

APPENDIX D

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
 COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY – RESULTS  
 TOWN OF SOMERS

Part A: Current Park Usage

1. How many people live in your household?

<b>24 Responses Total</b>	
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
1 person	3
2 persons	13
3 persons	3
4 persons	2
5 or more persons	3

2. In the last 12 months, how many times have you and/or your household used Town parks?

<b>24 Responses</b>		
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Handwritten Comments</b>
None	6	
1-5 times	8	
6-10 times	3	
11-20 times	3	1. Shoreland Lutheran
20 or more times	4	

3. Is there a park within safe walking distance (less than ½ mile) form your home?

<b>24 Responses</b>		
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Handwritten Comments</b>
Yes	10	1. Shoreland Lutheran
No	14	

4. Are you aware of the existing pedestrian/bicycle trails in the Town?

<b>24 Responses</b>	
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Yes	13
No	11

5. How often do you use pedestrian/bicycle trails in the Town?

<b>24 Responses</b>		
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Handwritten Comments</b>
Daily	0	
Weekly	4	
Monthly	3	
Few Times a Year	3	
Never	14	1. There are none. I live along Sheridan Road. Where are the trails? 2. Don't know where they are. 3. County-don't know of Town trails.

6. What do you use the pedestrian/bicycle trails for?

<b>Check all that apply</b>		
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Handwritten Comments</b>
Transportation	2	
Recreation	9	
Exercise	8	
I Do Not Use The Trails	12	1. What trails? 2. Would use for exercise and recreation if I knew where they were

7. How often do you use the fitness stations at Fabiano Park?

<b>24 Responses</b>		
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Handwritten Comments</b>
Daily	0	
Weekly	0	
Monthly	0	
Few Times a Year	3	
Never	21	1. Did not know there were fitness stations there. Will check it out. Great idea. 2. Did not know they existed. 3. Is this where the cell phone tower is at? Thought this park was abandoned. Though no fault of the Park Commission.

**Part B: State of the Existing Park System**

**8a. The Town of Somers Park System meets my outdoor recreation needs.**  
 (Two people didn't respond to this question)

<b>22 Responses -2 didn't respond</b>	
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Strongly Agree	4
Agree	4
Neutral	5
Disagree	5
Strongly Disagree	4

**8b. The Town's park system should offer a variety of both active and passive park uses.**  
 Active: Ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, etc.  
 Passive: Picnic areas, hiking/nature trails, natural areas, etc.

<b>24 Responses</b>	
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Strongly Agree	9
Agree	10
Neutral	2
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	3

**8c. The Town's park system should place extra emphasis on active recreation facilities and activities.**

<b>24 Responses</b>	
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Strongly Agree	4
Agree	9
Neutral	8
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	1

8d. The Town's park system should conserve areas of environmental significance (woodlands, wetlands, water bodies, etc.)

<b>24 Responses</b>	
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Strongly Agree	12
Agree	8
Neutral	0
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	3

8e. The Town's park facilities are adequately accessible for those persons with disabilities.

<b>24 Responses</b>		
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Handwritten Comments</b>
Strongly Agree	6	
Agree	5	
Neutral	7	1. Never been to Somers Park-we use bike trail, Petrifying Springs and Hawthorne Hollow a lot.
Disagree	6	
Strongly Disagree	0	

8f. The Town parks are clean and well maintained.  
 (One person didn't respond to this question)

<b>23 Responses (1 didn't respond)</b>		
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Handwritten Comments</b>
Strongly Agree	6	
Agree	9	1. Could use mowing more often.
Neutral	6	1. Never been to Somers Park-we use bike trail, Petrifying Springs and Hawthorne Hollow a lot.
Disagree	1	
Strongly Disagree	1	

8g. The Town parks are too crowded.  
 (One person didn't respond to this question)

<b>23 Responses</b>		
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Handwritten Comments</b>
Strongly Agree	1	
Agree	0	
Neutral	8	1. Never been to Somers Park-we use bike trail, Petrifying Springs and Hawthorne Hollow a lot.
Disagree	8	
Strongly Disagree	6	

8h. The Town parks offer adequate recreational opportunities for all age groups.

<b>24 Responses</b>		
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Handwritten Comments</b>
Strongly Agree	5	
Agree	2	
Neutral	11	1. Never been to Somers Park-we use bike trail, Petrifying Springs and Hawthorne Hollow a lot.
Disagree	4	
Strongly Disagree	2	

8i. The Town parks offer adequate recreational opportunities for all seasons.  
 (spring, summer, fall, winter)

<b>24 Responses</b>		
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>	<b>Handwritten Comments</b>
Strongly Agree	5	
Agree	6	
Neutral	8	1. Never been to Somers Park-we use bike trail, Petrifying Springs and Hawthorne Hollow a lot.
Disagree	3	
Strongly Disagree	2	

8j. Overall, the Town of Somers Park System adequately serves the outdoor recreational needs of Town residents.

<b>24 Responses</b>	
<b>Choices</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>
Strongly Agree	4
Agree	3
Neutral	10
Disagree	5
Strongly Disagree	2

**Part C: Park Facilities**

9. Please rate the relative importance or need for each facility in the Town of Somers Park System.

<b>24 Responses</b>	<b>No. of Responses</b>			<b>No Response</b>
	<b>Not Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	
<b>Choices</b>				
Walking/Fitness Trails	5	3	16	
Playgrounds	2	10	12	
Basketball Courts	7	15	2	
Dog Parks 1 comment: See Below	9	5	10	
Fishing Areas	12	6	6	
Ice Rinks 1 comment: Outdoor Only	8	11	5	
Ball Diamonds	3	10	11	
Hiking Trails	5	5	14	
Soccer Fields	6	12	5	1
Outdoor Swimming Areas	13	9	2	
Tennis Courts	10	10	4	
Volleyball Courts	9	13	2	
Cross Country Ski Trails	9	8	7	
Public Gardens	10	7	7	
Horseshoe Pits 1 Comment: Dangerous w/out supervision	14	8	2	
Wildlife/Nature Viewing Area	9	5	10	
Skate Boarding Area	15	5	1	3
Permanent Restrooms	4	7	13	
Picnic Areas	3	9	12	
Picnic Shelters	4	8	12	
Campgrounds	18	5	1	
Sledding Areas	6	12	6	

Snowmobile Trails	19	4	1	
Pavilions (year round shelters)	8	9	7	
Nature Trails	4	8	12	
Conservancy Areas	9	4	11	
Bicycle Trails	4	7	13	
Performing Arts Space	13	9	2	
Rain Gardens	12	10	2	
Bocce Ball Fields	16	6	2	
Splash Pads	18	3	1	2 1. What are they?
Archery Ranges 1 Comment: Dangerous w/out supervision	21	2	1	

**Handwritten Comments:**

1. I have lived here 3 years. I was not aware of fitness stations at Fabiano Park. I was not aware of all Somers has to offer. I am aware of County bike trails and pets.
2. I would like to see the Pike River accessible for canoeing and kayaking. Both are growing in popularity and are a quiet activity. Perhaps funds are available for development. I would also like to see a Lake Michigan Shore Park. Perhaps a daylight hours only-just in an area where people could enjoy the beauty-no picnic area, playground, or overdevelopment. A County/Town joint effort.
3. Dog Park: We would be very interested in a fenced dog park, as would a lot of other people. It doesn't look like one will happen at Petrifying Springs, which a number of people had hoped for. A good model is the dog park south of the Milwaukee Airport.
4. I use Valley View Park with my grandchildren almost 3 days a week. They love the sand! I requested over 1-1/2 years ago to put at least some type of bench (should be on the west side of slide so sun is not in our eyes in the evenings). Still nothing. Don't just beautify all other parks and forget about little "Valley View". If possible, maybe some swings. There are 3 grandmothers one day with their grandchildren and nowhere for us to sit. Thank you!  
Kathleen Losch, 6305 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 133, 53144 (262) 945-8584.
5. You did not invite additional comments, but I'll use this space to offer a few general observations. Somers is producing its first comprehensive outdoor recreational plan to meet DNR requirements for State grants. That word "comprehensive" is important. It signifies a broad, long-term approach to park and recreation needs throughout the Town. In its RFP, Somers stated that the consultant should review "adopted neighborhood plans" as well as six current parkland areas. No neighborhood plan has been adopted as yet for the Lakeshore corridor. The overriding issue in this area is the concept of potential public parks and spaces. The unhappy fact is that we have no public access to the Town's dominant natural feature- Lake Michigan. The same goes for the lower \_\_\_\_\_ of the Pike River. All this despite clean-out support for park space from planning and natural \_\_\_\_\_ professionals for more than 40 years. I realize that the Town has its hands full trying to develop the large

\_\_\_\_\_ property and other \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Somers. But this immediate challenge should not prevent Somers from acknowledging a need to open scenic waterways to the public at some point in the future. Mount Pleasant looks ahead to doubling its park acreage by 2020. Pleasant Prairie's current plan foresees 16 new parks in the next 25 years. It is my belief that the need for Lakeshore Parks must be part of the Park Commission's long-range thinking. Two \_\_\_\_\_ supporting that view are enclosed. Our Town should not be preparing a park-recreation plan merely to qualify for State grants. Advance planning for parks in a growing community makes sense whether grants are in the picture or not. Somewhere down the line, we should finally open up Lake Michigan to the public. Harlan Draeger, 375 Sheridan Road.