



# VILLAGE OF BIG FALLS COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2014-2018

## Plan Summary

*The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) aims to provide all the elements needed to achieve Big Falls' goal of a comprehensive open space network. The system is made up of local, county, and even regional destinations providing recreational space for people in every neighborhood to relax, recreate and enjoy the natural beauty of the Village on a daily basis.*

*The Parks & Recreation Plan includes five different components:*

1. Goals and Objectives for parks and recreation in the Village.
2. A Complete Inventory of current facilities.
3. A Needs Assessment for future areas.
4. Recommendations and Public Opinion
5. A 5-year Action Program to guide the Village until 2018.

*The 2014-2018 version of the Village of Big Falls Outdoor Recreation Plan seeks to help preserve the village's natural environment and at the same time allow residents and visitors alike to play, learn, enjoy and live in harmony with it. In addition to setting forth new recommendations based on present needs, the adopted plan will enable the Village of Big Falls to once again compete for matching funds available through the Department of Natural Resources' Stewardship Program if available.*

*Funding components of this program, target monies for parkland acquisition and development projects as well as for numerous other projects and activities that preserve, protect and enhance important land and water-based natural assets. Collectively, grants are available through the WDNR Stewardship Program and have effectively doubled the local funding commitment for acquisition and development of parkland and other public recreational facilities.*



More leisure time and a growing interest in the environment and physical fitness have placed greater demands on the recreation facilities in the Village of Big Falls like never before.

Developed in conjunction with the Village's Planning Commission, citizens, and Village Board, this new plan will serve as a guide for the future development of Big Falls' parks and recreational system. It addresses the needs and wants as well as what is feasible to promote the Village's assets.





## Highlights & Statistics

The goals of the CORP are to provide an adequate recreational system while preserving the environmental resources with continuing public support. Encouraging healthy livability and also providing ADA accessible sites as well as promoting intergovernmental cooperation are main objectives.

Big Falls was home to 61 residents according to the 2010 Census. Needs assessment standards show the Village must provide .06 acres of recreational space for it's current residents. (10A/1,000 capita) 12.34 acres are currently available which is more than adequate for now and the future.

### From the survey:

78.6 % knew their neighbors with 71.4% who thought there was a strong sense of community.

36.7% were very satisfied with the parks they visited.

Most residents who visited the parks, 50% said they felt very safe doing so.

Trails for walking and biking are needed as well as connections to each park, **83.8%**.

Restrooms, picnic areas, and playground upgrades are needed at Andy's and North Parks.

Fishing dock improvements are needed at the boat launch.

Maintenance of the parks was stated as very well maintained but facilities are getting aged.

Fishing Tournaments, canoe/kayaking were the highest activities residents participated in.



## Key Recommendations:

Work with adjacent municipalities and schools on shared use agreements when possible.

Update facilities to comply with ADA Title III rules. New playground equipment for Andy's Park and New North Park should be considered.

Install boat wash stations at all boat launches for aquatic invasive species control as well as controlling terrestrial land-based species.

Provide educational kiosks that would give the history and current Village information along with a way-finding system to get to each park.

### Facility needs include:

Additional Shoreline Fishing Canoe/Kayak intake/outtake points  
Restroom, Shelter, and Picnic Upgrades

New or updated playgrounds  
Walking/Biking Trails  
Basketball Court Upgrades  
Shuffleboard Courts  
Horseshoe Pits

Designated swimming/tubing locations on the river



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*The vision for parks and recreation in the Village of Big Falls is to provide a system of easily accessible and well maintained open spaces and parks which will provide recreation opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all Village residents and visitors alike.*

