

## SECTION 7 VILLAGE OUTDOOR RECREATION

### VILLAGE PARK INVENTORY

Park facilities for the rural Villages of Portage County (Almond, Amherst, Amherst Junction, Nelsonville, Junction City, Rosholt) are described below. A Village location map is included in Figure 2. The City of Stevens Point and Villages of Plover and Whiting have their own Outdoor Recreation Plans; consult these documents for information on these municipalities. The Village of Park Ridge does not have any park or recreation facilities within its boundaries.

#### Village of Almond

Almond is located in the Town of Almond, in south-central Portage County. The Village population has shown moderate growth over the past fifteen years, with a current population of 459. Almond serves as the service center of the area and, as such, has a moderate potential for growth.

1. Almond Grade and High School (grades 5-12) - is located on a sloping, wooded site. The recreation facilities at the school site consist of a 1.1 acre play area for young children, separated from a 0.3 acre play area for young children.
  - a. Major activities: softball and children's play.
  - b. Facilities: softball diamond, two basketball hoops and children's play equipment.
  - c. Service area: school district.
  - d. Interest group served: active sports.
2. Lions Village Park - is a 4 acre recreation area directly adjacent to the Athletic Field. Due to its location, the two facilities can be used as one. Tennis court, picnic facilities, a shelter, and parking are available in this area.
3. Athletic Field - is a 5 acre facility located north of town and is maintained as an addition to the high school program.
  - a. Major activities: high school sports, general public use.
  - b. Facilities: 2 baseball fields and 1 football field with bleachers.
  - c. Service area: school district.
  - d. Interest group served: active sports participants and spectators.
4. Veteran's Park – 1.5 acre open space located on County Road D contains a picnic bench and shelter.
5. Cty Rd A Park – 0.7 acre park located at Cty Rd A and Division Street contains 2 basketball hoops and ice skating during the winter.
6. Main Street Open Space – consists of three vacant lots owned by the Village located just south of the fire station on Main Street. The area has been identified by the Village Plan Commission as a potential location of a small park in the future.

#### Village of Amherst

Amherst is a village of 1,000 people located in eastern Portage County. The Village, which has experienced moderate population growth since 1970, has potential as a rural growth center due to its location on the four-lane USH 10. Also, the scenic and recreational resources of the region increase the potential for the growth of Amherst as a service center.

1. Amherst Grade and High School - is located on the north end of the Village. This facility provides approximately 20 acres of recreation space.
  - a. Major Activities: baseball, football, and basketball.
  - b. Facilities: playground equipment, 5 picnic tables, 10 basketball courts, 1 baseball diamond, 1 softball diamond, 1 football field, all-weather running track.
  - c. Service area: school district and the Village.
  - d. Interest group served: active recreation and spectators.
  
2. Portage County Fairgrounds - is a 32 acre facility located across (west) of USH 10 in the Village of Amherst. While this is not a Village facility, it does provide open space for the residents of the Village.
  - a. Major activities: fair and exhibition grounds.
  - b. Facilities: 1 mile track, viewing stands, stables and exhibition buildings.
  - c. Service area: Countywide.
  - d. Interest group served: general public.
  
3. Nelson Park - lies along the west band of the Tomorrow River in central Amherst.
  - a. Major activities: picnicking and softball. Serves as an assembly point for snowmobilers when coming to the Village.
  - b. Facilities: nine picnic tables, one enclosed pavilion, play equipment and lighted ball diamond, park benches, swing set, additional playground equipment.
  - c. Service area: Village.
  - d. Interest group served: passive and active recreation for all ages.
  
4. Public Boat Landing – eastern shore of the Mill Pond
  - a. Major activities: boat landing and picnicking.
  - b. Facilities: boat landing, 2 picnic tables and trash receptacles.
  - c. Service area: Village.
  - d. Interest group served: passive and active recreation for all ages.
  
5. Water Tower Park - is a 1.3 acre facility located at the corner of Lincoln Street and Clinton’s Court on the Village’s west side. Residential growth near the park suggests a possible need to add facilities in the future, however, poison ivy in the wooded portion of the park should first be eradicated.
  - a. Major activities: picnicking and passive recreation.
  - b. Facilities: picnic tables and benches.
  - c. Service area: neighborhood.
  - d. Interest group served: active sports participants and spectators.
  
6. Hughes View – a 0.5 acre property located on Pond Street adjoining Mill Pond. Provides a view of Mill Pond.
  
7. Mill Street Public Access – During the spring of 1985 the Village obtained the services of the Wisconsin Conservation Corps to help create an attractive public access area on the west bank of the Tomorrow River, just below the dam. Trees and brush were removed, riprap was installed to stabilize the west bank of the Tomorrow River, and a picnic table was placed on the site. Today, many people take advantage of the aesthetic open space provided by the Mill Street public access, which is owned by Village of Amherst.
  
8. Lettie Jensen Library – Green space used as “public lawn” by Village residents, located on Main Street, south of the high school.

See General Village Location Map

See Village of Almond Parks Map

See Village of Amherst Parks Map

9. Prairie View Street – 21 acres of land adjacent to the Wastewater Treatment Facility that have been identified as possible future park land.
10. Well #3 Grounds – This Village municipal water well site, located on Pond Street, contains 5 acres of land that should remain as open space.
11. Tree Nursery – The Village tree nursery, with flower garden, is located near the wastewater treatment facility. The nursery is managed by the Tree Board and provides stock for street trees and other municipal landscaping uses. The Village of Amherst has been designated as a “Tree City” as part of the Tree City USA program since 1997.

### Village of Amherst Junction

Amherst Junction is a village of 330 people, which has shown average growth in the last fifteen years. The Village has moderate potential for growth due to its function as a service center and excellent highway accessibility. Amherst Junction is located in eastern Portage County. Lake Emily County Park borders the western Village limits. 3.4-acre Nelson Park is the Villages primary recreation facility. This park lies about ¼ of a mile from the business district. The Tomorrow River State Trail also bisects the Village, passing through adjacent north of the business district.

1. Nelson Park
  - a. Major activities: softball and baseball.
  - b. Facilities: ball diamond, volleyball court, playground equipment, parking lot.
  - c. Service area: Village-community wide.
  - d. Interest group served: active sports participants and spectators.

### Village of Junction City

Junction City is located in the northwest portion of the County. Junction City has a current population of 430 and has shown declining population over the past fifteen years. The trend for the future would seem to be continued moderate decline. Water availability is limited in the region and may prove to be a limiting factor to growth.

1. Village Park - is a 35 acre facility, large enough to serve the needs of the entire Village and surrounding area. The tree cover lends an excellent park atmosphere to this facility. Access may be difficult for children, west of the tracks, who have to travel along USH 10 to get to the park.
  - a. Major activities: picnicking, softball, baseball and tennis.
  - b. Facilities: picnic tables, all weather shelter, sanitary facilities, 2 baseball diamonds (1 lighted), bleachers, scoreboards, concession stand, community center, 2 lighted tennis courts, water tower, play field, skating rink and walking trail.
  - c. Service area: countywide.
  - d. Interest group served: active and passive recreation for all ages.
2. John F. Kennedy School - is located to the north of the Village on an 18 acre site. The children’s play area is slightly unique in that the materials used were readily available materials that have been “recycled” for play use: worn tires, railroad ties and dead trees - used for climbing.
  - a. Major activities: softball and basketball.
  - b. Facilities: playfield.
  - c. Service area: school district.
  - d. Interest group served: active sports participants.

3. St. Michael's Church - is located on a 2 acre site and provides children's play equipment. Use by the public during non-school hours may be limited due to location of facilities on private property.
  - a. Major activities: children's play.
  - b. Facilities: children's play equipment.
  - c. Service area: neighborhood (¼ mile).
  - d. Interest group served: young children.

#### Village of Nelsonville

Nelsonville is a village of 166 people, located in eastern Portage County, along the Tomorrow River.

1. Nelsonville Park - 1.8 acres.
  - a. Major activities: tennis.
  - b. Facilities: 1 tennis court (lighted), swing set, sledding hill.
  - c. Service area: Village-wide.
  - d. Interest group served: active sports participants.
2. Land Behind the Rising Star Mill – Open space area with picnic tables located along the Tomorrow River.
3. Public Access to Tomorrow River - 0.37 acres, which includes a 60 foot access to the River in the Welton-Alm Subdivision, as provided by State law. A six car parking lot is located adjacent to the access area.

#### Village of Rosholt

Rosholt is a small village of 518 people located in northeast Portage County. The Village, which is a rural service center for the surrounding Town of Alban, has experienced a minor population decline since 1940. It is expected that the population level may stabilize or increase slightly with the continued trend of rural, non-farm housing. An elementary school and high school are located in Rosholt.

1. Depot Park - is a 2.3 acre facility.
  - a. Major activities: basketball, volleyball and ice skating.
  - b. Facilities: basketball court, playground equipment, lighted volleyball courts (2) and lighted ice skating rink with warming house.
  - c. Service area: Village wide.
  - d. Interest group served: active sports.
2. Fairgrounds - are located on a 26-acre site on the northern edge of the Village. These grounds are owned by the Village and leased by the Rosholt Community Fair Association. The Fair Association owns the modern cattle barn and adjacent parking lot.
  - a. Major activities: annual fair- exhibits, stage productions, concessions and softball.
  - b. Facilities: fairgrounds - exhibits, stage productions, concessions and softball.
  - c. Service area: Countywide.
  - d. Interest group served: general public.
3. Historic Marker - is located on the site of the old grist mill commemorating the birthplace of Rosholt. The site is small, with room for only one car. There are no tables. The site provides access to Flume Creek Pond.

See Village of Amherst Junction Parks Map

See Village of Junction City Parks Map

See Village of Nelsonville Parks Map

See Village of Rosholt Parks Map

- a. Major activities: historic site.
  - b. Facilities: historic marker; two benches located along the pond.
  - c. Service area: Village.
  - d. Interest group served: general public.
4. Rosholt Grade and High School - is centrally located, providing 20 acres of recreation space.
- a. Major activities: active sports, baseball, football and tennis.
  - b. Facilities: football field, baseball field, 2 softball fields, 2 tennis courts with practice board (lighted), ¼ mile running track and playground equipment.
  - c. Service area: school district.
  - d. Interest group served: active sports participants and spectators of organized high school sports.
5. Footbridge Park - 1.5 acre facility alongside Flume Creek with picnic tables and merry-go-round.
6. Lions Park - 1.5 acre facility beside Flume Creek Pond with picnic shelter and playground equipment, fishing dock and dam.

**VILLAGE PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS, 2007-2011**

Outdoor recreation demands at the village level can be expected to center around softball, tennis, and swimming, as well as skating and other winter sports. The villages should strive to provide lands and facilities for these and other popular recreational activities. The demand for new neighborhood/community parks is expected to be the greatest in the most rapidly growing villages, such as Plover and Amherst, which will likely require a full range of community recreational facilities.

Invitation for Participation in the 2007-2011 Outdoor Recreation Plan

Portage County has maintained a policy of acting as a lead agency in the outdoor recreation planning process. As such, the County has offered to include in its 2007-2011 Outdoor Recreation Plan update, those communities which do not already have State approved plans. Four of the nine villages in the County have elected to participate in this outdoor recreation planning process and have prioritized five-year improvement programs. The Villages of Plover and Whiting have prepared individual outdoor recreation plans, which are available separately (improvement programs not included here).

Villages Participating in the 2007-2011 Outdoor Recreation Plan Process:

Amherst, Junction City, Nelsonville, Rosholt

Villages with Their Own Outdoor Recreation Plan:

Plover, Whiting

Villages Not Participating in the County's 2007-2011 Outdoor Recreation Plan:

Almond, Amherst Junction, Park Ridge

Those villages which are participating in the County's Outdoor Recreation Plan or which have an approved plan of their own, will be eligible for State grant-in-aid funds for park acquisition and development. The remaining villages are encouraged to participate in the future, as needs arise.

## Village Outdoor Recreation Improvement Programs, 2007-2011

### Village of Amherst

1. Athletic fields on Village property, to include two regulation ball diamonds, a soccer field, skateboard park, bathroom facilities and concessions stand.
2. Playground equipment for parks.
3. Restoration of retaining walls along the Tomorrow River between Mill and Washington Streets.
4. Park and recreation development near Scout Hall.
5. Development plan to enhance Amherst Mill Pond, address algae, weed and siltation problems.
6. Develop walking trails along the Tomorrow River within the Village boundaries.
7. Develop bike trail between Amherst and Amherst Junction.
8. Develop neighborhood park in northeast corner of Village.
9. Provide a drinking fountain in Nelson Park.
10. Bike trail from Amherst to Cate Park to link to Tomorrow River State Trail.
11. Improvement of bathroom and hospitality facilities as well as parking facilities.
12. Remove Village garages and develop green space adjacent to spillway and Tomorrow River.

### Village of Junction City

1. Extend walking trail.
2. Extend water line to new ball field.
3. Replace old playground equipment.
4. Upgrade skating rink.
5. Construct water pond.
6. Plant trees.

### Village of Nelsonville

1. Existing playground: new hardware for all swings, safety improvements to merry-go-round, repair and paint all equipment; install a shelter area
2. Tennis Courts: new net, resurface court, improve lighting systems
2. Swimming Park: Purchase and install pier

### Village of Rosholt

1. Fairgrounds: Some area organizations plan to build a picnic shelter and bathroom facility. The low area south of Forest Street may be filled in with hopes of creating a softball field. The Village plans to work with the Fair Association to form a better maintenance plan for the buildings and a marketing plan to generate public interest in utilizing the facility for special or family events.
2. Depot Park: new basketball hoops will be installed.

All other parks: general maintenance and no other plans at this time.



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