

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. \_\_

CITY OF WAUKESHA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
VOLUME 2: GOALS AND POLICIES

## Section 7

# PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE GOALS AND POLICIES

Parks, recreation areas and opportunities, and cultural features are of vital importance to a community's quality of life and their provision can be considered an essential community service. These amenities have a symbiotic relationship with components of the natural resource base. Natural resources establish a foundation for parks, recreation, and culture in the City; parks and recreational and cultural features offer opportunities to engage with nature, which contributes to preserving the natural environment. Components of the natural resource base directly and indirectly support opportunities to participate in active and passive recreational activities, like kayaking the Fox River or nature study at Glacial Cone Park, thereby supporting overall health.

*Call Out + Graphic: Cultural resources are irreplaceable physical remains or places of past human activity that encapsulate important information about the City's rich history. These resources may include landscapes, buildings, archaeological sites, and other physical objects and areas*

Parks and recreational and cultural features also provide economic value and promote social welfare by fostering an understanding of people's common experiences. Components of the natural resource base, including surface water and groundwater, varied topography, scenic landscapes, and geological features, have all been influential to the City's early settlement and subsequent growth. Providing park and open space sites that protect the natural resource base and accommodate outdoor recreational and cultural activities are therefore important public policy objectives.

*Call Out: Bethesda Park signifies the location and importance of natural springs within the City.*

*Image: Natural resources within park site, potentially kayaking the Fox River and or visiting Glacial Cone Park*

## **GOAL 7.1**

Protect the City's natural resource base and cultural amenities within park and open space sites

*Call Out + Graphic: Components of the natural resource base offer unique opportunities for active and passive outdoor recreation and support soccer, hiking, kayaking, and nature study, as well as the Riverwalk and formal gardens.*

## **GOAL 7.2**

Continue to provide park and open space sites that support recreational opportunities and opportunities to connect with nature while respecting sites' environmental value.

*Call Out: Keeping to its commitment to create a sustainable and inviting urban landscape, the City of Waukesha hosts numerous parks and open spaces.*

## **GOAL 7.3**

Provide park and open space sites sufficient to meet all residents' needs

### **Policy 7.3.1**

Ensure that new, expanded, or renovated park facilities area ADA compliant and seek opportunities to provide "like experiences" for people of all abilities <sup>1</sup>

### **Policy 7.3.2**

Monitor current parks and recreation trends and gaps in park and recreational facilities meet the needs of people of all ages and abilities.

---

<sup>1</sup> ADA-compliant sites and facilities satisfy requirements set forth by the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Policy 7.3.3**

Identify opportunities for expanding aquatic facilities and amenities throughout the park system including centrally located splash pads.

**Policy 7.3.4**

Develop the Riverwalk Plaza park along Bank Street, including a small performance space for music and other community events.

**Policy 7.3.5**

Focus on strategic acquisition of property near existing or proposed parks and other properties that will protect natural resources and/or offer additional active or passive recreational opportunities.

**Policy 7.3.6**

Expand infrastructure to across the entire park system including fiber optic cable to accommodate the broadband internet requirements needed to host community events at all neighborhood parks.

*Images: ADA-compliant recreational facilities; Riverwalk*

**GOAL 7.4**

Design the City's park system to account for public and private park and open space sites owned by other groups or agencies

**Policy 7.4.1**

Work with the School District of Waukesha to ensure that District-owned parks and recreational facilities are available to City residents outside of school hours.

**Policy 7.4.2**

Explore opportunities to partner with other institutions including Carroll University and UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha to expand recreational opportunities.

**GOAL 7.5**

Establish and expand the City's system of bicycle and pedestrian trails

**Policy 7.5.1**

Prioritize the creation of off-street trails and utilize on-street routes to complete connections as necessary

**Policy 7.5.2**

Improve connections between neighborhoods and parks, commercial destinations, schools, and other neighborhoods striving to have all residents within a 10 minute walk to a City park without barriers.

**Policy 7.5.3**

Continue working on any Waukesha segments of the Rails-to-trails “Route of the Badger” and the designated U.S. Bicycle Route 30 (USBR 30) bicycle routes.

**Policy 7.5.4**

Continue implementation of the City’s bicycle and pedestrian plan. Create a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to guide and prioritize implementation and to take the lead on update to the 2012 *Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan*.

*Image: Bike trail*

*Call Out: Trails within and between greenways and other park sites support residents’ mobility for recreation and for accessing essential daily needs.*

**GOAL 7.6**

Create a strategy for using the City’s park and open space sites, recreational facilities, and cultural amenities for economic development.

**Policy 7.6.1**

Continue the development of the multi-field sports and recreation complex at Mindiola Park, which will draw visitors and spending from outside of the City.

**Policy 7.6.2**

Explore other opportunities for facilities and events that draw participants and spectators from throughout the region.

**Policy 7.6.3**

Use the City's and Waukesha County's parks and open space amenities as a marketing tool to attract new businesses and residents.

#### Policy 7.6.3

Take advantage of the City's location along the Glacial Drumlin and New Berlin trail systems by promoting bicycle tourism. Consider additional wayfinding signs from these trails to Downtown and other local commercial areas.

*Call Out: The City recognizes that parks and cultural resources can be of significant educational, historical, recreational, environmental, and economic value.*

### **GOAL 7.7**

Create opportunities for community engagement in parks through programming and special events

#### **Policy 7.7.1**

Activate parks throughout the City through community events and programming.

#### **Policy 7.7.2**

Support event programming and settings that best meet the needs of young children, the aging population, and people with special needs

#### **Policy 7.7.3**

Establish a community beer garden that operates through the warmer months

*Call Out: Park and open space sites provide facilities to support active and passive recreation and are important to creating a more cohesive and engaged community. Programming in neighborhood parks that can promote community engagement and cohesion include gatherings centered around markets, music, arts, food, and other services or entertainment.*

### **GOAL 7.8**

Promote development of the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail as part of the National Park Service's National Water Trails System

### **Policy 7.8.1**

Collaborate with local partners and communities to promote recreation-oriented development along the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail

*Image: Fox River within the City*

### **GOAL 7.9**

Use the City's Park and Recreation System Master Plan to establish the City's vision for park and open space sites and recreational facilities

#### **Policy 7.9.1**

Regularly update the City's Park and Recreation System Master Plan

#### **Policy 7.9.2**

**Implement recommendations set forth in the City's City's Park and Recreation System Master Plan**

### **GOAL**

Imp

### **GOAL 7.10**

Establish policies and programs to promote the maintenance of historic places to foster the City's unique aesthetic and character

*Call Out: Historic places include individual historic structures or sites, districts comprised of numerous historic structures or sites, and significant archeological features.*

### **GOAL 7.11**

Maintain the designation of local landmarks and properties on the National Register of Historic Places

#### **Policy 7.11.1**

Develop programs to support the preservation of historic sites and districts within the City

Policy 7.11.2

Preserve, maintain, and promote historic resources within the City's parks including Hillcrest, Cutler, and Bethesda Parks.

*Image: Historic place marker*

## **GOAL 7.12**

Assist the City's Landmarks Commission to fulfill their responsibility to preserve, enhance, and perpetuate the City's history as embodied and reflected in its improvements, landmarks, and historic districts

### **Policy 7.12.1**

Update inventories and surveys of historical sites and districts within the City in conjunction with the Wisconsin Historical Society as necessary

*Call Out: Cultural resources, including historic places, are important for their value in preserving an area's heritage and identity, promoting civic pride, contributing to quality of life, and for hosting heritage tourism.*

## **GOAL 7.13**

Maintain the City's designation as a Certified Local Government by the State of Wisconsin Historical Society

## **GOAL 7.14**

Establish policies that recognize historic preservation as an economic development tool that promotes heritage tourism

*Call Out: Properly preserving cultural resources can promote sound development and maintaining community identity.*

\*\*\*