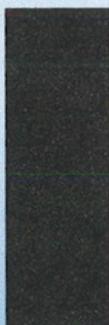


# Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Plan

Village of Hewitt / Town of Marshfield

Wood County, Wisconsin



Plan Prepared By:  
*Hewitt Area Parks & Trails Committees*  
Original Plan: 2003  
Updated Plan: 2016



# Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Plan

Village of Hewitt / Town of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin

## Committee Members:

Jeff Binder  
Ken Eilers  
Fran Lang

Joe Bores  
Maureen Hulke  
Kevin Nowack

Romelle Bymers  
Pete Hulke  
Jason Wagner

Mike Draxler  
Steve Kluge  
Becky Wagner

---

### *~Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Vision~*

*The Village of Hewitt and Town of Marshfield are growing communities providing healthy recreational opportunities for everyone. A system of interconnected municipal parks and trails allows people to enjoy the diverse natural beauty and wildlife habitat of the area.*

---

### Planning Assistance By:

April Opatik, Planner, Wood County Planning Office  
Jason Grueneberg, Director, Wood County Planning Office

### A Message from the past...

"Each of you should think of himself or herself as a person who has inherited a beautiful country estate, and should be proud to keep up that estate, by making such improvements as will increase its beauty. You would be ungrateful heirs if you did not care who left this estate to you. Stop and think how the pioneers first came to prepare the way. They settled on a piece of land with nothing but their covered wagons and a few other items. Out of the wilderness came fertile fields, farm buildings, and cozy log cabins. They labored hard and long and fought to defend themselves.

So with great determination and community spirit, our residents have made great progress and without doubt will continue to make progress, as nothing stands still. Endowed with these virtues, may the next many, many years be even better than the last."

- Hewitt Bicentennial booklet, 1976

# Table of Contents

## Contents

<i>I. Introduction.....</i>	<i>1</i>
A. Purpose of Park and Trail Planning .....	1
B. Mission Statement.....	2
C. Vision Statement .....	2
D. Public Participation .....	2
E. Goals & Objectives .....	2
<i>II. Background.....</i>	<i>6</i>
A. Location .....	6
B. History.....	7
C. Hewitt-Marshfield Area Today .....	8
<i>III. Existing Recreational System.....</i>	<i>8</i>
A. Inventory and Development of Park Land.....	8
B. Inventory of Existing Trails .....	14
<i>IV. Park and Trail Needs Analysis.....</i>	<i>19</i>
A. Population.....	19
B. Population Projections.....	20
C. Park Standards.....	21
D. Locational Needs and Accessibility .....	21
E. Facility Needs.....	22
F. Demographics .....	23
G. Public Input.....	24
<i>V. Action Program.....</i>	<i>24</i>
A. Funding Resources.....	25
B. Recommendations.....	26
C. Park Recommendations.....	27
D. Trail Recommendations .....	30
<i>VI. Implementation .....</i>	<i>35</i>
A. Capital Improvements Program.....	35
B. Fund Raising & Grant Funding Strategy.....	37

C. Volunteer Time, Talents, Services, and Materials .....	38
<i>VII. Appendices</i> .....	39
Appendix A. Public Participation Procedures .....	40
Appendix B: Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Public Opinion Survey 2001 .....	41
Appendix C: Community Survey .....	44
Appendix D: Grant Community Fund.....	53
Appendix E: WoodLot Management Plan .....	54
Appendix F: Village of Hewitt Property Map.....	58
Appendix G: Village of Hewitt-Marsh Proposed Trail.....	59
Appendix H: Village of Hewitt Proposed Trails .....	60
Appendix I: Village of Hewitt Wetlands.....	61
Appendix J: 2013 Grant Award .....	62
Appendix K: 2014 Grant Award .....	63
Appendix L: 2016 Community Recreational Survey.....	64



## I. Introduction

The 2016 update of this plan has been coordinated by the members of the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Committees (HAPT). Although the previous plan was adopted in September of 2003, significant progress with the parks and trails has created the need to update the plan to effectively serve as a guiding document in park and trail planning. Examples of improvements that have taken place since the last plan include the purchase of 13.94 acres of land and 4.75 deeded acres from the Town of Marshfield for the development of the Yellowstone Recreational Park. Also, 0.43 miles of surfaced trails and 0.50 miles of natural trails were developed prior to the original update of this plan in 2003. As of 2016, there is a total amount of 1.85 miles of natural surfaced trails and 4.99 miles of hard-surfaced trails. Numerous other smaller improvements have taken place that collectively build a park and trail network, including a trailhead, and recycled boardwalks.

Since the initial adoption of this plan in 2003 the structure of the HAPT Committee has been modified to fit the progressive changes. There are now two committees, one devoted to parks and one devoted to trails instead of a single parks and trails committee. Although they are separate committees they are both committed to carrying out the HAPT Plan. As separate committees they are able to focus in their appropriate areas, but operating under the same plan they are able to coordinate all of the projects that they are working on. Overlap of committee membership also ensures that communication among the separate committees will remain strong.

In 2004, the Village accepted an award for their Park and Trail Plan from Mid America Trails and Greenways. Since that time we have received extensive additional assistance in the form of donations, grants and volunteer time. Generous contributions of money and volunteer time exhibited the strong commitment of community members and sponsors to park and trail improvements. The high level of use of the park and trail facilities continues to drive more improvements.

The focus of the original plan initiated in 2001 was to inventory existing park and trail facilities and identify current and future needs for the planning area. This update is not an attempt to change the overall direction of park and trail planning in the area, but rather build off of the original plan and the successful completion of projects inspired by it. A survey in 2010 was conducted for the Village of Hewitt's comprehensive plan. Goals and objectives pertaining to the parks and trails were developed that aligned with the needs of the planning area. In 2016, there was an additional survey developed for both the Village of Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield directly related to parks and trails.

### A. Purpose of Park and Trail Planning

This plan was developed out of concern from area residents that future development and changing land use could make it difficult to ever create a park and trail system that would effectively serve the area. The approach taken was very progressive given the fact that park and trail planning was done in a prescriptive manner rather than a reactive one. In addition, a park and trail plan is a

Planning identifies where we are at the moment, where we want to be in the future, and what needs to happen to get there.

necessary tool in capturing grant funding for recreation projects in the area. The planning process is not finished with the completion of the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Plan. Based on the recommendations of this plan, the Committees will continue to guide the implementation of park and trail projects. Additionally, the committees will be responsible for timely review and updating the plan to reflect changing trends and attitudes in park and trail usage. Although this update is considered relatively minor, progress and new projects identified in the updated plan are significant.

## **B. Mission Statement**

Plan and develop a network of parks and trails for active and passive recreational activities in the Village of Hewitt and Town of Marshfield. This plan will encourage a healthy lifestyle, promote social opportunities and protect and preserve ecologically sensitive areas.

A **Mission** answers why an organization exists - or why a project is starting- and its purpose.

## **C. Vision Statement**

The Village of Hewitt and Town of Marshfield are growing communities providing healthy recreational opportunities for everyone. A system of interconnected municipal parks and trails allows people to enjoy the diverse natural beauty and wildlife habitat of the area.

A **Vision** summarizes the ideal state of an organization - or project or resource.

## **D. Public Participation**

Public participation in the planning process is important to ensure that the plan truly represents what the community wants and needs for park and trail facilities. It is through public input that the goals and objectives of the plan are developed, and all future decisions will be based.

Informing the public and encouraging their involvement in the planning process was accomplished in a variety of ways. Public participation via social media with using Facebook, the village of Hewitt website, and word of mouth was used. Currently meeting times and locations are posted at the Village Administration Building, Draxler's Service, and occasionally in the Marshfield News Herald. Meetings are open to the public and can be attended by any interested parties. Detailed procedures explaining public involvement with the planning process can be found in Appendix A. The procedures were essential to the overall success of the plan and drafted early in the planning process.

## **E. Goals & Objectives**

The H.A.P.T. Committee determined the following goals and objectives through public opinion surveys and discussions. The goals represent what type of parks, trails and recreation facilities the majority of area residents would like in their communities. Goals reveal the ideals of the communities and can be achieved

through the actions of government leaders, private organizations, and individual citizens. Objectives break down a goal into specific tasks, and serve as a road map to achieving the goals.

**Goals** transform the vision into a discrete statement of direction.

These goals and objectives serve as a guide to keep everyone on track regarding what needs to be accomplished. When issues or opportunities arise, they can be responded to by referencing the goals and objectives of the plan and asking the question: “Is this what everyone agreed to accomplish when the park and trail plan was written?”

As stakeholders, government leaders, private organizations, businesses and individual citizens will need to work to accomplish the objectives, so that goals are met, and the park and trail vision becomes a reality. The following list of goals and objectives is numbered for reference only. The numbering or order of the goals and objectives does not represent priority.

**Objectives** break down a goal into specific tasks.

**Goal 1: Determine what lands and facilities are currently available in the planning area.**

- Inventory state, county and local public outdoor recreation facilities in the study area and develop a summary listing of all facilities, including locations and functions.
- Research private outdoor recreation providers and locations.
- Identify public lands that are appropriate for park, trail and recreation activities.
- Identify areas where land acquisition or use through easements or conservation easements may be feasible and recommended to help meet the goals of the plan.

**Goal 2: Plan and develop a network of parks, trails and greenways in the Village of Hewitt and Town of Marshfield.**

- Provide a variety of recreational activities that will serve residents and visitors year round.
- Consider expanding public land ownership to respond to recreation space needs.
- Create a capital improvements program to schedule and prioritize park and trail enhancements and implementation.
- Encourage land developers in the area to consider dedication of land for park or trail use.

- Consider widening or paving shoulders to safely accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic when road resurfacing is necessary.

**Goal 3: Ensure that open space and recreational facilities are designed to meet the needs of residents of all ages and abilities.**

- Encourage participation of elderly and physically impaired citizens at park and recreation meetings.
- Design active and passive recreational facilities that can be utilized by people of all ages and physical abilities.
- Ensure that plans and designs are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Periodically conduct local surveys on parks, trails, and recreation facilities to identify changing recreation attitudes and trends and update the plan on a regular basis to reflect these changes.
- Manage public park and trail lands for the broadest possible recreational benefits that are consistent with other uses.

**Goal 4: Preserve and maintain natural waterways, drainage courses, and other natural resource areas in and around the community.**

- Work with the Department of Natural Resources, the Army Corp of Engineers, and other agencies to identify environmentally sensitive or unique habitat areas.
- Identify appropriate uses for environmentally sensitive areas or unique natural areas that preserve the natural beauty and wildlife diversity of the area.
- Ensure that environmental and aesthetic qualities of the community are considered when planning for park and trail development.

**Goal 5: Encourage cooperative planning among area communities.**

- Plan facilities so that they function in conjunction with area communities to avoid duplication of services and promote efficiencies while providing for a wide variety of activities.
- Inform area communities of the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails planning process and encourage their input.
- Reference planning activities of federal, state, county, and local units of government that pertain to park and trail facilities so that they compliment the efforts of this plan.

**Goal 6: Identify creative ways of funding projects and identify possible stakeholders that would volunteer their time and talents toward the goals and objectives of the Parks and Trails Plan.**

- Identify organizations and businesses that would be willing to donate time, talents, funds, or maintenance of the facilities.
- Create and maintain a list of federal, state, county and local agencies that have grant funds available or offer other forms of assistance.
- Talk with other communities that have been successful in raising funds for projects and learn from their experiences.

**Goal 7: Encourage continued involvement of Hewitt and Town of Marshfield residents when planning for park and trail development.**

- Conduct public meetings, focus groups, and other means that encourage involvement by individual citizens and special interest groups in plans for parks and trails.
- Conduct public informational meetings when significant development is planned for any park or trail.
- Encourage ongoing participation by all residents, particularly those who are elderly and physically challenged, at Hewitt area parks and trails meetings.
- Solicit ongoing comments from residents on all aspects of park and recreational programming and management.



*Shelter at Yellowstone Recreational Park*



## B. History

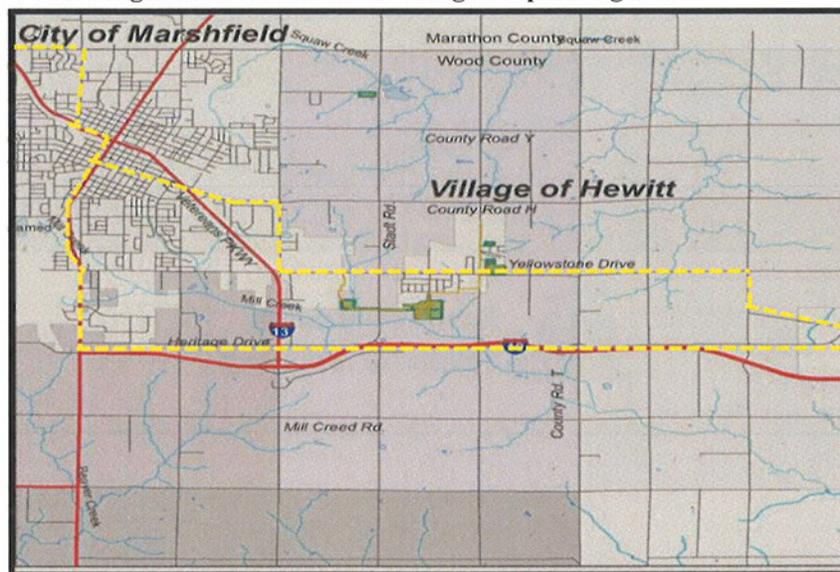
The earliest inhabitants of the area, now known as the Village of Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield, were Indians from the tribes of Winnebago, Potawatomi, and the Chippewa. Through a treaty in 1837 the U.S. Government acquired ownership of the land. In 1856 Wood County was created from land that was the western portion of Portage County. The Town of Marshfield was formed in 1875 and originally included land that is now known as the Town of Cameron. The Town of Cameron detached from Marshfield in 1903. Hewitt incorporated in 1973 following a referendum.

The railroad played an important part in the development of the area. In the 1870s the rail line that connected Stevens Point to Abbotsford was constructed. Hewitt acquired its name from a sidetrack known as Hewitt Side Track or Hewitt Switch after the lumberman that built it. The rail line opened the area to lumbermen who then had the means to transport their lumber. Businesses arose to provide necessary goods and services such as general stores, hardware stores and saloons, which attracted other settlers, most notably farmers.

Before there were numbered highways in the United States there were names attached to roads to help the motorist navigate from town to town or from county to county. In 1912 before the vision of the interstate highway was conceived, a small group of men envisioned a road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound and called it the Yellowstone Trail (Figure 2).

In Wisconsin the Yellowstone trail ran from Kenosha to Hudson through 18 counties spanning 406 miles. This transcontinental road, one of the first, carrying Tin Lizzies in the early 1900s and Chevys in the 1930s finally faded into a growing network of roads and the interstate system. Although there are many more route choices when traveling today, much of the Yellowstone Trail can still be traveled. More information on the Yellowstone trail can be found at [www.yellowstonetrailwi.org](http://www.yellowstonetrailwi.org).

Figure 2: Route of the original Yellowstone Trail through the planning area



### **C. Hewitt-Marshfield Area Today**

The planning area has a rural character and small-town-feel that many city dwellers desire. Community pride is strong, with volunteerism and civic duty as a way of life for many. A wide variety of useful information including contact information for local elected officials, local land use regulations and ordinances, and other community resources and events can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/VillageOfHewitt/> and on the Hewitt website at <http://www.vi.hewitt.wi.us/>.

The less densely populated region of the planning area is the Town of Marshfield. The landscape is a blend of rural farms, hobby farms, and single-family homes. Along U.S. 10 there are some commercial sites that take advantage of the high traffic volume and visibility.

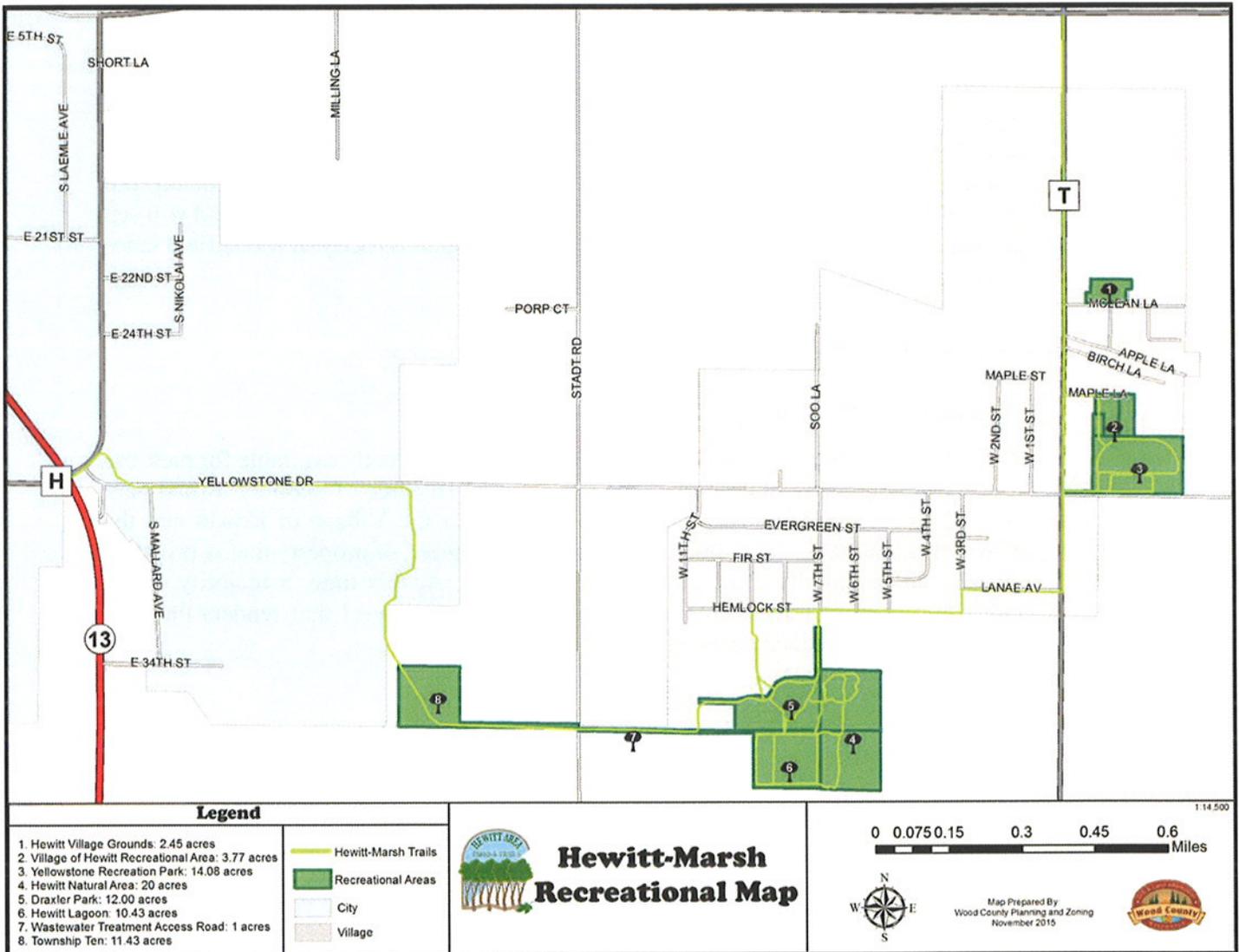
The Village of Hewitt has a limited number of commercial establishments and some manufacturing. The planning area recognizes the “bedroom community” niche that they fall into. It is likely the City of Marshfield will continue to attract more commercial and industrial establishments thus creating more jobs and fueling the economy in the area, while the Village of Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield will see growth in residential development and house a portion of the City of Marshfield labor force.

## **III. Existing Recreational System**

### **A. Inventory and Development of Park Land**

The following table is an inventory of property that is currently available for park use in the planning area. Within this area there are 63.16 acres of publicly owned park land of which ownership is identified in Table 1 for the Village of Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield. In addition, there is a 12-acre piece of property that is privately owned and potentially available for park purposes. At this time, a majority of the publicly owned and accessible lands are developed to a level that renders the sites usable for their intended purpose.

Figure 3: Village of Hewitt and Town of Marshfield, recreational, and private lands map area.



**1. Hewitt Village Grounds**

Ownership: Village of Hewitt  
2.45 Acres

This recreational facility includes a sand volleyball court, a small ball diamond, play equipment, and a paved parking lot with 2 basketball hoops. Much of this site is taken up by the Hewitt Area Volunteer Fire Department building as well as the Village Hall. The hall has kitchen and restroom facilities and is used for meetings, municipal functions and other social events. In addition there is a shelter building on the site that is used for larger gatherings. Parking is limited to approximately 40 vehicles which is not adequate for times when park activities and fire department activities or meetings are taking place at the same time. Expansion for this site is not being considered given the existing development and use of adjacent properties. Within the next several years, the shelter building is scheduled to be repurposed to provide covered picnic seating.

**2. Village of Hewitt  
Recreational Area**

Ownership: Village of Hewitt  
3.77 Acres

In 2005, the Town of Marshfield deeded 3.77 acres to the Village of Hewitt to be used for recreational purposes. Although the Town and Village have been working together on park and trail planning and funding, the Town felt it would be appropriate for the Village to hold title to the property that was located in the Village limits. In 2003, 13.94



Back row L to R: Unknown, Paul (Pat) Cramer, Frank Durst, Albert Schill, Gregor Durst Jr.  
Front row L to R: Unknown, John Durst, Leo Varsho Sr., Edmund Cramer

Park Facility	Village	Town	Private
1. Hewitt Village Grounds	2.45		
2. Village of Hewitt Recreational Area	3.77		
3. Yellowstone Recreation Park	14.08		
4. Hewitt Natural Area	20.00		
5. Draxler Park			12.00
6. Hewitt Lagoon	10.43		
7. Township Ten Acres		11.43	
8. Wastewater Treatment Access Road	1.00		
<b>Acreage by ownership</b>	<b>51.73</b>	<b>11.43</b>	<b>12.00</b>

**Table 1: Recreational Areas and Acreage**

Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Plan – 2016  
Village of Hewitt / Town of Marshfield

acres of land south of the aforementioned property was purchased for the Yellowstone Recreational Park. The area had a baseball team as early as 1913 and is displayed on page 10.

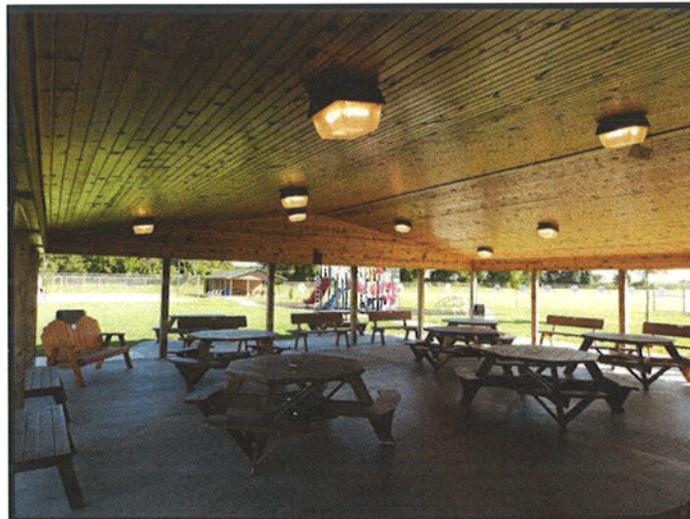
### 3. **Yellowstone Recreational Park**

Ownership: Village of Hewitt

14.08 Acres

The purchase of this land was driven by the need for more recreation facilities, most importantly ball diamonds. The property is well suited for active recreational development given its relatively flat grade and previous agricultural use. It is also located in close proximity to a designated stretch of bicycle and pedestrian route that runs almost the entire length of Main Street in the Village of Hewitt. Projects completed in 2009 and 2010 connected the park to this route with a hard-surfaced trail over a .14-acre strip of land that was purchased.

Currently the Yellowstone Recreational Park has two ball diamonds, two volleyball courts, and playground equipment. A pavilion which serves as a concession building has a covered area for seating and is available for rent. This building includes a kitchen, restrooms and storage area. An additional shelter with exterior electrical outlets was also constructed for picnicking and has a locked storage area for equipment. In 2011, a gazebo was added and some trails were blacktopped. Parking is available on a gravel-surfaced lot for over 200 cars. Additional growth area has been designated for future parking.



*Yellowstone Recreational Park sitting area*

Youth organizations have made substantial contributions to the park. A Boy Scout troop installed a flag pole with lighting and surrounded it with a garden as an Eagle Scout project. Additional Eagle Scout projects included constructing benches and picnic tables. A 4-H club planted a perennial garden

adjacent to the pavilion. Girl Scout troop projects included landscaping around the entrance sign and building park benches. Overall, these park facilities wouldn't be possible without the continued volunteered efforts from members of the Recreational Department and Parks and Trails Committee.

This park is also designated as the trailhead for the Hewitt-Marsh Trail. Ample parking along with the aforementioned facilities makes this location ideal for residents and visitors to use as a starting point for the trail. As the designated trail head, maps and other information pertaining to the trail network are available here.

#### 4. **Hewitt Natural Area**

Ownership: Village of Hewitt  
20.00 Acres

The Hewitt Natural Area is the largest publicly owned parcel in the planning area. Over 60% of this 20.00-acre parcel is wooded, and is a safe haven for deer, fox, squirrels and other wildlife. The recreation value of this piece of property is found in the abundance of natural vegetation and wildlife. This relatively untouched piece of property holds the potential for a variety of both passive and active nature-based recreational activities. Improvements to this site may be limited to clearing of trees and brush for natural surfaced trails. Placing wood chips on seasonally wet areas of the trails would allow for quiet walks and winter activities that include snowshoeing and cross country skiing. Wetlands have been marked to allow for some trails to be graveled. Tent camping in this area may be a possibility for the future.

Limited access to the site due to no frontage or access roads has maintained the natural state of this property. Areas of this site are very wet with over 75% (15+ acres) classified as wetland by the Core of Engineers.

#### 5. **Draxler Park**

Ownership: Mike & Vickie Draxler  
12 Acres



This privately-owned land is partially delineated wetland by the Core of Engineers and that portion would be unsuitable for development of active recreation facilities such as ball fields. Although a portion of the site is delineated as wetland it is still dry enough in most areas to be considered walkable. As seen in the photo below, recycled pallets were used to create a boardwalk. This project was successful due to the help and many hours from volunteers.

This site is adjacent to 30.43 acres of natural, undeveloped village-owned property known as the Hewitt Lagoons (10.43 acres) to the south, and the

Hewitt Natural Area (20.00 acres) to the east.

Seasonally wet soils may limit the use of portions of this piece of private land and this fact should be a consideration when planning future options for this parcel. At this time, a portion of this land is available for trail use. There is limited potential for further development due to the delineation of wetlands.

Future developmental opportunities within this area include a combination of an ice skating pond, a retention pond, fire department dry hydrant (water source), picnic area, parking area for walkers, and winter recreational activities.

**6. Hewitt Lagoon**

Ownership: Village of Hewitt

10.43 Acres

Until 1994 this site was actively used as the settling lagoons for the village wastewater treatment facility. This is the only village or town owned site in the planning area that has a measurable body of water. This site attracts migratory birds throughout the year. In addition, a wide variety of other aquatic wildlife has made this area their home. Given the previous use of this site it is not appropriate for water activities such as swimming or boating, but the focus on this site could be on the natural aesthetics of the water and the wildlife that are a part of it.



*There are many viewings of wildlife here*

**7. Township Ten Acres**

Ownership: Town of Marshfield

11.43 Acres

The Township Ten Acres site was at one time used as a garbage dump for the Town of Marshfield. The dump has been properly abandoned and there is no evidence that this site was once used as a garbage dump. There is a slight

elevation increase on this property where the dump area has been capped with dirt. There are only a few trees on the south side of this property, and most of the site is covered with prairie grasses. The 11.43 acre property is accessible from Stadt Rd. following a strip of land that was originally used as the access road for the dump. This strip of land serves not only as an access for the property, but is also part of the Hewitt-Marsh Trail. In 2012 the portion of the Hewitt-Marsh Trail that is on this property was surfaced with recycled blacktop. In 2015, through the cooperation of DNR grant funding and multi-jurisdictional entities, blacktopping of



trail-segments connecting to the City of Marshfield was completed. Beyond the trail use, this property is primarily used for passive recreation activities. In the future this site could be used as a rest area for the Hewitt-Marsh Trail.

#### **8. Wastewater Treatment Access Road**

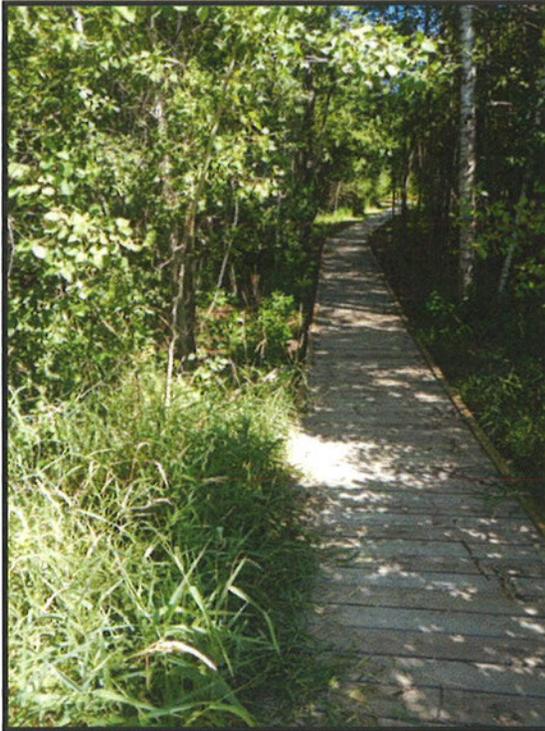
Ownership: Village of Hewitt  
1.00 Acres

As the name of this property suggests, this 1.00 acre property is used as an access road for the wastewater treatment plant. In recent years, it also serves the purpose of being part of the Hewitt-Marsh Trail. The access road/trail is surfaced with recycled blacktop.

### **B. Inventory of Existing Trails**

Since the first HAPT plan was published in 2003, the Town and Village have made substantial progress in the completion of trails. The trailhead was established in 2007 at the Yellowstone Recreational Park. As of the 2016 Plan revision, there are 6.84 miles of trail with both natural and blacktop surfaces. At least 1.85 miles of all of the trails are maintained as natural surfaces.

Much of the trail has been funded by cash donations and donations of labor. Many contractors involved in the projects have completed work with donations of time, equipment, and materials. In addition, persistent submittal of grant applications has proven a successful approach to funding projects. Another cost saving measure involves surfacing portions of the trail with recycled blacktop. At less than ½ the cost of blacktop surfacing, recycled blacktop provides a solid surface that can be used by pedestrians and bicyclists. With minor surface preparation this can be upgraded to blacktop surface in the future. Not all trails need to be surfaced to provide an enjoyable and healthy experience. Approximately 1.85 miles of trail in the Hewitt Natural Area, Hewitt Lagoons and Draxler Park are classified as nature trail with minimal maintenance including brush trimming, grass cutting, and wood chip surfacing. Although the natural trails can be seasonally wet, they provide a unique experience to view wildlife and nature.



*Recycled pallet bridge near Hewitt Lagoon and Draxler's Park*

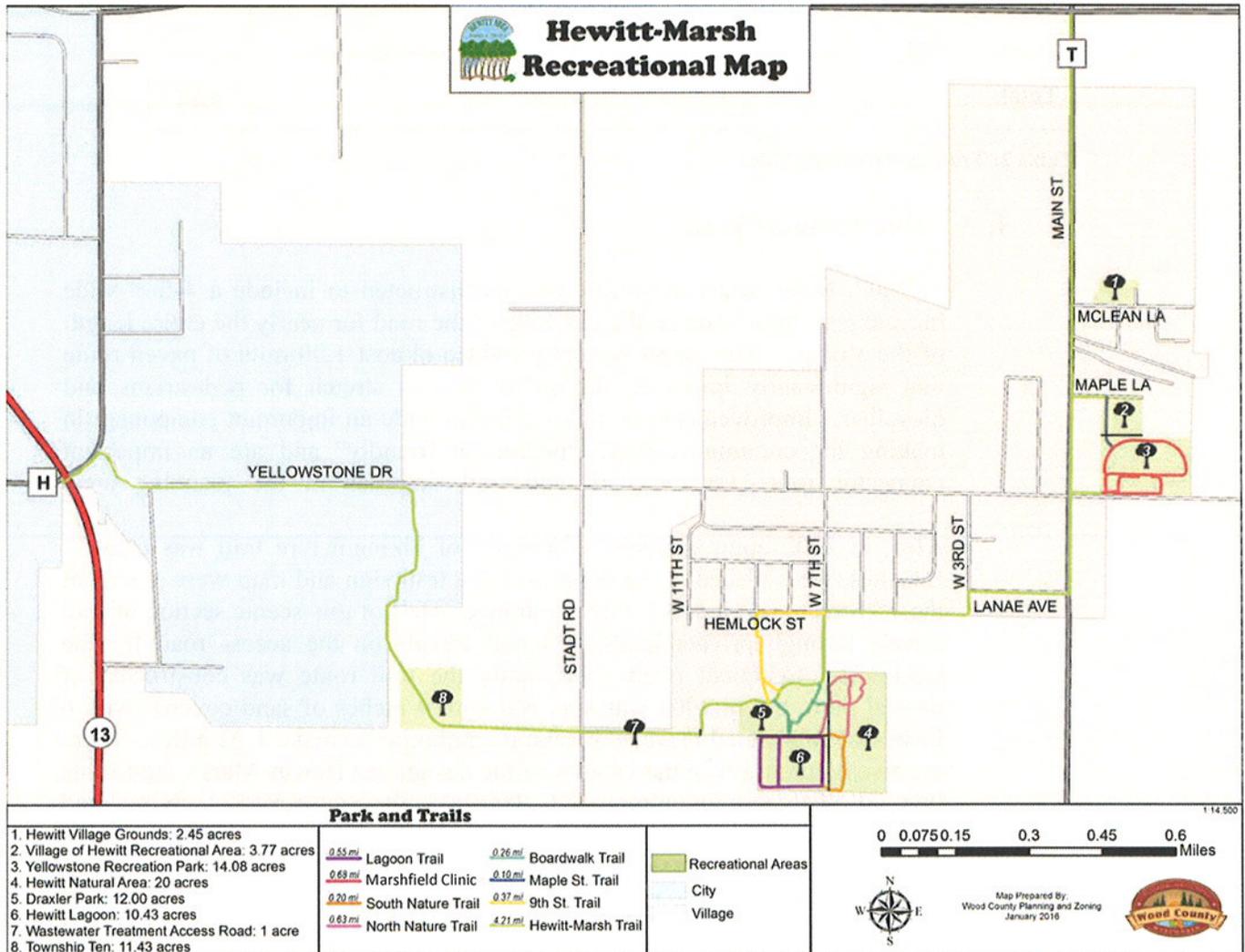
Currently much of the trail system is maintained by volunteers. The HAPT Committee has aggressively pursued funding for projects through grants, donations, and other creative fundraising efforts. The Village and Town boards have also supported the park and trail initiatives through annual budgeting.

In 2008, the Village purchased 0.14 acres of property between the park and County Highway T. This property was used to connect the park and trail head to the existing trail system with a 0.10 mile blacktopped trail. A complete inventory of trails in the planning area is shown in Table 2.

In order to determine the suitability of existing roads serving bicyclists and pedestrians, area roads were inventoried for shoulder width and construction. Following the inventory a trail focus group mapped out possible future routes that would utilize roads that had been improved and are capable of safely handling bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Other considerations for routes include the connectivity to other trails and recreation facilities, planning routes on publicly owned land or land where easements could be secured, avoiding environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, and routes that maximize aesthetically preferred locations. Important consideration was given to placing trails that would connect people to destinations such as stores, parks, or places of employment and recreation. Although many roads in the planning area are not officially designated by the HAPT Committee or by the County as official bicycle/pedestrian facilities or routes, they still may be safely used by bicyclists and pedestrians depending on the time of day and traffic volume.

Other undeveloped sites provide recreational enjoyment that is more passive by utilizing cleared, natural paths and facilities limited to trash receptacles, benches and trail signage. Although the intent of many of the undeveloped sites is to focus on more passive nature-based recreational activities, improvements are planned for some of these sites that will meet the needs of residents as identified in the parks and trails public opinion survey (see Appendix C for results). Each parcel of land is described as to its current use and potential for future recreational uses.

Figure 5: Hewitt-Marsh Trail System



<b>Trail Sections</b>	<b>Surfaces</b>	<b>Miles</b>
1. Hewitt-Marsh Trail	Black top, concrete, natural surface	4.21
2. Maple St. Trail	Back top	0.10
3. Marshfield Clinic Trail	Back top	0.68
4. 9 <sup>th</sup> St. Trail	Natural surface and concrete	0.37
5. Boardwalk Trail	Natural surface and wooden bridges	0.26
6. North Nature Trail	Natural surface and wood chips	0.63
7. South Nature Trail	Natural surface and wood chips	0.20
8. Lagoon Trail	Natural surface and wooden bridges	0.55
<b>Total</b>		<b>6.84</b>

**Table 2: Trail Surfaces and Miles**

### **1. Hewitt-Marsh Trail**

In 2002, Main Street in Hewitt was reconstructed to include a 4-foot wide bicycle/pedestrian lane on the east side of the road for nearly the entire length of the Village. This improvement provided almost 1.00 mile of paved route that significantly improved the safety of this stretch for pedestrians and bicyclists. Improvements on this section provide an important component in making the community more “pedestrian friendly” and are an important connector route for the park and trail facilities in the planning area.

Also, in 2002 approximately 1.33 miles of hiking/nature trail was created. Benches, were placed along the trail and a trail sign and map were placed at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Hemlock Street entrance. Half of this scenic section of trail travels through private lands, and half travels on the access road for the wastewater treatment plant. Originally the trail route was constructed of natural base, but in 2004 was surfaced with 9 inches of sand covered with 6 inches of compacted recycled blacktop combining to make 1.02 miles. There are also nature trails in the vicinity of the designated Hewitt-Marsh Trail route that will likely remain unimproved. Traffic on the access road is minimal and the road is not for public vehicular use. The location of this access road is advantageous to connecting the Township Ten Acres property to the Hewitt Natural Area, and Hewitt-Marsh Trail. Funding sources for this section of trail include the National Park Service CCSP, Umhoefer Foundation, and local tax revenue.

In 2006, the trail runs from W. 7<sup>th</sup> street to the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Lanae had 0.55 miles of recycled blacktop surface constructed. Adjacent to the north of this section of trail is primarily single family residential, and to the south, land that is used for agricultural purposes. The trail runs on a combination of village owned property that was reserved for road right-of-way and a private easement connecting that right-of-way to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Construction of this segment was completed in 2007 using DNR funds and tax money.

The western portion of the Hewitt-Marsh Trail runs from Stadt Road westerly along an existing access road to the Township Ten Acres site and was completed in 2012 to be 0.43 miles long. It connects to private property and to the City of Marshfield industrial park on Yellowstone Drive. The City began construction on the industrial park trails in 2011. The Hewitt-Marsh Trail was connected in September, 2015 with blacktop, new signs, and pedestrian and bike lane lines.

**2. Maple St. Trail**

In 2005, the Town of Marshfield deeded 3.77 acres to the Village of Hewitt to be used for recreational purposes. Throughout the years, brush cutting and tree thinning was implemented to create a more accessible walking area. In conjunction with the Yellowstone trail and blacktopping during the late summer of 2015, 0.10 miles of blacktop was created on the western portion of this area.

**3. Marshfield Clinic Trail**

In 2007, the Yellowstone Recreational Park was established as the trailhead for the Hewitt-Marsh Trail. A blacktopped trail was constructed in 2009-2010 from the park pavilion west to Main Street. Lighting was installed for the 0.10 miles portion bordering Yellowstone Drive in 2010. Continuation of the blacktop trail was constructed in the late summer of 2015 that encompassed the exterior of the park and connection to Maple St. Trail. This trail is a total of 0.68 miles.

**4. 9<sup>th</sup> St. Trail**

This trail is still in the process of establishment but currently has 0.37 miles of natural and gravel surfaces. The hope of this area is to be used for access to a parking lot, drainage pond for ice-skating in the winter, and another connector for the Hewitt-Marsh trail.

**5. Boardwalk Trail**

Due to the seasonally wet conditions, this trail was established through the hard work of volunteers and donors with boardwalks. It features 0.26 miles of mostly boardwalk and natural trails that connects to the inner portions of the South Nature, North Nature, and Lagoon Trails.

**6. North Nature Trail**

This portion of the Nature Trails features more trails than its southern neighbor. It has 0.63 miles of all natural surfaced trail with opportunities to view wildlife. The hope of this area is to be used for light camping and mountain biking with the possibility of gravel surfacing.

## 7. South Nature Trail

With only 0.20 miles of natural surfaced trail, the potential for future additional miles is the hope for this area. It is a great connector for the Lagoon Trail and the North Nature Trail. Potential for wildlife viewings are also possible in this area.

## 8. Lagoon Trail

The North, South, and Lagoon Trails are seen as the “natural trails” and are generally trails that are mowed on a regular basis during the warmer months. In the winter months the trails may be groomed, but are not cleared and can be used for hiking, snowshoeing or cross-county skiing. The trails are located in areas where wet conditions make it unlikely that they will ever be surfaced with recycled blacktop or blacktop. On a regular basis wood chips are placed on the wettest segments of the trails. Seasonally wet conditions many times make the trails unusable for periods of time. The trails provide access to some of the more remote natural areas of the community to view wildlife throughout the year.



This trail in particular is 0.55 miles long and has the best use for viewing bird species in the standing water ponds and very flat surfaces for hiking, jogging, cross country skiing and/or snow shoeing.

## IV. Park and Trail Needs Analysis

### A. Population

The most current and viable source of information on the demographics for The Village of Hewitt and Town of Marshfield is from the year 2010. Projections are made from 2010 to 2020. The Village of Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield have seen a combined growth rate of 10.9% or 205 people between 2000 and 2010. This growth rate is noticeably higher than Wood County’s 1.1% reduction in population during that time period. The state experienced a slightly lower growth rate than the planning area of 6.0%. Much of this growth can be contributed to economic development in the City of Marshfield, and the availability of land for residential development in the planning area. Many individuals and families have located to Hewitt and the surrounding areas because of its small-town atmosphere, rural/farming

community character, and open space. This benefit is enjoyed while still maintaining access to jobs, shopping, cultural experiences, quality of schools and exceptional health care facilities located in the City of Marshfield. The current 2010 census data calculates the Village of Hewitt population at 828 and the Town of Marshfield at 764.

## B. Population Projections

Current land use planning and zoning activities do not inhibit the present type of development and will probably not do so in the near future. For this reason, housing development and population changes will continue to be determined by the market. The population projection for 2020 for the Town of Marshfield is 898 and for the Village of Hewitt is 974. The projections were created by the local planning committees when they were developing their comprehensive plans. The projections were based on factual data and outside considerations such as local land use patterns, economic impacts, and rate of natural increase.

Year	Town of Marshfield		Village of Hewitt		Wood County		City of Marshfield		Wisconsin	
	Pop.	% change (PR)	Pop.	%change (PR)	Pop.	%change (PR)	Pop.	%change (PR)	Pop.	%change (PR)
1960	977	---	---	---	59,105	---	14,153	---	3,951,777	---
1970	1056	8.1	---	---	65,362	10.6	15,619	10.4	4,417,933	11.8
1980	784	-25.7	470	---	72,799	11.4	18,290	17.1	4,705,642	6.5
1990	767	-2.2	595	26.6	73,605	1.1	19,293	5.5	4,891,769	4.0
2000	811	5.7	670	12.6	75,555	2.6	18,800	-2.6	5,363,675	0.6
2010	764	-5.8	828	23.6	74,749	-1.1	19,118	1.7	5,686,986	6.0
2020	898	17.5	974	17.6	78,897	5.5	18,937	0.9	6,004,230	5.6

Sources: US Census Bureau, UW-Madison Applied Population Laboratory, & Source of Population Projections for 2010 and 2020: Wood County Planning Office

The Village of Hewitt incorporated in 1973 resulting in a population decline for the Town of Marshfield between 1970 and 1980.

The values in the formula are used with the population and the associated years of the area

$$PR = \frac{(V_{Present} - V_{Past})}{V_{Past}} \times 100 \quad \text{Where:}$$

PR = Percent Rate  
 $V_{Present}$  = Present or Future Value  
 $V_{Past}$  = Past or Present Value

**Table 3: Population Changes in the Area of Hewitt**

In 2010, there was a -5.8% growth rate for the Town of Marshfield and a 23.6% growth rate for the Village of Hewitt. Based on previous population projects numbers, in 2020 the Town of Marshfield will have a 17.5% growth rate and the Village of Hewitt will have a 17.6% growth rate respectively. We can expect to see a growth rate in Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield that exceeds both county and state growth rates. The population projections in Table 3 represent projections based solely on historic population trends for a location. The HAPT Committee feels that the growth increase for the Town of Marshfield will be closer to an increase of 5% or 41 persons between 2010 and 2020. For Hewitt, the committee believes that the projected growth rates are too high and a more realistic rate for 2010 to 2020 is 10% or 67 people.

### **C. Park Standards**

Park standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association are supported by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. According to NRPA standards 6.25 to 10.5 acres of open space are recommended for each 1000 persons. Given the US Census 2010 population of 1592 persons in the study area this would mean that 9.95 to 15.84 acres should be available as open space. In the study area there are 51.73 acres of open space available to the general public, all of which are being actively used for recreational purposes. This plan identifies some possible future uses of the properties both public, and privately-owned, and makes recommendations accordingly. In many cases use of a site may be promoted through signage or by simply informing the residents of recreational possibilities that are available to them.

When looking at the recommended acreage for the planning area it is important to consider that smaller communities sometimes require additional acreage to provide for the diverse recreational opportunities that the residents desire. In the planning area there are recreational lands intended to be used for more passive activities such as nature viewing and hiking trails. Certain uses of the recreation land may be limited because it is considered to be environmentally sensitive. Appendix I shows wetlands in relation to the locations of recreational land in the planning area.

Although there is adequate acreage of open space in the planning area according to NRPA standards, additional land acquisition may be beneficial to expand recreational uses or associated needs (such as parking at existing sites) if adjacent land becomes available.

### **D. Locational Needs and Accessibility**

Other considerations of open space in the study area should be location and accessibility. Even though the majority of the acreage is clustered in or adjacent to the Village of Hewitt (51.73), it is centrally located in the Town of Marshfield and only 3.25 miles from the most distant parts of the planning area where many landowners have sufficient personal property to use as open space or for recreation. In addition, the planning area is adjacent to the City of Marshfield where opportunities for recreation are abundant and diverse.

Since most of the publicly-owned recreation parcels of land are in the Village of Hewitt, there has been a focus on utilizing those available parcels rather than acquiring additional lands in the outlying parts of the study area for park use at this time. In reviewing the inventory of parks and trails in Chapter III it is clear the area has much to offer in passive recreation parks, developed parks, and both surfaced and natural trails. The park and trail resources that are available are valuable because they improve the quality-of-life.

As future development occurs in the planning area, particularly in the village, implementing park and trail resources into new developments should be considered. In some cases the cost of park or trail property and the recreational development of the property may be covered by the developer. Some developers may be motivated by the belief that if these facilities are included in the development, they may increase the property values and improve the ability to sell the properties. In all cases where new parks and trails are proposed, the need should be justified, and the cost of future maintenance considered. Additionally, prior to approving any new parks, consideration should be given to how it will fit into the park and trail system of the planning area.

#### **E. Facility Needs**

Facility needs were identified by public opinion surveys in 2003 and 2016 through input during Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Committee meetings. The survey identified the activities and facilities that are most requested by the public. Previous survey results can be seen in Appendix B. The survey was sent out in 2016 to 604 residents with 85 responding. Sixty-eight of those were from the Village of Hewitt, 16 from the Township of Marshfield, and one other.

When determining what facilities should be pursued, consideration was given to existing recreational facilities in the planning area and in adjacent communities. Addressing the needs of recreation facilities requested by area residents does not always require constructing new facilities, but may be accomplished by making residents aware of existing facilities that are available for public use in adjacent communities.

Currently, all of the land is being used for its intended use. Even though all of the properties are being used for their intended use, there are still future improvements planned for most of the properties. One of the highest priority projects in the previous comprehensive plan update was connecting the Hewitt-Marsh Trail to the City of Marshfield trail network. Completed in 2015, the entirety of the connection includes approximately 1,885 feet of new trail starting at the northwest corner of the Township Ten Acres. The trail then heads northwest on an easement over private land to the City of Marshfield land, meeting-up in the north with the terminus of the Marshfield bicycle and pedestrian trail. The new project included blacktop surfacing over the current portion of the Hewitt-Marsh Trail that runs from the northwest corner of the Township Ten Acres to Stadt Road.

Worth mentioning is the diversity of ownership and management of properties in the planning area with the Village of Hewitt, Town of Marshfield, and a private land owner all contributing in coordinated manners. All of the recreation properties are

connected by bicycle and pedestrian trails or routes. The 2001 survey indicated that 53% of responses showed that playground equipment at Yellowstone Recreational Park would be a beneficial addition to the park. Between 2007 and 2010 playground equipment was installed at the Yellowstone Recreational Park.

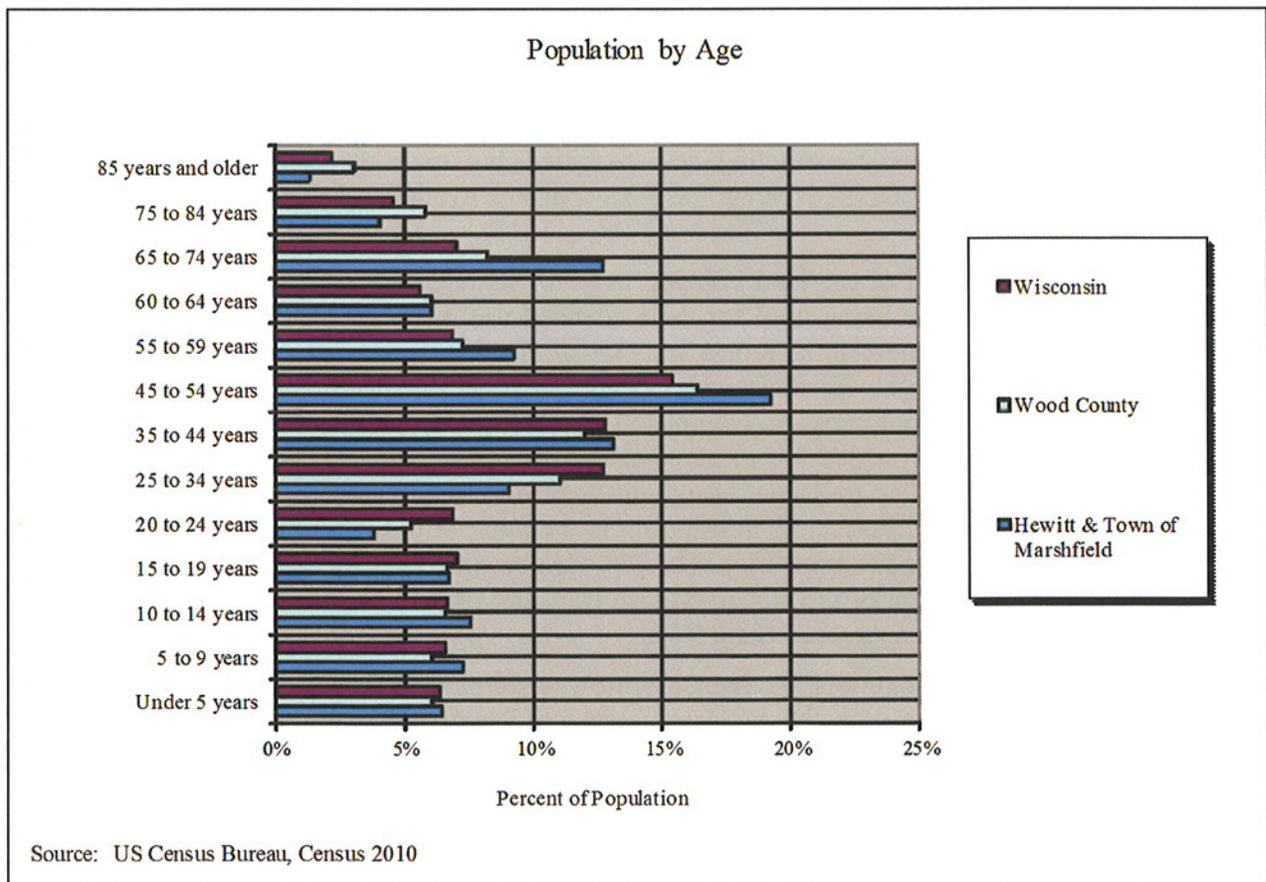
### F. Demographics

Compared to Wisconsin and Wood County, the bulk population age group that makes up almost 20% of the Village of Hewitt and Town of Marshfield are ages 45-54 years. Opposite of this, about 2% are ages 85 years and older. The biggest contrast in age populations compared to Wisconsin and Wood County is the growing amount of about 13% with ages 65 to 74 years. Due to this growing population, it is important to establish adequate housing facilities.

This growth will expand the area which might make it more viable for connecting Auburndale and Stevens Point within the recreational trail development. See Figure 6 for a comparative view of population by age group, and Table 4 for detailed information on each of the age-groups.

Figure 7 displays demographics from the 2016 community recreational survey. It is consistent with the U.S. Census Bureau statistics in that the bulk of the population is between 45 to 64 years. Interestingly, the demographic population for 65 + and 12 years or younger was almost the same percentage.

Figure 6: 2010 population by age for Town of Marshfield, Village of Hewitt, Wood County, & Wisconsin

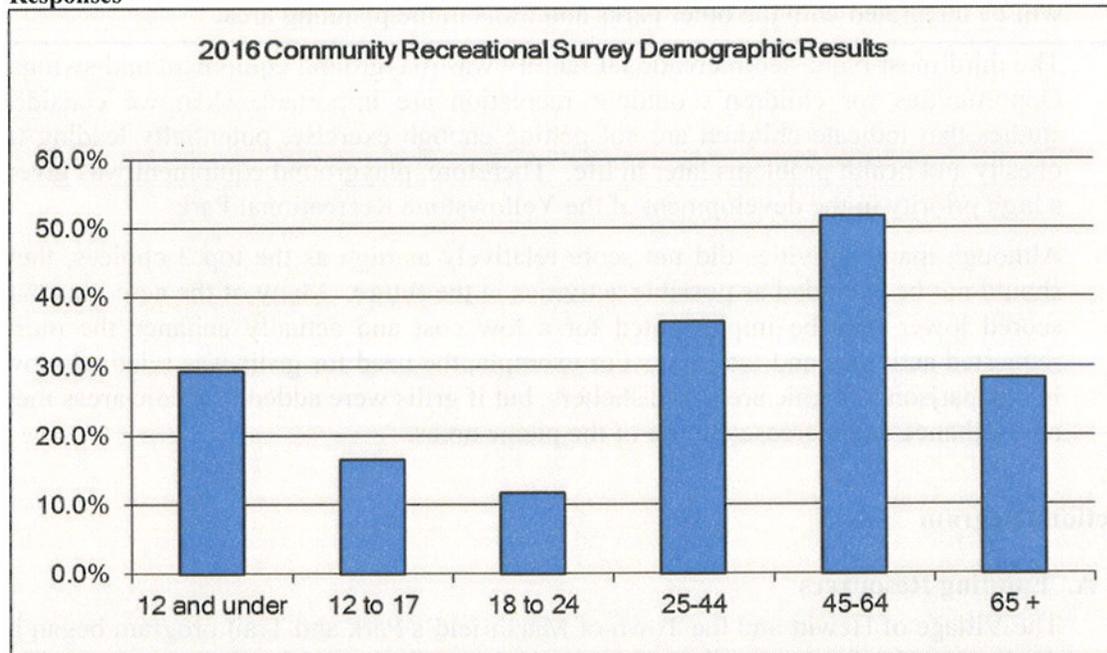


Population by Age	Town of Marshfield and Village of Hewitt		Town of Marshfield		Village of Hewitt		Wood County		Wisconsin	
Under 5 years	102	6.4%	45	5.8%	57	6.9%	4,482	6%	358,443	6.3%
5 to 9 years	114	7.2%	58	7.6%	56	6.6%	4,451	6%	368,617	6.5%
10 to 14 years	119	7.5%	50	6.5%	69	8.3%	4,848	6.5%	375,927	6.6%
15 to 19 years	107	6.7%	45	5.9%	62	7.5%	4,949	6.6%	399,209	7%
20 to 24 years	61	3.8%	34	4.5%	27	3.3%	3,913	5.2%	386,552	6.8%
25 to 34 years	143	9%	75	9.9%	68	8.2%	8,249	11%	721,694	12.7%
35 to 44 years	208	13.1%	87	11.4%	121	14.6%	8,973	12%	725,666	12.8%
45 to 54 years	306	19.2%	138	18.1%	168	20.3%	12,281	16.4%	874,753	15.4%
55 to 59 years	146	9.2%	68	8.9%	78	9.4%	5,375	7.2%	385,986	6.8%
60 to 64 years	96	6%	51	6.7%	45	5.4%	4,466	6%	313,825	5.6%
65 to 74 years	106	12.7%	63	8.2%	43	5.2%	6,280	8.2%	400,496	7%
75 to 84 years	63	4%	38	5.0%	25	3.0%	4,305	5.8%	258,313	4.5%
85 years & older	21	1.3%	12	1.6%	9	1%	2,177	3%	118,505	2.10%
	<b>Total Pop.</b>		<b>Total Pop.</b>		<b>Total Pop.</b>		<b>Total Pop.</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>1592</b>		<b>764</b>		<b>828</b>		<b>74,749</b>		<b>5,686,986</b>	

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2010

Table 4: Population by age for Town of Marshfield, Village of Hewitt, Wood County, & Wisconsin

Figure 7: 2016 Village of Hewitt Community Recreational Survey Demographic Results with 85/604 Responses



### G. Public Input

In order to accurately represent the needs of the residents of the Village of Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield, a public opinion survey was sent to all households and

businesses in 2001 and another one in 2016. A total of 604 surveys were sent out and 85 were returned resulting in a return rate of 14.07%. This survey was structured to establish the need and priority of recreation activities and facilities for the planning process. The results of the survey are reflected throughout the plan, but most importantly have been used to determine where to focus on future park and trail development. Another short survey was mailed out in the spring of 2005, but due to low response it is not referenced in this plan. In the 2016 survey, it displayed that ice skating, disc golf, lighting of trail paths, snowshoe & cross country skiing trails, and picnic areas were the most prioritized park and trail uses and needs.

Just from observing the number of people that walk for exercise on a daily basis it is not surprising to see that most survey respondents chose walking/biking trails. Trails can meet the recreational needs of people of all ages and abilities and can serve as an alternative means of transportation. Since park and trail planning commenced in 2001, we have created 6.84 trail miles. Pedestrian traffic has increased on the trail network, in many cases drawing pedestrians that in the past used the street right-of-way as their route.

Picnic areas and shelter facilities were the second most requested. Like walking/biking trails, picnic areas and shelters are a recreational facility that can be used by residents of all ages. Up until 2005, picnic areas and shelters could only be found at the Village Grounds in Hewitt. Since then two picnic facilities have been constructed at the Yellowstone Recreational Park. In the planning area there is also plenty of public land that could be used for additional picnic areas or shelters, and equipped with facilities for a relatively low cost using volunteer help. Important consideration must be given to accessibility to these sites, and also if and how they will be integrated with the other parks and trails in the planning area.

The third most requested recreational facility was playground equipment and swings. Opportunities for children's outdoor recreation are important when we consider studies that indicate children are not getting enough exercise, potentially leading to obesity and health problems later in life. Therefore, playground equipment was given a high priority in the development of the Yellowstone Recreational Park.

Although many activities did not score relatively as high as the top 3 choices, they should not be excluded as possible activities in the future. Many of the activities that scored lower may be implemented for a low cost and actually enhance the more requested activities and facilities. For example, the need for grills was relatively low in comparison to picnic areas and shelters, but if grills were added to picnic areas they may enhance and increase the use of the picnic areas.

## **V. Action Program**

### **A. Funding Resources**

The Village of Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield's Park and Trail program began in April of 2001 with the creation of the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Committee. The committee works with the Village of Hewitt and Town of Marshfield to continually submit grant applications to help offset costs so it is not entirely dependent upon local tax-levied funds. Tax-levy dollars, private contributions, and grant funding all work in conjunction to make projects happen. The committee will continue to research and

act on possible grant resources. Contact will be maintained with area foundations and there will be ongoing efforts to solicit donations. As with most local projects, contributions of volunteer time and services will be essential.

The Village and Town have shown financial support for park and trail improvements. Property purchased for the Yellowstone Recreational Park and the trail leading into the park represents a strong commitment from local government that they support parks and trails in the area. As more facilities are developed the health and recreational benefits and overall quality-of-life will improve for users. With the development of parks and trails being relatively new to Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield, it is difficult to determine what the long-term funding picture will look like, but it can be said that the current approach is working. As the number of facilities increase in the planning area, the future goal is to create a self-sustaining park and trail funding source.

Using tax-levy dollars, local business donations, private contributions, and grant funding has worked to develop projects in a timely manner. Volunteer time and donated equipment use has made it possible for projects to be done at a fraction of the cost of comparable projects in other municipalities. Providing quality parks, recreation programs and trails promotes support from the users and generates contributions of time and dollars. The sentiment of the village and town board is that of strong support of park and recreation facilities. Their support of parks and trails will provide recreation and health benefits for generations to come.

## **B. Recommendations**

The following recommendations are meant to serve as a guide for the future development of park and trail facilities in the area. Although trails and park planning are interrelated (meaning that park development may affect future trail development and vice versa), they are occasionally treated separately since funding sources may be specifically targeted to park facilities, or specifically towards trail improvements. A phased development approach will allow improvements to be made incrementally over time as the funding becomes available. Additionally, improvements have been prioritized to ensure the most needed facilities are developed first.

The recommendations are the result of a combination of efforts done by focus groups and discussion by the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Committee. A survey was sent out to the public in the fall of 2003 and another in the winter of 2016. The committee reviewed the surveys to find out what recreation facilities were wanted and needed in the community. Considering these priorities focus groups worked to match these park and trail facilities with suitable locations and appropriate site conditions. The HAPT Committee then reviewed the recommendations for the parks and trails projects and prioritized the improvements based on the conclusions of the survey. The following recommendations list the future uses and improvements for each of the sites in the planning area. The projects recommended for completion in the 2016-2026 time-period can be found in the capital improvement program in Section VII.

## **C. Park Recommendations**

The park areas have been and will be maintained according to each section as described below. General improvements and recommendations are mentioned but are variable with changing times. In the 2016 survey, it displayed that ice skating, disc golf, lighting of trail paths, snowshoe & cross country skiing trails, and picnic areas were the most prioritized park and trail uses and needs.

### **1. Hewitt Village Grounds**

The Hewitt Village Grounds was highly used in the past but has seen much decline in its functionality. Most of the facilities at this site are in reasonable condition. Planning for this site includes on-going maintenance and possible modifications to the shelter building for improvement of functionality. Current onsite parking is not adequate for some events but expansion of parking is not an option given the existing use of adjacent lands. Modifications to the shelter by creating an open-space sitting area would increase the use of this park. Revamping the volleyball court or replacing it with another community function might also increase the utilization of this park.

### **2. Hewitt Recreational Area**

The Hewitt Recreational Area was transferred from the Town of Marshfield to the Village of Hewitt in approximately 2010. In 2015, the old tree-line was cleared of brush and stumps. Fill for leveling was added. The space can currently be used for over-flow ball-game parking for the Yellowstone Recreational Park. As well, in 2015 a connector trail from Yellowstone Recreational Park to Maple Lane was paved. Future goals and recommendations for this area include development of one soccer field.

### **3. Yellowstone Recreational Park**

Since its purchase in 2003, many improvements have rapidly transformed a farm field into the Yellowstone Recreational Park. Development at this location has taken priority over most of the other park and trail projects in the community. Support for the park, including donations of time and money, is very strong because this park is used for the youth ball program that outgrew the Hewitt Village Grounds. In addition to ball diamonds, lighted volleyball courts, playground equipment and picnic areas, the park serves a wide variety of needs and functions that most of the residents of the community use at one time or another.

Given the variety of uses the park serves, there were many planned improvements. The improvements included installation of lights for ball fields, completion of ball field fencing, purchase of additional picnic tables and benches, grills and surfacing trails in the park. The creation of a walking trail around the park was a long-term goal and some of it was completed in

2015. Landscaping and tree planting will be ongoing. Although expansion of the concession building is currently not planned, it was designed with the future addition of more covered seating area in mind.

The outer sections of the parking area have been paved due to the pavement of near-by roads. Expansion of pavement for the whole parking area is planned for the future. The parking area is a very large size. Due to this parking area size, future recommendations for this include an establishment of rain-gardens. The placement of these gardens would buffer the road and reduce run-off and standing water in the parking lot.

The park is also designated as the trailhead for the Hewitt-Marsh Trail. Many of the existing facilities at the park will serve as trailhead amenities without additional cost. A map of the park and trail network will be put into place in 2016.

#### **4. Hewitt Natural Area**

The focus of this area is on its natural beauty and wetland habitat. Limitations in developing this site exist because approximately 75% of it is classified as wetlands. Trails of bark or wood chips may be installed to facilitate activities such as hiking and nature interpretation in wetland areas. Tent camping may be a possibility in the northern 2-acre hardwood stand made accessible by a gravel surfaced walking trail that does not encroach on wetlands. Winter sports such as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing may also be possible. The future passive use of this area will likely increase as awareness of the trail network in this location increases. Annual regular maintenance by volunteers including trail mowing and brush cleaning will continue.

In 2010, DNR Forester Steve Grant made recommendations on proper forest management. The forester recommendations include timber harvest in both the south and the north small mature woods. Details of this plan can be referenced in the Appendix E & F. However, personal recommendations on the stand include select cutting for the purpose of preserving hardwood species for old growth.

#### **5. Draxler Park**

Portions of this area will continue to be used in ways that preserve and promote its natural qualities. The southern parts of the site are wetlands, others are more open savannah. The northern border is mature woods. There are benches along the Hewitt-Marsh Trail that runs through the property.

There are .62 miles of trails in this area with .36 miles surfaced with recycled blacktop and .26 miles of natural base. The surfaced trail segment is part of the Hewitt-Marsh Trail. There were 0.21 miles of boardwalk established from 2014-2015. Wood chips are often placed on the wetter portions of the trail to

make them walkable. The natural surfaced trails on this property connect with the trails of the Hewitt Natural Area and the Hewitt Lagoons.

In addition to the improved and unimproved trails running through it, this area lends itself to a multitude of possibilities. There would be room for some open, grassy recreation space including playground equipment, some sort of an open shelter and maybe disc golf. If closer residential development takes place some other possibilities that become more realistic include parking for vehicular access and nearer proximity of electrical service. A multiple use pond located north of the wastewater treatment plant could serve as a runoff retention area and be constructed so that it could also be used as a water reservoir for firefighting and an ice skating rink during the winter.

The utility and aesthetics of the area that borders the treatment plant could be improved by resetting the existing barbed wire fence closer to the plant and replacing it with chain-link so that the currently mowed grass could be accessible to the public. Grant funding through United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) may be available for tree planting that could act as both a sight barrier and a windbreak.

## **6. Hewitt Lagoon**

These shallow water bodies are lagoons that were retired in 1994 when the new treatment system was installed. The existing dike around these ponds is well suited as a wildlife viewing area and is used as a walking trail. Depths of lagoons may be altered to attract ducks, geese and other migratory birds to the ponds for nesting. The smaller of the two lagoons readily lends itself to duck habitat called scrapes. There is space for up to two scrapes. The steep grade of the shoreline could be reduced to a more gradual grade that resembles a natural pond. The perimeter of the lagoons is classified as a natural trail and totals approximately .58 miles. The surface is currently walkable and is maintained with regular mowing, but some areas could use minor fill and leveling. Due to drainage issues between the dikes, a bridge was constructed to make it possible to walk across.

As use increases in this area, benches, trash receptacles, a small shelter, and picnic area will be considered. The abundant plant and wildlife in the Lagoon Area could be recognized with educational signage. Entry into the north side of the property was challenging due to an abrupt steep grade. Boardwalk construction was done in 2014-2015 to ease this access. This boardwalk includes a ramp that makes it accessible for wheelchairs, strollers, and bicycles.

## **7. Wastewater Treatment Access Road**

The access road/trail is surfaced with recycled blacktop and serves as a portion of the Hewitt-Marsh Trail. It's currently used by service vehicles for the wastewater treatment facility.

## **8. Township Ten Acres**

In 2011-2012, a bicycle/pedestrian trail was constructed and surfaced with recycled blacktop through the Township Ten Acres. This parcel serves as a connector of the Hewitt-Marsh Trail to the City of Marshfield. It also serves as a resting point or picnic area for trail users. A cluster of mature trees at this site could include a small shelter or pavilion with picnic tables and trash receptacles. Sufficient space is available for the possibility of a fenced dog park.

## **9. General Park Improvements**

Improvements considered for all parks and trails includes the following: landscaping, picnic tables, grills, benches, and trash receptacles. Future development of signage for informational and educational purposes is planned.

Minimal cost and impact improvements such as mowed grass trails or cleared brush through wooded areas may be sufficient to convert seldom-used public property into recreational opportunities. Given the strong reliance on grants, sponsors, donors, and volunteers for the funding of projects and the continued maintenance and improvements, their contributions will continue to be recognized on the donor board at Yellowstone Recreational Park.

## **D. Trail Recommendations**

The survey sent out in the fall of 2001 showed that walking/biking trails ranked highest as a recreation priority for many residents. In the 2016 survey, it displayed that ice skating, disc golf, lighting of trail paths, snowshoe & cross country skiing trails, and picnic areas were the most prioritized park and trail uses and needs. One reason for this popularity is that they provide the means for many activities regardless of age or athletic ability, and in many cases they may provide a safer and healthier means of visiting neighbors, picking up a few things from the store, or biking to work or school. The trails in the network would be off-road where possible. Paved trails consisting of 8 to 10-foot wide asphalt surfaces with 1 to 2-foot shoulders, although more expensive than gravel, are more likely to be used by the elderly and handicapped. Although paved trails are recommended, site restrictions as well as limited funding will result in a variety of trail widths utilizing a variety of construction materials. Other types of trails could include recycled black-top, gravel, wood chips, boardwalks, mowed grass, and unimproved walking paths.

The trails would be open year-round for walking, jogging, biking, rollerblading, and snowshoeing. In the future, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing may be considered. Some trails may be plowed of snow during the winter months and others may be groomed for these winter activities. Motorized vehicles will not be allowed except for maintenance and emergencies. To make the trail experience safer and more enjoyable, lighting may be installed where necessary, and directional, informational and educational signage could be provided. Where necessary, privacy fencing may be installed to shield yards from high-use portions of the trail. Parking areas may be designated to provide access to the trail by all. Flowers, landscaping, and benches may be added to improve the overall aesthetics of the trail experience. Although both local and regional trail planning are discussed in this plan, more detailed regional trail planning can be found in the Wood County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.



*The intersection of the two Nature trails and Hewitt-Marsh trail*

A variety of construction materials and specifications may be used on the trails depending on the location and source of funding. Plans for future trails range from clearing brush in environmentally sensitive areas to surfacing 10-foot paved trails in compliance with AASHTO specifications. Other types of trails could include recycled black-top, gravel, wood chips, boardwalks, mowed grass, and unimproved walking paths.

#### **1. Hewitt-Marsh Trail**

The Hewitt-Marsh trail is envisioned to be an asphalt trail meeting AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) standards for 10-foot pavement width, and 2-foot shoulders for clearance on each side. The trail is approximately 4.21 miles in length starting in the

Village of Hewitt, traveling through the Township of Marshfield and connects to a trail in the City of Marshfield's Yellowstone Industrial Park.

The trail is an important connector to the City of Marshfield and provides an alternate means of traveling to work or school. The trail will become part of the backbone of the area's bicycle/pedestrian system, eventually traveling east to the Village of Auburndale and beyond. The trail is an integral part of a much larger system in the Marshfield area as well as the county trail system. When completed it can be anticipated that 20 or more bicycles and 10 or more pedestrians per day will use the trail for commuting purposes, both to school and work.

When planning for future recreation, communities like the Village of Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield realize that they cannot provide all the facilities that a larger municipality like the City of Marshfield can provide. For this reason it is beneficial to have a safe route to the city for children and adults, so that they can utilize facilities such as the Wildwood Zoo, Griese Park, the public pool, and skate-park. In turn this route will be a welcomed connection to the area-wide network for Marshfield's residents to enjoy. Marshfield residents will be able to take advantage of additional mileage of safe and scenic trail that the Hewitt-Marsh trail provides, as well as the recreation facilities and nature-based recreational lands in the Village of Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield.

## **2. Maple St. Trail**

The Maple St. Trail was constructed and paved in 2015. It runs south from Maple Lane through the Hewitt Recreational Area and connects to the Marshfield Clinic Trail with the purpose of providing an off-road access from the center of the Village to the Yellowstone Recreational Park facilities. Future improvements will involve shouldering of the side and construction of a fence alongside the trail to keep vehicular traffic off.

## **3. Marshfield Clinic Trail**

In 2014 we were awarded some grant funding to develop an exercise path around the back of the outfield fences at the Yellowstone Recreational Park. A portion of this trail was constructed and paved in 2015 with the remainder expected to be done in 2016, pending funding. The intent of this 0.68 mile trail is to promote wellness through the availability of safe exercise areas.

## **4. 9<sup>th</sup> St. Trail**

This portion of the trail system will connect 9<sup>th</sup> St. with the Hewitt-Marsh Trail and give access from the southern area of the Village to the Boardwalk Trail and through it to the Lagoon Trail. Finalization of this segment will coincide with residential development in that area.

## **5. Boardwalk Trail**

A small segment of the Boardwalk Trail was constructed in 2014 with recycled pallets and railroad ties. The portion that connects the Hewitt-Marsh Trail to the Lagoons was finished in 2015 along with a wye intersection to an eastern portion that is planned for 2016, pending funding and continued materials donations. Future maintenance will possibly include some sort of preservative coating along with ongoing brush and grass control.

#### **6&7. North & South Nature Trail**

These trails run through a 20 acre parcel owned by the Village. The parcel was purchased by the Village many years ago to facilitate an option to expand the wastewater treatment system. Due to regulations for land usage the parcel was not suited for that purpose but now provides a rare opportunity for residents to enjoy a large natural area. About 75% of the parcel is considered wetlands, limiting options for trail construction. These areas lend themselves well to hiking, snowshoeing, fat-tire biking and possibly cross-country skiing.

Much of the north section is laid out to stay out of wetlands. This will allow for the possibility of making a gravel surface for some of the footage. There is also the possibility of a tent-camping area in the north section. The south section is entirely in wetlands so the only surface improvement expected will be wood chips. Most of this section goes through a wooded area regularly frequented by wildlife. Both sections will require maintenance of brush and grass control.

#### **8. Lagoon Trail**

An existing dike around the ponds serves as an excellent exercise path while permitting viewing of wildlife in the pond area. This portion of trail is mowed grass with a small foot bridge crossing an opened section in the dike. Future improvements may be limited to additional benches or rest stops. The smaller of the lagoons lends itself to the possibility of future duck scrapes for increased wildlife habitat.

#### **9. Yellowstone Drive**

The Village will be considering reconstruction of Yellowstone Drive at some point in the future. It will be worthwhile to look at the possibilities of wider shoulders and marked pedestrian/bicycle lanes when the road work is done. Even though not officially designated in the trail system, this route is used by many walkers and cyclists so increased safety is an issue to be cognizant of.

#### **10. Unpaved Trails**

Unpaved walking trails of mowed grass or wood chips run through private land connecting the Hewitt-Marsh Trail to the Lagoons and the Hewitt Natural Area. There is an existing dike around the ponds that serves as an excellent exercise path while permitting viewing of wildlife in the pond area.

Trail construction in this area will consist of clearing small trees and brush, and facilities could include route markers, benches, and trail maps. Improvements will be completed in ways that do not disturb the wetlands. This project will be completed through the efforts of volunteer labor, and possibly in conjunction with the Woodlot Management Plan (Appendix E). Although a route is delineated on the future trail map, ultimately this route will be chosen by walking the parcel during wet times of the year to determine where the driest routes will be. Determining a route through this property will prove challenging given the fact that over 75% of the property is shown as wetland by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

#### **11. Existing Trail Routes**

In determining optimal locations of future trails in the planning area, all of the existing roads were inventoried to determine their suitability for bicycle and pedestrian traffic based on the shoulder width and construction, and the amount of traffic. The Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Committee determined that shoulder widths of 30- to 48-inches are acceptable depending on the anticipated use of the trail.

In addition to inventorying existing right-of-way the Committee looked at potential future bicycle routes in the planning area. They identified routes that were easily accessible to residents of the area, routes that connected to existing park facilities or public lands, and routes that could utilize roads that have potential for safe use as bicycle or pedestrian routes.

#### **12. Regional Trail Recommendations**

In planning for regional trails the HAPT committee contacted the City of Marshfield, the Village of Auburndale, the Town of Auburndale, and also Wood County to meet and discuss cooperative planning for future trails. All municipalities in the region agreed that planning for a future multi-modal trail from the City of Marshfield to Stevens Point is desirable. Although the specifics of this route have not been agreed upon, there is strong support for the implementation of this project beginning at the City of Marshfield and working east. With the recent reconstruction and relocation of US Hwy. 10, further opportunities for this connection to Auburndale and Stevens Point may present themselves.

This method of planning makes more sense than having discontinuous portions of trail constructed over time. It was also felt that if the trail planning was to start at the City of Marshfield and then go east, there would be a better chance of portions of the project being paid for by grant funding. This route constitutes a major project for the municipalities to accomplish alone or with county funds, but with advance planning there is a chance that multi-modal grant funding could be secured in the future to make this route a success. Since this grant funding is multi-modal, the goal is to reduce vehicular traffic by providing a safe alternative to automotive travel. Routes will need to connect people to destinations such as jobs and commerce.

The HAPT Committee has been, and will continue to work with the county and surrounding communities to ensure that the county plan is in agreement with this planning document. The county plan was completed in the winter of 2003. Referencing the county plan will demonstrate how the local trail network is enhanced by cooperative planning with other municipalities and the county. The county plan will identify designated existing and future routes through all municipalities in the county including the Village of Hewitt and the Town of Marshfield.

## **VI. Implementation**

### **A. Capital Improvements Program**

The Action Program in Chapter V of this plan identifies the recommended future improvements to park and trail facilities. The Capital Improvements Program prioritizes improvements to be implemented in the next five and/or more years. The majority of funding for park and recreation facilities is highly dependent on donations and grants; therefore it is difficult to determine exactly what can be completed during this time frame, but most can represent similarly to the Action Program in Chapter V of this plan. Although it is important to keep the Capital Improvements Program realistic, this does not preclude it from being an optimistic projection of what can be accomplished.

<b>Trail and Adjacent Areas Project Prioritization</b>					
<b>2016 - 2020 +</b>					
<b>Natural Area &amp; Lagoons</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 +</b>
Nature walking trails (natural, bark, or gravel)	X	X	X	X	X
Tent camping area			X		
Picnic area with shelter			X		
Nature viewing (signage)					X
Reshape ponds					X
Place wire around small trees and cut back weeds to promote growth	X	X	X	X	X
Remove fencing between 20 acres, lagoons and private land	X	X	X	X	X
General-woods clean-up	X	X	X	X	X
Plant spruce trees on north & west side of treatment plant for sight and sound barriers					X
Fence along the south border of treatment plant parking lot to allow trail access to lagoons from treatment plant road					X
Signage	X				
Snowshoeing/CC Skiing	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Township Ten Acres</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 +</b>
Trail stop-off with picnic area		X	X		
Small pavilion			X	X	
Signage	X	X	X		
Reforestation		X	X		
<b>Hewitt-Marsh Trail</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 +</b>
Black-top section between 7 <sup>th</sup> st. & 3 <sup>rd</sup> st.			X	X	
Permanent gates on section by trailhead park		X			
Mount maps on gates	X				
Shoulder and seed north side of trail between 3rd and 7th				X	
Slurry seal trail (another option than paving)					X
Trail lighting			X	X	X
<b>Draxler Park (private land)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 +</b>
Concrete pads under benches, tables, and trash receptacles			X	X	
Gravel from bend/intersection south to wetland	X				
Boardwalk where needed on wetland trails	X	X			
Picnic area		X	X		
Increase culvert capacity by curves north east of treatment plant and add height to prevent washout	X				
Open shelters			X	X	
Maps/signage	X	X			
General woods clean-up	X	X	X	X	X

**Park Project Prioritization  
2016 - 2020 +**

<b>Yellowstone Recreational Park</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 +</b>
Bleachers – Concrete paths	X				
Ball field lights – East diamond					X
Re-do infield w/regulation material – East					X
Score board – West diamond					X
Ball field lights – West diamond					X
Re-do infield w/regulation material - West					X
Blacktop parking lot & install basketball hoops	X				
Signage – Trailhead map	X				
Garbage & recycle containers	X				
Additional picnic areas, tables & benches		X	X	X	X
Landscaping	X	X	X	X	X
Trails in and around the park	X	X			
Exercise equipment		X	X		
Tennis courts			X		
Soccer fields				X	
Develop upper lot	X	X	X	X	X
Trail gates		X			
Removable sides for the current main shelter			X		
Trail lighting				X	
<b>Village Hall Grounds</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020 +</b>
Remove ball field foul line and dugout fencing		X	X		
Remodel shelter for accessible open space		X	X		
Landscaping		X			

**B. Fund Raising & Grant Funding Strategy**

The ability to raise money through fund raising and grant funding strategies can involve a significant commitment of volunteers and contributors. Funding projects this way is advantageous because it may require little or no commitment of local tax dollars. In addition, projects that rely on fund raising can bring the community together in an effort to achieve a common goal. This method of funding gives the community more ownership in the project and builds civic pride.

Since fund raising and grant funding are so important to the success of parks and trails in the planning area, the following strategies are important to identify and implement to ensure success:

- **Pamphlets.** Pamphlets have been created describing park projects to be distributed locally at softball games, community activities, and local businesses. These pamphlets include a form for donations.
- **Onsite Advertising.** The ball diamond outfield fences at Yellowstone Recreational Park are utilized as advertising space for supporting donors.

- **Donor Recognition.** July 2008 an attractive plaque was installed at the Yellowstone Recreational Park to prominently acknowledge and honor our generous donors who support the HAPT mission.
- **Fund Raising Help.** The Hewitt Area Recreation Department (HARD) softball program continues to help with improvements through their fundraising efforts.
- **Grants.** The Parks and Trails Committee continue to research and apply for grants. As December 2011, our efforts have generated approximately \$64,000.00 from outside funding sources. Over the time period of 2012-2015, \$106,000 in grant-match money was acquired to establish the Hewitt-Marshfield Connector Trail. Match money was generously donated by the following and not limited to: Town of Marshfield, Village of Hewitt, and Security Health Plan. The following helped achieve this amount and they are but not limited to: County Highway Engineer, Planner and Director of Wood County, and Marshfield Area Friends of the Trail. These grant awards can be viewed in appendices J and K.

### C. Volunteer Time, Talents, Services, and Materials

The backbone of many organizations is its volunteers and the success of projects in this plan is often dependent on the resourcefulness of individuals, organizations and businesses who donate their time, talents, services and materials. Relying on volunteerism and donations to better local communities and accomplish projects can be challenging but is welcomed since it does not require a large amount of tax-levied money for implementation. The Village of Hewitt and Town of Marshfield residents have actively supported park and trail initiatives, so this approach has proven to work well.

The amount of time and energy that volunteers have devoted to a broad spectrum of activities within all of the parks and recreational trails cannot be measured by the quantity, but quality. Annually, they provide general maintenance, clear brush in trail routes, mow, pick rock, spray weeds, construct buildings, set up playground equipment, participate in HAPT Committee meetings, develop informational pamphlets, etc. Efforts of service organizations are generally task specific. They have spearheaded landscape projects, built picnic tables and park benches, raised a flag pole, etc. Businesses have also been very instrumental in the success of park and trail projects by generously donating equipment, services, supplies, and man-power. Regardless of age, ability, interests and talents there are opportunities for everyone in the community to participate.

The volunteer experience is embraced by the community and at the same time it can be personally gratifying and have a positive impact on your community. If you are able to donate your talents, services or materials to help the community achieve its park and trail goals, please contact any of the members of the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Committee.

**VII. Appendices**

## Appendix A. Public Participation Procedures

1. **Open Meetings:** Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Committee meetings will be open to the public. Meeting notices will be posted at the Village Hall display case, Draxler's Service Station, and Village Administrative Building, all located in Hewitt.
2. **Meeting Time and Location:** Unless otherwise noticed, the regular meeting of the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Committee will be held on the third Monday of each month at 6.30 PM at the Administrative Building
3. **Public Opinion Survey:** A Community Parks Survey was conducted in fall of 2001 to solicit ideas and participation from area residents. The survey was sent to all residents using the address information from the local publication the *Hewitt Area Happenings*. Public input from the survey became the foundation for the parks and trails plan. Additional surveys were done in 2005, 2010, and 2016. That information continues to guide development decisions. The most recent survey was conducted in 2016 that held a series of 7 main questions to target citizens on improvements that can be made and educational opportunities.
4. **Hewitt Area Parks & Trails Plan:** The 2016 Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Plan revision is available to adjacent municipalities, news media, and residents via <http://hewittwi.govoffice3.com/> and the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Plan Facebook page. The trails and park areas are also located on Wood County's Planning and Zoning Land Records website via <http://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/PZ/LandRecords.aspx>.
5. **Public Comment:** An opportunity for public comment will be offered at each meeting of the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Committee or at the respective Board meetings.
6. **Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of Parks and Trails Committee meetings and copies of meeting handouts will be made available to the public upon request.
7. **Adoption by Majority Vote:** Following a public hearing and 15-day review period, it will take a majority vote of the Town Board (for the Town of Marshfield) and the Village Trustees (for the Village of Hewitt) to adopt the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Plan.
8. **Filing of Plan:** Following the adoption of the parks and trails plan by the Boards, it shall be filed with the following entities for review and future reference.
  - a) Every local body that is located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the local governmental unit (i.e., school district).
  - b) The Municipal Clerk of every local governmental unit that is adjacent to the Township of Marshfield.
  - c) The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
  - d) The Marshfield Public Library.
  - e) The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources West Central

Appendix B: Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Public Opinion Survey 2001

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\* PARKS SURVEY \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Where are you from: Village of Hewitt OR Town of Marshfield (circle one)  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)  
 Would you like to participate in a Focus Group on Parks Planning? YES or NO  
 Are you representing a: Family or Single or Retired (circle one)  
 Do you have Children?: YES or NO  
 Check up to SIX Items you would like to see in the new park areas:

<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Area/Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating Pond
<input type="checkbox"/> Restroom Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country Skiing
<input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Shoeing
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Courts	<input type="checkbox"/> Sledding
<input type="checkbox"/> Softball/Baseball Diamonds	<input type="checkbox"/> Roller Blading
<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Horse Shoe Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Disc Golf	<input type="checkbox"/> Playground Equipment/Swings
<input type="checkbox"/> Walking/Biking Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Viewing
<input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Camping
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Exercising Area
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Nature Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Connection to Snowmobile Trails
<input type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Ponds
<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting of Paths and Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Grills
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Please Specify _____	

Additional Comments or Suggestions:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to participate in the development of these parks. The parks committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at the Fire Station in Hewitt. Agendas and meeting minutes are in the Hewitt Happenings and on the Village of Hewitt Website <http://vi.hewitt.wi.us>  
 If you have any questions or concerns about the future park development please contact Mike Draxler at 387-3312, Scott Wunrow at 387-2361, or Joe Bores at 384-4460.

**\*\*\*\* Please Return this Survey by November 1, 2001 \*\*\*\***

# ***WE NEED YOUR INPUT***

## **VILLAGE OF HEWITT and TOWN OF MARSHFIELD RESIDENTS**

The Village of Hewitt in conjunction with the Town of Marshfield has recognized a growing need for additional parks and greenways in our communities, so we have formed a Parks Committee in conjunction with Wood County and the State of Wisconsin to address these needs. The committee is planning new Park Areas. One area would be a 4-acre parcel owned by the Town of Marshfield, located off Maple Lane in Hewitt and the other is a 30-acre Parcel located by the Village of Hewitt treatment plant. There are other potential areas for park development and there are potential grant funds available to fund portions of this project.

Your input into this project is very valuable to the success of this project. Please fill out the survey on the back and drop it off in the box located at Draxler's Food Mart or mail it to:

Scott Wunrow  
10841 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hewitt, WI 54441

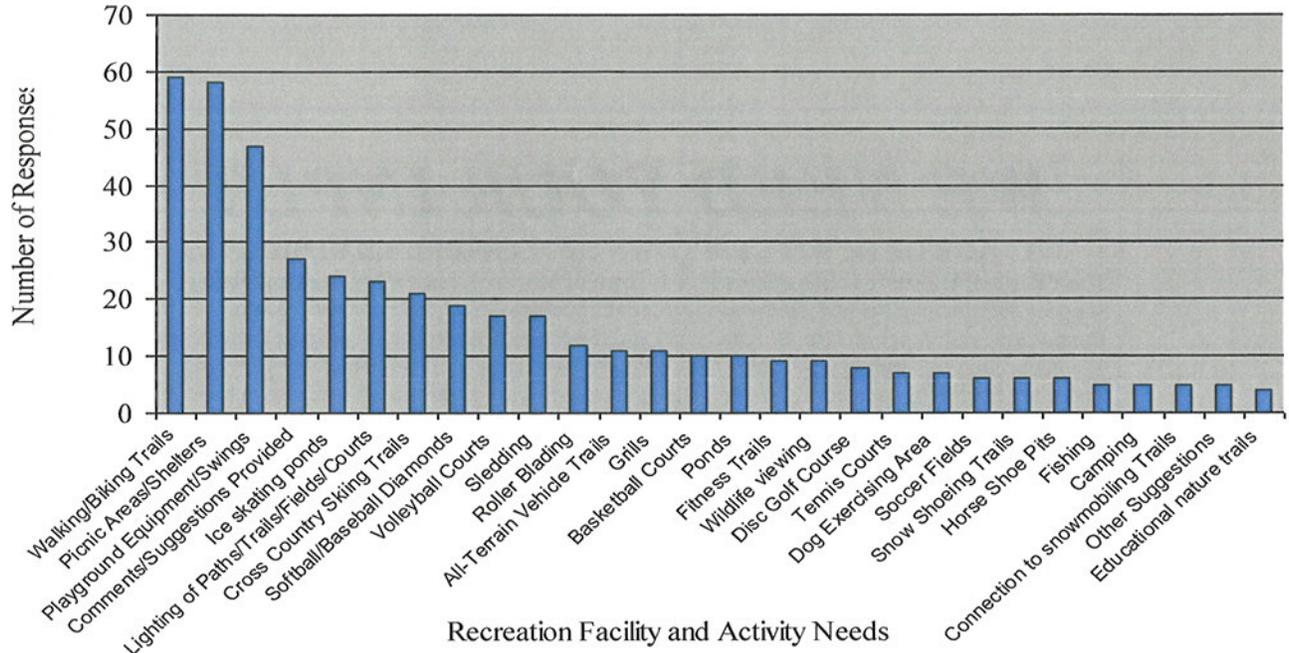
Ken or Karen Tritz  
10835 W 5th Street  
Hewitt WI 54441

PRESORTE  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MARSHFIELD  
Permit #26

Evergreen Street  
Wisconsin 54441

***THANK YOU FOR  
COMPLETING THE  
SURVEY! WE  
APPRECIATE YOUR  
INPUT!***

### Park and Trail Public Opinion Survey



Source: Village of Hewitt / Town of Marshfield, Park and Trail Survey

## Appendix C: Survey Results

### Town of Marshfield / Village of Hewitt Parks Survey Results

#### Summary Report

Number of Surveys Mailed: 650  
Number of Surveys Returned: 88 13.54%

Survey Question	Count	Pct
<b>Location:</b>		
Town of Marshfield	26	29.55%
Village of Hewitt	62	70.45%
<b>Name Provided:</b>	74	84.09%
<b>E-Mail Address Provided:</b>	19	21.59%
<b>Phone Number Provided:</b>	52	59.09%
<b>Participate In Focus Group:</b>	11	12.50%
<b>Representation:</b>		
Family	63	71.59%
Single	11	12.50%
Retired	14	15.91%
<b>Children:</b>	49	55.68%
<b>Picnic Areas/Shelters:</b>	58	65.91%
<b>Restroom Facilities:</b>	65	73.86%
<b>Volleyball Courts:</b>	17	19.32%
<b>Tennis Courts:</b>	7	7.95%
<b>Softball/Baseball Diamonds:</b>	19	21.59%
<b>Basketball Courts:</b>	10	11.36%
<b>Soccer Fields:</b>	6	6.82%
<b>Disc Golf Course:</b>	8	9.09%
<b>Walking/Biking Trails:</b>	59	67.05%
<b>Fitness Trails:</b>	9	10.23%
<b>Nature Trails:</b>	19	21.59%
<b>Educational Nature Trails:</b>	4	4.55%
<b>All-Terrain Vehicle Trails:</b>	11	12.50%
<b>Lighting of Paths/Trails/Fields/Courts:</b>	23	26.14%
<b>Ice Skating Ponds:</b>	24	27.27%
<b>Cross Country Skiing Trails:</b>	21	23.86%
<b>Snow Shoeing Trails:</b>	6	6.82%

<b>Sledding:</b>	17	19.32%
<b>Roller Blading:</b>	12	13.64%
<b>Fishing:</b>	5	5.68%
<b>Horse Shoe Pits:</b>	6	6.82%
<b>Playground Equipment/Swings:</b>	47	53.41%
<b>Wildlife Viewing:</b>	9	10.23%
<b>Camping:</b>	5	5.68%
<b>Dog Exercising Area:</b>	7	7.95%
<b>Connection to Snowmobiling Trails:</b>	5	5.68%
<b>Ponds:</b>	10	11.36%
<b>Grills:</b>	11	12.50%
<b>Other Suggestions:</b>	5	5.68%
<b>Comments/Suggestions Provided:</b>	27	30.68%

#### Additional Comments

I know Marshfield is planning a new pool, but what about a kiddie-size pool only? Need to have sidewalks for safe pedestrian access.

This area needs an ATV-cycle-motocross riding area. We already have enough of the other types of parks.

Would like to see the biking trails wide enough that they could be used for trail riding for horses. If your "trail" plan is designed such it could be used year-round by many for walking, biking, horseback riding, nature viewing, cross country skiing, wildlife viewing. I hesitate to encourage ATV trails - too dangerous & the liability is tremendous.

Don't feel we should have to pay for all of these parks. Have no children or grand kids to use any of it and who is going to pay for it? We are on fixed incomes & in our senior years.

Please no dogs! Too many dog owners leave dog feces behind when they walk their dogs. That ruins the area for others.

Could all those trails be incorporated into one trail? (safety being discussed)

Thanks and congratulations for all your work for others.

Please keep some concern about increased taxes.

Swimming pond with sand beach. Open, cut field or the like to fly kites or whatever. Trees for shade by picnic/playground.

Motorcycle or ATV park. This would accommodate people other than high school and junior high schoolers. There are plenty of tennis, soccer, baseball, and basketball parks in the area. How about something different for a change? A cycle and ATV park would generate thou

sands of dollars each year. How much revenue do you get from a couple of kids playing tennis? Please call with any questions.

Cool idea! Thanks for doing this.

Why worry about a park when the Village should worry about paying for Main St. The village hall was damaged by vandals. The area is watched regularly. Who will be watching the new park for vandals?

It sure won't make any difference to me as of now as we are both 84 years old. But the younger people could have a say about all of that which I think would be nice.

Camping available for persons needing a very short-term stay because their family member is at MFLD hospital. Not our family, but a Hewitt resident's. Weather permitting of course. More picnic and rest room facilities.

If you got any money left, use it for lighting on Evergreen St & 5th & 6th street instead of lighting up fields and etc.

For the children, family, and grand children. 4-acre Maple Lane.

Firepits.

Our children are older - high school age, but for the community's future children, it would be wonderful.

In addition to having these wonderful parks, I think a great deal of importance needs to be placed on proper lighting (seen as daylight even at night) for the entire park area, not solely paths & fields. Lighting adequately is essential for the safety of our children and ourselves in the community. It will also be important for these parks to be patrolled by law enforcement routinely each day & night.

Pond with beach for swimming. We think having another park in the area is a great idea!

No dogs.

Mini-golf course. Renting of shelter area revenue to go back into park.

A new park system would be a great asset to our growing community.

Because I live in Auburndale, I won't make any suggestions, but I would like to congratulate you for doing the improvements and making a number of projects which are family-oriented. If St. Michael's Parish and/or I can be of help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

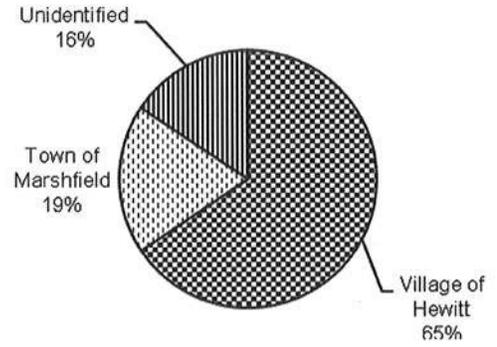
I think a multi-purpose path for walking, running, blading, biking would best be utilized. It could be used in the winter also for snowshoeing or cc skiing if there was enough snow.

We think this is a great idea & great opportunity for Hewitt to continue to grow.

I live in the north of Hewitt but think with all the development on the southwest side, there should be a park over there.

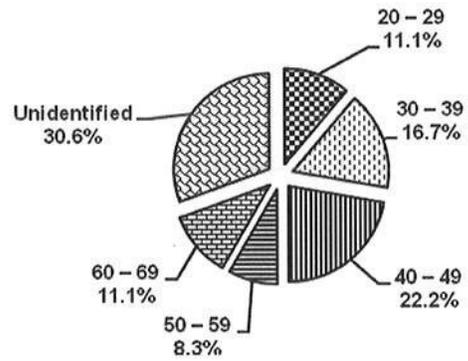
1a. Do you live in the Village of Hewitt or Town of Marshfield?	
Response	
Village of Hewitt	21
Town of Marshfield	6
Unidentified	5
Total	32

**1a. Where do you Live**



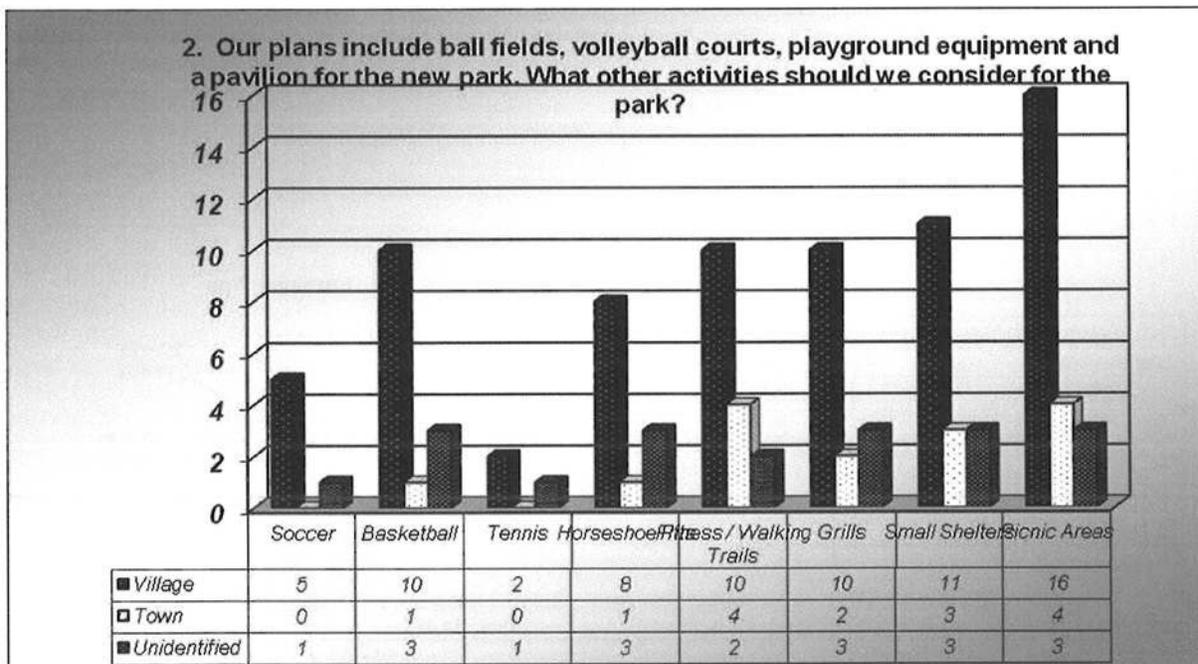
1b. Ages of those responding to the survey	
20 – 29	4
30 – 39	6
40 – 49	8
50 – 59	3
60 – 69	4
Unidentified	11

**1b. Surveyor Age**



2. Our plans include ball fields, volleyball courts, playground equipment and a pavilion for the new park. What other activities should we consider for the park?

Activity	Village	Town	Unidentified	Total
Soccer	5	0	1	6
Basketball	10	1	3	14
Tennis	2	0	1	3
Horseshoe Pits	8	1	3	12
Fitness / Walking Trails	10	4	2	16
Grills	10	2	3	15
Small Shelters	11	3	3	17
Picnic Areas	16	4	3	23



Possibly put basketball hoops up on the edge of the parking lot.

Frisbee golf.

Do the basketball poles in conjunction with blacktopping the parking lot someday down the road.

Tuesday night fun run for adults and kids at least once a month in the summer. Either at the new park or on the trail system. I would do this 30 minutes before the first game.

Ice skating pond. Small shelters with grills for picnics, along the lines of what Marshfield has.

Playground equipment should include toddler equipment.

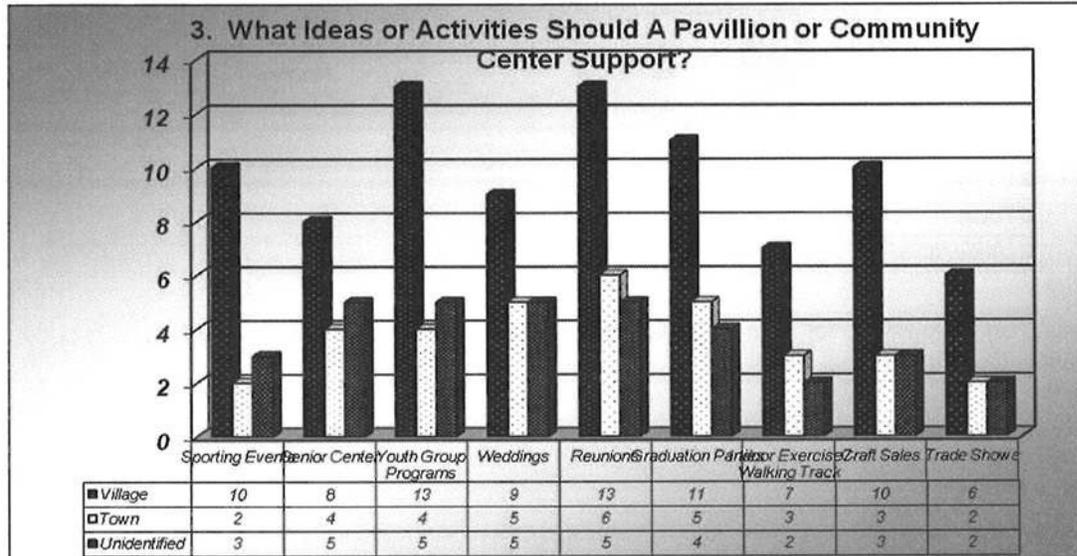
Horseshoe pits – “maybe”.

Bike racks.

3. What ideas or activities should we consider for a pavilion or community center?

Activity	Village	Town	Unidentified	Total
Sporting Events	10	2	3	15
Senior Center	8	4	5	17

Youth Group Programs	13	4	5	22
Weddings	9	5	5	19
Reunions	13	6	5	24
Graduation Parties	11	5	4	21
Indoor Exercise / Walking Track	7	3	2	12
Craft Sales	10	3	3	16
Trade Shows	6	2	2	10



Could charge rent to help defray costs – like Marshfield’s Wildwood Station.

Keep it simple yet useful, something like the Youth Building at the Fairgrounds.

Would be a great fundraiser held along with the youth softball tournament.

Really all of the above if the pavilion is big enough

Short term get a pavilion built with restrooms, concession stand, storage and a “open” covered area that picnic tables can go under. Long term add on another hall for reunions, parties, etc. that can be rented.

Something large enough for weddings with a small kitchen for set up and clean up not to prepare food.

Also set up so only half of the hall can be rented. Maybe along the lines of the railroad station at Wildwood.

Be sure that the kitchen area and rest rooms are big enough.

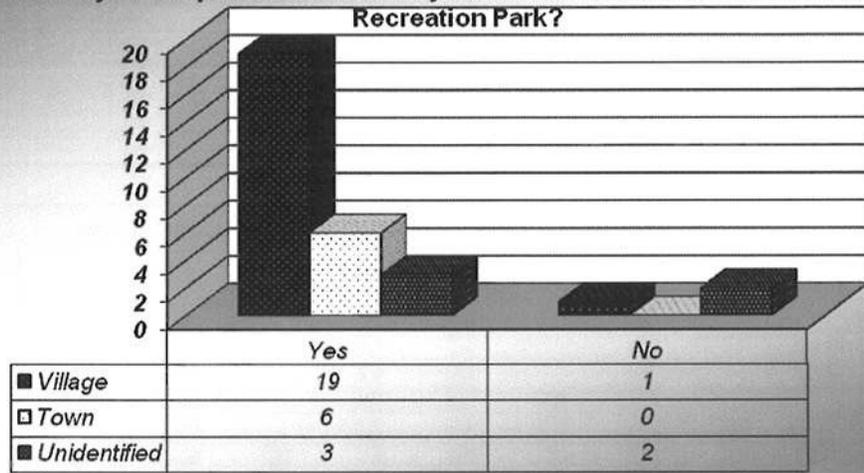
It should be open to all activities that suit the community. Use as needs arise. If someone wants to do a wedding – go with it or craft sales - try it. If it works – great. Things would need to be scheduled as a first come first service basis and may even include a small fee.

Depends on size and what it can handle.

**4. Hewitt Days were held at the Village Hall/Shelter from 1976 – 1986. Would you like plans for Hewitt Days to be considered at the Yellowstone Recreation Park?**

Activity	Village	Town	Unidentified	Total
Yes	19	6	3	28
No	1	0	2	3

4. Hewitt Days were held at the Village Hall/Shelter from 1976 – 1986.  
 Would you like plans for Hewitt Days to be considered at the Yellowstone



But no parking on Yellowstone for farm equipment to get through.

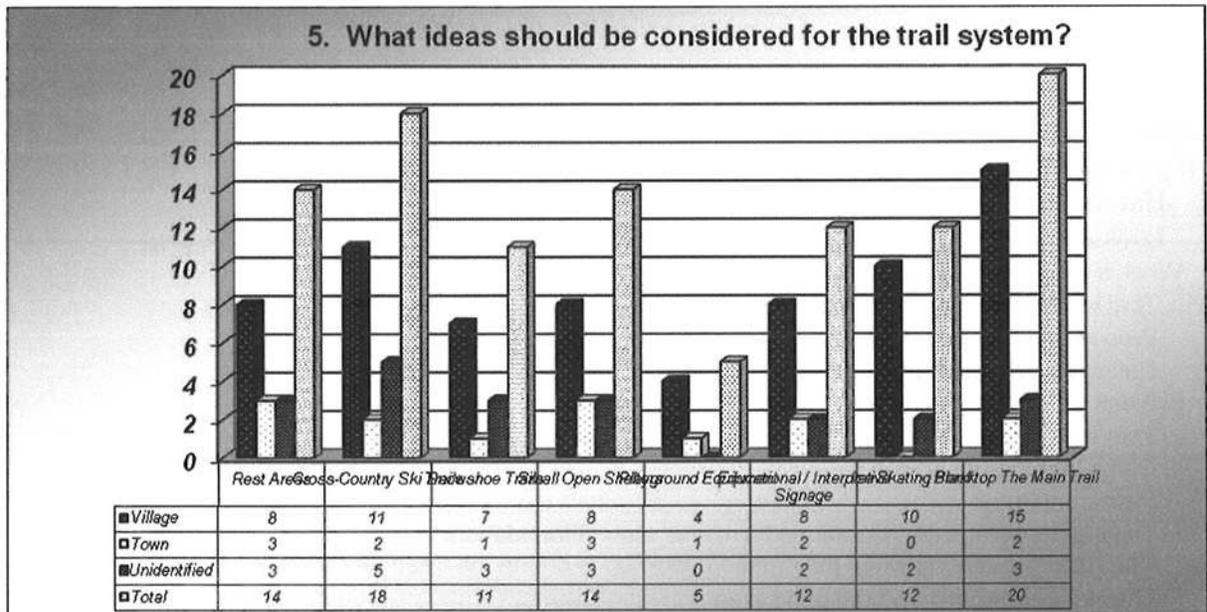
New to Hewitt. Don't know what it's all about.

When was this event?

Why not start where it left off?

If it does turn into a big drinking party as it did – as I think this is why no one wanted it anymore. Have it be a more family oriented weekend.

5. What ideas should be considered for the trail system?				
Activity	Village	Town	Unidentified	Total
Rest Areas	8	3	3	14
Cross-Country Ski Trails	11	2	5	18
Snowshoe Trails	7	1	3	11
Small Open Shelters	8	3	3	14
Playground Equipment	4	1	0	5
Educational / Interpretive Signage	8	2	2	12
Ice Skating Pond	10	0	2	12
Blacktop The Main Trail	15	2	3	20



Finish the trail from Hewitt to hook to Marshfield's trail before you do any other of the items above to the trails.  
 Long term blacktopping the trail would be great.

We need to complete the pond section by adding culverts or a bridge so you can walk the full circle.  
 Also, the pond section has holes in it.

Picnic areas with grills.

Circuit/conditioning course. Fort McCoy has a 3-mile course with stations that have a physical activity at each station. Some stations include balance activities, push up, pull up bar, etc.

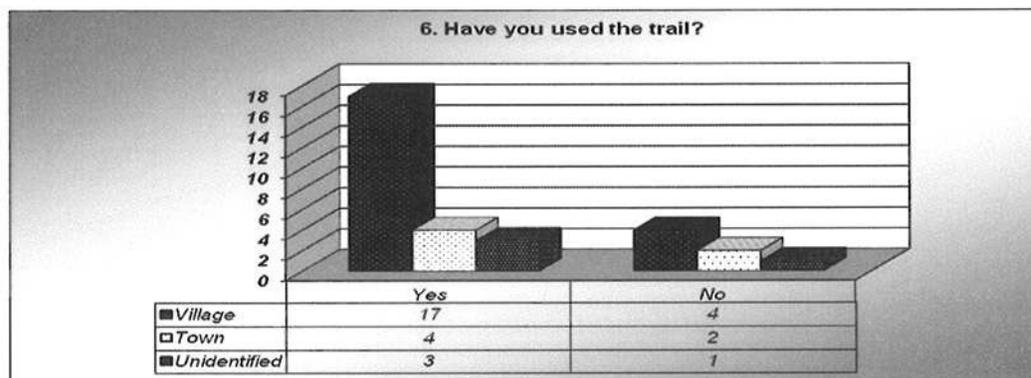
Getting connected with Marshfield's trail and/or bike track along side of Yellowstone so won't be in direct way of cars.  
 Rest areas "vandalism concerns."

Nature trails should be exactly that. One thing about the trail right now is exactly that, quiet, serene and truly peaceful. It should be kept that way. There will be the recreation park for shelters, playground equipment, etc.

Blacktopping and playground would encourage/allow younger children to ride along on family trips.

### 6. Have you used the trail?

Activity	Village	Town	Unidentified	Total
Yes	17	4	3	24
No	4	2	1	7



Haven't seen trail maps on the trail. Paths do divide.

Spray for mosquitoes.

If you haven't used the trail, why?

Haven't had a chance yet.

Look at me, need I say more, not that ambitious.

What is your favorite feature?

That we've seen deer and raccoons, it's quiet!

Wooded area, nature look

Nature trail wooded area.

Black top and the benches

The "frog pond"

Going through the woods

Peace and quiet

The crushed black top is great and it makes a good foundation.

Can't wait until spring when the crushed back top is put on the treatment plant road.

The wooded section and the pond area

Garbage cans / benches

Safety for walkers and bicyclists; smooth surface being plowed for easy walking.

Solitude, safety.

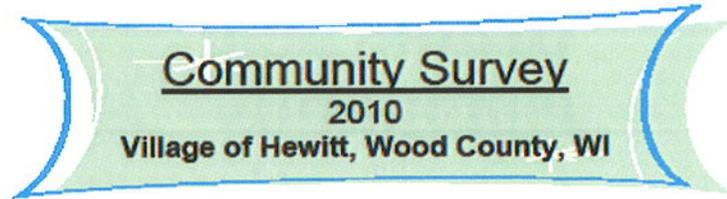
Scenery.

Walking through the woods part.

Just being able to be alone in the quiet, listening to the birds etc. Enjoying nature.

New surface put on last year.

Being out in the woods and nature



## Summary of Survey Results

### Survey Results

In 2010 the Village of Hewitt Planning Committee began developing a Comprehensive Plan. The plan incorporates public participation through a variety of means including public informational meetings and a community survey.

The survey was sent out to all households and property owners. Of the 320 surveys that were sent out, 177 or 55% were completed and returned. The return rate of 55% is considered to be a strong return rate for a survey that was distributed in this manner.

#### Survey Participation

320 surveys distributed  
177 surveys returned

---

55% completion/return rate

The survey was divided into the following 7 sections, and the following survey summary is also divided into these categories:

- Facilities and Services
- Community
- Housing
- Transportation
- Parks and Trails
- Local Economy
- Demographics

The purpose of this survey summary is to provide a brief analysis of the responses and identify common responses. To get a clearer picture of unique responses that may not be included in the summary, please reference the compilation of results found in Attachment A. Unique comments from each section provide some valuable feedback that should be considered and possibly included in the comprehensive plan.

## Appendix D: Grants Help Community Organizations

# Grants help community organizations

November 15, 2005

By JEN LEWIS  
Marshfield News-Herald

Ken Eilers and Karen Tritz of Hewitt are now ready to play ball.

They are members of the Hewitt Area Parks and Trails Committee, which received a \$750 Community Grant through the Marshfield Area Community Foundation for dugout benches in Yellowstone Recreational Park.

Currently, Hewitt has one small park — only a couple of acres — that includes the fire station, parking lot and play area, Eilers said. The new park, which will be east of County T on Yellowstone Drive, will be 20 acres.

A total of \$265,000 was given out to 36 recipients at a grants reception Monday to fill the needs of the community, said Dean Markwardt, community foundation executive director.

"I'm very excited about this," said Jaki Mushel, director of Marshfield Magic Gymnastics Club, which received a \$500 community grant for an air trak tumbling system. "My girls, they just enjoy it a lot."

A couple of club members demonstrated the oversized air mattress mat at the reception Monday night at Mother Frances Streitel Center in Saint Joseph's Hospital.

"It's extra equipment to use to prepare them for learning skills to compete with (during) floor tumbling," Mushel said.

The reception also recognized donors to the foundation who made the grants possible, said Deb Janz, a member of the board of trustees.

"There are a variety of community needs, wonderful projects that benefit

"There are a variety of ... wonderful projects that benefit the community."

— Deb Janz  
foundation executive director

the community," Janz said. "Senior citizen issues, educational enrichment and arts and crafts."

Through the Adler Family Fund, Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation is able to hire another student intern this summer, said Khemissa Bejaoui, director of the summer internship program. Students are chosen over the spring semester to come to Marshfield and help with research projects in biomedical medical or epidemiology areas.

"The number of students depends on how much money we have," Bejaoui said.

The community foundation has been awarding grants for more than five years, Markwardt said. The \$265,000 given out Monday night is in addition to \$50,000 in scholarships given out to students in May.

Now that the grant is awarded, Eilers and Tritz hope to have the ball fields open before the start of the summer season in May or June, Tritz said. Already, two volleyball courts and two ball fields are under construction.

"Last year, we had nothing but a field," Eilers said.

Jeni Lewis can be reached at 384-3131 or 800-967-2087, ext. 329 or at [jen.lewis@marshfieldnews-herald.com](mailto:jen.lewis@marshfieldnews-herald.com).

## Appendix E: Woodlot Management Plan

Village of Hewitt Management Plan  
Part of SWNE and NWSE, Section 23, T25, R3E, Village of Hewitt  
20 acres

**GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** This plan covers approximately 20 acres of the Village's properties which are partially wooded. Other non-forested lands owned by the Village are shown on the enclosed map. The northern ten acres is mostly open ground with a small patch of hardwood forest; the southern ten acres is lower and wetter with aspen forest as the dominant vegetation type. There are numerous mowed walking paths through the property coming off of the main recreation trail on the neighboring Draxler property. These trails are seasonally wet and so are usable only for portions of the year. The property is currently used by a local farmer for access to into nearby cropland.

**SOILS/SITE CONDITIONS:** The soil types on the property include Marshfield silt loam and Mann silt loam; both are wetland soils. The Mann soil is limited to the wettest portions of the property where the drainages are located. Due to the wet conditions, all management activity in the wooded portions should be restricted to winter months.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES / ARCHEOLOGICAL OR HISTORICAL SITES:** I checked our database (Natural Heritage Inventory - NHI) for threatened and endangered resources as well as archeological and historical resources. The NHI database shows two State Special Concern plant species as being present on the Village property and the neighboring Draxler property. The Prairie Sagebrush and the Blunt-lobe Grape-fern are the two plants on the list. The Prairie Sagebrush is a plant found on very dry sites however; so I would doubt this species is on your property. The other plant, the Grape-fern, is a plant found in depressions in moist forests. For additional information on rare plants, animals and natural plant communities, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er>.

There are no known archeological or historical sites on your property.

The following information gives forest management recommendations for your property for each forest stand and is based on inventory data collected on April 27, 2010. Recommendations are based on the general objective of sustainably managing the forest resources while providing recreational opportunities for the community as a whole.

Forest size classes that are referenced in the information below are defined as follows:

- Seedlings and saplings: trees which are smaller than 5" in diameter at breast height.
- Poletimber: trees that are between 5 and 11 inches in diameter at breast height. These trees are commonly used for papermaking.
- Sawtimber: trees that are larger than 11" in diameter and are typically used for lumber or wood products other than paper.

### **Stand 1: Aspen / Hardwoods Poletimber; 8 acres**

**DESCRIPTION:** The aspen stand is the main forested area in the south ten acre parcel. This stand is moderately stocked with aspen poletimber approximately 50 to 60 years in age. Some of the aspen is already dying off and falling over due to its advanced age and the wet conditions.

There is a younger component of aspen present in the stand as well. Other tree species present include red maple, American elm, swamp white oak, basswood and green ash. Buckthorn is well established here as the main understory shrub species.

Aspen is tree species that is considered a “pioneer” species; it is one of the first trees to invade open land. It is also an extremely valuable forest type for many wildlife species including deer, grouse, woodcock, and many songbirds as well. Because it requires full sunlight for growth, the aspen grows very fast when it’s young - new aspen shoots following a harvest can grow as much as six feet in height during the first growing season!

The management objective is to provide food and cover for wildlife and to maintain an aspen forest type that can compete with the buckthorn. Additional objectives are to retain healthy hardwoods (maples, oak, basswood and ash) for diversity and aesthetics. Regenerate a new aspen stand at maturity using a clearcut harvest. Aspen forests regenerate by sending up new aspen shoots from the root systems of the cut trees. Because of the fast early growth of aspen, the new aspen shoots should be able to out-grow the buckthorn.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Clearcut the stand in 2011, or as soon as possible. Cut all trees 2” in diameter or larger to create the open, sunny conditions needed to regenerate a new aspen stand to out-compete the buckthorn. Confine the harvest to the winter months to maximize resprouting potential of the aspen.
- During the harvest, have the contractor run down as much of the buckthorn as possible. Consider individual treatment of the largest buckthorn clumps (in terms of stem diameter) to reduce the abundance of the seeds that birds can spread across the landscape.
- Retain all oak in the stand for wildlife values and as a seed source for new oak seedlings. Leave selected healthy maples, basswood, elm and ash scattered throughout the stand for aesthetics and as an additional seed source.
- Den trees should also be left during the harvest, regardless of species, and encourage the protection of standing dead trees for use by birds and other wildlife.

#### **Stand 2: Hardwood saw timber and pole timber; 2 acres**

**DESCRIPTION:** This small stand is found in the north central portion of the property. It is well stocked with a variety of hardwoods; red maple is the most abundant but there is also a good representation of northern red oak, sugar maple and basswood. The timber quality is fair; many trees have defects such as rot, seams, or poor form. The average tree in the stand is between 11 and 12 inches in diameter at chest height.

Manage the stand to maintain a hardwood forest type on the property with some limited timber production from periodic improvement thinning. Maintain oak in the stand for wildlife values.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Thin the stand in conjunction with the aspen clear-cut in stand 1, in the year 2011. Remove up to 20% of the trees; concentrating on removal of trees with defects (rot, seams, crooks, forked crowns, etc.) not expected to survive over the long term. Similar harvests could be made every 20 years.

- Monitor the stand for buckthorn, and other invasive species, and take steps to control plants where they occur. Cut buckthorn stems in the fall and treat with an appropriate herbicide to kill the plants.
- Maintain a diverse stand for fall color and general aesthetics and forest health. Maintain representatives of all species currently present in the stand over time as the stand is selectively harvested.
- During scheduled harvests, maintain some trees with cavities for use by wildlife for nesting purposes. Also leave standing dead trees and downed trees for birds and other animals and insects to use (these trees contribute to a healthy forest ecosystem just as much as the living trees do).

### **Stand 3: Ash swamp; 2 acres**

DESCRIPTION: East of the aspen stand is a small wetland moderately stocked with black ash poletimber and sawtimber. This stand is growing on the Mann soils and is very wet. There is a small amount of swamp white oak and aspen mixed in with the ash. The shrub layer consists of buckthorn along with honeysuckle, tag alder, and red-osier dogwood.

The management objective for this stand is to maintain the area as a wooded wetland for its water quality and wildlife values.

RECOMMENDATIONS: No management is recommended in this area due to the excessively wet conditions. If Emerald Ash Borer becomes established in our area, some salvage cutting of the ash could be done during the winter months if the ground freezes prior to snow cover.

The remainder of the property included open wetlands and shrub lands in the northern ten acre parcel. These areas support a variety of native shrubs including willow, red-osier dogwood and various grasses and other herbaceous plants. There is some buckthorn in this area as well. Consider planting patches of spruce to provide winter cover and feeding cover for song birds. Control buckthorn where it occurs using approved herbicides.

Below are additional sources of information you may find useful. Also feel free to contact your DNR forester at any time with questions concerning your woodlands. Thanks for your interest in practicing good forestry on the Village properties!

#### **Best Management Practices for Water Quality (BMPs)**

To protect the water quality in Wisconsin's lakes, streams and wetlands *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality* must be employed during property management such as road building or timber harvest. To see these BMPs, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Usesof/bmp/bmpfieldmanual.htm>.

#### **Forest Health**

Forest health problems may develop from time to time. These problems may include, but are not limited to, insect damage, diseases, windstorms, fire, flooding, and drought. Forest health issues may alter generally accepted forest management guidelines. Please contact your local DNR Forester or Cooperating Forester if you are concerned about Forest Health or contact the DNR Website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/>.

#### **Timber Harvesting Contracts**

It is very important that a landowner and logging contractor have a written and signed contract to guide the harvesting process before any harvesting is started. For more information on timber sale contracts please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/private/harvest/>.

**Invasive Plant Species**

Invasive plants may decrease productivity, regeneration, habitat, recreational value and quality of your property. Identifying and controlling small populations of invasive plants is essential to minimize the spread of these unwanted plants. For additional information on invasive plant control, follow the management practices as recommended in *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species* booklet. This booklet is available at any DNR Forestry office or at the DNR Website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/index.htm>.

**Wildlife Habitat and Recreation Management**

Wildlife habitat and recreation can be managed along with timber management. Most of these practices can be done throughout your entire property and can include seeding and mowing of trails and openings, and maintaining snags, den trees, and "wolf" trees. To learn more wildlife friendly ideas, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/>.

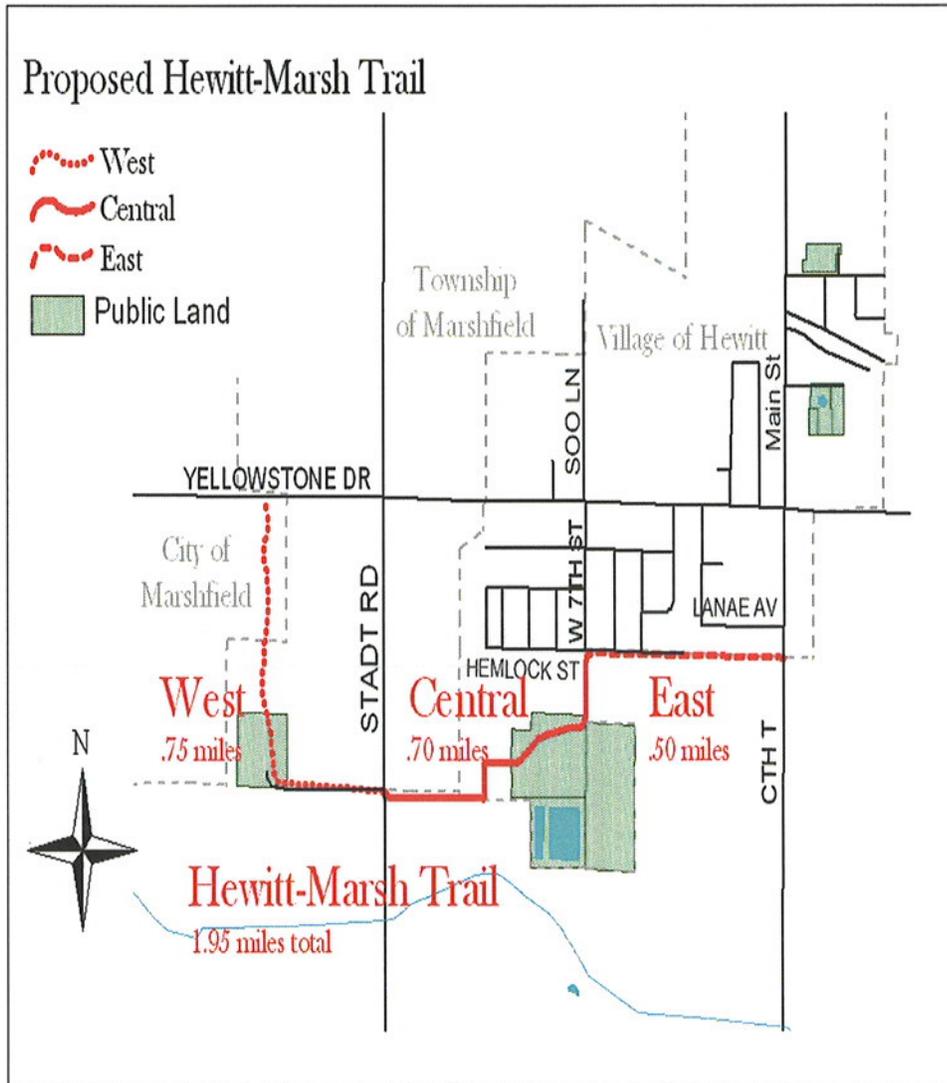
Appendix F: Village of Hewitt Property Map

**Village of Hewitt Property**  
**20 acres**

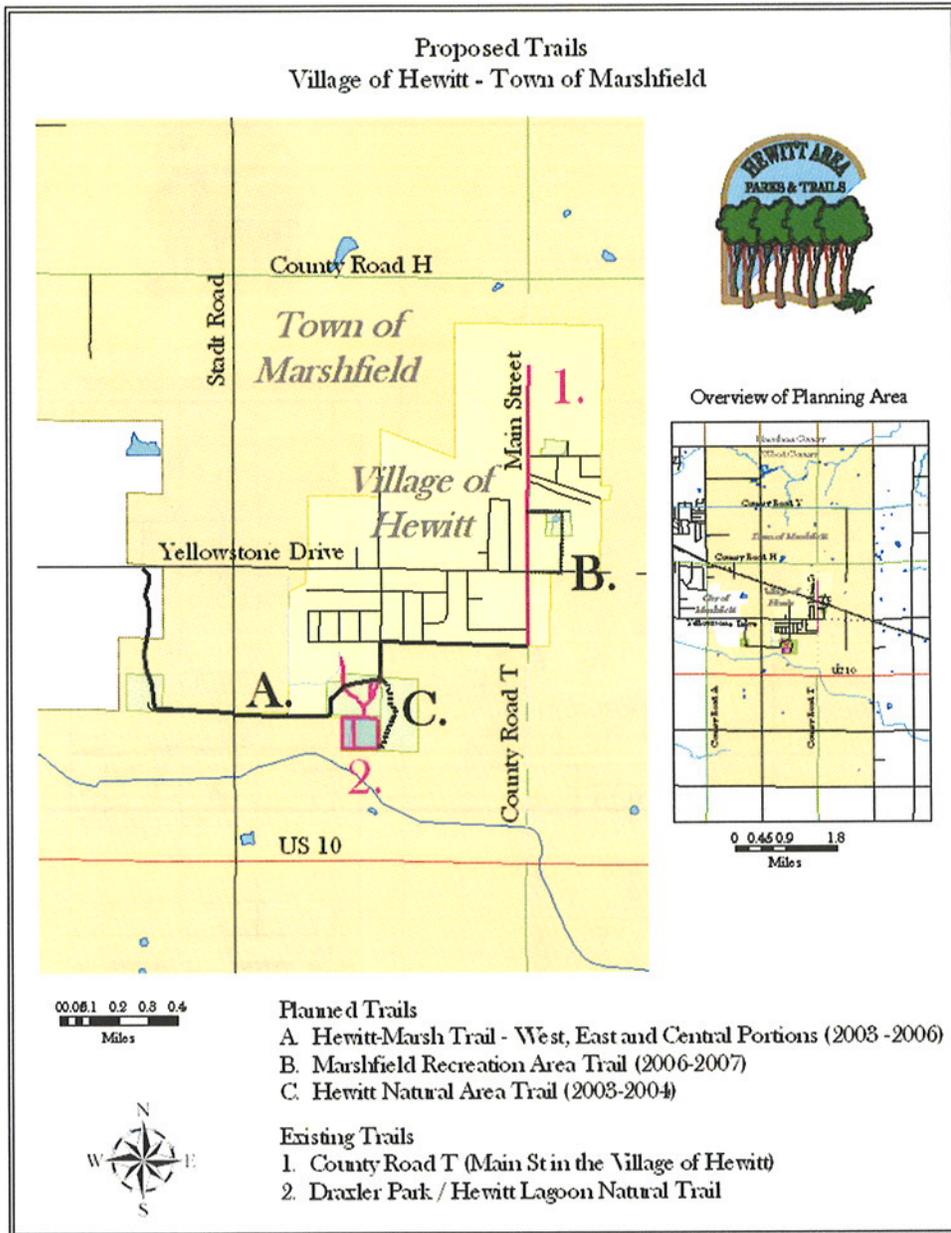


**June 2010**

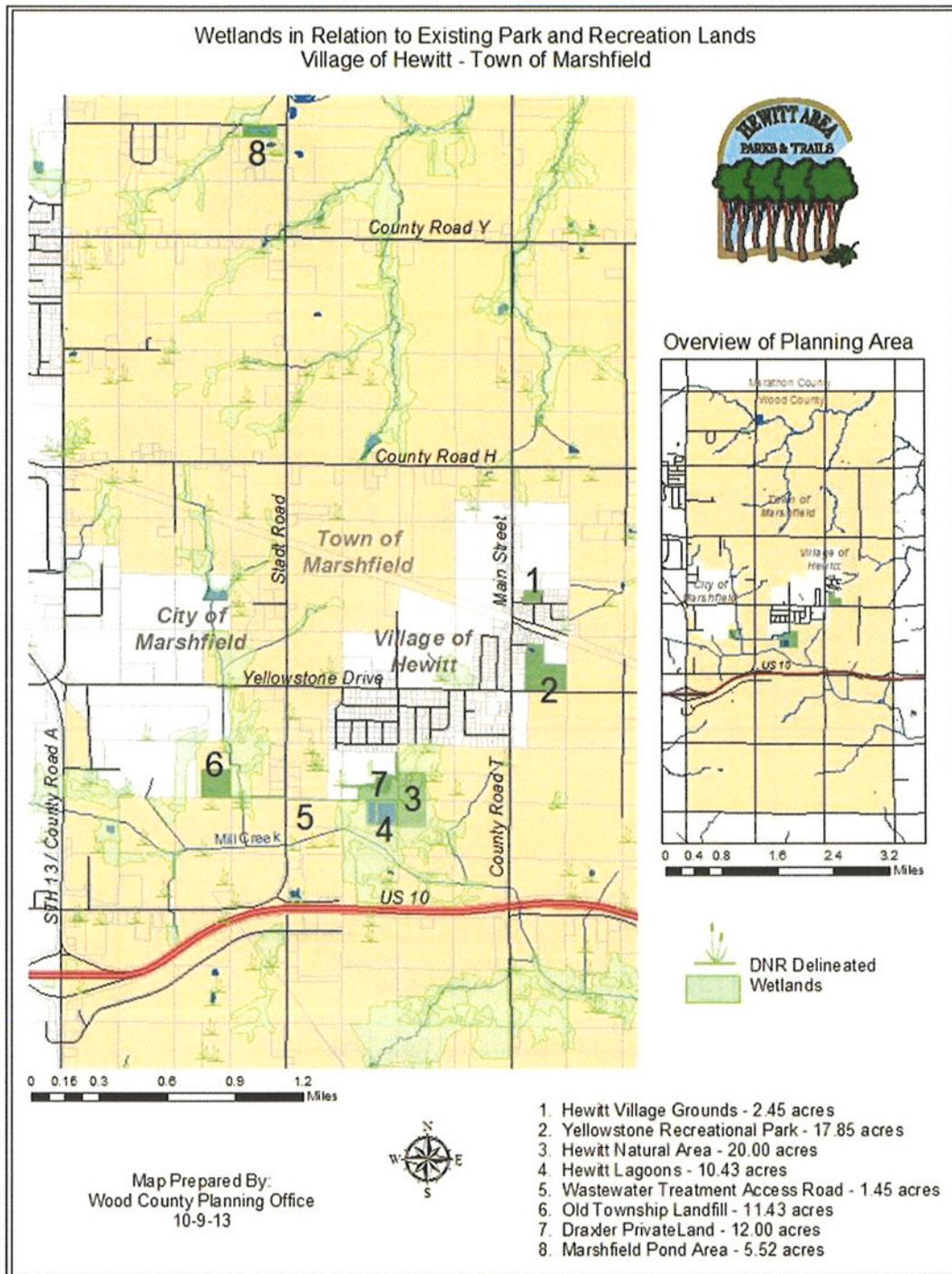
Appendix G: Village of Hewitt-Marsh Trail Original Proposed Trail



## Appendix H: Village of Hewitt Original Proposed Trail



## Appendix I: Wetlands Proximity



Appendix J: 2013 Grant Award



Wood County  
WISCONSIN

OFFICE OF PLANNING  
AND ZONING

April 30, 2013

Ms. Beth Norquist  
Community Services Specialist  
Natural Resources Community Financial Assistance  
1300 W. Clairemont Ave.  
P.O. Box 4001  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4001

RE: Hewitt-Marshfield Connector Trail Stewardship Grant Application

Dear Ms. Norquist,

On behalf of the coalition that enthusiastically supports the Hewitt-Marshfield Connector Trail, I am pleased to submit a DNR Stewardship Grant Application. This project is an outstanding model of a collaborative effort involving county and municipal government, local businesses, community organizations, and friends groups. The proposal is the result of many years of coalition members working together with the vision of linking the city of Marshfield trails to the Hewitt Area trail network. When linked, the network will total over 14 miles of off road trail connecting to 350 acres of diverse park land.

As a sponsor of the project, Wood County fully supports the Hewitt-Marshfield Connector because it provides residents a safe and efficient transportation option, it will grow the local/regional economy through tourism and outdoor recreation, and it will promote healthy lifestyles by connecting area parks and destinations.

Because the trail is planned to cross a private property through a perpetual easement, we would like to request a variance from NR 51.003 to receive a grant agreement rather than a contract.

We look forward to working with you and DNR staff as you review the grant request. Please contact me at (715) 421-8478 or email me at [jgruenberg@co.wood.wi.us](mailto:jgruenberg@co.wood.wi.us) if you have any questions or need any additional supporting information.

Thank You,

Jason R. Gruenberg  
Planner/Land Records Coordinator

---

400 Market Street • P.O. Box 8095 • Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495-8095 • Telephone (715) 421-8466

# Appendix K: 2014 Grant Award

State of Wisconsin  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
101 S. Webster Street  
Box 7921  
Madison WI 53707-7921

Scott Walker, Governor  
Cathy Stepp, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-938-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



September 18, 2014

► **REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ACTION** ◀  
Acquisition and Development of Local Parks  
Grant# S-ADLP3-15-1213  
Grant Amount: \$16,000.00

Jason R. Grueneberg, Planner Coordinator  
Wood County  
PO Box 8095  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095

Dear Mr. Grueneberg:

Congratulations! On behalf of the Governor, we are pleased to forward to you a grant agreement for financial assistance for the following project: **Wood County - Hewitt-Marshfield Trail Connector Phase II**

Please review the agreement and return the original signed by the authorized official **within 30 days of this letter's date** to Beth Norquist at the West Central Region, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701. The second copy is for your file. Funds will be encumbered when the signed agreement is returned. Please read the items checked below. They apply to your project and grant award.

**Grant Award Time Period: September 18, 2014 through June 30, 2016.** All project activities must occur within this time period to be eligible costs for reimbursement.

**Advance or Reimbursement Check:** When you submit for your advance or reimbursement the check will be mailed to Wood County, Jason R. Grueneberg, PO Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095. This is the check recipient that appears in our records.

**Changes to the approved project scope** may not be made without prior approval from the Department.

**You are entitled to a project advance of: \$8,000.00**

This advance payment is made available to you to cover costs you may incur in the initial stages of your project. The advance payment is equal to 50% of the state cost sharing assistance. *If you wish to request the advance payment, please check the box provided on the last page of the project agreement.*

Please check your local procedures to insure you comply with all applicable state laws regarding competitive bidding and awarding.

If not enclosed, reimbursement claim forms and/or financial administration information can be found by going to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/forms.html>. Please submit reimbursement claim forms for your project to Beth. Feel free to contact Beth at 715-839-3751, if you have any questions about your grant award or the reimbursement procedures. You may be contacted by the Office of the Governor or your state Legislator concerning the issuance of a press release to publicize the grant award. We are pleased to have the opportunity to participate with you on this project.

Sincerely,

  
Steven W. Miller, Director  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Enclosure(s)

C: Beth Norquist - WCR

[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)  
[wisconsin.gov](http://wisconsin.gov)

Naturally WISCONSIN

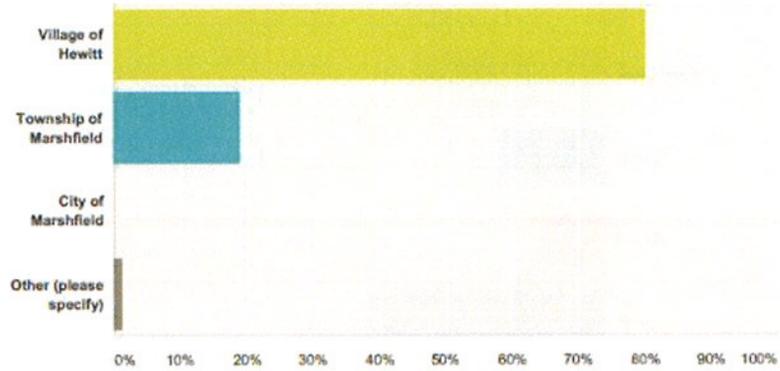


# Appendix L: 2016 Community Survey Results

## Community Recreational Survey

### Q1 Where do you reside?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



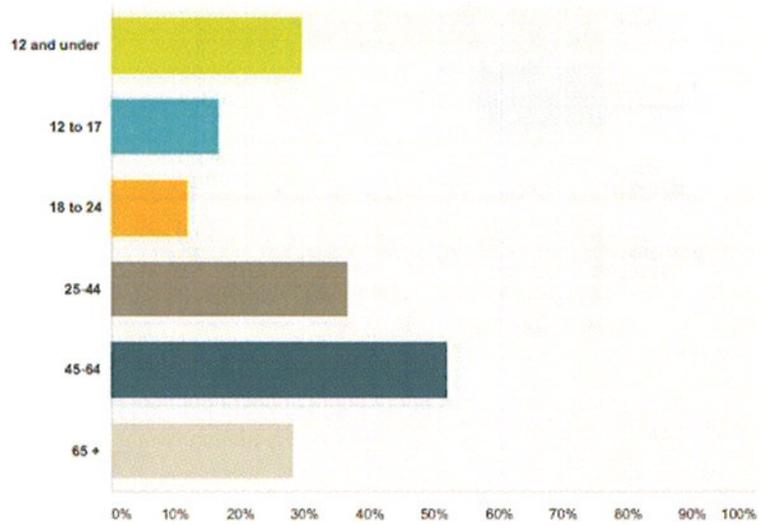
Answer Choices	Responses	
Village of Hewitt	80.00%	68
Township of Marshfield	18.82%	16
City of Marshfield	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	1.18%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>85</b>

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Township of Cameron	3/17/2016 8:01 PM

Community Recreational Survey

**Q2 Provide the age group(s) of the current members in your household (check all that apply).**

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0

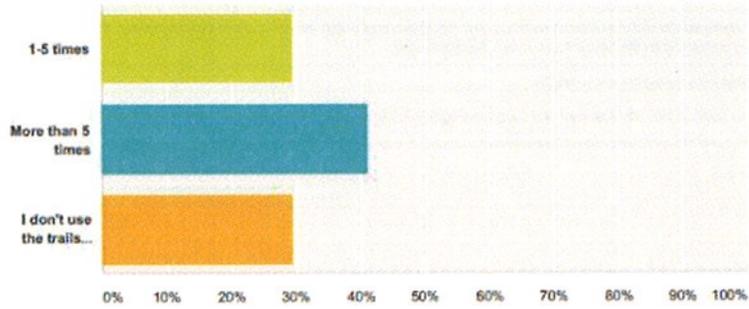


Answer Choices	Responses	
12 and under	29.41%	25
12 to 17	16.47%	14
18 to 24	11.76%	10
25-44	36.47%	31
45-64	51.76%	44
65 +	28.24%	24
<b>Total Respondents: 85</b>		

Community Recreational Survey

**Q3 The Village of Hewitt & Town of Marshfield have over 6.5 miles of trails including paved, gravel, natural and boardwalk. On average, how often do you use the trails each month?**

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
1-5 times	29.41% 25
More than 5 times	41.18% 35
I don't use the trails (please comment if you wish)	29.41% 25
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>

#	I don't use the trails (please comment if you wish)	Date
1	I don't take the time to use the parks/trails but I do see many others that do. I think they are great facilities.	3/24/2016 7:56 PM
2	N/A	3/16/2016 8:35 PM
3	I stick to town road in front of my property and trails on my own land.	3/16/2016 8:31 PM
4	N/A	3/16/2016 8:29 PM
5	N/A	3/16/2016 8:22 PM
6	N/A	3/16/2016 8:20 PM
7	During summer I do.	3/16/2016 8:17 PM
8	N/A	3/16/2016 8:12 PM
9	Didn't know they were open to Town of Marshfield.	3/16/2016 8:10 PM
10	Use trails 1-5 times per year. The trails are used when the grand kids are here and want something to do.	3/16/2016 8:08 PM
11	Hard time walking.	3/16/2016 8:05 PM
12	Limited use. Not convenient from our side of town.	3/16/2016 8:03 PM
13	N/A	3/16/2016 7:50 PM
14	N/A	3/16/2016 7:23 PM
15	N/A	3/16/2016 7:21 PM

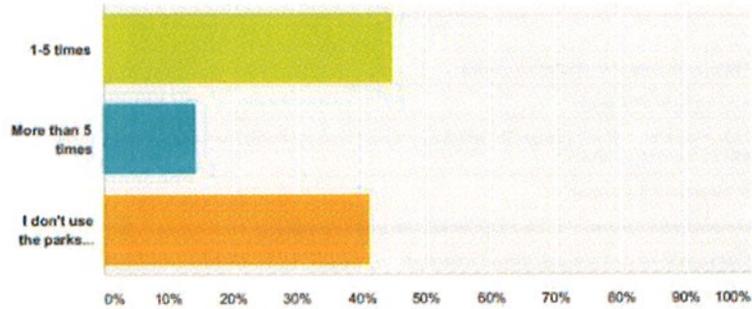
### Community Recreational Survey

16	Moved here recently - will use the trails as the weather improves.	3/14/2016 6:20 AM
17	I like loops not out and back. I don't like gravel or natural surface.	3/13/2016 9:44 AM
18	Just to busy with other things and projects but plan on excising more and making the trail part of my walking path.	3/11/2016 7:59 AM
19	I didn't know all these trails existed in Hewitt.	3/7/2016 4:34 PM
20	But now with map will be using them	3/7/2016 7:12 AM
21	We don't use in the winter	3/6/2016 9:04 PM
22	Kind of inconvenient to drive or walk to the trail to walk - by the time I get there I don't need to walk anymore.	3/6/2016 1:24 PM
23	The parks and trails are nice for those who use them. However, enough with the trails and parks already. How about doing something for the Senior Citizens who live in this area.	3/4/2016 12:49 PM
24	Occasionally during the warm months	3/3/2016 6:40 PM
25	Areas south of Hwy 10 have poor and dangerous egress to these trails	3/3/2016 1:03 PM

Community Recreational Survey

**Q4 On average, how often do you use the parks each month?**

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
1-5 times	44.71% 38
More than 5 times	14.12% 12
I don't use the parks (please comment if you wish)	41.18% 35
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>

#	I don't use the parks (please comment if you wish)	Date
1	n/a	3/24/2016 7:56 PM
2	n/a	3/24/2016 7:42 PM
3	n/a	3/24/2016 7:40 PM
4	I do though when my brothers are in town.	3/16/2016 8:39 PM
5	I use the park in the summer, car shows, bdays, graduation parties, etc.	3/16/2016 8:35 PM
6	N/A	3/16/2016 8:31 PM
7	N/A	3/16/2016 8:29 PM
8	Would be great to have basketball hoops just to shoot around.	3/16/2016 8:25 PM
9	N/A	3/16/2016 8:23 PM
10	N/A	3/16/2016 8:22 PM
11	N/A	3/16/2016 8:20 PM
12	We have no kids so only go to the park to help with clean up or car show.	3/16/2016 8:19 PM
13	N/A	3/16/2016 8:12 PM
14	N/A	3/16/2016 8:10 PM
15	Only used when invited to parties, graduations, etc.	3/16/2016 8:08 PM
16	N/A	3/16/2016 8:05 PM
17	Used more when kids were little.	3/16/2016 8:03 PM
18	N/A	3/16/2016 7:54 PM

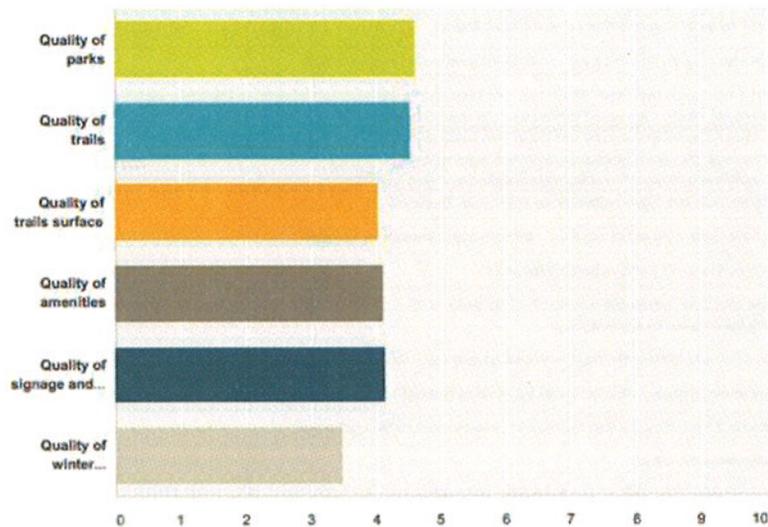
### Community Recreational Survey

19	N/A	3/16/2016 7:47 PM
20	Our kids are grown and don't use the parks now but am glad we have the facilities or the younger families.	3/16/2016 7:42 PM
21	Only use the park when our grandchildren visit - 4 to 5 times per year.	3/16/2016 7:38 PM
22	N/A	3/16/2016 7:32 PM
23	N/A	3/16/2016 7:23 PM
24	N/A	3/16/2016 7:21 PM
25	Used parks much more when children were young.	3/15/2016 5:58 AM
26	Parks not set up for older people	3/13/2016 9:44 AM
27	Used a lot more when child was younger. The park is a great asset to our community however and should be a main focus for continued improvement.	3/11/2016 7:59 AM
28	We go there often in the summer!	3/9/2016 9:49 AM
29	I use the parks when the weather is nice and for the soft balls games. Several times a month in the summer.	3/7/2016 4:34 PM
30	Don't use parks as we don't have any children to take there.	3/6/2016 1:24 PM
31	No need to use the park no children or pets	3/6/2016 7:36 AM
32	The parks are nice for those who use them. However, enough with the parks already. How about doing something for the Senior Citizens who live in this area.	3/4/2016 12:49 PM
33	Only use them in the summer time to watch softball	3/3/2016 10:08 PM
34	Haven't yet used them.	3/3/2016 8:37 PM
35	It says comment if you wish and is asking me to comment?	3/3/2016 1:03 PM

Community Recreational Survey

**Q5 On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being very dissatisfied and 5 being very satisfied), indicate your level of satisfaction concerning community parks and trails in the Village of Hewitt.**

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



	Very Dissatisfied(1)	Dissatisfied(2)	About Average(3)	Satisfied(4)	Very Satisfied(5)	Don't Know	Total	Weighted Average
Quality of parks	1.18% 1	0.00% 0	4.71% 4	18.82% 16	60.00% 51	15.29% 13	85	4.61
Quality of trails	1.18% 1	1.18% 1	2.35% 2	27.06% 23	54.12% 46	14.12% 12	85	4.53
Quality of trails surface	1.18% 1	5.88% 5	15.29% 13	29.41% 25	32.94% 28	15.29% 13	85	4.03
Quality of amenities	0.00% 0	2.35% 2	16.47% 14	28.24% 24	29.41% 25	23.53% 20	85	4.11
Quality of signage and trail markers	0.00% 0	3.53% 3	14.12% 12	30.59% 26	32.94% 28	18.82% 16	85	4.14
Quality of winter activities	0.00% 0	16.47% 14	10.59% 9	17.65% 15	12.94% 11	42.35% 36	85	3.47

#	Comments:	Date
1	I like to see the trail through the woods and along the woods black topped. I find the loose gravel surface harder to walk on and picks up in my shoes.	3/24/2016 7:40 PM
2	Children with training wheels are unable to ride on the gravel/stone. Wish we would have cross country ski trails.	3/24/2016 7:37 PM
3	Everyday or every other day I walk. I wish the bathroom's at the park were open.	3/16/2016 8:38 PM

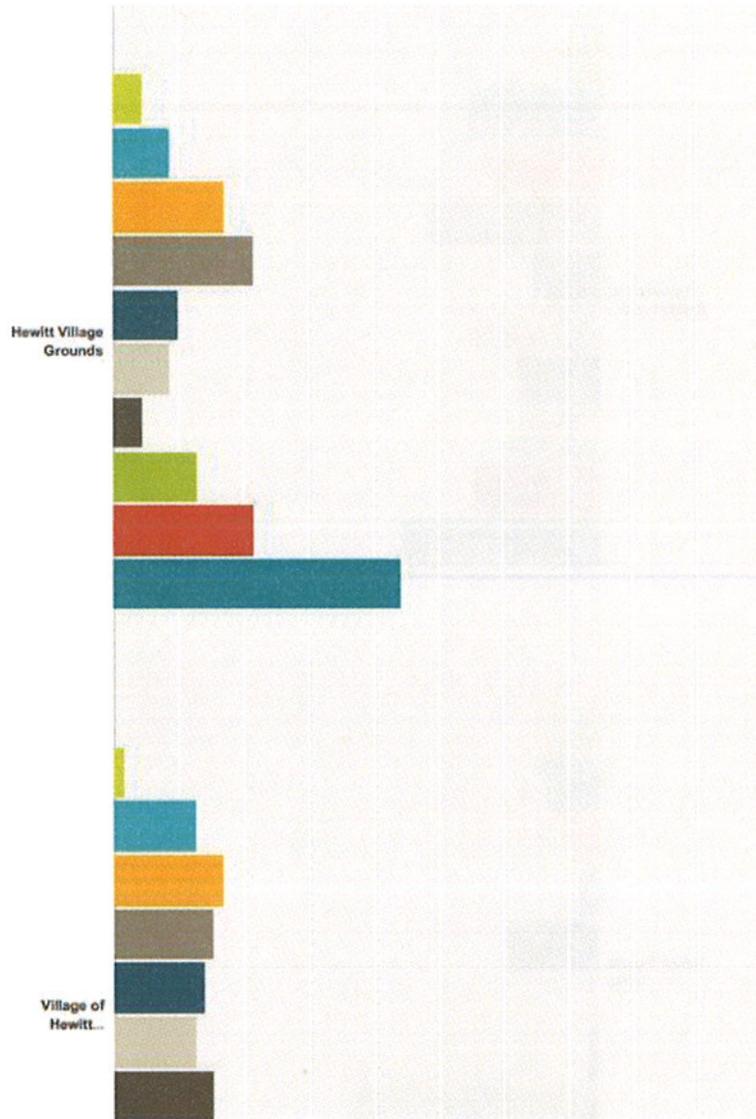
Community Recreational Survey

4	No opinion except its great to see the facilities available to the local residents.	3/16/2016 8:31 PM
5	Have not used the park or trails in the winter.	3/16/2016 8:08 PM
6	Cross country ski trail, snow shoeing trail	3/16/2016 8:07 PM
7	My family likes the trails and the park and visit them often.	3/16/2016 8:05 PM
8	Would like to see the big ball diamond stripped of the grass infield. Pitching mound and home plate note lined up.	3/16/2016 8:00 PM
9	It would be nice to have all the main trails blacktopped as money permits.	3/16/2016 7:49 PM
10	Could less of the trails be plowed so cross country skiers could use them? Perhaps keep the width of the plowing smaller so people could walk or ski on the trails. Thanks.	3/16/2016 7:42 PM
11	Signs indicating the different areas and other information that may be helpful.	3/16/2016 7:38 PM
12	Excess signage on new Hewitt-Marsh trail - don't need curve sign, etc. Lack of signs on Stadt road warning drivers of pedestrians, bikers. Cars speed at 55mph on this straight stretch of road. Ever since Highway 10 construction there has been no speed limit sign for cars going from Heritage drive North on Stadt. With daycare business on Stadt, traffic is increased. Daycare kids are sometimes walking road to get to trail and shoulder is very narrow. There are enough homes/drives on this portion of Stadt to consider decreasing speed limit to 35mph. Don't wait until an accident happens. Also many deer crossing road in this area. Thank you.	3/16/2016 7:32 PM
13	We have never used any of these, but I think it's nice to have this in our area.	3/16/2016 7:23 PM
14	Never used trails or parks so have no comment.	3/16/2016 7:21 PM
15	There are not any winter trail activities that i am aware of. the trail is plowed too much for snow shoeing or Xcountry skiing but it's great for winter walking.	3/11/2016 9:50 AM
16	I have not used in the winter months. We will have to check them out.	3/7/2016 4:34 PM
17	Have walked through Yellowstone park but never used it and live close to village hall one so use that one mostly.	3/7/2016 7:12 AM
18	More Winter activities. Ice rink? Possible for "exercise stations" along the trail?	3/6/2016 9:11 PM
19	Wish trails were asphalt!	3/6/2016 7:38 AM
20	Now that we're older we don't use these parks and trails as much but have been satisfied when we have used these amenities.	3/4/2016 2:59 PM
21	With the new path at the Yellowstone park being laid, access (snow removal) to this path during the winter months would be nice since there is really no safe walk ways (sidewalks) in the village	3/3/2016 6:40 PM
22	We are forced to pay taxes for things that are difficult for use to use. Garbage collection was another forced scam	3/3/2016 1:03 PM
23	We absolutely love the trail and use it nearly every day (even in the winter). It is wonderful as-is, but in an ideal situation the entire trail would be paved for ease-of-use for smaller kids on bikes. But, really, we are so thrilled with the trails' current status!	3/3/2016 12:57 PM

Community Recreational Survey

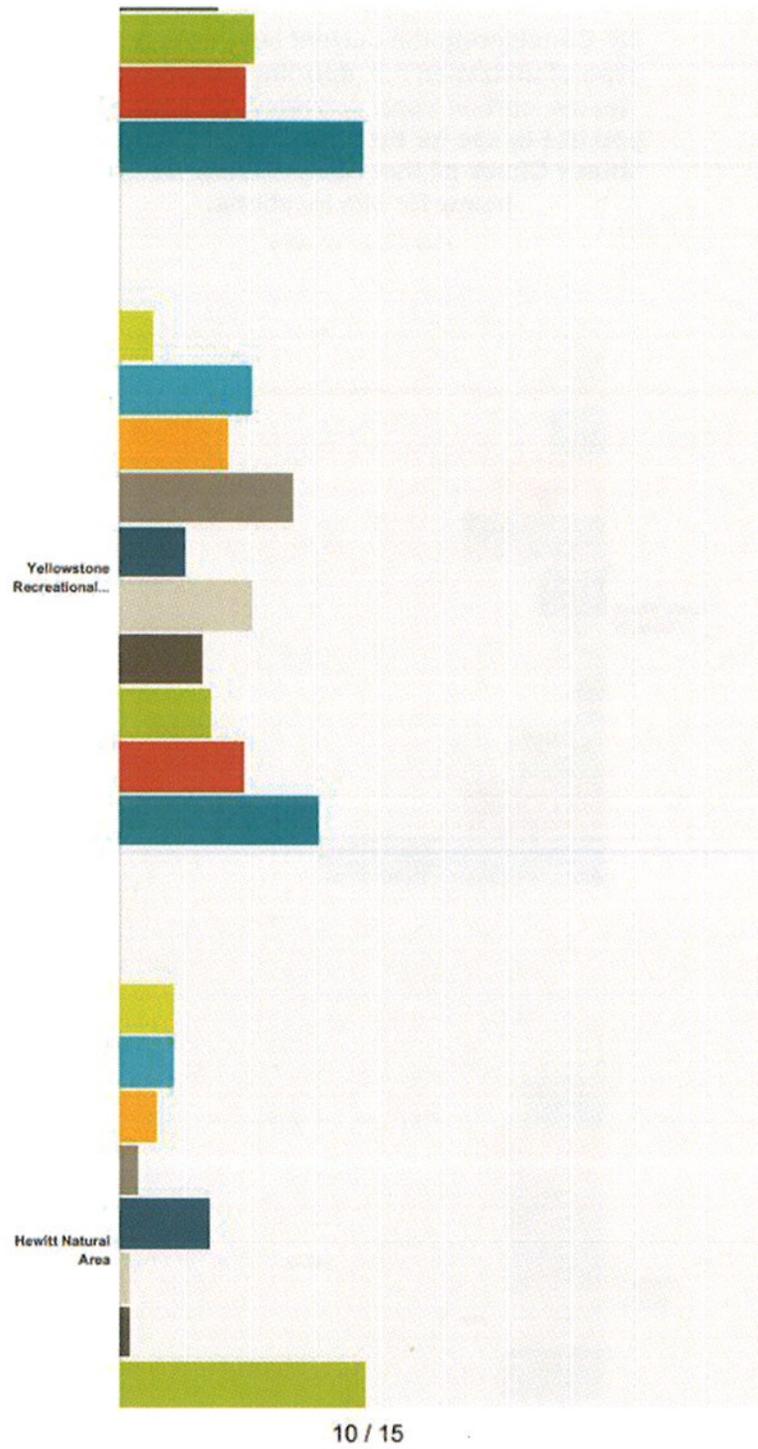
**Q6 Considering the current land uses, what type of utilization (i.e. sporting events, club teams, certain sport activities, etc.) would you like to see for the following recreational sites? Check all that apply. Reference map below for site locations.**

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



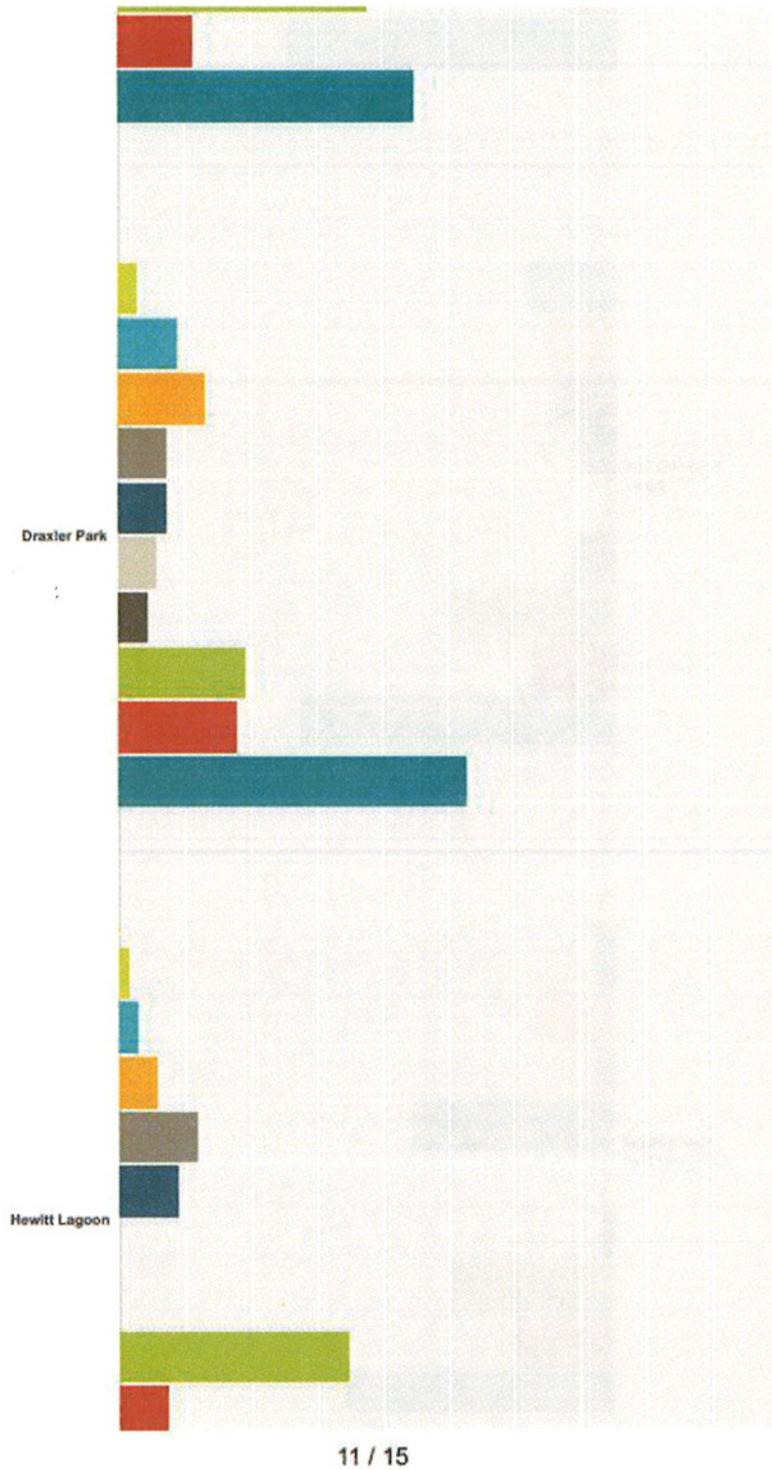
9 / 15

Community Recreational Survey



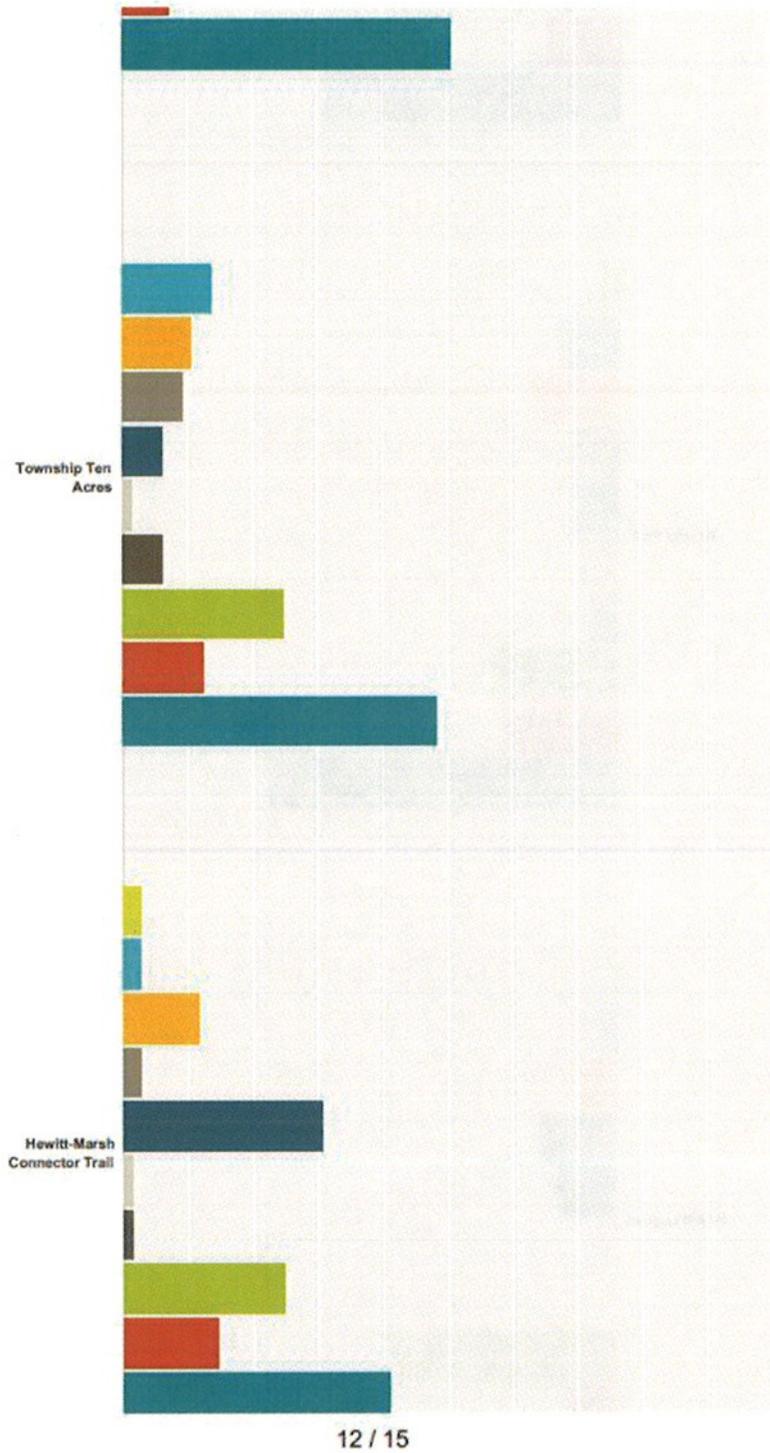
10 / 15

Community Recreational Survey

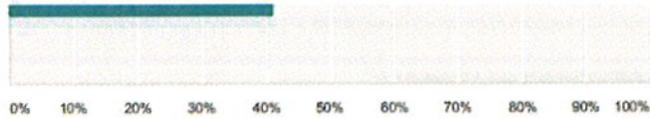


11 / 15

Community Recreational Survey



### Community Recreational Survey



	Camping	Disc Golf	Dog Exercising Area	Ice Skating Pond	Lighting of Trail Paths	Tennis Courts	Soccer Field	Snowshoe/Ski Trails	Picnic Areas	Don't Know	Total Respondents
Hewitt Village Grounds	4.29% 3	8.57% 6	17.14% 12	21.43% 15	10.00% 7	8.57% 6	4.29% 3	12.86% 9	21.43% 15	44.29% 31	70
Village of Hewitt Recreational Area	1.39% 1	12.50% 9	16.67% 12	15.28% 11	13.89% 10	12.50% 9	15.28% 11	20.83% 15	19.44% 14	37.50% 27	72
Yellowstone Recreational Park	5.13% 4	20.51% 16	16.67% 13	26.92% 21	10.26% 8	20.51% 16	12.82% 10	14.10% 11	19.23% 15	30.77% 24	78
Hewitt Natural Area	8.45% 6	8.45% 6	5.63% 4	2.82% 2	14.08% 10	1.41% 1	1.41% 1	38.03% 27	11.27% 8	45.07% 32	71
Draxler Park	2.94% 2	8.82% 6	13.24% 9	7.35% 5	7.35% 5	5.88% 4	4.41% 3	19.12% 13	17.65% 12	52.94% 36	68
Hewitt Lagoon	1.45% 1	2.90% 2	5.80% 4	11.59% 8	8.70% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	34.78% 24	7.25% 5	50.72% 35	69
Township Ten Acres	0.00% 0	14.06% 9	10.94% 7	9.38% 8	6.25% 4	1.56% 1	6.25% 4	25.00% 16	12.50% 8	46.44% 31	64
Hewitt-Marsh Connector Trail	2.94% 2	2.94% 2	11.76% 8	2.94% 2	30.88% 21	1.47% 1	1.47% 1	25.00% 17	14.71% 10	41.18% 26	68

#	Other (please specify):	Date
1	I would like to have a trash can at entrance to the marsh trail system. I walk my dog on the trails and would like to have a place to dispose of trash. I hate that dogs potty along the trail and dog owners don't clean after their dogs. Perhaps trash can would help the problem. Develop the habitat in all these areas.	3/24/2016 7:53 PM
2	I just use the walking trails.	3/24/2016 7:40 PM
3	Basketball court	3/19/2016 3:48 PM
4	Village of Hewitt!!! Use your judgement on these topics.	3/16/2016 8:38 PM
5	If there was a soccer summer league, then soccer fields would be great.	3/16/2016 8:34 PM
6	No opinion except I'm pleased the facilities are available to local residents.	3/16/2016 8:31 PM
7	Scenic viewing areas, sculptures of arts in the area local or individual.	3/16/2016 8:28 PM
8	Love the trails like they are, very much like a rustic hike...the way it should be.	3/16/2016 8:25 PM
9	Would be nice if the sod was removed from the big diamond at the Yellowstone rec. park.	3/16/2016 8:02 PM

### Community Recreational Survey

10	Could use more playground equipment at Yellowstone Park on Tuesday nights and other times when there are lots of kids.	3/16/2016 7:58 PM
11	A spikeball court would be cool. A basketball court.	3/16/2016 7:56 PM
12	Need to pave existing trails.	3/16/2016 7:47 PM
13	We think all projects are good, baseball diamond program great and very well run.	3/16/2016 7:45 PM
14	Not aware of these areas (Hewitt Natural Area, Draxler Park & Township Ten Acres). Need better signage. Thank you for asking for input!	3/16/2016 7:38 PM
15	Keep Hewitt Natural Area, Draxler Park, Hewitt Lagoon and Township Ten Acres as natural as possible for bird watching, wildlife viewing.	3/16/2016 7:32 PM
16	Never used any sites - so have no comment.	3/16/2016 7:21 PM
17	Boardwalks are wonderful especially with kiddos in strollers!! My kids LOVE running around the lagoons. Thank you!	3/15/2016 10:05 PM
18	-Fishing Pond (catch and release) -Camper dumping station	3/14/2016 6:43 PM
19	New to area, so unsure exact location of these, but would like to see: soccer fields, dog exercise area, picnic areas, and lighting of trail paths	3/14/2016 6:20 AM
20	Not sure of what is possible at each area but I do feel that Tennis Courts, Dog Area, Picnic areas and soccer fields would be great assets to our area beings there does not seem to be enough areas in Marshfield. If there is a way we could incorporate the ability to host meets and games then maybe we can even collect some usage fees from the games and meets which would help out in expenses.	3/11/2016 7:59 AM
21	We have lived in Hewitt since 2009 and I have never heard of these places. When someone moves to the Village they should receive a welcome package so they know what they can explore in the village.	3/7/2016 4:34 PM
22	Water splash pad - water runs on times and is only open may-sept but no life guards needed	3/7/2016 7:12 AM
23	I don't want to see a dog exercise area as I have heard many bad reports about dog fights at the one in the city. Many people I work with will no longer take their dogs there. I also worry about cleanup after the dogs as I hear that's a problem as well.	3/6/2016 1:24 PM
24	Not sure where lighting should be. But if you extend the use of some areas there should be lighting for safety.	3/4/2016 2:59 PM
25	Also would like to see the remaining parts of the trails that are still gravel become blacktop.	3/3/2016 10:08 PM
26	With so many dog owners in this village I think a dog exercising area would be useful although not all dogs get along so I would be concerned about injuries. Disc golf is something all age groups could do and I would think moderately inexpensive to install compared to some of the other recreational activities	3/3/2016 6:40 PM
27	How about selling it and increasing the tax base? Don't know which also means don't care.	3/3/2016 1:03 PM

Community Recreational Survey

**Q7 Additional Comments:**

Answered: 17 Skipped: 68

#	Responses	Date
1	I would like to see the areas 4 through 8 remain as undeveloped as possible except preserving habitat or good walking trails. Natural habitat development is a priority for me. Example wildflowers, native shrubs, and plant sources for pollination.	3/24/2016 7:53 PM
2	I would like to see the village pay off the park loans before expanding anymore.	3/24/2016 7:45 PM
3	Thank you for the wonderful trail system!	3/24/2016 7:43 PM
4	The trail work thus far is very nice and appreciated.	3/16/2016 8:14 PM
5	Should worry about redoing Yellowstone drive, add a walking lane. See more people walking on road than trail. Worry about losing walking lane on main street if quiet zone goes through.	3/16/2016 8:12 PM
6	Wouldn't mind knowing more about all these things!	3/16/2016 8:10 PM
7	The people on the parks and trails committee are doing an awesome job. Thanks!	3/16/2016 8:07 PM
8	Hewitt-Marsh has nice parks and trails. Keep up the good work.	3/16/2016 7:56 PM
9	Thanks for your work in making healthy, recreational opportunities for our community!	3/16/2016 7:42 PM
10	Need to do more to have dog owners clean up after their dogs. Why not allow dog waste be put in trash cans on trail? Signs say no. Many parks provide waste bags for people to use and have specific waste can.	3/16/2016 7:32 PM
11	Trails are amazing and used regularly. Thank you for all you do! If there was any way to make it safer to get to ballpark it would be appreciated. Both Yellowstone and Hwy T are very dangerous with small kids and strollers.	3/15/2016 10:05 PM
12	I feel that many residents would be willing to help with fund raising events to make things happen. It also would be nice to have some type of Hewitt community event (even if not a fund raiser).	3/14/2016 6:43 PM
13	Great job with the trails. Thanks!	3/8/2016 1:24 PM
14	I think we are really lucky here in Hewitt to have these great recreational areas. Most small villages do not have these amenities available to them.	3/4/2016 2:59 PM
15	The park system is very nice.	3/4/2016 7:20 AM
16	Also would like to see the remaining parts of the trails that are still gravel become blacktop.	3/3/2016 10:08 PM
17	All of this only benefits the area in and close to Hewitt.	3/3/2016 1:03 PM

