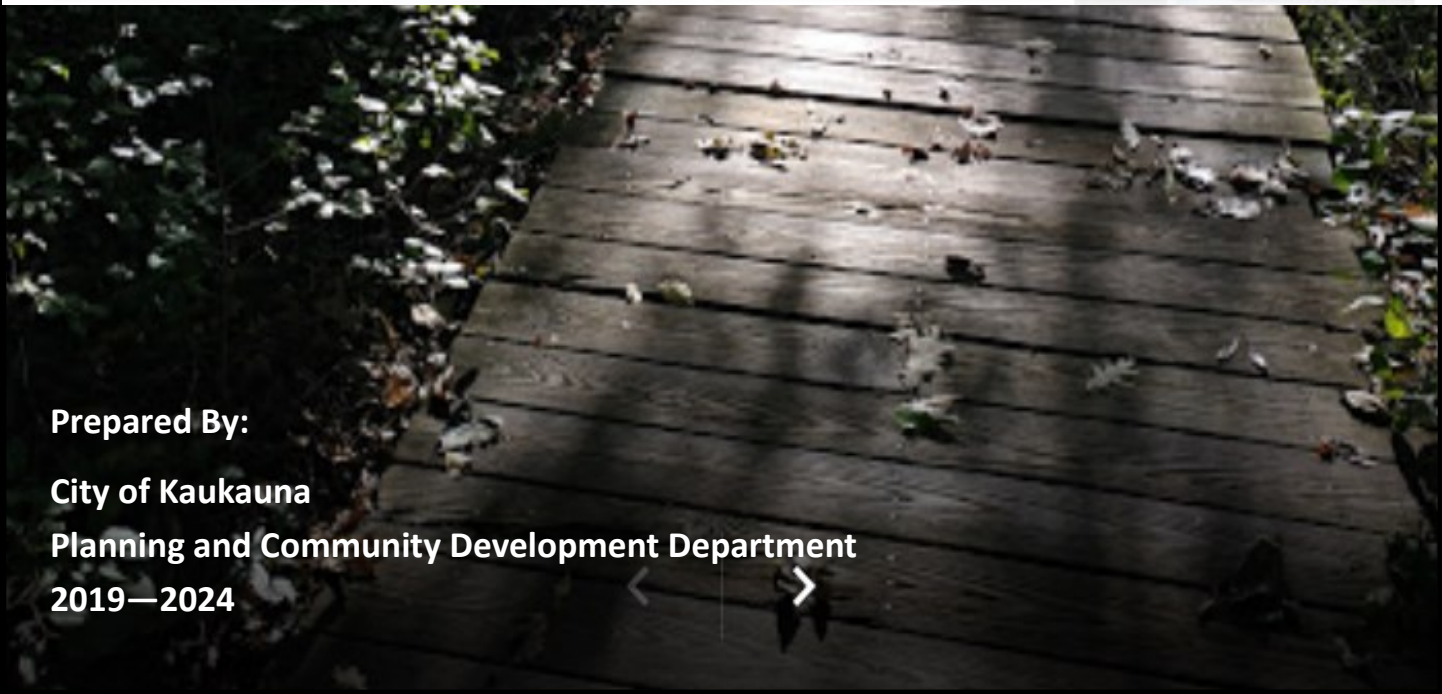




RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

CITY OF KAUKAUNA, WISCONSIN

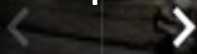


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Table of Contents

Chapter 1.	Introduction and Statement of Need	5
Chapter 2.	Goals, Strategies and a Community Vision	6
Chapter 3.	Parks and Recreation Standards	7
Chapter 4.	Planning Process	8
	A. Description of Process	
	B. Amending the Plan	
Chapter 5.	Summary of Past Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans	10
Chapter 6.	Description of the Social Characteristics of the Planning Region	11
	A. Size	
	B. Population trends and projections	
	C. Ethnic background	
	D. Employment/unemployment	
	E. Age	
	F. Economy	
Chapter 7.	Description of the Physical Characteristics of the Planning Region	16
	A. Waterways	
	B. History and Use of Waterways	
	C. Topography	
	D. Woodlands	
	E. Land Use	
Chapter 8.	Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory	20
	A. Outdoor Recreation Facility Inventory	
	a. Number of Sites	
	b. Types of Park/Recreation Areas	
	c. Facilities Available at Sites	
	d. Current condition of Park/Recreation Areas and Facilities on Site	
	B. Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities	
Chapter 9.	Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment	43
	A. Public Input Assessment	
	a. Informal	
	b. Citizen Committees	
	c. Public Meetings and Workshops	
	d. Needs Assessment Surveys	

Chapter 10.	Recommendations for Outdoor Recreation Provision	58
A.	Priorities for Park and Space Improvements	
a.	Goals and Strategies for Implementation	
B.	Further Protecting Undeveloped Land	
a.	Regulatory Techniques	
b.	Acquisition Techniques	
c.	Funding Programs	
Chapter 11.	Appendix – Supporting data, tabular data, graphics, maps, tables	67

Chapter 3. Park and Recreation Standards

In order to help guide the park planning process, it is important to identify a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities that can serve as a benchmark for evaluating the adequacy of the park system. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents as compared with other communities, and to plan for future facilities based on projected population growth.

According to the 2018 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Reviewⁱ, the average density of park development in the United States is 10.1 acres of park property per every 1,000 residents. In communities with populations of 20,000-49,000 residents, these numbers range from a low figure of 5.4 acres of park/1,000 residents and a high figure of 17.5 acres of park/1,000 residents. Data within the NRPA study specific to the Midwest region of the United States showed a slightly higher density of park acreage for residents, with a median of 11.9 acres of park/1,000 residents. National standards like these provide acceptable target guidelines for the provision of parks and open spaces, but a more thorough and accurate evaluation of the City's park system must emphasize the local demand and expectation for recreational resources and the location of such resources in close proximity to the audience(s) it may likely serve.

The City of Kaukauna features 458 acres of municipal park and conservancy land and features an additional 270 acres of semi-public or privately owned (but accessible) open space in the municipality. This exceeds the national average guidelines for acreage per thousand residents, with Kaukauna averaging approximately 45.5 acres/1,000 residents.

- **Acreage Standard.** The most common standard for park and open space in a community is 6-10 acres for each 1,000 residents. This standard does not account for trails, which are often not considered as a part of traditional park acreage and are one of the more highly-demanded and highly-utilized amenities in the City of Kaukauna.
- **Facilities Standard.** This standard pinpoints the number of specific recreation facilities, such as tennis courts, picnic tables, etc. that should be found in a community based on its population. While this standard is useful in discovering major park discrepancies, a more accurate reflection of true community park needs is found in the demands expressed by community residents. Communities such as Kaukauna with full time staff involved with recreational programming typically have excellent perspective on local recreational shortcomings and changing programmatic trends and demands.

ⁱ National Recreation and Parks Association, *2018 National Recreation and Parks Association Agency Performance Review*. Accessed online on December 1, 2018.