

## VII. EXISTING RECREATION SUPPLY INVENTORY

### Description of the Existing Park and Open Space System

The Town of Somers park and open space system consists of 78.25 total acres of parkland and open space areas under the control of the Town, of which 17.35 acres are currently useable via developed facilities for outdoor recreation. The system includes a range of developed facilities including neighborhood parks and a community park located throughout the Town.

This section of the Plan provides a comprehensive inventory of the existing public recreational facilities in the Town of Somers:

### Description of Existing Public Parks and Open Spaces in the Town

#### 1. Park behind Town Hall

Location: C.T.H. E, south of Town Hall.

Size: 14.00 acres

Park Type: Community park.

Facilities: (3) softball diamonds w/backstops and bleachers (one has lights and a digital scoreboard), playground equipment with sand/gravel surfacing, separate play equipment and swings, (1) large soccer field, (2) small soccer fields, paved parking area.

Description: This park is the main community park in Town. It is the main site for Somers recreational league softball and t-ball games.

#### 2. Park north of Town Hall (Gitzlaff property)

Location: C.T.H. E, across the street and to the north of Town Hall.

Size: 24.20 acres.

Park Type: Undeveloped open space.

Facilities: None.

Description: This site is divided into two halves by an unnamed tributary of the Pike River. The southern half is an old farm field, and the northern half is upland scrub vegetation. It is currently under consideration for development as a community park.

**3. Fabiano Park**

Location: C.T.H. E, behind Town Fire Station #2, approximately ¼-mile west of Lake Michigan.

Size: 1.70 acres.

Park Type: Neighborhood park.

Facilities: Playground equipment with sand surfacing, picnic table, bench, trash receptacles, (5) fitness stations in the grass, grass playfield with backstop.

Description: This neighborhood park was created in 2008 in memory of Kenosha County Sheriff Deputy Frank Fabiano, Jr., who was killed in the line of duty. The park attracts children to the playground area, and adults frequent the site to use the fitness stations.

**4. Park in Country Charm subdivision**

Location: At the end of 94<sup>th</sup> Street, in the southeast corner of the Country Charm subdivision.

Size: 2.00 acres.

Park Type: Undeveloped open space

Facilities: None.

Description: This site is an open field that is under consideration for development as a neighborhood park.

**5. Park on C.T.H. EA**

Location: C.T.H. EA, approximately ½-mile south of C.T.H. E.

Size: 34.70 acres.

Park Type: Undeveloped open space.

Facilities: None.

Description: This site is an old agricultural field that is under consideration for development as a community park.

**6. Park in Valley View subdivision**

Location: 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, at the end of 45<sup>th</sup> Street in the Valley View subdivision.

Size: 1.65 acres.

Park Type: Neighborhood park.

Facilities: ADA-accessible playground equipment with pea gravel surfacing, trash receptacle, and open greenspace.

Description: This small park receives intense use from nearby residential homes. The majority of the park consists of relatively flat open greenspace, which lends itself to the development of additional park facilities.

#### **7. Petrifying Springs Park**

Location: C.T.H. A, just east of S.T.H. 31.

Size: 360 acres.

Park Type: Regional park.

Facilities: 18-hole golf course, (5) picnic shelters, restroom facilities, playground areas, softball diamonds, hiking and biking trails, cross country ski trails, sand volleyball courts, and paved parking areas.

Description: This Kenosha County Park contains a mix of active and passive recreational facilities, as well as preserved woodland areas, including a natural hardwood forest.

#### **8. Somers Elementary School**

Location: Southeast corner of intersection of C.T.H. E and C.T.H. EA.

Size: Approximately 11 acres.

Park Type: Public school facility.

Facilities: Playground area, ball diamond, (2) basketball courts, open greenspace.

Description: The grounds of this public elementary school have a number of recreational facilities typical of a neighborhood park. These facilities are open for public use.

Provision Totals for the Existing Park and Open Space System

The following table, Table 3, presents the different types of parks and the correlated acreage of land. The Town maintains a total of 17.35 acres of active and passive accessible recreation area.

**Table 3**  
**Acreage of Different Types of Town Public Parks**

| Type of Park                        | Active <sup>1</sup> and Passive Accessible <sup>2</sup> Recreation Area | Undeveloped Open Space | Total        |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------|
| Mini Park                           | 0.00  | 0.00                   | 0.00         |
| Neighborhood Parks                  | 3.35  | 0.00                   | 3.35         |
| Community Park                      | 14.00   | 0.00                   | 14.00        |
| Special Use Areas                   | 0.00  | 0.00                   | 0.00         |
| Potential Parks                     | 0.00  | 60.90                  | 60.90        |
| <b>Total Public Park Facilities</b> | <b>17.35</b>  | <b>0</b>               | <b>78.25</b> |

<sup>1</sup>Active Recreation Area: Playgrounds, athletic fields, etc.

<sup>2</sup>Passive Accessible Recreation Area: walking trails, picnic groves, etc.

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance at Town-Owned Parks

The needs of those with disabilities are very important to consider when planning for outdoor recreation. Table 4 provides an outline of how well the Town of Somers meets those needs. Overall, there is a deficiency in the provision of disabled accessible amenities throughout the park system in Somers.

Most playgrounds and main activity areas in the Town parks are not disabled accessible. The majority of the playground equipment and many of the structures and facilities are ADA compatible; however, much of the non-compliance results from the lack of hard-surfaced paths from main park access points and parking areas to provide direct access to the facilities and playground areas. Improvements that should be addressed in the future include the implementation of ADA compliant pathways to provide access from parking and entrance points to the bathroom facilities, seating areas, and transition points on playground structures. These improvements would replace the typical surfacing that now exists on many of the main access routes in Somers' parks with hard-surfaced pathways. These pathways can be designed in a sustainable manner as permeable pavement so that current drainage patterns are not affected.

One of the stated goals of this CORP is to ensure that open space and recreation facilities and programs are designed to meet the special needs of all residents, especially the disabled. The most effective way of addressing the needed improvements is to develop a five-year capital improvement schedule for the park system. This schedule would help to budget resources and create a feasible timetable for the improvements to be completed. Development of a full and detailed evaluation of ADA accessibility compliance needs would assist in assessing the need for future updates to existing facilities. Certainly all new parks, playground, and bathroom facilities will be constructed in accordance with ADA codes and established guidelines.

**Table 4**  
**Accessibility of Equipment and Facilities in Town Parks**

|    | Park/Open Space Site                        | Accessible Marked Handicap Parking Stalls | Accessible Route to Main Activities | Accessible Play Equipment | Accessible Route to Transfer Point At Play Equipment | Accessible Open Shelter | Accessible Restrooms | Accessible Route to Restrooms |
|----|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Park behind Town Hall                       | No (Lot by Town Hall – Yes)               | No                                  | Yes                       | No (sand)  | N/A                     | N/A                  | N/A                           |
| 2. | Park north of Town Hall (Gitzlaff property) | N/A                                       | N/A                                 | N/A                       | N/A  | N/A                     | N/A                  | N/A                           |
| 3. | Fabiano Park                                | Yes                                       | No (grass)                          | Yes                       | No (sand)  | N/A                     | N/A                  | N/A                           |
| 4. | Park in Country Charm Subdivision           | N/A                                       | N/A                                 | N/A                       | N/A  | N/A                     | N/A                  | N/A                           |
| 5. | Park on C.T.H EA                            | N/A                                       | N/A                                 | N/A                       | N/A  | N/A                     | N/A                  | N/A                           |
| 6. | Park in Valley View Subdivision Park        | No  | No (grass)                          | Yes                       | No (pea gravel)                                      | N/A                     | N/A                  | N/A                           |

\*Note: Accessibility designation of “yes” requires barrier-free hard-surfaced access to facilities for disabled persons.