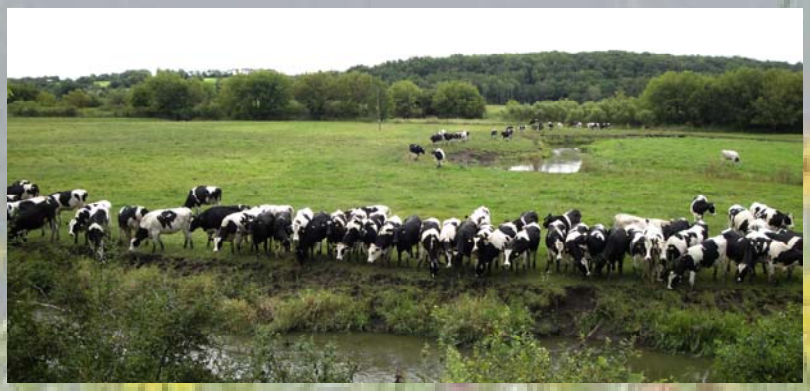

Town of New Glarus Parks Plan 2011

TOWN OF NEW GLARUS

GREEN COUNTY

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Pattie Salter	Clerk-Treasurer
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Chris Narveson	Member
Keith Seward	Alternate
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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 2,144 Village residents and 1,314 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 twenty 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 1991 and 2010 a total of 286 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, bringing new jobs much closer to the Town. Neighboring communities and towns such as Verona and Belleville 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 participated in Smart Growth planning, 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.

*2010 Census data was unavailable at the time this Plan was printed; however, the updated statistics will be inserted as **Appendix V A. Census Updates** when the material is available

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 Parks Commission has updated the 2006 Parks Plan. Our mission is to

assure that the needs and desires for recreational opportunities and preservation of natural areas are met.

This document is a result of the work of the seven members of the Parks Commission, who were appointed by the Town Board. The updated Parks Plan is to be implemented through the oversight and approval of the 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 they 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; as a result the Town Board amended its Code of Ordinances on October 13, 1997 and October 19, 1999 to define the preservation of open space. The impact is summarized as follows:

> The original Land Division and Subdivision ordinance was developed prior to October 1997 after considerable study by volunteers from the Town. The Town Board realized a need to provide for orderly development in the Town; they established citizen committees to poll the community and compile information needed to develop an ordinance. With considerable public input and help from qualified consultants, the committees made recommendations to the Town Board who then sought legal help to develop an ordinance. The original ordinance had a basic density factor of one building permit allowed for each thirty-five acres of "original parcel" owned. This caused some concern for the Board in that they felt there should be some greater incentive for economic advantage to the local landowners. The Board then established a plan commission and gave them the challenge of revising the ordinance to allow a little more leeway for additional development. That group recommended a cluster concept, which allowed for greater development potential. For example, a parcel of forty acres could have three building sites if 85% of the land was held as "open space." Larger parcels could also utilize the cluster concept but had to maintain 85% for open space. Open spaces were limited to agricultural use and permitted active and passive recreational uses by residents of the development and the general public.
>
> The ordinance also included a number of additional concepts to support land preservation. These concepts discouraged overcrowding, attempted to protect an agricultural base, provided for open space, protected vistas, maintained scenic beauty, and addressed storm water management. Furthermore it required the Board to determine land suitability of any subdivision, including provisions that encouraged the developer to protect and preserve: trees, shrubs, plantings, grasses,

architectural and historical sites, the rural character, environmentally sensitive areas, and scenic vistas.

In addition to the preservation of open space as detailed in the summary above, the Village of New Glarus and the Town of New Glarus resumed discussions through a Joint Town/Village Negotiations Committee in December of 2009 to pursue goals mutually beneficial to both communities. The following is a summary of where those discussions are as of the date of this document:

The Village of New Glarus and the Town of New Glarus have established a negotiation team to discuss and resolve issues of concern for our two communities. Early in the process the committee defined the issues and developed a mission statement which is: "It shall be the purpose of the Joint Negotiating Committee to carry out honest, energetic discussion of the issues and problems facing the Village of New Glarus and the Town of New Glarus and further to make concerted effort to bring these issues and problems to a timely conclusion acceptable to both parties."

Village interests are to develop discussion/agreement on equitable sharing of Library costs and to develop shared cost agreements on Village (and Town) parks and pool.

Town Interests are to negotiate a Cooperative Boundary Agreement (CBA) defining future areas of annexation possibilities and non-annexation, joint storm water areas and construction projects, extension of water and sewer facilities, and industrial development promotion programs.

As of this date the committee has tentatively agreed:

- The term of the contract shall be 20 years
- Upon prioritization of the items for discussion; the high priority items are a CBA and equitable sharing for library costs
- There should be an agreement for revenue sharing to achieve equitable sharing of library costs
- Commercial and industrial (C & I) development would be a good thing for the community and we should jointly work to promote it
- Upon those areas, as defined by a map, where there shall be no annexation for residential development
- All residential development immediately adjacent to Village boundary shall be required to build to the then current Village standards regarding installation of streets, curb and gutter, street lights, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, electric, gas and cable utilities, sidewalks and driveways in all development of five or more residential dwelling units
- Upon a list of areas of potential acquisition for joint public works garage location

- Both Village and Town ordinances will require changes to accommodate this
- To develop a Cooperative Boundary Agreement
- The Village will not object to certain zoning changes that will be required to accommodate development within the Town and within the Extraterritorial Zone (ETZ)
- An ongoing joint committee should continue indefinitely after the contract execution in order to address continuing joint issues

The items remaining to be resolved are resolution of storm water issues, complete the details of Revenue Sharing, to establish parameters for Expansion Committee (C & I), and clarification of extension of sewer and water into Town residential development areas.

Upon agreement of the balance of the issues, the committee will be recommending development of a resolution authorizing a cooperative boundary agreement to be considered by the respective boards, followed by a public hearing to receive public input. After that, the respective Municipal boards will prepare a contract for approval.

B. Parks Commission Background

The original 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. Source: Wisconsin Statute 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, plans, policies, and regulations. This plan is the fulfillment of the above directives, with the note that at present, the Town has only one parcel of land that has been developed into a conservation area/park/classroom tool.

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. The following are the five items that pertain to the Parks Commission directives stated above:

1. Encourage programs that educate local residents about the importance of natural resources.

2. Avoid the disturbance to wetlands, shore lands, and floodplains and discourage the disturbance to other environmentally sensitive areas.

3. Consider establishing more parks and outdoor recreational amenities (according to the Town of New Glarus Parks Commission) including: current park expansion and the incorporation of natural areas into parks and open space areas in an effort to protect them.

4. Encourage the preservation and maintenance of rural views and vistas.

5. Where and when appropriate, utilize County, State, and Federal programs or grants to conserve, maintain, and protect natural resources.

The Parks Commission conducted a survey of Town residents via direct mail and through their website to determine the needs of the residents as it pertained to Outdoor Recreation. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of the preservation of open space and natural resources as well as a trail system within the Town.

C. Accomplishments to Date

Throughout its history, the members of the New Glarus Parks Commission have sought 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 citizenry.

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 ensure 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 fund community partnership ventures. A complete summary of those funds can be found in Section VIII **Funding Plan**.

The following are actions/accomplishments of the Parks Commission:

2006

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

- The first budget of $14,200 was established for 2007

- The use of Impact Fees to partially fund future park projects attributable to new development in the Town was explored; as a result of a recommendation from the Parks Commission the Town Board established an ad-hoc subcommittee to review Impact Fees that lead to the adoption of an Impact Fees Ordinance in 2008

2007

- Establishment of sinking funds using current and future Parks Commission budgets to fund: $5,000 for community/town hall purchase and $4,000 for community partnership ventures

- Joint participation in the annual Village of New Glarus Arbor Day tree planting: a contribution of $190 towards tree purchases and member participation in the planting activities

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

- Two workshops were held with a total of six speakers presenting information about 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 from Tallgrass Restoration, LLC; the second "Suburban Gardening/Protecting Natural Resources" presented by Formecology and a representative from Sustain Dane

- Awarded a Wisconsin Environment Education Grant for $730 to fund a workshop on preserving family lands

- Sponsored two workshops on land trusts and conservation easements for owners of 35 acres or more; presenters included land trust specialists, attorneys and individuals who had utilized land trusts and easements

- Continued annual spring roadside cleanup established the year before and joint funding/volunteering for the Village-organized annual Arbor Day tree planting

- The Commission continued to work on website development as another means of communicating with Town residents

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

- Identified possible locations for new trails and land to purchase for a town park that could contain a town hall

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 and purchased prairie seeds to be used for the re-introduction of native species on the gifted land in the Windmill Ridge subdivision in an effort to restore the oak savannah and tall grass prairie environment for demonstration and educational purposes

- Received a Letter of Eligibility from the Wisconsin DNR that qualified the Town to receive State and Federal grant monies

- Discussions held with a DNR representative regarding resources and strategies related to land acquisition

- Hosted a Conservation Workshop with Mark O'Leary of Applied Ecological Services as the featured speaker

- Jointly explored, with a UW Extension agent, the possibility of hosting a regional meeting of towns, villages, counties and other interested entities in order to promote green space preservation, recreation and parks in the area

- Continued participation in the annual roadside cleanup and Arbor Day tree planting

- Members volunteered at the Village-sponsored Alphorn Triathlon

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

2010

- Hosted a well-attended workshop at the local high school on bluebirds, bluebird habitat, attracting bluebirds, and how to monitor and report fledgling results to the Blue Bird Restoration Association

- Removed debris from the town gifted land (officially named Blue Bird Ridge Conservancy) to clean up remnants of a farm landfill

- Continued mowing Bluebird Ridge Conservancy to remove sumac, honeysuckle, grape vines, thistles and other undesirable plants from the oak savannah area

- Continued the tradition of participating in the annual Arbor Day tree planting with the Village and the Alphornman Triathlon

2011

- Fill dirt was delivered to the Bluebird Ridge Conservancy property and spread over the abandoned landfill area that was cleaned up in 2010

- Signage was placed at the entrance to the Conservancy which included the newly adopted logo design for the Town of New Glarus Parks Commission

- A controlled burn was conducted at the Bluebird Ridge Conservancy lands to suppress invasive species and to activate native seeds

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:

U. S. Census Bureau 2010: New Glarus Town

Village of New Glarus 2010 Recreation program participation statistics

Village of New Glarus Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan – revised June 15, 2010 and adopted by the Village Board August 17, 2010

Minutes of the New Glarus Annual Town Meeting on April 13, 2010 when the New Glarus Parks Commission presented the results of the 2010 Parks Plan Survey to the electorate and invited discussion

Town of New Glarus Parks Commission Resident Survey March-April 2010

New Life for Backtown, a study prepared for the Village of New Glarus by UW-Madison Landscape Architecture students, Created: April 23, 2009

Town of New Glarus Public Needs Assessment conducted by Vierbicher Associates for the Impact Fee Ordinance, Adopted: April 8, 2008

Guidelines For the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans, created by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Community Assistance: 2007

Town of New Glarus Parks Plan, Adopted: April 11, 2006

Village of New Glarus Comprehensive Plan, Adopted: December 20, 2005

Village of New Glarus, Extraterritorial Area Plan, Adopted: December 6, 2005

Town of New Glarus, Green County, Comprehensive Plan, Adopted: December 5, 2005

The Wisconsin 2005-2010 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Town of New Glarus Vision Statement 2004

Town of New Glarus Assessment Rolls

Village of New Glarus Parks and Recreation Committee and Town of New Glarus Parks Commission joint meeting minutes

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

III. EXISTING RESOURCES

A. Overview

In March of 2010 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 are already in existence.

B. Community Parks

The Town owns Lot #49, 4.29 acres, Section 12 in Windmill Ridge, which was donated to the Town by the developer of this residential subdivision. The park which has been named Blue Bird Ridge Conservancy is accessed through a forty foot wide frontage on Windmill Ridge Road between W5291 and W5283 which is marked by a sign installed in the spring of 2011.

A narrow grassy path runs 175 feet 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.

The Parks Commission has begun to restore both the oak savannah and the remnant prairie through a controlled burn in the spring of 2011, which will be followed by monitoring the re-growth of native grasses and forbs. The oak savannah was mowed twice in 2010 to reduce the growth of sumac, honeysuckle, buckthorn and other invasive species and to allow the younger oak trees to grow without competition. This area was reseeded in the spring of 2010 with a blend of native plants formulated for oak savannahs.

Currently neighboring residents mow paths to allow access from Windmill Ridge Road into the park for hiking, bird watching and winter sports activities such as cross country skiing, snowshoeing and sledding.

The long-term plan is for this park to be used to study the oak savannahs and prairies that were native to this area prior to the arrival of European settlers; furthermore, to develop habitat to support wildlife such as the Eastern Bluebird.

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

The Village of New Glarus Extraterritorial Area Plan, dated December 6, 2005, Map 2, identifies Environmental Corridors and Protected Private Forest Land; the study was 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.

Current Town ordinance states that open space can be used for recreational purposes. Open spaces could potentially be placed within a conservancy, as noted in Chapter 110 Land Division and Subdivision of the current Town Code. Please refer to the summary within I A. of this document for more detail.

It is the opinion of the Parks Commission members that this type of information may be available through sources other than those mentioned above. This category of land is compatible with the Town goal to preserve natural areas and it potentially could be used for recreational easements/trails. The Parks Commission is interested in the identification of this type of property and the Commission members will continue their research rather than outsourcing that work.

D. County Owned Land

County-owned land in the Town consists of Right-of-Ways for County roads. No County Parks are located within the Town of New Glarus; however, the County Clerk oversees the two boat launches, the property at Pleasantview (formerly the County Farm) in Monroe that includes a small park, and Maralt Bluff Prairie near Albany.

E. School District Facilities:

The New Glarus School District's parks consist of an official football and soccer 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 2008, the New Glarus School District took ownership of the tennis courts west of the elementary school. There are now three courts, which have been resurfaced and are open for public use when they are not in use by the schools. A ten acre plot of land north of the New Glarus Monroe Clinic was purchased by the School District in 2006. The District intends to use the land for a sports complex or a new school, although plans for the development of the land are on hold due to the current economic conditions.

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 a new bathhouse, playground equipment, basket ball courts, a sand volleyball court, and a picnic shelter.

Glarner 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 December, 2010, the Town and Village of New Glarus worked together to bring back an old New Glarus tradition, and built an ice skating rink at Glarner 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, restrooms, and the school district's tennis courts. A Veteran's memorial was added to the park in the spring of 2011.

Other smaller Village parks consist of Candy Cane Park which includes playground equipment, Hoesly Pond, which contains a pond used for ice skating in the winter. Two soccer fields which include playground equipment installed in 2010 by volunteers, are directly west of the Valle Tell Phase I subdivision.

G. State Owned Facilities:

1. **New Glarus Woods State Park (NGWSP):**

The NGWSP encompasses 413 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 markers along the trail. In late April disabled hunters are allowed to hunt wild turkey, by permit only. 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, and six group sites for groups of up to 25 people. The picnic area provides tables, drinking water, restrooms, grills, and a substantial playground system for children. The Park is open year around for winter hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, which attract recreational enthusiasts during the off-season months. To promote winter use of this resource, the trails are groomed for cross-country skiing.
For more information on New Glarus Woods State Park, visit:
http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/specific/ngwoods/

2. **The Sugar River and Badger State Trails:**
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 now connects to the Badger State Trail. To the north, the Badger State Trail will extend to Madison, connecting 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). As of December, 2010, approximately 34 of the 40 miles of trail are complete. To the south, the Badger State Trail extends to Freeport, IL, where trail users will find connections to the 500 Grand Illinois Trail System. Parts of both the Badger State Trail and the Sugar River trail are included in the Ice Age Trail, which extends for over 1,000 miles in Wisconsin, following the edge of the last continental glacier in the Badger State.
For more information on the Badger and Sugar River State Trails, visit
http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/specific/badger/

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.

1. 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 non-profit organizations such as the New Glarus Soccer Association, Scouting, and Little League.

2. Individual and family-oriented recreational programs include basketball, hiking, walking, skiing, swimming, fishing, bicycling, ice skating, tennis, and volleyball. Recreation programs are also offered by the New Glarus Woods State Park and the Village of New Glarus.

3. In general, there are numerous playgrounds, picnic areas and scenic drives, such as Marty Road, a State-designated Rustic Road. The Barn Quilts of Green County project allows rural travelers the opportunity to view the latest rural art form.
   For more information about the Green County Barn Quilt project, visit http://www.greencountybarnquilts.com/

4. 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 with the remainder located within the Town of Exeter. The Swissland Miniature golf course is located in the Village.

Most of the summer youth programs that fulfills the needs for Town residents are met by the Village of New Glarus summer recreation programs. Another major summer activity for 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 1 identifies 2005 Pool Season Pass information by type, cost and number of passes purchased.

I. Existing Resources Conclusion

A review of existing resources has identified strengths and weaknesses:

1. 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, camping, picnic areas and cross country skiing in a natural wooded and prairie setting. These areas will continue to be preserved for future generations.

2. 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 2010 Village recreational programs reveals significant participation is by Town residents. The attendance review also showed that participants come from locations throughout the Town. The breakdown of registration and the location of Town participants is shown in **Exhibit 2** and **Exhibit 3**.

3. Strength: Bluebird Ridge Conservancy is available for bird watching, hiking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.

4. Strength: The New Glarus Village Parks and Recreation Committee and the Town of New Glarus Park and Recreation Commission meet jointly a minimum of twice a year, and currently co- sponsors the ice rink at Glarner Park. Other joint discussions include the possible creation of a community center and new cooperative recreational activities.

5. Strength: Annual participation of Town Park Commission members in Village sponsored activities, such as the Alphorn Triathlon and the Annual Arbor Day tree planting event.

6. Strength: The Town land division code insists open space be embodied in any future land division.

7. Strength: The Wisconsin southwestern region encompasses many recreational opportunities. The geography of the Driftless Area (i.e. that portion of the State that was not glaciated) is unique. The topography lends itself well to biking, hiking, sightseeing, photography, skiing, or an old-fashioned Sunday drive.

8. Strength: Stream bank improvement has revitalized the ecosystem of streams and rivers and native species are returning to the area. The Department of Natural Resources has identified almost all of the waterways in New Glarus as outstanding and exceptional.
   For more information, go to
   http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/section/FADdisclaimer.htm

9. Strength: The Parks Commission continues to search for a Town Park site that may also include a Town Hall. A sinking fund has been established and impact fees are collected to reach this goal. See Section

VII regarding ongoing contributions and fund balances current to the revision of this Plan.

10. Weakness: Although the Town owns and maintains one parcel of land that is being restored to native prairie and oak savanna, there remains a need for one or two additional large parcels for recreational use.

11. Weakness: Although the Town jointly funds and volunteers for the annual Arbor Day tree planting, there is no organized Town tree planting program.

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

Exhibit 1

2010 POOL SEASON PASS REVENUES

Pass Type	**Cost**	**#Purchased**
Family/Resident (family of 2-4)	$90	74
Family/Non-Resident	$160	50
Family/Resident (family of 5)	$92	15
Family/Non-Resident	$170	12
Family/Resident (family of 6)	$98	3
Family/Non-Resident	$180	0
Family/Resident (family of 7)	$104	1
Family/Non-Resident	$190	0
Family/Resident (family of 8)	$110	0
Family/Non-Resident	$200	0
Single/Resident	$45	30
Single/Non-Resident	$80	21
Toddler/Resident	$15	4
Toddler/Non-Resident	$20	15
Daycare Provider	$10	14
Scholarship/Resident	$ 0	5
Scholarship/Non-Resident	$ 0	2
TOTAL SEASON PASSES		**246**

TOTAL RESIDENT PASSES	**146**
TOTAL NON-RESIDENT PASSES	**100**

Exhibit 2

VILLAGE OF NEW GLARUS 2010 SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Source: 2010 Village of New Glarus Parks and Recreation registration figures

T-Ball/Coach Pitch (Fee $15 per player); Completed Grade Range 4K-3 for T-ball, Completed Grade Range 4K-3 for Coach Pitch

*Residents: 48
Non-residents: 58

Girls Softball (Per Player Fee, $50 Village Resident, $60 Non-Resident); Combined Grades 4-6;

*Residents: 21
Non-residents: 34

Little League (Per Player Fee, $45 Village Resident; $50 Non-Resident) Completed Grade 4, 5, or 6;

*Residents: 31
Non-Residents: 41

Touchdown Club (Fee $40 per player); Entering Grades 4-6 or 7-9;

*Residents: 8
Non-residents: 18

Youth Kickball (Fee $25 per player); Completed Grades K-2 or 3-4

*Residents: 5
Non-residents: 10

Youth Volleyball (Fee $30 per player); Entered Grades 5-6 or 7-8;

*Residents: 4
Non-residents: 6

Ride and Slide (Fee $ 15 child); Age Range not available;

*Residents: 7
Non-residents: 9

Pass, Pedal, and Play (Fee $20 per child); Completed Grades K-1 or 2-4;

*Residents: 21
Non-residents: 34

Take a Hike (Fee $ 15 per participant); Age Range not available;

*Residents: 1
Non-residents: 0

3rd Grade Pitching Machine (Fee $30 per player); Completed Grade 3;

*Residents: 3
Non-residents: 9

Krafty Kids (Free [sponsored by Vision Youth]); Age Range 5+;

*Residents: 0
Non-residents: 0

Kid Fit (Fee $20 per participant); Grades 3, 4, & 5;

*Residents: 2
Non-residents: 0

MS/HS All Terrain Training (Fee $ 40 per participant); Grade Range MS or HS;

*Residents: 1
Non-residents: 3

* Village residents

Exhibit 3

Location of Town residents who participated in the 2010 Village Summer Recreation Program

2nd Street
Airport Road
Argue Road
Ashley Lane
Blue Vista Lane
CTR H
CTR O
CTR N
CTR NN
CTR W
Dahlk Road
Durst Road
Exeter Crossing Road
Farmers Grove Road
Highland Drive
High Prairie Lane
Klassy Road
Kristy Lane
Klassy Road
Legler Valley Road
Marty Road
Meadow Valley Road
Old Madison Road
Olstad Lane
Pioneer Road
Sandrock Road
Shamrock Lane
Spring Valley Road
State Highway 69
Timber Lane
Valley View Road
Village View Road
Windmill Ridge Road

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, educational property seminars, 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 4** identifies the population changes in the Town of New Glarus.

Exhibit 4

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%
2010	1,314	371	39.3%

The Town of New Glarus has been in a state of change for the past 20 years. For most of the Town's post-settlement history dairy farmers raised traditional crops including corn and alfalfa hay that was produced on farms averaging 200 acres in size; these residents had their recreational needs 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 other careers. With few young adults interested in pursuing farming and even fewer landowners finding economic stability in that vocation, land began to be sold for housing. Proximity to Madison and the beautiful landscape brought an influx of interested home buyers. Local realtors saw potential benefits in investing in farms for residential development purposes.

The Town has transitioned from this traditional rural town to a bedroom community populated by commuters residing on 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 5** indicates the number of parcels, as of 2010, in the Town of New Glarus by 5-acre and 40-acre increments.

Exhibit 5

2010 Parcel Counts in the Town of New Glarus by 5-Acre Increments

Parcels	Count
0-4.99 acres	447
5-9.99 acres	180
10-14.99 acres	63
15-19.99 acres	40
20-24.99 acres	37
25-29.99 acres	14
30-34.99 acres	15
35-39.99 acres	23
40 and greater acres	166

Exhibit 6 classifies land in the Town of New Glarus by use. Between 2006 and 2011 the residential acreage has increased by 20 acres whereas agricultural land use has diminished by 223 acres. It appears, therefore, that the open space requirement for residential development since the adoption of the Land Division/Subdivision Code has been successful in slowing residential development while preserving farm land and cannot be attributable solely to the economic slowdown in recent years.

Exhibit 6

Classification of Town of New Glarus, Acreage

2006 Classification	Acreage	2011 Classification	Acreage
Residential	1,847	Residential	1867
Commercial	143	Commercial	138
Agriculture	15,314	Agriculture	15,091
Undeveloped	962	Undeveloped	907
Ag Use Forest	1,410	Ag Use Forest	1,475
Forest	380	Forest	342
Agricultural Homesite	199	Agricultural Homesite	201
Special Forest	959	Special Forest	1,012
Exempt (Federal, State, County, School, etc.)	539	Exempt (Federal, State, County, School, etc.)	539

Total parcel counts and parcel counts for a single category may not equal the breakdown because a single tax number can have land or improvements in more than one class or use.

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 7** shows a breakdown of the population by age group.

Exhibit 7

AGE DISTRIBUTION
Source: 2000 Census*

GENDER AND AGE

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

C. Demographics: A Town in Transition

New Homes built in New Glarus Town during the years 2005-2010 compared to the years 1999-2004 show a decrease of 46.04%. The average value of a new home built during 2010 in the Town of New Glarus was $378,000.

Therefore, through population projection increases and the resulting increase in new homes (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, future planning and consideration of open land preservation and recreational needs must be addressed.

*2010 Census data was unavailable at the time this Plan was printed; however, the updated statistics will be inserted as **Appendix V A. Census Updates** when the material is available

Exhibit 8 shows new residences in New Glarus in the period 1999– 2010.

Exhibit 8

NEW RESIDENCES IN NEW GLARUS

2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
4	2	6	12	7	20	21	23	30	25	23	16

D. 2005 Town of New Glarus Parks Commission Survey

In March of 2010, the Town of New Glarus Parks Commission distributed 512 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 92 responses were received which reflects a participation rate of 17.8%. 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**.

Residents were asked to indicate how they rated the level of importance for the following items:

1. Connected trails, sectional trails, and horse trails
2. Town Hall site with parks
3. Preserving Natural Areas
4. Outdoor skating rink, access to streambanks, dog park, and community gardens
5. Sports/recreation/football/soccer fields
6. Community Park (Picnic Benches, Walking Trail, and Playground)
7. Rustic Roads
8. Summer recreation activities
9. Interest in volunteering for special and annual events
10. Interest in membership

The top four areas of interest identified by the residents are listed below in descending order of priority:

1. Preserving Natural Areas, Prairies, and Wetlands
2. Bikeways, Cross-Country and Town Trails
3. Community (Presently the Town of New Glarus does not own a Town Hall, but rather rents a facility in the Village)
4. Sports and Recreation

The 2010 survey echoes the results of the 2005 survey for the top three-ranked items; however, the fourth-ranked item reflects an increased interest in Town supported sports and recreation and less interest in rustic roads. The Parks Commission members will therefore work with the Joint Town/Village Negotiation Committee in their efforts to define a cost-sharing formula to ensure continued and possibly expanded recreational programming hosted by the Village Parks and Recreation Department to meet Town resident needs.

A complete copy of the 2010 Town of New Glarus Parks Commission Resident Survey Results including landowner comments is provided in **Appendix II**.

E. Impact Fees Needs Assessment

Based upon the Town of New Glarus 2008 Public Facility Needs Assessment, the Town implemented a lump sum impact fee of $1,481 for every new residential unit built in the Town. The following descriptions and charts of park projects to be funded by impact fees are excerpts from the 2008 study mentioned above:

Community Park

The capital costs associated with the development of a community park include land acquisition, site preparation, and amenities. Local real estate professionals and the Town's assessor were consulted regarding the potential cost of land acquisition for a parcel between 10 and 15 acres in size. The Town currently does not have a parcel under ownership or identified for the potential location of the park. If the park were combined with a Town Hall, then it would increase the overall area needed for the facilities. Land sale prices for properties of comparable size within the Town were identified for sales during 2006 and 2007. The cost per acre of these sales ranged from $7,000 per acre to $19,000 per acre, which largely depended on the proximity of the parcel to Dane County. Given this data, the Town felt comfortable using an average of $13,000 per acre to estimate future land acquisition costs. If the Town proceeds with a 10-acre site, approximately three-fourths of this area will be utilized for a park. With 7.5 acres at $13,000 per acre, the Town can expect to pay $97,500 for land for a community park.

Table 5.5 below provides an opinion of probable cost for a 7.5 acre community park. These estimates provide both site preparation work and amenities the Town has identified for the park. The estimates were calculated by Vierbicher Associates Inc. and are based on previous park planning and construction costs. These costs are calculated in 2008 dollars, and will need to be inflated depending on the timing of actual construction.

Community Trails

In the Parks Plan the Town identified the need for trails to be constructed which would enhance the interconnectivity of multi-modal transportation through the community. It is assumed that the majority of trail locations will be in the public

right-of-way. In certain locations, the Town may work with local property owners to acquire access easements for public trails.

The estimated capital costs associated with trail construction are based on construction type. Cost estimates were provided to the Town for both gravel and asphalt trails, as outlined in Tables 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 below. The cost of each construction type was then applied to each segment of trail to identify the appropriate impact fee.

Table 5.1 Trail Cost Estimate Option #1

Option #1: 10' Wide trail with 2" Limestone Screenings and 6" Crushed Stone Base (Cost estimated on a 1,000 linear foot path with a 10' wide Limestone Screening top)

ITEM	Description	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantity	Unit Price	Unit Total
1	Unclassified Excavation	CY	778	$8.50	$6,611.11
2	Finish Grade Crushed Stone Base	LF	1,000	$2.00	$2,000.00
3	6" – Crushed Aggregate Base Course	TON	444	$8.25	$3,666.67
4	2" – Limestone Screenings	TON	126	$6.00	$755.56
5	Restoration	SY	667	$0.80	$533.33
				TOTAL	**$13,566.67**
				COST PER LINEAR FOOT	**$13.57**

Table 5.2 Trail Cost Estimate Option #2

Option #2: 10' Wide trail with 2" Asphalt Surface and a 6" Crushed Stone Base (Cost estimated on a 1,000 linear foot path with a 10' wide asphalt top)

ITEM	Description	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantity	Unit Price	Unit Total
1	Unclassified Excavation	CY	778	$8.50	$6,611.11
2	Finish Grade Crushed Stone Base	LF	1,000	$2.00	$2,000.00
3	6" – Crushed Aggregate Base Course	TON	444	$8.25	$3,666.67
4	2" – Limestone Screenings	TON	126	$51.50	$6,580.56
5	Restoration	SY	667	$0.80	$533.33
				TOTAL	**$19,391.67**
				COST PER LINEAR FOOT	**$19.39**

Table 5.3 Trail Cost Estimates

Trail Location	Length in Miles	Length in Feet	Construction Cost (Option #1)	Construction Cost (Option #2)	Difference in Cost of Options
Durst Road	1.4 miles	7,392	$100,309	$143,331	$43,021
Spring Valley to Old Madison	.7 miles	3,696	$50,155	$71,665	$21,511
Meadow Valley Rd to CTH H	.4 miles	2,112	$28,660	$40,952	$12,292
TOTAL	**2.5 miles**	**13,200**	**$179,124**	**$255,948**	**$76,824**

*** Table 5.4 Old Madison Road Trail Costs (4-Ft. Path Construction of 1.02 miles in length)**

Description	Unit of Measure	Estimated Quantity	Unit Price	Item Total
Crushed Stone Base	TONS	1,065	$9.00	$9,585.00
Undercut and Replace w/ 3”-6” Crushed stone	TONS	200	$16.00	$3,200.00
Asphalt Pavement – 1-3/4” binder	TONS	250	$48.00	$12,000.00
Asphalt Pavement – 1-3/4” surface	TONS	250	$48.00	$12,000.00
			TOTAL	**$36,758.00**

For the purpose of this assessment, it is assumed that the Town will complete 3.52 miles of community trails, listed above in table 5.3 and 5.4, by the year 2025. The trail along Old Madison Road undergoing design will be constructed in 2008*. These trails are intended to connect various locations within the Township and to increase access to the community parks system. Because these trails will serve the entire Town by increasing access and connectivity, it is justifiable to consider the portion of costs attributable to new development be recoverable by impact fees. As mentioned previously, the distribution of costs must be divided equitably among new and existing development. New development is intended to account for 36% of the total number of households within the Town in the year 2025; and therefore, 36% of the total capital costs for trail construction can be recovered by an impact fee on future households.

* **Note: the original 2008 Facility Needs Assessment Study included the 1.02 mile trail, 4 feet in width to be constructed in 2008 to run parallel to Old Madison Road. Because the trail could not be built to current standards (i.e. it was not wide enough to allow for two-way pedestrian and bike traffic) without exceeding the money budgeted, a compromise decision was reached by the Town Board to extend the current paved width of Old Madison Road by approximately two feet on each shoulder. These paved extensions were separated visually from the traffic lanes by a painted white stripe.**

Pool House Replacement

The Village of New Glarus has a public swimming pool that is utilized by Town residents. Due to population growth within both communities and increased patronage at the facility, replacement of the existing pool house was necessary. The estimated cost of the pool house replacement was approximately $500,800. Based on the population projections for each community, approximately 50% percent of the future patrons will be Town residents.

Table 5.5: Calculation of Parks Impact Fee

Facility	Capital Cost	Legal, Engineering & Design Fees (10% of Cap. Costs)	Inflated Costs in 2013*	Inflated Costs Allocated to New Households (36% of total costs)	New Households	Impact Fee per New Household
Community Park Land Acquisition	$97,500 (7.5 acres at $13,000 per acre)	N/A	$118,620	$42,700	258	$165
Community Park Improvements	$252,850	$25,285	$338,390	$121,820	258	$472
Trails (Option #2)	$292,706	$29,270	$391,733	$141,024	258	$547
Pool House (Joint Project with Village of New Glarus)	$174,812 (44% of $397,300 total cost)	N/A	$241,685	$87,005	258	$297
TOTALS	$817,868	$54,555	$1,061,428	$382,111		
					Total Parks Impact Fee:	$1,481

* Inflated at 4% annually beginning in 2008 and going through the end of 2013; numbers are rounded

F. Needs Assessment Conclusion

The Town continues to grow at a steady pace. 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. It is the opinion of the Parks Commission that the Town has a responsibility to its residents to provide a growing population enough area and facilities for passive and active recreational activities. This Commission, therefore, is committed to promoting this goal.

The greatest need expressed by Town residents in the 2005 and 2010 surveys is the preservation and protection of the existing natural environment; therefore, the Parks Commission has identified this area as a number one priority. 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 through ongoing educational workshops to encourage preservation and protection should encourage the desired results. It is the ongoing mission of the Parks Commission to encourage the preservation of open space and to identify those lands ideal for preservation; furthermore, the Parks Commission is prepared to manage capital bequests, bequests of property, or to manage gifted lands into perpetuity.

Residents also expressed through the 2005 and 2010 surveys their desire for increased Town cooperation with the Village of New Glarus to ensure that

facilities, activities, and programming will continue to be available for residents of both communities. Recreational needs have changed in the past and will continue to evolve as our population grows; as a consequence the Town of New Glarus Parks Commission will continue to stay current with and promote those trends in the best interest of the residents we serve.

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 including the Blue Bird Ridge Conservancy. 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.

The 2010 survey of residents indicated overwhelming support of efforts to preserve natural resources.

The Town of New Glarus is located in an area of Wisconsin that was unglaciated 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, in attracts visitors who, in turn, help support our local businesses.

Examples of Natural Environment:

- 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

- Identify naturalist and environmental groups, which will help with preservation and provide grant money to assist residents

- Consult with the Green County Forester regarding the creation of a Town tree-planting program for interested property owners

- Educate Town residents on measures they can take to preserve their own property and foster proper environmental practices

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, Badger State Trail, and trails and greenways for other purposes including, but not limited to the following: active recreation, passive recreation such as birding, community gardens, heirloom gardens, and natural paths for the safe feeding and passage of native life forms.

Because of the continued interest in this type of activity reflected in the 2010 survey, the design and development of a trail network using public and private easements is an ongoing goal of the Parks Commission. It should be noted that

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 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 complete with benches that invites and encourages Town and Village residents as well as visitors to enjoy the local beauty while walking

- 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 as detailed in the Village of New Glarus Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan

- Link newer subdivision areas to the Village by walking/bike trails

- Seek out grant funds, donations, and bequests for trails and public easements

- Investigate the feasibility of adding additional roads to the State of Wisconsin Rustic Road System, or creating a Scenic Rural Route for bikes and cars alike, where adventurers would be lead through various points of interest in the area

- Continue to dedicate a percentage of each year's Parks Budget 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 potentially provide a Town recreational facility for the benefit of all Town residents of all ages.

Objectives for Community Park:

- Continue to search for a site appropriate for a Town park with a possible location for a Town Hall

- Continue to contribute a percentage of each year's Parks Budget to a sinking fund for community park/Town Hall site acquisition

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. Please refer to the summary of Joint Town/Village Negotiation Committee meetings contained with Section I.

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.

F. Recreation

Goal 5: Continue to ensure the availability of recreational activities for the enjoyment and benefit of all Town residents in partnership with the Village of New Glarus and New Glarus School District.

Objectives for Recreational Activities:

- Continue to be responsive to community requests to assist in providing recreational resources
- Continue education through workshops that includes a review of guidelines recommended by the State and Federal governments
- Respond to future needs as they are identified

VI. ACTION PLAN

This action plan has been developed based on feedback from the citizens of the Town of New Glarus based on a survey of needs conducted in 2010, the current development policy of the Town Plan Commission, Town growth patterns, and potential joint participation with the Village of New Glarus as it relates to shared resources.

The action plan is organized into five categories: 1. General Recommendations; 2. Natural Areas, Conservancy and Green Space Preservation; 3. Trails Plan; 4. Town

Park; and 5. Town support of Village-owned and run Parks and Recreation activities/facilities.

A. General Recommendations

1. The decision to move forward on developing Town based Parks and Recreation facilities and opportunities should be undertaken only with strong input by residents, the Town Planning Commission and the Town Board**.**

2. The collaboration with the Village of New Glarus Parks Committee should be viewed as a high priority in order to provide the best opportunity for recreational opportunities for Town residents.

3. The Town should take advantage of Federal and State grant opportunities to assist with land acquisition efforts and the development of parks and recreation opportunities.

4. Actively seek contributions of time, money, and materials from civic groups, service organizations, individuals, and corporations to further the efforts of the Parks Commission to preserve open space. This assistance could include gifting land and money for purchasing land identified as a high priority for preservation.

5. The Town Parks Plan will be updated on a continuing basis, so as to properly reflect the priorities and needs of its residents. These amendments should include an update of demographic information as it becomes available from the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources, the change in any acquisition of land in the Town for parks and recreation, inclusion of any significant grant money or other donations that would affect the scope of this Plan, and any major joint Town/Village agreements that would affect the Plan. The Parks Commission should plan on updating the residents' needs and desires every five years at the minimum.

B. Natural Areas, Conservancy and Green Space Preservation

1. Identify DNR-supported easements on a map, primarily where waterways have had streambank improvements related to providing habitat for trout. By identifying these areas for recreational fishing it will assist Town residents in locating access to waterways as well as providing information for visitors to our Town.

2. Continue the series of lectures on a variety of conservation issues that are of interest to residents. The goal is to hold two seminars each calendar year.

3. Add additional land restoration advice and resources to the Parks Commission website. Using the website as a clearing house of information

will allow us to share the latest in land restoration from the University of Wisconsin Extension, Prairie Enthusiasts, and other organizations for the benefit of Town residents. This topic has proven to be very popular as more people are working to either regenerate existing natural areas or to establish them from scratch on their property.

4. Continue efforts to identify those areas desirable for preservation and pursue funding options that include grants, bequests and donations from private and corporate sources. Within the Town there are potentially historic sites, those having significant geological value and areas that could have considerable potential for recreation. In order to acquire these lands the options for funding opportunities should be explored to minimize the use of Town resources.

5. The Parks Commission will partner with experts in specific fields to actively pursue educational opportunities for residents in the areas of conservation, wildlife, land preservation, and other areas deemed to be "of interest" to Town residents.

C. Trails Plan

1. Seek resident input and public discussion sessions for the sectional trails identified in Needs Assessment study for impact fees. Based on survey results this is an area that needs to be addressed not only to provide lifetime recreational opportunities but also to facilitate access to the village by non-motorized means. The goal is to make this a grassroots plan with residents providing the input for the best routes, providing easements and designing the overall trail system.

2. Form a subcommittee to conduct a feasibility study and timetable to implement trail development and easement agreements. Based on input from the DNR and other communities that have developed a trail system it is their recommendation to maximize citizen involvement and to determine the best method to develop a trail.

3. Purchase or secure easements identified in the public discussion sessions. This phase is based on the grassroots approach to planning a trail, which would require a formalized right of way being created through private land with landowner permission and support being given to support the trail.

4. Install trail(s). This portion would be the actual layout of the trail following DNR best practices for trail installation including the ability of the trail to accommodate disabled users, best surface material to be used, having elevated walkways in areas prone to standing water or to protect wetland areas and the creation of educational opportunities along the trail related to the plant and animal species that live in the area.

D. Town Park

1. Continue to review ideal sites for Town Park. The Parks Commission will continue to seek out opportunities as they arise to secure a location that would provide additional recreational opportunities in a Town Park. There is also potential for a Town-owned meeting facility to be built on land that would be shared with a park.

2. Purchase property for Town Park and determine its management. Once a property has been identified for purchase there will need to be discussion on how to maintain it, monitor its use and initiate any capital expenditures that need to be made.

3. Consider recreation fields within the Town Park. Usage of soccer, baseball and other organized sports activities currently offered in the Village would determine if additional recreational fields would be needed. The topography of the land would also influence the practicality of creating such fields.

E. Town Support of Village-Owned and Managed Parks and Recreation Activities/Facilities

1. Support Town contributions to the Village on an annual basis for Town portion of Village Parks and Recreation costs not covered by user fees. Town residents who currently participate in Village sponsored activities pay a non-resident fee to take advantage of these offerings. Currently the individual fees charged cover only a portion of the total cost of these activities.

2. Work out a method for permanent representation for Village Parks' programming decision-making. Through the joint meetings being held between the Village Board and the Town Board and the Joint Parks meetings taking place, we will strive to establish a joint decision making entity to address parks and recreational offerings, fees and other issues of mutual concern. Future possible goals could include a joint community center and/or skate park.

3. Equalize Town of New Glarus and Village of New Glarus user fees for Parks registration and pool pass. Currently Town residents' pay a higher fee to offset their use of Village recreational opportunities in order to fairly determine what the appropriate fee should be we will need to determine usage and funding strategy that is fair to all.

F. Recreation Activities/New Opportunities

- Seek landowners' input on community recreational needs and associated costs

- Encourage volunteer activity and private funding methods where possible

- Fully cooperate and support programs such as the baseball, basketball and soccer programs sponsored by the Village

- Participate in the swimming pool renovation and capital improvement needs for an equal membership cost for the Town residents

- Support current and future summer recreation activities as identified by Town residents

- Actively pursue partnerships with business and industry to help to offset costs associated with Town recreation projects or collaborative Town/Village joint projects, which can be recognized by one or more of the following methods:
  - Press release
  - Letter of thanks to the contributing partner with a copy submitted to the press
  - Website link to the contributing business partner on the Parks website clearly stating the project the business partner has underwritten in part or whole
  - Consideration of naming rights held in perpetuity in the event of donated land or, in the case of donated capital used to fund a major Town project

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

Endorsement of this plan by the Town residents at the Annual Town Meeting on April 12, 2011 and adoption by the Town Board by Resolution are the steps required steps to approve this updated version of the Parks Plan. The Town of New Glarus Parks Commission will initiate implementation by project according to the following list and timeline given in **Appendix III**:

- Identify potential sites for a Town Park that may include property for a Town Hall

- Continue to pursue a joint agreement with the Village of New Glarus to ensure Town resident recreation needs are met

- Continue workshops supporting resident-driven efforts to preserve natural resources

- Continue the restoration efforts of the prairie remnant and oak savanna at the Bluebird Ridge Conservancy and promote its use as a classroom tool

- Produce a map of DNR-supported streambank improvements in the community including access points to those areas open to the public; include the map as an addendum to this document and post the map to the Town of New Glarus website and Parks Commission website

- Identify those areas within the Town that would be ideal to preserve and protect for future generations

- Rank the items identified above to define the level of urgency for action and develop a plan to protect those resources

- Trail development

- Pursue funding options from external sources to manifest action plans

- Continue to promote membership on and volunteer opportunities with the Parks Commission

VIII. FUNDING PLAN

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

1. Base funding for projects will be achieved through the continued contribution to Sinking Funds that are part of each annual budget of $15,000 and through the use of Impact Fees for capital costs identified in the 2008 Public Facilities Needs Assessment. The following are the totals for each fund as of February 23, 2011:

   $17,855.96 Community Partnerships Sinking Fund (20% of the annual Parks budget is pledged for this fund each year)

   $30,418.38 Town Hall Community Park Sinking Fund (33% of the annual Parks budget is pledged for this fund each year)

   $11,876.04 Impact Fees (41% of the total impact fee collected for each new residential building permit issued by the Town of New Glarus)

2. Continue to pursue additional Park funding from a combination of Federal, State, and Non-Profit Organization matching grants to reduce dependence upon property taxes.

3. 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.

4. Continue to encourage landowners to preserve family lands from future development through the use of conservation easements.

5. Encourage private donations of money or land by recognizing or memorializing certain individuals and organizations through the use of plaques and naming rights.

6. Promote acceptance of cost-sharing of Village of New Glarus Parks and Recreation activities.

7. 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.

8. Continue to build volunteer database to assist in the implementation and maintenance of Parks Commission-directed activities.

9. Continue to encourage effective conservation practices and links to resources including but not limited to the following on the Parks website: natural area organizations such as The Prairie Enthusiasts, the Blue Mounds Group and conservancy groups who assist or manage oak savannah and prairie natural areas.

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 2010 and plans to do another survey in 2015 for the purpose of soliciting public input regarding the parks, recreation, conservancy and green space needs of the Town of New Glarus.

APPENDIX I
Survey Letter and Survey

OFFICE OF

Town of New Glarus

March 22, 2010

Dear Town of New Glarus Neighbors,

The Town of New Glarus Parks Commission once again needs your help! Our original Parks Plan that was approved at the April 2006 Annual Meeting will need to be updated and approved at the April 2011 Annual Meeting. We need your suggestions, ideas, and support for the Parks Commission in the areas of land preservation, recreation, and green space.

Over the course of these past four years your Parks Commission has met jointly with the Village of New Glarus Parks and Recreation Committee in an ongoing effort to develop joint goals for our community and to assist in the annual Arbor Day tree planting and Alphornman Triathlon. Some members of the Commission served on the Impact Fees Committee that determined the projects the Town would likely undertake in the ten years following adoption of this Ordinance in 2008. Potential projects included a joint library, Town Park and Town hall, trails, and expansion and relocation of the Town garage.

Parks members have also hosted ongoing workshops for members of our community including Bluebirding in Wisconsin, Conservation Planning, Preserving Your Driftless Area Family Lands, Rain Barrels, Rain Gardens, Native Habitats, Prairie Restoration for the Private Land Owner, Selecting Plants for Native Landscapes and Wildlife, Invasive Plants, Prairie and Savanna Restoration, First Settlement of the Town, and Presettlement Vegetation of New Glarus. More recently your Commission members have been hard at work to restore a piece of gifted land off Windmill Ridge Road which has been named the Bluebird Ridge Conservancy. This property is a remnant of native prairie and oak savanna.

Enclosed is a brief survey asking you to review and to rank in order of importance the current projects, ongoing projects, and possible future projects of the Commission. Completed surveys can be dropped to the Town Office during regular business hours Monday-Friday, 8:15-5:15, can be mailed to: Town of New Glarus, Parks Commission, PO Box 448, New Glarus, WI 53574, or dropped off in a special ballot box at the New Glarus Public Library. You can also opt to take the survey online by visiting our Parks website at the following location: http://www.newglarustownparks.org/ and then clicking on the link to the survey on the home page.

Please return your completed survey or take the survey online by April 30, 2010. A brief list of the Parks Commissions accomplishments, goals, and early survey results will be reviewed at this year's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2010 starting at 6:30 PM in addition to other topics. Please attend to listen, ask questions, and share your opinions. You are welcome to attend our regular monthly meetings held at the Town Office on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. Current members of the Commission include: Chuck Sasso (chair), Pete Shaffer (vice-chair), Russ Whitacre, Ellen Caskey, Chris Narveson, and Pete Raskovic. Please contact the Town Office (608) 527-2390 with any questions.

P.O. Box 448 ~ 1101 Hwy. 69 South ~ New Glarus, WI 53574-0448 ~ Phone 608/527-2390
www.tn.newglarus.wi.gov

TOWN OF NEW GLARUS PARKS COMMISSION SURVEY

1. How important do you think the following options are for our community?

	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important
Bike trail	☐	☐	☐
A trail linking the Town to the Village	☐	☐	☐
Sectional trails in the Town that don't link to the Village	☐	☐	☐
Horse trail(s)	☐	☐	☐

2. How important do you think a Town Hall site with parks is for our community?

Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important
☐	☐	☐

3. How important do you think preserving the following natural areas are for our community?

	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important
Streams, creeks, and rivers	☐	☐	☐

4. How important do you think the following options are for our community?

	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important
Outdoor skating rink	☐	☐	☐
Access to stream-banks for fishing	☐	☐	☐
Dog park	☐	☐	☐
Community garden(s)	☐	☐	☐

5. How important do you think a sports/recreation/football/soccer fields are within the Town?

Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important
☐	☐	☐

6. How important is a Community Park (including picnic tables, benches, walking trail, and/or playground) to you in our community?

Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important
☐	☐	☐

7. How important is it for you to have additional roads in the Town be designated as Rustic Roads?

Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important

TOWN OF NEW GLARUS PARKS COMMISSION SURVEY

☐ ☐ ☐

8. How important to you are Town organized summer recreational activities for our community?

Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important
☐	☐	☐

9. Are you interested in volunteering to assist with any of the following Town activities and/or joint town/Village activities? If so then please provide us contact information in the area below.

	Yes	No
Annual Spring cleanup of roadsides	☐	☐
Annual cleanup of the Bluebird Ridge Conservancy	☐	☐
Attendance at workshops on local history, conservation, and wildlife	☐	☐
Annual Arbor Day tree planting	☐	☐
Annual Alphornman Triathlon	☐	☐

10. Are you interested in serving as a Parks Commission member? If so then please provide us contact information in the area below.

Yes	No
☐	☐

Your contact information is optional unless you answered yes to any or all or questions 9 and or 10.

Your name: _____

Your mailing address: _____

Your email address: _____

Other comments or suggestions:

APPENDIX II

TOWN OF NEW GLARUS
PARKS COMMISSION
SURVEY RESULTS AND COMMENTS
APRIL 2010

Surveys mailed 3/26/2010 were to be returned or answered online by 4/30/2010. Of the 512 surveys mailed, 8 were undeliverable due to address changes (1.57%). Of the remaining 504 delivered, 92 were returned or answered online (17.8%).

1. How important do you think the following options are for our community?

	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important	NR
Bike trail	18 (20%)	26 (28%)	46 (50%)	2 (2%)
A trail linking the Town to the Village	24 (26%)	30 (33%)	36 (39%)	2 (2%)

Sectional trails in the Town that don't link to the Village	55 (59%)	27 (29%)	8 (9%)	3 (3%)
Horse trail(s)	69 (75%)	12 (13%)	8 (9%)	3 (3%)

2. How important do you think a Town Hall site with parks is for our community?

Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important	NR
49(54%)	19(21%)	20(22%)	3(3%)

3. How important do you think preserving the following natural areas are for our community?

	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important	NR
Streams, creeks, and rivers	7 (8%)	17 (18%)	67 (73%)	1 (1%)

4. How important do you think the following options are for our community?

	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important	NR
Outdoor skating rink	46 (50%)	31 (34%)	14 (15%)	1 (1%)
Access to stream-banks for fishing	33 (36%)	42 (46%)	17 (18%)	0
Dog park	65 (71%)	19 (21%)	7 (7%)	1 (1%)
Community garden(s)	57 (62%)	24 (26%)	10 (11%)	1 (1%)

5. How important do you think a sports/recreation/football/soccer fields are within the Town?

Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important	NR
46 (50%)	25 (27%)	21 (23%)	0

6. How important is a Community Park (including picnic tables, benches, walking trail, and/or playground) to you in our community?

Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important	NR
38 (41%)	26 (28%)	28 (31%)	0

7. How important is it for you to have additional roads in the Town be designated as Rustic Roads?

Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important	NR
70 (76%)	17 (19%)	4 (4%)	1(1%)

8. How important to you are Town organized summer recreational activities for our community?

Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important	NR
50 (54%)	25 (27%)	17 (19%)	0

9. Are you interested in volunteering to assist with any of the following Town activities and/or joint town/Village activities? If so then please provide us contact information in the area below.

	Yes	No	NR
Annual Spring cleanup of roadsides	18 (20%)	49 (53%)	25 (27%)

Annual cleanup of the Bluebird Ridge Conservancy	17 (19%)	50 (54%)	25 (27%)
Attendance at workshops on local history, conservation, and wildlife	22 (24%)	47 (51%)	23 (25%)
Annual Arbor Day tree planting	19 (21%)	50 (54%)	23 (25%)
Annual Alphornman Triathlon	6 (7%)	59 (64%)	27 (29%)

10. Are you interested in serving as a Parks Commission member? If so then please provide us contact information in the area below.

Yes	No	NR
4 (4%)	72 (78%)	16 (18%)

The following comments were received on the returned surveys:

	How important do you think the following options are for our community?
1	Really like the idea of expanding trails linking Town to Village. Could trail be expanded from chamber to the north, parallel to hwy 69 (i.e., near snowmobile winter trail)? I've observed a good number of cyclists biking (unsafely) on highway 69 north of Town.
2	We have a State Park located in the center of our township so I don't understand why we need to duplicate the services. Horse trails are located within 15 minutes in Mt Vernon WI. Again why duplicate costs and services when we should be working together.
3	We need to continue to provide healthy lifestyle options for all members of the community.
4	There really is no need for bike trails in the town. We already have the Sugar River and Badger trails and other than Highway 69, which has bike lanes and plenty of shoulder, most town roads have light traffic. I am an avid bicyclist and see no need for further trails.
5	Bike trails bring people to New Glarus and are used by local bikers and walkers. With the City of Madison and Dane County extending their trail farther south making one long trail, even more people will use our trails. Fewer people would use the horse trails because a great deal fewer people have horses, but the expense would be more due to excrement pick up. Besides, most of these people have many acres of their own on which to ride.
6	Hello, the Sugar River Bike Trail suffices quite nicely.
7	The State (bike) trail only.
	How important do you think a Town Hall site with parks is for our community?
1	We need a gathering place to bring townspeople together.
2	Why would you need a park at the Town Hall? Again we have a state park located within the township with play areas, nature walks, and ski trails.
3	The parks should be in the Village.
4	Most of the people in this community live in their own little world, where they are the center. A park will not change this. No one attends town meetings, and no one in town government does anything requiring a town hall.

5	People are too spread out in the Town making it more difficult to use.
6	Parks (are more important than a Town Hall).
7	Revenue generated by shelter rental.
8	Expensive and unnecessary!
9	The present Town office works OK - we don't need to be spending big bucks on a stand alone Hall somewhere outside the Village.
10	Renting is stupid!
11	The best thing you could do is get our Township to build a Town Hall on a Township park site!! Renting a town hall is complete stupidity! It is a WASTE of $$$!
12	Would need to see details.
13	Already have a bike trail.
	How important do you think preserving the following natural areas are for our community?
1	The State already preserves rivers and wetlands and I think it's foolish for townships to spend their scarce resources on duplicate efforts. Wetlands are already preserved because you can't build on them because they are in a flood plain. I own land that has a trout stream on it and I can't touch it and its open for public use. Why would the Town add to those costs?
2	It is extremely hard to replace these resources once they are gone.
3	Are you preserving these areas that the town owns? Or are you encouraging landowners to learn how to preserve these areas that they own? Or are you trying to preserve as a Park's group what others own?
4	These are all worth while goals, but, taxpayer dollars should not be reallocated for purchase of these lands. If some philanthropist wants to pull the money out of his or her pocket, that is fine.
5	Resources such as these are so important to all of us. They need to be protected.
6	This question is different than the mailing.
7	Open space and existing habitat preservation should be the Commissions' one and only priority.
8	Please note: this question is worded differently than the paper survey you mailed out.
9	(Preservation of streams, creeks, and rivers) is done by landowners.
	How important do you think the following options are for our community?
1	A dog park and skating rink would bring people to New Glarus.
2	The Village has an outdoor skating rink, there is access to fishing banks right in the Village and throughout the Township. There is a dog park located within 15 minutes just outside of Verona. Again, why are we even talking about this? We don't need more taxes.
3	The skating rink should be in the Village. We already have access to the streams by parking and walking the stream. The Village people would benefit from the dog park.

4	Wake up. There are no fishable waters in the town. This is not an urban area; everyone has room for their dogs and gardens. We are not in Madison or Dane County; however, it seems the idiots proposing these things are probably originally from that sewer.
5	If people want a Community Garden, why not put those resources toward small plots of flowers and plants along the bike trails, inviting people to New Glarus, but don't involve much, if any maintenance. Plants and flowers around a new Town Hall might be nice, but can get to be too overdone. If the proper trees and bushes are chosen, they can delight people with flowers and color all spring, summer, and fall, yet be very low maintenance and extra cost (e.g. - bulbs, pear trees, viburnum and crabs in the spring; weigela and lily bulbs in the early summer; trees and shrubs with fall color, like Sugar Maple and burning bush).
6	DNR already allows it (access to streambanks for fishing).
	How important do you think sports/recreation/soccer fields are within the Town?
1	We pay for these through our school taxes, and it doesn't make sense for a township to do this on their own. You need to work with the School District on these items.
2	That should be in the Village.
3	They can help define our town, bring people together and make a safe place for our children to enjoy.
4	We should be thinking as a community--Town and Village and what the recreational needs are.
5	Population is low and the Village has plenty of these facilities.
6	More important to have these fields in cooperation with the Village.
7	The Village seems to meet this need.
8	There are plenty of existing fields/opportunities in the Village.
9	I think these fields are very important, as long as they are shared in conjunction with the Village and School District.
10	(They should be) shared by Village & Town.
11	Available at the school already?
12	Village already does a good job.
13	We can't afford this one.
	How important is a Community Park (including picnic tables, benches, walking trail, and/or playground) to you in our community?
1	Again, all of this already provided within the Village and the State Park. Why do we need to duplicate this? Most of us moved to the country because of less taxes.
2	We are real close to the State Park.
3	We have complete access to the Village parks.
4	A community park and community town hall would strengthen the people connection within the township and perhaps bring about some of these other preservation wants such as open space.
5	See question 2 comments (Most of the people in this community live in their own little world, where they are the center. A park will not change this. No one attends town meetings, and no one in town government does anything requiring a town hall).

6	Again, wonderful for people living close by, but a big expense for few to use. Better to join with the Village on this too.
7	We have a 400+ acre State Park in the Town along with the Village Parks. These rather underutilized existing facilities are a great plenty.
8	Most people will want to use the Village facilities for this, as it can accommodate a higher level of services. If people are looking for a more rural park experience, the New Glarus Woods can meet the needs as well.
9	One of the things that make New Glarus a nice town to live in is that it offers a nice diversity of outdoors recreational opportunities for a town its size.
10	We already have the State's New Glarus Woods Park. The park is connected by a bike trail and the park has walking trails.
11	We have a State park with these things we are already paying for.
12	(Somewhat important if) included with a Town Hall.
	How important is it for you to have additional roads in the Town be designated as Rustic Roads?
1	This is one item that might ADD economic development and spending to the area.
2	$ should be spent elsewhere.
3	Rustic Roads would need a special garbage collection crew.
4	Most roads in the town are in such poor shape that speed is already limited. Rustic roads are basically a joke.
5	I personally don't care much (the roads are no more rustic just because they're labeled that way) but the relative economic health of New Glarus relative to many other small towns in Wisconsin benefits from tourism and designating rustic roads could bring in more people.
6	Are there any left to be designated as such?
7	More traffic, more development, and more natural areas destroyed; take a look at what has happened to Marty Road.
	How important to you are Town organized summer recreational activities for our community?
1	People from the Town and Village work together to create summer activities. Maybe we need a Town of NG softball, soccer or tennis team?
2	Again, already provided within the villages and surrounding communities. It simply costs $5 or $10 more for most activities. Seems like a great bargain and why ruin a good thing?
3	We should work more closely with the Village and help support those activities.
4	This could come about with a Community Center.
5	The Village already has plenty. Most of the Town residents go outside the Town for recreation, which is just fine by me.
6	Again, these types of things are better done and less expensive if done with the Village. The Town should NOT be duplicating services provided by the Village or Schools.
7	Go to the Village.
8	Again, partner with the Village and forget separate Town organized stuff.

9	Rain gardens are also very important.
10	Are there some now?
11	Village provides service.
	Are you interested in volunteering to assist with any of the following Town activities and/or joint Town/Village activities?
1	Contact Info: redacted
2	I presently do clean up my road each spring.--Kubly Road
3	I take care of my property (5 acres). If everyone else did the same, the only clean up left could be taken care of by the town idiots/patrolman. They don't do much of anything for the pay they receive.
4	Not at this time, but will contact when ready and able to assist.
5	We already pick up our road in the spring on our own.
6	Already do (cleanup of roadsides) in our area.
7	Maybe when our kids are older.
8	We do this (cleanup of roadsides) as needed.
9	Volunteer work could only be evenings or weekend.
10	Too old!
11	Will volunteer later.
12	We volunteer through other groups.
13	Maybe (be interested in attending with workshops); depends upon topic.
14	This (volunteering for cleanup of Bluebird Ridge Conservancy and Annual Arbor Day tree planting) may depend on my job & if I can take off.
15	I do this (annual cleanup of roadsides) already; have for years near my own home--one mile of road.
	Are you interested in serving as a Parks Commission member?
1	Maybe in a year.
3	Currently overcommitted; would consider in the future.
4	Not at this time, but maybe in the future.
5	I have served for five years and love the effort, but need some time off!!! Thanks and good luck.
6	I'd prefer that it was disbanded.
7	Not at this time.
9	I am currently on my Masters in Urban and Regional Planning at UW-Madison. I would be interested in talking with the parks commission to volunteer some of my time to help with the 2011 Parks Plan update.
10	If this fits into my schedule, I'd be interested. I am the "Environmental Communication Specialist" for UW Extension and a faculty member at UW-Madison focused on environmental communication at UW-Madison so a number of these issues are near and dear to my heart.
11	Maybe when our kids are older.
	Other comments.

1	Since there are is no other area to provide overall comments, I thought I would do so here.
	I think it is borderline irresponsible of government to request such feedback on additional services without provided the other side of the equations and that is the associated costs with additional services will be provided. Even if it is grant money we still pay the taxes for the grant money, and we have to pay the on-going maintenance. Nothing is free.
	I think 90+% of what you are suggesting already exists and can be accessed within minutes of every household in the township. Why do we need to duplicate?
	We need less taxes and spending, not more.
2	Thank you for the survey.
3	Thank you for the opportunity to offer input.
4	The best thing you could do is get our Township to build a Town Hall on a Township Park site!!
5	I think the survey questions were poorly worded. If structured differently, I believe better insight could have been garnered from Town citizens.
6	The purpose of the Town should be to perform basic services & control costs.
7	Have more kid group activities.
8	We suggest that <u>only</u> projects that <u>reduce</u> our property taxes be done. Everything else is really unnecessary. Cost reduction of all current expenses should be the goal until our property taxes are again reasonable. We like the free educational meetings.
9	Maybe contribute to village facilities to help maintain parks, swimming pool and library.
10	Group seems to be a waste of time and money. With the economy in the shape it is in and many without jobs, these items seem very low on the "to do" list.
11	People can go to (Village) for parks! How about better garbage/recycling!? Reduce our ridiculous taxes; don't find ways to raise them!!!
12	You have neglected to state how these things would be funded. Some questions are difficult to answer without more information. Encouraging the control of invasive species such as garlic mustard in our Township would be very beneficial.
13	Need to achieve "friendly" coordination with Village to reduce future costs and maximize investment in parks, etc. Like it or not, the Town and Village are tied together by geography, history, and tradition.

Note: all names and personal identifiers were removed from survey response.

APPENDIX III

Category	Item	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Natural Areas, Conservancy and Green Space Preservation	Identify DNR supported easements on a map		X			
	Identify ideal locations for greenways		X			
	Continue the series of lectures on a variety of conservation issues	X	X	X	X	X
	Add additional land restoration advice and resources to Parks Commission website	X				
	Continue efforts to identify those areas desirable for preservation and pursue funding options that include grants, bequests, and donations from private and corporate sources		X			
Trails Plan	Seek resident input and public discussion sessions for those sectional trails identified in Needs Assessment study for Impact Fees		X			
	Form a subcommittee to conduct a feasibility study and timeline to implement trail development and easement agreements			X		
	Purchase or secure easements identified in the public discussion sessions				X	
	Install trails					X
Town Park	Continue to review ideal sites for Town Park		X			
	Purchase property for Town Park and determine its management					X
	Consider recreational fields within Town Park					X
Town support of Village-owned and run Parks and Recreation activities/facilities	Support Town contribution to the Village on an annual basis for Town portion of Village Parks and Recreation costs not covered by user fees	X				
	Work out method for permanent representation on Village Parks Programming decision making		X			
	Equalize Town of New Glarus and Village of New Glarus user fees for Parks registration and pool pass		X			

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://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/G3326.PDF. The entire Statute can be found on the internet at http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html

Wisconsin's Recreational Use Statute

Limiting the injury liability of private landowners

Donald Last

Wisconsin's recreational use statute limits private property owners' responsibility for injury to people who use their land for recreation.

Except for special situations (some of which are described elsewhere in this publication), landowners are *not* legally obliged to:

- keep their property safe for recreational activity.
- inspect their property.
- give warning of an unsafe condition or activity on their property.

The law also limits property owners' liability for injuries to a person engaged in a recreational activity when the injuries are caused by another recreational user or by a wild animal.

This publication provides a summary and interpretation of the key provisions of the law. If you would like more information, consult an attorney or obtain a copy of the statute from a library or courthouse (Wis. Stats. 895.52).

What is a recreational activity?

The state statute defines *recreational activity* as "any outdoor activity undertaken for the purpose of exercise, relaxation or pleasure, including practice or instruction in any such activity." The statute lists examples (shown in the sidebar) which fall within this general definition.

The following are examples of outdoor activities cited in Wisconsin's recreational use statute.

- **animal training**
- **ballooning**
- **bicycling**
- **bird-watching**
- **camping**
- **climbing observation towers**
- **cutting or removing wood**
- **exploring caves**
- **fishing**
- **hang gliding**
- **harvesting the products of nature**
- **hiking**
- **horseback riding**
- **hunting**
- **motorcycling**
- **nature study**
- **operating an all-terrain vehicle**
- **outdoor education**
- **outdoor games**
- **outdoor sports**
- **picnicking**
- **rock climbing**
- **sightseeing**
- **skating**
- **skiing**
- **sledding**
- **sleigh riding**
- **snowmobiling**
- **tobogganing**
- **trapping**
- **water sports**

Under what circumstances are property owners liable?

The state's recreational use statute describes several circumstances in which the owner of private property may be liable for an injury to a person using that owner's property.

You should note that "organized team sport" is specifically excluded from the definition of recreational activity in the statute. Therefore, the law does not limit liability if a property owner sponsors a team sporting event during which a participant is injured.

Example 1

Langlade Richland sponsors a softball tournament on land he owns. During the tournament, a foul ball hits and injures Rock St. Croix. Richland is not protected by the recreational use statute. St. Croix may initiate a lawsuit against Richland.

The law does *not* limit the liability of a property owner who collects more than $2,000 annually from persons using the property for recreation. These collections must have been received during the year in which an injury to a recreational user occurs. They may take the form of money or an equivalent amount of goods or services.

A property owner may collect a maximum of $5 per person per day for permission to gather products of nature, and may receive gifts from the government or nonprofit groups for managing and conserving the property's natural resources. A property owner also may receive a share of the game or other products of nature harvested by a recreational user. Such payments are not included in the $2,000 collections rule described earlier.

Example 2

Forest Sawyer collects a daily use fee from each skier and snowmobiler. His total receipts are more than $2,000 annually. Forest Sawyer's liability for an injury to a paying user is not reduced by the recreational use statute.

The law does *not* limit liability for an injury to a recreational user if the injury is caused by the malicious failure of the owner (or the owner's employee or agent) to warn the user about an unsafe condition known to the owner.

Example 3

A group of teenagers receives permission from Price Taylor to operate motorized three-wheelers on his land. Taylor is aware that a recent tornado had scattered broken glass and nails in the area in which the group plans to ride. He deliberately withholds this information because he "wants to teach the kids a lesson." One of the teens is injured by the broken glass. In any subsequent lawsuit, if Taylor's malicious intent is proved, he is not protected by the recreational use statute.

Example 4

Lincoln Adams receives permission to hunt on Monroe Washington's land. Adams asks Washington if there is anything he should be warned about. Washington says "no" because he is unaware that a recent heavy rain has washed out part of a pathway. Adams later stumbles in the washout and breaks his leg. Because Washington was not aware of the hazard, he is protected by the statute.

A property owner may be liable for an injury to a social guest who is expressly and individually invited for the occasion during which the injury occurs, but only if the injury takes place:

- on platted land (generally, land that has been developed).
- on residential property (which is a building designed and used for a private dwelling and the land around the building within a 300-foot radius).
- on property which is within 300 feet of a building or structure that is legally classified for mercantile or manufacturing use.

Example 5

Vernon Sauk has a tennis court next to his home. Sauk invites Ashland Burnett to play a game of tennis. Burnett is injured while jumping over the net. Burnett can sue Sauk because the injury occurred within 300 feet of his home.

Example 6

Grant Door invites Calumet Wood to ride one of his newly-purchased horses. The horse bolts and Wood injures a hip in falling off. Because the accident happened several hundred yards from Door's home and outbuildings, Door is protected by the recreational use statute.

A property owner is liable for injuries to employees engaged in a recreational activity if they are acting within the scope of their duties. Therefore, an employee who sustains an injury while on the job may sue an employer.

Example 7

Juneau Dunn owns two dairy farms located several miles from each other. Dunn's farm hand, Walworth Green, sometimes uses a motorbike to travel between farms. Green skids in loose gravel one day and is injured. Because Green was acting within the scope of this employment, the recreational use statute does not protect Dunn from liability. Another Dunn farmhand, Barron Brown, invites several friends to ride dirt bikes on his day off. While riding on Dunn's land, Brown is thrown from the bike and cracks a collarbone. Even though Brown is Dunn's employee, the recreational use statute limits Dunn's liability because the dirt-bike riding is outside the scope of Brown's responsibilities as a farm employee.

Summary

Wisconsin's recreational use statute protects private property owners by limiting their legal responsibility for persons who may be injured while using the land for recreational purposes. A recreational activity is defined as nearly every outdoor pursuit except organized team sports.

In general, property owners are immune from liability for an injury to, or injury caused by a person engaging in a recreational activity on the owner's property or an injury resulting from an attack by a wild animal.

An owner may be liable for an injury to a recreational user if the owner neglects to warn about a known hazard, or if the owner has a malicious intent to injure the user. A landowner may also be liable when an invited guest is injured near the owner's home or near a building used for selling or making something, or when the owner collects substantial amounts of money or goods from the recreational users.

People who use private property without permission are *trespassing*. They are subject to arrest and conviction under another section of state law. This law is explained in a publication entitled *Trespass Law in Wisconsin: An Overview* (G3409) available from county Extension offices.

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APPENDIX V

A. Addendum-2010 Census Statistical Data

B. Addendum-Map of DNR-Supported Easements

C. Town of New Glarus Resolution to Adopt the 2011 Parks Plan after Discussion at the Annual Meeting, April 12, 2011

D. Copy of the Letter of Eligibility from the Wisconsin DNR