

## **X. FUNDING PROGRAMS**

A multitude of funding options are available to Somers to complete the proposed improvements to the Town park system. These funding sources can come in a variety of forms: State and Federal grants and loans, donations, local bonds, user fees, and impact fees. The following is a summary of some of the potential funding sources available to the Town:

### **A. WDNR's River Protection Grant Program**

Communities and nonprofit groups can receive state financial help to protect rivers under a new program that aims to prevent water quality, fisheries, habitat, and natural beauty from deteriorating as the number of homes and recreational, industrial, and other uses increases along rivers.

River Planning Grants:

- \$10,000 max per grant.
- 75% state share max.
- Some eligible activities include (in priority order): 1) river organization development, 2) information and education, 3) assessments of water quality, fish, and aquatic life, and 4) nonpoint source evaluations.
- Capital Improvement Projects are not eligible for funding under this grant.

River Management Grants:

- \$50,000 max per grant.
- 75% state share max.
- Some eligible activities include (in priority order): 1) purchase of land or easements, 2) development of local ordinances, and 3) restoration of instream or shoreland habitat.

Eligible Sponsors:

- Units of local government.
- Nonprofit conservation organizations.
- Qualified river management organizations (incorporated; purpose statement or past actions related to river protection; open membership).

### **B. Programs Administered through WisDOT**

#### **Statewide Multi-modal Improvement Program (SMIP)**

Several programs are collectively funded under this program, as follows:

### Local Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program

*Program Description:* Transportation enhancements are transportation-related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of transportation systems. The transportation enhancements program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, with examples ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian facilities, to landscaping and scenic beautification, and to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff. Most of the requests and projects awarded in Wisconsin have been for bicycle facilities. Examples of bicycle projects include multi-use trails (in greenways, former rail trails, etc.), paved shoulders, bike lanes, bicycle route signage, bicycle parking, overpasses/underpasses/bridges, and sidewalks.

Transportation enhancement activities must relate to surface transportation. Federal regulations restrict the use of funds on trails that allow motorized users, except snowmobiles.

A project sponsor must pay for the project and then seek reimbursement for the project from the state. WisDOT receives Federal funds for the program through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). These funds provide up to 80% of the project costs, with the sponsor providing at least the other 20%. Projects costing \$100,000 or more that involve construction are eligible for funding, as are non-construction projects costing \$25,000 or more.

*Next Funding Cycle:* Applications will be due in Spring 2010, as part of the SMIP process for the 2011-2012 funding cycle.

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program (BFPF)

*Program Description:* The primary purpose of the BFPF is to fund bicycle or bicycle/pedestrian facility planning and construction projects. Pedestrian-only facilities, such as sidewalks and streetscaping type projects are not eligible for funding. Construction projects must be \$200,000 or more, and planning projects must be a minimum of \$50,000. The project must be usable when it is completed, and not staged so that additional money is needed to make it a useful project. This is a reimbursement program with funding eligible for up to 80% of project costs. \$2.72 million is available in Wisconsin annually.

*Next Funding Cycle:* Projects are solicited in even numbered years with applications available in January and due in April.

### STP-Discretionary Program

*Program Description:* Provides funds for bicycle and pedestrian facility projects that foster alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel.

### Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)

*Program Description:* The primary purpose of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) is to fund projects and programs that reduce travel and/or emissions in areas that have failed to meet air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), and small particulate matter. Bicycle and pedestrians projects are eligible for CMAQ if they reduce the number of vehicle trips and miles traveled. Almost all bicycle projects eligible for Transportation Enhancements and STP-D are likely to be eligible (see examples above), but a higher burden of proof that the project will reduce air pollution will be required. Non-construction activities such as maps and brochures are also eligible. CMAQ is NOT a statewide program; only bicycle projects in Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Walworth and Door counties are eligible.

*Next Funding Cycle:* Applications for the 2012-2014 funding cycle are due in April of 2011.

### Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)

*Program Description:* The goals of the program are to enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school, to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, and to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. 2009 funding for Wisconsin projects is projected to be \$3+ million. The next funding cycle is anticipated to be spring of 2010.

### Planning Grants

- Communities awarded a Planning Grant will receive the services of either a WisDOT hired and paid consulting firm or the services of a Regional Planning Commission or Metropolitan Planning Organization for the purposes of assisting the community with the development of a comprehensive Safe Routes to School Plan.
- Schools included in the grant may include both public and private schools.

### Infrastructure and Non-Infrastructure Grants

- Eligible projects or activities must focus on children in kindergarten through eighth grades. Projects must be within a two-mile radius of any elementary or middle school.
- Projects are 100% fundable to the limit of the project award, with the caveat that sponsors must first complete the project, and then seek reimbursement from the state. The minimum award amount is \$25,000 for infrastructure projects and \$10,000 for non-infrastructure projects. There is no maximum award, but the ability to fund projects over \$200,000 is limited due to the amount of funds available.
- Eligible projects include sidewalk improvements, on-street and off-street bicycle facilities, and pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements.

- Desired outcomes of projects or activities include increased bicycle, pedestrian, and traffic safety, improved air quality, improved childhood health, enhanced community accessibility, improvements to the physical environment that increase the ability to walk and bicycle to and from schools, and increased community interest in bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
- The next application period will be early 2010.

### Other Funding Sources

*Highway Safety Improvement Program* - Bicycle and pedestrian projects are now eligible for this program. This program focuses on projects intended for locations that should have a documented history of previous crashes.

*Surface Transportation Program Urban (STP-U) Funds* – Metropolitan areas receive an allocation of funds annually. These funds can be used on a variety of improvement projects including bicycle and pedestrian projects. Most of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations that administer this program have been using these funds to integrate bicycle and pedestrian projects as larger street reconstruction projects are taken on.

*Incidental Improvements* - Bicycle and pedestrian projects are broadly eligible for funding from most of the major federal-aid programs. One of the most cost-effective ways of accommodating bicycle and pedestrian accommodations is to incorporate them as part of larger reconstruction, new construction and some repaving projects. Generally, the same source of funding can be used for the bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as is used for the larger highway improvement, if the bike/pedestrian accommodation is "incidental" in scope and cost to the overall project. Overall, most bicycle and pedestrian accommodations within the state are made as incidental improvements.

Contact your local WisDOT grant specialist for more information on specific programs, and to receive updated information on project eligibility, funding cycles and application deadlines

### **C. Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program**

Administered by: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry

The urban forestry grant program is designed primarily to fund projects that improve a community's capacity to manage its trees. Eligible applicants include municipalities, counties, tribal governments, and not-for-profit organizations. This is a 50/50 matching program. Applicants must match grant funds one for one with cash, in-kind services, or donations. Approximately \$600,000 is available from state and federal funds. Grant requests may range from \$1,000 to \$25,000. There is no maximum project size, however, reimbursement is limited to \$25,000. The project period is approximately one year.

Eligible and Ineligible Projects and Costs.

Eligible projects include development/implementation of:

- Urban forest management plan and/or its components.
- Vegetation ordinances.
- Community tree inventories.
- Master tree planting plans.
- Training programs for employees or volunteers.
- Public information/involvement plans.
- Demonstration projects to provide education, training, information exchange, or technology transfer.
- Contract specifications to tree care.
- Hazard tree inventories.

Projects are not limited to those listed and two or more of the above tasks can be combined into one project. Operations projects such as tree planting, pruning, fertilizing, and removal are eligible; however, these types of projects will receive lower priority.

Ineligible projects include:

- Stump or brush removal.
- Land or boundary surveys or title search.
- Appraisals for sale or exchange of real property.

Approved project costs include:

- Salaries and fringe benefits of personnel directly engaged in project.
- Cost of services, supplies, equipment or facilities used on the project.
- Value of labor, services, supplies, equipment or facilities donated to the project by third parties.

Ineligible costs include:

- Indirect costs or overhead.
- Costs incurred before or after the project period.
- Purchase of equipment valued over \$5,000.
- Fines and penalties imposed due to violations or failure to comply with federal, state and/or local regulations.

- Costs for which payment is received under another state or federal program, with the exception of the Wisconsin Community Development Block Grant program.
- Certain types of donations.
- Gifts, t-shirts, refreshments and similar items provided to thank project workers.

Regional Urban Forestry Coordinators are available to assist with grant applications. The rating criteria are also available upon request.

An Intent to Apply must be submitted by July, with an application deadline of October, annually.

#### **D. Federal Recreation Trail Funds**

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds through the transfer of federal gas excise taxes paid on fuel used in off-highway vehicles. These funds are used to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Congress has authorized \$85 million for the program in 2009. Of this total, \$840,000 annually is used for program administration and trail-related research, technical assistance, and training. The remaining funds are distributed to the states. Wisconsin is slated to receive just under \$2.8 million in 2009.

Eligible sponsors include towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governing bodies, school districts, state agencies, federal agencies or incorporated organizations are eligible to apply for funds. Incorporated organizations are those that are incorporated under s.181.32, Stats., whose primary purpose is promoting, encouraging or engaging in outdoor recreation trails activities.

Eligible project activities include:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails.
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages.
- Construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands).
- Acquisition of easement or property for trails.

Sponsors may receive a grant for up to 50% of the total project costs of recreational trail projects. In addition to the sponsor match consisting of cash payments, the sponsor may utilize donations of labor, materials, services and land for the trail project to act as the 50% non-federal cost share. These donations must be consistent with program rules and be identified at the time of application.

Interested sponsors for 2010 projects should get in contact with the community services specialist located at the regional Department offices. Completed applications are due back in the appropriate regional office by May 1, 2010. Regional DNR staff review and rank the eligible projects using a ranking tool developed in cooperation with the State Trails Council. After ranking within each

Region, the projects are then combined in a statewide priority listing. Projects that rank the highest statewide will be funded to the extent that funds are available. The regional community services specialist will notify all grant applicants as to whether their application will be funded.

#### **E. Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)**

S. 23.09(20), Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subchap. XII, Wis. Adm. Code.

Funds are available to acquire land, rights in land, and develop public outdoor recreation areas for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes. The deadline for application is May 1 of each year.

Program Goal: to enhance the quality of life for Wisconsin residents and visitors by expanding the opportunities for outdoor recreation in local parks and recreation areas.

Funding Criteria for Evaluating Projects (not in priority order):

- Implementation priorities contained in state and local comprehensive outdoor recreation plans.
- Meets needs and deficiencies identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the approved local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, or the approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plans of other units of government including regional or integrated management plans.
- Acquires land where a need for additional land acquisition is supported by an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.
- Is regional or statewide in nature and can be documented as such.
- Documentation shows benefits to tourism.
- Results in a first of a kind facility for the project sponsor or service area.
- Provides or supports a water-based activity.
- Serves the greatest population.
- Involves volunteers, local donations or cooperation by two or more service clubs.
- Applicants that have never received an outdoor recreation program grant.
- Provides for completion of a project already started where the sponsor has shown the ability to provide quality outdoor recreation facilities for its citizens without grant assistance.
- Sponsor has completed prior LWCF, ADLP, UGS, URGP or projects successfully.
- Involves two or more governmental agencies.

- Acquires land where a need for additional land acquisition is supported by an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.
- Serves as a demonstration project for other project sponsors.
- Corrects a documented health or safety problem.
- Renovates existing facilities that are in danger of being lost for public use.
- Sponsor is able to adequately maintain and operate the area or facility.
- Provides multiple season, multiple activity use.
- Serves the recreation needs of elderly person, minorities and disabled person. Facilities provided must exceed those required by state or federal regulations.

#### Eligible Project Examples

- Land acquisition projects that will provide opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.
- Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries and reservoirs that will provide water-based outdoor recreation.
- Property that provides special recreation opportunities, such as floodplains, wetlands and areas adjacent to scenic highways.
- Natural areas and outstanding scenic areas where the objective is to preserve the scenic or natural values, including areas of physical or biological importance and wildlife areas. These areas shall be open to the general public for outdoor recreation use to the extent that the natural attributes of the area will not be seriously impaired or lost.
- Land within urban areas for day-use picnic areas.
- Land for nature-based outdoor recreation trails.
- Support facilities for swimming in a natural water body, including beaches, swimming areas and bathhouses.
- Fishing and hunting facilities, such as fishing piers and trails.
- Boating facilities such as launching ramps and docks.
- Observation and sightseeing facilities such as overlooks, turnouts and trails.
- Picnic facilities, including tables, fireplaces, shelters and paths.
- Camping facilities, including tent and trailer sites, tables and fireplaces.
- Winter sports facilities, such as slopes and trails for sledding and tobogganing, cross-country ski trails, and facilities for ice-skating.



- Urban recreation areas, such as undeveloped play areas, bicycling trails, walking and horseback riding trails.
- Support facilities, including entrance and circulation roads, utility and sanitation systems, erosion control work, parking areas, toilet buildings and educational facilities where there is a permanent professional naturalist staff and the facilities are for nature interpretation.
- Renovation or redevelopment of existing nature-based outdoor recreation.
- Habitat restoration projects.
- Permanent landscaping and burial of overhead wires.
- Open shelters and multi-purpose shelter buildings that support a nature-based outdoor recreation activity.
- Fences and lighting for the protection of park users.
- Park signs.

#### Ineligible Project Examples

- Projects that are not supported by a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.
- Land to be used for non-nature-based outdoor recreation.
- Restoration or preservation of historic structures.
- Acquisition and development of areas and facilities that do not meet the definition of nature-based outdoor recreation specified in s. NR 51.002, such as spectator sports, playgrounds, swimming pools, dedicated sports fields, tennis courts, hockey rinks, and indoor horse arenas.
- Development of areas and facilities to be used for professional athletics.
- Development of amusement facilities, waterslides or the construction of facilities that are only marginally related to nature-based outdoor recreation.
- Construction of park employee residences.
- Development of areas and facilities to be used solely for game refuges or fish production purposes unless they are open to the public outdoor recreation needs identified in SCORP.
- Construction of lodges, motels, luxury cabins or similar facilities.
- Development projects in previously undeveloped recreation areas that consist solely of support facilities, unless the facilities are clearly required for proper and safe recreational use of the area.
- Buildings primarily devoted to operation, maintenance or indoor recreation.

- Acquisition and development of golf courses.

#### **F. Urban Rivers S. 30.277, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subchap. XIV, Wis. Adm. Code**

Funds are available to acquire land, rights in land, or develop shoreline enhancements on or adjacent to rivers that flow through urban or urbanizing areas, in order to preserve or restore urban rivers or riverfronts for the purposes of economic revitalization and nature based outdoor recreation activities.

Program Goal: to improve the quality of urban waterways and riverfronts through preservation, restoration or enhancement which will encourage economic revitalization and expanded outdoor recreational opportunities that involve enjoyment of the state's natural resources.

Deadline: Applications are due by May 1 of each year.

#### Funding Criteria for Evaluating Projects (not in priority order):

- Acquires land or land rights that preserve or restore natural values, including aesthetic values, and enhance environmental quality along urban waterways.
- Provides new or expanded diverse recreational opportunities to all segments of urban populations.
- Provides new or expanded access to urban waterways.
- Acquires blighted lands that will be restored to complement riverfront redevelopment activities.
- Encourages comprehensive riverway planning within and between municipalities and other agencies.
- Provides opportunities for increasing tourism.
- Acquires lands that through proper management will improve or protect water quality.

#### Eligible Projects

1. Land acquisition projects that preserve or restore urban rivers or riverfronts for the purposes of economic revitalization and nature based outdoor recreation activities.
2. Shoreline enhancements – development or habitat restoration projects that serve public recreation or resource conservation purposes and are dependent on being on a shoreline including:
  - Projects that support nature-based outdoor recreation activities.
  - Riparian buffer rehabilitation including establishment of native vegetation, which may include slope and site preparation, and control of exotic plant species.

- Shoreline stabilization, which may employ bioengineering practices, and other environmentally beneficial stabilization techniques.
- Engineering and design costs for approved shoreline enhancement projects.
- Removal of seawalls, retaining walls, overhead wires, roads, buildings and levees.
- Open shelters, multi-purpose shelter buildings and primitive campsites.
- Fences for protection of park users.
- Lighting for public safety.
- Park signs.
- Shoreline access.
- Shoreline enhancement projects associated with river corridor restoration following dam removal shall receive a priority for funding.

**Ineligible Projects:**

1. Construction or repair of seawalls and lagoons, and environmental remediation or clean-up of site contamination.
2. Dredging projects unless the dredging is incidental to the overall project.
3. Land to be used for non-nature based outdoor recreation.

**G. Urban Greenspace S. 23.09(19), Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subchap. XIII, Wis. Adm. Code**

Funds are available to acquire lands to provide natural space within or near urban areas, protect scenic or ecological features, and to provide land for nature-based outdoor recreation, including noncommercial gardening.

Program goal: To enhance the quality of life for Wisconsin urban dwellers by providing open natural space within or in proximity to urban development.

**Funding Criteria for Evaluating Projects (not in priority order):**

1. Planning considerations include projects that:
  - Specifically implement a priority of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
  - Implement the approved master plans of two or more units of government or regional planning agencies.

- Preserve land that is listed on the natural heritage inventory database.
- Implement elements of water quality plans or initiatives.

2. Project considerations include land that:

- Serves the greatest population centers.
- Serves areas of rapidly increasing populations.
- Is accessible, where accessibility is appropriate.
- Has unique natural features, threatened or endangered species, or significant ecological value.
- Provides open natural linear corridors connecting open natural areas.
- Has water frontage.
- Contains or restores wetlands.
- Protects sensitive wildlife habitat.
- Protects an area threatened by development.
- Preserves a natural community or could be restored to a natural community.
- Can be shown to be of regional or statewide significance.
- Related to brownfield redevelopment.

3. Administrative considerations include projects that:

- Are ready to be implemented.
- Continue to eligible acquisition projects previously started.

Eligible Land Acquisition Projects

- Implement priorities contained in local master plans.
- Acquire land for open natural space within or in proximity to urban development.
- Protect areas or naturally formed features that have scenic, ecological or other natural values.
- Provide land for noncommercial gardening for inhabitants of urbanized areas.

Ineligible Projects

- Development projects.
- Land to be used for non-nature based outdoor recreation purposes.

**H. Acquisition of Development Rights S. 23.09(20m), Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subchap. XV, Wis. Adm. Code**

This Stewardship initiative makes funds available to acquire development rights (easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial or commercial development would enhance nature based outdoor recreation.

Program Goal: to acquire development rights for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities.

Deadline: The application is due by May 1 of each year.

Funding Criteria for Evaluating Projects (not in any priority order):

- Has frontage on a river, stream, lake or estuary.
- Creates a buffer between land that has been permanently protected for natural resource and conservation purposes and potential or existing residential, commercial or industrial development.
- Is within the boundary of a large acquisition project established by the department, a governmental unit or a nonprofit conservation organization, where the uses of the property will complement the goals of the project and the stewardship program.
- Is within an environmental corridor that connects 2 or more established resource protection areas.
- Provides or enhances nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Is in proximity to other permanently protected land.
- Protects areas of natural, scenic, geological, or archaeological value.
- Acquires land threatened by increasing development pressures.

**I. Land And Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF), signed into law September 4, 1964, provides federal financial assistance for the purpose of acquisition and/or development of land for outdoor recreation. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) administers the program at the state level.

Funds are provided to the states and passed to political subdivisions in the form of 50 percent reimbursement grants. Reimbursements are made on all eligible expenditures up to the amount of the approved grant.

The estimated cost of a proposed project as indicated in the grant application will not always reflect the actual project cost. However, grant awards are based upon the estimated project cost shown in the grant application. Grant reimbursement is limited to 50% of actual eligible project costs or the approved grant amount, whichever is less. Consequently, it is very important to estimate project costs carefully.

Reimbursements are made only on costs incurred and paid by the grantee during the project period as identified on the grant agreement. The only exception to this is on "pre-agreement planning costs," which can include site investigation and selection, site planning, feasibility studies, preliminary design, environmental assessment, preparation of cost estimates, and construction drawings and specifications.

The following two lists describe the types of eligible and ineligible projects for LCWF program funding:

#### Eligible Projects

- Observation and sightseeing facilities; including hiking, biking, equestrian, cycle, snowmobile and nature trails.
- Land acquisition for park and recreation use.
- Picnic facilities, including open shelters.
- Camping facilities.
- Swimming facilities, including beaches, pools, bathhouses and related equipment.
- Winter sports facilities, including ski runs/lifts, outdoor skating rinks, tobogganing and sliding slopes, warming huts, etc.
- Playground equipment and outdoor sports facilities such as ball fields and game courts, golf courses, skate parks, etc.
- Sport shooting areas for skeet, trap, rifle, pistol and archery.
- Lake and pond construction/restoration for boating, fishing and aesthetic purposes.
- Landscaping and plantings for wildlife food and cover.
- Renovation or redevelopment of existing facilities that have deteriorated or become outdated.
- Support facilities including roads, parking, signs, walkways, utility systems, lighting, restrooms, concession buildings, trailer dumps, fences, etc.

### Ineligible Projects

- Acquisition or development of areas and facilities to be used primarily for semiprofessional and professional arts and athletics.
- Development of school “athletic plant” facilities.
- Construction of employee residences.
- Development of amusement facilities, convention facilities, and commemorative exhibits.
- Development of nature and geological interpretive facilities that go beyond interpreting the project site and its immediate surrounding area.
- Development of outdoor recreation and support facilities to be used exclusively by the handicapped.
- Acquisition, restoration or preservation of historic structures.
- Acquisition, construction or renovation of lodges, motels, and luxury or “nonaustere” cabins.
- Facilities at a zoo for the purpose of housing, caging, displaying or caring for animals.
- Acquisition of museums and sites to be used for museums.
- Mobile recreation units such as playmobiles, skatemobiles, swimmobiles, show wagons, puppet wagons, and porta-bleachers.
- Acquisition of areas and facilities to be used solely for game refuges or fish production purposes.

### **J. Lake Protection Grants**

Counties, towns, cities, villages, tribes, qualified lake associations, public inland lake districts, qualified nonprofit conservation organizations, town sanitary districts, and other local governmental units as defined in s. 66.0301 (1)(a) Wis. Stats. established for lake management, are eligible to apply for funding to protect and improve the water quality of lakes and their ecosystems.

*Maximum Award:* Up to 75% of project costs, with a maximum of \$200,000.

Eligible Projects include:

- Purchase of land or conservation easements that will significantly contribute to the protection or improvement of the natural ecosystem and water quality of the lake.
- Restoration of wetlands or shoreline habitat.

- Development of local regulations or ordinances to protect lakes and the educational activities necessary for them to begin to be implemented.
- Lake classification projects that allow counties to tailor local land and water management programs to classes of lakes in response to development and recreational use pressures.
- Lake management plan implementation projects.

Ineligible Projects include dam repair, operation, or removal; purchase of property on which a dam is located; dredging; design, installation, operation or maintenance of sanitary sewers or septic systems; routine chemical treatments or mechanical harvesting of aquatic plants; maintenance and operation of equipment or facilities; and water safety patrols.

*Deadline:* Applications are due annually in May.

#### **K. Local User Fees**

Communities have imposed user fees to help offset the costs of park improvements and recreation program costs. These fees are discretionary and are usually set by the Local governing body in charge of park regulations.

#### **L. Impact Fees**

An impact fee is a one-time charge that a community collects from a new development, and it is designed to recover the cost involved in providing public facilities to service that new development. Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617 governs the use by municipalities of imposing and collecting impact fees. "Parks, playgrounds, and land for athletic fields" are considered to be eligible public facilities for which a community may impose an impact fee. Before imposing impact fees, the community must prepare a public facilities needs assessment that establishes service standards, capital costs and develops the rational relationship between the fee and new development. The Town of Somers has park impact fees in place for both residential and non-residential developments. The language found in Section 18.30 (J) of the Town of Somers Code of Ordinances is as follows:

*(J) Public Park Impact Fee.*

*(1) Amount-Residential Use. The developer shall pay to the Town Clerk/Treasurer as a condition of approval by the Town Board of a final plat, certified survey map, planned unit development, multi-unit dwelling plan or condominium plat a public park impact fee of One Thousand Forty-five (\$1,045.00) Dollars for each buildable lot or unit included in the final plat, certified survey map, planned unit development, multi-unit dwelling plan or condominium plat. Twenty-five (25%) percent of the total public park impact fee for the proposed residential use development shall be paid at the time of final approval by the Town Board and prior to the recording of a final plat, certified survey map, planned unit development, multi-unit dwelling plan or condominium plat. The remaining balance of the public park impact fee attributable to each buildable lot or unit within the proposed residential use development shall be payable upon the earlier of the issuance of a*



*building permit or the sale, exchange or other conveyance of such buildable lot or unit, unless otherwise agreed by the Town and the Developer by written Development Agreement.*

*(2) Amount-Non-Residential Use. The developer shall pay to the Town Clerk/Treasurer as a condition of approval by the Town Board of a final plat, site plan, certified survey map, planned unit development or condominium plat a public park impact fee of One Thousand Forty-five (\$1,045.00) Dollars per residential equivalent density unit (REDU). The REDU is calculated by dividing the gross square footage of land included in the final plat, site plan, certified survey map, planned unit development or condominium plat by the R-4 Urban Single-Family Residential District minimum lot size of 15,000 square feet. The total public park impact fee for the proposed non-residential use development shall be paid at the time of final approval by the Town Board of the proposed non-residential use development and prior to the recording of a final plat, certified survey map, planned unit development or condominium plat, unless otherwise agreed by the Town and the Developer by written Development Agreement.*

#### **M. Community Development Block Grants**

The Community Development Block Grant program is a federally funded program administered by each county. Funding is granted to local municipalities for ADA projects by a formula method. The Town of Somers has not applied for Community Development Block Grant funding for park-related projects in the past.