

TOWN OF FREEDOM

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2022 – 2026

Prepared by the
Town of Freedom Park Committee,
Town of Freedom Plan Commission,
and
Cedar Corporation

Adopted: June 22, 2022

TOWN OF FREEDOM
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
2022-2026

Prepared by the
Town of Freedom Park Committee,
Town of Freedom Plan Commission,
and
Cedar Corporation

Park Committee Members:

Margo Fox
Kevin Schuh
Jason Vanden Berg
Paul Hermes
Chad Beihoff
Pam LaPlant
Amiee Feltz

Plan Commission Members

Brandon Conrad
Henry McKenna
Ron Mashlan
Dan Reinke
Mark Dollevoet
Chris Evers
Darin Tiedt

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
PURPOSE	1
PLANNING PROCESS.....	1
COMMUNITY SURVEY.....	2
OVERVIEW	3
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.....	3
POPULATION AND HOUSING.....	4
DEMOGRAPHICS.....	5
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	5
GOALS.....	5
OBJECTIVES.....	6
EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES	6
MINI PARK.....	8
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS.....	8
COMMUNITY PARK.....	9
SCHOOL FACILITIES/PARKS.....	9
PRIVATE PARKS/RECREATION FACILITIES.....	10
TRAILS.....	10
HISTORICAL AREAS.....	10
NEEDS ASSESSEMENT	12
LAND NEEDS.....	12
LOCATIONAL NEEDS.....	12
RECREATIONAL NEEDS.....	12
FACILITY NEEDS.....	13
RECOMMENDATIONS	15
LAND ACQUISITION.....	15
PARK DEVELOPMENT.....	15
TRAILS AND GREENWAYS DEVELOPMENT.....	17
ACTION PROGRAM	18
CONSISTENCY WITH COUNTY & STATE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANS	19
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2022-2026.....	19
WISCONSIN STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2019-2023.....	20
DEFINITIONS	21

TABLES & FIGURES

TABLE 1	POPULATION.....	4
TABLE 2	POPULATION CHARACTERISICS.....	5
TABLE 3	EXISTING TOWN-OWNED PARKSAND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.....	8
TABLE 4	EXISTING OTHER PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.....	8
FIGURE 1	EXISTING & PROPOSED PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES.....	11
FIGURE 2	PARK SERVICE AREAS.....	14

APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A – TOWN PARK SITE PLANS
- APPENDIX B – ADOPTION RESOLUTION
- APPENDIX C – COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

Outdoor recreation and open spaces lend form and function to the Town of Freedom, enhancing attractiveness and sense of community pride in the town. The provision of area, facilities, and activities to accommodate public recreational needs have long been demonstrated to promote the general health, welfare, and safety of our communities, residents, and visitors.

The public's desire for recreation and open space has grown over the years to the point that today's residents commonly expect the government to satisfy the large proportion of these needs through the provision of parks and natural open spaces.

To respond to this need, local communities have provided park, open space, and recreational opportunities to their citizens. To provide these recreational services in an efficient and effective manner, planning principals and guidelines are often included as an integral element of parks and recreation plans. This process is presented in the Town of Freedom Parks and Recreation Plan

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Town of Freedom Open Space and Recreation Plan is to provide a planning document to guide the future of parks and recreation need within the town. The plan provides goals, objectives, and policies for recreational opportunities to meet the town's current and future recreational requirements. The plan includes a description of the primary service area and the level of service the community may require. With an adopted plan, the town is eligible to submit and receive grants from the State of Wisconsin and federal government for the acquisition, preservation, and development of parklands and natural open spaces. The town needs to continue planning efforts for the provision of parks and recreational opportunities due to the potential of increasing growth over the next 5 – 20 years.

Existing parks and the need for certain park development were identified within the town's 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The town also has a previous Open Space and Recreation Plan, which was originally developed in 1998 and most recently updated in 2008. The 2008 park plan is past the five-year limit that allows the plan to be used for certain grant applications. The elements of the 2008 park plan and the 2020 comprehensive plan have been incorporated into this new park plan as parks and recreational opportunities are viewed as an integral part of the town and are important to the quality of life for its residents.

PLANNING PROCESS

This plan was developed between December 2021 and May 2022, consisting of one joint Plan Commission/Park Committee meeting, five Park Committee meetings, one Plan Commission meeting, one Town Board meeting, and a community survey. The Town's planning consultant, Cedar Corporation, primarily worked with the Park Committee to create this updated plan. Cedar Corporation reviewed previous planning documents, received input from the Park Committee members and residents in attendance at the Park Committee meetings, and analyzed data received from the community survey. Cedar Corporation also created site maps of all four existing Town parks, identifying existing amenities and proposed improvements for each Town park.

The Park Committee recommended approval of this plan on May 2, 2022. The Plan Commission recommended approval of this plan on June 8, 2022. The Town Board passed Resolution No. 2022-04, A Resolution Adopting the Town of Freedom Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2026, on June 22, 2022 (see Appendix B).

COMMUNITY SURVEY

A key public participation component of this plan was the development of a community survey, which was used to gather public input on key issues and opportunities to enhance use and enjoyment of the Town's parks, trails, and natural areas. The survey responses were used to create the goals, objectives and recommendations of this plan. The survey was made available to the public on January 17, 2022 and was promoted through the Town's website, advertisement in the Freedom pursuit, and advertisement on the Town Hall sign. In addition, the Freedom School District was asked to send the survey advertisement to all families in the school district. The survey was available online and in hard copy format. The survey was closed on February 14, 2022. A total of 433 individuals responded to the survey, over 92% of whom were Town of Freedom residents. Complete survey results may be found in *Appendix C*. General findings of the survey are summarized as follows:

- VFW Memorial Park is overwhelmingly the most used Town park with over 98% of respondents using VFW Memorial Park. 36% of respondents stated they use Rickert Park, 35% stated they use Lions Park, and slightly under 12% stated they use Citizens Park.
- 46% of respondents use the parks on at least a weekly basis and 75% of respondents use the parks on at least a monthly basis.
- The top three reasons preventing respondents from using the parks are:
 1. Desired facilities not available.
 2. Do not know location of the facilities.
 3. Use other recreational facilities.
- The most popular activities and facilities that respondents use the parks for are playgrounds, baseball, pavilions, special events, softball, soccer, and walking/running.
- 66% of respondents believe pets should be allowed in the town parks if on a leash.
- Most respondents feel that the Town should focus their efforts on the improvement/expansion of existing parks, followed by the creation of new bike/pedestrian trails and creation/preservation of new parks and natural areas, respectively.
- When asked if the respondents are in favor of allocating tax dollars to fund future park projects, 36% of respondents agree, 28% of respondents strongly agree, and 27% of respondents were neutral.

The need for upgrading playground facilities for children of all ages and abilities, constructing walking/biking trails, and a splash pad or pool in the Town were also recurring comments submitted by survey respondents.

OVERVIEW

The Town of Freedom Open Space and Recreation Plan is intended to provide a program for meeting the recreational needs of the residents of the Town of Freedom in an orderly and efficient manner, as well as to preserve this area's unique natural resources and features. This plan represents an update of the town's previous Open Space and Recreation Plan, which was prepared in 2008. Since that time, the Town of Freedom with strong support from local organizations and citizens, has:

- Constructed the Freedom Area Historical Society building in Rickert Park in 2008;
- Constructed Lions Park in 2014/2015;
- Undertaken major renovations of VFW Memorial Park; and
- Upgraded and/or replaced a number of other facilities within Town parks.

As part of the parks' renovations, a significant commitment to a landscape and beautification program is also clearly evident.

This plan builds upon the 2008 plan and the accomplishments that have occurred since that time in meeting the recreational needs of Freedom residents. The completed plan will provide local decision makers with a basis for managing and improving the town's recreational facilities and other important open space areas and acquisitions for additional park land during the next five years. This plan is designed to meet state and federal aid program requirements.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Town of Freedom is located in the southeastern portion of Outagamie County, Wisconsin, approximately halfway between the cities of Appleton and Green Bay. Freedom enjoys both rural lands and a core village-like area with subdivisions, numerous commercial establishments, and an industrial park with wastewater treatment service provided by the Freedom Sanitary District No. 1. The urbanized area served by the Freedom Sanitary District No. 1 has its own postal zip code area and is served by a post office located in nearby Kaukauna. In total, the Township includes almost 36 square miles and is home to 6,216 people as of 2020.

The Town of Freedom shares borders with the: Town of Center to the west; Towns of Osborn and Oneida and the external boundary of the Oneida Nation to the north; Town of Kaukauna to the east; Towns of Grand Chute and Vandenbroek to the south; and City of Appleton to the southwest. State Highway 55 and County Highway S traverse the Town and provide easy access for residents to Interstate/U.S. Highway 41 and nearby major employment centers in the Fox Valley and Green Bay. County Highways C, E, and N are also primary traffic routes through Freedom. The Town's strategic location and easy commute to the Fox Cities and Green Bay have resulted in accelerated growth, which is expected to continue well into the future.

The largest concentration of development centers on the unincorporated community of Freedom, where the Freedom Sanitary District No. 1 is located. Located at the intersections of State Highway 55, County Highway E, and County Highway S in the northeastern portion of the town, this area is generally recognized as the town's hub of activity as well as its primary growth area. It is estimated that approximately 3,500 residents are concentrated in this area. Some development has also taken place in small unsewered subdivisions near the sanitary district. This development

pattern points to a need for recreational facilities away from the unincorporated Freedom community.

The town's landscape is dominated by farmland with generally small and isolated woodlots. Its topography can best be described as flat to gently rolling. Duck Creek, which flows in a northeasterly direction through the center of the town, and its parallel Duck Creek esker are locally important features of the town's landscape.

POPULATION AND HOUSING

The Town of Freedom’s has experienced continuous growth in population in recent years. The town anticipates that the population will continue to increase through 2040. The 2020 population of 6,216 represents a stable growth of 6.4% since 2010. Per the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) Demographic Services Center, the Town’s population is projected to reach 7,225 by 2030 and 7,600 by 2040. This equates to a 16.2% and 22.3% increase in population compared to 2020, respectively.

Per the U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census, approximately 32 housing units were constructed per year between 2000 and 2010, and approximately 11 housing units were constructed per year between 2010 and 2020. This drop in housing unit construction when comparing 2000-2010 and 2010-2020 is reflected in the slower population growth from 2010-2020.

	Year	Population	% Change
Decennial Census	1970	2,926	-
	1980	3,746	28.0%
	1990	4,114	9.8%
	2000	5,241	27.4%
	2010	5,842	11.5%
	2020	6,216	6.4%
Projections	2025	6,870	10.5%
	2030	7,225	5.2%
	2035	7,460	3.3%
	2040	7,600	1.9%
Source: U.S. Census, Decennial Census, 1970 – 2020 Wisconsin Department of Administration Projections, 2013			

Although housing unit construction and population growth has slowed down in the past decade, the Town anticipates these measurables to increase in the coming years in response increased efforts on the state and national levels to address the national housing crisis. This growth will continue to affect community decisions on the provision for parks, recreational opportunities, and facilities as space become less available.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The age breakdown of community residents suggests a high demand for active participatory activities (See *Table 2*). Only 11.1% of town residents are age 65 and over, while 65.4% are between the ages of 15 and 65 and 23.5% are less than 15 years old. The relatively large percentage of residents of working age is indicative of an overall high level of disposable income and a desire for options in leisure time pursuits.

TABLE 2: POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS						
Town of Freedom, Outagamie County, WI						
Age Group	Population	% of Total	Male	% of Total	Female	% of Total
Under 15	1,447	23.5%	785	12.8%	662	10.8%
15 - 64	4,022	65.4%	1908	31.0%	2114	34.4%
65 & Over	680	11.1%	333	5.4%	347	5.6%

Source: U.S. Census, ACS 5 Year Estimates, 2015-2019

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Town of Freedom Park Committee identified the following goals and objectives, which are intended to serve as a guide for the type of park and recreation system community residents would enjoy. The goals are stated as desirable conditions to strive for in the future. They are common ideals of the community that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private organizations, and individual citizens. Objectives specify in greater detail how these desired goals can be achieved. Together, the goals and objectives create the framework for meeting the existing and future needs of the Town of Freedom by providing a basis for establishing town policy to guide the planning, acquisition and future development of park and recreation facilities and open space. Please note that the following goals and objectives are not listed in any hierarchical order.

GOALS

Goal 1: Acquire additional park land for passive and active recreational use to meet the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards.

Goal 2: To satisfy the recreational needs of the residents of the Town of Freedom in a compatible and cost-effective manner.

Goal 3: To protect and conserve the open space resources of the Town for present and future generations.

Goal 4: To provide park, open space, and recreational facilities and opportunities that meet the needs of elderly people and people with disabilities.

Goal 5: To promote the stewardship of natural, historical, and cultural resources throughout the town in the form of a parks and recreation system that serves the need of the residents of the Town of Freedom and surrounding area.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1, Acquisition and Development: Acquire land for future parks, trails, and trail connections and natural open space, when such lands are available and affordable, to meet present and future community and user demands and needs. Coordinate future land acquisitions with the Town of Freedom Comprehensive Plan.

Objective 2, Partnerships: Create partnerships with local, state, regional, and federal agencies, school districts, businesses, developers, philanthropic donors, user groups, civic groups, and organizations. Encourage such partners to take an active role in meeting the identified recreational needs of the community.

Objective 3, Future Generations: Ensure the town's park system has a strong orientation toward providing parks, recreation and open space facilities and opportunities for future generations.

Objective 4, Balanced Needs: The Open Space and Recreation Plan shall be used to ensure that the development of parks and recreational facilities is balanced in regard to environmental protections as well as facilities that are available to all people, including elderly people and people with disabilities.

Objective 5, American Disability Act Accessibility: Conduct an ADA Accessibility Audit of park facilities and amenities. Participate in federal and state financial aid programs to improve ADA accessibility.

Objective 6, Resource Management: Preserve and protect the town's natural resources through provision of resource management strategies and programs. The town shall promote and protect environmental quality, open space and wildlife habitat, and multi-use recreational opportunities in a compatible and cost-effective manner.

Objective 7, Preservation of Historical Resources: Preserve and protect the town's historical and cultural resources, making them accessible and disseminate information about the rich history of our town.

EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

This section analyzes the existing recreational resources in the Town of Freedom. Parks are classified based on the National Recreation and Park Association standards and are described as follows:

Mini-Parks are used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Mini-parks are also intended to address unique recreational needs, such as a landscaped public use area in an industrial/commercial area, scenic overlooks, and a play area adjacent to a downtown

shopping district. The typical size of mini-parks is between 2,500 sq. ft. and 1 acre, and typically serve an area of less than ¼ mile surrounding the park.

Neighborhood Parks are the basic unit of a park system and serve as recreational and social amenities in neighborhoods. Neighborhood parks are developed for both active and passive recreational activities (e.g., picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, ball fields/courts, etc.) to serve individuals within a particular neighborhood or service area. The recommended size of neighborhood parks is 5 to 10 acres, but the actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses and outcomes. Neighborhood parks serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile surrounding the park.

Community Parks are larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Similar to neighborhood parks, community parks are developed for both active and passive recreational activities but on a larger and more diverse scale. Community parks allow for group activities and recreational opportunities that would not be feasible at the neighborhood level (e.g., sports complexes, large play structures, swimming pools, ice skating areas, disc golf areas, etc.). The typical size of community parks is 20 to 50 acres, but the actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses and outcomes. Community parks serve an area of ½ to 3 miles surrounding the park.

School Facilities/Parks are park and recreational facilities surrounding public and private schools facilities, and often compliment other park and recreational facilities within a community. School parks allow for expanding recreational, social, and educational opportunities available to the community in an efficient and cost effective manner. School parks will contain a variety of active and passive recreational activities (e.g., youth athletic fields, play structures, ball courts, etc.). The size and service area of school parks will vary based on the intended use.

Private Parks/Recreation Facilities are privately owned parks or recreational facilities that contribute to a community's park and recreation system, such as golf course, swimming pools/water parks, amusement parks, and sports facilities. The size and service area of private parks/recreation facilities will vary based on the intended use.

Park Trails are multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. Park trails emphasize harmony with the natural environment, allow for relatively uninterrupted pedestrian movement to and through a community's park system, effectively tie various parks and recreation areas together to form a comprehensive park and trail system, and protect users from urbanized development and associated vehicular traffic.

Connector Trails are multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks, housing developments, and around the community. Unlike park trails, connector trails are typically located within road right-of-ways or utility easements, or provide a link between a thoroughfare and a nearby housing development.

The existing recreational facilities within the Town of Freedom include four town parks, four school sites, and two golf courses (See *Tables 3 and 4 and Figure 1*). The four town parks are

VFW Memorial Park, Rickert Park, Citizens Park, and Lions Park, all of which are located within the sanitary district area and only account for slightly over 48 total acres. Site maps showing existing and proposed park facilities and amenities for each Town park were created and are included in *Appendix A*.

TABLE 3 EXISTING TOWN-OWNED PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES Town of Freedom, Outagamie County, WI		
Facility	Acreage	Ownership
VFW Memorial Park	36.6	Town of Freedom
Rickert Park	2.1	Town of Freedom
Citizens Park	0.6	Town of Freedom
Lions Park	9	Town of Freedom
Garden Estates Trail	-	Town of Freedom (easement)
Finnigans Ridge Trail	-	Town of Freedom (easement)
SkyPine Trail	-	Town of Freedom (easement)

TABLE 4 EXISTING OTHER PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES Town of Freedom, Outagamie County, WI	
Facility	Ownership
Freedom Elementary School	Freedom Area School District
Freedom High/Middle School	Freedom Area School District
St. Nicholas Catholic School	Parish
St. Peter Lutheran School	Parish
Irish Waters Golf Club	Private
Fox Valley Golf Club	Private

MINI-PARK

Citizen’s Park. A 0.6 acre public owned property located downtown mini-park located on the corner of CTH S and CTH E. This park was built in accordance with the recommendations outlined in the Town of Freedom Open Space and Recreation Plan (1998). This park provides a centralized gathering point in the heart of the community. The facilities in this park include a gazebo and park benches helping to enhance the appearance of the downtown area.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Rickert Park. A 2.1 acre public owned property located south of CTH S on McHugh Road. This park contains open space with a small backstop for youth baseball and softball, assorted playground equipment, and a parking lot. This park also contains the Freedom Area Historical Society building and shares the restroom and picnic area within the Freedom Area Historical Society building. This park is intended for use by residents within the surrounding subdivisions.

Lions Park. A 9 acre public owned property constructed in 2014 using funds through the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and donations from the Freedom Lions Club. This park contains a 10-foot wide walking trail that encircles the regional storm water detention pond on the property. Enhanced landscaping such as the tall grass areas and prairie and benches make the park an enjoyable place for residents to relax and view a variety of wildlife and water creatures. Future plans are to construct a pond observation deck and connect the trail system to Schmidt Road, to Garden Estates Subdivision and to the future bike trail developed through the Town road system.

COMMUNITY PARK

VFW Memorial Park. A 36.6 acre public owned property located along STH 55, south of the STH 55/CTH E intersection. The park is oriented to all ages of town's residents and is utilized town-wide for baseball, softball, soccer, and serves as the town's primary park facility. Facilities in the park include three softball diamonds, one baseball diamond, several soccer fields, a combination tennis/basketball court, basketball hoops, a sand volleyball court, open and covered play apparatus areas, picnic facilities, a pavilion, three combination shelter/concession stands, and restrooms. This park shares a meeting/community building with the VFW Post 7692. This park is heavily used for organized athletic activities. Due to this park's heavy use as supported by the community survey, VFW Memorial Park is recommended for expansion through land acquisition and additional development.

SCHOOL FACILITIES/PARKS

Note: Generally, these facilities are used for school-sponsored programs and have limited open public access.

Freedom High/Middle School. This public school facility is located near the intersection of STH 55/CTH E/CTH S. The school includes a fenced and lit football/track facility, practice field, basketball hoops, and a soccer field. Adequate open green space also exists.

Freedom Elementary School. This public school facility is located to the southwest of the unincorporated community of Freedom, along CTH E near the intersection of CTH N. Facilities include a backstop, basketball hoops, a variety of play equipment, surfaced and unsurfaced open areas, and a hiking/nature trail.

St. Nicholas Elementary School. This private school facility is located on the south side of CTH S, in the developed area of the Town of Freedom. The site features a baseball diamond, backstop, basketball hoops, play structures, and a significant amount of open space.

St. Peter Elementary School. This private school facility is located on French Road south of CTH E. The area adjacent to the school located on the east side of French Road includes basketball hoops, playground equipment, a soccer field, and open space.

PRIVATE PARKS/RECREATION FACILITIES

Note: These facilities require payment to use the facilities.

Irish Waters Golf Club. This privately-owned facility is located near the intersection of Hwy S and Hwy C in the northern portion of the town. It has an 18-hole golf course that plays to 7,100 yards and is available for general public use. The facility also has a driving range, pro shop, and dining facilities.

Fox Valley Golf Club. This privately-owned facility is located in Section 26 of the town. It has an 18-hole private course that plays to 6,595 yards and is available for members-only use. This facility also has a driving range, pro shop, and dining facilities.

TRAILS

Garden Estates Trail. An 8-foot wide, 200-foot long undeveloped walking trail easement located along the north lot line of Lot 9 of the Garden Estates Plat, which was dedicated to the Town of Freedom. This trail easement is intended to connect the existing walking trail within Lions Park to Sharon Rose Court.

Finnigans Ridge Trail. A 15-foot wide, 0.4-mile long undeveloped walking trail easement located along the rear lot lines of Lots 44 through 53 and Lots 60 through 62 of the First Addition to Finnigans Ridge Plat. Duck Creek is adjacent to the northwest of this trail easement and an undefined trail system through property owned by Freedom Sanitary District No. 1 is adjacent to the south of this trail easement.

SkyPine Trail. A 20-foot wide, 0.2-mile long undeveloped recreation and wellness trail easement located along the front lot lines of all 6 lots in the SkyPine Valley Plat, adjacent to Mathison Road and County Road E.

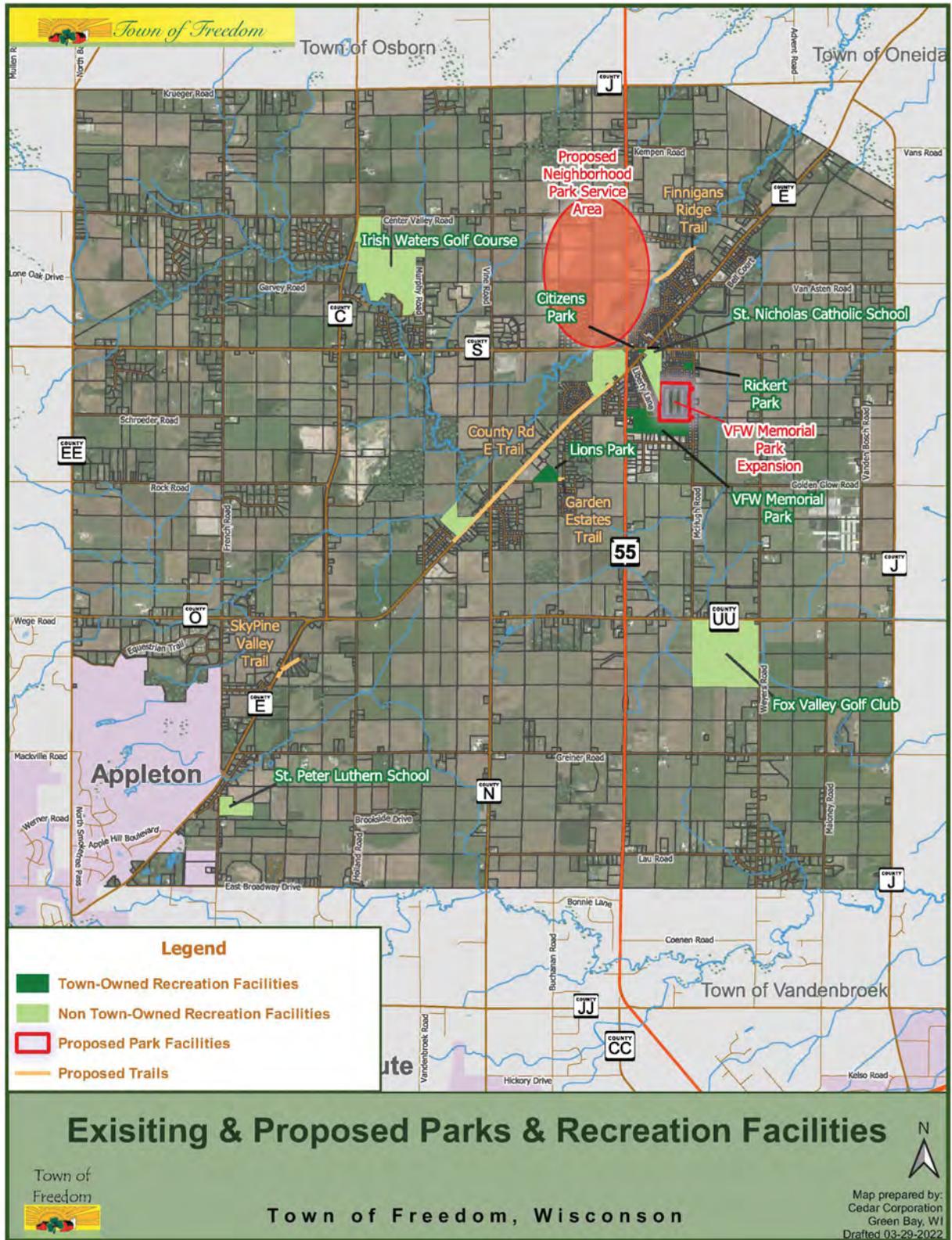
Snowmobile Trails. The town is home to the Freedom Trailblazers Snowmobile Club, which maintains approximately 20-30 miles of trails from the heart of Freedom to other club trails.

Recreational Trails. The Town Planning Commission is actively working with developers to establish walking trails in all new subdivision plats.

HISTORICAL AREAS

Freedom Area Historical Building. This facility is located on a ¼ acre area of Rickert Park. This facility was built to help preserve the historical aspects of the Town of Freedom and surrounding areas. This building has public restrooms and a picnic area.

FIGURE 1: EXISTING & PROPOSED PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

When the existing facilities are measured against current national standards and measured against community needs, the Town of Freedom falls short in supply of parklands, opens spaces, and trails.

LAND NEEDS

With only 48.3 acres of park land, the Town of Freedom is well below the accepted National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) minimum park acreage standard of 10.5 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. Based on this standard, a minimum of 65.3 acres should presently be provided which is a 17-acre deficiency than the park land currently provided by the Town with its four parks. Although open space acreage and facilities at the school sites can augment the town's park acreage, these facilities are generally used for school-sponsored programs and are not always available for general use by the public. In communities such as Freedom where organized active recreational activities have an important role in community life, as much as 15 acres per 1,000 residents is often required to fully accommodate demand. Based on this more generous standard, 93.3 acres of park land may presently be needed which is a 45-acre deficiency than the park land currently provided by the Town with its four parks.

LOCATIONAL NEEDS

The existing recreational facilities do not meet the current locational needs of the entire community. The town parks are all relatively central to the unincorporated “village area” and are not spread uniformly around the town. There are numerous new subdivisions that could benefit from a park in closer proximity. These neighborhoods have reached a point of development where consideration should be given to development of neighborhood parks in the near future. *Figure 2* on page 14 is a map showing service areas of the existing Town parks. This map clearly identifies the need for parks to be located in unserved areas to serve residents in other developed areas of the Town.

With continued rapid growth elsewhere in the town, there is need to acquire and develop additional neighborhood park sites to serve other newly developed residential areas. In addition, walking trails need to be integral to join neighborhoods and parks. Properly mapped trails would reduce dependency on automobiles and encourage healthier lifestyles.

One area within the Town identified as needing one or more park facilities is the area in the northwest corner of the State Highway 55 and County Highway S intersection. Park facilities are needed to serve the existing residential subdivisions and projected future residential growth in this area. The creation of park facilities within this area will reduce the need for pedestrian travel across the heavily travelled state and county highways, thus increasing pedestrian safety in the community.

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Park and recreation needs may include the need for additional parkland to accommodate new facilities, the need for additional parks in areas where new residential growth is occurring, or the need for new or improved park facilities and equipment. Generally, recreation standards are used to identify these needs. However, in rural towns such as Freedom, more emphasis is placed on citizen input when identifying park and recreation needs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of public parks and trails. At the beginning and throughout the pandemic, the use of public spaces increased dramatically and these spaces have become increasingly important to both physical and mental health. Improved and increased recreational opportunities will need to be implemented as Freedom's population grows and our understanding of the relationship between public spaces and mental health increases.

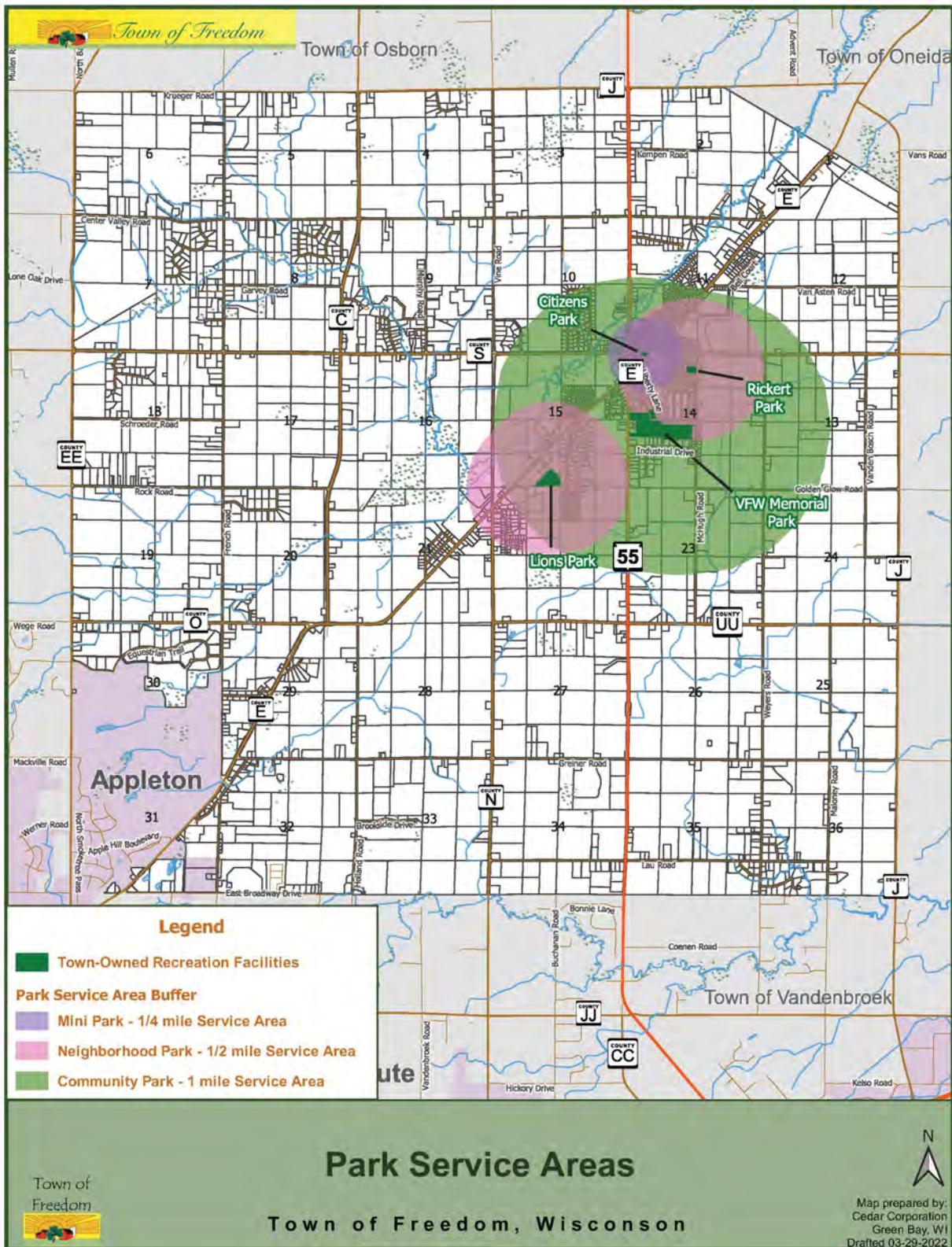
The Town of Freedom only has one developed trail within the Town, which is located within Lions Park. The Town should focus resources on bike and pedestrian trail development and safe bike and pedestrian travel within the Town to connect the park system and community as a whole. This initiative should include dedicated bike/pedestrian trail, sidewalk, and on-street bike lane development.

FACILITY NEEDS

Several parks will need to be created to meet the Town of Freedom's recreational needs. With careful site selection, it may be possible to address the lack of winter facilities with future parks. In both existing and future parks and recreational areas, attention should be given to accommodating the needs of people with disabilities and elderly users. When renovating existing facilities the needs of all users should be given consideration.

The current lack of passive recreational areas is another area of need. The Town of Freedom was a key player in the development of the Outagamie County Greenways Plan and would like to pursue the development of a walking/hiking/cross-country ski trail. Serious consideration should also be given to the development of a multi-modal trail along County Road E, providing safe bike and pedestrian access between the Freedom High/Middle School and Freedom Elementary School.

FIGURE 2: PARK SERVICE AREAS



RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations outlined below are intended to address recreational and facility needs in the Town of Freedom by developing new facilities presently not available, expanding the amount of facilities when demand exceeds supply, and maintaining existing facilities to provide a continued high level of user satisfaction. Because of unforeseen needs and opportunities, town officials and residents should review the recommendations on an annual basis.

LAND ACQUISITION

The acquisition of additional acreage is needed in the near future to meet the high demand for organized recreational activity in the town combined with its expected population increase. The fact that VFW Memorial Park has little additional room within the current park boundaries for development underscores the need for additional parkland. Acquisition of the property for parks within the Town of Freedom is dependent on land resources needed to serve the population needs for both active and passive recreational needs.

One specific land acquisition recommendation is to acquire the vacant land located adjacent to the north of VFW Memorial Park and west of McHugh Road for expansion of the park and construction of new active and passive recreation facilities. Another area within the town identified as needing one or more park facilities is the area in the northwest corner of the State Highway 55 and County Highway S intersection. Park facilities are needed to serve the existing residential subdivisions and projected future residential growth in this area. The creation of park facilities within this area will reduce the need for pedestrian travel across the heavily travelled state and county highways, thus increasing pedestrian safety in the community.

PARK DEVELOPMENT

Development of acquired and undeveloped park lands for recreational opportunities should be of significant priority. To meet recreational demand for park facilities, the town has a critical need to acquire and develop sites for recreational and sports programs. These sites should be accessible, safe, visible, and efficient to maintain. While reviewing new development options the town should also be aware of the need to renovate, repair, and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities.

VFW Memorial Park

The 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan identified a number of specific recommendations for VFW Memorial Park, two of which have been implemented. The two recommendations implemented since the 2008 plan are the construction of concessions by the soccer fields and renovating the existing pavilion. Although there is strong local sentiment for concentrating the town's primary recreational activities at this location, little area is available to provide additional opportunities without expansion. Therefore, the following are specific recommendations for improvement of VFW Memorial Park:

- Acquire vacant land north of the soccer fields in the existing park for park expansion
- Construct new softball diamonds, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, trails, a splash pad, concession stand, restrooms, playground equipment, pavilions/shelters, community gardens, and stormwater management facilities in acquired vacant land for all age groups and people with disabilities.
- Renovate/update existing softball and baseball diamonds

- Increase on-site parking
- Construct trails around park
- Update existing playground equipment and basketball and volleyball courts for all age groups and people with disabilities.

Rickert Park

Rickert Park serves as both a neighborhood park and the home of the Freedom Area Historical Society. Except for the Freedom Area Historical Society building, the playground facilities and baseball/softball diamond consisting of only a backstop are in need of significant updates. Rickert Park is in need of a transformation to increase use of the park and to give the park a purpose. Therefore, the following are specific recommendations for improvement of Rickert Park:

- Replace and expand playground equipment.
- Construct a new pavilion/shelter and/or expand the sheltered picnic area in rear of the Freedom Area Historical Society building
- Construct volleyball, pickleball, and/or basketball courts
- Increase on-site parking

Lions Park

Lions Park is the newest park in the Town's park system and contains the only developed trail within the Town. The majority of this park is undeveloped, containing a regional stormwater pond and a walking trail with benches surrounding the pond. The following are specific recommendations for improvement of Lions Park:

- Improve landscaping
- Extend the trail to Sharon Rose Ct. through development of the Garden Estates Trail
- Construct an observation deck/pier adjacent to or within the stormwater pond
- Construct off-street parking

Citizens Park

Citizens Park is the smallest park in the Town's park system, located on the corner of CTH S and CTH E. This park provides a centralized gathering point in the heart of the community, but due to the location and size of the park, there is little room for additional facilities or significant improvements. The facilities in this park include a gazebo and park benches. The following is a specific recommendation for improvement of Citizens Park:

- Continue maintenance of facilities and landscaping within the park.

New Neighborhood Parks

The town should acquire and develop a neighborhood park site in the northwestern quadrant of the town. A site capable of also providing winter recreational opportunities would be an asset.

One area within the town identified as needing one or more park facilities is the area in the northwest corner of the State Highway 55 and County Highway S intersection. Park facilities are needed to serve the existing residential subdivisions and projected future residential growth in this area. The creation of park facilities within this area will reduce the need for pedestrian travel across the heavily travelled state and county highways, thus increasing pedestrian safety in the community.

Natural Open Spaces

Consideration should be given to acquisition of natural open spaces to maintain areas for passive recreation use.

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS DEVELOPMENT

Development trails and greenways for bike and pedestrian recreation and transportation opportunities should also be of significant priority. To meet recreational demand for bike and pedestrian transportation facilities, the town has a critical need to acquire and develop trails and greenways within the Town. These sites should be accessible, safe, visible, and efficient to maintain.

County Highway E Multi-Modal Trail

The Town should consider and support the construction of a multi-modal trail within the County Highway E right-of-way from the Freedom High/Middle School to the Freedom Elementary School. This trail would provide a safe route between the two schools and much needed bike and pedestrian recreational facilities in the Town. Outagamie County has submitted a WisDOT Local Program (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) grant application for the reconstruction of County Highway E, from Holland Rd. to State Highway 55, and the construction of a multi-modal trail within the County Highway E right-of-way in a portion of this segment of road. The Town of Freedom has entered into an agreement with the County to share project costs if the grant is awarded to the County. The Town has also provided the County a letter of support for the proposed project.

Further extensions of the proposed CTH E multi-modal trail to both the south and north should also be long-term considerations to connect with the City of Appleton and the Newton Blackmour State Trail. The Apple Creek YMCA was constructed adjacent to the 105-acre Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve located on CTH E in the City of Appleton. The facility development included the construction of 3 miles of nature trails in the preserve. The Town of Freedom's development of the proposed trail on CTH E would be a step in the right direction for providing linkage into the preserve from the north.

Town Park/Freedom Schools Connection

The town should continue investigating and planning for linking Citizens Park, Rickert Park, VFW Memorial Park, Lions Park, and the Freedom High/Middle and Elementary Schools with a sidewalk and multi-modal recreational trail system for pedestrians and bikers. This should incorporate existing sidewalks, trails, and trail easements, and the proposed County Highway E multi-modal trail. Securing the necessary rights-of-way will require either land acquisition or easements from area property owners. This sidewalk and trail system should be demand-generated, based on interest expressed by residents of the neighborhoods. There may be potential for developing similar trails in outlying portions of the town.

Duck Creek Park and Trail

Consideration should be given to the acquisition of parkland and trail corridors in sections 10, 11, and 15 along Duck Creek for the creation of a neighborhood or community park, nature area, greenway, and trail from Center Valley Rd. to Vine Rd.

ACTION PROGRAM

The Town of Freedom's action program calls for completion of the development of VFW Memorial Park, the renovation of Rickert Park, and the establishment of a plan to implement in the acquisition and construction of trails. Proposed as long-range actions are acquisition and development of new parks to serve developing areas and improve the attractiveness of the downtown and local efforts to establish key segments of the Duck Creek Recreational Trail. Accompanying cost estimates are based on best available information; more refined estimates should be determined prior to budgeting for specific projects.

Action Program							
Recommendation	Estimated Cost (2022) *	Action Year					
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Long Range
<u>PARK PROGRAM</u>							
VFW Memorial Park							
Land Acquisition/Expansion	\$ 300,000	X					
Development of Expansion Area	\$ 500,000		X	X	X	X	X
Existing diamonds renovations/updates	\$ 50,000	X	X				
Increase On-Site Parking	\$ 30,000	X					
Trail Construction	\$ 50,000			X	X		
Update Existing Playground Equipment, Basketball Court, and Volleyball Court	\$ 50,000		X	X	X		
VFW Memorial Park Subtotal	\$ 980,000						
Rickert Park							
Playground Equipment	\$ 20,000						X
New/Expanded Pavilion/Shelter Area	\$ 25,000						X
Volleyball, Pickleball, and/or Basketball Courts	\$ 50,000						X
Increase On-Site Parking	\$ 20,000						X
Rickert Park Subtotal	\$ 115,000						
Lions Park							
Improve Landscaping	\$ 15,000		X				
Observation Deck/Pier	\$ 15,000						X
Construct Off-Street Parking	\$ 30,000		X				
Lions Park Subtotal	\$ 60,000						
New Neighborhood Park (Northwest or North of CTH S & West of STH 55)							
Land Acquisition	\$ 100,000						X
Site Plan Preparation	\$ 10,000						X
Development	\$ 75,000						X
New Neighborhood Park Subtotal	\$ 185,000						
PARKS PROGRAM SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,285,000						

* Costs may vary due to inflation, recession, or availability of materials.

Action Program							
Recommendation	Estimated Cost (2022) *	Action Year					Long Range
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
TRAIL PROGRAM							
Garden Estates Trail (Lions Park to Sharon Rose Ct.)							
Land Acquisition/Easement	N/A						
Development	\$ 25,000				X		
County Highway E Trail (Elementary School to Middle/High School)							
Land Acquisition/Easement	N/A						
Development	\$ 550,000		X	X	X		
TRAILS PROGRAM SUBTOTAL							
	\$ 670,000						

* Costs may vary due to inflation, recession, or availability of materials.

CONSISTENCY WITH COUNTY AND STATE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANS

Acknowledging the need and striving for consistency between the Town of Freedom Open Space and Recreation Plan and County and State outdoor recreation plans is important when the Town is planning for and developing new park and recreation facilities. The Town’s existing and future facilities will inevitably serve a population that extends well beyond the Town’s boundaries for years to come. This is most visible in the use of VFW Memorial Park by the Freedom Athletic Association and Freedom School District for organized sports activities and tournaments which draw visitors from throughout the State of Wisconsin and neighboring States. Consistency between these plans highlights the value of a regional approach and intergovernmental cooperation when developing new park and recreational facilities within the Town. This consistency also provides valuable supporting documentation for when the Town is applying for grant and outside funding opportunities.

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2022-2026

The Outagamie County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation plan 2022-2026 (County CORP) was adopted in December 2021 to serve as a guiding document for Outagamie County in developing and maintaining public parks and outdoor recreation facilities. This plan also serves as a tool to encourage participation in grant programs through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other agencies. The Town of Freedom’s goals and objectives outlined on pages 5 and 6 of this plan closely align with the County CORP Goals 1.2.1, 1.2.2 and 1.2.4 and their associated objectives. County CORP Goals 1.2.1, 1.2.2 and 1.2.4 are outlined below:

- Goal 1.2.1: Outagamie County will strive to provide a variety of activities that are available to all people.
- Goal 1.2.2: Outagamie County will prioritize access to, and preservation of, natural areas, and provide a variety of passive and nature-related activities for residents and visitors.
- Goal 1.2.4: Outagamie County will plan for future expansion of the parks system that can be supported financially, in part, by continuing to pursue regional cooperation to use area resources effectively and efficiently.

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2019-2023

The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023 (SCORP) was released in March 2019 to provide recommendations guiding public outdoor recreation policy and planning decisions, the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund money that comes to Wisconsin, and other DNR administered grant programs. This SCORP is designed to both provide a broad overview of issues affecting nature based recreation as well as include information that the public and decision makers can use in evaluating local and regional needs and opportunities. The Town of Freedom goals and objectives outlined on pages 5 and 6 of this plan align with the SCORP Goals 1 through 3 and their associated objectives. SCORP Goals 1 through 3 are outlined below:

- Goal 1: Boost participation in outdoor recreation. Increase Wisconsin residents' participation and frequency of participation in outdoor recreation.
- Goal 2: Grow partnerships. Continue to strengthen connections and partnerships across the spectrum of agencies, organizations, and businesses with a vested interest in outdoor recreation.
- Goal 3: Provide high quality experiences. Provide opportunities and settings – across the full range of public and private recreation lands – that, collectively, meet the state's recreational needs.

DEFINITIONS

Active Recreation: Recreational activities requiring physical alteration to the area or constructed and organized facilities in the area that the activity is performed. Such areas are intensively used and include but are not limited to playgrounds, ball courts, ball fields, golf courses, swimming pools, football/soccer complexes, and public boat ramps.

Community Park: A larger park serving a broader purpose and on a larger, more diverse scale than neighborhood parks. Community parks are developed for both active and passive recreational activities, and allow for group activities and recreational opportunities that would not be feasible at the neighborhood level (e.g., sports complexes, large play structures, swimming pools, ice skating areas, disc golf areas, etc.). The typical size of community parks is 20 to 50 acres, but the actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses and outcomes. Community parks serve an area of ½ to 3 miles surrounding the park.

Connector Trails: Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks, housing developments, and around the community. Unlike park trails, connector trails are typically located within road right-of-ways or utility easements, or provide a link between a thoroughfare and a nearby housing development.

Greenway: A linear park or open passive conservation area that provides passive recreational opportunities, pedestrians and/or bicycle paths, wildlife corridors and/or the conservation of open spaces or natural areas

Mini-Park: A small park used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs, such as a landscaped public use area in an industrial/commercial area, scenic overlooks, and a play area adjacent to a downtown shopping district. The typical size of mini-parks is between 2,500 sq. ft. and 1 acre, and typically serve an area of less than ¼ mile surrounding the park.

Natural Open Space: An area or portion of unimproved land and/or water that is retained for passive recreation use areas or for resource protection in an essentially undeveloped state.

Neighborhood Park: The basic unit of a park system serving as recreational and social amenities in neighborhoods, and developed for both active and passive recreational activities (e.g., picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, ball fields/courts, etc.) to serve individuals within a particular neighborhood or service area. The recommended size of neighborhood parks is 5 to 10 acres, but the actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses and outcomes. Neighborhood parks serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile surrounding the park.

Open Space: An area or portion of improved land that has been developed for passive recreation.

Passive Recreation: Recreational activities that can be carried out with little alteration or disruption to the area in which they are performed. Such uses include, but are not limited to hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, bicycling, and wildlife viewing.

Park Trails: Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. Park trails emphasize harmony with the natural environment, allow for relatively uninterrupted pedestrian movement to and through a community's park system, effectively tie various parks and recreation areas together to form a comprehensive park and trail system, and protect users from urbanized development and associated vehicular traffic.

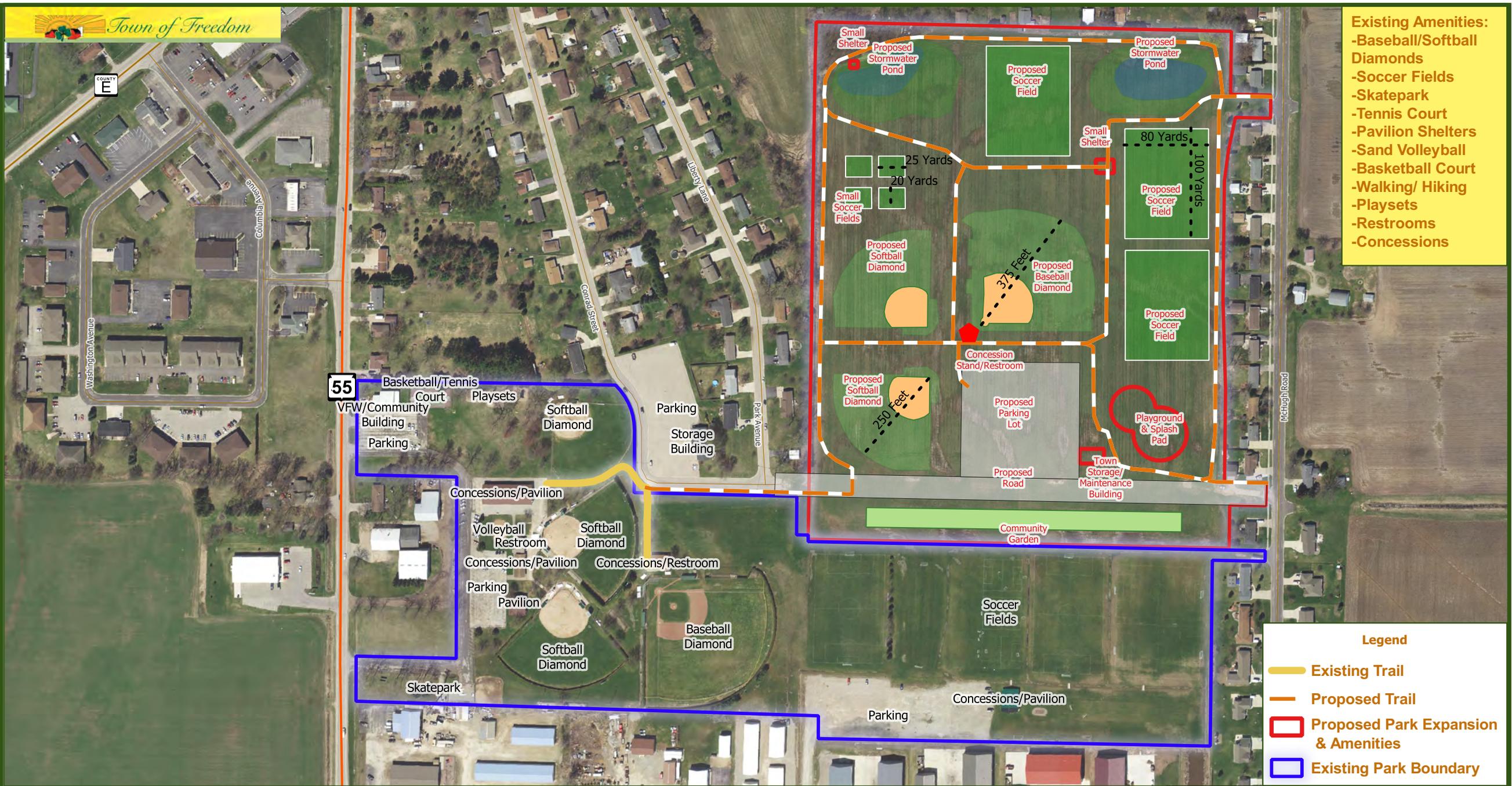
Private Parks/Recreation Facilities: Privately owned parks or recreational facilities, such as golf course, swimming pools/water parks, amusement parks, and sports facilities. The size and service area of private parks/recreation facilities will vary based on the intended use.

Recreational Trail: An off-street route through a natural area or the countryside that links paths, streets, parks, and other points of interest.

School Facilities/Parks: Park and recreational facilities surrounding public and private schools facilities. School facilities/parks will contain a variety of active and passive recreational activities (e.g., youth athletic fields, play structures, ball courts, etc.). The size and service area of school parks will vary based on the intended use.

Undeveloped Park Parcel: Property that has not been developed into an active or passive park, but may have potential to be acquired and/or developed for public park purposes.

APPENDIX A: TOWN PARK SITE PLANS



- Existing Amenities:**
- Baseball/Softball Diamonds
 - Soccer Fields
 - Skatepark
 - Tennis Court
 - Pavilion Shelters
 - Sand Volleyball
 - Basketball Court
 - Walking/ Hiking
 - Playsets
 - Restrooms
 - Concessions

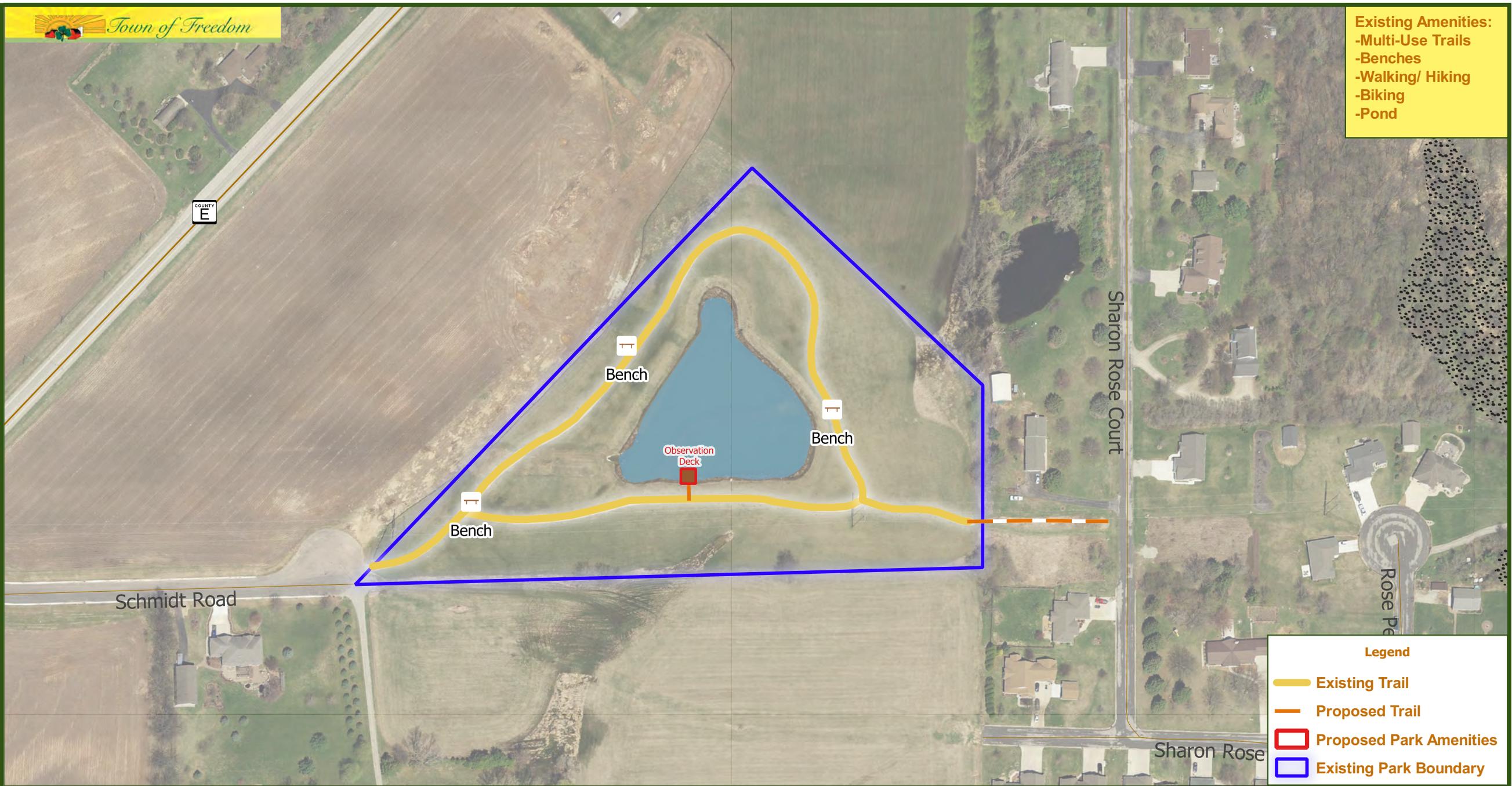
- Legend**
- Existing Trail
 - Proposed Trail
 - ▭ Proposed Park Expansion & Amenities
 - ▭ Existing Park Boundary

VFW Memorial Park

Town of Freedom, Wisconsin



Existing Amenities:
-Multi-Use Trails
-Benches
-Walking/ Hiking
-Biking
-Pond



Legend

-  Existing Trail
-  Proposed Trail
-  Proposed Park Amenities
-  Existing Park Boundary

Lions Park

Town of Freedom, Wisconsin



- Existing Amenities:**
- Green Space
 - Picnic Area
 - Open Air Shelter
 - Assorted Playsets
 - Baseball/Softball Backstop
 - Restrooms



Legend

Existing Park Boundary

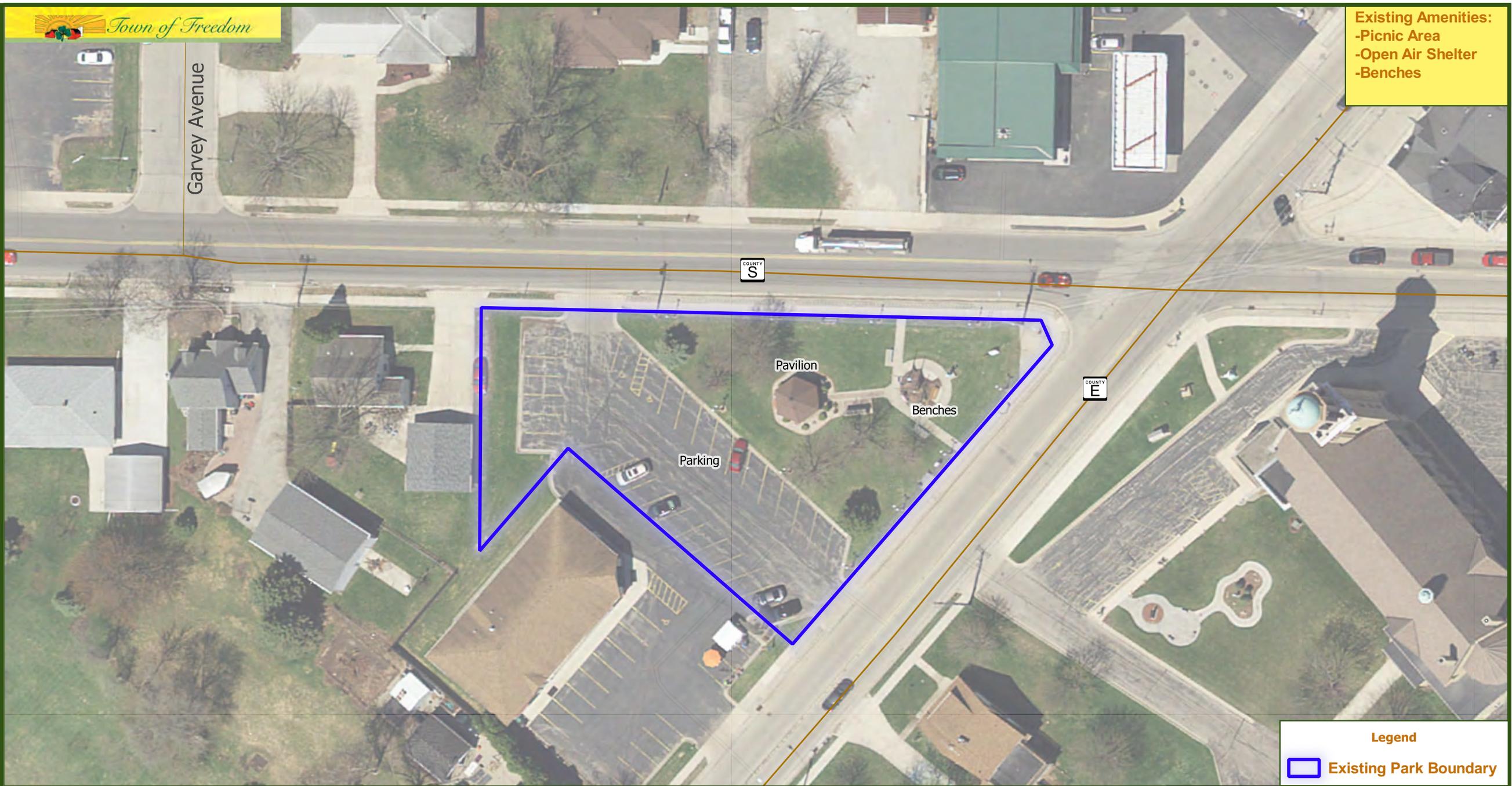
Rickert Park

Town of Freedom, Wisconsin



Garvey Avenue

Existing Amenities:
-Picnic Area
-Open Air Shelter
-Benches



Citizens Park

Town of Freedom, Wisconsin



Legend
Existing Park Boundary

APPENDIX B: ADOPTION RESOLUTION

TOWN OF FREEDOM

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWN OF FREEDOM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2022-2026

WHEREAS, the Town of Freedom Park Committee, at the request of the Town of Freedom Board of Supervisors, has prepared a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, and;

WHEREAS the Plan findings, goals, objectives, and policies are set forth in the *Town of Freedom Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2026*, and;

WHEREAS, the Plan will serve to guide in the acquisition, preservation, and development of parklands and natural open spaces within the Town for the next five years, and;

WHEREAS, adoption of the Plan by the Town Board of Supervisors will make the Town eligible for financial assistance in the acquisition, preservation, and development of parklands and natural open spaces within the Town, and;

WHEREAS, the Town Park Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the Plan on May 2, 2022, and;

WHEREAS, the Town of Freedom Plan Commission has reviewed and recommended approval of the Plan and this Resolution on June 8, 2022, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Supervisors of the Town of Freedom hereby adopts the *Town of Freedom Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2026* to serve as a guide in the acquisition, preservation, and development of parklands and natural open spaces within the Town.

Passed and approved on this 22nd day of June, 2022.

TOWN OF FREEDOM

By: Charles Kramer
Charles Kramer, Town Chairman

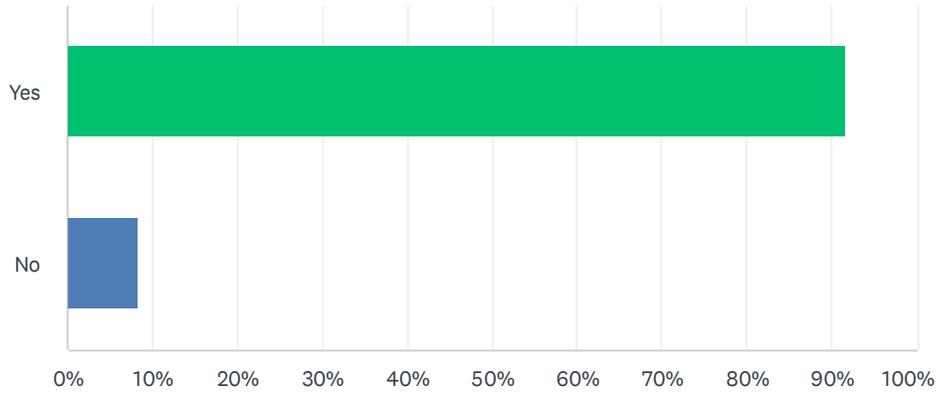
Attest: Colleen Laha
Colleen Laha, Town Clerk



APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Q1 Are you a resident of Freedom?

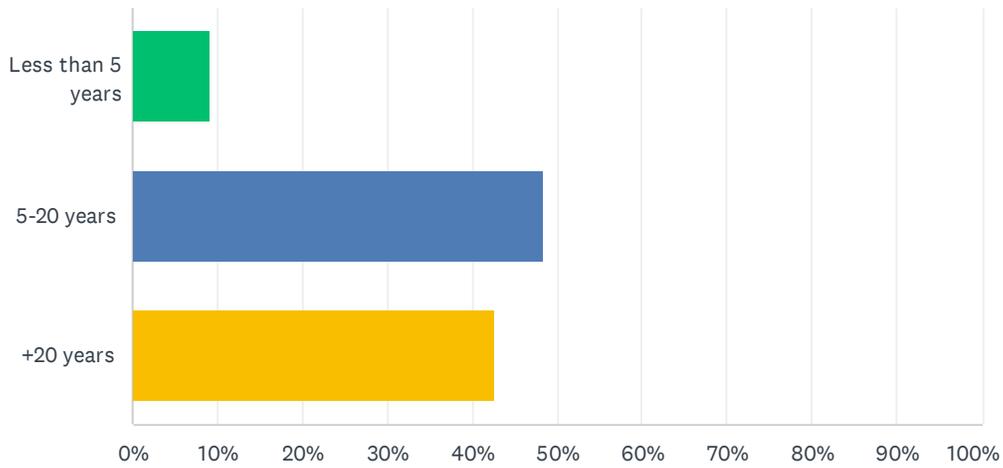
Answered: 430 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	91.63%	394
No	8.37%	36
TOTAL		430

Q2 How long have you lived in Freedom?

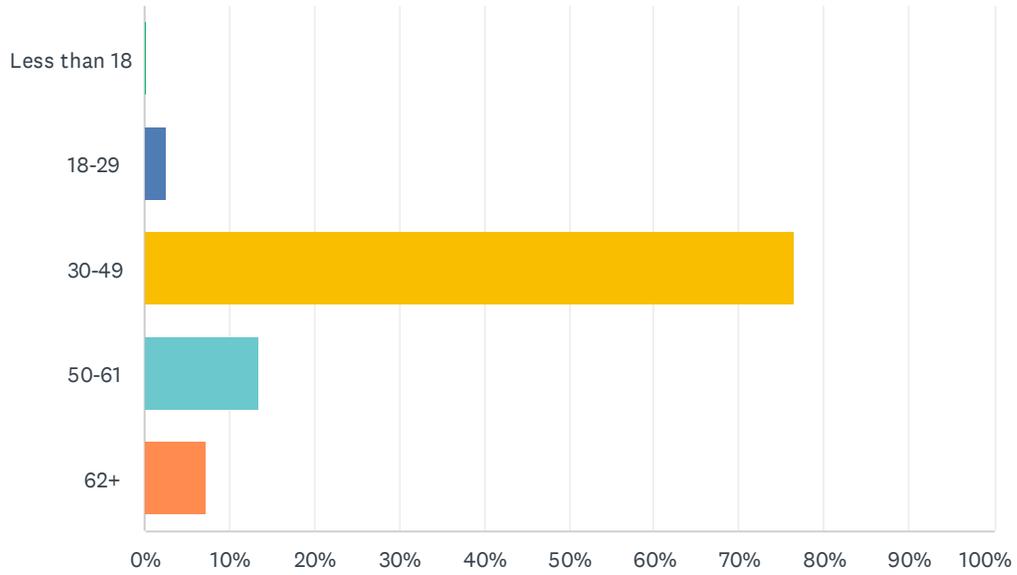
Answered: 416 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 5 years	9.13%	38
5-20 years	48.32%	201
+20 years	42.55%	177
TOTAL		416

Q3 What is your age group?

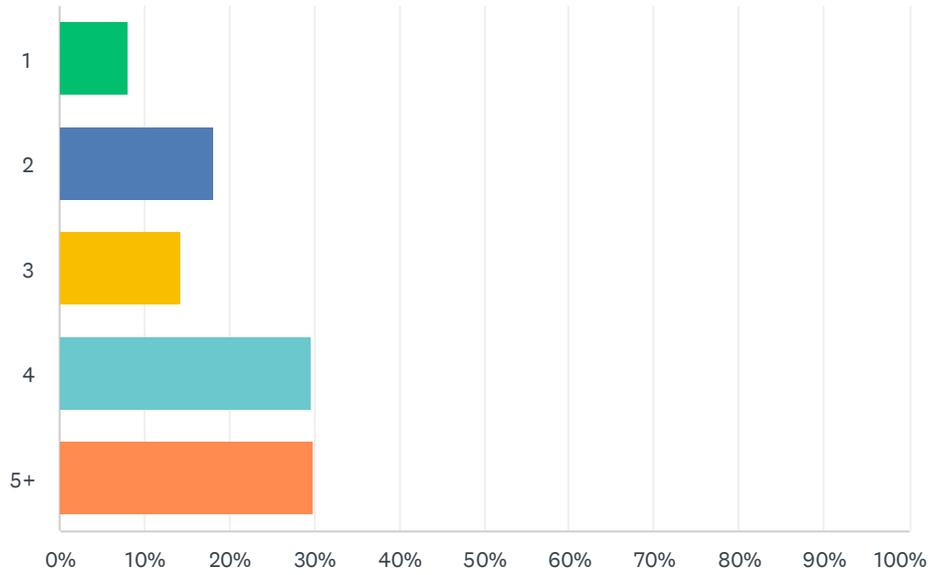
Answered: 430 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 18	0.23%	1
18-29	2.56%	11
30-49	76.51%	329
50-61	13.49%	58
62+	7.21%	31
TOTAL		430

Q4 How many people in your house use the Freedom parks?

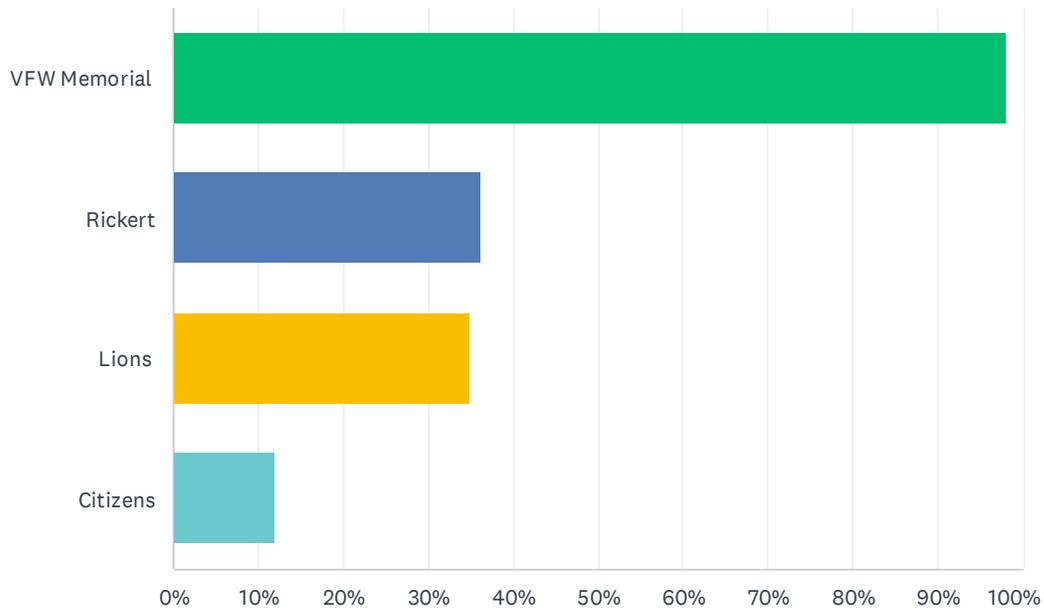
Answered: 415 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	8.19%	34
2	18.07%	75
3	14.22%	59
4	29.64%	123
5+	29.88%	124
TOTAL		415

Q5 What parks in Freedom does your family use? (Check all that apply)

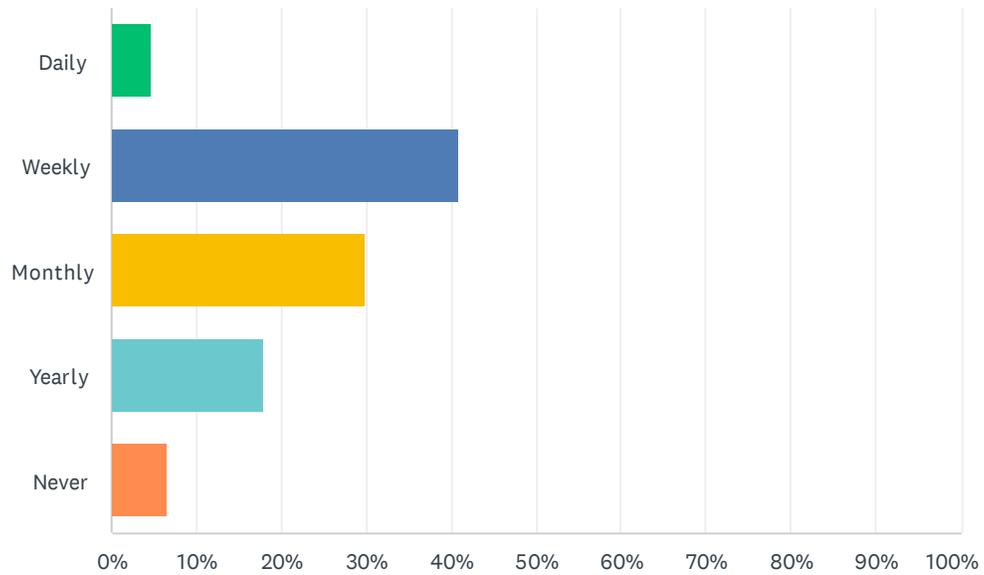
Answered: 410 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
VFW Memorial	98.05%	402
Rickert	36.34%	149
Lions	34.88%	143
Citizens	11.95%	49
Total Respondents: 410		

Q6 How often do you or your family use the parks?

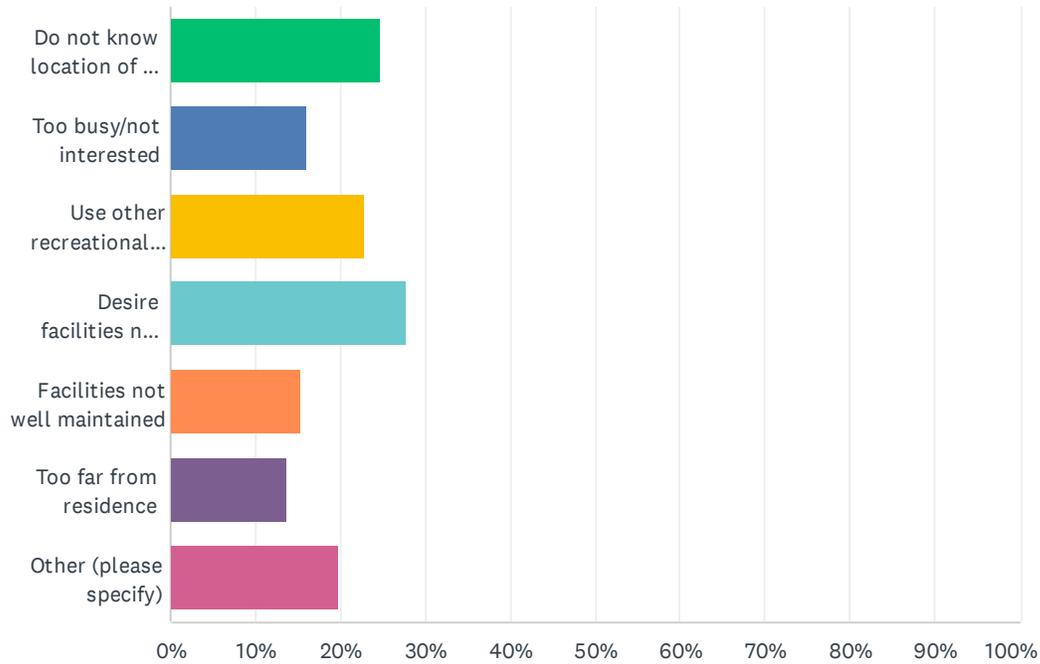
Answered: 428 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	4.67%	20
Weekly	40.89%	175
Monthly	29.91%	128
Yearly	17.99%	77
Never	6.54%	28
TOTAL		428

Q7 If you haven't used the town parks, what has prevented you from using them? (Check all that apply or skip if does not apply)

Answered: 162 Skipped: 269



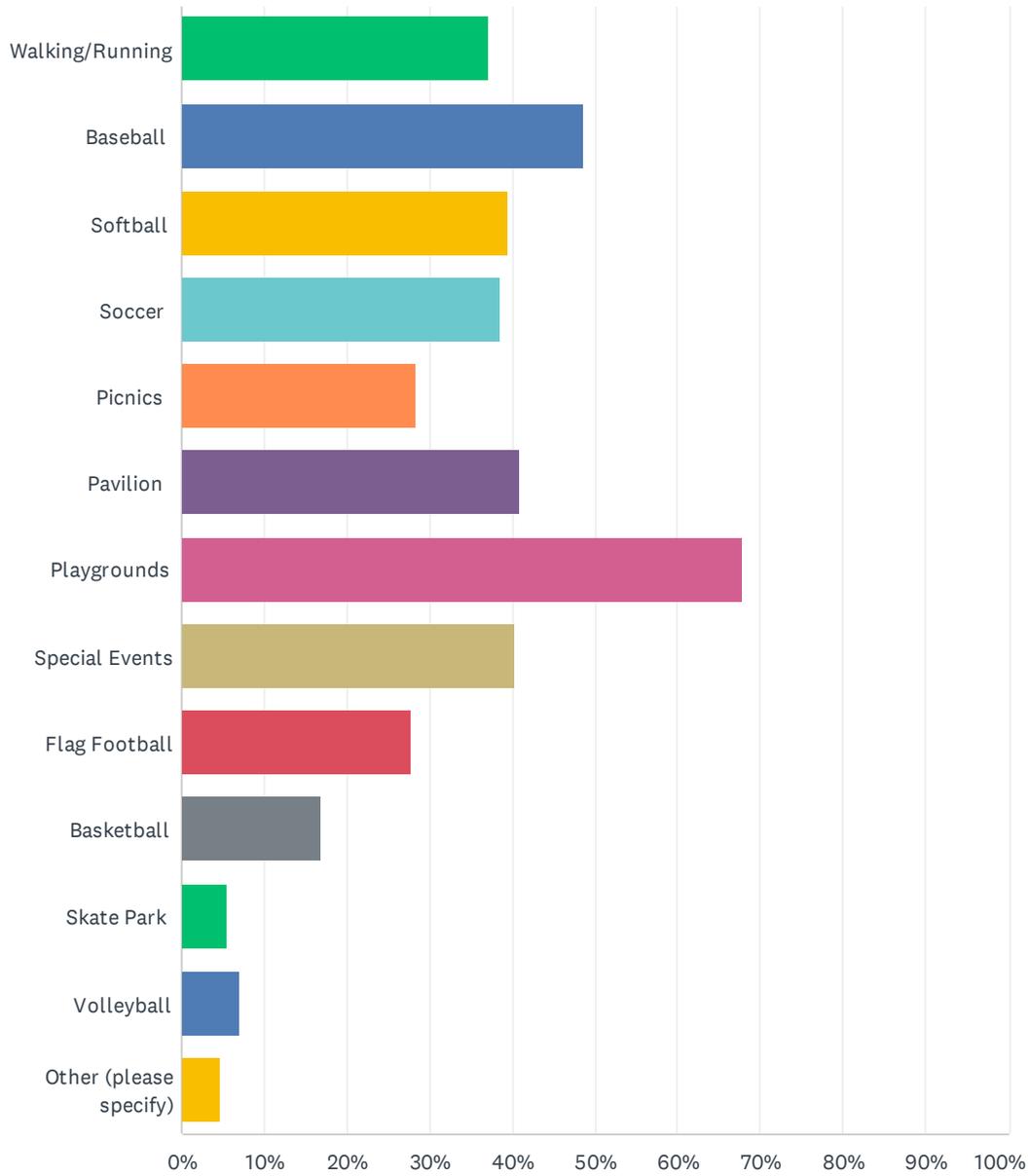
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Do not know location of the facilities	24.69%	40
Too busy/not interested	16.05%	26
Use other recreational facilities	22.84%	37
Desire facilities not available	27.78%	45
Facilities not well maintained	15.43%	25
Too far from residence	13.58%	22
Other (please specify)	19.75%	32
Total Respondents: 162		

Q7 If you haven't used the town parks, what has prevented you from using them? ("Other" Comments)

No need
Too small (equipment) to accommodate my varying ages of children
have never needed to use one but would like to know how they are available for use.
To many children
Use when need be, kids getting older, don't go as often to the park
Need more play ground things for kids at park
Wanting a better skate park.
Child getting too old.
They are all pretty lame / boring
The play area at the VFW is getting run down. It's time to update the climbers and improve maintenance.
Please consider allowing metal detecting in your village parks. Many villages require a permit be filed by the detectorist to ensure that the turf is returned and disturbance is minimalized/not noticable.
Won't go in winter months
Weather
kids are too old/no longer go to parks for leisure
I wasn't aware there were other parks besides VFW and Rickert park
We race motocross and never need to use the parks
Involved with other activities in the park.
Dont know where Lions and Citizens are
Usually go to Appleton more stuff to play with in parks
Depends on the weather and time of year
We would get more use out of trails. Snowshoeing, biking or walking our dogs. We have a 16 yr old that isn't in sports. We live on UU between N & 55. It's hard to walk, bike or run on those roads. They're too busy and very unsafe.
Under the pole shed would like a playground outside (not under a roof). Plus the playset is a little odd for younger children to play on.
Would like to have an actual park for kids by citizens like was proposed when building the pond align with a Childrens splash pad please and thank you
I use
Use them on as needed basis
No handicapped facility - very little walking trails
There is not handicap accessible playground equipment
Use them all the time
Amenities
NA
Did not know they existed
The facilities are pretty dated but we still use them in warm months. St Nicks has the best playground in Freedom which we use the most over the parks

Q8 What activities and facilities does your household use the parks for? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 410 Skipped: 21



Town of Freedom Parks Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking/Running	37.07%	152
Baseball	48.54%	199
Softball	39.51%	162
Soccer	38.54%	158
Picnics	28.29%	116
Pavilion	40.98%	168
Playgrounds	67.80%	278
Special Events	40.24%	165
Flag Football	27.80%	114
Basketball	16.83%	69
Skate Park	5.61%	23
Volleyball	7.07%	29
Other (please specify)	4.63%	19
Total Respondents: 410		

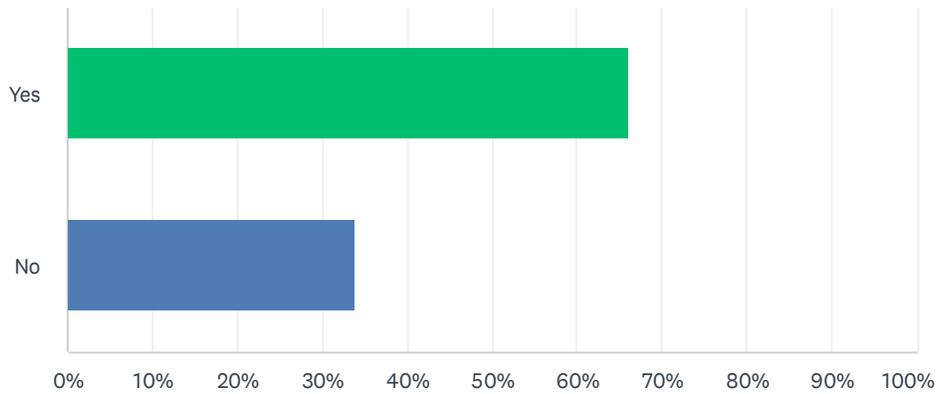
Q8 What activities and facilities does your household use the parks for?

("Other" Comments)

We have 12 areas for activities and facilities. When is it ever enough for the tax payers to afford. Let the people that want these things pay for it. Fixed income people can't afford this!
Biking
Running my Dog
Trail hikes
Skateboarding
Bands, Splash Pad, Pool, Mini Golf, Trails, Kayaking
I would metal detect if allowed
Placing kindness rocks
splash pad
When my son attends the VFW for daycare
Dog park
Pickle ball
Showshoeing & biking
Fishing
Pokemon Go
nome
Watching youth baseball
Splash Pad
boy scouts / cub scouts

Q9 Do you believe pets should be allowed in the town parks if on leash?

Answered: 423 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.19%	280
No	33.81%	143
TOTAL		423

Q10 What amenities do you feel would improve your experience in the parks?

Answered: 243 Skipped: 188

Q10 What amenities do you feel would improve your experience in the parks? (Comments)

Keep up the restrooms and kitchen area in the pavilion
Better maintenance of facilities
Larger variety of equipment: - toddler/baby area; - general play area
Lights on all softball/baseball fields.
more picnic pavillions to rent
Have a dog park or fenced dog running area
Improved playground equipement for kids.
I would like to see a safe biking trail between the Elementary School and High School.
More volunteer workers
Better maintenance. Lots of pot holes in the VFW park parking lot. Roof is looking pretty bad on the pavilion too.
trails, pavillions, trees/woods, bathroom, water fountain, picnic tables
More park benches. Get the word out more that families who want to honor a deceased loved one can donate a park bench in their name.
Paved soccer parking lot, update bathrooms by softball diamonds,
More diamonds for softball and baseball. Lights on Diamond 1 so that it can be utilized longer. A true dedicated staff of employees responsible for upkeep
A proper fishing pier in the quarry where people go fish all the time
Appreciate the bathroom, but would like hot water.
Walking Trails
Better bathrooms,
trails
Restrooms and drinking fountains
Splash pad/ pool
Easier access for elderly to games especially soccer
I'd love to see a map of where the parks are and what each has to offer.
Trails
Better skate park area safer too
More moder sitting play areas, like city park in Appleton!
Picnic tables
None
Clean bathrooms
Better trails and sidewalks to connect parts of the town to the parks. More open green space for people to hang out and do things like play disc golf. Improved fields with lighting--the baseball diamond has had a huge renovation (privately funded for the most part or it wouldn't have happened) but upgrading all the facilities and playground would make the park more appealing. The basketball court needs to be updated and possibly add tennis court? A performance pavillion (like Little Chute & Kimberly have) would offer a great spot for community events and performances, especially since Freedom doesn't have any theater performance space. Hiring a full-time park & rec director would help maintain programming and facilities better than current volunteer groups are able to do, this would also help create new opportunities for more people to use the parks instead of just the special interest groups currently doing all the work through volunteering (no blame on them, they are putting in a LOT of work as volunteers, so of course softball/baseball/soccer people will look after their own). Other towns have a full time position managing their parks and programming and it would be lovely for Freeodm to do the same.
It would be wonderful to have a skating rink in the winter and a splash pad area in summer
More/updated play group equipment. More baseball/softball fields.
Needs to be better maintained and taken care of

Band, Splash Pad, Pool, Mini Golf, Trails, Kayaking
pool
Volleyball courts
Walking trails would be a HUGE asset to the town
Nicer playground
Pave the parking lot at the VFW fields.
Add Soccer fields, Clean and unlocked bathrooms
Walking trails - and while I don't believe pets should be allowed on the grassy areas (only because some lazy owners don't pick up waste & ruin it for others) I do think they should be allowed on walking trails wast
bathrooms,
More walking/running paths
swings at more of the parks, or updated playground equipment at the older ones. Seating areas or tables to enjoy a picnic in the warm weather.
Walking trails?
Better restrooms
A splash pad
Bike trail, walking trails
Updated playground equipment/ bathroom facilities.
Splash pad,
Trails
splash pad
Splash pad, updated playground equipment, bathroom or porta potties,l
More trails and walk ways
Lights on diamond 4 and another full size baseball field
Metal detecting permit
A Swimming area.
We have no walking trails, no playgrounds other than what some Boy Scouts put up. We have a few poor fields, and that is it. Even the men's baseball field is only being improved because people other than the Town are the driving forces.
Improvements to diamond 1-make a dedicated softball field, Additional bathrooms/concessions stand near diamond 1
Walking trails
trails or paths that connect to the parks so people don't have to drive to them, upgrades to the playing fields and concessions areas. The new baseball diamond is nice, upgrading basketball area and adding other recreational spaces for other age groups would be nice.
Ball diamonds are in "desperate" need of attention. Infields and outfields are honestly some of the worst out girls play on .
Always have up to date bathrooms
Better lighting, better parking
Accessible playground and trails to walk/bike
Play ground visible from soccer fields
cool playground equipment (accessible and different), water features
None
Handicap playground equipment, new play ground equipment
Better/newer equipment
Newer playground equipment. Maybe a splash pad area for children. Picnic tables near playground equipment.
All inclusive ground covering
More bathrooms/better kept up.

Swimming pool
Lights
Splash pad
Up dating
Updated playground equipment for the kids.
Walking trails
More walking trails, maybe more things for older kids to do
Upkeep or refresh some play ground equipment
Picnic areas, swim areas
N/a
Better playgrounds, handicap accessible playgrounds
Water bottle fill stations
more parking, updated features
More rest room facilities.
More toddler friendly areaa
Splash pad
Better playground areas for a variety of ages.. We would use them far more often if there were better playgrounds in Freedom.
More equipment
More bathrooms.
More walking paths
Restrooms...shelters...grills
fix the fields for diamonds 1,2 and 3.
Splash pad
Upgraded restrooms near softball fields
Newer playground equipment
Lights on Diamond 1. Higher quality fields (the infield is dangerous with a lip between IF and OF)
Need dog park
Newer playground equipment at Rickert
Water for kids
Walking trails
Updated bathrooms
The basketball court needs to be improved
Everything needs improvement
Better quality playground equipment.
tennis courts and pickle ball courts
Trails, snowshoeing
The park with the ball diamonds is nice & we have used the pavilion a few times & that is so nice to have as well.
Bathrooms, garbage bags and bin for throwing away pet cleanup. More sitting benches, trails, walkways
Updated bathroom facilities, running and walking trails through desirable and safe areas of the town.
Splash pad
Better playground, walking paths, public restroom
More than 1 park in freedom with a play gym. It's old and run down, and always busy during the summer
Lights on fields, fix standing water or drainage issues, all baseball field better maintained.... No weeds, lawn cut timely and neatly, playground is currently dangerous due to age and abuse by visitors, camera should probably be updated and active. Score-booths are hot and could be updated.

Better soccer fields.
Updated bathrooms
new basketball /tennis court. New swings, seasaw and generally new playground equip.
Up to date equipment. Few more water fountains.
Outdoor amphitheater
Splash pad
Clean then up more.
Parking and bathrooms
Frisbee golf
a public pool!
Bathroom updates
A dedicated softball diamond
overall updates to the facilities, from signs to security
Pool
We need more biking and walking trails in Freedom. There NEEDS to be bike access between the elementary and secondary school for safety reasons.
More pavillions/shelters, bathrooms available at all locations, bubblers or water access during warmer months at all locations, more seating areas, wilderness/walking trails more accesible
Jsut an actual park to visit with besides the vfw which hosts games would be nice to have our own family type park available
Paving the path at the VFW park would be nice!
Level outfield, and soccer fields
Splash park
better bathrooms more than one outdated play area
Bathrooms
Running and Walking Trails
I think that some parks could be dog on leash parks like the lions
Picnic tables in Rickert Park, trail through VFW from Liberty to Industrial
More baseball and softball diamonds to practice on. The practice diamond is not usable because it floods all the time due to poor drainage. More parking would be nice too because whenever there is an event at the Post building and the Pavillion in the summer, then there's no where to park for the diamonds.
Quality, safe playground equipment, quality fences and field drainage, safe skate space and inviting well lit walking trails and picnic areas
Splash pad. We end up driving to Seymour's Lion's Park because it has a splash pad
pickle ball courts
Pickle ball
add lighting on diamond one
Well maintained.
A walking trail at VFW Park. Speed bumps at VFW Park between the two parking lots
Nets over the tops of bleachers
walking trails and more baseball/softball diomands
N/A - don't really use them anyway
note sure
walking dogs
SIDEWALKS on hey 55 to the park. There is non to the VFW...Splash pad, newer playground set, ice skating in winter
A dog park for residents would be cool
Add bathroom facilities in the pavillion

I would LOVE to see Freedom get a Splash Pad of some sort for kids! Newer playground equipment would be nice too!
An additional batting cage
Better lighting at all of the ball diamonds.
More shade
Updated equipment, green earthy ideas in mind
Updated facilities.
More seating benches...bathrooms
more shade
Lighting on soccer field and scoreboards
Updated playground equipment to all parks
Would be nice to have better batting cages to support tournaments. Many parks now have 4 cages all built together with a concrete floor and more solid fencing/netting.
more green space to congested
Better ball fields
Better playground equipment at Rickert park
Splash pad, more Baseball/softball diamonds, dedicated football fields that are maintained
Freedom needs a walking trail
Benches at Lions for fishing. More picnic tables at VFW, better bicycle access between parks, pave soccer complex parking lot, replace and repaint VFW Parking lot
Another softball field improvement of concession stand and bathrooms
benches, more picnic tables
pool
Upgraded seating, water access, improved baseball field maintenance, upgraded restroom
additional trails and wooded areas
Updated/additional bathrooms
More benching and seating
Playground at Lions Park, Splash Pad
tennis court, better basketball court, walking/bike path
We would love to see bike/walking trails or a splash pad
New dug outs for the players
More baseball diamonds, especially a full sized baseball diamond. I think walking trails would be nice in the park so you can easily travel from one destination to another. One thing we should NOT do is spend money on repaving the parking lot when we can make improvements elsewhere!!! The parking lot is fine.
PULL UP BARS
Improve diamonds , PA system and lighting
Accessible bathrooms year around
Softball diamonds need to be updated.
Lighting, better bathrooms
More softball diamonds
Additional ball fields, improved restroom facilities, improved parking
Additional ball diamonds, improved bathrooms
Updated bathrooms at the main vfw park
A dog park and better playground equipment at Rickert
Splash pad rubber playground
Improved diamond drainage
Updated bathrooms, water fountains.

maintain the bathrooms better, keep them clean
Walking trails
More parks with upgraded playground equipment
Updated playground equipment, shuffleboard, walking trail
Bathrooms that work.
Better Lights at VFW and lights and parking lot at the soccer fields
Nicer bigger bathrooms
Better bathrooms
Better batting cages and practice areas (fences for soccer practice, cages, a small indoor facility for winter)
More softball diamonds with lights. Update the bathrooms with more than just paint
Updated playground area, updated basketball area water area
Water / walking or hiking
Trails/ benches/nicer signs/
I would support any improvements
Walking trail
Pool/pond for swimming or fishing
Update and maintain drinking fountains, Improve the skate park, add tennis courts
Splash Pad
More amenities. Pavillions with water and kitchens
Walking trails around the park
basketball courts are run down and could be updated, it'd be nice if the batting cages weren't locked and or you didn't need to be popular to get access or be able to use them
Better softball practice and playing fields
Water pad
More organized set up.
public pool, update the basketball courts, a modern playground, activities for kids to do in town like surrounding communities have
Unsure
Bleachers/seats in soccer area of vfw park
better and more parking...esp by the baseball diamonds
Splash pad and more diamonds
Updating and improvement of fields.
Lights. More diamonds. More parking
Keep restroom open
Upgrades to parks
Vfw more parking more baseball space new basketball hoops
Updated playground equipment, better walking or jogging trail
Better lighting and another baseball field
Trash cans at Lions.
More diamond spaces for practices for baseball and softball
Splash Pad, additional ball fields
Better restrooms updated equipment for kids
Improved bathrooms...maybe an improved bubbler.
Better skate park, upkeep on the basketball courts and volleyball, better drainage on VFW park, increase space, and a swimming pool would be awesome!!
walking trails, UPKEEP of weeds,

Q11 If I could add or change anything to the Freedom parks, I would....

Answered: 237 Skipped: 194

Q11 If I could add or change anything to the Freedom parks, I would....

(Comments)

Make it operate on its own, not tax dollars
Nothing. Just keep up maintenance.
Handicap access to bathrooms or bathroom located at the pavilion.
Just maintain the parks to the best you can.
Challenging equipment for older kiddos and/or toddler play area. Sometimes, when busy, it's hard for younger kiddos to play with older kiddos.
Add a swimming pool. Designated biking/walking trails.
More trees
Love to have a fenced dog park or dog running area
Nothing
Safe biking trails so that we can get to the parks and town without riding on the highway.
Nothing
Better maintenance.
tennis courts, ice skating rink, walking trail to connect soccer fields to town hall parking. Natural area, maybe near duck creek.
Improved maintenance including surfacing of parking lots.
make them bigger, add more, add a dog park or make them dog friendly, add trails to walk on.
Expand the playground area at Rickert Park. It would also give more foot traffic for the Historical Society. Make sure the softball/baseball playing surfaces are properly groomed and are safe for all players.
Lighting parking extra bathroom at vow park upper part
Not allow beer/alcohol sales
Buy the land to the East of the VFW and put more diamonds in for youth sports
Purchase the old auto shop adjacent to duck creek on 55 and turn it into a park with access to the creek
More walking trails in the community
Add a Splash pad. Are batting cages open to anyone? Open football field.
trails
Splash pad, better and bigger playground equipment
Map system. I'd love to see some walking trails in Freedom and a fishing pond would be amazing.
I know they were just fixed up but I think we need better restrooms, with all the tournament's that take place I don't think we leave a good first impression of Freedom to outsiders.
Add to the skate park.
Walking trails connecting parts of town. Also, would be safer for kids running.
Put the land back on the tax base
Add more for families
Create trails for everyone to use to get around the parks and the areas surrounding the parks.
Add more to do in the winter and add walking paths
Add another playground area
Update the diamonds.
There needs to be a softball field just for softball there are not enough softball diamonds and too many soccer fields that sit empty most of the summer lol
Bands, Splash Pad, Pool, Mini Golf, Trails, Kayaking
paved parking lot at soccer field
Volleyball courts
add walking trails, and improve maintenance of the existing parks
Parking. Water facilities
Pave the parking lot at the VFW fields. Fix/install the draining systems for the soccer fields.

Create a safe and open running path.
Add special needs friendly swings - not just for little kids but for adults too
Add pickleball and/or tennis courts
add walking trails at each of them. I would install some sort of water area/water pad for during the summer months.
Provide residents with information about them and how the residents can use them.
Update the play areas for the kids.
Improve the bathrooms, bubblers
Update playground and bathroom facilities.
Youth weekend classes, lesson
Bike trails and areas to snowshoe and cross country ski.
Add a splash pad, build another park in the woodland subdivision
More trails and walkways. Along from the subdivisions and connect the schools so more people, and kids can walk to school or downtown to get ice cream
Leave as is. What we have is very nice.
Lights on diamond 4 and another full size baseball field
Metal detecting permit
Create a nature based park or walking area. Maybe along the creek between the Elementary School and Middle School High school.
Have actual facilities which include green spaces. Natural areas similar to Purdy's
Add nicer playground equipment at Rickert
Splash Pad
Improvements to diamond 1-make a dedicated softball field, Additional bathrooms/concessions stand near diamond 1
N/a
Install recreational trails for jogging/running/biking/walking. Hire a park & rec director to manage programming, facility maintenance and events.
Makeover of ball diamonds would really be beneficial. If it's possible land wise to add at least one additional field for softball that would also be greatly beneficial to host tournaments. Revenue can be made from both concessions during tournaments as well as looking at offering spaces on the fences for businesses to advertise. We see this all over when traveling to other places for tournaments.
Allow pets, walking trails, upgrade basketball area/hoops in parks that have this and add in parks that dont have this.
improve drainage of existing diamonds
Have better maintenance to our current parks.
Updated bathrooms
Ice skate rink
have an updated playground for young kids, possible water feature (mini splash pad?)
Just keep the parks small town and in excellent condition. Use week killer and mow so that it looks amazing and people will love them.
The bathrooms need an update!!!
Add newer equipment and a splash pad. Also, more tables to enjoy picnics.
Make the Freedom parks special needs friendly including a picture board for nonverbal kids
More playgrounds
Add a pool. More hiking / walking areas.
Splash pad
Update Basball field one
More parking at VFW park.
Add/expand walking trails

Improve the diamonds.
Definitely more walking trails
Add a swimming area
Playground updates/ landscaping
Better playgrounds
Keep golf carts, UTVs, ATVs and the fire department's rescue vehicle out of Lions Park. Wildflowers would be nice addition instead of mowing grass. More trees
Safer playgrounds
updated playgrounds and paved/gravel running trails
Not to over reach the future. Example: future population growth.
Add a splash pad
Our family would love a splash pad or something like that.
More room
Improve upkeep
More soft ball/ baseball field. And better parking
Not sure
Expand the park. We need more than 3 fields for housing ALL of softball and youth baseball practices and games
Splash pad
Update the covered playground equipment at the VFW. This area could use some TLC
Increase the number of diamonds available. The diamonds are constantly tied up from April thru September. We could use 2 or 3 more diamonds for softball and youth baseball.
Make them dog friendly, and allow a free roaming fenced in dog park
Have sidewalks on Hwy 55 to access the park safely by walking, have nature zone
Add safer things for kids
Make the high school baseball field turf and some walking trails
Lights to all of the diamonds. The practice diamond needs a lot of attention
Longer walking trail for Lions Park
We were unaware of Rickert park.
Add more diamonds
Workout equip/ninja course for older kids or adults. More walking/biking trails. Splash pad. Year round musical instruments. Outdoor gas firepit. Pickle ball courts
offer a walking path
Add some amenities to Lions Park. It is primarily a vacant field with a poorly draining gravel trail. Adding some shelters and playground equipment would be well utilized.
More trails and more of a natural area rather than just sport fields and playgrounds
I REALLY REALLY REALLY have talked for years about a trail/loop around the town that people could enjoy. Town isn't that big, so a 5 mile loop would be so awesome!
Improve the drainage throughout the parks. Have well-maintained sidewalks leading to them from high traffic areas. And create running and walking trails through desirable areas.
See above
Add more parks! And a splash pad like Seymour
Splash pad!
See #10
Update the existing facilities w/new equipment
Add more ball fields - the availability of fields is not okay
Another small pavillion by diamond 4 for concessions during tournaments. Practice diamond is pretty bad.

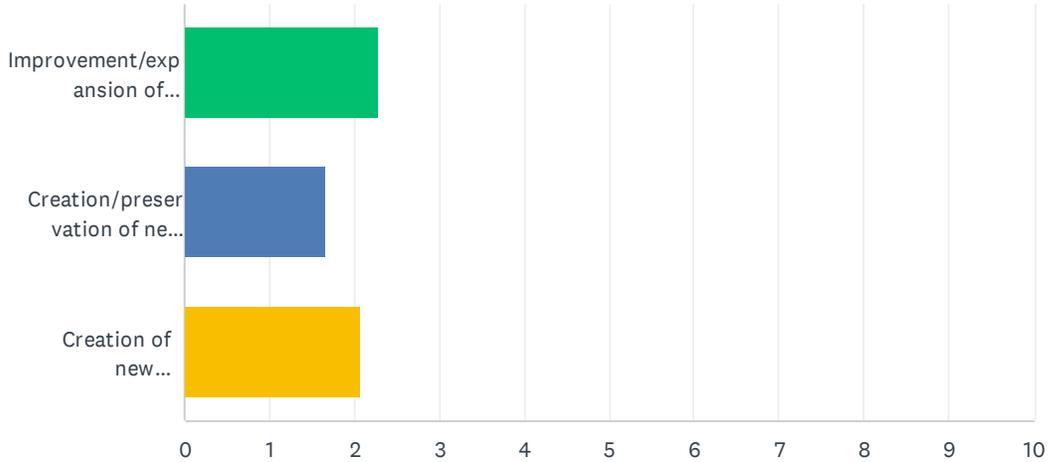
Outdoor amphitheater. Tennis
Add more space
Add frisbee golf
Add a pool
add additional bathrooms and maybe another pavillion or indoor play area for the long winters
Ad a dedicated softball diamond. That's about it
Pool
More softball/baseball fields
Biking and walking trails
more shelters and more walking/hiking trails
A separate fresh new park besides the softball fields
Connect the path to VFW memorial park to the abutting neighborhoods
Add a sledding hill
walking paths designated areas for walking and biking
Make fireman's pond an actual park
Improve facilities, equipment, fields and bathrooms especially
More equipment at rickert
Develop natural areas (may require land)
add more green space for walking trails, add more ball diamonds, add another concession stand with bathrooms. And I would add more trees for shade and open grassy areas.
Replace faulty unsafe equipment, fences, level the ground on fields and in parks, improve signage
I would develop a park with a more built out playground and with splash pad in a location not at VFW Park. That park is overrun with baseball/softball families basically every evening in the summer it seems.
update restrooms
New bathrooms by the lower softball diamonds. Also pickle ball courts with nets.
either add or update an existing diamond into a fastpitch diamond that is not used by men's unlimited arch leagues.
Walking trail at VFW Park
Nets over the tops of bleachers
more diamonds and more parking
The Lions Park would connect to Western Acres Subdivision
Spend less money on baseball/softball and more towards other sports
upgrade vfw park
allowing dogs
SIDEWALKS on hey 55 to the park. There is non to the VFW...Splash
add a bathroom facility in the pavillion
Definitely a Splash Pad and newer playground equipment.
Diamonds 1-3 are in rough shape, the few improvements still have not addressed the inadequate i field co struction and drainage. All 3 outfields have holes, ruts, etc that are safety hazards.
More diamonds and better bathrooms
I would like to see the parks updated and kept up better
Fix cracks in walkways for safety
Create more walking trails from HS to elementary school and around
Add more seating. Update bathrooms
more shade at soccer fields and more seating
Add lights to soccer fields as games run late and end at dusk. Other school teams have scoreboards. We need bike trails, almost got hit on s biking, cars go too fast and don't move over.
Update the baseball fields.

Add more family spaces. Places that are a combination of sun and shade with, potentially, permanent grill sites for families to go picnic.
Add more playground equipment, add ice skating rink & warming shelter
update present facilities and definitely purchase more green space
Up grade the park
Upgrade diamond 1 at VFW Park so it can be used for softball and night time games
Build a swimming facility for our children & grandkids.
Create bicycle trails between parks and schools. Create bicycle trail connections to Apple Creek YMCA and Apple Creek Trail. Create trails between elementary, high school, and new middle school properties
Add another diamond
add a pool
Security cameras due to damage.
Add another baseball diamond
drainage area at VFW lower diamonds
Updated or additional Playground equipment, Splash Pad
Hire more staff to clean
nature walking trails, snowshoe trails, bike trails
add more softball/baseball fields
tennis court, better basketball court, walking/bike path
Put lights in Diamond 1
get another full sized baseball diamond.
improve playing surface of baseball field. Redo diamond 1 turning it to face north east. Improve drainage on all diamonds.
update drainage on baseball fields to decrease rainouts and baseball lights, level field for flag football to avoid large divets
Restrooms need more toilets
Add lights, add baseball fields
Add a splash pad
Acquire additional property to the east of VFW Park to provide additional green space and room for growth, paths/trails, parking, etc.
Walking paths/bike trail, Improved bathrooms and another ball Diamond
Add a community pool
Make them accessible to all
More parking at vfw park and bleachers by the practice diamond instead of having to sit in the outfield.
Add a splash pad, new swing set
Improve ball diamond playing surface
See above. Also more walking, riding trails
Update to more softball and walking trails
Upgrade playground equipment.
Walking trail
Add more ball diamonds. Remove lips around infields. Crown infields for better drainage.
Upgrade the ball diamonds
Better restrooms
Number the baseball/softball diamonds so it's more clear for spectators
Redo diamond layout
Add more ball diamonds and upgrade the existing diamonds to match other similar towns. Possibly add a playground or too at smaller parks that are closer to subdivisions since most can not be accessed without a drive.

Develop trail systems that connect parks and school locations.
Add more softball diamonds with lights
More parking space, better up keep of the area.
Swimming
Larger sign for the entrance of VFW Park. Out of town teams don't know where the park is because there is not a large obvious sign.
Our parks are a great investment, I have no suggestions but I would support any good ideas.
Walking/running trails
A splash pad where the volleyball nets are
Offer more recreational options and have better drainage at VFW. We could definitely add more baseball fields. A swimming pool or swimming lake would be wonderful. Bikeing/walking trails that connect would be amazing!
Improved up keep
Get a pool!!! There's NOTHING to offer Families or kids older than 12, except baseball and soccer.
Add walking trails
Inform people when they buy their house and or even now send all tax papers an update on what facilities we have available to us to use as it seems like there isn't much to offer families or kids and we are going out of town to use facilities
Add Parking
Add a walking trail and more/better softball fields
Improve parking and new set up
Update current softball/baseball diamonds
public pool, update the basketball courts, a modern playground, activities for kids to do in town like surrounding communities have
Unsure
Make it bigger
Add additional diamonds.
Add more softball/baseball diamond with lights
Add Bike/Pedestrian Trails to town and parks
add bike trails, it would be amazing to allow our kids to bike to school without having to be on the busy roads
Fix the enclosed park when things are broken
Get rid of alcohol sales, better drainage on soccer fields
Include more softball diamonds
Condition of the playing fields, additional parking, additional fields, walking paths
More options for sports! We are constantly getting bumped off diamonds, it's beyond frustrating! And the play equipment is OLD, needs updating
Make is easier to get to the VFW and soccer fields via walking, biking, etc.
Rickerts Backstop is too small. Balls typically go into the neighbors yard.
A swimming lake or a swimming pool in summer, walking trails in town, and more parks.
Make them more visually appealing

**Q12 Where should the Town focus their efforts regarding the Parks?
(Please rank from 1 to 3 with 1 being the most important, 3 being the least important)**

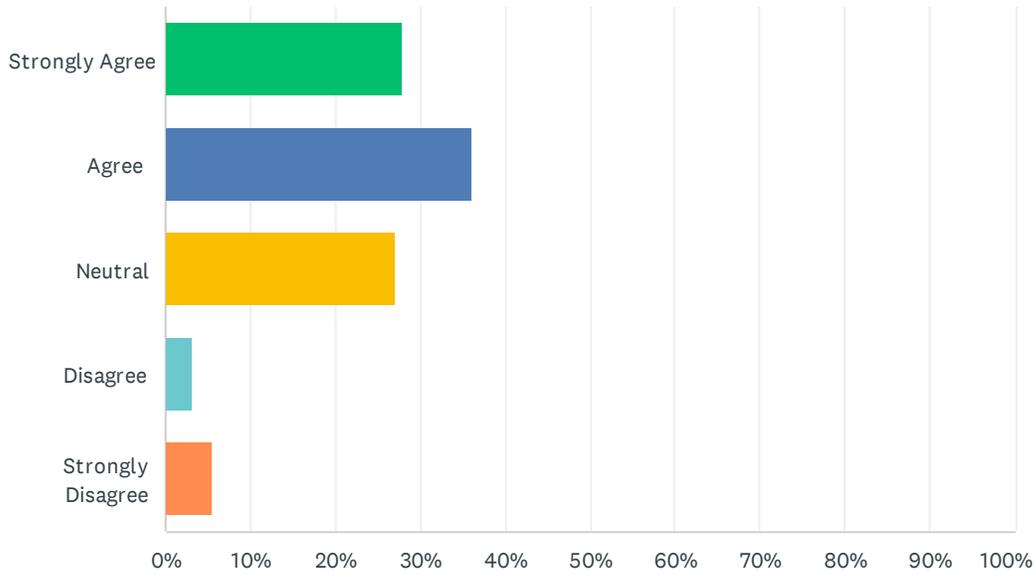
Answered: 417 Skipped: 14



	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
Improvement/expansion of existing parks	50.25% 204	27.09% 110	22.66% 92	406	2.28
Creation/preservation of new parks and natural areas	14.14% 57	38.21% 154	47.64% 192	403	1.67
Creation of new bike/pedestrian trails	36.74% 151	33.82% 139	29.44% 121	411	2.07

Q13 I would be in favor of allocating tax dollars to fund future park projects.

Answered: 425 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly Agree	28.00%	119
Agree	36.00%	153
Neutral	27.06%	115
Disagree	3.29%	14
Strongly Disagree	5.65%	24
TOTAL		425

Q14 Please include any final comments you may have on the Freedom park system.

Answered: 145 Skipped: 286

Q14 Please include any final comments you may have on the Freedom park system. (Comments)

You need to get the parks running on its own, not tax dollars. The problem with this survey is it will be mostly park people, not a real feel of the entire community.
With out Town so broke, we should not be looking for ways to spend money until or if we start allowing our town to grow.
With our town in such poor financial condition, the last thing we need are more or expanded parks. Shame on our town board for even funding this survey.
The town needs to do a better job in regard to taking care of what they have in regards to the park system. Expansion is good if land is available and cost effective.
Keep what we have. No new taxes; taxes enough in Freedom.
Thank you for considering this as something of importance for our town! We are growing and new families are expanding.
I would rather have upgrades to the Freedom schools rather than the Freedom park system.
Find best way to use for all events. May need additional pavilion space to accommodate groups. Also information sent out on park availability and calendar of city events. Like street dance and parades etc.
Please consider adding a dog park to Freedom
I don't want my taxes to go up.
Let's take care of our parks. They are heavily used, especially in the summer. We need to make sure they are kept up, so that people continue to use them and take pride in them.
At the present time I feel the Town is spending way to much money at the parks and get little return.
I would rather have a new high school than new parks.
Tax dollars - maybe. It would depend on the project. Ask the voters or put in the annual budget for approval. No special side projects. Have someone other than Cedar Corp design/bid on work to check on pricing.
handicap accessible dock or deck at duck creek
The town should focus its time, energy, and financial resources on maintaining it's existing recreational facilities. Roofs are in bad shape and parking lots are in disrepair specifically at the VFW park. A lot of people from neighboring communities come to Freedom for tournaments. How great it could be to have well maintained recreational facilities to help attract young families to our community. Question 13 is too vague - tax dollars on what kinds/types of future park projects. Don't let Cedar Corp gouge the Town on engineering fees.
It would be fabulous to have an area for dogs to run without a leash (dog park). It would also be great to have trails in the area for biking, hiking, and cross country skiing.
It has been a very long time since thought was given to improving the parks from the Town side. Thank you!
More lighting on walk ways to and from parks better parking for older people at the vow park
Connect the parks. Give kids a safe way via bike lanes/sidewalks to VFW Park and Elementary School.
The spaces by our one water space in town are completely underutilized and could greatly add to what our town has to offer
Would love to see more done to the Lion's park to get more play equipment there for kids
As with anything that relates to our community I think it is important to do the most good for the most people at the most reasonable cost. Consider which activities are most highly used and what to focus on and then allocate for specialized interests.
A fishing pond that could be used for fishing then ice skating
Glad I saw this on the website or would not have known there was a survey. I can just imagine how many residents did not know about this survey. This is not a good way to get feedback without the whole community input. Maybe there should have been a postcard send out to residents or some better marketing strategies.
The parks are good the way it is, but our roads are falling apart. Roads should be a top priority!
I do not feel this is a good way to get community input! There is no way every resident in this town will know/ take this survey. It seems like this is only be catered to a "certain crowd."
This is a terrible way to get community input. The town has many elderly people who do not have access to this survey.

I think it's important to update / upgrade the parks softball fields and concession facilities. Also, update the parks playground equipment.
Just take care by maintaining what we have now, by raking out & adding mulch, sand whatever is needed by swings & slide areas!
We live here to avoid Green Bay and Appleton. We don't want to make another crappy city here.
We as a town need to do a better job of providing the best opportunities for our youth. Be that with a school, facilities to practice & compete, & areas to meet and enjoy the outdoors!
We need more dedicated spaces for people to play outside and more activities to encourage people to actively use the parks. Recreation trails/sidewalks are a great start to connecting people to the resources. There is a lack of quality public spaces in Freedom, so addressing this through the parks would improve the town and community overall. The Town needs to ante up more resources for community spaces and stop relying on volunteer organizations to provide for everyone. The taxpayers pay low rates and the quality of community resources reflects this fact. Neighboring communities charge more, offer more and consequently provide better quality of life for their citizens.
A possible adjoining walk and bike path .
We enjoy using the parks in the summer but there really isn't much to do in the winter. Addition of bike & pedestrian trails also a ice rink with a warming shelter would be amazing!!!!
Another playground area would be nice to have, especially with a scavenger hunt option. Or even a splash pad to use during the summer months.
Diamonds 1,2,3 are over used and need improvements because they are not maintained properly. Updated baseball diamond is nice but does not get the usage the other diamond do. Soccer fields see very little usage. Some of this space could be used to add more diamonds.
Needs to be a bigger priority taking care of what we got and adding what we do have need somebody with a gricultural background sports background to know how to take care of the fields too many out of towners take up our diamonds on Wednesday night in adult league and on Sunday night they would have other options to play somewhere else The kids do not
Keep Freedom growing
Surrounding towns have beautiful parks and trails. I wish ours were kept up nicer so we can be proud to show them off!
We don't use them. We go to other parks and we travel. I don't want to pay anything for Freedom parks.
I don't really use the parks but do walk past them all the time and they look like they're really well maintained.
it would be great to have more sidewalks/paths to access the parks for those that live still within town but do not a safe way of getting to the parks, especially for those that are old enough to travel themselves but shouldn't do so on a busy road without any designated area to do so.
I'd like to see diamond one at the VFW get updated. The diamonds get used every day during the summer.
Desperately need more bike trails. Especially to connect the schools and parks. The shoulders of all roads leading into town aren't adequate for safe biking
We love Freedom but it would be nice to have a park and rec program in freedom.
Freedom is a great town, maybe we would know our neighbors more if we would see them outdoors enjoying a family walk or other activities
Item #12, create natural areas, NOT new parks for sports I would not want to know how many tax dollars were wasted on the lights installed at the vfw park.
Thanks for allowing the public input.
We are so very proud that we have sub-par facilities in this town, starting with our schools and continuing through our parks. Every community in this area invests in their community; we never have. It is about time that we invest. Our kids and grandkids will need to drive to neighboring communities because we don't care enough to spend a nickel. I am embarrassed by our facilities. Will they be improved? No. Like most other things, people will complain and kick and scream and nothing substantial will happen.
If tax dollars can be allocated to this, that is fine. I'm not in favor of increasing tax dollars for these purposes.
Allow softball program to upgrade a diamond just like baseball was permitted to do. Improve infields and fencing of current diamonds.

Investing in pedestrian/cyclist infrastructure would appeal to younger residents. The town should also coordinate the FAA and the town and school better to improve on the facilities and events held at the parks. Other towns pay a director for the parks instead of relying on volunteers to run everything, which insures consistency and quality for everyone using the park facilities and participating in activities there.
Business advertising could greatly offset annual costs to parks and diamond improvements.
Research what other Towns have done and take the best ideas. Elected officials need to educate themselves, take the lead and then sell this to the voters.
The parks are a great thing for the current kids growing up in our community. I think we need to start taking care of things we have vs always wanting new.
I live in Town of Kaukauna and my kids go to Freedom Schools. I live very close to Freedom. I would like a nice big welcoming park with playground equipment and trails for walking. We drive to Appleton to go to Memorial or Erb as those parks are great for kids.
Freedom should be building a new high school before allocating tax dollars to parks.
We love the park with the covering over it for rainy days! Thank you!
Please reach out on information to make freedom parks more autism friendly, sensory friends and all inclusive. My name is Kim And my number is 920-843-0443
We have other areas in freedom that tax dollars sb allocated. Our schools need this investment!
I believe VFW park is great!
I know this does not relate to the parks; however, I would like to add that the Freedom community could use a sidewalk off the road on E from elementary school to high school. Many kids bike or walk that road which is a great thing and it's only a matter of time before someone gets injured. I'd love to see a trail/sidewalk connecting the schools. There are many subdivisions nearby that would utilize. I've spoke to many about this and I feel it would be a great addition to our town to promote healthy activity
I see the need for more baseball diamonds, for example my t ball kids play on the grass practice field. I think preserving the open grass areas they use for flag football and other activities is also very important.
Having a recreation department and providing summer activities for adults and kids for a fee.
I enjoy the walk trail in lions park. I do not like how golf carts, utvs, atvs, and the fire department use it as a playground. It would be nice if the trail in there extended somewhere to the schools or other parks, that would be great
I think it would be wonderful if the Town of Freedom had a trail/paved path that connected Freedom Elementary School to Freedom High School. The buildings are on the same side of the road, and this would provide many students, families and pedestrians a safe opportunity to travel within the community all year round.
The parks activities are a real positive for our young children. The parks keep our children active and out of trouble. I really like that.
Splash pad would be great for this area since there is no town pool.
We would also be interested in kids classes or activities especially in the summer through a freedom park and rec program.
We need to plan ahead for needs of our children, handicapped and grandparents who want to enjoy well maintained grounds and development of new parks and recreation. Why not be a leader in the area?
Parks are always nice
We should be embarrassed at the condition of our varsity softball field. We need to hire adequate staff to maintain the parks, similar to other municipalities. We need to expand and create a true varsity softball field.
The town needs to purchase the land to the East of the park (and connect the park system to McCabe). We need a true varsity softball field and additional fields that could be used for softball and youth baseball. It is frustrating seeing the soccer fields rarely used all summer and the baseball / softball teams not have a field to practice or play on.
Need dog park
Some more lighting in parks and I would love to see some nicer street lights throughout Freedom
We need to offer more diamonds that kids can play on every night of the week.
With the town growing you definitely need to look into more parks with updated modern amenities.
Parks are great, but tax dollars should be allocated to school upgrades, new building.

I would absolutely donate money to create a trail. I think this would be a wonderful addition to the town!! I'm so glad this came out for opinions!
Have well-maintained sidewalks and create running and walking trails to and from the parks and school.system.
We need to start investing in our schools
I love freedom but it needs more parks and fun things to do. Would like to see some hiking trails
I would prefer spending any additional tax dollars on a new school but feel like that will never happen. I also feel that ball diamonds are important to the community. Tournaments bring people from other areas to businesses within the community as well.
Most people spend their time at the ball diamonds and flag football field. Since that is the most used, I would try to focus upgrades there. Also, just general updates to the facilities. The pavilion at the Citizens park could be upgraded or changed all together. A new pavilion there for brat fry's would be nice.
Would be great to have another baseball diamond, however, we can NOT lose any soccer fields! Soccer is HUGE in the summer and in the spring/fall with school soccer being there, too.
We have to drive to most of them. It would be nice if we had a town trail system to access them via bike/walking without being on County Hwy E
The parks - especially the VFW - are often what people from other communities are exposed too. How the parks are maintained and used says alot about the town's values and identity as it relates to what the people value and believe is important. With a limited "downtown" and no other true "recreation" attractions - the parks are something that the community can take pride in and as a result should be first rate.
Many motorists get angry/ impatient with bikers. However, this is the mode of transportation for many teens. It is also a way to promote healthy living. Other towns have done much better at creating a trail system. It is time for Freedom to make more trails- starting with a connection between the elementary and high school.
Keeping pets on leashes is a significant concern!
There should be walking biking trail from high school to elementary school
The men's and coed softball teams spend a lot of time at the park, and having nice fields/outfields are very important when playing the sport.
we truly need to have safe trails and paths for our community as we've grown and have more activity amongst the residents.
Lots of kids already use fireman's pond, it would be great to have actual trails along the pond and alone duck creek.
Multi-purpose trail on CTH E from elementary school to high school (work with county to include this in future reconstruction plans). Multi-purpose trail on STH 55 from CTH E to Industrial Drive
The town of Freedom would be crazy NOT to purchase the adjacent land next to the VFW Park (Don Fox land) and make more ball diamonds, soccer fields, green space with accessibility to handicapped. PLEASE expand the parks!
The quality of parks and schools in a town are what people see. If you let these go, you're setting the town up to fall to ruins. Let's make ours something to be proud of.
The only true park we have in Freedom is the VFW Park, and that could use updating and seems like every weeknight and all day on every weekend in the summer it is overrun with baseball, to the point there isn't even a place to park. I would love to see another park in a different location with a new playground, and a splash pad would be amazing! I think a good spot for it would be on the west side of Freedom's water tower between the parking lot and S. There is already a parking lot there there could be used, and it's already land owned by the town. I believe there is a volleyball area used by the school, but that could be relocated or incorporated into the space. Updates like what Seymour has with their Lions Park or Sherwood has with their park and splash pad is what we really need in Freedom!
keep them safe and well lit.
Keep low cost or free for for town of freedom residents.
Regarding dogs not allowed in the parks, people constantly bring dogs to VFW Park even tho they arent allowed. The pavillion at VFW park is awesome to rent and I recommend it to people often. I would love a concrete (or even gravel) walking trail around VFW Park.
Put this information in the freedom pursuit
need to expand for the kids are going to other towns to play sports and practice
SIDEWALKS on hey 55 to the park. There is non to the VFW...Splash

Freedom Parks are nicely maintained. At tournaments we often hear that our baseball diamonds are some of best in the valley.
Thank you for taking the time to look into our parks!
Thanks for addressing the lighting, but other than that the VFW has been stagnant since 2007 when I moved to this town. We have great people in this town who would love to be proud of something other than Buzz's.
please do something with our present parks and the purchase of more green space for soccer flag football walking trails
The school systems use the park for high school ball. Why is it that other school districts can put in turf fields at a cost of 1.5 million(Kaukauna, Little Chute)and freedom can't. We pay the same school tax. Does the Town get monies form the schools for providing them with a place to play ball? If so does the town put that money back into the parks?
Freedom needs better pedestrian bicycle facilities throughout the town. Additional sidewalks should be REQUIRED in all new residential developments
Not only do we need expansion of the park areas but the ones that we have need to be maintained
The Park system is good, but could be much better with necessary maintenance. More than just cutting of the lawns and fields. The buildings would last much longer if they were maintained properly.
Fix up the softball fields
I know this is not a town issue, but I'd rather see energy in the Freedom area focused on education and working to get a referendum for a new school passed versus making taxpayers and donors choose between options involving tax dollars as the response has historically been "No". Adding another tax funded item in the area I assume will just make updating school facilities more difficult to get passed.
The town has neglected the parks long enough. It is great to see that someone on the board actually cares about the parks and is willing to put time and effort into trying to get funds to improve the park. The tax base in Freedom is one of the lowest in the state, resulting in the facilities we have. Let's do something proactive and nice for this town and the kids in it and improve the parks.
VFW Park- Baseball Diamonds - Volunteer work weekend - maintenance, clean up and fixing of drainage on fields.
Purchase the parcel of land off Schmidt rd and ct. E next to the fire station. Make that into a new park.
NEED MORE FACILITIES FOR BASEBALL/SOFTBALL, THIS WOULD CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEAMS TO PRACTICE
Create a long range plan to update accordingly each year.
Let's take some pride in something around here. Time to update the diamonds and park. If we can't pass a referendum to build a HS let's give these kids something to be proud. With the the pavilion having grad parties etc while the youth have tournaments we need to increase or add restrooms to accommodate. Thanks
Bike or walking trails would be great. I drive to other towns to use their trails.
These parks are highly utilized and very important to many Freedom families. It's important to keep them current.
VFW Park is well utilized for a good portion of the year and draws a lot of people from outside the area to Freedom. It would be great to invest in our current park space and facilities as well as reserving space for future park growth.
We have to keep our town looking nice and favorable for families in community
Would love more walking/biking trails from current HS to elementary school. Also from HS to VFW park. Would essentially like safe trails from elementary all the way to soccer fields as an option.
Walking trails and more places for our youth for sports.
Our family is relatively new to Freedom and there seems to be a real lack of community gathering places. I would love to see 3-5 nice parks foe you g families. They do t have to be big and fancy, but Nice and we'll maintained. It would also be nice if there were some community events at the parks.
We get many compliments on the VFW park from visitors but need to address the condition of the fields/fences as well as address the lack of diamonds. Connecting the schools, St. Nicks and VFW park with paths would be a great feature for our town. Would also consider changing out the lion water fountains for something that works better. The practice diamond also needs to be re-graded as it holds water for days after any rain and is unplayable creating even more of a diamond shortage for younger teams.
Town does not do a good job maintaining and running the park system in freedom.

We just don't have enough room for the large number of kids who'd like to participate in sports right now. Diamond time is difficult to find for practice and even for scheduling league games and tournaments. It's great we have so many kids who are there to play but we don't have room for them.

Create a system where residents and visitors can walk safely in the community for exercise and relaxation.

These parks haven't changed much since I was in school. Our kids deserve better facilities if we want this town to continue to grow.

Our usage is seasonal-we are there constantly during the summertime. So much in the winter.

We are happy to have our parks and will support them!

Our parks definitely need to be updated and improved. I'm glad to see steps being taken to update them.

Let's see... new fire station, new fire truck and now a new tractor. All of which will hit our property tax bill in 2022. I think that's enough for a while.

The way the town uses our tax dollars currently which is looked down upon and or doesn't take into consideration what the public thinks, I would hate to see what they think is a good idea for the parks. Also we would then need town employees to maintain these parks which we have a hard time already with this for getting our roads plowed and salted. As a town board you should also help support the school with getting a new school as Education is a huge factor on keeping tax payers as well as getting new ones to the area vs not supporting the development.

We have a very nice park but it is in need of much needed renovations. I know some things have been done already but our softball/baseball fields are way over due.

Please consider adding trails on S, E and 55! We would use them all of the time!

I would love to see a bike trail separate from the road so kids can bike safely into town or to school. A trail from the high school to the elementary school, I believe would be very beneficial and also from town along Cty S till Cty N and on Cty N to Cty E.

My kids have enjoyed the parks and can't wait to see what the future holds for the parks

I'd be happy to pay more in taxes for better parks, but would rather spend money on schools first.

More safe walking trails, please :) If dogs are allowed in parks, signage and possibly waste bags highlighting importance of cleaning up after your dog!

It is great for the town we have, but with new housing developments, we need to expand for future needs.

Thank you for all you do to keep our town park looking nice.