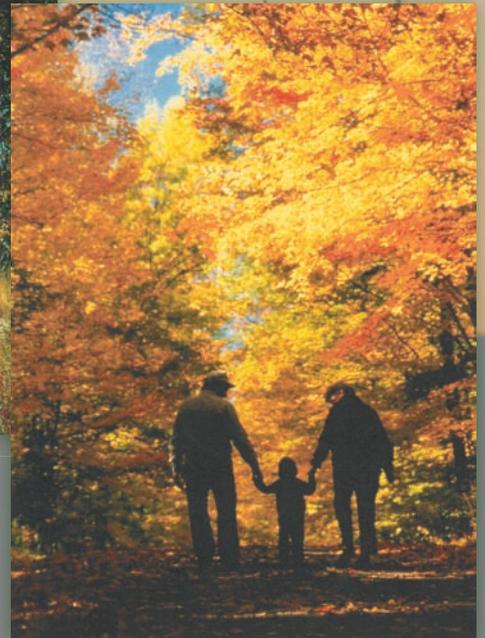
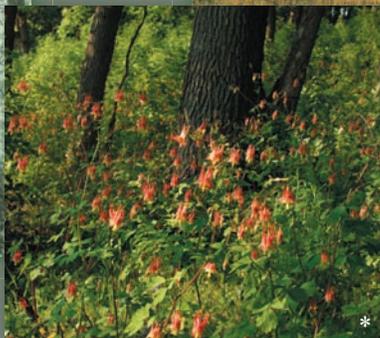
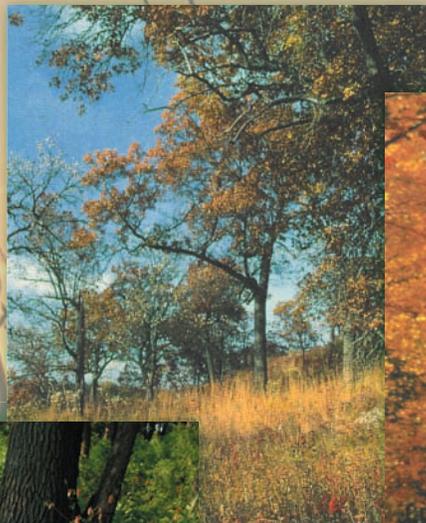


Recommended revisions to Parks Plan presented at the 101111 regular Parks Plan meeting.

TOWN OF NEW GLARUS Parks Plan 2006



TOWN OF NEW GLARUS

GREEN COUNTY

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NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN 53574

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TOWN OF NEW GLARUS BOARD

Keith Seward	Chairman
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Ken McKenzie	2nd Supervisor
Pattie Salter	Clerk
Nita Duerst	Treasurer

TOWN OF NEW GLARUS PARKS COMMISSION

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Jeff Klossner	
Carol Holmes	
George Albright	

Front cover photos except as noted by * are from "Wisconsin Land Legacy Report: An Inventory of places to meet Wisconsin's future conservation and recreation needs" by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, ©2006. Other photos provided by Jeff Klossner.

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TOWN OF NEW GLARUS PARKS PLAN 2011

Accomplishments 2006-2010

During the first four years of the New Glarus Parks Commission the membership has strived to determine the interest levels of the community in various issues and find ways to address those issues. The Commission has reached out to the residents of the Town of New Glarus and others through informational mailings, press releases, public seminars, volunteer opportunities and the creation of a website to provide various avenues of communication to the citizens.

In the formative years there was a great deal of effort spent on creating the infrastructure for the Commission such as determining how best to spend the limited dollars to not only provide for immediate needs of the community but also to insure long term needs were met as well. This is best evidenced by the establishment of a yearly contribution from the Parks Commission budget to two sinking funds: the first is dedicated to the future purchase of a community park/town hall and the second is devoted to a fund to be used for community partnership ventures. Today these funds have \$____ and \$ _____ respectively with annual contributions of _\$____ and \$_____.

Here are the major highlights for each year of the Parks Commission since 2006:

2006

The first Town Parks Plan was approved at the Annual Town meeting on April 6, 2006.

The first Parks Commission budget was established for 2007 of \$14,200.

Research the use of Impact Fees on new development in the Town to be used as a source of future funding for parks projects. As a result of this study the Town Board established a study group to review Impact Fees and did start to assess these fees on new building in the Town.

2007

Sinking funds were established using Parks Commission budgets to fund \$5000 for community/town hall purchase and \$4000 to the sinking fund for community partnership ventures.

In collaboration with the Village of New Glarus the Commission membership participated in the purchase of trees (\$190) and assisted with planting the trees at the Village Soccer Field.

Conducted the first of what is now an annual spring clean up with 27 bags of debris removed from the village roads.

Two workshops were held with a total of six speakers presenting information on how to preserve the natural environment of the New Glarus area.

2008

Two workshops were held, the first entitled “Creating Wildlife Habitat with Native Landscaping” presented by staff from the University of Wisconsin Arboretum and a representative of a company devoted to restoring prairie habitat. The second was “Suburban Gardening/Protecting Natural Resources” presented by Formecology and a representative from Sustain Dane.

The Commission received a Wisconsin Environment Education Grant for \$730 to fund a workshop on preserving family lands.

The Commission sponsored two workshops on land trusts and conservation easements for owners of 35 acres or more. The presenters included land trust specialists, attorneys and individuals who had utilized land trusts and easements.

In addition the road clean ups and Arbor Day activities were continued from the previous year.

The Commission continued to work on website development as a means of communicating with Town residents.

Efforts were made to resume joint meetings with the Village of New Glarus to reach an agreement regarding resurfacing of the tennis courts at Veteran’s Park.

Possible locations for new trails and land to purchase for a Town Park which may also contain a Town Hall were explored.

2009

Purchased a digital projector and screen to be used for future seminars and Town meetings

Removed invasive species through the use of a FECON machine on the gifted land on Windmill Ridge and purchased prairie seeds to be used for re-introduction of native species on this

land and create both an oak savannah and tall grass prairie environment for demonstration and educational purposes.

The Commission received a Letter of Eligibility from the Wisconsin DNR for trail development along the Little Sugar River. Discussions were held with the DNR regarding Resources and Strategies as it relates to land acquisition.

A Conservation Workshop was held with Mark O'Leary of Applied Ecological Services as the featured speaker.

The hosting of a regional meeting of towns, villages, counties and other interested entities was explored to promote green space preservation, recreation and parks in the area.

Members again participated in the roadside cleanup, Arbor Day tree planting and volunteered at the Village sponsored Alhorn Triathlon.

The Town of New Glarus Parks Commission website was completed and advertised.

2010

A workshop was held at the local high school on bluebirds with excellent community interest, discussion of bluebird habitat, attracting bluebirds and how to monitor and report fledging results to the Blue Bird Restoration Association.

A clean up was held at the town gifted land (Blue Bird Ridge Conservancy) to clean up remnants of a farm landfill – removal of old tires, rims, bed springs and other debris that had been left by the former owners was removed.

Continued mowing to remove sumac, honeysuckle, grape vines, thistles and other non desirable plants from the oak savannah area was completed.

The remnants of the farm dump on the land were removed and fill brought in to cover the remaining debris.

Signage was placed at the entrance to the Conservancy which included the newly adapted logo for the Town of New Glarus Parks.

The annual Arbor Day tree planting with the village and participation in the Alhornman Triathlon were also staffed with volunteers from the Commission.

Town of New Glarus Parks Plan

April 2006

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

New Glarus, southern Wisconsin's charming, picturesque Swiss community, was settled in 1845 by a group of 108 colonists from Canton Glarus, Switzerland. Today it has a population of 2,100 Village residents and 1250 in the Town. Its culture, old-world traditions with unique foods and music, and its colorful setting amid hills and valleys command pride not only within the community but also regionally and nationally.

During the last fifteen years the socio-economic culture of the Town of New Glarus has changed significantly and continues to be in transition. The following is a partial listing of factors contributing to these changes.

- Historically the vast majority of Town residents both lived on and earned their livelihood from agriculture, and agribusinesses dominated the Village economy. By 2000 only 20.4% of Town residents lived on farms, with the same percentage employed on working farms. Most agribusinesses disappeared and the new majority of Town residents earn their livelihood by commuting to work.
- New home expansion brought concern for the physical character of the Town. In 1990 there were 587 residences in the Town; between 1992 and 2004 a total of 239 new residences were built.
- Growth in the broader area has impacted the Town. The City of Madison has grown significantly on the south and west sides thus bringing new jobs much closer to the Town. Neighboring communities and towns to the north and east are experiencing similar growth thus increasing the attractiveness of New Glarus Town for many.
- Multiple plans have been designed and adopted to address future land usage of the area: The Town adopted a Land Use Plan to slow and control growth, Green County and the Town are participated in Smart Growth planning as is occurring throughout Wisconsin, and in 2005 the Village of New Glarus initiated its extraterritorial zoning authority with a joint Village/Town commission working on a plan for the land within the identified extraterritorial area.

In response to these changes, anticipation of future needs of Town residents, and a desire to preserve the uniqueness of the community, the Town of New Glarus has

prepared this Master Plan for Parks and Recreation. Our mission is to assure that the needs and desires for recreational opportunities and preservation of natural areas are met. In order to accomplish this mission, this Master Plan is best developed by the people of the Town through the participation of the public and through the involvement of appointed citizens and elected officials.

This Master Plan is a result of the work of the seven members of the Parks Commission, who are appointed and approved by the Town Board. The plan is to be implemented through the oversight and approval of the three members of the Town Board.

The Town of New Glarus is located in the midst of a unique set of topographic and cultural conditions. This plan is designed to preserve and protect these conditions so that may be enjoyed by residents for generations to come. Transition in recent years from an agricultural region to a mix of agriculture and residential has placed a premium on the available open spaces for the residents to enjoy.

B. Parks Commission Background

The New Glarus Town Parks Commission was formed in July 2004. The initiatives assigned to the Commission by Wisconsin law (Wis. Stats. 60.66 Town Park Commission (4)d.) are to:

1. Lay out, improve and maintain parks* in the Town.
2. Lay out, grade, construct, improve and maintain highways, roads, and bridges in a park or connecting the park with any other park or with any municipality.
3. Establish regulations for the use and enjoyment of the parks by the public.
4. With Town Board approval, acquire, in the name of the Town, by purchase, land contract, lease, condemnation, or otherwise, tracts of land suitable for parks. No land acquired by the commission may be disposed of by the Town without the consent of the commission. If the land is disposed of, all money received for the land shall be paid into a Town park fund.
5. Accept, in the name of the Town, grants, conveyances and devises of land and bequests and donations of money to be used for parks located in the Town.
* "Park" means a public park, parkway, boulevard or pleasure drive. Wis. Stat. 60.66 (4) a.

Further, within two years after its organization, the Commission was directed to:

1. Make a thorough study of the town with reference to reserving lands for park purposes.
2. Make plans and maps of a comprehensive town park system.
3. Present the results of its study and its plans to the town meeting.

These directives are consistent with objectives and policies established in the Town of New Glarus Vision Statement and Town of New Glarus Comprehensive Plan.

The Town said in the Town of New Glarus Vision Statement that it is a community that values its natural environment in its actions, plan, policies, and regulations.

This plan is the fulfillment of the above directives, with the note that at present, the Town only owns one small parcel of land that could be developed into a park; therefore, the drawing of comprehensive parks system map is premature for this first edition of the Parks Plan.

In the Town of New Glarus Comprehensive Plan survey, under Quality of Life, the Town residents said the most important things they valued were natural beauty and a small town atmosphere. Under Natural Resources, the Town residents were asked how important it is to protect scenic views, undeveloped hills/bluffs, wetlands, river/streams and wildlife habitat. Over 90% of the residents said that those things are important, very important, and extremely important.

In the Town of New Glarus Comprehensive Plan, under the section regarding Agricultural, Natural and Cultural resources, it was stated that the support of the following Objectives and Policy Recommendations will guide natural resource decisions in the Town of New Glarus in the next 20 years. Following are the five items that pertain to the Parks Commission directives stated above:

- Encourage programs that educate local residents about the importance of natural resources.
- Avoid disturbance to wetlands, shore lands, and floodplains, and discourage disturbance to other environmentally sensitive areas.
- Consider establishing more parks and outdoor recreational amenities (according to the Town of New Glarus Parks Commission) including current park expansion and incorporate natural areas into parks and open space areas to protect them.
- Encourage the preservation and maintenance of rural views and vistas.
- Where and when appropriate, utilize county state, and federal, programs or grants to conserve, maintain, and protect natural resources.

The Land Planning Commission stated that the Town will be conducting a study to review whether or not New Glarus has enough outdoor recreation spaces to fulfill the needs of Town citizens, this study is being done by the Parks Commission. The Town has never completed an Outdoor Recreation Plan. However, a Parks Commission was formed in 2004 and actions will be taken per their recommendations.

And lastly, in the April 2005 Town of New Glarus Parks Commission Resident Survey, the residents said that the natural beauty of our Town needs to be protected and preserved for the future.

II. PLANNING METHOD

The Committee gleaned information from the resources listed below to provide background data for its plan. Because of the extensive work already prepared and available, the Committee chose to prepare this plan principally on its own cognizance, rather than hire an outside firm or outsource parts of the plan, in order to conserve funds.

The following documents, plans, drafts and sources were reviewed, discussed and interviewed:

- Town of New Glarus Vision Statement 2004
- Town of New Glarus Tax Rolls
- Town of New Glarus, Green County, Comprehensive Plan, Adopted: December 5, 2005
- Town of New Glarus Parks Commission Resident Survey April 2005
- Town of New Glarus Parks Commission Public Pre-View/Working Session, May 22, 2005
- Village of New Glarus, Extraterritorial Area Plan, Adopted: December 6, 2005
- Village of New Glarus Comprehensive Plan, Adopted: December 20, 2005
- Village of New Glarus 2005 Recreation Program Attendees
- Village Parks Commission Joint Meetings with Town Parks Commission
- Green County Annual Report of the Zoning and Land Use Department 2004
- Wisconsin Population 2030, March 2004, Demographic Services Center, Wisconsin Department of Administration
- Wisconsin Recreational Use Statue 895.52
- U. S. Census Bureau 2000: New Glarus Town

III. EXISTING RESOURCES

A. Overview

In ~~April 2005~~, the Town of New Glarus Park's Commission sent a survey to Town residents. The Survey requested Town inhabitants to identify areas of recreational interest. In order to arrive at Goals and Objectives to meet these needs, it was necessary to first review what recreational opportunities already exist.

In March, 2010, the Town of New Glarus Park's commission etc.

B. Community Parks

, known as

As of ~~2006~~, the Town of New Glarus does not have a community park.

Bluebird Ridge Conservancy, is considered a nature park.

The Town owns Lot #49, 4.29 acres, Section 12 in Windmill Ridge, which was donated to the Town. ~~This unimproved land~~ at present would be considered a nature park. The park is accessed through a forty foot wide frontage on Windmill Ridge Road between W5291 and W5283.

A narrow grassy path runs 175 foot off Windmill Ridge Road. At that point, the lot widens to a somewhat diamond shape. Four lots, three with homes, are adjacent to its east side, one lot with home is in front of it on the north side next to the narrow entrance, one lot with home is adjacent to the west side and undeveloped land is on the south side. The lot is south sloping with borders of sumac and trees on the east and south sides.

There is a natural oak savannah area in the center with attractive views of the countryside. Perhaps the best description of the park in its current state is natural. Along with the White Oaks some of the other major plant material includes; Black Cherry, Prickly Ash, Sumac, Mulberry, Dogwood, Viburnum, and Buckthorn along with others. Timothy and Brome grass are the major grass species forming the under story in the park. Thistle areas were negligible thus maintenance should be minimal. Future use would be limited because the location is too isolated for general use by the Town. The residents in the area may wish to eventually own this property as a private conservancy with hiking trails and picnic areas for their own use.

C. Town of New Glarus Privately Owned and Association Conservancy Land with Recreational Easements/Trails:

??Do we need to do this all again?

In order to identify privately owned conservancy land in the Town of New Glarus, inquiries were made at the Green County Register of Deeds, Green County Treasurer's office, Green County Zoning Board and to the New Glarus Town Tax Assessor. Each entity said this information was not available through our plat, zoning or tax recording systems because easements and conservancy land are included in a broad definition of undeveloped land and not specifically identified.

I am not aware of any updates on this; is anyone else? No clearing house of info re private conservancy? Perhaps a question that could be asked on the next survey?

Therefore, privately owned and association conservancy in the Town are unknown at this time. However, it can be noted that the Village of New Glarus Extraterritorial Area Plan, dated December 6, 2005, Map 2, identifies Environmental Corridors and Protected Private Forest Land in the study prepared by Vandewalle & Associates. In the survey, Environmental Corridors are defined as golf courses, DNR forests and parks, recreation trails, railroad, electric, transmission lines, wetlands, intermittent and perennial streams. Protected Private Forest Land was defined as parcels enrolled in a Forest Crop Law (FCL) or Managed Forest Law (MFL) program as of 2003.

Therefore, the Parks Commission concludes this type of information is available through other formats than the above-mentioned. Because this category of land fits in with our desire for the preservation of natural areas plus the availability of recreational easements/trails, we are interested in the identification of this type of property. We will continue to search out these areas on our own initiative rather than outsource.

D. County Owned Land

County owned land in the Town consists of roadways, to the extent that they were identified.

In 2008? the school district took ownership of the tennis courts west of the elementary school. There are now 3 courts which have been resurfaced and are open for public use when the district is not occupying them.

E. School District Facilities:

The School District parks consist of a football and soccer official game field north of the elementary school, practice fields for football and soccer south of the elementary school, and outdoor basketball courts south of the high school. In February 2006, the New Glarus School Board unanimously voted to actively pursue the purchase of the 10 acre plot of land north of the New Glarus Monroe Clinic for a possible sports complex.

The school board purchased 10 acres of land north of the high school, and will eventually either build some type of sports complex (replacing current soccer/football field) or build a new school on that land.

F. Village Facilities available for Town use:

In the center of the downtown area is the Village Park. It is the main park consisting of the swimming pool with bathhouse, playground equipment, basketball courts, a sand volleyball court, and a picnic shelter.

a new bathhouse,

Glarnier Park, located to the west of the New Glarus Fire Department, contains a ball diamond, which provides opportunities for people of all ages to participate in team sports. In Nov., 2010, the Town and Village of New Glarus together brought back an old

NG tradition, and built an ice skating rink at Glarnier Park.

Veteran's Memorial Park on the south side of the Village, located near the schools, has a ball diamond with a shelter, a picnic shelter, playground equipment, a basketball court, and tennis courts along with rest rooms.

rest rooms, and the school district's tennis courts.

which was dredged in 2010?, (for fishing?) Does the new accessible fishing docks go here? What are they called? (or is it an it?)

will need to rewrite this paragraph to improve flow-just putting additions and questions here

Other smaller Village parks consist of Candy Cane Park which includes playground equipment, Hoesly Pond Park which contains a pond used for ice skating in the winter, and two soccer fields directly west of the Valle Tell Phase I subdivision. ^{features a large bladdng hill and playground} ^{an equipment shed,} ^{plavaround equiument.}

Privately owned parks consist of a soccer field owned by the New Glarus Baptist Church available by private agreement and future neighborhood parks in the Interior of the Valle Telle subdivision planned to include playground equipment.

G. State Owned Facilities:

All's stable in the woods?

1. New Glarus Woods State Park (NGWSP): The NGWSP encompasses 411 acres of property located south of the Village adjacent to Hwy. 69 with County Road NN intersecting NGWSP east to west. The NGWSP fits into the two most important concerns identified by the Survey...preserving natural areas/prairies and walking trails. The land was established as a State Park in 1934 and has been preserved in a natural state. Because of the hilly terrain, parts of the Park were never logged and today, some trees are over 250 years old. Habitat for native wildlife, birds and wildflowers has been preserved for future generations. Approximately 80% is wooded, rolling terrain and the remaining 20% is prairie. There are 6 trails for hiking and walking totaling 7.3 miles. The Basswood Trail, .4 miles, is an interpretive trail with signs describing the park's history, flora and fauna. The Havenridge Trail, 4.2 miles, has a guidebook available which is keyed to 36 markets along the trail. Camping is also available with 18 drive-in sites for RV, pop-up or tent camping and an additional 14 walk-in sites for tent camping. The Park is open year end for winter hiking. The trails may be used for cross-country skiing although the trails are not groomed for this purpose.

connects

2. The Sugar River State Trail: The Sugar River State Trail is a 23.5 mile national recreation trail that runs from New Glarus to Brodhead. The trail which passes through rolling hills along the Sugar River begins at the New Glarus Depot and has an optional detour through the New Glarus Woods State Park. The trail also satisfies the expressed top two concerns for environmental protection and hiking trails because it preserves a natural area corridor of 265 acres and offers a 23-mile long recreation trail. The limestone-surfaced trail is used for snowmobiling, walking, cross country skiing and bicycling. A mile is blacktopped and used for roller blading. The Sugar River Trail will eventually connect with the Badger State Trail, which is currently under development. The Sugar River Trail, via the Badger State Trail, will go north to Madison and south to Freeport, IL, a distance of approximately 70 miles. It will also connect with the Capital City Trail (18 miles when completed), the Military Ridge State Trail (41 miles) and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (1,000 miles when completed).

Eventually, it will connect with

I am not sure what all is completed on the bike trails now, but the information will be easy to get and I will do that for next month...

H. Recreational Opportunities available in our area:

Recreation involves many different types of activities, from organized, sponsored participatory team sports to those activities, which are spontaneous and are for the individual.

- Organized activities, such as soccer, baseball/softball, basketball and football, are available through programs sponsored or administered by the New Glarus School System, the Village of New Glarus or any other community of Green County, or by a private organization such as Little League.
- Individual and family oriented recreational programs include basketball, hiking, walking, skiing, swimming, fishing, bicycling, ice skating, tennis, volleyball. Also, recreation programs are offered by the New Glarus Woods State Park and the Village of New Glarus.
- In general, there are numerous playgrounds, picnic areas and scenic drives, such as Marty Road, our Rustic Road.
- Golf is available in the Town. The Argue-Ment Golf Course is the newest addition to the recreation available in the New Glarus area. The golf course is currently an affordable nine-hole public course northeast of the Village. It is situated in a natural setting of fields, hills, meadows, woods, and waters. A small portion of the Edelweiss Golf Course is also located in the Town, and the Swissland Miniature golf course located nearby in the Village.

Most of the summer youth organized needs for the Town residents are met by the Village of New Glarus Summer Recreation Programs. **Exhibit 1** includes the ~~2005~~ program activities, age ranges, and numbers of participants. update exhibit

Another major summer activity for the community residents as well as visiting tourists is the community Swimming Pool. Season passes are purchased for both pool use and swimming lessons. There is a price differential between (Village) resident, and (Town) non-resident season pass prices as well as passes for single or family memberships. The family prices are separated into categories depending on the number of family members. **Exhibit 2** identifies ~~2005~~ Pool Season Pass information by type, cost and number of passes purchased. update exhibit 2

I. Existing Resources Conclusion

A review of existing resources has identified strengths and weaknesses.

- Strength: New Glarus is fortunate to have two State owned facilities in the Town: the Sugar River Trail and the New Glarus Woods State Park, which provide hiking/walking in a natural wooded and prairie setting,

camping, picnic areas and cross country skiing. These areas will be preserved for future generations.

update with current survey results, exhibits 3 and 4, and date

- Strength: The Village of New Glarus has an extensive recreation program and facilities, which are utilized by Town residents. A thorough review of attendance at the Village Pool and 2005 Village recreational programs reveals that 50% of the participation is by Town residents. The attendance review also showed that participants come from locations throughout the Town. The percentage breakdown of participants along with the location diversity of Town attendees is shown on **Exhibit 3** and **Exhibit 4**.
- Strength: The Wisconsin southwestern region encompasses many recreational opportunities.
- Weakness: There are no Town community parks at present. The parcel of land owned by the Town doesn't offer community opportunities. The need for one or two large recreational parcels will become critical as the Town grows. The time to preserve for the future is now.

hiking, birdwatching, visiting with Russ and Mary?

Do we agree with the last 2 sentences? I'm not sure the survey reflects the need for large recreational parcels. Preservation, of course, but

Is it fair to expect owners of large land owners (aka farmers) to think that they should preserve and not sell when the time comes? Is it really true that preservation can glean as much financial gain as outright selling to Sheri Wilde? If so, or close, at least, we ought to find an expert in that field (pun intended) and have a program for large landowners. Well, not large landowners, but people who own big chunks of land.

Weakness: There is no organized Town tree planting program.

how do we create

Weakness: There is no organized effort to encourage landowners to consider the financial benefits of preserving natural areas.

Weakness: There has been very little coordination between Village and Town to share recreational opportunities. **A BIG IMPROVEMENT!**

Should/can we say something about the joint meetings and cooperation amongst the entities?



Exhibit 1

2005 Village Summer Recreation Activity Participation Source: Village of New Glarus Parks and Recreation Committee

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Participants</u>
Tee ball	5 to 7	56
Coach Pitch (4 th , 5 th , 6 th grade)	6 to 9	47
Girls Softball	9 to 12	30
4th Grade Baseball	9 to 10	13
5 th Grade Baseball	10 to 11	18
6 th Grade Baseball	11 to 12	11
7 th Grade Baseball	12 to 13	14
8th Grade Baseball	13 to 14	9
Junior Babe Ruth	14 to 16	12
Senior Babe Ruth	16 to 18	12
Women's Slow Pitch	16 and up	~ 50
Home Talent Baseball	16 and up	27
Adult Kickball	16 and up	~ 80

Total approx. 379

Exhibit 2

2005 POOL SEASON PASS REVENUES

<u>Pass Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>#Purchased</u>
Family/Resident (family of 4 or fewer)	\$80	79
Family/Non-Resident	\$140	50
Family/Resident (family of 5)	\$86	13
Family/Non-Resident	\$150	11
Family/Resident (family of 6)	\$92	5
Family/Non-Resident	\$160	2
Family/Resident (family of 7)	\$98	0
Family/Non-Resident	\$170	0
Family/Resident (family of 8)	\$104	0
Family/Non-Resident	\$180	1
Single/Resident	\$35	53
Single/Non-Resident	\$50	60
Toddler/Resident	\$15	3
Toddler/Non-Resident	\$20	20
Daycare Provider	\$10	14
TOTAL SEASON PASSES	311	
TOTAL RESIDENT PASSES	153	
TOTAL NON-RESIDENT PASSES	144	

Exhibit 3

VILLAGE OF NEW GLARUS 2005 SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Source: Village of New Glarus Parks and Recreations Committee (Dated: 09/19/05)

T-Ball/Coach Pitch (Fee \$5 per player); Age Range 5-7 T-ball, 6-9 Coach Pitch

*Residents: 47
Non-residents: 58

Girls Softball (Fee \$5 per player); Age Range 9-12;

*Residents: 14
Non-residents: 15

Pony/Little League (Per Player Fee, \$30 Village Resident; \$35 Non-Resident) Age Range 9-14;

*Residents: 28
Non-Residents: 34

* Village Residents reside within the village limits and pay real estate tax on their primary residence to the Village of New Glarus.

Note: From Village registration records, over half of the participants in the four listed activities reside in the Town of New Glarus.

Exhibit 4

Location of Town residents who participated in the 2005 Village Summer Recreation Program

Argue Road
Blue Vista Lane
Dahlk Road
Durst Road
Edelweiss Road
Farmers Grove Road
Highland Drive
Hustad Valley Road
Irish Lane
Klassy Road
Klitzke Road
Kubly Road
Lee Valley Road
Marty Road
Meadow Valley Road
Ness Road
Old Madison Road
Peerless Road
Pine Valley Road
Pioneer Road
Popular Grove Road
Postville Road
Quarry Road
Sandrock Road
Spring Valley Road
Valley View Road
Village View Road
Windmill Ridge Road
York Center Road
Hwy CC
Hwy G
Hwy H
Hwy J
County N
Hwy W
Hwy 39
Hwy 69
Hwy 92
Holly Lane (Belleville)
Ingwell Road
Ridge Drive (Mt. Horeb)
Steward Road (Blanchardville)

IV. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A. Overview

The Town of New Glarus' outdoor recreation needs have been determined by two means. The needs were first determined by a combination of past interest and usage, current population and demand, interest derived by survey results and citizen input. The second was by evaluating future growth projections and development activities. Needs were identified relating to Conserving Natural Resources/Open Space, Trails, Community Parks, Local Partnership and Recreation.

B. Population Projections:

The State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, Bureau of Demographic Services, prepares population estimates and projections for all municipalities in Wisconsin. The Department estimated the Town's population as 1,189 as of January 1, 2004. The percent change from 1990 to 2004 estimate is 102.6% with an annual rate of growth of 7.28%. The Town of New Glarus population increased 70.8% from 1970 to 2000. **Exhibit 5** identifies the population changes in the Town of New Glarus.

Exhibit 5

Population Changes in the Town of New Glarus

Year	Population Change		Percent Change
1970	552	N/A	N/A
1980	510	-42	- 7.6%
1990	587	77	15.1%
2000	943	356	60.6%
2004 Est.	1,189	246	26.1%

The Town of New Glarus has been in a state of change for the past 15 years. Original landowners were primarily second, third and fourth generation dairy farmers with traditional crops that included corn and alfalfa hay on farms averaging 200 acres. At that time, recreational needs were met without leaving home.

In the 1990's land use began to change as the active farmers neared retirement, agricultural and economic conditions changed, and children sought off-farm

careers. With few young adults interested in pursuing farming careers and even fewer landowners finding economic stability in a farming vocation, land began to be sold off for housing. Proximity to Madison and the beautiful landscape brought an influx of interested buyers. Local realtors saw potential benefits in investing in farms for development purposes.

The Town has transitioned from this traditional rural town to a bedroom community populated by commuters with small tracts of land. Current land ownership reflects a more complex blend of limited traditional agriculture, non-traditional agriculture, suburban developments, and rural single-family homes on lots ranging in size from two to forty acres. **Exhibit 6** indicates the number of parcels, as of 2004, in the Town of New Glarus by 5-acre and 40-acre increments.

Exhibit 6

Parcel Counts in the Town of New Glarus by 40-Acre Increments
(Source: 2004 Green County Treasurer)

<u>Parcels</u>	<u>Count</u>
0-4 acres	336
5-9 acres	171
10-14 acres	69
15-19 acres	32
20-24 acres	35
25-29 acres	16
30-34 acres	18
35-39 acres	21
40 acres	154

The following table divides the Town of New Glarus parcels into classifications. While the residential parcel count is highest at 479, only 9% of the town’s land area is residential. Agricultural still leads the Town of New Glarus percent of land area at 78%. (Town of New Glarus Land Use—2004) **Exhibit 7** is a breakdown of the Classification of Real estate by Parcel Count.

Exhibit 7

Classification of Town of New Glarus Parcel Count

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Parcel Count</u>
Residential	479
Commercial	12
Manufacturing	0
Agricultural	365
Undeveloped	206
AG-Forest	11

Forest	150
Other (Federal, State, County, School, Cemetery)	94

As the rural farms are divided into smaller parcels, the current trend is toward a younger median age as well as a significant increase in the number of new residents in the Town. **Exhibit 8** shows a breakdown of the population by age group.

Exhibit 8

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Source: 2000 Census

GENDER AND AGE

Male	476	50.5%
Female	<u>467</u>	<u>49.5%</u>
	943	100.0%
Under 10 years	167	17.7%
10 to 19 years	<u>140</u>	<u>14.8%</u>
	307	32.5%
20 to 34 years	123	13.0%
35 to 44 years	<u>189</u>	<u>20.0%</u>
	312	33.0%
45 to 59 years	236	24.0%
60 to 74 years	73	7.8%
75+ years	<u>25</u>	<u>2.7%</u>
	98	10.5%
Median Age (2000)	36.9	

C. Demographics: A Town in Transition

New Homes built in New Glarus Town during the years 2000 – 2004 compared to the years 1999 – 1995 showed an increase of +52.4%. County-wide during the same time period showed a building increase of +29.3%. The northwest area of Green County, including the townships of York, New Glarus, Adams, and Washington, had the largest increase in new residences with an increase of +47.3%. The averaged value of a new home constructed during 2004 in the Town of New Glarus was \$217,886.00.

Therefore, through population projection increases (estimated by the Wisconsin Bureau of Demographic Services) plus the gradual transition from traditional farming enterprises to a mix of limited agricultural and suburban housing development, as well as the explosive building of new homes, future planning and consideration of open land preservation and recreational needs must be addressed.

Exhibit 9 shows new residences in New Glarus in the period 1992 – 2004.

Exhibit 9

NEW RESIDENCES IN NEW GLARUS

<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1992</u>
23	27	30	25	23	16	29	19	13	7	18	18	11

D. 2005 Town of New Glarus Parks Commission Survey

In April of 2005, the Town of New Glarus Parks Commission distributed 600 surveys to Town residents asking them to assess the interests and needs of the town in the areas of land preservation, recreation, and green space. A total of 259 responses were received which reflects a participation rate of 44.7%. Residents were asked to prioritize twelve categories for rural improvement and preservation. Additional interests could be added. Categories listed in order of checked responses are listed below. A copy of the survey letter is listed in **Appendix I**.

The survey also sought to assess resident’s satisfaction with existing recreation facilities and opportunities.

Residents were asked to indicate which items were the most important to them and their families. The items are listed below in the order presented in the survey.

1. Bikeways, Cross-Country and Town Trails
2. Town Hall site with parks
3. Preserving Natural Areas, Prairies, and Wetlands.
4. Outdoor skating rink.
5. Sports/recreation/football/soccer fields
6. Fishing
7. Dog Parks
8. Community Park (Picnic, Sitting, Walking, Playground).
9. Rustic Roads.
10. Horse Trails
11. Gardens
12. Summer recreation activities.

The areas of interest identified by the residents are listed below in order of priority. The following four items represent approximately half (51%) of the responses.

1. Preserving Natural Areas, Prairies, and Wetlands.
2. Bikeways, Cross-Country and Town Trails.
3. Community Park (Picnic, Sitting, Walking, Playground). It should be noted that this item, Community Park, combined with Town Hall Site with Parks, which was also listed and is similar in content, would move this item into the second most desired item. Presently the Town of New Glarus does not own a Town Hall, but rather rents a facility in the village.
4. Rustic Roads.

The following items represent approximately one-third (33.3%) of the responses:

5. Outdoor Skating Rink.
6. Sports/recreation/football/soccer fields.
7. Fishing Areas.
8. Summer Recreation Activities.
9. Gardens.

The following items represent approximately 10% (12.2%) of the responses:

10. Horse Trails.
11. Town Hall Site with Parks (see Number 3 above).
12. Dog Parks.

The following items were additional suggestions added to the survey by residents, which represent the remaining areas of interest (3.5%):

ATV trails, adult sand volleyball, river walk area, Tell Grounds used as an area park during the year, public restrooms in park, tennis courts, cross country skiing, lake developed north of town, library in town hall site, indoor pool, safe walking areas, and skating rink warming house.

The Parks Commission recognizes that items 5 through 9 are ranked lower in importance because most of these needs are provided through programs and facilities available in the Village of New Glarus. Since the commission recognizes the strong participation of Town residents in Village programs, we have been active in pursuing a partnership with the Village Parks Committee.

A complete copy of the 2005 Town of New Glarus Parks Commission Resident Survey Results including landowner comments is provided in **Appendix II**.

E. Needs Assessment Conclusion

It is apparent that the Town has experienced substantial growth in the last 10 years. Future projections indicate that the Town may expect continued expansion for years to come. Without a formal plan in place such as the Parks Plan, it can also be expected that the increase in new homes and commercial areas will bring more roads, driveways, sidewalks and buildings, which will lead to the destruction of native habitat and the loss of open space.

The greatest need expressed by Town residents is preserving and protecting the existing natural environment. Thus the Parks Commission has identified this area as a number one priority. However, it should be pointed out that our natural environment is, in most cases, privately owned. Since the Parks Commission does not wish to become a landowner unless there is recreational opportunity, working with private landowners to encourage preservation and protection should bring desired results. Further, we wish to establish, in conjunction with the Planning Commission, requirements with which builders of residential and commercial development must comply in order to minimize destruction of views, trees, and habitat. Now is the time to set aside at least one or two large parcels of land for future recreational use.

A high percentage of residents responded to the parks survey which indicates a high level of interest in additional recreational facilities. At the same time, the residents said that they wished to coordinate facilities, activities and efforts with the Village for the best use of funding expenses.

Recreational needs have changed in the past and will continue to evolve as our population grows.

V. PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Overview

The following Parks and Recreation Plan goals and objectives are statements that will apply in general to all endeavors of the Towns Parks Commission. The objectives state the policies and philosophies that will be used to implement the goals of this plan.

B. Natural Areas

Goal 1: Identify, preserve and protect the natural environment, such as prairies, oak savannas, wetlands and open space. These areas are important to the Town of New Glarus from both a recreational and cultural perspective in order to maintain the rolling hills, beautiful views and uniqueness of the Swiss heritage.

Citizen input has requested that a regional approach be taken in the areas of preservation.

The Town of New Glarus is located in an area of Wisconsin that was not scoured flat by glaciers, known as the “Driftless area”. Our land was left with valleys, slopes and ridges, which drew Swiss immigrants to settle here because of the similarity to their homeland. Not only does the natural beauty of our Town provide a beautiful setting in which to live, it attracts visitors who, in turn, help support our local businesses.

Natural environment, as a general category, can include:

- Areas of ecological importance such as sites of native vegetation or wildlife habitat.
- Unique geological formations.
- Areas of educational value.
- Scenic views or vistas.
- Greenways, open spaces, or boulevards or other connections to recreation areas, activities and hubs of activity.
- Floodplain, wetlands, marshes, or erosion control areas that include streams and ponds.

The primary focus of the Parks Commission to meet this goal is to encourage and facilitate landowner interest and participation in proactive, organized effort to preserve the Town’s natural environment. The Parks Commission also wishes to act as a liaison to homeowners, landowners and naturalist groups in order to encourage preservation and protection of our native habitat and scenic beauty.

Objectives for Natural Areas:

- Identify areas of particular interest, unique plant or animal life, scenic views, environmentally sensitive areas, or native natural areas.
- Identify lands available for acquisition if the potential exists for future recreational use.
- Acquire those lands through a combination of federal, state, and county grants, gifts, donations, and Town resources.
- Establish guidelines to accept or acquire land for future development or preservations.
- Mark conservancy areas with proper signage and list on a Parks Master Plan map.
- Work with the Planning Board to manage development so that it respects the topography and character of the land, existing vegetation and scenic roads. This could include mandatory open space and landscape preservation laws for developments. Maintenance expenses would be included in development fees.
- Establish a grant program for homeowners, landowners and naturalist groups to encourage plantings and preservation of native grasses, native wildflowers and native trees.
- Identify naturalist and environmental groups, which will help with preservation and provide grant money to assist them.
- Consult with the Green County forester regarding creating a Town tree-planting program.

C. Bikeways, Cross Country and Town Trails

Goal 2: Develop a trail system linking schools, hiking, bike paths, parks, State Parks, Sugar River Bike Trail, Ice Age Trail, equestrian trails and other community trails.

As there seems to be high interest in this type of activity reflected in the 2005 survey, the design and development of a trail network using public and private easements would be an area of interest for a Town Parks plan.

Wisconsin Statute 895.52 protects private landowners from liability for injuries to people who use their land for recreation. **Appendix IV** contains publication G3326 from the UW Extension Office for reference.

Objectives for Bikeways, Cross Country and Town Trails:

- Identify both existing and potential schools, parks, paths, Ice Age trail and community connection points.
- Provide connections and destinations for a trail system throughout the Town.
- Create a European-style cross country trail/walking path which would invite and encourage town and village residents as well as visitors to walk.
- Facilitate collaboration of town and village residents and WDNR in the development of a River Walk bordering the Little Sugar River starting from the New Glarus Railroad Depot and traveling north several miles to Old Madison Road.
- Link newer subdivision areas to the village by walking/bike trails.
- Develop specifications for trail composition, width, slope, use and signage requirements connecting to main parks.
- Develop and implement a Towns Trails Plan in coordination with other Community, County and State trails and Foundations. Five year goal is the addition of a 10 mile hiking/biking trail circle southwest of New Glarus.
- Seek out grant funds and developer designated areas for trails and public easements.
- Investigate feasibility of adding additional roads to the State of Wisconsin Rustic Road System.
- Create and fund a separate account for Trail Development.

D. Community Park

Goal 3: Acquire Town land for a Community Park with a potential Town Hall site to responsibly address both the fiscal and space needs of the Town residents.

A community park could enable the Town to provide a recreation facility from which all of the Town's residents can benefit. The New Glarus community consists of residents of all ages. The citizen input meeting landowners suggested looking at the best use of dollars.

Objectives for Community Park:

- Evaluate stability and expense of current rental agreement of Town Hall.
- Identify need for Town Hall as a Community Center for town meetings with additional uses for family reunions, weddings, and graduation receptions, adult and youth meetings.
- Establish a siting committee to evaluate location and cost of current land availability in Town.
- Create a sinking fund for community park/Town Hall site acquisition.
- Develop a Town Hall fee budget and usage guidelines to cover costs of normal maintenance and utilities.

E. Local Partnerships

Goal 4: Formalize a partnership with the Town of New Glarus, Village of New Glarus, and New Glarus School District to assure recreational parks are available for the enjoyment and benefit of the New Glarus Community.

From both survey and public meeting comments, it has been made clear to the Park's Commission that the New Glarus township residents prefer a partnership with the village for sports and summer recreational activities. The 2005 New Glarus Village Summer Recreational Program showed a 50/50 participation of both Village and Town children. Citizen input calls for greater coordination with the schools and the Village.

Objectives for Local Partnerships:

- Work jointly with the village and school district to evaluate recreational needs.
- Share funding of capital improvements for facilities that are used by both the Village and Town residents, such as the pool house renovation.
- Encourage joint partnerships with other entities such as local businesses, surrounding Towns and local Department of Natural Resources personnel.
- Consider joint long-term expense for maintenance of land and equipment.
- Create a community recreational fund to have Town of New Glarus contribute according to town resident use.

F. Recreation

Goal 5: Assure recreational activities are available for the enjoyment and benefit of all Town residents in partnership with the Village of New Glarus and New Glarus School District.

Citizen input recommended a large centralized sports location which would include a cluster concept for ball and soccer fields.

Objectives for Recreational Activities:

- Identify community needs for all age levels and physical requirements.
- Identify private and commercial activities in area to avoid duplication. Identify community lands and parks that can handle these activities.
- Project future growth patterns and recreational needs.
- Respond to future needs as they are identified.

VI. ACTION PLAN

The Town Parks Commission has developed an action plan based on the 2005 Town survey of park and recreation needs, the current development of policy of the Town Planning Commission and Town Board and on the estimated future growth of the Town.

The action plan is organized into six categories: 1. General Recommendations; 2. Natural Areas, Conservancy and Green Space Preservation; 3. Trails Plan; 4. Community Parks/Town Hall; 5. Partnership with Village/School District; and 6. Expanding Recreational Opportunities.

A. General Recommendations

1. Development and maintenance of parks is an appropriate function of Town government. Overall planning should be done by the Town Parks Commission, the Town Planning Commission and the Town Board. Specific site planning and scheduling of development (or desired non-development) should be decided with strong input by neighborhoods and/or interest groups. Town government, more than other governments, is dependent on the will of the people. Strong input by residents is necessary for any successful development to occur.
2. The Town parks, recreation, and open space planning process should be coordinated with the Town's comprehensive planning effort and the Village Parks Committee.
3. The Town should make maximum use of Federal, State and County grant opportunities to help with land acquisition efforts and the development of park and recreation improvements.
4. The annual costs of maintaining community parks should be planned so as not to exceed available and future Town resources.
5. Civic, service, individual, and community donations of time, money and materials should be encouraged.
6. The Town Parks Plan should be updated on a continuing basis, so as to maintain constant eligibility for Federal and State funding. This updating should include a frequent review of desired capital improvements, addition of any new parklands, and a review of Town resident desires on a regular basis – at least every five years. As residents' needs and desires change, the priorities of this plan should be revised.

7. Where appropriate, the Town should give support to “lifetime” recreation activities, hiking, skiing, bicycling, and walking.
8. The Town, Village and School District should continue to explore an agreement concerning use of recreation facilities. The advantages of such an agreement include avoidance of facility duplication, combined use of prime land, monetary savings to the Town, Village, and the School District and greater diversity in recreation opportunities.
9. The Town should encourage cluster development in growing residential areas. In cluster development, residential streets are characterized by a compact curvilinear design and the reduction of the total area devoted to thoroughfares and individual lots, allowing for more open space acreage. Common open space is organized in linear and modular units throughout a residential area. These greenway units connect homes to schools, shopping, bike paths and recreational areas.
10. The Town should foster a solid working relationship with the local DNR Ranger and the DNR District Office. This relationship can keep the Town informed on State and Federal funding, facilitate grant requests, allow local joint cooperation and assistance and encourage well-planned development.

B. Natural Areas, Conservancy and Green Space Preservation

1. The Town has areas of land that are steep, heavily wooded, wetlands, water drainage paths or a combination of the above. These are not likely to be developed as parkland. However, they serve a function as nature areas, drainage control, woodland conservation, wildlife habitat, erosion control, and just as attractive landscape in the Town. The quality of these areas should be protected by prohibiting dumping of trash, preventing motorized vehicles and other noxious uses.
2. The Town should encourage the preservation of open spaces, greenways, wetlands, woodland, natural areas, and scenic areas. As urbanization continues in the Town of New Glarus, preservation of these areas through public or private ownership is highly desirable in order to maintain the traditional visual character of the Town.
3. Private ownership should be encouraged if public access is not a concern. When public access and enjoyment of an area is desired, the Town should promote public ownership, via donations, purchase by the Town, or purchase with the County, State or Federal funding assistance. When protection of the character of land is desired, the Town could obtain deed restrictions or covenants.

4. Public lands should be clearly marked and enforcement resources should be available to prevent littering, dumping of trash, motorized vehicles, and other noxious materials. Public access to these lands should be encouraged.
5. As time and money permit, some of these areas may be suitable for trail development, if desired.

C. Bikeways, Cross County and Town Trails Plan

1. Acquire, enhance, and/or develop additional trails. The Trails Plan is an important component of the Town's Park and Recreation Plan. It is the feature that serves to link all of the other park, conservancy and community resources, and other trail systems.
2. Work to alleviate many of the problems related to bicycle safety, especially those related to cars and bicycles and pedestrians sharing the same thoroughfare. Bicycle safety was identified as a special interest.
3. Include active play areas and resting areas in the design of the Trails Plan. The appropriate modes of travel and recreation for the Town Trail's Plan include: walking, hiking and biking.
4. As developments are planned, consideration should be given to identifying and facilitating access to off-the-road paths to parks from all areas of the development.
5. Consider plans for both off and on road bicycle routes, attempting to connect major facilities, including parks and schools, with residential areas. Routes should have signage to direct bicyclists and to alert motorists. A two-way bicycle path should be at least six feet in width, preferably eight feet. Design criteria can be obtained in a joint publication by the Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources, *Guidelines for Developing Rural Bike Routes*. Funding is available from the State to assist with developing bike routes.

Consideration will be given to the following factors:

- The density of the residential populations adjacent to the proposed trails.
- The proximity of destinations that would attract residents such as recreation, parks and other trails.

- The existence of special opportunities to construct trails as a result of new development, special funding sources, etc.

D. Community/Parks/Town Hall Site

Prioritize expenditures and costs to landowners for land acquisition for town hall site based on community inputs.

1. A large community park could provide a method for meeting the recreational needs of the population as well as potentially meeting the need for a Town Hall site. Providing neighborhood parks in small subdivisions would be cost-prohibitive.
2. Parks should be designed with the following things considered for inclusion: playgrounds, open fields for free play, trails, landscaping, seating/picnic areas, nature areas, shelter, storage areas. The parks should be accessible by all ages and by handicapped persons.
3. Design of parks should attempt to minimize maintenance requirements.
4. Dependent upon type of activities planned for a park, consideration should be given to on-site automobile parking needs.
5. In addition to the use as a Town meeting place, the Town Hall would be a Community Center available for activities.

E. Local Partnerships

Children registered in the New Glarus School District, living in both the Town and Village of New Glarus, participate in recreational activities centered in the Village. The April 2005 New Glarus Park's Commission Resident Survey responses indicated that the residents wished to continue and build upon this partnership.

1. Seek joint partnering opportunities with Village.
2. Create communication method and tools to share information to residents and visitors about all of the recreational opportunities available such as a website to link resources or an on-line newsletter.
3. Create a recreational fund in partnership with the Village to expand and improve what we already have rather than duplicate facilities and activities.
4. Initiate a joint local effort to seek shared stakeholder ownership in a plan optimizes regional resources.

F. Recreation Activities/New Opportunities

1. Seek landowners' input on community recreational needs and associated costs.
2. Encourage volunteer activity and private funding methods where possible.
3. Fully cooperate and support programs such as the baseball, basketball and soccer programs sponsored by the Village.
4. Participate in the swimming pool renovation and capital improvement needs for an equal membership cost for the Town residents.
5. Support current and future summer recreation activities as identified by Town residents.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

Endorsement of this plan by the Town residents and adoption by the Parks Commission and Town Board is fundamental and the first step toward implementation of this plan. The Town of New Glarus Parks Commission will initiate implementation by project according to the following priority and timeline given in **Appendix III**:

A. Priority Projects (immediate needs in order of importance):

1. Coordinate a regional effort to identify areas of particular interest which include unique historical significance, unique plant life, scenic views, environmentally sensitive areas, or native natural areas.
2. Identify lands available for future preservation.
3. Initiate a program within a potential development that preserves open space for that particular development with maintenance expense included in development fees.
4. Establish a grant program for homeowners, landowners, and naturalist groups to encourage plantings and preservation of native grasses, wildflowers, and trees.
5. Develop a Town trail system linking schools, hiking, bike paths, parks, State Parks, Sugar River Bike Trail, Ice Age Trail and other community trails.
6. Acquire Town land for a Community Park/potential Town hall site and community center to address the future fiscal and space needs of the town residents.
7. Create a recreational fund in partnership with the Village of New Glarus to have the Town of New Glarus contribute according to town resident use.
8. Evaluate large potential Town sites for picnic and playground use areas.
9. Identify future Rustic Road locations.
10. Evaluate importance and uses of the Town-owned lot of 4.29 acres located in Windmill Ridge and initiate work to improve, use or sell.
11. Develop website and/or newsletter for dissemination of recreational facilities/activities for residents and visitors.

VIII. FUNDING PLAN

In general, the Parks Commission recommends the lowest cost approach to establishment of a quality parks system by following these guidelines:

1. Our base funding would be to request permission to levy $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 mill in tax monies from the Town residents at the Annual Town Meeting concurrent with the approval of this Parks Plan. This would provide 50 cents per \$1000 of assessed value, which would be approximately \$50,000. The initial funds would be broken out as follows:

- \$20,000 Village Pool House Sinking Fund
- \$20,000 Town Community Park Sinking Fund
- \$2,000 Trails Program
- \$1,000 Tree Planting Program
- \$1,000 Lecture Series
- \$1,000 Communication Needs (website, brochures, maps, brochures)
- \$3,000 Per Diems
- \$2,000 Operating Funds

2. Pursue grant opportunities available through federal, state, county, and private sources.
3. Assess dedicated park fees when property is subdivided or developed.
4. Offer creative options to provide incentives to residents for the use of their property as trail easements, in addition to easement donations and land trusts.
5. Encourage landowners to preserve family lands from future development through the use of conservation easements.
6. Encourage private donations of money or land by recognizing or memorializing certain individuals and organizations through the use of plaques and naming rights.
7. Acquire land through developer dedications or cash donation in lieu of land.
8. Acquire and develop parkland with County, State and Federal matching funds.
9. Encourage landowners to gift lands to the Town.
10. Encourage resident participation in planning and implementation of community parks.
11. Reduce consultant fees by identifying and increasing Town capability and encouraging low or no cost planning such as UW-Madison Landscape Architecture student projects and volunteer organizations.

12. Effective and thorough planning to eliminate waste and to increase utilization.
13. Encourage natural area organizations such as The Prairie Enthusiasts, the Blue Mounds Group and conservancy groups to assist or manage oak savannah and prairie natural areas.

Existing and future funds from fees collected in lieu of land are to be utilized for capital improvements in the high priority projects. Additional Park funding will come from a combination of the sale of Town owned lands, Federal, State, County and Non-Profit Organization matching grants, and the annual parks budget. Maintenance of all parks will be funded from the Town's general fund.

IX. UPDATES AND ANNUAL REVIEWS

The Town Parks Plan is not intended to be a static document; rather, the Plan will continue to evolve as the Town's population increases, new priorities are identified and capital improvement priorities are accomplished.

The Parks Plan shall be reviewed each year and updated as needed. The Parks Commission shall hold a Public Hearing as needed for the purpose of informing Town residents about the Parks Plan and modifications thereto. Following the Public Hearing, the Parks Commission shall recommend the adoption of the Parks Plan, as amended to the Town of New Glarus Board.

The Parks Commission conducted a survey of Town residents in 2005 and plans to do another survey in 2012 for the purpose of soliciting public input regarding the parks, recreation, conservancy and green space needs of the Town of New Glarus.

The Parks Commission shall incorporate funding designed to meet the Capital Improvement Plan and the Annual Operating Plan in the Parks and Recreation budget submitted to the Town Board in October of each year.

APPENDIX I
ORIGINAL SURVEY LETTER

April 20, 2005

Dear Town of New Glarus Neighbors,

The newly formed **Town of New Glarus Parks Commission** needs your help! We need your suggestions and ideas in surveying the interests and needs of the town in the areas of land preservation, recreation, and green space. Although we work jointly with the Village of New Glarus Parks Committee, the Town of New Glarus Parks Commission was formed to develop park opportunities outside the Village.

Where would you like to see our efforts go? Listed below are some of our ideas. Please check the items that are most important to you and your family.

- Bike ways, cross country and town trails
- Town Hall site with parks
- Preserving natural areas/prairies/wetlands
- Outdoor skating Rink
- Sports/recreation/football/soccer fields
- Fishing
- Dog Parks
- Community Park (picnic, sitting, walking, playground)
- Rustic Roads
- Horse Trails
- Gardens
- Summer Recreational Activities

Please list other suggestions, including possible locations.

Please return by **May 1, 2005**, in the enclosed envelope.
Optional: Name, Address, Phone Number, E-mail Address.

Thank you for your time and consideration towards the future of our town.

For more information:

We meet at 7 pm on the third Wednesday of every month at the New Glarus Town Hall, located in the Swiss Miss Center, 1101 Highway 69, New Glarus. Please join us! Members of the committee include: Pete Etter, Karen Talarczyk, Jim Burke, Linda Kempfer-Disch, Tawni Stenberg, and Rita Mahoney.

Please call Chairman Linda Kempfer-Disch at 527-2325 with any questions.

APPENDIX II

TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
PARKS COMMISSION
RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS AND COMMENTS
APRIL 2005

Surveys mailed 4/21/05 were to be returned by 5/01/05. Of the 600 surveys mailed, 21 were undeliverable due to address changes (3.4%). Of the remaining 579 delivered, 259 were returned (44.7%).

The following categories are listed in order of checked responses:

#1	Preserving Natural Areas/Prairies/Wetlands	(145)
#2	Bike ways, Cross Country and town trails	(127)
#3	Community Park (Picnic, sitting, walking, playground)	(99)
#4	Rustic Roads	(65)
	Outdoor Skating Rink	(60)
	Sports/recreation/football/soccer fields	(58)
	Fishing Areas	(57)
	Summer Recreational Activities	(57)
	Gardens	(55)
	Horse Trails	(37)
	Town Hall Site with Parks	(35)
	Dog Parks	(34)

Other Category:

Tax Implication Concerns	(8)
ATV Trails	(7)
Adult Sand Volleyball	(3)
River walk area	(2)
Tell Grounds used an area park during year	(2)
Public Restrooms in park	(2)
Tennis Courts	(2)
Cross Country Skiing	(1)
Lake developed north of town	(1)
Library in Town Hall site	(1)
Indoor Pool	(1)
Safe Walking Areas	(1)
Skating Rink Warming House	(1)

The following comments were received on the returned surveys:

PRESERVING NATURAL AREAS/PRAIRIES/WETLANDS

1. Beautiful New Glarus could use a constant effort to maintain the natural qualities that are to be found in the planting programs.
2. Our green space is a huge asset. No one wants to visit an area that looks like where they came from—full of houses.
3. Plant trees for the future of New Glarus.
4. Road garbage clean up!
5. The town does not need to organize park activities. Preserving the Natural characteristics of the town should be paramount. Quit trying to make New Glarus suburban-like!
6. Consideration could also be given to purchases of development rights for agricultural lands in environmentally sensitive areas.
7. Who is going to pay the landowner to do this? Taxpayers?
8. What could this mean?
9. Our highest priority should be to identify and preserve our remarkable natural heritage in our beautiful township.prairies, oak savannas, and wetlands at the top of the list. When they disappear, an important part of our heritage is gone forever.

BIKEWAYS, CROSS COUNTRY AND TOWN TRAILS

1. Safe Walking Areas
2. Extension of bike path down Hwy 69 toward new neighborhood.
3. Bikeway along County H to school. Connect N or Marty Road up to current bike path that goes from town to State Park. Marty Road is a Rustic Road and gets a lot of bike traffic.
4. No need. Have 2 state trails now and trail to state park.
5. Hwy 69 North.
6. Ways to get to State Bike Trail without going on highway.
7. But not snowmobile.
8. Extend bike trail to Green/Dane county line.
9. Trail system to connect with existing state trail would be a great asset to township.
10. No ATV's
11. Fee free.
12. Most of the ideas above sound good, but the trails would be the most important to me. I own 200 acres along Hwy H and intend to keep it farmed, so it would be available long-term for a hiking-bike trail along the road. Perhaps others would also be willing to have trails on their land.
13. With the bike trail running along County O it is dangerous during the warmer months for both bikers and the auto traffic. I would like to see an area along the road that is paved so the bikers wouldn't need to ride in the same lanes as autos.
14. Especially, a European-style cross country trail/walking path, which could encourage town residents to walk and could be a great and unique area resource. Both could reduce auto traffic at least a little. Linking newer subdivision areas to the village by walking/bike trails. In turn this links the areas to the State Park and State bike trails.
15. Bikeways, cross-country and town trails—we have a terrific bike trail running right thru our township and excellent well-maintained hiking trails in the state park. Why do we need more? Do you realize the cost of maintenance of trails? Check with the DNR.
16. Walking/biking bridge over Hwy 69 connecting Valley View Road to State Park and bike trail.

COMMUNITY PARK (PICNIC, SITTING, WALKING, PLAYGROUND)

1. Bathrooms in the park.
2. Parkland is too expensive for township to engage in. Once owned, there will be a constant financial need!! Endless hired planners, workers—next come “shelters”, “bathrooms”. Don't do it. The D.O.T. is giving up roadside parks and they have endless access to \$\$.
3. We fail to see the need for any parks in the Town of New Glarus. There are three perfectly good parks in the village. You hardly ever see anyone using them so why would there be a need for more. There is also a perfectly good state bike trail you can ride, walk, or jog on to your heart's content. We already pay taxes for its upkeep and security. Parks are not a one time item. They

- have to be maintained. In this day and age there also have to be some type of security. In a state that is already overtaxed, we fail to have the desire to pay more for something that will only be used by a very few people. Most of us, since we live in the country, have our own property to use a park. When we have friends and relatives over we invited them here—not to some park. People like to visit your home when you live in the country. Another reason not to provide parks is that it keeps the city people away. We get tired enough picking up after bikers and others who think they can picnic on your property and leave their trash. Why invite them to leave more. We are also sick of dogs who are allowed to run loose since people think they can do that in the country. They think it is funny when their dogs chase your livestock—we don't. Why on earth would we want to make it convenient for more of them to stop around here?
4. Why not try for old Atkinson farm on outskirts of New Glarus as a peaceful park?
 5. Make a permanent park area at the Tell Grounds so it can be utilized year around.
 6. My concern is that no matter where you provide for example parks, playgrounds—it would be benefiting one subdivision over another because of location. Also, as a dairy farmer we don't want to see taxes going up in order to provide all the extras for the subdivisions. As far as green space, I don't see that as a problem with lot sizes in our township as they are. Kids can play baseball/soccer by getting together with your neighbors and working together and providing it for your kids in your area. Make your own fields. We should not have to provide city living in the country. I know farmers are outnumbered but we still pay a lot of taxes.
 7. Do not need any "park opportunities" outside the village.
 8. Don't need parks outside of village.
 9. Work jointly with the Village to maintain the parks in the village—not outside. The Village is centrally located in our township.
 10. Establish a few town area parks along with a major town community park. Windmill Ridge may have an area set aside for a small park.
 11. Any parks should be located near the village and utilized by village, town, and school district. Financing these parks should be shared. Any parks located near subdivisions should be paid for with impact or user fees for those people that will use them. Developers should donate land for parks or open space.
 12. We have the village and state park!

TOWN HALL SITES WITH PARKS

1. I would consider selling the township my 10 acres of woods across from the New Glarus Woods Park. It is a well managed woodlot producing mature trees. Good location for Town hall site with picnic tables and walking trails. This is sanitary district and you could take it out.
2. We need to **own** the land for the town hall and have a building site of the town hall in the New Glarus township. This site could include a Community Park and ball park as well as the town hall. Renting for town hall needs does not make any sense!!
3. Town Hall site and Community Park could be the same!! I would also like to see the township help establish larger library facilities. Perhaps Town hall/library/park site together??
4. We maybe could use a town hall site.
4. Possible!
5. #1 concern for the Town of New Glarus. (Town Hall site and Community Park).
6. Why consider a town hall when we rent one at low cost? A town hall would probably be in New Glarus and duplicate their parks.
7. Nice idea!!
8. Town hall site with park and clubhouse—something like Blanchardville has. To be rented out for graduations/weddings/other parties or goings on with a kitchen.

Dear Parks Committee, The first and most important area that I feel should be addressed by the Town of New Glarus should be to purchase a site for a Town Hall. It could serve as a Community Center which even the Village of New Glarus does not have. Neighboring towns do have these halls that are available for family reunions, wedding and graduation receptions, 4-H clubs, etc. Fees are charged for some of these activities and that would help with some of the normal maintenance. If the right site was selected, a community park with picnic, sitting, walking, and playground areas could be incorporated.

I don't feel the population of the Town of New Glarus is large enough to support dog parks, horse trails, fishing or skating rinks. Dog parks and horse trails are part of the county parks system in Dane County which I'm sure has more funds to work with.

With the Sugar River Bike Trail and the State Park located right in our community, I don't think it is necessary to duplicate those services. They have the walking trails, camping, biking, prairie restoration and many other areas of interest. They seem to have a very active Friends of the Park group that works to help improve the park and with the budget cuts they are having to deal with, anyone with interest in those areas would be more than welcome I'm sure. Again, I don't think the Town would be able to support all of these activities.

As to a location for the Town Hall, my first thought was that it should be as close to the center of the Town as possible. When I looked at a map of the Town that would be just a short distance West of the Village, but you have to consider what is for sale. So anything the near the village would seem practical.

Having parks scattered around the Town of New Glarus just does not seem practical to me and I wonder how much they would be used. Personally I know that I would not have used them when my family was young. Also, vandalism would be a big concern. We probably would have to hire more help as one man couldn't be expected to maintain any more than he already does.

(Wisconsin State Journal article included detailing area communities dealing with theft from Belleville, Verona, and Oregon parks. Verona lost aluminum bleacher seats valued at \$2000, and Belleville and Oregon had similar loses.)

SPORTS/RECREATION/FOOTBALL/SOCCER FIELDS

1. Some of these items are not appropriate unless they are built in New Glarus itself. Sports fields, ice rink, etc. should not be built out in the countryside.
2. Partner with village and schools?
3. How about a running track? It would be safer than running on the roads.
4. Near village and shared.
5. Available in the village, not practical for the township.
6. Help out village on this.

SUMMER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Joint improvement efforts of Village for improvements. Example: Village Pool—improve, add more kid's pool amenities. Work together.
1. Geared to kids, adults, and families. Could be educational, social, or both. Example: Drawing class scheduled in New Glarus Woods this summer (for kids).
3. An annual social event to interact with other town families. Could also be a workday for either park clean-up/set-up related or a service project for an area non-profit.
4. Community things for teenagers to do.
5. Activities geared to/for children and youth.
6. Having an organized, quality rec. department for youth would be wonderful for the New Glarus community.

OUTDOOR SKATING RINK

1. Might be fun!
2. Smiley face!!
3. Separate from ice hockey.
4. Highlighted and exclamation marks. Only one marked.
5. With warming house/shelter.
6. Our kids need a place to go. Sports activities help to reduce drug and alcohol use also.
7. I hope that the Hoesly pond was not your idea of an ice rink. No parent in their right mind would let a kid cross the highway and skate on a pond in which water is over their head and no supervision or warming house. Whosever idea that was needs to have their head examined.
8. I loved that the town pond was open for ice skating this past winter! Good job! There's fish in there too-bullheads!
9. Shouldn't this be done in cooperation with the village? Monroe has found that the ice skating season in our climate is very short.

10. Outdoor skating rink at the current softball field. A temporary rink could be put up and the lights and bleachers are already in place.

FISHING AREAS

1. Look at Monticello's pond and Belleville's Lake.
2. Don't we have that now?

DOG PARKS

- I would go along with a dog park as long as dogs weren't allowed in any other park!
2. Would likely be a plus for village residents too!!
 3. No need. Most people in township have land for own dogs.
 4. No way.
 5. The Wilde Development should be bought by the township and made into a Dog Park with trails.
 6. Oh come on—let it out the back door—this is not Madison!
 7. NO!!!
 8. These are good community places.

RUSTIC ROADS

1. Unsure what this means.
2. Careful!! Sounds good but will increase traffic on these small town roads during weekend. Is that what you want?
3. Your best idea!!

HORSE TRAILS

1. No. Would cost all of us for benefit for just a few with horses.
2. Boarding stable and horse owner should accommodate to these needs.
3. Would love to petition the state to develop a horse trail around the perimeter of the New Glarus Woods and allow mountain biking maybe one day a week there. The New Glarus Woods should also have a connecting trail on the south side of Cty NN so walkers/skiers don't have to walk on the side. We own land on Cty. O for our horses with a short trail system through the woods. We would support development of a trail system for non-motorized use (ie. Horses, mountain bikes, x-country skiing, hiking. We even have a brush mower and 5' rotary mower behind out tractor to help build it.
4. Privately owned.
5. What % of residents have horses? Don't spend money on anything that is for a minority of residents.

GARDENS

1. No. Most have own land for garden.
2. Vegetable? Flower? Can't we each have our own?
3. Community gardens might be nice.

OTHER COMMENTS:

1. This appears to be something to raise my taxes. NOT INTERESTED IN THIS!!!
2. I think a lake right north of town would be nice. Behind Old Pet Milk.
3. Work with Village for developing River Walk!
4. Work to bring taxes down!!
5. NO MORE TAXES!
6. Fix Village Tennis Courts.
7. Sand volleyball for adults, softball, etc.
8. Cross country skiing.
9. All are great ideas!!
10. Thanks for sharing and including us.

11. The overall tax bill is already high. There should be a \$100 to \$300 lot subdivision fee dedicated to park development, but there is little room to raise the town's mill levy.
12. Public restrooms in park for town people and tourists using the park. (No items were checked so I placed under other comments.)
13. Indoor swimming pool facility.
14. Please work with village to fix tennis courts.
15. When is Hwy 69 going to be redone through the community? It is such a mess.
16. 4-wheel and snowmobile trails.
17. Volleyball courts.
18. 4 wheeler trails.
19. 4-wheel and snowmobile trails.
20. Dear Committee, I compliment you on your initiative and effort. However, I disagree with pursuing these goals at the township, or village & school, level separately. I've previously met with the village and school administrator to convey this view. Sorry I didn't do the same with you—I was unaware of your role. Pursuing facility needs separately will result in unnecessary spending as well as inefficiently placed facilities in my view. I will try to attend a future meeting to discuss more clearly and in person. Thanks again for your commitment and time.
21. My number one first choice is that you please work towards raising money to get the tennis courts re-done and put another court in on the other side of town—those tennis courts are an embarrassment to our town! I am very happy to hear of your new organization. Good luck!
22. Adult lap swimming at the pool would be nice, even it's just a couple of lanes.
23. I have always been impressed with the community here. The activities reflect the great spirit and cooperation which were instilled by the founders of our Swiss heritage. My main thought—not only continue past activities but also keep abreast of problems which need a possible new approach. Has the committee ever considered a "River walk"? A Sugar River Walk sounds sweet to me!
24. I am sorry to be so negative, but these should not be functions of a township like New Glarus Township. Our population doesn't justify these things, and there is no reason to try to entice outsiders to come to the township. Maybe we should contribute to the efforts of the village on some of these things. We use their facilities, especially the library, swimming pool, and parks and could help them with some of the cost. We appreciate those of you who are volunteering your efforts on behalf of the township; your time would be better spent some other way.
25. Why move in the country when you have the village with most of these.
26. I am satisfied with the level of services provided by the TNG. My preference, rather than look for ways to spend money—keep property taxes down. Thanks for asking.
27. Don't spend our tax money duplicating facilities that are already available.

Note: all names were removed from survey response.

Appendix III - Implementation Schedule - Town Parks Commission

Category	Item	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Natural Areas, Conservancy and Green Space Preservation	Identify conservation easements.	X				
	Identify environmental corridors	X				
	Create series of lectures on land trusts, easements, prairie/savannah restoration/preservation	X	X			
	Create tree planting program.	X	X	X		
	Purchase 100 acres for future preservation/recreation.			X	X	X
	Work with planning commission to create development guidelines for preserving, maintaining and/or replacing natural landscape.					
Trails Plan	Identify potential sites for trails.	X	X			
	Mark and develop.					
	Add 5 miles of walking trails.	X	X	X	X	X
	Develop Town map of all available walking paths.					
Community/Parks/Town Hall	Purchase town hall site by 2010.					X
Partnership with Village/Town/School District	Develop website for centralized recreation activities for Village, Town, DNR, etc.					
	Commit to annual contribution to rebuild pool house.					
Expand Recreational Opportunities						

APPENDIX IV

The following is a reprint of a publication put out by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, and is based on the Wisconsin Statute 895.52 which addresses the concerns of landowners who allow their land to be used for recreational purposes. The original bulletin is found on the internet at <http://www.cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/G3326.PDF>. The entire Statute can be found on the internet at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html>