



VILLAGE OF GRESHAM

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

2012 - 2016

Adopted December 13, 2011



VILLAGE OF GRESHAM
COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Prepared for
the Village of Gresham

By the
Village of Gresham Public Works and Planning Committees
and the
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

December 2011

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INTRODUCTION

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Village of Gresham is a small community located in the north central portion of Shawano County approximately 12 miles northwest of Shawano. No major highways pass through Gresham, but CTH "A", "G", and "U" radiate from the village, providing convenient access to STH 29 to the south, STH 47/55 to the east, and STH 47 to the north. The Red River flows southeasterly through the northern portion of the community. Upper and Lower Red Lakes, two impoundments of the river, are major recreational resources for village residents.

The terrain in the Gresham area is relatively hilly with elevation changes of up to 250 feet. Within the village, the land generally slopes toward the shorelines of the two impoundments. Except in these areas, most of the village's concentrated development is located on relatively flat terrain.

POPULATION

Gresham's population in 2010 was at 586 according to the last census. It is expected to continue its low but steady growth see (Table 1). By the year 2030 it is estimated that the village will be home to 664 residents, an increase of 13.3 percent over current levels. In 2010, 21.9 percent of village residents were age 65 and over, a higher percentage of elderly than either Shawano County or the state (Table 2). With the Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Reservation being located just northwest of the village, Native Americans comprised 22.2 percent of Gresham's 2010 population compared with just 6.3 percent for Shawano County as a whole.

Table 1

POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS, 1950-2030 Village of Gresham

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
1950	427	
1960	458	+ 7.3
1970	448	- 0.2
1980	534	+19.2
1990	515	- 3.5
2000	575	+11.6
2010	586	+1.9
2015*	621	+6.0
2020*	639	+2.9
2025*	653	+2.2
2030*	664	+1.7

* Projected Estimate, DOA,

Sources: U.S. Census; 1950 – 2010, Wisconsin DOA Population Projections, 2008

Table 2

POPULATION GROWTH AND CHARACTERISTICS
Village of Gresham

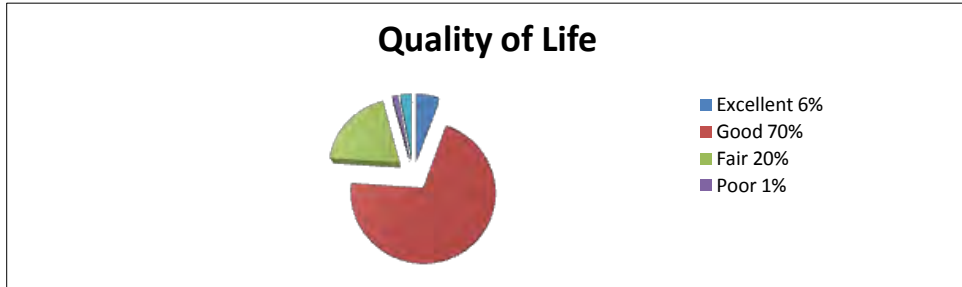
	Gresham	Shawano Co.	Wisconsin
POPULATION GROWTH:			
1950-1980 Change (%)	+25.1	+10.2	+37.0
1980-2010 Change (%)	+ 9.7	+21.4	+ 9.6
2010-2030 Change (%)	+13.3	+ 8.5	+11.5
2010 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS:			
Ages 0-19 (%)	23.0	25.7	26.6
Ages 20-64 (%)	55.1	57.0	60.2
Ages 65 and over (%)	21.9	17.2	13.2
Minority Residents (%)	22.2	6.3	0.9

Source: U.S. Census; General Social and Economic Characteristics, 1950-2010.
American Community Survey Five Year Estimates 2005-2009.

PLANNING PROCESS

This open space and recreation plan update continues a long history of recreation planning in the Village of Gresham. To ensure that the plan is an evolutionary process which identifies realistic local recreational needs as they presently exist, citizen participation has been encouraged throughout its preparation. In conjunction with our Comprehensive Planning, a public meeting was held with local officials and other citizens to discuss park development needs, and upon completion of the plan, a public hearing was held before the Village Board to encourage further citizen input.

In November of 2008 a Village wide survey of resident's opinions and concerns was conducted. Responses indicate that "Quality of Life" in Gresham is "Good" (70%). Only 1% indicated a "Poor" quality of life.

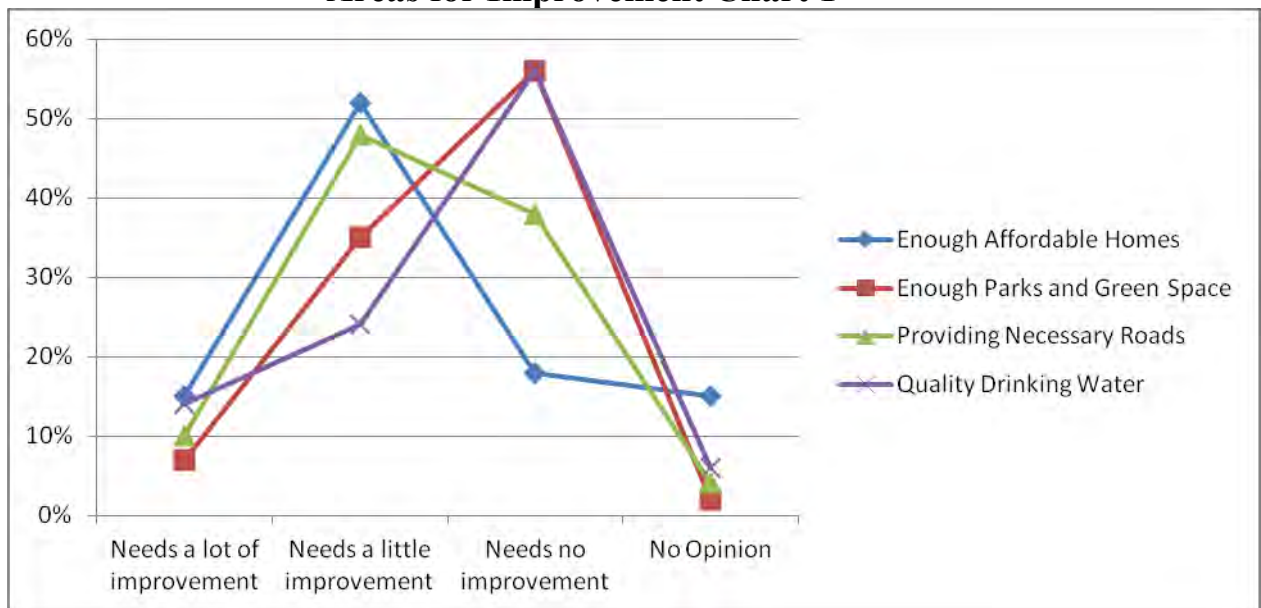


The Village of Gresham survey asked about specific areas that may or may not need improvement:

Chart 1 summary of areas for improvement:

- Enough Affordable Homes – Needs a Little Improvement
- Enough Parks and Green Space – Needs No Improvement
- Providing Necessary Roads – Needs a Little Improvement
- Quality Drinking Water – Needs No Improvement

Areas for Improvement Chart 1



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Goal: To ensure that adequate open space and recreation facilities are provided for and made accessible to all residents of Gresham.

Objectives:

- Provide a full range of recreational facilities to serve Gresham residents on a year-round basis.
- Provide park and recreation facilities to serve all existing and future residential areas.
- Preserve structures and sites that reflect the historical and natural heritage of the area.
- Encourage development with amenities for residents, including: bike & walking trails, snowmobile and ATV trails, fishing areas and open spaces.
- Design ADA accessible active and passive recreational areas and park facilities that can be utilized by the elderly and physically challenged citizens.

Goal: To conserve, protect, and improve the environmental resources of the Village and the surrounding area.

Objectives:

- Ensure that the environmental and aesthetic qualities of the community are considered when planning for future development.
- Protect existing wooded areas and other unique natural areas from urban development.
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas such as floodplains and wetlands from urban development.
- Ensure that future development does not disrupt natural drainageways in the community.
- Reduce the amount of damage which may occur from flooding.

Goal: To encourage continued involvement of Gresham residents when planning for park and recreation development.

Objectives:

- Encourage ongoing participation by all residents at Public Works Committee meetings.
- Explore the support of community groups and service organizations for ways of funding and/or improvements to the parks system.
- Solicit comments from residents on all aspects of park and recreational programming and management.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Red River, Upper and Lower Red Lakes, and large areas of woodlands and wetlands are the primary natural resources in the Gresham area.

Red River

The Red River flows southeasterly through the northern portion of the village. With its steep gradient and many rapids and falls, the Red River is considered among the finest canoe and kayak streams in the Upper Midwest. Although much of the river is managed as a trout stream, the best trout waters occur upstream from Upper Red Lake. Common fish species found downstream include largemouth, smallmouth, and rock bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed, and a variety of minnows and bottom feeders. The stream is also a valuable nesting area for waterfowl, particularly mallards and wood ducks. Two boat landings on Upper Red Lake provide access to the river upstream from Gresham while a public walk-in site directly below the Lower Red Lake dam serves downstream users.

Upper and Lower Red Lake

Upper and Lower Red Lake are formed by two dams on the Red River. The dam for Upper Red Lake is located in the downtown area. The resulting lake is some 188 acres in size and up to 14 feet deep. The village maintains two boat landings on this impoundment. The lake's fishery includes muskellunge (40" min.), northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, brown trout, and a number of panfish species. The lake's shoreline remains relatively undeveloped.

The dam for Lower Red Lake, Weed dam, located about a mile southeast of the village, creates a 240-acre impoundment with depths up to 24 feet. Two boat landings provides access. Fish species are similar to those found on Upper Red Lake. Residential development has occurred on a good portion of the northern shoreline of the lake.

Woodlands and Wetlands

Wooded areas are located in the northern portion of the village along the Red River and Upper Red Lake and in the southern portion along Kroenke Creek. Much of the area to the north and west of the village is also wooded or wooded wetlands.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Over 32 acres of outdoor recreational lands are currently available for use by Gresham area residents (Table 3 and Figure 1). This acreage is contained in two park sites, the Gresham Area School complex, and several access sites on the two lakes. A number of these access points serve as "drive-on" sites during winter months.

Table 3

EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION ACREAGE, 2011 Village of Gresham

<u>Recreation Area</u>	<u>Village Owned</u>	<u>Town Owned</u>	<u>School Owned</u>	<u>Private</u>
Riverside Park	8.7			
Gresham Memorial Athletic Park	7.0			
Gresham Area Schools			13.0	
South Shore Boat Landing	1.0			
Gresham Lions Club				1.8
Weed Dam Recreation Area	1.0			
Town Road "drive-on" Site		*		
Geider Road Boat Landing	*			
American Legion Post 390				*
<hr/>				
Total Recreational Land	17.7	-	13.0	1.8

Riverside Park

Riverside Park, about 8.7 acres in size, is located on the east side of Main Street north of the business district. The park fronts on both the upper end of Lower Red Lake and the short stretch of the Red River connecting the two lakes. The wooded banks and exposed bedrock outcroppings combine to make one of the most attractive park settings in northeastern Wisconsin.

Facilities include a fully fenced baseball diamond with dugouts, concessions building, restrooms, and a covered grandstand with seating for about 100 spectators. Off-street parking for about 20 vehicles exists along the right field foul line and additional parking is available on Lake Drive. A park sign and entrance drive from Main Street greet visitors to the park's shoreline area. Facilities in this portion of the park include about a dozen picnic tables, grills, an 18'x 45' shelter, enclosed on the west end for wind protection, a drinking fountain, and a limited amount of play equipment. A spacious floating dock affords good shoreline fishing for young and old. The eastern edge of the park accommodates a boat landing and parking area for up to 20 vehicles and trailers. The boat landing is accessed from Lake Drive.

Gresham Memorial Athletic Park

About seven acres of village-owned property is allocated to Gresham Memorial Athletic Park, located in the western portion of the community. Facilities include a fully fenced and lighted softball/little league

diamond with bleachers for 100 spectators, concessions stand, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, a variety of play equipment, two lighted sand base volleyball courts, and a sledding hill. Additional bleachers with a total capacity of another 100 spectators are also available on the site. An entrance sign, bike rack, and parking area for about 120 vehicles are also found in the park.

Gresham Area Schools

About 13 acres of open space is available at the Gresham School site, which is located on the south side of Schabow Street in the southeastern portion of the village. Facilities available on the site include a grass running track, two soccer goals, basketball hoops, play apparatus, paved area marked for a variety of schoolyard games, and a significant amount of open play area. The school gymnasium is used quite extensively for the community's volleyball and basketball programs. The school's active FFA chapter maintains a marked nature trail on its 40-acre wooded site three miles west of the village.

Upper Red Lake South Shore Boat Landing

The village has also upgraded its south shore boat landing since its last open space plan. The one acre site is located directly west of the downtown area on West River Street near the Upper Red Lake dam. Facilities include a floating handicapped-accessible fishing/launching pier and a boat ramp with car-trailer parking for up to 30 vehicles with trailers.



Gresham Lions Club

The Gresham Lions Club owns and maintains a 1.8-acre parcel on the north shore of Upper Red Lake about a quarter mile west of CTH "G" on Upper Red Lake Road. Facilities include gravel launching ramp and car-trailer parking for about ten units. The ramp provides "drive-on" access during the winter months. The Adequate area exists on the site to accommodate a small picnic area and restrooms.

Weed Dam Recreation Site

The area below Weed dam is used as a swimming area and put-in site for canoeists and kayakers embarking on a challenging trip downstream as well as tubing enthusiasts. Located about a mile east of

Gresham on the east side of Lower Lake Road, the site has excellent potential for additional development.



Geider Road Boat Landing

A small boat landing is located on the west shore of the north bay of Lower Red Lake. The site also serves as a winter "drive-on" access.

American Legion Post 390

The American Legion grounds located on the east shore of Lower Red Lake provides a "drive-on" site for winter use of the lake.

RECREATION PROGRAM

Year-round recreational programs are available in the Village of Gresham. Programs include little league baseball and boys and girls basketball. Organized softball is available through various taverns and service groups. Outdoor programs utilize facilities at Gresham Athletic Park while indoor programs operate out of the high school gym.

The Gresham Amateur Baseball Club sponsors a local baseball team which competes in the highly competitive BABA League, which is comprised of teams from communities throughout northeastern Wisconsin. Riverside Park serves as the home field for the Gresham team.

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Park and recreation needs may include the need for additional parkland to: accommodate new facilities, trail paths and systems, the need for additional parks in areas where new residential growth is occurring, or the need for new or improved park facilities and equipment. Generally, recreation standards are used to identify these needs. However, in communities the size of Gresham, more emphasis is placed on citizen input when identifying park and recreation needs.

LAND NEEDS

Land demand standards of 10 acres of public owned open space for every 1,000 residents (586) provides a useful barometer for determining whether a community has adequate parkland to meet the recreational needs of its residents. Based on this standard, Gresham's park and open space acreage (17.7+ acres) exceeds the amount of land needed to satisfy present and future populations (586-664) of the village.

LOCATIONAL NEEDS

The recreational needs of communities as small and compact as Gresham can often be met with one conveniently located park if it provides the range of recreational facilities desired by village residents. This is particularly true if no natural or man-made barriers exist which impede the free flow of pedestrian movement between various areas in the community. An example in Gresham is the Red River, which can be crossed in only one location within the village. The location of Riverside Park immediately adjacent to this crossing, the availability of other recreational sites in the village, and the concentration of the village's residential development suggest that no important locational needs exist in Gresham.

FACILITY NEEDS

While Gresham has enough parkland for providing a variety of recreational facilities, some facilities continue to be unavailable or in short supply. The high percentage of elderly living in the village indicates that particular attention should be given to providing recreational opportunities for these residents. Planning committee members have identified the need for the following recreational facilities:

Basketball hoops
Additional play equipment
Ice skating area
Amphitheater

Additional shoreline fishing
Baseball field lighting
Trail Connections

In addition, specific needs have been identified at individual sites. These will be discussed as recommendations in the following section.

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations developed by the planning committee are intended to serve as a guide for the future development of park and recreation areas in the Village of Gresham. They are also meant to meet the existing recreational needs of local residents while conserving, protecting and improving the environmental resources of the community and surrounding area. Because these needs could change, the recommendations should be reviewed on an annual basis.

To establish a community-wide recreation system that provides a wide variety of accessible recreation activities to all segments of the village, the committee recommends that the following actions be undertaken:

Riverside Park

- Light the baseball diamond to provide night time play.
- Upgrade existing restrooms, new paint on floors and doors.
- Install additional play equipment.
- Consider updating bleachers for the ball diamond.
- Consider installing an amphitheater style sitting on the hill off of Lake Drive for concerts and special events overlooking the Lower Red Lake.
- To the west of the park, across CTH G, a picnic area should be considered as parking is available along the right of way.
- Add a trail connection to Athletic Park along the pipeline berm

Gresham Athletic Park

- Install additional picnic facilities.
- Remove the sand volleyball courts or upgrade with fresh sand base.
- Update old play equipment for safety concerns, ie merry-go-round.
- Replace/remove benches along volleyball courts and add to playground area.
- Consider adding new wood chips or a different base for the playground.
- Upgrade the parking area with fresh gravel or asphalt.

Upper Red Lake South Shore Boat Landing

- Consider constructing restrooms
- Install picnic facilities, ie. shelter, tables, grills.
- Pave parking area.
- Update fishing pier.

Gresham Area Schools

- Consider enhancing the physical fitness course.
- Consider adding tennis courts.

Gresham Lions Club

- Consider upgrading parking area.
- Develop a picnic area with shelter and restrooms.
- Add a few benches with a walkway along the shore removing shrub growth to view lake.

Weed Dam Recreation Area

- Develop a small picnic area with grilling units.
- Upgrade the parking area.
- Construct restrooms/changing rooms with a pavilion
- Consider removal of tree berm to the southeast to provide a view to the river.

Other Recommendations

- Develop a Senior Citizens/Youth Center in the community.
- Step up efforts to control weed growth on both lakes.
- Consider purchasing the abandoned rail-bed as a railway connection through the village.

ACTION PROGRAM

Those projects the planning committee would like the village to implement during the next few years are listed below. The projects emphasize the provision of additional facilities at existing parks by a given priority of High, (H), Medium (M), and Low (L) categories through the 5 year span.

The action program is meant to serve as a guide to local officials as they develop the village's park and recreation system. Because priorities can change, the program should be reviewed annually.

FIVE YEAR ACTION PROGRAM 2012-2016

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Riverside Park					
➤ Light baseball diamond				M	
➤ Upgrade existing restrooms		H			
➤ Additional play equipment	H				
➤ Update bleachers/dugouts					M
➤ Install an amphitheater overlooking lake	M				
➤ Additional picnic area west of park off CTH G		M			
➤ Trail connection to Athletic Park				M	
Gresham Athletic Park					
➤ Additional picnic facilities			M		
➤ Update playground equipment/upgrade base	H				
➤ Add benches to playground		M			
South Shore Boat Landing					
➤ Construct restrooms					L
➤ Install picnic facilities		M			
➤ Update fishing pier			M		
Gresham Area Schools					
➤ Enhance fitness course		M			
➤ Add tennis courts					M
Weed Dam Recreation Area					
➤ Undertake erosion control	M				
➤ Develop small picnic area		M			
➤ Construct restrooms/changing rooms			H		
➤ Removal of southeast tree berm	M				
Other Recommendations					
➤ Addition of a Community Center			M		
➤ Control weed growth on lakes		H			
➤ Purchase of abandoned rail bed for trail connections		L			

TOTAL PRIORITIES BY YEAR:

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
2012:	2	2	
2013:	2	5	1
2014:	1	3	
2015:		2	
2016:		2	1
<hr/>			
TOTALS SUMMARY:	5	14	2

**RESOLUTION 11-13
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

ADOPTION OF THE GRESHAM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Village of Gresham has requested an update of its community-wide open space and recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, the Gresham Village Board has worked closely with the Shawano County University Extension Resource Agent and East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to update the village's Open Space and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Gresham Open Space and Recreation Plan encompasses a general outline and plan for the recreational development of the village's park system until the year 2016, and

WHEREAS, adoption of said plan is required for the Village of Gresham to become eligible for cost sharing aid programs from the State of Wisconsin, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRESHAM VILLAGE BOARD:

That the Gresham Open Space and Recreation Plan be adopted as the approved recreation plan for the Village of Gresham.


Roll Call on Resolution # 11-13

Ayes 6 Nays Absent 1

Passed and adopted this 13 day

of December, 2011

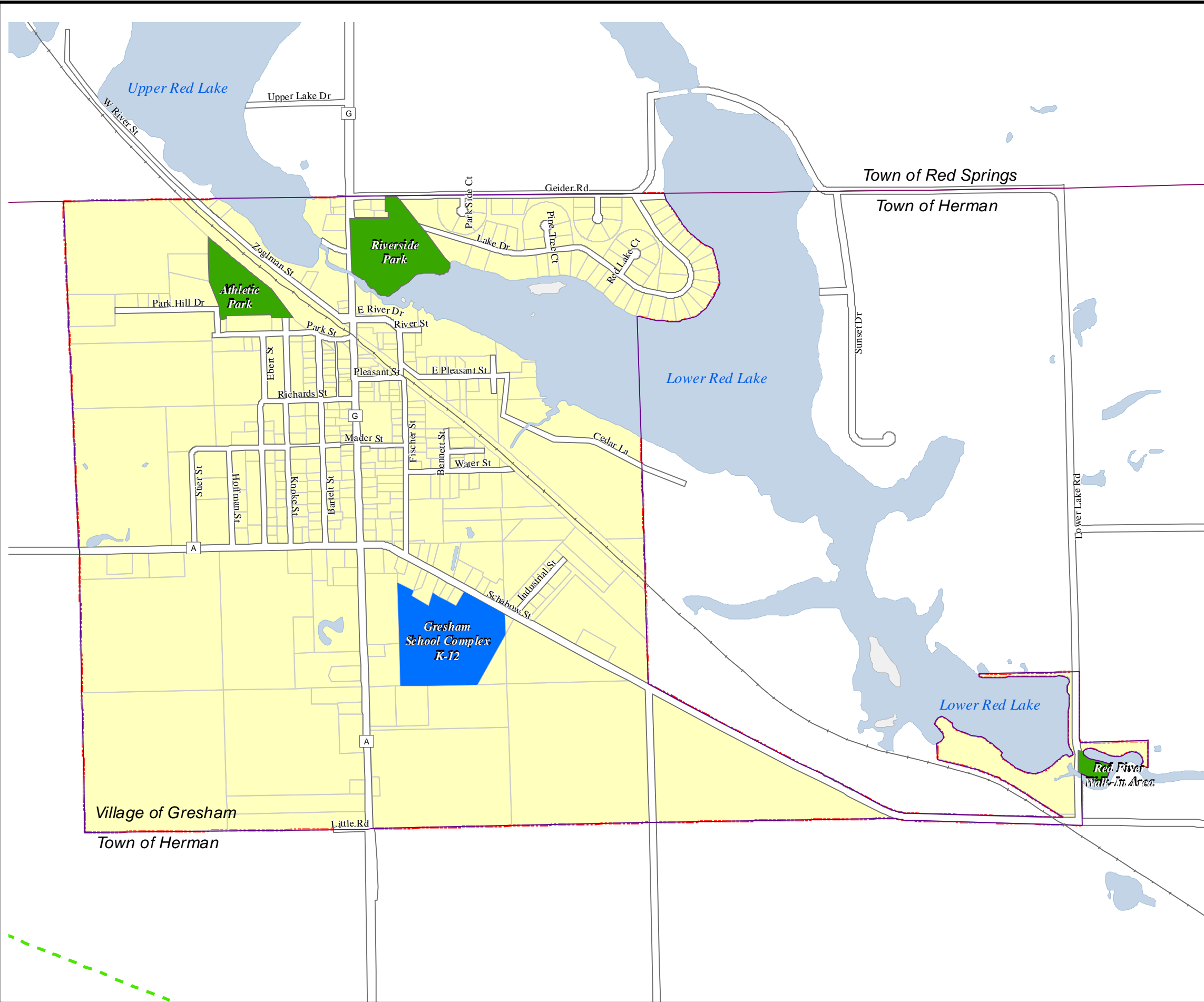
Signed by:


Kenneth Beyer, Village President


Becky Arrowood, Village Clerk

APPENDIX A – Parks and Facilities Inventory Table

APPENDIX B - MAPS

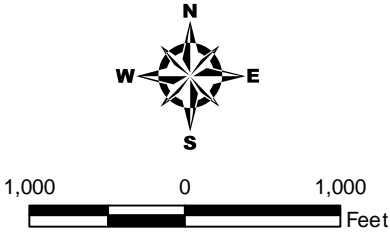


MAP 1

EXISTING
RECREATIONAL SITES
Village of Gresham

- Mountain-Bay State Trail
- Parcels
- School Athletic Fields
- Parks/Recreation

Source: Shawano County Land Information Department, 2011.



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This map shows the approximate relative location of property boundaries but was not prepared by a professional land surveyor. This map is provided for informational purposes only and may not be sufficient or appropriate for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.

Prepared By
EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION- May, 2011

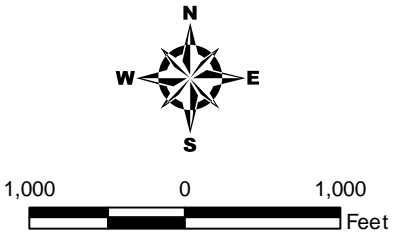


MAP 2

EXISTING
RECREATIONAL SITES
Aerial View
Village of Gresham

- Mountain-Bay State Trail
- Parcels
- School Athletic Fields
- Parks/Recreation

Source: Shawano County Land Information Department, 2011.



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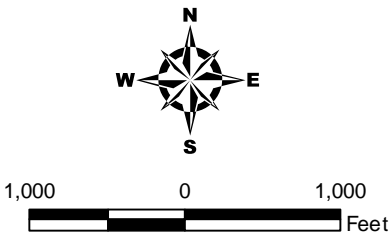


MAP 3

EXISTING
RECREATIONAL SITES
Village of Gresham
Aerial View
Riverside Athletic Park

- Parcels
- Village Boundary
- Elevation Contour
- Park Boundary

Source: Shawano County Land Information Department, 2011.



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REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION- May, 2011

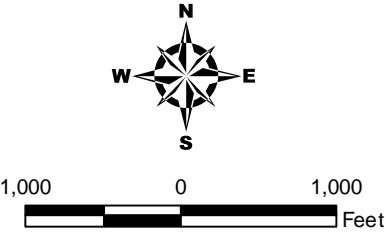


MAP 4

EXISTING
RECREATIONAL SITES
Village of Gresham
Aerial View
Athletic Park

- Parcels
- Village Boundary
- Elevation Contour
- Park Boundary

Source: Shawano County Land Information Department, 2011.



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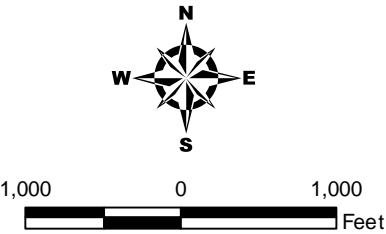
Prepared By
EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION- May, 2011

MAP 5

EXISTING
RECREATIONAL SITES
Village of Gresham
Aerial View
Red River Walk-In Area

- Parcels
- Village Boundary
- Elevation Contour
- Park Boundary

Source: Shawano County Land Information Department, 2011.



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Prepared By
EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION - June, 2011



APPENDIX C - 2010 COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING SURVEY RESULTS

1. Listed below are several aspects of life in a community. For each one, please tell us whether you think that aspect of life here in Gresham needs a lot of improvement, a little improvement or no improvement at all.

	Needs a lot of improvement	Needs a little improvement	Needs no improvement	No Opinion
b Having enough parks and green space	8%	35%	56%	1%

8. Listed below are several ways that growth might affect a community. For each on, please tell us if, in your opinion, our community has experienced that effect or not.

e. More parks and green spaces	12%	77%	11%
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

14. During the next five years, which of the following transportation investments do you think would benefit Gresham the most? (PLEASE ANSWER BELOW – CIRCLE NO MORE THAN TWO ANSWERS)

- 14A. And which of these investments do you think would benefit Gresham the least? (PLEASE CIRCLE NO MORE THAN TWO ANSWERS)

	14. Benefit Most	14A. Benefit Least
New hiking or biking trails	21%	37%

18. What do you think is/are the most appropriate alternate use(s) for farmland in Gresham? (PLEASE CIRCLE NO MORE THAN TWO ANSWERS)

4. Parks and trails	- 17%
---------------------	-------

19. In planning for the future, which, if any, of the following initiatives do you think would be the most important steps we should take in our area to protect or improve the quality of our natural environment here in Gresham? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

4. Investing more in creating new parks and open spaces	– 14%
---	-------

20. If these steps to improve our natural environment required increases in your taxes, would you support or oppose increases for the following?

	Support	Oppose	Not sure
d. Investing more in creating new parks and open spaces	22%	54%	2%