



Village of Kimberly

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Prepared by

Ad-Hoc Park Advisory Committee

and

**Al Schaefer
Integrated Public Resources**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On June 19, 2018, the Village of Kimberly Planning Commission approved and recommended to the Village Board the adoption of the Village of Kimberly: Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Kimberly Village Board of Trustees adopted the Plan on July 2, 2018.

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Village of Kimberly

Open Space & Recreation Plan

INTRODUCTION

RECREATIONAL PLANNING

Increased leisure time and a growing interest in the environment and physical fitness have placed greater demands on recreation facilities in Kimberly. In recognition of the continuing need to fulfill these demands and protect as well as enhance the existing environment for future generations, the Village of Kimberly has prepared this update of the *Kimberly Open Space and Recreation Plan*. The plan builds upon earlier open space plans prepared in 1977, 1983, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2007, and 2013. Developed by the Ad-Hoc Park & Recreation Advisory Committee, with the assistance of Al Schaefer of *Integrated Public Resources*, this new document contains a planning process which serves as a guide for the future development of Kimberly's park and recreation system. In addition, the plan, after local and state approval, will allow the Village to compete for cost sharing funding programs for park development. These programs are administered by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The Village of Kimberly is the sixth largest of seven interconnected incorporated communities known as the Fox Cities. It is located in the eastern portion of the Fox Cities urban area in southeastern Outagamie County. The Village is bounded by the Fox River and Village of Little Chute to the north, the Village of Combined Locks to the east, the Town of Buchanan to the south, and the City of Appleton to the west. The City of Green Bay is located approximately 25 miles northeast. The Village's corporate boundary encloses a land area of approximately 1,495 acres.

Several transportation routes passing through or near the Village provide access to nearby urban and rural areas. Kimberly Avenue, which passes through the downtown area, and CTH "N" (Washington Street), which separates Kimberly from Combined Locks to the east, are the two major traffic carriers in developed portions of the Village. US Highway 41, located north of Kimberly, connects the Village with Green Bay to the north and Milwaukee to the south. The Tri-County expressway (Highway 441), located along the Village's common boundary with Appleton, provides access to I-41 and to other Fox Cities communities. CTH "CE", located along the Village's southern portion of the community, provides direct access to downtown Appleton and interchanges with the freeway. US 10, located about four miles south of Kimberly, is a major east/west route and is linked to the Village via CTH "N". Rail freight service to Kimberly is provided by the Canadian National Railway.

In 2008, the Village largest industry & employer, *New Page Paper Mill*, closed. The 100 acre property was purchased by the Village of Kimberly in 2016, and is currently under redevelopment with residential, commercial, and green space/park development planned. In addition to the Village's traditional downtown area, significant commercial development has occurred over the past forty years, primarily with the development of the Kimberly Business Park and the business corridors along County Highway N and County Highway CE.

LAND USE

Kimberly's land use patterns have expanded over the past 20 years, with the primary developments along County N and the annexed Emons Acres, located south of CE and east of Railroad Street will be the site of future commercial developments. In 2009, US Venture moved their corporate headquarters to annex business property located south of County CE off of Railroad Street. The balance of the commercial establishments is centrally located along Kimberly Avenue, with a few scattered establishments located along East Maes Avenue and in the northwestern portion of the Village. The Kimberly Business Park is located in the southwestern area of the Village, adjacent to Hwy 441.

Areas directly north and south of the downtown business district were the first residential areas to develop in the community. Newer residential growth occurred in the western half of the Village, first between the Central Wisconsin railroad tracks and Kimberly Avenue, and later north of Kimberly Avenue. Development of these areas was virtually complete when the Village's first open space plan was prepared in 1977. In the 1980's and early 1990's, development occurred in Stone Gate Village, a 138 lot subdivision located south of the railroad tracks, between Railroad Street and Eisenhower Drive. In the 1990's Planned Unit developments, Sunset Estates and Heritage Estates provided senior housing, apartments and duplex development. The Applewood Estates subdivision along Washington Street, Highview Estates (Additions I, II, III), which includes the annexation of the Thelosen Property west of County N, have provided an additional 150 single family and 100 duplex properties to the community. Emons Acres, located south of CE and East of Railroad street provided additional 99 single family and 60 duplex units. The recently acquired former mill site will include the Rivers Edge Plat, located north of Park Villas subdivision, providing 46 single family sites, and 2 planned unit developments with 27 units. Papermill Estates, located along N. Main Street, will have 49 Single family attached dwellings, plus additional apartments and commercial developments are planned along the river north of Paper Mill Run. Park and recreation facilities are generally well distributed throughout the community. (See Map – figure 1)

POPULATION

Kimberly's population had made a steady increase from 5406 in 1990. The 2010 census figures indicated a population of 6,468 which is an increase to 19% since 1990. Estimated 2016 population is 6,739 which is an additional 4.2% increase from 2010. Rebounding from the population decline from 1970 -1990, Kimberly continues to grow as a healthy and economically vibrant community. The development of the Rivers Edge, Papermill Estates, and other development at the former mill site represents a significant opportunity for future population increases.

PAST POPULATION TRENDS (Table 1)

Village of Kimberly

Year	Population	Change %
1960	5,322	-
1970	6,131	+15.2
1980	5,881	-4.1
1990	5,406	-8.1
2000	6,146	+13.6
2010	6,468	+ 5.2
2016	6,739	+4.2

Source: US Census Bureau

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP (Table 2)

Age	State of Wisconsin	County of Outagamie	Village of Kimberly
Under 18	23.8%	25.1%	24.5%
18-64	63.6 %	63.1%	59.1%
65 and Over	13.6%	11.8%	16.4%

Source: US Census, 2010

POPULATION BY SEX, ETHNICITY, & RACE (Table 3)

Village of Kimberly

SEX	Male	3,143
	Female	3,325
ETHNICITY	Non – Hispanic or Latino	6,318
	Hispanic or Latino	150
RACE	White	6,077
	African American	53
	Asian	136
	Native American	59
	Other	51
	Identified by two or more	92

Source: US Census, 2010

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Village of Kimberly establishes the following goals and objectives to serve as a guide for the most enjoyable park & recreation system possible for community residents and visitors. The goals are stated as desired conditions to strive for in the future. They are common ideals of the community that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, business, private organizations, and individual citizens. The corresponding objectives specify in greater detail how these desired goals can be achieved. Together, the goals and objectives provide a basis for establishing Village policy regarding the planning, acquisition, and future development of park and recreation facilities.

1. To provide and maintain a community-wide system of quality park and recreation facilities.

- Provide quality park and recreation facilities that serve all residential areas of the community.
- Assist in providing recreational activities on a year-round basis.
- Improve existing park and recreation facilities to meet the changing desires of the community.

2. To ensure that open space and recreation facilities are designed to meet the special needs of all patrons, including the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

- Work within the Americans with Disabilities guidelines, when feasible, to provide accessible recreation facilities for all age groups.
- Design active and passive recreational areas which are accessible by elderly and/or individuals with disabilities.
- Develop a playground site specifically designed to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, including rubberized sub-surface.

3. To conserve, protect, and improve the natural resources of the Village and the surrounding area.

- Ensure that the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the community are considered when planning for park and recreation development.
- Manage existing wood lots, vegetative cover, natural drainage ways, and other natural resource areas in and around the community.
- Maintain and improve the quality of water resources in the Village.
- Preserve and enhance property along the Fox River for recreation opportunities.
- Maintain involvement with local, county, and state governmental agencies on development of network recreational opportunities.

4. To encourage the continued provision of open space and park facilities in newly developed areas of the Village.

- Encourage land in new residential subdivisions to be set aside for park and recreational facilities.

- Maintain Park Impact Fees for new residential developments, to assist with funding for park land acquisition and development
 - Ensure that newly developed residential areas are provided with adequate and accessible park and recreation facilities.
 - Provide water access, connecting trails, and green space in development of the former mill site.
- 5. To encourage cooperation with the Kimberly Area School District, Parochial Schools, the Heart of the Valley YMCA, and private facilities, in providing and utilizing appropriate facilities for open space and recreational needs.**
- Encourage community/school cooperation in providing additional indoor & outdoor recreational facilities at the community's school sites.
 - Encourage continued public use of the public and parochial school system's outdoor and indoor recreational facilities.
 - Encourage cooperation and interaction with the Heart of the Valley YMCA
 - Encourage cooperation with and utilization of the private recreation facilities including: Tanner's Clubhouse, Rusch's Bowl, Skate City, and 95 Yoga House in the community and surrounding area.
- 6. To encourage continued involvement of Kimberly residents when planning for park and recreation development.**
- Utilize the Ad Hoc Park & Recreation Committee for Park Planning in development and implementation of the Villages' *Open Space and Recreation Plan*
 - Conduct public meetings to permit citizen involvement in developing the community's open space and recreation plan.
 - Involve the various community/civic organizations in the planning process of the Open Space & Recreation Plan, as well as park and recreation developments in the community.
- 7. To create a unified image of Kimberly by coordinating the designs of park developments**
- Maintain consistent design elements in future developments in landscaping, lighting, signage, park shelter buildings, play equipment, benches, colorful banner poles, pavement surface treatments, etc., in both the parks and downtown areas.
 - Develop unique and exciting designs, which highlight the image of the Village by capturing features that stand out as "Kimberly".
- 8. To promote and encourage cooperation with the development of the Fox Cities Greenways Program**
- Develop links to the CE Trail, providing access through the community
 - Develop the Railroad Street Trail from Maes Avenue to 3rd Street as a connecting link between the CE Trail and the Sunset Park and Treaty Park trails
 - Develop trails in Treaty Park and along Papermill Run connecting the Community Bridge, Memorial Park, and Sunset Park as part of the Fox River Parkway trail system.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCES

The terrain in Kimberly is relatively flat with a few scattered areas of woodland cover. The average elevation is approximately 750 feet above sea level. Steep slopes are located in the northwestern portion of the Village and along the banks of the Fox River, where elevation changes between the river and bank top approximate 40 feet. The northwestern slopes, located in Sunset Point Park, are used by local residents for tobogganing, sledding and snowboarding.

Kimberly is located within the Fox River basin which, with its tributaries, serves as the major natural drainage way in southeastern Outagamie County. Approximately 11,000 feet of Kimberly's northern boundary is adjacent to the Fox River. New development in Rivers Edge, Paper Mill Estates, and other former mill site developments are creating additional river view and access for residential, commercial and green space opportunities.

Three intermittent streams, which drain into the Fox River, serve as natural drainage ways within the Village of Kimberly. The first stream flows in a northerly direction through the western portion of the Village and drains into the river in the northeastern corner of Sunset Point Park. The second stream flows through the southeastern portion of the Village and exits the Village along the south side of the railroad tracks before reaching the Village of Combined Locks. The third, Garners Creek flows from west to east through the Emons subdivision into the Town of Buchanan.

The development of storm water retention ponds has provided water access and additional passive recreation areas within the community.

There are four (4) areas within the community that have unique environmental characteristics:

1. Sunset Point Park, in the northwestern portion of the Village, contains large areas of vegetation cover.
2. The Conservancy Area is a wooded property, adjacent to Stonegate Park and the Stonegate subdivision south of the railroad tracks.
3. Nature corridor including Garners Creek, located between S. Railroad Street and County N, behind US Venture.
4. Nature Conservancy and forest to the south of Kimberly High School

AREA RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Kimberly is located in the center of the Fox Cities. The surrounding communities of Appleton, Combined Locks, Little Chute, Kaukauna and Buchanan provide neighboring parks, which serve Kimberly residents. Van Zeeland Park, Lindberg Park, and Memorial Park, located in the Village of Combined Locks, are utilized by Kimberly residents. Other nearby parks include: Telulah Park, Mead Park, Lions Park, Dercks Park, Schaefer Park, and Reid Municipal Golf Course in the

eastern part of the City of Appleton. Doyle Park, Van Leishout Park, and Heesakker Park in the Village of Little Chute, Springfield, Hickory, and Town Hall Parks in the Town of Buchanan, plus Community Park in the Town of Harrison are also frequented by Village residents. 1000 Islands Environmental Center in the City of Kaukauna provides visitors with opportunities for passive and active recreation experiences. In addition to Kimberly residents utilizing park facilities in neighboring communities, many residents from these communities also visit Kimberly's parks, especially Roosevelt, Verhagen, Memorial, and Sunset Point Parks.

Plamann County Park located six miles northwest, Calumet County Park located approximately fifteen miles to the southeast, and High Cliff State Park approximately eight miles south of Kimberly also serves the residents of the Fox Cities.

LOCAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Local open space and recreational land in Kimberly comprises a total of 239.3 acres. The Village maintains eleven parks and a conservancy area with a combined area of 106.3 acres. In addition, the Kimberly Area School District, which also serves the Village of Combined Locks and portions of the Town of Buchanan and the Village of Harrison, maintains 120 acres of open space and recreational land in Kimberly. The Heart of the Valley YMCA and Holy Spirit School also have land available for recreational use. (See Figure 2)

EXISTING PARK AND RECREATIONAL ACREAGE (Table 4)

Village of Kimberly

Name	Village Ownership	School District Ownership	Holy Spirit School Ownership	YMCA Ownership	Available for Public Use
Sunset Point Park	80.8				80.8
Nature Conservancy	6.8				6.8
Memorial Park	4.6				4.6
Roosevelt Park	4.4				4.4
Treaty Park	4.2				4.2
Verhagen Park	3.9				3.9
Triangle Park	1.1				1.1
Liberty Park	0.7				0.7
John Street Park	0.5				0.5
Stonegate Park	0.5				0.5
Van Daalwyk Park	0.4				0.4
Centennial Park	0.4				0.4
Kimberly High School		68.0			68.0
Gerritts Middle School		48.0			48.0
Mapleview IM School		2.0			2.0
West Side Elementary		2.0			2.0
Holy Spirit School			2.0		2.0
Heart of the Valley YMCA				9.0	9.0
	106.3	120.0	2.0	9.0	239.3



VILLAGE PARKS

Sunset Point Park - Sunset Point Park, one of the premier recreational sites in the Fox Cities, is located in the northwestern part of the Village between Kimberly Avenue and the Fox River. The park contains about 80 acres, with over 3,000 feet of frontage on the Fox River. These totals include an adjacent conservancy area along the river, which has been donated to the Village. Sunset Point Park's softball diamonds have hosted the International Softball Congress World Fast pitch Softball Tournament ten times, are used by Kimberly High School for varsity baseball, varsity and junior varsity softball games and other organized leagues including: Cardinal Youth Softball, Kimberly Baseball Organization, and the Kimberly Recreation Association. The soccer fields are utilized by the Kimberly Area Soccer Association.

The primary entrance drive into the park from Kimberly Avenue passes through an attractive setting of scattered woods bordering the retention pond and stream, which flows through the park. A multi-purpose blacktop trail system meanders through the park offering safe passage for walking, bicycling, and roller blading. Sunset Beach Swimming Facility, a man-made swimming beach, is located west of Sunset Park Road. Facilities include spacious sand beach, diving boards, slides, beach house with concession stand, and picnic tables. A paved parking lot, located directly south of the swimming facility on Fulcer Avenue, can accommodate approximately 240 vehicles.

The picnic and playground area, prominently located on a knoll high above the river at the north end of the park, is encircled by Sunset Park Road. Facilities in this area include restrooms, two shelters (one enclosed and one open-sided) about 40 picnic tables, 16 benches, two large grills, playground area, and a scenic overlook. Parking along the drive on the west side of the picnic area provides 40 parking spaces, and an additional parking area below the hill provides parking for about 20 vehicles.

The Sunset Lower Softball Diamond and the boat landing area are located adjacent to the river east and downhill from the picnic area. The Lower Softball Complex includes a full complement of support amenities including permanent seating for over 2,000 spectators, fencing, field lighting, scoreboard, concession stand, press box, restrooms, shelter, and two storage buildings. The main concession stand houses an office, meeting room and enclosed spectator viewing area. The Lower Diamond is considered to be one of the finest softball facilities in the world, and is primarily used for adult softball leagues. Adjacent to the fee per launch boat landing is an accessible fishing pier and a kayak launch. A paved parking area accommodates 120 vehicles and 25 vehicle-boat trailers. A lighted toboggan/sledding hill is also located in this area.

The upland area in the eastern portion of the park features the Kimberly Amphitheater, a lighted baseball diamond with a batting cage, restrooms, two storage buildings, and concessions building. A softball diamond with lights as well as a concession/storage/restroom building, a youth baseball/softball diamond with scorer's booth, two soccer fields with a small shelter, playground equipment, and paved parking for about 140 vehicles.

Treaty Park – Located on the former mill site, the 4.2 acres will be the site of a community park which will look to capture some of the mill’s rich history in the community with a paper theme. A lighted trail through Treaty Park will connect Memorial Park and the Trail along Papermill Run on the north side of the park. Proposed features of this park include: ADA accessible playground with poured in place surfacing, a concrete gathering space with awning covered presentation site, green space, plus landscaping including trees, prairie grass flower beds, and hilly terrain. Creating an enticing appearance from Maes Avenue should be the focus of landscaping in that area of the park. Historical components such as paper roll monument, and possible grinder rolls and brick pavers salvaged from mill could be displayed at the site. On street parking will be available on both Red Cedar Parkway and White Cedar Parkway. Utilities such as power outlets and irrigation/water will need to be considered in the design process.

Stonegate Park & Conservancy Area - Stonegate Park, consisting of 0.5 acres, is a neighborhood play area including playground equipment. The adjacent 6.8 acre wooded tract is designated as a conservancy area.

Memorial Park - Memorial Park is located between Kimberly Avenue and Maes Avenue in downtown Kimberly, and this park is linked to the proposed Treaty Park on the former mill site. This 4.6 acre site contains a storm water retention pond with lighted fountains and two overlooks, lighted asphalt trails, gazebo, and landscaping.

Roosevelt Park - Located in the southeastern portion of Kimberly, Roosevelt Park is bounded by Washington Street, East Third Street, and Lincoln Street. This 4.4 acre park contains a youth baseball/softball diamond, an open sided shelter with restrooms, a large open play space, and playground equipment. A parking lot located along Lincoln Street accommodates 45 vehicles.

Verhagen Park - Verhagen Park, occupying 3.9 acres, is located in the southern portion of the community on Third Street, across the street from Westside Elementary School. Facilities include a soccer field, two tennis courts, playground equipment, and an open-sided shelter with attached restrooms. A paved parking lot for approximately 35 vehicles is located in the southeast corner of the park.

Triangle Park - Triangle Park, containing 1.1 acres, occupies a triangular piece of land in the northeastern portion of the Village between Prospect Street and Maes Avenue. This park site offers playground equipment, an open air shelter, and benches. On-street parking is available.

John Street Park - John Street Park, located in the northern portion of the community on Charles Street, is a 0.5 acre neighborhood playground which contains green space, and playground equipment, benches, a trail and trees. On-street parking is available.

Van Daalwyk Park - Located in the southwestern portion of the community on Third Street, between Linda Street and south Roger Street. This 0.4 acre neighborhood playground provides playground equipment, a small play area, and is separated from the adjacent residential neighbors by a chain link fence. On-street parking is available.

Liberty Park - Located in the southeastern portion of the community between Doerfler Drive and Lang Way. This 0.7 acre neighborhood playground provides playground equipment, benches, and a large green space which also serves as a detention pond. On-street parking is available.

Centennial Park –This 0.4 acre site is located on the corner of Albert Way and Bobby Court. This neighborhood playground offers playground equipment, an open air shelter, and benches. On-street parking is available.

Municipal Complex - Kimberly's Municipal Complex contains meeting rooms and kitchen available to the public for various activities and social events. The adjacent building houses the Fire Department and Senior Center, with a small kitchen and rooms for cards and socialization.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

Holy Spirit Parish - Holy Spirit Parish, located at the intersection of Pine Street and Kimberly Avenue, contains playground equipment and basketball hoops in the parking lot. A gymnasium is located in the school building. About one and a half acres of vacant land are available for further recreational development directly west of the parking lot.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

Kimberly High School – Kimberly High School, located along County Highway N in the Village of Kimberly and the Village of Combined Locks. The site consists of 68 acres of open space and recreational facilities including: 10 tennis courts, a baseball diamond, a softball diamond, batting cages two practice football/soccer fields, sledding hill, and a disc golf course. The Gymnasium Field house offers 3 courts for basketball/volleyball, and a competitive basketball and volleyball court. Two weight rooms plus an indoor 60 yard artificial turf facility which includes nets for batting cages, and asphalt sprint lanes, sand long jump pits, and pole vault box. The John Malin Community Fitness Center offers open hours for community member weight training, fitness, and cardiovascular exercise, as it is equipped with exercise bikes, treadmills, elliptical trainers, selectorized and free weight equipment.

J.R. Gerritts Middle School – J. R. Gerritts Middle School is located in the southern portion of the community directly east of John Street and south of the railroad tracks. The school building and parking lots occupy approximately nine acres of the 40.5 acres of school property. An additional 48 acres are available for public use and include a lighted artificial turf football field with a rubberized track, utilized by Kimberly High School, a baseball diamond, a lighted soccer field, eight tennis courts, and 2 practice football/soccer fields. The school building contains a large and small gymnasium, a wrestling room, and a weight room which are used on evenings and weekends by community organizations for youth and adult activities.

Mapleview Intermediate School – Mapleview Intermediate School is located in the central portion of the Village at the intersection of Main Street and First Street. The school buildings, which occupy approximately four acres of the six acres of school land. The remaining two acres are available for public use and include playground equipment, a paved basketball area and a green space. The building contains a gymnasium, which is used on evenings and weekends by community organizations for youth and adult activities.

Westside Elementary School - Westside Elementary School, which includes grades Pre-K, through 5, occupies approximately five acres in the west central portion of the Village. Verhagen Park is located across the street from the school. The two acres available for outdoor recreation include playground equipment and a basketball area. An intermittent stream, which flows in a northerly direction to Sunset Point Park, bounds the school grounds to the west. The school contains two gymnasiums, which are used on evenings and weekends by community organizations for youth and adult activities.

NEIGHBORING PARKS

Van Zeeland Park Combined Locks. - Van Zeeland Park, containing 5.27 acres, is located one-half block east of Roosevelt Park in the Village of Combined Locks. The park includes soccer fields, a paved basketball area, two tennis courts, playground equipment, an open-sided shelter, and restrooms.

Memorial Park, Combined Locks - Located adjacent to the Civic Center, this park includes 60.47 acres including two lighted and one unlighted baseball/softball diamonds, hiking trails, two lighted volleyball courts, an archery range, a lighted basketball court, sledding hill, soccer fields, playground equipment, enclosed shelter which houses restrooms and a press box.

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Park and Recreation needs may include the need to utilize existing or additional park land to accommodate new facilities, the need for additional parks in areas where new residential growth is occurring, and the need for new or improved park facilities and equipment at existing sites. Recreation standards (land, location, and facility needs), Park & Recreation Department planning, and community input are useful when identifying park and recreation needs.

LAND NEEDS

National standards recommend 6.25 - 10 acres of publicly owned open space for every 1,000 residents as a barometer for determining whether a community has adequate park land to meet the recreational needs of its residents. The Village of Kimberly's park and open space acreage (97.3 acres for 6,468 residents), excluding school facilities and the Nature Conservancy, meets or exceeds the recommended standards in all cases (Table 5). Thus, based on the total recreational acreage currently owned by the Village and public and parochial schools located in the Village, there is no need for additional park land acquisition unless there is a significant increase in demand for major active recreational facilities.

PARK ACREAGE COMPARED TO NATIONAL STANDARDS (Table 5)

Village of Kimberly

Park Type	2013 Village Park acreage *	2013 Village acreage per 1000 persons	NRPA Standard acreage per 1,000 persons	Recommended acreage for Kimberly based on acres per 1,000 persons
Mini-Park	3.6 acres	0.5 acres	0.25-0.5 acres	1.6 – 3.2 acres
Neighborhood Park	12.9 acres	2.0 acres	1 – 2 acres	6.4 – 12.7 acres
Community Park	80.8 acres	12.7 acres	5 – 8 acres	31.8 – 50.8 acres
Total	97.3 acres *	15.2 acres	6.25 – 10 acres	39.8 – 66.7 acres

NRPA = National Recreation & Parks Association

* excludes 6.8 acre Nature Conservancy

A recreation system is composed of many different components, the combination of which provides facilities and landscapes for outdoor recreation. Many entities are involved in the development and management of recreational areas and facilities for a community or region. Facilities provided by these entities should be complementary and serve a particular geographic area or recreational need. Parks are generally classified, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Mini-Parks, according to the role they serve in meeting a community's overall recreational needs.

Community Park

1. Definition Summary:

A community park, by size, program, and location, provides space and recreation activities for a defined service area, the entire city, or significant geographic segment of the city's population.

2. Size Objectives: Usually more than 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally a 2 to 5 mile radius within the city and adjacent neighborhoods outside of city limits.

4. Location Objectives:

Centrally located if planned to serve a particular geographic segment of the city. Located adjoining or immediately adjacent to a collector street providing community-wide vehicular access, thereby reducing neighborhood traffic impacts. Connected with Class II on-street and/or off-street community trail and bike lane system. Adjoining or adjacent to an elementary, middle, or high school if possible.

5. Program Objectives:

Elements that fulfill the service area, park facilities and recreation program demands. The following facilities may be compatible with community setting and park site constraints:

- a. Off-street parking calculated to satisfy demand of park and recreation activities provided. Includes bike racks and a public transit station at the site as well as both on-site and street parking.
- b. Restrooms designed to accommodate the level of park and recreation activities provided and the number of people served. Restrooms should be located within a reasonable walking distance from children's play equipment and other high-use areas.
- c. Community recreation center
- d. Park maintenance and equipment storage building
- e. Tot lot/children's play area
- f. Group picnic shelters
- g. Family picnic facilities
- h. Sport/recreation facility fulfilling the overall city demand

Appropriate program elements include:

- 1) Community pool/water feature
- 2) Soccer fields
- 3) Softball, little league baseball, junior pony league baseball
- 4) Football
- 5) Roller hockey/skateboard area
- 6) Tennis courts
- 7) Basketball courts
- 8) Amphitheater/performing arts center
- 9) Volleyball (indoor and outdoor)
- 10) Jogging trails
- 11) Other facilities as desired and as permitted under park site plan
- 12) Concessions (food and beverage)

6. Orientation:

Multi-purpose service area or community-wide recreation resource serving most or all of the population.

7. Function: Provides opportunities for a diverse mix of indoor and outdoor recreation, including walking and bicycling, outdoor performances, various programmed and non-programmed field sports, swimming, and special events.

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The minimum space for a community park is 15 acres. Facilities typically provide for some sports activities, though emphasis is on passive cultural and community centers with recreational programming and organized activities. The community park may serve populations within a 2 to 5 mile radius, a scope that would allow residents of other communities to use the park as well.

Neighborhood Park

1. Definition Summary:

A neighborhood park, by size, program, and location, provides space and recreation activities for the immediate neighborhood in which it is located. It is considered an extension of neighborhood residents' "out-of yard" and outdoor use area.

2. Size Objectives: 5 to 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally a one mile radius, but actually defined by collector street patterns which form the limits of a neighborhood or recreation service area. Population served may range from 2,000 up to 5,000.

4. Location Objectives:

Centrally located for equitable pedestrian access within a definable neighborhood service area. Adjoining or adjacent to an elementary, middle school or high school, fire station, or library, if possible.

5. Program Objectives:

Compatible with the neighborhood setting and park site constraints. Generally includes the following facilities, which are determined with public input as to use and activities:

- a. Parking for 10 to 20 vehicles.
 - 1) On-street parking is acceptable if negative impact to residential units can be mitigated. On-site parking is preferable as a planning objective.
 - 2) Bike racks with Class II trail connections where possible.
- b. Restrooms
 - 1) Men's restroom with 2 water closets, 2 urinals, 2 lavatories.
 - 2) Women's restroom with 3 water closets and 2 lavatories.
 - 3) Utility and minimum park janitorial storage space.
- c. Tot lot/children's play area
- d. Family event/group picnic facility
- e. Informal family picnic area with benches and tables
- f. Unstructured turf grass play area/play or practice field for children, young adults, and families.
- g. Sport facilities—compatible with neighborhood setting and park site constraints.
 - 1) Basketball—half court, full court, or tri-court configuration
 - 2) Volleyball area
 - 3) Softball field/soccer practice or game overlay
 - 4) Other features as needs or site conditions allow

6. Orientation: Serves all age groups, with an emphasis on youth & families in neighborhood settings.

7. Function:

To provide a combination of active recreation and passive activities, both outdoor and indoor facilities, and special features as required or needed.

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

A minimum size of 5 to 25 acres with amenities including sports facilities, picnic areas, swim facilities, cultural activities, arts, crafts, and individual passive activities. The park should primarily serve a defined neighborhood area population of 2,000-5,000. Distance from this neighborhood will vary depending on

urban development pattern, zoning, and densities in the respective neighborhoods being served. Efforts should be made to allow easy pedestrian access to the park.

Mini Park

1. Definition Summary:

A play lot or playground provides space for parental supervised recreation of toddlers and young children within a neighborhood, or as part of a larger neighborhood or community park and urban center, including retail shopping areas.

2. Size Objectives: 0.5 to 1.5 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally within a neighborhood of a half mile radius or population of 2,000-3,000. Mini parks may be included in parks that serve a larger population or service area.

4. Location Objectives:

Located in protected areas with separation from street traffic and high visibility; serving local neighborhoods and adjoining schools, libraries, or police and fire facilities.

- *Population Ratio to Acreage:* .25 to 0.5 acre per 1,000 population to achieve a park unit size that serves 2,000 to 3,000 people.

5. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The size of a play lot or playground may range from as small as 2,500 sq. ft. to 1.5 acres.* Amenities offered by these facilities generally include sand play areas, play apparatus, play equipment, and other special child-oriented features. The service radius for these parks in terms of distance from population served is limited to less than a quarter mile, or within a super block space, unless the playground is incorporated into a larger park.

6. Orientation:

Small geographic areas, sub-neighborhoods, or neighborhoods, when combined with a larger park unit. Serves youth ranging in age from toddler to 12 years, with adult supervision. Playgrounds also serve important needs in city business districts and inner city areas where a mix of commercial and recreation activity is desired.

7. Function:

Provides outdoor play experiences for youth under parental supervision. Generates neighborhood communication and provides diversion from work and domestic chores. Promotes neighborhood solidarity.

- **Community Parks:** Sunset Point Park, J. R. Gerritts Middle School, Treaty Park
- **Neighborhood Parks:** Verhagen Park, Roosevelt Park, Memorial Field
- **Mini-Parks:** Triangle Park, Van Daalwyk Park, Stonegate Park, John Street Park, Liberty Park, Centennial Park, Westside School, Mapleview School, Holy Spirit School.

LOCATION NEEDS

Even in communities the size of Kimberly, it is desirable that a range of recreational opportunities be within convenient walking distance of each resident. Convenience, however, cannot be measured only in time and distance. It must also consider the presence of natural and man-made barriers, which prevent or impede a safe walk from home to park or school. These barriers are particularly restrictive for children, handicapped, and elderly residents. The major barriers within the Village include: Kimberly Avenue, Maes Avenue, Railroad Street, Washington Street, CTH "CE", and the Canadian National Railroad tracks. The Fox River, Hwy 441, CTH "CE", and Washington Street form major barriers around the perimeter of the community. However, the Emons Acres subdivision, located south of CTH CE, extends the community beyond those perimeters. Together, these barriers segregate Kimberly into eleven neighborhoods (Map – Figure 3). A range of recreational opportunities will be available on publicly owned open space within the confines of each neighborhood.

FACILITY NEEDS

This comprehensive Open Space Plan identifies several specific facility needs in Kimberly's present and future park system:

1. Enhance the system of multi-purpose trails that interconnect the CE Trail with neighboring community trails and key points of interest in the Village of Kimberly. (See Figure 3).
2. Potential trail links include:
 - **Railroad Street** – from Third Street to Maes Avenue to link to the Sunset Park Trail and Papermill Run Trail
 - **Kennedy Avenue** – located along the south side of Kennedy from Railroad St to Marcella St
 - **Marcella Street** – located along the west side from Kennedy Avenue to Kimberly Avenue
 - **Cobblestone** – Kennedy Avenue to CE Trail connecting to the Aspire Facility
 - **Papermill Run** – Sunset Park trail connection thru Treaty Park to the bridge

Potential complete streets, which would have identified bicycle lanes, could include:

- **3rd Street** – East/West Route
 - **John St /Main St / Elm Street** – possible North/South routes
3. Acquisition of property and/or railroad easement for a lineal park at the site of the former Omya property located adjacent to the Fox River and the Community Bridge.
 4. Development of Treaty Park at the former mill site (See Map Figure 4)
 5. Relocate John Street Park from current site to partially wooded lot located on Charles Street
 6. Study the possible reconfiguration of the youth softball diamonds/soccer fields at Sunset Park
 7. Address the existing facilities with regards to the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II and barrier free accessibility.
 8. Dog park/exercise areas should be explored in the future, which would allow for increased recreation opportunities for pet owners in Sunset Park as well as other Village parks.
 9. Continue to explore installation of large shelter with facilities at Kimberly Amphitheater

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The plan recommendations are intended to serve as a guide for the future development of park and recreation areas in the Village of Kimberly. They are designed to meet the existing and potential recreational needs of local residents. Some of the proposals may not be feasible in the near future, but they represent courses of action that could be taken if the opportunity or need arises. Proposals that are feasible for implementation in the next few years are included in the community's five year action program. Plan proposals should be reviewed as needed, to accommodate changing desires of the community.

Several general recommendations to maintain the type of park system and recreation programming desired by Village residents include:

1. The Village, through the Community Enrichment Director, should continue to maintain contact with its citizens, Kimberly School District, and community organizations about park needs.
2. The Village should continue to investigate the potential of utilizing labor from the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC), Wisconsin Correctional Institutions, and construction classes at Kimberly High School.
3. The Village should continue to explore cooperative efforts in park & recreation opportunities and trails with other local municipalities, county, and state agencies; such as the Outagamie Greenways Committee.
4. The Village should remain an active participant in the regional meetings pertaining to the control of the urban goose population and continue the Pooch Patrol and other eradication programs established to deter goose population and activities in park locations.
5. The Village of Kimberly should continue to work with the Kimberly Area School District, Village of Combined Locks, Village of Little Chute, City of Kaukauna, Town of Buchanan, Village of Harrison, and the Heart of the Valley YMCA, plus private and business facilities on the utilization, planning, and development of Park & Recreation facilities and programs.
6. Work to enhance and expand utilization of the Village of Kimberly's website: www.vokimberly.org Facebook: @villageofkimberlywi and other evolving technology, as a method of promotion, information, and communication to citizens and program participants.
7. Investigate dredging the area where Sunset Creek flows into the Fox River and in front of fishing pier
8. Maintain current grade and drainage plan for spectator area at the Amphitheater
9. Encourage continued support of the Phillip Fund at the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region for future repair, upgrades, and improvements at the Amphitheater
10. Development of Treaty Park and trail connecting Sunset Park with the community bridge
11. Continue to look at methods of improving park security with camera and other technology that may be available

SPECIFIC FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommendations for specific park and recreational facilities or improvements within the Village:

Sunset Point Park

- Place additional shade trees and picnic tables at the Amphitheater
- Removal of East & West entrance barriers and install new landscaping and signage
- Enhance the lower auxiliary lot with permanent picnic tables
- Dredge area where creek deposits into Fox River & in front of fishing pier
- Replacement of field lighting at Sunset Baseball Diamond
- Develop asphalt replacement priority program for Sunset Park
 1. Sunset Upper From Baseball Diamond east to Soccer lot
 2. Sunset Beach (consider storm water fund assistance if used as snow lot)
 3. Sunset Lower Parking lot
 4. Sunset Upper from Entrance to Baseball Diamond
- Upgrade playground adjacent to shelter #1 to make site ADA accessible including fence replacement
- Address multi-purpose trail maintenance
- Replacement of foul line fencing at Sunset Youth and Upper diamonds
- Path from Shelter #2 to playground
- Develop sand volleyball court in the area where the current volleyball poles are located
- Replacement of Shelter #1 with new structure with kitchen facilities
- Renovate 3rd base concession building on Sunset Lower to open shelter
- Install trail from boat launch behind lower diamond along river and up the hill past monument to Shelter #1
- Concept of moving Youth Diamond to NW Corner of site and reconfiguring soccer fields
- Replace bleachers on Sunset Youth diamond
- Consider lighting the walk trails in Sunset Park
- Replace steps from lower to upper at auxiliary parking lot and adjacent to sled hill
- Look to refurbish bridge adjacent to sled hill

Memorial Park

- Install additional power boxes on bollards in the park for seasonal decorations

Sunset Beach Swimming Facility

- Address maintenance and vegetation removal along west fence line
- Replace asphalt in Sunset Beach Parking lot
- Delivery of additional beach sand as needed
- Replacement and/or installation of new water play amenities

Roosevelt Park

- Replace backstop and infield sideline fencing on ball diamond
- Install permanent bench along Washington Street on North end of park
- Install trees near shelter when existing trees, which are in poor condition are removed

John Street Park

- Move park to new site on the corner of John Street and Charles St
- Consider renaming the park
- Upgrade and install existing play equipment
- Install trees/shrubs along water plant side of park
- Create walking trail through park
- Install curb cut access at entrance of park on Charles St. connecting path through park
- Install benches in the park

Van Daalwyk Park

- Replace existing play equipment possible site for an accessible playground
- Reposition rock-n-rides between swing set and play structure to expand open play area
- Install arborvitaes along fence on the north side of park

Stone Gate Park & Conservancy Area

- Install a permanent picnic table near conservancy entrance on Kennedy Ave.
- Install trees north of terrace due to narrow terrace width
- Repair/replace foot bridge in conservancy
- Plant shrubs adjacent to conservancy

Triangle Park

- Install additional benches
- Install additional trees
- Create flower bed/landscaping on the east point of the park adjacent to park sign

Treaty Park

- Install bollard lighted asphalt trail through the park connection Memorial Park and the Papermill Run Trails
- ADA accessible playground with poured in place surfacing
- Concrete gathering space with awning covered focal point
- Electrical and water utilities and stub in utilities for possible future for restroom building
- Landscaping including trees, flower beds, berms, and prairie grasses
- Historical paper theme items: Paper roll Monument, paver bricks, and possible grinder roll landscape
- Benches and sitting area
- Viewing platforms along Fox River

Liberty Park

- Additional tree planting at site
- Install bollard lights along trail through park
- Additional picnic table

Centennial Park

- No recommendations at this time

Verhagen Park

- Remove tennis courts and create additional soccer field
- Replace shelter with new structure including kitchen facility
- Reposition play equipment near tennis courts to create a unified cohesive playground

Multi-purpose Trails

- Trail along Railroad Street from Third Street to Maes Avenue linking to the Sunset Park Trails
- Papermill Runs trail connecting Sunset Park with community bridge

ACTION PLAN

The Action lists the projects the Village of Kimberly may undertake during the next several years. The action program, its components, priorities, and estimated costs are meant to serve as a guide to local officials as they develop the Village's park system. The action plan also helps clubs and organizations select potential park improvement projects. As acquisition and/or development approaches, refined costs should be researched to assist in budget preparation. A number of these projects are potential projects for cost sharing grants available through the Department of Natural Resources, plus additional funding from grants, donations, community organizations, in-kind donations and other support.

Total cost estimate of implementing the entire action program is projected at **\$2,877,955.00**