



COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (CORP)

Village of Spring Green, Wisconsin

2024-2028

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Village of Spring Green Parks and Green Space Map

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION


Purpose

Parks and recreation play a vital role in shaping the quality and character of a community. The Village of Spring Green takes immense pride in this core element, recognizing its significant contribution to its vibrant and thriving community. This comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP) for the Village of Spring Green articulates the community's objectives, goals, and present and future requirements for recreational amenities. The purpose of this document is to establish a roadmap for the upkeep and enhancement of Spring Green's recreational and open spaces. It outlines a strategic approach to responsibly manage existing resources and maintenance while also creating new facilities to cater to future demands and necessities.

Background and Community Information

The Village of Spring Green, located in southern Sauk County, Wisconsin, is a vibrant and welcoming community known for its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. Nestled amidst rolling hills and scenic landscapes of the Wisconsin River Valley and the Driftless Area, Spring Green offers residents and visitors a delightful blend of small-town charm and artistic flair. The community takes pride in its strong sense of community spirit, evident in the numerous local events, festivals, and gatherings that bring people together. Home to Frank Lloyd Wright's renowned Taliesin, Spring Green embraces its artistic legacy, with theaters, art galleries, and music venues dotting its streets. Nature enthusiasts can explore the nearby Wisconsin River, enjoying activities such as fishing, boating, and hiking in the picturesque countryside. With a thriving local economy, excellent schools, and a supportive community, Spring Green offers a high quality of life and a warm, welcoming environment for all who call it home.





With a population of just over 1,500, the Village of Spring Green is characterized by its unique blend of historical charm and a thriving highway commercial district along Hwy 14. The Village also features a growing industrial park which has helped to provide job creation and economic development within the Village. The Industrial Park serves as a testament to Spring Green's commitment to progress and providing opportunities for local employment. Spring Green also takes pride in its diverse array of businesses. These businesses contribute to the local economy, offer essential goods and services, and create a vibrant atmosphere for residents and visitors to enjoy. Spiritual life in the Village is enriched by the presence of four churches which play a crucial role in nurturing the spiritual well-being of Spring Green's residents and fostering a sense of belonging and unity among the community.

Definitions

Green Space

Green Space refers to localized facilities that are only designed to serve those in their immediate vicinity. Typically, these areas are utilized to offer passive recreational opportunities, preserve natural landscapes, act as a land use buffer, and mitigate development congestion while enhancing aesthetic quality.

Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park refers to a small-scale public recreational space designed to serve the immediate local community. Typically located within residential areas, neighborhood parks are intended to be easily accessible to nearby residents, providing them with a range of recreational opportunities close to their homes. These parks often feature amenities such as playgrounds, walking paths, picnic areas, and open green spaces for various activities. Neighborhood parks play a vital role in promoting community engagement, fostering social interactions, and enhancing the quality of life for residents within the surrounding area.

Community Park

A community park is a larger-scale public recreational area designed to serve a broader population within the municipality. Community parks are typically strategically located to serve multiple neighborhoods and attract visitors from various parts of the city. These parks offer a wide range of amenities and facilities, including sports fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, walking trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, and possibly even community centers or event spaces. Community parks aim to provide recreational opportunities for individuals and families, promote physical activity, and serve as gathering spaces for community events and celebrations. They play a significant role in enhancing the overall quality of life, fostering community connections, and providing diverse recreational experiences for residents of the municipality.

Needs and Parameters

The recreational needs of a community are typically determined by considering two key factors: the size of the population within the service area and the distance between the recreational facilities and the population. The larger the population, the more park space will be required. Additionally, the proximity of recreational facilities to the population is crucial as it affects accessibility and convenience. Ideally, having facilities within a reasonable distance ensures that community members can easily access and enjoy the recreational opportunities available, promoting physical activity, social interaction, and overall well-being.

Table 1 Design Parameters

Facility	Service Area (Miles)	Size (Acres)	Acres per one thousand Population
Green Space	>0.25	>1	0.25-0.5
Neighborhood Parks	0.25-0.5	15+	1-2
Community Parks	1-2	25+	5-8

Summary of Past Plans

The objective of this plan is to thoroughly redevelop and replace all current plans and revisions. The previous outdoor recreational plan for Spring Green was established in 1998. Since then, the Village has grown, and numerous enhancements have been made to the parks. However, the existing Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan (CORP) has remained largely unaltered.

Improvements during this time include:

- Pool Improvements
- Dog Park Addition
- Improvements to Basketball courts/tennis courts.

Other Relevant Plans

Village of Spring Green Comprehensive Plan 2017

Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024

CHAPTER II: EXISTING FACILITIES

General Overview

The Village of Spring Green boasts a wide array of park facilities, encompassing different types of green spaces, playing fields, and play areas. In total, the Village owns and maintains more than 122 acres of parks and green spaces within its boundaries. Additionally, the River Valley School District possesses and manages an additional 106 acres of land within the Village. Together, these entities oversee and maintain a total of over 228 acres, which constitutes much of the park space and green areas within the Village. Existing parks are shown on the Village of Spring Green Parks and Green Space map which is included as a part of this plan as Attachment A.

Village-Owned Parks and Facilities

Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park, previously known as North Park, is located in the north central part of the Village and stands as the most utilized and developed park owned by the Village. Located just a few blocks from downtown and spanning approximately 10.4 acres, Veterans Memorial Park offers a range of amenities and facilities for recreational activities. The park features the Spring Green Community Pool, which provides a refreshing and inviting swimming experience. Additionally, visitors can enjoy a well-maintained playground that offers a safe and enjoyable play area for children. For sports enthusiasts, there are pickleball, tennis, and basketball courts available along with sand volleyball and soccer fields.



Veterans Memorial Park also boasts ample open space, providing opportunities for various recreational activities or simply enjoying the outdoors. The park is equipped with several shelters, offering shade and protection from the elements, as well as picnic tables for visitors to gather and enjoy meals together. With its diverse range of amenities, Veterans Memorial Park serves as a vibrant hub for community members to engage in recreational pursuits, socialize, and appreciate the natural surroundings.



South Park

South Park is in the south-central part of the Village. The park has about nineteen developed acres with about another twenty acres of undeveloped forested and wetland areas. The park consists of one softball and one baseball field, two shelters, a sizable wooden playground, and a skate park.



Golf Course

The Spring Green Municipal Golf Course is located along the south of the Village and consists of 42.2 acres. The course is owned by the Village and features nine well-maintained holes for great golfing and is home to the golf club association.

Dog Park

The Village also operates a Dog Park which offers a secure and responsible space for dog owners to allow their companions to roam and play off-leash. Situated in the southwest part of the Village, the park spans nearly four acres and is fully fenced allowing dogs to socialize, exercise, and explore freely under the supervision of their owners, creating an enjoyable experience for all pets and humans to enjoy. The dog park is also the home of the enthusiastic Friends of the Dog Park group which is a very active community organization.



Community Gardens

There is a community garden located in the northwest of the Village and is overseen by the River Valley Area Community Gardens, inc. These gardens serve as a public space where individuals come together to learn about growing healthy food and contribute to alleviating food scarcity. Plots within the garden are assigned to families, allowing them to cultivate their own nutritious produce. Additionally, the garden plays a vital role in supporting the community by sharing the harvested produce with local pantries, thus addressing food security concerns, and fostering a spirit of communal support.



Other Sites

The Village also owns over a dozen smaller properties throughout the Village which total over fourteen acres. These areas comprise a variety of valuable features, including green spaces, forested areas, stormwater management facilities, and berms. These elements serve multiple purposes within the community.

Firstly, these properties effectively break up development, creating natural boundaries and preserving open spaces amidst residential areas. This contributes to maintaining a balanced and aesthetically pleasing environment within the Village.

Furthermore, these areas function as land use buffers, serving as transitional zones between different types of development. They provide a visual and physical separation, adding to the overall harmony and cohesiveness of the community.

In addition to their functional roles, these smaller properties offer opportunities for recreational activities. Residents can utilize these spaces to engage in outdoor pursuits, such as walking, hiking, or enjoying nature. The presence of green spaces and forested areas enhances the overall quality of life within the Village, providing residents with accessible natural areas for relaxation and leisure.

School District-Owned Facilities

River Valley School District

The River Valley School District operates an elementary, middle, and high school within the Village, situated on the west side. Covering over one hundred acres, these schools provide a great educational experience. The campus features various athletic facilities, including a track with a football and soccer field, a softball and baseball field, as well as several playgrounds and green spaces. These amenities contribute to the holistic development of students and offer opportunities for physical activity and recreation.

In addition to the developed school grounds, the River Valley School District owns ten undeveloped lots totaling 3.5 acres located to the north of Varsity Avenue. These lots present potential for future expansion or development to meet the evolving needs of the school district and the community.



RVSD Softball Field

The River Valley School District also owns and operates the softball field to the south of Veterans Memorial Park. This field enhances the overall appeal of Veterans Memorial Park and provides an additional venue for softball activities. It can be used by both the high school team and younger age groups, providing them with an additional space to practice and compete.



Table 2 Parks Inventory

	Veterans Memorial Park	South Park	RVSD	Golf Course	Dog Park	Community Gardens
Lot Size (Acres)	10.4	42.27	106.65	42.2	25.39	2.99
Developed Area	10.4	19.1	54.3	42.2	3.88	2.99
Playground	X	X	X			
Baseball		X	X			
Softball	X	X	X			
Shelters	X	X	X			
Soccer	X		X			
Sand Volleyball	X					
Skate Park		X				
Basketball	X		X			
Tennis	X					
Pickleball	X					
Pool	X					
Golf				X		
Dog Park					X	
Gardens						X

CHAPTER III: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

General Recommendations

To ensure continued functionality and foster community involvement and growth, a set of comprehensive recommendations will be implemented across all community sites within the Village. The improvement initiatives will focus on enhancing safety and accessibility for all residents, preserving, and enhancing natural landscapes, providing up-to-date recreational facilities, improving amenities, and incorporating sustainable practices for efficient management and maintenance.

These recommendations aim to create inclusive and well-maintained spaces that can serve the diverse needs and preferences of the community. By prioritizing safety, accessibility, and the preservation of natural beauty, residents can enjoy parks and community services that promote physical well-being, foster a sense of belonging, and provide opportunities for recreation and relaxation.

Moreover, by incorporating modern recreational facilities that align with current trends and interests, the community can ensure that the parks remain vibrant and engaging spaces that appeal to all age groups. Enhancing amenities such as seating areas, picnic spots, and gathering spaces will contribute to the overall comfort and enjoyment of visitors.

Sustainability will also be a key consideration, with a focus on implementing practices that minimize environmental impact, conserve resources, and reduce maintenance costs. These efforts may include the use of eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient lighting, water conservation measures, and waste management systems.

By applying these general recommendations consistently across all community sites, the Village can create a cohesive and unified approach to park and community service improvements. This will ultimately contribute to the overall quality of life for residents and support the long-term growth of the Village.

Parks Planning

Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park has been well maintained and recently underwent recent improvements to both the pickleball and basketball courts, along with repairs and improvements to the pool. These enhancements have significantly contributed to the park's appeal and popularity, leading to a growing demand for enhanced parking options in and around the park. To address this need, future plans involve expanding and improving the parking facilities, including the addition of new designated ADA parking spaces (Estimated Cost \$40,000).

Another proposed addition to Veterans Memorial Park is the inclusion of a dedicated area for food trucks, offering a diverse culinary experience for park visitors. This addition would further enhance the amenities and services available within the park, providing convenient dining options (Estimated Cost \$20,000).

Additionally, possible proposals to expand the pool facilities by incorporating a splash pad can offer an exciting new water play area for children and families to enjoy (Estimated Cost \$500,000).

These proposed improvements and additions will continue to elevate the offerings and overall experience at Veterans Memorial Park, catering to the evolving needs and desires of the community and ensuring that the park remains a vibrant and enjoyable destination for all residents and visitors.



South Park

South Park presents a fantastic opportunity for numerous improvements, particularly because of its convenient access to the expanding residential areas in the south and west. Several potential upgrades have been identified to enhance the park's amenities and user experience. Firstly, the aging wooden playground is a prime candidate for replacement. It could be substituted with a modern playground like the one found in Veterans Memorial Park, known for its durability (Estimated Cost \$60,000).



Additionally, there is a possibility of making improvements to the baseball and softball field. This may involve replacing the worn-out fences and incorporating lighting to facilitate evening games and extend the usability of the field. (Estimated Cost \$500,000)

Furthermore, the existing skate park is currently in a deteriorated state. To address this, a proposal suggests replacing it entirely with new pickleball and basketball courts. This would provide a fresh and appealing space for residents interested in these sports (Estimated Cost \$100,000).



Another possibility would be the addition of an ice rink. Introducing an ice rink with new lighting would expand the winter features and helps diversify the options offered at south park. Ice skating is fun for all ages and ensures that the park can remain utilized even in the winter season. During the warmer seasons the rink would be used as additional parking or multipurpose open space (Estimated Cost \$15,000).

By implementing these upgrades, South Park can provide a more enjoyable and inclusive recreational environment for the surrounding community, catering to a diverse range of interests and activities.

Community Gardens

The existing community garden is expanding very quickly with increasing involvement from community members. The current garden occupies a spacious lot, offering ample room for expansion. As part of the expansion plan, several enhancements to the site are being considered. These may involve the addition of more parking spaces, including ADA-accessible options, as well as the construction of extra tool or storage sheds (Estimated Cost \$20,000). Another possibility is the inclusion of a nearby playground or pavilion, creating a more inclusive and visually appealing environment while also providing additional recreational opportunities near the gardens (Estimated Cost \$145,000). These improvements would aim to enhance the accessibility, aesthetics, and overall functionality of the site, enriching the experience for both gardeners and visitors.



Proposed Sunrise Drive Park

A potential site for a new park could be found in the green space situated between Sunrise Drive and Spring Street. This spot offers an excellent opportunity for the installation of amenities such as a playground, shelter, and even a performance stage. Introducing these facilities could significantly contribute to the development and enhancement of the adjacent properties. Furthermore, incorporating a stage would further enrich the park's offerings, especially given the proximity of the American Players Theatre apartments along Sunrise Drive (Estimated Cost \$75,000).

Jefferson Street Kiosk

Further enhancement to the parks system could include developments in the open green space at the intersection of Jefferson and Wood Street. Although it is one of the smaller spaces it would be great for some information kiosks, park benches and some landscaping. This space is not located far from downtown and would serve as an excellent spot for a brief educational stroll. Potential informational topics include Frank Lloyd Wright, the Wisconsin River Valley, the Driftless Area, or local attractions (Estimated Cost \$25,000-\$50,000).



Trails Planning

Currently, the Village of Spring Green lacks a substantial number of trails within its limits. This deficiency in trail infrastructure hampers the overall accessibility and versatility of the existing parks. To address this issue, it is crucial to consider the addition of new trails, particularly those that connect different parks in the area.

Introducing a network of trails throughout the Village would greatly enhance the usability and enjoyment of the parks for residents and visitors. By linking these green spaces with well-designed and well-maintained trails, individuals would have the opportunity to explore and appreciate the natural beauty of the surrounding area while engaging in outdoor activities. The benefits of expanding the trail system extend beyond recreational purposes. Trails function as conduits for physical fitness, encouraging residents to engage in activities such as walking, jogging, and cycling.

South Park Trails

The incorporation of additional trails in the southern region of Spring Green from South Park would present a valuable opportunity to establish a pedestrian route that seamlessly connects various points of interest. A proposed pedestrian route could extend from Winsted Street and span to Shifflet Road, effectively connecting residential neighborhoods such as Westwood, Marvin Gardens, the Rasmussen subdivision, and South Spring Green.

The establishment of these trails would create a safe and enjoyable pathway for pedestrians, providing an alternative mode of transportation and encouraging active mobility. People residing in Westwood, Marvin Gardens, the Rasmussen subdivision, and South Spring Green would have convenient access to both the golf course and the dog park, allowing them to engage in recreational activities and explore the natural surroundings without relying on vehicles. The proposed trail network would provide a scenic and pleasant route for outdoor enthusiasts, further enhancing the overall appeal of the area. Furthermore, the accessibility and connectivity provided by these trails would also contribute to the economic development of the community by promoting the continued development of these residential areas (Estimated Cost \$80,000).

This area has mapped wetlands and proper DNR process will need to be followed.

Community Garden Trails

The addition of a potential trail that runs along the west edge of the Village could also be a valuable addition to the parks system. A potential west trail could better connect the River Valley School District to the residential neighborhoods to the north including the community garden and other potential park additions. It could also run to the south and connect to the residential neighborhoods in the south including the dog park and south park. These trails would continue to promote outdoor activities and an active lifestyle while promoting the continued residential development of these neighborhoods (Estimated Cost \$160,000).



Property Acquisition

The Village of Spring Green may look to acquire additional property in areas which have great need or potential for parks improvement. This ability ensures that the community can expand and adapt to changes in developments and community needs.

One potential property acquisition opportunity would be to expand the community gardens. The gardens have expanded greatly in recent years and have utilized most of the area on its current lot. Acquiring additional property would allow them to continue to meet their needs and encourage more involvement with the community. The acquisition of more property in this area for an additional park would add to the functionality of the space in the area and promote more residential development.

The Village also currently has plans to acquire property in the northwest part of the Village for a new well house. This property will have additional areas that can be utilized as green space.

Operations and Maintenance

The ability to operate and provide maintenance to the park system is vital in providing a vibrant and enjoyable outdoor environment for its residents and visitors. It involves an important set of tasks aimed at ensuring the proper functioning and upkeep of the parks' facilities and green spaces. Skilled personnel and maintenance crews are responsible for tasks such as regular landscaping, repairs, irrigation management, trash removal, and the upkeep of recreational amenities like playgrounds, sports fields, the pool, the golf course, and picnic areas. Operations and maintenance of the parks should be sustainable such that crews should be able to keep up with required tasks and the Village can continue to maintain funding. By maintaining these essential outdoor spaces, the parks system not only enhances the Village's aesthetics but also promotes active lifestyles, environmental sustainability, and a connection with nature for all to enjoy.

Current Maintenance costs

Lawncare, pavement, facilities, pool

CHAPTER IV: ACTION PLAN

Priority Projects

As an integral component of the CORP, the Parks and Recreation Committee will identify specific projects as priority initiatives. These projects will be selected based on their significant community impact or pressing needs. The allocation of dedicated funding sources will accompany these priority projects, with a focused intent on completing them within the upcoming year or two. This targeted approach ensures streamlined and efficient execution of projects that align with the immediate needs and aspirations of the community.

A current priority project is the Veterans Memorial Park Parking/ADA Improvement project. This project is crucial to maintaining the accessibility and capacity of Veterans Memorial Park, which is the largest and most utilized park in the Village.

The South Park Ice Skating Rink project is also recognized as a priority. An ice-skating rink has been recognized as a need for the Village and its addition to South Park will allow it to be utilized as a year-round destination for both residents and visitors.

Funding Plan

The Village understands the need for adequate and sustainable funding in order to complete these projects. To achieve this, three key categories of funding sources have been identified. By combining these three categories the Village can embark on these projects with a sustainable financial strategy which can turn the outdoor recreation vision into a thriving reality.

Capital Improvements Fund

The first source of funding is the Village Capital Improvement fund. Priority projects will be incorporated to the Village's budget with funds to be saved for future parks improvement projects. By strategically saving and using the Capital Improvement Fund the community can target prioritized projects that most align with the needs and desires of its residents.

Federal/State Grants

The Village will also monitor federal and state funding opportunities as a means to augment its financial capacity. By actively seeking out and securing grants, the Village can tap into external resources that align with its vision. These funds not only contribute to the financial foundation of the plan but also foster collaboration between the local community and broader governmental initiatives for regional development.

Outside Funding/Donations

As these projects are designed to increase community solidarity and engagement, the Village may look to the community for additional financial support for these projects. Seeking support from external entities, whether local businesses or philanthropic individuals, is integral to the success of the plan. Outside funding or donations not only provide additional financial backing

but also strengthen community bonds. Through partnerships and grassroots support, the community can build a sustainable foundation that reflects the collective investment of all those who value the well-being and prosperity of the Village.

Table 3 Project List

Location	Project	Year	Cost
Veterans Memorial Park	Parking/ADA Improvements	2024	\$40,000
	Pool Splashpad Addition	TBD	\$500,000
	Food Truck Area	TBD	\$20,000
South Park	Playground Upgrades	TBD	\$60,000
	Skateboard/Pickleball Court Renovations	TBD	\$100,000
	Ice Rink w/Lighting	2024	\$15,000
	Baseball & Softball Fields Upgrades/Lighting	TBD	\$500,000
	Trails	TBD	\$80,000
Community Garden	Garden Expansion	TBD	\$20,000
	Trails	TBD	\$160,000
	New Park	TBD	\$145,000
Jefferson Street	Information Kiosk	TBD	\$25,000-\$50,000
Sunrise Drive	Park/Stage	TBD	\$75,000

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION

Summary

In summary, the Village of Spring Green is poised for exciting possibilities with the implementation of this CORP. Through a thorough analysis of past and current needs, the Village can strategically plan for the future. The dedicated focus on prioritizing key projects, complemented by strategic funding, lays the foundation for significant and meaningful transformations for the community.

As this plan progresses, the collaborative spirit of the community will play a crucial role in the success of this plan. With a clear vision, sustainable financial strategies, and a commitment to positive change, Spring Green is poised to transform the outdoor recreation vision into a vibrant reality.

Annual Review and Update

This CORP is designed to adapt to changes in the Village's population, emerging priorities, funding fluctuations, and the completion of projects. It should be noted that some projects mentioned in this document may not be completed within the specified timespan, or they may not be completed at all. Additionally, there might be potential projects not listed here that could be undertaken. This document is dynamic and subject to changes and revisions. It should be used solely as a reference for community guidance in future parks and recreational planning.

The outdoor recreational plan will undergo an annual review and will be updated as necessary. The Parks and Recreation Commission will conduct public hearings as required to inform residents about any modifications or updates to the plan.