Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Town of Omro, Wisconsin

2018-2023 Edition

Table of Contents

Introduction 1-1
Community Assessment 2-1
Map 1: Natural Resources 2-3
Park and Recreation Inventory 3-1
Park Land Classifications, Standards, and Needs ... 4-1
Recreation Facility Standards and Needs 5-1
Recommended Park and Open Space Plan 6-1
Map 2: Public Trail Easements 6-4
Map 3: Long-Term Projects 6-5
Implementation 7-1
Actions Taken 8-1

Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

Forward: 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 of its citizens. The initial COR Plan covered the years 2013 to 2018. The current Plan reflects additions and revisions to the original and covers the years 2018 to 2023.

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.
- Participate in County planning efforts such as the Winnebago County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and others pertaining to the Town's stated recreational goals.
- Identify the appropriate type and number of parks, trails and recreational 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 recreation areas.
- The location of future parks in accordance with defined service area standards.
- The Park and Recreation Committee to prepare and submit annual budget proposals for park and recreation areas improvements and maintenance to the Planning Commission.
- Establishment of impact fee structures which accurately reflect the capital costs associated with the park facilities as needed.

Mission Statement

In 2011, and reaffirmed in 2017, the Town of Omro Parks and 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 of 2013 and 2016 as follows:

Table 2-1: Town of Omro Population Forecasts

Fore-cast	2000 actual	2010 actual	2015/2016 projection	Change	2020 projection	Change	2025 projection	Change	Total Change
2013	1,875	2,116	2,326	210	2,426	200	2,601	175	585
2016	1,875	2,116	2,174	58	2,300	125	2,415	115	299

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration 2013 and 2016 projections

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 2016 forecasts noted above indicate a 14.1% increase in population by the year 2025. The 2016 projections, however, were based upon data after the housing market collapsed, and before the current building boom began in 2015. The DOA projections in 2013 upon which our original plan was based had indicated a population growth rate of 22.9%. Since the Barony Estates alone has added over thirty (30) new homes in the past two years, (*representing an increase in population of nearly 100 people, an increase much higher than the 2016 projection for 2020 presented above*), we are, for planning purposes, relying more heavily on the original figures.

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 Forecasts

Fore-cast	2000 actual	2010 actual	2015/2016 projection	Change	2020 projection	Change	2025 projection	Change	Total Change
2013	706	825	909	84	971	62	1,028	57	203
2016	706	825	856	31	911	55	963	52	138

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration 2013 and 2016 projections

The DOA forecasts indicate a 16.7% 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 20,959 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.

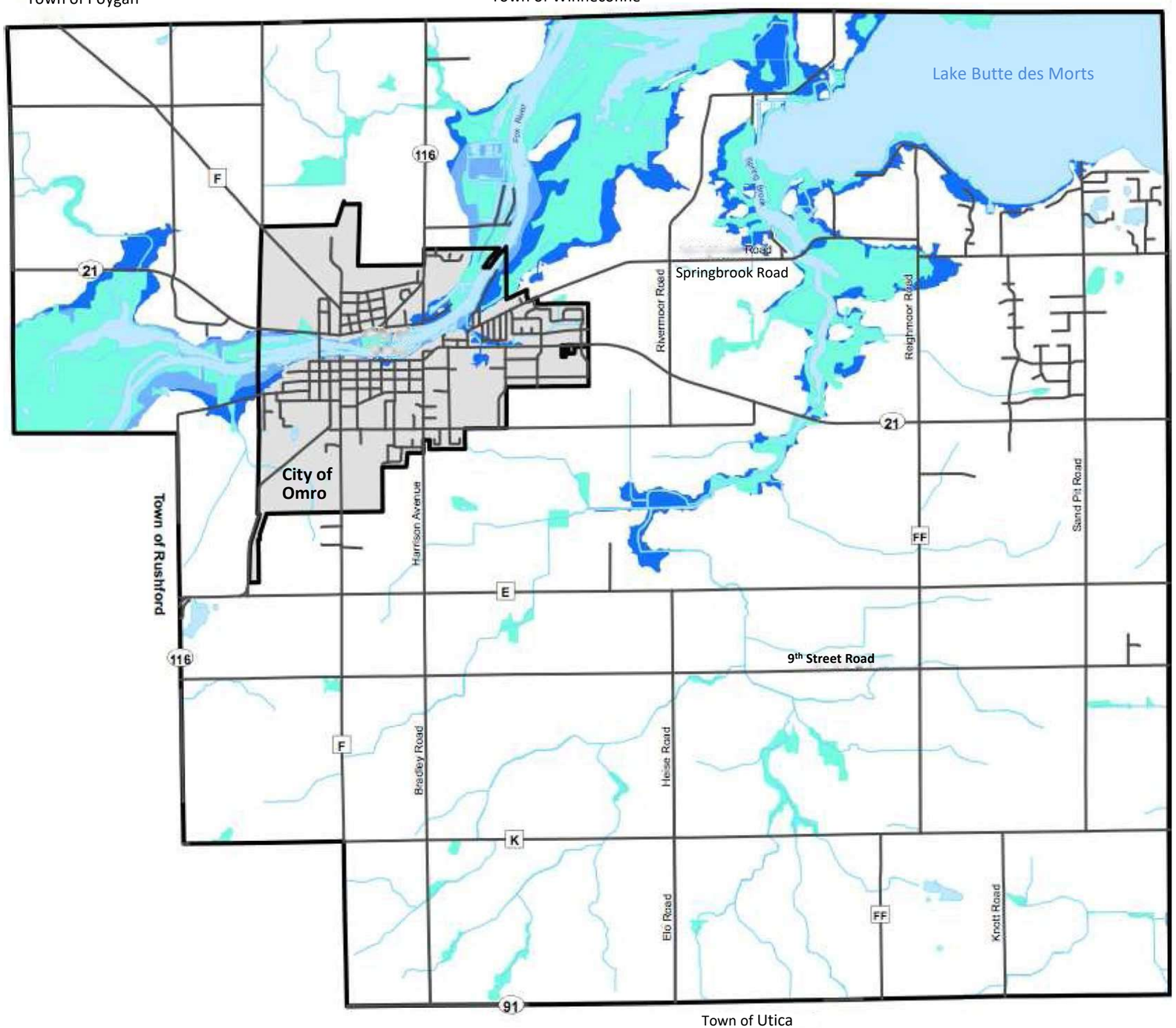
Town of Poygan

Town of Winneconne

Town of Oshkosh

Map 1

Natural Resources



Town of Utica

Town of Nekimi

Lakes and Streams

Wetland

Flood way

100 yr. Floodplain

N

W E

S

0 3,000 6,000

Feet

Source: Winnebago County

Chapter 3
PARK AND RECREATION INVENTORY

Town Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Schnyder/Wendt Park 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. Open daily except during the gun deer hunting season, the park is used for summer hiking as well as winter non-motorized snow activities. It has become a popular place for residents to walk their dogs. A few of the Omro Boy Scouts have completed Eagle Projects in the park. The entrance gate has been moved to allow parking along the road to the waste drop off point.

In 2015 the Town purchased 15 acres of partially open and wooded land to establish the John Priske Park. This neighborhood park touches the Sand Hill and Barony subdivisions. Two acres of the open area are planted prairie and one acre for family activities. The wooded portion will contain walking trails. A Facebook page, Friends of Priske Park, has been established to provide a forum for residents and other interested parties to share views and information about the park.

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

"Our Park" is located on Reighmoor Rd. It is open to the public. Our Park was devised in 2015 and hosts a soccer field with a parking lot. The land was owned by the Town of Omro Sanitary District as a future well site. After a merger with the Town of Algoma Sanitary district, it was turned into a park. It is maintained by the Town of Algoma/Omro Sanitary District.

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

Public Facilities:

Terrell'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

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 1/4 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 H to ^ 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 projected 2020 population of 2,426 people.

Table 4-1: Standards and Needs for Parks in 2020

Park Type	Existing Acreage	NRPA Minimum Standard (acres/1000 people)	Minimum Acres Required 2020 (Population: 2,426)	Surplus or Deficit Acreage 2020
Mini-Park (1)	.25	0.25	0.6	-0.35
Small Neighborhood Park	0	1	2.4	-2.4
Large Neighborhood Park (2)	15	1	2.4	12.6
Community Park	0	5	12	-12
Special Purpose Park (3)	18	No Standard	N/A	N/A
Total Developed Open Space (4)	15	6.25	15	0

Park and Open Space Needs for the Year 2030

Using Wisconsin Department of Administration population projections, the Town of Omro is expected to have a population of 2,426 persons in 2020. For 2030, we are using 2,590 per the Town's 2015 Comprehensive Plan projections.

Table 4-2 illustrates how the existing park system will serve the increased population in 2030.

Table 4-2: Standards and Needs for Parks in 2030.

Park Type	Existing Acreage	NRPA Minimum Standard (acres/1000 people)	Minimum Acres Required 2030 (Population: 2,590)	Surplus or Deficit Acreage 2030
Mini-Park	.25	0.25	0.7	-0.45
Small Neighborhood Park	0	1	2.6	-2.6
Large Neighborhood Park	15	1	2.6	12.4
Community Park	0	5	13	-13
Special Purpose Park	18	No Standard	N/A	N/A
Total Developed Open Space	15	6.25	16.19	-1.19

(1) Town Hall

(2) Priske Park

(3) Schnyder/Wendt Park

(4) Estimated acres. Includes the prairie in Priske Park, meadows in Schnyder/Wendt Park and the Town Hall

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 2020 population of 2,426. 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.

Table 5-1: Standards and Needs for Recreation Facilities in 2020

Facility	Total Facilities	Standard Facilities per 1000 residents	Required in 2020	2020 Surplus/Deficit
Multi-Use Trail (1)	1	0.16 miles	0.39	-0.27
Open Play Fields (2)	3	0.39	0.95	2.05
Picnic Tables (3)	2	6.35	15.4	-13.4

Table 5-2: Standards and Needs for Recreation Facilities in 2030

Facility	Total Facilities	Standard Facilities per 1000 residents	Required in 2030	2030 Surplus/Deficit
Multi-Use Trail	1	0.16 miles	0.41	-0.29
Open Play Fields	3	0.39	1.01	1.99
Picnic Tables	2	6.35	16.4	-14.4

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, (see Chapter 2 "Population Forecasts".) Table 5-2 illustrates how the Town's existing recreation facilities will serve the increased population in 2030 of 2,590 as per the Town's 2015 Comprehensive Plan projections.

(1) Zillges Trail – 0.125 miles estimated

(2) One open play field each at Priske, Schnyder/Wendt and the Town Hall.

(3) One located at the Town Hall, and one designated for Schnyder/Wendt.

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. The findings were reviewed and updated in the Fall of 2017 and are reflected herein.

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 (Priske Park)*

(1) Land for this park was acquired by the Town in 2015. 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 is approximately 15 acres in size. The facility's focus is on passive uses and include open play fields, picnic areas, nature trails, and interpretive signs. Development is in process.

(2) Future plans for this park include the acquisition of additional acreage directly to the north of the current boundary to be used for the construction of various sporting and physical activities such as ball diamonds, soccer fields, playground equipment and picnic areas. This park should also include a connection to the proposed Springbrook Road/Leonard Point Road Trail.

(3) Sandhill Farms Subdivision Trail – This north-south trail connects Leonard Point Road on the north end of the subdivision to the entrance of Priske Park. The trail follows Hayfield Drive to Fenceline Lane and crosses Marquardt Lane to end at the entrance to the park.

(B) *Schnyder-Wendt Park (Old Town Dump Site)* - This 22.5 acre site is the former Town dump. The site is isolated from CTH FF by a ¼ mile entrance drive and features woodlands and a pond. The facility's focus is on passive uses and 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 need to be addressed. Currently the site is developed with trails and rest areas. After relocating the entrance gate closer to the park, it is now open to the public daily.

A small sledding hill has been authorized by the Town Board and is planned for completion in 2018.

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 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 9th Street Road

alignment. The 9th 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 9th 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.

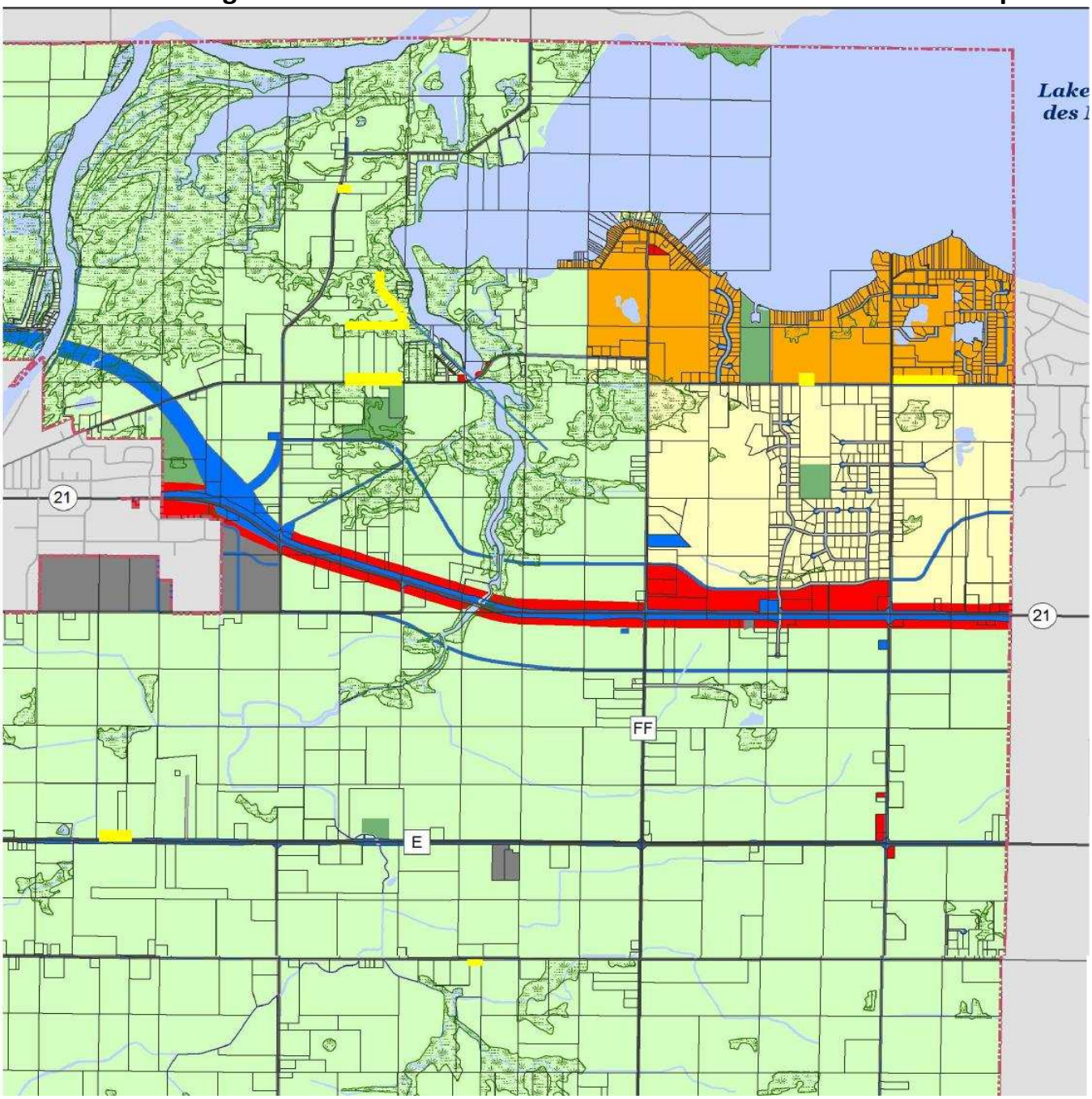
(L) Sandhill Farms Subdivision Trail – This north-south trail connects Leonard Point Road on the north end of the subdivision to the entrance of Priske Park. The trail follows Hayfield Drive to Fenceline Lane and crosses Marquardt Lane to end at the entrance to the park.

(M) 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 and access to natural areas, incorporate these features into other park facilities, and provide educational opportunities about these sensitive areas.

Trail Easement Segments Map 2

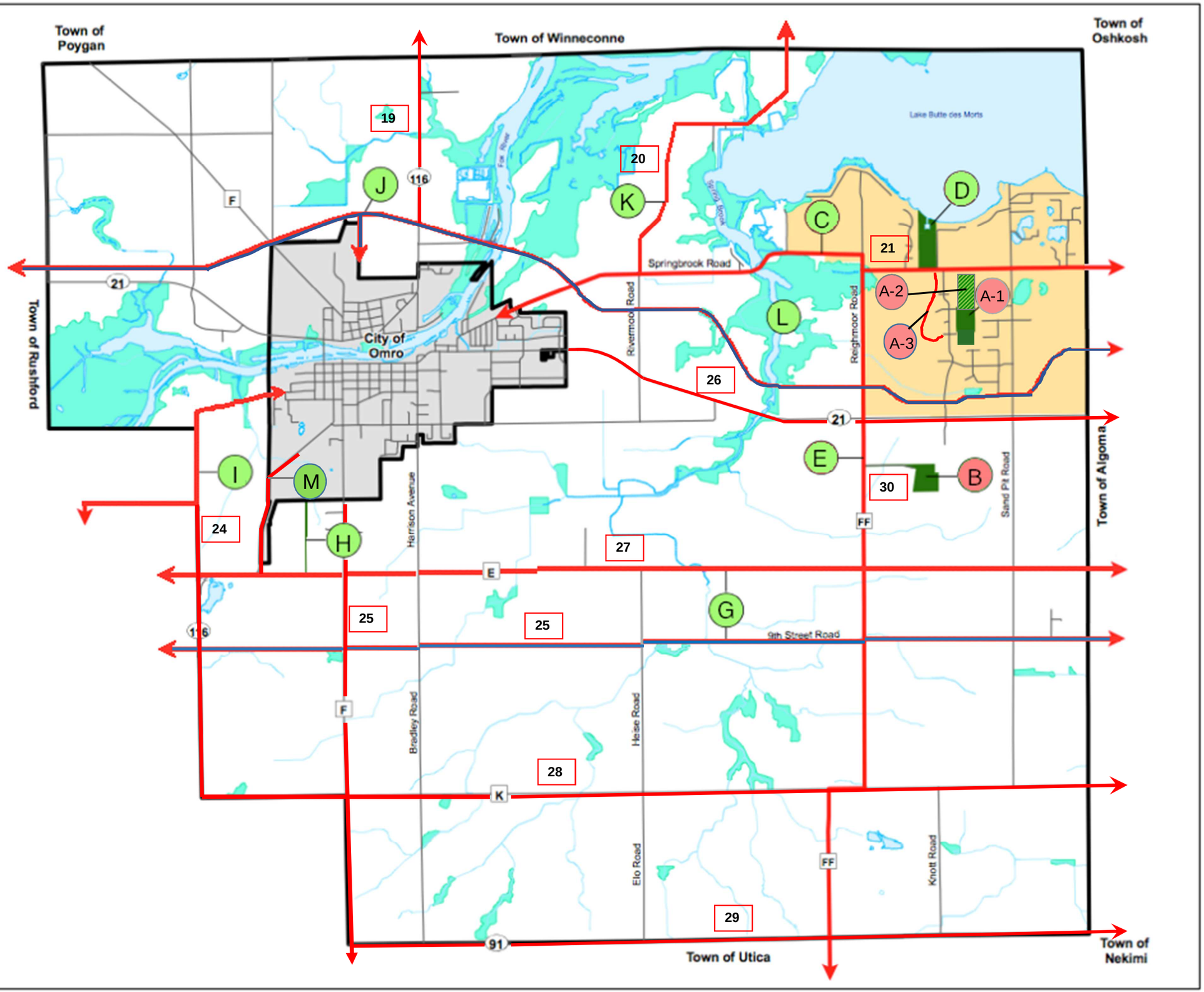


Public Trail Easement

1. 5912 Springbrook Rd and three west of there; Parcels 016-0287, 016-2087-01, 016-0287-02 and 016-0387-03
2. 4486 Rivermoor Rd and one south; parcels 016-0284 and 016-0284-05 (Sunsets March 6, 2028 if trail not established.)
3. 6352 & 6388 County Road E; parcels 016-0520 and 016-0520-02
4. 5777 9th Street Road; parcel 016-0635
5. East of 4831 Riverview Road; parcel 016-0095
6. 5004 & 5020 Leonard Point Road and 4 east of those; parcels 016-0330, 016-0330-03-01, 016-0330-03-02, 016-0330 -03- 03,016-0330-03-04 and 016-0330-03-05 (already built)
7. 5256 Leonard Point Road; parcel 016-0348

Map 3

Long-Term Projects



Priority Project

Long Term Project

Long-Term Trail Project
(See respective responsibility below)

Urban Service Area

Park Location

Lakes and Streams

Wetland

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

County

Township

24 — County project reference per Winnebago County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan pages 39 and 40.

N W E S

0 3,000 6,000

Feet

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.

Note: The costs reflected in this document are estimates as of the original creation of this Plan and do not reflect the effects of inflation or other factors that may have impacted the estimates in succeeding years.

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.

A. Priske Park (Urban Service Area Park)	
Land Acquisition	• 15 acres
Development	• Site development varies • Walking trails • Picnic tables • Interpretive signs
Estimated Cost	• $5,000-$7,000 per acre ($50,000-$70,000 minimum) • $500-$1,500 per picnic table • $600-$800 per sign

B. Schnyder/Wendt Park (Town Dump Site)	
Land Acquisition	• The site is owned by the Town
Development	• Varies
Special	• Work to remove conflicts with recycling drop-off.
Estimated Cost	• Varies

C. Springbrook Road/Leonard Point Road Trail	
Land Acquisition	• Approximately 5.0 acres of right-of-way
Development	• Approximately 4.1 miles of 8’ wide trail
Estimated Cost	• $758,500 for asphalt trail construction • $541,200 for gravel trail construction • $25,000-$35,000 to purchase additional right-of way for complete length of trail

D. Lake Butte des Morts Boat Launch	
Land Acquisition	• The site is owned by Winnebago County
Development	• Site development varies
Estimated Cost	• Varies

E. Reighmoor Road/CTF FF Trial	
Land Acquisition	• Approximately 5.8 acres of right-of-way
Development	• Approximately 4.8 miles of 8’ wide trail
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	• $888,000 for asphalt trail construction • $633,600 for gravel trail construction • $29,000-$40,600 to purchase additional right-of-way for complete length of trail

G. CTH E/9th Street Road Trail	
Land Acquisition	• Approximately 7.3 acres of right-of-way
Development	• Approximately 6.0 miles of 8’ wide trail
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	• $1,110,000 for asphalt trail construction • $792,000 for gravel trail construction • $36,500-$51,100 to purchase additional right-of-way for complete length of trail

H. Prairie Enthusiasts Railroad Prairie Remnant	
Land Acquisition	• The site is owned by the Prairie Enthusiasts
Development	• Interpretive signs • Viewing area/trail pull-off
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	• $600-$800 per sign • Viewing area costs vary

I. Southwest Trail	
Land Acquisition	• Approximately 1.3 acres of right-of-way
Development	• Approximately 1.1 miles of 8' wide trail
Estimated Cost	• $203,500 for asphalt trail construction • $145,200 for gravel trail construction • $6,500-$9,100 to purchase additional right-of-way for complete length of trail.

J. Highway 21 Bypass Trail	
Land Acquisition	• Approximately 9.5 acres of right-of-way
Development	• Approximately 7.8 miles of 8' wide trail
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	• $1,443,000 for asphalt trail construction • $1,029,600 for gravel trail construction • $47,500-$66,500 to purchase additional right-of-way for complete length of trail

K. Rivermoor Road/North Trail	
Land Acquisition	• Approximately 2.7 acres of right-of-way
Development	• Approximately 2.2 miles of 8' wide trail
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	• $407,000 for asphalt trail construction • $290,400 for gravel trail construction • $13,500-$18,900 to purchase additional right-of-way for complete length of trail

L. Wetland and River Land Preservation	
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 shore lands. All wetlands within shore lands 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 in the form of a lease, easement, or outright title to a piece of property.

State of Wisconsin Grant Programs

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Funds: The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is the name for a family of funds supporting natural resource protection and nature-based outdoor recreation in Wisconsin.

Aids for Acquisition and Development of Local Parks, *(Wisconsin Dept. 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 river ways 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 (*Wisconsin Department of Transportation)* **(Statewide Multimodal Improvement Program - SMIP)**

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 2018

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 Project Costs: Eligible projects include 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 shore fishing 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 La Crosse 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 and John Priske Parks 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.

Acknowledgement: We wish to acknowledge the contributions of the following people and their past service.

In 2006, when the Parks & Recreation Committee was created, three people were appointed to that committee. Since then two members have retired from the committee and a special "Thank you" goes to Barb Stanek and Wayne Schmick for their unique contributions to that committee.

Barb Stanek added her knowledge of native plants, identifying many of the species located in our parks. She always encouraged the preservation of our natural assets, and created the native plant area at the entrance to the Town Hall.

Wayne Schmick always came up with the materials needed for bridges, benches and raised wooden pathways where they were needed. Once the materials were acquired, he led the effort in getting the job done.

NOTE: Previous editions of this plan included an "Appendix A – Open House." The Appendix summarized the results of the input generated by a public meeting in 2007 for the purpose of soliciting comments from the public for use in developing the Plan.