City of Peshtigo, WI

September 26, 2026 Visioning Workshop Summary Report

Part of the 2027-2031 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES



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Overview

The City of Peshtigo is in the process of updating its 2019 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (or CORP) for the five-year period encompassing 2027-2031. Up-front citizen input and perspective is helpful for this planning process as the City assesses how changing demographics, the economy, and technology may impact the recreation system in the future. Citizen engagement is a priority for the City when updating this plan and the opinions of residents and stakeholders are strongly considered throughout the process.

Event Details

The kickoff event for the CORP planning process was in the form of a Recreation Visioning Workshop held on Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in conjunction with the City's annual Peshtigo Historical Day celebration at Badger Park & Campground. The event was well publicized by City through a variety methods including the use of posters/flyers, direct email notifications to stakeholders, social media postings, and the issuance of a press release.

While the Historical Day event attracts hundreds, if not 1,000 or more people, the booth set up for the Visioning Workshop had only attracted a few dozen people during the time it was set up. A total of three persons signed up to be on the Stakeholder e-mail list, and about 12 people took time to view and engage with the materials presented. Copies of the sign in sheet and promotional materials are included in Appendix A.

The event was held in an open-house style format with five (5) separate workshop exercise stations being set up in the event booth. After being asked to sign in, participants were directed to spend a few minutes at each workshop station to respond to the questions put forth. Participants utilized colored sticky dots and colored markers to record their thoughts and ideas. This type of engagement also allowed for a variety of one-on-one conversations to occur which also helped to identify various issues and opportunities not recorded on the exercises.



Source: UP North Recon, 2024.

Summary of Documented Responses

A summary of the comments, opinions, and data left by participants on each display board station is provided in this section, including generalized mapping of any geographic data provided during the workshop.

EXERCISE #1: WHO ARE WE?

This exercise focused on gathering thoughts and comments pertaining to the identity of the City of Peshtigo. A large display board was provided for participants to offer thoughts on the qualities and characteristics which define the City of Peshtigo over three time periods – Past, Present, and Future.

Summary of Written Comments

Table 1 contains a listing of all written comments on the display board for Exercise #1. A total of seven responses were obtained across the three categories.

Table 1: Responses to Who Are We? Exercise

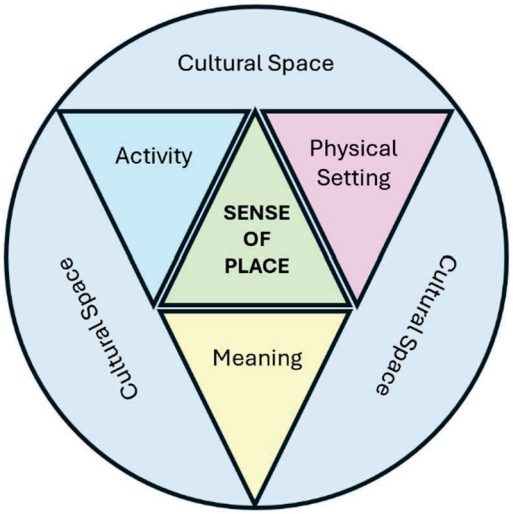
Past (Historic)	Present Identity (Current Culture)	Future Identity (What Could Be?)
Fire in 1871	New High School	Small town recreation with close ties to big cities.
Fire	Badger Park	Chill, but connected.
	Peshtigo River	

Assessment of Information

This exercise was used in an attempt to identify general or specific characteristics of the City of Peshtigo which contribute to its overall identity. Oftentimes, rural communities have challenges in building on an existing identity, or fostering a new one. In planning circles, “identity” is often discussed as a community’s “sense of place”.

A "sense of place" is the emotional and psychological attachment individuals and communities have to a specific location, formed by unique physical and human characteristics, personal experiences, social interactions, memories, and a general feeling of belonging (Figure 1) . It is a feeling of connection to a place that can be strengthened through factors like history, culture, environment, and community identity.

Fig. 1: Sense of Place Components



In analyzing the statements provided by participants on the worksheets, several broad themes appear to be identified:

- Past Identity: People continue to relate to the largest historical event in the City's history, the Great Peshtigo Fire. Instills a sense of pride in the context of "rebuilding from the ashes". This is a very unique part of Peshtigo's history and is not part of any other communities' history. Can these thoughts be leveraged, perhaps to create a walking trail/historical trail with additional interpretive signs? Or other similar integration into existing parks?

- Present Identity: The references to the Peshtigo High School (and high school sports in general) are indicative of the great pride associated with it. The schools are recreation facilities due to their close proximity to Badger Park and the Peshtigo River and should be integrated as key elements in the CORP. That said, Badger Park and the Peshtigo River itself are ingrained in the community's identity also, as they provide abundant recreational opportunities.

- Future Identity: The future vision included a desire to be a small town known for its recreation. From a business and resident attraction standpoint, recreation opportunities and overall quality of life rank high. People also seem to like the fact that the City of Peshtigo is independent in the sense that it has clear boundaries and is not part of a larger urban area. Although some acknowledgment was given that being connected (physically or economically) to the City of Marinette and City of Oconto can provide additional benefits.

EXERCISE #2: LET'S GET ACTIVE!

This exercise sought feedback on specific recreational activities that residents participated in on a regular basis. A large display board was provided which listed 29 different recreational activities. Participants were asked to use colored dots to identify the top three activities in which they participate regularly.

Summary of Written Comments

Table 2 contains a listing of all written comments on the display board for Exercise #2. A total of 33 responses were received, with two new recreation activities being listed by participants.

Assessment of Information

This exercise is useful in gauging what types of recreational activities are important to residents and visitors. While this was a very limited sample, a few broad interpretations can be gleaned from the data:

- A variety of moderate to high use recreational activities already exist within the community, ranging from Bicycling to Camping to Boating.

- Bicycling On-Road was listed as the number one activity based on the number of votes.

- Water sports related responses, such as boating, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, and swimming were common, encompassing 24% of all votes.

This question will be repeated as part of the on-line recreation survey, so more data from a larger sample size will help to establish new patterns, and/or reinforce the responses given at the workshop.

Table 2: Summary of “Let’s Get Active” Votes and Comments

Activity	Votes	% of Total Votes
Baseball/Softball		
Basketball		
Bicycling (on-road/bike/lanes)	7	21%
Bicycling (separated off-road trails)		
Bicycling (off-road mountain trails)		
Birdwatching		
Boating/Sailing	3	9%
Camping	2	6%
Canoeing	1	3%
Cross Country Skiing		
Disc Golf		
Dog Park	1	3%
Fitness Course / Stations		
Golfing	1	3%
Hiking (off-road trails)	1	3%
Horseback Riding	2	6%
Ice Skating		
Kayaking	3	9%
Pickleball		
Picnicking		
Playground Equipment	3	9%
Running		
Sledding	1	3%
Soccer		
Swimming	1	3%
Tennis		
Volleyball	1	3%
Walking (on-road)	3	9%
Yoga		
Other [write-in]: ATV/UTV	2	6%
Other [write-in]: Splash Pad	1	3%
Total Votes	**33**	**100%**

EXERCISE #3: PARK SATISFACTION

This exercise was created to receive feedback on specific parks and the general level of satisfaction the community has with regards to the overall condition of the facility. This question will also likely be repeated as part of the on-line recreation survey, so more data from a larger sample size can better affirm residents' opinions on the facilities.

Summary of Written Comments

Table 3 contains a listing of all written comments on the display board for Exercise #2. A total of 19 responses were receive from participants, as well as written several comments.

Table 3: Summary of "Park Satisfaction" Votes and Comments

Park Facility	It's in Great Shape	Minor Improvement Needed	Significant Improvement Needed	Any Specific Suggestions?
Badger Park & Campground		3		
Berth Park			1	
Bundy Park			1	Playground equipment feels unsafe
Eastside Ball Fields (#1-#3)		1		
Ballfield #4		1		Better scheduling on landscape
East Side (Lower) Boat Launch				
Florist Park				
Harper Park			2	Playground equipment feels unsafe
Peshtigo Lions Recreation Area (Ponds)	1	1		
Prestine Park		2		
River Recreational Park				
Stibbe's Riverfront Park & (Upper) Boat Launch	1	2		
Tonn Park	1			
Triangle Park	1	1		
Total Responses	**4**	**11**	**4**	
Percent of Total Responses	**21%**	**58%**	**21%**	

Assessment of Information

In general, most respondents felt that existing parks are in good shape, with most responses falling within the "Minor Improvement Needed" category. For those parks noted as "Significant Improvement Needed", most of the responses were tied to concerns about playground equipment safety. In addition to these remarks, two additional comments were written in the exercise board's margins: *"Keep all parks to keep sex offenders out.",* along with an adjacent remark of *"Agree!".*

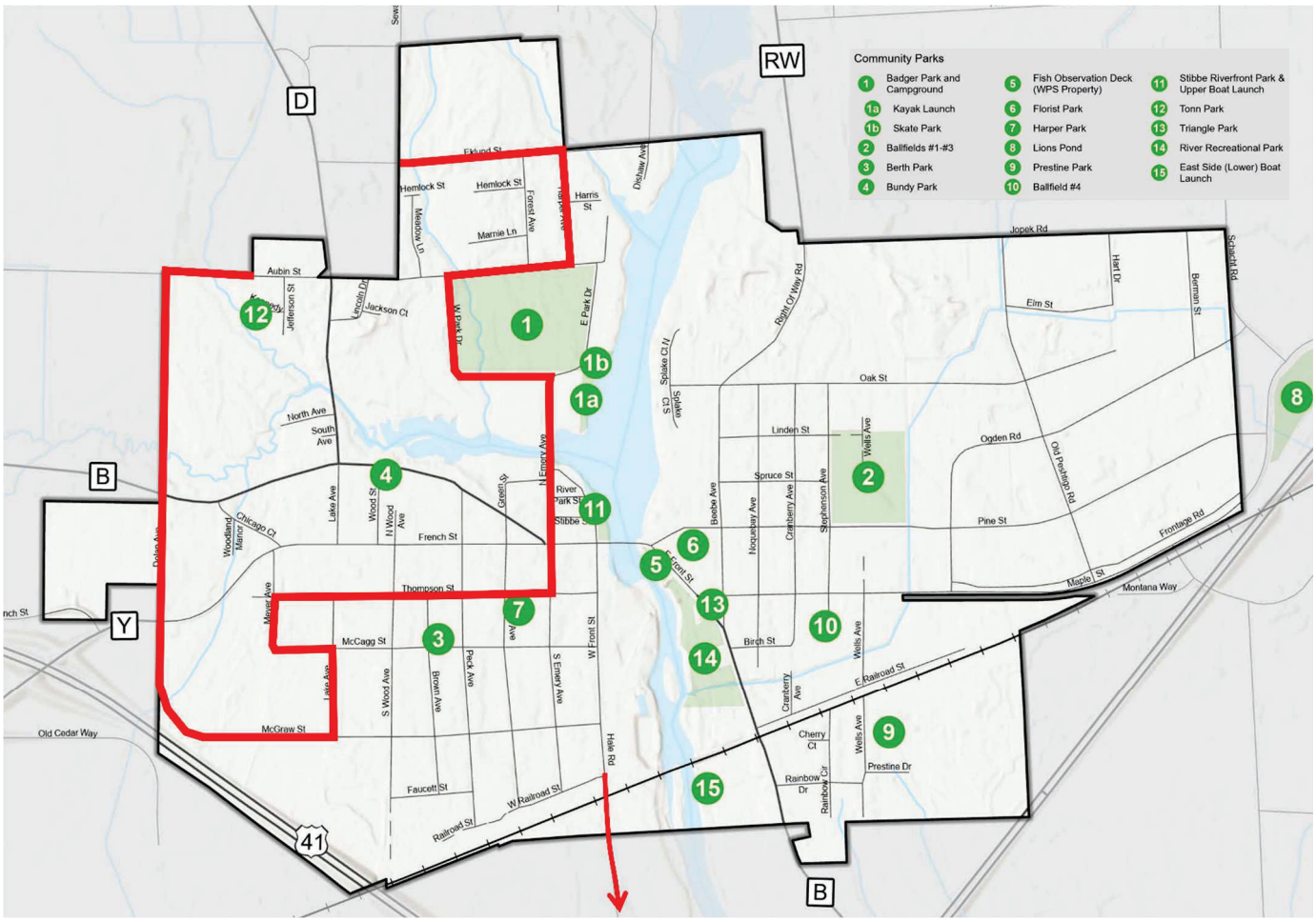
EXERCISE #4: NEW SPACES & CONNECTIONS

This exercise was created to explore how existing park sites could be better connected with bicycle/pedestrian facilities, as well as if and where potential new recreation sites or conservation areas might be located.

Summary of Written Comments

There were only two (2) responses provided on the display board map which have been recreated and generalized as shown in Figure 2. Responses consisted only of linework which suggest routes or connections. No responses were provided regarding the expansion of the recreation system with new properties.

Fig. 2: Summary Map – New Spaces & Connections



Assessment of Information

Limited feedback on this exercise did not allow for any significant patterns to be detected. However, discussions with participants who provided input generally stated that it would be nice if there were marked 'looped' trails/routes within the City, as well as the creation of trail routes to the south which link to publicly-owned properties along the Peshtigo River. Safe pedestrian and bicycle mobility appears to be of interest and importance to existing City of Peshtigo residents based on these conversations and input provide through earlier exercises. Continued examination of this topic is recommended during the course of the CORP Update process.

#5 SHOW ME THE MONEY!

This exercise was designed to obtain feedback on the best ways to fund future park and trail improvements throughout the City. Participants used three colored dots to indicate their top three preferences for potential fundings sources.

Summary of Written Comments

Table 4 contains the results of voting conducted during this exercise. A total of 10 votes were recorded and were spread quite well across the available options. The largest grouping of responses (60% in total) were focused on donations, private sponsorships, and government grants. Only one response was recorded for continuing to utilize the City's general fund for implementing recreation improvements.

Table 4: Summary of "Show Me the Money" Results

Activity	Votes	% of Total
City General Fund / Annual Budget	1	10%
Park Impact Fees		
($ charged for each new residential building permit)		
Development Exactions (Required dedication of public lands in new subdivisions)		
Park / Activity User Fees	1	10%
Donations	2	20%
Fundraising Campaigns	1	10%
Private Sponsorships	2	20%
Government Grants	2	20%
Foundation Grants	1	10%
Corporate Partnerships		
Non-Profit Partnerships		
Other: W R I T E I N		
Total Votes	**10**	**100%**

Assessment of Information

With the limited data gathered through this exercise, the preferences for funding recreational improvements were not clear and obvious. While the majority of responses showed preferences for trying to obtain "free money" through donations, grants, and sponsorships, one individual likely recognized that recreation facilities are part of the essential services provided by a community. This question could be repeated as part of the on-line recreation survey, as more data from a larger sample size will hopefully help to establish new patterns, and/or reinforce the responses given at the workshop.

Event Takeaways

As compared to other similar types of planning/visioning-related events in communities, the participation levels in the City of Peshtigo were relatively low. Even though there were large crowds at the Historical Day event, the many other activities available likely prevented people from interacting in this workshop. However, having this up-front feedback at this early stage still offers some valuable insight about the community and its preferences related to parks, recreation, and trails. General themes which arose based on the data provided include:

1. Leverage the current identity(ies) of the community, such as the historic Peshtigo Fire, school facilities, and independence from others to make its recreation system a stand-out amongst other nearby communities.

2. Place additional focus on improving/maintaining those high-use activities already within the community such as camping, watersports (boating, kayaking, swimming), and bicycling.

3. Continually maintain and improve ALL park facilities, as several shortcomings were mentioned for specific facilities.

4. Foster the planning and construction of additional on and off-road trails to create a well-marked system which offers safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian movements across the City and to connect to key areas on the outskirts of the community.

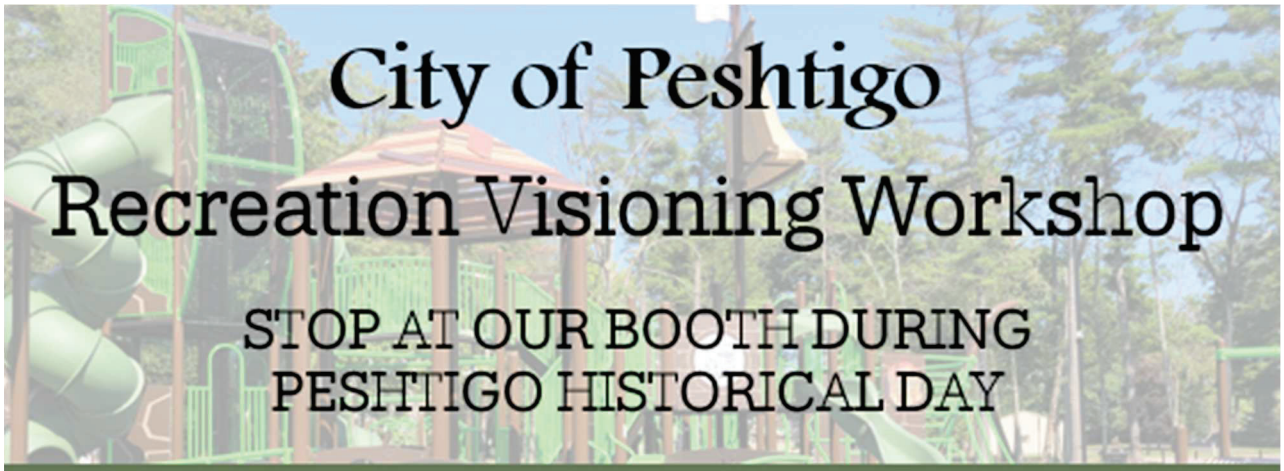
5. Continue to examine the best mix of funding options and opportunities for improving the current park and recreation system.

"A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

– Margaret Mead

APPENDIX A

Event Sign In Sheets, Promotional Materials, and Handouts



City of Peshtigo

Recreation Visioning Workshop

STOP AT OUR BOOTH DURING PESHTIGO HISTORICAL DAY

Saturday, September 26, 2026

1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Badger Park, Peshtigo, WI

Why You Should Participate!

Cedar Corporation will be providing opportunities for residents and visitors to easily give input on the City's existing and future outdoor recreation and trail system. Unique exercises can be done quickly and are suited for people of all ages. Stop by for 10 minutes and let your voice be heard! **The future of our parks depends on you!**

CITY OF PESHTIGO

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Healthy Places. Active People. Stronger Together.

PRESERVE • IMPROVE • EXPLORE

What is a CORP?

The purpose of a *Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, or CORP, is to create both a 5-year and long-range (5+ years) action program which can guide the growth of the City's park and trail system, as well as improvements to individual recreational facilities in response to community needs.

A second purpose of the CORP is to satisfy the mandates of available grant programs and to leverage other funding opportunities.

Planning for future recreation needs and expenditures can help ensure a coordinated vision exists for the community. This can only be achieved if community input and direction is given. **Your voice matters!**

Questions – Contact Park & Recreation Director, Lori Tonn at lorit@ci.peshtigo.wi.gov or call (715) 582-3041

Press Release / Website and Social Media Announcement

September 2, 2026

Recreation & Trails Visioning Workshop to be held for City of Peshtigo

The City of Peshtigo is kicking off the process to formally update its 5-Year Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or CORP as it is commonly known. This process is expected to be completed by the spring of 2027. This process will initially rely on receiving up-front ideas and opinions from residents, landowners, and other stakeholders on the condition of the City's existing parks and trails, as well as how it might expand in the future.

The City is working with Cedar Corporation to prepare the plan update. Cedar has worked with many communities on similar plans and they embrace the idea that in order to have a highly functional and valued park/trail system which meets the needs of residents and visitors, a community must first take the time to strategically plan for it. Obtaining public input early on in this process is critical to establishing this future vision.

This CORP update process will kick off with a community-wide interactive Visioning Workshop to be held on **Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Peshtigo Historical Day events at Badger Park.** A dedicated booth will house displays and workshop exercises meant to inform and engage participants on a variety of broad and specific topics relating to parks and recreation, including pedestrian trails and bicycle routes. Participants can provide their input in as little as 10 minutes, or they can spend an hour or more responding to a variety of interactive exercises designed to gather information and opinions.

Lori Tonn, the City's Park & Recreation Director, expressed the importance of "residents and stakeholders participating in this event so that early feedback can help further guide the planning process, and ultimately, its results. This is a great opportunity for residents' voices to be heard on what the future of our City's park and trail system could or should look like."

A more in-depth, on-line Recreation Users Survey will be used as another major 'listening tool' in this process and will be available starting this fall. If you have questions or need more information about this event, please contact Park & Recreation Director, Lori Tonn at lorit@ci.peshtigo.wi.gov, or Eric Fowle (Cedar Corporation) at eric.fowle@cedarcorp.com.

5-Year Recreation Plan Update

Sign Up for Email Notices! Resident Visioning Workshop – Sept. 26, 2026

Name	E-mail Address
M. Sanders	
Abi Kars	
Dave MacQuarrie	

APPENDIX B

Completed Exercise Worksheets

5-Year Recreation Plan Update

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE
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1 WHO ARE WE?

List out qualities and characteristics that define the City of Peshtigo across the three time-periods indicated. What is the City's overall identity? What elements of the City contribute to its overall "sense of place"? What makes the City of Peshtigo unique? Use short words, phrases or other descriptors.

PAST IDENTITY (HISTORIC)	PRESENT IDENTITY (CURRENT CULTURE)	FUTURE IDENTITY (WHAT COULD BE?)
· Fire in 1871	· New High School	·
Fire	Badger Park | River	Small town recreation with close ties to big cities. Chill, but connected

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5-Year Recreation Plan Update

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE
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2 LET'S GET ACTIVE!

Of the recreation activities listed below, which ones do you actively participate in? Use three **colored dots** to indicate your **TOP 3** activities. If an activity is not listed, please write it in under "other".

Activity	Votes
Baseball/Softball	
Basketball	
Bicycling (on-road/bike/lanes)	●●●●●●●
Bicycling (separated off-road trails)	
Bicycling (off-road mountain trails)	
Birdwatching	
Boating/Sailing	●●●
Camping	●●
Canoeing	●
Cross Country Skiing	
Disc Golf	
Dog Park	●
Fitness Course / Stations	
Golfing	●
Hiking (off-road trails)	●
Horseback Riding	●●
Ice Skating	
Kayaking	●●●
Pickleball	
Picnicking	
Playground Equipment	●●●
Running	
Sledding	●
Soccer	
Swimming	●
Tennis	
Volleyball	●
Walking (on-road)	●●●
Yoga	
Other: ATV	●●
Other: WRITE IN HERE	
Other: WRITE IN HERE	

Splash pad

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5-Year Recreation Plan Update

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE
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3 PARK SATISFACTION

How would you rate each of the City of Peshtigo's existing park facilities? Do you have ideas for future improvements to these parks? Place a **colored dot** in one of the three columns for each park facility. Write down any ideas for future improvements in the fourth column, or by using the Post-It Notes provided.

City Park Facility	It's in Great Shape – Don't Change a Thing!	Needs Minor / Moderate improvement	Needs Significant Improvement	Any Specific Suggestions?
Badger Park & Campground		●● ●		
Berth Park			●	
Bundy Park			●	Playground equipment feels unsafe
Eastside Ball Fields (#1-#3)		●		
Ballfield #4		●		BETTER SCHEDULING ON LANDSCAPE
East Side (Lower) Boat Launch				
Florist Park				
Harper Park			●●	Playground equipment feels unsafe
Peshtigo Lions Recreation Area (Ponds)	●	●		
Prestine Park		●●		
River Recreational Park				
Stibbe's Riverfront Park & (Upper) Boat Launch	●	●●		
Tonn Park	●			
Triangle Park	●	●		

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Keep all ponds to keep set off like out

agree!

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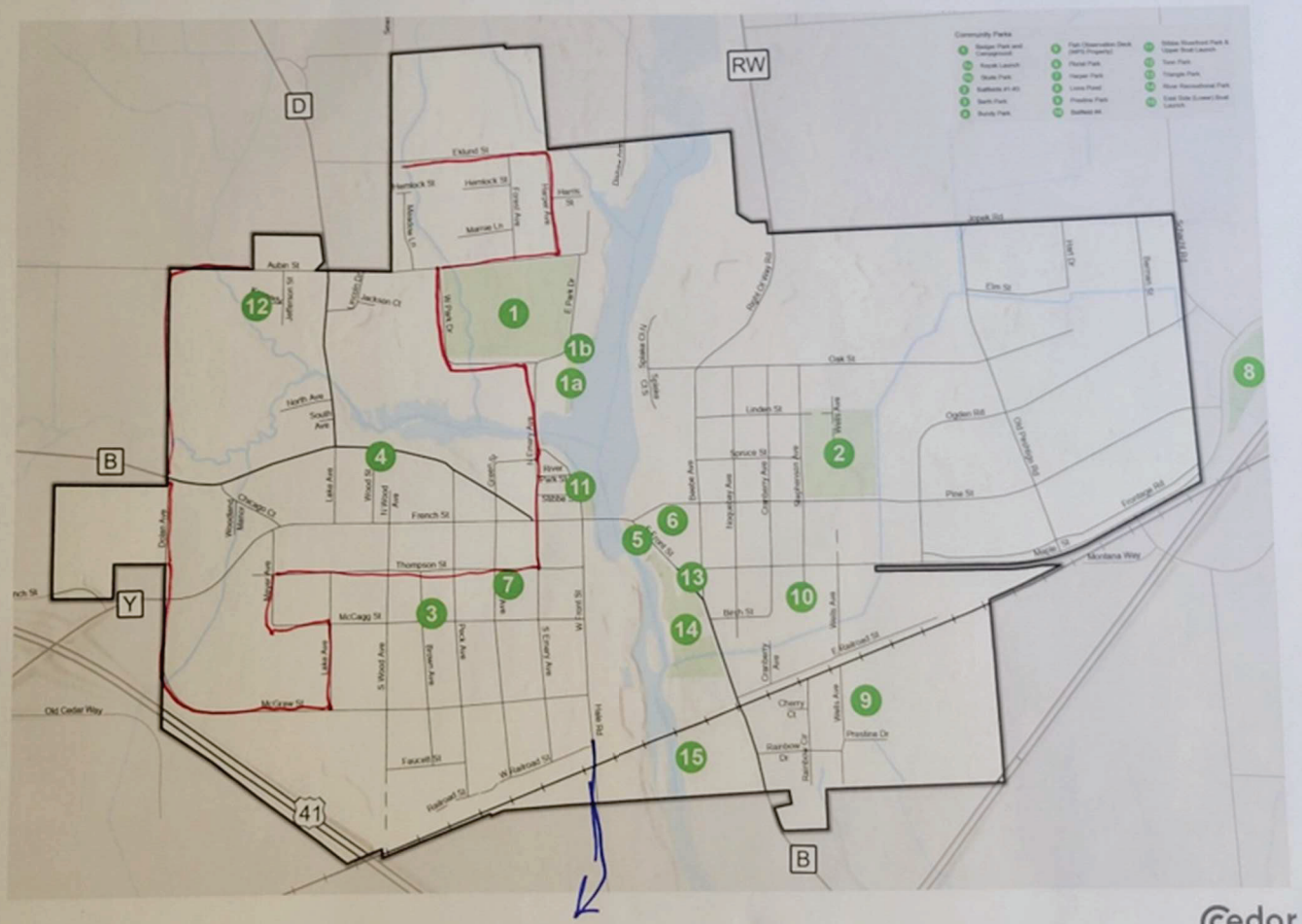
5-Year Recreation Plan Update

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE
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4 NEW SPACES & CONNECTIONS

Use the **colored dots and markers** to identify sites which should be better connected with bicycle/pedestrian facilities, as well as potential new recreation sites or conservation areas.

- *What sites within or near the City should be better connected with bicycle or pedestrian facilities?*
- *Which routes would be most effective to make such connections?*
- *Are there suitable areas for "off-road" trail connections?*
- *Are there current places in the City which are underserved with green space?*
- *Where could new parks go as the City grows?*
- *Are there some unknown gems out there? Give us your best ideas!*



5-Year Recreation Plan Update

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN UPDATE
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5 SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Park and recreation operations, improvements, or expansion can cost money. Use **three colored dots** to indicate your **TOP 3** preferences for how the City of Peshtigo should fund future park, recreation, and trail improvements or expansions.

Funding Method	Your Preference?
City General Fund / Annual Budget	
Park Impact Fees *($ charged for each new residential building permit)*	
Development Exactions *(Required dedication of public lands in new subdivisions)*	
Park / Activity User Fees	
Donations	
Fundraising Campaigns	
Private Sponsorships	
Government Grants	
Foundation Grants	
Corporate Partnerships	
Non-Profit Partnerships	
Other: WRITE IN	

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Cedarburg, WI 53012
262-204-2360

2820 Walton Commons West
Suite 142
Madison, WI 53718
608-249-5046

1695 Bellevue Street
Green Bay, WI 54311
920-491-9081

604 Wilson Avenue
Menomonie, WI 54751
715-235-9081

www.cedarcorp.com

Chapter 2 - Inventory of Recreational Resources

Overview

This chapter contains an inventory of all existing park and recreation resources within the City of Peshtigo, including nearby school, town, county, and State park and trail facilities. This inventory represents the conditions at the time of report preparation and will be helpful in assessing the availability of facilities to City residents as compared to various park and recreation standards. Map 1-1 also illustrates the locations of these nearby recreation facilities.

Nearby State Parks & Trails

Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area

This State of Wisconsin property is located south of the City of Peshtigo and comprises nearly 5,700 acres of forest and marsh, bisected by the Peshtigo River. The wildlife area can be accessed from either side of the Peshtigo River downstream from Peshtigo. Take West Front Street to Hale Road and follow Harbor Road to the wildlife area on the west side of the River. County Highway BB provides access on the east side of the river.



The harbor area itself is made up of older river channels and cut-off areas that now form numerous lagoons and wetlands. The harbor provides excellent habitat for waterfowl and is a popular waterfowl hunting area. Approximately 300 acres of the harbor area is set aside as wildlife refuge. The purpose of the refuge is to hold waterfowl during the hunting season. The forested area of the harbor provides excellent habitat for upland game. Deer, squirrel and grouse hunting are popular activities. The harbor area is also a popular fishing area, particularly during the spring spawning runs. A boat launch on the west side of the harbor is maintained by the Town of Peshtigo.

West Side: These properties include more than four miles of frontage on the Bay of Green Bay. This area has extensive marshes at the mouth of the Peshtigo River and bottomland hardwood forests along upstream portions of the river. A little over half of the property is forested with a mixture of oak, aspen and red maple. Many marsh birds nest here, including ducks, rails, marsh and sedge wrens, bittern, sora, sandhill cranes, bald eagles and ospreys. The area in best explored by canoe, but many areas are accessible by walking.

East Side: This area includes many side roads along County Highway BB. Pond Road has an Observation Deck overlooking Winegar Pond. The deck was built and maintained by the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society (CRAS). The entire area after the black-top on Pond Road is public land managed by the Department of Natural Resources and has many diversified habitats for excellent bird observations. Every spring for International Migratory Bird Day, CRAS holds a birding event at the deck.

Former Peshtigo Harbor and Lumber Mill Sites



This site lies within the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area and bustled with activity from 1867 to 1897. It was the busy lumber mill and shipping port that drew a population of 500, made mostly of workers and their families. Today all that is left are the pier pilings and the shore birds. The boat landing found at the end of Harbor Road is near the site of the old lumber mill.

Bloch Oxbow State Natural Area

Located within the Peshtigo Wildlife Area, this Natural Area was dedicated in 1997 to preserve a variety of forest types, an oxbow of the Peshtigo River, and several rare plants and animals. It honors the Gustave and Emma Bloch family who owned and farmed this land for many years. A parking area is located on County Road BB.

Winegar Pond

This spot is a favorite for avid birders or those just wanting to take in some natural beauty. It offers needed habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds along the bay. It's also a great place to see birds rare to this region as they rest during migration seasons. To get there, follow Pond Road off County Road BB.

Nearby County Parks and Trails

Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area Trails Project

Marinette County has created the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area Trails Project in partnership between Marinette County Land & Water Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources, and UW-Extension. This project was funded through a grant from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and consists of several elements:

- Peshtigo River Trail: This canoe trail takes you on the same winding path American Indians, early explorers, fur traders, and loggers used as a main "road" for travel and shipment of goods - the river. It combines the adventure of small boat travel with the chance to learn about the area and experience it from the same perspective as people of the past. Starting at the East Side (Lower) Boat Landing in the City of Peshtigo, this water trail meanders through upland hardwood forest, eventually changes to flat marshy estuary, and ends at the mouth of the river in the Bay of Green Bay for a total of 11 river miles.

- Hemlock Curve Nature Trail: Located about 2.5 miles south of Peshtigo off Harbor Road, this trail begins at the end of Badger Road. Trail guides are available at a trailhead kiosk for this diverse birding trail. The 2.4-mile paths wind around wetlands, meadows, hardwoods, savannah and upland forest and the Peshtigo River. This is a good place to see nesting golden-winged and blue- winged warblers.

- Woods Road Ski Trail: The Woods Road Ski Trail was completed in January 2006 and consists of 6 miles total miles of cross-country ski trails. The trail system is rated Easy and has many loop options Trail maps and wildlife stations are located inside boxes placed at intersections Parking is limited and no motorized vehicles are permitted on trail. The trail can be found by taking Hale Road outside the city limits. After a few miles, turn left onto Harbor Road, then right onto Hale School Road. After about one half mile, the ski trail will be on the left.

Harmony Hardwoods Arboretum

Located about 2.5 miles northwest of the City of Peshtigo, along CTH D and its intersection with CTH E, this County-owned forest comprises 460 acres of forested and open areas. Habitats include prairie, several wetland types, and old-growth northern hardwood stand. A small stream enhances the biodiversity of the area.

Other County Forest Properties

Three areas of Marinette County Forest properties exist close to the City of Peshtigo which offer hunting, fishing, and trail recreation opportunities. One located between Peshtigo and Marinette to the north and west of WIS 41 (~510 acres). A second area exists south of the City, along Hale School Road (~120 acres). And a third to the southwest of the City, north of County Line Road which totals over 2,300 acres.

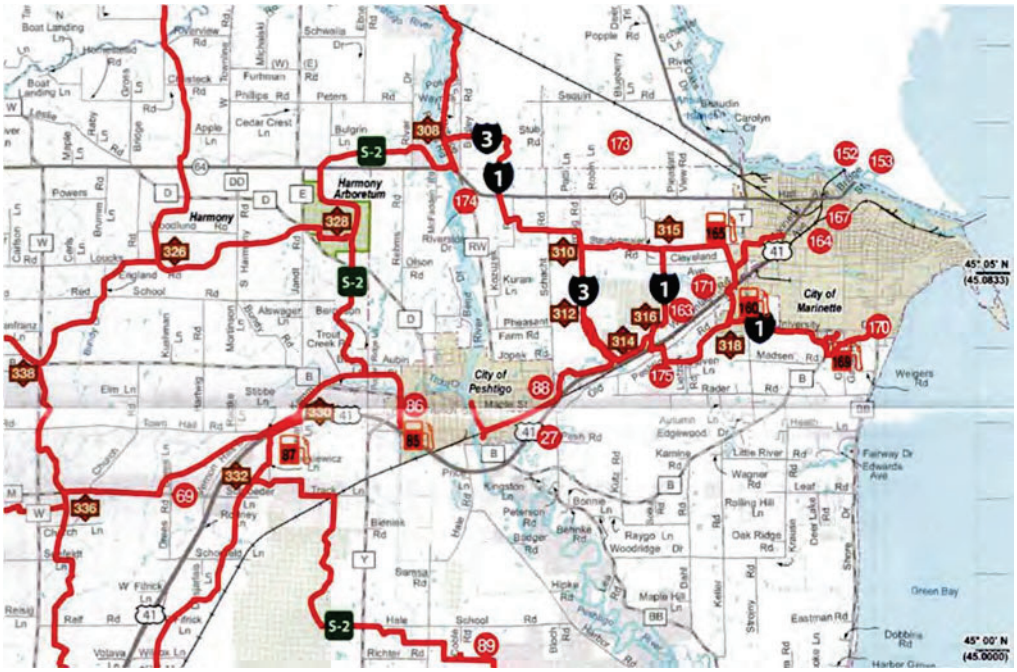
Menominee River Century Bike Loop

One of several designated Marinette County Bike Loops, this Loop consists of a 23- or 68-mile route that travels through the cities of Marinette and Peshtigo and extends north to the towns of Wagner and McAllister, Michigan. The eastern portion of the loop extends into Michigan and travels along the Menominee River. This loop is used as part of the annual Menominee River Century bike ride, which attracts hundreds of bicyclists to the area each year.

ATV Trails

The City of Peshtigo has adopted Ordinance 2020-02 (Amended by Ord. 2026-01) which allows for the operation of ATVs and UTVs on all improved City streets and alleyways with a number of restrictions. By doing so, this form of transportation offers recreational opportunities by connecting with the county-wide ATV/UTV trails. Marinette County has over 200 miles of ATV/UTV trails, several of which connect to the City of Peshtigo as shown in Figure 2-1. The majority of this trail system is open year round except when they are closed for approximately the month of April due to soft & wet trail conditions during the spring break-up.

Figure 2-1: Peshtigo Area ATV/UTV and Snowmobile Trails



Source: 2022/2023 Marinette County Alliance.

Many town roads are also open to ATV/UTV use, as well as some designated County Road segments. A number of ATV Clubs have been established within the county. These clubs are a great source for information and support for other ATV riders. They often have specialized knowledge about riding areas and other local issues.

Snowmobile Trails

Throughout the county there are a total of roughly 750 miles of well-groomed, clearly marked trails that are developed on both public and private lands. Marinette County trails connect the City with the Statewide trail system (Figure 2-1) and allows for access south to Oconto County, north to Forest and Florence Counties, as well as the Michigan border. A number of snowmobile clubs have been established throughout the county. These clubs provide information on trails and riding to other snowmobile riders and also work with the county to maintain the trails.

School-Related Facilities

School Facilities (12.5 Acres)

Peshtigo High School, Peshtigo Elementary School, and St. Mary's Parochial School provide recreational facilities that are available for public use. The 12.5 acres referred to are outdoor playgrounds and athletic fields that the City can use for recreational programs, if needed.

Peshtigo High School is located on North Emery Avenue in the northern part of the City. Trout Creek, which drains into the Peshtigo River just east of the high school, separates the high school from the elementary school to the north. No outdoor recreation facilities are available at the high school. However, a gym and a multi-purpose room, as well as a mat room are available for City Recreation Department use .

Peshtigo Elementary Learning Center (PECL) is located just north of the high school. PELC has a gym, a multi-purpose gym, and a large cafeteria area that can be used by the City Recreation Department. Approximately ten acres of elementary school land are available for outdoor recreation use. Facilities on the ten acres include: (5) sets of Playground Equipment, (4) Tennis Courts with lights –site also contains four basketball hoops, (1) Backstop for baseball/ an open practice area for football etc. The School District also maintains a football field/track stadium, which may be used for appropriate recreational uses.

St. Mary's Parochial School, located on Thompson St. in the western part of the City, includes about 2.5 acres that are available for outdoor recreation use. St. Mary's has allowed gym usage in the past.

Private Recreation Facilities

Cramer's Vernon Hills Golf, and 18-hole private course lies about one mile west of Peshtigo and is the only known private recreational facility in the area, as none exist within the City itself.

City of Peshtigo Park and Recreation Facilities

The City has combined outdoor recreation and open space areas total 151.9 acres. Limited Indoor facilities are available at the City of Peshtigo's Henry Drees Community Center. For certain Recreation Programming, the Peshtigo School District does allow the city to reserve and use without cost indoor school facilities.

15 different local park, recreation, and open space sites exist within the City of Peshtigo and are under their ownership or operation (Map 2-1). These park sites are distributed throughout the community, and just outside of it, with many of them located along the shoreline of the Peshtigo River.

The City of Peshtigo's parks are described below with details on the size and type of the facility, along with available recreational activities, facilities, and a condition assessment portrayed in Table 2-1 and Figures 2-2 through 2-16.

Community Parks

Badger Park & Campground (62.0 acres)

Badger Park & Campground occupies 62 acres in the northern portion of the City and serves as the main recreational and event gathering space for residents and visitors due to its location along the Peshtigo River and its close proximity to downtown. The parklands were orginally donated by the Drees family in the 1940's and now offers a unique facility which serves as both a Community Park and a Special Use Park due to the existence of the campground. The park can be divided into three areas generally separated by East Park Drive and the dead-end portion of North Emery Avenue:

1. Badger Park Campground Area includes:
    - Registration Building
    - Currently 37 Regular Campsites with Electricity and Water Hookups, four Walk-In Tent Sites, and one Group Camping Site. One regular campsite also has sewer hookup. Most regular sites offer up to 50-amp service.
    - Included in the 37 campsites are two Rustic Cabins. Both cabins sleep four in two sets of bunkbeds per cabin. There is electric inside, but no other utilities or amenities.
    - Picnic Tables and Fire Rings
    - ADA Accessible Rest Rooms and Shower Facilities
    - ADA Accessible Blacktopped Camping Site
    - Storage Garages
    - ADA Accessible Playground area with two infant swings, playhouse, and spring rockers for younger children.
    - Drive-through Dump Station

2. Badger Swimming and Picnicking Area includes:
    - Picnic Tables
    - Pavilion for Group Rental (24' x 24')
    - Drinking Fountain ("Bubbler")
    - Groomed Sand Beach
    - A Marked-Off Swimming Area—approx, 100'x50'
    - ADA Accessible Rest Rooms

- Sitting Benches along River
- Swing Set
- Beach sand Volleyball Court
- Fenced Skateboard Facility w/jumps
- A 16 foot boarding dock for boats

3. Badger Park's Picnicking/Play Area includes:
   - ADA Accessible Rest Rooms
   - Large Pavilion (40' x 60') for Group Rentals
   - Multi-Use Band Shell (45’ x 26’) with storage.
   - (4) Fenced in Horseshoe Pits with backstops
   - Badger Boardwalk play area (10,000 sq. feet total, of which 3,500 is ADA Accessible)
   - 18-hole Disc Golf Course
   - Gaga Ball Pit
   - X-Country Ski Trail (groomed when weather permits)
   - Nature Trails with 4 Bridges (1.4 miles)

Due to this park’s size as well as being a focal point for the community, a tremendous amount of effort it put forth by the City for its ongoing maintenance and improvement. For example, in 2026 the City Council approved several projects within the park, including $8,300 worth of tree removal and stump grinding work, as well as a $200,000+ replacement and upgrade project of electical wiring, service panels, and outlets at Badger Campground. Furthermore, the Parks & Recreation Committee is currently discussing issues associated with an $18,500 expenditure for grading and resurfacing roads and campsites, the identification of dead or hazardous trees within all park areas, as well as the expansion of off-street parking near East Park Drive, behind the bandshell.

Eastside Ball Fields - #1, #2, and #3 (23.3 acres)

Fields 1, 2 and 3 are located on North Stephenson Avenue in the northeastern part of the City. The complex covers 23.3 acres. The City also owns an additional 9.4-acre area east of the existing ball diamonds for future development. The City used about 1.5 acres of this area for a new Well House and Access Road. Facilities at Ball Field Complex include:

- Field #1 (North Diamond) – dimensions to Youth Baseball and Girls Softball, Concession Building, Bathrooms, Storage, Scoreboard, Seasonal Batting Cages
- Field #2 (Middle Diamond)— dimensions to Adult Softball/Babe Ruth Prep—with lights, Scoreboard, Concession Stand/Storage Garage.
- Field #3 Baseball Diamond – dimensions to Babe Ruth and higher baseball—with in-ground irrigation system, Scoreboard Batting Cage Rest Rooms Concession Stand, 10 Bleacher sections.

In addition there is a soccer and youth football practice area as well as a playground area which includes a swingset, climbing structure, and a sandbox.

Ball Field #4 (Old Little League Field) (2.6 acres)

Ball Field #4 is 2.6 acre recreation site in the eastern part of the City, south of Maple Street, just two blocks south of the Eastside Ball Fields Complex. The ballfield is tucked away behind a commercial area and offers open gravel areas for parking. A standard-sized youth baseball/softball diamond, rest room building and a concession stand, scoreboard, two (2) sections of bleachers, a fenced-in batting cage, and two picnic tables are located within the park.

Neighborhood Parks

Berth Park (0.6 acres)

Berth Park is privately owned and leased to the City for public recreational use. The 3-year lease renewed in 2024 and will be coming up for renewal again in 2027. The park is located at McCagg Street and Brown Avenue in the west central part of the City. The 0.6 acre site contains and open greenspace area, a swingset, an infant swing, and a slide. Problems with a Sand Birr infestation was resolved in 2016 by removing the infested dirt, importation of new dirt, and growth of new turf. The City also planted five new trees along the border of the park as part of that project. Junior-sized soccer nets were purchased for this park in 2018.

Harper Park (1.0 acres)

Harper Park is approximately one acre in size and is located at the corner of Thompson Street and South Ellis Avenue in the west central portion of the City. This park includes: an open greenspace area, a swing set, merry-go-round, tot-lot play structure, a baseball backstop, and an ice skating rink (when weather permits). In addition, two permanent park benches, three picnic tables, and a dog waste station are present within the park.

Florist Park (0.8 acres)

Florist Park on Pine Street is in the east central part of the City and is approximately 0.8 acres in size. Facilities include off street parking for twelve (12) cars via an alley access, a merry go round, infant swing, spring rocker, and a modular play system that includes a Lexan circular slide, deck, cargo net, arch climber, and a horizontal ladder. The play area has an ADA accessible path. There is also a large, underutilized open play area and a Gaga Ball Pit.

Prestine Park (1.3 acres)

Prestine Park is 1.3 acres in size and is located at South Wells Avenue and Poplar Drive in the southeastern part of the City within the Rainbow subdivision. Facilities include an open greenspace area, swing set, slide, spring rocker, climbing bars, and a merry go round.

Mini Parks

Bundy Park (0.2 acres)

Bundy Park is located at the corner of Oconto Avenue and Wood Street in the northwestern part of the City. Facilities include an open greenspace area, merry go round, one (1) spring rocker toy, two infant/toddler swings, a 'monkey bar' climbing apparatus, and a 12'x18' paved court, which appears to be unutilized. This park had been privately owned and leased to the City until 2019 when the City purchased it.

Triangle Park (0.2 acres)

Bounded by Business 41 (Maple St.), Front Street, and Beebe Avenue, Triangle Park is a mini-park approximately 0.2 acres in size. No recreation facilities are available at the park, but a monument, flower area and landscaping make it an attractive area. Underground electrical service is present in several locations throughout the park connected to a timer, which makes it ideal for use with Holiday decorations, etc.

Tonn Park (0.2 acres)

Located on the city's northwest corner, Tonn Park is a two-tenths of an acre parcel located near the end of Kennedy Court. The city has not taken any action to develop this park and no improvements have been made to it since its acquisition.

Special Use Parks

East Side (Lower) Boat Launch (approx. 1.0 acres)

Located by the Department of Public Works Garages off East Front Street, the launch offers boater access to the Peshtigo River below the dam. This boat launch allows fishing and recreational boat access below the city's dam and is very popular in the spring during the annual Walleye spawning run. Parking is along the access road and on the DPW lawns.

Facilities at the launch area include two concrete docks, one wooden removable boarding dock, a launch ramp, off-street parking, and a small grassy area with a picnic table, grill, two sitting benches and ADA accessible path to the launch. The area also has two information kiosks and a self-registration fee tube .

Stibbe's Riverfront Park & (Upper) Boat Launch

These parcels of land comprise about 1.5 acres and are located on the west side of the river extending from French Street to North Emery Avenue. Three distinct areas exist along this linear park which fronts the Peshtigo River for approximately 1,350 feet.

1. Linear Park and Fishing Pier – This is a tree-lined area which extends south from Trout Creek and has ample street parking along Front Street. T

2. Upper Boat Launch – This is a two-lane/two-dock boat launch with a self registration station and fee tube. Trailer parking is located across Northwest Front Street in a municipal parking lot.

3. The Park area has six (6) permanent sitting benches, a gazebo with sitting areas, native landscaping, an in-ground sprinkling system, and a timer controlled evening lighting consisting of 20 light bollards. The Park Area also has a 10 foot by 10 foot ADA Accessible Fishing Platform extending out into the river. At the corner of the bridge over the river, a memorial stone has been erected commemorating the Great Peshtigo Fire. In 2017, a five pole upright Rock Crib Memorial was installed, commemorating the logging history of and in the river.

River Recreational Park (12.8 acres)

This 12.8-acre undeveloped corridor of riverfront woodlands along the Peshtigo River (east side) lies below the dam, with 1600 feet of river frontage. Approxmately 1.6 miles of hiking/snow shoe trails have been developed and wood-chipped throughout the park. Several of the trails provide access to the river and are very popular with anglers. The City has allowed a local snowmobile club to traverse the park with a trail that terminates at the river above the dam. An unbridged, small creek runs through the park to the river. A 10-space off-street gravel parking area and park identification and trail signage is also present.

TOP Dog Park (30.6 acres)

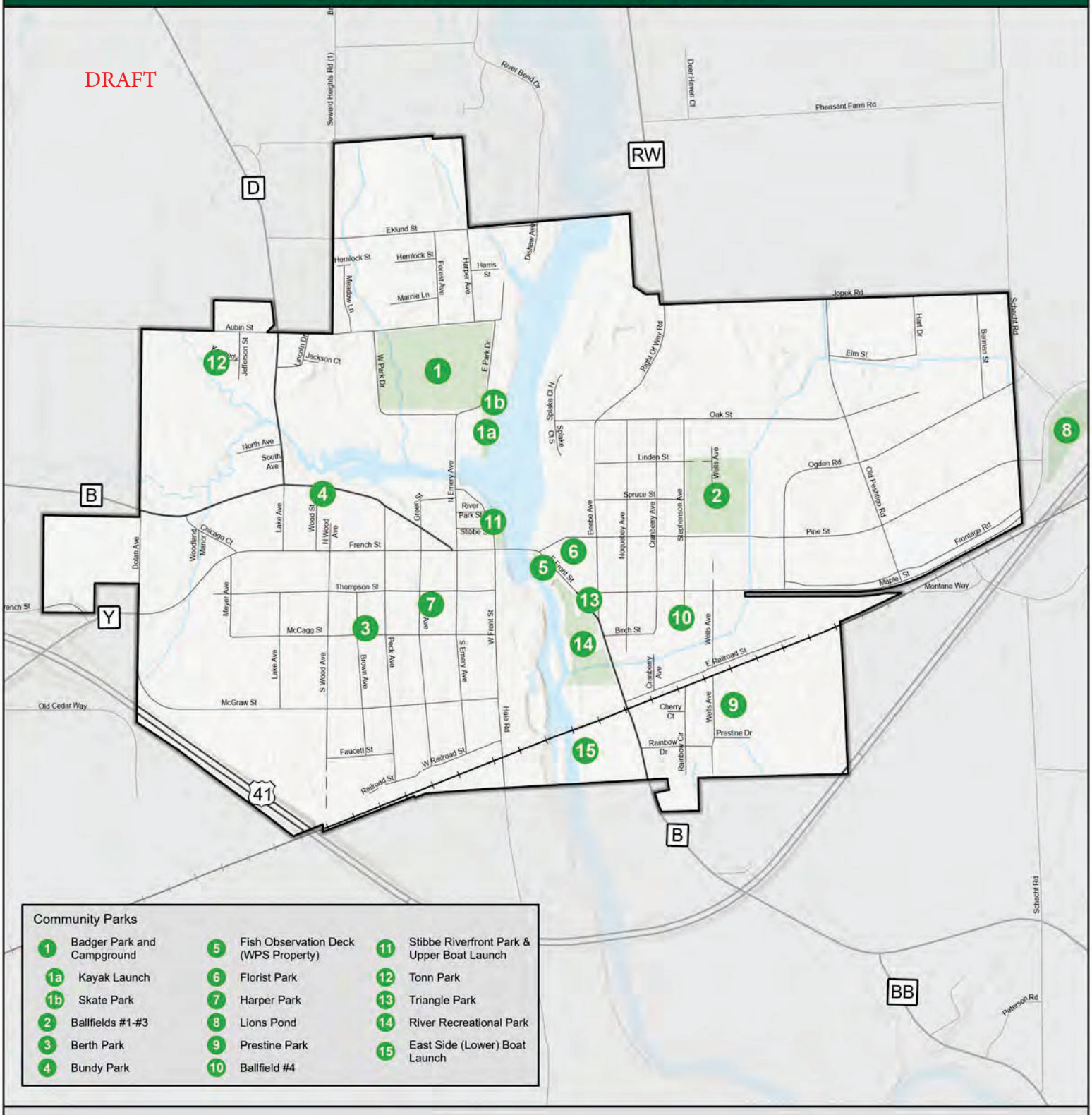
While owned by the City of Peshtigo, this 30.6 acre site is located in the Town of Peshtigo, south of the City on Harbor Road. A portion of the site (approx. 8 acres) is utilized as a fenced-in off-leash dog park which is open to residents of the City and Town of Peshtigo. The park was built and is maintained by a separate non-profit organization. The park contains a fenced in dog area, benches, two shade structures, dog agility equipment, garbage cans, dog waste stations, and a portable restroom.

Map 2

Community Parks

City of Peshtigo, Marinette County, Wisconsin

DRAFT



Community Parks

1. Badger Park and Campground
1a. Kayak Launch
1b. Skate Park
2. Ballfields #1-#3
3. Berth Park
4. Bundy Park
5. Fish Observation Deck (WPS Property)
6. Florist Park
7. Harper Park
8. Lions Pond
9. Prestine Park
10. Ballfield #4
11. Stibbe Riverfront Park & Upper Boat Launch
12. Tonn Park
13. Triangle Park
14. River Recreational Park
15. East Side (Lower) Boat Launch

Legend

- # Community Parks

Base Layers

- US Highway
- County Highway
- Local Road
- Private Road
- Railroad
- Municipal Boundary
- Water

NORTH

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

This base map was created with data from Marinette County who assumes no liability for the accuracy of this data and any use or misuse of its content is the responsibility of the user. Changes were made by Cedar Corporation under the direction of the City of Peshtigo. Map Date: September 3, 2026.

Table 1: City of Peshtigo Park and Recreation Facility Inventory, 2026

Park Name	Park Type	Park Acres	Park Service Area	Available Recreational Activity or Facilities																																						
				Baseball/Softball Diamonds	Bandshell	Bike Racks	Benches/Seating Area	Boat Launch	Camping	Dog Park (off leash)	Dog Waste Station	Disc Golf	Dry Concession	Fish Cleaning Station	Fishing Pier / Shore Fishing	Football Practice Area	Gaga Ball Pit	Horseshoe Pits	Ice Skating Rink (Seasonal)	Landscape Plantings / Gardens	Kayak Launch	Kitchen	Memorials / Monuments	Nature Viewing	Open Space	Parking (off-street)	Playground Equipment	Pinic Area/Tables	Restrooms (temporary/portable)	Restrooms (permanent/seasonal)	Sandbox	Security Lighting / Other Lighting	Security Cameras	Shelter / Pavilion (Open)	Skateboarding	Soccer Field / Practice Area	Storage Building	Swimming	Volleyball	Walking Trails	Underground Electrical Services	Woodlands
Badger Park & Campground	Community & Special Use	62.0	1-2 mi. / 10 + mi.		■			■	■		■	■			■		■	■			■			■	■	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■		■
Peshtigo Lions Recreation Area	Community	14.4	1-2 mi.			■	■				■			■	■									■		■		■					■						■		
Eastside Ballfields (#1-#3)	Community	23.3	1/2 mi.	■									■			■										■	■	■		■					■						
Ballfield #4	Community	2.1	1/2 mi.	■									■													■		■		■											
Berth Park	Neighborhood	0.6	1/4 mi.																						■		■													
Florist Park	Neighborhood	0.7	1/4 mi.																						■	■	■													
Harper Park	Neighborhood	1.0	1/4 mi.	■							■								■						■		■	■												
Prestine Park	Neighborhood	1.3	1/4 mi.																						■		■													
Bundy Park	Mini	0.2	1/4 mi.																						■		■													
Tonn Park	Mini	0.2	1/4 mi.																						■															■
Triangle Park	Mini	0.2	1/4 mi.				■														■			■	■														■	
East Side (Lower) Boat Launch	Special Use	1.0	1-10+ mi.				■	■							■								■		■		■													
Stibbe's Riverfront Park & (Upper) Boat Launch	Special Use	1.5	1-10+ mi.				■	■			■				■						■	■		■	■			■				■		■					■		
River Recreational Park	Special Use	12.8	1-10+ mi.												■								■															■		■
TOP Dog Park	Special Use	30.6	1-10+ mi.							■	■															■			■					■							
Total Acres		**151.9**																																						

Source: City of Peshtigo and Cedar Corporation, 2026

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

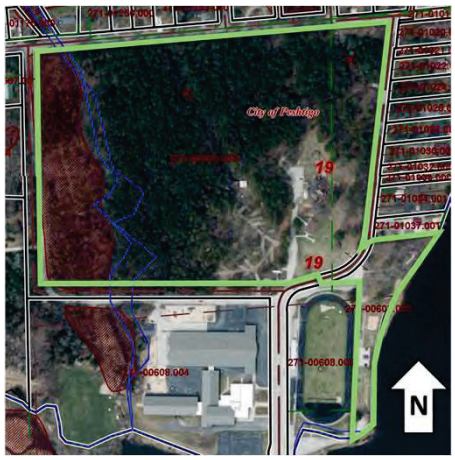
Badger Park & Campground

Figure 2-2









PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 62.0 **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

	Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Badger Campground Facility	Registration Building	Good	
	42 Campsites w/picnic tables and fire rings.	Good	35 w/elec. & water, 2 rustic cabins, 4 tent sites, and 1 group camping site. 1 site is ADA Accessible
	Restroom/Shower Facilities	Good	ADA Accessible
	(2) Storage Garages	Good	
	Playground Area	Good	ADA Accessible
	Drive-through Dump Station	Good	
Badger Swimming & Picnicking Area	Picnic Tables	Good	
	Pavilion for Group Rental (24' x 24')	Good	
	Drinking Fountain	Good	
	Groomed Sand Beach	Good	w/marked swimming areas
	Rest Rooms	Good	ADA Accessible
	Sitting Benches along River	Good	
	Swing Set	Good	
	Beach Sand Volleyball Court	Good	
	Fenced Skateboard Facility w/jumps	Good	
	16-ft. boarding dock for boats	Good	
	Kayak Launch	Good	ADA Accessible
Badger Park Picnicking & Play Area	Rest Room Facility	Good	ADA Accessible
	Large Pavilion (40' x 60') for Group Rentals	Good	
	Multi-Use Band Shell (45’ x 26’) w/ storage	Good	
	(4) Fenced in Horseshoe Pits with backstops	Good	
	Badger Boardwalk play area (10,000 sq. ft.)	Good	3,500 sq. ft. is ADA Accessible
	Disc Golf Course (18 holes)	Good	
	Gaga Ball Pit	Good	
	Nature Trails with 4 Bridges (1.4 miles)	Good	Serves as X-Country Ski Trail (groomed)

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

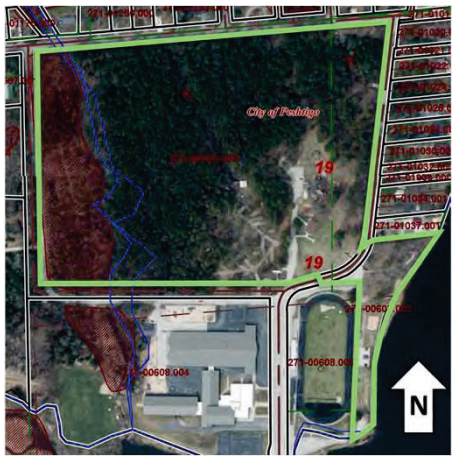
Badger Park & Campground

Figure 2-2









Park Acreage: 62.0 **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Peshtigo Lions Recreation Area

Figure 2-3







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 14.4 Ac. **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Gravel Parking Area	Fair	
Fishing Pier/Deck	Good	
Benches	Good	
Picnic Tables	Good	
Dog Waste Stations	Good	
Fish Cleaning Table	Fair	
Garbage Cans	Good	
Covered Pavilion / Shelter	Good	
Walking Trails	Good	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

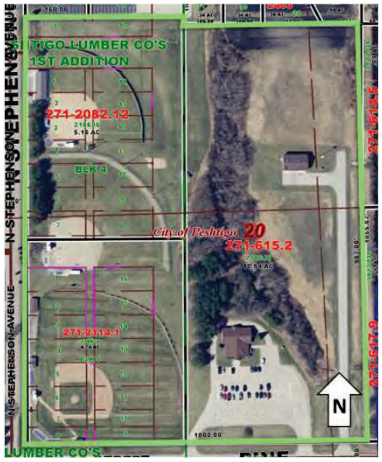
CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Eastside Ball Fields (#1-#3)

Figure 2-4







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 23.3 Ac. Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Field #1 (North Diamond) Concession Building Restrooms Storage Scoreboard (2) Seasonal Batting Cages	Good	Dimensions to Youth Baseball and Girls Softball
Field #2 (Middle Diamond) Field Lighting Scoreboard Concession Stand/Storage Garage	Good	Dimensions to Adult Softball/Babe Ruth Prep
Field #3 Baseball Diamond In-ground irrigation system Scoreboard Baseball Batting Cage Restrooms Concession Stand (10) Bleacher sections	Good	Dimensions to Babe Ruth and higher baseball
Soccer / Youth Football practice area	Good	
Playground area including swings, climbing structure and sandbox	Good	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

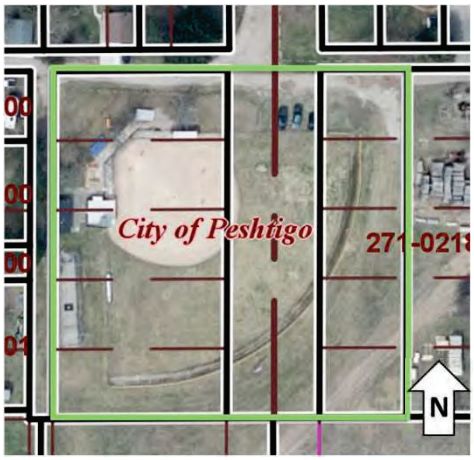
CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Ball Field #4

Figure 2-5







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 2.1 ac. **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Youth Baseball/Softball Field	Good	
Covered Dugouts (2)	Good	
Restroom Building	Good	
Concession Stand	Good	
Bleachers	Good	
Fenced-In Batting Cage	Good	
Scoreboard	Good	
Picnic Tables (2)	Good	
Garbage Cans	Good	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

Park Identification Sign

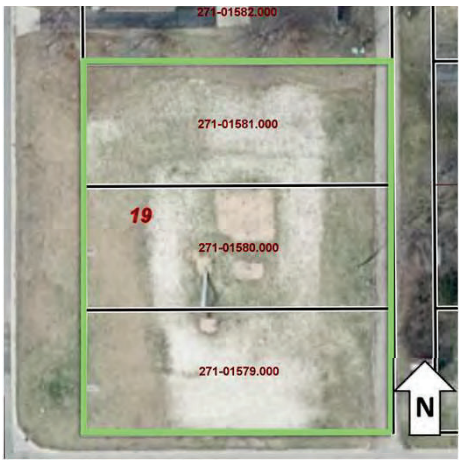
CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Berth Park

Figure 2-6







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 0.6 Ac. **Park Ownership: Leased to City**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Open Green Space	Good	
Swing Set (w/1 infant swing)	Good	
Slide	Good	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

Park Identification Sign
ADA Accessible Equipment
Lighting
Security Cameras
Trees or Shade Structures
Benches
Landscaping/Plantings
No Sidewalks
Pavilion/Shelter
Garbage Can(s)
Dog Waste Station
Picnic Tables

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Bundy Park

Figure 2-7







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 0.2 Ac. **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Open Greenspace	Good	
Merry-Go-Round	Poor	Needs re-painting or replacement
Spring Rocker Toy	Fair	
Infant/Toddler Swings (2)	Good	
Monkey Bar/Climbing Apparatus	Good	
Garbage Can (1)	Good	
~12'x18' Paved Court	Poor	Large cracks. Unsure as to utilization.
Street Parking	Good	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

Park Identification Sign
ADA Accessible Equipment
Lighting
Security Cameras
Trees or Shade Structures
Benches
Landscaping/Plantings
Accessible by Sidewalk on One Side Only
Picnic Tables
Pavilion/Shelter
Dog Waste Station

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Florist Park

Figure 2-8







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 0.7 Ac. Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Open Green Space	Good	
Off-Street Alley Parking (12 spaces)	Fair	
Park Identification Sign	Fair	
Concrete Path/Pad to Play Structure	Fair	
Merry-Go-Round	Good	
Infant Swing	Good	ADA Accessible Path Provided
Spring Rocker	Good	
Modular Play Structure	Good	
Gaga Ball Pit	Good	
Bench	Good	
Garbage Can	Good	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

Pavilion / Shelter
Picnic Tables
Lighting
Security Cameras
Dog Waste Station

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Harper Park

Figure 2-9







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 1.0 Ac. **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Open Green Space	Good	
Ice Skating Rink (weather permitting)	Good	
Merry-Go-Round	Good	
Swing Set	Good	
Tot Lot Structure	Good	
Benches (1)	Good	
Baseball Backstop	Fair	
Park Identification Sign	Fair	
Picnic Tables (3)	Good	
Dog Waste Station	Good	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

Pavilion/Shelter
Lighting
Security Cameras
ADA Accessible Equipment
Garbage Cans

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Prestine Park

Figure 2-10

Map No.
9







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 1.3 Ac. **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Open Green Space	Good	
Swing Set	Good	
Slide	Good	
Climbing Bars	Good	
Merry Go Round	Good	
Springy Horse	Good	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

Park Identification Sign
Marked Parking Area
Pavilion/Shelter
Picnic Tables
Benches
ADA Accessible Equipment
Garbage Cans
Dog Waste Station

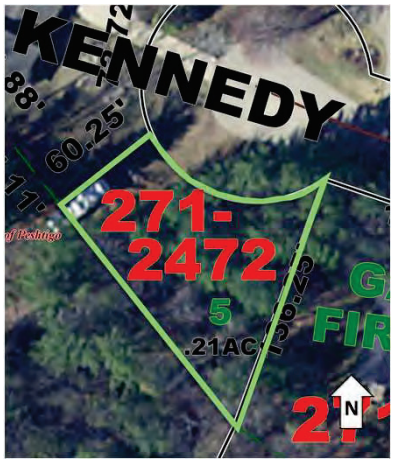
CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Tonn Park

Figure 2-11







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 0.2 Ac. **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
No Facilities or Improvements	n/a	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Triangle Park

Figure 2-12







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 0.2 Ac. **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Open Green Space	Good	
Benches (2)	Good	
Monument	Good	
Landscaping / Flower Planters	Good	
Underground Electrical Service	Good	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

Park Identification Sign
Garbage Cans

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

East Side (Lower) Boat Launch

Figure 2-13







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: ~1.0 Ac. Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Gravel Parking Area (approx. 12 spaces)	Fair	Includes 3 handicap spaces (which are mostly grassed over)
Concrete Boat Dock (2)	Good	ADA Accessible
Wooden Dock	Fair	Some boards in need of repair
Self-Registration/Fee Tube	Good	
Informational Kiosks (2)	Good	
Picnic Table	Poor	
Grill	Fair	
Wooden Bollards	Fair	
Boat Ramp	Good	Single launch lane
Benches (2)	Fair	
Garbage Cans (2)	Good	

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

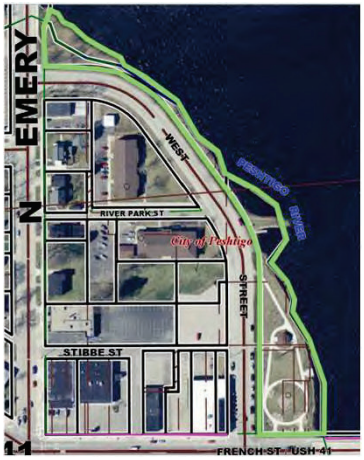
CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

Stibbe's Riverfront Park & (Upper) Boat Launch

Figure 2-14







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 1.5 Ac. **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Tree-Lined Green Space	Good	
Permanent Benches (5)	Fair to Good	
Boat Launch (2-Lanes)	Good	Trailer parking across Front Street in city parking lot
Kayak Launch	Good	ADA Accessible
Information Kiosk	Fair	
Self Registration/Fee Tube	Good	
Gazebo/Sitting Area	Good	
Little Lending Library	Good	
Permanent Benches (6)	Good	
Picnic Tables	Good	
Garbage Cans	Good	
(2) Dog Waste Station	Good	
Native Landscaping	Good	
In-Ground Sprinkler System	TBD	
Lighted Bollards (20)	Good	With timer controls
10'x10' Fishing Platform	Good	ADA Accessible
Great Peshtigo Fire Memorial	Good	
Rock Crib Memorial	Good	Logging history

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

River Recreational Park

Figure 2-15







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 12.8 Ac. **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Park Identification Sign	Good	
1.6 Miles of Hiking & Snowshoe Trails	Fair	Wood chipped in areas. Some clearing needed.
Trail Markers	Poor	
Off-Street Parking	Good	Gravel lot with approx. 10 spaces
1,600 Feet of Peshtigo River Frontage	n/a	Several angling locations used frequently
Winter Snowmobile Trail	n/a	Terminates at river, above dam.

POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

CITY OF PESHTIGO
REBORN FROM THE ASHES

TOP Dog Park

Figure 2-16







PARK FACILITIES & CONDITIONS

Park Acreage: 30.6 Ac. **Park Ownership: City of Peshtigo**

Facility	Condition	Comments & Observations
Fenced in Off-Leash Dog Area	Good	
Dog Agility Equipment	Good	
Benches	Good	
(2) Shade Structures	Good	
Garbage Cans	Good	
Dog Waste Stations	Good	
Gravel Parking Area	Good	
Temporary / Portable Restroom	Good	

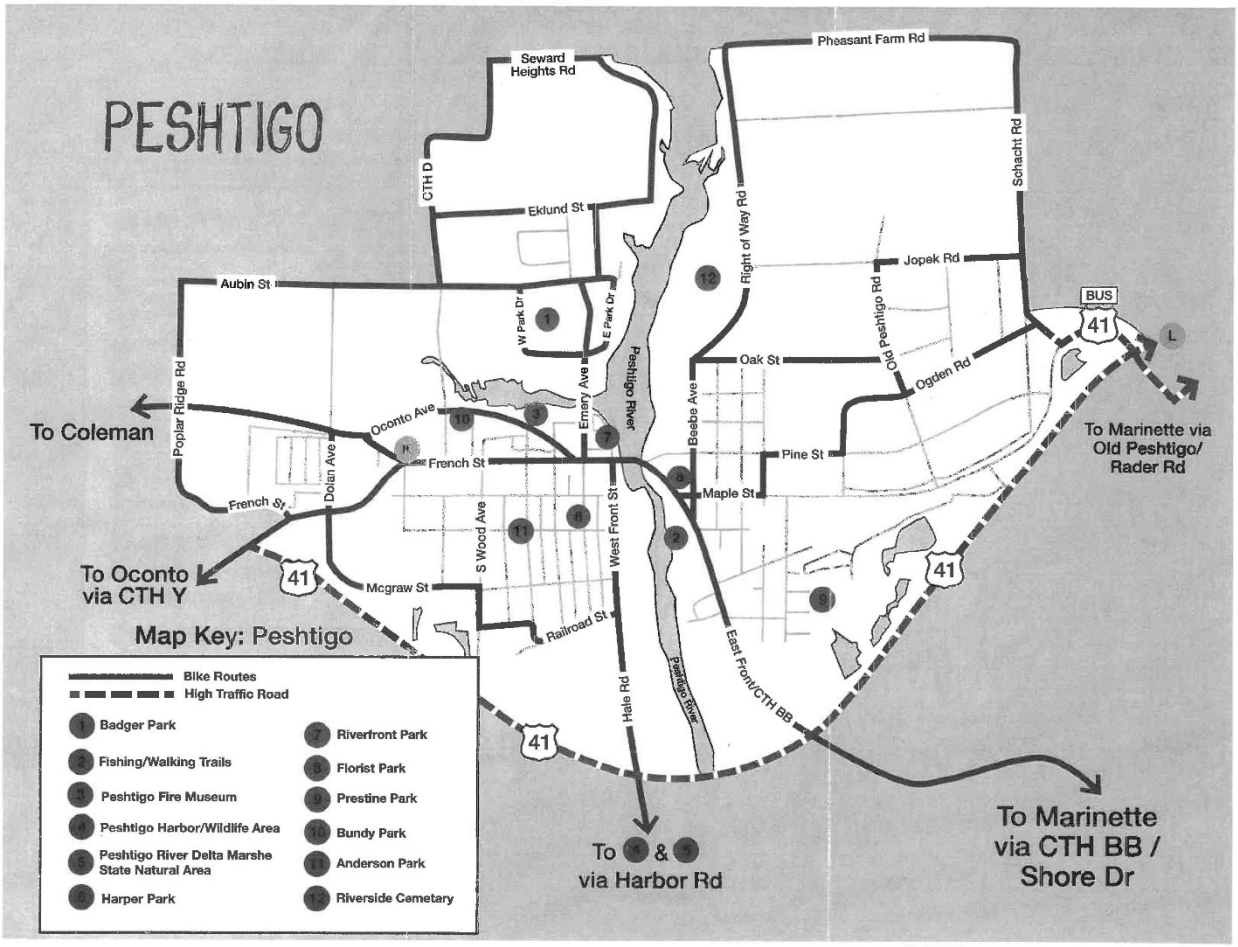
POTENTIAL PARK NEEDS

City Trails

The City of Peshtigo does not have a formalized bicycle and pedestrian trail system. The only pedestrian/hiking trails which exist are located within existing park facilities. Approximately 1.4 miles of trail exist in Badger Park & Campground, and approximately 1.6 miles of trail exist within River Recreation Park.

The City does have a set of mapped bicycle routes (Figure2-17), but none of these routes are currently marked.

Figure 2-17: City of Peshtigo Bicycle Routes



Source: City of Peshtigo, 2026.

Chapter 3 - Recreational Needs Analysis

Overview

A recreational needs analysis serves as a vital blueprint for communities aiming to design inclusive, impactful, and sustainable public spaces. By regularly evaluating current facilities, shifting demographic trends, and direct community feedback, this assessment bridges the gap between existing public resources and the actual desires of the population. Conducting this analysis ensures that future investments in parks, programs, and infrastructure are data-driven rather than speculative.

Population and Demographics

Introduction

Many factors influence the growth, development, and character of a community. Population characteristics are one of the key indicators which can help the City of Peshtigo plan for its future. Population growth, age distribution, and incomes can all influence the types of housing, transportation options, and businesses that are found in a community. By examining these factors, the City of Peshtigo can recognize important issues facing the community and identify opportunities to address future needs. This chapter provides relevant information through the use of demographic data to provide direction to the City's local officials, developers, and residents.

Historic Population

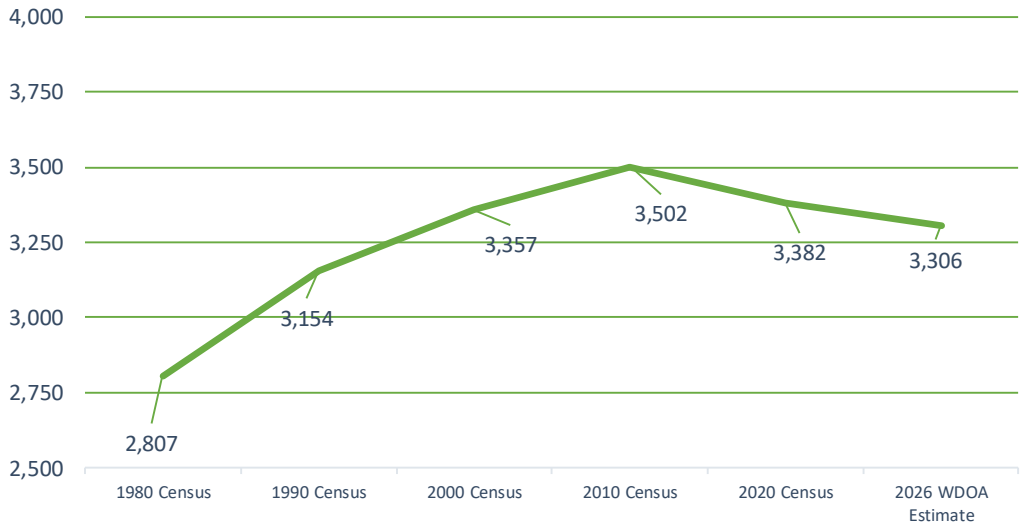
As shown in Table 3-1 and Figure 3-1, from 1980 through 2000, City of Peshtigo saw a series of population increases up to 2010, with a declining trend occurring since that time. The Wisconsin Department of Administration's 2026 estimate was 3,306. An aging population, lower childbirth rates, a lack of job opportunities, and lack of suitable housing have all contributed to the slow declines in population.

Table 3-1: City of Peshtigo Historic Population, 1980-2026

Geography	Year						Total Change 1980-2026	Percent Change 1980-2026
	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	2020 Census	2026 WDOA Estimate		
City of Peshtigo	2,807	3,154	3,357	3,502	3,382	3,306	499	17.78%
Change from Previous Period - Number	n/a	347	203	145	-120	-76	n/a	n/a
Change from Previous Period - Percent	n/a	12.4%	6.4%	4.3%	-3.4%	-2.2%	n/a	n/a

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020; Wisconsin Dept. of Administration, 2026.

Figure 3-1: City of Peshtigo Historic Population, 1980-2026



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020.

Population Projections

A review of the most current (December 2024) Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) county and municipal-level population projections show a steep downward trend in expected population levels for the City of Peshtigo (Table 3-2 and Figure 3-2), as well as the rest of Marinette County. This data is in drastic contrast to the previously issued projections by WDOA which were completed about 10 years earlier (2013). Based on these new projections, the City of Peshtigo's total population is now expected to decline by 1,323 persons, or -38.7% between 2020 and 2050.

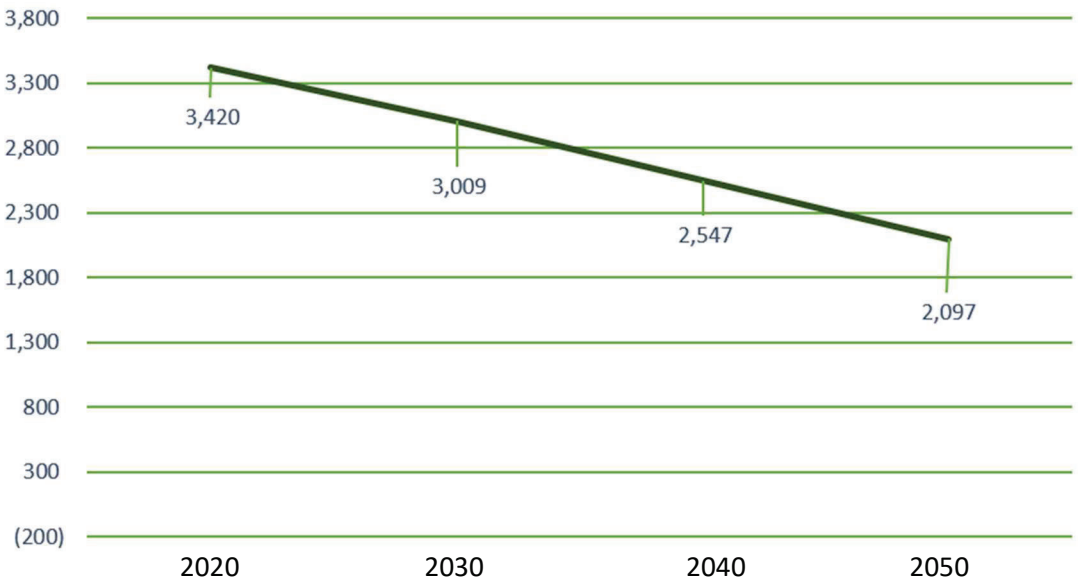
If these projections holds true, it could have major implications on the operations of the City, including the provision of outdoor park and recreation facilities. It should be noted that projections are not predictions, and that localized economic development efforts could help to alleviate or even reverse these trends. Also, parks and recreation are a key component to 'quality of life' which is considered a major factor in people's choices on where to live. By continuing to maintain and improve the City's existing recreation facilities, more opportunities for population growth may occur.

Figure 3-2: Marinette County Municipal Population Projections, 2030-2050

Place Name	2020 Population (U.S. Census)	2030 Projection	2040 Projection	2050 Projection	Number Change 2020-2050	Percent Change 2020-2050
T Amberg	693	655	600	539	(154)	-22.2%
T Athelstane	554	547	523	490	(64)	-11.6%
T Beaver	1,153	1,111	1,038	950	(203)	-17.6%
T Beecher	786	758	709	650	(136)	-17.3%
T Dunbar	605	558	498	436	(169)	-27.9%
T Goodman	607	566	512	453	(154)	-25.4%
T Grover	1,731	1,612	1,455	1,286	(445)	-25.7%
T Lake	1,186	1,189	1,152	1,092	(94)	-7.9%
T Middle Inlet	851	833	790	734	(117)	-13.7%
T Niagara	852	821	767	702	(150)	-17.6%
T Pembine	877	830	762	685	(192)	-21.9%
T Peshtigo	4,006	3,736	3,375	2,987	(1,019)	-25.4%
T Porterfield	1,888	1,762	1,593	1,411	(477)	-25.3%
T Pound	1,412	1,323	1,202	1,070	(342)	-24.2%
T Silver Cliff	514	510	489	459	(55)	-10.7%
T Stephenson	3,494	3,603	3,581	3,472	(22)	-0.6%
T Wagner	653	638	604	560	(93)	-14.2%
T Wausaukee	1,097	1,067	1,005	928	(169)	-15.4%
V Coleman	726	679	615	546	(180)	-24.8%
V Crivitz	1,093	1,082	1,036	972	(121)	-11.1%
V Pound	357	316	270	224	(133)	-37.3%
V Wausaukee	596	560	509	454	(142)	-23.8%
C Marinette	11,119	10,477	9,567	8,569	(2,550)	-22.9%
C Niagara	1,602	1,438	1,246	1,054	(548)	-34.2%
C Peshtigo	**3,420**	**3,009**	**2,547**	**2,097**	**(1,323)**	**-38.7%**
Marinette County Total	**41,872**	**39,680**	**36,445**	**32,820**	**(9,052)**	**-21.6%**

Source: WDOA, 2024.

Figure 3-2: City of Peshtigo Projected Population, 2030-2050



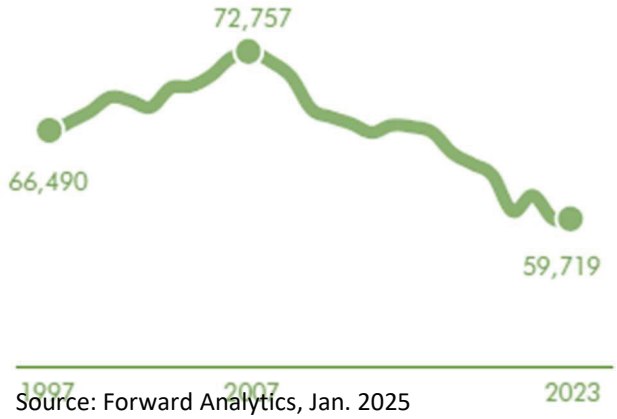
As shown in Table 3-2, most communities in Marinette County are expected to decline with a few exceptions. Demographers have identified several causes for these declines in projected population levels based on recent statewide trends, including:

- **An aging population.** By 2050, the trailing edge of baby-boomers (1964) will be 86 years old and those on the leading edge (born in 1946) would be 104 years old. Therefore many persons within this generation will have passed on, contributing to the overall reduction in population.

- **Lower birth rates.** A decline in residents, particularly young residents and families contributed to the state's overall waning growth due to declining births since 2007 (Figure 3-3). These low birth rates, combined with higher death rates means that the current population is not even being replaced.

- **Lower in-migration levels.** While migration slowed the decline in the youth population segment, it still contributed to the state's overall declining growth.

Figure 3-3: Wisconsin Births, 1997-2023



Source: Forward Analytics, Jan. 2025

Age Characteristics

A shifting age structure affects a variety of services and needs within the City. Wisconsin, and most of its communities, have an aging population, which is consistent with the national trend. As shown in Table 3-3 and Figure 3-4, the City's age cohorts are typical of most communities and are fairly evenly distributed, with the exception of the 25 to 54 year old groupings which collectively comprise 39.7% of the City's total population. Of note is the number of people in the 60+ year-old groupings which represent just under 30% of the community.

Table 3-3: City of Peshtigo, Age Distribution

Age Category	Number of Persons	Percent of Total	
Under 5 years	112	3.39%	23.5%
5 to 9 years	266	8.05%	
10 to 14 years	155	4.69%	
15 to 19 years	244	7.38%	
20 to 24 years	202	6.11%	17.8%
25 to 34 years	386	11.68%	
35 to 44 years	508	15.37%	31.9%
45 to 54 years	423	12.79%	
55 to 59 years	124	3.75%	
60 to 64 years	274	8.29%	29.6%
65 to 74 years	334	10.10%	
75 to 84 years	165	4.99%	
85 years and over	205	6.20%	
Median age (years)	**40.3**	**n/a**	
Male	1,207	**54.8%**	
Female	1,471	**45.2%**	

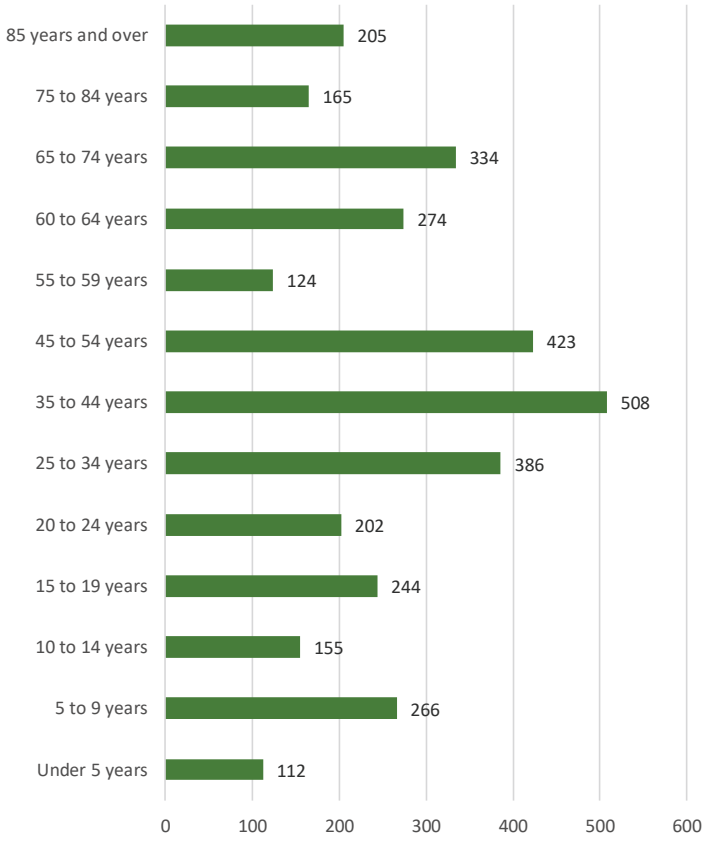
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Figure 3-5 shows that the City's population is getting older overall. In 1980, the median age was 37.4 years old. That figure has increased to 40.3 years old by 2020.

From a generational perspective, the Millennial generation (Figure 3-6) is the largest segment of the overall population (26.3%). Baby boomers as well as Gen X age groups will get significantly older over the next 5 years and their demands for services such as health care and transportation will increase.

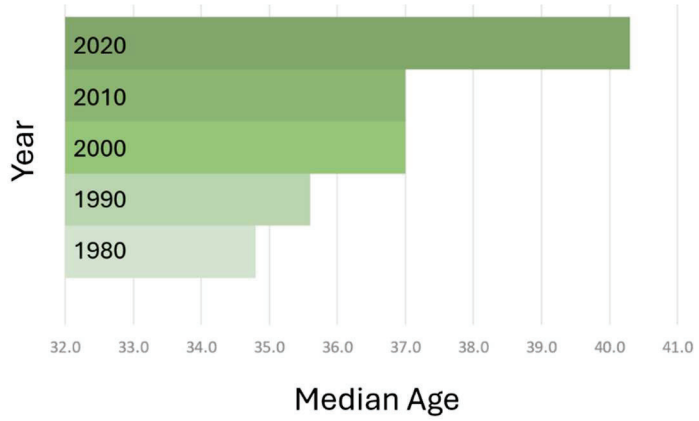
Abilities and preferences for recreational opportunities will also change as the population ages. It is important to recognize these trends and determine how to deal with the effects.

Figure 3-4: City of Peshtigo, Age Distribution



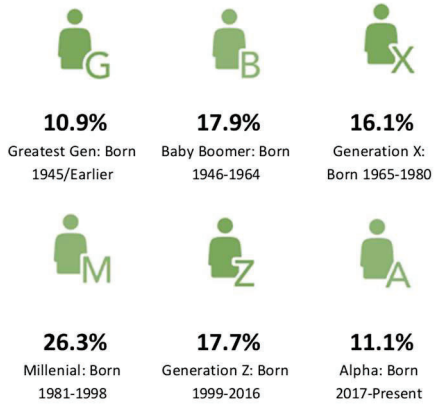
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020-2024 American Community Survey.

Figure 3-5: City of Peshtigo, Median Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau for decades indicated.

Figure 3-6: City of Peshtigo, Generational Age Distribution



Source: U.S. Census, ACS 2020-2024 ACS

Households & Household Projections

Of the 1,510 estimate households in the City in 2020, 474 households (31%) have one or more children under 18 years old living at home (Table 3-5). In addition, 425 households (28%) have one or more persons age 65 or older living in their home. These two ends of the spectrum have drastically different needs, desires, and abilities for recreational activities which must be considered during the planning process.

Table 3-5: Households and Household Size, City of Peshtigo 2019-2023

Household Characteristic	Persons
Households with one or more people under 18 years	474
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	424
Average household size	2.11
Average family size	2.77

Source: U.S. Census, 2020-2024 ACS 5-Year Summary

In terms of household projections, a review of WDOA's updated (2025) municipal projections indicates that steep declines are also in the future for the City of Peshtigo. As shown on Table 3-6, the total number of households is expected to decline by -559 between 2020 and 2050, equating to a 37% reduction overall. This decline may not necessarily mean that the City will have more housing units available in the future as the corresponding increase in 1 and 2-person household creation will likely backfill any vacancies caused by population declines.

Table 3-6: Household Projections, City of Peshtigo, 2020-2050

Households	2020 Projection	2030 Projection	2040 Projection	2050 Projection	Change 2020 to 2050
Total Households	1510	1360	1159	951	- 559
% Change	-	-9.9%	-14.8%	-17.9%	-37.0%
Household Population	3,205	2,787	2,310	1,878	- 1,327
% Change	-	-13.1%	-17.1%	-18.7%	-41.4%
Person/HH	2.12	2.05	1.99	1.97	- 0.15

Source: US Census WDOA, 2025.

City of Peshtigo Recreation User's Survey

*The City of Peshtigo is preparing the **2027-2031 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**, an update to its current 2019 plan. Led by the City of Peshtigo Park & Recreation Committee, the plan will help guide decisions about outdoor recreation facilities and programming, as well as hiking trails and bike/pedestrian facilities. This on-line survey will be available between **December 14th, 2026 and January 15th, 2027**. Please invite and encourage others in your household, and your neighborhood, to participate in this survey.*

CITY OF PESHTIGO
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Thank you.

Q1 Parks and recreational opportunities are important to me. (Please select one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ No opinion

Q2 What parks or trail facilities in the City of Peshtigo have you visited recently and how often? (Please mark one answer for each facility)

Park/Trail	Daily or 2-3 Times Per Week	Weekly to Once or Twice Per Month	Once Every 3 to 4 Months	Once Per Year	I Don't Visit or Use this Facility
Badger Park & Campground					
Peshtigo Lions Recreation Area					
Eastside Ballfields (#1-#3)					
Ballfield #4					
Berth Park					
Florist Park					
Harper Park					
Prestine Park					
Bundy Park					
Tonn Park					
Triangle Park					
East Side (Lower) Boat Launch					
Stibbe's Riverfront Park & (Upper) Boat Launch					
River Recreational Park					
TOP Dog Park					

Q3 What is your overall satisfaction with the condition of the City of Peshtigo's parks you visit? (Please mark one answer for each facility)

Park/Trail	Daily or 2-3 Times Per Week	Weekly to Once or Twice Per Month	Once Every 3 to 4 Months	Once Per Year	I Don't Visit or Use this Facility
Badger Park & Campground					
Peshtigo Lions Recreation Area					
Eastside Ballfields (#1-#3)					
Ballfield #4					
Berth Park					
Florist Park					
Harper Park					
Prestine Park					
Bundy Park					
Tonn Park					
Triangle Park					
East Side (Lower) Boat Launch					
Stibbe's Riverfront Park & (Upper) Boat Launch					
River Recreational Park					
TOP Dog Park					

Q4 What types of recreational spaces, amenities, and activities are important for you currently and in the future? (Please mark one for each facility or amenity)

Activity / Facility / Amenity	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important at All
ATV/UTV Trails			
Baseball/Softball Fields			
Batting Cages			
Basketball Court			
Bicycling (on-road/bike lanes)			
Bicycling (separated off-road trails)			
Bicycling (off-road mountain trails)			
Birdwatching			
Boat Ramp / Boating / Sailing			
Canoeing / Kayaking			
Campgrounds			
Community Gardens			
Cross Country Ski Trails			
Disc Golf Course			
Drone Park			
Fishing (from shore)			
Fishing (from boat)			
Fitness Course / Stations			
Gun/Shooting Ranges (indoor/outdoor)			
Horseshoe Courts			
Horseback Riding Trails			
Ice Skating			
Nature Preserves or Quiet Open Spaces			

Off Leash Dog Park			
Off-Road Pedestrian/Hiking Trails			
Paddleboarding			
Pavilions/Shelters/Shade Structures			
Pickleball Courts			
Picnic Tables			
Play spaces for all ages/abilities			
Playground Equipment			
Running/Jogging			
Signed Learning Stations			
Skateboard Park			
Sledding Hill			
Soccer Fields			
Splash Pad			
Swimming - Beach			
Swimming - Pool			
Tennis Court			
Walking (on-road)			
Volleyball Court			
Yoga			

Q5 Please list up to three (3) of the activities you selected as "very important" in the previous question which you would be willing to pay increased City taxes for the improvement or expansion of that activity. (OPEN ENDED QUESTION)

Q6 Other than increasing City taxes to support recreation and trail improvements, what funding options do you feel are best for the City to pursue? (Mark all that apply)

- ☐ Public fundraising and/or sponsorship campaigns should be developed.
- ☐ Government or non-profit grants should be applied for
- ☐ Park user fees should be collected to help fund the maintenance and expansion of existing parks.
- ☐ I am interested in personally donating to help fund park and recreation facilities (if marked yes, a drop-down menu will appear)
    - ☐ If yes, please leave us your contact information (name, phone, e-mail).

Q7 Do you feel more parks are needed in the City of Peshtigo? If so, which types? (Mark all that apply)

- ☐ Mini Parks/Pocket Parks (.5 acre or less in size w/limited or targeted amenities)
- ☐ Neighborhood Parks (1-10 acres w/playgrounds, sports fields, open play areas, etc.)
- ☐ Community Parks (10+ acres, amenity rich)
- ☐ Linear Parks/Greenways (natural corridors w/hiking trails)
- ☐ Specialty Parks _____

Q8 Do you feel more walking and/or biking facilities are needed in the City of Peshtigo? (Mark all that apply)

- ☐ Off-Road Walking/Hiking Only
- ☐ Off-Road Multi-Purpose (Walking and Biking)
- ☐ On-Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes (Wider Shoulders/Dedicated Lanes)
- ☐ Other _____

Q9 Currently, are you able to safely walk and/or bike from your home to a park or recreational facility? (Please select one)

- ☐ Yes (If yes, how long does it take?) _____
- ☐ No (If no, what is the main safety concern?) _____
- ☐ Don't Know

Q10 Is trail connectivity between key park and recreation facilities (parks, schools, river access sites, etc.), within the City of Peshtigo important to you? (Please select one)

- ☐ Extremely Important
- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat Important
- ☐ Not Important At All

Q11 Do you walk or bike regularly as a method of commuting to work? (Please select one)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes (within City of Peshtigo)
- ☐ Yes (to City of Hudson)
- ☐ Yes (to City of River Falls)
- ☐ Yes (to other location)

Q12 Is trail connectivity to other bike and pedestrian routes in adjacent communities important to you? (Please select one)

- ☐ Extremely Important
- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat Important
- ☐ Not Important At All

Q13 Parks and recreational facilities in the City of Peshtigo are accessible to people of all ages/abilities (Please select one)

- ☐ I strongly agree
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I disagree (IF SELECTED, PROMPT W/OPEN ENDED QUESTION "Please tell us why and what can be improved."
- ☐ I strongly disagree (IF SELECTED, PROMPT W/OPEN ENDED QUESTION "Please tell us why and what can be improved."
- ☐ Not sure

Q14 Are there specific partnerships you would like to see (examples are schools, nonprofits, local businesses, local farms) to enhance park and recreation facilities and programming? (Please select one)

- ☐ Yes (if marked yes, a drop-down menu will appear)
    - ☐ Please list organization or potential project.
- ☐ No

Q15 How important is it to you that parks incorporate environmentally sustainable features (e.g., rain gardens, solar light, native landscaping)? (Please select one)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not important

Q16 Would you be interested in volunteer opportunities at the City of Peshtigo parks and recreational facilities?

- ☐ Yes (if marked yes, a dropdown menu will appear)
  - ☐ If yes, please leave us your contact information (name, phone, e-mail).
- ☐ No

Q17 Should the City of Peshtigo invest in technology to enhance future park experiences. (Mark all that apply)

- ☐ Interactive maps or apps
- ☐ QR codes for education or history
- ☐ Expand existing Wi-Fi at Glover Park
- ☐ Free public Wi-Fi at other parks
- ☐ Smart lighting/safety systems
- ☐ Online reservations
- ☐ None, keep parks “low tech”
- ☐ Other: _____

Q18 How many people reside in your household? (Please select one)

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6 or more

Q19 What age group typically uses parks and trails in your household? (Mark all that apply)

- ☐ 0 to 5 years
- ☐ 6 to 12 years
- ☐ 13 to 18 years
- ☐ 19-44 years
- ☐ 45-64 years
- ☐ 65 years or older

Q20 Is the City of Peshtigo your primary or seasonal residence? (Please select one)

- ☐ Primary (if checked a drop down box will appear)
  How long have you lived in the City?:
  - ☐ 0-5 Years
  - ☐ 6-10 Years
  - ☐ 11-15 Years
  - ☐ 16-19 Years
  - ☐ 20 or More Years
- ☐ Seasonal (if checked a drop down box will appear)
  How long have you lived in the City?:
  - ☐ 0-5 Years
  - ☐ 6-10 Years
  - ☐ 11-15 Years
  - ☐ 16-19 Years
  - ☐ 20 or More Years
- ☐ Not a Resident of the City of Peshtigo (if checked a drop down box will appear)
  Where is your primary residence located?
  - ☐ Town of Peshtigo
  - ☐ Town of Grover
  - ☐ Town of Porterfield
  - ☐ City of Marinette
  - ☐ Other (Please list) _____

Q21 If a City resident, what street do you live on? (Address number not required, street name only but please provide N,S,E,W if used) _____

Q22 Please provide any additional comments or thoughts you may have regarding how to improve the City of Peshtigo's recreation system, sites, or services. _____*(OPEN-ENDED)*_____