VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA PLAN COMMISSION MEETING

Date:Wednesday, April 3, 2024Time:6:00 p.m.Place:Large Conference Room (Rm 205), 310 Chieftain Street, Osceola WI 54020

AGENDA

- 1. Call the meeting to order
- 2. Approval of agenda
- 3. Approval of minutes
 - a. March 5, 2024
- 4. Public input and ideas (Limit 3 minutes per speaker)
- 5. Discussion and possible action re:
 - a. Fair Building
 - b. MSA Professional Services:
 - i. DNR Stewardship Resolution #24-04 & Procurement
 - ii. Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Full Draft and Resolution #24-05
 - iii. First Round Draft Village Comprehensive Plan and corresponding maps
 - c. Ordinance §219-13(C) discussion/update
- 6. Future agenda items and updates
- 7. Adjourn

NOTE: It is possible that members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above-stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.

Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Village Hall at (715) 294-3498.

PLAN COMMISSION MEETING PROCEEDINGS March 5, 2024

The Plan Commission of the Village of Osceola met on March 5, 2024, to hold a regular monthly meeting. Chair Gilliland called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Bruce Gilliland, Kim O'Connell, Bill Chantelois V, Rob Bullard, Dennis Tomfohrde and Brad Lutz and Mike Sine

Staff present: Devin Swanberg and Tanya Batchelor

Motion to approve the agenda was made by O'Connell, second by Bullard.

Motion passed 7-0

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, February 6, 2024, was made by Bullard, second by Sine. Motion passed 7-0

Public Input and Ideas- None

Discussion and possible action re:

Comprehensive Plan Update

Emily Herold from MSA gave an update on the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Emily asked for preliminary recommendations at this meeting. Chapter 2 About Osceola, gives an inventory of public and private recreational areas. It was suggested to add Osceola Landing to the nearby outdoor recreation in case we want to connect the village to the landing across the bridge in the future.

The community engagement survey received quality feedback. Cascade Falls and Oakey Park are the most visited parks. People want walking and hiking trails. They would like to see updated equipment, maintained existing trails and some new trails. Residents would like to see a playground or a fenced dog park in Gateway Meadows. Pheasant Run would be a great place to add a walking trail or playground.

Emily, from MSA, explained that each park will have a page in the plan that will include the existing conditions, recommended improvements, and cost estimates.

Possible future projects include replacing the grandstand at Oakey Park, wayfinding improvements for all parks, adding dog waste bag receptacles, and additional bike racks downtown.

Park maintenance solutions could include reducing mowing by selling portions for mowed areas or turning them into natural, no maintenance or low maintenance areas; and leveraging partnerships with park and trail groups to help with maintenance.

The committee discussed ideas for various parks: Ladd Memorial Park – replace fencing, add historical information

Pheasant Run - add low maintenance trail

Erik Park - future amenities to consider a pickleball or tennis court

Oakey Park - need to get this surveyed to make sure everything stays within the boundaries. Devin is

meeting with the Cemetery Committee to discuss this, renovating or relocating restrooms near the playground. The Braves may be willing to partner with the village on renovating the grandstand. Safety lighting needs to be added at this park to deter vandalism or other negative activities. A previous park plan for Oakey Park included a paved walkway, restrooms, a pavilion, sidewalks and accessibility. Short-Elliott-Hendrickson completed this plan and Devin will send it to Emily from MSA. The skate park group has fundraised ³/₄ of their goal of \$200,000 so will be moving forward soon. This park will be very close to Oakey Park.

Millpond park – promote the gravel parking lot as a tourist or overflow parking lot with wayfinding so people know where it is. Also add lighting, maybe a large gazebo with an event stage and seating. There is an unused parcel of land near this park that could be used for an accessible park for little kids with a walking bridge. The primary goal is to take care of the natural resources we have, add wayfinding and then move to auxiliary parks and in time we can add infrastructure.

Gristmill Park – add lighting, can be addressed when we do Cascade Falls.

Geiger Park – replace footbridge and fix steps, and possibly put a mural on the retaining wall.

Eagle bluff – this park will have to wait until the bridge is replaced.

Shillberg Park – could have its own plan, look at adding features that are low maintenance, the bike path gets lots of use and it's a beautiful park.

Cascade Park – will be done with grant funding.

A new trail suggestion would be between downtown and Osceola Medical Center, we have easements on the west side of Hwy 35 and from River Road to Cascade Park.

Future Agenda Items

Updates will be provided in April for the Comprehensive Plan and they will break down the elements. There will be a CUP hearing in May and a potential PUD for the April or May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. Minutes Respectfully submitted by Tanya Batchelor, Village Treasurer



Memo

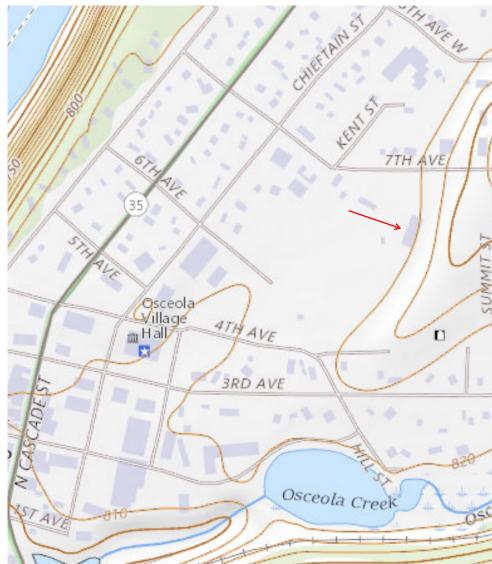
| To: | Planning Commission |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| From: | Devin Swanberg Village Administrator |
| CC: | Village Board |
| Date: | March 29 th 2024 |
| Re: | Fair Building |
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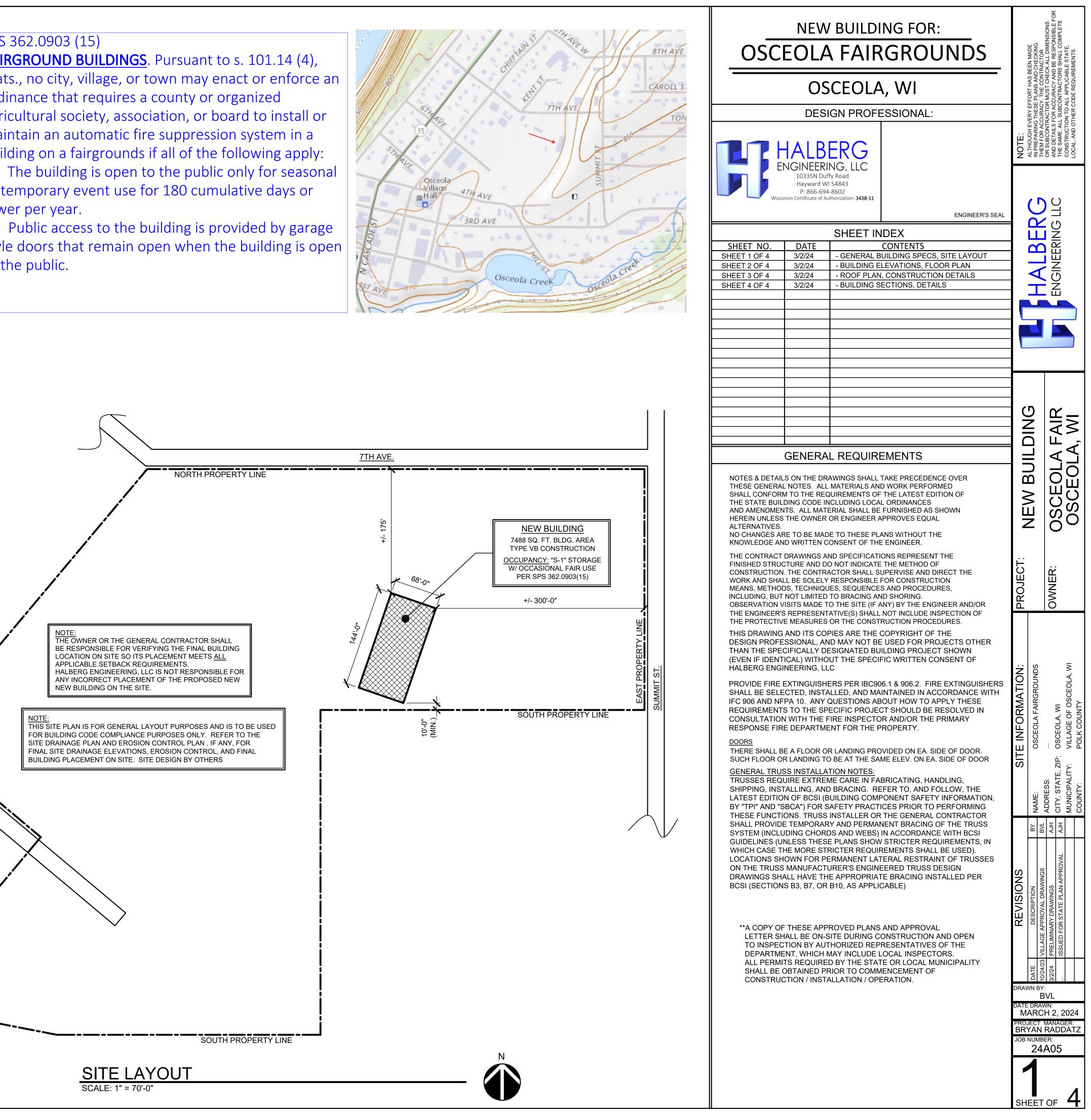
The Osceola Fair Board is presenting plans in the following pages for their new building. The building will be 7488 sq ft with a lean-to. This is the same foundation size as the current building. The building is on current village property, the community fair board is looking for approval to replace the structure in the same location. The building will meet all setbacks in the village code and comply with all village codes. FB Contractors and representatives from the Fair Board will be at the meeting to answer any questions you may have about the structure and location. Mount Hope Cemetery is planning on doing a survey of their lot with the help of the village and the Fair Board. This will ensure all setbacks are properly met.

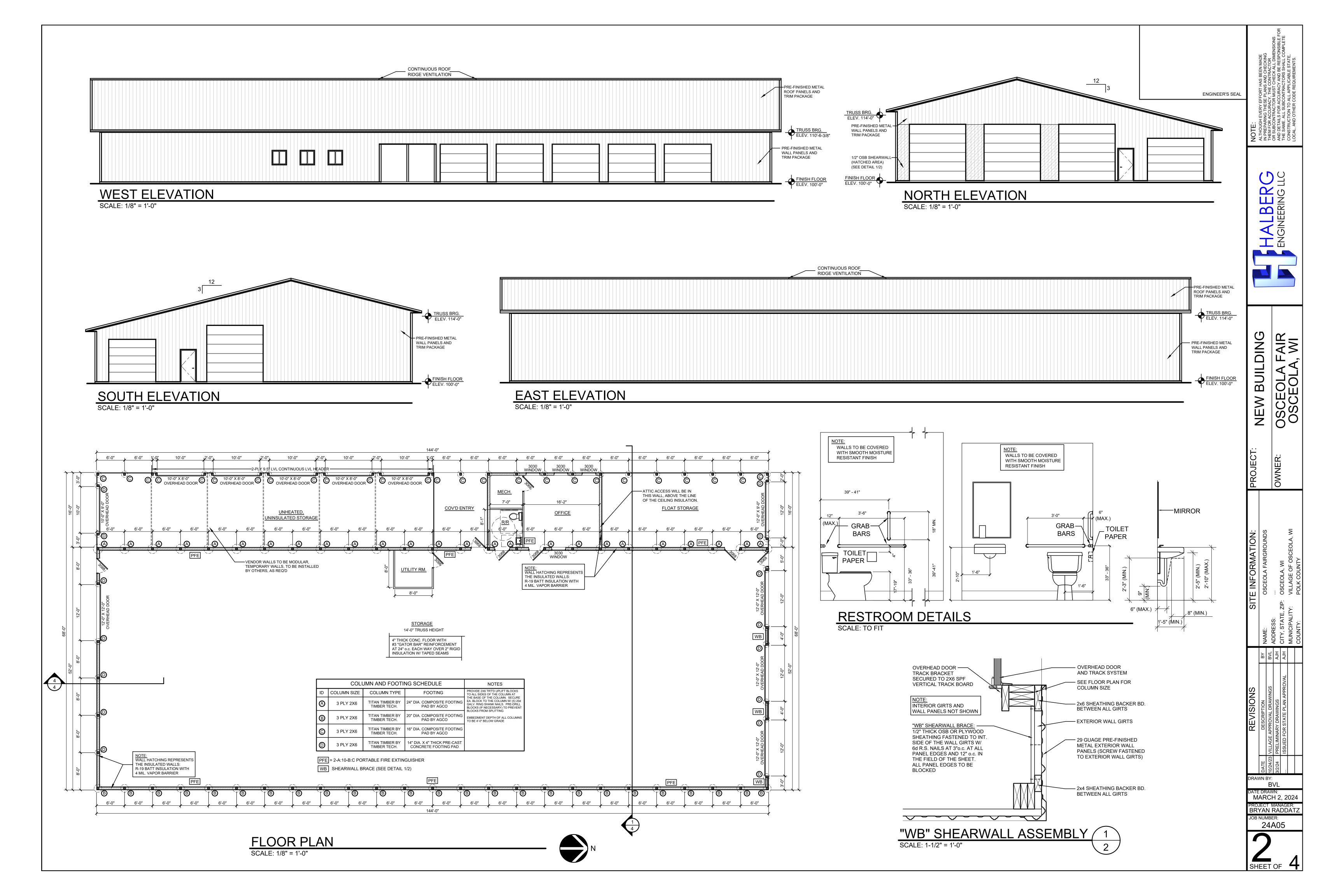
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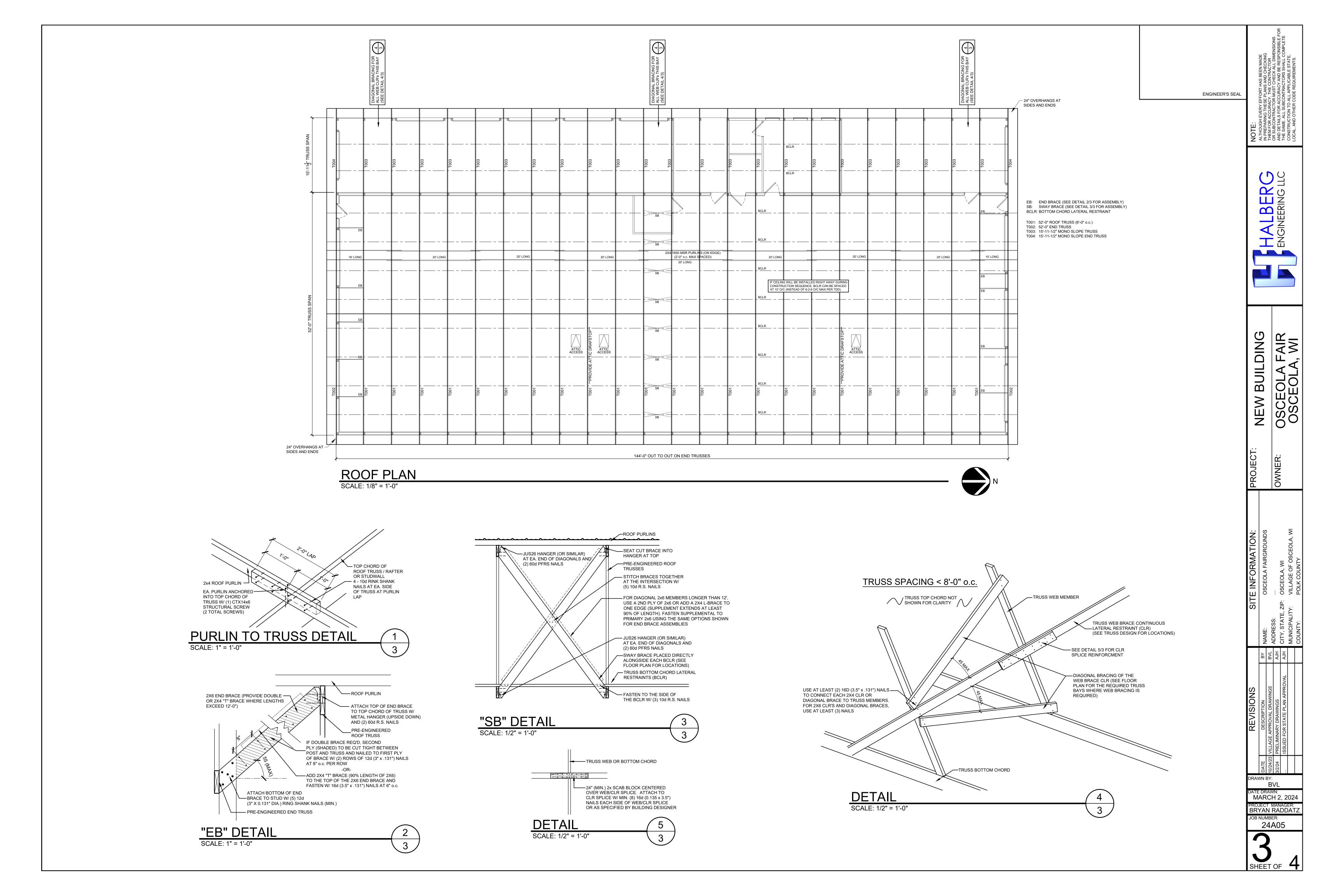
FAIRGROUND BUILDINGS. Pursuant to s. 101.14 (4), Stats., no city, village, or town may enact or enforce an ordinance that requires a county or organized agricultural society, association, or board to install or maintain an automatic fire suppression system in a building on a fairgrounds if all of the following apply: (a) The building is open to the public only for seasonal or temporary event use for 180 cumulative days or fewer per year. (b) Public access to the building is provided by garage style doors that remain open when the building is open to the public.

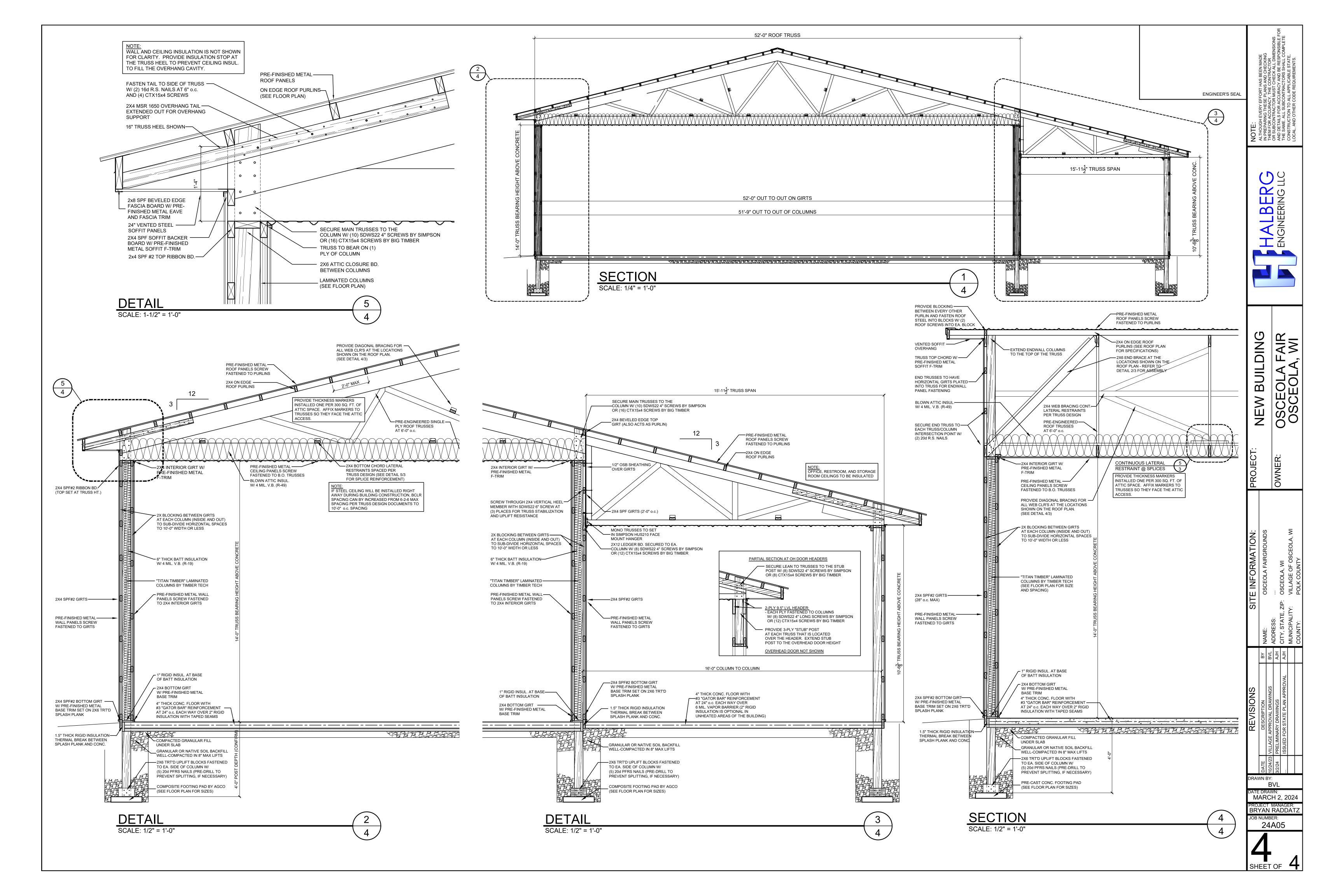
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VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA

RESOLUTION FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT APPLICATIONS

RESOLUTION #24-04

WHEREAS, the Village of Osceola is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application; and

WHEREAS, financial aid is required to carry out the project;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Osceola has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project or acquisition and,

HEREBY AUTHORIZES, Brad Lutz, Village President, to act on behalf of the Village of Osceola to:

Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;

Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months of project completion date;

Submit signed documents; and

Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Osceola will comply with state or federal rules for the programs; may perform force account work; will maintain the completed project in an attractive, inviting and safe manner; will keep the facilities open to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

ADOPTED this 9th day of April 2024.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Village of Osceola Village Board at a legal meeting on April 9, 2024

Brad Lutz, Village President

Carie Krentz, Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA PROCUREMENT POLICY

The policy set forth in this document establishes standards and guidelines for the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services to ensure that they are obtained as economically as possible through an open and competitive process, and that contracts are managed with good administrative practices and sound business judgment.

At minimum, price shall be one of the factors in the evaluation of responses, but the Village is not required to take the lowest price if other factors are important to the decision.

- There shall be an objective method for selection, and any factors for evaluation and selection shall be listed in the procurement documents.
- Awards shall be made to the bidder or offeror whose bid is responsive to the solicitation and is most advantageous to the Village (considering price, quality, and other relevant factors).
- A bid may be rejected when it is in the Village's interest to do so.

All public improvements constructed with municipal funds are carried out through a contract awarded to the lowest responsible bidder according to the requirements of Wisconsin Statutes.

Major equipment purchases are made from the lowest responsible bidder following public advertisement and distribution of specifications.

Common materials and supplies are purchased from the most price-advantageous source following bids or price quotations, usually secured through unpublicized solicitation from more than two sources.

Professional services contracts may, at the discretion and approval of the Village Board, be awarded to consultants/vendors that best serve the interest of the Village.

Village of Osceola

Brad Lutz Village President Date

Attest:

Carie Krentz Village Clerk Date

Approved by the Village Board on _____, 2024

VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA

RESOLUTION #24-05

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Village of Osceola realizes the importance and benefits its parks and open space system has on the Village's character and quality of life and is committed to providing for the recreational needs of its current and future residents; and

WHEREAS, this plan intends to guide the continual improvement of the Village's park and open space system and to maintain the Village's eligibility for State and Federal park and recreation grants; and

WHEREAS, this plan envisions a connected system of parks and open spaces throughout the community, related to the Village's natural resources, geography and neighborhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Osceola Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is approved.

VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA

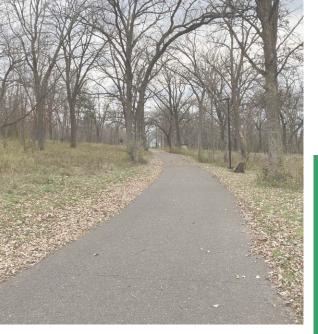
Approved:

By:_____ Brad Lutz, Village President

Attest:_____ Carie Krentz, Village Clerk

APPROVED:

POSTED:







Village of Osceola, Wisconsin

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan





Hold for Adoption Ordinance

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This document was prepared by MSA Professional Services, Inc. with assistance from Village Staff, the Village Board, and the residents of Osceola, Wisconsin.

Project No.: 00523020



CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

PLAN PURPOSE

Parks, recreation and trails are important elements in the quality of life for all communities. Not only do these elements provide safe and beautiful public spaces, they also protect the natural environment and influence patterns of development within the community.

The Village of Osceola recognizes the importance of its parks and trails and is committed to providing for the recreational needs of current and future residents. This plan intends to guide the continual improvement of the Village's park, recreation and trail systems and to maintain its eligibility for State and Federal parks and recreation grants. This plan envisions a connected system of parks, open spaces and trails throughout Osceola, related to the Village's natural resources, geography and neighborhoods.

The plan is also intended to support Osceola's Comprehensive Plan, which was updated in conjunction with this document, as well as align Osceola with local and State initiatives to promote outdoor recreation. This plan, along with the Village's other long-range plans and development-related ordinances, will be used to implement and promote its parks and recreation network.

Specifically, the plan provides:

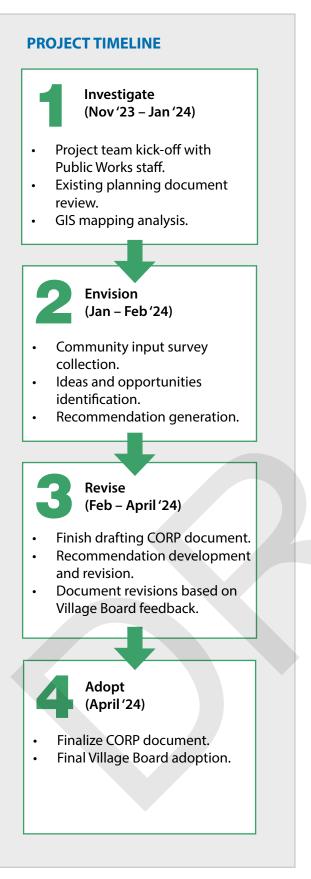
- Information regarding demographic trends,
- An inventory of existing park and recreational facilities,
- · An analysis of parkland and recreational needs and demands,
- General policy direction regarding park, recreation, open space, bicycle, and pedestrian facility planning and maintenance,
- Recommendations for new and improving existing park, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and
- Implementation strategies.

This plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different types of parks, trails, natural areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and discussions will be necessary before decisions are made to improve recreational facilities.

Gristmill Park



INTRODUCTION



PLANNING PROCESS

Recreation, bicycle, and pedestrian planning are essential components of long-range community planning in Osceola. For this project, the Village worked with MSA Professional Services, Inc. to facilitate community engagement activities and the document writing process.

Early in the planning process, the project team created an online community survey to gather citizen feedback on all facets of Osceola, including desired public park, trail and recreational facilities. A second survey was also sent to residents of Pheasant Run and Gateway Meadows to collect specific feedback on the undeveloped parkland in those neighborhoods. The results of these surveys are summarized in Chapter 4 and the full results are found in Appendix B.

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) update was developed in tandem with an update to the Village of Osceola's Comprehensive Plan and the development of a conceptual design for Cascade Falls Park, all led by MSA Professional Services. These documents are intended to present a comprehensive vision for the future of Osceola; notes from stakeholder interviews, survey responses, and conversations with Village decision makers were shared between all these three projects to ensure that the resulting documents were comprehensive and compatible.

INTRODUCTION

BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS

Public parks and trails are a unique amenity because they have the potential to be accessible to anyone in the community, regardless of age, gender, ability, socioeconomic status, race or ethnicity. They are sources of civic pride and are essential to the physical, economic, environmental, and social health of communities and their residents.



<u>Health</u>

Parks, trails, and recreation facilities provide opportunities for people to exercise more, encouraging a healthy, happy, and active lifestyle. Additionally, increased exposure to natural areas has been linked to fewer health issues, improved blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and reduced stress, which leads to a lower incidence of depression and a greater ability to face problems.



Cultural and Social

In a time when social media defines the interactions of many people, parks and recreational centers are places to meet, catch up with family members and friends, and feel like part of the larger community. As a focal point of neighborhoods, parks help develop connections between residents by providing a venue for community building gatherings like school trips, festivals, and celebrations.



Property Values

Numerous studies have shown that close proximity and access to parks, trails, and open space has a positive impact on residential and commercial property values. These sites can then act as catalysts for future growth and development, fueling investment in local economies.



Beautification

Parkways, tree-lined streets, gardens, views of water bodies, public art, trails, and landscaped areas all help create beautiful places to live, work, and play. Visitors often remember a place by its access to beautiful natural areas, contributing to a positive community image, and residents feel more content and proud of the spaces they see every day.



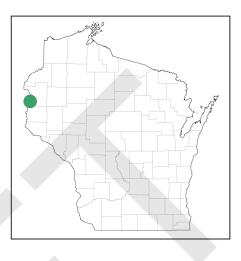
Ecological Health

Parks are often tied to environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, or significant woodlands, which can include trails. These areas provide food and shelter for local wildlife, natural stormwater retention, and sometimes environmental corridors that facilitate movement between ecosystems.

CHAPTER 2 ABOUT OSCEOLA

LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Village of Osceola, Wisconsin is located in southwestern Polk County, just across the St. Croix River from Minnesota. It is bordered to the north and east by the Town of Osceola, to the south by the Town of Farmington, and to the west by Wisconsin-Minnesota border. Osceola is about 45 miles from St. Paul, 88 miles from Eau Claire, and 133 miles from Duluth. It is located along Wisconsin Highway 35, which runs north-south through western Wisconsin and connects Duluth/Superior to Dubuque, Iowa.



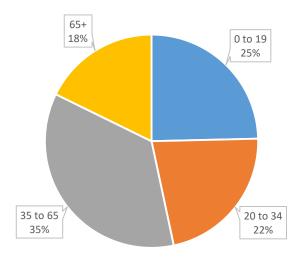
DEMOGRAPHICS

The data used in this section comes from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), which is reported as a rolling average over a five-year period. Because ACS data points are only estimates and contain a margin of error, they may not always represent conditions as accurately as Census data. However, data is generally more reliable at the State and County levels.

Population

According to the U.S. Census, Osceola's total population was 2,765 in 2020. Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) projections indicate that Osceola may add an additional 480 residents between 2020 and 2040, representing a 17.36% increase over a 20-year period, or 0.87% annual growth. Improvements to parklands and facilities will be necessary to continue meeting the needs of Osceola's population.





Age Composition

Age composition is an important consideration in park and recreational planning, as needs and desires of individuals will vary based on their development stage and physical abilities. Osceola's population is roughly divided into quarters aligning with each life stage; a quarter of the population (25%) is considered youth (less than 20 years old), 22% are young adults (20-34 years told), 35% are adults, and 18% are retirement-age (65+). The retirement-age population is projected to grow as the Baby Boomer population continues to age, matching trends seen across the nation. Osceola's median age is 41.0, an increase from 33.9 in 2010 and above the current State median (40.4).

Figure 2: Osceola's Age Composition (2022) Source: ACS

Race & Ethnicity

Based on 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the majority of Osceola's population is white (93.2%), followed by "two or more races" (4.1%), Black or African American (1.2%), and "some other race" (1.3%). Approximately 3.7% of the population is Hispanic or Latino. Compared to 2010 ACS Estimates, there has been a 6.6% decrease in white residents; those identifying as "two or more races" increased 4.1%, Black or African American increased 1.2%, and "some other race" (1.3%).

Households

Based on 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates, there are approximately 1,342 households in the Village, 18.1% of which include at least one child under the age of eighteen. The total number of households is up 159 since 2010; however, the number of households with children has decreased 13.3% in the same time period. This aligns with population decline resulting from the ongoing economic and social impacts of the 2008 nationwide recession and COVID pandemic. The average household size in 2022 was 2.04 individuals, which is lower than 2010 estimates (2.18). If Osceola follows nationwide trends, this number could continue to decrease as a result of smaller family sizes, increases in life expectancy, and increases in single-person households.

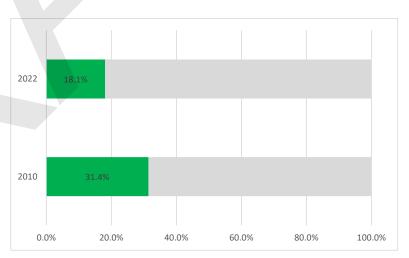


Figure 3: Households with Children (2010 & 2022) Source: U.S. Census

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Water Resources

Osceola contains multiple water amenities including Cascade Falls (adjacent to downtown Osceola and accessible by stairwell), Osceola Creek (a class B trout stream that leads to Cascade Falls), and the St. Croix River (a National Scenic Riverway). Osceola's western boundary is flanked by the St. Croix River, which also separates Wisconsin and Minnesota. Located across the river in Minnesota is the Osceola Landing, the take-out point for the National Park Service's boating day trips.

Topography and Geology

One of Osceola's most defining natural features are its bluffs along the western edge, which rise up from the outskirts of the downtown district and drop into the St. Croix River. The bluffs and rolling hills found throughout northwestern Wisconsin resulted from glacial activity in the region, where erosion, stream cutting, and deposition carved into the landscape and left a variety of terrains. The Village also contains areas of level ground, especially to the east of the community, which transition into flat agricultural land further inland.

Floodplains and Wetlands

The St. Croix River and Osceola Creek both have floodplains that lie within Village boundaries. The latter's floodplain was placed within a conservancy zoning district to restrict development and minimize potential damage caused by flood waters. Many areas of surface water within the Village also have associated wetlands, such as Osceola Creek and Mill Pond.

<u>Wildlife</u>

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) classifies the region's vegetation as "Western Prairie." Soils are well-drained and loamy with a silt loam surface, facilitating the growth of maple-basswood, oak-hickory, and lowland hardwood forests. The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is a major draw for bald eagles, great blue herons, ruffed grouse, ospreys, sandhill cranes, and migratory waterfowl.



Osceola Creek

RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Outdoor Park and Recreation Plan (2014-2019)

Adopted in 2014, this document is the most recent document specifically dedicated to Osceola's green infrastructure. Major improvement goals recommended by the plan include:

- Expansion of Millpond Park
- Trail improvements and expansions throughout the community, including in tandem with the Osceola School District's Safe Routes to School Plan
- Development of a boat landing south of STH 243 at the base of Osceola Picnic Bluff
- Invasive species removal throughout park system
- Concept Plan development for undeveloped parks
- Additional park/trail wayfinding signage

Village of Osceola Comprehensive Plan (2009)

While the Comprehensive Plan largely defers to the recommendations outlined in the former Outdoor Recreation Plan (pre-2014), it establishes that each park should service an area of a quarter mile around the park in order to identify coverage gaps throughout the community.

Polk County Trails Plan (2021)

The plan identifies federally-owned parcels along the St. Croix River as opportunities to develop "a scenic riverside trail system that connects the Standing Cedars Natural area, through Osceola, to St. Croix Falls, and north." The development of a paved, off-road route would require coordination with the National Park Service, Wisconsin DOT, Wisconsin State Parks, and local municipalities. While the document does not formally present a plan for this trail, future trail planning efforts within Osceola should include these conversations if/when they commence.

Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2020-2024)

This document does not provide any goals or recommendations that are specific to the Village of Osceola.

VILLAGE-OWNED RECREATION FACILITIES

The following contains information about Village-owned parks, trails, and recreational programs. Specific recommendations for each park are found in Chapter 4. The park classifications used in this plan are modified definitions used by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), described in Appendix C. The map with Osceola's existing parks and trails can be found on page 55-56 in Appendix A.

Mini Parks

Third Avenue Triangle Park (0.52 acres)

This mini park is located at the intersection of Third Ave and Summit St, and contains a bench and a picnic table.

10th Ave Triangle Park (0.005 acres)

This mini park is an island bounded by 10th Ave, Oak Ridge Dr, and Willow Lane Rd; it contains a landscaped patch with a bench.

Neighborhood Parks

Gateway Meadows Park (3.11 acres)

Located in the southwestern-most corner of the Gateway Meadows subdivision, this parkland is currently undeveloped and contains a few trees.

Ladd Memorial Park (0.63 acres)

Located on River St, this park is tucked between two houses and is largely shrouded in old growth tree coverage. There are a few benches along the northwestern edge of the park, looking out over the St. Croix River Valley.

Pheasant Run Parks (3.99 acres)

Located north of the L.O Simenstad Municipal Airport in the Pheasant Run neighborhood, these parcels are undeveloped. Of the total existing acreage, 3.33 acres is a natural area/open space and 0.69 acres is available for playground equipment.

Neighborhood Playgrounds

Smith Park (2.61 acres)

Donated to the Village in 2004 by Dave Smith, this park is located in the center of a residential block, bounded by Smith Ave, Haleah St, Delmar Ave, and Belmont St. The park contains playground equipment, picnic tables, benches, soccer nets, and mowed open green space.

Eric Park (0.75 acres)

This park is located at the end of Eric Dr in Viebrock's 4th Addition. It contains a tennis court, basketball court, playground equipment, and picnic tables.



Third Avenue Triangle Park



Gateway Meadows Park



Ladd Memorial Park



Smith Park



Oakey Park



Millpond Park



Gristmill Park



Geiger Brewery Park

Community Parks

Oakey Park (12.32 acres)

Located a few blocks northeast of downtown Osceola, Oakey Park is the Village's largest developed park at over 12 acres. The southern portion is shrouded by old-growth trees and has a playground, picnic shelter, basketball court, and restrooms. The northern portion contains a lighted baseball field with bleachers, restrooms, dugouts, a refreshment stand, a gravel parking lot, and covered grandstand. The Osceola Braves (members of the St. Croix Valley Baseball League) use and maintain the field throughout the summer months.

Additionally, the park contains a building leased to the Osceola Fair Board (which sponsors the annual Osceola Community Fair), a sledding hill, and a warming house for outdoor ice skating.

Millpond Park (2.55 acres)

Located in downtown Osceola, this park contains a small gazebo, larger bandshell, fishing platform, and restrooms. Improvements have been added with funding and donated materials and labor from Grow Osceola, private memorial gifts, Graham Memorial Gift Fund, Polk County Land and Water Conservation, and the Osceola High School Ag and FFA organizations. A village-owned parcel abutting the eastern edge of the park presents a prime opportunity for park expansion along Osceola Creek; it currently contains native plantings and open green space.

Gristmill Park (0.27 acres)

With a walking path running behind Watershed Café, this quaint park features an overlook over Cascade Falls, as well as a fire pit, seating areas, and a rain garden.

Geiger Brewery Park (1.00 acres)

Originally the site of the Geiger Brewery, this one-acre park is located south of Highway 243 and west of State Highway 35. It contains a marked trailhead and pedestrian bridge leading to the Falls Bluff Trail Loop, a scenic and rugged hiking trial that traverses the nearby bluffs and Cascade Falls.

Conservancy/Open Space

Osceola Eagle Bluff (17.54 acres)

Overlooking both the St. Croix River Valley and downtown Osceola, this park contains the 1.3-mike Dr. John Simenstad Trail. It is accessible from the trailhead at Geiger Brewery Park.

Schillberg Park (92.00 acres)

Located between Osceola High School and Osceola Intermediate School, this former campground is the largest park in the Village. A small portion of the park contains a playground, volleyball court, and horseshoe court, whereas the rest is passive forested space primarily accessible by unpaved walking trails. Osceola Creek, a class 2 trout stream, runs through the park as well. The primary activities on the site are fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing.

Cascade Falls, Wilke Glen (4.10 acres)

Located just south of downtown and across N Cascade St from Millpond Park, Cascade Falls is widely considered the focal point of Osceola with its picturesque 25-foot drop over four tiers. The waterfall is accessible via the unpaved Cascade Falls Trail and a 125-step stairwell leading from an outlook on N Cascade St.

VILLAGE TRAILS

The Village of Osceola maintains approximately 8.75 miles of paths and trails within its boundary, comprised of the following routes:

- Simenstad Trail (1 mile)
- Cascade Falls Trail (3 miles)
- Eagle Bluff Trail (1 mile)
- Historic Village Walk (1.25 miles)
- Brookside Trail, located within Schillberg Park (2.5 miles)

STATE & FEDERAL RECREATION FACILITIES

Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy

With support from the Wisconsin DNR, this conservancy preserves over 1,500 acres of ecological resources along the St. Croix River through land purchasing and easements. The four properties contain a variety of landscapes, including prairies, old growth forests, oak savannas, dry cliffs, and former agricultural land. The areas are open to the public for passive recreational activities such as hiking and snowshoeing.

Ridge View Trail

Administered by the National Park Service, this trail system totals three miles between its Chisago Loop and Osceola Loop. It is accessible from County Rd S, north of Osceola.



Schillberg Park



Cascade Falls



Standing Cedars



Ridge View Trail



Osceola Landing



Osceola Bedrock Glades



Osceola football field



Krooked Kreek Golf Course

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

The St. Croix National Scenic River forms the western boundary of Osceola, as well as the border between Wisconsin and Minnesota. It is a wild and scenic river that is a popular destination for canoeing, boating, fishing, birdwatching, and hiking. Osceola Landing, the busiest National Park Service-operated boat launch on the Riverway, is located across the river from Osceola.

State Natural Areas

The State Natural Areas (SNAs) program protects outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations, and archeological sites. The program currently encompasses 406,000 acres of land across 590 SNAs that allow for research, education, and conservation. Many SNAs are remote and largely undeveloped but are open to the public.

- Osceola Bedrock Glades (SNA 386): This 39-acre area is one of only four well-developed acid bedrock glades in Wisconsin, rich in ferns, mosses, fungi, and other organisms adapted to these unique conditions.
- Farmington Bottoms (SNA 385): This 1,238-acre area south of Osceola contains excellent examples of floodplain forests, emergent aquatics, and forested seeps. It contains a wide variety of trees and serves as critical habitat for rare bird species.

OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES

Osceola Schools

Osceola's school campuses have soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, playground equipment, a lighted football/soccer field and track, indoor pool (open to the public through Community Education program), tennis courts, and open green space.

Osceola Medical Center

This privately-owned facility offers a half-mile walking trail with exercise stations, multi-purpose sport court, and playground.

Krooked Creek Golf Course

This privately-owned golf course is located one mile east of Osceola on County Road M and hosts the Osceola High School golf team, tourists, and Osceola residents.

Snowmobile Trails

State Snowmobile Corridor Trail 43 is located east of Osceola. Locally maintained trails connect businesses to the trail.

CURRENT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Osceola Skatepark

The Skatepark Committee, in collaboration with numerous residents and community organizations, have envisioned a skatepark within Oakey Park located southeast of the existing playground and picnic shelter. In June 2023, the Village Board unanimously approved this location for the skatepark. While the design has not yet been finalized (as of the writing of this document), the project is continuing to raise money and gain traction within the community.

Cascade Falls Phased Improvements



Conceptual design of Osceola skatepark Source: osceolaskatepark.org

As of the drafting of this document, the Village of Osceola is envisioning a three-phase approach to improvements to Cascade Falls Park and Wilke Glen. These phases are as follows:

- 1. The first phase will encompass the upper falls area of Cascade Falls Park, including Gristmill Park, the overlook and stairway accessible from South Cascade Street, and pedestrian bridge across Osceola Creek.
- 2. The second phase will target the boardwalk and trails in the lower area of Cascade Falls, known as Wilke Glen.
- 3. Phase three explores various options for trail extensions and supplemental parking areas.



Conceptual design project phases Source: MSA Professional Services

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CHAPTER 3 GOALS & STRATEGIES

GOALS & STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

Goals and strategies play a crucial role in this plan, as they offer a vision for implementation that can be used by Village staff and officials, community members, and regional partners in recreation. Goals are presented here as desired outcomes. Strategies include both actions and policy rules to achieve these goals.



GOAL 1: Provide sufficient park and recreation opportunities to meet current and future recreational demand in the Village of Osceola.

Strategies

- Prioritize the enhancement and development of Osceola's centralized parks, such as Oakey Park and Millpond Park, over more remote parks with fewer amenities.
- Across all of the Village's parks, prioritize maintaining existing amenities over adding new amenities.
- Develop unused parkland in new subdivisions such as Gateway Meadows and Pheasant Run to fill the park proximity gap and provide easily-accessible recreational space to residents.
- Maintain dedicated facilities for sporting activities, such as fields and courts.
- Participate in regional park/trail planning initiatives, including those led by Polk County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



GOAL 2: Ensure that all Osceola residents have safe access to quality parks and recreation facilities.

Strategies

- Encourage ongoing citizen participation in the planning and development of recreational facilities.
- Provide ADA-compliant, barrier-free access in all new or improved park facilities, play areas, and sports field areas.
- Increase number of safe crossings near park facilities and in downtown Osceola as needed.
- Continue to pursue a variety of Village/school/sports organization development projects to help expand community outdoor recreational opportunities in a cost-effective manner.
- Offer appropriate and engaging recreational opportunities for all age groups.



GOAL 3: Preserve the historical, cultural, and environmental significance of Osceola's existing green space.

Strategies

- Coordinate local efforts with Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy, the Wisconsin DNR, and other organizations that protect natural areas around Osceola.
- Manage vegetation in natural areas by removing and controlling non-native, invasive spaces.

GOALS & STRATEGIES



GOAL 4: Ensure that ongoing park improvements and future system expansion are financially sustainable.

Strategies

- Utilize the "Grant Opportunities" table on pages 45-46 as a resource for funding solutions to recreational needs; update regularly as new funding sources become available.
- Establish process for identifying, writing, and championing grant applications.
- Continuously identify park/recreational projects to be incorporated into the Village's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- Leverage local and regional partnerships for funding specific opportunities.

COMPLYING WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The ADA, enacted in 1990, clearly states the right of equal access for persons to local government services, including parks. On September 15, 2010 the Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 2010 Standards included new provisions for accessible design for recreational facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, fishing and golf facilities. Any new recreational facilities designed, constructed, or shaped after March 15, 2012 are subject to the 2010 Standards. Any alteration (not simple maintenance, but something that changes the way the site is used) must make the element altered accessible and must create an accessible path of travel through the site or facility to that element.

There are some fundamental differences in how accessibility in the outdoors is accommodated compared to indoors or the built environment. While restrooms, shelters, interpretive centers, and parking lots, for example, need to follow detailed ADA guidelines, other improvements such as trails or swimming beach areas, for example, do not necessarily need to follow indoor or built environment ramp grades or surfacing requirements. A good rule of thumb for the Village to follow is that anything constructed must not make the outdoor experience anymore difficult than what occurs naturally. Mother Nature does not have to comply with ADA, but humans should.

The New England ADA Center is a good resource to use and offers checklists to evaluate accessibility at existing park facilities. The fillable checklist forms can be found here: <u>http://www.adachecklist.org/checklist.html#rec</u>

CHAPTER 4 NEEDS & DEMANDS

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the Village's existing park and recreation facilities satisfy current needs. The adequacy of Osceola's existing parks and recreation system is evaluated using the following methods:

- <u>Quantitative Analysis</u> A comparison of existing parkland acreage and population projections versus park and recreational agencies across the U.S., including a review of the amount of parkland available to Village residents.
- <u>Geographic Analysis</u> An analysis of the geographic distribution of park facilities within the Village.
- <u>Qualitative Analysis</u> A summary of public input regarding Village parks and recreational facilities gathered through the community survey, open house, and feedback from community organizations that use the Village's parks and trails.
- <u>Regional & State Insights</u> A summary of the demand trends in recreational amenities at the regional and state level.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

An analysis of existing recreational land area is provided to determine if the recreational needs of current residents are being met. This analysis is limited to an evaluation of Village-owned parkland; it does not include trails, school facilities, or privately-owned green space.

Park Acreage Level of Service

Level of service analysis is a standard evaluation of park acreage across most park agencies. Level of service is calculated as total acres of parkland provided per 1,000 residents. Over two decades ago, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed a set of standards for the amount of parkland a community should strive to obtain. Recently, NRPA has shifted away from the use of park standards because there is no single set of standards that accommodates the uniqueness of each community across the country. Instead, NRPA now collects information from Parks and Recreation departments around the U.S., including residents per park, budgets, staffing, and park amenities. This data is organized by jurisdiction size so that communities of similar sizes can see metrics typical of their peers.

Osceola currently has 141.4 acres of Village-owned parkland and undeveloped open space, or 51.1 acres per 1,000 residents based on the 2020 population of 2,765 (U.S. Census). If undeveloped open space (Schillberg Park and Osceola Eagle Bluff)* is excluded from this calculation, Osceola offers about 11.5 acres per 1,000 residents. According to NRPA's 2023 Agency Performance Review, for agencies with populations under 20,000, the lower quartile is 6.0 acres and the upper quartile is 21.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Osceola is well within this range, offering a sufficient level of acreage service even if these undeveloped parcels are not converted to parkland.

*Pheasant Run Parks and Gateway Meadows Park were not included in this calculation because the Village intends on developing these parcels into active parkland following the completion of this study. Schillberg Park and Osceola Eagle Bluff, despite containing trails and opportunities for recreational activity, have intentionally remained undeveloped due to topography and conservation efforts.

| Total Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit (in acres) | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| Year | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 | 2040 | | | |
| Population | 2,765 | 2,885 | 3,005 | 3,125 | 3,245 | | | |
| Total Supply (acres) | 86.6 | 86.6 | 86.6 | 86.6 | 86.6 | | | |
| Demand (21.1 acres/1,000) | 58.3 | 60.9 | 63.4 | 65.9 | 68.5 | | | |
| Surplus (21.1 acres/1,000) | 28.2 | 25.7 | 23.2 | 20.6 | 18.1 | | | |

Figure 4: Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit

Figure 4 summarizes the current and projected supply and demand for total parkland acreage based on the Village's population and NRPA's upper quartile limit of 21.1 acres per 1,000 residents.** Population projections from 2020-2040 were taken from vintage Wisconsin DOA data, so estimated numbers may not reflect Osceola's exact population. The total supply of parkland used in the table's calculation reflects the current amount of usable, dedicated recreation green space in Osceola – 31.86 acres – and half of the Village's undeveloped land (approximately 54.7 acres) since a portion of each parcel is accessible for hiking and other recreational activities.

If the Village aims to maintain its current service level of 21.1 acres per 1,000 residents with its existing parkland, it will continue to have a surplus through the year 2040. If the Village wishes to acquire additional parkland in the coming decades, doing so is not necessary to maintain this specific metric.

**Since the Village provides 51.1 acres of green space per 1,000 residents, including Schillberg Park and Osceola Eagle Bluff, the upper quartile limit of 21.1 acres is being used instead of the parkland-only 11.5 acres to account for the recreational activities permitted in the undeveloped open space.

Recreation Facilities

Figure 5 compares the suggested number of outdoor facilities in each category to the current number of facilities in Osceola. The suggested number was calculated by taking Osceola's 2020 population (2,765) and dividing it by the median recommended number of residents per facility (from the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review). Based on these calculations, there are gaps in Village-owned recreation facilities (skate parks, pickleball courts, totlots) and community amenities like dog parks, community gardens, and outdoor swimming pools.

Indoor recreation opportunities are also important, especially considering Wisconsin's winter months, when it can be challenging or less desirable for people to go to local parks and trails. Currently, Osceola does not manage any indoor recreation facilities; however, the Village partners with the Osceola School District for community education programming (e.g. health and wellness classes, arts and crafts tutorials, and day trips), which provides recreational opportunities throughout the year, as well as access to indoor/outdoor school recreational facilities.

Data from NRPA's 2023 Agency Performance Review shows that 63% of all agencies nationwide have recreation centers, 59% have community centers, 41% have senior centers, and 33% have nature centers. Osceola has a community center, which houses Village staff offices and a senior center.

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| NRPA Metrics Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------|-------------|--|--|--|
| | Median Number of Residents Per Facility (<20,000 Residents) | Number Suggested Based on Population of 2,765 (2020 US Census) | Existing Public Facilities | Gap (Extra) | | | |
| Playgrounds | 2,014 | 1.4 | 3.0 | (1.6) | | | |
| Basketball Courts (full-size) | 3,729 | 0.7 | 1.0 | (0.3) | | | |
| Ball Diamonds | 3,114 | 0.9 | 1.0 | (0.1) | | | |
| Tennis Courts | 2,805 | 1.0 | 2.0 | (1.0) | | | |
| Multi-Use Rectangular Fields | 3,859 | 0.7 | 1.0 | (0.3) | | | |
| Dog Parks | 11,100 | 0.2 | - | 0.2 | | | |
| Swimming Pools (outdoor) | 9,745 | 0.3 | - | 0.3 | | | |
| Community Gardens | 8,178 | 0.3 | - | 0.3 | | | |
| Skate Parks | 10,726 | 0.3 | - | 0.3 | | | |
| Regulation 18-Hole Golf Courses | 9,587 | 0.3 | 1.0 | (0.7) | | | |
| Pickleball Courts | 3,252 | 0.9 | - | 0.9 | | | |
| Ice Rinks (outdoor) | 8,045 | 0.3 | 1.0 | (0.7) | | | |
| Totlots | 5,816 | 0.5 | | 0.5 | | | |

Figure 5: Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities

Trails

The Village of Osceola maintains approximately 8.75 miles of paths and hiking trails. NRPA's 2022 Agency Performance Review shows that in communities with under 20,000 residents, the median mileage of maintained trails is 4.0 miles; the lower quartile is 2.0 miles and the upper quartile is 10.0. In other words, most communities of this size have between two and ten miles of trails, with four miles being the most common. Osceola is well within this range, offering considerably more than the median mileage compared to communities its size.

GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Park Proximity

The location of parks in relation to Osceola's residents is an important indicator of how well existing facilities are dispersed throughout the community. NRPA, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute, promotes the 10-Minute Walk Campaign (https://10minutewalk.org) which advocates for "a great park within a 10-minute walk of every person, in every neighborhood, in every city across America." Osceola's Comprehensive Plan also emphasizes the importance of quarter-mile service areas (five to ten-minute walk) for each of the community's parks.

Park Proximity (cont.)

Using the 10-Minute Walk as a guiding principal, the Park Service Areas map (Appendix A) indicates approximate areas of the Village that are within a ten-minute walk of a park (approximately 0.5 miles). Based on the 10-Minute Walk metric, the residents near downtown Osceola are well-served by parks and recreational amenities, especially those living between downtown and Osceols High/Intermediate Schools. The residents of the Gateway Meadows and Pheasant Run neighborhoods also have access to open green space, offering some park coverage on the eastern edge of the Village. The largest gaps in park coverage (located in the middle of the Village) is land occupied by the Osceola Industrial Park and L.O. Simenstad Municipal Airport. Therefore, nearly all Osceola residents are within a ten-minute walking distance from a park.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Community Input Survey

Since this CORP update was developed alongside the Comprehensive Plan update, park-specific questions were included in a community-wide survey to gauge residents' preferences, opinions, and feedback on all aspects of Osceola. In total, the survey received 266 responses, which are summarized in this section. The full results of the survey's park-specific questions can be found in Appendix B.

General Use

Overall, survey respondents reported visiting Cascade Falls most often (64.5%); the next most-favored parks were Oakey Park (60%) and Millpond Park (57.5%). The most-frequently used recreational amenities in Osceola were walking/hiking trails (76.5%), playgrounds (33.5%), and gazebos (14%).

Park Improvements and Additions

While specific park recommendations are outlined in Chapter 5, a few general suggestions emerged regarding park improvements. Top answers included updating and maintaining existing amenities (such as playgrounds and basketball courts), safety improvements to large parks, and ADA accessibility for the Village's largest recreational destinations.

<u>Trails</u>

The most-frequently suggested new trail locations were:

- Near Schillberg Park/Osceola Schools;
- Between downtown and Osceola Medical Center;
- Improved connections within existing trail network;
- Between downtown and the M/3rd Ave E intersection;
- Between downtown and the Industrial Park.

NEEDS & DEMANDS

Gateway Meadows/Pheasant Run Survey

In addition to the community-wide input survey, a separate survey was sent to residents of Osceola's Gateway Meadows and Pheasant Run neighborhoods to gather feedback on each subdivision's respective undeveloped parkland. In total, the survey collected 47 responses – 29 from Gateway Meadows and 17 from Pheasant Run.

Gateway Meadows

- Age groups most represented by residents: 0-12 years and 31-40 years.
- Most-requested recreational amenities: playground and fenced-in, off-leash dog park.

Pheasant Run

- Age groups most represented by residents: 0-12 years, 31-40 years, and 61+ years.
- Most-requested recreational amenities: playground and walking trail.

Stakeholder Interviews

Over the course of two weeks, the project team spoke to representatives of Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy, Grow Osceola, Osceola Trails and Parks Group, and the Osceola Braves, in order to gather addition information on specific aspects of Osceola's parks and recreational amenities. These conversations identified each group's specific needs and priorities, current and future initiatives, and observations of needed improvements within the community.

The chart below summarizes feedback themes that emerged in relation to Osceola's green space's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities:

Summary of Stakeholder Interview Feedback

Each bullet point summarizes feedback that emerged multiple times throughout the stakeholder interview process.

| Strengths | Weaknesses/Threats | Opportunities |
|---|---|---|
| Scenic beauty of St. Croix River Valley Cascade Falls is community gem and large tourism draw. Great variety of parks and trails. | Lack of funding and personnel for ongoing park improvements. Difficult to coordinate and maintain consistent engagement from volunteers. | Leverage partnerships with local parks/conservation organizations to share resources and expertise. Expand and improve trail network. Create comprehensive wayfinding signage for key community park destinations. Cater to the unique blend of tourist and resident recreational needs. |

CHAPTER 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The analysis discussed in Chapter 4 reveals the need for improvements to existing facilities and additional trail connections. It should be noted that some of the recommendations may require cooperation with others, including (but not limited to) the citizens of Osceola, local civic and business associations, and State agencies. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and/or discussion will be necessary before decisions are made to acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

The recommendations of this plan are divided into four major sections: (1) existing park facilities; (2) system recommendations; (3) new park facilities; and (4) mobility recommendations. Recommendations were generated through community feedback, discussions with the Planning Commission and public works staff, and ongoing CIP programs.

Throughout the input process, plan stakeholders expressed their preferences for the recommended improvement to Osceola's recreational system. These preferences have been interpreted and sorted into high, medium, and low priority projects. The priority of each recommendation is noted within each table of recommendations. Due to budgetary constraints, it is unlikely that all recommendations within this chapter will be implemented, and the priority level provides future decision makers with a better guide for investing the Village's limited resources. Priority levels may shift as time passes, recommendations may cease to be applicable, and new recommendations may be formulated.

The approximate timeframe for completion of each recommendation is also noted within each table of recommendations. The timeframe indicates an estimate of how long each project should take to complete once the implementation process has begun: immediate, short-term, and long-term.

EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

The following pages contain spreads dedicated to each existing park in Osceola. Each spread includes general information, existing facilities, and recommendations for improvements to specific parks. Some of the recommendations identified for existing parks are carried forward from Osceola's 2014-2019 Outdoor Park and Recreation Plan. The listed recommendations reflect feedback obtained during the planning process from Village staff, Village Board, and the public.

Most importantly, the Village should prioritize continual maintenance of all existing parks, trails, and recreational facilities. While new amenities may attract residents at first, maintaining the safety, accessibility, and availability of existing amenities will ensure that these spaces are inviting and functional long-term.



MINIATURE PARK • 3rd Ave / Summit St • 0.52 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

• Picnic tables

Benches

No feedback was received for this park

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--|
| No improvements recommended at this time | | | |

No improvements recommended at this time.

26



10th Avenue Triangle Park

MINIATURE PARK • 10th Ave / Oak Ridge Dr / Maple St • 0.005 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

Butterfly Garden

Bench

•

•

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

• Improve and regularly maintain landscaping

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Improve existing landscaping by converting land into a low-maintenance rain garden | Low | Short-Term | \$ |



Gateway Meadows Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK • Mill Street • 3.11 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

Mowed lawn

• Supposed to have a playground

CIP PROJECTS

| ITEM # | PROJECT | ESTIMATED COMPLETION | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|----------|---|-------------------------|---|
| PR 009.1 | Professional Services for PR 009 | 2025 | \$\$ |
| PR 009 | Gateway Park Development & Construction | 2026 | \$\$\$ |

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Add small fenced-in, off-leash dog park | Low | Long-Term | \$\$ |



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK • River Street • 0.63 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Picnic tables
- Benches •
- Mowed lawn

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

No feedback was received for this park

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Replace fence along western edge of park with same style as Gristmill Park | Medium | Short-Term | \$\$ |
| Add historic signage | Low | Long-Term | \$ |



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK • Kreekview Dr / Pheasant Run Dr / 250th St • 3.99 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

• Open green space

No feedback was received for this park

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Add low-maintenance walking trail | Low | Long-Term | \$ |



NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND • Delmar Ave / Belmont St / Smith Ave / Hialeah St • 2.61 Acres

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

No feedback was received for this park

EXISTING FEATURES

- Playground
- Soccer field
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Mowed lawn

CIP PROJECTS

| ITEM # | PROJECT | ESTIMATED COMPLETION | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|----------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| PR 012.1 | Professional Services for Smith Park | 2028 | \$\$ |

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Sell unused western half of parkland | Medium | Short-Term | N/A |
| Add sidewalk from Smith Ave to playground | Low | Long-Term | \$ |

31 Village of Osceola, Wisconsin



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK • Eric Drive • 0.75 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Playground
- Basketball court
- Tennis court
- Picnic tables
- Mowed lawn

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

- Revitalize basketball court and tennis court
- Replace playground equipment
- Add seating and picnic tables
- Add stairs and sidewalk/safe way to access courts

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Sell unused eastern portion of parkland | Medium | Short-Term | N/A |
| Resurface basketball and tennis courts* | High | Short-Term | \$\$\$ |
| Paint pickleball lines on tennis court* | Medium | Short-Term | \$ |
| Add stairs leading from grass down to courts* | Low | Long-Term | \$ |
| Add additional picnic tables | Medium | Immediate | \$ |
| Add sidewalk from Eric Dr to playground and courts | Low | Short-Term | \$ |

*As of March 2024, the courts at Eric Park are being evaluated for the feasibility of asphalt rehydration, crack filling, paint, and the addition or conversion of 2 pickle ball courts. Depending on the results of this analysis, these amenities may be moved to a different park.



COMMUNITY PARK • River Street • 0.27 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Butterfly garden

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

No feedback was received for this park

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Add diverse lighting system | Dependen | t upon Cascade Falls impr | ovement design* |

*Note on Cascade Park Improvements

The Village is currently developing a plan for phased improvements at Cascade Falls Park. Phase 1 will explore the possibility of relocating the existing overlook on Cascade St S to Gristmill Park, in order to enhance accessibility to the site. This would likely include a new overlook platform, stair access, revised layout for benches and picnic tables, lighting, and other features. Depending on the results of the conceptual design, the recommendation to "add a diverse lighting system" may be incorporated into the Phase 1 improvements.



Geiger Brewery Park

COMMUNITY PARK • Highway 243 / WI Highway 35 • 1.0 Acre

EXISTING FEATURES

- Bike racks •
- Benches •
- **Picnic tables** •

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

- Replace concrete retaining wall
- Paint historical or natural mural on concrete wall

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|---|---|---|--|
| Replace footbridge at trailhead | | | |
| Remove/fix concrete retaining wall | | on MNDOT and WisDOT's | |
| Replace steps | 243 started in 2027 – Geiger Brewery Park may be reconfigure for pedestrian/cyclist bridge access. | | |
| Paint historical/educational mural on concrete retaining wall | | | |



COMMUNITY PARK • N Cascade St / 1st Ave • 2.55 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Fishing pier
- Public restroom
- Gazebo (2)
- Drinking fountain
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Parking lot

COST ESTIMATE TIMEFRAME \$ (<\$50k) PRIORITY Immediate (0-2 Years) RECOMMENDATION \$\$ (\$50k-200k) Low-Med-High Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) Make gravel parking lot into designated parking Medium Short-Term \$ area (primarily tourist/event overflow parking) Add overhead lighting Medium \$\$ Long-Term Replace large gazebo with ADA-compliant event Short-Term \$\$\$ High stage Add accessible playground area to undeveloped Low Long-Term \$\$\$ park parcel Rebuild walking bridge across Osceola Creek Low Long-Term \$\$

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

No feedback was received for this park

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COMMUNITY PARK • 7th Ave / Summit St • 12.32 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Playground
- Ice rink
- Warming house
- Sledding hill
- Open air shelter
- Baseball diamond
- Concession stand
- Drinking fountain
- Bleachers
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Parking lot

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

- Feels "sketchy"
- Repair/upgrade grandstand
- Improve ice skating rink
- Improve bathroom, pavilion, and playground equipment
- Add skatepark

CIP PROJECTS

| ITEM # | PROJECT | ESTIMATED COMPLETION | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| PR 010 | Oakey Park Ball Field & Park Renovation | TBD | \$\$\$ |

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY | TIMEFRAME | COST ESTIMATE |
|--|----------|------------|---------------|
| Renovate (and/or relocate) restrooms near playground | High | Immediate | \$\$ |
| Build skatepark and parking lot (409 4th Ave on the SW corner of Oakey Park) | High | Immediate | \$\$\$ |
| Renovate/replace bleachers and concession stand | High | Short-Term | \$\$ |
| Relocate ice rink to top of sledding hill | Medium | Immediate | \$ |
| Add safety lighting to pavilion/other structures, light poles around park | Medium | Short-Term | \$\$ |
| Add paved walking path to connect existing park amenities | Low | Short-Term | \$\$ |
| Add 2 pickleball courts | High | Short-term | \$\$\$ |



CONSERVANCY/OPEN SPACE • Highway 243 • 17.54 Acres

Image source: Andrew Wojtanik, liveandlethike.com

EXISTING FEATURES

• Benches

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

• Trim trees for better visibility at lookout points

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Erosion mitigation on slope | Medium | Short-Term | \$\$ |
| Rebuild and/or fix deteriorated bridges | Medium | Short-Term | \$\$\$ |



CONSERVANCY/OPEN SPACE • Education Avenue • 92.0 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

- Walking trails
- Shelter

- Need new playground
- Tree trimming and cleanup, remove dead trees
 More garbage cans
- Clean up picnic tables and shelter

• Fix existing swing set

| | - | | | |
|--|---|-------|--|--|
| | | O | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

| ITEM # | PROJECT | ESTIMATED COMPLETION | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|----------|---|-------------------------|---|
| PR 002.1 | Professional Services for Schillberg Park | 2026 | \$\$ |
| PR 002 | Schillberg Park Improvements | 2027 | \$\$\$ |

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY | TIMEFRAME | COST ESTIMATE |
|---|----------|------------|---------------|
| Rehab existing red building ("cantina") for rentable space | Low | Long-Term | \$\$ |
| Add overhead lighting | Low | Long-Term | \$\$\$ |
| Park/wayfinding signage at all five access points | High | Short-Term | \$\$ |
| Consider park master plan to document intended usage (picnic grounds, trails, festival grounds) and ongoing maintenance needs | Low | Long-Term | \$ |
| Add parking lot to northern parcel | Medium | Short-Term | \$\$\$ |
| Utilize WI Community Forest funding and programming assistance to better utilize park as an educational forest | Medium | Long-Term | \$ |

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Wilke Glen & Cascade Falls

CONSERVANCY/OPEN SPACE • N Cascade Street • 4.10 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Bike/walking trail
- Picnic tables
- Benches

CIP PROJECTS

COST ESTIMATE ESTIMATED \$ (<\$50k) **ITEM #** PROJECT \$\$ (\$50k-200k) COMPLETION \$\$\$ (\$200k+) PR 001.1 Professional Services for PR 001 2024 \$\$ Cascade Falls Lookout & Stairs Phase 1 PR 001 2025 \$\$\$ Professional Services for PR 008 \$\$ PR 008.1 2028 PR 008 Cascade Falls Boardwalk Phase 2 \$\$\$ 2029 PR 007 Cascade Falls Phase 3 TBD \$\$\$

PARK-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK

- Update outdated boardwalk
- Add non-slip tread to boardwalk

RECOMMENDATIONS

SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

| ITEM # | PROJECT | ESTIMATED COMPLETION | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|--------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| PR 011 | Park Signage & Wayfinding | 2025 | \$ |

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Prioritize park maintenance over new amenities | High | Ongoing | N/A |
| Cohesive and comprehensive park identification, wayfinding, and rules signage | High | Immediate | \$\$ |
| Add dog waste bag receptacles and bike racks to major parks and downtown Osceola | Low | Immediate | \$ |
| Identify rewilding opportunities to cut down on mowing needs | High | Immediate | N/A |
| Facilitate regular meetings with community park/ trail groups (such as the Osceola Trails and Parks Group, Standing Cedars, DNR) to identify needs and opportunities for resource sharing | Medium | Ongoing | N/A |
| Emphasize fees in lieu of parkland dedication to prevent accumulation of parkland that must be maintained | High | Ongoing | N/A |

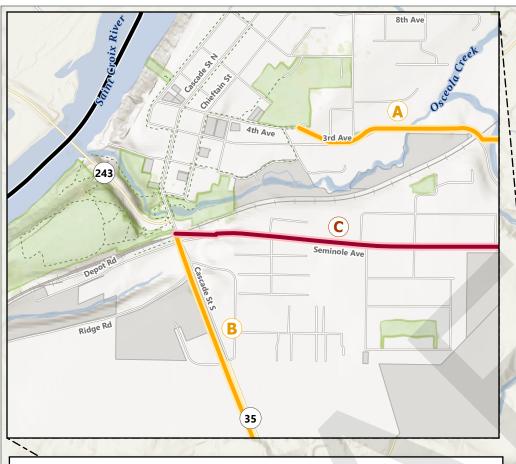
NEW PARK FACILITIES

As discussed in Chapter 4, additional parkland is not necessary to maintain Osceola's current high level of service through 2040. The Village should first utilize its resources to improve current recreational facilities to meet the needs of its existing (and growing) population. However, the service level calculation does not consider existing parks' locations and density, meaning that it does not discern between many parks spread throughout the Village or all parks condensed around the downtown area.

As residential development occurs on the outskirts of Osceola, more parkland could be added to ensure that those residents have easy access to green space. While this plan document emphasizes fees in lieu of parkland dedication to minimize maintenance needs for Village staff, this tactic can always be reversed to reflect the community's changing priorities.

MOBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Osceola's hiking trails are a cherished recreational amenity for residents and visitors alike. A significant portion of the Village's resources should be allocated to maintaining and continuously improving its existing trails – namely mitigating erosion/slope failure and ensuring that all trailheads are ADA accessible. There are also multiple opportunities for multi-modal expansion to connect pedestrians and cyclists to prominent destinations within Osceola, as illustrated on the map on the following page.



MOBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS (CONT.)

The following off-street trail recommendations were identified through community engagement and conversations with Osceola's Planning Commission. This map provides suggested locations for each trail, but each are subject to change following extensive feasibility and design processes.

A Downtown – Industrial Park Trail Extension (new paved path)

This paved path would connect the existing paths that deadend in Oakey Park and the Osceola Industrial Park. The path would run directly west from the Industrial Park, through a small forested area, then follow 3rd Ave E to Oakey Park. The Village has included this project in its CIP (PR 013) with anticipated implementation within the next 6-10 years.

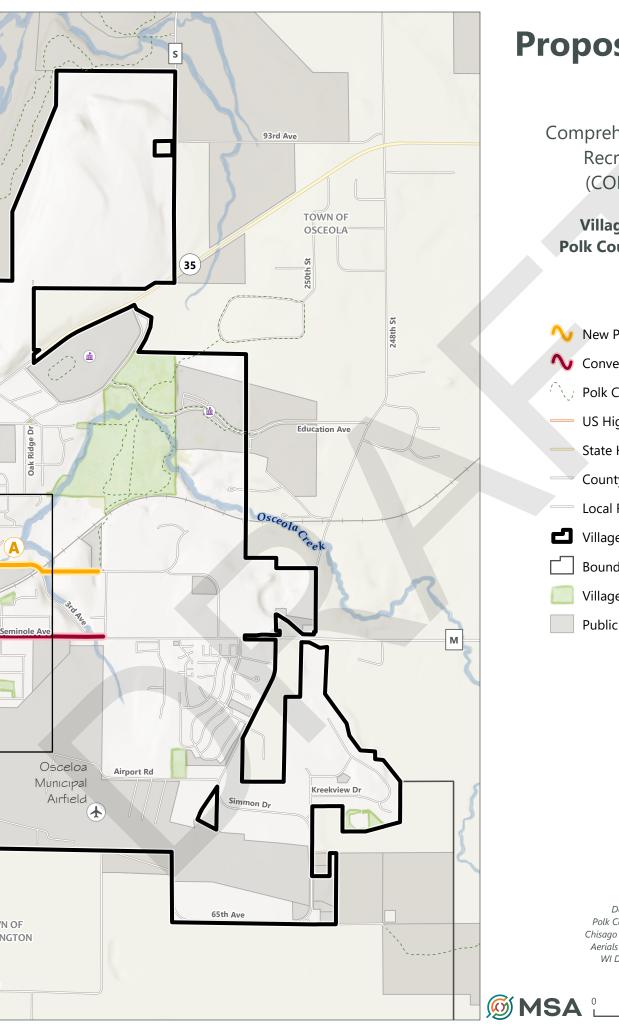
B STH-35 Bicycle & Pedestrian Trail (new paved path) This paved path would lead from the Osceola Rd-Cascade St

intersection in downtown Osceola, down Highway 35 to the Osceola Medical Center. The Village has acquired easements on the west side of 35 and have included this project in its CIP (PR 003) with anticipated implementation within the next 6-10 years.

C Downtown – M/3rd Ave E (expanded sidewalk)

There is currently a paved sidewalk on the north edge of M. To add an alternative connection between the Industrial Park/ nearby subdivisions and downtown Osceola, the Village could consider widening this sidewalk to accommodate additional pedestrian and cyclist usage.

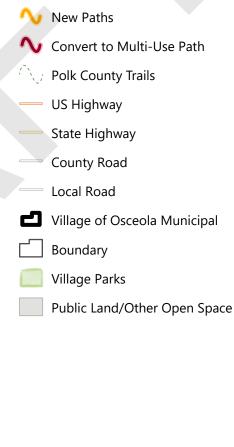




Proposed Paths

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Update

Village of Osceola Polk County, Wisconsin



Data Sources: Polk County GIS (2023) Chisago County GIS (2023) Aerials (2022 MN & WI) WI DNR Hydrology

0.25

0.5 Miles

GN

CHAPTER 6 IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter summarizes tools and mechanisms that the Village can use to fund implementation of the park, trail, and open space recommendations discussed in Chapter 5. This chapter also outlines the process for plan adoption and plan amendments.

TOOLS AND MECHANISMS TO FUND IMPLEMENTATION

As Osceola's recreational amenities grow, the need to increase funding to meet the basic maintenance and operational costs also grows. While it is often difficult to fund major capital improvement projects all at once, there are a variety of funding sources to assist with up-front capital costs.

Development Impact Fees and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budgeting

Development impact fees are collected from developers to fund public infrastructure needs triggered by new development projects. This ensures that the cost for new infrastructure to support new residents does not fall entirely on existing residents, who already contribute to public amenities through their taxes.

These development impact fees, along with other sources of revenue, are invested into the community through a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which outlines anticipated infrastructure projects, their timelines for completion, and the funds and resources available to complete them. Many of the recommendations listed in this plan are expected to be implemented through the CIP budgeting process.

Grant Programs

An important source of funding is grant programs offered by county, state, and federal agencies. The table on the following pages provides a summary of common state and federal park and recreation grant programs. The table is not an exhaustive list of grant programs, but rather those that are typically used by jurisdictions to supplement acquisition and development of park and recreation areas. Other grant programs may exist and information regarding funding details shown in the table should be verified prior to seeking grant funding.

Community Fundraising & Volunteer Groups

Community groups and civic organizations are often willing to organize fundraising efforts to assist with costs, programming, and upkeep. Organizations like Osceola's Trails and Parks Group can help support specific parks on an ongoing basis. They may also be able to organize volunteer labor to assist with small development projects such as trail creation, maintenance, or playground installations.

Local business and corporate support should also be sought. For example, Polaris (a major automotive manufacturer with a plant location in Osceola) could support the construction and/or maintenance of ATV routes in the Village through grants or partnerships with community groups. Both non-profit and for-profit organizations can be acknowledged for their support with a plaque or sign at the site.

501(c)3 Foundation

The community could set up an endowment fund as an additional means of providing continual financial support for park acquisition and development. An endowment fund is a self-sustaining account in which assets are invested. The annual disbursement amount of the fund is a set percent of assets, generally smaller than the accrued interest amount, which allows the value of the fund and assets to grow over time. A park endowment fund can provide a means for residents to provide ongoing donations to the Village's park system with the certainty that the money donated will only be used for the advancement of recreation in the community. Gifts to an endowment fund are tax deductible under federal and state law.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

| Funding Programs | Grant Structure | Application Due Date | Granting Agency | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program - <i>https://dnr.wisconsil</i> Funds acquisition of land and easements for conservation and facilities, and restoration of wildlife habitat. This is an umbrella | recreation purposes, o | development and ir | | | | |
| Federal-Level Funding | | | | | | |
| Recreational Trails Program Provides matching grants for maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails, and acquisition of easement or property for trails. Funding may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan included or reference in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan required by the federal LWCF Program. | 50% match required | May 1 | DNR | | | |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF/LAWCON) Encompasses a range of grant opportunities for land acquisition, development, and renovation of high-quality outdoor recreation amenities. | 50% match required | May 1 | DNR | | | |
| State-Level Funding | | | | | | |
| Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) Provides matching grants to purchase land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). | 50% match required | May 1 | DNR | | | |
| Urban Green Space (UGS) Provides matching grants to purchase land or easements in urban or urbanizing area to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. | 50% match required | May 1 | DNR | | | |
| Urban Rivers (UR) Provides matching grants to purchase land on or adjacent to river flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. | 50% match required | May 1 | DNR | | | |
| Acquisition of Development Rights Grants (ADR) Provides matching grants to purchase development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values, that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. | 50% match required | May 1 | DNR | | | |

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| Funding Programs | Grant Structure | Application Due Date | Granting Agency |
|--|--|--|----------------------|
| Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) - https://wiscon | sindot.gov/Pages/doing | -bus/local-gov/astn | ce-pgms/aid/tap.aspx |
| Multi-modal program that incorporates former Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program (BPFP), Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant programs. Eligible categories include: Construction, planning and design of on-road and off- road trail facilities for non-motorized transportation (pedestrians and bicyclists) Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for non-motorized transportation (pedestrians and bicyclists) Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas Community improvement activities related transportation such as to outdoor advertising, historic preservation, vegetation management and archaeological activities Environmental mitigation activities Recreational trails programs Safe Routes to Schools programs Planning, designing or constructing boulevards or other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former interstate routes or other divided highways. | Reimbursement program; 20% local match required. Non-infrastructure projects must be \$25,000 or greater. | Applications available in October, due end of January of even- numbered years | WisDOT |
| Recreational Trail Program (RTP) - https://www.fhwa.dot.gov | //Environment/recreatio | nal_trails/ | |
| Provides funds to municipal governments and incorporated organizations to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. | Up to 80% reimbursement, can be used in conjunction with other state grant programs. | May 1 | FHWA |
| Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) - https://www.transpor | rtation.gov/grants/SS4A | | |
| Created by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to increase roadway safety for all users, this program provides two types of grants: Safety action plan development, supplemental planning, and demonstration activities Plan implementation (requires a comprehensive safety action plan) | 20% match required | Three deadlines during the spring and summer, depends on grant type | FHWA |

Private Grants

Grants from private organizations, such as AARP and American Trails, also present an excellent opportunity to apply for funding for specific projects. Many of these grants support placemaking projects, bike infrastructure improvements, and other initiatives that competitive, government-run grants do not consider. Before any project listed on the following pages is scheduled for implementation, it is highly encouraged to consider private grants as part of the funding process.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

PLAN ADOPTION & AMENDMENTS

This plan will be adopted following the procedures highlighted below:

Planning Commission Recommendation

Osceola's Planning Commission shall meet to review the plan and pass a motion to recommend adoption of the plan. No public hearing is necessary for the adoption of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, as it is integrated into the Comprehensive Plan update process, which *does* require a public hearing.

Plan Adoption

This plan and any future amendments will become Village policy when the Village Board passes, by a majority vote, a resolution to adopt. The Village Board may choose to revise the plan after it has been recommended by the Planning Commission.

Plan Amendment vs. Plan Update

Amendments can be made at any time to reflect the changing priorities and realities of the Village, but the plan should not be amended more than once per year. A common recommended approach is to establish a consistent annual schedule for consideration of minor plan amendments.

PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Some of the recommended improvements in Chapter 5 will require a large budget and robust design process to implement. The following are steps that the Village should take to complete these projects:

- 1. <u>Concept Development:</u> Identify community needs, site issues, and possible design solutions. This plan document aligns with this stage as it provides preliminary/high-level ideas for park improvements based on community feedback and other sources.
- 2. <u>Survey</u>: Instrumental in determining the physical conditions of the park property, such as topography, property lines, and existing infrastructure.
- 3. <u>Environmental Assessment</u>: Determine natural processes and conditions that may be interrupted by human intervention, such as soil and groundwater quality, erosion, and water flow direction.
- 4. Design Process
 - <u>Pre-design/Cost Estimating</u>: Identify space requirement issues, constraints and opportunities of the proposed site, and cost versus budget.
 - <u>Schematic Design</u>: Develop three-dimensional concept(s) to solve identified issue.
 - <u>Final Design</u>: Narrow possible schematic designs to one implementable design.
- 5. <u>Specifications and Bidding:</u> Identify specific materials, construction methods, and contractors to complete the project.
- 6. <u>Construction/Construction Administration</u>: Implementation of project and on-site work to ensure that project is moving smoothly.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY

Osceola's Planning Commission has prioritized certain recommendations for each park in the Village. These are explored park-by-park in Chapter 5. The table on the following pages lists these improvements to provide easy access to desired improvements by park and potential funding opportunities.

(PR XXX) denotes projects that are included in Osceola's 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

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| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| System Recommendations | | |
| (PR 011) Park Signage & Wayfinding | High | Immediate |
| Prioritize park maintenance over new amenities | High | Ongoing |
| Add dog waste bag receptacles and bike racks to major parks and downtown Osceola | Low | Immediate |
| Identify rewilding opportunities to cut down on mowing needs | High | Immediate |
| Facilitate regular meetings with community park/trail groups (such as the Osceola Trails and Parks Group, Standing Cedars, DNR) to identify needs and opportunities for resource sharing | Medium | Ongoing |
| Emphasize fees in lieu of parkland dedication to prevent accumulation of parkland that must be maintained | High | Ongoing |
| 10th Avenue Triangle Park | | |
| Improve existing landscaping by converting land into a low- maintenance rain garden | Low | Short-Term |
| Gateway Meadows Park | | |
| (PR 009.1) Professional Services for PR 009 | High | Short-Term |
| (PR 009) Gateway Park Development & Construction | High | Short-Term |
| Add small fenced-in, off-leash dog park | Low | Long-Term |
| Ladd Memorial Park | | |
| Replace fence along western edge of park with same style as Gristmill Park | Medium | Short-Term |
| Add historic signage | Low | Long-Term |
| Pheasant Run Park | | |
| Add low-maintenance walking trail | Low | Long-Term |
| Smith Park | | |
| (PR 012.1) Professional Services for Smith Park | Medium | Short-Term |
| Add sidewalk from Smith Ave to playground | Low | Long-Term |

.....

| | COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) | POTENTIAL PUBLIC FUNDING | COMMENTS |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | |
| | \$\$ | ТАР | Cohesive and comprehensive park identification, wayfinding, and rules signage |
| | N/A | - | |
| | \$ | - | |
| | N/A | - | |
| | N/A | - | |
| | N/A | - | |
| I | | | |
| | \$ | - | Partner with neighboring landowners, community parks and recreation groups, and youth service groups for ongoing maintenance |
| | | | |
| | \$\$ | - | |
| | \$\$\$ | Stewardship Program | Playground development and construction |
| | \$\$ | - | |
| | | | |
| | \$\$ | | |
| | \$ | - | May be included in Village-wide wayfinding signage project |
| | | | |
| | \$ | RTP | |
| | | | |
| | \$\$ | - | May consider selling unused parkland |
| | \$ | - | |

Comprehensive Outdoor Pecreation Plan

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) |
|---|---|---|
| Eric Park | | |
| Sell unused eastern portion of parkland | Medium | Short-Term |
| Resurface basketball and tennis courts | High | Short-Term |
| Paint pickleball lines on tennis court | Medium | Short-Term |
| Add stairs leading from grass down to courts | Low | Long-Term |
| Add additional picnic tables | Medium | Immediate |
| Add sidewalk from Eric Dr to playground and courts | Low | Short-Term |
| Gristmill Park | | |
| Add diverse lighting system | | Dependent upon Cascade Falls in |
| Geiger Brewery Park | | |
| Replace footbridge at trailhead | | |
| Remove/fix concrete retaining wall | Dependent upon MNDOT and WisDOT's recor | |
| Replace steps | | |
| Paint historical/educational mural on concrete retaining wall | | |
| Millpond Park | | |
| Make gravel parking lot into designated parking area (primarily tourist/event overflow parking) | Medium | Short-Term |
| Add overhead lighting | Medium | Long-Term |
| Replace large gazebo with ADA-compliant event stage | High | Short-Term |
| Add accessible playground area to undeveloped park parcel | Low | Long-Term |
| Rebuild walking bridge across Osceola Creek | Low | Long-Term |
| Osceola Eagle Bluff | | 1 |
| Erosion mitigation on slope | Medium | Short-Term |
| Rebuild and/or fix deteriorated bridges | Medium | Short-Term |

.....

| COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) | POTENTIAL PUBLIC FUNDING | COMMENTS |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | | |
| N/A | - | |
| \$\$\$ | | As of March 2024, these courts are being evaluated for the feasibility of asphalt rehydration, crack filling, paint, |
| \$ | Stewardship Program | and the addition or conversion of 2 pickle ball courts. |
| \$ | | Depending on the results of this analysis, these amenities may be moved to a different park. |
| \$ | - | |
| \$ | - | |
| | | |

nprovement design - Gristmill is currently being considered for the new location of overlook/stair access.

nstruction of STH 243 started in 2027 – Geiger Brewery Park may be reconfigured for pedestrian/cyclist bridge access.

| \$ | - | |
|--------|---------------------|--|
| \$\$ | - | Funding may cover if incorporated into other park projects |
| \$\$\$ | Stewardship Program | |
| \$\$\$ | Stewardship Program | |
| \$\$ | - | |
| | | |
| \$\$ | - | Funding unlikely for trail maintenance |
| \$\$\$ | - | Funding unlikely for trail maintenance |

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Oakey Park | | |
| (PR 010) Oakey Park Ball Field & Park Renovation | High | Short-Term |
| Renovate (and/or relocate) restrooms near playground | High | Immediate |
| Build skatepark and parking lot (409 4th Ave on the SW corner of Oakey Park) | High | Immediate |
| Renovate/replace bleachers and concession stand | High | Short-Term |
| Relocate ice rink to top of sledding hill | Medium | Immediate |
| Add safety lighting to pavilion/other structures, light poles around park | Medium | Short-Term |
| Add paved walking path to connect existing park amenities | Low | Short-Term |
| Add 2 pickleball courts | High | Short-Term |
| Schillberg Park | | |
| (PR 002.1) Professional Services for Schillberg Park | High | Immediate |
| (PR 002) Schillberg Park Improvements | High | Short-Term |
| Rehab existing red building ("cantina") for rentable space | Low | Long-Term |
| Add overhead lighting | Low | Long-Term |
| Park/wayfinding signage at all five access points | High | Short-Term |
| Consider park master plan to document intended usage (picnic grounds, trails, festival grounds) and ongoing maintenance needs | Low | Long-Term |
| Utilize WI Community Forest funding and programming assistance to better utilize park as an educational forest | Medium | Long-Term |

| COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) | POTENTIAL PUBLIC FUNDING | COMMENTS |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | | |
| \$\$\$ | Stewardship Program | Anticipated improvements to athletic field, restrooms, picnic shelter, basketball court, and/or playground equipment |
| \$\$ | - | |
| \$\$\$ | - | As of drafting of this plan, this project has nearly reached its fundraising goal of \$200,000 |
| \$\$ | - | |
| \$ | - | |
| \$\$ | - | Funding may cover if incorporated into other park projects |
| \$\$ | - | |
| \$\$\$ | Stewardship Program | |

| \$\$ | Stewardship Program | Analysis may consider addition of parking lot, playground, and/or pedestrian facilities on northern parcel |
|--------|---------------------|--|
| \$\$\$ | Stewardship Program | Implementation of results from PR 002.1 |
| \$\$ | - | |
| \$\$\$ | | Funding may cover if incorporated into other park projects |
| \$\$ | - | May be included in Village-wide wayfinding signage project |
| \$ | - | |
| \$ | DNR Grants | |

| RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY Low-Med-High | TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years) |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Wilke Glen & Cascade Falls | | |
| (PR 001.1) Professional Services for PR 001 | High | Immediate |
| (PR 001) Cascade Falls Lookout & Stairs Phase 1 | High | Immediate |
| (PR 008.1) Professional Services for PR 008 | High | Short-Term |
| (PR 008) Cascade Falls Boardwalk Phase 2 | High | Long-Term |
| (PR 007) Cascade Falls Phase 3 | Medium | Long-Term |
| Mobility Improvements | | |
| (PR 003) STH-35 Bicycle & Pedestrian Trail | Medium | Long-Term |
| (PR 013) Industrial Park – Downtown Trail Extension | Low | Long-Term |
| Downtown – M/3rd Ave expanded sidewalk | Low | Long-Term |

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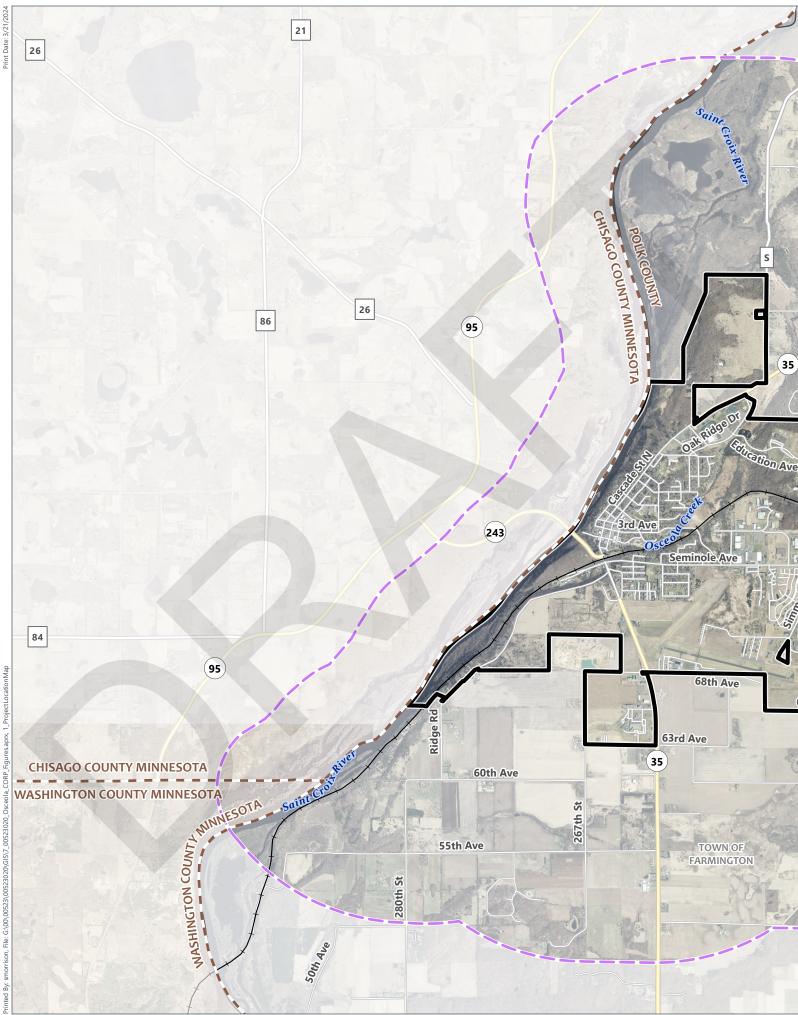
| COST ESTIMATE \$ (<\$50k) \$\$ (\$50k-200k) \$\$\$ (\$200k+) | POTENTIAL PUBLIC FUNDING | COMMENTS |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| | | |
| \$\$ | Stewardship Program | |
| \$\$\$ | Stewardship Program | Relocation of outlook and stairs to Gristmill Park |
| \$\$ | Stewardship Program | |
| \$\$\$ | Stewardship Program | Reconstruction of boardwalk system. Potential improvements to trailhead and parking lot. |
| \$\$\$ | Stewardship Program | Establish trail extension through riparian parcel northeast of Phase 2 site. |
| | · | |
| \$\$\$ | Stewardship Program, TAP, RTP | Village has acquired easements along west side of STH 35 |
| | | |

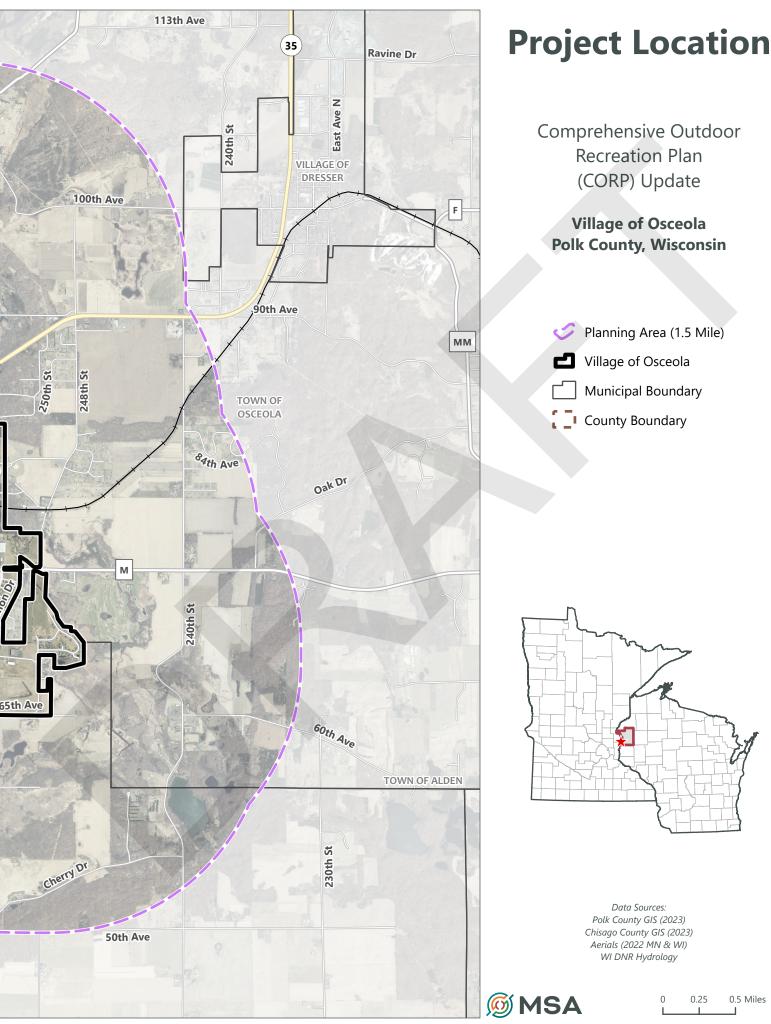
| \$\$\$ | TAP, RTP | |
|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| \$\$ | Stewardship Program, TAP, RTP | |
| 222 2 | Stewardship Program, TAP, KTP | village has acquired easements along west side of 51H 55 |

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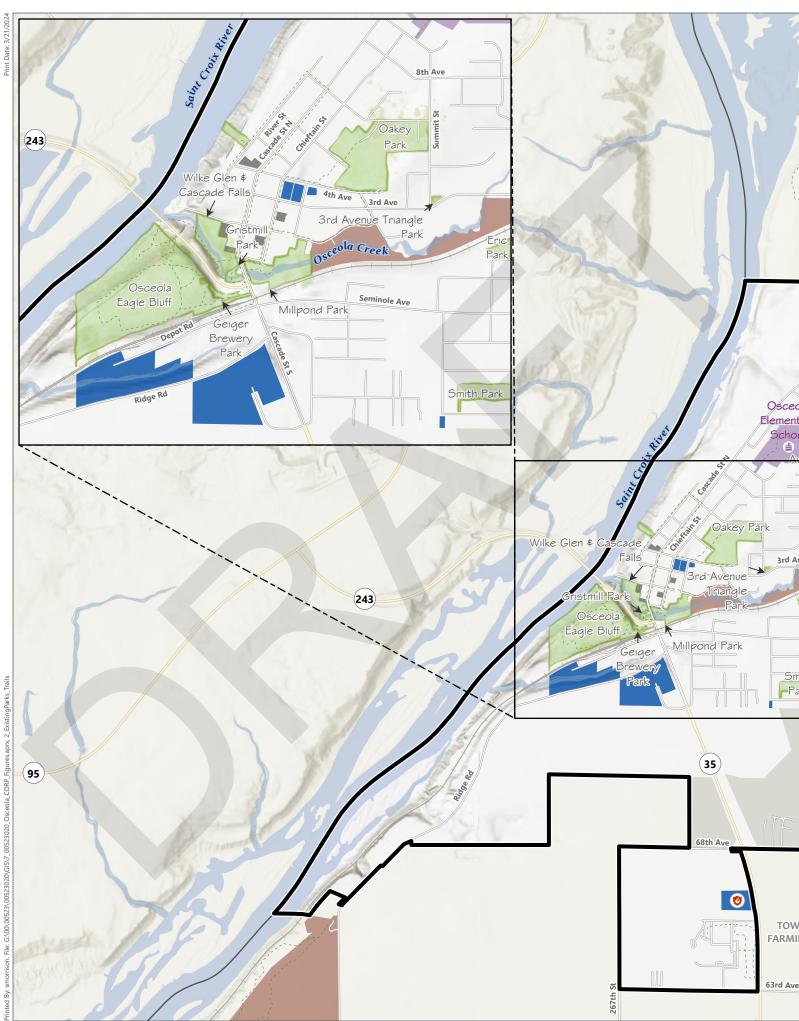
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APPENDIX A COMMUNITY MAPS

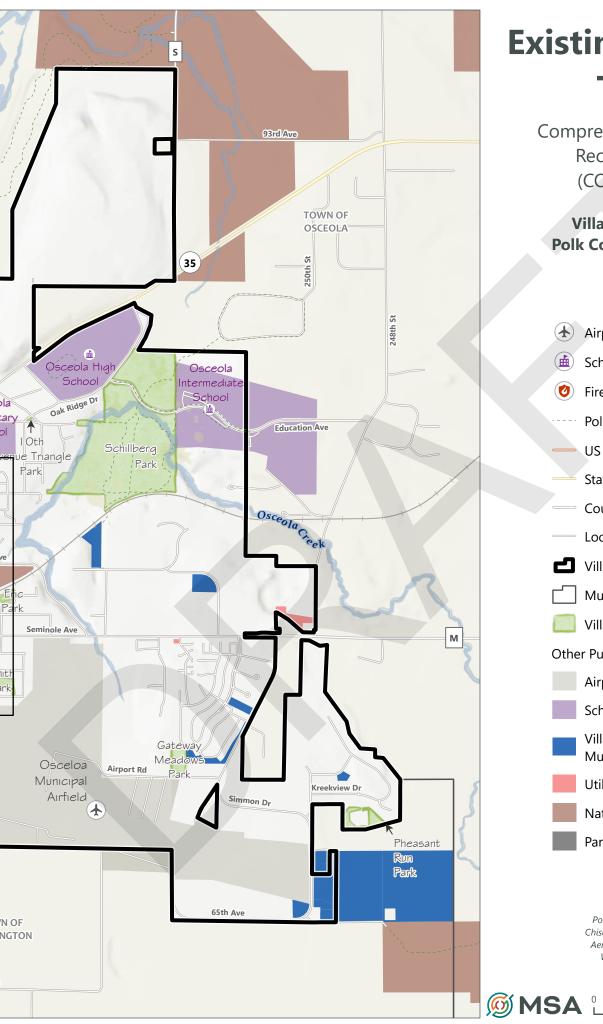




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Existing Parks & Trails

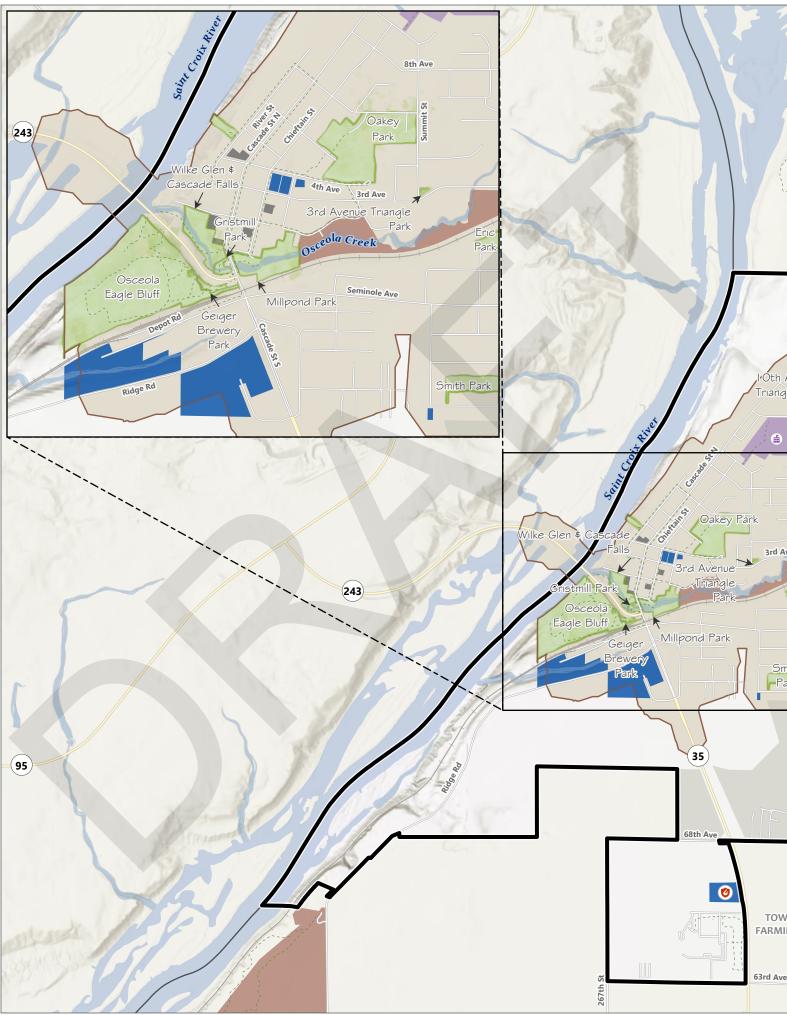
Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Update

Village of Osceola Polk County, Wisconsin

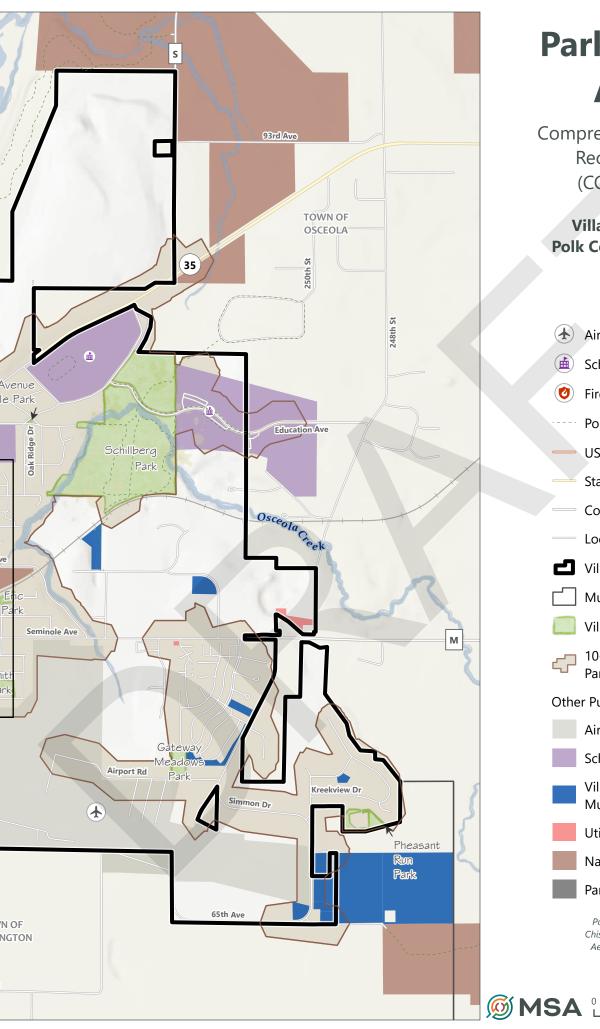








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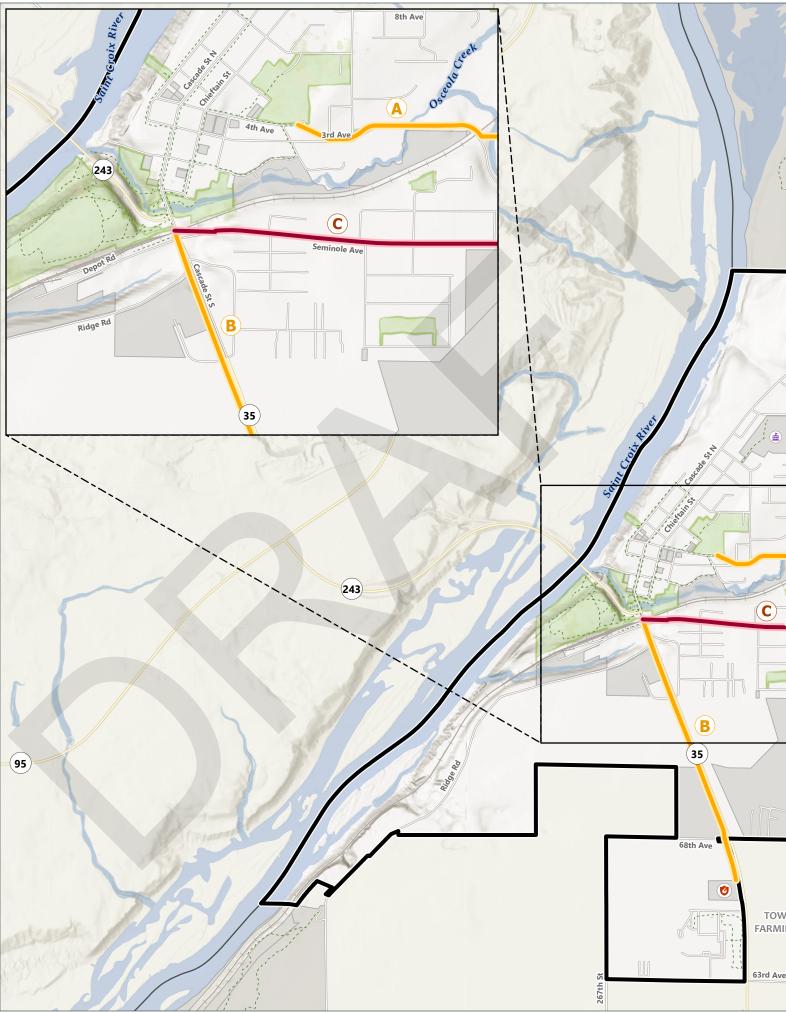
Park Service Areas

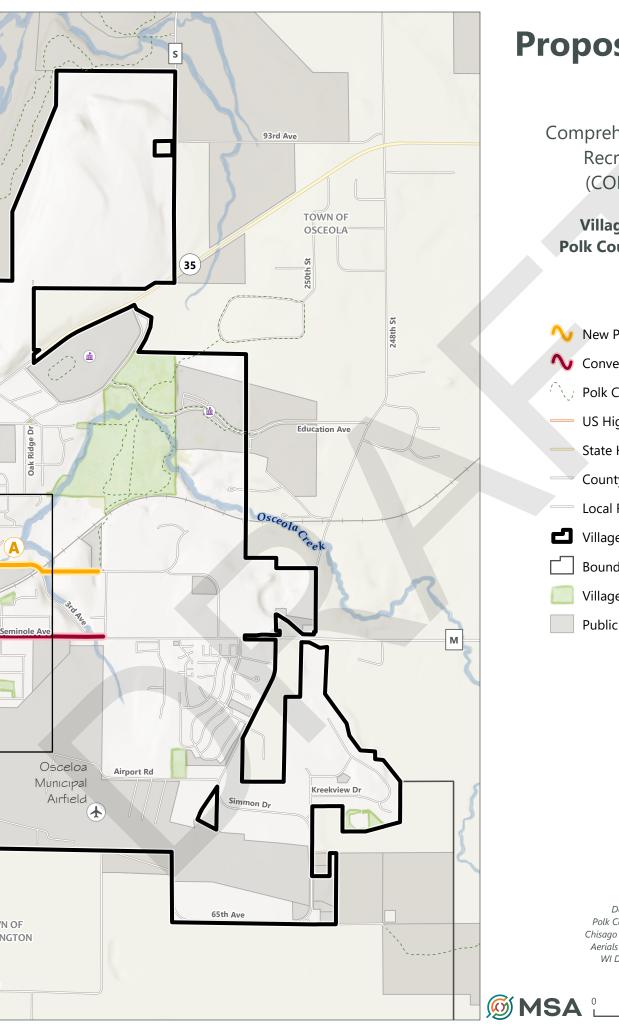
Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Update

Village of Osceola Polk County, Wisconsin





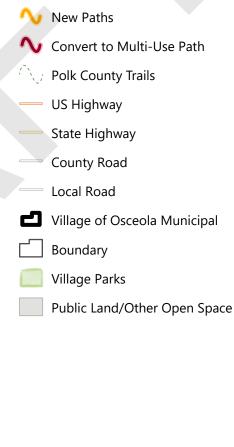




Proposed Paths

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) Update

Village of Osceola Polk County, Wisconsin



Data Sources: Polk County GIS (2023) Chisago County GIS (2023) Aerials (2022 MN & WI) WI DNR Hydrology

0.25

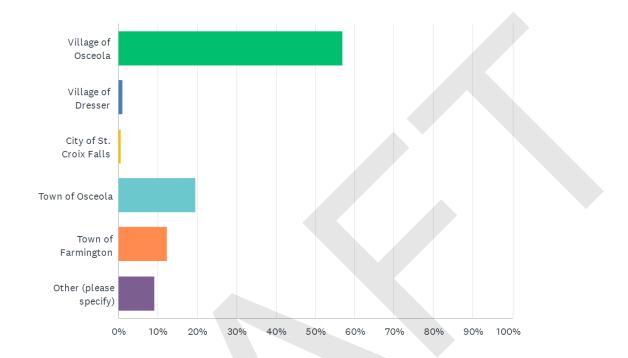
0.5 Miles

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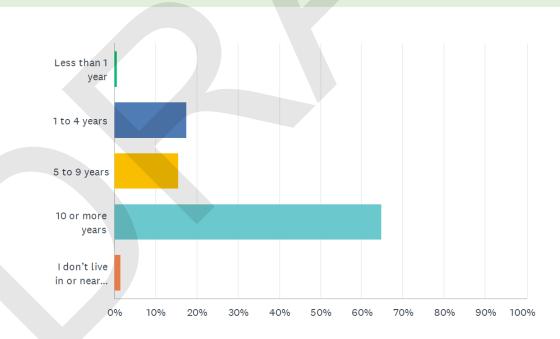
APPENDIX B SURVEY SUMMARY

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY RESULTS

1. Where do you live?

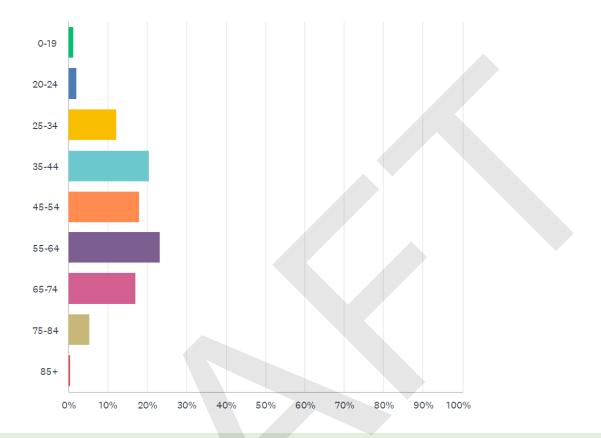


2. How long have you lived in or near Osceola?



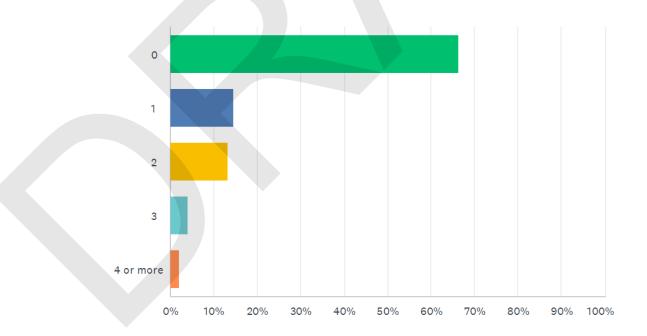
Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

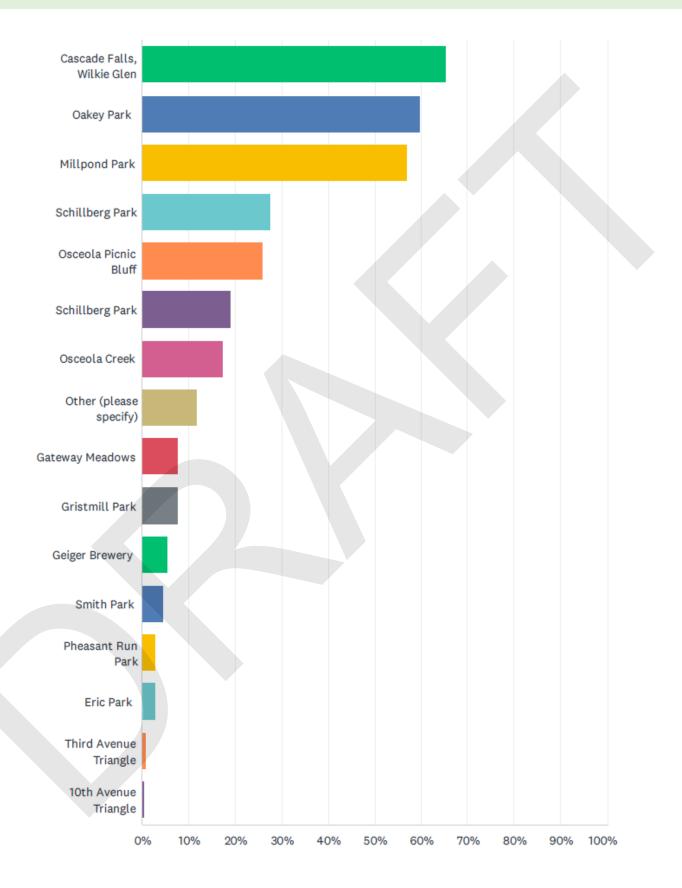
3. What is your age?



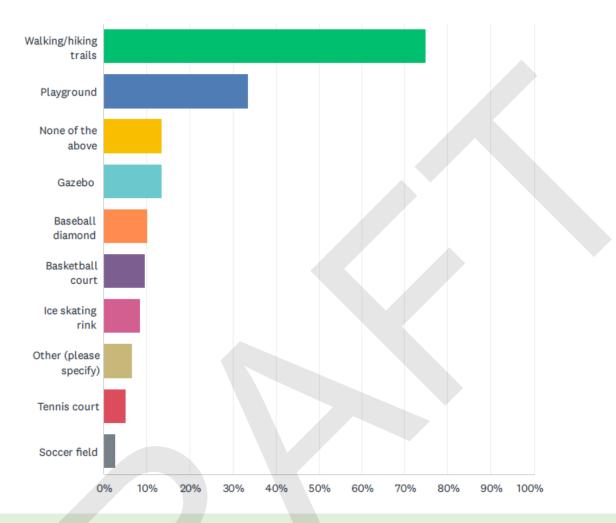
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4. How many members of your household are under the age of 18?





.....



7. Which parks and recreation amenities/facilities do you currently use?

- We could use some pickle ball courts :)
- Gristmill. The attempt at improvements with some plantings a couple of years ago failed. Needs reboot
- Access to the river, like a bike trail to the Osceola landing
- Gateway Meadows
- Gateway Meadows need recreation development!
- Gateway meadows! Non existing playground
- Oakey
- Most could use a little TLC.
- None
- Osceola picnic bluff If this is the one on river street tree trimming so you can the river a little more
- Eric Park upkeep/repair Schillberg- tree trimming/ cleanup and garbage cans needed.
- Schillberg needs a playground back. Gateway Meadows is supposed to have a playground but still waiting years and years for it. Oakey can be sketchy, need to feel safer to

bring the kids there.

- Smith Park needs some TLC.
- All they all seem to be lacking.
- Oakley park- fenced in
- Schillberg Park needs a playground and the existing swings need fixed (only one with two places for swings). The scouts use that area regularly and would enjoy playing there too. Lots of kids ride their bikes and play there. There is a big, dead tree there too.
- There aren't soccerfields at the parks, so my kids usually go to the school to play. Having parks with that option would be fantastic. My kids use the medical center basketball court and would like more options. People come from Minnesota to use that basketball court and it gets really busy, so sometimes we have to go elsewhere. We need more, quality basketball courts that work for teenagers or young adults. Some hoops aren't high enough.
- No comment

7. Which parks and recreation amenities/facilities do you currently use? (cont.)

- Ice skating park
- Schillberg Park all the equipment was out dated and now removed altogether
- Eric Park
- Schillberg, needs updated equipment
- Eric Park. It is and could be a beautiful park if you would put up new basketball nets, fix the pavement and put up a tennis net! I've been asking this for more than five years and I've never received a response
- Eric Park... Out of date playground equipment, tennis court and basketball court fences and blacktop in poor/ dangerous condition, no seating/tables/benches, lack of stairs/safe way to go down to the courts, no equipment/ safe place for young children to play/explore, not friendly for those with disabilities or mobility issues
- The fair building
- All.
- Oakey Park particularly the grandstand area
- Grandstand at park
- Oakey Park grandstand is in need of significant repair and upgrading.
- the grandstand at Oakey Park is on its last leg, it needs repairs to the fencing on the front of the grandstand but the structure is so old it won't hold it up if replace netting is attached. Oakey Park ballgames draw big crowds to Osceola
- The watertower bluff trail, under the highway bridge, and the falls trail are popular and subject to erosion, wear and tear.
- The 10th Avenue Park/Triangle is in MAJOR need of improvement. I pass it on my way to and from my home everyday and what was once a garden is not a weed infested jungle. I would be happy to help with upkeep of it if it got some new plants but could never find out who to reach out to in order to offer my help. I'm sure my neighbors wouldn't mind helping with weeding and whatever else it needs if we knew who to get in contact with.
- Ice skating could be improved
- None. They're all pretty great. We have a lot of parks per capita and need to focus on maintaining, not expanding, what we have.
- Parks that mainly have received little investment toward like Shillbergs park, having a up kept park near the schools could see more use from the community. Also some trails could use resources to keep them walkable and loved by the community. I also agree with expanding parks like Oakey with more accomodations, but it is not necessary versus keeping or upgrading parks like Shillbergs and walkways.
- Schillberg Park, Its a beautiful area and its sad that it does

not see the attention it deserves.Older equipment that is breaking, etc.. That whole area could use good thought.

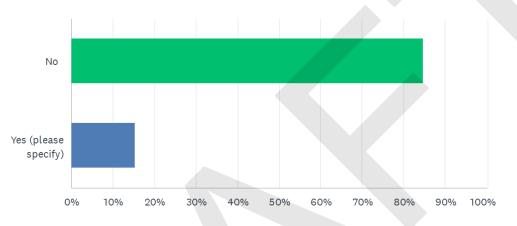
- Oakey Park, Updated equipment and better land use could be beneficial. It is a crucial center park for our town and should get the treatment it deserves. I also really loved when it was wood originally which could be a fun idea for redevelopment.
- Cascade Falls and Trail. The wood planks lying everywhere and that mudslide that still has not been dealt with is driving me and a lot of others insane. While I understand the need for the wood boardwalks they can be an eyesore. Id love if the trails could be redeveloped and fixed in an environmentally friendly way.
- Oakey. It'd be great to have a bathroom, a nicer pavilion and better playground equipment.
- Cascade falls and Glenn Cascade falls, this is a uniqued attraction to town
- Oakey and Schillberg updated
- Signage could be improved on the Eagle Bluffs/Cascade falls/Simenstad Loop trails. Also a lot of graffiti under the bridge.
- I wouldn't mind a touch up for the picnic tables and shelter at Schillberg Park. There has been some vandalism and I dislike taking youth groups there. Better creek access would be nice too.
- You are not keeping up with current trends. St Croix Falls just built an indoor pickle ball court that attracts all ages and can be used year round. Within a few months, they have around 400 members. Osceola needs to think outside the box and realize what current trends are. Fitness centers are becoming a thing of the past, people want activities, not just lifting weights or walking on a treadmill...that's 90's thinking.
- N/A. I've found the facilities in good repair
- Oakey because it's creepy and a drug dealing location
- Parking is very limited
- Schillberg park is bare but do to its location close to the schools it is easy to visit those locations instead. Eric park is old and dated. Oakey park always seems low on woodchips and the restrooms are dated.
- The concrete wall by Geiger needs to be replaced. It would be great to see it replaced/repaired then painted in a historical or natural mural.
- The board walk along creek at Cascade Falls are very slippery when wet, some kind of nonskid tread or something would be helpful. I have slipped on them a few different times.
- Area behind Watershed restaurant, next to PY's.
- GrateWay
- Cascade Falls can anything be done about the ugly rocks piled where the Milk House was -maybe a patio etc.

7. Which parks and recreation amenities/facilities do you currently use? (cont.)

- Gateway meadows park.... Nothing there Pleasant run park ?.....
- Smith park, don't even know why its there.
- Need more bike trails
- Didn't know gateway meadow had a park.
- Eric Park and Oakey Park

- Focus on cutting costs and balancing budgets so I am not having a 30% tax increase per year.
- The park behind Gerald st needs a lot of attention. Look's abandoned.
- Schillberg Park is an underutilized asset. It needs a purpose and a design. Would be a wonderful Festival Grounds to bring people to our town.

8. Do you have any concerns about personal safety or accessibility in any of Osceola's parks?



- No walking or bike path on the bridge to the river
- I have a special needs child that likes to elope and not having fenced in parks makes it difficult to enjoy the parks.
- Handicapped facilities should be added.
- Oakey park is sketchy. It doesn't feel safe to go there anymore.
- Bathrooms at oakey park
- Oakley park, drug use
- Dead tree at Schillberg Park.
- I do when the skate park opens.
- Strange behavior by individuals not using playground at Oakey Park
- Eric Park has poorly maintained fences by the sports courts, lack of safe way to get to the courts or playground equipment if you have any form of disability or mobility issues.
- Oakey Park.
- The grandstand at Oakey Park is in terrible need of updating, both for safety and for cosmetic decay.
- Grandstand is about to fall down
- Grandstand at Oakey Park
- see above. Grandstand needs new bleachers and structure
- Having porta potties or bathrooms at the park to use for people and people with wheel chairs
- I have concerns about the "expansion" on the bluff coming closer toward my private property and the safety/liability

issues this creates for me.

- Lack of accessible parking at parks
- Unsafe equipment. Sketchy activity
- Not handicap accessible enough
- Vagrants and predators at Oakey Park
- The trail that runs along the creek isn't the most accessible for less abled students. Having creek access closer to the field would be nice.
- Some concern for people who hang out in the parking lots of osceola loop and Chisago loop trails.
- Not at this time. Hopefully that will continue
- Lack of adequate lighting
- Smiths park and Eric park do not have pavement/ sidewalks all the way to the playground and the grass can be uneven. Eric parks tennis court looks to be falling off the cliff and is always a dirty, unkept eyesore.
- The rocks where the Milk House was are problematic and unsafe and always shifting and moving. There needs to be a better solution for that steep bluff.
- No police dept
- Oakey park is dirty and the stairs to the waterfall are not maintained well
- Crime.
- I feel at there is ALOT of crime that happens at the parks. Many cars in and out at all hours. Personal I think the skateboard park is going to being alot of crime and unwanted guests

9. Which additional amenities or recreational opportunities would you like to see in Osceola's park system?

- Pickle ball courts
- Walking or bike path to Osceola landing
- Osceola Dog Park
- No more parks
- More tennis courts and picnic areas
- Dog Park
- A playground in gateway meadows!
- Make sure there are portable toilets.
- Walk/ski trails
- Skate park for kids
- A splash pad :) We hope the skate park is eventually funded. We appreciate the drinking fountains and the bathrooms at Millpond and Oakey! (Schillberg bathrooms are hit or miss.)
- Fun playground equipment for older kids. Everything here is for very young kids.
- Schillbergs needs a playground!!!
- Something like Teddy Bear Park in Stillwater would be awesome.
- Skate Park
- More information on them.
- Skate park. Safe trail to get from pheasant run, 248th and 240th developments to schools/downtown.
- Mountain bike trails, soccer fields, playground at Schillberg Park
- Walking paths
- Dog park
- Improved lighting.
- Newer equipment
- More restaurants, not bar type restaurants. Family friendly restaurants or nice dining options.
- Public pool
- More bathrooms, picnic areas and equipment for younger children
- Handicap accessible ramp to Cascade Falls
- Frisbee golf
- SKATEPARK
- Can we get trash cans at Schillberg park again? I think Olsen may not know they should drop one there. I would also love to see a can at the beginning of the trail, right near Industrial.
- I would like to see a dog park.
- Public youth baseball fields
- More trails Pickleball courts
- I think the idea of inclusive parks for children with disabilities is wonderful! I'm not super familiar with all of the parks so maybe this is already covered.
- More organized trail events, especially for families. Nature

walks. Environmental education.More parking around library/hall/senior center. Missed the boat on that one!

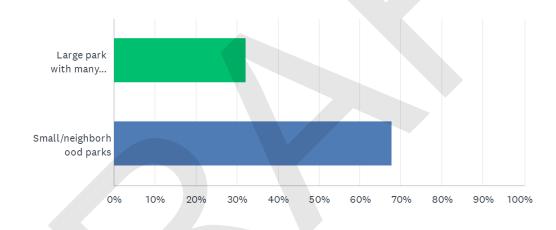
- Skateboard opportunities
- Instead of a skateboard park, I personally would like to see the existing ice skating rink become a dual-use facility that could house the skateboarders in the summer, like the one Scandia has.
- Skateboard park
- Cleaned up, more lighting.
- Parks, trails, ice rinks etc get used more when there is dedicated programming. We have GREAT amenities already- need programming.
- Honestly anything you can add. A lot of entertainment opportunities in Osceola are good, but if you invest in a skatepark I could see a lot of people interested in new entertainment options like that.
- Bike trails
- pickleball, skateboard park (just get it done instead of relying on private fund raising)
- Community driven outdoor events. Skate Park development. Equipment additions and upgrades. Simple drinking fountains.
- Public art Bike lanes Farmers market structure Return the pollinator gardens
- Wild areas. Restored native plant communities
- Splash pad or pool
- Pickleball courts
- It would be great to have a park in the Gateway Meadows neighborhood. Lots of kids in that neighborhood. It would be great to walk/bike to a local playground within the development
- Would be fun to see an interactive trail with art or educational tidbits scattered throughout. For example, a trail with tree ID cards on some of the trees teaching you about their characteristics. Or a trail with little fairy houses scattered about at the bases of trees. Something fun to engage with while you're outdoors.
- Indoor pickleball courts. Jump on the bandwagon before it passes you by. Osceola is very slow to react to physical fitness trends, and seems to be stuck in the 90s.
- Pedestrian/cycle connections between them and town
- Addition of doggie poop bags in park facilities to encourage people to pick up after their animals.
- Skate park and bike trails
- Skate park
- Pickle ball courts.
- Pickleball
- Skate park
- More natural area improvements like trails.

9. Which additional amenities or recreational opportunities would you like to see in Osceola's park system? (cont.)

- Some pickle ball courts, more benches and picnic areas.
- Skate park
- Gateway they need it because of all the young families that have move in here and they told that it was going done
- indoor pickle ball courts
- Handicapped accessibility
- Pickle ball court
- Pickelball courts
- Nicer bathrooms
- None. Stop spending the residents money.

- Build a skate park. Quit holding out on something that's been "begged for" for 35 years.
- More walking trails, dog park. Most people have dogs off leash (not happy)!!
- Cleaner restrooms
- Bathrooms
- Better restrooms
- Outdoor Ice skating rink.
- Frisbee golf
- Bike trails connecting to other towns. An outdoor performance stage for summer concerts in the parks.

10. If you had to choose, would you and your household rather drive to a big park with many amenities (such as sports fields, large playgrounds, restrooms, etc.), or walk to a neighborhood park with small playgrounds/picnic areas.



11. Where would you prioritize the location of new bike facilities, routes, walking paths, or trails?

- connecting OMC to downtown and fixing the walking area near the depot
- Gateway Meadows
- I would rank that at 99th out of a list of 100 needs
- Through Gateway Meadows
- Between gateway parkway and the safe route to school
- Gateway meadows
- High. This area should be more walkable
- 248, M, and other outer areas.
- A paved path (sidewalk) out to OMC.
- South of town!
- Between OMC and downtown.
- Current elementary school
- By the schools
- Already enough of them!

- Shillberg park,bluffs
- Safe trail to get from pheasant run, 248th and 240th developments to schools/downtown.
- All throughout town
- From Osceola to Osceola Medical center.
- 3rd ave
- Connect the existing network
- Ability to get in and out if town.
- North of Krooked kreek
- Near the schools, and other places in the community with ample parking space alreadyaccessible.
- Town towards hospital On M towards Alden
- River access & views
- Access to downtown or by the Industrial Park on M
- Large parks first (such as Oakey), downtown to school area

75 Village of Osceola, Wisconsin

11. Where would you prioritize the location of new bike facilities, routes, walking paths, or trails? (cont.)

- Along County Rd M and from Osceola to Dresser somewhere
- Near the high schiol
- 3rd street.
- EVERYWHERE is my honest answer. But my number one ask is 3rd Ave from M to downtown. Please create a pedestrian path here. People who live in housing areas off of M want to walk or bike downtown on a nice day. As it is 3rd Ave is not safe for pedestrian travel. It's narrow, full of potholes which are dangerous and not good for bikes (or cars) and it's also very dark. My second ask is for trail connection from downtown Osceola (or somewhere off M) to the Stower Seven and the Gandy Dancer. A paved path that connected to these trails would be incredible for locals that want the recreation and I think it would bring in tourism \$\$. Also please put bike racks downtown.
- In town
- Low priority
- in and around the village needs bike paths and walking paths or trails
- By the art barn
- I support hike, walk, bike paths away that are separate from major roadways and are safe from possible collision with vehicles. I don't know enough about the layout in Osceola.
- Anywhere in/close to town would be great. One of my reasons for moving here was to be able to walk to where I need to go. It is great for that IN THE SUMMER. In winter, it is absolutely dangerous to try and walk anywhere other than a couple blocks on Main Street. PLEASE educate village residents about need to keep sidewalks clear. PLEASE enforce shoveling regulations.
- Alongside our current roads
- We don't need more facilities! We need to maintain the ones we have and make sure MNDOT includes a bike path on the new bridge.
- walking access on 355 to & along Ridge Rd until road levels out; signs alerting drivers to bikers there; paved walking trail on 3rd Ave. from M to senior apts where sidewalk starts
- River view areas, bluffs
- Connection of Industrial park to downtown with multiuse paths along Osceola Creek.
- I think the possibility of renovating older paths that don't see too much use might be beneficial, but in terms of adding new walking paths and trails you might want to prioritize up keeping existing trails first. I think there could be more bike racks and facilities for these types a of vehicles around different trails near public spaces that have accomodations.

- connect downtown to Schillberg's park and extend to Stower Trail and St. Croix Falls/Dresser/Gandy Dancer Trail.
- East/North Schillberg Park. Standing Cedars. ~ County Road M, Eric Park, & 3rd Ave.
- More bluff trails! I'd take hiking trails and bike lanes anywhere we can get them.
- Near to and connecting the school buildings.
- To the south side of town
- Biking path to east Farmington and dresser. Can't bike on 35. Too dangerous.
- From town to OMC Park
- I'm primarily a road biker, and as I said earlier in the survey, I'm pleased with what's available to me in that regard. That said, my wife is less comfortable riding on streets with cars, so I think she and others like her could benefit from off street bike paths and/or dedicated bike lanes in and out of neighborhoods in the village.
- Boardwalks through wetlands by Schillberg Park
- to connect downtown areas to outer ring. Farmington to Osceola.
- Extending the existing one would be nice, oseola towards dresser would be nice.
- Frankly, I have lived in Osceola for 17 years and I have no idea where the bike trails are.
- Bike trails that connect to S
- Along the river connecting town with S trails and Standing cedars
- Connecting communities, one flowing into the next. A route connecting Osceola to the town of Osceola and Dresser
- I think what you are asking is how I would rank this in a priority—it's very important to have a walkable/bikeable community
- By the schools
- Public scenic areas.
- Near the dairy Queen for a trailhead
- Close to residential areas like the gateway division.
- In places that would not disrupt natural ecosystems
- Anywhere and everywhere. Osceola creek and the land near the wetlands beyond.
- One day, I'd love to see a walking/bike trail that is a big loop through Osceola, Dresser, St. Croix Falls, Taylors Falls, and back down the MN side to 243 to Osceola. But to start it would be great if we could have a walking/bike trail along Ridge Rd around to the Hospital and then back down Cascade to town and then a trail along Cascade to Cty Rd S with a trail all along Cty Rd S to Interstate Park.
- Ability to get downtown.
- Along the riverway

High priority

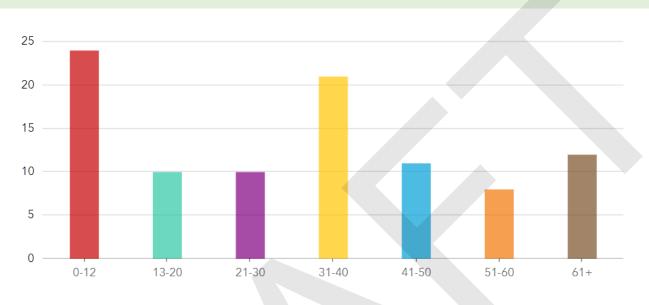
11. Where would you prioritize the location of new bike facilities, routes, walking paths, or trails? (cont.)

- Around the schools/Schillberg area
- Asking the river and bluffs.
- Near town.
- In the village or accessible from the village. Also, can we connect to the St Croix Falls biketrail?
- Hook up to other trails in the area Would be nice if they were all hooked together
- osceola landing
- A path that goes north up 35 to the hospital.
- Route to OMC
- None. There are plenty in the area.

- Outside of town
- Downtown area
- Not sure where more could be put at the moment
- Along highway 35 to allow safe passage between side roads
- complete the bike path from village of Osceola to OMC (partial bike path now from the assisted living to Kwik trip)
- Bike paths emanating from the new bridge. Maybe engineered bike courses in Schillberg Park. Maybe concert stage in Schillberg Park.
- Outside the Village.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEYS

GATEWAY MEADOWS



1. What age groups are represented by those that currently live in your home?

2. What recreational amenities would you like to see in the undeveloped parkland in your neighborhood?

- Playground Fenced in areas for dogs
- Walking trails, playground, benches, wildflowers/trees etc
- Playground with a picnic area would be amazing!
- A dog recreation area. Almost every home has a dog and no place to run or play off collar.
- I would like to see adogpark. Since there alot of dogs in the neighborhood .
- Nice to have a picnic area with a walking path. Playground for kids with climbing wall, swings Interactive playground with sensory areas for children that have sensory needs. For reference check out Madison's Place Playground in Woodbury MN Dog park would be nice to have in the area Splash park area Rest room at the park Water fountain at the park
- Playground, walking/running trail
- Walking trail, park benches, trash cans
- Playground equipment, picnic tables
- Dog park
- Picnic tables (metal not wood), walking trail, benches, public pool

- Walking trails, street lights and playground equipment. It would be great to have street lights the neighborhood is so dark.
- Playground and dog park.
- Playground Equipment
 Parking
 Picnic Shelters
 Aircraft observation area
 Dog park
 Bathrooms
- Playground Equipment, Kids Splashpad, area to have a picnic / cookout.
- Gateway Meadow is a growing neighborhood with more children each year. A park would be an amazing addition. A playground with plenty of swings, slides and climbing. Basket ball hoops/ pickleball court. Benches/ tables with shade options Garbage/ recycling cans.
- Walking trails, picnic benches and tables. Very nice to have tennis or pickle ball court! Drinking fountains and spots designated to dispose of dog poop.
 - Basket ball hoops or volley ball nets! Anything to help folk get moving!

2. What recreational amenities would you like to see in the undeveloped parkland in your neighborhood? (cont.)

- Dog park
- Basketball court. Skate park. Archery range.
- Would like it to stay a open field
- Walking trail, fenced dog area
- Dog park or playground with picnic table/gazebos
- Picnic tables. Playground. Trails.
- Playground. Picnic/gazebo. Splashpad
- Walking trails and fenced in playground equipment
- Picnic area, playground for our grandchildren, and walking trails
- Walking trail

Pavilion parties with more parking options and a bathroom area Dog park Small building for indoor parties like grad parties, birthday, etc.

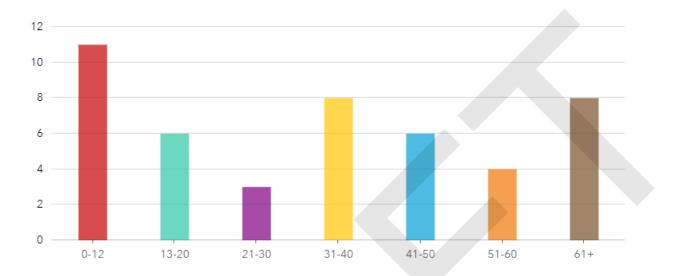
- Sidewalks, playground with picnic area
- Walking trail and playground equipment
- Walking trial, dog park, tables. Tree development
- Kids of all ages are in this development. Equipment that will benefit them along with picnic tables or benches. Perhaps a skate park area for teens.

3. Please share any additional thoughts you have about the parkland in Gateway Meadows or Pheasant Run.

- Gateway meadows is just a field but easily could be a great park for all the kids that live in the neighborhood
- Pheasant run would be perfect for a nice walking/bike trail!
- We need a dog park. Very high dog population.
- How about the property in front of Kimball Ave in Gateway Meadows? Could that be used for playground, picnic area? Or dog park?
- We've been told for years that "they're going to put in a park" with nothing to show for it. Please make it happen!
- I do not want playground equipment as that lead to a lot of crime and injury litigation in my old neighborhood. It also was really noisy late into the night with people from outside the neighborhood who didn't care for the equipment or the facilities or the hour rules.
- Myself along with many of my neighbors have talked amongst ourselves how wonderful a play ground would be for all of the young children in the neighborhood! It would bring the community together and provide a safe place for our children to play without having to travel in a vehicle! There are many children in the neighborhood that would greatly appreciate and be thrilled with somewhere to play with friends and family!!!

- Public pool
- Make sure to have dog waste bins so the park isn't littered with dog feces.
- This is a GREAT idea and I hope it actually happens. As a resident with a baby and dog, id love to see a playground for all ages and a fenced in area for dogs to run off leash.
- Make a business development opportunity for restaurants, bars, shopping, convenience stores, etc (not manufacturing) on Village owned lot 26 between Gateway Pkwy and Simmon Drive.
- (No rubber pellets/mulch)
- Developing these lands to useful physical activity for both our young and adults in these community's. It would make swallowing our taxes much easier! Anxious to see this progress!
- Consider parking/bikes
- I have a special needs child and a fenced in inclusive playground would be a game-changer for the neighborhood.
- Thanks for finally looking into this as an option. We would even be wiling to pay a minimal fee on taxes to be able to reserve and utilize a space to hold small events.
- One question I have is what will this do to property taxes?

PHEASANT RUN



1. What age groups are represented by those that currently live in your home?

2. What recreational amenities would you like to see in the undeveloped parkland in your neighborhood?

- I think walking trails would be a very nice thing for the neighborhood. Park benches along the walking trail for resting or just enjoying nature would be nice as well. A playground area for the children of the neighborhood would be nice for them also.
- Playground for children. Walking trail for all residents and picnic tables with shade for all.
 I would note that the map you show for this park is inaccurate unless the city has actuaries the 2.4 acre parcel 165-00831-0009. That parcel represents the high ground and is owned by citywide development. The land around it is mostly wetland.
 May be better to look at city owned property on Prairie

May be better to look at city owned property on Prairie Grass Drive.

- Large playground, picnic tables, pavilion, splash pad of some sort, walking path, nature garden
- Playground equipment, walking trail, picnic tables
- Sport court
- Walking trails, playground
- Any would be great. Playground and walking trails would be awesome.
- Walking trail, playground equipment, covered picnic area
- Walking trails, playground equipment, outdoor exercise stations

- Nothing. Do nothing. It would be a waste of money and resources
- Walking trails.
- Picnic Pavilion, field for soccer and other field sports that could possibly be partial ice in the winter. Walking trail around the park. Swingset.
- Playground, basketball court, skating rink, picnic area, walking trails
- Walking trail picnic tables
- Trail, Pickleball Courts,
- Playground equipment, walking trail, splash pad; birds, bees, and butterflies nature reserve
- A park in our neighborhood would be great. I would like to see a basketball court and hoop. A walking trail, playground and picnic tables are all welcome ideas.
- Leave it undeveloped.
- Walking trails, resting benches.
- Walking trails with resting benches
- Walking trail and/or fitness trail (rustic fitness no need for expensive equipment)

3. Please share any additional thoughts you have about the parkland in Gateway Meadows or Pheasant Run.

- When you design the recreation area it would be nice if you could do it with as minimal tree removal as possible. In the ariel view I don't see an access point for this recreation area. That will be important as well so that children and adults alike are not walking through other people's yards to access the recreation area. I believe a recreation area would be a good addition to the neighborhood. Thank you for asking for our input.
- I would love to see something in the pheasant run development. There are a lot of elementary school aged kids in this area that could really benefit from it. Osceola lacks in public playgrounds. Aside from OMC.
- We would love to have safe roads to drive and for our kids to ride bikes on. Simmon drive is narrow and so full of pot holes from the semi trucks.
- Simon Drive desperately needs to be completely redone.
- The pheasant run land is not the most desirable location. Being located in the middle of a swamp could present challenges.
- Right now people are walking on the road and there are many walkers in our area.
- I've been to this site. The bugs are terrible from late spring thru fall. There is a wetland surrounding it so a dock/ bridge would need to be installed to access it. And it isn't very big. Please don't waste our money on something like this.

- I think a park would be a wonderful addition for the children and residents to get some needed exercise!
- Pheasant run is becoming more young family focused in the recent years and a playground would be a great addition to the neighborhood.
- Really needs something for kids to utilize as there are so many families here now
- Don't need extra people walking by house or using our property as a short cut to park. Leave land the way it is. We want our privacy and don't need extra loudness of people. There would be more liter and dog poop too.
- Gateway Meadows needs a larger play area and playground for the young families. Pheasant Run needs to accommodate to the older population which makes up most of the neighborhood, with few young families due to townhomes, single level homes and higher value homes.
- Its existence is not known to most of us living nearby. A clear access and delineation of park boundaries would be helpful. I've noticed people around here assuming certain land is public when it is, in reality, private. They then let their dogs loose on others land which reminds me, enforce leash laws and picking up after pets. Clarity will help us enjoy the parks

APPENDIX C PARKS & OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS

NRPA CLASSIFICATIONS

The definitions used in this plan are modified definitions used by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). They are used to classify parks within existing recreation systems and to guide plans for the future. They begin with the smallest and most localized parks to the largest parks with the most amenities. Neighborhood and community parks are normally provided by municipalities. Larger recreation areas, such as preserves and wildlife management areas, are normally provided by larger units of government or private enterprise.

Typically on a small lot (1/4 acre) and located within a residential neighborhood. Usually have one facility and benches.

- Desirable size: 2 acres or less
- Acres/1,000 population: .25 to .5
- Service Area: 1/8 to 1/4 mile radius

Serve the needs of children 5-15 years old by providing open fields, courts, shelter facilities, and play areas. Should be within walking distance.

- Desirable size: 2-4 acres
- Acres/1,000 population: 0.5 1.5 acres
- Service Area: 1/4 to 1/3 mile radius

Provide open space for all ages and enhance the overall environment. A natural, walkable location is ideal for this type, and they usually have tables, benches, paths, and lights.

- Desirable size: 3-7 acres
- Acres/1,000 population: 5.0 -8.0 acres
- Service Area: 1 to 2 mile radius

Community Play-Fields

Mini - Parks

Veighborhood Playgrounds

Veighborhood

Serve the active needs of several neighborhoods. Usually include more than parks, such as a pool, community center, and fields for sporting events.

- Desirable size: 5 or more acres (15-40)
- Acres/1,000 population: 5.0 -8.0 acres
- Service Area: 1 to 2 mile radius

NRPA CLASSIFICATIONS

| Community Parks | Intended to serve many neighborhoods. Tend to have woods, water features, trails, and picnic areas. Should be determined by the size of the population. Desirable size: 3-7 acres Acres/1,000 population: 5.0 -8.0 acres Service Area: 1 to 2 mile radius | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| Special Purpose Parks | Created to take advantage of a natural or unusual feature, or to preserve areas and provide recreation. Golf courses, marinas, and skate parks could be categorized as this type. Desirable size: varies on function Acres/1,000 population: varies on function Service Area: varies on function | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Reservation & Preserves | Usually located outside of the urban area and include large tracts of land that have limited development. Usually provided by state, federal or county governments. Desirable size: varies on function Acres/1,000 population: varies on function Service Area: varies on function | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Greenbelts | Almost the same characteristics as the reservation or preserve; however, they may be used to shape urban development. Could connect parks within an urban area. Desirable size: varies on function Acres/1,000 population: varies on function Service Area: varies on function | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Waysides, WelcomeCenters, Historic Markers | Special purpose parks designed to serve motorists and boost the tourist industry. Size and location depends on natural features. Desirable size: varies on function Acres/1,000 population: varies on function Service Area: varies on function | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Village of Osceola, Wisconsin 310 Chieftain St. Osceola, WI 54020

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| То: | Osceola Plan Commission |
|----------|---|
| From: | Brian Wiedenfeld, Comprehensive Plan Lead Planner |
| Subject: | April 3 rd Plan Commission Meeting – Comprehensive Plan Update |
| Date: | March 26, 2024 |
| | |

MSA will be attending your April 3rd meeting to provide an update on Osceola's Comprehensive Plan. At the meeting we intend to review the following items:

- Drafted Document Progress. A copy of Chapters 1-3 and 6-8 of the drafted comprehensive plan content is included in your packet along with the draft map exhibits of the plan. As a reminder, this is content material drafted in Microsoft Word that will be input into an Adobe InDesign (graphic design software) document with pictures and figures in the final draft version. Please review the contents of this document and note any edits to discuss during the meeting; if any questions arise after the meeting, please email <u>bwiedenfeld@msa-ps.com</u>.
- 2. **Public Engagement Results.** Summaries of the kickoff meeting, community input survey, and stakeholder interviews can be found on pages 8-14.
- 3. **Preliminary Goals and Strategies.** We will discuss preliminary goals and strategies for the first set of comprehensive plan elements. Chapters 3, 6, 7, and 8 include elements specific goals and strategies at the beginning of the chapter. <u>Please review these goals and strategies prior to the Plan Commission</u> <u>Meeting to identify goals and strategies to add, remove, or edit.</u>
- Next Steps. MSA will continue developing the draft comprehensive plan document, incorporating any feedback from this meeting, and return to present the second set of draft elements (Utilities and Community Facilities, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Land Use, and Implementation) at the June 5th Plan Commission meeting.

Village of Osceola 2045 Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 1: Introduction Overall Vision Snapshot Overview Chapter 2: Public Engagement Engagement Summary Chapter 3: Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources Goals & Strategies Snapshot **Development Limitations Map Chapter 4: Utilities & Community Facilities** Goals & Strategies Snapshot **Community Facilities Map** Chapter 5: Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals & Strategies Snapshot Planning Area Map Chapter 6: Economic Development Goals & Strategies Snapshot **Chapter 7: Housing Goals & Strategies** Snapshot Chapter 8: Mobility & Transportation Goals & Strategies Snapshot Transportation Network Map Chapter 9: Land Use **Goals & Strategies** Snapshot Future Land Use Map Chapter 10: Implementation **Guiding Daily Decisions Guiding Annual Decisions**

Village of Osceola 2045 Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 1: Introduction

The Village of Osceola Comprehensive Plan (hereto after referred to as "the Plan") is intended to guide decisions and actions affecting Village budgets, ordinances, and growth. The Plan looks 20 years into the future to describe what the Village wants but offers goals and strategies for implementation now in order to realize that long-term vision. As a broad-based plan, it sometimes relies on other more detailed plans or budget processes to determine when or how implementation will occur.

The Plan's recommendations are intended to:

- Create a collective vision for the future of Osceola.
- Establish priorities for public investment, including the Village's Capital and Operating Budgets.
- Provide or inform policies that guide Village decision-making.
- Align the work of Village staff around the issues that matter most to our residents and stakeholders.
- Create a framework for topic-specific plans and initiatives that will expand on the Comprehensive Plan's recommendations.
- Guide private development through the Future Land Use map and policies.
- Foster partnerships with other entities to address shared goals.

Plan Adoption and the Consistency Requirement

Under Wisconsin's comprehensive planning statute, a comprehensive plan must receive a public hearing prior to adoption, be recommended for adoption by the Plan Commission and be adopted by ordinance by the Village Board.

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law requires that if a local government unit enacts or amends any of the following ordinances, the ordinance must be consistent with the comprehensive plan:

- Official map
- Local subdivision regulations
- Zoning ordinance
- Shoreland/wetland zoning ordinance

Though adopted by ordinance, the plan itself is not an ordinance. This plan is not intended to be a literal "road map" for the Village that provides a clear path from the present to a point twenty years into the future. Rather, it is intended to guide decision making in the years to come toward the unified vision expressed in this plan. Over the course of time, many factors are likely to arise that will significantly influence local decisions. This plan should continue to be consulted to ensure that such decisions contribute to the vision established in this plan.

Overall Vision

Osceola's vision statement is intended to set the general tone for the rest of the plan. It encapsulates the major themes woven throughout the plan.

2045 Vision: The Village of Osceola seeks to preserve and promote its charming small-town character and rural heritage, vast natural resources, excellent economic opportunities, and safe and quality way of life to cultivate a vibrant community for both existing and new residents.

Plan Organization

This plan is organized around the nine required plan elements as outlined in state statutes:

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Public Engagement
- 3. Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources
- 4. Utilities & Community Facilities
- 5. Economic Development
- 6. Housing
- 7. Mobility & Transportation
- 8. Land Use
- 9. Intergovernmental Cooperation
- 10. Implementation

Appendix A: Plan Adoption & Amendments

Appendix B: Action Plan

Appendix C: Community Engagement

Appendix D: Maps

Each section includes Issues and Opportunities, Voices from the Community, 2024 Snapshot of existing conditions, and Goals and Strategies.

Goals & Strategies

The policy content of this plan is organized into Goals and Strategies.

Goals

A goal is a general statement about a desired future outcome. Goals provide the big idea and direction but do not indicate how they will be achieved.

Strategies

Strategies are the methods by which the goals are achieved. Some are policy statements intended to guide decisions. Others are actions – specific activities that someone within the Village government needs to actively pursue.

Regional Context

The Village of Osceola is located in southwestern Polk County, Wisconsin. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Village's total area is 4.19 sq mi. The Village borders the Town of Osceola to the north and to the east, the Town of Farmington to the south, and the St. Croix River and the State of Minnesota to the west. North of Osceola is the Village of Dresser and City of St. Croix Falls. The Village of Osceola boasts an abundance of water resources nearby, including Lotus Lake, Lower Lake, Peaslee Lake, Rice Lake, Osceola Creek, Osceola Lake, and the St. Croix River, as well as plenty of public land, notably Cascade Falls, Wilke Glen, and Interstate State Park to the north.

Planning Jurisdiction

The study area for this plan includes all lands in which the Village has both a short-and long-term interest in planning and development activity.

Wisconsin law divides cities into four classes relating to government administration and local governmental power. Osceola is a Village, which corresponds to a 1.5-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction. The Village itself is approximately 4.19 square miles in size with the planning jurisdiction covering approximately 21.5 square miles.

Snapshot Overview

Data used for the Village of Osceola Comprehensive Plan includes 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 2000 & 2020 Decennial Census data, and Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) 2010-2040 household projections.

2020 Total Population

2,788

Educational Attainment

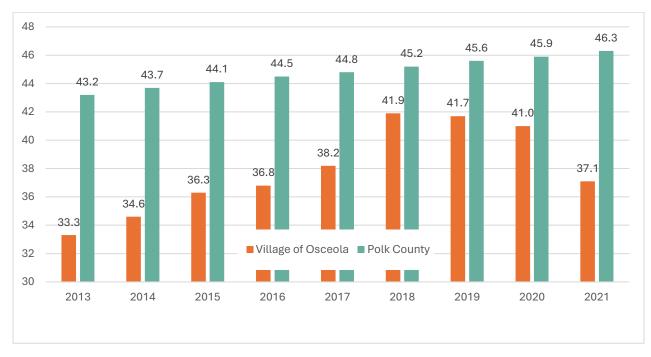
Nearly half of Osceola residents over 25 (47%) have at least some college education, including associate, bachelor's, or master's degrees; high school is the highest education level for 39% of residents.

Race and Ethnicity

About 3% of the Village's total population identify as Hispanic or Latino. Black residents make up 1% of the population, and residents who identify with two or more races represent 3%. Most of the population is White at 93%.

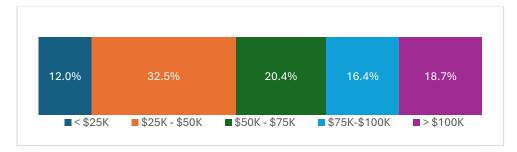
Median Age

Median age in the Village trended upwards through the first half of the 2010s before declining back to a median age of 37.1 in 2021.



Household Income Distribution

2021 ACS data shows that about 19% of households earned over \$100,000, while over 44% earned less than \$50,000.



Full Time Occupation by Industry

The most common occupational industry among Village residents is Manufacturing. The trends within the Village largely mirror those seen in Polk County with small variations. The Village, however, has a larger share of works in the manufacturing sector (32%) in comparison to the County overall (25%).

| Industry | Village of Osceola | Polk County |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining: | 0% | 3% |
| Construction | 6% | 9% |
| Manufacturing | 32% | 25% |
| Wholesale trade | 3% | 2% |
| Retail trade | 10% | 9% |
| Transportation and warehousing, and utilities | 5% | 4% |
| Information | 0% | 1% |
| | | |
| Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing | 3% | 4% |
| Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative | | |
| and waste management services | 5% | 5% |
| | | |
| Educational services, and health care and social assistance | 20% | 23% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and | | |
| food services | 8% | 7% |

Population Change by Decade

The most significant increase in population was during the period of 1980-1990 when the population grew from 1,581 to 2,075. Population growth is anticipated between 2020-2035 but is projected to peak in 2035.

| | Village of Osceola | City of St. Croix Falls | Polk County | Wisconsin |
|-------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1980 | 1,581 | 1,497 | 32,351 | 4,705,642 |
| 1990 | 2,075 | 1,640 | 34,773 | 4,891,769 |
| 2000 | 2,421 | 2,033 | 41,319 | 5,363,675 |
| 2010 | 2,568 | 2,133 | 44,205 | 5,691,047 |
| 2020 | 2,765 | 2,208 | 44,977 | 5,806,975 |
| 2025* | 3,020 | 2,430 | 50,760 | 6,203,850 |
| 2030* | 3,185 | 2,540 | 53,240 | 6,375,910 |
| 2035* | 3,255 | 2,585 | 54,230 | 6,476,270 |
| 2040* | 3,245 | 2,560 | 53,825 | 6,491,635 |

Household Growth and Projections

Based on Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) projections, the Village is likely to add over 200 households by 2040. However, household size is expected to decrease over that same period. These trends together indicate an increase in single-person households and smaller family sizes—a trend increasingly seen across Wisconsin and the country.

| | Village of Osceola | | City of St. Croix Falls | | Polk County | | Wisconsin | |
|-------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | Number of HH | Persons Per HH | Number of HH | Persons Per HH | Number of HH | Persons Per HH | Number of HH | Persons Per HH |
| 2010 | 1,142 | 2.25 | 967 | 2.14 | 17,967 | 2.44 | 2,279,768 | 2.43 |
| 2015 | 1,190 | 2.20 | 989 | 2.09 | 18,445 | 2.38 | 2,371,815 | 2.38 |
| 2020 | 1,294 | 2.18 | 1,066 | 2.08 | 19,955 | 2.36 | 2,491,982 | 2.35 |
| 2025* | 1,395 | 2.16 | 1,139 | 2.06 | 24,360 | 2.35 | 2,600,538 | 2.32 |
| 2030* | 1,484 | 2.15 | 1,194 | 2.04 | 22,539 | 2.33 | 2,697,884 | 2.30 |
| 2035* | 1,532 | 2.12 | 1,221 | 2.02 | 23,139 | 2.30 | 2,764,498 | 2.28 |
| 2040* | 1,540 | 2.11 | 1,221 | 2.01 | 23,088 | 2.28 | 2,790,322 | 2.26 |

Chapter 2: Public Engagement

The Public Engagement chapter summarizes the effort to engage with community members throughout the comprehensive planning process.

Public Inclusion Plan

The public inclusion plan was broken down as follows:

- 1. Project Kick-off | Issues & Opportunities
- 2. Community Survey | Collect Community Feedback
- 3. Policy Review | Topics and Initial Land Use Drafts
- 4. Full Plan Review | Review Land Use Maps and Implementation Plan
- 5. Public Open House | Public Comment Opportunity

Project Kickoff Meeting

A project kick-off meeting was held with the Planning Commission on November 7th, 2023 at Village Hall. The discussion centered around current issues and opportunities in Osceola that the Village hoped to address in the Comprehensive Plan.

Issues:

- Growth and housing: Free up existing housing stock for new residents and households wishing to downsize by building housing of all types.
- Employment: There are more jobs currently available than people working those jobs. There is a need to attract more residents to fill jobs in the community.
- Interconnectivity: There are existing barriers for bicyclists and pedestrians within the Village.
- Downtown parking: There is a need for greater parking capacity to accommodate those visiting the downtown.
- Development Limitations: To the north there is existing housing and DNR land and to the South there are hydric soils and wetlands. Development opportunities in the southeast exist, but high infrastructure costs are potentially restrictive.
- Brownfields/superfund sites: These sites need additional clean up and rehabilitation before they are ready for redevelopment.
- Aging Infrastructure: Infrastructure coming to the end of its life causes strain on the entire infrastructure system through high maintenance and replacement costs. The Village's original stormwater infrastructure and cast-iron water lines are of particular concern.
- Intergovernmental Agreements: Shared service agreements need to be revisited with neighboring communities to discuss future opportunities for cost sharing.

Opportunities:

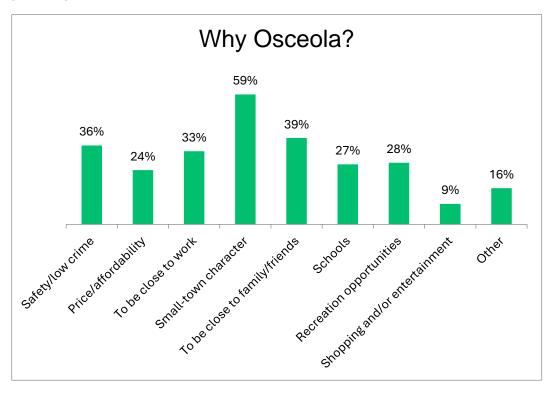
- Tourism: Many visitors travel to the community for a variety of events hosted year-round. There are opportunities to increase tourism related to outdoor recreation, numerous community festivals, and nearby landmarks.
- Vibrant Downtown and Business Organizations: Local businesses are invested in the community and are committed to giving back. The Osceola Area Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Organization is a strong partner to local businesses and supports marketing efforts to foster future economic development. Continued collaboration can establish the Village as destination for businesses, tourists, and potential investors.
- Proximity to MSP Metro: Due to few bridge crossings over the St. Croix River, Osceola remains one of the top places to live for those desiring both a small community and easy commute to job opportunities in the Twin Cities.
- Osceola Discovery Center: The new civic center provides modern public facilities for the Village Hall, public library, police department, and other community meeting spaces.
- School District: Enrollment has been declining but updated facilities could help attract new students and families.
- Civic Engagement: Community members are active and engaged in various community events, clubs, and organizations.
- Cluster of Amenities: The Village is home to a number of community assets like a grocery store, hospital, strong local businesses, industrial park, vibrant Main Street, excellent school system, and extensive park system. Many travel from nearby communities to experience these amenities.

Community Survey

The online community survey was active January 1st, 2024 through March 1st, 2024 and received 276 responses. A total of 32 questions were included in the survey with some open-ended responses. This survey was intended to inform public policy for both the Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. A link to the survey was provided on the Village's website, the Village's Facebook page, the public library, and the Osceola post office. In comparison to the community overall, the survey respondents were generally more female, older, and mostly homeowners. Overall, the responses reflect a desire for growth, increased amenities, better services, and an improvements to quality of life that still maintain the Village's small-town feel.

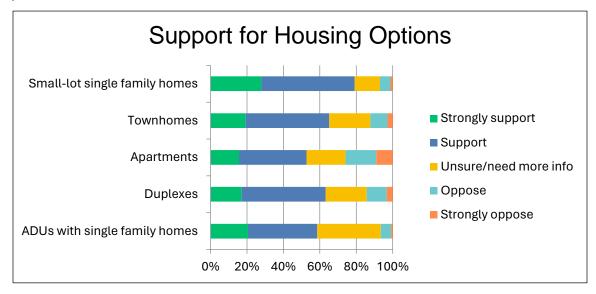
Living in Osceola

Most respondents indicated that they lived in Osceola because of the small-town character, proximity to friends, families, and jobs, and the safety the community provides. Overall, respondents agreed that Osceola has adequate recreational opportunities, residents feel connected to one another, and that the community is safe. Walking routes, downtown appearance, and personal safety were highly rated. Respondents were not satisfied with biking routes, convenience of downtown parking, and high cost of utilities.



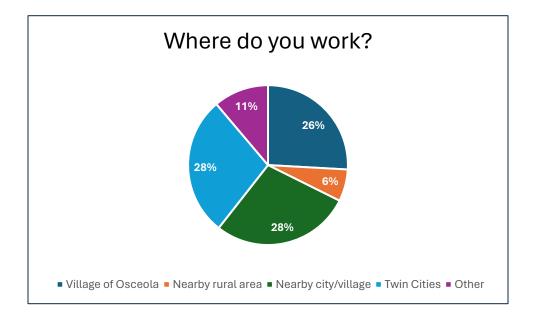
Housing

The responses show strong support for duplexes, townhomes, apartments, single-family homes, and accessory dwelling units, often known as "granny flats." Poor ratings of rental availability and cost indicate a need for more diverse rental housing, especially apartments and larger rental types like duplexes, ADUs, and townhomes.



Employment

28% of survey respondents work in the Twin Cities, 28% work in a nearby City or Village, and 26% work in the Village of Osceola. Amongst those who are employed, 53% of survey respondents work remotely at least once a week and 24% work from home full-time. This aligns with the national trend towards a hybrid employment in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic. Responses identify that better internet connectivity is needed to improve the ability to work from home.



Additional Investment

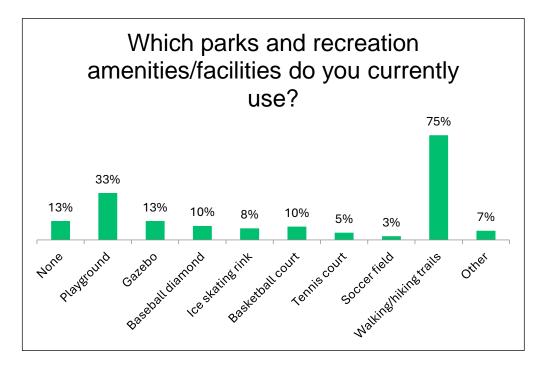
Street repair and maintenance, public safety and park and recreation facilities are the highest priority of additional Village investment. Property improvement and development in Osceola are favored for downtown buildings, new retail sites, and greater energy efficiency.

Development Needs

Respondents are satisfied with the amount of existing gas-station/convenience stores and grocery store; however, they are dissatisfied with the options available for restaurants (both for dine-in and drive thru), retail shopping, and the availability of childcare providers.

Park and Recreation Needs

Cascade Falls and Wilkie Glenn, Oakley Park, and Millpond Park were the park and recreation facilities most visited by survey respondents. The most utilized facilities included walking and hiking trails, playground equipment, gazebos, and baseball diamonds. There are concerns about safety in Oakley Park and improvements needed for the park's grandstand. Many respondents noted the lack of accessibility in the park system, such as accessible playground equipment and ADA parking spaces. Ideas for new facilities included pickleball courts, bike trails, a dog park, a skate park, and generally updated facilities. New bike and pedestrian trails were proposed across the Village and that feedback is reflected in Osceola's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan maps.



Additional Feedback

Additional feedback from the survey included concern about high property taxes and the cost of new infrastructure; a desire for affordable housing, more park and recreation investments, and downtown improvements; support for the school district; and creating a more inclusive community, specifically addressing accessibility issues.

Stakeholder Interviews

Over the course of the planning process, 5 stakeholders were contacted to give their input on the issues, opportunities, and vision of the community. These stakeholders included representatives from the Osceola Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Osceola School Board, residential developers, and a Polk County Planner. Feedback was collected through 30-minute interviews and is summarized into the following key takeaways.

Village Vision

- Balance development with preservation, particularly regarding agricultural land and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Emphasis on outdoor recreation, river access, and establishing a distinct identity.
- Better collaboration between the business community, local organizations, and the broader development goals of the Village.
- Connectivity between community parks and trails.

Housing

- Evaluate zoning code for potential barriers to developing a more diverse housing supply.
- Challenges related to housing affordability, particularly with the increasing cost of homeownership and limited housing supply.
- Concerns about location and impact of housing development, especially concerning the preservation of scenic views and community character.
- Need for a more diverse mix of housing types, including rental options and senior housing.
- Potential redevelopment of the elementary school site upon referendum approval.
- Mixed support for 100-unit apartment building with retail and restaurant space at the old hospital site.

Economic Development

- Importance of cohesive efforts among different groups and organizations to enhance the village's appeal and attractiveness for both businesses and visitors.
- Need to address transportation issues, parking constraints, and walkability to support local businesses and economic growth.
- Need for infrastructure improvements like repurposing parking lots, developing pedestrian bridges, and utilizing train tourism for economic benefits.

Community Facilities

- Challenges of maintenance and managing the demand on infrastructure.
- Variety of existing amenities such as grocery stores, medical facilities, job opportunities, and quality of life factors like access to the river, parks, and walkability.

- Need to address transportation needs, including roadways, public transit, and pedestrian/bike infrastructure within Village and surrounding areas.
- The school district plans to consolidate the Intermediate School with the Elementary School due to the dilapidated state of the latter and declining student enrollment. The Intermediate School expansion is up for referendum in Spring 2024.

Engaging with the Public

- The Lions Club plays a significant role in the community by hosting fundraisers, providing grants to various groups, and supporting events like the Rubber Duck race and Wheels and Wings car and air show.
- Prioritizing youth engagement and involvement in planning processes.
- The school district has established continued engagement and trust building with the village community and stakeholders.
- Unclear regulations regarding artistic expression like murals and parking constraints during events.

Historic Preservation

- Significant historical landmarks and events in the Village's history need to be highlighted.
- Efforts to leverage historical aspects of Village as a tourism and economic driver.

Chapter 3: Agriculture, Natural & Cultural Resources

Introduction

The Agriculture, Natural & Cultural Resources chapter of the Village's comprehensive plan focuses on preserving and enhancing the Village's valuable resources. It addresses key aspects such as agriculture, natural resource conservation, and cultural heritage preservation. By prioritizing these areas, the Village aims to ensure the long-term sustainability and enjoyment of its resources for generations to come.

Issues and Opportunities

- **Community Events:** Residents value the existing local events and how they engage the larger Osceola community.
- **Ample Natural Resources:** The Village is home to numerous natural assets like the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, which can be leveraged to attract visitors and provide recreation activities for the community.
- **Farmland Preservation:** Osceola has strong agricultural traditions that must be balanced with new development that occurs.

Voices from the Community

- 89% of survey respondents agree that Osceola has a desirable small-town character.
- Respondents would like to see improvements that build upon the existing pool of cultural and natural assets in the Village. More community and family friendly events, promotion of natural resources and facilities, and recruitment of new businesses and services to the downtown area.
- **25%** of survey respondents ranked reinvestment in downtown buildings, many of them historic, as their top priority for development in the Village.

Agriculture, Natural & Cultural Resources Goal #1

Preserve productive agricultural lands in balance with development of the Village.

Strategies

- 1. Promote infill and redevelopment initiatives in under-utilized sites within the Village limits to help reduce the pressure to expand into surrounding agricultural areas through the Village website and local realtors.
- 2. Protect and preserve wetlands and streams, surface and groundwater sources and other existing natural features in the Village.
- 3. Limit development in prime agricultural areas/Farmland Preservation Areas identified by Polk County in the planning area and apply land use policies in Farmland Preservation Zoning, Non-Farm Development, Farmland Preservation Agreements, Agricultural Enterprise Agreements, and Natural Resource Overlay Areas.

Agriculture, Natural & Cultural Resources Goal #2

Preserve and celebrate cultural heritage and arts.

Strategies

- 4. Work with the Historic Preservation Commission to establish more detailed guidelines and standards for the preservation and restoration of cultural assets. This program should include architectural guidelines, conservation techniques, and methods for maintaining the historical integrity of the assets. Evaluate any funding opportunities through the State Historical Society.
- 5. Conduct an updated comprehensive architectural and historical intensive survey of significant sites, buildings, and landmarks within the Village. Engage with local historians, cultural experts, and community members to identify these assets and their cultural significance.
- 6. Coordinate historical and cultural activities with the Osceola School District, Osceola Discovery Center, Osceola Historical Society, Osceola Area Chamber and Main Street Organization, and other stakeholders as needed.
- 7. Review ordinances pertaining to art mural installations and coordinate with the Osceola Area Chamber and Main Street Organization to commission appropriate arts murals in the downtown area.

Agriculture, Natural & Cultural Resources Goal #3

Balance conservation of and increased access to natural resource amenities.

Strategies

- 8. Prioritize access to natural resource amenities through a strong trail network, ADA compliant facilities, and engaging the public through natural resource and recreational facilities planning.
- 9. Preserve and protect key environmental corridors, native vegetation, and wildlife species consistent with the Natural Resources Overlay (refer to Land Use chapter).
- 10. Coordinate local efforts with Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy, the Wisconsin DNR, and other organizations that protect natural areas around Osceola.
- 11. Manage vegetation through coordination with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in natural areas by removing and controlling non-native, invasive species.
- 12. Ensure site development and infrastructure improvements occur in area with least possible impact to natural environments.
- 13. Encourage landscaping practices on public and private property that help to filter and infiltrate rainwater.
- 14. Encourage the implementation of best practices to minimize impervious surfaces during site planning and development review processes, in alignment with WIDNR goals..

Snapshot Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources

Farmland

When the previous Comprehensive Plan was created in 2009, farmland within the Village limits was diminishing. As of 2024, there are approximately 431 acres of farmland remaining within Village limits, mostly along the outskirts of the Village. These farms are a mixture of dairy and commodity crop farming operations.

Additional land continues to be in production within the planning jurisdictional area. The surrounding municipalities still retain much of their agricultural lands. Polk County is developing a new County Farmland Preservation Plan, which is set to be released at the end of 2024. As of 2014, there was a total of 440,530 acres designated as Farmland Preservation Areas within the county. Farmland Preservation Areas are eligible to participate in Agriculture Enterprise Areas (AEA), Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) and Farmland Preservation Zoning through the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program if properties meet the program requirements. These programs are seen as a way to maintain large areas of contiguous land primarily for agricultural use, encourage farmers and local governments to invest in agriculture, and encourage compliance with state soil and water conservation standards.

Physical Characteristics

Geology:

Osceola is located within the St. Croix River Watershed which is topographically defined by glaciation during the last Ice Age. Most of the Village of Osceola's geology is defined by sedimentary rocks, predominately sand, gravel, till, and Ordovician dolomite. Paleozoic bedrock is exposed along the St. Croix River due to erosion.

Topography:

The Village of Osceola has areas of steep slopes and areas of level ground. Nearly all of the steep slopes in the Village are on the western edge, which drops down to the St. Croix River. There are several bluff type features within the Village limits on the eastern side.

Minerals:

At the southern edge of the Village is a mining operation that produces gravel. Residents have expressed concerns about the environmental and social impact of the aggregate company. It is unlikely that additional mining operations would be added within the plan boundary.

Water Resources

Regulations:

Water resources are regulated by the Village's Wellhead Protection, Floodplain Regulations, Shoreland-Wetland, and Erosion, Sediment and Water Runoff Control. Other local, state, and federal laws and regulations may apply.

Groundwater:

The groundwater resources in the Village of Osceola are overall in good condition. Groundwater is vitally important. All of the drinking water sources in the Village of Osceola come from groundwater. This means that the health and quality of the drinking water for the residents is directly linked to the quality of the groundwater. There are two wells used by the Village as a source of drinking water. One of the wells was reported to have elevated arsenic levels above the allowable amount from the EPA. In order to protect groundwater and drinking water supplies the wells within the Village are monitored with regular testing. There are a number of seeps that reach the surface within the Village's limits. Prioritizing conservancy areas around these areas will be used to ensure the water quality that is currently part of the pride of the Village.

Surface Water:

The Village of Osceola is blessed with some outstanding surface water resources. Osceola Creek is a Class II trout stream within the Village. Several handicap accessible spots along the creek have been established. The village continues to work with the Wisconsin DNR to upgrade the status of Osceola Creek to a Class I trout stream. This is truly a unique feature that not many municipalities have within their limits. There is also the mill pond along Osceola Creek. The entire area was devastated by a flood in 2002 which wiped out the Upper Mill Pond, the stream and more. The western border of the Village is the Saint Croix River. This river offers scenic beauty, trails, transportation, tourism, etc. There are also a number of waterfalls that occur within the Village, including Bridal Veil Falls and Cascade Falls.

Floodplains:

There are two floodplains within the Village of Osceola. Both the St. Croix River and Osceola Creek have floodplains that lie within the Village. Osceola Creek's floodplain was placed within a conservancy zoning district to prevent development and to ensure that the floodplain is free of hazards that could be ruined by flood waters.

Wetlands:

Wetlands are defined as those areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is at, near, or above the land surface for a significant part of most years, and include marshes, mudflats, wooded swamps, and wet meadows. The presence of wetlands in an area can limit the type of development that can occur. Developments in wetland areas are regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and in some cases, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There are several areas of wetlands within the Village limits. Most of the areas classified as wetlands are along associated surface water bodies, such as Osceola Creek. There are patches of phragmites in the wetlands along Osceola Creek and the Mill Pond.

Cultural Resources

Historic Assets:

The Village of Osceola has a rich history and culture. Much has already been done within the Village to maintain its small town and historic character. In 2000, the Osceola Commercial Historic District was listed in both the State and National Register of Historic Places. This district is home to 17 contributing buildings and makes much of the downtown area. Outside of the Historic District, there are 4 additional properties in Osceola on the State and National Register of Historic Places, including the First Baptist Church, the Old Polk County Courthouse, and the Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Saint Marie Railway Depot.

Osceola is a designated Main Street Wisconsin Community. The Wisconsin Main Street Program is administered by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). The program exists to support local efforts to leverage downtown and commercial districts, provide resource access, and networking opportunities to support local initiatives. Main Street boasts a diverse selection of locally owned and operated specialty shops, and the Osceola Area Chamber and Main Street Organization oversees the historic downtown, which brings events and beautification initiatives to the area.

In addition to its Main Street Wisconsin designation, Osceola is also listed on the National Historic Downtown Register, designated as a Preserve America Community, and was named the Most Charming Small Town in Wisconsin in 2022.

Funding options should be explored for restoring historic buildings within the community. State level historic preservation programs that may apply to these buildings include:

- The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation in conjunction with the Wisconsin Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office provides Historic Tax Credits to income producing historic buildings to assist in renovation costs. If approved, the program provides 20% of rehabilitation costs as a state tax credit.
- The Wisconsin Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office administers a Historic Homeowners' Tax Credit program that returns 25% of approved renovation costs of historic homes deemed eligible as an income tax credit. Homeowners must apply to the program through a tax credit application with the Historical Society.

Major Community Events:

Osceola Community Fair Rhubarb Fest and Duckathon Wheels & Wings Osceola Firefighter Ball

Light Up Osceola

Chapter 6: Economic Development

Introduction

The Economic Development chapter focuses on fostering a vibrant local economy. It outlines strategies to support entrepreneurship, attract investments, and create a favorable business environment. The Village aims to stimulate economic growth, job creation, and enhance residents' well-being through targeted initiatives and collaboration with stakeholders.

Issues and Opportunities

- **Tourism:** Named Most Charming Small Town in Wisconsin in 2022, there is an inherent opportunity to attract visitors to the community through its natural beauty and historic downtown.
- **School District:** The district is experiencing declining enrollment in students; however, district staff are exploring strategies to remain fiscally stable while improving the quality of school facilities.
- Industrial and Airport Industrial Park: The strong manufacturing industry within Osceola presents further opportunity to attract new manufacturing related industries to the community.

Voices from the Community

- **44%** of s**urvey** respondents are dissatisfied with the variety of restaurants; **33%** are dissatisfied with the retail shopping mix.
- Community members would like to see continued collaboration between the Village,
- Osceola Area Chamber and Main Street Organization, and business community to support business needs and promote the local economy.
- **53%** of survey respondents believe better home internet would make it easier to work remotely. **41%** of respondents already work in a hybrid environment at least 1 day a week.

Economic Development Goal #1

Promote the growth and success of local businesses.

Strategies

- 1. Village staff should conduct periodic visits with local businesses (e.g. once every 1-2 years) to show interest in their success and identify any needs with which the Village may be able to assist.
- 2. Determine if there are barriers in the process to establish a new business. Simplify and expedite the permitting and licensing processes for businesses, as feasible. Implement an efficient online system that allows businesses to easily apply for permits and licenses, ensuring a streamlined and user-friendly experience.
- 3. Facilitate partnerships between local businesses, the Osceola Area Chamber and Main Street Organization, and Village and County governments to leverage resources and expertise. Collaborate with businesses to identify opportunities for joint initiatives, such as infrastructure development, marketing campaigns, or community programs, that benefit both the business community and the Village as a whole.

- 4. Facilitate proactive communication between educational institutions (including local UW-Extension and technical colleges) and area employers to accurately identify and meet local skill requirements. Promote diverse training programs and opportunities for skill development.
- 5. Complete review of Village ordinances pertaining to economic development. Enforce property maintenance ordinances to ensure aesthetically pleasing business corridors and commercial areas.
- 6. Promote and encourage a mixture of housing options to attract a variety of businesses and ensure there is sufficient housing to support the workforce.

Economic Development Goal #2

Maintain a healthy business mix in the Downtown area and the Osceola Industrial and Airport Parks.

Strategies

- 7. Recruit businesses that will meet the needs of Village residents that currently are not being met. Continue to engage with community members to understand their needs and concerns.
- 8. Continue facilitating the Downtown Façade Loan program and review for effectiveness with recent façade rehabilitation projects.
- 9. Develop a coordinated streetscape plan with the Business Improvement District (BID) Board to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the downtown corridor.
- 10. Explore financing options, including loans, grants, or partnerships, to support potential development projects and reduce risk.
- 11. Work with the Osceola Industrial Development Cooperation, Osceola Redevelopment Authority, and Polk County Economic Development Cooperation to promote continued development and business recruitment to the Osceola Industrial and Airport Parks.
- 12. Promote the cluster of manufacturing related companies already located within the Village.
- 13. Explore the possibility of creating new tax incremental districts (TIDs) to capture new value in Village development.
- 14. Use TIF strategically to create development opportunities for the Village. Prioritize PAYGO, conservative projections to ensure anticipated results, and the creation of a checklist for elected and non-elected officials of TIF requests.

Economic Development Goal #3

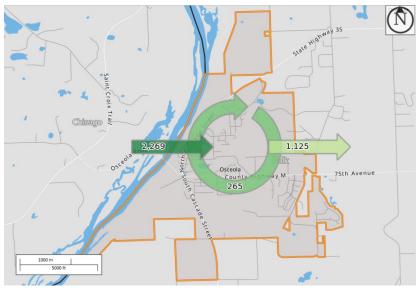
Continue to promote the Village as a tourist destination.

Strategies

- 15. Collaborate with the Osceola Area Chamber and Main Street Organization, local businesses, Travel Wisconsin, and other stakeholders to provide consistent and cohesive marketing material for attracting tourists.
- 16. Actively support festivals, recreational and community events that attract visitors and spending at local businesses.
- 17. Promote the Village's natural resource advantages and historic district to promote tourist spending and business attraction within the region.

Snapshot Economic Development

Economic development activities play a key role in the quality of life of the community and the longterm viability of the Village. This economic development snapshot explores the Village's current environment, and inventories efforts that support economic development in the community.



Commuting Patterns – US Census On The Map

- 2,269 people work in Osceola but live outside of Osceola.
- **265** people work and live in Osceola.
- 1,125 people live in Osceola but work outside of Osceola.

Tax Incremental Financing

The Village has one active TID (TID #3) located in the south and eastern portion of the Village. The current equalized value of TID #3 is approximately 1.41% of total equalized value of taxable property within the Village, well below the statutory limit of 12%. Based on current cash flow projection, TID #3 is expected to close in 2041, the end of its maximum statutory life.

The equalized value limit is the maximum property value a municipality can have within TIDs. It is calculated by adding the equalized value of the new TID's taxable property as of January 1 and the value increment of all existing TIDs (for that municipality). This value cannot exceed 12% of the municipality's total equalized value. Osceola will need to continue using TIF to incentivize the types of development the Village would like to achieve but will need to remain mindful of its limitations. Village officials and financial consultants should use conservative project valuations and increments to help determine the length of time (15-17 years) a TID needs to remain open in order to remain under the 12% valuation test. With a conservative approach to TID based on life, payback, community outcomes, and need, it will remain one of the most useful tools the Village has to ensure continued growth in residential, retail, office, and industrial.

Top Five Growth Industries

The following table shows the change in employment from 2010 to 2021. Transportation and warehousing, and utilities grew 253%, but the actual number of employees in this category went from 17 in 2010 to 60 in 2021. Manufacturing has the highest number of employees in the community at 413 but did not see any growth since 2010. Retail trade lost the most employees over that same period, with a total loss of 95 employees and a 2021 count of 136 remaining.

| Industry | % Increase |
|--|------------|
| Transportation and warehousing, and | |
| utilities | 253% |
| Public administration | 38% |
| Finance and insurance, and real estate and | |
| rental and leasing | 5% |
| Construction | 4% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and | |
| accommodation and food services | 4% |

Employment by Industry

Manufacturing has the highest percentage of employees in the Village and County in 2021, however the Village has a higher percentage of employees working in Manufacturing than Polk County. Generally, the employment trends in the county are reflected in Osceola.

| Industry | Village of Osceola | Polk County |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining: | 0% | 3% |
| Construction | 6% | 9% |
| Manufacturing | 32% | 25% |
| Wholesale trade | 3% | 2% |
| Retail trade | 10% | 9% |
| Transportation and warehousing, and utilities | 5% | 4% |
| Information | 0% | 1% |
| Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing | 3% | 4% |

| Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| and waste management services | 5% | 5% |
| Educational services, and health care and social assistance | 20% | 23% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and | | |
| food services | 8% | 7% |
| Other services, except public administration | 5% | 4% |
| Public administration | 3% | 4% |

Top 10 Employers

| Major Employers | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|--|
| Employer | # of Employees | |
| Osceola Public Schools | 250-499 | |
| Osceola Medical Center | 100-249 | |
| Northwire Lab360 | 100-249 | |
| F & M Plastics | 100-249 | |
| IVC Wisconsin | 50-99 | |
| Christian Community Homes | 50-99 | |
| Cizion Metal | 50-99 | |
| Core Products | 50-99 | |
| extraktLAB | 50-99 | |
| Dick's Fresh Market | 20-49 | |

Chapter 7: Housing

Introduction

The Housing chapter focuses on ensuring accessible and diverse housing options for Village residents. It addresses challenges and strategies to promote affordability, availability, and quality. By encouraging a range of housing types and revitalizing older properties, the Village aims to meet the needs of its residents while preserving its unique character. Through partnerships and community engagement, the Village seeks to create a vibrant and sustainable housing environment for all.

Issues and Opportunities

- Lack of Housing Supply: Vacancy remains extremely low for both renter and owneroccupied units.
- Affordable Housing: Ensuring affordable housing options is a key priority for residents in the Village.

Voices from the Community

- **50%** of survey respondents rate the supply of ownership housing as "unsatisfactory" or "poor"; **67%** of respondents also rate the supply of rental housing as "unsatisfactory" or "poor."
- There is strong support for a variety of housing types including small-lot single family homes, townhomes, apartments, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units. There are also suggestions to explore short-term rental housing for seasonal employees.
- **33%** of survey respondents would consider moving into a duplex, townhome, or apartment in the next 5 years.

Housing Goal #1

Retain and attract residents by supporting a range of housing options.

Strategies

- 1. Promote development patterns that combine residential, commercial, and recreational uses. This approach creates vibrant and walkable neighborhoods, providing residents with convenient access to amenities, services, and employment opportunities.
- 2. Foster collaboration with developers to provide housing that meets the demand and needs of the Village.
- 3. Ensure developments are carefully designed to accommodate traffic and stormwater management.
- 4. Review and update zoning and land use regulations to accommodate a range of housing options, including accessory dwelling units (ADU). Allow for increased density, where appropriate, to encourage the development of multifamily housing and mixed-income developments.
- 5. Continue to assess housing needs and issues within the community, including the need for affordable housing.

6. Collaborate with experienced rental housing developers to actively pursue State and Federal 4% tax credit-funded renovations of aging units. This partnership will enable the reinvestment in these units while ensuring their continued affordability and accessibility.

Housing Goal #2

The Village will maintain quality housing options as part of safe and healthy neighborhoods for all residents.

Strategies

- 7. Review and approve housing development proposals based on consistency with the Land Use chapter of this Plan, including the Future Land Use Map and associated policies.
- 8. Ensure both homeowners and landlords are aware of program and financing options for upkeep on properties, including energy efficiency.
- 9. Infill development should respect the scale, proportion, and architectural style of nearby homes to a reasonable extent. The Village should consider strategies to actively protect areas that have been locally identified as historically important.
- 10. Investigate implementing programs and incentives to preserve and rehabilitate existing housing stock, particularly historic homes or buildings. Consider using Tax Incremental Financing to offer financial assistance for repairs and renovations, especially for older homes with desirable character.
- 11. Update the Village website to promote local, neighborhood level events in support of neighborhood groups.
- 12. Develop and share resources on green/sustainable design strategies in conjunction with the permit process (e.g., educational pamphlets that summarizes energy and water consumption strategies and provides information on Local/State energy and sustainability programs).

Snapshot Housing

The following numbers illustrate those conditions in Osceola most relevant to the formation of housing goals and policies for the next 10 years.

1,224 - The total number of housing units as of 2021.

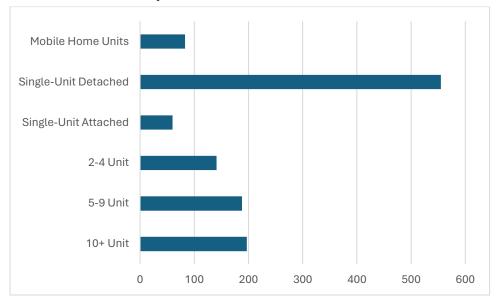
44% - The percentage of units that are single-family detached housing, compared to **81%** for Polk County.

53% - The percentage of all units that are owner-occupied, based on the American Community Survey (ACS).

4% - The percentage of all units that are attached units (e.g. townhomes, twinhomes), based on ACS surveys.

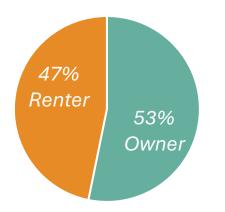
2% - The rental vacancy rate in 2021. This is an extremely tight rental market. While owner-occupied housing is seeing tighter markets and less available units, increasing desirable rental choices is important for diversifying housing market. Incoming units may increase rental vacancy rate, but the increasing number of households in the community will continue to put upward pressure on rental prices.

51% - The percentage of renters who are spending more than 1/3 of their income on housing costs. Only **30%** of owners are spending more than 1/3 of their monthly income on housing costs. Both owners and renters in Osceola Village have a higher proportion of housing burden than Polk County.





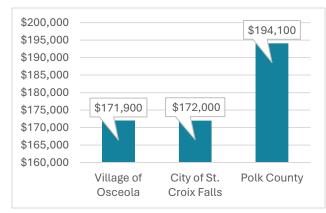
Households by Tenure



Median Value by Year Built

| Year Built | Median Value |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 2014 or Later | No Data |
| 2010 to 2013 | No Data |
| 2000 to 2009 | \$ 167,300.00 |
| 1990 to 1999 | \$ 174,000.00 |
| 1980 to 1989 | \$ 166,100.00 |
| 1970 to 1979 | \$ 184,300.00 |
| 1960 to 1969 | \$ 158,300.00 |
| 1950 to 1959 | \$ 166,900.00 |
| 1940 to 1949 | No Data |
| 1939 or Earlier | \$ 175,400.00 |

Median Home Value







Rental Cost by Bedroom Size, 2021

| Number of Bedrooms | Me | dian Gross Rent | Number of Units |
|--------------------|----|-----------------|--------------------|
| No bedroom | \$ | 583.00 | 33 |
| 1 bedroom | \$ | 546.00 | 151 |
| 2 bedrooms | \$ | 929.00 | 287 |
| 3 bedrooms | \$ | 936.00 | 88 |
| 4 bedrooms | - | | 8 |
| 5 or more bedrooms | - | | 6 |

Chapter 8: Mobility & Transportation

Introduction

The Mobility & Transportation chapter focuses on the importance in having a safe, accessible, and cost-effective transportation system in the Village of Osceola for residents and visitors.

Issues and Opportunities

- **Recreation Trails:** The existing hiking, biking, and walking trails located in the Village are strong assets that connect community members to the vast natural resources and experiences of Osceola.
- **HWY 243 Redesign:** The upcoming redesign of HWY 243 presents an opportunity to provide greater connectivity to bikers and pedestrians in the Village, extending to the Osceola boat landing and into Minnesota.
- **Traffic from HWY 243 and 35:** There are traffic and safety concerns at the intersection of these two highways.

Voices from the Community

- Street repair and maintenance is the top priority in Village investment for **34**% of survey respondents.
- **27%** of survey respondents rate the bike routes as unsatisfactory or poor. Many residents are supportive of new bike and pedestrian facilities.

Mobility & Transportation Goal #1

Maintain safe transportation infrastructure that meets the needs of all users.

Strategies

- 1. Monitor the quality of sidewalk infrastructure and provide assistance to property owners for maintenance and replacement.
- 2. Proactively monitor the quality of public surface infrastructure such as streets and any Village-owned parking areas and trails.
- 3. Develop and maintain annually a capital improvement plan to manage the Village's streets, sidewalks, and trails. Integrate new and planned infrastructure into the improvement plan, annual budget and inspection schedule.
- 4. Maintain an inventory of public infrastructure and develop a regular inspection schedule.
- 5. Track and share progress of annual capital improvement projects to build public support.

Mobility & Transportation Goal #2

Create an integrated and accessible mobility system that connects various transportation options and promotes active recreation throughout the Village.

Strategies

6. Move toward implementation of a complete streets network that is safe, convenient and attractive for everyone regardless of age, ability or mode of transportation.

- 7. Conduct a bike and pedestrian study to evaluate the existing conditions of bike and pedestrian facilities in the Village, including ADA compliance. Apply for a WisDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to fund the production of a Bike and Pedestrian Masterplan including a bike and pedestrian network map with existing and proposed facilities and recommendations for greater connectivity.
- 8. Discourage cul-de-sac streets in favor of connected streets that provide transportation flexibility and increased safety in case of an obstructed street. Additionally consider mid-block sidewalks/multi-use trail connections for pedestrians for interior streets/cul-de-sacs.
- 9. Collaborate with the Osceola School District on safe transportation for students, including walking, biking, and busing, both in neighborhoods and near the school sites. Consider applying for Safe Routes to School and TAP grant funding sources through WisDOT.
- 10. Collaborate with responsible jurisdictions to ensure roadway improvements (including County and State highways) have multi-modal aspects integrated into planning and development, or appropriate alternatives developed.
- 11. Periodically review the Village's off-street parking requirements to evaluate their efficiency in utilizing land for vehicle parking. When feasible, consider reducing minimum requirements and implementing maximum limits to prevent the creation of excess parking spaces.
- 12. Evaluate parking needs for the Downtown and Village tourist area.
- 13. Prepare a conceptual neighborhood plan in areas slated for growth prior to any development in that area in order to ensure good street connectivity and any critical bike or pedestrian routes through the area.
- 14. Ensure Hwy 243 redesign includes safe and complete bike and pedestrian facilities that connect with the existing bike and pedestrian network.
- 15. Participate in regional park/trail planning initiatives, including those led by Polk County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Existing Transportation System

Road Network

Regional Highway System: Osceola is served by 4 miles of state highways. State Highway 243 runs east west from Osceola across the St. Croix River and into Minnesota. Wisconsin Highway 35 runs north-south through Osceola and runs through the entirety of westernmost Wisconsin. County Highway M runs east-west through the entirety of the Village.

Local Roads System: Local roads are owned and maintained by the Village of Osceola. Many local roads are equipped with curb and gutter.

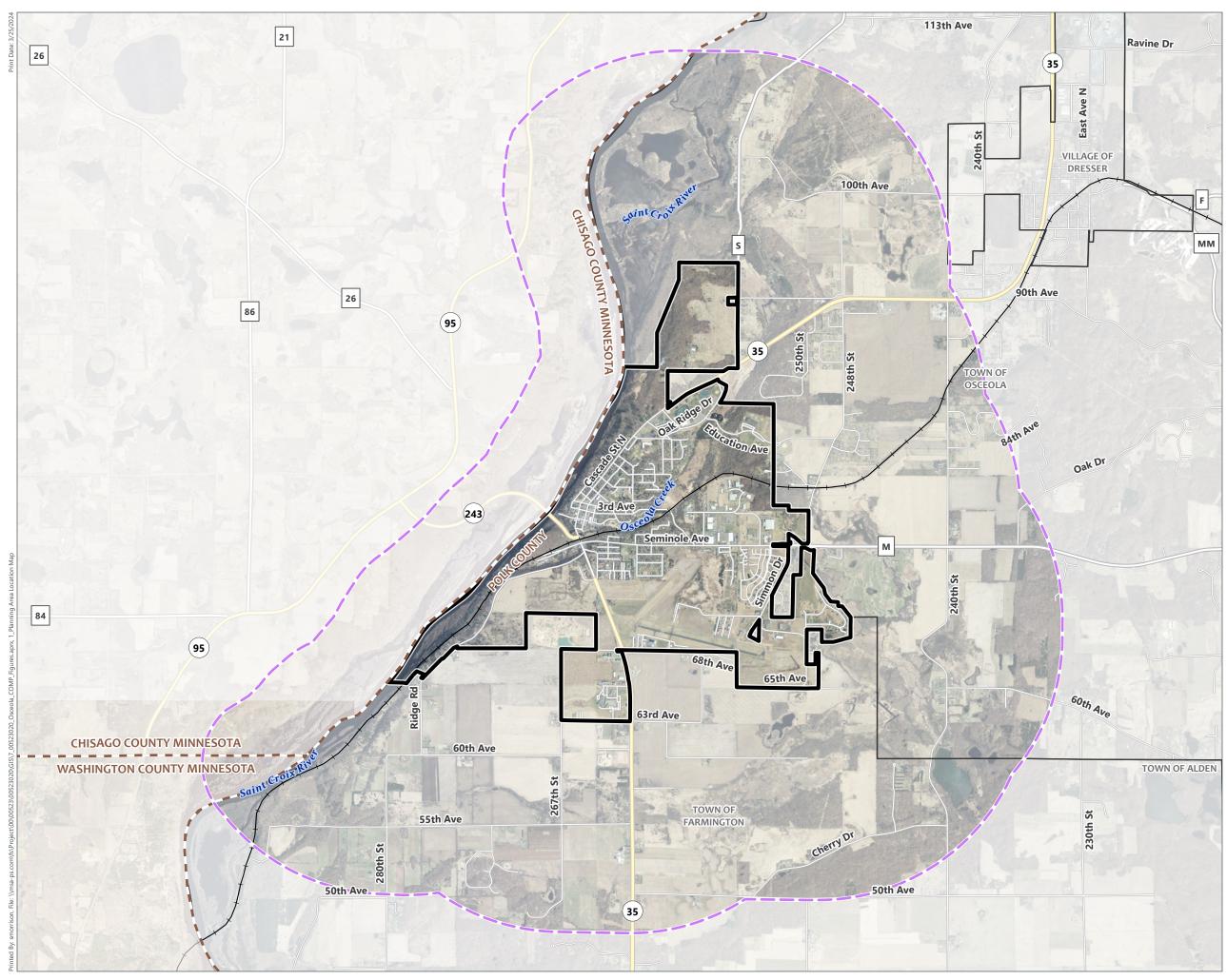
Airport: L.O. Simenstad Municipal Airport is owned by the Village of Osceola and serves largely as an aviation training facility for the Village and surrounding communities.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Network

Many of the local roads have sidewalks that link neighborhoods in the Village and create connections to the downtown Main Street area. Some streets have sidewalks on one side of the street and others on both sides. There are several neighborhoods with no sidewalks.

Gandy Dancer Trail: The Gandy Dancer Trail runs through the western side of Polk County. This 98mile trail follows the old Minneapolis-St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railroad from St. Croix Falls to Superior. After it was abandoned, part of it was purchased by Burnett County and the State of Wisconsin for use as a recreational trail. "Gandy Dancers" were coined from the workers who used to build and maintain the railroad tracks. In Polk County, the trail starts in St. Croix Falls and passes through Centuria, Milltown, Luck, Frederic, and Lewis. Parking, picnic shelters, and restrooms are available on the trail. While ATV use is permitted on most of the trail, it is not in the Polk County section. Snowmobile use, however, is permitted on this trail.

Stower Seven Lakes State Trail (Amery to Dresser Trail): This county-operated, 14-mile trail runs from Amery nearly all the way to Dresser. Built on a former railroad corridor, the trail begins at Harriman Avenue in Amery, travels through Deronda, Wanderoos and Nye, ending about 1 mile from Dresser on 90th Avenue. While the trail does not run through Osceola, Dresser is located under five miles southwest from the Village of Osceola.



Project Location

Comprehensive Plan Update (2024)

Village of Osceola Polk County, Wisconsin

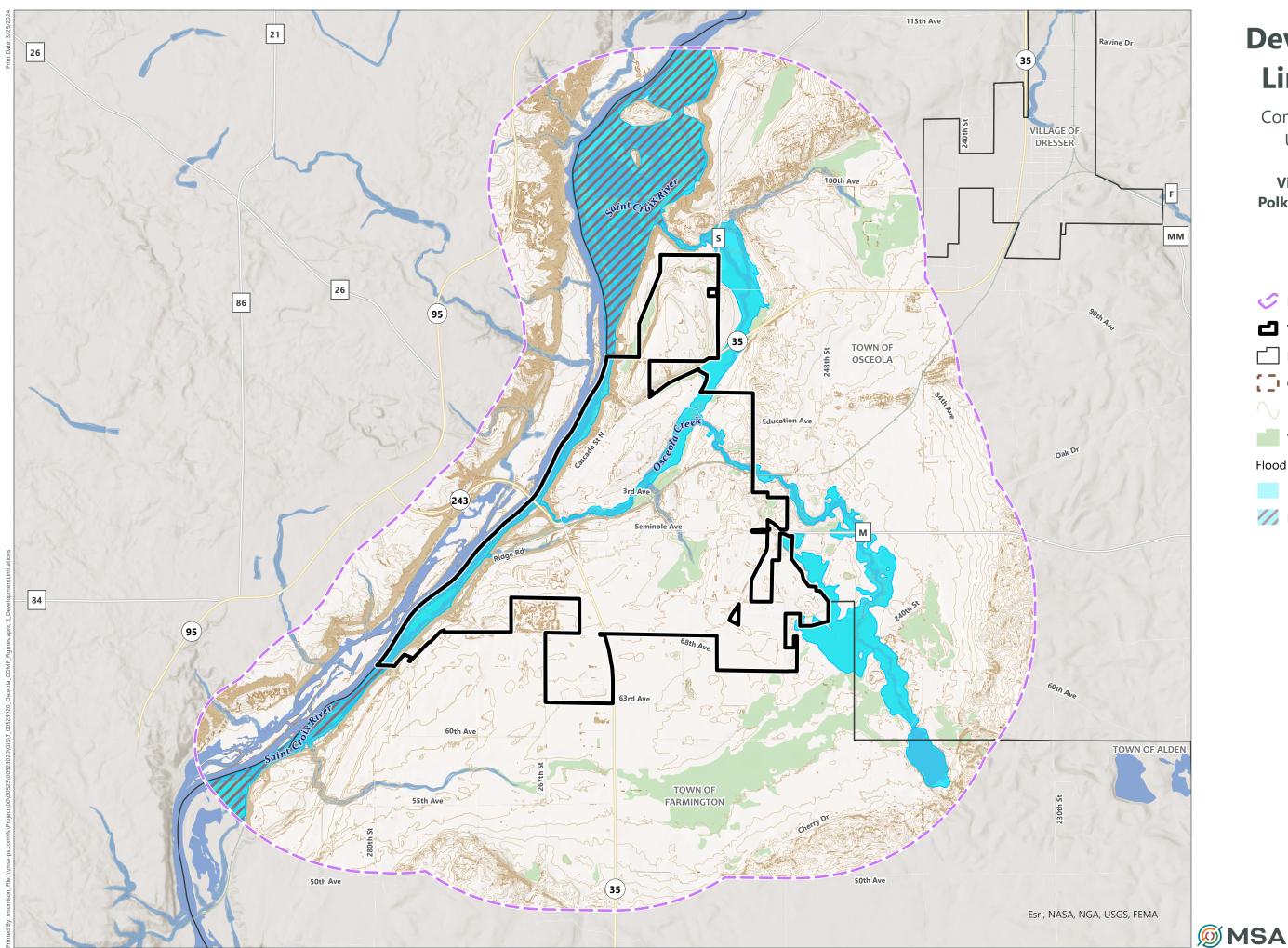
- Planning Area (1.5 Mile)
- Village of Osceola
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary



Data Sources: Polk County GIS (2023) Chisago County GIS (2023) Aerials (2022 MN & WI) WI DNR Hydrology







Development Limitations

Comprehensive Plan Update (2024)

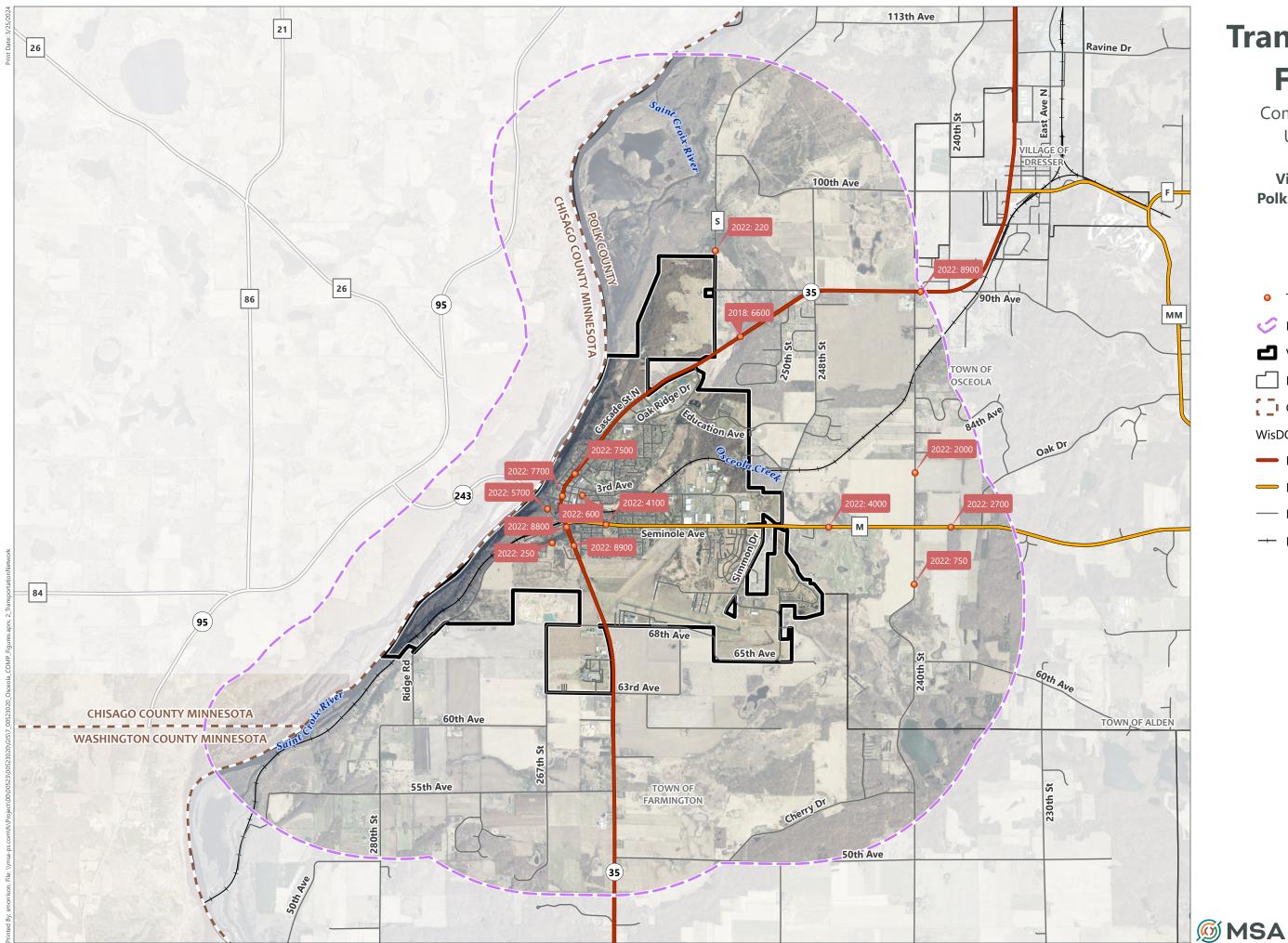
Village of Osceola Polk County, Wisconsin

- Planning Area (1.5 Mile)
- Village of Osceola
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- 10-ft Contour
- Wetland Class Areas (WDNR)
- Flood Zone Designation
 - 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Regulatory Floodway

Data Sources: Polk County GIS (2023) Chisago County GIS (2023) Aerials (2022 MN & WI) WI DNR Hydrology

0.25 0.5 Miles





Transportation Facilities

Comprehensive Plan Update (2024)

Village of Osceola Polk County, Wisconsin

- Traffic Count Sites (Year:AADT)
- Planning Area (1.5 Mile)
- Village of Osceola
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary

WisDOT Functional Classification

- Principal Arterial
- Major Collector
- ---- Minor Collector
- --- Railroad

Data Sources: Polk County GIS (2023) Chisago County GIS (2023) Aerials (2022 MN & WI) WI DNR Hydrology

0.25 0.5 Miles





Memo

| То: | Devin Swanberg | From: | Angela Popenhagen |
|---------------|--------------------|-------|-------------------|
| | Village of Osceola | | Woodbury |
| Project/File: | 193810006 | Date: | March 23, 2024 |

Reference: Village Code - Chapter 219 Zoning

Under Village Code Chapter 219-13.C., it states "R-3 Multifamily Residential District, limited to 12 units or fewer". There is no qualifying standard as to the spatial requirement for the "12 units or fewer". Further within the requirements, it states that the lot size must be a minimum of 90 feet wide and 12,000 square feet in area. Therefore, it would be plausible that the "12 units or fewer" must fit on 12,000 square feet of land. Developments will also have to ensure that they meet the "other requirements" such as recreation space, floor area ratio, open space ratio, and occupant car ratio to be compliant with the code.

Clarification on this section is needed given different interpretations over the years. We recommend that the Village Code be discussed and modified to better define the requirements.

Sincerely,

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.

Angela Popenhagen Senior Project Manager angela.popenhagen@stantec.com

Village of Osceola, WI Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Chapter 219. Zoning

Article II. Zoning Districts

§ 219-13. Residential districts.

- A. R-1 Single-Family Residential District.
 - (1) Permitted uses and structures: single-family dwellings and their accessory structures or uses.
 - (2) Conditional uses and structures: parks, greenways and open spaces, playgrounds, public and private schools, hospitals, cemeteries, governmental and community service buildings and functions, utility lines, pumping stations, golf courses, churches, libraries, single-family planned residential development, home occupations, agricultural uses and accessory structures in excess of 400 square feet and additional accessory structures. [Amended 7-10-2007 by Ord. No. 07-19]
 - (3) Lot size.
 - (a) Width: 90 feet minimum.
 - (b) Area: 12,000 square feet minimum.
 - (4) Building height: 35 feet maximum.
 - (5) Yards.
 - (a) Street: 30 feet minimum.
 - (b) Rear: 10 feet minimum, except in the event that a utility easement is in existence, then 15 feet minimum from the edge of such easement.
 - (c) Side: 10 feet minimum.
 - (6) Parking: off-street parking on approved surfaces for two cars.
- B. R-2 Duplex Residential District.
 - (1) Permitted uses and structures: two-family attached dwellings and their accessory structures or uses or any use permitted in the R-1 District.
 - (2) Conditional uses and structures: parks, greenways and open spaces, playgrounds, public and private schools, hospitals, cemeteries, governmental and community service buildings and functions, utility lines, pumping stations, golf courses, churches, libraries, single-family planned residential development, home occupations, agricultural uses and accessory structures in excess of 400 square feet and additional accessory structures. [Amended 7-10-2007 by Ord. No. 07-19]
 - (3) Lot size.
 - (a) Width: 90 feet minimum.

- (b) Area: 12,000 square feet minimum.
- (4) Building height: 35 feet maximum.
- (5) Yards.
 - (a) Street: 30 feet minimum.
 - (b) Rear: 10 feet minimum, except in the event that a utility easement is in existence, then 15 feet minimum from the edge of such easement.
 - (c) Side: 10 feet minimum.
- (6) Parking: off-street parking area on approved surface for two cars to each unit, total four-car space.
- C. R-3 Multifamily Residential District, limited to 12 units or fewer.
 - (1) Permitted uses: single-family residential and duplex unit uses and structures conforming at least to the minimum and maximum requirements of the R-1 and R-2 Districts and multifamily uses, provided that they conform to the regulations below.
 - (2) Conditional uses and structures: parks, greenways and open spaces, playgrounds, public and private schools, hospitals, cemeteries, governmental and community service buildings and functions, utility lines, pumping stations, golf courses, churches, libraries, single-family planned residential development, home occupations, agricultural uses, multifamily planned unit residential development, mobile home parks, nurseries, greenhouses, landscaping and accessory structures in excess of 400 square feet and additional accessory structures. [Amended 7-10-2007 by Ord. No. 07-19]
 - (3) Lot size.
 - (a) Width: 90 feet minimum.
 - (b) Area: 12,000 square feet.
 - (4) Building height: 35 feet maximum.
 - (5) Yards.
 - (a) Front: 30 feet minimum.
 - (b) Rear: 10 feet minimum, except in the event that a utility easement is in existence, then 15 feet minimum from the edge of such easement.
 - (c) Side: 10 feet minimum.
 - (6) Other requirements.
 - (a) The recreation space ratio, defined as the minimum square footage of recreation space required for each square foot of floor area, shall not be less than .16.
 - (b) The floor area ratio, defined as the maximum square footage of total floor area permitted for each foot of land area, shall not be more than .32.
 - (c) The open space ratio, defined as the minimum square footage of open space required for each square foot of floor area, shall not be less than two.
 - (d) (Reserved)^[1]
 - [1] Editor's Note: Former Subsection C(6)(d), establishing the living space ratio, was repealed 6-8-2004 by Ord. No. 04-13.
 - (e) The occupant car ratio, defined as the minimum number of off-street parking spaces without parking time limits required for each living unit, shall not be less than 1.5.

- D. R-4 Rural Development District.
 - (1) Permitted uses and structures: single-family residences, parks, campgrounds, open spaces, agriculture and general farming, except farms feeding offal or garbage and mink farms, dairying, livestock raising, truck farming, forestry, poultry raising, airports and golf courses.
 - (2) Conditional uses and structures: municipal service functions and structures and accessory structures in excess of 400 square feet and additional accessory structures. [Amended 7-10-2007 by Ord. No. 07-19]
 - (3) Lot size.
 - (a) Width: 500 feet.
 - (b) Area: 10 acres.
 - (4) Building height: 35 feet maximum, except for barns, silos and other buildings and structures which are customarily higher and accessory uses to farming.
 - (5) Yards.
 - (a) Street: 80 feet minimum.
 - (b) Rear: 50 feet minimum.
 - (c) Side: 50 feet minimum.
 - (d) In no case shall any structure be closer than 40 feet to any lot line, nor shall any dump, disposal area, incinerator or principal structure or building for mink farms or farms feeding or using offal or garbage be less than 500 feet from any lot line.
- E. RU Urban Single-Family District. [Added 1-9-2007 by Ord. No. 07-04]
 - (1) Purpose. The R-U District is intended to provide for single-family residential development on lots of record within the original plat_of the Village existing at the time of the adoption of the ordinance codified under this title. The R-U District is intended to be served by public sanitary sewer and water supply facilities.
 - (2) Use regulations.
 - (a) Permitted uses. The following uses are permitted within a R-U District:
 - [1] One-family dwellings.
 - [2] Accessory uses customarily incidental to the above when located on the same lot and not involving the conduct of a business.
 - (b) Conditional uses. After due notice and public hearing before the Plan Commission, the following conditional uses may be authorized by the Village Board within a R-U District:
 - [1] Bed-and-breakfast services.
 - [2] Public parks and playgrounds.
 - [3] Museums.
 - [4] Home-based service businesses with retail sales that are incidental or subordinate in terms of both sales volume and percentage of floor space occupied.
 - [5] Home-based production and sales of arts and crafts, maintenance of offices for administrative, personal service, professional, or executive uses with incidental sales and servicing upon the premises may be permitted for those structures with a primary entrance on Cascade Street. All signage must comply with the requirements for

Village of Osceola, WI Residential districts.

home-based businesses. Any new structure constructed in this district for the uses provided herein shall be a residential-styled building that has been issued a certificate of appropriateness by the Historic Preservation Commission for being architecturally compatible with the character of the neighborhood. Existing structures shall retain their residential character, except that any modifications to accommodate the listed conditional uses shall be approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. The primary entrance for uses permitted by this section shall be in the front of the building and walkways shall be oriented to the main street.

- [6] Additional residence if located in existing accessory building. The architectural design of all exterior modifications to the accessory building must receive a certificate of appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission as being compatible with the architecture of the principal structure. All parking for the additional residence shall be on a hard surface and shall not be located within the building setback areas.
- [7] Accessory structures in excess of 400 square feet and additional accessory structures.

[Added 7-10-2007 by Ord. No. 07-19]

(3) Dimensional requirements.

| Lot size | Gross area | 7,500 square feet |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Width | 75 feet at building line; 55 feet throughout the lot |
| Setbacks for principal structure | Front | Minimum 20 feet; maximum no less than the average of adjoining principal structures |
| | Interior side | 10 feet |
| | Street side | 10 feet |
| | Rear | 10 feet |
| Lot coverage | Building | 40%, including principal resi- dence, private garage, and ac- cessory structure |
| Building size | Maximum height of principal structure | 35 feet |

(4) Accessory structures. No more than one accessory structure shall be permitted, exclusive of a private garage, per residential lot. All temporary buildings shall be included as accessory structures. The maximum floor area of the accessory structure, together with any additions, shall not exceed the greater of 3% of the lot size or 240 square feet.

| Setbacks | Front | No closer to street than principal structure |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| | Interior side | 3 feet |
| | Street side | 20 feet |
| | Rear | 3 feet |
| | From principal structure | 10 feet |
| Building size | Maximum height | 20 feet, but no higher than principal structure |

- (5) Off-street parking.
 - (a) All new driveways shall be installed in accordance with the Chapter **186**, Article **II**, Driveway Access to Public Streets.

Village of Osceola, WI Residential districts.

(b) The portion of any lot or parcel of land covered by paving, gravel, crushed stone or similar non-growing surfacing other than structures shall not exceed, in area, 12% of the total square footage of the entire lot.