Parks Committee Agenda
Date: October 22, 2026
Time: 10:30 am
Jefferson County Courthouse
311 South Center Ave., Room C1021
Jefferson, WI 53549

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/283062482090246?p=6qxIFOqmHL1pNMYL95
Meeting ID: 283 062 482 090 246
Passcode: gx996dZ3

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call (establish a quorum)
3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of Parks Committee Minutes for September 24, 2026
6. Communications
7. Public Comment (Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)
8. Update on Jefferson County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan
9. Discussion and Possible Action on update to Jefferson County Parks Drone Policy
10. Discussion on Parks 2026 Budget
11. Field Staff Updates
12. Administrative Staff Updates
13. Historic Sites Council Update
14. Discussion on agenda items for the next meeting
15. Next Scheduled Meetings per the Proposed Meeting Schedule (4th Thursday, Monthly)
    - November 19, 2026
    - December 17, 2026
    - January 28, 2027
    - February 25, 2027
16. Adjourn

Parks Committee Minutes
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2026
Time: 10:30 am
Jefferson County Courthouse
311 South Center Ave., Room C1021
Jefferson, WI 53549

Microsoft Teams meeting
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Meeting ID: 283 062 482 090 246
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1. **Call to Order**
   Christensen called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

2. **Roll Call (establish a quorum)**
   Present: Callan, Christensen, Gulig, Lund, Turville-Heitz (arrived: 10:42 am)
   Absent:
   Staff Present: Wiesmann, Truman, Klement, Westphal, Luckey, Thompson
   Others Present:

3. **Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law**
   Luckey certified compliance.

4. **Approval of the Agenda**
   Agenda approved as written.

5. **Approval of Parks Committee Minutes for August 27th, 2026**
   Lund/Gulig motion to approve the minutes. Motion passes 4/0.

6. **Communications**
   Included in the packet were the following newspaper articles:
   - 8/28/26 - 50 Years in the Making: Interurban Trail Ribbon Cutting Sept. 3
   - 8/31/26 - Parks Committee Gathers Power Transmission Line Concerns
   - 8/27/26 - Parks Open Houses Scheduled for September and October

   Also included were:
   - Bike/Ped Trail use statistics for the last year from the Glacial River Trail at Farmco Lane
   - Bike/Ped Trail use statistics for the first week of use from the Interurban Trail @ Co HWY F
   - An article on Wisconsin Southeast Transmission Project (WISE)
   - An email commending the department on its completion of the Interurban Trail, and the Departments fostering of Business Partnerships.
   - An email from a teacher at Fort High School thanking the department for working with her students in her science classes at Dorothy Carnes Park.

7. **Public Comment (Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time)**
   No public Comment

8. **Update on Jefferson County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan**
   Wiesmann noted that the first Open House for the unveiling of the Draft plan was held on Saturday, September 19, 2026 @ UW-Extension. Five citizens were in attendance. The next meeting is scheduled in October.
   Wiesmann also shared a draft print of the park system map.

9. **Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution recognizing Kikkoman's Generosity and Partnership in supporting**

DRAFT

Jefferson County Park Projects

Gulig/Lund motion to approve the resolution recognizing Kikkoman's generosity. Motion passes 5/0

Luckey – noted that this gift from Kikkoman to Jefferson County happened because of Wiesmann. Wiesmann prepared a proposal that lined up with Kikkoman's vision for prairie restoration/management in select areas throughout the county.

Wiesmann – noted that planted prairies will also help reduce mowed areas. The first three years of prairie development and management will be set-up under contract to keep the prairies functional.

Do we want to add a note that Gulig stated that he wished to note that by making the motion he contrasted his earlier opposition to the development with this motion of thanks? I don't know how to properly put that in, but I'm spit balling.

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on the future of Camping at Cappies Landing**

Wiesmann shared the park history to include the inclusion of remote camping. Unlike Dorothy Carnes Park, remote camping at this park is not remote and is relatively close to the parking area. The park often has unpaid and/or unregistered campers. Staff also find homeless persons that have been dropped off (with no other place to go, and no other means to travel elsewhere). In addition, camping rules include a seven day stay limit, and quite often homeless persons will stay longer than the seven-day limit, as they have nowhere else to go. The department does not have the staff or resources to continue to manage the two sites at this park and is asking for permission to suspend camping at this park until further notice.

Gulig/Callan motion to indefinitely suspend camping from Camping from Cappie's Landing. Motion passes 5/0.

Turville-Heitz – how will park users be notified of the changes?

Wiesmann – camping amenities will be removed from the park, and notices will be posted.

Lund – shared his concern about homeless persons and their ability to find safe places to stay.

11. **Discussion and Possible Action on update to Jefferson County Parks Drone Policy**

Wiesmann – noted that among other sensitive areas in the parks, Jefferson County Parks have eagle and osprey nests, and questions when and how to regulate flying of drones. He is trying to create a policy that doesn't "close the door" completely on drone use. He also noted that in his research he discovered that the parks (property owner) can regulate takeoff and landing from their property but cannot regulate drones flying over.

Gulig would like ***No Fly Zones*** over Jefferson County parks, in addition to a required Special Use Permit from the Director of Jefferson County Parks. (See: recommended language on packet page 25)

No action taken. Wiesmann will work with Thompson on Ordinance language.

Resolution will come back to the October Parks Committee meeting for review/comment/approval.

12. **Discussion on Parks 2026 Budget**

Wiesmann stated the budget is on track.

13. **Field Staff Updates**

Klement

- Parking lot maintenance – Dorothy Carnes east completed, Dorothy Carnes west in the next few weeks
- Korth Park Interpretive Signs were installed
- Park entrance signs replacement at Upper & Lower Rock Lake Parks, and Burnt Village
- Single track trail at Garman Nature Preserve
- Glacial River Trail repairs (south of Fort Atkinson)
- Light up the Night Bike Ride - 187 Riders + Volunteers
- Communication Tower Maintenace – weeding/herbicide spraying
- Interurban & GRT – flail mowing edges

Toro

- Extended his thanks for three natural resource summer interns for the 2026 summer season
- Five total river trail clean-up events summer 2026
- Tree planting -21 Parks, 15 Fair Park, more this fall
- Korth lakeshore woody vegetation removal
- 4-5 day disc golf clean-up @ Carlin Weld
- Three volunteer days with the Friends of Korth Park for seed collecting – 8-15 people each event

DRAFT

- Collected seeds – Dane County Parks is processing the seeds @ no charge

14. **Administrative Staff Updates**

Westphal

- Light Up the Night event wrap up
- Friends of Korth Park event promotion
- Community Garden season wrap up

Truman

- Trail Wayfinding Project
- Snowmobile
  - Bridge – Hwy J
  - 2026-2027 Contract
  - Hubbleton
- Grants
  - Close – Interurban
  - Submit – Conservation Aids

Web Updates - Accessibility

15. **Historic Sites Council Update**

Potter's Field

16. **Discussion on agenda items for the next meeting**

17. **Next Scheduled Meetings per the 2026 Proposed Meeting Schedule (4th Thursday, Monthly)**

- October 22nd, 2026
- November Reschedule
- December Reschedule

18. **Adjourn**

Christensen/Gulig motion to adjourn at 11:45 am. Motion passes 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Truman

Adv. Program Assistant, Parks

DRAFT

Population ecology, genetics, and conservation of bumble bees in restored prairies

#6









Jade Kochanski

Public PhD Dissertation Defense

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

9 am - 10 am (cst)

In-Person: Russell Laboratories, Room 104

Zoom: https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/9939348128

Scan for Zoom

Department of Integrative Biology
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

GRATTON LAB
LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY OF INSECTS

Entomology
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Jefferson County PORP Draft (10-16-26) #8

Acknowledgements [finalize at end]

Add directly into InDesign:

- County Administrator
- County Board of Supervisors
- County Parks Committee
- County staff
- Consultants
- MERIT participants

Executive Summary & Statement of Need [finalize at end]

Content for Draft 2

Definitions [finalize at end]

MERIT = Municipal, Environmental and Recreation Initiative Team

PORP = Parks and Outdoor Recreation Plan

USFWS = United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Chapter 1: Mission & Vision (Goals)

The Jefferson County Parks Department mission and vision statements were originally developed during the planning process for the 2005-2010 Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and subsequently updated in 2013 and 2020. Input from the public, stakeholders, the Parks Committee, and Parks staff informed the statements. County Parks staff reviewed these statements as part of the preparation of this plan and felt they were still relevant and required no modification.

<u>Values:</u>

The Jefferson County Parks Department strives to do its work and serve the public with these core beliefs:

- Respect for our park users and staff
- Reputation for excellence
- Pride in our accomplishments
- Teamwork to achieve goals

Mission:

The mission statement is the overall purpose of the Jefferson County Parks Department. It reflects how the Department serves the public and Jefferson County and informs decisions concerning the Parks System as a whole.

»The.mission.of.the Jefferson.County.Parks.Department.is.to.be.a.catalyst.for.building.healthy. communities.that.people.want.to.live.in.and.visit¡.The.Parks.System.preserves.natural.resources.for.public. use.and.conservation?operates.and.maintains.a.parks.system.with.resource_oriented.recreation?trails?. and.special.use.parks·.and.expands.the.parks.system.for.environmental.and.land.use.benefits?improved. physical.and.mental.health?outdoor.education?and.enjoyment¡‹

Vision Statements:

Vision statements lay the groundwork for where the Jefferson County Parks Department is going. The statements describe a future, not current, park system and aid in decision-making and short- and long-term planning. The Department's work plan for the next five years implements the vision statements.

A detailed explanation of the five vision statements follows each statement.

Vision.I

The Jefferson.County.Parks.system.of.large.natural.resource_based.parks?county_wide. trails?and.cultural.features.is.an.integral.part.of.the.County"s.landscape.of.vital.and. distinctive.communities?natural.areas?and.working.farms¡.The.Parks.create.special. places.for.citizens.and.visitors.to.interact.with.nature.and.history?exercise.and.play?and. enjoy.the.outdoors¡

Jefferson County Parks reflect the essence of Jefferson County and provide the public with opportunities to see and interact with the landscape and natural features that include woodlands, prairies, wetlands, waterways, geological formations, wildlife, scenic views, and cultural features such as historic farmsteads and Native American Mounds.

Bicycle and pedestrian trails connect County Parks with cities, villages, hamlets and other parks. Trail corridors encourage users to slow down and experience the rural and natural character, undulating topography, and the invigorating seasons of Jefferson County.

The Parks Department works with the public, the Jefferson County Historic Site Preservation Commission, the State Historical Society, the Ho-Chunk Nation, universities and colleges, and other cultural groups to respect, protect and preserve historic icons in County Parks and along trails, including buildings with historical and cultural significance and Native American Mounds.

Vision.II

The Jefferson County Parks system provides multiple recreational activities and facilities in outdoor natural settings for all ages and abilities in a way that balances recreation and conservation values

The Jefferson County Parks Department studies and monitors trends in outdoor recreation, exercise, and health care to consider existing and new activities in which participation is increasing.

Accessibility to park experiences is offered to the less able wherever possible.

Multiple activities are offered in large parks for family togetherness and public enjoyment such as picnicking, open areas for play, playgrounds, in-park bicycle and mountain bike paths, hiking and interpretive trails, fishing, camping, boat launches, scenic drives, community gardens, dog parks, sports like Frisbee golf, and cultural and historical sites to explore.

Jefferson County Parks protect unique and significant natural resource areas as preserves within the Parks System. Nature-based conservation parks offer primarily silent sport experiences such as hiking, nature study, nature photography, bird watching, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and non-motorized water sports such as canoeing and kayaking.

Some Parks are places to experience and learn about the historical and cultural context of Jefferson County through restored and protected buildings, farmsteads and Native American Mounds.

Off-road and on-road bicycle and pedestrian trails are an important and desired component of the Parks System connecting parks with cities, villages, and hamlets throughout Jefferson County and beyond.

Vision III

Jefferson County continues to acquire unique recreational lands and natural resource areas for public use in a planned way that keeps pace with County population growth

Jefferson County has historically used the standard of 12 acres of park land per 1000 residents which is still supported presently. New housing programs within the County may change the population outlook over time to maintain a more stable population total. The Parks system complements and enhances the vision and details of the Glacial Heritage Area Plan (2009) for a major system of diverse parks, trails, and resource conservation areas serving local and regional needs. Potential parklands are identified, prioritized and acquired from willing sellers in a planned way. Land may be acquired in fee or through conservation easements for new undeveloped conservation parks, for the expansion of existing parks, and to preserve biological diversity. The following natural and cultural resources are priorities:

- Lakes
- Wetlands

- River corridors
- High points and drumlins
- Large woodlands
- High quality native plant communities
- Wildlife corridors
- Native American Mounds and historic sites
- Groundwater recharge areas

Trail and greenway corridors are identified and acquired in fee or as easements to link parks and urban areas in accordance with the Jefferson County Bicycle Plan and Glacial Heritage Area Plan.

The public seeks more interaction with the rivers and lakes in Jefferson County and land may be acquired to provide access to water and canoe/kayak trails, to preserve habitat, and to improve water quality.

Conservation easements may be acquired or donated to buffer parks from development, preserve environmental corridors, create linkages and greenways, protect areas for future park expansion, and to preserve agricultural land adjacent to a park project area.

The Jefferson County Parks Department has endowment and donor advised funds in place for acquisition purposes and development.

Vision.IV

The.Jefferson.County.Parks.Department.takes.pride.in.and.sustains.a.high.standard.of.park.design?.construction?.accessibility?.management?.safety?.and.maintenance¡. Collaboration.and.communication.between.staff?.county.departments?.municipalities?.and.the.public.is.a.priority¡

Jefferson County Parks perform several key functions that require a variety of skills and staff:

- Grounds and facilities maintenance
- Vegetation and wildlife management
- Visitor and staff safety
- Capital program and large-scale facilities implementation

The Jefferson County Parks Department has equipment and sufficiently trained and engaged staff to maintain and improve park properties now and in the future. It is a full-time department and has full-time staff that is sufficient to operate the parks seven days a week year-round. Operations equipment is available and in good condition to accomplish tasks efficiently. Staff are trained to maintain and restore native vegetation and manage wildlife. Visitor and staff safety is and will continue to be the highest priority. Parks staff work cooperatively with other entities to accomplish County Park initiatives and pursue successful funding strategies.

Vision.V

The.Jefferson.County.Parks.Department.promotes.public.awareness.of.the.Parks.System.and.advocates.for.the.community.health.and.environmental.benefits.of.outdoor.recreation?exercise?and.family.activities.while.protecting.important.natural.areas.and.water.bodies¡

The Jefferson County Parks Department has in place a communication plan to inform the public and County Board of its initiatives, park locations, natural resources, recreational activities, and events. The Department engages with the Jefferson County Tourism Council, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Agencies, and local and regional publications to promote park awareness, the economic impact of the Parks System, and its direct benefits to communities, residents, and the environment. Working cooperatively with local health care providers to inform the public conveys the benefits of exercise and experiencing nature for physical and mental health.

Jefferson County becomes a Midwestern model for healthy communities, thriving ecosystems, and sustainable economic growth.

Chapter 2: Introduction & Existing Conditions

Introduction

The Jefferson County Parks system covers 24 parks and approximately 1,070 acres of County owned and managed facilities throughout the County, over 19 miles of hiking trails, 45 miles of on and off-road bicycle/pedestrian trails on the Glacial River Trail and Interurban Trail, and 199 approximately 235 miles of snowmobile trails. In 2026-2027 the County contracted with the WDNR to maintain 235 miles of snowmobile trails but exact milage varies annually based on closures, openings, reroutes, expansion, etc. Additional snowmobile trail lengths are club funded routes, separate from the DNR-County contracted trail miles. Bicycle routes have been designated on lightly traveled roads throughout the County.

Parks range in size from small waysides to 542-acre Dorothy Carnes County Park and Rose Lake State Natural Area. Historic elements such as Native American Indian Mounds, an original log cabin, and original barns have been preserved.

The system offers outdoor activities, many of which are nature-based. Most of the parks provide picnicking, hiking, playgrounds, nature emersion, relaxation, and natural area restoration. Bicycling, mountain biking, boating, fishing, disc golf, and a large dog park add to the variety of activities.

The Parks Department operates out of an office in the Jefferson County Courthouse and the Parks Maintenance Shop on Industrial Avenue. The Department takes pride in excellent upkeep of the parks and facilities, improvement of natural areas, and keeping communication open with park visitors.

Over the years a park design vocabulary has been developed giving the system a unified look. Shelters are mostly wood with heavy timber and green or brown roofs. Some shelters incorporate native fieldstone and barn boards. Restrooms and sign boards complement the shelters. Playgrounds are designed with safety as a primary goal and blend in with the surrounding scenery.

General Regional Context

Jefferson County is located in southeastern Wisconsin between the large metropolitan areas of Madison and Milwaukee/Waukesha. Interstate 94 crosses the northern part of the County from Milwaukee to Madison and Minneapolis/St Paul. Chicago residents with second homes and campers in Jefferson County add to the summer population.

[General location map]

Tourism has a major impact on the economy across the state of Wisconsin with $12 Billion in gross domestic product contributed from the tourism industry alone. There is similar growth seen in the impacts locally in Jefferson County given its proximity to major population centers. Annual and cultural events and the abundant natural resources attract visitors, boaters, hunters, bicyclists, hikers, and bird watchers, among others. Direct visitor spending increased by 18.7% from reporting done in 2018 up to $122.6 million in 2024 and 1,576 people were employed in the tourism sector.

Tourism Impacts

	In Millions		
	2023	2024	% Change
Direct Visitor Spending	$122.5	$122.6	0.08%
Total Labor Income	$51.3	$52.2	1.60%
State and Local Taxes	$11.2	$11.3	0.20%

*Data from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism 2024 report

Summary of Existing Plans

Jefferson County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2020-2025

The 2020-2025 Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan provided a framework for preserving natural resources while expanding outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the county. The plan focused on maintaining and enhancing a network of parks, trails, waterways, and open spaces that connected communities and supported public health, tourism, and economic development. Key priorities included expanding bicycle and pedestrian trails, improving water access for paddling and fishing, enhancing park facilities and accessibility, restoring natural habitats and historic sites, and acquiring additional conservation lands and trail corridors. Public input showed strong support for existing parks, particularly Dorothy Carnes Park, the Dog Park, hiking trails, and bicycle trails, while also expressing a desire for more trail connections, mountain biking opportunities, educational programming, and youth engagement. The plan recognized projected population growth and changing demographics and

established goals to ensure adequate parkland, protect environmentally significant areas, and strengthen partnerships, fundraising, and marketing efforts to support the long-term growth and sustainability of the county park system.

2025-2030 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has prepared a new 5-year statewide recreation plan that identifies essential issues that affect the future of outdoor recreation and makes appropriate recommendations. In this report, the City of Jefferson is located in the Southern Gateways region, which includes Dodge, Jefferson, Rock, Green, Dane, Columbia, Sauk, Lafayette, Richland, and Iowa counties. In this region, the SCORP identifies a longer growing season as a potential threat to forested areas, as it may lead to an increase in damage-causing wildlife such as white-tailed deer. This could negatively impact forest health and, over time, diminish recreational opportunities. In addition, increased heat in the summer will cause recreation to move indoors or necessitate adjusting the timing during the day for safety, which can be more expensive and make some activities less accessible. Statewide, the essential issues are:

- Providing more opportunities for outdoor recreation close to home,
- Providing needed recreation facilities based on increased levels of participation,
- Improving the distribution of information on recreation opportunities,
- Considering climate change impacts when planning for future amenities,
- And expanding and diversifying the funding options for outdoor recreation.

Glacial Heritage Area Plan (2009)

In 2006, the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report evaluated the state's long-term conservation and recreation needs, identifying significant natural resources and "green infrastructure" areas that should be protected over the following 50 years. Public input indicated a strong desire for recreational opportunities close to where people live. In response, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board designated the Crawfish River-Waterloo Drumlins and Rock River Corridors in western Jefferson County as priority conservation areas, forming the basis of the Glacial Heritage Area (GHA), which also extends into eastern Dane and southwestern Dodge counties.

The GHA initiative was designed to implement the recommendations of the Land Legacy Report by protecting key natural resources while expanding outdoor recreation opportunities. Its primary objectives included connecting state and county parks with nearby cities and villages through a regional network of trails and open spaces, often described as a "string of pearls" system, and protecting lands that contribute to the water quality of the Crawfish and Rock Rivers. Recreational opportunities within the GHA include hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, camping, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, boating, canoeing, and kayaking.

The GHA network is organized around four components: Conservation Parks, which expand opportunities for nature-based recreation; Linking Trails, which connect parks and communities through approximately 100 miles of trail corridors; Wildlife and Natural Areas, which protect and restore important habitats;

and River-Based Conservation Areas, which improve public access to waterways while preserving sensitive wetlands and floodplains. Implementation of the GHA has already resulted in projects such as the acquisition of Holzhueter State Park, expansion of the Glacial River Trail, development of water trails, and improved paddling access on local waterways, helping advance conservation, recreation, tourism, and economic development throughout the region.

Jefferson County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update (2010)

Bicycle and pedestrian trails expanded rapidly in Jefferson County since approval of the Glacial.Heritage. Area.Plan. This update to the 1996 Jefferson.County.Bicycleway–Pedestrianway.Plan.assessed the existing bicycle routes within Jefferson County and its communities and addressed route effectiveness, connectivity to key destinations, and safety. Off-road bike trails were identified that link Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) and local destinations and estimated costs and funding sources for future implementation of recommended improvements were identified.

Jefferson County Park Site Feasibility Study (1998)

The Feasibility Study. identified thirty-five potential new park areas and developed a decision-making matrix and rating system for park site selection. Dorothy Carnes County Park and Korth County Park, among the top ten sites, have been acquired as County Parks. The Holtzheuter Farm has been acquired by the WDNR and is a state park under development.

The Rock River Trail Initiative

This trail initiative began in 2010 and was joined by public and private partners in Wisconsin in 2011. The mission is to establish and interpret a Rock River water trail along the 320-mile river course from the headwaters in Fond du Lac and Dodge counties to the Mississippi River at Rock Island in Illinois. The group is also looking to create a separate Rock River route on roads within the river corridor to provide access to the natural resources, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty and historic and cultural assets of the Rock River Valley. The Rock River Trail has been designated part of the National Water Trail System by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and is promoted by the National Parks Service.

Jefferson County Lake Enhancement Project

This document makes several recommendations for lakes that might be considered from a park planning perspective including:

- Increase water quality monitoring on lakes
- Reduce the incidence of shoreline vegetation cutting
- Restoration of native shoreline buffers
- Education on exotic and invasive species
- Monitoring for exotic and invasive species
- Controlling non-point source pollution
- Developing a booklet of lake recreation

Jefferson County Land and Water Resources Management Plan (2021-2030)

The 2021-2030 Land and Water Resources Management Plan reinforces the importance of protecting Jefferson County's natural resources as the foundation for parks, recreation, and tourism. The plan identifies lakes, rivers, wetlands, natural areas, and environmental corridors as critical assets that support outdoor recreation and community quality of life.

Key priorities relevant to parks and recreation include:

- Protecting and restoring lakes, rivers, wetlands, and wildlife habitat to support fishing, boating, paddling, wildlife viewing, and other outdoor activities.
- Preserving environmental corridors, open spaces, woodlands, and farmland that contribute to the county's scenic and recreational character.
- Supporting the development and protection of green space along waterways and around sensitive natural resources.
- Coordinating conservation efforts with implementation of the County's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.
- Maintaining and enhancing key recreation resources, including county parks, the Glacial River Trail, snowmobile trails, lakes, and river systems.
- Using resource monitoring, habitat restoration, and water quality improvement projects to sustain long-term recreational opportunities and tourism.

Overall, the plan supports a parks and recreation strategy that balances resource conservation, public access, outdoor recreation, and preservation of Jefferson County's natural landscapes.

Jefferson County Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan (2021)

The Jefferson.County.Agricultural.Preservation.and.Land.Use.Plan.establishes a long-term framework for preserving Jefferson County's agricultural lands while accommodating carefully planned growth through 2035. The plan reaffirms agriculture as a foundational component of the county's economy, identity, and rural character, noting that more than 220,000 acres remain in agricultural use. It seeks to protect prime farmland, maintain viable farming operations, and preserve natural resources while directing most future residential, commercial, and industrial development toward cities, villages, and designated growth areas. The plan was developed through an extensive public engagement process and emphasizes balancing development pressures from the Madison and Milwaukee regions with the county's desire to retain its agricultural heritage and rural landscape. Key goals include preserving farmland and environmental resources, supporting a diverse agricultural economy, protecting water quality, and strengthening collaboration among local governments, landowners, and agricultural stakeholders.

To implement these goals, the plan establishes a countywide land use framework centered on Farmland Preservation Areas, 15-Year Growth Areas, Urban Service Areas, Rural Hamlets, Rural Development Areas, and Environmental Corridors. The county's primary preservation tool remains the A-1 Exclusive Agricultural zoning district, supplemented by programs such as Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs), Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE), farmland preservation tax credits, and conservation initiatives. Development is encouraged within existing communities and infrastructure-served areas, while stricter standards are applied to farmland conversion, environmental protection, and rural residential development. The implementation strategy calls for ongoing updates to zoning regulations, promotion of infill development, protection of water resources and sensitive environmental features, educational

outreach, support for agricultural businesses and emerging farming practices, and continued partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies to secure funding and advance farmland preservation efforts.

Parks and farming are compatible land uses. The plan recommends that parks departments and farmland preservation efforts partner in Glacial Heritage Area initiatives in order to buffer parks, wildlife areas, and farms from development.

Other Guiding Documents

In addition to these plans, local municipalities have plans that also address areas of importance to the County. While these are not included in the document summary here, discussions with municipal park leadership were conducted as part of the MERIT process and incorporated into the recommendations portion of this Plan.

Existing Conditions

Demographics.- .Population.Change

In 2024, Jefferson County had a population of 86,245 which is expected to decline. However, with development pressures coming from the Dane, Waukesha, and Milwaukee County regions nearby, Jefferson County may become a more attractive place for families to move to which may change this projection. In addition, there are programs to assist with housing such as the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation, platted subdivisions in multiple communities ready for new construction homes, and industrial investment is growing in communities like Johnson Creek and Jefferson.

Currently, Jefferson County is the fifth fastest growing county in the state according to the 2025 county workforce profile by the Department of Workforce Development. Even though there has been rapid recent growth, the Demographic Services Center at the Wisconsin Department of Administration reports that demographic patterns indicate that the county's aging population will lead to population decline in the future. However, they do note that there have been higher net migration rates which could slow this decline. In contrast, some municipalities are growing with the City of Lake Mills being the fastest growing municipality in Jefferson County at a 7.8% growth rate in 2025 and expected to grow by 29.5% by 2050. The Village of Johnson Creek also remains as a steadily growing community along the I-94 corridor as does the City of Waterloo. The other municipalities across the county are expected to decline in population.

When considering acquisition of additional parkland, the areas around Lake Mills and Johnson Creek would be a priority. Otherwise, maintaining or improving the existing facilities in the other communities is the main priority.

Population Projections

	2020	2030	2040	2050	2020-2050 Population Change
State of Wisconsin	5,893,718	5,890,915	5,841,620	5,710,120	-3.1%
Jefferson County	**86,148**	**83,495**	**79,315**	**73,035**	**-15.2%**
Aztalan (T)	1,382	1,258	1,121	966	-30.1%

Cambridge (V)*	1,539	1,704	1,899	2,092	35.9%
Cold Spring (T)	737	689	631	560	-24.0%
Concord (T)	1,981	1,812	1,623	1,406	-29.0%
Farmington (T)	1,407	1,337	1,246	1,126	-20.0%
Fort Atkinson (C)	12,579	11,894	11,026	9,910	-21.2%
Hebron (T)	1,043	972	888	786	-24.6%
Ixonia (T)	5,120	5,097	4,965	4,682	-8.6%
Jefferson (C)	7,793	7,256	6,621	5,854	-24.9%
Jefferson (T)	2,067	1,922	1,752	1,547	-25.2%
Johnson Creek (V)	3,318	3,544	3,668	3,646	9.9%
Koshkonong (T)	3,763	3,635	3,441	3,159	-16.1%
Lac La Belle (V)*	279	262	244	222	-20.4%
Lake Mills (C)	6,211	7,116	7,765	8,045	29.5%
Lake Mills (T)	2,196	2,178	2,114	1,988	-9.5%
Milford (T)	1,106	1,064	1,004	918	-17.0%
Oakland (T)	3,231	3,111	2,936	2,686	-16.9%
Palmyra (T)	1,220	1,181	1,120	1,030	-15.6%
Palmyra (V)	1,719	1,597	1,453	1,282	-25.4%
Sullivan (T)	2,295	2,260	2,179	2,036	-11.3%
Sullivan (V)	651	601	543	475	-27.0%
Sumner (T)	846	779	703	614	-27.4%
Waterloo (C)	3,492	3,708	3,820	3,782	8.3%
Waterloo (T)	867	831	781	711	-18.0%
Watertown (C)*	14,674	13,686	12,508	11,078	-24.5%
Watertown (T)	1,933	1,848	1,732	1,574	-18.6%
Whitewater (C)*	4,416	4,022	3,584	3,090	-30.0%

C=City, V=Village, T=Town
Source: Demographic Services Center, Wisconsin Department of Administration (2024)
*Populations are reported as split due to being across two counties
Village of Cambridge and Lac La Belle are included as a small part of their municipal boundaries extend within Jefferson County but they are primarily located within Dane and Waukesha counties respectively.

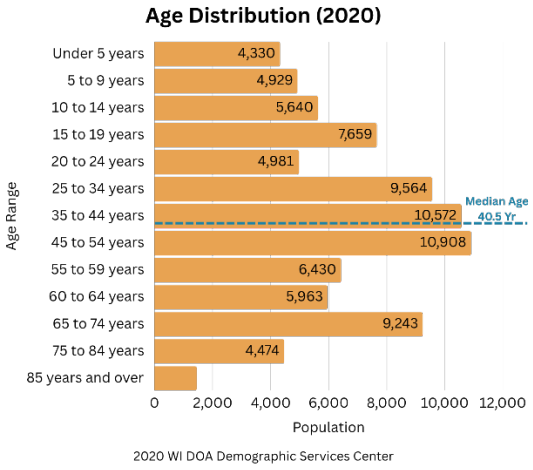
Age

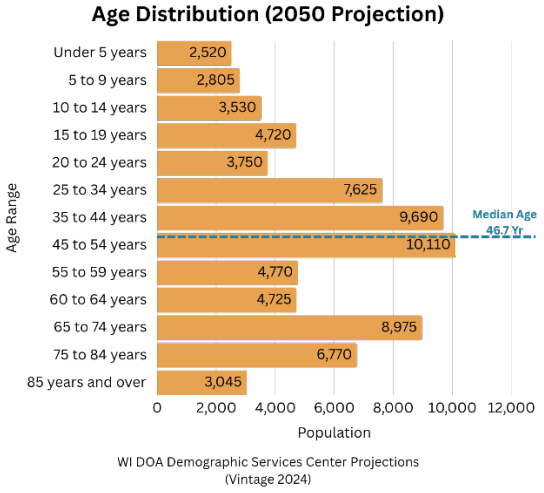
Looking at the population projections across sex and age groups, there are declines across the board projected through 2050 but the overall composition of the county population is forecasted to change. While the percentage of the population for working age adults will stay nearly the same between 2020 and 2050, the percent of population for youth and seniors will change. In 2020 youth under age 20 made up 26.2% of the total county population. In 2050 that is projected to drop to 18.6%. Conversely, in 2020, the senior population age 65 years and older, made up 17.6% of the population and is projected to increase to 25.7% by 2050.

Population Projection Summary by Age Group

	Both Sexes Population Projection				Female Population Projection				Male Population Projection			
	2020	**2030**	**2040**	**2050**	**2020**	**2030**	**2040**	**2050**	**2020**	**2030**	**2040**	**2050**
Youth (<20 years)	22558	19145	16355	13575	10708	9020	7800	6460	11850	10125	8555	7115
Working Age Adults (20-64)	48418	45230	43315	40670	23931	22020	20740	19,100	24487	23210	22575	21570
Seniors (65+)	15172	19120	19645	18790	8101	10130	10420	10050	7071	8990	9225	8740

Like the 2020 PORP, planning activities and facilities for both groups was mentioned in public comments. Seniors have more time to enjoy the parks system and Friends groups, and they could form a core of volunteers. Seniors may also need more universally accessible facilities. Public survey respondents asked for more engagement with youth and more outdoor activities and nature education.





Ethnicity

Jefferson County's population, while predominantly white, is becoming more diverse. Between the years 2000 and 2024, all non-white populations increased while white alone decreased by 7.64%.

Ethnicity

	Percent of Population			Change (2020-2024)
	2000	**2018**	**2024**	
White Alone	96.20%	96.00%	88.56%	-7.64%
Hispanic or Latino	4.10%	7.20%	12.35%	8.25%
Two or More Races	0.92%	1.30%	6.52%	5.60%
Black or African American	0.39%	1.10%	0.94%	0.55%
Asian	0.47%	1.00%	0.65%	0.18%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.33%	0.50%	0.42%	0.09%

White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	90.40%	89.50%	86.96%	-3.44%
Sources:	US Census Bureau, Jefferson County, WI Quick Facts		ACS 2024 5-Year Estimates	

Household.Income.™.Poverty.Status

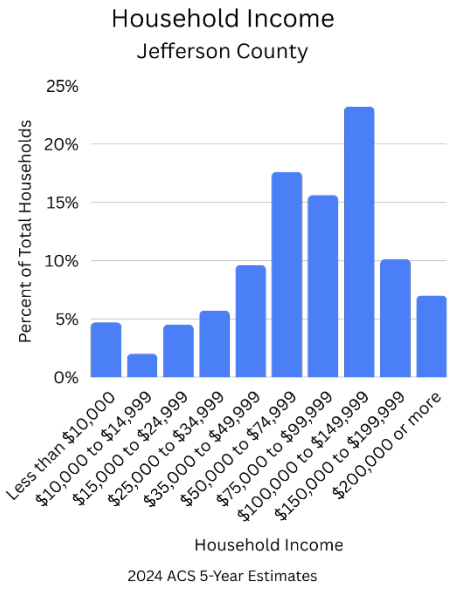
The median household income in Jefferson County in 2024 was $83,750. Between 2018 and 2024, the median household income in Jefferson County increased by 31.5% which was just above the percent increase across the state of Wisconsin during the same period. Jefferson County has a higher median household income than the state of Wisconsin. There are higher household incomes in Dane and Waukesha Counties nearby but lower levels of poverty in Jefferson County than in the state of Wisconsin with 7.1% of people living below the poverty line. When looking specifically at vulnerable populations, 5% of children under 18 and 12% of seniors 65 years and older are living below the poverty line in Jefferson County.

Median Household Income

	2018	2024	Change	%
Jefferson County	$ 63,676	$ 83,750	$ 20,074	31.50
Wisconsin	$ 59,209	$ 77,488	$ 18,279	30.9

In inflation-adjusted dollars from the ACS 5-year estimates

Number of Households (ACS 5yr estimates)		
Year	**Households**	**Change**
2010	31442	
2012	31925	2%
2014	32267	1%
2016	32366	0%
2018	32866	2%
2020	33349	1%
2022	34102	2%
2024	34873	2%



Tourism.Impact.on.Park.Needs

Parks and tourism are tied to economic development. Businesses are looking for a high quality of life for their workforce and that often involves outdoor recreation, parks and trails.

In Jefferson County manufacturing tops all industries in percentage of total employment, total payroll, and provides 29.9% of the County's jobs; followed by trades, transportation and utilities, education and health,

leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and construction. Jefferson County added 554 jobs from 2018 to 2023. (2025 Workforce Profile, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development)

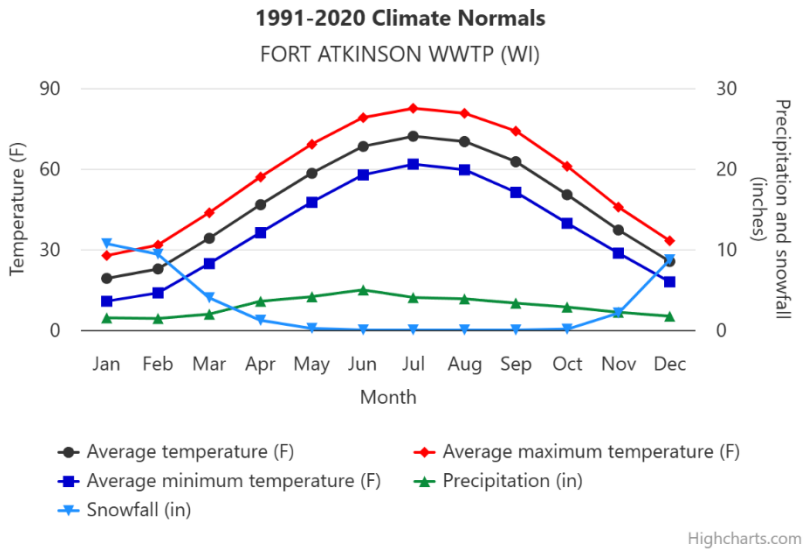
The largest manufacturing sector is fabricated metal product manufacturing. Previously, food manufacturing and processing was the top sector but there have been recent changes in large employers in the region. In addition, companies across the nation have been searching for more resilient domestic supply chains which have grown Jefferson County's metal fabrication industry in recent years. Along with manufacturing, agriculture is a key component of the local economy. Agriculture contributes $2 billion to the economy in Jefferson County with 7,057 jobs linked to agriculture and 191,783 acres of agricultural land (UW Extension & USDA Census of Agriculture). There has been a continued loss of farmland acres with 13.4% of acres being lost between 2017 and 2022 as reported by the USDA Census of Agriculture. Most of the Jefferson County Parks are in rural areas and surrounded by farmland. Protecting existing parks with agricultural easements on the surrounding land may benefit both the parks system and farm families with financial incentives and assurance that agriculture is a priority in Jefferson County.

Natural.Resources.Overview

Jefferson County is a mosaic of farms, natural areas, and small towns. Varied natural resources and waterways influenced where cities and villages developed, provide rich soil for farming, and continue to support unique plant and animal habitats. Popular recreational activities such as hiking, biking, boating, and being in nature are enhanced by high quality natural areas. Locations with significant natural resources were identified during prior County planning efforts and the Glacial. Heritage. Area. Plan. for potential protection and public parks.

Climate

Jefferson County experiences warm, humid summers and cold, dry winters. Most precipitation falls during the growing season but both droughts and floods are not uncommon. The median date of the first autumn frost (32 degrees) is around October 3. The median date of the last spring frost is April 28.



Looking at the climate normal from 1991-2020, Fort Atkinson located in the middle of the county has an annual average: temperature of 47.3F, precipitation of 35.5 inches, and snowfall of 36.4 inches. The median date of the first fall frost (32 degrees) is approximately October 13, and the median date of the last spring frost is May 1. Using these dates, there is a roughly 165 day growing season on average for this area. June typically has the highest precipitation at 4.98 inches of rainfall while February has the lowest at 1.43 inches. Normal winter snowfall ranges from 0.1 inches in October to 10.70 inches in January. According to the Wisconsin State Climatology Office, annual precipitation in southern Wisconsin has increased by roughly 10-15% since the late 1800s, with the largest increases occurring in heavy rainfall events. Flooding has increased in Jefferson County since 2008 and parks on rivers have had to be closed periodically.

Geology?Glaciation?Elevation.™ .Drainage

Platteville-Galena dolomite bedrock, deposited some 400 million years ago, underlies Jefferson County and is at or near the surface in some places. Cambrian sandstone, formed 500 million years ago, underlies parts of the western half of the county from Jefferson to Lake Koshkonong. Precambrian rock, 545 million to 2,500 million years old, called Waterloo quartzite, forms outcrops in northwestern Jefferson County, an important area for groundwater infiltration. Unconsolidated (loose) deposits formed during the Wisconsin Glaciation 90,000 to 12,000 years ago include glacial till, outwash deposited by glacial melt water; lake-laid clay, silt and sand; and accumulations of peat and windblown silts. The flatter deposits formed the agricultural areas of Jefferson County.

Jefferson County's landscape features were created by the retreat of Wisconsin Glaciation about 12,000 years ago. A prominent glacial feature is the Kettle Moraine in the southeastern corner of the County. Here the Green Bay glacial lobe met the Delavan lobe and pushed up a mound of soil between them that formed a moraine. The Kettle Moraine features the highest point in Jefferson County, sharp hills and steep round valleys called kettles and other glacial remnants such as eskers (narrow, sinuous ridges) and kames (conical hills).

As the glacier retreated to the north, debris and meltwater created parallel recessional and end moraines in arcs of low gravelly hills across the County. A glacial ground moraine forms a gently undulating plain across most of the County. Hills elongated in the direction of the glacial movement, called drumlins, are found within the ground moraine. The northern third of the county has one of the three classic drumlin fields in the United States and is a feature in the Garman Nature Preserve.

Across the county there are locations found 900 feet above sea level that are typically glacial drumlins which look like oval hills and the recessional moraines as large arcs of high elevation. Wetlands, where the ground water is near the surface, have formed between the drumlins. Lighter soil particles deposited by glacial melt water eventually formed good agricultural soils between Lake Mills and Lake Ripley. Palmyra, Cold Spring, Hebron, and Sullivan Townships were once a large glacial lake basin. (Glocker, C.L. 1979. Soil Survey of Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Nation Cooperative Soil Survey)

The highest point in the County, at 1040 feet above sea level, is Bald Bluff located just south of Palmyra in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Other hills with scenic views and rugged topography are located just west of Lake Mills, Jefferson, Fort Atkinson, in the Palmyra area, and in the drumlin fields running east

and south from Watertown and Waterloo to the Town of Sullivan. These high points are also areas of ground water infiltration and recharge, which supplies our drinking water.

The many large and small streams that cross the County were created by meltwater channels cutting through glacial ice and drift. Marshes and shallow lakes, such as Rose Lake at Dorothy Carnes County Park, formed where meltwater did not cut channels. The lowest elevation, around 780 feet above sea level, occurs in the southern part of the County along the lower reaches of the Crawfish, Rock, and Bark Rivers, and along Lake Koshkonong and its associated wetlands.

Jefferson County is located in the Rock River Basin. Waters from the Rock River eventually reach the Mississippi River. The major tributaries of the Rock River are the Crawfish, Bark, Scuppernong, and Oconomowoc Rivers, and Whitewater, Koshkonong, and Deer Creeks.

Soils

Most soil types in Jefferson County were formed from parent material that was influenced by glaciation, precipitation, and vegetation such as woodlands and prairies. The soil types fall into one of seven major soil associations: (Glocker, C.L. 1979. Soil Survey of Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Nation Cooperative Soil Survey)

- Houghton-Adrian: Very poorly drained, level organic soils, formed in old glacial lake basins.
- Fox-Casco-Matherton: Poorly to excessively well drained, nearly level to very steep soils with loamy subsoil underlain by sand and gravel. Occurrence is on outwash plains and terraces, kames, eskers, and terrace escarpments.
- Palms-Keowns-Milford: Nearly level, poorly drained soils that are organic or have loamy or clayey subsoil. Their location is on terraces and in depressions in old lake basins.
- Waucousta-Lamartine-Theresa: Silty or loamy soils that are poorly to well drained and level to sloping. They are located on till plains, drumlins, terraces in old lake basins, and in low areas between drumlins.
- Rodman-Moundville-Casco: Excessively to moderately well drained soils that are nearly level to very steep with a loamy to sandy texture. These are soils of outwash plains and terraces in the Kettle Moraine area.
- Kidder-McHenry-Rotamer: Well drained and moderately well drained soils on gently sloping to steep till plains and drumlins with a silty or loamy texture over sandy loam glacial till.
- Whalan-Kidder: Well drained to moderately will drain gently sloping to steep soils on side slopes and ridge tops of glaciated uplands.

Environmental.Corridors

The Jefferson.County.Agricultural.Preservation.and.Land.Use.Plan.defines environmental corridors as land that meets any of the following criteria:

- Wisconsin DNR delineated wetlands.
- Located in the 100-year flood zone, Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) designated 1 percent annual chance of flooding.
- All publicly-owned land designated as public parks or conservation areas.

- Contiguous upland woods of over 10 acres in area.
- Slopes of 20 percent or greater as determined by the USDA Soil Survey GIS map.

Significant natural resources, cultural sites, and good agricultural land often lie within environmental corridors. The Jefferson. County. Agricultural. Preservation. and. Land. Use. Plan. suggests that these continuous areas of environmentally sensitive land should be protected from non-agricultural development and may be priority areas for park acquisition.

Land.Cover.™.Land.Use

In the 2018 Land and Water Resource Management Plan, Jefferson County provided the below Land Use acreages. There have been small changes since then and this chart should be revised once the County completes an updated inventory. For park facilities specifically, the Marsh Lake Public Access, Hwy E Launch, and Rock River Landing parks are new to the park system and not accounted for under the recreation category below. There has also been some growth in development around cities across the County but the land use composition is generally similar to the 2018 inventory.

Land Use Inventory (2018 from Jefferson County)

Land Use	Acres	% of Total
Agriculture (cropland, orchards, tree nurseries, etc.)	188,757	51%
Wetlands (designated by DNR)	55,518	15%
Urban and Roadway Corridors (developed urban land and all road right of ways)	36,330	10%
Rural Developed (rural homesteads, farm buildings, churches, cemeteries, government facilities, etc.)	23,997	6%
Rural Open (rural uncultivated, vacant lots 5 or more acres, landfills)	23,453	6%
Upland Woods (wooded areas in both rural and urban areas, not in wetlands)	19,832	5%
Surface Water	17,440	5%
Recreation (public parks, golf courses, gun clubs, and non-public campgrounds)	6,502	2%
Commercial and Industrial (retail shops, manufacturing, machine shops, rail right of ways, communication facilities, utilities, etc.)	1,137	0%
Total	**372,966**	

Woodlands

Jefferson County has some upland woods and some woodlands in wetlands in addition to extensive lowland forests along rivers and marshes, including uncommon tamarack swamps and bogs.

Prior to the 1830's about half of Jefferson County, east of the Crawfish River and north of the Bark River, was heavily wooded. The rivers impeded frequent prairie fires that were set by lightning or Native Americans managing grazing land. A fire-intolerant mature sugar maple and basswood forest evolved on the east and north river banks. The timber provided raw materials for the early settlers who built sawmills and settlements on the rivers.

The remainder of the County, south and west of the major rivers, was a mix of fire-tolerant open grown oak savannas, tall prairies, tamarack bogs, and marshes. Prairies and savannas had almost entirely disappeared prior to restoration efforts at State Wildlife Areas and Jefferson County Parks during the last

forty years. Faville and Snapper Prairies, along the Crawfish River south of Hubbleton are examples of existing native prairies.

Many woodlands were grazed or cleared for farming and today upland woods are located on rough, stony, steep, or poorly drained land, unsuitable for agriculture. Woodlots are sought for rural residential development, further fragmenting the already scattered upland woods.

Wetlands.and.Floodplains

Wetlands cover 55,518 acres or 15% of the County, see Wetland and Floodplain Map [page #]. Half of Wisconsin's original wetlands have been lost to agriculture, highways, and urban development. Through the efforts of the USDA Wetland Reserve Program, the WDNR, and Jefferson County Parks, hundreds of acres of wetlands have been restored in Jefferson County recently.

Two such places are the Jefferson Marsh, now called the Jefferson Marsh Wildlife Area and Jefferson Tamarack Marsh State Natural Area (1,594 acres); and the Zeloski Unit of the Lake Mills Wildlife Area (1,618 acres) near Lake Mills. A significant wetland restoration was installed at Dorothy Carnes County Park as well.

Wetlands have a water table at or near the land surface. Characteristics of wetlands are hydric (waterlogged) soils, standing water at least part of the year, and wetland vegetation. Wetlands generally occur along lakeshores, streams, and large poorly drained areas.

Wetlands trap sediment and pollutants, hold and remove nutrients, aid in improving or maintaining water quality, attenuate (hold and slow down) flood waters, and provide habitat for many species of waterfowl, wildlife, and plants. Rose Lake marsh, a deep-water marsh at Dorothy Carnes County Park, may have the greatest bird diversity in Jefferson County.

Wetlands run in concentric bands in Jefferson County, located in the low areas between moraines and drumlins. Wetland complexes are found along the Bark and Oconomowoc Rivers in eastern and southern parts of the County and in a zone from Waterloo to Lake Koshkonong in the western part of the County.

The FEMA floodplain map was last updated in 2020. 100-year flood plains are mapped in the Wetlands and Floodplain Map. In any given year, there is a 1/100 chance of flooding in these areas. Some places, such as Blackhawk Island at the mouth of the Rock River, flood so frequently that Jefferson County has a program to purchase property and remove structures. Some of these sites have been opened for public use for activities such as shore fishing.

[map of wetlands and floodplains]

Lakes.and.Rivers

There are 17,440 acres of surface water in Jefferson County within thirteen watersheds. Major rivers include the Rock, Crawfish, Bark, Maunesha, Oconomowoc, and Scuppernong.

Allen Creek, in the Town of Koshkonong, has been designated an "Exceptional Resource Water" in the Wisconsin State Statues due to its high water quality and threatened least darter fish. The 33-acre Allen Creek Wetlands State Natural Area protects the stream.

There are 25 lakes in Jefferson County. Two of the lakes, Lake Koshkonong and Golden Lake, share shorelines with adjacent counties. Nineteen lakes are naturally formed and dams create six lakes.

Characteristics of Jefferson County Lakes

Name	Surface Area (acres)	Max Depth (feet)	Mean Depth (feet)	Public Access
Bean Lake	33	6		T
Blue Spring Lake*	141	26	7	BR
Golden Lake	250	46	13	BR
Goose Lake	143	4		NO
Hahns Lake	88	10	2	NW
Haumerson Pond	4	3		R
Hoopers Millpond*	21	6		R
Hope Lake	126	24	5.4	BR
Kurtz Pond	4	3		NO, S
Lake Koshkonong*	10,460	7	5	BR
Lake Ripley	418	44	18	BR
Lower Spring Lake*	109	11	4	BR
Mud Lake, Sumner	318			NW
Mud Lake, Sullivan	0.3			NO
Mud Lake, Lake Mills	95	22	7.4	BR, T
Mud Lake, Concord	8	6		NO, S
Perch Lake	5	7		NO, S
Red Cedar Lake	336	6		BR, T
Rock Lake	1,371	56	16	BR
Rome Mill Pond*	448	7	2	BR
Rose Lake	140	10		T
Round Lake	2	3		NO, S
Sindon/Weegs Pond	10	12		NO, S
Spence Lake	33	6		T
Upper Spring Lake*	24	11	4	NO

* Impoundment

Lake Table Key *Public Access*
BR – Boat ramp
NO – No access
NW – Navigable water access to lake
R – Roadside access
T – Walk-in trail
X – Access not specified

Wildlife

Sport fish in Jefferson County lakes and streams includes walleye, northern pike, bluegill, white bass, muskie, crappie, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass. The most common river fish found in Jefferson County are catfish, walleye, northern pike, white bass, sauger, panfish, crappie, and perch. Wetlands and

water resources provide food and nesting for waterfowl and feeding and breeding habitat for fish species. Waterfowl frequent the County Parks and Wildlife Areas in Jefferson County during migration.

Deer and wild turkey are commonly seen throughout the County, as are coyote, fox, raccoon, opossum, rodents, turkey vultures, and a large variety of songbirds. Bald eagles have made a comeback and are seen more frequently.

In Jefferson County the Greater Lake Koshkonong Important Bird Area (IBA) designated by the Audubon Society, encompasses 80,000 acres including all of Lake Koshkonong and Koshkonong State Wildlife Area, Red Cedar Lake State Natural Area, and Rose Lake State Natural Area. The IBA program is dedicated to identifying the most critical habitats for birds in Wisconsin using science-based criteria, and maintaining and improving those habitats through voluntary, collaborative conservation and stewardship actions.

Lake Koshkonong continues to harbor large concentrations of waterfowl of over 20 species during both migratory periods. Recent surveys recorded over 20,000 ducks during spring migration.

The wetlands support herons and bitterns, Blue-winged Teal, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and significant numbers Black Tern and Marsh Wren. Sightings of American White Pelican have been increasing in recent years. Floodplain forests support Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Prothonotary Warbler. Cerulean Warblers have been recorded in this area in the past per the Audobon Society's Important Bird Area site profile for Jefferson County.

Seed mixes used in park improvement projects should be selected to provide appropriate habitat and feed for threatened and endangered species to promote supporting their needs.

Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species

The following tables list the rare, threatened, or endangered species included in the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory and that are known to have occurred or do occur in Jefferson County. These species are often clustered around water bodies.[5]

State Status: THR - Threatened, END - Endangered, SC - Special Concern, SC/P - Fully protected, SC/N - No protection, SC/H - Take regulated by open/closed seasons, SC/FL - Federally protected as endangered or threatened, SC/M - Protected by Migratory Bird Act.
Federal Status (in Wisconsin): LE-Listed as Endangered, LT-Listed as Threatened, C- Candidate for listing.

Animals

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status	Federal Status	Group Name
Acipenser fulvescens	Lake Sturgeon	SC/H		Fish
Acris blanchardi	Blanchard's Cricket Frog	END		Amphibian
Aflexia rubranura	Red-tailed Prairie Leafhopper	END		Leafhopper
Alasmidontavirdis	Slippershell Mussel	THR		Mussel
Bartramia longicauda	Upland Sandpiper	THR		Bird
Bird Rookery	Bird Rookery	SC		Other
Chlidonias niger	Black Tern	END	SOC	Bird
Cymbiodyta toddi	A Water Scavenger Beetle	SC/N		Beetle
Dichromorpha viridis	Short-winged Grasshopper	SC/N		Grasshopper
Empidonax virescens	Acadian Flycatcher	THR		Bird
Emydoidea blandingii	Blanding's Turtle	SC/P	SOC	Reptile
Enallagma basidens	Double-striped Bluet	SC/N		Dragonfly
Erimyzon sucetta	Lake Chubsucker	SC/N		Fish
Etheostoma microperca	Least Darter	SC/N		Fish

[4] Audubon Society. Important Bird Areas.
http://iba.audubon.org/iba/viewSiteProfile.do?siteId=3656&navSite=state

[5] Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Natural Heritage Inventory. Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Plants and Animals and Native Natural Communities in Jefferson County.

Animals (Continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status	Federal Status	Group Name
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	END		Bird
Flexamia prairiana	A Leafhopper	SC/N		Leafhopper
Geothlypis Formosa	Kentucky Warbler	THR		Bird
Ixobrychus exilis	Least Bittern	SC/M		Bird
Lythrurus umbratilis	Redfin Shiner	THR		Fish
Moxostoma carinatum	River Redhorse	THR		Fish
Myotis lucifugus	Little Brown Bat	THR		Mammal
Notropis anogenus	Pugnose Shiner	THR		Fish
Noturus exilis	Slender Madtom	END		Fish
Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned Night-Heron	SC/M		Bird
Papaipema beeriana	Liatris Borer Moth	SC/N		Moth
Papaipema silphii	Silphium Borer Moth	END		Moth
Protonotaria citrea	Prothonotary Warbler	SC/M		Bird
Regina septemvittata	Queensnake	END		Snake
Schinia lucens	Leadplant Flower Moth	SC/N		Moth
Setophaga cerulean	Cerulean Warbler	THR	SOC	Bird
Setophaga citrina	Hooded Warbler	THR		Bird
Thamnophis butleri	Butler's Gartersnake	SC/H		Reptile
Thamnophis proximus	Western Ribbonsnake	END		Reptile
Venustaconcha ellipsiformis	Ellipse	THR		Mussel

Plants	**Common Name**	**State Status**	**Federal Status**	**Group Name**
Scientific Name				
Agrimonia parviflora	Swamp Agrimony	SC		Plant
Anticlea elegansssp.glaucus	White Camas	SC		Plant
Arnoglossum plantagineum	Prairie Indian-plantain	SC		Plant
Artemisia frigida	Prairie Sagebrush	SC		Plant
Asclepias hirtella	Green Milkweed	SC		Plant
Asclepias purpurascens	Purple Milkweed	END		Plant
Asclepias sullivantii	Prairie Milkweed	THR		Plant
Besseya bullii	Kitten Tails	HR		Plant
Cacalia tuberosa	Prairie Indian-Plantain	THR		Plant
Calylophus serrulatus	Yellow Evening Primrose	SC		Plant
Carex suberecta	Prairie Straw Sedge	SC		Plant
Cirsium hillii	Hill's Thistle	THR	SOC	Plant
Cuscuta glomerata	Rope Dodder	SC		Plant
Cuscuta pentagona	Field Dodder	SC		Plant
Cypripedium candidum	White Lady's-slipper	THR		Plant
Drosera linearis	Linear-leaved Sundew	SC		Plant
Eleocharis compressa	Flat-stemmed Spike-rush	SC		Plant
Eleocharis quinqueflora	Few-flowered Spike-rush	SC		Plant
Epilobium strictum	Downy Willow-herb	SC		Plant
Euerybia furcate	Forked Aster	THR		Plant
Nuphar advena	Yellow Water Lily	SC		Plant
Oenothera serrulata	Yellow Evening Primrose	SC		Plant
Platanthera flavavar.herbiola	Pale Green Orchid	THR		Plant
Platanthera leucophaea	Eastern Prairie White-fringed Orchid	END	LT	Plant
Polygala incarnata	Pink Milkwort	END		Plant
Scutellaria ovata ssp. ovata	Heart-leaved Skullcap	SC		Plant
Spiranthes magnicamporum	Great Plains Lady's-tresses	SC		Plant
Triantha glutinosa	False Asphodel	THR		Plant
Triphora trianthophora	Nodding Pogonia	SC		Plant
Valeriana edulis var. ciliate	Hairy Valerian	SC		Plant

Communities

Calcareous fen
Dry prairie
Emergent marsh
Floodplain forest
Lake--hard bog
Lake--shallow, hard, drainage Community
Lake--shallow, hard, seepage Community
Oak opening Community
Open bog Community
Shrub-carr Community
Southern dry forest Community
Southern dry-mesic forest Community
Southern mesic forest Community
Southern sedge meadow Community
Springs and spring runs, hard Community
Stream--slow, hard, warm Community
Submergent Marsh
Wet prairie Community
Wet-mesic prairie Community

Chapter 3: Existing Park & Open Space Facilities

Inventory of Existing Facilities

During the site visit with county staff and analyzing provided GIS and other tabular data from the county, the following amenities chart was developed for the inventory:

Park	Address	Regular Picnic Tables	Handicap Picnic Tables	Parking	Interpretive Signage	Indian Mounds	Historical Marker	Memorial Bench	# Campsites	Park Shelter	# Trash Cans	# Recycling Cans	Dog Waste Receptacles	Play Ground Equip.	# Grills	Electrical Outlets	Water Pump	Kayak Craddle Launch	Canoe / Kayak Launch	Boat Launch	ADA Fishing Pier	Fishing Access	Miles of Trails
Altpeter	W7786 Lamp Road Fort Atkinson	1	0	Y	Y	N	N	0	0	No	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burnt Village	W9158 County N Fort Atkinson	1	0		1	N	1	1	0	No	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
BHI Fishing Wharf	Blackhawk Island Fort Atkinson	1	0	Y	N	N	N	0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Carlin-Weld	N1841 County Z Palmyra	12	2	Y	N	N	N	0	0	Yes	6	6	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.5
Cappies Landing	N8625 Jefferson Rd Watertown	4	0	Y	N	N	N	0	0	Yes	3	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Cold Spring	N1501 County N Fort Atkinson	3	1		N	Y	Y	0	0	Yes	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crawfish River	W 6013 Hwy 18 Jefferson	2	0	N	Y	N	N	0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dog Park	N5912 Hwy 26 Johnson Creek,	12	1	Y	N	N	N	5	0	Yes	4	4	19	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Dorthy Carnes East	N3299 Banker Road Foret Atkinson	11	0	Y	Y	N	N	8	2	No	1	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5.25
Dorothy Carnes West	N3220 Radloff Lane Fort Atkinson	13	1	Y	N	N	N	10	0	Yes	6	5	2	1	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Garman NP	701 Fox Lane Waterloo	3	0	Y	Y	Y	N	2	0	Yes	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.2
Hwy E PITO	N 3971 Hwy E Rome	1	0	Y	N	N	N	0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Hwy 16 Wayside	W 802 Hwy 16 Ixonia	4	0	Y	N	N	N	0	0	No	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
GRBT County Line	County Line Fort Atkinson	1	0	Y	N	N	N	0	0	No	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
GRBT Swarts	N 1171 Old 26 Road Fort Atkinson	1	0	Y	N	N	N	0	0	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRBT Farmco Lane	Fort Atkinson	1	0	Y	N	N	N	1	0	No	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	16
Highway K	Fort Atkinson	0	0					0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Indian Mounds	W7561 Koshkonong Mounds Road Fort Atkinson	1	0	Y	Y	Y	N	2	0	No	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5
Joy	N6881 County F Oconomowoc	0	0	Y	Y	N	N	0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Kanow	N8248 Rock River Road Ixonia	5	0	Y	Y	N	N	0	0	Yes	4	3	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Korth	W8390 Korth Lane Lake Mills	14	5	Y	Y			11	0	Yes	5	4	1	1	2	24	1	0	0	0	0	1	3.5
Korth, Elm Point	W8282 Elm Point Rd Lake Mills	8	1	Y	N			0	0	Yes	6	4	1	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pohlman	N4809 Duck Creek Road Helenville	3	1	Y	Y	N	N	1	0	Yes	2	2	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.25
Marsh Lake Public Access	Lake Mills	1	0	Y	N	N	N	0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0

Below are general descriptions of the main uses and recreational amenities provided at each park facility:

Facility	Acres	Description
Altpeter County Park		Neighborhood park near Lake Koshkonong featuring open play space, picnic tables, and a playground.
Blackhawk Island Fishing Pier		Small Rock River access site in Fort Atkinson featuring an ADA-accessible fishing pier, parking, picnic area, and seasonal restroom.
Burnt Village County Park		Historic Bark River park and wayside offering fishing, boating, canoe/kayak access, picnic facilities, and a seasonal restroom.
Cappie's Landing		Riverside park on the Rock River providing boat launch access, primitive camping, shelter, restroom, fishing, and paddling opportunities.
Carlin-Weld County Park		Conservation park with disc golf, fishing pond, playground, shelter, trails, prairie restoration, and family recreation opportunities.
Cold Spring Creamery County Park		Small historic park in Cold Spring with a shelter, playground, flowing well, restroom, picnic area, and historical marker.
Crawfish River County Park		Natural area along the Crawfish River offering hiking, trail access, wildlife viewing, and future paddling opportunities.
Dorothy Carnes County Park & Rose Lake State Natural Area		The county's largest park, featuring wetlands, prairies, woodlands, hiking trails, camping, bird watching, hunting, community gardens, historic resources, and environmental education.
Dr. J.S. Garman Nature Preserve		Wooded drumlin preserve with Native American mounds, hiking trails, scenic overlooks, nature study
Flood Mitigation Properties		Former residential floodplain properties converted to public open space and habitat areas with potential for passive recreation, fishing access, trails, and conservation projects.
Glacial River Trail Trailheads and Access Sites		Trail access locations at Farmco Lane, County Line Road, and County Road W that provide parking, kiosks, wayfinding, and connections to the county's regional bicycle and pedestrian trail network.
Highway 16 Wayside Park		A riverside wayside on the Rock River that provides fishing, paddling access, picnicking, wildlife viewing, and scenic rest-stop opportunities.
Highway E Launch		A river access facility developed as part of the Glacial Heritage Area Water Trails system, providing public canoe and kayak launch opportunities and supporting paddling access on Jefferson County waterways. The facility is identified in the county's capital improvement program and water trail initiatives.
Indian Mounds Park		A cultural and archaeological park that preserves Native American effigy mounds, woodland trails, and interpretive opportunities within a protected natural setting.
Interurban Trail		An 11-mile paved trail running east/west between Watertown and Oconomowoc in Waukesha County.
Jefferson County Dog Park & Terri Tinsley Dog Exercise Area		A regional dog park featuring four fenced off-leash exercise areas, wooded trails, boardwalks, shelters, water stations, restrooms, and dedicated dog amenities. It is the most heavily used facility in the county park system.
Jefferson County Parks Maintenance Facility		The operations and maintenance headquarters for the county park system, including shop space, equipment storage, offices, and support facilities for park operations.
Joy Park		A small lakeside park on Spence Lake offering picnicking, fishing, birdwatching, and quiet nature enjoyment.

Kanow Park		A Rock River park featuring a boat and canoe/kayak launch, fishing access, playground, shelter, picnic facilities, and riverside natural areas.
Korth Park - Upper & Lower		A regional park on Rock Lake offering trails, community gardens, lake access, shelters, playgrounds, prairie and woodland habitats, and popular special events.
Marsh Lake Public Access		New facility providing a smaller parking lot and non-motorized boating access to Rock Lake off County Road A.
Pohlman Park		A community park and Glacial Drumlin Trail destination featuring a historic silo, playground, shelter, picnic facilities, and walking trails.
Rock Lake Park - Upper & Lower		A two-unit park on Rock Lake providing boat launching, fishing, picnicking, playgrounds, trails, scenic overlooks, and shoreline recreation opportunities. The Upper unit also has mountain biking trails.
Rome Pond Park		A river-access park along the Bark River offering boating, fishing, picnicking, and access to adjacent state natural areas.
Glacial River Mountain Bike Trails		A mountain biking destination with over three miles of trails, skill-building features, trailhead amenities, and direct connections to the Glacial River Trail.
Waterloo Regional Trailhead		Regional trail hub adjacent to Dr. J.S. Garman Nature Preserve that serves as a focal point for the Glacial Heritage Area trail system and trail users.
Welcome Traveler's Park		A community park near Whitewater featuring a shelter, playground, grills, open play areas, and family gathering space.

Chapter 4: Public Participation

Plan Update Process

In November 2025, the County and Consultant met for a pre-project meeting to discuss project timeline, goals, and gather initial information about the challenges and opportunities facing the park system today. Throughout the life of the project a project webpage was available sharing project progress and bi-weekly check-in meetings were held between the Consultant and County staff. Below are highlights of other key touchpoints throughout the process. County staff were also provided with an online interactive map to markup with key park amenity, challenges, opportunities, and other ideas. In total four individuals provided 100 contributions beyond the existing GIS park facility amenity inventory database.

Staff Kickoff Meeting

On December 16, 2025, the County and Consultant met for a project kickoff meeting to dive more into the challenges and opportunities as well as what is working well and new updates in the park system since the last plan was written. Target dates for community engagement sessions were scheduled at this time and preliminary GIS background data reviewed.

Community Site Visit Tour & Staff Interviews

On January 15, 2026, the County and Consultant met to complete a driving and walking tour of key park facilities. Informal interviews were held with staff members to discuss park operations, needs, and future ideas for each park facility.

MERIT Workshop

On February 11, 2026, the County and Consultant hosted a workshop for MERIT members. Approximately a dozen representatives from local municipality parks departments, WI DNR, Groundswell Conservancy, Friends of Rose Lake, Friends of Korth Park, multiple Jefferson County departments, and representatives of user groups such as snowmobilers participated. The workshop focused on exploring how the county PORP can best help reach shared county-wide park and recreation ecosystem goals through goal setting, partnership possibilities, visioning and action planning. The outcomes of this gathering were paired with initial county parks staff input to guide public engagement and the early phases of PORP analysis. The MERIT group was also provided with an online interactive map to add similar challenges and opportunity ideas to as the County staff were previously given. This resulted in 37 contributions from three individuals.

Community Survey

An online survey and interactive mapping tool were live from January 15, 2026 through June 15, 2026 on a Social Point project webpage which generated strong community participation when compared to results in the last planning effort. During the engagement period, the project website received 1,550 views from 889 visitors, resulting in 296 total contributions from 239 individuals, including 276 surveys, 15 map pins, and 5 comments. Approximately half of all participants accessed the site through direct links, while social media and website referrals each accounted for about one-quarter of website traffic.

Participation represented nearly the entire county, with responses received from every municipality except Farmington. Approximately 4% of respondents were non-Jefferson County residents, primarily from neighboring Dane and Waukesha counties. The largest number of responses came from residents of Fort Atkinson, Lake Mills, Jefferson, Watertown, Whitewater, Oakland, and nearby non-county residents.

Survey results indicate a highly engaged user base, with nearly half of respondents reporting that they visit county parks or trails on a weekly basis, most often with family members. Overall satisfaction with the county park system was strong, with an average rating of 4.16 out of 5. The most frequently visited facilities were Dorothy Carnes Park, Korth Park, the Glacial River Trail, and Rock Lake.

The most popular recreational activities identified by respondents were:

- Hiking and walking
- Bicycling
- Wildlife viewing
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Dog park use
- Special events and programs

When asked about future priorities, more than 90% of respondents rated the following as a high or medium priority:

1. Expanding and improving trail connections between parks and destinations throughout the county.
2. Upgrading and maintaining existing park facilities.

Respondents expressed the greatest interest in additional:

- Bicycle trails
- Unpaved/nature trails
- Paved multi-use trails
- Restroom facilities
- Non-motorized water access opportunities

Environmental stewardship emerged as a key theme, with more than 80% of respondents indicating that water quality is very important. In addition, 67% of respondents expressed strong support for using public funding to improve parks and recreation facilities. There was also broad support for developing partnerships to advance park and recreation initiatives, particularly collaborations with community organizations and non-profit groups. While there is a lot of support in this category, county staff noted that there is not much follow through on creation and stability of these organizations. However, with the support in utilizing public funding to make improvements, with additional staffing, the county team can provide the labor to conduct this work.

Survey responses represented a variety of household types and age groups. Approximately 45% of respondents lived in two-person households, while 48% lived in households with three or more people, indicating broad participation across family demographics.

Regarding communication preferences, 72% of respondents preferred to learn about park and recreation opportunities through social media, while nearly half supported information being posted on the county website. Email distribution lists and recreation or activity guides were also identified as effective communication tools.

Open-ended comments were largely focused on trails and active transportation opportunities, including bicycle, hiking, equestrian, and ATV/UTV trail use. Additional comments highlighted support for expanded dog park opportunities, habitat restoration efforts, camping amenities, recreational programming, and appreciation for county parks staff and the quality of existing facilities.

Overall, the engagement results demonstrate strong satisfaction with the county park system, broad support for continued investment in parks and trails, and a clear desire for expanded trail connectivity, improved facilities, environmental stewardship, and partnerships that enhance recreation opportunities throughout Jefferson County.

Full feedback results from the survey are included in Appendix #. These feedback items were used to inform the recommendations alongside staff and MERIT input.

Public Open Houses

The County and Consultant hosted a number of public open houses throughout the process:

- March 18, 2026 at the Jefferson County Extension Building – provided guiding questions related to visioning and gathered initial feedback on existing conditions and future goals from the community through written brainstorming, park maps, and precedent imagery voting. Themes from this event mirrored those of the online survey and interactive map responses and comments shared are found in Appendix #.

- September 19, 2026 (draft 2 - recommendations) at the Jefferson County Extension Building – provided a summary of all comments received to date for all park facilities to gather feedback on support for different park recommendations. Comments shared during this event are found in Appendix #.
- October 14, 2026 (draft 2 – recommendations) at the Watertown Community Health Foundation – the same material shared during the September 19th open house were shared at this event to get further input. This feedback is also found in Appendix #.

Presentations & Draft Plan Review Meetings

Throughout the life of the project the Consultant met bi-weekly with the County staff leads to review progress on the plan and have designated coordination time for events. In addition, the Consultant provided periodic updates at key milestones to the County Parks Board.

- January 22, 2026 County Parks Board – introduction of team and PORP process
- May 28, 2026 County Parks Board – presented preliminary trends in feedback data
- June 25, 2026 County Parks Board – presented final public engagement data trends for challenges and opportunities and current facility usage data and next steps in the project
- Update with list in draft 2

County Board Adoption

Add content when complete with draft 2

Chapter 5: Park and Open Space Standards & Needs Assessment

The number and type of parks and recreation facilities needed within a community depends on the recreation needs and wants of the residents. Identified recreation needs and wants of community residents provide the basis for justifying funding and maintaining existing recreational facilities. Most recreation needs and wants can be identified by comparing current facilities, acreages, and service areas to average data gathered by the National Recreation and Parks Association; and soliciting resident and City staff input.

Aggregating the results from these reviews can paint a better picture of the needs of the community as they pertain to Jefferson County. Since the 2020 CORP plan, the National Recreation and Parks Association has shifted from identifying standards for these categories and instead made it more customizable for communities to compare against other communities of similar attributes. The NRPA 2025 agency review report, 2025-2030 WI SCORP, and resident and County staff input were taken into account to prepare evaluation metrics for Jefferson County.

The Needs Assessment involved four areas of consideration:

1. Classification of the parks to assess how parks, facilities, and recreational activities are serving a diverse population.

2. Assessing population trends and demographics and the level of service that the parks provide.
3. Public participation and input into the planning process.
4. Consideration of the WDNR Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and how the recommendations of the 2026 plan apply to the Jefferson County Parks System.

Jefferson County Park Standards & Classifications

Based on these reviews and understanding of the current park and recreation system, it was felt that the existing park standards from the 2020 plan are still sufficient. However, when considering distribution and size for new park spaces some updates could be made. In the 2025-2030 WI SCORP, guidance was given to follow the new method of looking at NRPA annual report metrics as a basis to assess needs, rather than the older method of having set park sizes and acres per 1,000 population. However, many communities have opted for a blended version of these approaches. That is what Jefferson County has done. The parks standards are a guideline for desired park size and distribution, but later in the recommendations chapter additional community specific information was brought in along with the NRPA metrics to refine the specific needs for Jefferson County. These standards suggest a minimum size of developable park area for active recreation. The actual park area should be larger to account for buffer areas, woodlots, other natural features, and passive use areas. Below are the park standard classifications used in this needs assessment:

- Conservation Parks
    - A County Conservation Park is a large (typically 50+ acres), regionally significant park established to protect valuable natural environments, greenways, and historic resources while providing public access. Preservation is the primary purpose, with recreation as a secondary objective. Use is predominantly passive, with limited active recreation and developed amenities (e.g., trails, shelters, parking) located in designated areas to minimize impacts. These parks may include or overlap with other park types and contribute to regional access and resource conservation.
- Community Recreation Parks
    - A Community Recreation Park is a small, local park designed to serve nearby residents with basic, everyday amenities. These parks typically include simple facilities such as a picnic shelter, small parking area, playground, and open space. Design emphasizes accessibility, ease of use, and low-intensity recreation in a compact setting.
- Specialty Parks
    - A Specialty Park is a county park designed around a single, distinct recreational or cultural use that is not typically accommodated within general park settings. These parks are purpose-built to support a specific activity or resource—such as a dog park, mountain bike trail system, or Native American burial ground—and are managed to meet the unique needs of that use. Design and amenities are tailored to the primary function, with development and access carefully planned to support the activity while respecting site sensitivities. Public use may be more focused or limited compared to other park types, depending on the nature of the resource.

- Water Access Points
    - Water Access Points are strategically located sites that provide safe, accessible (including ADA-compliant) entry to waterways while minimizing land disturbance. Often situated on or integrated with flood mitigation areas, these sites are designed to have a light environmental footprint. They support recreation and connectivity by linking communities, parks, and destinations, with a strong emphasis on access to water trails that enable travel between recreational resources. Amenities are typically minimal and focused on ease of access, such as launches, short pathways, and limited parking.
- Trail Corridor
    - Trail Corridors are linear facilities that provide connectivity across the County and link communities, parks, and other destinations as part of an integrated network. While some corridors accommodate multiple user types, most are designed with a primary use in mind—such as cycling and walking paths, water trails, and snowmobile routes. These corridors may feature a range of surface types (e.g., paved, crushed stone, natural) and often connect with trails managed by other jurisdictions to serve a broad population. Future trail corridors may expand to support additional uses, such as equestrian or ATV/UTV travel, where appropriate. Ownership of these facilities may be mixed and not fully under County control via use of easements or other agreements with other entities.

Using these classifications, the County Park facilities have been re-classified using this revised system in the chart below:

Jefferson County Owned Park Facilities

Park Facility	Acres	Type
Altpeter Park	4.8	Community Recreation Parks
Blackhawk Island Fishing Wharf	2.0	Water Access Points
Burnt Village Park	1.0	Water Access Points
Cappie's Landing	5.7	Water Access Points
Carlin Weld Park	79.0	Conservation Park
Cold Spring Creamery Park	0.8	Community Recreation Parks
Crawfish River Park	17.0	Conservation Park
Dog Park & Terri Tinsley Dog Exercise Area	110.2	Specialty Parks
Dorothy Carnes Park East & West	542.1	Conservation Park
Garman Nature Preserve	46.1	Conservation Park
Glacial River Mountain Bike Park	21.6	Specialty Parks
Hwy 16 Wayside	4.6	Water Access Points
Hwy E Launch	2.4	Water Access Points
Holzhueter State Park	176.5	Community Recreation Parks
Indian Mounds Park	5.3	Specialty Parks
Joy Park	0.8	Water Access Points
Kanow Park	45.5	Water Access Points
Korth Park	94.7	Conservation Park
Marsh Lake Public Access	26.7	Water Access Points
Pohlmann Park	10.1	Community Recreation Parks

Rock Lake Park Upper & Lower	23.0	Water Access Points & Community Recreation Parks
Rock River Landing Park	4.9	Water Access Points
Rock River Park	3.4	Water Access Points
Welcome Travelers Park	6.8	Community Recreation Parks
Rome Pond Park	12.0	Community Recreation Parks
Total	**1,246.8**	

The Interurban Trail (11-miles) and Glacial River Trail (52-miles) and Glacial Drumlin Trail (WDNR) are partiality found within Jefferson County and are classified as Trail Corridors. There are a number of small parking lots supporting park'n'ride options for utilizing these trails found in multiple communities with varied ownership.

National Standards & WI SCORP Review

When comparing Jefferson County to national averages, generally speaking Jefferson provides more individual park amenities per resident than the median of other small communities and all agencies reviewed as shown in the below Overall Facility Comparison to NRPA Metrics table. In addition, as a County agency, the focus is to provide resources for a wider user group which includes visitors from outside of the county and also complements the existing park facilities provided by other entities such as local municipalities and the WI DNR. If these other facilities were included, Jefferson as a countywide park ecosystem has a very robust network of facilities compared to other NRPA reporting agencies across the nation.

Overall Facility Comparison to NRPA Metrics		
	Median Residents per Park	**Acres of Parkland Per 1000 Residents**
NRPA All Agencies	2411	10.2
NRPA Communities with 50,000 - 99,999 Residents	2299	9.2
Jefferson County	3594	12.41

Given these unique circumstances and the changes in the NRPA metric system, Jefferson County intends to utilize future population projections, tourism information, and public feedback to designate levels of service provided by existing facilities and site future facilities.

WI.SCORP.Review

When reviewing the 2025-2030 WI SCORP, maintaining and expanding outdoor recreational opportunities and growing a collaborative approach across sectors to provide opportunities were the main goals. Jefferson County is aligned with those goals as well. One of the top five reasons why people don't

participate in outdoor recreation according to the SCORP survey is that they are unaware of options or where to go.

During the outreach efforts of this Plan the team repeatedly heard feedback that residents were unaware of many of the parks shown and were interested in seeing improved wayfinding and signage around the park system. Consistency with the SCORP plan goals and strategies were key when formulating the recommendations for this Plan.

Needs Assessment

Since 1997, Jefferson County has used a level of service standard of 12 acres of parkland per 1,000 in population to determine parkland needs in proportion to future population growth. The County recognizes that there are other open space and park areas across the county managed by local municipalities, the WDNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and others that further expands access for community members. But for the purposes of this PORP, only County facilities were considered towards this metric.

The minimum acreage of parkland using 2024 ACS population figures is approximately 1,034 acres. In 2026, the County owns 1,070 acres, over 19 miles of hiking trails, and 35 miles of off and on-road bicycle/pedestrian trails. If population decline occurs as forecasted by 2050, the minimum will be approximately 876 acres of parkland.

After considering the availability of park amenities, the overall acreage for park sites was reviewed to identify if the areas currently available for recreation are sufficient to support the projected population in 5 years. While the existing facilities do sufficiently provide service for the projected population, the County understands that it serves a wider geographic range of population with tourism bringing more visitors into the area. In addition, some of these individual communities are projected to experience a larger population increase and may need more local park facility options to support the growth.

Along with amenity service and the amount and area of parkland per resident, it is also important to look at the distribution of those park facilities. On the next page, the Park Service Areas Map has quarter- and half-mile radii around the entrance to each park site. Only County Park and trail facilities are identified. For reference, most people can walk a quarter mile in about five minutes and a half mile in ten minutes. This map is not inclusive of other agency owned facilities and may not represent residents closest park facility. These radii show that most of the park facilities are more isolated from community centers and provide a regional, larger park area of coverage. From public feedback and staff comment, connectivity between facilities via trail networks was raised as a priority item. Park expansion or new facilities could be considered in the communities with projected population growth such as Cambridge, Johnson Creek, Lake Mills, and Waterloo. Any expansion should be done in conversation with local municipality leadership as some of these services could be provided by the municipalities rather than the County depending on the type of park facility needed.

[Park Service Areas Map (1/4 and ½ mi buffers from park entrance locations and the GRT)]

What this map doesn't account for are the many barriers to access the sites that have not been evaluated previously when siting new parkland locations but should moving forward. With the two major rivers,

numerous other waterways, active rail lines, highways, and various industrial park areas, the routes taken from home, school, or work to a park may be less direct and take more time than these radii show. This fact was considered during the recommendations planning phase to distribute park amenities throughout the county as was most practical. As such, the distribution of park amenities should be reviewed for access. In addition, this analysis did not account for park and recreation facilities owned by other entities such as local municipalities, WDNR, USFWS, and others which may be closer to home for some residents than existing county facilities. For ease of analysis, the Glacial River and Interurban Trails were considered county facilities even though there are shared maintenance responsibilities with other entities.

Chapter 5: Recommendations [DRAFT 2]

Improvement Recommendations

New Facilities Guidance

Floodplain Mitigation Site Guidance

Chapter 6: Implementation Action Plan [DRAFT 2]

Operation & Maintenance

Implementation Strategies

Refer back to the ones in the 2020 plan – update as needed and discuss progress made on them

Capital Improvement Plan

Funding Options

Jefferson County Parks & Trails



JEFFERSON COUNTY WISCONSIN
Explore. Thrive. Belong.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS

Contact Information

Jefferson County Parks Dept.
920-674-7260

www.parks.jeffersoncountywi.gov

Non-Emergency
Sheriff's Office
920-674-7310

WI Dept. of Natural Resources
Violation Hotline
1-800-847-9367

Want to Learn More?

Glacial Heritage Area Water Trails Map
(Put In / Take Out Sites)

Jefferson County Parks Interactive Park Finder Map



KEY

- Restroom
- Parking
- Picnic Spot
- Boat Launch
- Camping
- Fishing
- Canoe Launch
- Paved Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Shelter (Electric)
- Shelter (Non-Electric)
- Interpretive Sign
- Indian Mounds
- Historic Marker
- Mountain Bike Trail
- Snowshoeing Trail
- Sledding Hill
- Disc Golf Course
- Cross Country Ski Trail
- Playground
- County Parkland
- DNR Properties
- Lakes & Rivers
- Glacial River Trail
- Glacial Drumlin Trail
- Interurban Trail
- Ice Age Trail
- Roadways

PARK FACILITY AMENITIES

PARK FACILITY	ACRES	AMENITIES
Altpeter Park		
Blackhawk Island Fishing Wharf		
Burnt Village Park		
Cappie's Landing		
Carlin Weld Park		
Cold Spring Creamery Park		
Crawfish River Park		
Dog Park & Terri Tinsley Dog Exercise Area		
Dorothy Carnes Park East & West		
Garman Nature Preserve		
Glacial River Mountain Bike Park		
Hwy 16 Wayside		
Hwy E Launch		
Indian Mounds Park		
Joy Park		
Kanow Park		
Korth Park		
Marsh Lake Public Access		
Pohlmann Park		
Rock Lake Park Upper & Lower		
Rock River Landing Park		
Rock River Park		
Rome Pond Park		
Welcome Travelers Park		

Want to support the parks?

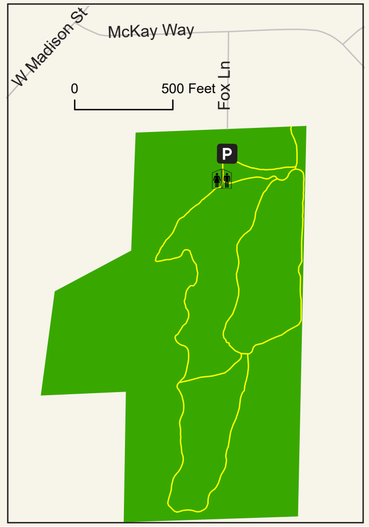
The **Jefferson County Parks Endowment,** hosted through the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation, strengthens recreation by investing over $20,000 each year into trail upgrades, habitat restoration, and park amenities. Your donation helps ensure lasting improvements and supports future generations—join us in sustaining our parks' growth and improved recreational opportunities for all.

KORTH PARK



Korth County Park is an 89 acre natural gem showcasing Southern Wisconsin's signature landscapes, including an 8 acre restored oak savanna, expansive tall grass prairies, and more than 1,300 feet of protected Rock Lake shoreline. Visitors can enjoy sweeping lake views from the park's glacial drumlin, relax at the Korth or Elm Point pavilions, or explore over three miles of mowed hiking trails and a paved link to the Glacial Drumlin State Trail. In winter, trails are groomed for classic cross country skiing, and the eastern hill becomes a favorite sledding spot. With abundant wildlife, quiet natural spaces, and year round low impact recreation, Korth County Park offers a peaceful escape rooted in conservation and community stewardship.

GARMAN NATURE PRESERVE



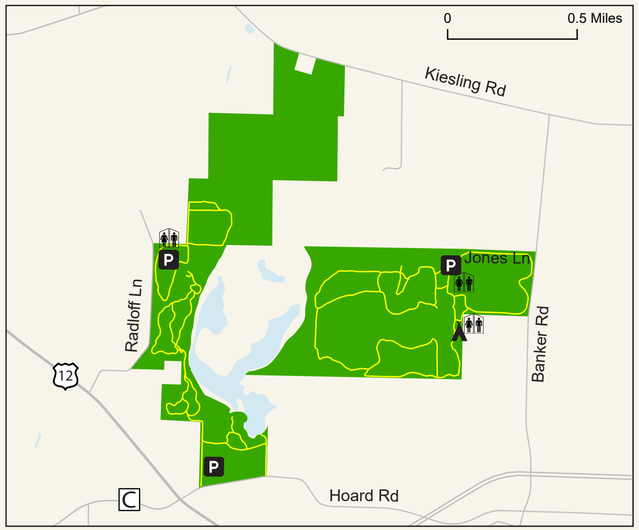
Garman Nature Preserve spans 46 acres atop a glacial drumlin, offering nearly two miles of woodland trails through restored oak, hickory, and maple forests. Visitors can explore 22 historic conical Indian mounds arranged along the ridge, supported by interpretive signage that shares their cultural significance. The preserve features a picnic shelter, benches, and wildlife rich habitats shaped by ongoing restoration work. Steep terrain, scenic viewpoints, and diverse native plant communities make this hillside preserve a unique blend of natural beauty, geology, and history.

OTHER PARK FACILITY DESCRIPTIONS

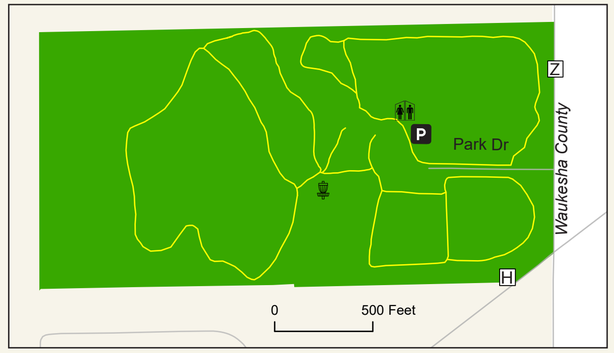
Altpeter Park	Neighborhood park near Lake Koshkonong featuring open play space, picnic tables, and a playground.
Blackhawk Island Fishing Wharf	Small Rock River access site in Fort Atkinson featuring an ADA-accessible fishing pier, parking, picnic area, and seasonal restroom.
Burnt Village Park	Historic Bark River park and wayside offering fishing, boating, canoe/kayak access, picnic facilities, and a seasonal restroom.
Cappie's Landing	Riverside park on the Rock River providing boat launch access, primitive camping, shelter, restroom, fishing, and paddling opportunities.
Cold Spring Creamery Park	Small historic park in Cold Spring with a shelter, playground, flowing well, restroom, picnic area, and historical marker.
Crawfish River Park	Natural area along the Crawfish River offering hiking, trail access, wildlife viewing, and future paddling opportunities.
Dog Park & Terri Tinsley Dog Exercise Area	Features 4 fenced off-leash exercise areas, wooded trails, boardwalks, shelters, water stations, restrooms, and dedicated dog amenities.
Glacial River Mountain Bike Park	A mountain biking destination with over three miles of trails, skill-building features, trailhead amenities, and direct connections to the Glacial River Trail.
Hwy 16 Wayside	A riverside wayside on the Rock River that provides fishing, paddling access, picnicking, wildlife viewing, and scenic rest-stop opportunities.
Hwy E Launch	A river access point providing public canoe and kayak launch along County water trails.
Indian Mounds Park	A cultural and archaeological park that preserves Native American effigy mounds, woodland trails, and interpretive opportunities within a protected natural setting.
Joy Park	A small lakeside park on Spence Lake offering picnicking, fishing, birdwatching, and quiet nature enjoyment.
Kanow Park	A Rock River park featuring a boat and canoe/kayak launch, fishing access, playground, shelter, picnic facilities, and riverside natural areas.
Marsh Lake Public Access	New facility providing a smaller parking lot and non-motorized boating access to Rock Lake off County Road A.
Pohlmann Park	A community park and Glacial Drumlin Trail destination featuring a historic silo, playground, shelter, picnic facilities, and walking trails.
Rock Lake Park Upper & Lower	A two-unit park on Rock Lake providing boat launching, fishing, picnicking, playgrounds, trails, scenic overlooks, and shoreline recreation opportunities. The Upper unit also has mountain biking trails.
Rock River Landing Park	Joint park with the City of Jefferson on the Rock River featuring motorized and non-motorized boat launches, playground, and restroom facility.
Rock River Park	Boat access to the Rock River along with picnicking areas, shore fishing, shelter, and restrooms. A flowing artesian well is also on the site.
Welcome Travelers Park	A community park near Whitewater featuring a shelter, playground, grills, open play areas, and family gathering space.
Rome Pond Park	Conservation park with disc golf, fishing pond, playground, shelter, trails, prairie restoration, and family recreation opportunities.

DOROTHY CARNES PARK

Dorothy Carnes County Park spans 517 acres of rolling prairies, restored wetlands, oak woods, and the diverse habitats surrounding Rose Lake. The park offers nine miles of trails, scenic overlooks, birding, nature appreciation, picnicking, dog walking, winter skiing, and rustic walk-in camping—providing year round recreation for all ages. Its landscape includes a State Natural Area and rich wildlife habitat supporting migratory birds and native species. The historic farmstead on the east side, featuring an ongoing log cabin restoration and original outbuildings, adds cultural depth to this expansive conservation park. The Shelter Pavilion on the West side is an excellent option for a picnic or family gathering.



CARLIN WELD PARK

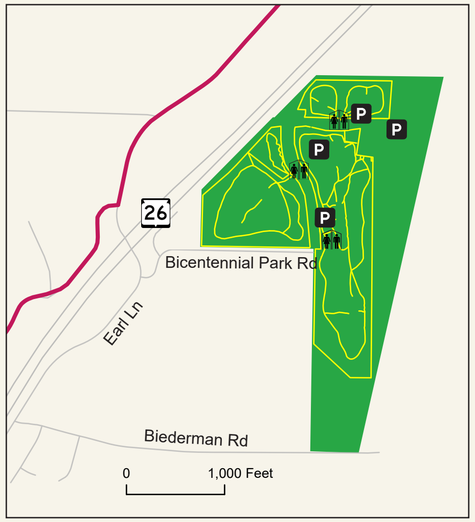


Carlin Weld County Park spans 78 acres of Kettle Moraine terrain with prairies, oak woods, kettles, and a scenic fishing pond. Visitors enjoy two miles of trails, year round hiking, snowshoeing, sledding, and wildlife viewing. The 9 hole disc golf course winds through savanna and forest. A reservable picnic shelter, restrooms, parking, and a playground make it family friendly destination.

Jefferson County Camping

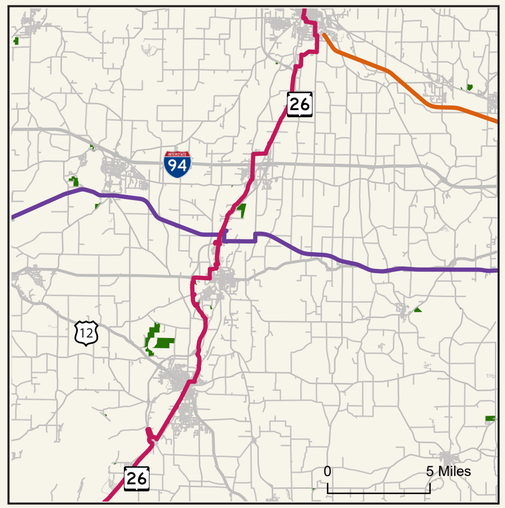
- Dorothy Carnes Park - East (Fort Atkinson - primitive walk-in sites (reservable through Jefferson County Parks Dept.)
- Jefferson County Fair Park (Jefferson - drive-in & hookups)
- DNR Sandhill Station (Lake Mills - primitive walk-in)
- Private campgrounds

COUNTY DOG PARK



The Jefferson County Dog Park spans 109 acres and features four separate off leash exercise areas, including designated spaces that safely separate large and small dogs. The park offers miles of trails winding through prairies, woodlands, and diverse natural habitats, giving dogs and owners room to explore year round. A dedicated special use area supports training, events, and unique activities, while dog play equipment adds enrichment throughout the grounds. As the county's most popular recreation facility, the Dog Park requires annual or daily registration and associated fees, which directly support ongoing maintenance and improvements. With expansive space, varied terrain, and thoughtful design, the park provides a welcoming, engaging environment for dogs and their owners.

MULTIUSE TRAILS



The **Glacial River Trail** is 52-miles combining paved bike path and on-road connections between Janesville and the Wild Goose Trail in Dodge County. The GRT is owned by the county with maintenance agreements with other municipalities.

The **Glacial Drumlin Trail** is a 52-mile gravel/dirt trail running east/west from Cottage Grove in Dane County to Waukesha in Waukesha County. The GDT is owned by the DNR . Hiking, biking, inline skating, and leashed dogs are allowed. Snowmobiling is permitted on designated sections of the GDT during the winter.

The **Interurban Trail** is an 11-mile paved trail running east/west between Watertown and Oconomowoc in Waukesha County.

Shelter Rental Info

Planning a family reunion, birthday party, graduation, company picnic or just a get-together with friends? Jefferson County Parks offers a variety of reservable shelters throughout the county, providing a beautiful and affordable setting for gatherings of all kinds. Shelters are available at several of our county parks, with options ranging from smaller, casual gathering spaces to larger shelters perfect for special events and group celebrations.

Depending on the location, park amenities may include playgrounds, trails, water access, grills, restrooms and plenty of open space to enjoy during your visit. Reservations are a great way to guarantee a space for your group while enjoying everything our parks have to offer. Shelter availability, rental fees and amenities vary by location, and reservations can be made conveniently online. Find the perfect spot for your next gathering!

Scan the QR code to explore our shelters, check availability, and reserve your date. Reservations open up for the next season on the first Monday of June annually.

#9

Executive Summary

This resolution proposes the adoption of a new Jefferson County Parks Ordinance section regulating the use of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), commonly known as drones, within the Jefferson County Park System. The purpose of this amendment is to provide clear and consistent rules governing drone activities to protect park visitors, sensitive natural resources, wildlife habitat, visitor privacy, and overall recreational experience. The proposed ordinance establishes a general prohibition on drone use within Jefferson County Parks unless authorized in writing by the Parks Director, while recognizing Carlin-Weld County Park as the designated location where recreational drone use may be permitted. Adoption of this ordinance will align Jefferson County Parks with common practices utilized by other Wisconsin Park Systems and provide staff with a clear framework for managing current and future drone related activities. This amendment to the current County Parks Ordinance was considered by the Parks Committee at its October 22, 2026 meeting and recommended to be forwarded to the County Board for consideration.

WHEREAS, The Jefferson County Parks Committee has reviewed the increasing use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, within park facilities and noted the potential to negatively impact public safety, park events, visitor privacy, and the negative impacts to wildlife, natural habitats and the recreational enjoyment of County Park properties, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Counties possess the authority to regulate drone launching and landing activities on County-owned property and to establish operation policies necessary to protect County resources and park users; and

WHEREAS, The Jefferson County Parks Committee finds that establishing a formal drone use policy is in the best interest of public safety, resource protection, and effective park management and recommends the following language included in the Jefferson County Ordinance Chapter 12 Parks:

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones) in Jefferson County Parks

The launching, landing, or operation of any unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, is prohibited in all Jefferson County Parks unless the operator has obtained prior written authorization from the Parks Director. Carlin-Weld County Park shall be the sole designated park where recreational drone use may be permitted, subject to compliance with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, Wisconsin Statutes, and any conditions and permitting processes established by the Jefferson County Parks Department. Drone operations shall not interfere with park visitors, special events, wildlife, natural resources, or the reasonable expectation of privacy of others. The Parks Director may deny, restrict, suspend, or revoke permission for drone use when necessary to protect public safety, sensitive habitats, park operations, park infrastructure, or the public enjoyment of Jefferson County's park facilities.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name: _____

Organization/Business (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

OPERATION INFORMATION

Requested Park Location:

☐ Carlin-Weld County Park

☐ Other Jefferson County Park (Written approval required)

Park Name: _____

Date(s) of Operation: _____

Time(s) of Operation: _____

Purpose of Flight:

☐ Recreational

☐ Educational

☐ Photography

☐ Videography

☐ Mapping/Surveying

☐ Commercial

☐ Research

☐ Public Service

☐ Other _____

DRONE INFORMATION

Drone Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

FAA Registration Number: _____

Drone Weight: _____

Drone Classification:

☐ Under 0.55 lbs (250g)

☐ 0.55 lbs to 55 lbs

☐ Over 55 lbs (Special FAA Authorization Required)

Remote ID Equipped:

☐ Yes

☐ No

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

Pilot Name: _____

FAA TRUST Certificate Number (Recreational Operators)

FAA Part 107 Certificate Number (Commercial Operators)

Certificate Expiration Date: _____

Please attach copies of applicable FAA certificates.

SAFETY AND OPERATIONS PLAN

Will flights occur near any of the following?

☐ Trails

☐ Campgrounds

☐ Picnic Areas

☐ Shelters

☐ Athletic Fields

☐ Public Events

☐ Playgrounds

☐ Water Access Areas

☐ Wildlife Habitat Areas

If yes, explain mitigation measures:

INSURANCE INFORMATION (Recommended / Required for Commercial Operations)

Insurance Provider: _____

Policy Number: _____

Coverage Amount: _____

Certificate Attached?

☐ Yes

☐ No

APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CHECKLIST

I certify that I have reviewed and will comply with all applicable regulations and requirements below:

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

☐ Drone is registered with the FAA when required.

☐ I possess the required FAA TRUST Certificate or FAA Part 107 Certification.

☐ My drone complies with FAA Remote ID requirements.

☐ I will maintain visual line-of-sight with the aircraft.

☐ I will yield to all manned aircraft.

☐ I understand FAA restrictions regarding operations over people.

☐ I have reviewed any applicable airspace restrictions and authorization requirements.

Wisconsin State Requirements

☐ I understand Wisconsin laws pertaining to drone privacy and surveillance.

☐ I will not photograph, record, or observe individuals where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists.

☐ I will not interfere with lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping activities.

☐ I understand restrictions regarding operation near schools, utilities, critical infrastructure, and correctional facilities.

Jefferson County Parks Requirements

☐ I understand drone operation is prohibited in Jefferson County Parks without written authorization, except as otherwise allowed at Carlin-Weld County Park.

☐ I will not interfere with park visitors, events, or park operations.

☐ I will not operate drones in a manner that harasses or disturbs wildlife.

☐ I will avoid nesting areas, sensitive habitats, and natural resource protection areas.

☐ I will immediately comply with any direction provided by Jefferson County Parks staff or law enforcement personnel.

☐ I understand that authorization may be suspended or revoked if conditions of approval are violated.

RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION

The undersigned assumes all responsibility and liability arising from the operation of a drone on Jefferson County property. The applicant agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Jefferson County, its elected officials, employees, agents, and volunteers from any claims, damages, injuries, losses, costs, or expenses arising from the drone operation authorized by this permit.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARKS DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Date Application Received: _____

Application Complete:

☐ Yes

☐ No

FAA Documentation Verified:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Additional Conditions Required:

_____

_____

Final Determination:

☐ Approved

☐ Approved with Conditions

☐ Denied

Reason for Denial (if applicable):

_____

_____

Parks Director Signature: _____

Date: _____

Permit Number: _____

Approval Expiration Date: _____

This format gives the Parks Department a complete record of FAA qualifications, aircraft information, intended use, risk factors, and acknowledgment of state and local requirements while providing a defensible administrative process for both Carlin-Weld County Park users and applicants seeking exceptions elsewhere in the park system.

Expenses – YTD – Parks
10/19/2026

ORG	ORG DESC	ORIGINAL	TRANSFERRED	REVISED	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE
12801	Parks Department	$ 1,534,158.00	$ 273,710.00	$ 1,807,868.00	$ 955,783.17	$ 11,527.60	$ 840,556.15
12806	Parks Building	$ 25,489.00	$ 31,418.00	$ 56,907.00	$ 14,306.88		$ 42,600.26
12807	Garman Nature Preserve	$ 80,000.00	$ 53,580.00	$ 133,580.00	$ 33,730.79		$ 99,848.83
12808	GHA	$	$ 14,762.00	$ 14,762.00	$		$ 14,762.42
12809	Snowmobile Trails	$ 68,820.00	$ 56,800.00	$ 125,620.00	$ 55,241.97		$ 70,378.03
12810	Bike Trails	$	$ 10,516.00	$ 10,516.00	$ 37.24		$ 10,478.68
12810805	Interurban Bike Trail	$	$ 379,223.00	$ 379,223.00	$ 837,932.61	$ 74,434.11	$(533,144.06)
12811	Dog Park	$ 71,564.00	$ 3,178.00	$ 74,741.00	$ 40,325.65		$ 34,415.89
12812	Grounds Keeping	$	$	$	$ 40,419.14		$ (40,419.14)
12813	Flood Mitigation Prop	$	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00	$		$ 30,000.00
12830	Boat Launches	$ 4,540.00	$	$ 4,540.00	$ 2,138.99		$ 2,401.01
		$ 1,784,571.00	**$ 853,187.00**	**$2,637,757.00**	**$ 1,979,916.44**	**$ 85,961.71**	**$ 571,878.07**

Revenue – YTD – Parks
10/19/2026

ORG	ORG DESC	ORIGINAL	TRANSFERRED	REVISED	ACTUALS	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE
12801	Parks Department	$(1,311,740.00)	$ (14,000.00)	$ (1,325,740.00)	$(1,171,674.00)	$	$ (154,067.12)
12806	Parks Building	$ (25,489.00)	$	$ (25,489.00)	$ (19,116.99)	$	$ (6,372.34)
12807	Garman Nature Preserve	$ (80,000.00)	$	$ (80,000.00)	$	$	$ (80,000.00)
12808	GHA	$	$	$	$	$	$
12809	Snowmobile Trails	$ (68,820.00)	$ (56,800.00)	$ (125,620.00)	$ (21,315.52)	$	$ (104,304.48)
12810	Bike Trails	$	$	$	$	$	$
12810805	Interurban Bike Trail	$	$	$	$ (25.00)	$	$ 25.00
12811	Dog Park	$ (57,000.00)	$	$ (57,000.00)	$ (48,580.96)	$	$ (8,419.04)
12812	Grounds Keeping	$	$	$	$ (8,470.56)	$	$ 8,470.56
12830	Boat Launches	$ (4,540.00)	$	$ (4,540.00)	$ (3,404.97)	$	$ (1,135.03)
		$(1,547,589.00)	**$ (70,800.00)**	**$ (1,618,389.00)**	**$(1,272,588.00)**	**$**	**$ (345,802.45)**