improvements, policies, and programs.

Goal 1: Establish and maintain a community-wide system of parks and open space to meet the needs of community residents.

Objectives:

- 1. Provide park and recreation facilities that adequately serve all areas of the community.*
- 2. Provide park and recreation facilities that accommodate all user groups, including the special needs of the elderly and disabled.*
- 3. Provide safe and adequate accessibility to community park and recreation facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.*
- 4. Provide park and recreation facilities that fill unmet recreation needs.*
- 5. Acquire and develop park sites and facilities based on recommended standards, community needs, and the existing distribution of parks and other recreation facilities.*
- 6. Continue to cooperate with the school district in providing outdoor recreation and recreation program opportunities.*

Goal 2: Establish a system of community parks that promotes the conservation, protection, and enhancement of natural resources in the community and make them available for recreation use.

Objectives:

- 1. Consider environmental impacts in locating and developing all types of recreation facilities.*
- 2. Utilize sensitive environmental areas for passive recreation. Provide for buildings, intensive and active recreation in the least environmentally sensitive areas.*
- 3. Preserve or acquire properties that are environmentally unique or sensitive.*

Goal 3: Operate the city park system and conduct planning, acquisition, and development in a way that respects and utilizes participation from the public, the school district, various civic groups, and takes advantages of the resources available at the county, regional, and state levels.

Objectives:

- 1. Continue to work with recreational users, neighbors, civic groups, and other interested parties in park operation, planning, and development.*
- 2. Coordinate improvement of the community park system with the school district and with county, regional, and state agencies concerned about outdoor recreation planning and development.*

Goal 4: Operate and improve the community park system and recreation facilities in an efficient and organized manner.

Objectives:

- 1. Use the Darlington Community Master Plan recommendation for improvements of the Darlington Park System.*
- 2. Use the D.O.T. Bicycle study recommendations to develop bike trails within the City.*
- 3. Use the community outdoor recreation plan to develop a capital improvements schedule/budget for guiding future park acquisition and improvement projects.*
- 4. Use city, county, state, federal, and private resources to develop and maintain high quality park and recreation facilities.*
- 5. Use, where possible, the skills and energy of city, county, and regional staff in facility planning, development, and operation.*

Goal 5: Improve connectivity both locally between City park spaces and to regional park and recreation assets.

Objectives:

- 1. Work with Lafayette County, SWWRPC, and the Wisconsin DNR to develop and promote regional recreation assets.*
- 2. Develop/complete sidewalk or trail connections from residential neighborhoods to local parks, and between parks.*
- 3. Explore potential routes, funding sources, and level of support for a regional ATV/bike trail connection from the Cheese Country Trail to Yellowstone State Park.*

PLANNING PROCESS

The City of Darlington Parks and Recreation Committee, City Council, and City of Darlington Parks and Recreation Director, and were the primary points of input for the updating of the Darlington Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Information about existing facilities and programs and the condition of the facilities was gathered through input from the Committee, Director, and local residents. Additional data were obtained from previous studies and inventories, published documents, and outdoor recreation plans that were completed for the City of Darlington. Three meetings were held by the Parks and Recreation Committee during the planning process.

At the second meeting of the CORP update, the Committee reviewed the purpose of the project, project approach, the survey results, review of population trends, and reviewed the Goals, Objectives, and proposed Park projects. The Committee was well engaged and discussed the survey responses in regards to implementation. The Committee discussed the proposed park projects and their priority. The Parks and Recreation Director noted that a dog park, bicycle park, gravel behind Casey's, and replace fitness course are priorities. The Parks and Recreation will need to discuss where the dog park, bicycle, park and fitness course should be placed.

The Darlington Parks and Recreation Committee will be responsible for providing recommendations to the Darlington City Council that ensure that the implementation of the plan is consistent with the plan's goals, objectives, and policies.

A public hearing was held on October 20, 2020 at the City Council meeting.

AMENDING THE PLAN

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision makers. Amendments must follow the same process as when the original plan was prepared. Amendments generally prolong the effectiveness of the original plan.

The process, then, for amending the city's comprehensive outdoor recreation plan would involve several meetings with the parks and recreation director and the Darlington Parks and Recreation Committee, depending on the extent of changes that are being proposed in the amendment. At the least, there should be an opportunity for public input in the plan amendment process, a full and open discussion of the need for the amendment by the city parks and recreation committee, the development of a draft amendment that is review and acted on by the parks and recreation committee at an official public meeting, the referral of the recommended amendment to the city council for action, and, finally, the adoption of the plan amendment by the council.

This city council action on the plan amendment should be by written resolution so that a copy of the resolution can be sent to the Department of Natural Resources for re-certification of the city's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan with the new provisions incorporated therein. The plan amendment will not be effective until a letter is received back from the Department of Natural Resources indicating their receipt and approval of the amendment.

SUMMARY OF PAST COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANS

The City of Darlington had its first comprehensive outdoor recreation plan prepared in the mid-1970s. Since that time, the plan has been updated every five years to maintain the city's eligibility for park and recreation cost-sharing funds available through the Department of Natural Resources. Many improvements have been made to the city parks since that initial plan was prepared. The last comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the City of Darlington was prepared in 2015. Several improvements recommended in the most recent comprehensive outdoor recreation plan have been carried out as follows:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1989 | Purchase of Collin's Lumberyard buildings and land located in floodplain area, for park and recreation usage. |
| 1991-92 | <i>Pecatonica Park Development</i> —development of a mini-park located in Darlington' downtown business district. A bricked paved mini-park, water fountain, rest area, and trees planted. Funds provided through the Stewardship Program and City of Darlington. |
| 1991-92 | Pecatonica Riverside Park —construction of a 30' x 50' shelter house next to softball field. Funds provided by State Stewardship Program, local Lions Club, and City of Darlington. |
| 1991-92 | Pecatonica Riverside Park —construction of a full-sized basketball court (lighted). Funds provided through State Stewardship Program and City of Darlington. |
| 1992-94 | Pecatonica River Trails Park —renovation of Lumberyard office building into a restroom/shower facility, campsite road, signage, and landscaping. Funds provided through the LAWCON program and City of Darlington. Development of eight electrical campsites and playground equipment. Funds provided from City of Darlington, local Optimist Club, and Jay Cee's |
| 1996 | Purchase of NFO stockyard property in floodplain area for parks and recreation usage. Funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). |
| 1996 | Purchase of Darlington Milling buildings and property in floodplain area for parks and recreation usage. Funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). |
| 1996 | Purchase of F.S. Agri-Tech storage building and property in floodplain area for parks and recreation usage. Funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). |
| 1996 | Purchase of Co-op oil storage building and property in floodplain area for parks and recreation usage. Funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). |

- 1996 Purchase of Howard Jacobsen building and property (DAYCARE) in floodplain area for parks and recreation usage. Funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- 1996-97 Purchased former Nelson Middle School from Darlington School District and renamed it the Darlington Municipal building. Renovation to include: city offices, community center, police department, wellness center, with leased space to Darlington Day Care, Lafayette County Human Services, and Lafayette County Job Center.
- 1997 Installed new lighting system at sand volleyball courts. Funding provided by the City of Darlington.
- 1997 Developed six additional campsites at Pecatonica River Trails Park. Funding provided by the City of Darlington.
- 1997 Construction of two new canoe launch sites for canoeists to enter and exit the Pecatonica River. Funds provided by the City of Darlington.
- 1997 Construction of restroom facilities at the lower shelter house in Swimming Pool Park. Funded by the local Lions Club and the City of Darlington.
- 1997 Purchase of the Standard Oil property in floodplain area for parks and recreation usage. Funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- 1997 Purchase of the Darlington Machine buildings and property in floodplain area for parks and recreation usage. Funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- 1997 Former sewage treatment plant lands were added to Riverside Park. The sewage treatment plant was relocated to a new site in 1995-96.
- 1997-98 Construction of three park signs located at Darlington Swimming Pool Park, Black Bridge Park, and Pecatonica River Trails Park. Funding provided by the City of Darlington and the Eagle Scouts.
- 1999-2000 Cleared and developed 3.5 acres of land for park usage along Pecatonica River. Future walking/bike path will be developed in the park area. Funding by City of Darlington.
- 1999-2000 Purchased former Engstads Chevrolet dealership buildings and property in floodplain area for parks and recreation usage. Funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and City of Darlington.
- 2000–01 **Pecatonica River Trails Park**—developed 11 additional campsites, complete with electricity, fire pits, and picnic tables, funding by City of Darlington.

- 2000-01 **Swimming Pool Park**—constructed new bathhouse at swimming pool park. Funding by City of Darlington.
- 2001-02 Developed a 1.3 mile blacktop walking/bike path to link all parks to the downtown area. The walking trail is complete with benches for resting stops and lighted for nighttime walkers and bikers. Funding by Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) grant and the City of Darlington.
- 2002 Purchased former NAPA building and property in floodplain area for parks and recreation usage. Funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the City of Darlington.
- 2002 Developed 16 flower plots along the walking/bike trail. Funding by City of Darlington and Darlington Garden Club.
- 2002 Addition of 3 benches to walking/bike trail to provide additional resting stops. Funding by City of Darlington and individuals.
- 2002-03 **Riverside Park**—Developed and installed a new baseball/softball field “SIEG FIELD”, at the site of the old sewage treatment plant. This is ongoing with lighting, restrooms, and concession area to be added. Funding provided by individuals, civic organizations, the City of Darlington, and the SIEG Foundation.
- 2002-03 **Riverside Park**—Replacement of announcement stand located at softball field. Funding by local Lions Club and the City of Darlington.
- 2003 Developed additional 7 flower plots along the walking/bike trail. Funding by City of Darlington and Darlington Garden Club.
- 2004 Developed additional six flower plots along the walking/bike trail. Funding provided by City of Darlington while flower plots maintained by Darlington Garden Club, business and individuals.
- 2004 **Festival Grounds Park**—Development of new Park from vacated Engstad Chevrolet car dealership. Usage by Farmers Market, Annual Canoe Festival, Cinco De Mayo Festival, Tunes of Twilight musical entertainment, seasonal events include Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas Parades. Funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), City of Darlington and civic organizations.
- 2005 **Black Bridge Park**—Installation of handicapped accessible fishing pier. Funding provided by Lafayette County Sportsman Club.

- 2005 **Riverside Park**—Installation of lighting and scoreboard at “SIEG FIELD”. Funding provided by SIEG Foundation, Ervin & Phyllis Johnson Foundation, and civic organizations.
- 2005 Addition of three benches along the walking/bike trail. Funding provided by individuals and the City of Darlington.
- 2006 **Riverside Park**—Replaced storage building to include a new storage building and softball batting cage. Funding provided by City of Darlington and civic organizations.
- 2006–2007 **Pecatonica River Trails Park**—Construction of new restroom/shower facility at the campgrounds. Funding provided by All Terrain Vehicle Trail Aids Program grant.
- 2006 **Swimming Pool Park**—Conversion of existing two tennis courts into tennis court/basketball court with new blacktop and standards. Funding provided by the City of Darlington.
- 2007 **Festival Grounds Park**—Installation of Octagon shelter at the Park. Funding provided by civic organizations and individuals.
- 2007 Developed additional three flower plots along the walking/bike trail. Funding provided by City of Darlington while flower plots maintained by Darlington Garden Club, business and individuals.
- 2007 **Riverside Park**—Construction of restroom/concession stand at “SIEG FIELD”. Funding provided by SIEG Foundation and civic organizations.
- 2008 Purchase of Burke building and property in flood plain area for Parks and Recreation usage. Funding provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the City of Darlington.
- 2008 **Pecatonica River Trails Park**—Installation of a new playground structure at the campgrounds. Funding provided by Darlington Optimist Club and the City of Darlington.
- 2008 **Swimming Pool Park**—Installation of a new playground structure to replace outdated equipment. Funding provided by City of Darlington and individuals.
- 2008 **Pecatonica River Trails Park**—Construction of Recreational Vehicle Dumping Station at the campgrounds. Funding provided by All Terrain Vehicle Trails Aids Program grant and the City of Darlington.
- 2008 **Festival Grounds Park**—Installation of three benches at the Park. Funding provided by individuals and the City of Darlington.

- 2009 **Black Bridge Park**—Design and construction of walking foot bridge to replace a worn out walking bridge. Funding provided by High School Woodshop Class, U.W. Platteville students, and the City of Darlington.
- 2009 **Black Bridge Park**—Develop a flower garden plot at Park entrance complete with park sign. Funding provided by Eagle Scout project and the City of Darlington.
- 2010 **Pecatonica River Trails Park**—Design and develop seven additional campsites complete with electricity and fire ring. Electricity was added to four of the six camp sites that were developed in 1997. The campgrounds now have 32 campsites: 30 electric and 2 non-electric. Funding provided by the City of Darlington.
- 2010 **Black Bridge Park**—Design and construction of small shelter to replace storm damaged shelter, complete with electricity, tables, fire grill and trash containers. Funding provided by local Lions Club and the City of Darlington.
- 2010 **Swimming Pool Park**—Enlarged the pool deck to accommodate swimmers and sun bathers, complete with tables, chairs and lounge chairs. Funding provided by City of Darlington.
- 2011 **Walking Trail**—Installation of two additional benches along the walking/bike trail. Funding provided by individuals and the City of Darlington.
- 2011 **Festival Grounds/Riverside Park**—Construction of cement landing area for river access by canoeists and kayakers. Funding provided by City of Darlington.
- 2012 **Walking Trail**—Installation of three additional benches along the walking/bike trail. Funding provided by individuals and the City of Darlington.
- 2012-2013 **Veterans Memorial Park**—Funds were solicited for the design and construction of Veterans War Memorial in the park. Funding provided by V.F.W., American Legion and citizen donations.
- 2013 **Swimming Pool Park**—Installation of power assisted handicapped chair lift to aid in entering/exiting of the pool. Funding provided by City of Darlington.
- 2013-2014 **Swimming Pool Park**—Design and development of a nine-hole Frisbee Golf course, complete with tee pads, baskets and signage. Funding provided by interested citizens, businesses, and the City of Darlington.
- 2014 **Swimming Pool Park**—Installation of a swing set to the new playground structure added in 2008. Funding provided by local Lions Club and the City of Darlington.
- 2014 **Swimming Pool Park**—Removal and replacement of restroom facility at upper shelter. Funding provided by the City of Darlington.

- 2015 **Pecatonica River Trails Park**—Paved road in campground.
- 2017 **Swimming Pool Park**—Pickleball added to Tennis Court.
- 2017 **Riverside Park**—Resurfaced Basketball Court.
- 2018 **Veterans Memorial Park:** Bald Eagle Statue and Park Sign added.
- 2018 **Black Bridge Park**—Great Blue Heron added.
- 2018 **Festival Grounds**—Improved Service and added more electrical posts. Added Electrical service to the Gazebo.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING REGION

This section of the report will give a brief description of some of the social and physical factors affecting future recreational development in the City of Darlington. These factors are important to understanding the community and its recreation needs and potentials.

General Characteristics of the City

Darlington is the largest community in Lafayette County and is the site of most county governmental operations. It had a population of 2,330 in 2018 (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018). Population predictions through 2040 show a slight decline in population unless significant changes in the local economy and business community can attract or influence a positive rate of change. This could happen under a given set of circumstances; however, at the present time using available population information and statistics, the projected population will decline slightly overall (see table below). Darlington's location near the center of the county makes it a focal point for rural residents desirous of commercial and industrial services. The city has an active industrial development group which is working to bring new business development into the community.

POPULATION TRENDS — *City of Darlington*

1980	1990	% change 1980-1990	2000	% change 1990-2000	2010	% change 2000-2010	2018	% change 2010-2018
2,300	2,235	-2.8%	2,418	+8.2%	2,451	+1.4%	2,330	-4.9%

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2018

POPULATION PROJECTIONS- *City of Darlington*

2018	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	% change 2020-2030	% change 2030-2040
2,330	2,455	2,450	2,445	2,440	2,435	5%	-0.4%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (2018) — *City of Darlington*

	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total Population	2,330	100.0%	45 to 54 years	263	11.3%
Under 5 years	200	8.6%	55 to 59 years	159	6.8%
5 to 9 years	130	5.6%	60 to 64 years	154	6.6%
10 to 14 years	129	5.5%	65 to 74 years	149	6.4%
15 to 19 years	127	5.5%	75 to 84 years	125	5.4%
20 to 24 years	185	7.9%	85 years +	163	7.0%
25 to 34 years	304	13.0%			
35 to 44 years	242	10.4%	Median Age	36.4	-----

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2018

Darlington is located in approximately the center of Lafayette County and is serviced by two principal highways—State Highway 81 (east/west) and State Highway 23 (north/south). The city has a very historic downtown which has undergone extensive renovation in recent years. A portion of the downtown business area is in the floodplain of the Pecatonica River and has flooded in recent years. Flood mitigation strategies have been finalized and the city has done extensive work to the businesses in the floodplain. The basements were filled in and the first floors of the businesses have been raised. Some businesses in the floodplain have been relocated out of the floodplain to the business park. This effort has resulted in some additional areas being designated for park land and/or open space.

The city is surrounded by some of the most productive agricultural land in the region. The economy of the community is linked closely to the agricultural sector. Increasing emphasis is being placed on tourism development, although Darlington historically was not known as a tourist community. In recent years the city has encouraged tourism development by developing park lands along the river in conjunction with the Cheese Country Recreation Trail that goes through the community. The 47 mile stretch of abandoned rail corridor provides a trail linkage between Darlington and Mineral Point (to the north) and between Darlington and Monroe (to the east) and passes through the communities of Browntown, South Wayne, Gratiot, and Calamine. The community has also promoted tourism through the sponsorship of various special events, festivals, etc., such as an annual canoe festival.

Darlington is on the State and National Registry listing of Historical sites. Several initiatives are taking place by tourism groups in the region to promote the historical resources of Darlington and the surrounding area. One example is the three county “Point of Beginnings” heritage tourism project which has sponsored several events to promote the mining heritage of Lafayette County and surrounding area. The project has also prepared various publications and brochures to market the historical and recreational facilities in the area.

Darlington is a member of the Wisconsin Main Street Program which helps the Darlington area with downtown revitalization and tourism. The North American Bluebird Society has developed a bluebird trail along the river corridor and Cheese County Recreation Trail.

The city applied and received a Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) grant and developed a 1.3 mile blacktop walking/bike trail which connects all parks to the downtown Main Street area. The walking trail links Riverside Park to Pecatonica River Trails Park to Black Bridge Park. The trail is lighted and numerous benches have been placed along the trail for resting stops. The city is working with the Boy Scouts and civic groups to install historical markers at points of interest along the walking trail for an Eagle Scout project. The city, along with the Darlington Garden Club, installed 16 flower plots along the trail with additional 7 plots added in 2003.

Darlington has approximately 50 acres of recreational land and open green space area at the present time in city parks (not considering the school or fairground properties). The city's recreational acreage requirement for 2020 has been estimated at 29 acres, so the city is above this standard. Acreage needs determined by applying the standard of 12 acres per thousand population provide, at best, only a cursory view of a community's overall recreation

requirements. It is more important to know what recreation opportunities should be provided and how they should be distributed within the community.

Physical Characteristics of the Region

In order to better understand the recreational needs and potentials of the community, it is helpful to have an analysis of the physical environment of the region in which the community is situated. This section summarizes the natural resource base information for southwestern Wisconsin as compiled by the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Regional Setting: Darlington is located in the five county area of southwestern Wisconsin. The southwestern Wisconsin region occupies an area of nearly two and one-half million acres in the extreme southwestern corner of Wisconsin. It includes the five counties of Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland. With the exception of the southeastern two-thirds of Green County, the region falls entirely within the so-called "Driftless Area" of Wisconsin. Because of the lack of glaciation, streams have continued their weathering process, uninterrupted, for many thousands of years, resulting in a complete absence of any natural lakes within the region.

Climate: The climate of Darlington and the surrounding Lafayette County is continental and typical of the central areas of a continent in the middle latitudes; winters are relatively cold and snowy with extended periods of rain during the spring and autumn, and intermittent periods of hot, humid summer weather. Air temperatures within the county are subject to large season change and yearly variations. Precipitation in Darlington and Lafayette County for the six-month period from April through September falls largely as rainfall and may range in intensity and duration from showers to destructive thunderstorms. The snowfall average for Lafayette County is about 40 inches annually. Prevailing winds are westerly in winter and southerly in summer.

Topography: The southwestern Wisconsin region falls almost entirely within the Western Upland, a thoroughly dissected highland. The average elevation of Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette counties is between 900 to 1,200 feet above sea level, where the area immediately adjacent to the highland averages 600 to 900 feet in elevation. Aside from the Upland itself, the strongest topographic features of the region are the trenches of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and their numerous branches. One of the most dominant topographic features of the region is Military Ridge. The ridge is the divide between the north flowing tributaries of the Wisconsin River and the south flowing streams tributary to the Rock and Mississippi Rivers. The entire region, with the exception of the eastern half of Green County and a small portion of southeast Lafayette County, is characterized by rugged, steep-walled valleys and high relief. As mentioned earlier, the region is generally referred to as the Driftless Area which preserves a large sample of what the rest of Wisconsin, as well as the northern and eastern United States, was like before the Glacial Period.

Soils: Throughout the Driftless Area the work of weathering has continued since long before the Glacial Period and has produced a deep mantle of residual soil. This forms a notable contrast with the remainder of the state, where the continental glacier scraped away nearly all the residual soil and left a sheet of transported soil. Generally, the soils of the region have been classified as the Grayish-Brown Unglaciaded Silt Loam, hilly or steep. Soils were formed from parent

materials reflecting native vegetation such as prairie, oak-hickory, forestry, and oak savannas. Their basic materials include clay residue from weathered limestone, weathered sandstone, loess, and stream-laid sand and gravel. The latter occurs in valleys of large streams, while the first three are wide spread. The entire southwest Wisconsin region is covered with a thick blanket of loess (windblown silt and sand). Over most of the region the loess is largely silt and is two to three feet thick. In addition, some sandy areas along the Wisconsin River have active dunes.

Forests: The southwestern Wisconsin region (comprising Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties) has an areas of 2,380,000 acres of which 445,300 acres are classified as forest lands. A breakdown by percentage shows 18.71 percent of the region is classed as forest land and 81.29 percent is classed as non-forest land. In addition, there are 149,700 acres of land classed as wooded pasture in the non-forest category.

Water Resources: Two major rivers form boundaries of counties within the region. The Wisconsin River forms the northern boundary of Iowa and Grant counties, and the southern boundary of Richland County. The Mississippi River forms the western boundary of Grant County. In addition, the area is transversed by a number of smaller rivers and streams that flow to either the Wisconsin or Mississippi Rivers. As previously mentioned, there are no natural lakes in the region due to the fact that the area was never covered by glaciers. However, there are a few manmade lakes in the region, most of which are located in the state parks or other public recreation areas.

STANDARDS FOR PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING

Recreation Open Space Standards

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has established a park and open space classification system which will serve as a guide throughout this plan (Appendix B). Standards can be a good starting point or reference when determining a community's outdoor recreation land and facility needs. However each community's needs are different based on such factors as a community's demographic profile and what types of facilities and outdoor recreation priorities the citizenry deem important.

Recreation Facility Development Standards

Facility standards for the development of recreation facilities are similar to open space standards because they are expressed in facility units per population ratio. The purpose of evaluating a recreation system from a facility viewpoint, in addition to an open space viewpoint, is to determine the amount of needed facility development in each recreation area.

Problems related to using facility development standards can be seen in the assumption of desired opportunities by the resident population. For example, an examination of the facilities standards may show that a horseshoe area is needed based on the municipality's population. In reality, it is possible that very few people in the community enjoy playing horseshoes, which may eliminate the need for this type of facility.

Age, income, and education all contribute to people's recreational preferences—yet facility standards sometimes ignore these variables. Another problem with using standards is that they have been developed primarily for urban communities and have limited application in rural areas.

Despite these problems, facility development standards have a place in recreation planning. Community leaders can use them to approximate the adequacy of their park systems. A listing of recreation facility development standards, prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, can be found in Appendix B.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

To determine what courses of action city officials must take to provide a comprehensive recreation program, it is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of existing areas and facilities in meeting demands for recreation. This section of the report provides an inventory of Darlington's recreational facilities. The location of all park and recreation areas is recorded on the map following this section.

Swimming Pool Park (11.3 acres)

Facilities provided by this park (Darlington's finest) include an outdoor swimming pool, a wading pool, restroom facilities, 40 picnic tables, two picnic shelters, an outdoor fireplace, three cooking grills, tennis court, pickleball, basketball court, playground apparatus, volleyball court, a considerable amount of open space, and two paved parking areas. During months of snow cover, the sloping land that accounts for most of the open space is used for a variety of sliding sports by children of the area and for cross country skiing. The city has added wind screening to the tennis court. Tree planing program continues each year to replace dead trees and to increase the wooded area for picnicking. The city has renovated the swimming pool with a new bathhouse, replacement of filtration piping, gutter wall, diving boards, lifeguard chairs, and deck. An additional wooded playground structure was completed in 1994. In 1997, the local Darlington Lions Club provided funds for the construction of a new restroom facility. The restroom facility meets the needs of picnickers at the lower level shelter house located in the southwestern portion of the park. In 2008, with the generous donations from individuals and City budget, a new playground structure was installed to replace existing and outdated playground equipment. The pool deck was enlarged in 2010 to accommodate tables, chairs and lounge chairs for sun bathing. In 2013 a power assisted chair lift was added to the pool, and design work began for a nine-hole disc golf course in the park. The disc golf course was installed in 2014, and the restroom facility at the upper shelter was also replaced. This park is well maintained and makes a favorable contribution to community beautification.



Bathhouse at Swimming Pool Park



Signage at Swimming Pool Park



Large shelter at Swimming Pool Park

Black Bridge Park (7.6 acres)

Black Bridge Park has citywide significance because it provides the only improved Pecatonica River boat launch in the city (Riverside Park has an improved canoe/kayak launch). It also serves as a wayside picnic area by offering eight picnic tables, three cooking grills, and a small shelter building with electricity (reconstructed in 2010). The area also has two sand volleyball courts, tether ball, a sand box, and an open space area for playing field sports and games. The fall flag football program and spring soccer programs are held at this park. Temporary “in-ground” goal posts were added for the flag football season, along with temporary soccer goals for the soccer season. Bleachers from the ball park are moved to the flag football field for the season. Parking is adequate for boaters and travelers. Black Bridge Park was expanded to the west to accommodate the new walking/bike trail. This open space area is used for practice field games but could see some improvements to the area. In 2005, a handicapped accessible pier was installed just before the railroad bridge to enhance fishing along the shores of the Pecatonica River. In 2009, a new foot bridge was constructed at the park, along with an entrance sign and flower garden. This park, which is in the floodplain, has no restrooms or water which is needed. Portable toilets are brought in for the summer months.



Shelter at Black Bridge Park



Footbridge at Black Bridge Park



Black Bridge Park



Boat Launch



Accessible Pier

Pecatonica River Trails Park (12.8 acres)

This park lies at the junction of Woods Branch Creek, the Pecatonica River, and County Highway "F" to the west. The park contains a fireplace, two picnic tables, and trash barrels as well as a parking area. The park is well maintained. In 1990, the city acquired the Collins Lumber Yard property through an acquisition grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. A LAWCON grant in 1991 provided funds to renovate an existing building along the recreational trail for a restroom/shower facility. An open green space nestled among the trees provided eight family camping sites—each with electricity, a picnic table, and fire pit. A park tree planting program continues each year. In 1997, six non-electric camping sites were added (each with a picnic table and fire pit) along with two group fire pits and a canoe launch for canoeing the Pecatonica River. With the demolition and removal of Darlington Milling Company, NFO Stockyards, Co-op Oil buildings, F.S. Storage building, and Standard Oil properties, additional park land is available for open green space or field games and recreational sports. A master Park Plan has been prepared for this park by a consultant. In the fall of 2000, eleven campsites were added (each with electricity, picnic table, and fire pit). Fishing at the campgrounds increased as a handicapped accessible fishing pier was installed just above the rapids to better accommodate people with disabilities as they fish along the banks of the Pecatonica River. Camping sites were expanded to accommodate the larger Recreational Vehicle camping trailers. The Darlington Optimist Club provided funding for a new playground structure. A new and expanded restroom/shower facility was built in 2006–2007 to replace the existing restroom. In late 2008, the existing restroom/shower building was demolished and a Recreational Dumping Station was built. In 2010, seven additional campsites were added including electricity and fire rings, bringing the total to 32 sites. With the addition of horseshoe pits and additional lighting, the campgrounds are a busy place during the camping season.



Accessible Fishing Pier



Playground



Restrooms/Shower Building



Peterson Park

Peterson Park (maintained by City but privately owned)

Located just across the river from Pecatonica River Trails Park, Peterson Park is a small passive and scenic recreational area used for picnicking and fishing. The park contains one picnic table and open lawn area and unimproved access to the river bank for fishing. The only access to the park is an unmarked steep gravel drive off of W. River Street.

Riverside Park (16.3 acres)

Riverside Park lies in the Pecatonica River floodplain, north of the river adjacent to Alice Street and provides the community with a centrally located recreation facility. It includes a ball diamond, lighting, fencing, scoreboard, and an announcer storage building. The park also contains a concession stand with storage and restroom facilities. There are six sets of bleachers for spectator use and a designated area for drinking beer during softball tournament use. The old grass infield has been replaced with a "skinned" (clay-calcium mixture) infield. There is a fenced tot area where play equipment and sandboxes suitable for tots is provided. A hard surfaced parking lot has been added which is also used for pep rallies by the high school.

A flag pole has also been added to the facility. The city received a LAWCON grant to construct a lighted hard-surfaced basketball court and a 30' x 50' shelter building. The basketball court is fenced with benches and trash receptacles. The shelter building was built along the first base side of the ball diamond next to the concession stand/restroom. A concrete drainage ditch was added to aid with the water runoff at the ball park. A small rest shelter was constructed on the north side of Alice Street (next to the sidewalk) and trees were added as well as trash receptacles. With the relocation of the sewage treatment plant in 1996 to a new site on the south side of the river, the existing site has been converted to Riverside Park land for open field games or recreational sports. The additional park land creates a connecting point to the fairgrounds. In 1997, a canoe launch site was constructed for canoeing the Pecatonica River and Darlington's annual Canoe Fest.

2002 saw the need for a new Little League/softball field on the site of the old wastewater sewage treatment plant. Planning for the new field, "SIEG FIELD", along with fundraising for the field, took much of 2002. Late in the summer of 2002 work began. The field was skinned, water drainage ditch removed and replaced, infield set, gravel fence line and warning track installed, underground sprinkler system installed, and seeded in late fall. Backstop and fencing were installed and dugouts completed in 2003. In 2005, a scoreboard and field lighting were installed at "SIEG FIELD". A small storage building was removed and replaced with a larger storage/batting cage building, built between the two diamonds for ball players to use. A restroom/concession stand was installed at "SIEG FIELD" in 2007.

The canoe launch was improved in 2011 with the addition of a concrete landing area. A master Park Plan has been prepared for this park by a consultant.



Shelter



Playground



Ball Field



Trail

Veterans Memorial Park (2.0 acres)

Veterans Memorial Park is located near the central business district and is convenient to the Darlington Municipal Building, Johnson Public Library, and the Holy Rosary Grade School. The park is used for passive recreational purposes. Trees and grass complement the park and make it a valuable contributor to the community's attractiveness. The Darlington Chamber of Commerce office is located at the top of Main Street where maps and information pertaining to Darlington, Lafayette County, and the area are available to tourists or residents. The city has added seven permanent benches and some permanent trash receptacles. Additional trees have also been planted in the park. State Highway 23 divides this citywide park into two nearly equal segments and thus limits its potential for development beyond those facilities already provided. The Johnson Public Library is also located on the eastern edge of the park and provides special children's activities often utilizing the city park facilities. The Lafayette County Historical Society purchased the former Carnegie Library for their use. The Historical Society has numerous displays and history on the county and surrounding area. Additional tree planting is needed in this park to maintain its natural beauty.

Canoe Festival Grounds Park

Canoe Festival Grounds Park is located at the south end of Main Street adjacent to the Main Street Bridge. The park contains an octagon shelter, benches, picnic tables and open green space. The park hosts many events such as the weekly farmers market, annual Canoe Festival, Cinco de Mayo Festival, "Tunes of Twilight" musical entertainment, and seasonal displays for Halloween, fall, and Christmas seasons. The park is centrally located and is a great gathering area for the High School homecoming parade, shamrock parade, Canoe Festival parade, Halloween parade, and the annual Christmas parade and tree lighting.

Veterans Memorial Park



Facing east across Main Street



Facing south on Main Street



The Veterans Memorial



Facing east across Main Street

Canoe Festival Grounds Park



Facing east into Canoe Festival Grounds Park

Mini Park

This small park area was created in the late 1980s when Main Street was renovated. A streetscape project was implemented at this time to incorporate historic lighting and other decorative features in the downtown area. The park is located adjacent to the recreation trail on the west side of Main Street. It is paved with brick and has a water fountain, benches, planters, and a railroad train mural located on the site.



Mini Park

Holy Rosary Grade School (1 acre)

Playground apparatus and four basketball courts constitute the outdoor recreation facilities provided at this school. The remainder of the area is open space, a small part of which is grass covered. The area serves as a neighborhood playground. New playground apparatus was added to these grounds in recent years.



Play Equipment at Holy Rosary

Darlington Elementary/Middle School (27 acres)

The new Darlington Elementary School/Middle School is located next to the high school outside the corporate boundaries of the city and distant from most of the city's population. This school-owned acreage offers three outdoor basketball standards, playground equipment, general play area, and gently rolling open green space. Primary use of the open green space is for school sponsored activities and educational/science classes. Pine trees have been added for windbreak. The cross-country running trail has been developed on this school-owned land.



Paved area with Basketball and Funnel ball at Holy Rosary



Basketball courts and playground at Darlington Middle School

Darlington Community High School (35 acres)

The high school is located outside the corporate boundaries of the city and distant from most of the city's population. For these reasons, the school-owned acreage devoted to recreation is not applicable to later analyses. Nevertheless, the school does have a football field, a track, and a baseball field that receive heavy use from school-sponsored activities. A cross-country running trail has also been developed on school-owned acreage.



Track/Football Field at Darlington High School



Baseball Field at Darlington High School

Fairgrounds (N/A)

Lafayette County fair time stimulates greatest use of this neighborhood playground. Playground apparatus and a large expanse of level, grass covered open space for field games are the park's principal attractions. It is estimated that about two acres of land at the fairgrounds are devoted to these activities. Another amenity of the park is its excellent Pecatonica River frontage. The area is partially lighted and the river bank has been sloped and rip rap added. The one-half mile racetrack has been redeveloped to accommodate stock car racing. Racing is held every Friday evening throughout the summer months and during special events. The overall good maintenance of these park grounds has made access for fishermen and canoeists possible along the entire river bank. The fairgrounds is home to the annual Lafayette County Antique Days, family picnics, and camping along the river.

Evaluation of Parks Regarding Accessibility to Persons with Disabilities

The City of Darlington has evaluated the various park and recreation facilities for accessibility to persons with disabilities. Steps have either been taken (or are underway) to make the necessary modifications to the facilities to alleviate barriers to access. It is the policy of the city to meet and/or exceed requirements under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) by removing or modifying all physical barriers that hinder accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities and equipment. Discussion about the specific ADA improvements made at each park during the last five years can be found in the inventory section of this report. Discussion about the planned improvements to meet ADA requirements can be found in the recommendations section. Further information regarding the city's ADA evaluation of park and recreation facilities can be obtained from the office of the city clerk.

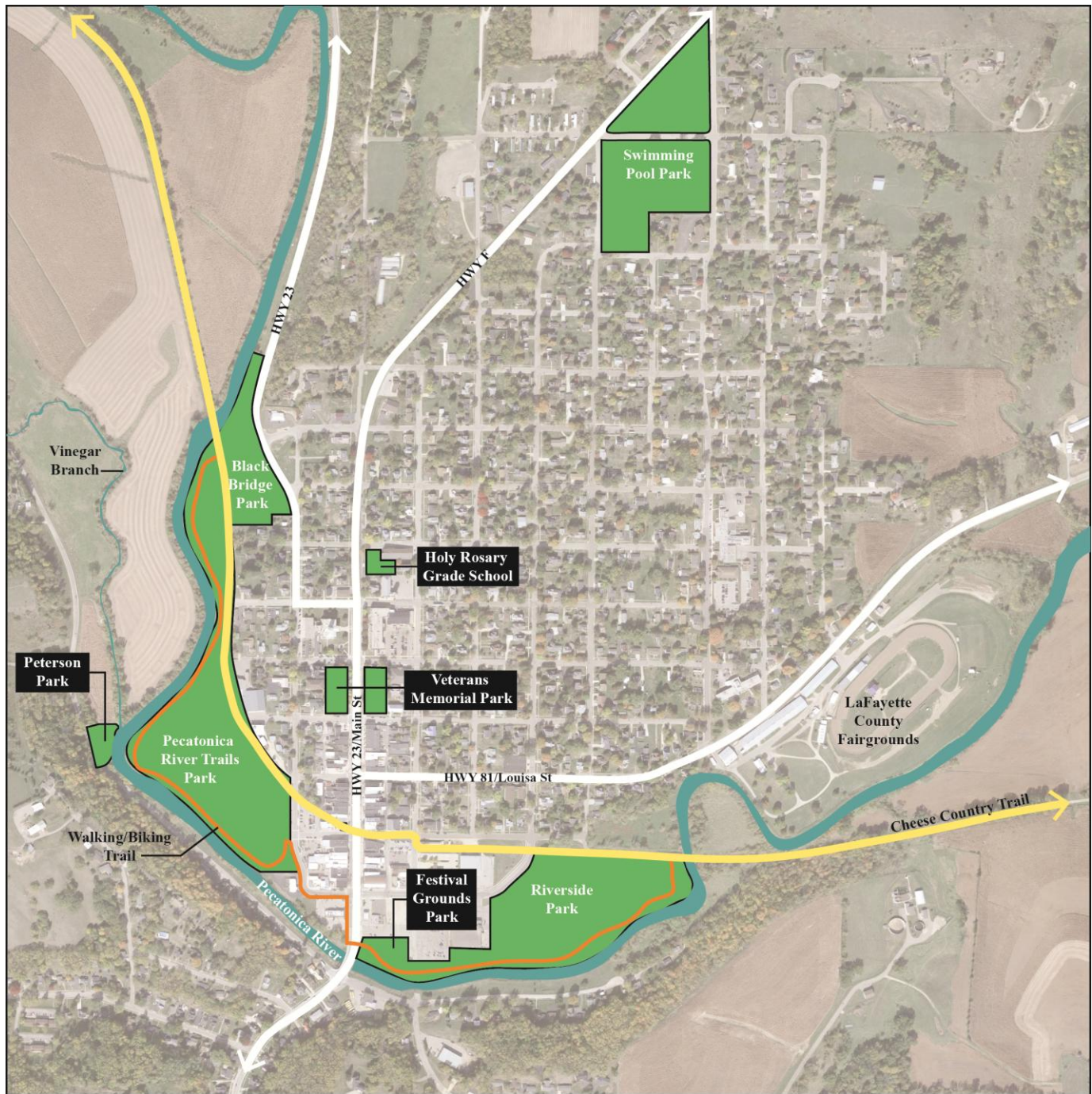
Summary of Darlington Park Space and Amenities

Park Name	Swimming Pool Park	Black Bridge Park	Pecatonica River Trails Park	Holy Rosary Grade School	Veterans Memorial Park	Mini Park	Festival Grounds Park
Park Size (Acres)	11.3	7.6	12.8	1	1.6		1
Restrooms	X		X				
Shelter	X	X					X
Playground	X		X	X			
Sand Box		X					
Parking	X	X	X				
Drinking Water	X		X			X	
Grills	X	X					
Picnic Tables	X	X	X				
Outdoor Fireplace	X						
Swimming Pool	X						
Concessions							
Camping			X				
Shower			X				
Boat Launch		X					
Canoe Launch			X				X
Accessible Fishing Pier		X	X				
Unimproved Fishing Area			X				
Disc Golf	X						
Tennis/Pickleball	X						
Basketball	X		X	X			
Volleyball	X	X					
Tether Ball	X	X	X				
Flag Football		X					
Soccer		X					
Horseshoe Pit			X				
Softball							
Baseball							
Football							
Notes	2 shelters, 3 restrooms (one near each shelter, one at pool)	2 Sand Volleyball courts, dual purpose soccer/flag football field	32 rv camp sites (gravel pads), 30 electric sites, 2 primitive sites. All sites have a picnic table and fire pit. Adjacent to walking and ATV trails.	3 basketball hoops and one Funnel Ball hoop	Veteran's memorial with benches and a name finding guide.	Small park at the Cheese Country Trail/Main Street crossing with drinking water, benches, and a mural	Gathering place for festivals at the foot of Main Street. Connects to Riverside Park via a walking trail

Summary of Darlington Park Space and Amenities

Park Name	Riverside Park	Peterson Park	Darlington Elementary /Middle School	Darlington Community High School	LaFayette County Fairgrounds
Park Size (Acres)	16.3		27	35	33.5
Restrooms	X				
Shelter	X				
Playground	X		X		X
Sand Box	X				
Parking	X				
Drinking Water					
Grills					
Picnic Tables	X	X			
Outdoor Fireplace					
Swimming Pool					
Concessions	X				
Camping					
Shower					
Boat Launch					
Canoe Launch					
Accessible Fishing Pier					
Unimproved Fishing Area		X			X
Disc Golf					
Tennis					
Basketball			X		
Volleyball					
Tether Ball					
Flag Football					
Soccer					
Horseshoe Pit					
Softball	X				
Baseball				X	
Football				X	
Notes	2 softball fields with concession stands. Two pitching/cat ching cages. One shelter with rolldown shade/rain guards.	Small park across the Pecatonica River from Pecatonica River Trails Park.	General play area/gently rolling open green space. Cross country trail.	Track, cross country trail.	Stockcar race track, Hockey/ice skating rink. Home of the County Fair.

Darlington Park System Map



THE ACTION PROGRAM

As discussed earlier in the report, Darlington has approximately 50 acres of recreational land at the present time in city parks (not considering the school or fairground properties). The city's recreational acreage requirement for 2025 has been estimated at 29.4 acres, so the city has exceeded this standard. Acreage needs are determined by applying the standard of 12 acres per thousand population (using the WI DOA 2025 projection of 2,450 population). This calculation provides, at best, a cursory view of a community's overall recreation requirements. It is more important to know what recreation opportunities should be provided and how they should be distributed within the community.

The following section includes recommendations for improving the various park and recreation facilities in Darlington. All future park improvements listed below are based upon the city's policy to meet and/or exceed requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by removing or modifying all physical barriers that hinder accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities and equipment.

Action Program General Recommendations

The following recommendations are generally applicable to all communities.

- **Service Group Involvement**

Involve organized service groups in needed park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports areas and neighborhood parks. Traditionally, service groups have played an active part in the development of facilities such as ball fields. Continued activity of this type should be encouraged. In addition, service groups could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources and providing organization and volunteer labor.

- **Senior Citizen Involvement**

As more seniors stay active later in life than previous generations, and choose to “age in place” in their homes rather than in assisted living or nursing homes, it is more important than ever to provide amenities and accommodations for them as part of a well-rounded park system. Although senior citizens constitute a large proportion of the population of rural areas, they are often neglected in recreational planning. Accessible walking paths with frequent shaded resting spots provide a nice amenity for all ages, and can help improve park safety as different user groups will use such an amenity at different times of day. Providing accessible routes to popular park destinations, such as shelters, picnic areas, and playgrounds, ensures that anyone with or without mobility issues can enjoy these areas. Benches placed near neighborhood parks and play areas and passive sports facilities, such as horseshoe pits, located in community parks help to provide a place for the senior citizen. Small passive-use parks and garden and flower plots located near nursing and retirement homes should also be encouraged. In addition, senior citizens can provide invaluable assistance in beautifying parks and open spaces and can thereby become more involved in community life.

- **Municipal/School District Cooperation**

Promote continued and increased cooperation between the City, Lafayette County, and the school district in meeting recreational needs. With good planning, cooperation may take the form of cost sharing for land acquisition and/or facility development. Increased municipal use of existing school facilities during non-school hours should be encouraged.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance**

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act local governments must ensure that all programs and facilities, including parks and recreation, are accessible to people with disabilities. ADA applies not only to people in wheelchairs or with vision and hearing impairment, but also to those with mental impairments, temporary disabilities, walkers, canes, the elderly and mothers with strollers or small children. To determine compliance with ADA regulations, each community should complete a self-evaluation of the accessibility of services, programs and facilities and prepare a transition plan describing how compliance will be achieved. A person with training in accessibility standards should be consulted to assist with the evaluation and transition plan.

All proposed facilities should incorporate standards for barrier-free design. Specific areas include: parking, entrances, doorways, aisles, counters, restrooms, water fountains, access routes, picnic tables and grills, trails, campgrounds, playgrounds and fishing piers. Examples of accessible features include: ramps in place of steps, hard surfaced walkways, wide doorways, grab rails in restrooms, special seating at spectator events and specialized playground equipment, wider parking spaces and curb cuts, picnic tables with ends extended, lower grill heights and wider trails. Care also needs to be taken to provide accessible routes between parking areas and destinations, meaning no slopes that exceed 8%, rest areas for sloped paths every 30', and guard rails where paths drop off abruptly at the edge.

- Development and maintenance of parks is an appropriate function of city government. Overall planning should be done by the City Parks and Recreation Committee, the City Planning Commission, and the City Council. Specific site planning and scheduling of development or desired non-development should be decided with strong input by neighborhoods and interest groups. Strong input by residents is necessary for any successful development to occur.
- The City's park, recreation, and open space planning process should be coordinated with the city's comprehensive planning effort.
- The city should make maximum use of federal and state grant opportunities to help with land acquisition efforts and the development of park and recreation improvements.

Recommendations for Improving Darlington's Park System

• Proposed Improvements at Swimming Pool Park

Swimming Pool Park is a very beautiful, well maintained park, but could use a number of improvements as follows:

- Construction of New Pool with Splash Pad
- Construction of Miniature Golf Course
- Develop an exercise course through the park
- Install windbreaks at the swimming pool
- Construct handicapped-accessible pathway to tennis court/basketball court from pool
- Resurface parking lot at tennis/basketball court
- Continue tree planting and additional landscaping (ongoing)
- Construction of bicycle park
- Provide traffic calming at crosswalk between restrooms and upper shelter- a sandwich board sign to warn motorists of pedestrian traffic, temporary speed bumps, etc.
- Complete Phase 3 on 3-5 year old playground
- Redo electrical service at upper and lower shelter house to accommodate cookers
- Maintenance building for parks equipment, year round facility- water
- Replace upper shelter house

• Proposed Improvements at Black Bridge Park

Black Bridge Park has been expanded in a southwesterly direction as to connect with Pecatonica River Trails Park. The blacktop walking/biking trail provides a connection to the parks. This provides space for the following improvements:

- Install large flag pole and flag
- Install new playground equipment
- Construct ADA restroom facilities
- Install an ADA drinking fountain
- Pave entrance road and parking area to boat landing
- Rip rap of the river shoreline
- Additional tree planting and landscaping (ongoing)
- Replace the volleyball courts lighting system

- Construct an accessible pathway from parking lot across foot bridge to volleyball courts
- Construct mini-shelters along river route
- Construct shelter building west of cheese Country Trail
- Construct a small baseball diamond with backstop for practice field
- Design and develop a dog park

- **Proposed Improvements at Pecatonica River Trails Park**

Pecatonica River Trails Park on the Pecatonica River west of the central business district has been developed for park purposes. The area has potential to serve as a major citywide recreation area and could accommodate any number of passive and active recreational activities.

The historic depot has been renovated by the Boy Scouts with funds donated by the local Kiwanis Club. It is used by the country historical society for historical exhibits and railroad memorabilia. The depot is also used as an informational center by the local historical society. The historical society is hopeful that they might utilize this park to a greater extent. The Kiwanis Club and other groups have moved a section of the old depot back to its original site next to the main depot building, and have restored both buildings to their original condition. Consideration is also being given to accommodating existing retail activities, such as cross-country ski rental and canoe rental, and potential bicycling, fishing, and other recreational equipment at this location.

The city is also considering the development of housing for the elderly on nearby property which would be easily accessible to the open space in Pecatonica River Trails Park, handicapped fishing, bird watching, and other “back-to-nature” activities and river-adapted activities such as canoeing and kayaking. This park is considered not only a recreational facility, but an economic development opportunity to stabilize the economy of the downtown retail sector located a block away.

The possibility of acquiring additional park lands should be investigated along the eastern stream bank of the Pecatonica River from Pecatonica River Trails Park to the southwestern border of the existing Riverside Park. This addition would provide an attractive riverside corridor and help to satisfy needs in the central and southern portions of the city. This area runs adjacent to the Cheese Country Trail and should be retained for its scenic beauty. With the overall flood mitigation efforts involving various state and federal agencies, it is hoped that this will bring about even greater potential for improved recreational opportunities and improved tourism opportunities. Recreational use of these shorelines would be conforming use according to the city's floodplain zoning regulations.

Proposed improvements to accommodate passive and active recreation pursuits in this expanded park would include the following:

- Installation of additional ADA drinking fountain and water supply for campers
- Water hookups to all campsites
- Construction of boat launching facility
- Construction of additional camping sites
 - Electric and non-electric (primitive) sites
 - Group camping sites
 - ADA camping site
- Additional tree plantings and landscaping (ongoing)
- Construct volleyball court
- Construct Wiffle Ball Field
- Construction of a bicycle park
- Construction of picnic shelter at campgrounds
- Blacktop camping sites
- Improve canoe/boat launch- pave like Festival Grounds Park.
- Firewood/Ice sales

- **Proposed Improvements at Riverside Park**

Riverside Park has potential for expansion to the east. With the relocation of the sewage treatment plant to a site on the south side of the river, the former site has been converted to park land and attached to Riverside Park. This area could be used for passive recreation with a possible connecting bridge to the fairgrounds. Such a bridge would also provide access to the fairgrounds for users of the Cheese Country Trail. It is recommended that the following improvements be considered at this park:

- Construction of a pedestrian bridge over the river to link Riverside Park with the fairgrounds
- Additional hard surfaced basketball court
- Construct addition to concession stand
- Addition to restrooms to comply with ADA requirements
- Resurface basketball court
- Construct bicycle park
- Continue tree plantings and landscaping (ongoing)
- Installation of informational kiosk
- Replace grass water drainage ditch with concrete drainage ditch or buried tubing to remove water by batting cage

- Stabilize or shore up river bank to minimize flooding on walking/bike trail
- Redo parking lot
- Replace shelter house curtain
- Provide water hydrant for baseball field
- Add flag pole and flag to large baseball field
- Design and construct new restroom facilities
- Design and construct new concession stand facilities

- **Proposed Improvements at Veterans Memorial Park**

Some improvements being considered at the historic Veterans Memorial Park, located at the north end of the business district, include:

- A long-range plan to reconstruct the bandstand which was located in the middle of the west side of the park
- Replacement of the cannon that was located near the monument
- Additional tree plantings (ongoing)
- Remove & replace Ash trees to prevent damage from the Emerald Ash Borer

- **Proposed Improvements at Festival Grounds Park**

- Design and construct restroom facilities
- Improve the gravel (former NAPA property) area with turf grass

- **Proposed Improvements at Mini-Park**

An improvement recommended for Mini-Park is:

- Installation of informational kiosk

This kiosk would make brochures, directional maps, and other informational materials available to the general public, recreational trail users, and other tourists visiting the community. Such materials could include information on the historic sites in the city and give directions to the various community facilities and services of interest to tourists.

- **Other Recommendations**

- Winter sports (such as sledding, tobogganing, skiing, and ice skating) are important in an overall community recreation program. Areas that could be developed for ice skating include the fairgrounds and Pecatonica River Trails Park. Swimming Pool Park is well suited to sliding activities as are several other hillsides in Darlington. The park is, however, the only publicly-owned area with the necessary terrain features.
- The increasing popularity of bicycling among all age groups for reasons of health and protection of environment prompts a recommendation for the establishment of bicycle routes within the city. These routes have prompted the city to design a safe and easy access to the new recreational trail.
- The existing pistol and rifle range facility is located on designated industrial lands and consideration should be given to moving or constructing a new facility in another park area. This could also encompass an archery range.
- The open areas between East and West River Streets and the Pecatonica River should have tree plantings and possible bench areas for viewing the scenic beauty of the river.
- The general area south of the Main Street bridge is devoid of parks. Although the city acquired the land for park space at the corner of East River Road and Galena Street (Cullen's Service Station), improvements can still be made. The corner of Water Street and Wells Street (Engstad's Chevrolet, Buick, Olds, Inc.) has been acquired through flood mitigation and now is the home to the Canoe Festival Grounds Park. The parks are for passive recreation and could include a resting area with benches, or a small shelter with a few picnic tables, grills, and benches. Potential for small parks would be in the vicinity of the Grand Horizon housing development area, the Darbridge apartment complex on Ravine Street, or the Darlington Business Park area on Highway 23 south.
- With the flood mitigation efforts underway in the downtown area and the relocation of some businesses to the south side of the community (near the junction of STH 81 and STH 23), there is great potential for significant economic development in that area. The city should give consideration to the need for additional recreational facilities that could be located on the south side of the community along one of these highways, such as a possible mini-golf course, a rest area with playground apparatus, and other highway-oriented recreation facilities.
- Improve sidewalk connectivity between neighborhood areas and parks, so older children may travel safely to parks without walking in the street.
- Provide a second soccer/flag football field to reduce wear on the Black Bridge Park field.
- Provide additional fishing areas along the river, especially piers designed to make casting/reeling easier for children.

Darlington's Park and Recreation Capital Improvements Schedule

This section of the plan is designed to serve as a guide over the next five years to assist the City of Darlington in charting the course of future park and recreation facility development. The Darlington Capital Improvements Schedule (CIS) follows on the next page. The CIS not only prioritizes each facility as to which year the improvement will take place (during the five year period), it also provides an estimate of what the cost will be before each improvement (in 2020 dollars). The CIS also includes those facility improvements that will be made at each park to implement the handicap accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It is important to realize that the CIS is only a summary of estimated costs based on current year figures. Project costs will be examined more closely when a particular improvement plan is being developed. It is recommended that this portion of the plan be updated on an annual basis by city personnel with input from the city park committee. Changes will be made that reflect changing user trends, citizen interest, and city budget considerations. Before capital improvement projects are undertaken, park committee members, with citizen input, should:

1. Analyze all proposed projects and determine priorities each year;
2. Determine cost estimates for each development project; and
3. Determine project budgetary limitations and potential funding sources.

The city park committee is hopeful that a number of the recommended improvements to the city parks can be carried out with financial assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under the LAWCON and Stewardship Fund cost-sharing programs. At the same time, however, the city recognizes that a considerable investment will also be required at the community level if the recommendations discussed in this plan are every going to be carried out. The CIS provides a good indication of what level of assistance is going to be required during any particular year in the planning period.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE (CIS)—*Darlington Parks Department*

PARK	RECOMMENDATION	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Swimming Pool Park	Construction of New Pool with Splash Pad				\$ 4,500,000.00		
	Construction of Miniature of Golf Course				\$ 100,000.00		
	Continue tree planting and additional landscaping	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
	Construct handicapped-accessible pathway to tennis court/basketball court from pool	\$ 2,600.00					
	Enlarge wading pool deck area		\$ 10,000.00				
	Complete phase 3 on 3-5 year old playground			\$ 5,000.00			
	Redo electrical service at both shelters to accommodate cookers			\$ 7,000.00			
	Provide traffic calming at crosswalk between restrooms and upper shelter			\$ 2,500.00			
	Installation of wind breaks at the swimming pool				\$ 5,000.00		
	Develop an exercise course through the park				\$ 7,000.00		
	Resurface parking lot at tennis/basketball court					\$ 25,000.00	
	Construction of bicycle park					\$ 25,000.00	
	Maintenance building for parks equipment						
	Replace upper shelter house						
	Park Total	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 4,614,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
PARK	RECOMMENDATION	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Black Bridge Park	Additional tree planting and landscaping	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Install large flag pole and flag		\$ 5,000.00				
	Construction of ADA restroom facilities		\$ 25,000.00				
	Construct a small baseball diamond with backstop for practice field						
	Installation of new playground equipment			\$ 15,000.00			
	Installation of an ADA drinking fountain			\$ 1,500.00			
	Construct an accessible pathway from parking lot across foot bridge to volleyball courts				\$ 6,000.00		
	Rip-rap of the river shoreline						
	Design and develop dog park				\$ 5,000.00		
	Paving of entrance road and parking area to boat landing					\$ 10,000.00	
	Construct shelter building west of Cheese Country Trail						\$ 15,000.00
	Improvement of the volleyball courts lighting system						\$ 3,000.00
	Construct mini-shelters along river route						\$ 3,000.00
	Park Total	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
PARK	RECOMMENDATION	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Pecatonica River Trails Park	Additional tree plantings and landscaping	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Construction of boat launching facility		\$ 5,000.00				
	Construction of additional camping sites		\$ 25,000.00				
	Construct Wiffle Ball Field			\$ 3,000.00			
	Construct volleyball court			\$ 1,000.00			
	Construction of a bicycle park				\$ 50,000.00		
	Improve canoe/boat launch			\$ 5,000.00			
	Provide firewood/ice sales				\$ 3,500.00		
	Blacktop camping sites						\$ 20,000.00
	Installation of additional ADA drinking fountain and water supply for campers						\$ 8,000.00
	Construction of picnic shelter at campgrounds						\$ 15,000.00
	Park Total	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 54,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 44,000.00

PARK	RECOMMENDATION	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Riverside Park	Additional tree planting and landscaping	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Construction of a pedestrian bridge over the river to link Riverside Park with the Fairgrounds		\$ 25,000.00				
	Stabilize or shore up river bank to minimize flooding on walking/bike trail			\$ 75,000.00			
	Construct new concession stand			\$ 15,000.00			
	Construct bicycle park				\$ 25,000.00		
	Add flag pole and flag to large baseball field				\$ 5,000.00		
	Resurface basketball court					\$ 3,500.00	
	Replace grass water drainage ditch with concrete drainage ditch or buried tubing to remove water					\$ 60,000.00	
	Install info kiosk					\$ 4,000.00	
	Install water hydrant for baseball field					\$ 7,000.00	
	Install temporary fence at ball field					\$ 2,000.00	
	Construct new restrooms to comply with ADA requirements						\$ 20,000.00
	Additional hard surfaced basketball court						\$ 25,000.00
	Park Total	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 91,000.00	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 77,500.00	\$ 46,000.00
PARK	RECOMMENDATION	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Veterans Memorial Park	Additional tree plantings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Replace Ash trees to prevent damage from Emerald Ash Borer		\$ 3,000.00				
	Construct band shell for concerts			\$ 40,000.00			
	Replace cannon near the monument				\$ 4,000.00		
Canoe Festival Grounds Park	Seed/sod the gravel area	\$ 1,500.00					
	Provide electricity to the Gazebo		\$ 3,000.00				
	Design and construct restroom facilities			\$ 20,000.00			
	Add electric posts to improve electric service				\$ 8,000.00		
Mini-Park	Installation of informational kiosk		\$ 4,000.00				
	Park Total	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 61,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
General Improvements	RECOMMENDATION	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	Improve sidewalk connectivity between neighborhood areas and parks	\$20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	Provide second soccer/flag football field to reduce wear on Black Bridge Park field		\$ 2,500.00				
	Provide additional fishing areas along the river, especially piers designed for easy access for children/ADA users			\$ 5,000.00			
	Develop additional park land south of Main Street bridge.			\$ 20,000.00			
	Develop additional park area on the south side of the City near the junction of STH 81 and 23.				\$ 25,000.00		
	Develop ATV/bike trail connection from Cheese Country Trail to Yellowstone State Park					\$ 150,000.00	
	Park Total	\$20,000.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
FINAL TOTAL FROM ALL PARKS		\$30,100.00	\$ 133,500.00	\$241,000.00	\$ 4,769,500.00	\$312,500.00	\$135,000.00

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

The City of Darlington recognizes the value of having an operations and maintenance schedule for city park and recreation areas. Such a schedule not only evaluates the on-going maintenance responsibilities at each park, it also considers the implications of the capital improvement schedule (CIS) on the community's future operations and maintenance capabilities.

Below is the City of Darlington Parks Department annual operations and maintenance schedule. All annual maintenance tasks required in the parks are listed by season, along with the personnel responsible for completing these tasks. The 2020 maintenance budget follows on page 42.

- PARK MAINTENANCE AREAS:**
- Swimming Pool Park
 - Black Bridge Park
 - Pecatonica River Trails Park
 - Riverside Park
 - Veterans Memorial Park
 - Mini-Park
 - Riverbanks/Well Area
 - Canoe Festival Grounds Park
 - Peterson Park

PARKS ANNUAL MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE—City of Darlington

Months: **JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH**

Personnel Responsible: Park and Recreation Director with additional help from the Department of Public Works

Tasks to be Performed:

• Snow removal from city-owned sidewalks
• Route check of parks for problems/vandalism
• Maintenance on picnic tables, trash cans, recycling stations
• Advertise and hire summer seasonal employees—parks, recreation, pool staff
• Lawn mowers ready for season

Months: **APRIL, MAY**

Personnel Responsible: Park and Recreation Director and seasonal park employees

Tasks to be Performed:

• Clear parks of winter debris—tree branches, leaves, tailings (park clean-up)
• Open restrooms at all parks—install water meters, clean and disinfect, stock ready for use
• Open campgrounds
• Playground equipment out and inspected
• Courts ready for use (volleyball, tennis, basketball)—cleaned, nets up, and lights working
• Picnic tables, trash cans, and recycle cans out at all parks
• Ball diamond prepared for season
• Concession stand cleaned and ready for season
• Open shelter houses—cleaned, inspected, lights working
• Pool—drain, clean, paint, and fill for season. Filtration system operating
• Check water quality (4 times daily)—add chemicals as demanded and record
• Open bathhouse and dressing rooms—clean and paint
• Life guard chairs and diving boards up and maintained
• Plant trees and flowers
• Soccer field ready—goals up, bleachers out
• Fertilize ball field and flag football/soccer field

Months: **JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER**

Personnel Responsible: Park and Recreation Director and seasonal park employees.

Tasks To Be Performed:

• Mow and trim grass
• Daily cleaning of restrooms—stock
• Clean shelter houses (twice weekly)
• Empty all trash cans (3 times a week)
• Ball diamond ready for play daily
• Spray for weeds along fence lines, playground equipment, sidewalks, and buildings
• Daily maintenance of mowers (riders and push) and weed eaters
• Paint buildings and shelters
• Repair playground equipment as needed

• Mow and trim river banks
• Check pool water quality 4 times daily. Add chemicals as required, filtration system maintenance, record
• Vacuum pool (twice weekly)
• Clean pool dressing rooms and stock daily.
• Flag football field ready for season—goals up, bleachers set out, equipment box installed

Months: **OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER**

Personnel Responsible: Park and Recreation Director and seasonal park employees,
Department of Public Works

Tasks to be Performed:

• Mow and trim grass
• Drain pool and winterize for season
• Close bathhouse and dressing rooms for season—drain and winterize water lines
• Close filtration room for season—winterize
• Remove life guard chairs and diving boards
• Gather and store picnic tables in shelters—repair and paint if necessary
• Gather, paint, and store trash and recycle cans
• Clean and close restrooms for season—drain water lines and winterize
• Close shelters for season
• Remove playground equipment—repair and store for season
• Begin leaf mulching
• Close courts for season (tennis, volleyball nets removed)
• Close ball diamond/concession stand—clean and winterize
• Remove flowers from parks
• Add mulch to new tree plantings
• Flag football field dismantled—remove goals and bleachers
• Ice skating rinks ready for season—flood
• Repair and paint buildings and equipment for next season
• Fertilize ball field and flag football/soccer field

PARKS & RECREATION BUDGET FOR 2020—City of Darlington

Swimming Pool	
Payroll (salaries and benefits)	\$30,000.00
Repairs, maintenance, supplies	\$4,800.00
Electricity, phone, water & sewer	\$11,750.00
Chemicals	\$5,250.00
TOTAL	\$51,800.00
Parks	
Payroll (salaries and benefits)	\$40,000.00
Repairs, maintenance	\$12,000.00
Supplies	\$7,000.00
Electricity	\$7,750.00
Water & sewer, garbage	\$3,745.00
TOTAL	\$70,495.00
Recreation	
Payroll (salaries and benefits)	\$76,850.00
Supplies	\$6,700.00
Electricity	\$850.00
TOTAL	\$84,400.00
Ball Park	
Payroll (salaries and benefits)	\$1,100.00
Equipment	\$1,500.00
Maintenance, repairs	\$3,000.00
Electricity	\$2,500.00
TOTAL	\$8,100.00

Appendix A —Recreation Financial Assistance Programs

AGENCY	PROGRAM	CYCLE	FUNDING	DESCRIPTION
USDA Rural Development Association (RDA)	Community Facilities	Ongoing	Direct Loan, Loan Guarantee, or Grant	Improve, develop or finance essential community facilities for rural communities. Up to 100% of market value. Maximum grant 75% of project cost. Eligibility based on income, population and need.
WI Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)	All Terrain Vehicle Trails	Annual, Due April 15	Grant/ Reimbursement	Counties, cities, villages, and towns are eligible for up to 100% of the costs of maintenance, development, rehabilitation, insurance, and acquisition of ATV trails and intensive use areas.
	Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant	Annual, Due May 1	Grant	Requires 50% local match. The Stewardship program includes: Aids for the Acquisition & Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Rivers, Urban Green Space and Recreation Trails programs. Eligible projects: land acquisition, development of nature-based recreation facilities, recreation trails, development of support facilities such as access roads, parking, restrooms, signage, utility systems and lighting.
	Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	Ongoing, submit by Feb 1 for fiscal year beginning in Oct	Grant	These grants may be used to construct fishing piers and motorboat access projects. Eligible components include boat ramp construction and renovation, along with related amenities such as parking lots, accessible paths, lighting and restroom facilities. Funding for this program comes from federal excise taxes on fishing equipment and a portion of the federal gas tax.
	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	Annual, Due May 1	Grant	Grant covers up to 50% of the costs of acquisition of land and development of facilities for public park and recreation areas. Applications are due to the DNR by May 1 of each year. The amount of funding available varies depending upon the amount appropriated by Congress to the program within the Department of Interior's budget each year.
	Recreational Boating Facilities	Quarterly	Grant	Grant covers up to 50% of the costs of feasibility studies and the construction of capital improvements related to the development of safe recreational boating facilities, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemical treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the DNR. Projects of statewide or regional significance may be eligible for additional 30% cost-sharing assistance. Applications are due to the DNR and are reviewed and recommended quarterly by the governor-appointed Wisconsin Waterways Commission.
	Recreational Trails Aids (RTA)	Annual, May 1	Reimbursement	This is a federal program administered in all states. Municipal governments and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of eligible project costs. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with funds from the state snowmobile or ATV grant programs and Knowles-Nelson Stewardship development projects.
	River Planning Grant	Annual, Dec. 10	Grant	Maximum grant \$25,000, requires 25% local match. Eligible projects include river management plans, public education, ordinance development and creation of river protection groups.
	River Protection Grant	Annual, Feb 1	Grant	Maximum grant \$100,000, requires 25% local match. Eligible projects include municipal stormwater BMPs, ordinance development, in-stream and shoreline habitat and land acquisition.

WI Dept of Transportation (DOT)	Transportation Alternatives Program	Annual, Fall	Reimbursement	A comprehensive federal funding program that was created by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 st Century Act (MAP-21). TAP incorporates the following three WisDOT multi-modal transportation improvement programs: Safe Routes to School (SRTS), Transportation Enhancements (TE), and The Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program (BFPF). All TAP projects are funded 80% federally, with a 20% local match. The minimum project cost is \$50,000 for non-infrastructure and \$300,000 for infrastructure projects.
WI Dept. of Tourism	Joint Effort Marketing (JEM)	Quarterly or Semi-annually, depending on program	Grant	The JEM program funds five categories of marketing initiatives to promote tourism including: Destination Marketing, New Event, Sales Promotion, Existing Event, and One-Time On-of-a-Kind Event.
Local Government	Tax Incremental Financing (TIF)	Annual	Tax Revenue	Development by creation of Special Districts
	Special Tax District	Annual	Tax	Tax Improvement Costs to Benefitted Property
	Special Assessments	Annual	Assessment	Assessment levied against benefitted property
	Impact Fees		Fees	Charges to impacted properties
	User Fees		Fees	Fees to use public property/facilities (trail pass, pool pass, shelter reservation, etc.)

Appendix B —Park Classifications

Source: Wisconsin DNR

Mini-Park	
Use	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as young children or senior citizens.
Service Area	¼ mile or less.
Recommended Site Size	1 acre or less.
General Facilities	Sitting area, drinking fountains, play apparatus, paved area.
Site Location	Within neighborhoods, or adjacent to schools, elderly housing, apartment complexes, etc. The facility should be easily accessible by walking for senior citizens or parents with small children.
Jurisdiction	Town, Village, City, or school district.
Neighborhood Park / Playground	
Use	Area of intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, apparatus area, skating, neighborhood center.
Service Area	¼ to ½ mile radius.
Recommended Site Size	10 to 25 acres.
General Facilities	Sitting area, picnic facilities, play apparatus, multi-use paved area, basketball courts, tennis courts, ball fields.
Site Attributes	Physiography suited for intense development.
Site Location	Proximity to elementary schools, or centrally located in developed areas with safe walking and biking areas.
Jurisdiction	Town, Village, City, or school district.
Community-wide Park / Playfield	
Use	Area for intense recreational facilities such as athletic fields and swimming pools, could include neighborhood use.
Service Area	3 - 5 neighborhoods.
Recommended Site Size	25 - 50 acres.
Site Attributes	Physiography suited for intense development.
Site Location	Proximity to secondary schools and other public facilities.
Jurisdiction	Town, Village, or City.
Community-wide Park	
Use	Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking; could have some field and court games.

Service Area	3 - 5 neighborhoods.
Recommended Site Size	25 - 50 acres.
General Facilities	Sitting area, nature study area, hiking and cross-country skiing trails, picnic area, play apparatus, tennis courts, basketball courts, ball fields, ice skating, swimming facility or beach, shelters and toilet facilities, moderate auto parking.
Site Attributes	Affords natural features with varied physiographic interest.
Site Location	Proximity to community facilities and resources.
Jurisdiction	Town, Village, or City.
Linear Park (trails, corridors, parkways, rustic roads)	
Use	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving.
Service Area	Varied
Recommended Site Size	Sufficient width to provide maximum protection of resource and maximum use; sufficient length to accomplish purpose.
General Facilities	Trail system, directional and instructional signs, shelters, primitive sanitary facilities, moderate parking facilities.
Site Attributes	Utilize man-made and/or natural linear resources such as utility corridors, rights-of-way, drainage ways, bluff lines, vegetation patterns and roads.
Jurisdiction	Town, Village, City, County, State and Federal.
Specialized Facilities / Points of Interest	
Use	Area that preserves, maintains, and provides specialized or single-purpose recreational activities such as golf course, nature center, marina, zoo, conservancy, arboretum, display gardens, arena, gun club, downhill ski area, sites of historic or archaeological significance, and scenic vistas.
Service Area	Varied
Recommended Site Size	Specific standard applicable to desired use.
General Facilities	Support facilities dependent upon use.
Site Attributes	Appropriate to particular special feature.
Site Location	Where most advantageous for the special feature and the overall park system.
Jurisdiction	Town, Village, City, Tribe, County, State or Federal government.

CITY OF DARLINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OCTOBER 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mike McDermott at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited. Present at roll call were: Steve Pickett, Erin Gallagher, Ray Spellman, Dave Gough, Josh Goebel and Dave Roelli. Absent: None. Also present were: Bill McDaniel, Wade Berget, Sue Cashman and Phil Risseuw.

Motion by Gallagher second by Goebel that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried. Motion by Pickett second by Roelli to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Under unfinished business, Alderperson Goebel asked if there was any update on the ambulance service matter. No update was given.

Under new business, discussion was held concerning the Bird City Wisconsin renewal application. A copy of the renewal application was included in the agenda packet. Sue Cashman attended the meeting to present information and answer questions. She stated all the Bird City information is now on the City's website. Approval of the renewal application is needed by November 1, 2020. After discussion and consideration, motion by Goebel second by Gallagher to approve the Bird City Wisconsin renewal application as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning proposed Resolution 2020-11, A Resolution Designating an International Migratory Bird Day. A copy of the proposed resolution was included in the agenda packet. Ms. Cashman explained this resolution is a requirement of the Bird City Wisconsin renewal application. The resolution proclaims November 9, 2020 as International Migratory Bird Day for the City of Darlington. After review and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Gallagher to adopt and approve Resolution 2020-11, A Resolution Designating an International Migratory Bird Day as presented. Motion carried. Sue Cashman then left the meeting.

Discussion was then held concerning the following recommendation from the Park and Recreation Committee. A copy of the meeting minutes was included in the agenda packet.

- Approve the updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Committee is recommending approval of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Wade Berget attended the meeting to present information and answer questions. A Public Hearing was held prior to this Council meeting requesting feedback about the plan update. After discussion and consideration, motion by Roelli second by Spellman to approve the updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning the following recommendations from the Swimming Pool Committee. A copy of the meeting minutes was included in the agenda packet. Wade Berget attended the meeting to present information and answer questions.

- Approve a partnership with Sieg Foundation to accept donations for pool fundraising. The committee is recommending working with the Sieg Foundation to accept anonymous donations for the pool fundraising project. After discussion and consideration, motion by Gallagher second by Pickett to approve a partnership with Sieg Foundation to accept anonymous donations for the pool fundraising project as presented. Motion carried.
- Authorize the opening of a Pool Fundraising checking account at First National Bank at Darlington. The committee is recommending opening this checking account at the First National Bank at Darlington. After discussion and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Gallagher to authorize opening a Pool Fundraising checking account at First National Bank at Darlington as presented. Motion carried.

Wade Berget then left the meeting.

The September 30, 2020 financial statements for the City, Water Dept. and Sewer Dept. were then presented for approval. Copies of the financial statements were included in the agenda packet. After discussion and consideration, motion by Gallagher second by Goebel to approve the September 30, 2020 financial statements for the City, Water Dept. and Sewer Dept. as presented. Motion carried.

No information was provided under reports of committees.

Phil Risseeuw then asked those present if the next regular Council meeting date could be switched from Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020 (election day) to Monday, November 2nd, 2020 at the same starting time. After discussion and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Gallagher to move the date of the next regular Council meeting to Monday, November 2nd, 2020 as requested. Motion carried.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Roelli second by Goebel to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON



Philip A. Risseeuw, Clerk-Treasurer

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg WI 53711-5397

Tony Evers, Governor
Preston D. Cole, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



November 5, 2020

Wade Berget
City of Darlington
627 Main Street
Darlington, WI 53530

Subject: City of Darlington Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024

Dear Mr. Berget:

I received the City's updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024. According to City Council meeting minutes dated October 20, 2020, the plan was approved and adopted by the City Council.

You are therefore advised that the City is extended eligibility to apply for available outdoor recreation grants, administered by the Department of Natural Resources, until **December 31, 2025**.

Please note that this eligibility is no assurance of grant funding for any particular project for which you may submit a request for grant assistance, and matching grant assistance will be limited to those recommendations supported in the approved Plan. Also, any project sponsors shall be responsible for keeping us advised regarding any formal changes(s) to the approved Plan that may result in a grant project application.

The City of Darlington is commended for its continued awareness of the need for regional outdoor recreation planning. Please contact me at Cheryl.Housley@wisconsin.gov, cell 608-669-5982, if you have questions regarding your eligibility status or available grant programs.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Housley

Cheryl Housley
Community Services Specialist
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

cc: Philip Risseuw – City Clerk-Treasurer
Katherine Westaby – Vierbicher & Assoc.