



Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan City of New Richmond



Updated: 2023

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Mission Statement

The mission of the New Richmond Parks Department is to provide areas and opportunities for the City's residents and visitors to relax, recreate, and experience natural beauty, and to provide means for safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian travel within the City of New Richmond.

Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan serves as a living document that is reviewed by the Park Board and City Council on a regular basis to ensure that the parks and trails system is continually assessed, maintained, and upgraded to meet the needs of the community. Citizens, policymakers, and staff should find this document helpful for reviewing the City's existing recreation amenities and identifying future plans. As this is a living document, the plan may change as improvements are completed, needs arise, development patterns change, or new ideas are brought forth. The City has a rich history woven into its parks, many of them donated by, or named for, significant individuals in New Richmond's history. We also have a thriving "present" in our parks – existing amenities that afford City residents and visitors opportunities for leisure, fitness, and fun. Finally, our parks system has a bright future, and the improvements identified in this plan are intended to ensure that our parks remain vibrant and useful for generations to come.

Definitions

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) collects data from public park systems around the country. Jurisdictions with a population with less than 20,000 people average one park per 1,331 residents and 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. With one park per 588 residents and 24 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, New Richmond has more than twice the number of parks per capita and more than twice the amount of park acreage per capita than similar sized communities nationally. The NRPA also categorizes parks according to their size and amenities. These classifications are used in this document.

Neighborhood Park: provide recreation amenities primarily for the surrounding property owners; common amenities include small playgrounds, paved multi-use trails, landscaping, benches, picnic shelter, etc.

Community Park: provide space for larger community events and larger facilities; common amenities might include athletic fields, band shelters, larger playgrounds, additional parking, etc.

Natural Area: provide for more passive recreational activities such as hiking, birdwatching, photography, fishing, and the enjoyment and preservation of natural beauty; common amenities might include nature trails, native prairie, benches, tree plantings, paved multi-use trails, fishing docks, etc.

Regional Park: provide recreation amenities for several cities, a county, or several counties; regional parks are typically 100 acres or more in size and either conserve undeveloped open areas, restore natural landscapes, or provide additional active recreation amenities beyond the size and scope of a community park

Special Use Facility: provide for more specialized activities not otherwise available in most public parks, such as a golf course, hockey center, archery range, swimming pool, recreation center, etc.

Community Input

The most current and comprehensive data about community recreation was gathered in late 2016 as part of the New Richmond Recreation Partnership (a collaboration between the City of New Richmond, School District of New Richmond, New Richmond Area Community Foundation, and New Richmond Area Centre).

Information was gathered from focus groups, key stakeholder interviews, and a public survey with more than 800 completed responses about recreation priorities, facility conditions, and support for future investments.

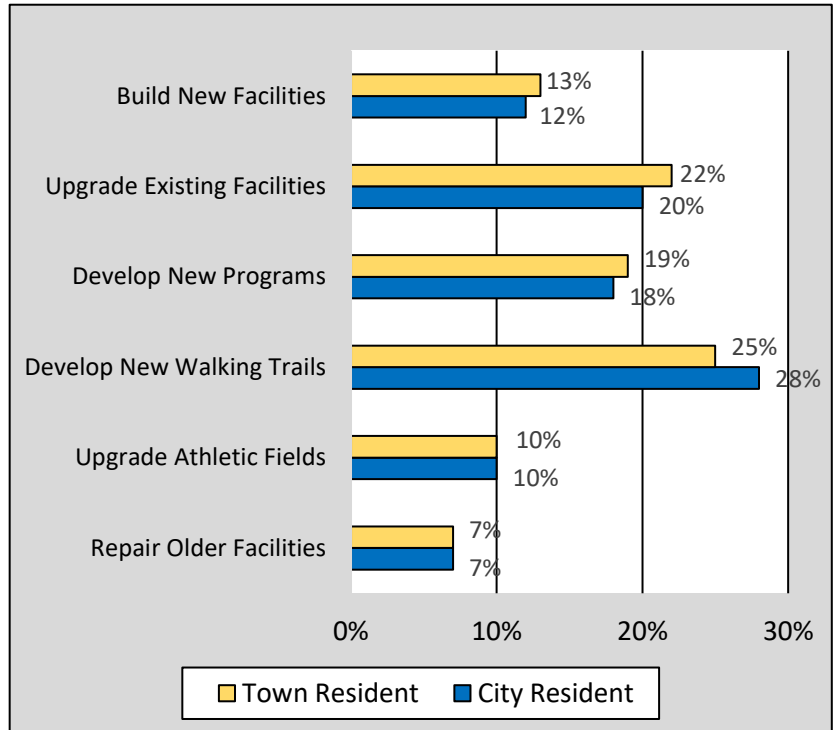
The data gathered can provide valuable insight about the recreation needs of the community, and should be taken into consideration when considering future projects.

What are the most important recreation activities to members of your household?

RANK	ACTIVITY
1	Walking paths/trails
2	Bike trails
3	Adult fitness/wellness programs
4	Youth sports programs
5	Youth fitness/wellness programs
6	Youth enrichment programs
7	Family programs
8	Nature programs
9	After-school programs
10	Youth summer camp programs



Of the following recreation investments, which would you be most likely to support financially? Select up to two options.



Based on your experience, rate the condition of the following recreation amenities:

ACTIVITY	GOOD
School athletic fields	54%
City parks	48%
Playground equipment	45%
Trails	40%
Biking trails	31%
Natural areas	30%
Freedom Park fields	27%
Tennis courts	26%
Basketball courts	18%
Hockey arena	15%
Dog park	13%
Campgrounds	6%

ACTIVITY	FAIR/POOR
Natural areas	49%
City parks	44%
Trails	43%
Biking Trails	39%
Playground equipment	33%
Freedom Park fields	32%
Hockey arena	27%
Campgrounds	24%
Basketball courts	22%
School athletic fields	20%
Tennis courts	16%
Dog park	12%



Casey Park

Location: North Shore Drive

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size:

History: The Casey Park property was donated to the City by Dan and Betty Casey in 2018.

Existing Amenities: Open green space

Opportunities: Picnic tables, playground equipment, benches, community garden, hammocks



Cherokee Park

Location: 241 East River Drive

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.75 acres

History: Cherokee Park was developed in the early 1950s as part of the Country Club Park Residential Development.

Existing Amenities: Open green space

Opportunities: Picnic tables, baseball backstop



Citizens Field

Location: 419 Sports Center Road

Classification: Community Park

Size: 4.7 acres

History: Citizens Field was developed in 1937 with financial assistance from the federal government. The park was originally referred to as “The Athletic Field on 3rd Street” and was named Citizens Field in 1948. Citizens Field was used for many years by the School District of New Richmond for football and baseball, the New Richmond Millers baseball team, New Richmond Little League Program, and other community events such as the Fun Fest queen’s coronation, band competition, and 4th of July fireworks display. In 2019 improvements were made to the ball field including replacing the infield sod and rebuilding the pitcher’s mound. In 2020 the restroom floors were refurbished with an epoxy finish.

Existing Amenities: Lighted baseball field, in-ground dugouts, batting cages, restrooms, concession stand, scoreboard, bleachers

Opportunities: Replace existing bleachers, add and upgrade lighting



Cyclone Memorial Park

Location: 1342 Campus Drive

Classification: Community Park

Size: 5.5 acres

History: Cyclone Park was established in 1999 by the New Richmond Preservation Society to commemorate the one hundred year anniversary of the cyclone that struck New Richmond in 1899. At that time, the park was the site of the fairgrounds that were devastated by the cyclone. Volunteers planted 117 trees in memory of the people who were killed in the cyclone. In 2019, solar lights were added to the trees to help honor the significance of the lives lost. Today, the park is used as the site of the annual Fun Fest event organized by the New Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce.

Existing Amenities: 117 planted trees, 1899 Cyclone historical marker, open green space

Opportunities: Construct a paved multi-use trail through the park



Doar Prairie Restoration

Location: 1755 115th Street

Classification: Natural Area

Size: 14.6 acres

History: The Doar Prairie Restoration was donated to the City of New Richmond in 2006 by Tom Doar. The property was developed in 2008 and 2009 with a goal of preserving the property as a natural, scenic area with native prairie plantings and grasses. In 2020, a trail was constructed connecting Doar Prairie Restoration to the Nature Center.

Existing Amenities: Paved multi-use trails, native prairie vegetation, bird houses, educational signage, rock seating, trail connection to Sather Nature Center, controlled burn every 4-5 years

Opportunities:



Dog Park

Location: 2202 185th Avenue

Classification: Special Use Facility

Size: 11.3 acres

History: The Dog Park was opened in July of 2013. The park site was previously a landfill before the City of New Richmond received permission from the Wisconsin DNR to develop the property as a park in 2013. A friends group was established to assist with the initial fundraising and development for the park.

Existing Amenities: Small-dog and large-dog areas, shelter with picnic tables, perimeter fencing, gravel parking lot

Opportunities: Water service, asphalt surface for parking lot, rain trough for shelter



Fox Run Development Park

Location: PID 261-1296-07-998

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.462 acres

History: This parkland was dedicated to the City of New Richmond as part of a development agreement with the Fox Run residential subdivision development. An open house was held in the fall of 2017 to get input from the neighborhood about what type of recreation amenities they would like to see in the future in this park.

Existing Amenities: Undeveloped parkland as of 2018

Opportunities: School age playground, paved multi-use trails, swing set, benches, rock climbing wall, sand volleyball court, mowed trails, tree plantings, drinking fountain, baseball backstop, outdoor fire pit, disc golf course, shade structure, outdoor grill, toddler tunnel, climber



Freedom Park

Location: 1310 County Road CC

Classification: Regional Park

Size: 105 acres

History: Located along the shore of Hatfield Lake, Freedom Park was purchased by the City of New Richmond from the Carpenter family in two phases in the early 2000s with financial assistance from the Wisconsin DNR and other donations. Originally named the Hatfield Lake Regional Park, the park was renamed in 2012 as Freedom Park to honor our active-duty and former armed services personnel for their service to our country.

Existing Amenities: Six irrigated athletic fields, two sand volleyball courts, two picnic shelters with tables, paved multi-use trails, storage shed for sports associations, blue bird and butterfly houses with native pollinator plants, gravel parking lot, gravel road through the park, benches, semi-permanent restrooms

Opportunities: Second half of paved multi-use trail along the perimeter of the park, accessible playground, picnic tables and grills, continued development of 100' of shoreline buffer using prairie plantings and trees, tent camping on the island, shoreline fishing, bridge or walkway to the island, camping area, continued development of wetland and habitat restoration, stormwater best practices, pave parking lots and park road, bleachers for athletic fields, permanent restrooms, baseball/softball fields, pavilion, additional parking lots, entrance signage



See Freedom Park Master Plan on following page

City of New Richmond, WI
January 2020

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Glover Park

Location: 155 East First Street

Classification: Community Park

Size: 1.5 acres

History: Donated to the City of New Richmond by the Honorable John E. Glover in 1913, this 1.5 acre parcel is home to the Friday Memorial Library and is located along the Willow River in the very heart of the city.

Existing Amenities: Open green space, picnic tables, benches

Opportunities: Shoreline improvement, water feature to complement the connection to the Willow River, band shell, a “Y” shaped walkway with gathering area, landscaping, concrete underneath picnic tables



Greaton Park

Location: 1230 Legacy Parkway

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.9 acres

History: This park was named after the Greaton family, who donated the land to the City of New Richmond as part of the Rich River Trails residential development in 2003.

Existing Amenities: Playground, shelter, open green space, benches, picnic tables

Opportunities: Basketball court, baseball backstop



Greenway West

Location: PID 261-1260-70-080
PID 261-1011-94-000

Classification: Natural Area

Size: 10.5+ acres

History: This property was dedicated to the City of New Richmond in 2017.

Existing Amenities: Open natural area

Opportunities: Nature trail connecting to the Rail Bridge Trail and 125th Street, signage, benches



Hatfield Park

Location: 1321 Highway 65

Classification: Community Park

Size: 16.1 acres

History: Development of Hatfield Park began in 1983, with a goal of bringing slow pitch softball to New Richmond. Citizen Jerry Frey, a longtime board and commission member and former mayor, played a very instrumental role in the development of the park. League play began in June of 1986 and the park remains a popular place for youth and adult softball and baseball to this day. Additional amenities including shelters, restrooms (updated in 2019), a playground, campground, and skateboard & BMX park have been added over the years.

Existing Amenities: Three lighted 300' softball fields, batting cage, two concession stands, permanent restrooms, playground, three picnic shelters with tables, paved parking lot, skateboard and BMX park, non-motorized boat launch, fishing pier, 16 full hook-up campsites with WiFi, paved multi-use trail with tunnel underneath STH 64

Opportunities: Expand parking lot, resurface parking lot, implement stormwater best management practices, replace field three concession stand and add shelter, construct a boardwalk in shallow area south of field three, install additional grills at campground, install communal fire pit, pave campground sites, install horseshoe pit near campground, walking trail around the park



Hemenway Park

Location: 140 Park Avenue

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.25 acres

History: Hemenway Park was donated to the City of New Richmond in 1916 by Mrs. Oscar Hemenway. Since then, the park has remained an open, passive park used primarily for relaxation and some fishing.

Existing Amenities: Open green space overlooking a backwater pond off the Willow River

Opportunities: Additional landscaping, shoreline restoration, picnic tables, benches, fishing pier



L.G. Peterson Park

Location: 800 West Fourth Street

Classification: Linear Park

Size: 0.6 acres

History: The park was developed in the early 1950s (during the same time as Cherokee Park) as part of the Country Club Park Residential Development. The park was named in 1987 in honor of Leonard Peterson, who served as mayor from 1972 to 1974.

Existing Amenities: Open green space, flower garden, trail connection to Monette Park and Victoria Park

Opportunities: Additional landscaping, shoreline restoration, picnic tables, benches, artwork



MaRita Park

Location: 325 South Minnesota Avenue

Classification: Linear Park

Size: 0.6 acres

History: Donated to the City of New Richmond by Stella McNally in 1930 and named after one of her daughters, this park served as a scenic landscape area with flowers and shrubs welcoming visitors riding on the C&W Railroad until the railways removed in the 1970s.

Existing Amenities: Open green space, large shade trees, picnic tables, adjacent public parking

Opportunities: Landscaping, tree management, railroad-themed toddler playground, pathway connecting to the Rail Bridge Trail and the John Doar History Trail, shelter or farmers market pavilion



Mary Park

Location: 401 North Green Avenue

Classification: Community Park

Size: 9 acres

History: Donated to the City of New Richmond by Stella McNally in 1930 and named after one of her daughters, this park is located along the Willow River and offers great diversity for both active and passive recreational opportunities. Previously home to the Carleton A. Friday Memorial Outdoor Pool (1955-1995), Mary Park now includes playgrounds, multi-use trails, shelters, restrooms, a tennis court, a fishing pier, and a boat launch and is the location of the annual Park Art Fair organized by the New Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce.

Existing Amenities: Playground equipment, restrooms, three picnic shelters, a tennis and basketball court, pickleball courts, fishing pier, boat launch (upgraded in 2021), benches, picnic tables, ADA restrooms (updated in 2022) multi-use paved trails, StoryWalk, open green space, public parking, flower gardens

Opportunities: Replace shelter #2, sand volleyball courts, additional lighting throughout the park, outdoor grills, improve shoreline and fencing, bicycle racks, splash pad, restore previous beach area to native shoreline vegetation, resurface tennis courts, add infant/toddler play equipment



See Mary Park Master Plan on following page



SCALE
0 50' 100' 200'

Mill Pond

Location: 211 North Knowles Avenue

Classification: Linear Park

Size: 0.5 acres

History: The area surrounding the mill pond and the dam on the Willow River were developed in 2006 with the construction of a sidewalk around the west and north sides of the pond and the installation of picnic tables and benches. In 2013, a small fishing dock was added near the northeast corner of the pond. The park connects with the Doughboy Trail, which opened in 2015. Additional landscaping, benches, and interpretive panels were added as part of the John Doar History Trail, which formally opened in August of 2017 as part of a three-day community celebration.

Existing Amenities: Benches, paved trail with wooden ramp, interpretive panels, landscaping, picnic tables, fishing dock

Opportunities: Widen the existing pathway across the dam, signed canoe/kayak exit area, develop a natural amphitheater to the northwest of the dam, create an additional canoe/kayak access site west of the dam



Monette Park

Location: 610 West Fifth Street

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.5 acres

History: This property was donated to the City of New Richmond by Ed Monette in 1964, and went undeveloped until a federal grant was received in 1974 in the amount of \$26,075. This was the first park in the City of New Richmond to have a landscape designer incorporate new concepts in park planning. The park was renovated in 2000 with new playground equipment. Additional amenities were also added in 2021 including new picnic tables, benches, and a shade structure. A paved trail was constructed in 2020 connecting Monette Park to L.G. Peterson Park, Victoria Park, and the Foster Place apartments.

Existing Amenities: Playground equipment, baseball field, paved multi-use trail, basketball court, picnic tables, benches

Opportunities: Additional lighting, stabilize hill with plantings



Northside Park

Location: 602 Utah Avenue

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1 acre

History: The origin date of this park is unknown, but it was first designed for baseball and had a field until the early 1980s. At that time, a portion of the park was taken for road access to the neighborhood. The park was previously used as an outdoor skating area. A basketball court was added in 2001, new playground equipment was installed in 2009, and new toddler playground equipment was installed in 2020.

Existing Amenities: Playground equipment, basketball court, picnic tables, fenced in open green space

Opportunities: Restrooms, shelter, install flat concrete border around the playground



Oakes Ruins and Trail

Location: Bilmar Avenue near E 11th Street

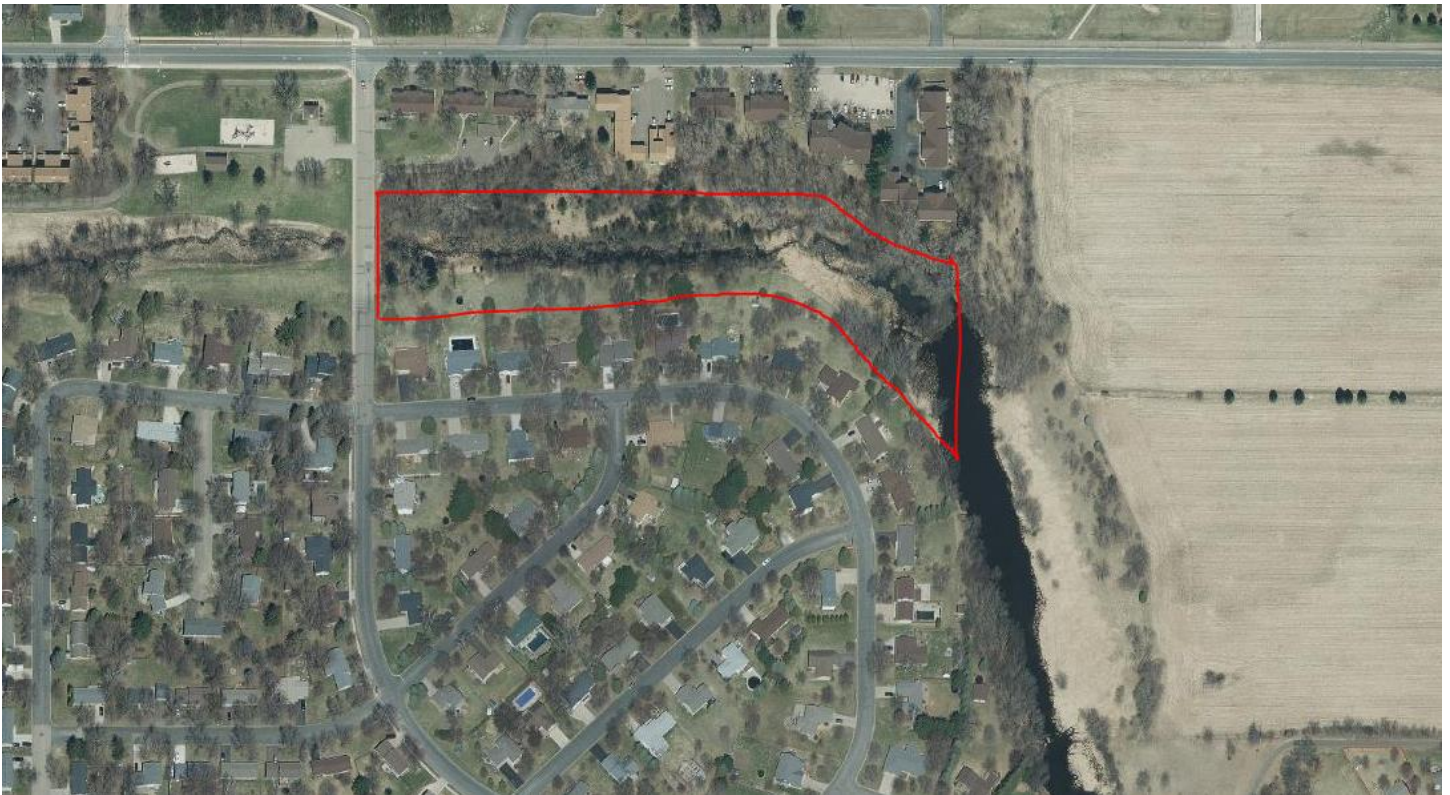
Classification: Nature Area

Size: 6.44 acres

History: An old barn foundation sits on this property, which is believed to be the oldest known structure within the City of New Richmond.

Existing Amenities: Passive vegetation, old foundation

Opportunities: Add trail to connect this area of the Paperjack Greenway along the Paperjack Creek to the Avondale development.



Paperjack Greenway

Location: 414 East 11th Street

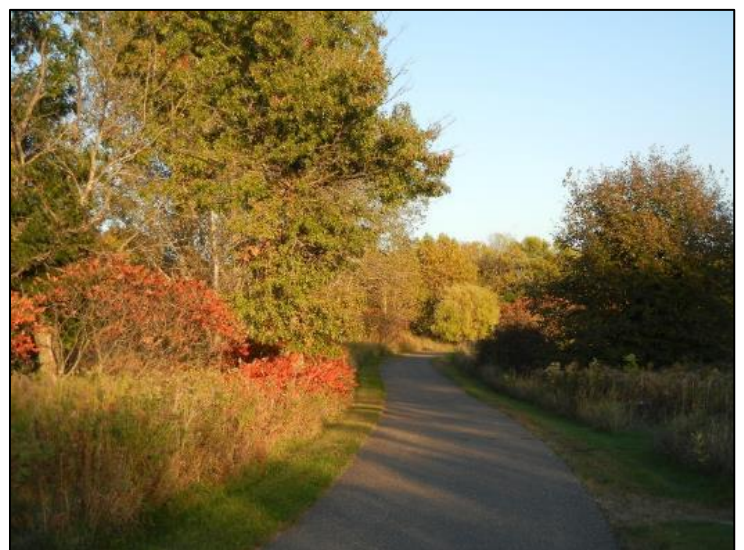
Classification: Nature Area

Size: 16.3 acres

History: In 1989, the New Richmond Preservation Society agreed to a 99-year lease with the City of New Richmond to develop and maintain this property. After receiving several grants from the Wisconsin DNR and Wisconsin Conservation Corps, as well as many private contributions, natural trails and plantings were established in 1991. Dredging was done in 2003 to install an educational pond and a paved multi-use trail connecting the greenway to Paperjack Park.

Existing Amenities: Passive vegetation, paved multi-use trail, benches, bridge, small parking lot

Opportunities: Controlled burn every 4-5 years, replacement or removal of wooden fence, bluebird houses, educational signage



Paperjack Nature Way

Location: PID 261-1250-60-000

Classification: Nature Area

Size: 7.2 acres

History: Established in 2002 as part of the Paperjack Place Development, this natural corridor provides scenic beauty and a paved multi-use trail that connects 140th Street to Paperjack Drive.

Existing Amenities: Paved multi-use trail, bridge, bench, native prairie vegetation

Opportunities: Prairie restoration, native plantings, additional benches, educational signage, bluebird houses, nature trail in prairie area



Paperjack Park

Location: 524 East 11th Street

Classification: Community Park

Size: 6.4 acres

History: This park land was dedicated from Bill Derrick as part of the South View Addition residential development, and was developed in 1978 with playground equipment. In 2002, new playground equipment was installed and in 2005, a new picnic shelter, play equipment, and paved multi-use trail were added. New toddler playground equipment was added in 2019 and the restroom facilities were remodeled in 2020.

Existing Amenities: Playground equipment, toddler play equipment, basketball court, restrooms, picnic shelter, paved multi-use trail, open green space, benches

Opportunities: Add three or four-hole disc golf course, grills, rededicate passive area near the creek or restore with native plantings



Pine Bluff

Location: PID 261-125-14-0000

Classification: Nature Area

Size: 4.65 acres

History: This property was dedicated to the City of New Richmond as part of the Derrick Pine Bluff Addition.

Existing Amenities: Natural wooded area

Opportunities: No opportunities have yet been identified at this time. Input should be gathered from the surrounding property owners about any future park development.



Sather Nature Center

Location: 375 County Road A

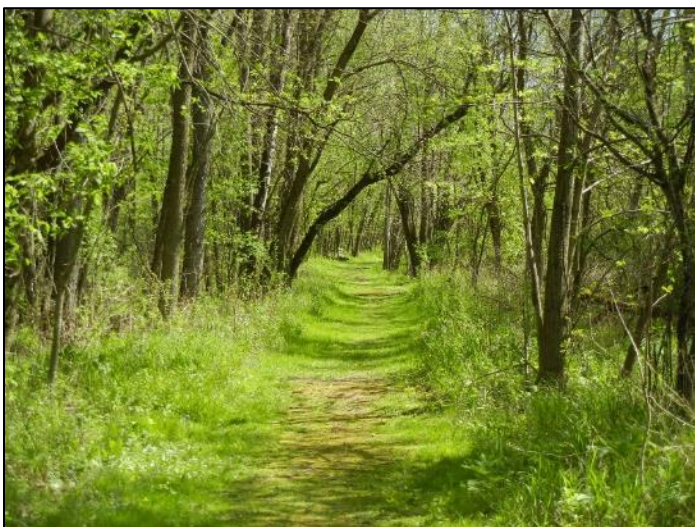
Classification: Natural Area

Size: 16.5 acres

History: This property was originally donated to Holy Family Hospital by Mrs. W. F. (Stella) McNally. Holy Family Hospital later donated the property to the City of New Richmond, and it was developed into a park in 1971 and was called “Nature Center” until 2021 when it was renamed “Sather Nature Center” in honor of Irv and Mary Sather and family for their many contributions to the City parks system. New signage was installed at that time. The park includes mowed nature trails through an urban forest along the Willow River and is very unique in comparison to the rest of the City’s parks system. In 2020, a paved trail was constructed to connect the Nature Center to the Doar Prairie Restoration area. A restroom will be installed in 2023.

Existing Amenities: Mowed nature trails, boardwalk, canoe/kayak launch, picnic shelter, grill, benches, asphalt parking lot

Opportunities: Construct additional boardwalks, add educational signage along the trail, continue to remove buckthorn and brush, add electricity to picnic shelter



Ted McCabe Park

Location: Intersection of W 4th St. & Washington Ave. **Classification:** Linear Park **Size:** 0.2 acres

History: Ted McCabe Park adds aesthetic value to our community with its flower garden which was given a facelift in 2019.

Existing Amenities: Flower garden, sidewalk, open space

Opportunities: Landscaping, public artwork, small fountain, benches



Victoria Park

Location: 942 West Fourth Street

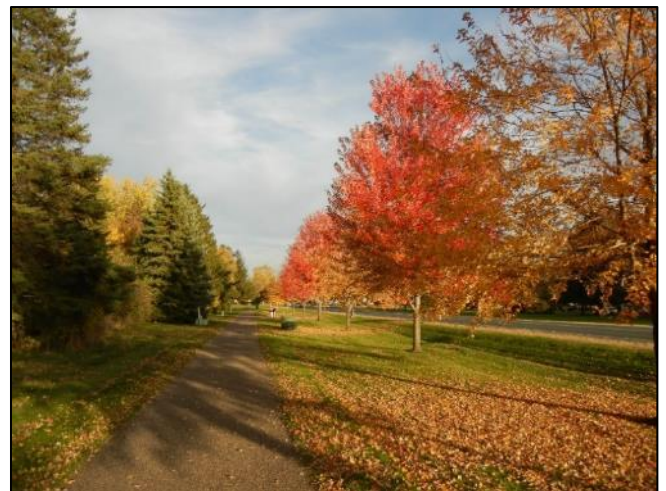
Classification: Linear Park

Size: 3.9 acres

History: Developed in the 1950s as part of the Country Club Park Residential Development, this park is located on both sides of Somerset Road and includes an armed services memorial and open green space. A paved bike and pedestrian trail was constructed through the park in 2020 connecting Victoria Park to Monette Park and to the trail along West Fourth Street.

Existing Amenities: Armed services memorial, open green space, paved multi-use trail

Opportunities: Gathering place with benches, replace signage, ice skating rink



Whispering Hills Disc Golf Course

Location: 1935 115th Street

Classification: Community Park

Size: 52 acres

History: This property is located on the former landfill and current compost site property.

Existing Amenities: 18-hole disc golf course, benches, parking lot

Opportunities: Shelter



Whispering Prairie Development Park

Location: 2249 Pioneer Trail

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.19 acres

History: This property was dedicated to the City of New Richmond as parkland as part of the Whispering Prairie Development. In 2019, playground equipment, a shelter, and paved paths were installed.

Existing Amenities: Open green space, playground equipment, picnic shelter, paved path

Opportunities: Benches, native prairie restoration, swing set, tree plantings, pathway through the 4.33 acre outlot (PID 261-1307-01-999)



Willow River Bluffs Park

Location:

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size:

History: This property was dedicated to the City of New Richmond as parkland as part of the Willow River Bluffs Development.

Existing Amenities: Open green space, mowed trail, benches

Opportunities:



Woodland Creek Park

Location: 1138 Pinewood Trail

Classification: Neighborhood Park

Size: 7.87 acres

History: This property was dedicated to the City of New Richmond in 2000 as part of a parkland dedication agreement with the Woodland Creek residential development.

Existing Amenities: Playground equipment, paved multi-use trail, basketball court, open green space, wooded area near the Paperjack Creek

Opportunities: Construct picnic shelter near the playground, develop a nature trail through the wooded park area, add a tennis backboard in the basketball court area, add trees and landscaping near the playground, add a pickleball court in the basketball court area, trail connection to future trail on County Road A to improve connectivity with the rest of the City's multi-modal transportation system

