

RECREATIONAL, HISTORICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

6.0 Introduction

The purpose of the recreational, historical, and cultural resources element of a comprehensive plan is to provide a community with an inventory of existing parks and recreational facilities, natural resource assets, and historically and culturally significant places and events found within the community. In addition, the element will provide an assessment of current and future needs and desires in regards to these resources.

6.1 Recreational Resources

Existing Plans

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: The City of Reedsburg just completed its five-year (2000-2004) Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Adopted in January 2001, this plan is to serve as a short-range document to aid in policy making and to be incorporated into the yearly budget process for park and open space improvements. The plan includes a park inventory for the City, identifies standards and criteria for parks and open space areas, defines a prioritization of needs, outlines coordination with existing plans, and establishes a five-year action plan.

Park and Open Space Resources

The following recreational resources (as identified in the *City of Reedsburg Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2000 – 2004*) are found within the Reedsburg area (Map 6-1):

Anna Stone Park: This 1.5 acre park is located in the southwest part of the City. The park contains a playground, basketball court, restroom facilities, and a play field that serves as an ice rink during the winter months.

City Park: This 2.5-acre park is located close to downtown. City Park is the host to many community events and includes a gazebo, picnic shelter, barbecue grills, benches, restrooms, and playground equipment.

North Park: This 7-acre park is located on the northeast side of the City. Dedicated by the Reedsburg Memorial Hospital Foundation, this park serves as a water retention area and is used for numerous outdoor activities. This park includes a shelter, playground equipment, basketball court, and restroom facilities.

Huntington Park: This 2-acre park is located on the northeast side of the City and consists of playground equipment, picnic shelter, and basketball court.

Oak Park: This 4.1-acre park is located in the north central part of the City. This is a highly used park, and contains a regulation Little League field, lighted tennis courts,

basketball court, restroom facilities, and playground equipment. Oak Park was home to Wisconsin's first Little League games.

Ramsey Park: This 2.4-acre park is located on the southwest side of the City, and contains a full-size basketball court, picnic shelter, restroom facilities, a triple-A baseball field, and playground equipment.

Willow Park: Formerly known as Three Willow Park, this 1.4-acre park is located on the southeast side of the City. The park contains playground equipment, a picnic shelter, and restroom facilities.

Webb Park: This 35.5-acre community park is located adjacent to Webb Middle School and provides a variety of activities for the entire community. The park is home to both the Webb swimming pool and Webb tennis courts. Webb Park was previously known for its "rocket ship" that has now been replaced with newer playground equipment. The park also contains three large picnic shelters, and includes a veterans memorial, open play areas, barbecue grills, a pond, and restroom facilities.

Nishan Park: This 50-acre park is located on northeast side of the City and is one of Reedsburg's largest and most visited parks. The park contains two softball fields, three Little League fields, one regulation baseball field, three picnic shelters, a sand volleyball court, barbecue pit, tractor pull area, restroom facilities (2), and playground equipment. When needed, the park is also used as a soccer facility. The park also contains the Reedsburg Area Community Arena (RACA), a multi-use facility for hockey and special events. The Lions/Jaycees also maintains a building that is used for special events and available for public rental.

Nishan Park also hosts Reedsburg's annual *Butter Festival*. Past events have included the Midwest Championship for girls fast pitch softball, the state Little League tournament, the ASA women's tournament, and Reedsburg's own 80-team baseball tournament.

South Park: Located on the City's south side, this 25-acre park provides access to the Baraboo River. The park also contains a pond and fresh water spring, a picnic shelter, restroom facilities, and some of the oldest trees in the City.

The Popple Nature Area: This 60-acre park is located west of Webb Park and is the City's premiere nature area. The park contains part of the Baraboo River, Half Moon Lagoon, and Hay Creek. Consisting of primarily woods and patches of wet grassy areas supporting a diverse amount of wildlife. The City of Reedsburg and the Reedsburg School District are sharing the responsibility of improving the area's trail system.

The Smith Conservancy: This 27-acre conservancy is a small wooded wetland area that lies along the Baraboo River. The area supports a diverse wildlife population and contains benches and walking trails.

Ernstmeyer Park: Located on the northeast side of the City, this is the community's only tot lot. The park is targeted for preschool age children, and is expected to be heavily utilized by area residents.

Hay Creek Park: This 43-acre park and nature area is part of the 8th addition of Ernstmeyer Acres, located on the far northwest portion of the community. The park is part of the Baraboo River trail system that will eventually connect to the Popple, Monument, and Smith Conservancy Trails. In addition, two areas within the subdivision will be developed and contain play equipment and offer other recreational activities.

400 State Trail: The City of Reedsburg is the beginning point of the '400' State Trail which was officially opened in June of 1993. A former railroad grade, the packed limestone trail spans 22 miles from Reedsburg to Elroy. The '400' Trail is one segment among the 117 miles of linked recreation trails in west central Wisconsin.

6.2 Historical, Cultural, and Historical

Cultural Resources

Pioneer Log Village and Museum: Located two miles east of Reedsburg along STH 33, the Pioneer Log Village is located on 52 acres of pine forest and farm fields. The Village features seven log buildings for preservation and viewing, displaying 1890's log homes, church, blacksmith shop, and school.

Museum of Norman Rockwell Art: Reedsburg is home to the privately owned Museum of Norman Rockwell Art containing approximately 4,000 of original magazine covers, calendars, story illustrations, advertisements and other memorabilia on display.

Harvest Fest: This annual event, held in early October, represents the historical role that Reedsburg played in the farm economy as the primary "market" town for western Sauk County and areas to the north and west.

Butter Festival: The City of Reedsburg is the self proclaimed "Butter Capital of America," and has been hosting the annual Butter Festival every June since 1971. The festival celebrates Wisconsin's heritage to the farming and dairy industry. Currently held on the grounds of Nishan Park, Butterfest activities include dairy and steer shows, demolition derbies, Little League games, Hot Wheels rodeo, Bossy Bingo and as well as the annual crowning of Miss Reedsburg.

CAL Center (Communication Arts and Learning Center): City's 600-seat community arts center; is part of the new high school.

Historical Resources

Historical Structures: In 1983, a survey of historical and architectural resources within the City of Reedsburg was conducted (*City of Reedsburg Intensive Survey: A History of Reedsburg, WI*). The purpose was to identify and evaluate the significance of properties that contribute to the City's history and heritage. While the City was first settled in the 1840's, most of the architectural and historical resources date from between 1870-1930. Approximately 900 properties were identified during the survey as having historical or cultural significance, however, many of these structures have undergone alteration. The survey did identify two historic districts and twelve individual buildings worthy of National Register status. The National Register is a nationwide inventory of sites, districts, structures or objects of state, local, or national importance. Table 6-1 lists those historic properties that are either eligible for or are listed on the State or National Register (Map 6-2).

The neighborhoods of Reedsburg are well cared for and reflect a sense of community pride. As the historic survey has shown, as well as the listings on the State/National Registers, Reedsburg has many structures of historical and architectural significance. If the City (or private individual/group) is interested in historical preservation, information is available from the State Historical Society. In addition, tax incentives and sources of funding are available from State and Federal sources. To help protect these resources, the City does maintain an Historic Preservation Committee and has adopted preservation ordinances.

Archeological Resources

According to the State Archeologist, there are approximately a dozen or so archeological/cultural sites within the Reedsburg area. The majority of these sites are located along the Baraboo River.

The City should work with the State Archaeologist on identification and protection of archaeological sites, mounds, unmarked cemeteries, and cultural sites listed on the State's Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI).

**Table 6-1
Buildings Listed on the State and/or National Historic Register
Reedsburg, 2001**

| Address | Historic Name | Certification | Certification Date | Historic Function | Area of Significance | Period of Significance | Number of Buildings |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 312 S. Park St. | <i>Central Wisconsin Creamery</i> | Determined Eligible/Owner Objection | December 1984 | Manufacturing Facility | Industry | 1900-1949 | 1 |
| Railroad St. | <i>Chicago & Northwestern Depot</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Rail related | Transportation/Architecture | 1900-1949 | 1 |
| 125 Main St. | <i>City Hotel</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Hotel | Architecture | 1875-1899 | 1 |
| 121 S. Webb. Ave. | <i>Corwith, J.W., Livery</i> | Determined Eligible/Owner Objection | December 1984 | Road related | Transportation | 1900-1949 | 1 |
| 612 E. Main St. | <i>Hackett, Edward M., House</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Single-family dwelling | Architecture | 1875-1899 | 1 |
| 226 N. Pine St. | <i>Harris, Abner L., House</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Single-family dwelling | Commerce, Politics/Govt., Architecture | 1850-1924 | 1 |
| 531 E. Main St. | <i>Perry, Ralph P., House</i> | Determined Eligible/Owner Objection | December 1984 | Single-family dwelling | Architecture | 1900-1924 | 2 |
| 401 N. Walnut St. | <i>Reedsburg Brewery</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Processing | Industry/Architecture | 1900-1924 | 4 |
| 215 North Walnut St. | <i>Reedsburg Post Office</i> | Listed - National Register | October 2000 | Post Office | Colonial Revival | 1940 | 1 |
| 26 Main St. | <i>Reedsburg Woolen Mill Office</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Business Warehouse | Industry | 1875-1924 | 1 |
| 547 S. Park St. | <i>Riggert, William, House</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Single-family dwelling | Architecture | 1875-1899 | 2 |
| 432 S. Walnut St. | <i>Stolte, William, Jr., House</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Single-family dwelling | Architecture | 1875-1899 | 2 |
| 444 S. Walnut St. | <i>Stolte, William, Jr., House</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Single-family dwelling | Architecture | 1875-1899 | 2 |
| Main Street area | <i>Main Street Commercial Historic District</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Business, Financial Institution, Specialty Store, Department Store | Commerce, Architecture | 1850-1949 | 21 |
| Park Street area | <i>Park Street Historic District</i> | Listed - National/State Register | December 1984 | Single-family dwelling | Architecture | 1850-1949 | 45 |

Source: Wisconsin State Historical Society, 2001.

6.3 Issues, Opportunities, and Constraints

The City recently adopted its 2000-2004 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. To meet the short-term needs of Reedsburg, the City should implement the goals, objectives, and policies stated within the plan.

For additional recreational opportunities, exploration of development options along the Baraboo riverfront is needed.

Since various sites along the Baraboo River and Copper Creek contain Native American burial mounds, adequate protection of these resources should be addressed.

The City contains many historical sites. Preservation of these and other landmarks needs to be addressed. Ongoing historic preservation and community education is also warranted.

Because of Reedsburg's heritage, promotion of cultural tourism (German, Amish, Native Americans) will be important.

The City is fortunate to contain many nice parks within the community, but there is a concern for the need of additional larger community parks and less "pocket parks."

The addition of the Hay Creek Park on the northwest side of the community provides additional hiking and biking opportunities. This park will be the northern leg of the Baraboo River trail system that will connect to the Popple, Monument, and Smith Conservancy Trails.