

Village of Plover Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan

Adopted April 27, 2020

2020-2025 Park Plan



Village of Plover Trustees

Tom Davies, Village President

-1st Ward-

Adam Raabe

Kendra Shiefelbein

-2nd Ward-

Orville Damrau

Gary Wolf

-3rd Ward-

Al Tessman

Steve Fritz

Village of Plover Parks Development Committee

Steve Fritz, Chairman

Kendra Schiefelbein

Gary Portzen

Jerry Krueger

Mike McGinley

Kraig Brooks

Mike Helmrick

Village of Plover Staff

Dan Mahoney, Administrator

Karen Swanson, Clerk

Deb Sniadajewski, Treasurer

Steve Kunst, Community Development Manager

Bill Konkol, Public Works Manager

Roy Hopfensperger, Ast. Public Works Manager/Parks Manager

Contents

Introduction.....	4
Other Plans	4
Purpose of this Plan	4
Section Introduction	5
Section Introduction	7
2.1 – Location	7
2.2 – Climate	7
2.3 – Geology	7
2.4 – Surface Waters.....	8
2.5 – Groundwater Resources	10
2.6 – Wildlife & Woodlands	11
2.7 – Population Statistics.....	11
Section 3.1 – Village of Plover Park Facilities.....	15
Section 3.2 – School Recreation Facilities	18
<i>Roosevelt Elementary School</i>	19
Section 3.3 – Green Circle Trail.....	19
Section 3.4 – Tomorrow River Trail	20
Introduction	23
Recreation Lot	23
Neighborhood Park.....	23
Community Park.....	24
Special Parks.....	24
Section 4.2 – Space Standards	25
Section 5.1 – General Open Space Needs.....	26
Recreation Lots.....	27
Neighborhood Parks	27
Community Parks	28
Special Parks and/or Facilities.....	28
Section 6.1 – General Comments.....	28
Section 6.2 – Green Circle Trail.....	29

Section 7.1 – Acquisition Projects	29
Section 7.2 – Plover Park Development Projects	30
Arbor Haven Park	30
Easlan/Weslan Park	30
Forest Pines Park.....	30
Iber Park.....	30
Jack's Park	30
Kubacki Park	30
Little Plover River Park.....	31
Oak Park.....	31
Oakwood Forest Park.....	31
OK Bluff Park.....	31
Okray Park.....	31
Lake Pacawa Park.....	31
Pleasant Acres Park.....	31
Springville Pond Park	31
Veteran's Memorial Park.....	31
Wayside Park.....	31
Worzella Pines Park	32
Woyak Park	32
General	32
Section 7.3 – Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Development Projects	32
Bicycle Lanes / Urban Shoulders	32
Shared Lane Markings.....	33
Signed Bike Routes.....	33
Off-Street Facilities	34
Section 7.4 – Little Plover River Acquisition and Development Project	34

Introduction

Most recently incorporated in 1971, the Village of Plover is a growing community located in Portage County in Central Wisconsin. Since 1980, the Village has grown from 5,310¹ to 13,056². Because of the developable land for residential, commercial, and manufacturing development, the Village expects to continue to grow at a reasonable pace. Given that, it's even more important for the Village to, from time to time, review our public parks and recreation spaces to ensure that the demands of our residents are met for today and into the future. This document serves as the most recent iteration of the Village's Parks and Recreation Plan.

Other Plans

Since 1973, the Village has had a Comprehensive Park Plan. This document was updated in 1978, 2000, and most recently in 2006. In the 2005 and 2020 Village Comprehensive Plan Update, Parks and Recreation play a crucial role in creating a sense of community and improves the quality of life of our residents. This update plays off of the plans of our past, and identifies plans for the future.

Purpose of this Plan

This plan is designed to help guide future park development for the Village of Plover. Inventory, future needs, and projections are included in this plan. To ensure that the most accurate information is always up to date, it is advised that this plan is reviewed every five years.

¹ US Census 1980 Census Bureau Information

² US Census 2018 Population Estimates

Section 1 – OUTDOOR RECREATION GOALS

Section Introduction

There's a reason the goals section of this plan is in the first section of this document – it's the most important in plan implementation. Without identifying clear goals and objectives in implementation, this document would sit on a shelf in Village Hall unused. As such, residents, staff, and elected officials should read this chapter and assist in the implementation of this document.

With a growing population, increase in mobility, more leisure time, a renewed focus on exercise and outdoor recreation – a higher demand will be placed on Village recreational facilities. The challenge our community will face will be to continue to provide adequate high-quality recreational facilities and open spaces to serve the needs of our growing population.

Goal 1: Ensure that high-quality outdoor recreation and open space facilities are provided to Village residents of all abilities and ages to continue to create a desirable place to live, work, and play.

Goal 2: Continue to work toward the preservation of unique historical and natural features within the Village.

These goals are designed to be a broad range of ideas set to be attained over the long-haul. Objectives and Policies set forth in this chapter will assist us in attaining our long-term goals.

Objective 1: Provide a full-range of year-round recreational facilities to serve Village residents of all abilities.

Objective 2: Provide park and recreation facilities to serve all existing and future Village residents of all abilities.

Objective 3: Encourage multi-use of park and school facilities.

Objective 4: Utilize publically-owned land for open space needs whenever possible and cooperate with private landowners in providing public access to recreation areas.

Objective 5: Support the Little Plover River Work Group efforts to restore healthy flows to the Little Plover River.

Policy A: Identify existing neighborhoods that are underserved by open space and recreation facilities, work toward acquisition of land to reduce underserved neighborhoods.

Policy B: Ensure new residential neighborhoods are developed with suitable and accessible park and recreation facilities.

Policy C: Work with the Stevens Point Area School District to identify areas of cooperative development and accessibility of open spaces and recreation facilities, such as school park sites.

Policy D: Land that is acquired for municipal wellhead protection and is not identified for development should be encouraged to be zoned "Conservancy" to retain open space and future recreational facilities.

Policy E: Continue to work toward land conservation and open space near the Little Plover River to increase the recreational opportunities and conservation of the River.

Section 2 – COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Section Introduction

The Community Background and Analysis Section is intended to offer a brief glimpse into our community. Things such as climate, geology, surface waters, ground waters, woodlands and wildlife, economic analysis and population projections are reviewed in this section. This background will assist policy makers in future decision of parks and open space acquisition, updates, and changes that may be necessary.

2.1 – Location

The Village of Plover is located in Portage County, Wisconsin and is centrally located immediately south of the City of Stevens Point and the Village of Whiting. Major roadways such as Interstate 39, State Highway 51 and 54 run through the Village of Plover, with the community being situated 35 minutes away from urban areas such as Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Wausau, and Waupaca. The Village is bordered by the Wisconsin River along the western boundary.

2.2 – Climate

With four distinct seasons, the Village offers a community that is conducive to pleasant living, working, and agricultural conditions. Summers are warm enough to offer a full-range of warm weather activities, while winters offer a full-range of typical winter activities.

Average Summer Temperature:	76°F
Average Winter Temperature:	16°F
Average Growing Season:	133 days
Average Annual Precipitation:	31.5 inches
Average Annual Snowfall:	48 inches

2.3 – Geology

2.3A – Regional Geology

The Village of Plover is located near the boundary line between two geological provinces (the northern highlands and the central sand plain). The northern highlands area is characterized by high bedrock, low available groundwater supply, clay type soils, poor land drainage and northern climate vegetation. Generally, this area lies to

the north of the Village. The Village primarily lies within the central sand plain, which is characterized by flat topography, ample groundwater supply and sand plain features, including sandy soils that are extensively well drained.

The surface geology of the region along the Wisconsin River is characterized as an “outwash plain” formed from materials deposited in the area from meltwater flowing to the Wisconsin River from the edges of the glacial ice sheets to the east. As a result, the Village’s landscape was shaped indirectly by glacial action, while lands to the east were directly shaped by glacial “drift” and formed a hilly landscape.

2.3B – Bedrock

The Village’s location near a series of rapids (now inundated) on the Wisconsin River is evidence of the presence of bedrock near the surface of the ground throughout the northwestern area of the Village. Depth to bedrock is generally greater than 10’ throughout most of the community.

2.3C – Soils

The most prevalent soil types in the Village are Plainfield loamy sand and Friendship loamy sand, which occurs throughout the majority of the Village. The remaining soil types, found primarily near watercourses, were formed from residual bedrock materials near the ground surface and are generally denser. The soils adjacent to the river are subject to heaving and swelling from frost action and present potential problems to urban development. Further complications can be expected by the presence of bedrock in this same area.

2.3D – Topography

Glacial outwash formed a relatively flat topography in the Village, which averages about 1,085 feet above sea level. The flat topography contributes to some drainage problems in areas that have been hard surfaced for development purposes. There are no hills or steep grades which present significant problems to development. The shoreland area along the Little Plover and Wisconsin River presents the sharpest change in topography. Grades are relatively gentle along the Little Plover, but grades of 25% can be found along the Wisconsin River.

2.4 – Surface Waters

2.4A – Wisconsin River

The Wisconsin River is a major surface water resource located on the western edge of the Village. The water is soft and darkly stained. Most of the River is in flowage condition due to the Consolidated Water Power Company and Kimberly Clark dams north of the Plover section of the River. Much of the River’s shoreland is undeveloped and owned by the two paper companies. Some private ownership is present on the southern shore of the river.

2.4B – Little Plover River

The Little Plover River is a clear, hard water stream that flows through the Village and into the Wisconsin River. Within the Village the Little Plover River becomes an impoundment which is called Springville Pond. Much of the volume of the Little Plover River is contributed by springs. Sand and gravel are the predominant bottom materials. Undercut banks, logs, and trees are abundant. Brook trout is the predominant fish species in this stream. In addition, there are approximately 190 acres of DNR fish management lands to the east of the Village, adjacent to the Little Plover River.

2.4C – Springville Pond

Springville Pond is an 18-acre impoundment on the Little Plover River with clear, hard water. The natural sand bottom is covered by silt in some area. Fish species present include northern pike, perch, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegills, brook trout, and rainbow trout. Wildlife use of the pond is moderate.

2.4D – Wetlands

There are limited wetland areas within the Village. Wetland areas are situated primarily along bottomlands adjacent to the Little Plover River and along the banks of the Wisconsin River. Some wetland areas along the Little Plover River have been lost to residential development, however remaining wetlands are considered undevelopable.

2.4E – Man Made Lakes

Manmade lakes include Lakes Pacawa and Clar-Re. Lake Pacawa has a public beach and picnic area. The Wisconsin Korean War Veterans' Memorial has been established on the island located in the center of the lake. Worzella Pines Park is located on the northeast end of the lake. Lake Pacawa is used for a variety of community events including the Hmong Association New Year and events, the Korean War Memorial Ceremony and Program, and the Celebrate Plover Festival. The Plover Lions Club also uses Lake Pacawa for a variety of events.

Lake Clar-Re is associated with residential development and is located just north of the Wisconsin Central railroad tracks along Hoover Avenue.

2.4F – Water Quality

Wisconsin River. Water quality in the river has improved significantly since the late 1970's, a direct result of treatment plant improvements and effluent reductions of paper mills and other industry along the River. Recreational activity, particularly fishing and boating, have increased on the River. Water clarity continues to be low due to suspended solids from soil erosion, organic material and nonpoint pollution sources.

Springville Pond. Water quality and invasive species issues began to have an increased negative impact on Springville Pond in the early 2000's. As the result, the Village implemented a management plan for Springville Pond in 2010. The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidance to protect current good conditions, address existing problems and prevent future problems that may be detrimental to the Springville Pond/Little Plover River ecosystem. The plan includes goals, objectives, and recommendations (actions) to protect the scenic beauty, peacefulness, recreational opportunities, and water quality for current and future generations. The Management Plan addresses the following categories:

- Water Quality and Land Use
- Water Quantity
- Shorelands
- Aquatic Plants and Aquatic Invasive Species
- Fisheries and Recreation
- Communication and Organization

2.5 – Groundwater Resources

In 1990 the Village adopted a Wellhead Protection Plan to protect groundwater resources and safeguard public health and safety. The Wellhead Protection Plan was updated in 2000 to reflect the addition of a new well, and associated wellhead protection needs. The Wellhead Protection Plan delineates wellhead protection zones, evaluates contaminant sources, identifies potential management strategies and offers specific recommendations for protection of the Village wells' recharge areas.

The Village of Plover began working with the Little Plover Work Group in 2004 to address concerns that high capacity wells near the Little Plover River were negatively affecting Little Plover River flows. The Little Plover River Work Group is a voluntary group comprised of representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Village of Plover, Village of Whiting, Del Monte, farmers in the recharge area, Portage County, Trout Unlimited, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, and the Wisconsin River Alliance. The principal goal of the Work Group is to establish healthy flows to the Little Plover River, as defined by the DNR. The Village of Plover has voluntarily implemented several measures to improve healthy flows to the Little Plover River, including switching 85% of pumping from two municipal wells located within a half mile of the Little Plover River to a municipal well that is located 2 ½ miles from the River and pursuing acquisition of 140 acres of land adjacent to the Little Plover River. The land acquisition is intended to convert land current used for irrigated agriculture to a park/natural area.

The Village anticipates implementing additional measures that will improve stream flows to the Little Plover River, as recommendations are developed/refined by the Little Plover River Work Group.

2.6 – Wildlife & Woodlands

Scattered woodlands exist throughout the Village, which provide habitat for various wildlife species.

Fish and wildlife habitat is concentrated in the Wisconsin and Little Plover River corridors. The Little Plover River is a trout stream and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has made considerable stream bank improvements east of the Village to improve trout habitat.

2.7 – Population Statistics

2.7A – Population Changes

The Village of Plover has a 2018 population of 13,056 as estimated by the US Census Bureau. Internal Village of Plover population projections have a 2018 population estimate between 13,249 and 13, 896.

The Village of Plover incorporated out of the Town of Plover in 1971, with an estimated population of 2,618. As shown on the table below, the Village as experienced significant growth.

Year	Population	Net +/-	% Change
1971 ³	2,618	-	-
1980	5,310	2,692	102.83
1990	8,176	2,866	53.97
2000	10,520	2,344	28.67
2010	12,123	1,603	15.24
2018 (est) ⁴	13,056	933	7.70

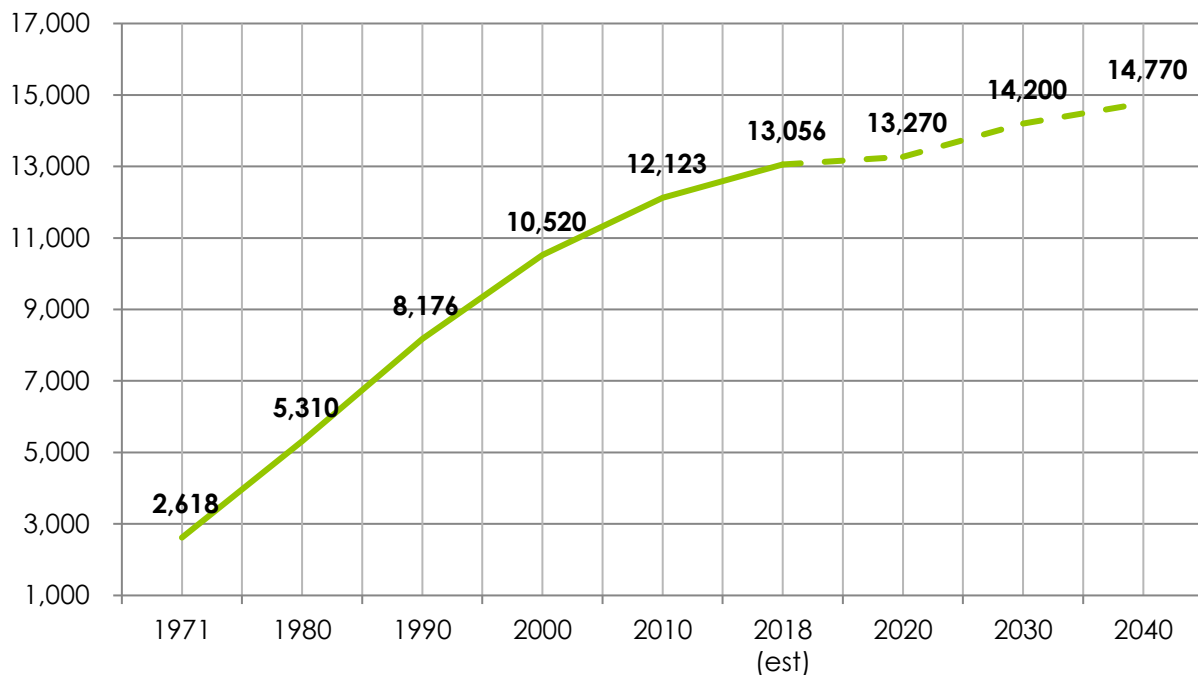
The Village is part of the Stevens Point urban area, which includes the City of Stevens Point, Villages of Plover, Whiting and Park Ridge. The urban area's population has increased 44.35% between 1970 and 2018. Population growth in the Village of Plover has had a significant impact on the population of the urban area. For example: the Village of Plover comprised 10 percent of the urban area's population in 1970. By 2018, the Village comprised 31.52 percent of the urban area's population. A comparison of growth can be found on the table on the next page.

³ Village of Plover Incorporation Year

⁴ Most recent data provided by the US Census Bureau. Population estimates are based on July 1, 2018

	Population Change					% of Urban Area Population Change			
	Plover	St. Point	Park Ridge	Whiting	Total	Plover	St. Point	Park Ridge	Whiting
1970	2,618	23,479	817	1,782	28,696	9.12%	81.82%	2.85%	6.21%
1980	5,310	22,970	643	2,050	30,973	17.14%	74.16%	2.08%	6.62%
1990	8,176	23,006	546	1,838	33,566	24.36%	68.54%	1.63%	5.48%
2000	10,520	24,551	488	1,760	37,319	28.19%	65.79%	1.31%	4.72%
2010	12,123	26,717	491	1,724	41,055	29.53%	65.08%	1.20%	4.20%
2018	13,056	26,161	496	1,709	41,422	31.52%	63.16%	1.20%	4.13%

US Census Population Estimates with WI-DOA Projections - Plover, WI



As the Village continues to see significant residential development and expected physical industrial and business growth, it can only be expected that outside pressures on our parks will occur. Pressures such as development of undeveloped land, economic, and environmental will continue to negatively increase outside pressures on our parks. It will be extremely important that the Village retains and plans for future park and recreation space to afford similar opportunities for parks and recreation to future residents that we enjoy today.

2.7B – Population Income & Employment

Household income for a community indicates several items, most importantly being an indicator of local economic health and prosperity. The Village's income distribution is indicated on the table below:

	Plover			Portage County		
	2000	2010	2017	2000	2010	2017
Household #	4,000	4,644	5,075	25,112	27,573	28,072
Less than \$10,000	147	148	207	1,767	1,837	1,608
\$10,000-\$14,999	172	265	217	1,608	1,561	1,510
\$15,000 - \$24,999	389	469	597	3,174	3,171	2,806
\$25,000-\$34,999	568	436	371	3,425	2,893	2,733
\$35,000-\$49,999	623	567	617	4,484	3,911	3,906
\$50,000-\$74,999	1,071	992	1,046	5,771	5,915	5,800
\$75,000-\$99,999	545	708	707	2,820	3,977	3,891
\$100,000-\$149,999	286	721	913	1,346	2,912	3,929
\$150,000-\$199,999	105	199	252	371	704	1,103
\$200,000 or more	94	139	148	346	692	786
Median Income	51,238	59,714	61,398	43,487	51,456	54,620
Mean Income	57,951	70,580	74,746	50,373	62,396	69,694

With one of the highest median incomes in Portage County, we can see that the income distribution for Plover has shown growth at income above \$70,000. This provides evidence that Plover residents are in a relatively favorable economic position relative to other communities in Portage County and Wisconsin.

Employment is a key indicator of the local economic health of the Village. As identified on the table below, the Village's 2.61% unemployment is lower than Portage County's 3.11% and is significantly below what is considered "normal" unemployment in a stable economy of 4.00%. This Park Plan Update was written in 2019 during a national economic expansion.

	Plover	Plover %	Portage County	Portage County %
Population 16 years and over	9,788		58,106	
In labor force	6,756	69.02%	39,120	67.33%
Employed	6,501	66.42%	37,391	64.35%
Unemployed	255	2.61%	1,808	3.11%
Armed Services	-	0.00%	21	0.04%
Not In Labor Force	3,032	30.98%	18,986	32.67%

Section 3 – INVENTORY OF PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES

Section 3.1 – Village of Plover Park Facilities

PARK	FACILITIES																
	Basketball Courts	Canoe Landing	Concession Stand	Cross-Country Ski Trails	Ice Rink	Ball Diamonds	Picnic Areas	Pier	Playground Equipment	Restrooms	Shelter House	Skateboard Park	Soccer Fields	Tennis/Pickleball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Beach	Walkway
EASLAN-WESLAN PARK	●				●	●	●		●	●	●						
FOREST PINES PARK							●		●								
HOOVER HEIGHTS PARK																	●
IBER PARK						●	●		●	●	●		●				
JACK'S PARK	●						●		●								
KUBACKI PARK	●						●		●								
LITTLE PLOVER RIVER PARK				●		●	●		●	●	●			●	●		●
OAK PARK						●			●	●	●						
OAKWOOD FOREST PARK	●						●		●								
OK BLUFF PARK							●		●								
OKRAY PARK						●	●		●	●	●						
PACAWA PARK						●	●		●	●	●		●		●	●	●
PLEASANT ACRES PARK						●	●		●								
PLOVER PINES PARK																	
SPRINGVILLE POND PARK							●	●									
VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK			●			●	●			●							
WAYSIDE PARK							●										
WORZELLA PINES PARK		●				●	●		●	●	●						●
WOYAK PARK			●			●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●			

There are 19 parks in the Village of Plover total 198.5 acres of land. The following are brief descriptions of each park, with site plans located in Appendix B. A general location map of park facilities can be found in Figure 1.

Easland-Weslan Park

This 9.1-acre community park with parking contains a tennis court, modular playground equipment, swing set, monkey bars, and rocking animals, 2 Little League ball diamonds, dugouts, picnic area, a combination basketball/hard surface area, a shelter house with heated restrooms and warming house. An open ice skating rink is located in this park during the winter months as well as an outdoor lighted hockey rink with boarded sides.

Forest Pines Park

This 3.7-acre neighborhood park includes modular play equipment with swings, rocking animals and covered picnic area.

Hoover Heights Park

This 1.7-acre neighborhood park remains in a natural state with a natural path walkway to Magnolia Drive.



Iber Park

This is a 7.5-acre community park which contains a picnic area, 2 soccer fields, 2 T-ball diamonds, a shelter house with restrooms, modular play equipment, swing set, and rocking animals, irrigation and parking area.

Jack's Park

This 3.3-acre neighborhood park contains modular play equipment, swing set, rocking animals, picnic area, and a combination basketball/hard surface area.

Kubacki Park

This 4.6-acre neighborhood park offers a sandlot baseball field with backstop, modular play equipment; swing set, rocking animals, picnic area, and a combination basketball/hard surface area.

Little Plover River Park

This 51.4-acre community park is the largest of the community parks and offers a variety of facilities and services: Jogging and cross country ski trails, paved pedestrian/handicapped walkway, lighted tennis courts and a volleyball court, picnic area, modular play equipment, swing set, and rocking animals, Little league ball

diamond, T-ball diamond, Babe Ruth diamond, bleachers, shelter house with restrooms, training facility with batting tunnels and 108 parking spaces.

Oak Park

This 2.5-acre neighborhood park offers a Little League baseball diamond with bleachers, modular play equipment, swing sets, rocking animals, irrigation, and a shelter house with restrooms.

Oakwood Forest Park

This 2-acre neighborhood park contains a small picnic area, modular playground equipment, swing set, rocking animals, and a combination basketball/hard surface area.

OK Bluff Park

This 1.9-acre neighborhood park includes modular playground equipment and a picnic area.

Okray Park

This 3-acre neighborhood park offers a small picnic area, 3 T-ball diamonds, shelter house with restrooms, modular play equipment, swing set, rocking animals, picnic area, and a graveled parking lot.

Pacawa Park

This 35-acre community park includes one irrigated Babe Ruth ball diamond, two regulation size, irrigated soccer fields, an unsupervised beach area, sand volleyball court, swing set, a shelter house with restrooms, and parking. Picnic areas are located in various locations.

Pleasant Acres Park

This 3.3-acre neighborhood park includes a Little League ball diamond, modular play equipment, swing set, rocking animals, picnic area, and a chipped trail leading into the park from Zblewski Drive.

Plover Pines Park

Due to close proximity to the railroad tracks and highway, this 1.09-acre park will remain as a natural wooded lot.

Springville Pond Park

This 4-acre community park abutting Springville Pond offers picnic areas, a pier, and paved parking.



Veteran's Memorial Park

This fully-developed 5.7-acre community/special park contains lighted American Legion and Little League baseball diamonds with bleachers, a fully equipped concession stand with restrooms, picnic area, 3 paved parking lots, and fully irrigated fields.

Wayside Park

This 2.7-acre special wayside park is a small rest stop with a picnic area.

Worzella Pines Park

This 31.5-acre community park located on the shores of Lake Pacawa provides a large picnic area with restrooms, canoe/kayak launch area, walkways, modular play equipment, swing set, rocking animals, shoreline benches and 2 T-ball diamonds. It also contains a shelter house with a large activities area that is available for rent.

Woyak Community Sports Complex

The Woyak Community Sports Complex is an area located south of Easlan-Weslan Park consisting of 26 acres of fully developed athletic and recreational fields. It contains four lighted baseball diamonds (Spud, Fire Pro, Roman and Schlutter fields) to accommodate boy's Little League and girls softball, one boy's Babe Ruth/high school size lighted baseball field (Blue Top field) and one lighted boy's pony league/girls softball field (Soik field), along with flag football athletic fields, sand volleyball courts, picnic area, playground equipment, skateboard park, and a shelter house/concession stands with restrooms. Woyak Community Sports Complex also includes a 17,000 square foot building that houses the Boys & Girls Club.

Hoover Avenue Multi-Purpose Trail

The Hoover Avenue Multi-Purpose Trail is part of the Green Circle Trail, a 30-mile recreational trail that encircles the Stevens Point urban area. The Hoover Avenue trail provides a route for bicyclists, joggers and walkers. This trail is heavily utilized and provides access to Lake Pacawa, Little Plover River Park and Easlan/Weslan Park. The Hoover Avenue trail also links with the Whiting section of the Green Circle Trail.

Galecke Park

This 33.2-acre park is located on the east bank of the Wisconsin River in the Town of Plover, on River Drive, just west of the Village of Plover. Galecke Park is managed as a boating/fishing area and picnic area. Major Activities include picnicking, fishing, motor boating, and water skiing. Facilities include a boat ramp, boat dock, open shelter, pit vault toilet, and picnic area.

Section 3.2 – School Recreation Facilities

McDill School

McDill School serves as a neighborhood park for Village residents who reside east of the school. This 4-acre facility at McDill School includes the following:

1. Two basketball goals
2. Play apparatus
3. Hard court play area
4. Two playfields
5. Community gardens

Plover Whiting Elementary School

Located at the southeast corner of Airline Road and Hoover Avenue, Plover-Whiting school includes a 4-acre neighborhood park facility that provides recreational opportunities for younger families in the area. Facilities include:

1. Two baseball backstops
2. Play apparatus
3. Open areas suitable for soccer

Roosevelt Elementary School

Roosevelt School includes a 3.5-acre neighborhood park facility, located in the center of the Village of Plover. Facilities include the following:

1. Baseball diamond
2. Soccer net
3. Four basketball goals
4. Play apparatus
5. Picnic tables and benches
6. Four lane blacktop running track

Section 3.3 – Green Circle Trail

The Green Circle Trail is a recreational trail that encircles the Stevens Point urban area. Existing segments of trail located within the Village of Plover includes the Hoover Road segment, which connects the Village of Plover to the 24-mile trail system. The Hoover Road segment begins at Lake Pacawa and heads north along Hoover Avenue until turning west through Stevens Point School District property located just south of the CTH HH intersection. Figure 2 illustrates existing Green Circle Trail, including segments within the Village of Plover.

The Green Circle Trail was designed to accomplish three goals:

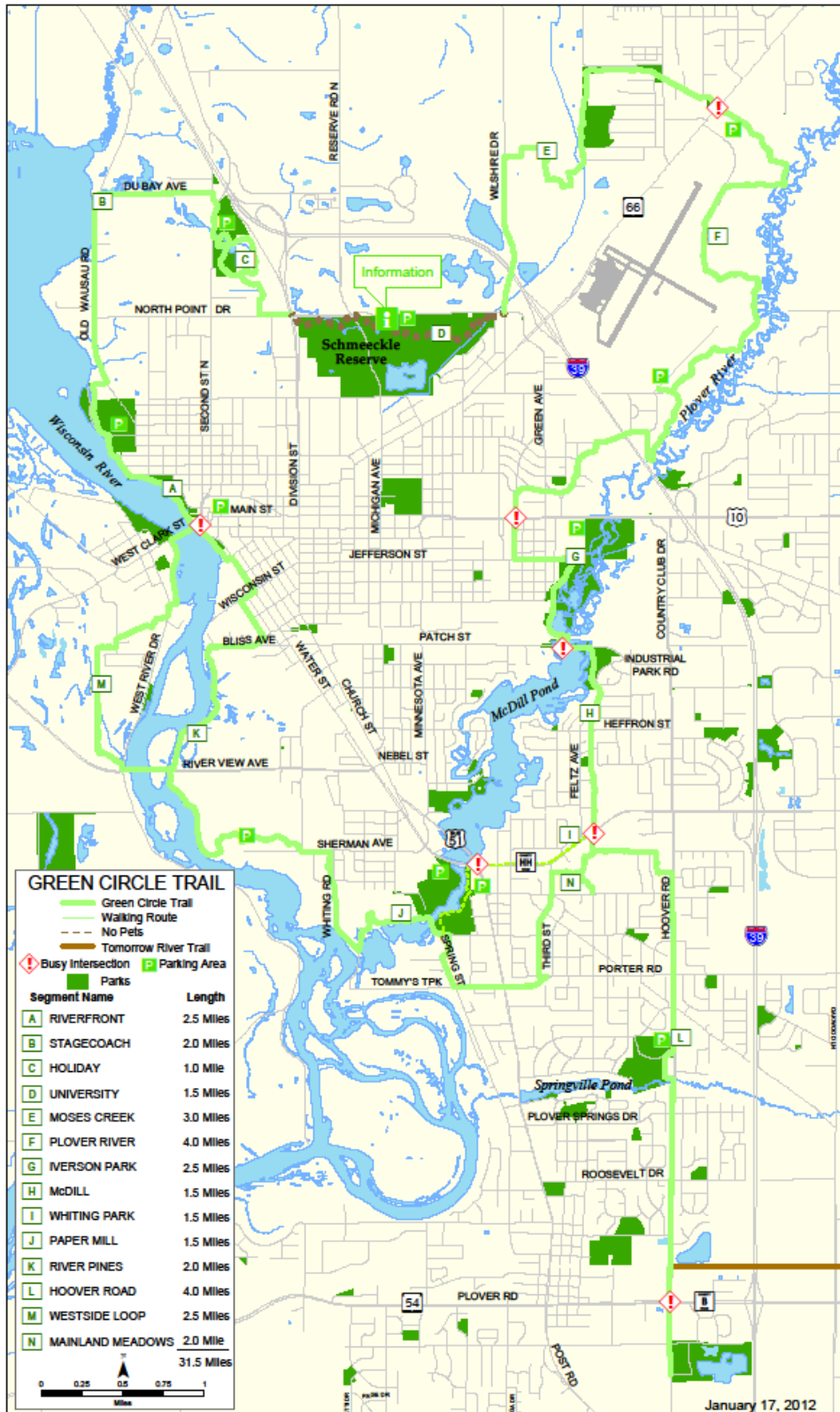
- To create a multipurpose trail network, accessible to residents and visitors, that provides recreational opportunities consistent with local needs as called for by the president's Commission on Americans Outdoors and defined by the City of Stevens Point and Villages of Plover and Plover Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans.
- To preserve and enhance the natural diversity of undeveloped land in and around Stevens Point urban area, particularly the Plover River and Wisconsin River Corridors.

→ To encourage appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural history of the Stevens Point urban area.

Section 3.4 – Tomorrow River Trail

The Tomorrow River State Trail segment within Portage County is a 14-mile trail developed on an abandoned railroad grade starting in the Village of Plover and ending at the Waupaca County line. It is open to bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and horseback riders in the spring, summer, and fall. During the winter months, the trail is open to snowmobiles, skiers, and dog sleds. The horse trail is a separate 14-mile trail along the limestone trail from Plover to Amherst Junction. The trail serves Central Wisconsin. The Tomorrow River Trail is managed as a recreation trail. Major Activities include biking, hiking, snowmobiling, and horseback riding. Facilities include fourteen miles of crushed limestone trail, parking lots at Custer Road, Amherst Junction and Cate Park, and a 14-mile off-grade horse trail.

Figure 2: Green Circle Trail Map



Section 4 – PARK & RECREATION STANDARDS

Introduction

A population standard is used to meet the minimum general needs of the public, especially the needs of the casual, informal park user. The form of this standard is a defined number of acres per unit population, usually 1,000 people. A standard is developed for each different category of park supplying different community needs. In addition, these standards include minimum size requirements and maximum service areas to adequately supply community needs. Population standards are shown in the table below.

Classification	Acres/1,000 people	Size Range	Population Served	Service Area
Recreation Lot	0.3	1,000 sf - 1.0 Acre	500-2,500	1/4 mile radius
Neighborhood Park	2	6.0-8.0 Acres	1,000-10,000	1/2 mile radius
Community Park	5	20.0-20.0 Acres	1,000-25,000	1-4 mile radius
Special Parks	.75-1.0	1.0-25 Acres	1,000-25,000	Village-wide

Recreation Lot

The recreation lot is a small area intended for active play, is essentially a substitute for the backyard and is generally needed only in high density developments. Facilities offered could include play apparatus, swings, slides, sandboxes, picnic tables and benches, sports area, fountains and screening from noise. The focus is on age's toddler to nine, however, play lots should be combined with adult gathering areas.

Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park should act as a focal point within walking distance for neighborhood activities. These parks should adjoin school properties wherever possible to create a cultural and recreational center. Since the general focus of these parks is on children aged five to fourteen, they should be located at the center of the neighborhood so that users are not forced to cross arterial streets.

Neighborhood parks should be designed to provide both active and passive, short term activities. Active areas could include distinct play areas for both preschool and school age children, play equipment, ball diamonds, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts and outdoor ice rinks. Passive areas could include areas for sitting and landscaped perimeter

buffers that function as screening. Finally, the site should be aesthetically pleasing to attract people of the neighborhood.

Community Park

This category serves the diversified needs of the entire community. To adequately serve the community, these parks should be located along arterial streets for easy access. Access should be provided to these parks by mass transit where possible. Alternate routes should be provided for bicyclists and pedestrians. Surrounding land uses should not conflict with the park atmosphere.

Community parks are intended to provide passive and recreation facilities at a larger scale than those provided by neighborhood parks. These parks are designed to accommodate large numbers of people for a wide variety of uses and are often located near junior and senior high schools or community recreation centers. Facilities offered could include ball fields, clubhouses, accessory bleachers and dugouts, tennis complexes, hockey and skating rinks and swimming pools. The layout of park activities should allow for multiple use of playfields as seasons change. Designated parking is necessary to accommodate park users.

Community parks should also provide Village residents with a pleasurable reprieve from the congestion of the urban area, without having to travel a great distance. The location of these parks should be easily accessible and take advantage of unique natural features such as waterways, scenic and historic sites, and sites of aesthetic beauty. The primary attraction of these parks is a quiet, passive atmosphere. Active activities are informal and are an accessory use. Passive areas include trails and picnic, shelter and large natural areas.

Combining active and passive activities in community parks provides for the combination of intensive and non-intensive development, which better serves the needs of Village residents. This eliminates the need to develop specialized parks for specialized purposes. Any park design which accommodates active and passive users should maintain the distinction and separation between users.

Special Parks

Special parks may serve many functions, all of which create a positive or specialized image of the community. These parks may be used to preserve special historic sites or natural features such as historically significant sites or buildings, a public square or an interpretive historic buildings' trail. These buildings or areas would lend themselves to preservation or enhancement as a park and would help stimulate interest in the community's past and generate involvement in its future.

Natural areas may also be preserved as special parks. These areas can be used to protect natural features for public enjoyment, while concurrently continuing the function

of the area. For example, preserved wetlands provide interesting wildlife study areas, while at the same time allowing their natural function of filtering nutrients and pollutants to continue.

Special parks may be located to provide open space in congested areas, while at the same time reinforcing the identity of an area. A park at the entrance to a city, water access in a business district, or a park in a section of town commemorating its railroad past, all identify and enhance a locale.

Finally, greenbelts and parkways, preserved as special parks, provide both boundary guides for growth and special opportunities for linear recreation. A standard of .75 to 1.0 acres per 1,000 people has been developed for special parks. The amount of space available is dependent upon the natural locale, the age and density of the Village and other factors. The need for and location of special parks should play an integral role in the Village planning process.

Section 4.2 – Space Standards

The following space standards were developed based upon the minimum space requirements of each activity. By adhering to these standards, each activity is ensured adequate space for complete development and adjacent activities will not physically overlap and interfere with one another. These space standards should be considered the minimum space necessary to develop each activity. Outdoor recreation facilities should not be developed on sites smaller than the minimum standards.

FACILITY	SIZE	STANDARD
Softball	300'x300'	2.07 acres
Tennis Court	60'x120'	.17 acres
Little League Baseball	200'x200'	.92 acres
Sand Lot Softball	200'x200'	.92 acres
Baseball	350'x350'	2.81 acres
Children's Playground	100'x100'	.23 acres
Horseshoe Court	50'x12'	.01 acres
Multi-Purpose Paved Area	60'x30'	.04 acres
Ice Hockey	85'x200'	.39 acres
Skating Rink	100'x200'	.46 acres
Archery	100'x300'	.69 acres
Touch Football	120'x300'	.83 acres
Volleyball	50'x80'	.09 acres
Basketball	70'x184'	.16 acres
Soccer	225'x360'	1.85 acres
Hiking Trail	8-10' width	-----

Section 5 – Park and Recreation Demand

Park and recreation demand is defined as a demand for specific facilities combined with the space occupied by those facilities. Adequate provisions for parking and open space should be included when calculating space needs to satisfy the non-facility, aesthetic needs of the Village.

Public participating in virtually all types of recreational activities is increasing in the Village of Plover, as well as Portage County. While various changes in society have fostered an interest in new forms of recreation, these changes have not dulled the demand for traditional activities.

Picnicking and swimming have remained the two most popular outdoor recreational activities in the County over the past 20 years. Other traditionally popular activities, such as snowmobiling, camping, fishing and hunting, have also remained in demand.

Perhaps the most interesting and challenging trend facing recreational providers today is the rapidly growing demand for nontraditional forms of recreating, often associated with major changes in society. For example, there is a growing interest in nature centers and interpretive nature trails, which corresponds to a growing level of environmental education and awareness. Renewed interest in health and physical fitness has similarly prompted a rapidly growing demand for activities such as tennis, softball, golf, walking/jogging, bicycling, canoeing/kayaking, and especially cross-country skiing. Other activities which have shown a rise in popularity include skateboarding, in-line skating, soccer and disk golf.

Section 5.1 – General Open Space Needs

The demand for open space and for the space required for future recreational facilities may be estimated by applying the space standards to the population estimates, as shown in the table below

Park Classification	DOA Pop. Estimate	Population Projection			Acreage Required			Existing Acreage
		2020	2030	2040	2020	2030	2040	
Recreation Lot (.3ac/1,000 people)	13,270	14,200	14,770	3.96	4.26	4.41	2.15	
Neighborhood (2ac/1,000 people)	13,270	14,200	14,770	26.40	28.40	29.40	42.6	
Community (5ac/1,000 people)	13,270	14,200	14,770	66.00	71.00	73.5	120.9	
Special (.75-1ac/1,000 people)	13,270	14,200	14,770	9.90	10.65	11.03	10.5	

Recreation Lots

The minimum standard of .3 acres per 1,000 people should be applied to proposed high density development. High density development proposals should be examined on a case by case basis to determine the appropriate size and location of required recreation lots. This standard is intended for new multiple family development proposals. While the Village has an acreage deficiency for this type of park, access to neighborhood and community parks is very good and well distributed throughout the community.

Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park provides a place to play that is close to families' homes. All neighborhoods should have access to a park to provide for activities that require more space than a residential yard can provide.

Neighborhood and community parks are the backbone of the Village park system. While the standards indicate that an excess of neighborhood park land is available to serve the residents of the Village, neighborhood parks continue to be developed to in an attempt to adequately serve all areas of the Village. The most recent examples include OK Bluff and Arbor Haven parks. The Village should also consider adding neighborhood park facilities in the northwest to serve more recently developed residential areas as these areas are isolated from existing neighborhood parks.

Community Parks

The standards indicate that an excess of community park land is available to serve the residents of the Village. Plover River, Worzella Pines and Lake Pacawa Parks serve both the active and passive recreational needs of Village and urban area residents. The Village should consider adding community park facilities in the southeast sector of the Village as population increases in this area.

Special Parks and/or Facilities

The Green Circle Trail and Tomorrow River Trail are special facilities that serve Village of Plover and Portage County residents. The Village should look to develop connections to both these trail systems that will enhance recreation opportunities for Village and County residents.

Worzella Pines Park also serves as a special park in terms of preserving and honoring the memory of those who served in the Korean War. This memorial is recognized as the official Wisconsin Korean War Memorial by the State Legislature. Annual programs have been held at the memorial since 1994. The Memorial was originally developed by the Korean War Veterans Memorial Association of Wisconsin (KWVMA). The KWVMA transferred ownership of the Memorial to the Village of Plover in 2010.

The Village should consider acquiring lands adjacent to the Little Plover River to provide additional recreational opportunities for Village and County residents and improve the long term health and viability of the Little Plover River by enhancing stream flows. Acquisition of such lands would conserve, protect and improve an extremely valuable environmental resource of the Village and surrounding area and would remove lands from irrigated agricultural and eliminate the pumping of approximately 100 million gallons of groundwater in this area.

Section 6 – Problems, Trends, and Opportunities

Section 6.1 – General Comments

1. The Stevens Point Urban Area and Portage County have an ample supply of parks, environmental assets and diverse open space, which greatly facilitates the recreational and open space needs of Plover residents. The County, City of Stevens Point, Village of Whiting, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point provide a multitude of recreational opportunities for Village and County residents. These recreational facilities ease the burden of Village government to provide recreational facilities. While there is an ample supply of Urban Area, County, and Village of Plover facilities, there remains

a need to satisfy the recreational needs of Village residents in the southeast and northwest areas of the Village.

2. The Stevens Point school system and the University contribute a wide range of outdoor recreation, open space, and other leisure time facilities, which are available to the public. The magnitude of these opportunities in relation to the size of the community is a distinct advantage in adding to the quality of life for local residents.
3. The private sector contributes significant open space and recreational facilities, which are available to the general public.
4. The Green Circle Trail provides many recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed by all residents. Such recreational activities include: bicycling and bicycle trails, jogging, walking, and generally those increasingly popular wellness-type activities.

Section 6.2 – Green Circle Trail

The Village should continue to work in close association with the Green Circle Committee in the development of plans for additions and/or enhancements to the Green Circle Trail. Figure 2 includes a map of the existing Green Circle Trail segments, including those within the Village of Plover.

Section 7 – 2020-2025 Parks Improvement Program

The Parks Improvement Program deals with general recommendations for improving the quality of recreational experiences and specific proposals concerning individual park master plans and improvements. Approval of this Improvement Program by the Plover Village Board indicates a desire on the part of the community to carry out the Program. Approval, however, does not commit the existing or future Parks Committee or Village Board to implement the Program exactly as approved. Subsequent amendments may be necessary to the Improvement Program, which is intended to represent Village policy and be a guiding document for project development for the period 2020-2025.

Section 7.1 – Acquisition Projects

Recreation and open space development should provide adequate facilities to meet current needs and projected growth, while conserving, protecting and improving the environmental resources of the Village and surrounding area. The Village should continue to identify and designate lands for open space and recreational use to accommodate its population. North/south and east/west arterials (Business Highway 51,

Interstate-39, and CTH B/STH 54, for example) have segregated some neighborhoods from safe, convenient access to recreational opportunities. The Village should explore possible remedies to existing neighborhoods that are segregated and should utilize the site plan review process to avoid this situation when new subdivisions are proposed. There is also a need to give greater attention to several recreational pursuits which have not been typical in Plover. Such recreational activities include bicycle trails, jogging, hiking, rollerblading, skateboarding, canoe/ kayak and other boating, and generally, those increasingly popular wellness type activities.

To offset the cost of providing new park facilities, the Village adopted a Park Fee Impact Ordinance, which requires a payment of \$483 for three or more-bedroom dwelling units or single family homes, \$346 for two-bedroom dwelling units, and \$258 for studio or one-bedroom dwelling units. These fees are updated annually based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) variables.

Section 7.2 – Plover Park Development Projects

Arbor Haven Park

- Construct restrooms/shelter
- Install hard surface court
- Install playground equipment
- Construct asphalt parking lot

Easlan/Weslan Park

- Construct Asphalt trail & signage
- Install composite playground borders with new resilient surface
- Add new and/or replace playground equipment
- Re-construct north parking lot

Forest Pines Park

- Organize neighborhood input session to garner feedback on future park offerings

Iber Park

- Construct asphalt parking lot

Jack's Park

- Construct restrooms/shelter
- Construct parking lot

Kubacki Park

- Construct restrooms/shelter
- Construct parking lot
- Resurface hard surface courts

Little Plover River Park

- Construct large pavilion
- Reconstruct parking lot
- Add new and/or replace playground equipment

Oak Park

- No planned improvements for 2020-2025

Oakwood Forest Park

- Acquire additional land for park expansion
- Construct restroom/shelter facility

OK Bluff Park

- No planned improvements for 2020-2025

Okray Park

- Acquire additional land for park expansion
- Construct asphalt parking lot

Lake Pacawa Park

- Install new accessible playground equipment
- Install accessible splash pad
- Install composite playground borders with new resilient surface
- Expand the paved trail system throughout the Park
- Consider addition of public art (i.e. sculptures)
- Rework and manicure beach and shoreline
- Invasive species removal/remediation for Lake Pacawa
- Improve water quality of Lake Pacawa
- Add fishing piers
- Improve boat launch and associated parking lot
- Install accessible canoe/kayak launch
- Construct additional asphalt parking lots
- Install outdoor shower
- Construct additional large pavilion

Pleasant Acres Park

- Construct basketball court/hard surface play area
- Construct restroom/shelter facility

Springville Pond Park

- Replace pier
- Build covered shelter

Veteran's Memorial Park

- Re-construct asphalt parking lots

Wayside Park

- Re-construct asphalt parking lots

Worzella Pines Park

- Install irrigation/landscaping
- Construct additional paved parking areas
- Develop nature trails and signage

Woyak Park

- Construct additional paved parking
- Construct additional asphalt trails and signage
- Pursue land acquisition to expand park to the east
- Install lights on existing volleyball courts

General

- Provide handicapped accessible playground equipment at all parks
- Acquire equipment as needed to maintain and operate Village parks

Section 7.3 – Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Development Projects

The Village of Plover participated in the 2014 Portage County Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan planning process. This project included coordination between the County, City, Villages and townships to promote access between all communities, paths, recreational trails, recreational facilities, and businesses. As a result of this project, the Village of Plover Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is adopted by reference. As a result of this planning process, recommended bicycle and pedestrian improvements were broken into four general categories; bicycle lanes/urban shoulders, shared lane markings, signed bike routes, and off-street facilities. Below is a list of recommended Village bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects, by category:

Bicycle Lanes / Urban Shoulders

Street	From	To	Miles
CTY Rd HH	Whiting	Stevens Point	0.74
CTY Rd R	CTY Rd HH	Commons Cir	0.42
CTY Rd R	Roosevelt Dr	Shady Dr	2.26
Foremost Rd	River Dr	Plover Rd	0.50
Hoover Ave	CTY Rd HH	Plover Rd	3.00
Okray Rd	Tommey's Tpk	Chestnut Dr	1.68
Plover Rd	Hoover Ave	CTY Rd R	1.00
Porter Rd*	Post Rd	Hoover Ave	1.07
Post Rd**	Porter Rd	Lincoln Ave	2.69
Roosevelt Dr	Post Rd	Hoover Ave	0.80
Village Park Dr	Disk Dri	Maple Dr	0.39

*Add bike lanes when re-constructed

**Add 6' bike lane when re-constructed

Shared Lane Markings

Street	From	To	Miles
Cedar Dr	Okray Ave	Hoover Ave	0.99

Signed Bike Routes

Street	From	To	Miles
Airline Rd	Hoover Ave	East End	0.56
Airline Rd	Fifth St	Juniper Ln	0.006
Chestnut Dr	Okray Ave	Washington Ave	0.41
Chippewa Dr	Rainbow Dr	Hoover Ave	1.09
Coolidge Ave	Town of Plover	River Dr	0.16
Earhart Ave	Chestnut Dr	South Dr	0.25
Elm St	Crossbow Dr	Hoover Ave	0.20
Fawn Ln	First St	Fifth St	0.34
Fifth St	Fawn Ln	Airline Rd	0.04
Forest Dr	Town of Plover	Lincoln Ave	1.5
Gilman Dr	Okray Ave	Post Rd	0.21
Jackson Ave	Plover Rd	Forest Dr	0.76
Juniper Ln	Airline Rd	Ramble Ln	0.50
Lincoln Ave	Post Rd	Forest Dr	0.12
Maple Dr	Jackson Ave	Oover Ave	2.03
Plover Springs Dr	Okray Ave	Hoover Ave	1.03
Plover Springs Dr	Hoover Ave	Waterview Blvd	0.43
Porter Rd	Hoover Ave	Town of Plover	0.49
Rainbow Dr	Post Rd	Chippewa Dr	0.10
Ramble Ln	Juniper Ln	Hoover Ave	0.15
River Dr	Coolidge Ave	Okray Ave	2.11
Roberts Rd	Post Rd	Chippewa Dr	0.15
Seventh St	Elm St	Chippewa Dr	0.87
South Dr	Plover Rd	Earhart Ave	0.22
Washington Ave	Plover Spring Dr	Plover Rd	1.10
Wilson Ave	Plover Rd	Forest Dr	0.76

Off-Street Facilities

Location	Facility Type	From	To	Miles
Cedar Drive	Sidepath	Woyak Sports Complex	Hoover Ave	0.34
CTY Rd R	Sidepath	Roosevelt Dr	Tomorrow River State Trail	0.54
CTY Rd R	Sidepath	Commons Cir	Town of Plover	0.52
Plover Rd	Sidepath	Wilson Ave	Hoover Ave	0.98
Plover Rd N	Sidepath	Village Park Dr	CTY Rd R	0.75
Plover Rd S	Sidepath	Village Park Dr	CTY Rd R	0.75
Plover Springs Dr	Shared Use Path	Plover Springs Dr	Ariline Rd	0.33
Village Park Dr	Shared Use Path	Tomorrow River State Trail	Village Park Dr	0.09

The Village of Plover should work with the Green Circle Committee when considering, planning and/or developing sidewalk and trail systems that will connect to the Green Circle Trail.

Section 7.4 – Little Plover River Acquisition and Development Project

The Village acquired over 140 acres of land immediately south of the Little Plover River between Kennedy Avenue and County Highway R. The acquisition is consistent with the efforts of the Little Plover River Work Group; whose primary goal is to restore healthy flows to the Little Plover River through voluntary efforts. This diverse group is comprised of representatives from the agricultural industry, conservation groups, multiple levels of government, and passionate citizens.

The land was purchased and converted from irrigated agriculture to a natural area, including wetland and prairie, with the vision that this area be converted to an urban area park. Taking land out of agricultural production immediately adjacent to the Little Plover River helps restore flows to the Little Plover River. Developing a natural area/walking trail with educational components would be great alternative for exercise for urban area residents and offers educational opportunities for urban area residents, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (UWSP) students and Stevens Point School District students.

To-date, the Little Plover River Watershed Enhancement Project has leveraged more than \$3 million in grant moneys and in-kind work. Future projects include developing and Watershed Restoration Action Plan, continued engagement with the agricultural community, collaboration with UWSP to implement additional restoration and management practices, and improvements to municipal water facilities and processes.