

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

March 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Village Profile	2
Social Characteristics.....	3
Physical Characteristics	4
Park and Open Space Inventory	5
Village of Shorewood Facilities	7
School District Facilities.....	7
Milwaukee County Facilities.....	7
Park and Recreation Standards	8
Planning Our Future.....	9
Additional Planning Efforts	9-10
Community Needs Assessment.....	11-13
Mission	14
Goals and Recommendations	15-19
Funding Sources	20
Appendix A – Park and Natural Space Condition Inventory	21-24
Appendix B – Community Input Session Summary Report	25-33

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Parks and Public Spaces Committee

Heather Moran Mansfield, Chairperson
Paige Hammond, Vice Chair
Natalie Avallone
Ian Berry
Gary Brunk
Kristin Greenman
Mary Jorgensen
Andrew Kaczmarek
Donald Lodge
Roger Mason
Alexander “Sandie” Pendelton
Raynie Pero
Ruth Williams

Village Board of Trustees

Ann McKaig, Village President
Jim Arndorfer
Eric Couto
Arthur Ircink
Matthew McGovern
Kathy Stokebrand, Parks and Public Spaces Liaison
Wesley Warren

Village Shorewood Administration

Bart Griepentrog, Director of Planning and Development
Leeann Butschlick, Director of Public Works
Nicole Berzin, Assistant Village Manager

The presentation of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan addresses key directives assigned to the Parks and Public Spaces Committee upon its establishment:

- *provide general review and recommendations on the physical improvement, maintenance and use of all Village Parks, park facilities, and other Village-owned public spaces;*
- *present updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans to the Village Board;*
- *collaborate with the Shorewood Recreation Department, School District, Milwaukee County Parks, other Village committees, Village department, and other community groups on initiatives to improve the Village’s parks, park facilities and other public spaces; and*
- *create civic engagement opportunities for community members to provide feedback on park uses, pedestrian and bicycle safety.*

Shorewood residents love their parks. Whether a beach clean-up with a Friends group, a morning workout on the Atwater stairs, a summer concert at Hubbard or an afternoon of America’s pastime at Spector Field, Shorewood’s parks are the center of the community.

Recreation opportunities and public open spaces represent an important measure of community livability, help maintain neighborhood value, and promote a high quality of life. Nowhere is that truer than Shorewood.

A plan for long-term management of parks and recreation spaces is important for all communities. In a small and densely populated community such as Shorewood, this type of roadmap is a critical guide to the allocation of limited resources and also positions the Village to respond to limited opportunities that may arise. Unlike communities

that experience a trend of growth and expansion, the population base and municipal boundaries of Shorewood are effectively stable. Good planning and a thoughtful, collaborative approach are of particular importance here.

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a strategic document intended to guide park and recreation facility management in Shorewood. It considers both immediate needs and future concerns relevant to parks, trails, and open spaces. The plan strives to guide preservation and protection of natural and cultural resource features, and support recreation facility improvements among various recreation management entities. It will serve as an implementation tool that will continue to guide the realization of a high-quality system of recreational spaces of all types.



The Village of Shorewood is bounded on the east by the steep bluffs and sandy shore of Lake Michigan including Atwater Park and Beach. The western boundary is the Milwaukee River, Hubbard, River and Estabrook Parks. On the north, Shorewood borders the larger, residential Village of Whitefish Bay. The southern boundary, East Edgewood Avenue, adjoins Milwaukee's east side including the 90-acre campus of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Shorewood's municipal boundaries encompass approximately 1.5 square miles.

Shorewood is located within Milwaukee County's North Shore communities. Styled in the European tradition, it is a built-out, first-ring urban suburb that is among the most densely populated municipalities in the State of Wisconsin.

Its geographic boundaries remain unchanged since its incorporation as the Village of East Milwaukee in 1900. Though the community adopted the Shorewood name in 1920, few significant changes to its community structure have occurred and the Village remains served by an infrastructure that dates, in many cases, to the early 1900's.

The Village is an engaged, walkable and bikeable community served by a complete network of sidewalks and public transit. Designated as a bronze-level community by the national non-profit Walk Friendly Communities, Shorewood is one the most walkable communities in Wisconsin.



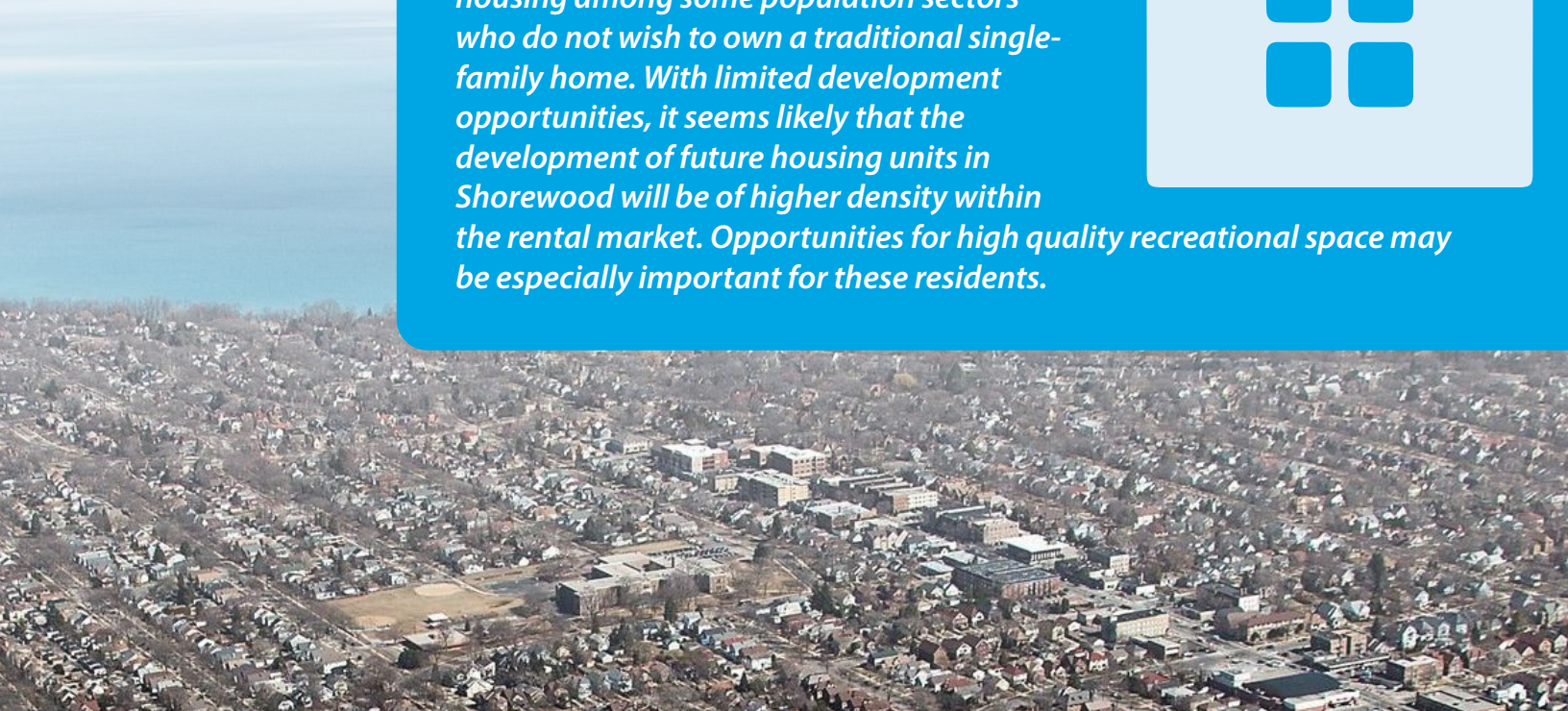
Two feet from everything. Beautiful homes. Thriving business district. Award-winning schools. Stunning parks and natural areas. World class services. A unique and pedestrian-friendly urban community styled in the urban tradition, Shorewood delivers small-town charms with all the offerings of a major metropolitan area just next door.

The US Census Bureau estimated Shorewood's 2023 population at 13,682 people. Since 1980, the Village's population has fluctuated by approximately 3.6% or about 500 persons. This stability is likely to continue.

The age distribution of a community is perhaps the most-referenced population characteristic relevant to future park and recreation demand needs. Over the last 15 years, Shorewood has seen its largest population increase in the under-five, 30-39 and 70-79 age groups. These groups typically seek very different amenities from the park and natural areas; it will be important for Shorewood's park system to continue to offer a variety of passive and active recreation opportunities.

The total number of occupied Shorewood housing units was reported as 6,635 in the 2020 Census. Historically, the diversity of housing in the Village of Shorewood has been characterized by a high concentration of rental housing (52.3% in 2020).

There is a growing demand for multifamily housing among some population sectors who do not wish to own a traditional single-family home. With limited development opportunities, it seems likely that the development of future housing units in Shorewood will be of higher density within the rental market. Opportunities for high quality recreational space may be especially important for these residents.



Shorewood – by its very name – is defined by its natural characteristics. Abundant shorelines and wooded scenes – whether treasured natural areas or the graceful street trees that comprise our vibrant urban forest – provide a wonderful counterpart to daily urban life.

Our water resources are perhaps our most defining natural characteristic. Before European settlers came to this area, Native Americans used these waterways as “highways”. The waters were an abundant food source for these peoples and a home for many fish species, waterfowl, and other wildlife. As immigrants came to this area 150 years ago, these waters became a powerful resource for the fishing, meatpacking, beer brewing, manufacturing, and shipping industries.

Today’s Shorewood looks very different than earlier versions. Flora and fauna have been adversely affected by the placement of fill for residential and commercial developments, roadways, trails and even park and recreation spaces. However, small pockets of high-quality intact plant communities do exist within the Village’s natural shoreline areas. Recent emphasis on sustainable design and the benefits of native landscaping have highlighted the importance of the natural environment. Resident groups such as the Shorewood Conservation Committee and educational programs including the Shorewood Waters Project have worked to provide engaging programs and resources which emphasize the protection of our natural environment.

Its location along Lake Michigan results in several distinct ecosystems within the community – including coastal, upland and urban environments. The predominant soil type is clay loam, with well-drained to somewhat poorly drained soils which have a subsoil of clay and silty clay. Shorewood’s position along the lakeshore also places it directly upon a migratory bird route.

Within the Village of Shorewood, the publicly and privately owned shoreline of Lake Michigan, the Milwaukee River shoreline and portions of Milwaukee County’s Estabrook Park have been designated as Primary Environmental Corridors - concentrations of significant natural resources at least 100 acres in area, at least two miles in length, and at least 200 feet in width.



To the credit of the Village, Milwaukee County, and philanthropic and citizen support, a significant percentage of the public park and open space areas in the community have been established through creative reclamation, conversion, and acquisition efforts. As a result, the Village and partnering interests have successfully assembled a small but varied park system that provides for a mix of active and passive recreational needs.

Park Development History

Atwater Park	Former Use: Lakeshore bluff environment that historically functioned as a “dumping ground” prior to being dedicated for recreational uses	Primary Recreational Uses: Scenic viewing / Leisure Resting/Public Art Walking, Children’s play, Picnicking, Swimming
Hubbard Park	Former Use: River bluff environment adjacent to the Milwaukee River utilized for private leisure recreation since the late 1800s, and later converted to public use	Primary Recreational Uses: Scenic viewing / Leisure resting Walking, Picnicking, Beer Garden, Fishing, Canoe/Kayak, Community Events
Humble Park	Former Use: Former service station (1960s) parcel	Primary Recreational Uses: Leisure resting
Nature Preserve	Former Use: Lakeshore bluff environment that represents an assembly of private residential parcels (1979)	Primary Recreational Uses: Walking, Nature Viewing, Education (Amphitheatre and nature programs)
River Park	Former Use: Acreage that once housed the Oakland Avenue Railyard (Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company)	Primary Recreational Uses: Baseball, Soccer, Picnicking, Biking, Walking, Leisure Resting
Triangle Park	Former Use: Residual residential parcel in the Kensington Heights neighborhood	Primary Recreational Uses: Leisure resting, Unstructured play
Riparian Park	Former Use: Private property	Primary Recreational Uses: Walking, nature viewing
Estabrook County Park (MKE)	Former Use: River bluff environment bisected by a railroad spur, and located between a (former) railroad corridor and the Milwaukee River; established in 1936 by the County of Milwaukee, and designed by County Landscape Architect Alfred Boerner	Primary Recreational Uses: Baseball/Softball, Soccer, Volleyball (sand), Disc golf, Unstructured field-play, Cross-country skiing, Fishing, Walking/Running, Cycling, Picnicking, Nature Viewing, Dog park
Oak Leaf Trail (MKE)	Former Use: A converted rail corridor(1990s) for recreational use (included in Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan)	Primary Recreational Uses: Bicycling, Walking/Running, Inline Skating

PARK AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

Approximately 136 acres of public outdoor recreation space lies within the municipal boundaries of Shorewood; the Village, the Shorewood School District, and Milwaukee County respectively own and manage this publicly accessible recreation acreage located throughout the community.

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	ACRES	CLASSIFICATION	% TOTAL RECREATIONAL SPACE
Village of Shorewood			
Atwater Park	6.8	Neighborhood Park	
Hubbard Park	6.1	Neighborhood Park	
Humble Park	0.2	Mini Park	
Nature Preserve	8.3	Natural Area	
Riparian Trail	0.5 miles	Trail Corridor	
River Park	5.4	Special Use Park	
Triangle Park	0.3	Mini Park	
TOTAL	27.1		24.6%
Shorewood School District			
Atwater Elementary	3.6	School Grounds	
Lake Bluff Elementary	5.9	School Grounds	
High School/Intermediate	6.6	School Grounds	
TOTAL	16.1		7.0%
Milwaukee County			
Estabrook	74.2	Community Park	
Oak Leaf Trail	19.4	Trail Corridor	
TOTAL	93.6		68.4%



Village of Shorewood Park Facilities

Though land under its control represents only 24.6% of the total outdoor public space, the Village is traditionally considered the primary provider of recreational venues in Shorewood. Maintenance and improvements to parks are provided directly by the Department of Public Works or its staff who plan for and administer capital improvements. The municipal operating budget includes annual funding for park maintenance; infrastructure improvements are planned through the Village's Long Range Financial Plan which identifies funding based upon Village Board direction. Please see Appendix A for Condition Inventory.

Shorewood School District Facilities

The Shorewood School District (SSD), which holds seven percent of outdoor public space, affords opportunities for the community to utilize school grounds and recreational facilities during after-school hours, weekends and summer months. SSD facilities include playgrounds, soccer fields, baseball and softball diamonds, paved play areas, and tennis courts. Athletic fields are generally programmed by the District's Recreation and Community Services Department and are used heavily by local youth sports organizations.

This plan recognizes the critical importance of the recreation options the SSD facilities provide to the residents of Shorewood. The long-term planning for and maintenance of these areas is controlled by the District and while this plan makes no recommendations regarding their use or improvement, it serves to document its many community amenities and acknowledges the importance of continued collaborative efforts to enhance these community assets.

Milwaukee County Park and Trail Facilities

Milwaukee County maintains jurisdiction over 93 acres of public parks and natural areas within Shorewood's municipal boundaries (68% of the total park and natural space in Shorewood). Estabrook Park and a 1.6-mile off-road section of the regional Oak Leaf Trail provide significant recreational opportunities for Shorewood and other regional Milwaukee residents.

As with the Shorewood District recreation facilities, this plan makes no recommendations for the Milwaukee County Parks use or improvement but serves to document their amenities and acknowledges the importance of continued collaborative efforts to enhance these community assets.



Park and Recreation Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) have traditionally recommended standards to assess demand for park land in urban areas. Historically, NRPA standards recommended a range of 6 to 10.5 acres of developed park land per every 1,000 residents. An analysis of park, open space and school ground acreage reveals that the recreational space within the Village equates to approximately 9.3 acres per 1,000 population. The overwhelming majority of acreage occurs within one park facility (Estabrook County Park).

NRPA standards serve as a benchmark to analyze the deficiencies of a local park system. However, in Shorewood's case, a more representative measure of park quality considers the individual character of site, location, access, maintenance levels, diversity of offerings, and the range of amenities. These characteristics significantly influence the intensity of recreational use, perhaps to a greater degree than even the amount of available acreage. It must, however, be acknowledged that rising recreational demands for organized team sports will require the continued use of non-municipal providers for recreational – particularly field and court – space.



The Village of Shorewood most recently completed a Community Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2007. The plan was a product of a collaborative effort by Village residents and stakeholders, the Village's Park and Recreation Plan Steering Committee and private consultant PDI. A 2015 update was completed by Village staff based upon input from the Village Parks Commission and various stakeholders.

Additional Planning Efforts

Since the adoption of the 2015 Park Plan Update, several park and open space-related planning efforts have occurred. These efforts are summarized below:

River District Riparian and Land Management Plan (2019)

A land management plan was completed in 2019 to address restoration of the bluff along the Milwaukee River extending from Hubbard Park north to E. Capitol Drive. The document provides directions for the management of invasive species and the restoration of the various native habitat areas.

[Click here to view the full report online.](#)

Canoe and Kayak Launch (2021)

Initially identified among the recommendations in the 2009 River Site Restoration Plan, construction of the launch feature was not included in the 2018 Riparian Trail construction due to budget constraints. The launch, constructed in 2022, features a refined version of the original design. In addition to a launch area, improvements include a stone stair feature offering direct access to the water for fishermen and other nature enthusiasts.

Milwaukee River Greenway Ecological Restoration and Management Plan (2021)

Authored by Milwaukee County, this management plan serves as a blueprint to improve the focus natural areas located within the Milwaukee River Greenway (MRG) Area of Concern (AOC) a more stable ecological state. The plan identifies a number of progressive projects to achieve this goal, including management of invasive species and native plan restoration to bluff areas within Shorewood's Hubbard Park and along the Riparian Trail.

[Click here to view the full report online.](#)



Additional Planning Efforts *continued*

Triangle Park Improvements (2022)

Through a collaborative effort by the Parks Commission and the Department of Public Works design concepts were developed for this small, but heavily used neighborhood park. The center flagpole was removed to open usable lawn area, a concrete walkway with bench pads was added for access and additional trees and shrubs were planted.

Nature Preserve Land Management Plan (2023)

The volunteer Friends of the Shorewood Nature Preserve was founded in 2022 to revitalize and preserve the Nature Preserve. The group successfully raised funds to underwrite the 2023 Nature Preserve Land Management Plan.

The Nature Preserve Land Management Plan assesses the vegetation community, identifies areas of concern and areas in need of improvement, includes a trail system design and additional amenities for the preserve and advises the Friends of the Shorewood Nature Preserve on land management activities.

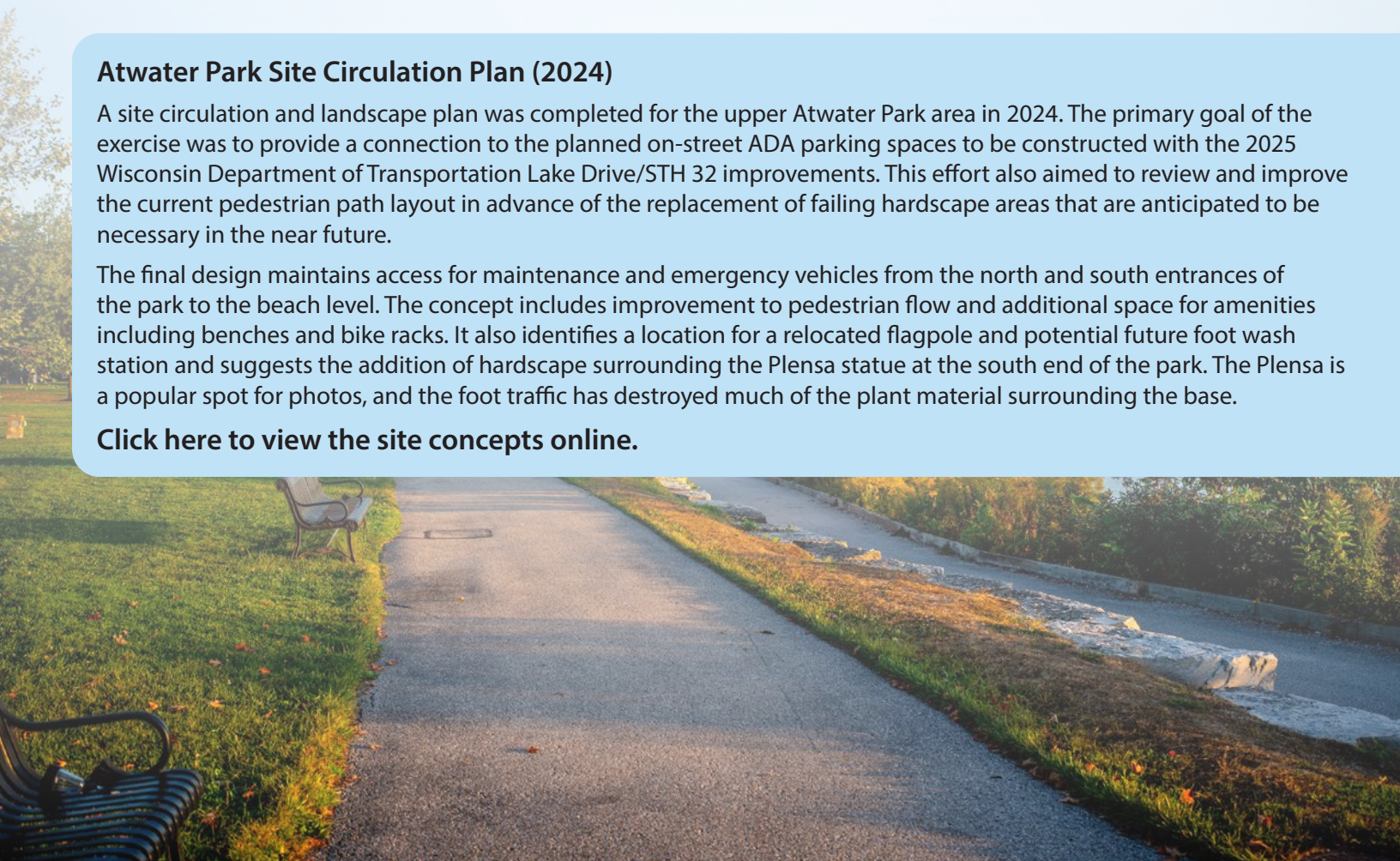
[Click here to view the full report online.](#)

Atwater Park Site Circulation Plan (2024)

A site circulation and landscape plan was completed for the upper Atwater Park area in 2024. The primary goal of the exercise was to provide a connection to the planned on-street ADA parking spaces to be constructed with the 2025 Wisconsin Department of Transportation Lake Drive/STH 32 improvements. This effort also aimed to review and improve the current pedestrian path layout in advance of the replacement of failing hardscape areas that are anticipated to be necessary in the near future.

The final design maintains access for maintenance and emergency vehicles from the north and south entrances of the park to the beach level. The concept includes improvement to pedestrian flow and additional space for amenities including benches and bike racks. It also identifies a location for a relocated flagpole and potential future foot wash station and suggests the addition of hardscape surrounding the Plensa statue at the south end of the park. The Plensa is a popular spot for photos, and the foot traffic has destroyed much of the plant material surrounding the base.

[Click here to view the site concepts online.](#)



Community Needs Assessment

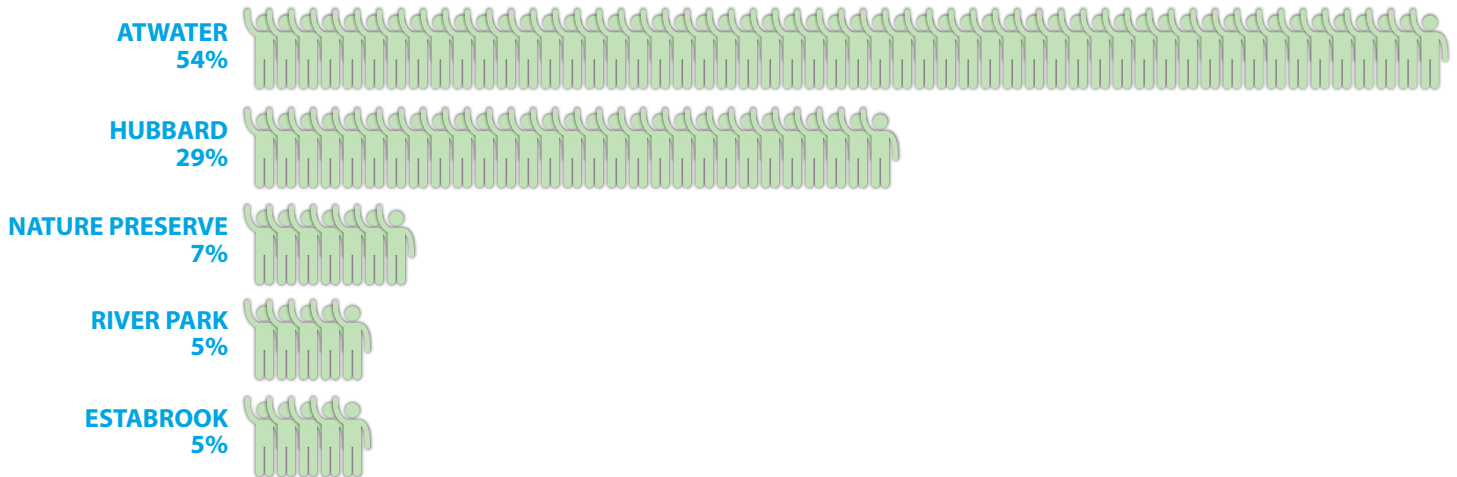
Work on the current plan was begun by the Parks Subcommittee of the Village’s Parks and Public Spaces Committee in 2021 with a review of park features and an inventory update. In 2022 through 2024, the Parks Subcommittee led community input sessions and online surveys to gather feedback related to parks and public spaces. These comments were used to develop many of the recommendations identified in this plan. Information regarding the community listening sessions, survey and data gathering is detailed in the Community Input Sessions Survey Report found in Appendix B.



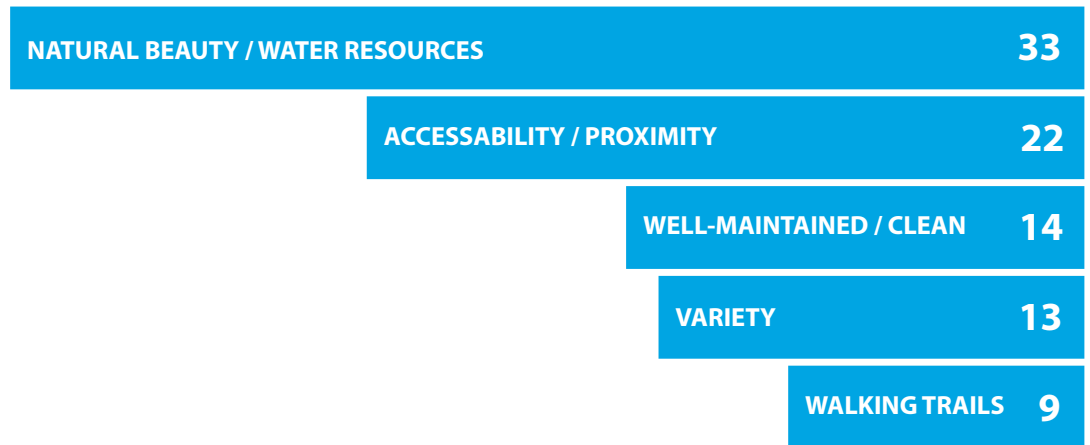
Community Needs Assessment *continued*

SURVEY SAMPLE SIZE = 82; PARTICIPANTS MAY SELECT MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE.

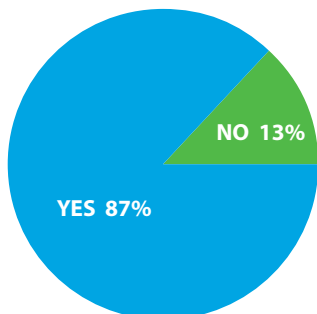
FAVORITE SHOREWOOD PARKS



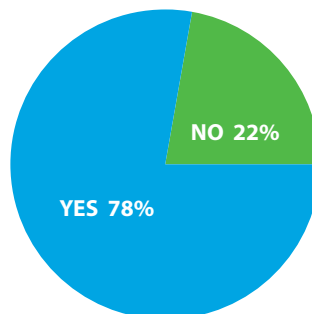
WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT SHOREWOOD PARKS?



DOES SHOREWOOD HAVE ENOUGH PUBLIC "ACTIVE RECREATION" AMENITIES?

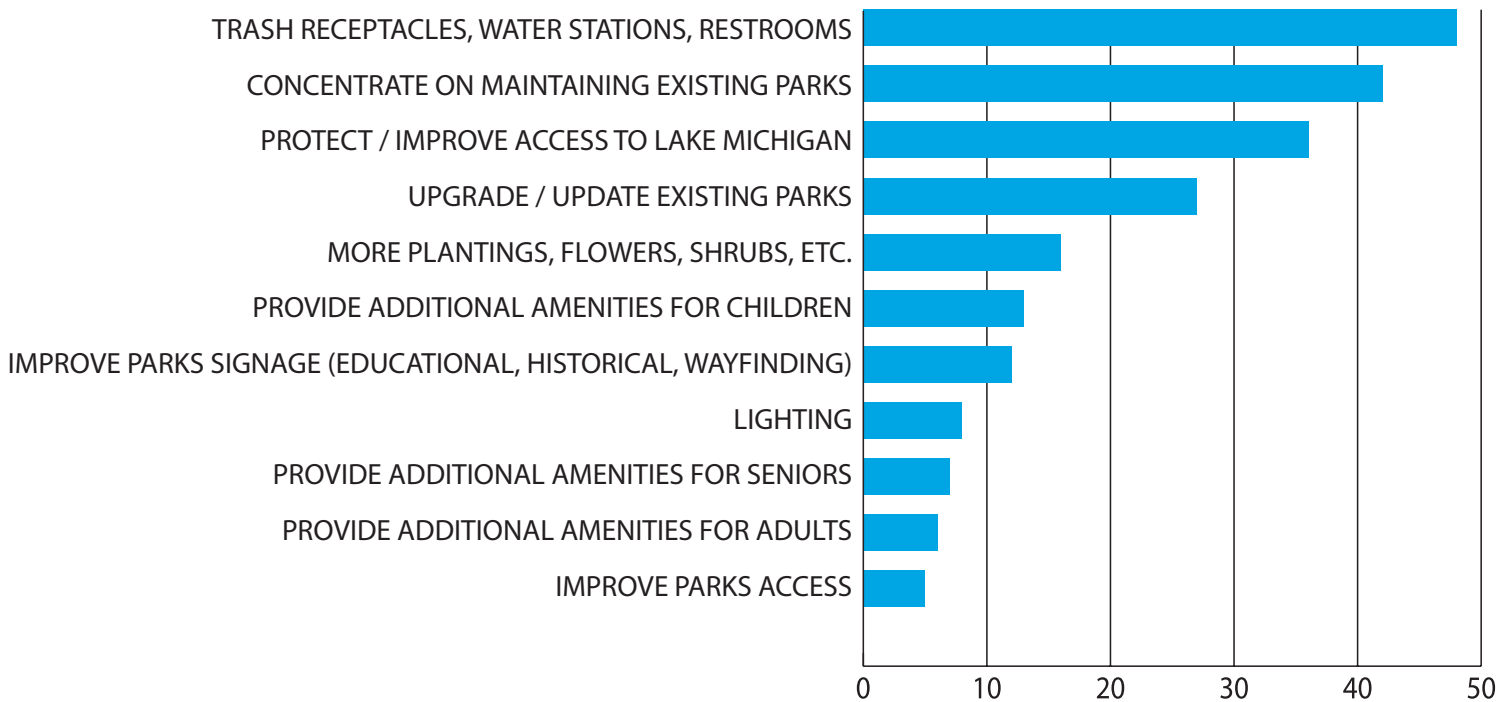


DOES SHOREWOOD HAVE ENOUGH PUBLIC "PASSIVE RECREATION" AMENITIES?

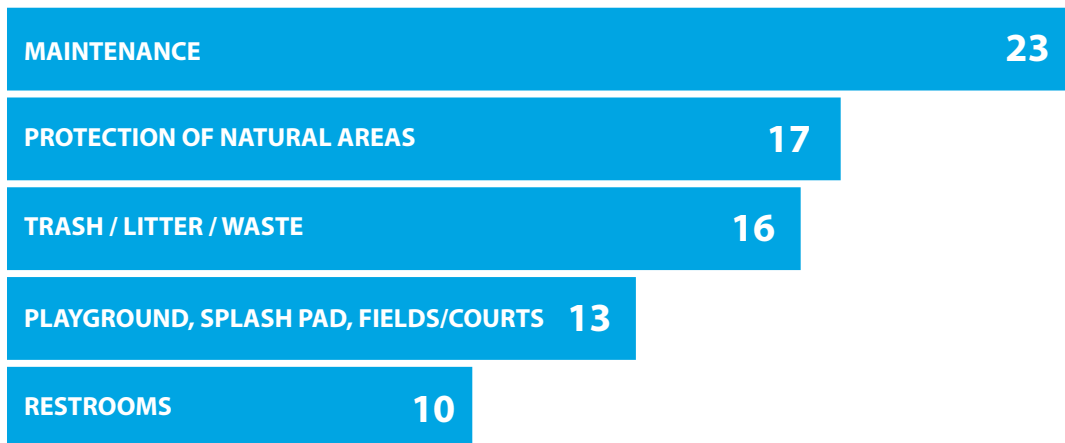


Community Needs Assessment *continued*

WHAT PARK INITIATIVES ARE MOST NEEDED TO BETTER SERVE SHOREWOOD AND ITS RESIDENTS?



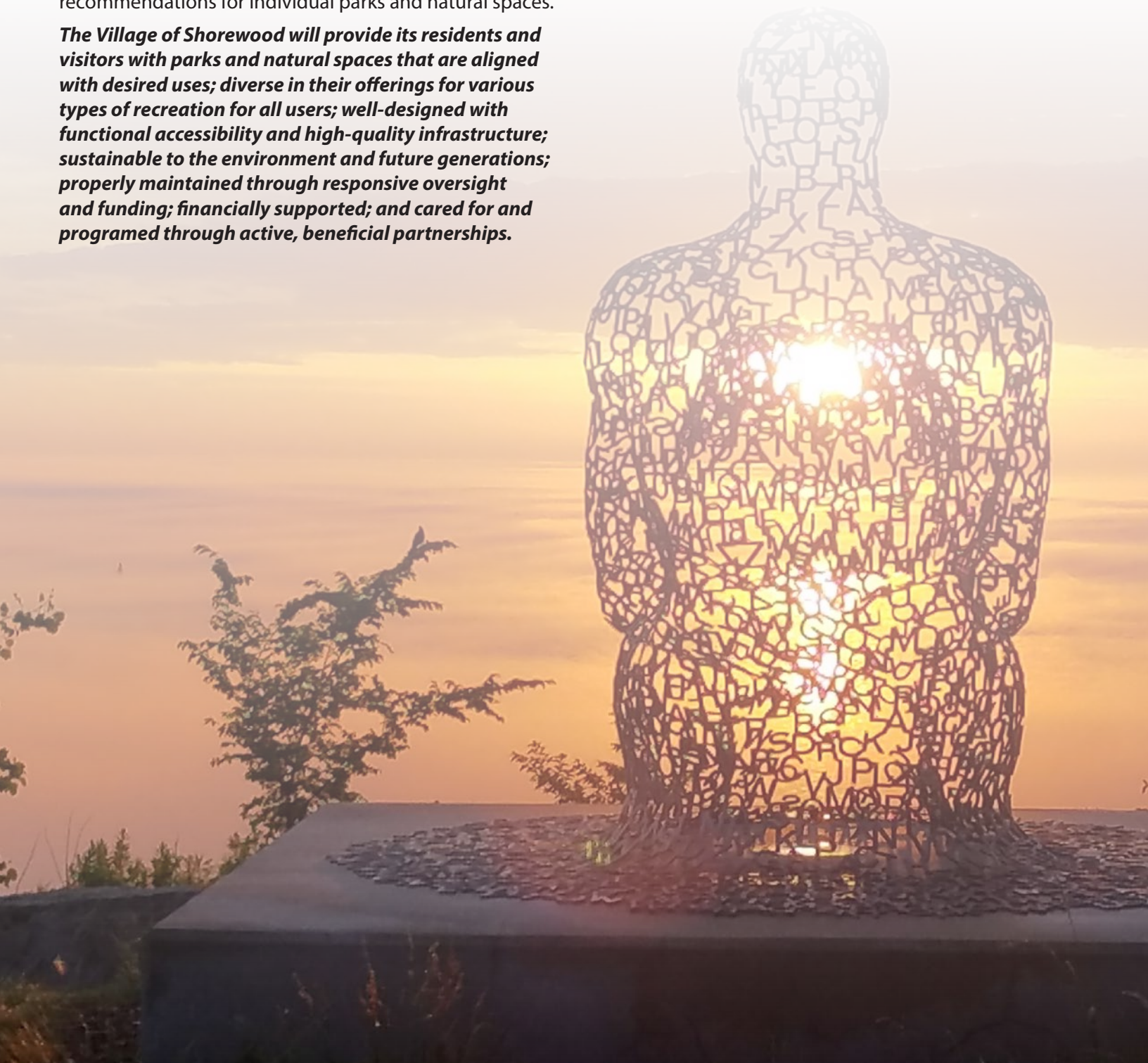
WHAT PARK IMPROVEMENTS ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?



Parks and Natural Spaces Mission Statement:

Shorewood's Parks and Natural Spaces Mission Statement is an aspiration inclusive of seven general goals that define the philosophy of its park and recreation program. This statement is supported by general recommendations (objectives) for the program, as well as specific recommendations for individual parks and natural spaces.

The Village of Shorewood will provide its residents and visitors with parks and natural spaces that are aligned with desired uses; diverse in their offerings for various types of recreation for all users; well-designed with functional accessibility and high-quality infrastructure; sustainable to the environment and future generations; properly maintained through responsive oversight and funding; financially supported; and cared for and programed through active, beneficial partnerships.



Goal 1: Park Utilization

Parks and natural spaces are well utilized by a broad spectrum of the community.

Recommendation 1.1: Design, build, program and maintain parks and natural spaces in line with the community's expectations to promote their use.

Recommendation 1.2: Develop a public awareness campaign to encourage safe use of the Village's park and natural spaces, and their diverse offerings, so that they are well utilized and recognized as a source of pride.

Goal 2: Park Diversity

Parks and natural spaces that are diverse in their offerings for various types of recreation for all users.

Recommendation 2.1: Ensure that a variety of active recreational elements and passive spaces are included when assessing, designing or making improvements within parks and natural spaces to accommodate the existing and shifting needs and desires of different age groups, accessibility, and skill levels, utilizing universal design features as feasible.

Recommendation 2.2: Incorporate landscaping in parks and natural spaces that contributes to aesthetic appeal and provides greater interest to users.

Recommendation 2.3: Maintain, enhance and restore native vegetation to support a diversity of wildlife.

Recommendation 2.4: Protect and enhance existing environmental features, such as bluff lands, wetlands, woodlands, and shorelands.

Goal 3: Park Design

Parks and natural spaces that are well-designed with functional accessibility and high-quality infrastructure.

Recommendation 3.1: Maintain a detailed site plan for each park or natural space which includes current features and potential future improvements.

Recommendation 3.2: Implement opportunities for enhanced connectivity and continued trail development, wayfinding signage, and path amenities, including up to the water's edge of the Village's water bodies.

Recommendation 3.3: Promote a unified design theme within parks and natural spaces that is consistent and committed to high quality, durable and natural materials that remain timeless in their appeal.

Recommendation 3.4: Explore opportunities for additional recreation amenities within parks, including field development, to meet local demands for use.

Recommendation 3.5: Construct high quality facilities to promote safety and maximize seasonal use.

Recommendation 3.6: Protect areas of parks and natural spaces that are of high ecological value from future recreational use and facility development.

Recommendation 3.7: Consider night lighting within parks to prolong the use of recreational spaces and connections.

Goal 4: Environmental and Cultural Sustainability

Parks and natural spaces that are sustainable to the environment and future generations.

Recommendation 4.1: Protect and restore the ecological integrity of park and natural spaces.

Recommendation 4.2: Encourage the public awareness of natural spaces, such as the Nature Preserve and the Milwaukee River Greenway trails, for passive recreational uses and natural resource stewardship.

Recommendation 4.3: Continue use of water-wise landscape practices including use of native plantings and natural turf maintenance practices.

Recommendation 4.4: Ensure stormwater is proactively addressed and appropriately managed to promote protection of local water resources and improve water quality.

Recommendation 4.5: Recognize, protect, and rehabilitate unique historic and cultural resources in parks that contribute to the historic character of Shorewood.

Goal 5: Park Maintenance

Parks and natural spaces that are properly maintained through responsive oversight.

Recommendation 5.1: Ensure that the Village maintains adequate staff capacity to pro-actively maintain parks and natural spaces and respond to request for service and improvements.

Recommendation 5.2: Replace deteriorating or outdated recreation equipment and furnishings with items that provide longevity and safe use.

Recommendation 5.3: Actively monitor and fund removal of non-native and invasive flora in park and natural areas, and facilitate the restoration of native species that contribute to aesthetic quality and benefit wildlife.

Goal 6: Financial Support

Parks and natural spaces that are financially supported.

Recommendation 6.1: Ensure that the Village allocates sufficient funding in its annual budget and long-term financial plans for the physical maintenance and future development of park and natural space amenities.

Recommendation 6.2: Consider the cost of long-term maintenance, including water usage, in park and natural space designs.

Recommendation 6.3: Support and promote the Village's donation program to provide opportunities for interested individuals or groups to fund additional or improved park or natural space amenities.

Recommendation 6.4: Seek and consider options for shared funding and management of parks and natural spaces with partners and volunteers.

Recommendation 6.5: Monitor and pursue grant or matching funding sources for park and natural space improvements through local, state and federal means.

Recommendation 6.6: Consider private and not-for-profit sponsorship opportunities for developing specific features within parks and natural spaces.

Goal 7: Park Partnerships

Parks and natural spaces that are cared for and programmed through active, beneficial partnerships.

Recommendation 7.1: Recognize the Parks Subcommittee of the Parks and Public Spaces Committee as the primary advocates for implementation of this plan.

Recommendation 7.2: Seek new partnerships for responsible programming in parks that maintains their purpose and encourages their use.

Recommendation 7.3: Foster continued partnerships with community groups and organizations to support community recreation, facilitate the provision of existing and new recreation facilities, plan, upgrade and maintain park and natural space amenities, and to maximize the value of capital expenses.

Recommendation 7.4: Work with local sports organizations to define mutually compatible facility needs and mechanisms for the development, construction, operation and maintenance of these facilities.

Recommendation 7.5: Work with partners and community groups and stakeholders, to promote culturally and naturally significant park areas and elements.

Future Park Acquisition

The Parks and Public Spaces Committee has prioritized the identification of opportune spaces to be activated for outdoor recreation throughout the village. The Shorewood Business Improvement District has also expressed interest in activating space for recreational use within its district.

Recommendation FPA 1: Evaluate opportunities for activation and/or possible acquisition of land to expand park and natural spaces in the village.



In addition to these general recommendations related to the goal of well-designed and functionally accessible parks and natural spaces with high-quality infrastructure, the following pages list site-specific recommendations that have been developed based on site assessments and targeted public engagement.

Atwater Park

- Implement the recommendations identified in the Atwater Park Site Circulation plan designed to improve pedestrian access and connections between Lake Drive, the public sidewalk and the on-street accessible parking constructed in 2025.
- Evaluate options for shade structures at the upper park, path and beach levels.
- Continue enhancement and restoration of the native bluff vegetation critical to wildlife habitat and the long-term stability of the bluff.
- Support evaluation and condition analysis of the Atwater Beach groins.

Hubbard Park

Retain a consultant to develop a masterplan for the park, comprehensively evaluating current and potential uses and considering:

- Site circulation improvements, including current and potential connections to the Oak Leaf Trail.
- Identification of appropriate locations for site furniture, including benches, bike racks and other amenity items.
- Review of the park lighting needs.
- Wayfinding, Milwaukee River Greenway, and entrance signage improvements. Identification of additional historical and cultural educational signage opportunities.
- Landscape enhancements including entrance improvements.

Humble Park

Utilizing DPW horticultural staff, develop an updated landscape plan for the park considering:

- Landscape enhancements which feature the use of native plantings.
- Condition evaluation of site furniture including benches, bike racks and other amenity items.
- Opportunities for educational or interpretive signage.

Nature Preserve

Implement the recommendations identified in the 2023 Nature Preserve Land Management plan

Riparian Trail

- Review improvements recommended in the River District Riparian Land Management Plan and incorporate projects as appropriate into the Village's Long Range financial plan.
- Support implementation of the recommendations identified in the Milwaukee River Greenway Ecological Restoration and Management Plan.

River Park

Retain a consultant to develop a masterplan for the park, comprehensively evaluating current and potential uses and considering:

- Site circulation improvements including connections to Oakland Avenue, the Oak Leaf Trail and Hubbard Park.
- Identification of appropriate locations for site furniture including benches, bike racks and other amenity items.
- An evaluation of athletic field and playscape space needs and uses, including potential layouts and siting of playground equipment.
- Review of the park lighting needs.
- Wayfinding and entrance signage improvements.
- Landscape enhancements.

Triangle Park

Complete the drainage improvements identified in the 2022 Parks Commission/DPW design effort.



Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Programs WDNR

DESCRIPTION: Support for nature-based outdoor recreation activities

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Urban Green Space and Urban Rivers grant

Land and Water Conservation Fund WDNR

DESCRIPTION: Development of high-quality outdoor recreation activities for the public

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Active outdoor recreation facilities

Recreational Trails Program WDNR

DESCRIPTION: Reimbursement for the development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related activities.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) WisDOT

DESCRIPTION: Provides funding for on or off-road facilities.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Trails, paths, and trail/path networks; bicycle and pedestrian facilities and planning.

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) Green Solutions Program

DESCRIPTION: Financial assistance to help achieve TMDL compliance and progress toward MMSD's goals.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Bioretention, native landscaping, rain gardens, green roofs, stormwater trees, greenways.

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) Reforestation and Wetland Restoration

DESCRIPTION: Provides cost-share funding for watershed management and restoration activities.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Large scale tree planting and wetland restoration on land adjacent to ecological corridors.

Fund for Lake Michigan Grant Program

DESCRIPTION: Support for projects that protect critical natural habitats, reduce pollution runoff, and generally make water resources more swimmable, fishable and drinkable.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Green infrastructure, beach restoration, stormwater management, and erosion control.

ATWATER PARK AND BEACH

Recreation Features & Amenities	Present/Quantity	Condition			Comments
		Good	Fair	Poor	
Special Site Features					
Public Art	x	x			Private donation of Spilloever II by Jaume Plensa, 2010
Seating Wall	x	x			Limestone wall along southern upper path
Veterans Memorial (overlook railing)	x			x	Railing along inside deck wall of overlook structure
Decorative pavement at flagpole	x			x	Requires replacement
Restrooms	x		x		Permanent facilities open only during lifeguard on duty; portable restrooms available in season.
Play Aparatus					
Upper	x	x			Installed 2015
Lower	x	x			Installed 2013
Site Furniture					
Benches	16	x	x		Two styles
Bike racks	2	x			
Trash/recycling containers	10	x			
Drinking fountain	x	x			
Lighting					
Pathway	6		x		
Sculpture	x		x		
Walks					
Public sidewalks		x			
Interior walks		x			
Switchback path (bluff)	x				
Stairs	x				reconstructed in 2018
Boardwalk	x				north section constructed 2011, south 2016
Landscape					
Trees in mowed turf	x	x			
landscape beds	x		x		
natural areas	x		x		management plan implementation in progress
irrigation system	x		x		
Signage					
park signage	x		x		
interpretive signage	2		x		

HUBBARD PARK

Recreation Features & Amenities	Present/Quantity	Condition			Comments
		Good	Fair	Poor	
Special Site Features					
Boat house	x	x			
Youth Pavillion	x		x		
Hubbard Park Lodge	x	x			leased space
River Club	x	x			leased space
Parking lot	x	x			reconstructed in 2022
Electrical facility structure	x			x	requires rehabilitation
Canoe launch	x	x			constructed in 2021
Stairs	x	x			
Flagpole	x		x		
Site Furniture					
Bench	25		x		
Trash/recycling containers	11		x		varied styles
Lighting					
Pathway	5		x		
Parking lot	4	x			
Walks					
Public sidewalks	x				
Interior walks		x			
Landscape					
Trees in mowed turf	x				
landscape beds	x	x			
natural areas	x	x			
retaining walls	x	x	x	x	varied materials
fencing	x			x	chain link fence; County Parks-owned
Signage					
entrance	x		x		
interpretive	x	x			

RIVER PARK

Recreation Features & Amenities	Present/Quantity	Condition			Comments
		Good	Fair	Poor	
Fields and Courts					
baseball	1	x			
batting cage	1	x			
soccer	x	x			
Special Site Features					
bleachers	2	x			
restrooms	x	x			open during scheduled events
shelter building	x		x		posts warping; footings heaving
pavillion	x	x		x	decorative pavers adjacent require replacement - settled/heaving
parking lot	x	x			reconstructed 2024
fencing					
Site Furniture					
picnic tables	7	x			
ping pong table	1		x		
benches	5	x			
trash/recycling containers	4		x		
drinking fountain	2	x			
Lighting					
parking lot	x		x		
Walks					
public sidewalk	x	x			
interior walks	x	x			
Landscape					
trees in mowed turf					
natural area					
landscaped beds					
irrigation					
Signage					
entrance					

TRIANGLE PARK

Recreation Features & Amenities	Present/Quantity	Condition			Comments
		Good	Fair	Poor	
Special Site Features					
flagpole	1	x			
Site Furniture					
bench	1	x			
Walks					
public sidewalk	x	x			
interior walks	x	x			

HUMBLE PARK

Recreation Features & Amenities	Present/Quantity	Condition			Comments
		Good	Fair	Poor	
Site Furniture					
benches	5		x		
trash/recycling container	1		x		
Walks					
public sidewalk	x	x			
interior walks	x	x			
Landscape					
trees in mowed turf	x	x			
landscaped beds	x	x			
irrigation	x	x			

NATURE PRESERVE

Recreation Features & Amenities	Present/Quantity	Condition			Comments
		Good	Fair	Poor	
Site Furniture					
benches	1		x		
bike rack	1		x		
Walks					
public sidewalk	x	x			
interior paths	x		x	x	

Parks and Public Spaces Committee Community Input Sessions Survey Report

Introduction: The Parks subcommittee of the Parks and Public Spaces Committee Survey recently performed an inventory of all Shorewood parks to provide a comparison of the current state to what is currently listed in the [Comprehensive Parks Plan](#) (created in 2015). The subcommittee was interested in hearing from the community about additional features they'd like to see in our parks system. To do this, the volunteer subcommittee mobilized and hosted informational sessions covering the existing inventory and asked the community about what else they'd like to see. The "listening sessions" were planned at the following dates and times to accommodate each parks space while being mindful of the volunteer subcommittees' personal/professional calendars and commitments:

Input Sessions calendar

Park	Location for input session	Date	Time
Atwater	Atwater Park, <i>near letter sculpture</i>	Wed., June 29, 2022	6:30 – 7:30 pm
Nature Preserve	Shorewood Village Center	Wed., July 13, 2022	6:30 – 7:30 pm
River Park & Humble Park	River Park - <i>pavilion</i>	Wed., August 3, 2022	6:30 – 7:30 pm
Hubbard Park	Hubbard Park - <i>near concert area stage</i>	Wed., August 17, 2022	6:30 – 7:30 pm

Method: Figure 1 is the announcement shared in the Village Manager’s Memo, which was included from July 7 to August 17, 2022 to promote this initiative. Attendance was strong in the Nature Preserve input session, with 7 attendees. The only other session to have attendees was the Atwater Park input session.

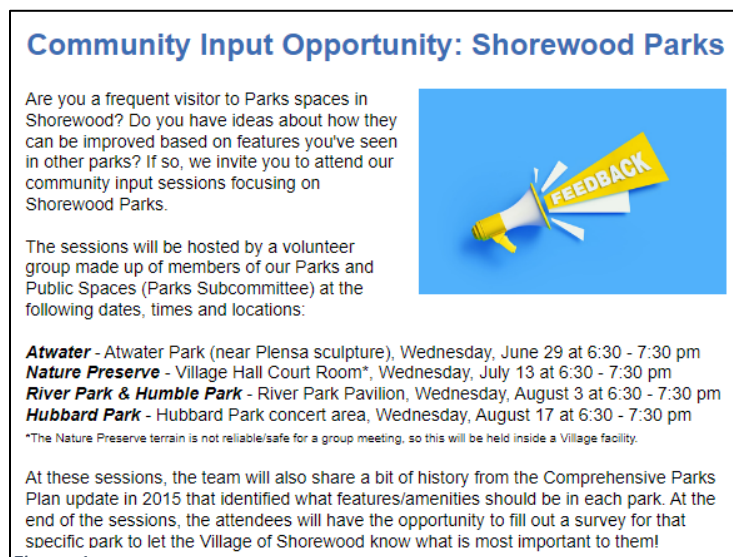


Figure 1

In addition, a web form was created to facilitate additional feedback. The intended rationale was to provide the survey at the end of each informational session so responses collected were from those that had attended and received the information from subcommittee members on the analysis performed. However, feedback from the community through a Village Trustee informed the

subcommittee members and Village staff alike to open the survey to anyone who'd like to comment. Additionally, as events occurred, they were deleted from the announcement to avoid confusion. An additional enhancement to the data collection after the survey was released was posting a QR code in each of the parks so users could be made aware of this opportunity. An example of the announcement and locations of their placement are below in Figure 2 and Table 1.

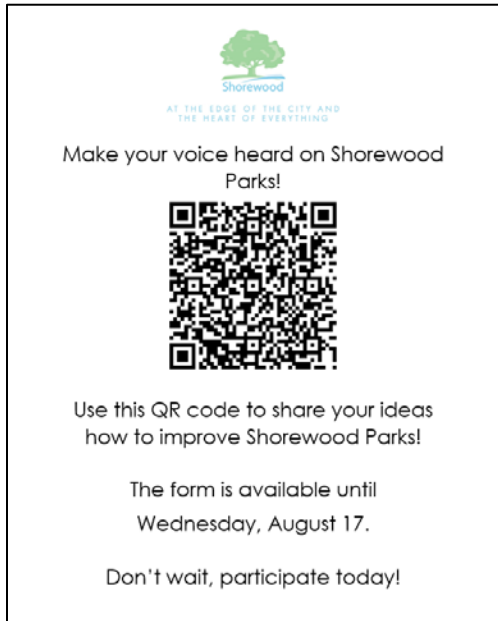


Figure 2

Park	Location(s)	Quantity
Nature Preserve	By the sign	1
Atwater Park	Playground and Beach gate entrance	2
Humble Park	On the post next to bench	1
Triangle Park	Street sign post at the point of triangle	1
Hubbard Park	Near the Beer Garden	1
River Park	Near concession/bathrooms	1
Spector Park	Bulletin board	1

Table 1

Input sessions results

Atwater Beach:

The only two sessions to have attendance were the Atwater Park and Nature Preserve input sessions. Attendees in the Atwater Park input session were primarily concerned with the bathrooms and safety of the beach. The bathrooms are often out of commission during the summer because beach goers use the facilities to wash off their feet, and the sand clogs the drains. Attendees felt that adding a footwash station closer to the beach would alleviate this issue.

Attendees also felt that the jetties that protect the beach and shoreline are in great disrepair. There are sharp metal poles that stick out under water which could injure swimmers. Additionally, people often try to climb on to the jetties which are unstable.

Other notes from the attendees: there is a gap where the ramp to the beach is, which may make it hard for people with limited mobility to access the boardwalk, there is rust on the newly installed water fountain, benches are different colors, neighbors on either side of the beach have concerns about trespassing—perhaps better signage would be appreciated, and more umbrellas for lifeguards would improve their ability to monitor the beach.

Other desires: potable water by the beach to avoid dehydration, surf cams, and enhance signage about dogs on the beach.

Nature Preserve:

The Nature Preserve input session had many suggestions and improvements requested. The attendees felt it was important to maintain the “wild” character of the nature preserve. To do this, more formal trails may help people avoid trampling native plant species. Additionally, more work needs to be done to remove invasive species and to avoid bluff erosion.

Access to the lakeshore is limited, and people create dangerous solutions to access it. A more formal way to access the beach may avoid injury and enhance the experience for visitors. Additionally, installation of a bench by the water may enhance the experience.

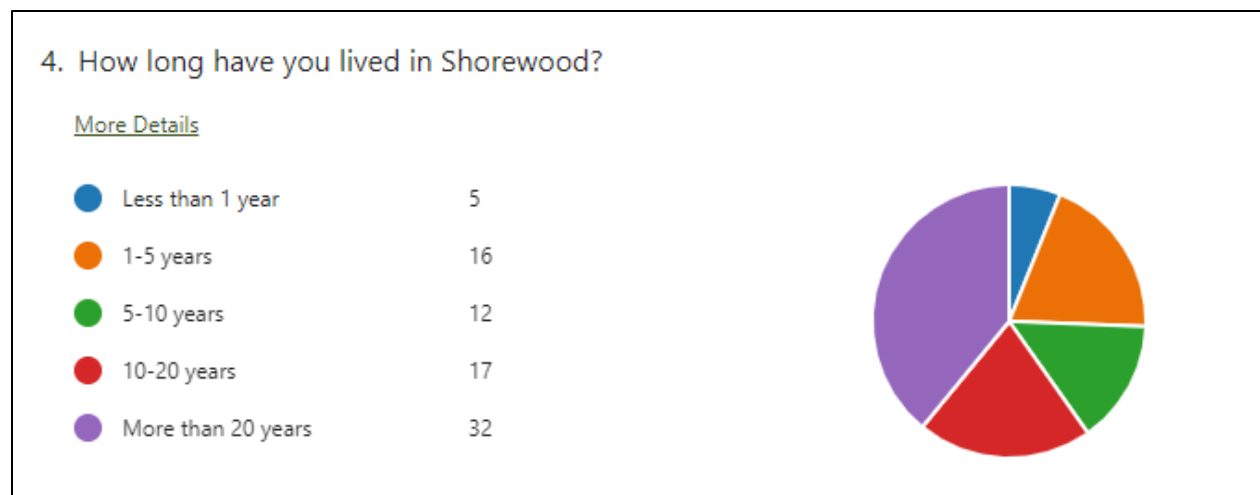
An inventory of trees and the creation of a nature plan would help maintain the bluff as well as remove invasive species encroaching in the preserve. Additionally, the placement of woodchips down the slope has helped maintain the integrity of the trail, and placement of those annually is required.

Attendees also felt that repair of the existing amphitheater and encouraging the use of it by students and other groups would help encourage residents and other visitors to be aware of nature and enjoy Shorewood.

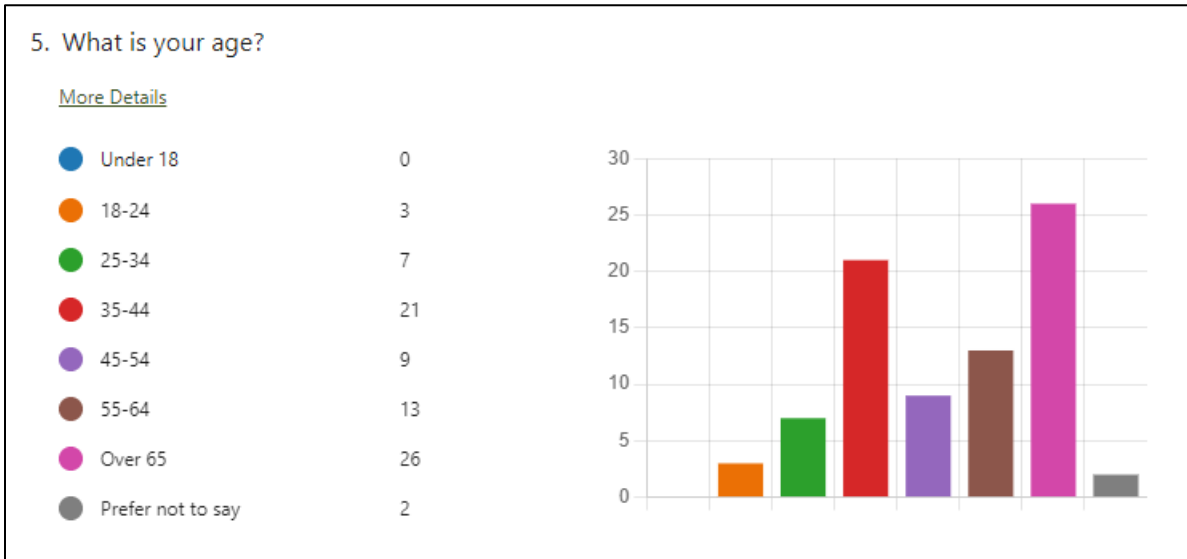
Form collection (June - August 2022):

Over 80 responses were collected via a Microsoft Form (similar to Survey Monkey) to allow easy accessibility for the community and low administrative burden to Village staff compiling the results. To guide the Village’s future polling/survey methods, simple demographics were collected.

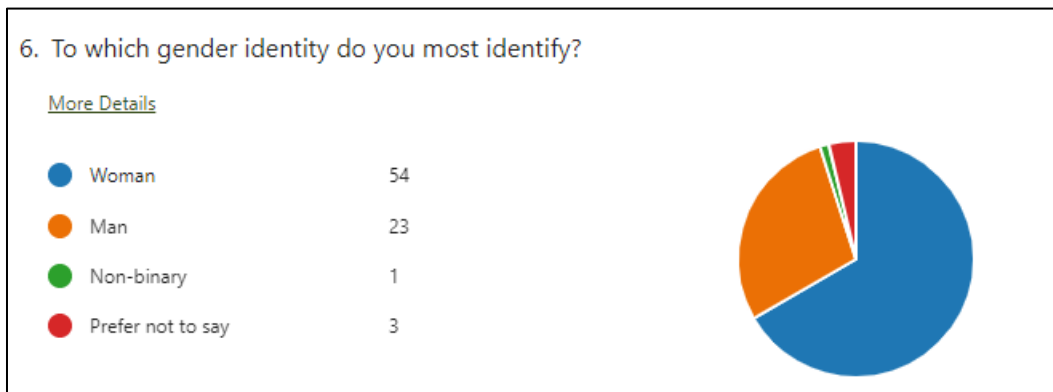
The majority of respondents have lived in Shorewood at least 10 years (60%), with 15% living here between 5 and 10 years, 20% one to five years, and 5% less than one year.



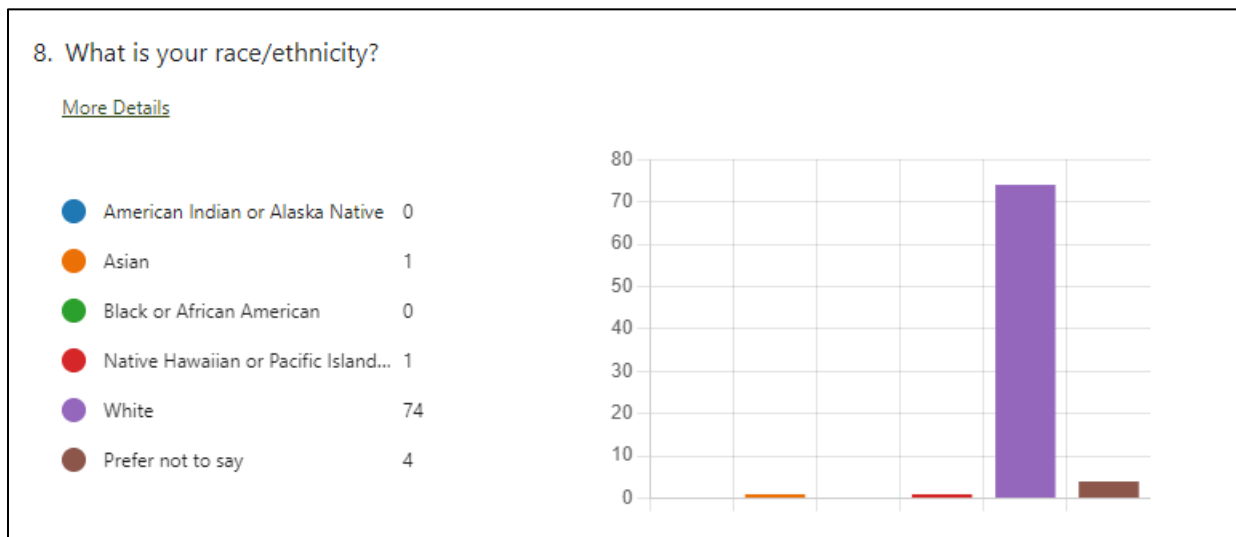
Nearly 33% of respondents were over 65 years old, 27% were between 35 and 44, 16% were 55 to 64 years old, 11% are between 45 and 54, and 13% were younger than 35.



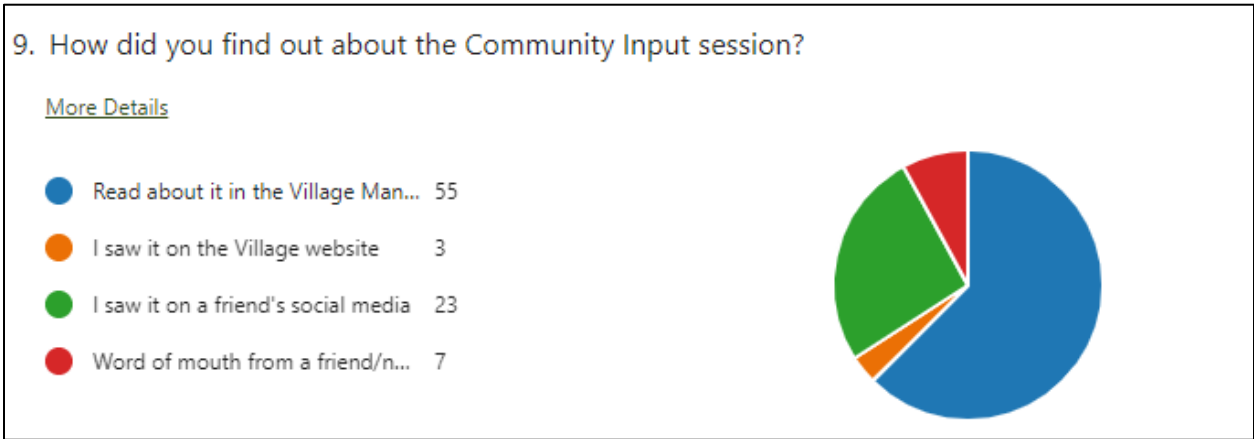
Sixty-seven percent of the respondents identified as woman/female, 28% identified as man/male, 1% were non-binary, and 4% preferred not to respond to this question.



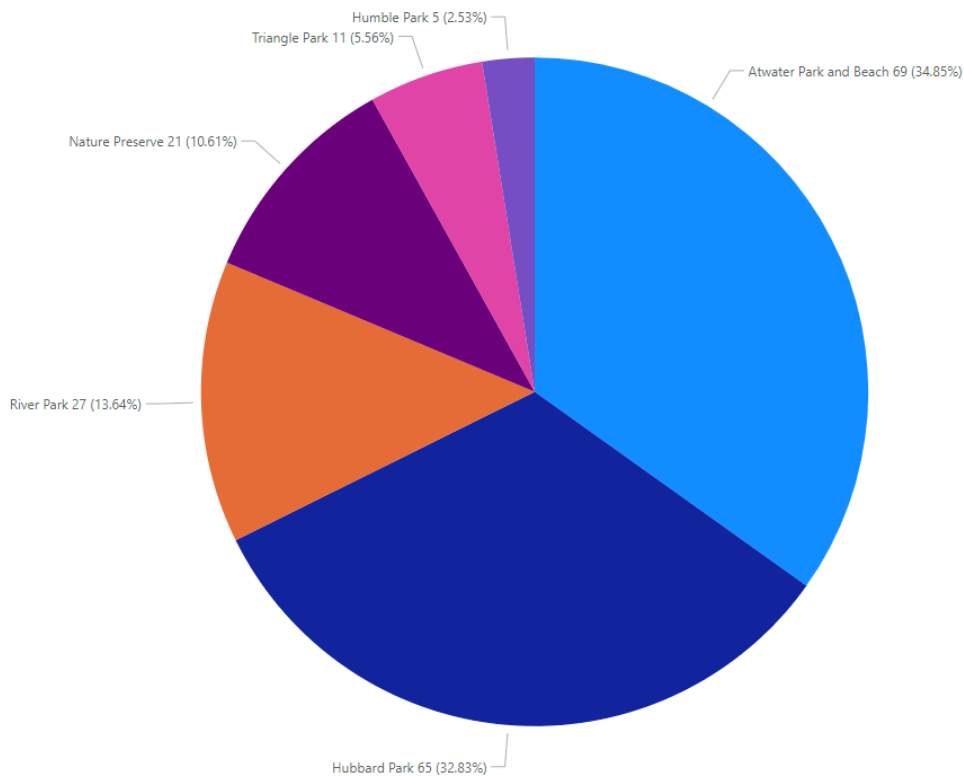
Ninety-three percent of respondents identified as White, 1% identified as Asian, 1% identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 5% preferred not to respond to the question.



The Village Manager’s Memo was a critical engagement tactic as 63% of respondents indicated this as the

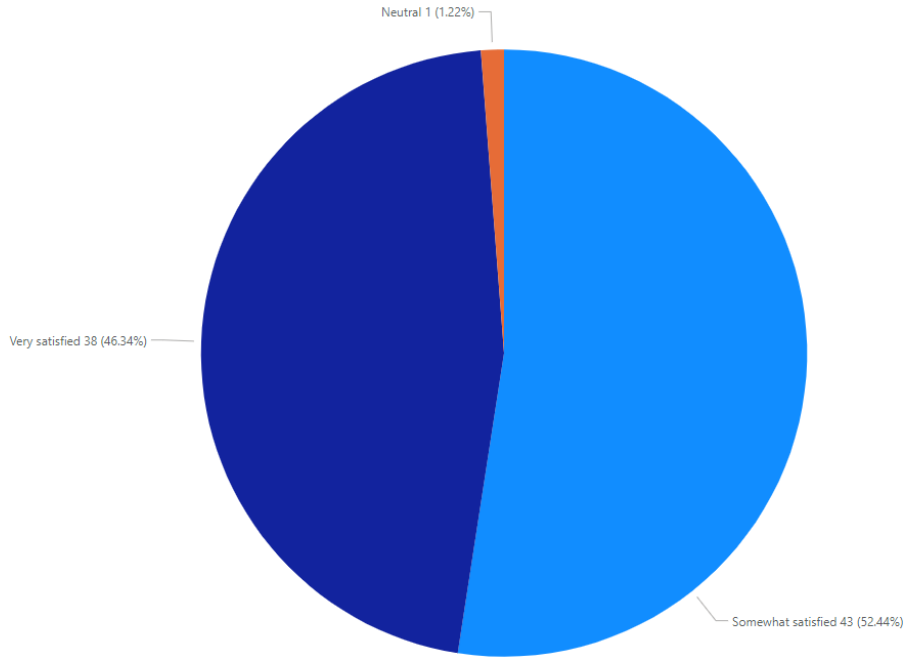


Survey takers also described the parks they visit the most:



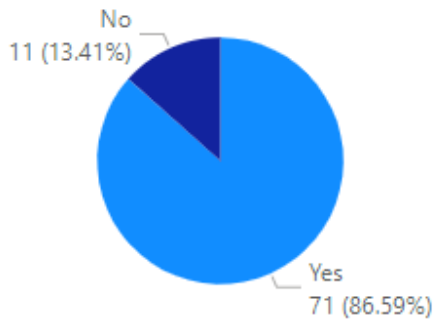
A summary of the results can be found below:

Generally, survey respondents were happy with Shorewood parks: no one was dissatisfied 46% were very satisfied and 52% were somewhat satisfied

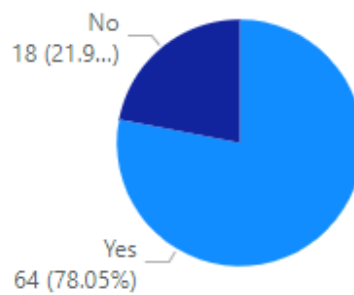


A majority also felt that Shorewood had enough active and passive recreation opportunities:

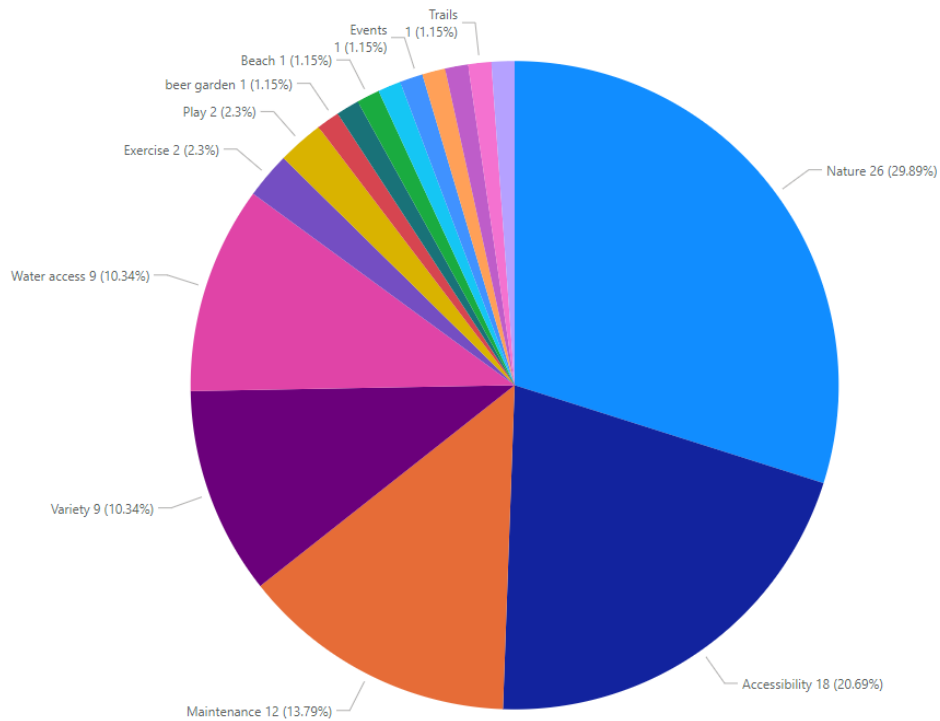
Do you think Shorewood has enough public "active recreation" amenities?



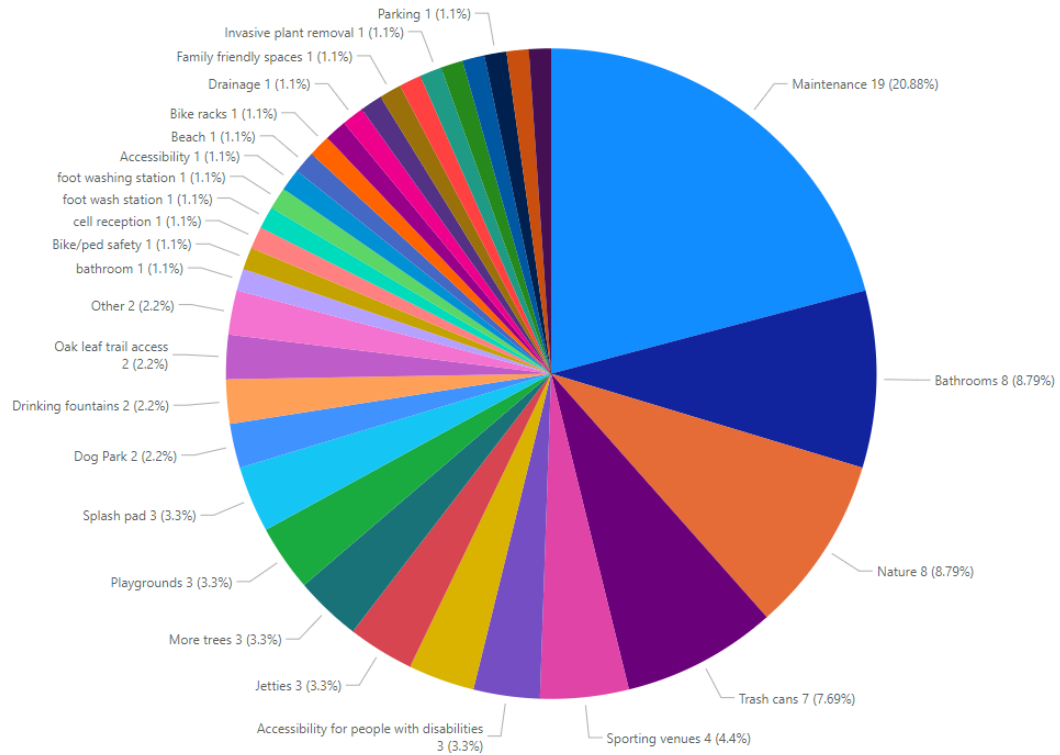
Do you think Shorewood has enough public "passive recreation" amenities?



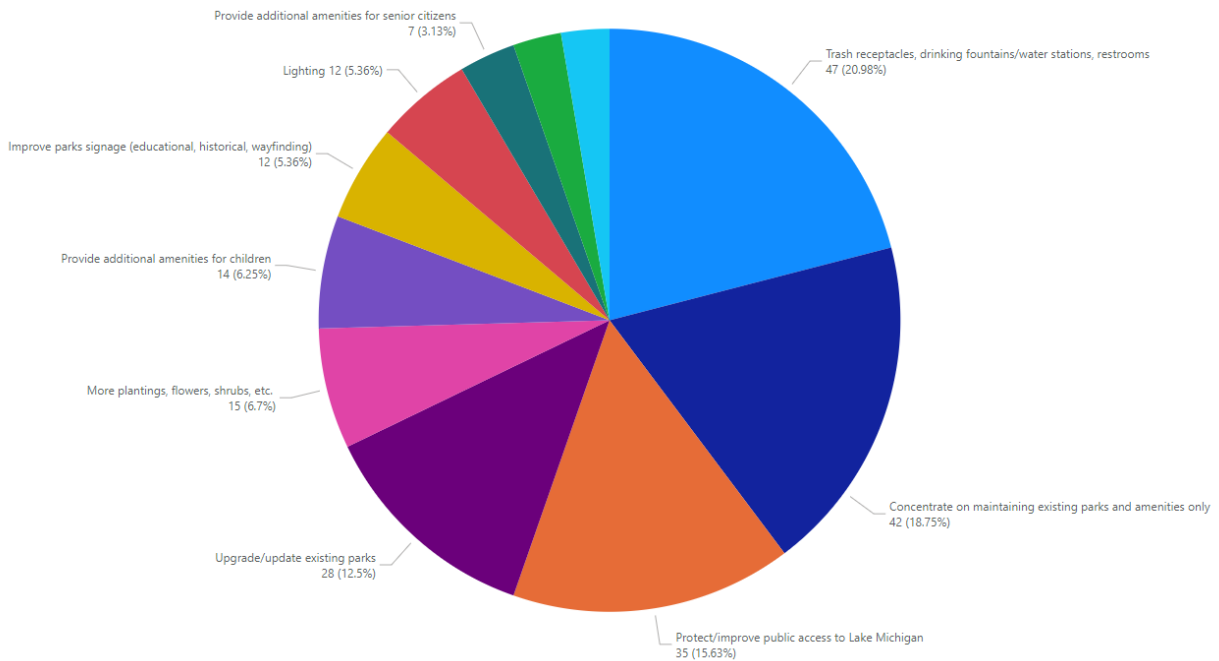
The following charts were responses that people could type in freely. Those responses were summarized into categories to more easily digest the information. The respondents listed what they liked best about Shorewood, which is summarized below:



Respondents had a variety of opinions on what can be improved; with a plurality of responses saying that maintenance can be improved, bathroom facilities added or improved, maintaining the integrity of the tree canopy and removing invasive species (i.e. nature) and adding/improving trash cans and trash removal.



The form also asked people what they think is most needed within parks. The plurality felt that trash and enhanced maintenance, and improving/protecting access to Lake Michigan was the most important.



Community Engagement Sessions:

Three community engagement sessions were also held by the Parks and Public Spaces Committee to engage residents and collectively gather community comments related to Shorewood parks and to the development of a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. Participants were invited via mailed notification for events held on April 4, 2024, June 6, 2024, and December 12, 2024.