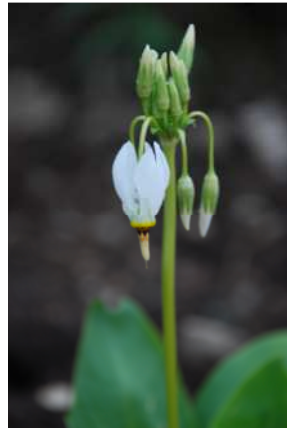


# Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

## Town of Omro, Wisconsin



**2013-2018**

**Originally Prepared by R.A. Smith & Associates, Inc.**

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## Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

### **Foreword: Impetus for the Plan**

The Town of Omro has adopted a Comprehensive Plan to guide the growth of the community for years to come. In 2007, the Town did not have any local park facilities of its own. Through the comprehensive planning process, it was determined that the Town should provide local parks and recreational opportunities in order to improve the quality of life.

The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is in addition to the Town's prior planning efforts. As a comprehensive planning component for the Town, the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan will:

- Evaluate the County and regional facilities, including existing parks, park improvements and recreational trails to determine their connection to Town efforts.
- Identify the appropriate type and number of parks, trails, and recreation opportunities needed within the town based on the recommendations of recognized authorities in the field.
- Identify and recommend active and passive outdoor recreational opportunities to address the needs of residents of all ages.
- Identify and recommend alternatives for the community's recreation trail system.
- Provide a cost summary for all recommendations, to assist the Town with its Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) efforts.
- Provide the Town with a venue for cost sharing and matching grant assistance through Federal and State grant programs administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

### **Objectives**

The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was developed in order to achieve the following objectives:

- The acquisition of land suitable for the types of uses which should be accommodated within the park or recreational areas.
- The location of future parks in accordance with defined service area standards.
- Guidance for preparation of budgets for park and recreational area improvements.
- Establishment of impact fee structures which accurately reflect the capital costs associated with the park facilities as needed.

## **Mission Statement**

In 2011 the Town of Omro Parks & Recreation Sub-Committee adopted the following mission Statement:

The Town of Omro Parks and Recreation Committee is dedicated to the idea of providing the citizens of the township with areas of natural beauty that encourage walking trails, the enjoyment of wildlife, and native plants through the development and maintenance of multi-use parks and trails, and ecological corridors.

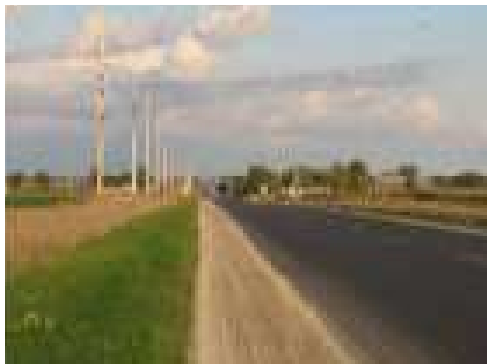
## Chapter 2 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

### Population and Housing Trends

The 2000 Federal Census states the population of the Town of Omro as 1,875. The 2010 Federal Census states the population as 2,116, a growth of 12.9%. The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) projects the population in five year increments, and projects the Town of Omro’s population as follows:

Table 2-1: Town of Omro Population Forecast								
2000 actual	2010 actual	2015	Change	2020	Change	2025	Change	Total Change
1,875	2,116	2,326	210	2,426	200	2,601	175	585

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration



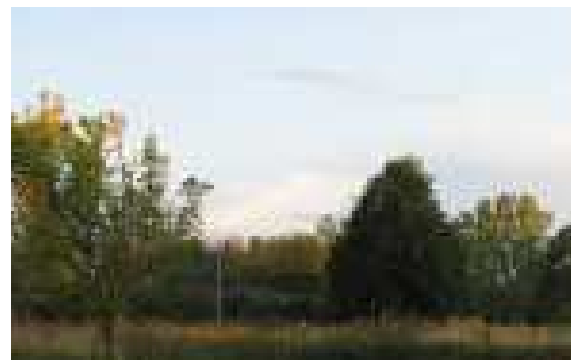
Although this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a five year plan for grant purposes, the Town of Omro is looking to a broader planning horizon for the purposes of impact fee collection and land acquisition. The DOA forecasts indicate a 22.9% increase in population by the year 2025.

Similarly, the DOA forecasts household growth in five year increments, and projects the Town of Omro’s households to increase as follows:

Table 2-1: Town of Omro Housing Forecast								
2000 actual	2010 actual	2015	Change	2020	Change	2025	Change	Total Change
706	825	909	84	971	62	1,028	57	203

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration

The DOA forecasts indicate a 24.6% increase in households by the year 2025. However, it should be noted that average household size is in decline. In 2010, the average household in the Town of Omro had 2.56 members. By 2025, that number is expected to decline to 2.53 members. This trend is in alignment with regional, state, and national demographic trends.



Regardless of this trend, the increase in population and increase in households will continue to fuel a demand for active and passive outdoor recreational activities for Town residents.

## **Geography and Location Factors**

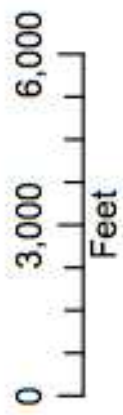
The Town of Omro is located in central Winnebago County and stretches over 20,929 acres, or 32.7 square miles.

The Town of Omro is located within the Lake Butte des Morts South Watershed, and includes lake frontage as well as land along the Fox River. This watershed totals 80,240 acres. The majority of land within the watershed is cropland. The following map identifies publicly and privately owned land classified as wetlands, woodlands, floodplain, and floodway and navigable waters, which comprise the Town of Omro's environmentally sensitive areas.

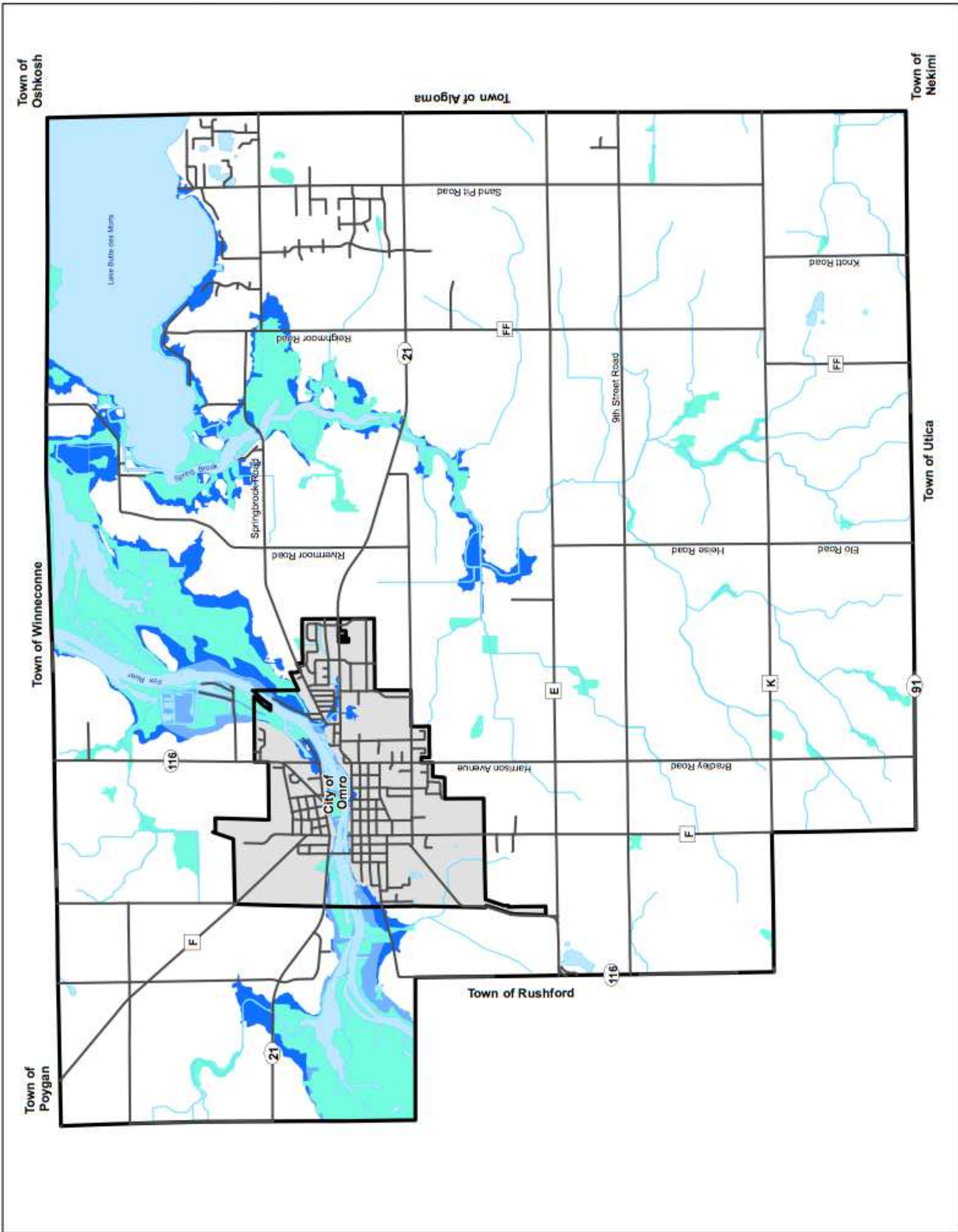
Map 1

# Natural Resources

-  Lakes and Streams
-  Wetland
-  Floodway
-  100 yr Floodplain



Source: Winnebago County



## Chapter 3 PARK AND RECREATION INVENTORY

### Town Outdoor Recreation Facilities

The Town of Omro has opened Schnyder/Wendt Park which uses a major portion of the 21.8 acres which has housed the refuse and recycling facility at the end of Wendt Road. It contains a pond and several trails with benches. Currently it is open every weekend except during deer hunting season and can be used for summer hiking as well as winter non-motorized snow activities.

Volunteers have also set up two picnic tables behind the Town Hall and have erected posts for the purpose of stringing volleyball nets. Other volunteers have planted a native wildflower garden in the front and two trees in the rear.



### County Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Winnebago County operates an approximately 20 acre park off of Leonard Point Road. The park mainly functions as a public boat access to Lake Butte des Morts. The site currently contains two boat launch ramps, three picnic shelters, open play areas, and a swing set.

### Other Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Town residents have access to facilities located in the City of Omro, City of Oshkosh, and other nearby communities.

#### Public Facilities:

- Terell's Island, 1183-acres of wildlife habitat owned by the Butte des Morts Conservation Club in the Town of Winneconne.
- Winnebago County's Waukau Nature Preserve and Rushford Trails in the Town of Rushford.
- Public hunting lands owned by the DNR
- Boat launch at end of Sand Pit Road and County Park
- Leonard Point Trail segment

#### Private Facilities:

- Snowmobile trails
- Two shooting ranges
- Sky diving





## Chapter 4 PARK LAND CLASSIFICATIONS, STANDARDS, AND NEEDS

### Classifications and Standards

The Town of Omro uses the generally accepted standards created by the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) to determine its park requirements. These standards are modified in some cases to reflect the specific needs and assets of the Town.

#### *Mini-Park*

These small parks focus on limited or isolated recreational needs. Mini-parks generally serve less than a ¼ mile radius in a residential area. These parks are usually between 2500 square feet and 1 acre. NRPA standards call for 0.25 to 0.5 acres of mini-park per 1,000 people.

#### *Neighborhood Park*

These small parks provide active and passive recreation opportunities. They generally contain facilities like basketball courts and softball diamonds as well as more informal areas like open fields and playground equipment. Neighborhood parks often contain open areas for picnicking and undeveloped natural areas. These parks are generally between 5 and 10 acres in size and serve a ¼ to ½ mile radius. The small neighborhood park is a modification of the NRPA standard for neighborhood parks that calls for 1 to 2 acres of neighborhood park per 1,000 people.



#### *Community Park*

These parks focus on serving community-wide recreation needs. Community parks have facilities for organized sports, large group picnicking, and large community gatherings.

Community parks often have large undeveloped natural areas served by trail systems. These parks are generally between 30 and 50 acres and serve a 1 to 2 mile radius. NRPA standards call for 5 to 10 acres of community park per 1,000 people.

#### *Special Purpose Parks*

These parks are focused on a single use, such as historic preservation or downtown open space. The NRPA has no standards for special purpose parks.

**Existing Park and Open Space Needs**

Table 4-1 illustrates how, based on NRPA standards, the existing park system serves the Town’s 2010 population of 2,116 people.

Table 4-1: Standards and Needs for Parks in 2010

Park Type	Existing Acreage	NRPA Minimum Standard (acres/1000 people)	Minimum Acres Required 2010 (Population: 2,116)	Surplus or Deficit Acreage 2010
Mini-Park	.25	0.25	0.5	0
Small Neighborhood Park	0	1	2	-2
Large Neighborhood Park	0	1	2	-2
Community Park	0	5	10	-10
Special Purpose Park	18	No Standard	N/A	N/A
Total Developed Open Space	0	6.25	12.5	-12.5

**Park and Open Space Needs for the Year 2025**

Using Wisconsin Department of Administration population projections, the Town of Omro is expected to have a population of 2,426 persons in 2020 and 2,601 in 2025.

Table 4-2 illustrates how the existing park system will serve the increased population in 2025.

Table 4-2: Standards and Needs for Parks in 2025.

Park Type	Existing Acreage	NRPA Minimum Standard (acres/1000 people)	Minimum Acres Required 2025 (Population: 2,601)	Surplus or Deficit Acreage 2025
Mini-Park	.25	0.25	0.7	-0.45
Small Neighborhood Park	0	1	2.6	-2.6
Large Neighborhood Park	0	1	2.6	-2.6
Community Park	0	5	10	-10
Special Purpose Park	18	No Standard	N/A	N/A
Total Developed Open Space	0	6.25	16.25	-16.25

## Chapter 5 RECREATION FACILITY STANDARDS AND NEEDS

### Recreation Facility Standards and Current Needs

The Town of Omro uses the generally accepted standards created by the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) as a guide to the accepted level of service standards for recreation related park improvements. Table 5-1 shows the existing facilities and the current facility needs for the Town’s estimated 2010 population of 2,116. Recreation facilities are evaluated on a per capita basis only, as it is generally not feasible to provide uniform access to all recreation types. The facilities discussed in this chapter are those facilities that were determined to be appropriate for the Town based on open house feedback.

Facility	Total Facilities	Standard Facilities per 1000 residents	Required in 2010	2010 Surplus/Deficit
Multi-Use Trail	0	0.16 miles	0.3	-0.3
Open Play Fields	0	0.39	0.8	-0.8
Picnic Tables	0	6.35	13.4	-13.4

Facility	Total Facilities	Standard Facilities per 1000 residents	Required in 2020	2020 Surplus/Deficit
Multi-Use Trail		0.16 miles	0.4	-0.4
Open Play Fields		0.39	0.9	-0.9
Picnic Tables		6.35	15.4	-15.4

### Recreation Facility Needs for the Year 2020-Summary

Using Wisconsin Department of Administration population projections, the Town of Omro is expected to have a population of 2,426 persons in 2020. Table 5-2 illustrates how the Town’s existing recreation facilities will serve the increased population in 2020.



## Chapter 6

# RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

### Introduction

A parks subcommittee of the Town Plan Commission conducted a study on park and trail opportunities in the Town and reported their findings in February 2007. On August 16, 2007, the Town of Omro held an open house to solicit public input at the onset of the planning process for the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The information from the open house and the subcommittee's report contributed to the recommendations in this chapter. Detailed information from the open house can be found in Appendix A.

The proposed park and trail projects in this chapter are divided into two groups. Priority projects are projects the Town should immediately focus attention and resources on developing. Long-term projects are projects that should be considered in planning decisions and should receive future attention and resources.

### Priority Projects

- (A) *Urban Service Area Park* - Land for this park needs to be acquired by the Town. The location, as depicted in the Town's land use plan adopted in 2007, is centrally located within the urban service area. This neighborhood park should be a minimum of 10 acres in size. Facilities focus on passive uses and include open play fields, picnic areas, nature trails, and interpretive signs. This park should also include a connection to the proposed Springbrook Road/Leonard Point Road Trail.
- (B) *Town Dump Site* - This 22.5 acre site is the former Town dump. The site is isolated from CTH FF by ¼ mile entrance drive and features woodlands and a pond. Facilities would focus on passive uses and would include open play fields, picnic areas, nature trails, and interpretive signs. Additionally, the site could contain an off-leash dog park. This park should include a connection to the proposed Reighmoor Road/CTH FF Trail. Conflicts with the site's current use as a recycling drop-off would also need to be addressed. Currently the site is partially developed with trails and rest areas but still waits to be upgraded for everyday use instead of being open only on weekends.

### Long-Term Projects

- (C) *Springbrook Road/Leonard Point Road Trail* - This east-west multi-purpose trail includes connections to the City of Omro's sidewalk system and planned trails in the Town of Algoma. Connections through the Town of Algoma and City of Oshkosh could eventually connect this trail with the WIOUWASH State Recreational Trail west of State Highway 41. Interpretive signs could be incorporated where the trail runs through the Spring Brook and wetland areas. The narrow road right-of-way and the profusion of pipes and culverts along Springbrook Road make trail development within the right-of-way difficult. Where possible, the Town should acquire sufficiently wide strips of land along the Springbrook Road/Leonard Point Road right-of-way through park land dedication by developers.



- (D) Lake Butte des Morts Boat Launch - This approximately 20-acre site on Lake Butte des Morts is owned and operated by Winnebago County. The site currently contains two boat launch ramps, three picnic shelters, open play areas, and a swing set. The Town should enter discussions with Winnebago County to determine the feasibility of an intergovernmental effort to develop additional facilities at the site. These new facilities could include additional picnic areas and shelters,

additional open play fields, nature trails, and interpretive signs. Opportunities for a public swimming facility could also be investigated.

- (E) Reighmoor Road/CTH FF Trail - This north-south multi-purpose trail includes connections to the southern portion of the Town of Omro as well as connections to the Town of Utica and areas south.
- (F) North/South Bypass Corridor Multipurpose Trail - Construction of this trail is contingent on Winnebago County's construction of the west side corridor, and the Town should maintain communication with the County to promote incorporation of the Trail. The actual trail alignment is dependent on the alignment of the constructed highway.

- (G) CTH E/9th Street Road Trail - This east-west multi-purpose trail includes connections to the Town of Algoma and the Town of Rushford. This trail offers an additional east-west route through the central portion of the Town. Two alternative alignments are proposed. The CTH E alignment would allow the use of a relatively unobstructed right-of-way, and would also allow connection to the Prairie Enthusiasts Railroad Prairie Remnant. However, CTH E is a busier and faster road, and



would not create as pleasant of an experience as the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Road alignment. The 9<sup>th</sup> Street Road alignment is complicated by the narrow road right-of-way and the number of trees along the road. Of course, these obstacles also make a bike ride along the road more pleasant. Protection of existing trees would be an important consideration if aligning the trail along 9<sup>th</sup> Street Road. This may require the acquisition of additional trail right-of-way.

- (H) **Prairie Enthusiasts Railroad Prairie Remnant** - This approximately 5 acre prairie remnant is located along the proposed CTH E Trail and could be incorporated as an educational piece of the trail system. The Town should discuss opportunities for a viewing station and interpretive signage with the Prairie Enthusiasts.
- (I) **Southwest Trail** - This trail connects to the west side of the City of Omro, and runs west to the Town of Rushford. Within the Town of Rushford it would head south to connect to the Waukau Nature Preserve. The trail would also connect with the proposed CTH E Trail.
- (J) **Highway 21 Bypass Trail** - This east-west trail follows new road alignments shown in the proposed State Highway 21 bypass. This trail connects the urban service area to the far west side of the Town. The bypass would also provide a bridge over the Fox River, allowing trails to reach the northwest areas of the Town without running through the City of Omro. The trail runs through several wetland areas, as well as areas of the Fox River and Spring Brook, allowing the inclusion of interesting natural features and educational opportunities. The trail would also allow connection to the existing trails at Omro High School on the northwest side of the City of Omro. The bypass project is several years away from being initiated, and any trail alignment would be based on actual road alignments of the completed project.
- (K) **Rivermoor Road/North Trail** - This north-south trail includes connections to the Town of Winneconne and Terell's Island, an 1183-acre wildlife habitat owned by the Butte des Morts Conservation Club. This trail would generally follow Rivermoor Road and would connect to the proposed Springbrook Road/Leonard Point Road Trail.
- (L) **Wetland and River Land Preservation** - The Town of Omro contains approximately 1,900 acres of wetlands and significant areas of river lands. Preservation of these lands is important. As described in the Town's Comprehensive Plan:

The purpose of designating wetland and floodplain areas is to preserve significant environmental features from encroachment by urban type development. Environmentally sensitive areas perform a variety of important functions, including stormwater drainage, floodwater storage, pollutant entrapment, and the provision of wildlife habitat. In addition, they provide desirable green space and recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for area residents. (p. 77)



Wherever possible, the Town should seek to preserve these lands, preserve access to natural areas, incorporate these features into other park facilities, and provide educational opportunities about these sensitive areas.



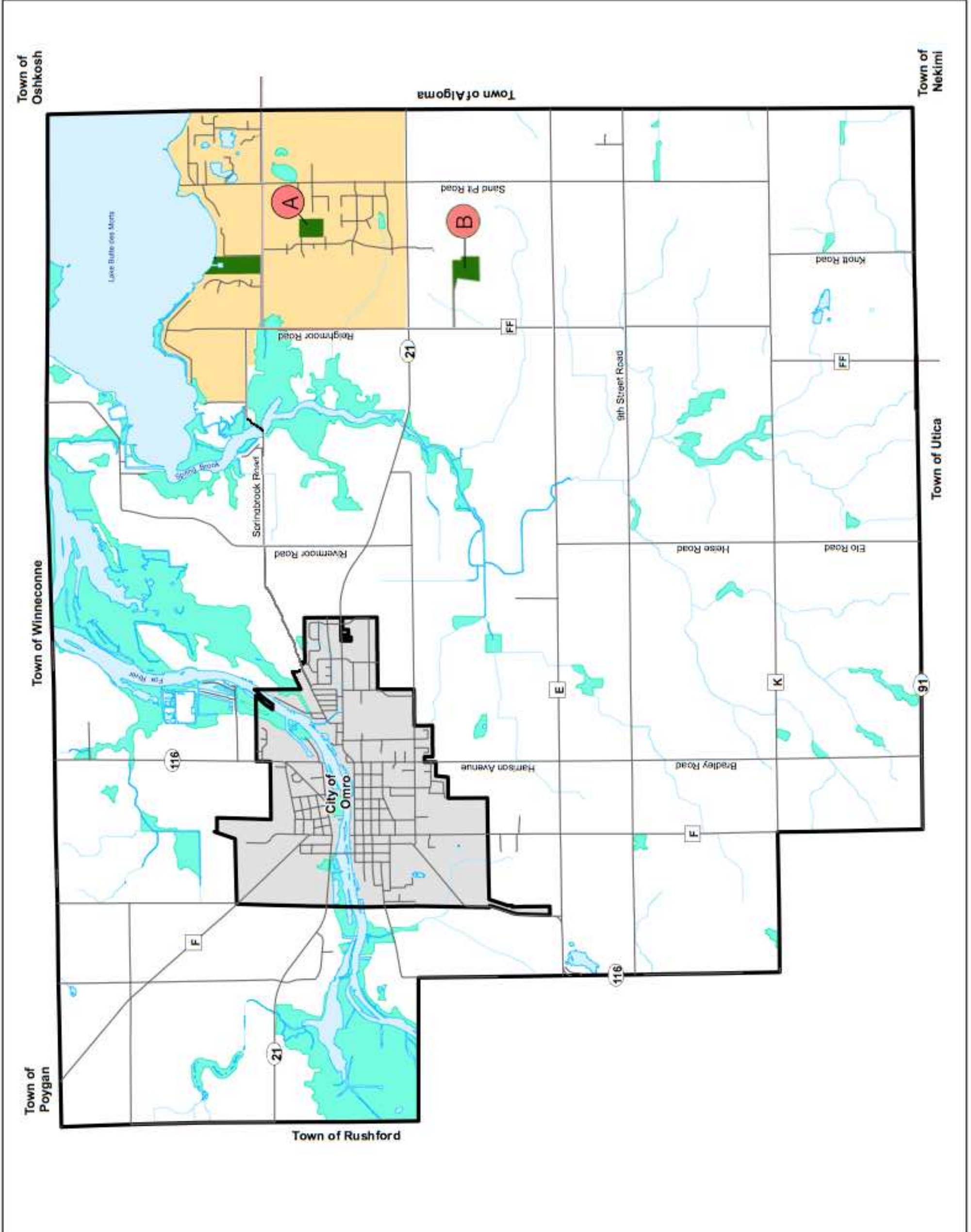
# Map 2 Priority Projects

- Priority Project
- Urban Service Area
- Park Location
- Lakes and Streams
- Wetland

Note: Projects are described in Chapter 6 under Priority Projects.



Source: Winnebago County



Map 3

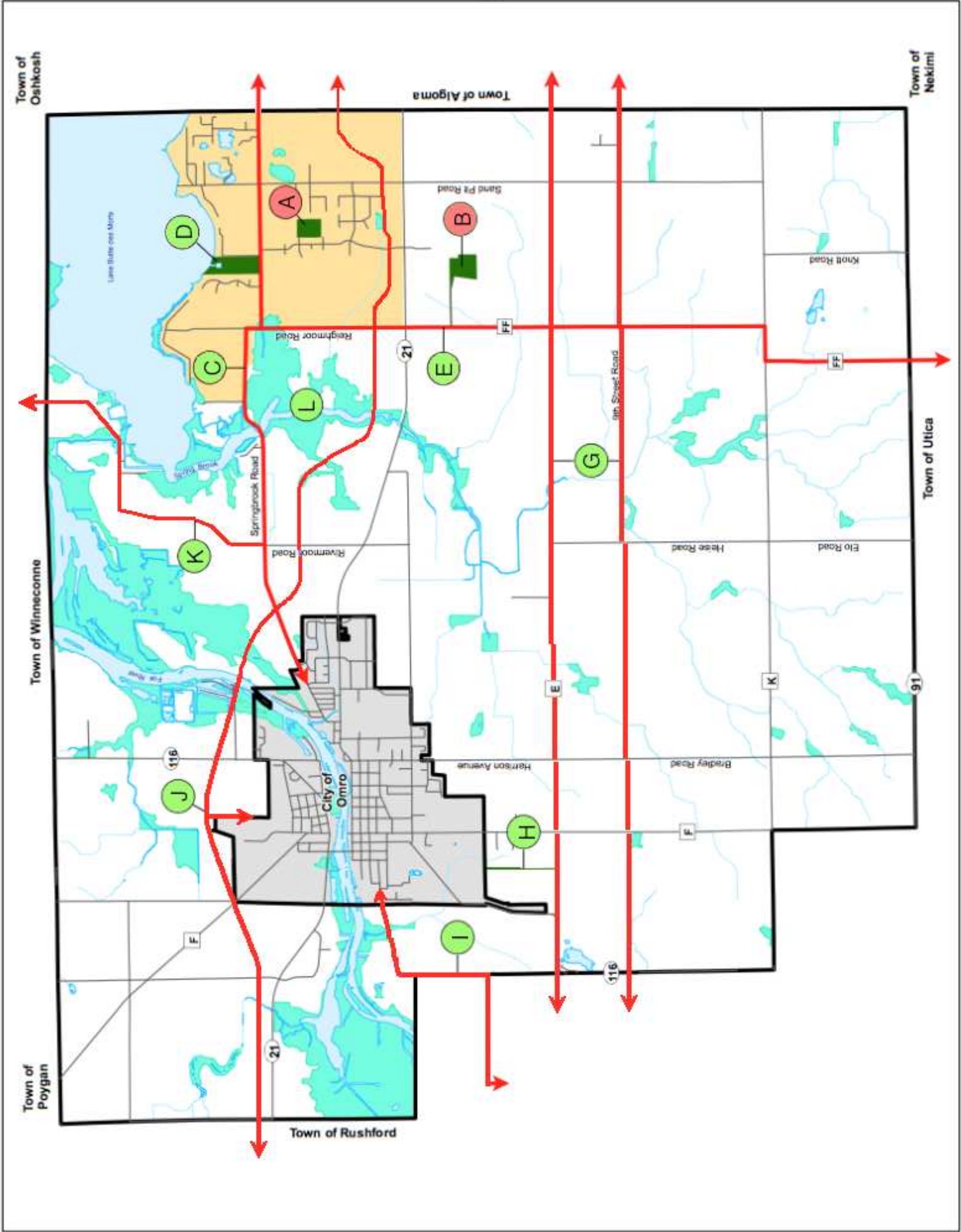
# Long-Term Projects

- Priority Project
- Long Term Project
- Long-Term Trail Project
- Urban Service Area
- Park Location
- Lakes and Streams
- Wetland

Note: Projects are described in Chapter 6 under Priority Projects and Long Term Projects.



Source: Winnebago County



## Chapter 7 IMPLEMENTATION

### Introduction

The recommendations and proposals presented within this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan can become reality. As with all plans of this nature, implementation will require capital improvement planning and fiscal resources of the Town. Public policies and procedures, and the various regulatory measures which the Town of Omro now exercises, should continue to be directed toward providing a variety of recreational facilities and activities for all groups, including the elderly and the handicapped. It must be recognized, however, that implementation is subject to funding, legal, and coordination limitations.

### Projects

Based on data provided by the Town Assessor the average price of 1 acre will range from \$5,000 to \$7,000. Cost estimates for asphalt trails assume a cost of \$185,000/mile of trail (\$35/linear foot) for construction of an 8' wide asphalt trail. Cost estimates for gravel trails assume a cost of \$132,000/mile of trail (\$25/linear foot) for construction of an 8' wide gravel path. It is important to note that while the construction costs for gravel trails are lower than asphalt, gravel trails require significantly more maintenance. Right-of-way acquisition costs are based on a right-of-way width of 10 feet. In many cases right-of-way for trails can be incorporated into the existing road right-of-way. This will reduce the amount of trail right-of-way that will need to be purchased. Additionally, right-of-way can also be acquired through dedication.



Right-of-way acquisition costs are based on a right-of-way width of 10 feet. In many cases right-of-way for trails can be incorporated into the existing road right-of-way. This will reduce the amount of trail right-of-way that will need to be purchased. Additionally, right-of-way can also be acquired through dedication.

<b>A. Urban Service Area Park</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 10 acres</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site development varies</li> <li>• 14 picnic tables</li> <li>• Interpretive signs</li> </ul>
Estimated Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5,000-\$7,000 per acre (\$50,000-\$70,000 minimum)</li> <li>• \$500-\$1,500 per picnic table</li> <li>• \$600-\$800 per sign</li> </ul>

<b>B. Town Dump Site</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is owned by the Town</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varies</li> </ul>
Special	Work to remove conflicts with recycling drop-off.
Estimated Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varies</li> </ul>

<b>C. Springbrook Road/Leonard Point Road Trail</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 5.0 acres of right-of-way</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 4.1 miles of 8' wide trail</li> </ul>
Estimated Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$758,500 for asphalt trail construction</li> <li>\$541,200 for gravel trail construction</li> <li>\$25,000-\$35,000 to purchase additional right-of way for complete length of trail</li> </ul>

<b>D. Lake Butte des Morts Boat Launch</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is owned by Winnebago County</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site development varies</li> </ul>
Estimated Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varies</li> </ul>

<b>E. Reighmoor Road/CTH FF Trail</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 5.8 acres of right-of-way</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 4.8 miles of 8' wide trail</li> </ul>
Special	Substantial cost savings and cost sharing should be possible by integrating trail construction with reconstruction of the highway. Additional right-of-way for the trail may not be need to be purchased.
Estimated Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$888,000 for asphalt trail construction</li> <li>\$633,600 for gravel trail construction</li> <li>\$29,000-\$40,600 to purchase additional right-of-way for complete length of trail</li> </ul>

<b>G. CTH E/9th Street Road Trail</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 7.3 acres of right-of-way</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 6.0 miles of 8' wide trail</li> </ul>
Special	The 9th Street Road alignment will likely require more right-of-way addition because of the narrowness of the existing right-of- way and the existing trees along the road.
Estimated Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,110,000 for asphalt trail construction</li> <li>\$792,000 for gravel trail construction</li> <li>\$36,500-\$51,100 to purchase additional right-of-way for complete length of trail</li> </ul>

<b>H. Prairie Enthusiasts Railroad Prairie Remnant</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is owned by the Prairie Enthusiasts</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpretive signs</li> <li>Viewing area/trail pull-off</li> </ul>
Special	Work with Prairie Enthusiasts to determine extent of trail's connection to site. This project is only likely to occur if the CTH E trail alignment is selected over the 9th Street Road alignment
Estimated Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$600-\$800 per sign</li> <li>Viewing area costs vary</li> </ul>

<b>I. Southwest Trail</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 1.3 acres of right-of-way</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 1.1 miles of 8' wide trail</li> </ul>
Estimated Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$203,500 for asphalt trail construction</li> <li>\$145,200 for gravel trail construction</li> <li>\$6,500-\$9,100 to purchase additional right-of-way for complete length of trail.</li> </ul>

<b>J. Highway 21 Bypass Trail</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 9.5 acres of right-of-way</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 7.8 miles of 8' wide trail</li> </ul>
Special	Given the scale of the project it should be possible to locate most of the trail within the new highway's right-of-way, eliminating the need to purchase additional right-of-way for the trail. Substantial cost savings and cost sharing should be possible by integrating trail construction with construction of the highway.
Estimated Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,443,000 for asphalt trail construction</li> <li>\$1,029,600 for gravel trail construction</li> <li>\$47,500-\$66,500 to purchase additional right-of-way for complete length of trail</li> </ul>

<b>K. Rivermoor Road/North Trail</b>	
Land Acquisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 2.7 acres of right-of-way</li> </ul>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 2.2 miles of 8' wide trail</li> </ul>
Special	Work with T. Winneconne and Winnebago County to continue trail and connect to Terell's Island. Work with Butte des Morts Conservation Club to coordinate connection. Much of the trail may fit in existing road right-of-way, eliminating the need to purchase additional right-of-way.
Estimated Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$407,000 for asphalt trail construction</li> <li>\$290,400 for gravel trail construction</li> <li>\$13,500-\$18,900 to purchase additional right-of-way for complete length of trail</li> </ul>

<b>L. Wetland and River Land Preservation</b>	
Land Acquisition	• Varies
Development	• Varies
Special	State and federal regulations will place limitations on uses and may complicate the acquisition and park development process.
Estimated Cost	• \$5,000-\$7,000 per acre

### **Administration**

Town staff should continue to develop park site plans and work with a consulting firm to prepare and write grants to actively seek funds for projects. The Town should coordinate recreation programming with the school districts, while continuing to be responsible for park plans, development and maintenance. This plan should be updated every five years to maintain eligibility for recreation grant funds.

### **Implementation Strategies**

Implementation of the COR Plan can take many forms. Strategies for implementation include regulatory techniques and acquisition techniques.

### **Regulatory Techniques**

#### *Zoning*

Zoning is the regulation of the use of private property, for the purpose of promoting the orderly development of the community and furthering the health, safety and general welfare of its residents. Environmentally sensitive lands can, in many cases, be effectively protected through zoning. All lands within 300 feet of a navigable river and within 1000 feet of a lake are classified as shorelands. All wetlands within shorelands fall under regulations of the Department of Natural Resources. All wetlands are regulated by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Other traditional zoning standards can also protect the Town’s open space. Required yards, density controls and lot coverage controls provide valuable open space to the community while also providing groundwater recharge areas. Re-zoning is an option for properties identified for acquisition.



#### *Subdivision Control*

Subdivision control is the exercise of the right to withhold the privilege of public record from subdivision plats which have been poorly or inappropriately designed. Wisconsin Statutes vest control over subdivisions within the Town. Land suitable for park development can often be secured without cost to the general public by requiring the property developer to dedicate land within the development for parks or, when allowed by Wisconsin State Statute, pay a fee that can be used for park acquisition.

### *Official Mapping*

Although official mapping, as laid out in Wisconsin Statute 62.23, is commonly associated with future acquisition of road right-of-way, it can also be used to identify future park lands. With this technique, future park areas are identified on a map, duly recorded, and approved by the governing body. These areas depicted on the Official Map are then prohibited from being developed, offering the community time to purchase the site.



### *Land Management Plans*

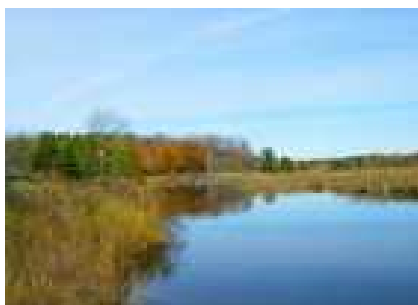
A number of park and open spaces are recommended to have Management Plans drafted to address the health and safety of the vegetation, restore native species, and remove invasive species. Land Management Plans should include at a minimum:

- Site assessment for existing plant and animal species, site condition, site environment, and site features that need improvement, such as erosion, shoreline condition, or goose problem.
- Vegetative management plan that favors diverse, native, strong rooted species that attract native wildlife, dissuade geese, and that eliminates invasive species that create monocultures.
- List of suitable native species that will be added to the natural area.
- Phased implementation plan on how to remove invasive undesirable species and plant desirable species, including erosion control.
- Cost estimate
- Monitoring plan
- Potential funding sources

### **Acquisition Techniques**

In addition to these regulatory techniques, the Town has a number of acquisition techniques that may apply to each potential park acquisition. The acquisition of land is often the most challenging aspect of developing a municipal park system.

These include:



#### *Fee Simple Acquisition*

The landowner is given a sum of money for all rights to a specific piece of land or property. In Wisconsin, fee simple acquisition is the most common way of acquiring public lands for recreational uses. A land contract may also be used as a form of fee simple acquisition.

#### *Purchase of Tax Delinquent Property*

This technique can only be used when back taxes on land have not been paid. Where such lands are needed for outdoor recreation and open space purposes, the purchaser pays the back taxes. The fair market value minus the cost of the back taxes is paid to the former owner.

*Lease or Easement*

This technique provides for the recreational use of land for a designated period of time but without fee simple acquisition. An easement of lease can be written to allow or restrict public access and use of private land. Restricting access can encourage the preservation and creation of scenic views. Easements can also be used to provide limited trail access for recreation purposes. Because of their versatility easements are a valuable implementation tool.

*Eminent Domain*

Eminent domain is the power of a governmental body to condemn private land for public purposes upon payment of just compensation. This is traditionally a method of last resort. In any event, eminent domain is not an implementation tool recommended by this COR Plan.

*Land Banking*

The land bank, which can be set up as a part of local government or a self governing entity, can purchase land and then sell it for recreational purposes. Proceeds from the sale of land could be used for subsequent purchases. Initial financing could be provided through grants or by the issuance of bonds.



*Conversion of Landfills*

Former landfills can often be used for recreational purposes. A variety of open space uses can be supported in these areas provided the material making up the landfill has adequately settled and poses no danger to the public.

*Trust for Public Lands*

Private groups or organizations such as the Trust for Public Land or the Nature Conservancy can purchase outdoor recreation lands and hold these lands until a public agency can acquire them.

*Donation*

This technique is the least expensive means of acquiring land for outdoor recreation and open space uses. Tax Deductible contributions can be in the form of a lease, easement, or outright title to a piece of property.



## **State of Wisconsin Grant Programs**

### **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Funds**

#### **Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks**

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

**Description:** Purchase land or easements and developing or renovating local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (such as trails, picnic areas, fishing piers, camping facilities, sledding hills, support facilities and more).

**Eligible Project Costs:** Land acquisition, development of nature-based outdoor recreation facilities and engineering fees.

**Application Deadline:** May 1

**Match:** 50% local match

#### **Urban Green Space**

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

**Description:** Buy land or easements in urban or urbanizing areas to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening.

**Eligible Project Costs:** Land acquisition for natural open space near urban areas.

**Application Deadline:** May 1

**Match:** 50% local match

#### **Urban Rivers Grant**

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

**Description:** Buy land on or adjacent to rivers flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. May also be used for shoreline enhancement projects.

**Eligible Project Costs:** Land acquisition projects that preserve or restore urban rivers or riverfronts for the purposes of economic revitalization and nature-based outdoor recreation. Shoreline enhancements - development or habitat restoration projects that serve public recreation or resource conservation purposes.

**Application Deadline:** May 1

**Match:** 50% local match

## **Trail Programs**

### **Transportation Enhancements (Statewide Multimodal Improvement Program - SMIP)**

*Wisconsin Department of Transportation*

**Description:** Funds projects that increase multi-modal transportation alternatives and enhance communities and the environment.

**Eligible Project Costs:** Pedestrian and bicycle facilities; safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists; acquisition of scenic easements or historical sites; scenic or historic highway programs; tourist and welcome centers; landscaping and other scenic beautification; historic preservation; rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation facilities; preservation of abandoned railway corridors; control and removal of outdoor advertising; archaeological planning and research; mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff or reduction of vehicle-caused wildlife mortality; and establishment of transportation museums.

**Application Deadline:** spring every other year; next 2008

**Match:** 20% local match

### **Recreational Trails Program**

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

**Description:** Development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

**Eligible Project Costs:** Rehabilitation of existing trails, trail maintenance, trail development, and trail acquisition.

**Application Deadline:** May 1; applications available online

**Match:** 50% local match

### **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality**

*Wisconsin Department of Transportation*

**Description:** Funding for transportation projects that improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. Eligible projects include

**Eligible Project Costs:** New transit services, ridesharing, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, alternative fuel technologies, the Inspection and Maintenance Program and various public education and marketing activities designed to increase public awareness of air quality and transportation issues. The federal funds are available in counties that are classified as air quality nonattainment and maintenance areas for the federal criteria pollutant ozone.

**Application Deadline:** Spring of odd-numbered years

**Match:** 20% local match

## **Other State of Wisconsin Programs**

### **Urban Forestry**

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

- Description:** Improving a community's capacity to manage its trees. Includes projects such as computerized street tree inventories, training for city tree workers, urban forestry plans, tree ordinances, public awareness program, tree planting and maintenance and more.
- Eligible Project Costs:** Salaries and fringe benefits of personnel directly engaged in project; necessary supplies and equipment; leased equipment and facilities; reasonable value of in-kind contributions by applicant of labor, equipment or facilities; and contract costs of vendors to perform project activities.
- Application Deadline:** October; Intent to Apply by July 1 ensures a packet will be mailed to you in early August
- Match:** 50% local match

### **Recreational Boating Facilities**

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

- Description:** Capital improvements that will provide safe recreational boating facilities including ramps and service docks, bulkheads and breakwaters, dredging of inland water channels or to provide safe water depths when associated with project development only, parking lots, sanitary facilities, security lighting, equipment to cut and remove aquatic plants, application of chemicals to remove Eurasian water milfoil, acquisition of equipment to collect and remove floating trash and debris, acquisition of navigation and regulatory marker aids and feasibility studies for safe boating facilities.
- Eligible Project Costs:** Project costs associated with the types of projects listed in the description category. Items eligible for construction funding include site surveys, site planning, cost estimates, engineering studies, working drawings, construction plans and specifications, supervision and inspections. Expenditures for engineering or planning costs necessary to develop a proposal for Commission review made prior to entering a project agreement may be reimbursed. Costs of site construction are eligible.
- Application Deadline:** Quarterly
- Match:** 50% local match, or less if applicant and project meet requirements such as enforcement of a boating safety/enforcement program and/or if the project is determined to be of statewide or regional significance.

## **Environmental Education Grants**

*Wisconsin Environmental Education Board*

**Description:** Development, dissemination, and implementation of environmental education programs in categories that include general environmental education, forestry education, school forest and school forest education plans and mini grants (last category is new for 2006). Communities may want to consider funds for coordinating community educational events (may be tied to Arbor Day, Earth Day, Aldo Leopold weekend, etc.) and coordination of community educational use of urban green spaces and street trees.

**Eligible Project Costs:** Varies for each category.

**Application Deadline:** January

**Match:** 25% minimum local match

## **Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act**

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

**Description:** Renovation or construction of boat access sites and construction of fishing piers and shorefishing opportunities.

**Eligible Project Costs:** Construction and engineering.

**Application Deadline:** February, may vary year to year

**Match:** 50% local match

## **Federal Grant Programs**

### **Environmental Education Grant Program**

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

**Description:** Colleges and universities, local and tribal education agencies, state education or environmental agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and non-commercial educational broadcasting entities are eligible to apply for funds under the program. EPA's current priorities are for projects that: 1) build state capacity to deliver environmental education programs, 2) use EE to advance state education reform goals, 3) improve teaching skills, 4) educate the public through community-based organizations, 5) educate teachers, health professionals, community leaders, and the public about human health threats from pollution, especially as it affects children and 6) promote environmental careers.

**Application Deadline:** November

**Match:** 25% non-federal matching funds

## Chapter 8 ACTIONS TAKEN

Since the adoption of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation (COR) Plan in 2007, the Omro Town Board of Supervisors and the Town of Omro Planning Commission have taken actions which implement and expand the COR plan.

In August of 2009 the Parks and Recreation sub-Committee of the Planning Commission made the following recommendation to the Commission which, in turn, recommended it to the Town Board which accepted it.

Recommendations regarding future Developers Agreements for the Sand Hill and Barony subdivisions:

- Of primary importance is the safety of trail users.
- A walking/bicycle trail should be located on Marquart Lane from Highway 21 to Leonard Point Road.
- A walking/bicycle trail should be located on the entire length of LaCrosse Drive from Sand Pit Road west.
- A walking/bicycle trail should be located on the entire length of Fenceline Lane, including direct access to the proposed park.
- A walking/bicycle trail should be located on the entire length of Hayfield Drive from Leonard Point Road south, including access to the County Boat Landing.
- An easement or trail should be located around any designated pond or wetland area in the developments.

Mission accomplished: Two picnic tables have been installed behind the Town Hall. A volleyball net and equipment is to be made available for use behind the Town Hall. The tables were purchased with a \$500.00 grant from Alliant Energy Foundation, money from brat sales at Festival Foods, the sale of aluminum cans, donations, and proceeds from a rummage sale.

The sub-committee also made recommendations to the PC which recommended it to the Board which subsequently made the appointments.

- Appointing a person to be responsible for the investigating the potential purchase of the land which was designated in the COR Plan as a future park east of Sand Hill Farms.
- Appointing a person to be responsible for seeking and writing grants to help obtain funding for recreational purposes in the Town of Omro.
- Appointing a person to be responsible for coordinating recreation information of the Town's web site, organizing a citizen's group to promote recreation in the Town, and to provide articles to the local news outlets.

The Town has also made some progress on trails.

A trail segment has been constructed across a development in the north east corner of the intersection of Leonard Point Road and Sand Pit Road. The developer dedicated the land as an easement and did the trail work as part of the parkland dedication requirement in the Town of Omro Sub-Division Ordinance.

That regulation has also been utilized to acquire easements for trails on several properties along Leonard Point Road, Springbrook Road, Rivermoor Road and County Highway E. It is anticipated that these trail segments will all be connected at some point in implementations of the long-term priorities.

The opening of Schnyder/Wendt Park has already been described in Chapter 3 as has the introduction of recreation facilities on the Town Hall property. The Parks and Recreation has had continuing discussions with the head of the County Parks department on cooperative efforts to expand the County Boat Landing off of Leonard Point Road.

Trail easement segments have been acquired during the land division process as the Town has reviewed Certified Survey Maps.

## **Appendix A Open House**

### **Introduction**

An open house was held at the Omro Town Hall on August 16, 2007, to collect input for the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Twenty-two (22) people attended the open house, including Town staff and officials. Several stations were located throughout the room: Urban Service Area, Agriculture/Rural Area, Recreation Facilities and Trails. Participants were asked to circulate through the stations and provide input on the information presented. Comment cards were available at each station that included a variety of questions related to the station's subject matter.

The following is a compilation of the comment card questions and their respective responses from the public open house:

### **Should there be more recreational trails within the Town?**

- No.
- No.
- Yes.
- Definitely – some roads are natural walking directions but are too narrow to be safe.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- The trail system should go through the entire town and should, in part, border ecological corridor. The trail plan for the entire town should be made now so that provisions for land acquisition can be made.

### **In what parts of the Town would you like to see an improved trail system?**

- Nowhere – we need to keep all agricultural land.
- Rivermoor area towards the lake.
- Areas that allow traffic between the cities of Oshkosh and Omro passing through the residential area as shown on the land use plan map. Some coordination with other communities would be useful.
- Shared link up with existing trails (Wiouwash and walking trail at Omro High School).
- I would like to see the trails proposed in the subcommittee report and trails along ecological corridors in the town. Trails should also connect to a swimming beach – maybe at the county boat landing.

### **Would you use an improved recreational trail system within the Town? If yes, for what activities? (walking, biking, dog walking, snowmobiling, etc.)**

- No.
- No.
- Yes, for walking.
- Cross country skiing, biking if it could be done without interfering with safety of walkers.
- Yes, for walking and biking.
- For walking, biking and maybe cross country skiing.

- Horse trail riding & buggy, walking, biking, dog walking, cross country skiing.
  - No baseball diamonds or soccer fields (maintenance costs too high).
  - Yes, trails should be available for biking, walking, dog walking and horse back riding. Separate trails should be available for snowmobiles. I am not in favor of ATV's on trails. But, maybe there could be an ATV park in 5 years or so.
- 

**What types of recreational facilities do you enjoy?**

- Nature areas, picnics, walking and biking.
- Nature walks.
- I enjoy cross country skiing, canoeing, sailing and biking.
- I would like to see a beach in the area on Lake Butte Morts.
- Bike, hike, fishing piers, children playground.
- Driving my horse & buggy.
- I enjoy nature areas and wildlife areas. The Town has a great opportunity to create an ecological corridor along the wetland areas that would be a park and include a trail.

**Which of the following would you like the Town to consider for future Town parks?**

	<u>(# of Responses)</u>
Basketball Court	0
Tennis Court	0
Volleyball Court	1
Soccer Field	3
Football Field	0
Nature Areas	8
Baseball/Softball Field	0 2
Picnic Facilities	7
Pavilion	3
Walking/Biking	0
Trails	6
Playground	0
Equipment	3
Dog Park	4
Swimming	3
Archery	0
Park Benches	4
Gazebo	2
Other:	ATV Park, Ice rink

**Any additional comments regarding future parks in the Town:**

- Thank you for initiating this!
- Connect trails to Town of Algoma.
- Widen Springbrook Road for hikers.



- The Comprehensive Plan shows one future park which is located next to a pair of subdivisions in progress and near established residential groupings. This should be an ideal service situation as the Town becomes less rural and more urban in the area specified as residential on the land use plan map. This is an area that is wooded and could be used with trails that lead to species identification. I for one would love to have ID references for plants that I have found native to the Town since moving here. If enough property is purchased one could establish parking, a pavilion, playground, soccer, volleyball, and badminton facilities. Tennis courts would be nice but require much maintenance for use by too few people at a time. Snowmobile trails exist provided by private property owners. I would love to be able to cross country ski – perhaps on trails are available for hiking/walking. We should probably separate bikes and walkers but if using the same trail is the only affordable way to do it then so be it.
  - Walking trails near the lake would be nice.
  - We should have a swimming beach area for the Town. As recently as 6 years ago, people went swimming off the end of the Sand Pit road. Now, they can't because of parking. We could have a swimming area in the county boat landing or buy some of the land that will be available in the future left along the lake.
- 

**Should there be more parks & recreation opportunities/facilities in the urban service area?**

- Yes – Where the green dot is – (Prieske Farm) would serve the developments.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- I'd like to see areas for hiking, dog walking areas to commune with nature. Keep the areas lit with solar lighting only along paths only. No tall bright lights to spoil the quiet feeling of the area.

**If yes, what types of facilities would you like in this area?**

- Ballfields, nature areas, picnic facilities.
- Jogging & walking trails, Sand Pit and Leonards Point Road are used daily and frequently by walkers, joggers and bikers.
- I would like to endorse the subcommittee plan – a dog park at the old dump & buying the land for the other park designated on future land use map.
- Possibly areas with picnic tables. If there are no houses in the area where lights would be irritating a more “fun” area for kids would be good.

**Would you use park facilities in this part of the Town?**

- Yes.
- Most definitely.
- Just the dog park.
- Yes, definitely.

**Should there be more parks & recreation opportunities/facilities in the rural/agricultural areas of the Town?**

- Yes. There should be a town plan. The plan will protect the land from development hopefully. Maybe some of the land won't be bought for years but there should be parks and trails and ecological corridors designated throughout the Town. And include a dog park & swimming area.
- Maybe.
- Yes.
- The old town landfill would seem to lend itself to some use. Perhaps a dog park. I would like to see the ability to ski and bike in ways to see large portions of the town.

**If yes, what types of facilities would you like to see in this area?**

- Nature areas. We also should buy some land around the town hall so that we could have reunions and anniversaries at the town hall (for rent). And at the land around the town hall, we should have a picnic area and volleyball area..
- Trails, nature areas, picnic facilities, on town owned property on Co. Road FF.
- If the areas are away from homes it would be nice to have an area for kids and family recreation, a pond, swimming areas, dog runs, all well lit.
- It would be nice if someone could identify areas that have unique natural resources – woods, flowered meadow, and wetlands – where you could build species identification trails and boardwalks.

**Would you use park facilities in this part of the Town?**

- Yes.
  - Trails – yes, picnic facilities (shelter) on town owned property on Co. Road FF.
  - Possibly – but I'm more interested in making areas for kids with families and pets.
  - Depends on how well they lend themselves to use. I would not “use” something just because it is there. It should be built and maintained to a purpose.
-

## POST OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS

At the direction of the Plan Commission Chair, the following comments were received by R.A. Smith via email following the open house.

### Should there be more recreational trails within the Town?

- Yes, if at all possible. Both biking and walking.
- Not really – if it’s big enough and it’s centrally located off a County Highway with easy access – why put a lot of little parks around – just means higher maintenance and development costs.
- Perhaps. Recreational trails, unlike major park tracts and facilities, have lower maintenance requirements and provide the opportunity for “closed circuit” trails in areas of unique surroundings, such as existing recreational areas or other private recreational opportunities mentioned above. For example, a public-access, closed circuit surrounding a private golf course or recreational airport would be a unique community asset. Such an area could be maintained by the Town, a private trail maintenance organization, or by stipulation in a Developer Agreement, the owners of the property. Recognizing that this Plan development is for the long-term, recreational trails should be considered in the urban service area since traditional “suburban” development is anticipated by the Town Comprehensive Plan. These trails should utilize the parkland dedication requirements in the existing Town Ordinances to “connect” various subdivisions as they evolve, creating a larger trail system and potential connection with the existing County Park and adjacent jurisdictions’ recreational space.
- Yes. Trails can provide both recreational activity as well as natural boundaries to areas such as golf courses, subdivisions, farmland and airports.
- Yes, many, continuous, same advantages as auto.
- Yes, see replies above.
- Yes.
- I would like equestrian trails available. We have several large boarding facilities in that sport and recreation. They can be a shared trail with hikers and bicycle enthusiasts. We have the ability to expand and compliment our country atmosphere with such trails.
- Perhaps as part of a long term plan. However, I believe before we delve into trails, we should first focus on implementing some parks and playground areas within the urban and urbanizing areas of our town...including baseball diamonds, etc. Additionally, I believe we need to begin a focus on land acquisition for future uses. Once we have adequate access to the parks in those areas, and have begun a plan acquisition land, we should look to trails, etc.

### In what parts of the Town would you like to see an improved trail system?

- To my knowledge there is no trail system that exists now. The Sky Ranch would make a great place for biking and hiking trails.
- I didn’t know there was a trail system to improve. It’d be nice to have some bicycle lanes marked.

- In both the Urban Service Area, as well as on the south end of the town. Extensive bike traffic has been noted on both County E and in particular, 9<sup>th</sup> Street Road; an improved trail system would do much to relieve the conflict of auto and bicycle traffic.
- Downtown and residential neighborhoods.
- I would like to see the Sky Ranch proposal come to fruition with a core trail system from which spokes may connect outward to other parks and to the Oshkosh YMCA area.
- Any part would do for me.
- Again, beginning with the urbanizing area and spreading out from there.
- At some point in the future, after more "pressing" needs are met, I believe it would be beneficial to look at some sort of equine trail system. We seem to have a high concentration of equine in our township and this might be of great benefit.

**Would you use an improved recreational trail system within the Town? If yes, for what activities? (walking, biking, dog walking, snowmobiling, etc.)**

- ATV's if possible. Snowmobiles are dinosaurs waiting to die.
- Yes, depending on its location and convenience to our personal residence and the type of activities that are permitted and encouraged.
- All, horses (no snowmobiling or 4 wheelers).
- As so stated, I would use the trail for walking, biking, rollerblading. In other communities, people who use the trails pay a yearly or seasonal nominal trail fee to help with cost of maintenance.
- Nature, bike, walking, running trails.
- Probably not, unless it was an ATV trail...which is something the town could consider at some point in the distant future, but again, I believe there are more "pressing" needs in the urban areas and for land acquisition.

**What types of recreational facilities do you enjoy?**

- Walking, biking, flying, fishing, baseball.
- Walking, flying, soccer, baseball.
- Biking, model aircraft flying, full size aircraft flying, boating.
- Outdoor activities.
- I enjoy nature, natural areas with natural plantings such as the Paine Art Center Prairie Restoration and gardens, Waukau nature preserve, Wiowash trail, Sawyer Creek, Kohler to Fond du lac, and Rails-to-trails program trails in multiple communities such as Menasha, Depere, and Green Bay . It would be great to have a safe, convenient to residents, energy efficient trail system for the Town of Omro residents.
- Nature, bike, walking, running trails.
- ATV trails, fishing, baseball diamonds, picnic facilities/shelter houses, spacefor outdoor activities, ice rink (hockey)
- Non-motorized activities such as hiking, running, biking, dog walking, exercise/fitness stations, bird watching (both man-made and God-made) etc.

**Which of the following would you like the Town to consider for future Town parks?**

(# of Responses)

Basketball Court	
Tennis Court	1
Volleyball Court	
Soccer Field	3
Football Field	1
Nature Areas	8
Baseball/Softball Field	3
Picnic Facilities	8
Pavilion	8
Walking/Biking Trails	6
Playground Equipment	1
Dog Park	3
Swimming	3
Archery	3
Park Benches	4
Gazebo	4

Other: Fitness stations, disc Frisbee and observation, areas adjacent to both of the Town's existing recreational airports.

**Any additional comments regarding future parks in the Town:**

- Let's get the town board on line with the needs of everyone. Not just the handful of disgruntled people that continue to complain about the airplanes. They can't even speak for themselves rather they have someone that is a city of Oshkosh resident do their talking for them. Well for the record, she doesn't speak for me.
  - We need a Town government that can work with developers that are offering to provide our citizens with unique spaces and recreational activities.
  - Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
  - I have considered moving to the area of both the City and Township of Omro, and appreciate the opportunity to comment.
  - Thank you for giving me the heads-up opportunity to express my wishes for the use of these tax dollars. I feel that all residents of the town should be given the same awareness and opportunity before decisions are made.
  - I believe our town should begin it's focus on the urban and urbanizing areas and spread out from there. Although I strongly believe our town would benefit/use a trail system, I do believe we should first focus on the designated areas of development to address the needs of the highest concentration of people and then continue to plan & build from there. Additionally, Land Acquisition is essential. I believe our town should implement a plan and budget for additional land...and some sort of donor/endowment effort if not already in place.
-

**Should there be more parks & recreation opportunities/facilities in the urban service area?**

- No – The County can’t even control the vandals that continually vandalize the County Park facilities. There is too much money spent for the County Parks now. Only fishermen use the County Park now.
- No – the land costs too much – there are already facilities in that area – including the County park – which is huge.
- Generally not. Already a designated County Park in this area. It would seem that the Town of Omro should provide input and perhaps financial investment into making this existing County Park area responsive to the interests of the Town residents. For subdivisions that are approved in this area, the existing Town Ordinance requirements for “parkland set-aside” (or equivalency). This should be required.
- It appears the county part suits much of the needs of the immediate area, although additional smaller local “neighborhood parks” should be considered in each area. Both the town of Algoma and the City of Oshkosh are examples on how not to allow development to continue without the inclusion of these local neighborhood parks, which are vital to the local communities.
- Yes, as many as possibly feasible.
- I would like to see more “Green” recreational trails both closed circuit and connecting to the parks existing and new, for biking hiking walking etc. and commuting. A trail or safe widening of existing east/west highways such as “91”, “K”, or “E” to bike or hike to connecting trails around the YMCA of Oshkosh.
- I would say no.
- Yes. And, as already stated, (although my land is in the rural area), I believe this should be the starting point...since they have the highest concentration of people and the least amount of land.

**If yes, what types of facilities would you like in this area?**

- The types of facilities that are of interest to those in the immediate area IF they are not accommodated by other area facilities in the City of Omro, the City of Oshkosh and Winnebago County.
- Open, flexible space, rather than side-by-side structured places (soccer fields, ball diamond, tennis courts) in these local parks is essential for both the youngsters and adults in the area. A balance of open space plus the more defined spaces is necessary. Hiking and biking trails have become quite popular amongst a broad spectrum of users.
- Nature bike trails, Frisbee golf, picnic, skateboard park, man made lake for fishing.
- I would like to see trails through designated natural set-a-side prairie allocations like our country was before farmers took it over from the natives.

**Would you use park facilities in this part of the Town?**

- No.
- Yes, biking trails.
- Yes.
- Yes, I would definitely use such trails and parks for health and rest.
- No.
- No, probably not.

**Should there be more parks & recreation opportunities/facilities in the rural/agricultural areas of the Town?**

- YES! There are opportunities to utilize the Sky Ranch property for additional parks, green areas and recreational facilities. If constructed on the Sky Ranch there would not be any purchase cost for the township. It would be supervised and make it harder for vandals to do their dirty work. There is an opportunity to do something great for the township. Both environmentally, recreationally and also bringing the excitement of aviation to the area that would enhance the lives of everyone. ONLY A HANDFUL have objections to the Sky Ranch. The leaders for the town of Omro are obligated to serve the entire township not just a handful of disgruntled farmers.
- YES! The land costs less. Also, I understand that the Sky Ranch concept plan was willing to make available to the Town area for recreational activities as part of their Open Space proposal. Why did you let a few citizens shut down something that would be cutting edge, “smart growth” compatible project? The Town leadership should work with the developers of the Sky Ranch to bring something great to this Town for a very reasonable cost.
- Only in limited circumstances should additional park and recreational opportunities be provided in rural and agricultural areas. Since so many facilities are available throughout the “30-minute drive” area, only in special circumstances should the Town consider additional park and recreational opportunities/facilities in this area. The Town’ Comprehensive Plan intends “rural preservation” in most of this area. This suggests that only as a part of other projects, and in conformity with the Comprehensive Plan and existing Ordinance, should additional facilities be considered.
- Yes; the areas can be host to open space and trail recreational facilities, as well as meet requirements set forth in use permits given to local developers/landowners.
- Limited.
- Yes, a perfect solution would be the centrally located sky ranch proposal as a core park in which additional rec activities could be featured and from which trails could spoke out to other connecting trails. The beauty of this location is the wonderful care and attention to a combination environmental and modern needs that would be under the stewardship of responsible developers and residents saving tax-dollars for implementation.
- Yes.
- Not initially. Once the urbanizing area needs are addressed, I would like to see a focus continue on land acquisition and a horse trail system in the rural area.

**If yes, what types of facilities would you like to see in this area?**

- YES – The Sky Ranch has all the makings of what the town is looking for in recreational facilities. There are numerous opportunities for ALL TAX Payers not just a handful. Tennis courts, ball diamonds, picnic areas and fish ponds to say the least. The potential is endless. This isn’t the 20th century anymore. You can’t stop progress and this is GOOD progress.
- YES – ball fields, soccer fields, dog walking trails, picnic facilities and/or fishing ponds. I believe this was all included in the Sky Ranch plan. The Sky Ranch is geographically accessible to all Town Members as it is centrally located. Further, the developers welcome Town input for park development and it would be relatively inexpensive. Don’t waste our tax dollars harassing these developers.

- Facilities in this area should be appropriate any specific opportunities proposed by developers of unique projects that would lend themselves to public-access facilities. Examples of these might be the establishment of private recreational facilities, such as a golf course, hunting preserve, camping area, airport, etc.). The potential for compliant cluster subdivision creation in conjunction with these types of private recreational facilities would necessitate compliance with existing Town Ordinances for “parkland” set-aside. The Town’s Parks and Trail Plan should encourage set-aside for publicaccess areas in conjunction with these types of applications.
- Each developer can and should be encouraged to create public access faculties (open space, picnic area, airport viewing area, and camping area) that would be compatible with the concept of creating open space in conjunction with approved development plans and ordinances.
- Limited.
- Nature areas with prairie restoration designation engulfing other rec areas.
- Nature, bike, walking, running trails, disc golf course.

**Would you use park facilities in this part of the Town?**

- You bet. How many children would be apposed to the excitement of a chance to be involved in aviation? Ask yourself this question: How many children do you know that would frown at the opportunity to see airplanes in flight, landing and taking off? I can’t think of one. This area is one of the founding places that is noted in the history of aviation. Let’s honor it properly and not deprive our children and grandchildren of the opportunity.
- Absolutely – I would probably use them with my grandchildren. My wife would like to walk our dog around the Sky Ranch. My family enjoys watching planes.
- Yes, if these facilities are convenient to our personal residence.
- Yes, again biking trails and open space access would be beneficial.
- Possibly.
- Absolutely.
- Yes.
- Probably not.