

Community Survey Summary

Nekoosa Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (C.O.R.P.)

May 2017



Compiled by:

City of Nekoosa CORP Planning Committee



In collaboration with:

Wood County Department of Planning & Zoning



INTRODUCTION

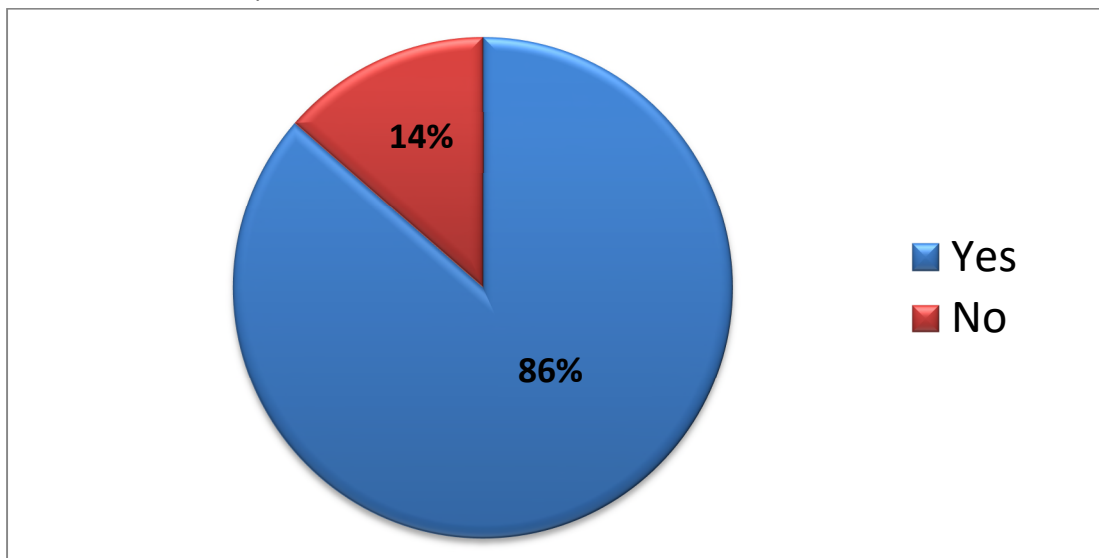
The City of Nekoosa, Wood County, began developing its first Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (C.O.R.P.) in the fall of 2016. A public participation strategy was identified early in the planning process to incorporate an accurate representation of resident opinion into the plan. A community survey of all Nekoosa residents was one means of collecting public input. Surveys were mailed out to each household along with the Nekoosa Newsletter in April 2017. Over 200 residents completed and returned the survey by the May 2017 deadline. The survey gathered information on preferred outdoor recreation amenities, park usage, and attitudes towards the development and enhancement of outdoor recreation opportunities in the community.

This report summarizes the needs, desires and attitudes of Nekoosa residents in regards to parks and outdoor recreation in their community. The report presents numeric tabulation and graphic representation of the questions and answers in the community survey. The input collected through this survey will be used by the C.O.R.P. Planning Committee to develop goals, objectives and recommendations for the plan.



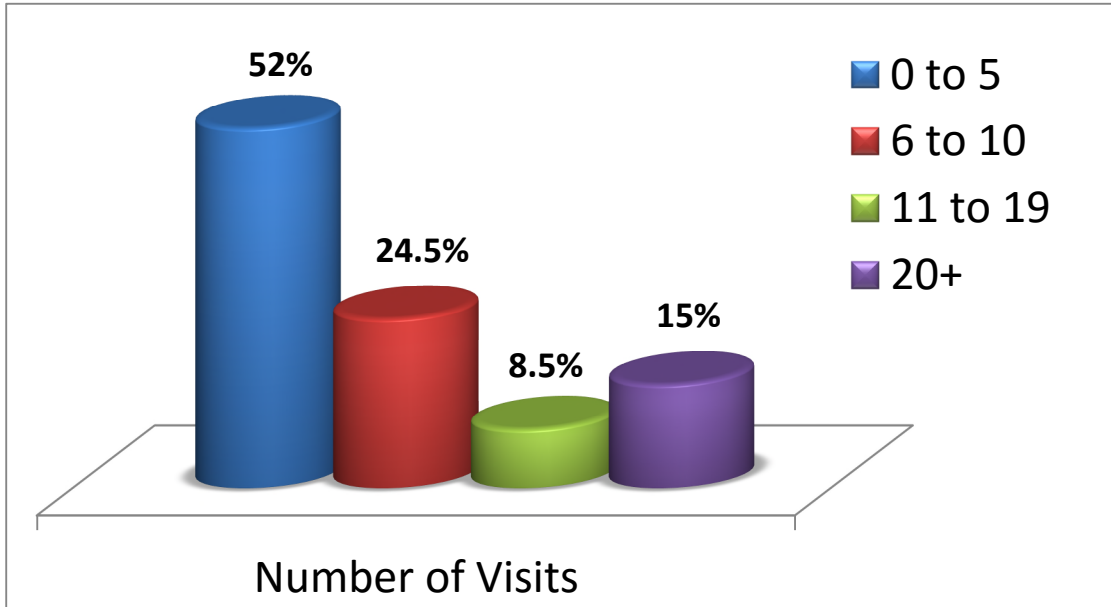
Question 1: Have you or members of your household visited any Nekoosa parks during the past year?

- 86% of respondents answered yes
- 14% of respondents answered no



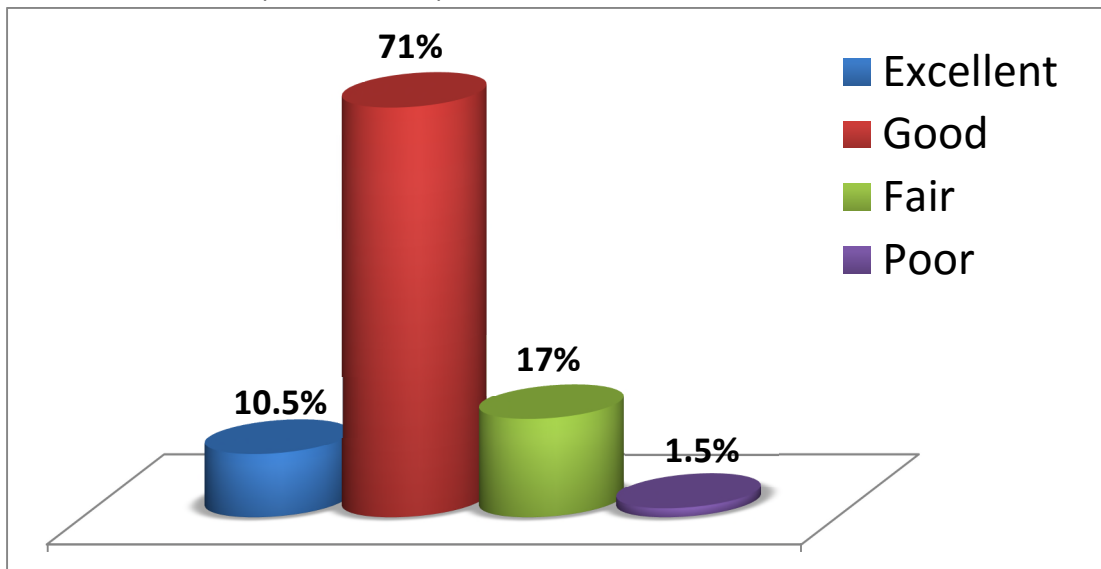
Question 2: Approximately how often did you or members of your household visit Nekoosa parks over the past year?

- 52% of respondents answered 0 to 5 visits
- 24.5% of respondents answered 6 to 10 visits
- 8.5% of respondents answered 11 to 19 visits
- 15% of respondents answered 20 or more visits



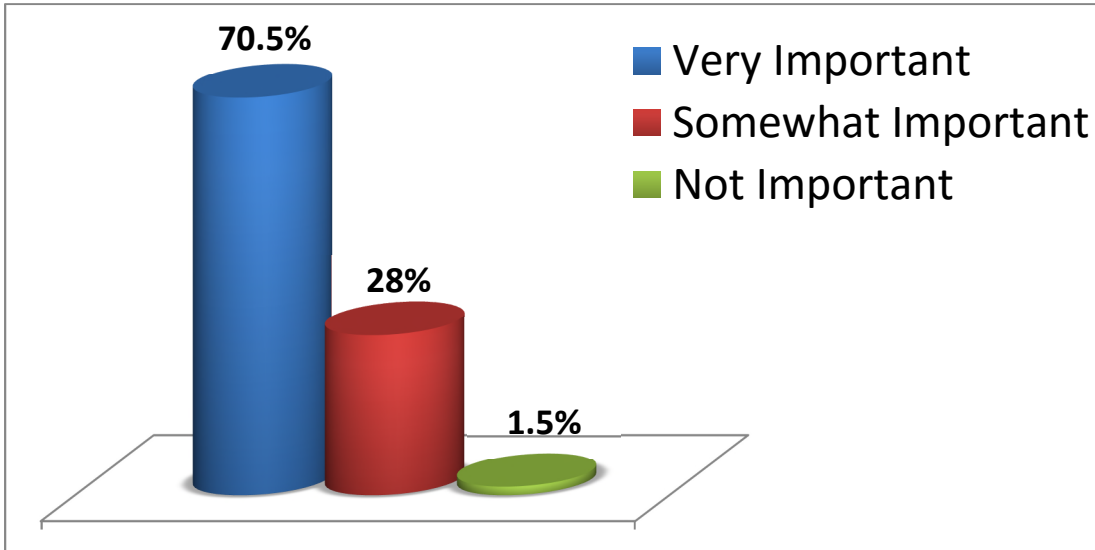
Question 3: Overall, how would you rate the condition of all Nekoosa parks visited?

- 10.5% of respondents said excellent
- 71% of respondents said good
- 17% of respondents said fair
- 1.5% of respondents said poor



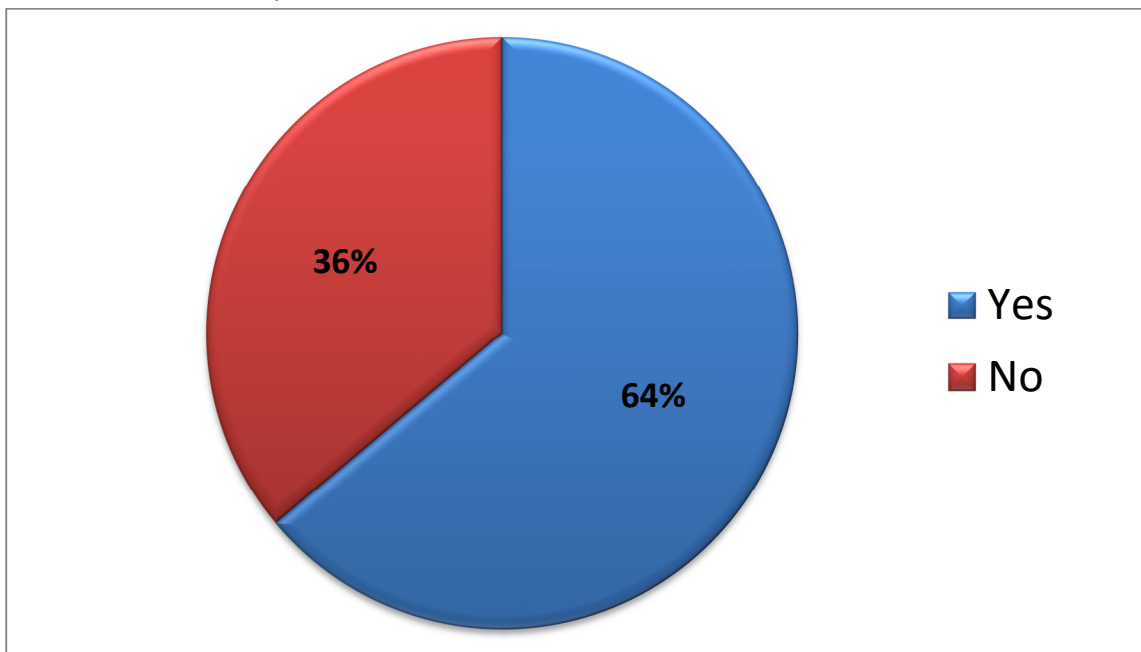
Question 4: How important are parks and outdoor recreation opportunities to the overall quality of life in Nekoosa?

- 70.5% of respondents said very important
- 28% of respondents said somewhat important
- 1.5% of respondents said not important



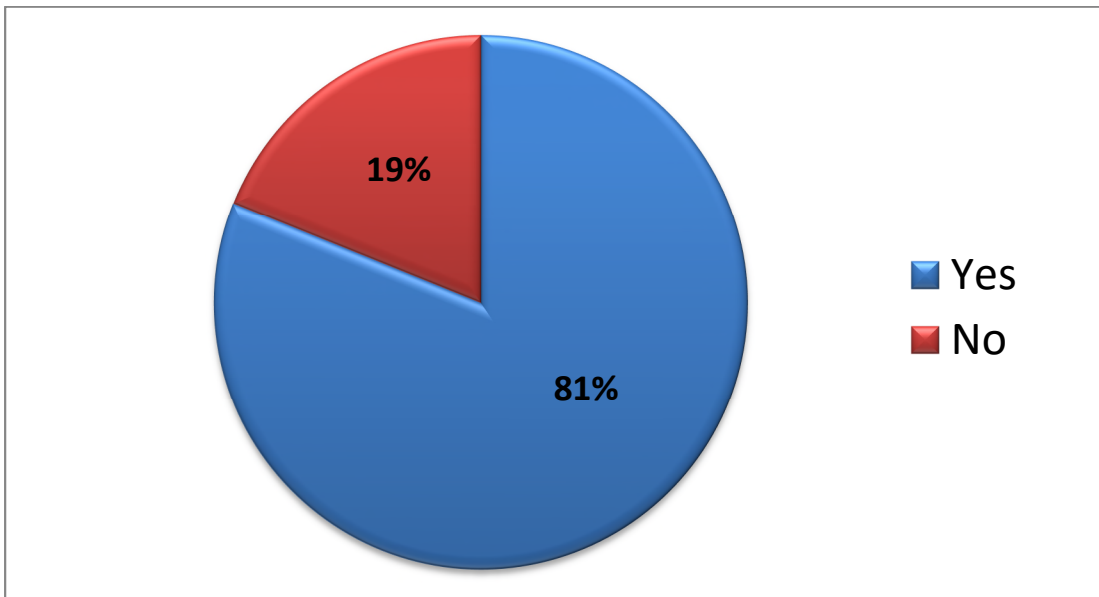
Question 5: Do you think the City of Nekoosa should develop more parks and trails?

- 64% of respondents answered yes
- 36% of respondents answered no

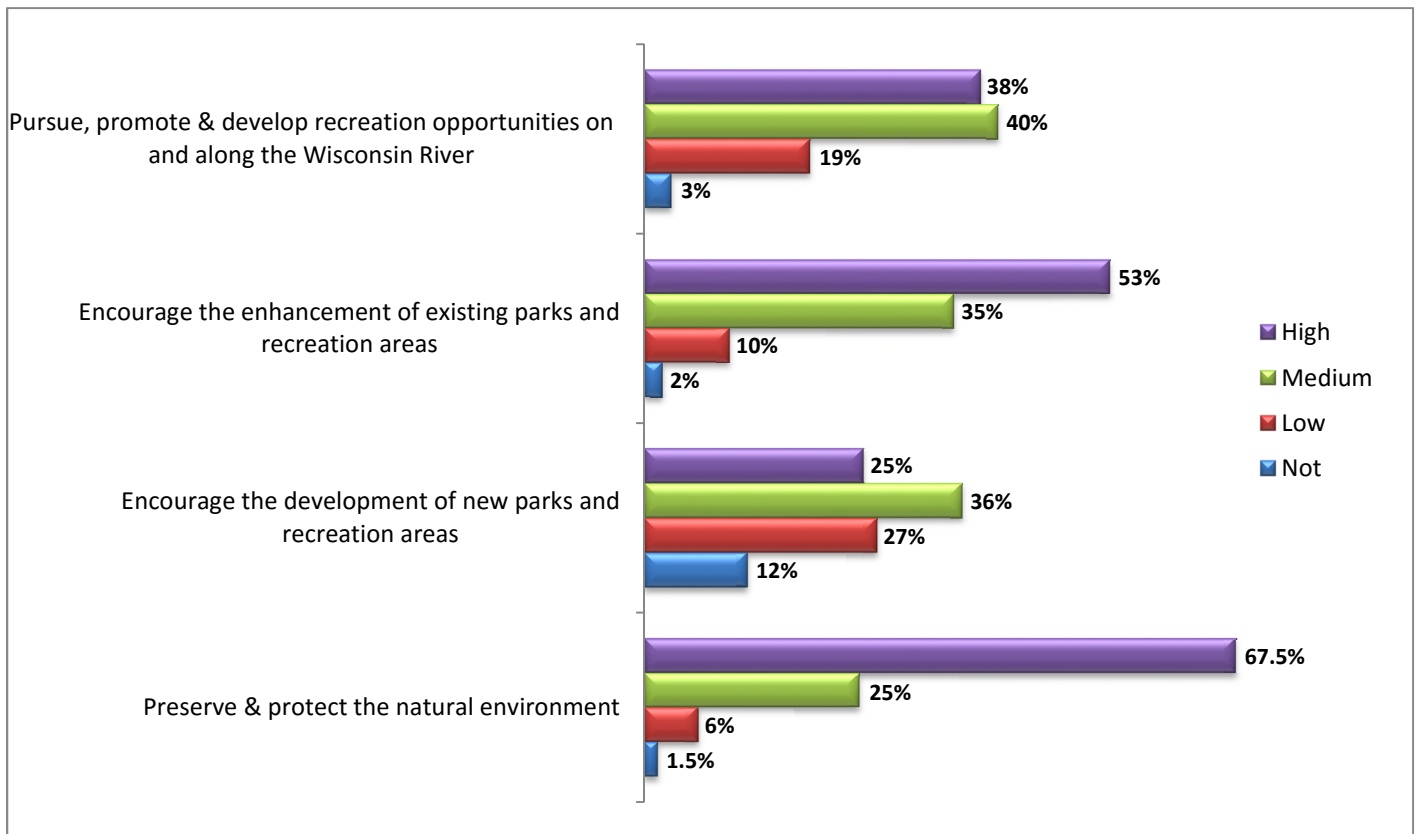


Question 6: Do you think that Nekoosa should offer recreation programs and services?

- 81% of respondents answered yes
- 19% of respondents answered no

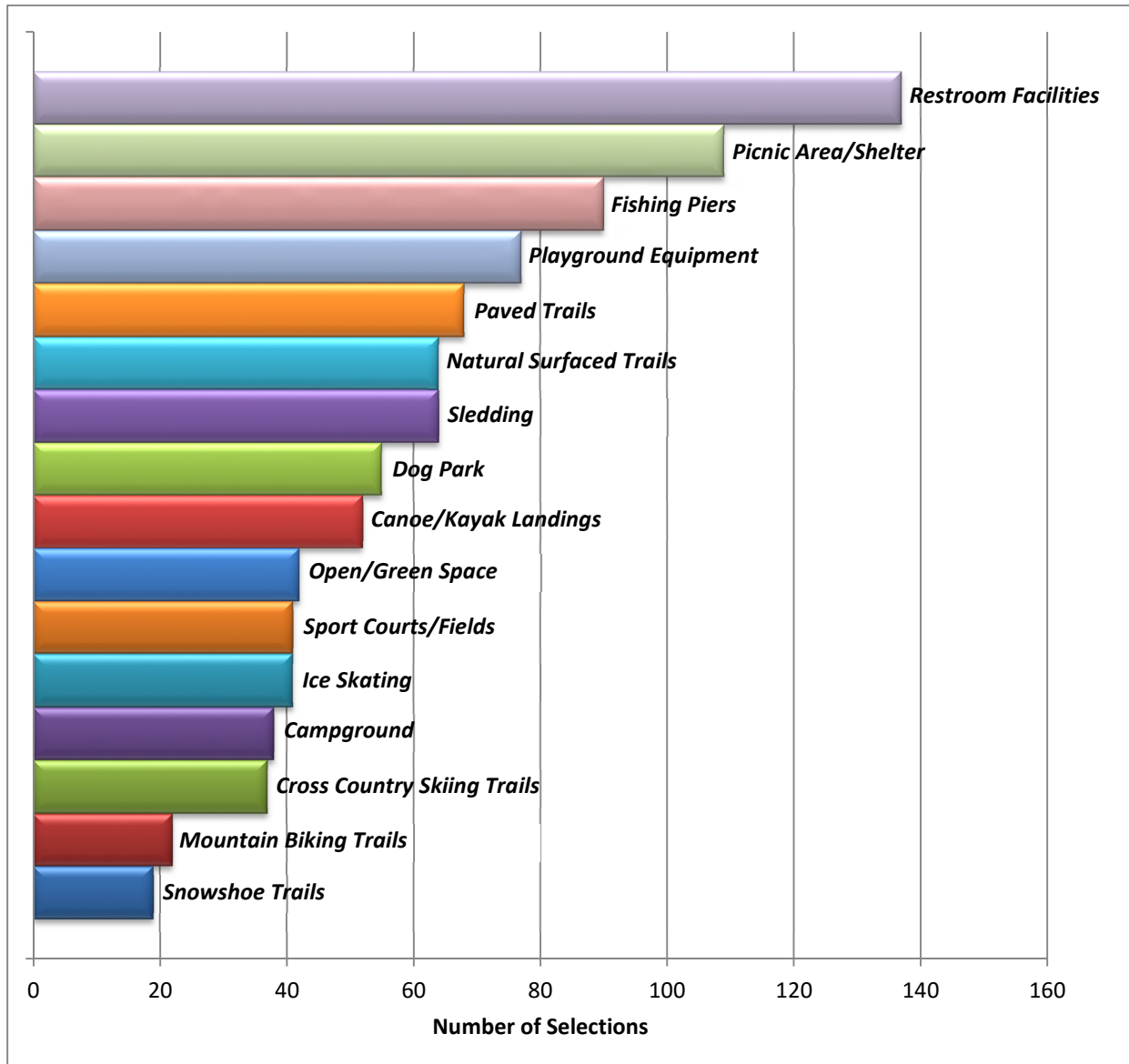


Question 7: How much priority, if any, should each statement have?



Question 8: Check up to SIX amenities you would like to see in new/existing park areas:

- Top six amenities selected by respondents were:
 - 1- Restroom Facilities (+135)
 - 2- Picnic Area/Shelter (+105)
 - 3- Fishing Piers (90)
 - 4- Playground Equipment (+75)
 - 5- Paved Trails (+65)
 - 6- Natural Surfaced Trails (+60)

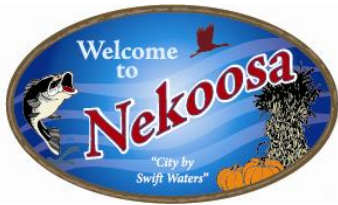


Question 9: Additional comments or suggestions?

- You people are to be commended - Well done!
- Our environment around here is a blessing!
- Outdoor recreation is greatly appreciated.
- An outdoor stage for live music, something like Piffner Park in Stevens Point, with restroom facilities close by. Summer concerts, music fests, etc. room for vendors.
- I moved to Nekoosa this year and love the area very much. I have 9 grandkids and they love the parks here.
- Keep everything natural and environmentally sound. Don't do anything more if it means raising our taxes!
- Buy the area by Piggly Wiggly and apartments. Clean up and make into a park area for retirement people.
- First maintain the parks we have.
- We don't need higher taxes. Doing more to the parks would mean an increase in tax.
- Shooting range
- Make Riverside Park/Path more pedestrian friendly by: 1. Add more pedestrian cross walks along Prospect Ave. 2. Reduce the speed limit to 30 mph. Enforce Prospect Ave. speed limit. 3. Ticket vehicles that exceed the noise ordinance.
- Get rid of geese problem down in park. Add restroom on north side of park.
- Yes the kids need that splash pad. We need to keep them busy with fun things.
- Need a pool and outdoor memorial of how Nekoosa came about.
- We are not Wisconsin Dells, we are a small town. Maybe you alderman try to save the taxpayers some money instead of spending on foolish playground equipment and etc. and put money towards road projects and try to lower water bills and property taxes so you can get people to move into this town. There must be 50 houses in this town for sale, this probably is why people don't move here, high taxes, high water bills and ?X#*% roads.
- Swimming pool
- Continue bike paths. Partner with schools and library for recreation programs and services.
- Lower water bills.
- Need walking trail between mill and boat landing/sewer plant. Cars go too fast along Point Basse to walk there without a trail.
- Let's work on keeping Point Basse river shoreline clean.
- Snowmobile & ATV friendly to & from the City!
- Still promote economic development. It doesn't have to be one or the other. Be reasonable! Both concepts should and can work together!
- Extend the bike path and loop it around Nekoosa. Have trails that connect to school district trails.
- ATV route into city. Town of Port Edwards has new board member supporting "all roads" open for ATV/UTV use. Would be nice to have connecting route for ATV/UTV into City of Nekoosa.
- Between the city and schools we have plenty of recreational facilities. Even if you get grants to build these things they turn into money pits down the road. We need to support public works servicing and road repair.
- You need to tile Riverside Park - it is an eye sore.
- What we have is sufficient. What is needed was a pool. I don't need to see another memorial or park. Get our water bills decreased - that's what's necessary!!!
- Water Park & Pool
- To save natural trails can be used for snowshoe and cross country skiing trails.
- No splash pad. Who will pay for upkeep?
- A pickle ball court should be placed on 1 tennis court. Believe play would be heavy once people were aware of it.
- Open up to UTV/Snowmobile routes and connect trail ways. UTV trail access from city.
- City importation.
- Mini Golf & Splash Pad.
- Swimming Pool. Pay more attention to what young families need instead of the elderly community. Families are the future of Nekoosa. My children age 20 & 30 won't be back to Nekoosa to raise their family because there is nothing here. Nekoosa raised a bazillion dollar for a community center that families use but tore out the community pool which my family used all the time. Who voted on that???
- Build a covered shelter in the Thompson Park area like the ones in the park to rent out for family gatherings & no mess from geese. Front area would still be available for Christmas decorations. Rear building could be used for the roast and baked potato contest too.
- A letter like this would have been nice in regards to the swimming pool. There could have been a fundraiser or something to keep that. Fix the roads instead of spending money on a park.
- You would have a beautiful green space if you still hadn't let them build that stupid box store.
- Parks-No, Trails-Yes

- When I was a kid we "lived" at the pool. Hated to see it go. Hopefully the new splash pad will be a place for kids to go in summer-use & enjoy w/their friends. We need things for older kids & the teens to do.
- Pool in cooperation with Nekoosa School District. Band shell for Music (live)/Scheduled Events
- ATV Trail
- Would like to see an outdoor movie theater put up in one of the parks so families can go one night a week (preferably on fri or sat nights). This would not only bring family time back to families but also help the town people to get know everyone in town and their merchant's owners.
- I am very happy to see that Nekoosa is putting in a splash pad. My granddaughter goes to one in Madison and she loves it. She is looking forward to coming and going to ours.
- ATV Trails - Just like Crandon, Park Falls, Phillips, Eagle River and many others have ATV routes right through town.
- It would be awesome if the park was like Kash Park in Stevens Point and to have more trees around the playground so everything isn't hot.
- Please! The roads in Nekoosa need to be fixed before we can think about parks. The goose dropping problem needs to be solved in our beautiful Riverside Park before we can enhance it. Thank you to all the people that try to make Nekoosa a better place to live.
- Event with family to go to in the park that is on the weekend during the day.
- Would really like a dog park. Always have to go to Rome. :-{
- Nekoosa is a wonderful place to raise kids. Happy to see the city leaders are making an effort to keep interest in the city & families wanting to relocate here. Outside activities promote a good, healthy, lifestyle. You are doing a great job.
- Keep what we have clean and in good repair.
- More entertainment.
- Streets could use some cleaning up.
- Would go down more often if it weren't for the goose poop. It's pretty nasty, and smelly!! And the restrooms are not reliable w/supplies.
- Would love to see miniature golf course. It would benefit all ages, both sexes, fun for the whole family and reasonable.
- Work with the Boys and Girls Club and offer activities for kids who have nowhere else to go. Organize an opportunity to transport kids to the Y for swimming lessons/use of Y facilities.
- Develop campground by boat landing area.
- Control geese. Have pumpkin fest by river. Have small swimming pool so kid can learn how to swim and that will give kids a summer job.
- New splash pad-heard that it won't be recycling the water?? Please reconsider & recycle the water! Invest now & it will pay off in the future!!! And be better for our kid's environment!
- Restroom facilities-Upgrade one by river.
- More docks.
- Water activities.
- Place for teens to hang out/supervised.
- Fix tennis court add lessons in the library program.
- The grass needs to be filled in w/more dirt. It's always wet. Had to play on swings & things when the grass is flooded.
- I don't feel as the city should dispose of any items attached to a grave stone in the cemetery at their discretion. Clean up in the cemetery has taken place every year, but not totally stripped. Hope you are proud!
- Work with the school district to develop a nature trail that is handicapped accessible, ready for bikes, learning opportunities, bird watching, cross country skiing...
- I still & always think a swimming pool would be the best for our town. We have a lot of small children that would use it over a splash pad.
- Groom bike trails in winter to use as CC ski trails. Adult exercise areas (outdoor) Stairs for sledding hill. Cleaner sidewalks-edged.
- Eliminate geese by Riverside Park - very messy - doo doo all over. Can't take kids to play - not healthy.
- Basketball courts-full size (more than 1)
- Get rid of the geese in Riverside Park so it is usable without all of the goose manure. Improve the level of maintenance of the cemetery to the level of 2014 & 2015. Enforce the boat launching fee method of the boat landing at the city garage.
- Need a shooting range back in Nekoosa.
- More senior things.
- Clean-up/ remove tree brush & down trees along Riverside Park & river on south end of grave sites. It's an eye sore to see not only for people living here but visitors coming here.
- Do not put garbage cans next to the benches where a person sits along the walking path. Who wants to sit next to a garbage can?
- Clean up the marsh and wet lands in Nekoosa area. People are throwing trash in these areas.
- Picnic Area/Shelter – Enclosed.
- Sport Courts/Fields-pickle ball. Extend bike trail
- Swimming area and natural areas.

- Would love to use the disk golf course along the Wisconsin River in Riverside park however the course is not marked and there are no launch pads in place.
- We need somewhere in Nekoosa to swim. Years ago a swimming pond was mentioned. That would be wonderful!! Summer programs for kids would be great.
- Band shelter in town for family movie night & bands to play.
- The largest playground is by the river, however, this park is not as nice as the one by the library. The park by the river often has standing water/sloppy areas; no shady areas near the playground, and too much mess from the geese!! I would move that playground up to where the pool was.
- Clean up the space by the cemetery, encourage businesses to keep their properties well kept & sidewalks weed free, keep the city building lawn green & weed free, clean up the wet lands across from the city building (Safety Center). Unfortunately the way Nekoosa presents itself – no one drives through town and thinks WOW I'd really like to live here. I've seen worse small towns but I've seen a lot better ones too.
- I feel that the City of Nekoosa needs to put our money back in the outlay accounts so there is funds for the equipment needed, after you have a budget that plans for the city needs then save money for parks & toys.
- Gun & rifle range.
- It would be beneficial to have the biking path continue along the river by Point Basse down Hwy A area for safety.
- It would be wonderful to see Nekoosa offer a "parks & rec" type program! I don't think more parks need to be added, just upkeep to the parks Nekoosa already has.
- Just upkeep what we have already.
- Better lighting & electrical updates. Better playground equipment - swings - merry go round in poor condition.
- Splash pad in Nekoosa! Having Nekoosa put Christmas lights along the Nekoosa Riverside Park was great! Look forward to seeing that grow!!
- Lower monthly water bill-its triple the cost of other cities.
- Pool.
- I feel you're doing a real good job! Hope the children use the skate park more!!
- Splash pad.
- Try to promote healthy, outdoor activities for youth.



City of Nekoosa

Parks & Outdoor Recreation Survey

The purpose of this questionnaire is to survey opinions of Nekoosa residents, and to determine the future needs for outdoor recreation facilities, services, and opportunities in our community. The survey is anonymous and confidential. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY MAY 1st, 2017:

Option 1: Return with sewer/water bill.

Option 2: Drop off at City Hall, Charles & JoAnn Lester Library, or sewer/water bill drop-off box.

Option 3: Mail to: City Hall 951 Market St. Nekoosa, WI 54457 (see back side).

(Questions 1-6 please check your answer)

1. Have you or members of your household visited any Nekoosa parks during the past year?

____(1) Yes ____ (2) No

2. Approximately how often did you or members of your household visit Nekoosa parks over the past year?

____(1) 0 to 5 visits ____ (2) 6 to 10 visits ____ (3) 11 to 19 visits ____ (4) 20 or more visits

3. Overall, how would you rate the condition of ALL Nekoosa parks visited?

____(1) Excellent ____ (2) Good ____ (3) Fair ____ (4) Poor

4. How important are parks and outdoor recreation opportunities to the overall quality of life in Nekoosa?

____(1) Very Important ____ (2) Somewhat Important ____ (3) Not Important

5. Do you think the City of Nekoosa should develop more parks and trails?

____(1) Yes ____ (2) No

6. Do you think that Nekoosa should offer recreation programs and services?

____(1) Yes ____ (2) No

7. How much priority, if any, should each statement have? (Please circle one answer per question)

Pursue, promote and develop recreation opportunities on and along the Wisconsin River.....	NOT	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Encourage the <u>enhancement of existing</u> parks and recreation areas.....	NOT	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Encourage the <u>development of new</u> parks and recreation areas.....	NOT	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Preserve and protect the natural environment.....	NOT	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

8. Check up to SIX amenities you would like to see in new/existing park areas:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paved Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Restroom Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Area/Shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Surfaced Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Courts/Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoe Trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking Trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open/Green Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/Kayak Landings | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross County Skiing Trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campground | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Piers | <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

9. Additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for supporting the planning efforts in your community by completing and returning this survey!

****PLEASE RETURN THIS SURVEY BY MAY 1st, 2017****

(tape closed)

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CITY OF NEKOOSA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
951 MARKET STREET
NEKOOSA, WI 54457

*Place
Stamp
Here*

CITY OF NEKOOSA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
951 MARKET STREET
NEKOOSA, WI 54457

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The Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning would like to thank all who participated in the planning process.



Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning

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