

City of Amery, Wisconsin

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Approved November 2025



AMERY'S
TOMORROW TODAY



Adoption Resolution

RESOLUTION NO 10-2025

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF AMERY
COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City of Amery realizes the importance and benefits its parks and open space system has on the City's character and quality of life, and is committed to providing for the recreational needs of its current and future residents; and

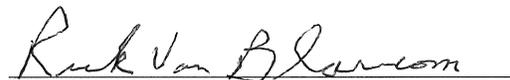
WHEREAS, this plan intends to guide the continual improvement of the City's park and open space system and to maintain the City's eligibility for State and Federal park and recreation grants; and

WHEREAS, this plan envisions an engaging, connected system of parks throughout Amery, leveraging the community's natural and cultural resources to create recreational opportunities for everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Amery Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is approved.



APPROVED:



Rick Van Blaricom
Mayor

ATTEST:



Taylor Larson
Clerk-Treasurer

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
-------------------------	---

CHAPTER 2: ABOUT AMERY	6
------------------------	---

CHAPTER 3: GOALS & STRATEGIES	14
-------------------------------	----

CHAPTER 4: NEEDS & DEMANDS	16
----------------------------	----

CHAPTER 5: RECOMMENDATIONS	22
----------------------------	----

CHAPTER 6: IMPLEMENTATION	34
---------------------------	----

APPENDIX A: INPUT SURVEY RESULTS	A.1
----------------------------------	-----

APPENDIX B: PARKS & OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS	A.17
--	------

APPENDIX C: MAPS	A.19
------------------	------

Acknowledgments

City Council

Rick Van Blaricom, *Mayor*
Mike Manor, *Wards 1 & 2*
Sharon Marks, *Wards 1-5*
Frances Duncanson, *Wards 3, 4 & 5*
Eric Elkin, *Wards 1-5*
Roger Van Someren, *Wards 1 & 2*
Adam Honl, *Wards 3, 4 & 5*

Plan Commission

Rick Van Blaricom, *Mayor*
Eric Elkin
Pat Cahill
Paul Isakson
Scott Carlson
Paul Shafer
Brianna White

Arts, Parks & Recreation Committee

Colleen Adams, *Chair*
Eric Elkin, *Vice-Chair*
Mike Manor, *Member*
Evelyn Braaten, *Member*
Jessica D'Ambrosio, *Member*

City Staff

Alex Mansfield, *City Administrator*
Taylor Larson, *City Clerk/Treasurer*

Prepared by:

This document was prepared by MSA Professional Services, Inc. with assistance from City Staff, City Council and committees, and community members of the City of Amery, Wisconsin.

Project No.: 00528044



Executive Summary

GOALS

1

Provide sufficient park and recreation opportunities to meet current and future recreational demand in the City of Amery.

2

Ensure that all Amery residents have safe access to quality parks and recreational facilities.

3

Position Amery as a regional outdoor recreation destination.

4

Balance conservation and public enjoyment of Amery's aquatic and terrestrial resources.

5

Ensure that ongoing park improvements and future system expansion are financially and operationally sustainable.

INTRODUCTION

Amery's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan analyzes current and projected population changes, community feedback, geographical data, and existing conditions to generate overarching goals and objectives. Park-specific recommendations then break these goals into actionable steps, bolstered by lists of funding opportunities, prioritization, and timelines for completion. In short, this document is a toolbox to aid the City of Amery in enhancing its outdoor recreational opportunities for years to come.

AMERY AT A GLANCE

The City of Amery is located in southeast Polk County and has a population of approximately 2,962 (2020 Census). More information about Amery's existing conditions can be found in Chapter 2 and Chapter 4.

- Population is projected to decline approximately 31.6% through 2050; population decline is also anticipated for Polk County and the State of Wisconsin over this same time period.
- Amery has a relatively small population of young people; only about 16% of the population is considered youth (less than 20 years old) compared to 71% of the population over the age of 35.
- Amery contains 50.4 acres of City-owned parkland and undeveloped open space (17.02 acres per 1,000 residents, which is well within the acceptable range of parkland for a community Amery's size). Two state trailheads and numerous quasi-public facilities supply extra recreational opportunities.
- While Amery residents are well-served by parks in terms of total acreage, this acreage is concentrated in north-central Amery. If additional parkland is to be added in the future, the southern half of the City should be prioritized.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Public engagement efforts included online community surveys, public input meetings, and a pop-up event. The results are discussed at length in Chapter 4 and Appendix A, but the following overarching themes emerged:

- North Park and Soo Line Park were the most popular City-owned parks; other popular facilities included DD Kennedy County Park and the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail.
- Swimmer's itch was named as a primary barrier to utilizing Amery's existing water bodies for swimming and boating. Splash pads, community pools, swimming beaches, and boat rentals were – by far – the most requested amenities across all engagement methods.

COMMUNITY INPUT (cont.)

- North Park and South Twin Park were frequently mentioned as needing upgrades, such as new/improved playground equipment, improved lake/river access and water quality, better maintenance and safety features, and expanded walking and biking trails.
- Pedestrian infrastructure suggestions emphasized sidewalk/path connectivity, accessibility, and safety.

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

All park-specific recommendations can be found in Chapter 5. High-priority recommendations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Various improvements to South Twin Park/Beach that are either in-progress (as of summer 2025) or anticipated for the next 1-3 years, including: adding toddler-oriented playground equipment, re-sanding the beach, addressing swimmer’s itch in South Twin Lake, improving the pavilion, and painting the bathhouse building.
- Develop detailed master plan for North Park to utilize when pursuing State/Federal recreation funding.
- Enhance safety and navigability of York Park (e.g. lighting, trail map & wayfinding).
- Widen street apron to make lefthand turn off of Keller Avenue into York Park safer.

SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

This plan’s system-wide recommendations are generally ongoing initiatives that the City should incorporate into development and budgeting decisions moving forward. These recommendations include, but are not limited to:

- Upgrade trash and recycling receptacles in all parks.
- Invest in portable picnic infrastructure for community events, such as movable picnic tables.
- Standardize park signage and enhance wayfinding throughout Amery.
- Improve City-wide pedestrian connectivity through walkability/ADA audits and land acquisition or easements to close connectivity gaps.
- Partner with local organizations to expand recreational programming for all ages.
- Collaborate with local conservation entities to address swimmer’s itch in North/South Twin Lakes.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation strategies include identifying/applying for grants administered by the WIDNR*, collaborating with local volunteer programs, and working with State agencies to receive additional funding.

**See pages 35-36 for a list of potential grant opportunities.*



1

Introduction

PLAN PURPOSE

Parks, recreation, and trails are important elements in the quality of life for all communities. Not only do these elements provide safe and beautiful public spaces, they also protect the natural environment and influence patterns of development within the community.

The City of Amery recognizes the importance of its parks and trails and is committed to providing for the recreational needs of current and future residents. This plan intends to guide the continual improvement of the City's park, recreation and trail systems and to maintain its eligibility for State and Federal parks and recreation grants. This plan envisions an engaging, connected system of parks throughout Amery, leveraging the community's natural and cultural resources to create recreational opportunities for everyone.

The plan is also intended to support Amery's Comprehensive Plan, which was updated in conjunction with this document, as well as align Amery with local and State initiatives to promote outdoor recreation. This plan, along with the City's other long-range plans and development-related ordinances, will be used to improve and promote its parks and recreation network.

Specifically, the plan provides:

- A summary of demographic trends,
- An inventory of existing park and recreational facilities,
- An analysis of parkland and recreational needs and demands, including those sourced from community engagement activities,
- General policy direction regarding park, recreation, open space, bicycle, and pedestrian facility planning and maintenance,
- Recommendations for new and improving existing parks and recreational facilities, and
- Implementation strategies.

This plan identifies conceptual recommendations for different types of parks, trails, natural areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, budgeting, and discussions will be necessary before decisions are made to improve these recreational facilities.

PLANNING PROCESS

Recreation planning is an essential component of long-range community planning in Amery. For this project, the City worked with MSA Professional Services, Inc. to facilitate community engagement activities and the document writing process.

Early in the planning process, the project team created an online input survey to gather community members' feedback on all facets of Amery, including public parks and recreational facilities. The project team also held three in-person meetings (two workshops at City Hall and a pop-up booth at a community event) and numerous discussions with key stakeholders, the Plan Commission, and the City Council to form a foundational understanding of Amery's opportunities and challenges. The results of the project's engagement activities are summarized in Chapter 4 and the full results are found in Appendix A.

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) was developed in tandem with an update to the City of Amery's Comprehensive Plan, also led by MSA Professional Services. These documents are intended to present a comprehensive vision for the future of Amery; therefore, notes from stakeholder interviews, survey responses, and conversations with City decision-makers were shared between both projects to ensure that the resulting documents were comprehensive and compatible.

This CORP document was developed through the following timeline:

1 INVESTIGATION (February – April 2025)

- Project team kick-off with the Plan Commission and City staff.
- City parks tour and inventory.
- Existing conditions analysis (existing planning document review, GIS mapping, demographic trend research, etc.).

2 ENGAGEMENT & VISIONING (March – June 2025)

- Community survey development & promotion.
- Public visioning workshop at City Hall.
- Key stakeholder interviews.
- Overarching goal/strategy development with Arts, Parks & Recreation Committee and Plan Commission.

3 DRAFTING DOCUMENT (June – August 2025)

- Develop park-specific recommendations based on feedback from previous steps.
- Review and refine document content with City staff, Plan Commission, and City Council.
- Pop-up engagement event to display drafted elements for public review/discussion.

4 FINALIZATION & ADOPTION (September – November 2025)

- Draft plan open house at City Hall.
- Finalize draft document based on feedback from previous steps.
- City Council adoption of document.

Introduction

BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS

Public parks and trails are a unique amenity because they have the potential to be accessible to anyone in the community, regardless of age, gender, ability, socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity. They are sources of civic pride and are essential to the physical, economic, environmental, and social health of communities and their residents.



Health

Parks, trails, and recreational facilities provide opportunities for people to exercise more, encouraging a healthy, happy, and active lifestyle. Additionally, increased exposure to natural areas has been linked to fewer health issues, improved blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and reduced stress, which leads to a lower incidence of depression and a greater ability to face problems.



Cultural and Social

In a time when social media defines the interactions of many people, parks and recreational centers are places to meet, catch up with family members and friends, and feel like part of the larger community. As a focal point of neighborhoods, parks help develop connections between residents by providing a venue for community building gatherings like school trips, festivals, and celebrations of all sizes.



Property Values

Numerous studies have shown that close proximity and access to parks, trails, and open space has a positive impact on residential and commercial property values. These sites can then act as catalysts for future growth and development, fueling investment in local economies.



Beautification

Parkways, tree-lined streets, gardens, views of water bodies, public art, trails, and landscaped areas all help create beautiful places to live, work, and play. Visitors often remember a place by its access to beautiful natural areas, contributing to a positive community image, and residents feel more content and proud of the spaces they see every day.



Ecological Health

Parks are often tied to environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, or significant woodlands, which can include trails. These areas provide food and shelter for local wildlife, natural stormwater retention, and sometimes environmental corridors that facilitate movement between ecosystems.



About Amery

2

LOCAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Amery is located in southeast Polk County, in western Wisconsin. It is bordered to the north by the Town of Lincoln and to the south by the Town of Black Brook. Amery is located 60 miles northeast of St. Paul, Minnesota, and 70 miles northwest of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. It is located along Wisconsin Highway 46, which runs north-south through St. Croix and Polk Counties.

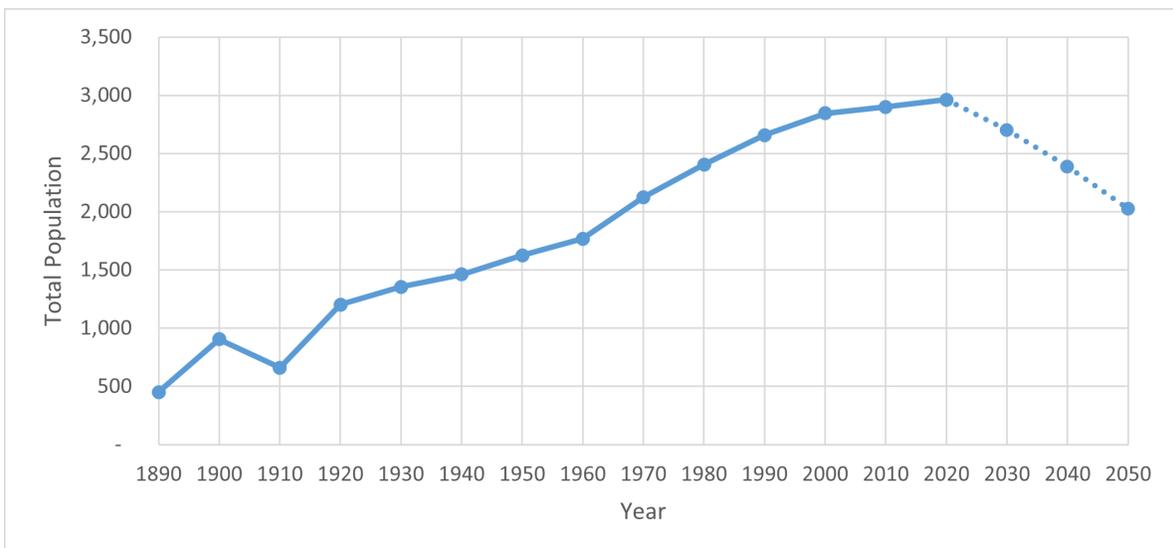


DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

According to the U.S. Census, the City of Amery's total population was 2,962 in 2020. From 2010 to 2020, Amery's population increased 2.1%, reflecting Wisconsin's total percentage growth of 3.6% in the same time frame. However, the City is expected to lose 937 residents between 2020 and 2050, representing a 31.6% decrease over a thirty-year period (Wisconsin Department of Administration). This decrease is also expected for Polk County (22%) and Wisconsin (3.1%).

Figure 1: Amery's Population (1890-2050)
Source: U.S. Census, Wisconsin DOA



About Amery

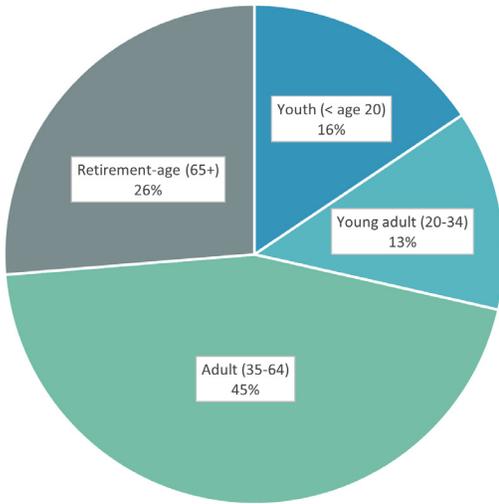


Figure 2: Amery's Age Composition (2023)
Source: ACS

Age Composition

Age composition is an important consideration in parks and recreation planning, as individual needs and desires will vary based on their development stage and physical abilities. Amery has a relatively small population of young people; only about 16% of the population is considered youth (less than 20 years old), 13% are young adults (20-34 years old), 45% are adults (35-64 years old), and 26% are retirement-age (65+). The number of retirement-aged individuals is expected to grow as the Baby Boomer population continues to age, matching trends seen across the nation. The City of Amery's median age is 45.9, higher than that of 2010 (44.8) and the current State median (40.1).

Race & Ethnicity

Based on 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the majority of Amery's population is white (98.1%), followed by "two or more races" (0.7%), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.5%), and Asian (0.4%). It is estimated that no residents identify as Hispanic or Latino, though the data's margin of error is 1.3%. Compared to 2013 ACS Estimates, Amery has gotten less diverse; demographics with the largest losses have been Black or African American (-1.4% of total population), "two or more races" (-1.4%), and Hispanic or Latino (-1.3%).

Households

Based on 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, there are approximately 1,325 households in the City, 22.6% of which include at least one child under the age of eighteen. The total number of households has declined slightly over the last decade (1,336 in 2013 to 1,325 in 2023), as well as the number of households with children (337 in 2013 to 300 in 2023). This aligns with population decline resulting from the ongoing economic and social impacts of the 2008 nationwide recession and COVID pandemic. The average household size in 2023 was 2.11 individuals, which is higher than 2013 estimates (2.06). This may be explained by an increasing prevalence of multi-generational households, as the aging population moves in with younger family members.

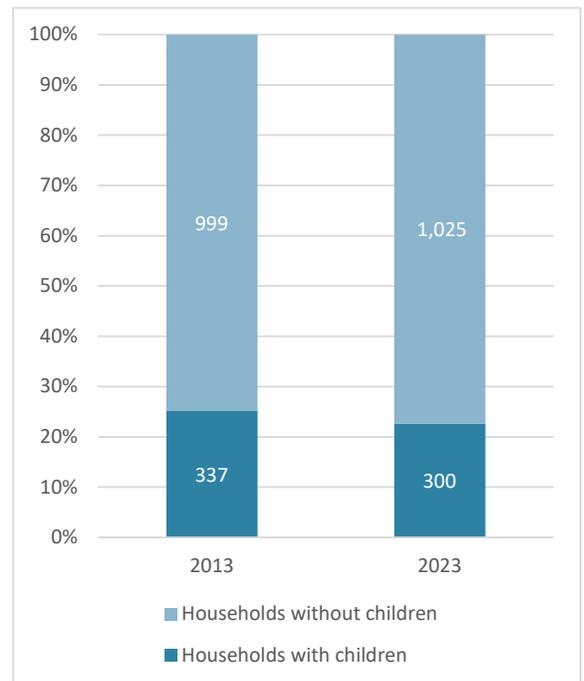


Figure 3: Households with Children (2013 & 2023)
Source: U.S. Census, ACS

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Water Resources

Appropriately referred to as the “City of Lakes”, the City of Amery is largely shaped by the presence of numerous water bodies, including the Apple River and its flowage, North Twin Lake, Pike Lake, South Twin Lake, and numerous other lakes just outside of City limits. These lakes serve as popular destinations for boating, fishing, and other recreational activities. As classified by the Wisconsin DNR (WIDNR), there are no Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs), Exceptional Resource Waters (ERWs), or impaired waters within the City of Amery.

Groundwater is the only source of drinking water in Amery. It is a critical resource, not only because it is used by residents as their source of water, but also because it recharges the area’s rivers, streams, and other surface water bodies.

Topography and Geology

The majority of Polk County, including the City of Amery, is located within the WIDNR’s Forest Transition landscape classification. This ecological landscape is entirely glaciated, identifiable through deposits of glacial outwash, lakes, wetlands, and uneven topography. Throughout most of the Forest Transition, the uppermost layer of bedrock is Precambrian volcanic and metamorphic rock; the underlying layer is likely majority dolomite or sandstone.

The average elevation of Polk County is between 800 and 900 feet. Elevations range from about 680 feet above sea level to over 1,400 feet in the north central and eastern portions of Polk County.

Floodplains and Wetlands

The Apple River and Pike Lake both have floodplains that lie within City limits, which are marked by a floodplain overlay on the City’s existing zoning map. The Amery Dam, located on the Apple River just east of the main commercial corridor, is primarily used to maintain flowage levels for recreational purposes but can also be used to control floodplain levels during heavy precipitation. Many areas of surface water within the City also have associated wetlands.

Flora and Fauna

In 2016, the City of Amery received the Bird City USA award, which recognizes a high commitment to protecting environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitats. York Park is part of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail, and is a popular spot for spring migratory warblers, loons, bald eagles, osprey, and a variety of ducks and herons. Other species common to Polk County include black bears, whitetail deer, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, beavers, foxes, ruffed grouse, pheasants, muskrats, and snowshoe hares.

Tree coverage in the area is primarily mixed hardwood, aspen, oak, jack pine, and red pine.

About Amery

RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS

City of Amery Comprehensive Plan (2009-2030)

Adopted in 2009, Amery's Comprehensive Plan outlines an aspirational framework for the City's growth and development through 2030. This plan outlines the community's vision, goals, and policies to ensure sustainable development, enhance quality of life, and preserve natural and cultural resources. It addresses key areas such as land use, housing, transportation, economic development, and environmental protection. In particular, this Plan offers the following relevant goals and recommendations for recreation improvements in the following decades:

- "The City will maintain an adequate amount of park and open space land, located throughout the community, to ensure all neighborhoods have access to recreational facilities and places for community gatherings." This goal also notes that, per NPRA standards, most residents should be within a ten-minute walk (1/3 mile) from a public park or open space area.
- "Bicycle and pedestrian ways shall be designed to provide direct and safe connections to key community destinations, including parks."
- The City shall update its Outdoor Recreation Plan (2003) to become eligible for WIDNR grants and identify ongoing recreation needs. "Future updates to the CORP should also incorporate a park and recreation facility needs assessment to provide a defensible rationale for any fees charged to new development. Recommendations from the updated CORP should also be included within the City's CIP."
- Floodplain areas should be acquired and developed for park, recreation, and open space uses.

Walkability Study (2015)

This study was conducted to assess the walkability of Amery and explore the benefits, challenges, and options of creating a more pedestrian-friendly community. The document includes a compilation of police incidents involving pedestrians and cyclists, a sidewalk inventory map and conditions report, an analysis of existing City sidewalk policies, and a summary of community input gathered through focus groups and surveys. While not directly related to Amery's parks facilities, the following recommendations could encourage safer physical activity and improve accessibility to community destinations:

- Enforcement of maintenance: Ensure sidewalks are well-maintained by enforcing existing policies for adjacent property owners, including clearing obstacles and edging regularly.
- Enforcement of speed limits and pedestrian crosswalks: Increase enforcement of speed limits and pedestrian right-of-way on Keller Avenue, accompanied by a public awareness campaign to improve compliance and safety.
- Speed calming on Keller Avenue: Collaborate with Polk County and the Wisconsin DOT to reduce the number of lanes on Keller Avenue, slowing traffic and enhancing pedestrian facilities.
- Walkability Task Force: Establish a temporary committee to develop a long-term strategy for walkability, including a strategic plan for sidewalk repairs and installations, identifying key trails, and recommending financing options.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2018)

This document expands upon the analysis and conclusions from the 2015 Walkability Study, proposing an ongoing program for the City to expand bicycle/pedestrian access, build community cohesion, and add attractions that make Amery stand apart as a tourist destination. These recommendations include:

- Take advantage of the 2020 Keller Avenue Safety mill-and-overlay to create a cornerstone bicycle corridor, with striped bike lanes and safe crosswalks.
- Utilize portions of each State Trail in Amery to create a one-of-a-kind 10K community bike and pedestrian loop that links Amery parks, the school campus, Amery golf course, Keller Avenue and the historic downtown via a paved trail system.
- Reimagine Amery's current trailhead with architectural and infrastructure elements that promote and grow recreational tourism, brand Amery as a hub for outdoor activity, and highlight Amery's community festivals.

Water Recreation Study

This document was commissioned by the City of Amery and the Amery Community Foundation to assess residents' desire for water recreation opportunities and the feasibility of implementing these options. Following surveys of community members and Wisconsin municipalities that operate public pools, the following recommendations were offered to the Amery City Council:

- Conduct a swimmer's itch awareness campaign.
- Clean up, maintain, and improve the existing beaches in Amery.
- Develop a 3–5 year plan to construct a pool and/or splash pad.

While most survey respondents showed considerable interest in additional water recreation amenities in Amery (especially for exercise classes, swim lessons, and other aquatic programming), costs related to construction, maintenance, and personnel were acknowledged as significant barriers to implementation. Nearly two-thirds of respondents were only willing to pay \$5 or less for usage and approximately half were against or unsure of a hypothetical special assessment for pool construction.

Polk County Trails Plan (2021) and Stower Seven Lakes State Trail Master Plan (2020)

The City of Amery contains trailheads to two major state trails: the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail and Cattail State Trail. While Amery does not have jurisdiction over these trails, the City should be prepared for the economic and recreational impacts that the proposed improvements will bring. Relevant recommendations from these two plans (regarding Stower) include the following:

- County long-term goal: Connect the Stower to the Gandy Dancer, and eventually to the Minnesota Swedish Immigrant Trail, to create a successful county-wide trail network.

Polk County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2025-2029)

Relevant recommendations in the County's latest CORP pertain primarily to Cattail State Trail, which begins in Amery and runs east towards Almena. Improvements within Amery include decommissioning the old restroom building and updating trailhead signage.

About Amery

CITY-OWNED Recreational facilities

Amery contains 11 City-owned recreation areas (9 parks and 2 special purpose parks), trailheads for two state trails, and multiple quasi-public recreational facilities owned and operated by outside entities. Specific recommendations for each City-owned park are found in Chapter 5. The park classifications used in this plan are modified definitions used by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), described in Appendix B. The map with Amery’s existing parks and trails can be found on page A.19 in Appendix C.



Triangle/Schumacher Park

Mini Parks

Triangle/Schumacher Park (1 acre)

This mini park is located at the intersection of Riverview Blvd and Keller Ave S, on the northern bank of the Apple River. There are a few benches and picnic tables under the park’s thick canopy.

Neighborhood Parks

Flagpole Park (1.4 acres)

This park is located across Highway 46 from North Twin Park and southwest of North Park, on a slim “island” created by the highway and Wisconsin Ave. The park contains the eponymous flagpole, two picnic tables, a grill, and a prairie garden.

North Twin Park (1.2 acres)

This park, located on the corner of Lake St and Maple St, functions as a neighborhood swimming spot and contains a dock and picnic table.



Michael Park

Community Parks

Michael Park (3.1 acres)

Located just off of the southern end of Amery’s Highway 46 commercial corridor, this park contains a few open-air shelters and Danielson Stage, which hosts a summer concert series and other community-wide events.

North Park (9.4 acres)

Located north of downtown Amery along Highway 46, North Park is the City’s largest developed park at over 9 acres. The northern edge boasts numerous community amenities, including tennis courts, a basketball court, a skate park, restrooms, and an RV campground. The east edge contains a playground, a popular picnic shelter, and a pier overlooking the Apple River flowage.



North Park

Riverfront/Bobber Park (2.9 acres)

This park is bounded to the north by the Cattail State Trailhead, west by the Highway 46 corridor, south by Michael Park, and east by the Apple River. It contains an open grass field, benches and picnic tables, and multiple piers overlooking the river.

Soo Line Park (0.8 acres)

While not a traditional park with green space and recreational amenities, this park serves as the central convening point for the Stower Seven Lakes Trail and Cattail State Trail in downtown Amery. It contains the Amery Trailhead Pavilion, which hosts the weekly Farmers Market during the summer and numerous other community events throughout the year.

South Twin Park/Beach (1.3 acres)

This park is located along the eastern edge of South Twin Lake and contains multiple neighborhood amenities, including pickleball courts and swimming beach at the northern end and a pavilion/lookout point at the southern end.

Conservancy/Open Space

York Park (29.3 acres)

Located on the northern edge of Amery off of Highway 46, this park offers 40 acres of urban, mixed hardwood forest on a hilly site, boggy wetland, a quarter-mile stretch of undeveloped lake shore, three miles of graveled trails, a fishing dock. York Park is part of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail and is known for its wide variety of songbirds and waterfowl.

Special Purpose Parks

Amery Dog Park (8.1 acres)

Established in the late 2010s, this special-purpose park is located at the intersection of Minneapolis Ave S and 60th Ave, in southeast Amery. There are separate fenced areas for large and small dogs, each with tables and benches for owners.

North Twin Boat Landing (1.2 acres)

Tucked between Highway 46 and the northeast bank of North Twin Lake, this park offers a boat launch and fishing access points. There is also a small parking lot with spaces deep enough for boat trailers.

TRAILS

Cattail State Trail

This multi-modal state trail starts in Amery and runs 18 miles east, along a former rail corridor, to Almena. It passes through forests, farmlands, prairies, hills, and the Village of Turtle Lake. The trail is open year-round to both motorized and non-motorized uses, including ATVs/UTVs, snowmobiles, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.



Riverfront/Bobber Park



Soo Line Park



York Park



Cattail State Trail

About Amery

Stower Seven Lakes State Trail

This multi-modal trail is a 14-mile state trail that connects Lotus Lake and Amery along the former Minneapolis-St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railroad right-of-way. The trail traverses a multitude of landscapes including lakeshores (hence its name), wetlands, northern hardwood forests, prairie, agricultural areas, and residential neighborhoods. While the WIDNR owns the trail's right-of-way, Polk County is responsible for its portion of the trail's operation and maintenance.

Snowmobile Trails

In addition to the Cattail Trail, which is open to snowmobiles and ATVs, Amery Snowmobile Club maintains a portion of 370 miles of trails in southern Polk County. All City streets are also open to ATVs if the speed limit is under 25 mph.

OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Amery Golf Club

Owned by the City of Amery and privately operated, this mature 18-hole golf course is located on the southwestern bank of South Twin Lake.

Amery Ice Arena

This indoor ice rink is owned and operated by the Amery Youth Hockey Association. While the facility is primarily used for hockey lessons and leagues for all ages, it is also open to the public 1-2 days a week during the winter for open skates.

Amery School Grounds

Amery's school campuses have soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, playground equipment, a lighted football field and track, and tennis courts.

Amery School Forest

This educational forest is located behind Amery Intermediate School and contains mowed trails and a picnic shelter. It is open to the public, and is also used for school programming and middle/high school cross country meets.

Jorgenson Field

Located directly south of Amery High School, this property was originally owned by the City and purchased by the School District of Amery in 2023. The property currently contains two softball fields, accompanying dugouts, and an open-air shelter, though the School District is currently looking to upgrade all of its athletic facilities in the coming years.

Little League Field

Located across the river from downtown Amery, this property contains two youth baseball fields and is owned and operated by the Little League Association.



Goals & Strategies

3

INTRODUCTION

Goals and strategies play a crucial role in this CORP, as they provide an overarching framework for implementation by City staff and officials, the community, and regional recreation partners. Goals are presented here as desired outcomes; strategies are broad steps towards achieving these goals, which are then bolstered by the park-specific recommendations and implementation plan found in Chapters 5 and 6.

GOAL #1: Provide sufficient park and recreation opportunities to meet current and future recreational demand in the City of Amery.

- Create engaging and appropriate spaces for all age groups, especially young children, teens, and seniors.
- As Amery continues to grow, evaluate opportunities for parkland acquisition or conversion so that all residents are within a 10-minute walk of a park.
- Partner with local entities, such as the School District of Amery and Amery Hospital & Clinic, to offer free or low-cost recreational opportunities throughout the year.

GOAL #2: Ensure that all Amery residents have safe access to quality parks and recreational facilities.

- Provide ADA-compliant, barrier-free access in all new or improved recreational facilities, whenever possible.
- Integrate safety measures, where necessary, to ensure that parks and recreational facilities are well-lit, have clear sightlines, and are accessible by safe adjacent crossings.
- Develop a comprehensive and approachable system of paths that enable multi-modal access to parks and other important City destinations.

Goals & Strategies

GOAL #3: Position Amery as a regional outdoor recreation destination.

- Develop and market Amery’s identity as the “City of Lakes” through cohesive branding, placemaking, and relevant recreational amenities.
- Encourage users of the Stower Seven Lakes/Cattail State Trails to engage with Amery through comprehensive wayfinding and connective paths.
- Ensure that notable destinations have adequate ancillary infrastructure to support visitors, such as convenient parking, bathrooms and water stations, bike racks, canoe/kayak launches, and safe crossings.

GOAL #4: Balance conservation and public enjoyment of Amery’s aquatic and terrestrial resources.

- Continue to partner with local and regional conservation entities, such as the Apple River/Amery Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation Districts and WIDNR, to protect valuable natural resources.
- Manage vegetation in natural areas by removing and controlling non-native, invasive species.
- Maintain and improve Amery’s waterfronts for safe recreational use and utilization by natural wildlife.

GOAL #5: Ensure that ongoing park improvements and future system expansion are financially and operationally sustainable.

- Across all of the City’s parks, prioritize maintaining existing amenities over adding new amenities.
- Identify areas within Amery’s park system to integrate lower-maintenance components, such as native prairie restorations or boulder seating areas.
- Leverage local and regional partnerships, grants, and other external funding mechanisms to implement eligible projects.

Complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act

The ADA, enacted in 1990, clearly states the right of equal access for persons to local government services, including parks. On September 15, 2010 the Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 2010 Standards included new provisions for accessible design for recreational facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, fishing and golf facilities. Any new recreational facilities designed, constructed, or shaped after March 15, 2012 are subject to the 2010 Standards. Any alteration (not simple maintenance, but something that changes the way the site is used) must make the element altered accessible and must create an accessible path of travel through the site or facility to that element.

There are some fundamental differences in how accessibility in the outdoors is accommodated compared to indoors or the built environment. While restrooms, shelters, interpretive centers, and parking lots, for example, need to follow detailed ADA guidelines, other improvements such as trails or swimming beach areas, for example, do not necessarily need to follow indoor or built environment ramp grades or surfacing requirements. A good rule of thumb for the City to follow is that anything constructed must not make the outdoor experience any more difficult than what occurs naturally. Mother Nature does not have to comply with ADA, but the City does.

The New England ADA Center is a good resource to use and offers checklists to evaluate accessibility at existing park facilities. The fillable checklist forms can be found here: www.adachecklist.org/checklist.html#rec



Needs & Demands

4

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the City’s existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs. The adequacy of Amery’s existing parks system is evaluated using the following methods:

- Quantitative Analysis - A comparison of existing parkland acreage and population projections versus park and recreational agencies across the U.S., including a review of the amount of parkland available to City residents.
- Geographic Analysis - An analysis of the geographic distribution of park facilities within the City.
- Qualitative Analysis - A summary of public input regarding City parks and recreational facilities gathered through the community survey, open house, and feedback from community organizations that use the City’s parks and trails.

Needs & Demands

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

An analysis of existing recreational land area is provided to determine if the recreational needs of current residents are being met. This analysis is limited to an evaluation of City-owned parkland; it does not include trails, school facilities, or privately-owned green space.

Park Acreage Level of Service

Level of service analysis is a standard evaluation of park acreage across most park agencies. Level of service is calculated as total acres of parkland provided per 1,000 residents. Over two decades ago, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed a set of standards for the amount of parkland a community should strive to obtain. Recently, NRPA has shifted away from the use of park standards because there is no single set of standards that accommodates the uniqueness of each community across the country. Instead, NRPA now collects information from Parks and Recreation departments around the U.S., including residents per park, budgets, staffing, and park amenities. This data is organized by jurisdiction size so that communities of similar sizes can see metrics typical of their peers.

Amery currently has 50.4 acres* of City-owned parkland and undeveloped open space, or 17.02 acres per 1,000 residents based on the 2020 population of 2,962 (U.S. Census). According to NRPA’s 2024 Agency Performance Review, for agencies with populations under 20,000, the lower quartile is 6.0 acres and the upper quartile is 20.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Amery is well within this range, offering a sufficient level of acreage service for its population.

**Amery Dog Park, which measures approximately 8.1 acres, has been excluded from this calculation because, while it is public green space owned and maintained by the City, its intended use and purpose are contingent upon having a dog.*

Figure 4: Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit

Total Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit (in acres)				
Year	2020	2030	2040	2050
Total Population	2,962	2,700	2,386	2,025
Total Supply (acres)	50.4	50.4	50.4	50.4
Demand (17 acres/1,000 residents)	50.354	45.9	40.562	34.425
Surplus (17 acres/1,000 residents)	0.05	4.5	9.84	15.98

Figure 4 summarizes the current and projected supply and demand for total parkland acreage based on the City’s population and the current acreage of 17.02 acres per 1,000 residents. Since Amery’s population is anticipated to decline through 2050 (according to the Wisconsin DOA), the City will continue to have a surplus of parkland through the year 2040. If the City wishes to acquire additional parkland in the coming decades, doing so is not necessary to maintain this specific metric.

Recreational facilities

Figure 5 compares the suggested number of outdoor facilities in each category to the current number of public and quasi-public facilities in Amery. The suggested number was calculated by taking Amery’s 2020 population (2,962) and dividing it by the median recommended number of residents per facility (from the 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review). Based on these calculations, there are gaps in swimming pools and tot lots. However, while quasi-public facilities supplement some amenities that City parks may be lacking (such as ice rinks and ball diamonds), these are not always publicly accessible; for example, the Amery Ice Arena is occasionally open to the public for Open Skates but is predominantly used for scheduled hockey leagues and clinics.

Indoor recreation opportunities are also important, especially considering Wisconsin’s winter months, when it can be challenging or less desirable for people to go to local parks and trails. The City of Amery manages a community center, which contains a modest fitness center in addition to an event space, gift shop, and senior activities. The City also partners with the School District of Amery for community education programming (e.g. hobby classes, sports leagues, and day trips), which provides recreational opportunities throughout the year, as well as access to indoor/outdoor school recreational facilities.

Figure 5: Park and Recreational facilities Gaps/Surpluses

National Recreation and Park Association Metrics Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities					
	Median # of Residents Per Facility (<20,000 residents)	Suggested # of Facilities Based on Population (2,962)	Existing City- Owned Facilities	Existing Quasi- Public Facilities	Gap (Extra)
Playgrounds	1,990	1.5	1	1	(0.5)
Basketball Courts (full-sized)	4,366	0.7	1	-	(0.3)
Ball Diamonds	1,833	1.6	-	4	(2.4)
Tennis Courts	3,074	1.0	2	8	(9.0)
Pickleball Courts	3,390	0.9	8	-	(7.1)
Rectangular Fields (Soccer)	2,493	1.2	3	2	(3.8)
Dog Parks	10,327	0.3	1	-	(0.7)
Swimming Pools (outdoor only)	9,500	0.3	-	-	0.3
Skateboard Parks	11,284	0.3	1	-	(0.7)
Volleyball Courts	9,250	0.3	1	-	(0.7)
18-Hole Golf Courses	9,262	0.3	-	1	(0.7)
Disc Golf Course	11,079	0.3	1	-	(0.7)
Ice Rinks	8,015	0.4	-	1	(0.6)
Tot Lots	5,323	0.6	-	-	0.6

Trails

The City of Amery maintains approximately 1.6 miles of walking paths, which are contained within York Park and Michael/Bobber Parks. NRPA’s 2024 Agency Performance Review shows that in communities with under 20,000 residents, the median mileage of maintained trails is 4.5 miles; the lower quartile is 2.0 miles and the upper quartile is 9.2 miles. While Amery falls below the acceptable range, residents have access to other non-City-owned trails, such as those within the Amery School Forest (owned and maintained by the School District) and Stower Seven Lakes State Trail/Cattail State Trail, which both extend outward from downtown Amery for at least 11 miles each.

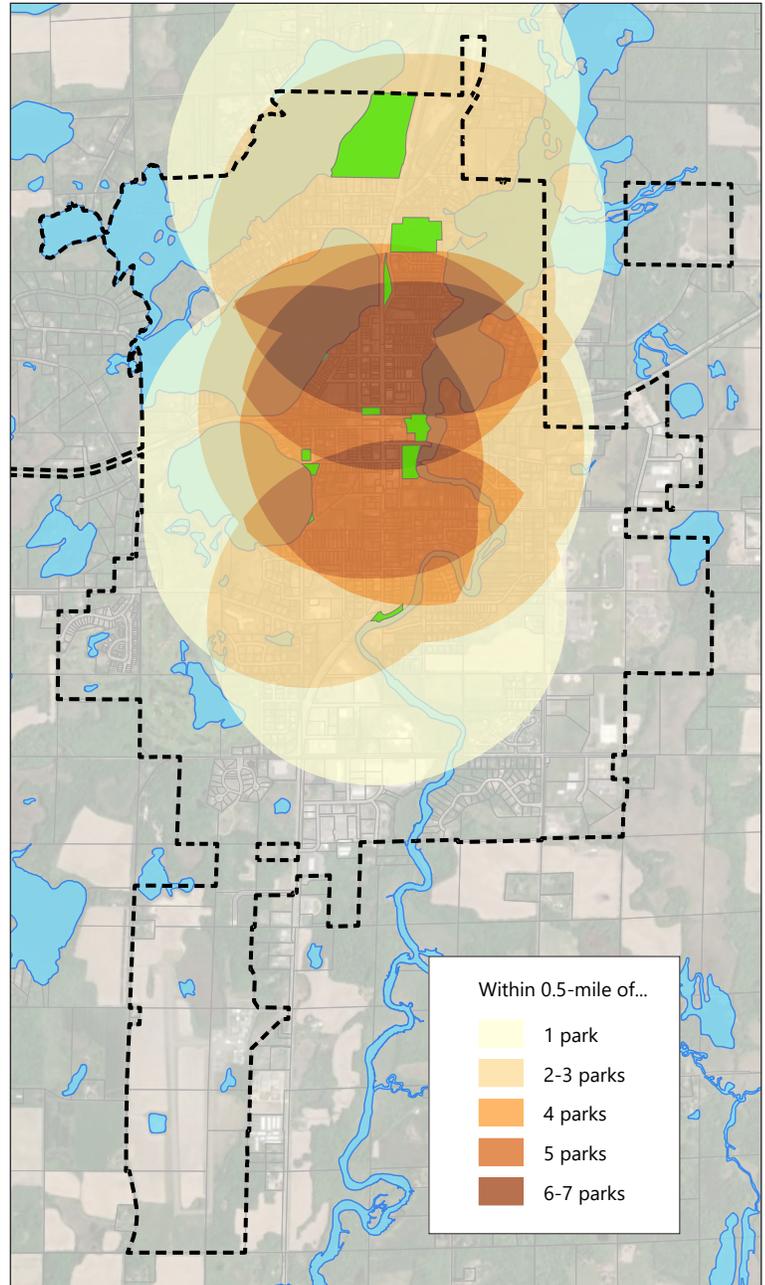
Needs & Demands

Park Proximity

The location of parks in relation to Amery's residents is an important indicator of how well existing facilities are dispersed throughout the community. NRPA, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute, promotes the 10-Minute Walk Campaign (<https://10minutewalk.org>) which advocates for "a great park within a 10-minute walk of every person, in every neighborhood, in every city across America." Amery's 2045 Comprehensive Plan references this principle in its policy to "Utilize the 10-minute walk principle to identify and address coverage gaps in the park system as future development occurs, ensuring that parkland acquisition and improvement is continuously fiscally reasonable."

Using the 10-Minute Walk as a guiding principal, the Park Service Areas map (at right and on page A.20 in Appendix C) indicates approximate areas of the City that are within a ten-minute walk of a park (approximately 0.5 miles). Each park is encircled by a half-mile buffer, with the deeper colors denoting more buffer overlaps; in other words, residents within darker areas are within walking distance to more parks than those in lighter-colored areas.

This map shows that the residents near downtown Amery are well-served by parks and recreational amenities, especially those living between North Twin Lake and the Apple River flowage; residents in southern Amery are generally not within walking distance of a City-owned park. While the City has an adequate amount of parkland overall (see "Park Acreage Levels of Service" section), this acreage is concentrated in north-central Amery. If additional parkland is to be added in the future, the southern edge of the City should be prioritized to ensure that residents in these neighborhoods are also ten minutes' walk from a park.



QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Community engagement is an crucial part of the planning process, both to identify guiding priorities and to gather support for later implementation. Engagement activities for this CORP were conducted in tandem with the 2045 Comprehensive Plan and consisted of an online input survey; one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders; discussions with the Arts, Parks & Recreation Committee and Plan Commission; two community workshops; and a pop-up event at Music on the River. For all survey responses, see Appendix A.

Community Input Survey

Early in the planning process, an online input survey was promoted to gather insight on the public’s priorities and concerns about future growth in the City of Amery. In total, the online survey received 346 responses (between March–May 2025) from a wide cross section of the community, including residents of Amery/ surrounding towns and households comprised of all age groups, household sizes, and length of tenure within the community. The most prevalent respondents were those in a two-member household, those that have lived in or near Amery for 20+ years, and those that live in a single-family home.

General Insights

- The most popular City-owned parks were North Park (44% of respondents selected this park as a frequent destination), followed by Soo Line Park (40%) and Michael/Bobber Park (38%). Other popular parks/trails included DD Kennedy County Park (43%) and the Stower Seven Lakes State Trail (40%).
- Amery’s most popular recreational amenities included walking trails (56%), fishing/boat access (42%), playgrounds (34%), benches/picnic tables (30%), and bandshell (24.5%).

Parks & Recreational Facilities

- North Park and South Twin Park were frequently mentioned as needing upgrades. The most common requests included:
 - o New or improved playground equipment
 - o Improved lake/river access and water quality
 - o Better maintenance and safety features
 - o Expanded walking and biking trails
- Some respondents expressed a strong interest in a community center with indoor recreation amenities (e.g. gym, pool, event space) and skatepark upgrades.
- Many respondents also emphasized the importance of accessibility in existing/new amenities, including playground equipment.

Water Amenities

- Splash pads, community pools, and swimming beaches were – by far – the most requested amenities throughout the survey. Many respondents noted the lack of a clean, usable beach despite Amery being called the “City of Lakes.”
- Swimmer’s itch was identified as a primary barrier to utilizing Amery’s existing water bodies for swimming and boating.
- Other common improvement suggestions included kayak/canoe rentals, better lake access, and ancillary amenities such as locker rooms.

Needs & Demands

Community Input Survey (cont.)

Trails & Connectivity

- The survey revealed that walking trails are the most popular recreational amenity in Amery; as a result, many survey respondents requested the expansion of walking/biking trails, as well as improved pedestrian safety throughout the community.
- Throughout the survey, many respondents noted the lack of connectivity between the state trails and prominent Amery destinations. Connective paths and enhanced tourist-oriented wayfinding were commonly suggested to better leverage Amery's outdoor recreation attractions.

Community Workshops

Kick-Off + Visioning Workshop

A project kick-off was held at City Hall on the evening of April 22, 2025 to collect preliminary priorities and concerns from community members through a series of interactive stations. Activities included visual preference voting, SWOT (Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses, and Threats) prompts for a variety of categories, and an annotatable map of Amery.

Pop-Up Booth at Music on the River

On July 18, 2025, a pop-up engagement booth was hosted at Music on the River to gather community input on drafted elements in an informal, conversational setting. Activities included a future land use mapping exercise, in which participants placed sticky notes with preferred land use categories on a map of Amery, and park recommendation prioritization exercises using a visual preference board and thematic voting.

Draft Plan Open House

On September 23, 2025, draft versions of the Comprehensive Plan and CORP were presented to the public for comment before Plan Commission consideration in late October.



Voting activity from visioning workshop



Music on the River pop-up booth



Recommendations

5

INTRODUCTION

The analysis discussed in Chapter 4 reveals the need for improvements to existing facilities and additional trail connections. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and/or community collaboration will be necessary before decisions are made to acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

The recommendations of this plan are divided into two major sections: “existing park facilities” and “system recommendations.” These recommendations were generated through community feedback, discussions with City staff and decision-makers, and ongoing/upcoming CIP projects.

Throughout the input process, plan stakeholders expressed their preferences for the recommended improvement to Amery’s recreational system. These preferences have been interpreted and sorted into high, medium, and low priority projects in the following chapters. Due to budgetary constraints, it is unlikely that all recommendations within this chapter will be implemented, and the priority level provides future decision-makers with a better guide for investing the Amery’s limited resources. Priorities may shift as time passes and recommendations will inevitably change as the community changes.

The approximate timeframe for recommendation completion is also noted in the following chapters, indicating how long each project should take to complete once the implementation process has begun: immediate, short-term, and long-term.

EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

The following pages contain spreads dedicated to each existing park in Amery. Each spread includes general information, existing facilities, and recommendations for targeted improvements. Some of the recommendations identified for existing parks are carried forward from recent City-led project identification and prioritization efforts.

Most importantly, the City should prioritize continual maintenance of all existing parks, trails, and recreational facilities. While new amenities may attract residents at first, maintaining the safety, accessibility, and availability of existing amenities will ensure that these spaces are inviting and functional long-term.



Triangle/Schumacher Park

MINIATURE PARK • Hwy 46 & Riverview Blvd • 1 Acre

EXISTING FEATURES

- Picnic tables and benches

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY Low-Med-High	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)
<i>No improvement recommendations at this time</i>		



Flagpole Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK • Hwy 46 & Wisconsin Ave • 1.4 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Picnic tables
- Grill
- Butterfly garden

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY Low-Med-High	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)
Consider the following options depending on maintenance capacity and public interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease maintenance needs by naturalizing more land and relocating picnic tables/grills to other parks • Reactivate the park by adding a small pavilion 	Low	Long-Term



North Twin Park & Boat Landing

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK • Park: Maple St & Lake St; Boat Landing: Hwy 46 • 1.2 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Boat landing
- Fishing pier
- Portable toilets
- Parking lot
- Picnic tables and benches
- Grills
- Information kiosk

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY Low-Med-High	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)
Add small pavilion to North Twin Park to reactivate space	Low	Long-Term
Install boat cleaning system at North Twin boat landing (e.g. coin-operated power washer)	Medium	Short-Term
Replace dock located off of boat landing parking lot	Medium	Long-Term
Continue to work with Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to improve pedestrian crossing connection to North Park	High	Long-Term
Add floating t-shaped pier to North Twin Lake for canoes/kayaks and fishing, located south of the boat launch	Medium	Short-Term



South Twin Park/Beach

COMMUNITY PARK • W Elm St & Water Ave • 1.3 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Swimming beach
- Fishing pier
- Playground equipment (swings and seesaws)
- Pickleball courts
- Volleyball net
- Open-air picnic shelter
- Restrooms
- Parking lot
- Picnic tables
- Grills
- Drinking fountain (inoperable)
- Bike racks
- Garbage/recycling bins

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY Low-Med-High	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)
Anticipated upcoming improvement projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add toddler-oriented playground equipment • Re-sand beach • Utilize Apple River District’s weeding equipment to clean up beach and start addressing itch issues (ongoing activity) • Paint bathhouse building 	High (tentatively earmarked for upcoming years’ budget allocations)	Immediate
Reinstall volleyball net	Low	Short-Term
Pavilion improvements (e.g. replacing elements with better/durable materials, structural fixes, etc.)	High	Immediate (in progress)
Add additional security lighting	High	Short-Term
Consider a small splash pad at this park depending on success of potential public-private partnership(s) elsewhere in town	Low	Long-Term



Michael Park

COMMUNITY PARK • 306 River Ave • 3.1 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Bandshell
- Open-air picnic shelters
- Open field
- Restrooms
- Picnic tables and benches
- Garbage/recycling bins

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY Low-Med-High	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)
Decommission old bathroom building (on southeast corner of park near dam)	Medium	Long-Term
Work with Historical Society/other community development organizations to beautify dam building and adjacent white tower building	Low	Long-Term
Create a designated parking area behind bandshell, either using new gravel or pavement	Medium	Short-Term
Promote private kayak rental business(s) and provide supplementary infrastructure such as boat launch(es) and wayfinding to river/downtown	High	Short-Term



North Park

COMMUNITY PARK • 100 Arlington Drive • 9.4 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Boat landing
- Fishing pier
- Playground equipment
- Baseball backstop
- Basketball court
- Tennis courts
- Open field
- Disc golf course
- Skate park
- Open-air picnic shelter
- Restrooms
- Walking trail
- RV campsites
- Parking lot
- Picnic tables/benches
- Grills

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY Low-Med-High	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)
Develop a North Park-specific master plan to better flesh out all desired improvements and pursue state recreation funding. Improvements could include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve playground area by addressing maintenance/ accessibility concerns and adding new age-specific features (short-term, high priority) • Resurface walking path through park • Flood management in open grass near the basketball courts 	High	Long-Term
Resurface tennis court	Low	Long-Term
Remove leftover baseball backstop	Low	Short-Term
Address safety concerns in existing skatepark	Low	Short-Term



Riverfront/Bobber Park

COMMUNITY PARK • 132 Central Street • 2.9 Acre

EXISTING FEATURES

- Boat landing
- Fishing pier
- Open field
- Parking lot
- Picnic tables and benches
- Grills

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY Low-Med-High	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)
Trail improvements, including implementing strategies to deter geese (e.g. strategic vegetative maintenance/ replacement with rocks or mulch, etc.)	Low	Long-Term



Soo Line Park

COMMUNITY PARK • 107 Center St W • 0.8 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Open-air picnic shelter
- Parking lot
- Restrooms
- Picnic tables and benches
- Information kiosk
- Drinking fountain
- Garbage/recycling bins

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY Low-Med-High	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)
Explore private ownership options for EV station	High	Short-Term
Install bike racks and fix-it station to accommodate cyclist traffic on state trails	Medium	Short-Term
Improve information kiosk	Low	Long-Term
Acquire railroad-owned parcel southwest of Soo Line Park to create a proper Stower trailhead (e.g. parking lot, pavilion, etc.). Consider leveraging TID 9 money to buy/activate/remediate parcel and partner with Polk County.	High	Long-Term



York Park

CONSERVANCY • Hwy 46 • 29.3 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Walking trails
- Fishing pier
- Parking lot
- Picnic tables and benches
- Grills

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY Low-Med-High	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)
Add additional walking trails, especially unpaved hiking trails	Low	Long-Term
Enhance safety and navigability (lighting, trail map/wayfinding)	High	Short-Term
Add covered pavilion near parking lot	Low	Long-Term
Widen street apron to make lefthand turn off of Keller Ave into York Park easier	High (tentatively earmarked for upcoming years' budget allocations)	Short-Term



Amery Dog Park

SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK • 855 Minneapolis Ave • 8.1 Acres

EXISTING FEATURES

- Dog exercise area
- Portable toilets
- Benches

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY Low-Med-High	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)
<p>Consider the following options depending on maintenance capacity and public interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sell this land for development and relocate the dog park elsewhere in town • Commit to making this land an actual park (large enough to be a dog park AND a traditional park to serve the southeast part of Amery, which does not have much parkland) 	Medium	Long-Term

System Recommendations

PARK FIXTURE ADDITIONS

Upgrade Trash and Recycling Receptacles

To maintain cleanliness and environmental stewardship across all public parks, the City should ensure that each park is equipped with trash and recycling receptacles that are weather-resistant, animal-proof, and strategically placed. The Amery Recycling Committee and Woman’s Club Board have expressed interest and support for community-wide waste disposal initiatives, and their involvement could help guide selection, placement, and public education efforts around recycling.

Invest in Portable Picnic Infrastructure for Community Events

To support flexible, inclusive programming across Amery’s parks and public spaces, the City should acquire portable picnic tables that can be deployed for seasonal events, pop-up gatherings, and community festivals, allowing for adaptable seating arrangements that meet the needs of different groups.

INFRASTRUCTURE & PROGRAMMING IMPROVEMENTS

Standardize Park Signage and Enhance Wayfinding

A cohesive signage system should be developed for all parks in order to standardize the park-going experience, promote local identity, and help guide residents and tourists to key recreational assets. This initiative should be integrated into a citywide wayfinding and branding campaign that supports tourism strategies outlined in both this document and the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

Improve City-Wide Pedestrian Connectivity

A comprehensive assessment of sidewalk and walking path connectivity should be conducted to identify gaps that hinder safe and accessible movement between parks, neighborhoods, and other key destinations. The City should also continuously prioritize acquiring land or easements to close these gaps, with a focus on creating well-connected, ADA-compliant routes that support walking, biking, and other non-motorized transportation.

Expand Recreational Programming for All Ages

To encourage year-round use of public spaces for all ages, the City should partner with local organizations (e.g. Amery Clinic, School District of Amery, and conservation entities) to provide diverse recreational programming such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Boat races and guided lake tours to celebrate the area’s aquatic resources
- Organizing nature walks and social walking groups tailored to seniors, and
- Youth and adult educational programs focused on ecology, sustainability, and outdoor skills.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

Address Swimmer’s Itch in North/South Twin Lakes

Swimmer’s itch, a skin rash caused by aquatic parasites, has been a recurring concern that has greatly reduced usage of North Twin and South Twin Lakes. The City should continue to collaborate with the Lakes Protection District and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to monitor outbreaks, educate the public, and explore ecological interventions such as weed removal and geese deterrents.



Implementation

6

INTRODUCTION

This chapter summarizes tools and mechanisms that the City can use to fund implementation of the recommendations described in Chapter 5. This chapter also outlines the process for plan adoption and plan amendments.

TOOLS & MECHANISMS TO FUND IMPLEMENTATION

As Amery’s recreational amenities grow, the need to increase funding to meet their basic maintenance and operational costs also grows. While it is often difficult to fund major capital improvement projects all at once, there are a variety of funding sources to assist with up-front capital costs, including but not limited to:

- Development Impact Fees & CIP Budgeting – Development impact fees are collected from developers to help fund public infrastructure needed for new development, ensuring that existing residents are not solely responsible for these costs. These fees, along with other revenue sources, are allocated through the City’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which outlines infrastructure projects, timelines, and available resources. Many recommendations in this plan are expected to be implemented through the CIP budgeting process.
- Grant Programs – County, state, and federal grant programs are a key source of funding for park acquisition and development. A summary table of commonly used grant programs is provided on the following pages, though it is not exhaustive and funding details should be verified before applying. These grants are typically used to supplement local efforts and expand recreational opportunities.
- Community Fundraising & Volunteers – The City could set up a “Friends of the Amery Parks” group, and/or work with existing local civic groups, to engage community members in maintenance, beautification, and fundraising for park facilities. Support from local businesses and corporations should also be pursued for specific initiatives that align with their missions, with public recognition offered through signage or plaques.
- 501(c)(3) Foundation – Establishing a park endowment fund would provide long-term financial support for park development and acquisition. This self-sustaining fund would grow over time through invested assets, with annual disbursements used exclusively for recreational improvements. Donations to the fund would be tax-deductible, offering residents a secure and lasting way to contribute to the community’s park system.

Implementation

Funding Programs	Grant Structure	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program - https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship Funds acquisition of land and easements for conservation and recreation purposes, development and improvement recreational facilities, and restoration of wildlife habitat. This is an umbrella program that funds the following grants:			
Federal-Level Funding			
Recreational Trails Program Provides matching grants for maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails, and acquisition of easement or property for trails. Funding may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan included or reference in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan required by the federal LWCF Program.	50% match required	May 1	DNR
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF/LAWCON) Encompasses a range of grant opportunities for land acquisition, development, and renovation of high-quality outdoor recreation amenities.	50% match required	May 1	DNR
State-Level Funding			
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) Provides matching grants to purchase land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities).	50% match required	May 1	DNR
Urban Green Space (UGS) Provides matching grants to purchase land or easements in urban or urbanizing area to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening.	50% match required	May 1	DNR
Urban Rivers (UR) Provides matching grants to purchase land on or adjacent to river flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation.	50% match required	May 1	DNR
Acquisition of Development Rights Grants (ADR) Provides matching grants to purchase development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values, that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation.	50% match required	May 1	DNR

Funding Programs	Grant Structure	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) - https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/aid/tap.aspx			
<p>Multi-modal program that incorporates former Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program (BPPF), Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant programs. Eligible categories include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction, planning and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for non-motorized transportation (pedestrians and bicyclists) • Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for non-motorized transportation (pedestrians and bicyclists) • Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas • Community improvement activities related transportation such as to outdoor advertising, historic preservation, vegetation management and archaeological activities • Environmental mitigation activities • Recreational trails programs • Safe Routes to Schools programs • Planning, designing or constructing boulevards or other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former interstate routes or other divided highways. 	<p>Reimbursement program; 20% local match required. Non-infrastructure projects must be \$25,000 or greater.</p>	<p>Applications available in October, due end of January of even-numbered years</p>	<p>WisDOT</p>
Recreational Trail Program (RTP) - https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Environment/recreational_trails/			
<p>Provides funds to municipal governments and incorporated organizations to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses.</p>	<p>Up to 80% reimbursement, can be used in conjunction with other state grant programs.</p>	<p>May 1</p>	<p>FHWA</p>
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) - https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A			
<p>Created by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to increase roadway safety for all users, this program provides two types of grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety action plan development, supplemental planning, and demonstration activities • Plan implementation (requires a comprehensive safety action plan) 	<p>20% match required</p>	<p>Three deadlines during the spring and summer, depends on grant type</p>	<p>FHWA</p>

Private Grants

Grants from private organizations, such as AARP and American Trails, also present an excellent opportunity to apply for funding for specific projects. Many of these grants support placemaking projects, bike infrastructure improvements, and other initiatives that competitive, government-run grants do not consider. Before any project listed on the following pages is scheduled for implementation, it is highly encouraged to consider private grants as part of the funding process.

Implementation

PLAN ADOPTION & AMENDMENTS

Plan Adoption

This plan and any future amendments will become City policy when the City Council passes, by a majority vote, an adoption resolution. Unlike the Comprehensive Plan, no public hearing is necessary for document adoption.

Plan Amendment vs. Plan Update

Amendments can be made at any time to reflect the changing priorities and realities of the City, but the plan should not be amended more than once per year. A common recommended approach is to establish a consistent annual schedule for consideration of minor plan amendments.

PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Some of the recommended improvements in Chapter 5 will require a large budget and robust design process to implement. The following are steps that the City should take to complete these projects:

- Concept Development: Identify community needs, site issues, and possible design solutions. This plan document aligns with this stage as it provides preliminary/high-level ideas for park improvements based on community feedback and other sources.
- Survey: Instrumental in determining the physical conditions of the park property, such as topography, property lines, and existing infrastructure.
- Environmental Assessment: Determine natural processes and conditions that may be interrupted by human intervention, such as soil and groundwater quality, erosion, and water flow direction.
- Design Process
 - Pre-design/Cost Estimating: Identify space requirement issues, constraints and opportunities of the proposed site, and cost versus budget.
 - Schematic Design: Develop three-dimensional concept(s) to solve identified issue.
 - Final Design: Narrow possible schematic designs to one implementable design.
- Specifications and Bidding: Identify specific materials, construction methods, and contractors to complete the project.
- Construction/Construction Administration: Implementation of project and on-site work to ensure that project is moving smoothly.

ACTION PLAN

Recommended park-specific improvements are outlined in Chapter 5. The table on the following pages compiles these improvements to provide easy access to desired improvements by timeline and priority. While these improvements are intended to reflect the current priorities and interests of City decision-makers and community members, it is encouraged to continuously revisit this action plan as priorities evolve.

High Priority Recommendations

#	PARK NAME	RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)	COMMENTS
H.1	South Twin Park/Beach	<p>Anticipated upcoming improvement projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add toddler-oriented playground equipment • Re-sand beach • Utilize Apple River District's weeding equipment to clean up beach and start addressing itch issues (ongoing activity) • Paint bathroom building 	Immediate	Tentatively earmarked for upcoming years' budget allocations
H.2	South Twin Park/Beach	Pavilion improvements (e.g. replacing elements with better/durable materials, structural fixes, etc.)	Immediate	Improvements are in-progress as of summer 2025
H.3	South Twin Park/Beach	Add additional security lighting	Short-Term	
H.4	Michael Park	Promote private kayak rental business(es) and provide supplementary infrastructure such as boat launch(es) and wayfinding to river/downtown	Short-Term	
H.5	Soo Line Park	Explore private ownership options for EV station	Short-Term	
H.6	York Park	Enhance safety and navigability (lighting, trail map/wayfinding)	Short-Term	
H.7	York Park	Widen street apron to make lefthand turn off of Keller Ave into York Park easier	Short-Term	Tentatively earmarked for upcoming years' budget allocations
H.8	North Twin Park/Boat Landing	Continue to work with Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to improve pedestrian crossing connection to North Park	Long-Term	
H.9	North Park	<p>Develop a North Park-specific master plan to better flesh out all desired improvements and pursue state recreation funding. Improvements could include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve playground area by addressing maintenance/accessibility concerns and adding new age-specific features (short-term, high priority) • Resurface walking path through park • Flood management in open grass near the basketball courts 	Long-Term	Master plan development anticipated for 2027-28, grant application and implementation to follow
H.10	Soo Line Park	Acquire railroad-owned parcel southwest of Soo Line Park to create a proper Stower trailhead (e.g. parking lot, pavilion, etc.). Consider leveraging TID 9 money to buy/activate/remediate parcel and partner with Polk County.	Long-Term	

Medium Priority Recommendations

#	PARK NAME	RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)	COMMENTS
M.1	North Twin Park/Boat Landing	Install boat cleaning system at North Twin boat landing (e.g. coin-operated power washer)	Short-Term	
M.2	North Twin Park/Boat Landing	Add floating t-shaped pier to North Twin Lake for canoes/kayaks and fishing, located south of the boat launch	Short-Term	
M.3	Michael Park	Create a designated parking area behind bandshell, either using new gravel or pavement	Short-Term	
M.4	Soo Line Park	Install bike racks and fix-it station to accommodate cyclist traffic on state trails	Short-Term	
M.5	North Twin Park/Boat Landing	Replace dock located off of boat landing parking lot	Long-Term	
M.6	Michael Park	Decommission old bathroom building (on southeast corner of park near dam)	Long-Term	
M.7	Amery Dog Park	<p>Consider the following options depending on maintenance capacity and public interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sell this land for development and relocate the dog park elsewhere in town Commit to making this land an actual park (large enough to be a dog park AND a traditional park to serve the southeast part of Amery, which does not have much parkland) 	Long-Term	

Low Priority Recommendations

#	PARK NAME	RECOMMENDATION	TIMEFRAME Immediate (0-2 Years) Short-Term (2-5 Years) Long-Term (5+ Years)	COMMENTS
L.1	South Twin Park/Beach	Reinstall volleyball net	Short-Term	
L.2	North Park	Remove leftover baseball backstop	Short-Term	
L.3	North Park	Address safety concerns in existing skatepark	Short-Term	
L.4	Flagpole Park	<p>Consider the following options depending on maintenance capacity and public interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease maintenance needs by naturalizing more land and relocating picnic tables/grills to other parks • Reactivate the park by adding a small pavilion 	Long-Term	
L.5	North Twin Park/Boat Landing	Add small pavilion to North Twin Park to reactivate space	Long-Term	
L.6	Michael Park	Work with Historical Society/other community development organizations to beautify dam building and adjacent white tower building	Long-Term	
L.7	North Park	Resurface tennis court	Long-Term	
L.8	Riverfront/Bobber Park	Trail improvements, including implementing strategies to deter geese (e.g. strategic vegetative maintenance/replacement with rocks or mulch, etc.)	Long-Term	
L.9	Soo Line Park	Improve information kiosk	Long-Term	
L.10	York Park	Add additional walking trails, especially unpaved hiking trails	Long-Term	
L.11	York Park	Add covered pavilion near parking lot	Long-Term	

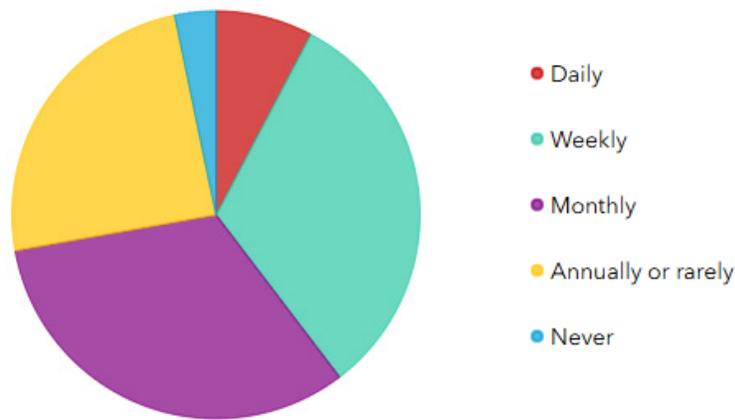
Appendix A: Input Survey Results

COMMUNITY-WIDE INPUT SURVEY

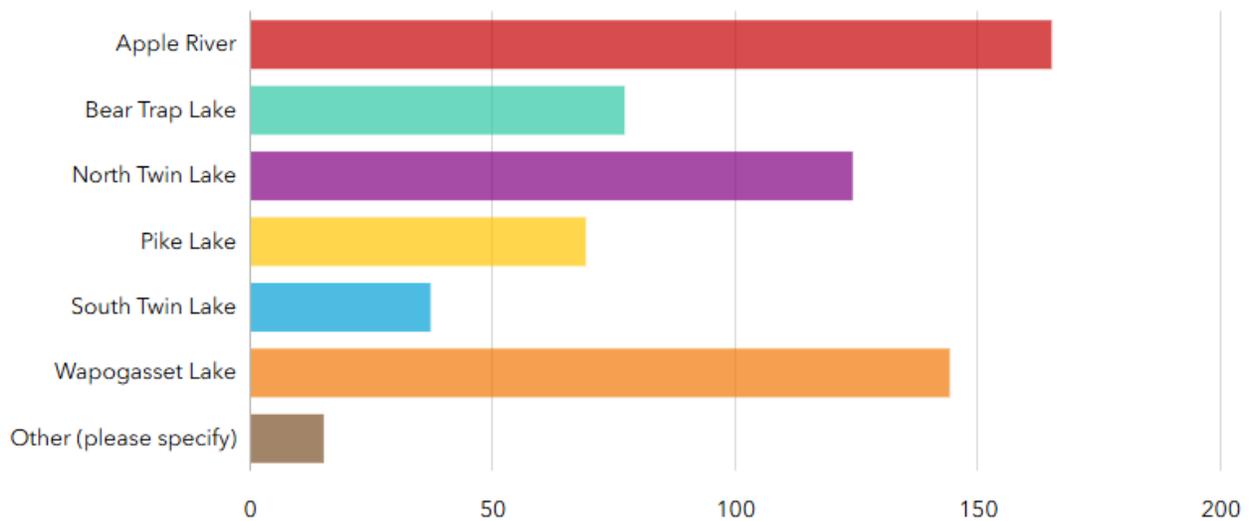
This community-wide input survey was hosted on the project website AmerysTomorrowToday.com, where community members could learn about the project, complete engagement activities, and review past meeting materials. The survey was open from March to June 2025 and collected a total of 346 responses.

The survey included questions for both the Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), which were developed concurrently. For more general community development-related survey results, please see Appendix A of the Comprehensive Plan.

1) How often does your household utilize Amery's parks and/or recreation facilities?



2) If applicable, which local water bodies does your household utilize most frequently?

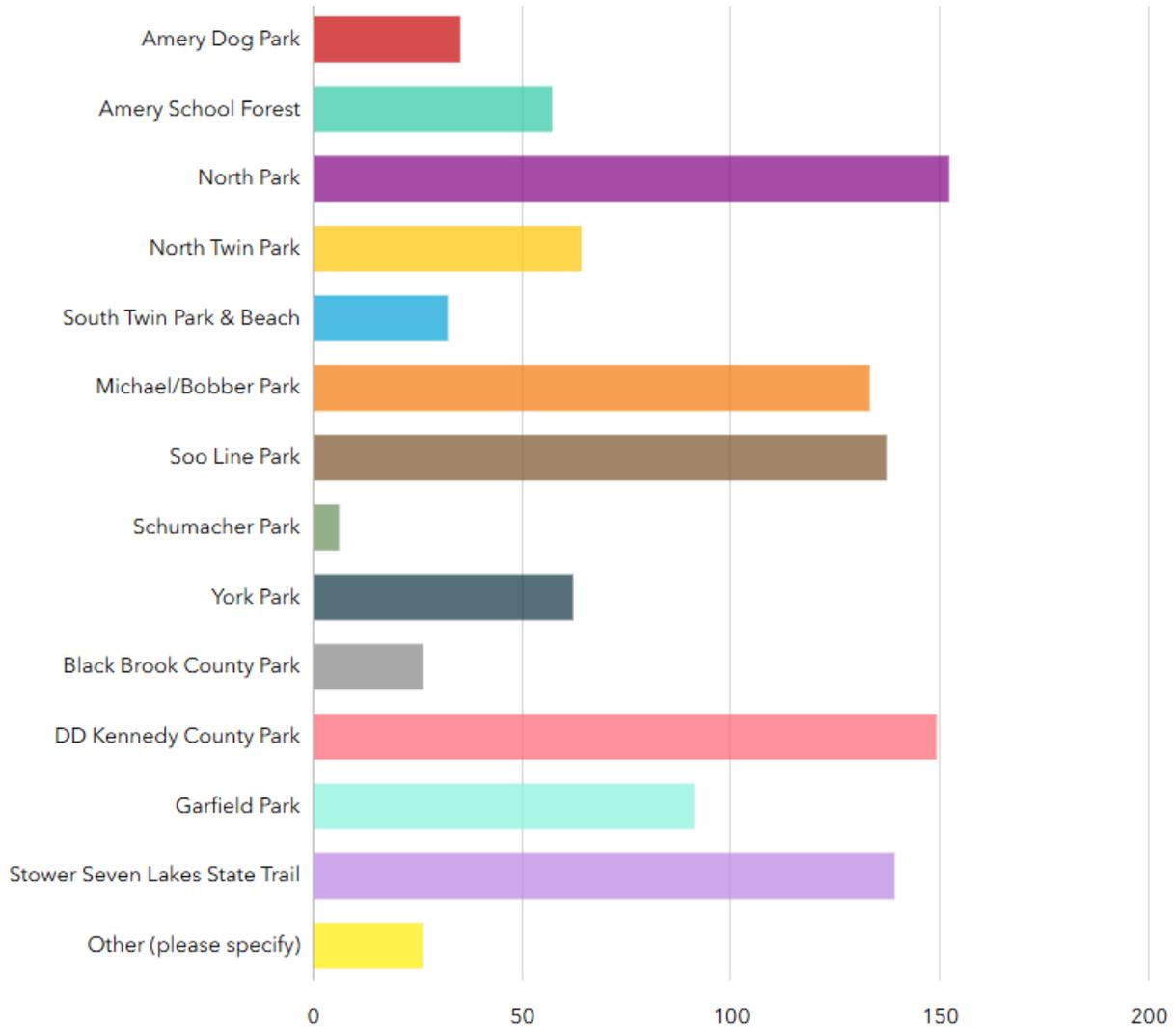


Other responses:

- Clear Lake
- When I was younger, it was South Twin. Now we swim where we camp, which is usually the state parks in Hudson and Chippewa Falls.
- New Richmond's The Centre pool and Clear Lake beach
- Lake Wapogasset.
- I got north of 8 due to lakes being cleaner and less busy
- Clear Lake beach, Cumberland beach
- Black Brook
- Beaver Brook
- Bass Lake

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

3) Which parks/facilities in or near Amery does your household visit most often?

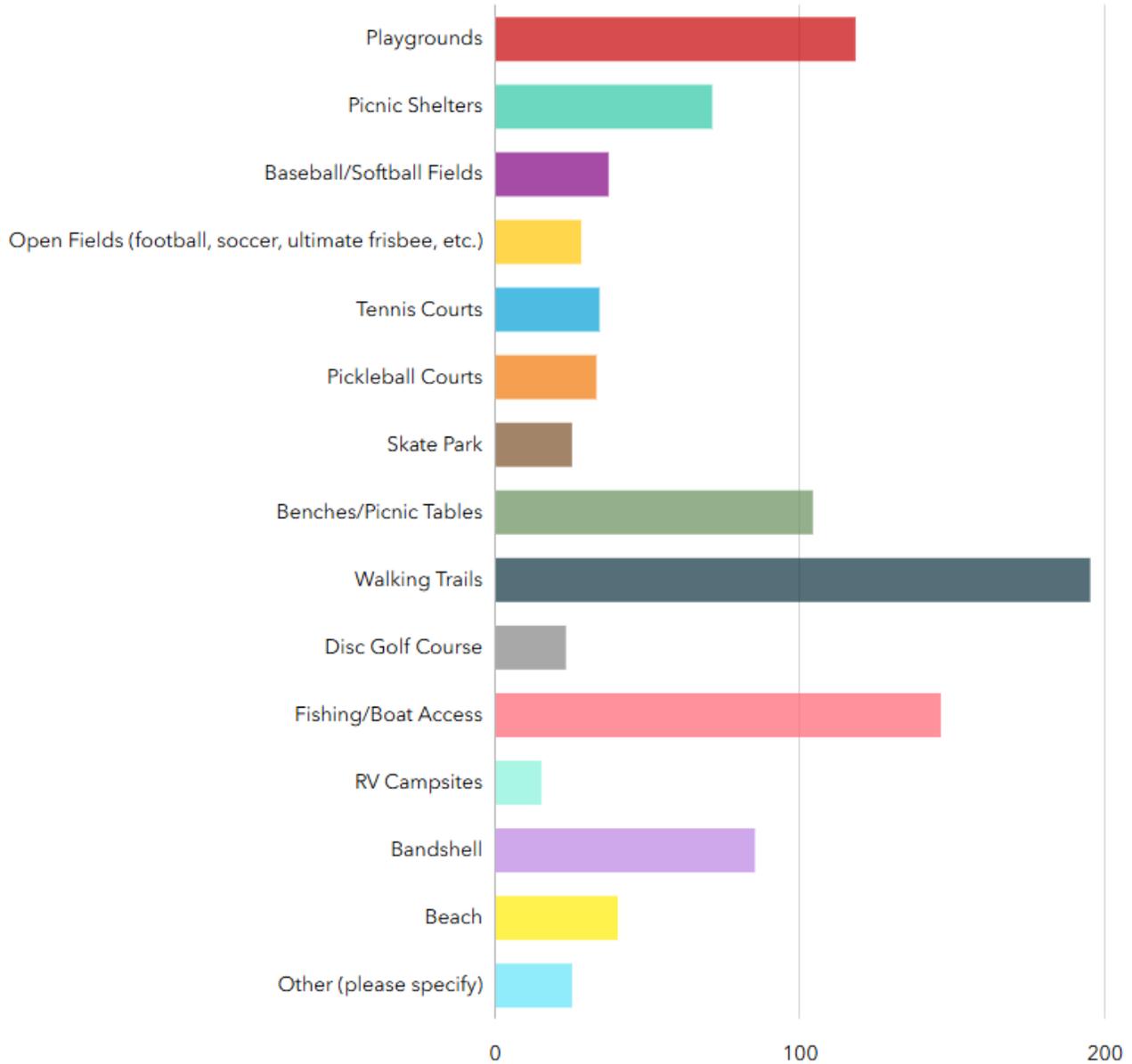


Other responses:

- Apple river park, mains crossing
- Not sure the name - but I walk dogs from the shelter 3 days a week and enjoy the trail behind the hospital.
- Clear Lake
- Would rather use stuff out of town
- Apple River county park
- Cattail Trail
- None of the parks have much to offer.
- Pickleball courts, School tennis courts
- cattail trail
- we would use the Stower trail if it was open. you didn't list the ATV trail from East to West
- Deer Park or New Richmond
- Cattail trail
- do not use twin beach do not use twin beach do to always having swimmers itch
- atv trail coming in from the east
- Grandchildren love skateboard park
- walking trail by Amery Hospital Clinic
- Area lakes
- walking trail and sidewalks near hospital
- I only come personally a couple of times of year, but always make time for outside activities
- Pickleball courts

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

4) Which of Amery's recreation amenities/facilities does your household use most frequently?



Other responses:

- Beach?!? Seriously?
- Walking. Biking. Skiing. Snowshoeing.
- Bike city streets-not fun but I like to park and that's all there is
- Bike trails and on street
- Beach is avoided due to swimmer's itch - if a normal beach, we'd use it all of the time in the summer!
- ATV trail
- Bike trails
- walking through the parks
- We would use the beach if it was functional and open.
- cattail trail head
- Snowmobile and ATV access
- ATV-snomobile trail from the East to west. you forgot about adding this
- Have you heard of the Cattail Trail? It's on the East side of town.
- Stower n cat tail trails
- Catail trial
- Open grassy areas for picnics on the ground
- Walking around the school pathways
- why aren't the ATV/UTV and snowmobile trails listed here? Amery must hate money. I spend no less than \$150 every day I ride snowmobile or ATV/UTV.

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

5) Which park(s) are most in need of improvement and why?

- Just keep them all clean
- Boat landings
- South Twin - Beach, water cleanup, Bathrooms, tennis court that's been under construction for 2 years, police presence for the troublemakers and graffiti.
- They all need maintenance and upgrades!
- Amery beach
- Beach! Self explanatory.
- "Skatepark (degrading components)
North Park (new/improved/more equipment)
Dog park (not improvement but I hope it is replaced even the apartments are built :()"
- Beach, I grew up using it, now you can't even swim. Again most parks have no targeted use or vision.
- School woods, trails are okay, signage and shelter definitely need maintenance.
- North Park for the kids is in desperate need of updating. The space is amazing but needs an overhaul. Please help local kids, many with little to have a beautiful space to be proud of. Also, open the beach. Beach > Pool.
- Stower Trailhead, I feel like it is right in the heart of town, and seen from everything that happens at Soo Line Park.
- Beach!!!!
- North park has space to add something, the beach needs to be redone. If we can't use the beach, add something else for families.
- York Park. Accessibility and signage need to be addressed. Widen the entry driveway in and out.
- "North Park could use improvement in the playground. More options. Cover the concrete footings for the swing sets. More benches.
Put some benches in North Twin Park so a person can sit and watch the sunset."
- South twin needs attention
- North park and South Twin beach.
- All of them need some improvement - North Park is probably the weakest of them all, plus South Twin Lake Park.
- Beach!!! Please make a nice beach area that is swimmable
- North Park the only park with a playground
- I feel like we are very fortunate to have good trails, I think continued and increase social media presence to highlight our nature trails would be a good thing!
- North Park needs sprucing up
- North park and skate park maybe more but these are just drug places
- Beach, can't swim their and itd be a nice spot. Only playground utilized is school, good variety.
- Beach
- Parks on water so we can use our lakes...
- South Twin Beach. Every time I've heard the swimmers itch is fixed, I have gone there with my family and it has been terrible. It has been my whole life. I will never try swimming there again, but it would be nice if it was resolved for other people and people visiting our city.
- Lower property taxes before wasting money on stupid shit
- South twin but we understand why.
- North park would be a great place for a pool.
- ALL of them but especially South Twin
- "North Park. Cracks on slides, despite 2024 repair, rust, not handicap accessible.
South Twin Lake needs a committee for reinventing that space. Ancient playground equipment. The Pavillion there is a prime space, but is underused. Lots of parking there, so there is a lot of potential at that location."
- South Twin - nothing has been done to this park in 12 years. The city could eliminate the swimmers itch and remove the weeds so people would actually have a place to swim. The pickle ball courts were used multiple times a day - and then they were torn out and never replaced 2 years ago. There is no other beach for anyone to swim at so everyone has to go to Clear Lake.
- Docks at water access and in the lake or river parks. Would create more recreational opportunities like fishing and just enjoying being by the water which is a main feature of the community.
- North Park, most used
- North Park could use some improvement. It is always busy when we are there with our kids. It would be great to have more equipment options and play areas for the kids. A toddler area would be amazing. Small outdoor play ideas: dirt kitchen, sandbox, see-saw, water tables, etc.
- North Park needs some TLC.
- North Park. It seems that is were riff-raff like to hang out. It has been that way since I was in high school.
- "North Park - skate park needs repair and better access to the river.
York Park - why would anybody go here currently? What can be redone to improve it?
Amery Beach - this could be a hot spot in the summer but it has been left to die"
- North Park. It is flooded nearly all summer once a little moisture is able to settle.
- North Park cant slide down without black marks on your pants
- The skate park - because it is dangerous, and NEEDED to keep kids out of trouble
- North Park, parking
- Beach, soo line park
- The beach and south twin
- Bobber park would benefit immensely from a playground
- Get rid of the swimmer's itch at the beach.
- North Park could use some updated.

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

5) Which park(s) are most in need of improvement and why? (cont.)

- we need better beaches and better beach access
- York park has nothing (to my knowledge, I don't visit often because there's nothing really there to visit for).
- Michael Park is a cornerstone of Amery's community gatherings, hosting events like Music in the Park that bring residents together. However, with large public events comes the responsibility of ensuring safety for attendees. Installing a perimeter fence with controlled access points would provide a crucial layer of security, preventing unauthorized vehicles from endangering crowds, managing event entry, and establishing clear boundaries. This not only enhances public safety but also helps organizers maintain a secure and welcoming environment, minimizing disruptions from civil disobedience or protests that could escalate tensions. Proactive measures like this ensure that Michael Park remains a safe, accessible, and enjoyable space for all community events.
- Clean up the beach and lake for recreation of all ages.
- The beach. That's the saddest thing about Amery.
- All of them seem pretty neglected. Look at little sister of the poor South Twin Park oh wait she's got a new pickleball court. The playground is janky. Did we get North Parks equipment fixed? And what kid wants to go back to the school to play on the playground they play on every day?
- All, when asked by a visiting couple on bikes, where they could find a nice setting have a picnic lunch, I was unable to tell them .
- Northpark could house an ice rink in the winter
- North Park. It is pretty much the only playground in town and it gets used by local and visiting families. It is a good location and the new bathrooms are great. The swings could use an update, more equipment could be added and it could always use more mulch. We love the location and go there frequently spring, summer and fall but it could be so much more.
- "York Park, could be so much more than it is, better access to the lake, trail system. Nice camping would offer a lot of options for people to explore the area. Walking trails are almost non existing, walking the flat rail bed of the Stower trail is not going out for a hike."
- South twin beach and lake. The twin park needs to have more toys for older kids. Maybe climbing walls and rope courses.
- "South Beach- safe water and beach and a beach on North. Also, being able to wade out into the river at North Park. Amery has so much water, but utilizing them for swimming and families are desperately lacking. "
- The Beach Find a way to bring it back and functional.
- Better water quality for swimmers, parks for kids
- Finish the pickleball courts please!
- South Twin Beach Park - NOT as a beach, I believe the lake is not salvageable and advertising it as a beach is not worth it. Don't have a dock available and put more emphasis on a play area. The play equipment and access to restrooms near by pickleball and picnic pavilion are under utilized and can be a destination for families of all ages to meet and recreate.
- North Park (Everything is 25+ years old. South Twin Park has no usability or purpose since the beach has been closed.
- South Twin Park. Let the park part go. Plant grass, keep it mowed. Let the shelter live on for Pickle Ball courts and picnic goers, but keep it clean. Plant some shade trees. Just a nice little "lake" with a small sandy spot and lots of lush, green grass.
- South Twin Lake. Need new picnic tables, use of bathrooms and showers.
- I believe there is a committee to address this ?
- Skatepark. The wood is damaged and needs to be replaced. Someone could get seriously hurt.
- Playground in North Park. South beach is a disaster
- South Twin Beach area. City has long neglected this. Locking the bathrooms prevents people from showering off, which is the easiest way to deal with the swimmers itch concerns. This prevents usage of the beach. Amery brags about being "The City of Lakes" but you wouldn't know it by the public accesses. North Twin is nice, if you can afford property on the lake or afford the boats and toys. But a public beach, available to all regardless of economic situation? Amery has a reputation for snooty-ness and this shows it clearly.
- A gazebo some where in town would be a nice addition
- I would say North Park. The tennis court fence has been damaged for several years and it hasn't been touched. Again, this is an absolute eyesore. The pavilions by the river with the playground need to be cleaned up and monitored. It would also be nice to increase a police presence because these parks are oftentimes visited by young kids who speed and use inappropriate language around young kids.
- Beaches turn them to usable and clean
- North Park needs a serious upgrade. It looks junky nothing is updated, sometimes it's overgrown. A lot of families utilize that park so a larger one would be great
- cleaner
- Skatepark. so many wasps...
- North park
- Keep the Shell clean!
- The skate park and North park. They both are getting very run down and need a lot of work.
- The Amery Beach always seems like a sad and run-down type place.
- the beach, it is not watched over and lots of drugs are done there

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

5) Which park(s) are most in need of improvement and why? (cont.)

- The beach is an embarrassment. It's full of kids loitering because you can't swim in the water and there is nothing for kids, especially older kids to do. I spent some time at the hockey arena this winter and realized it is the only thing in town open in the evenings on the weekend with something for kids to do (open skate). There is not much for families here, especially in winter.
- north park GIVE THE CHILDREN MOOOORE
- All of them
- South Twin beach. It appears desolate as the tennis/pickleball courts have been under construction for far too long. Being off the beaten path, shady characters frequent the area more.
- It's funny how we are the 'City of Lakes' yet we have no public beach. There is one on North Twin, but you have made the access just about impossible with no parking signs placed along the street because it's inconvenient to residents. Our South Twin beach is a disgrace. Goose shit and no supervision makes this area unusable. Community teenagers have made this beach a gang meet up.
- Skate park, playgrounds, south twin beach because people can and would use them more often
- "south twin beach, due to it being very beautiful and having spent most of my childhood in amery their, overtime it has got very weedy, dirty, and deconstructed little by little. Making that a nice beach could really bring alot of people out in summer.
North park. Their is lots of open spce for activities and a vvery big playground byt maybe a touch up on the playground and some things added to the space could bring more attention"
- North Park
- All of them . There are too many. Most go unused yet still need upkeep. North Park needs new park equipment needs new playground equipment and basketball court.
- South twin and pike lake and apple river. They all need better ramps.
- South Twin Park
- North Park has so much potential as does South Twin.
- The buildings like the handshell need to be stained and cleaned up. All the facilities need a facelift.
- Is it North or South Twin park (across from pickleball courts)? The beach needs renovation, the shower/bathrooms are in bad repair. The playground equipment are severely lacking. Could be a beautiful area.
- North Park and The beach. North park is the primary playground in the community but it hasn't been upgraded in many years. Public safety concerns keep families away because it's a hot spot for questionable characters. The beach is unusable as it's often overrun by geese and remaining feces when the geese themselves leave. There's also an understanding that swimmers itch is a prevalent problem.
- North Park could really use an update to its play equipment for families
- North Park. The new slides are wonderful, but the swings are in very poor condition and there are not many options for toddlers/younger children to play.
- The beach. It's a beautiful spot that could be great if given the care it deserves. The lack of care to maintain it and the water quality is what drove it's popularity into the ground. My family drives 40 minutes to enjoy a good family beach.
- North Park, more equipment, clean it up
- South Twin is outdated, could use an upgrade
- "North Park
It has great space and opportunities, needs some upgrades. Need to remove the camping it's outgrown the space and there are too many kids using this area and playing among strangers."
- "South Twin. Are we still in the 60s?
Take the road out and turn that whole space from pickle ball courts to the otherside and turn into a modern park. The houses there can use Baker Street to get to their homes."
- bathrooms needed at the cattail trail head for ATV's.
- none
- Cattail and Stower need to be connected to make them more usable and thereby attracting more tourism to the City.
- "Disc golf course could be added to/improved on. Children playground equipment is important to attract families. "
- All
- South twin beach, needs a good cleaning, bath house needs updating, picnic tables need to be redone. It could be such a nice park but it's been neglected
- North Park I feel it's gotten forgotten.
- Soo line park, need a safe multi use trail that goes to/from downtown Amery
- South twin park and mainly the beach.
- York park is way underutilized. Maybe camping
- Trail connectivities
- The beaches and lakes because of the parasites in the water.
- South Twin Park & Beach. The seesaw needs to be repaired or replaced, and the water is too dirty and unsafe to enter. It would be a great location if it was cleaned up.
- The beach, one hundred percent, is it not usable. You can't swim in that lake without getting water itch. And it is overrun by hoodlums, most days.
- I think the skate park could use an update and maybe even expansion. It is popular and a safe place for kids to hang out that can be easily patrolled by law enforcement. Maybe some development of the beach at North Twin although

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

5) Which park(s) are most in need of improvement and why? (cont.)

- space is an issue.
- North Park. The playground needs to be upgraded! South Twin Park is also very sad and old. There's nothing really to do there.
- The beach needs serious work. Cleaning up the chiggers in the lake would be beneficial to families and children being able to safely enjoy the beach area without fear of a doctor appointment to get treatment for water borne illnesses.
- North Twin- it has not been updated in years. The baseball field is out of date.
- Each park could have more sitting areas
- North park needs updated playground equipment. The tennis courts are getting wrecked by the tape that the pickle ball league put down. The top coat is flaking and chipped where the tape was laid down - now that it has started, it will come off very quickly in the damaged areas.
- Black Brook County Park has antique playground equipment & could use more picnic tables. North Park, could use an upgrade that includes more options for children with disabilities and sensory issues; our town is behind the curve on offering this.
- "The Amery Beach-make swimmable again! York park-clearly marked trails/trail improvements"
- North Park and South Twin Park are definitely in need of improvement. They have so much potential, but have been poorly maintained and therefore are not used to their potential.
- THE BEACH!!! A public beach without water itch would be really nice!!
- Michael Bobber Park
- Beach
- Beach I rarely see anyone utilizing the beach for swimming.
- South Twin used to be a great beach.
- See comment above
- North park, the city shouldn't have to rely on private donations to fix up playground equipment
- North park
- Which one? Pick all and the Amery beach! Bathrooms need renovating, uneven ground promotes elderly to trip and fall on and around trails and shelters. Signage should be made more clear for all the parks, water itch has made swimming unsafe for decades and its removal should have been prioritized decades ago. And again, the tennis courts need a regular schedule to replace the surface of the court.
- The beach! It really needs to be cleaned out. Too many people fish there; we have found huge hooks in the sand and broken bottles.
- South Park- it could be an outstanding swimming spot- but it isn't upkeep
- Can't think of any
- North Park-better playground equipment is needed, better upkeep on the picnic shelter and public bathrooms

6) Which additional amenities or recreational opportunities would you like to see in Amery's park system?

- Mire picnic areas
- A pool or splash pad if outdoors or an indoor pool for year round use and revenue.
- New playground equipment and splash park or some kind of water feature.
- Either consistent improvement to the beach or a community pool.
- A POOL!!!!!! or splash pad
- Splash pad for littles, swim Beach that's usable, ATV access to the West,
- Smooth out Stow trail, biking on this horrible.
- Picnic spaces with tables and include art or historical information.
- Bike/kayak rental for visitors and local people to enjoy our lakes and trails. Food trucks at Soo Line on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Beach!!!!
- Splash pad would be a great start. A pool would be so amazing, but maybe the new hotel will include that. Somewhere to have swimming lessons to keep our kids safe
- would be fantastic. Instead we have to send our kids to NR or Osceola.
- More items to keep kids busy - playground, disc golf, splash pad.
- Diverting Hwy 46 to Old Hwy 46 and making a spectacular beach on North Twin
- Park on river between center and birch streets
- Public pool and proper community center that is open more often.
- Swimming pool / waterpark would be an amazing addition. If that isn't feasible, an a swimming beach WITHOUT swimmer's itch issues would be great too.
- A playground
- As mentioned: splash pad, indoor playground, beach, playground. (NR has the Centre & great playground - something like that)
- More playgrounds, swimming beach, walking trails
- One thought would be to have kayak/canoe rentals available in the Amery area, I think especially on North Twin and/or the Apple River. There may be some I don't know about but I

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

6) Which additional amenities or recreational opportunities would you like to see in Amery's park system? (cont.)

- know I would use them.
- Kayaks, canoes, swimming
- Already stated
- More walking trails
- Beaches that are clean and cared for.
- Swimming somewhere would be nice
- Lower property taxes before wasting money on stupid shit
- Trail lighting.
- Opportunities for indoor winter activity for example pool or dome over new football field etc
- Indoor playground or teen hangout. Other year round opportunities.
- Splash pad & great swimming beach for families. South Twin
- "Daily equipment rental. Paddle boats, Kayak, snow shoes, cross country ski, bikes. This could be established at South Twin to reinvest in that public space.
Money was historically put into beach improvement, but it's not a realistic financial prospect to maintain cleaning the water from itch bugs and there are way too many water fowl that defecate there to make any progress. So let's reinvent that space, to offer paddle boats instead of it looking neglected. "
- Accessible playground opportunities
- Stop letting rich people with lots of motor toys rule all aspects of our park areas. Pollution will ruin it all.really fast.
- splash pad
- It would be great if there was a place that you could rent kayaks, paddleboard, and canoes by the north twin boat landing.
- Boat or canoe rentals
- I think Amery has a good park system right now. Funds should go to maintain those.
- A river walk or trail loop in Amery
- Another Disc Golf Course. Relatively affordable with only the labor of cutting lanes in the woods depending on where it is placed. And it still offers people an opportunity to use it as walking trails as well. Look at St. Croix Falls Disc Golf Course for an example of this.
- I would love to see a slash pad or something for younger kids
- A better restroom facility at the Cattail Trail trailhead. It has been totally neglected by any law enforcement since its construction. A prime example of the lack of cooperation between city and county agencies.
- a pool, splash park
- Bike trails
- better playground equipment, free wifi
- Some sort of water park, pool, splash pad. Do something like Baldwin and Ellsworth have.
- indoor Pool, indoor childrens activities
- new dog park northern part of town.
- A splash pad
- Opportunities for disabled individuals to utilize.
- Swimming pool
- Rent paddle boats/ paddle boards/ kayaks, clean bathrooms
- Pool, Pool, Pool, and POOL. Figure it out! Nope...bike trails
- Picnic tables, shade trees, gardens, water features, sculpture.
- Beach at north twin
- A community pool
- "Better beach and lake access for swimming. Accessible playground options
Benches"
- Safe swimming./beach area.
- Swimming pool miniature Gold Go garts
- Splash pad or public pool
- "Updated skate park with more relevant ramps, etc.
Walking trails for exercise with mile markers
A community swimming pool so people have another option during the summer "
- For years a pool has been talked about, as well as a "splash pad". Both of these are cost prohibitive and very expensive to maintain. I wonder if a "sprinkler park" could be an option. One water fountain that sprinkles water from one central water source. Small scale that can be operational certain times of the day, no supervision required - use at your own risk.
- A pool, splash pad or beach. Hands down this needs to happen. Something nice...don't go for the cheapest option.
- Keep the dog park! Somewhere. The new bathrooms are so wonderful. Perhaps bring back the permanent grills (charcoal).
- Upgrade and upkeep of playground equipment. A swimmer pool would be nice.
- Opportunities for young kids so pool, splash pad, nice beach access
- Indoor Pool for lap swimming, lessons and water aerobics
- Pool or splash pad
- Better park equipment, including handicap-accessible.
- Recreation center
- I think we could make York Park into a rustic campground. Brings people in, keeps water quality of the lakes high, helps with the local economy and creates more jobs.
- Splash pad, clean and safe beaches
- Paved trails and splash pad
- More stations for bikes, Kids ride them all over town and it should not be seen as a bad thing. They are kids and thats what they do.
- We need some sort of community center with a gym, daycare, activities, pool, etc.
- Men's volleyball team and a club volleyball team for high schoolers.

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

6) Which additional amenities or recreational opportunities would you like to see in Amery's park system? (cont.)

- A pool or splash pad and Handicapable equipment.
- "I'd like a pool. Every community around us has one. We have lots of excuses and finger pointing about why we can't have one.
I'd like clean lakes that you can swim or kayak in."
- A good beach.
- Better parking at the bandshell, a pavilion or covered area at York park.
- "- gazebo
- community greenhouse / garden"
- Please provide people with decent beach access to your lakes and flowage.
- More UTV and bike trails
- "non-locked public bathrooms
more parks
more trails"
- Kayak launch.
- I would like to see a concession stand at Soo Line Park for events. Local organizations can sell out of it. Most towns have something like this.
- New Docks
- A sand volleyball court would be fun.
- We need a decent beach! What about ksyak and pontoon rental?
- Cleaner and nicer bathrooms. A few more shaded canopies at Michael park by bandshell
- Community indoor pool. More walking trails. Bike rental stations in town. Public Beach at South Twin lake. Get rid of the chiggers.
- "Community garden
Bike Rentals
Pontoon rentals
Bait shops
Concessions
Food trucks in picnic areas
More crossover programs with our highly effective schools and talented youth"
- I'd love a community splash pad and more paved pedestrian trails. Additional safe spaces for families to spend time with their kids outside.
- More walking trails
- A splash pad would be a wonderful addition for both toddlers/babies and older school-aged children. It wouldn't require a lifeguard or staff and should be low maintenance once installed. It would attract people from many surrounding communities too.
- Better signage in the school forest
- A modern accessible park
- Rental bikes
- Restrooms that are actually unlocked and useable 24/7
- would be nice
- "A multipurpose outdoor sports complex space that could house multiple ball fields, play spaces, splash pads, picnic and shelter space.
Check this out for some inspiration
James F Holland Memorial Park in Palm Coast Florida
James F. Holland Memorial Park is a regional destination for fitness, fun, and friends, offering 26 acres of diverse recreational amenities."
- And indoor walking track\fitness spaces
- stower open to snow sports, whether skiing or snowmobiling.
- A swimming pool!!!
- Pool or swimming pond
- Motorized vehicles on the stower
- The stower trail open to all users not just a few who only walk on it weather permitting they can even use it.
- need a safe multi use trail that goes to/from downtown Amery
- More motorized trail connections
- Splash park or pool
- Continued support of the Amery golf club as usage is expanding
- Open the stower ro snowmobiles / ATV and offroad motorcycles. This drives so much access / tourism
- A swimming pool
- Rentals for kayaking, bike rentals, other recreational equipment.
- A pool. Updated docks like the old ones used to be. The pier type dock. Many people could be on the dock, and it wasn't overcrowded.
- Do the campsites have access to electricity and water? That would potentially sway my decision to camp in Amery.
- I would love to see an outdoor ice-skating rink area. The hockey association removed theirs and it would not need to be affiliated with them. New Richmond has a nice one.
- Splash pad for kids!
- POOL
- Public pool, movie theater, other recreational
- Swimming Beach or pool.
- Splash pad or community indoor or outdoor pool for families to enjoy.
- More things for kids
- Updated playground equipment (look at Mary Park in New Richmond for examples)
- Public Pool
- More events like music on the river
- upgrade the skating
- rental bikes
- snowmobiles and utv/atv on the stower

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

6) Which additional amenities or recreational opportunities would you like to see in Amery's park system? (cont.)

- Swimming
- A clean beach where people can swim without worries of harmful bacteria
- Playgrounds
- Stock all the lakes for fishing and increase the quality and size of snowmobiling trails.
- A pool ideally, but a splash pad would be amazing also.
- No need to spend more it's not a park system I see used other than the dog park
- playgrounds, splash pad, walking trails
- More benches along trails
- I love to bike, any trails related to biking or biking events. I heard there was a trail that folks put on near the twin lakes and stower trail. I think that's cool
- A swimming pool

7) Please share any additional thoughts you have about parks, trails, and outdoor recreation in the City of Amery.

- we invested time and money into the 2017 Pedestrian Plan. Implement it to make Amery Healthy.
- Not a hotel!
- Would be great to have someplace for people to rent canoes, kayaks, paddleboards.
- A more realistic meeting time. 5pm ?? Really? How do us working people attend.. take PTO? I think not.. Who works a 40hr week?? A more reasonable meeting time. In my opinion 6-630-7 be a more suitable time for the working folks. Put a message board out in front of the city hall with the times and info on it. The more people informed, the more that can be involved the happier the community. That's my 2 cents.
- Having a nice kayaking landing by the dam would be nice
- Outdoor recreation in and around Amery very good just needs more maintenance
- Our parks need updates and visibility.
- The city is so lucky to have great trails right in the city limits, do more to support them. They are underutilized.
- Like I've said, Amery has so much potential. Please focus on improving the town to attract young families to our area and accept jobs in our area. However, with the current lack of housing and child care, it is not possible. More fun things for the kids to do would also be a bonus! :)
- Would it be possible for the library to rent kayaks and bicycles? It seems that there isn't enough for a small business to take on and make it successful.
- Would love it if there was a way to get on the water without having to buy a boat, canoe or kayak. It would be great to swim in one of the bodies of water that are in our city or border our city. My children learned to swim in South Twin. It is sad that several generations in this community did not have that opportunity.
- Love stower - please keep it people powered
- Keep trails motor free
- It has been brought up before but due to a lack of good swimming beach I do feel like a community pool and/or splash pad would be well-used.
- Already stated
- Better swimming spot. It'd be neat to have a canoe or kayak rental at beach spot if in working order
- Way to many.
- Parks are out of date. Parks are overgrown with dead and diseased trees.
- My family and I enjoy the Stower Trail, whether it's for walking, running, biking, or (in the past) snowmobiling. I would love to see snowmobiles have access to it again, but remain non-motorized for summer use.
- Lower property taxes before wasting money on stupid shit
- We have enough and beautiful outdoor opportunities not enough winter options
- Parks and recreation is great. Need more year-round ideas and places for younger kids. I love the Milltown angel park because it's great for young kids.
- I'd like to see a general improvement in each parks appeal. Why are there no perennial beds or unique sculptures? Take down the old ball park fences, add more nice picnic tables & pavilions.
- Have more concerts and more people will come
- Keep the Stower from becoming another ATV and Snowmobile trail! We need options for walking, hiking, biking and cross-country skiing!
- Amery has a lot of Nature-Based opportunity, but needs adequate investors to ease some of the tax payer burden. Add city sales tax on something, like hotel stays, to ease the tax burden.
- Keep Stower non motorized activities.
- I LOVE the Stower Trail. In the summer I walk every day during my lunch hour. I get out there as soon as the frost is out and I walk until the snow flies in the fall. I feel that I could no longer use this trail if it becomes motorized. I live near Wanderoos and use this trail from that side on the weekends.
- Trails- The Cattail and Stower are the same railroad right of

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

7) Please share any additional thoughts you have about parks, trails, and outdoor recreation in the City of Amery.

way running from the Michigan border in the East to the Minnesota border. It makes zero sense that in the middle of downtown Amery the uses change so dramatically.

- Bike trails
- An indoor rec facility that offers things to do for people of all ages. Look into the one in Lake Hallie. It's would bring a lot of people and income to Amery.
- Amery has some good parks overall. But could use more attractions. Like statues of people, cartoon figures, fish etc... Make each park unique. Make it a game so people would want to go to everyone! Thanks!
- It's great to have so many bodies of water around for water, recreation, like kayak and canoeing, boating, and fishing
- Parks dont make a town. Festivals don't make a town. Family activities that can be enjoyed by everyone all the time make a town.
- Can you cater to everyone and not just the pickleball players?
- Better signage, tell what is available, where, maps.
- They are almost non existent.
- Pickle ball should pay just as golf
- Winters are long and indoor spaces or sports bubbles are always in demand.
- Please do not allow ATV's on the Stower trail. There are no nice walking and biking trails in the area other then on the road. An annual budget to maintain and update the parks needs to be on the annual budget. Resurfacing tennis courts, basketball courts, skate park, playground equipment must be on an annual rotation to be done or we might as well bulldoze it all now due to liability and lack of us. People stop using the space if it is not functional. People will not return if it is old and not safe. Just because it isn't falling apart doesn't mean it doesn't need to be replaced with something new!! If we could get a better Canoe and Kayak launch (enter and exit location in Amery and Black brook I think that could also be something we capitalize on in the future as another rec event for families too.
- Skatepark Skatepark Skatepark!!! :)
- Build something for the kids!! They need more then just a small playground
- Amery can benefit by having both kinds of trails accessible from the downtown area.
- Stower Trail should remain for walking and biking and should be promoted more, it's a wonderful asset to our community
- I'm excited for the addition of the new pickleball complex. There's no doubt that will bring more people and business to Amery, despite what the Women's club members think.
- Add a dock/slips on North twin to rent out for the small north park camp ground or even community members who'd like a slip. Or, make a beach out of that area. However, HWY 46 would need some work.
- City Works should go out to the parks more often and look for sticks and branches that would impede the parks
- York Park is a gem.
- north par
- Save our money. Spend it wisely.
- The newer bathroom facilities appear much nicer than most public restrooms, although there is a strong stench of urine.
- This is where Amerys opportunity lies, lean in to what you have to keep current residents and attract tourists.
- The more there are will always be making Amery a better town.
- I am sad by the pushback against re-doing the pickleball courts. The people who play pickleball are friendly and supportive and it is a positive draw to the community. Many people generously donated to the effort to get the courts redone. I think the way the Parks and Rec Committee treated the efforts was distasteful and rude. The South Twin Park and Beach area is one that needed positive attention, and this is a great way to do that.
- More to do in North Park
- We have great facilities. Keep them nice.
- As I say before, I belive one lake should be no wake and the other one wake, so everyone can enjoy as they please without disturbing the rest
- Keep Stower non motorized
- Tubing shuttles, kayak rentals, golf lessons
- Just update
- Amery has an opportunity to build upon the great things they already offer, just need to take that next step to bring it all to fruition. Make Amery sustainable and invest in the next generation as our senior homes are bursting at the seams.
- don't change rural way of life.. that is why people live here
- Parks don't make it or break it...they are but one ingredient in a long list of attributes that attract good forward thinking people. A swimming pool, a larger hotel, housing for young families, jobs will be the ingredients for growth and sustainability for this town.
- Make/keep them powersports friendly.
- Open the Stower Trail to all UTV, ATV, Walkers, bikers, skiing. horses. You will draw more people to Amery if you open the trail.
- Already stated above.
- I live by the stower trail and it's sad to see it not being used all winter and businesses loosing money because of it.
- need a safe multi use trail that goes to/from downtown Amery
- Connect a bike trail to and around lake Wapo. People would use it a 100% more tan the straight boring Stower
- Include more elderly activities n trail connections

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

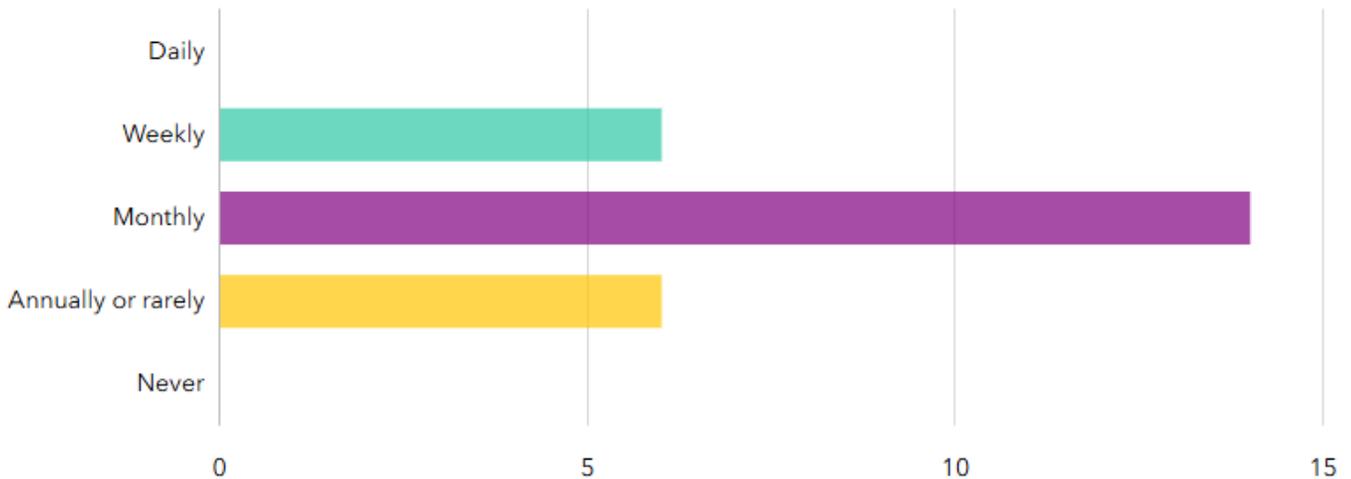
7) Please share any additional thoughts you have about parks, trails, and outdoor recreation in the City of Amery.

- I believe the stower trail should be shared by all!!
- Pedestrian and bicycle paths will help improve and maintain our collective community physical health and activity levels.
- Beautify with landscaping
- I love our parks and trails! These are gems in our community, and I would protect them for the future.
- beautiful. the bike maintenance area is largely ineffective at this point. It would be nice for that to be rehabbed.
- Kayak/Paddleboard/Bike rental for RV park and for families
- Having more paved walkways for those that have trouble walking on gravel.
- A walking bingo card or poker walk would be a fun community event and get people to patronize local businesses.
- Would be nice if the swimmers itch situation could be figured out at the beach, as this is a free, family friendly area that everyone could enjoy.
- Need swimming pool or at least splash part
- Love the farmers market
- Snowmobiles and utv/atv on the stower
- Overall they seem to be in good condition
- The Stower is a huge asset as an unmotorized trail.
- Outdoor pool or recreation area for families or children
- I would- but I am exhausted from such a long survey. I feel as though I should be paid for my thoughts.

AHS STUDENT COUNCIL INPUT SURVEY

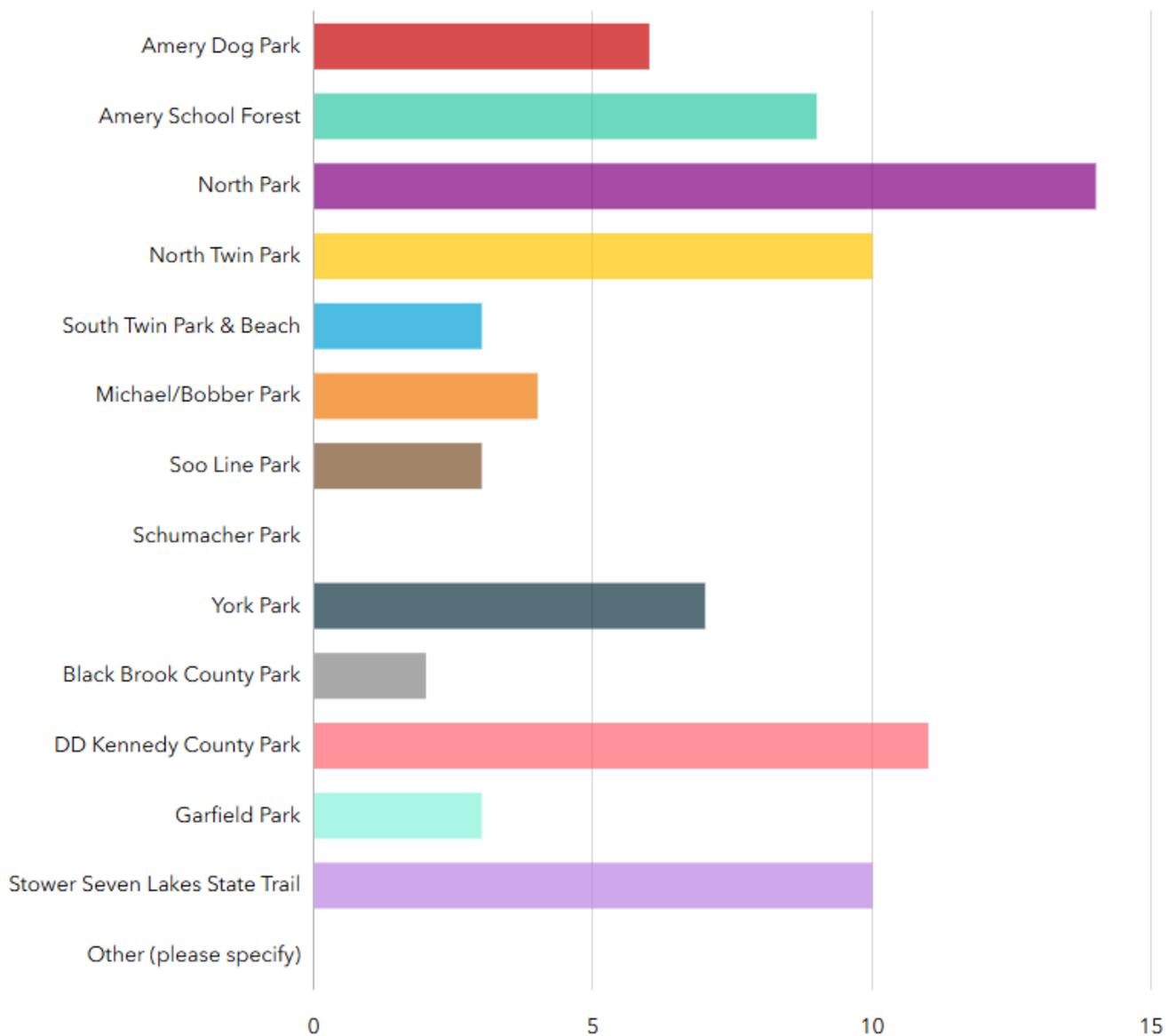
This input survey was conducted by students (grades 9-12) in the Amery High School Student Council in June 2025, and received 27 responses. Similar to the full-length community input survey, this survey asked questions for both the Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). For more general community development-related survey results, please see Appendix A of the Comprehensive Plan.

1) How often do you or your household utilize Amery's parks and/or recreation facilities?



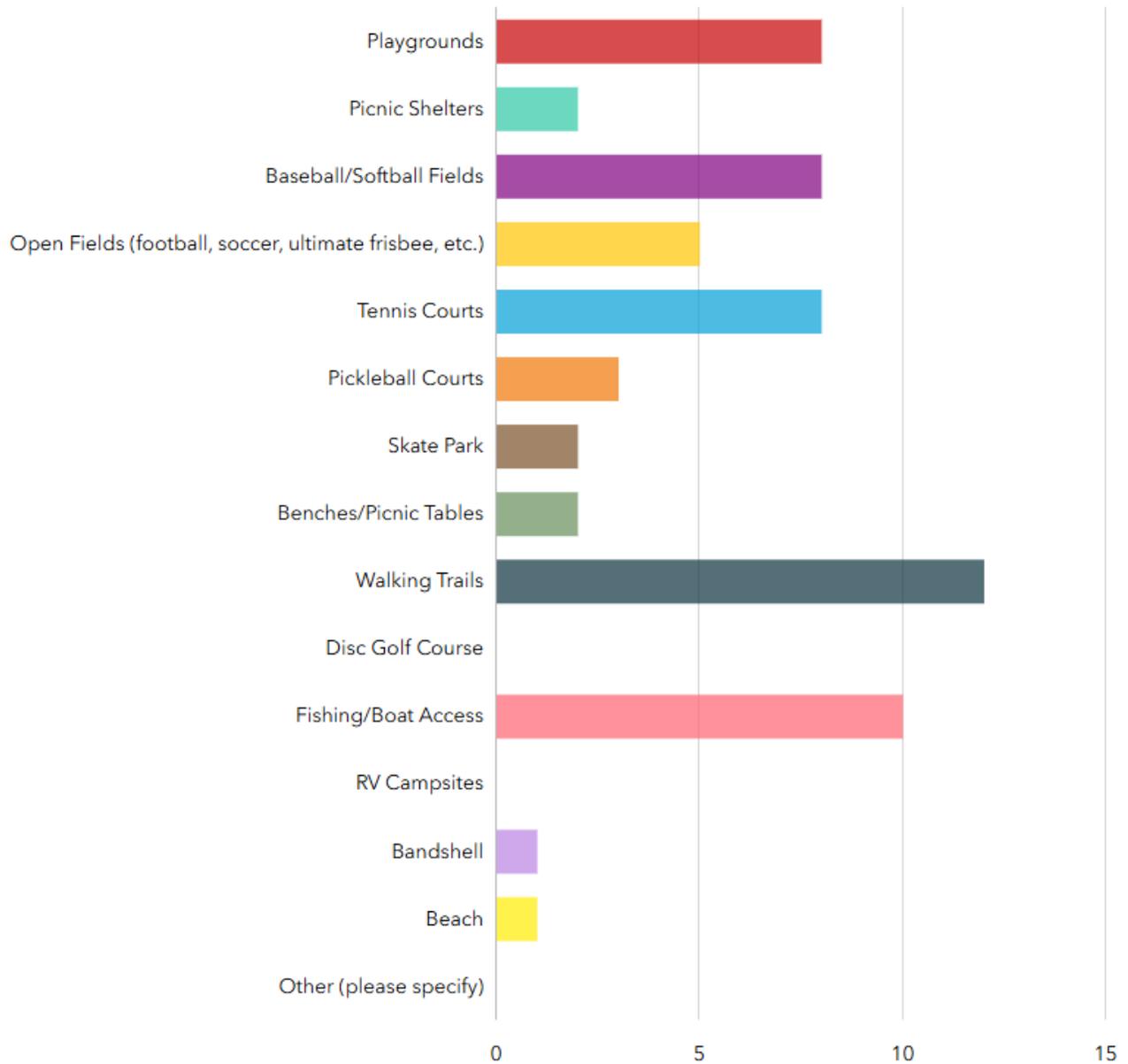
Appendix A: Input Survey Results

2) Which parks/facilities in or near Amery does your household visit most often?



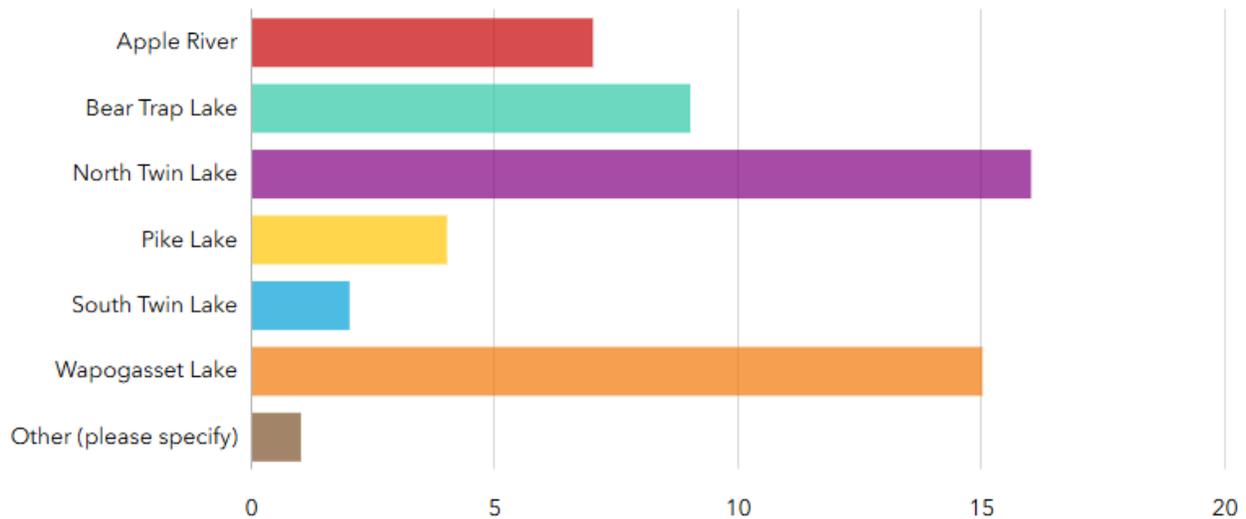
Appendix A: Input Survey Results

3) Which of Amery's recreation amenities/facilities does your household use most frequently?



Appendix A: Input Survey Results

4) If applicable, which local water bodies does your household utilize most frequently?



5) Which park(s) are most in need of improvement and why?

- The skate park is very small and there isn't much to do there.
- North park because it is a good location for a lot of people.
- North Park could use better basketball hoops. They are a little old
- North park
- I am not sure. I haven't been to any parks recently.
- North Parks playground. The playground has been falling apart for years and needs to be refurbished. There is a lot of graffiti painted on it
- Many parks are run down and need improvements. All of them.
- I feel like North Park needs better quality things because it is a park that is main in Amery.
- Any parks I would say need improvement because they are all run down and that pushes people away.
- All the ones that have playground equipment. They are kind of run down. And adding more benches using repurposed tools.
- North park looks really boring and not very pleasing when my bus drives past it, I think more flowers could do the trick.
- The skate park.
- The skateboard park needs more things, like a bowl.
- North Park, it is the most popular in Amery I feel and I think that could grow even more with updates.
- North Park tennis courts. Me and my family spend the most time during the summer or whenever we can playing tennis. It is my love and my favorite sport. But because of people taping pickleball court lines down on the tennis courts it has ruined them. They are literally falling apart and chipping away. It makes it insanely hard to play on them because how slick and unsecure they are. We love going to North Park because of the views and it blocks a lot of the wind which makes it easier to play tennis. It would be so incredible if they could reduce the courts there.
- North Twin because there is a lot of room there for more activities and room for improvement
- York park, I could be wrong but I don't remember there being many trails for hiking.
- Road into North Park is super rough and bumpy.
- North park not the best equipment
- Maybe North Park, its really shaded and could maybe use some more sun!
- York park because not much playing area for children
- I'm not to sure, I cant leave my house much due to busy home life. from what I see at north Park we could use with better skateboard space and more updated equipment, there's a lot of vandalism on the playground slides and not as much to do.
- I think South and North Twin Park need some necessary improvements. To me they seem kind of sketchy and not safe. I want a welcoming, modern, cool place that my friends and I would actually consider going to.
- I'm not sure any need work, when I go to a park I just play pickleball and the court is in good quality. I would like to see more trials, and softball fields.
- the beach, north Park playground, and north Park in general
- South Twin beach, maybe just updated seating areas and bathrooms.

Appendix A: Input Survey Results

6) Which additional amenities or recreational opportunities would you like to see in Amery's park system?

- More equipment in parks
- Nicer/more welcoming bathrooms.
- Better walking trails
- Better playground
- I am not sure.
- More water fountains
- More gathering areas. (Like places that are nice and socially pleasing)
- A park that has a good beach would be nice.
- More gathering areas. (Like Danielson area)
- Small mini golf and trash cans and maybe water fountains with clean drinking water. Then a little bowl on the bottom for pets.
- More flowers.
- A volleyball court.
- Better playgrounds for kids.
- Water Fountains possibly
- I think it's just a growth in parks and other facilities. Lots are very rundown and old so making them a little newer might attract more people.
- An improved court system and more activities by the playground
- Hiking trails.
- Beach volleyball courts
- Playgrounds and sea-saws and swings
- I would like to see more options for younger kids.
- A volleyball court
- If possible trees to be re planted if need be, just over all more plant life, after all plants help with oxygen and over all bring a great vibe to every place!
- A pool! It would be very cool and I would definitely use it, it could provide profits.
- More softball fields. There are none in Amery that are public and not always in use. Also more trails to hike.
- mini golf, bowling, something fun that tpeople want to go to
- Water fountains.

7) Please share any additional thoughts you have about parks, trails, and outdoor recreation opportunities in the City of Amery.

- Please share any additional thoughts you have about parks, trails, and outdoor recreation opportunities in the City of Amery.
- More public trails
- None
- None currently
- Docks on lakes seem like they could be a little more sturdy
- More flowers/ native growth.
- Amery has great outdoor recreation.
- I think just to continue to update places and make them more welcoming and interactive.
- A place for swimming that is a bit bigger and better than what we have is needed
- They are pretty cool
- I feel like we could also have more trash and recycling bins so we can have less littering problems. its really sad to see all of the trash all over, we could also do events where people in town could gather and help pick up trash and plant new trees or try and raise awareness for wildlife.
- I think that the trails we have are very pretty and accessible, if anything, I think if we had more plants/flowers that could add to the aesthetic, but overall I think these outdoor recreations are adequate.
- Trails would also be nicer to have for longer hikes.

Appendix B: Parks & Open Space Classifications

The definitions used in this plan are modified definitions used by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). They are used to classify parks within existing recreation systems and to guide plans for the future. They begin with the smallest and most localized parks to the largest parks with the most amenities. Neighborhood and community parks are normally provided by municipalities. Larger recreation areas, such as preserves and wildlife management areas, are normally provided by larger units of government or private enterprise.

Mini - Parks

Typically on a small lot (1/4 acre) and located within a residential neighborhood. Usually have one facility and benches.

- Desirable size: 2 acres or less
- Acres/1,000 population: .25 to .5
- Service Area: 1/8 to 1/4 mile radius

Neighborhood Playgrounds

Serve the needs of children 5-15 years old by providing open fields, courts, shelter facilities, and play areas. Should be within walking distance.

- Desirable size: 2-4 acres
- Acres/1,000 population: 0.5 - 1.5 acres
- Service Area: 1/4 to 1/3 mile radius

Neighborhood Parks

Provide open space for all ages and enhance the overall environment. A natural, walkable location is ideal for this type, and they usually have tables, benches, paths, and lights.

- Desirable size: 3-7 acres
- Acres/1,000 population: 5.0 -8.0 acres
- Service Area: 1 to 2 mile radius

Community Play-Fields

Serve the active needs of several neighborhoods. Usually include more than parks, such as a pool, community center, and fields for sporting events.

- Desirable size: 5 or more acres (15-40)
- Acres/1,000 population: 5.0 -8.0 acres
- Service Area: 1 to 2 mile radius

Appendix B: Parks & Open Space Classifications

Community Parks

Intended to serve many neighborhoods. Tend to have woods, water features, trails, and picnic areas. Should be determined by the size of the population.

- Desirable size: 3-7 acres
- Acres/1,000 population: 5.0 -8.0 acres
- Service Area: 1 to 2 mile radius

Special Purpose Parks

Created to take advantage of a natural or unusual feature, or to preserve areas and provide recreation. Golf courses, marinas, and skate parks could be categorized as this type.

- Desirable size: varies on function
- Acres/1,000 population: varies on function
- Service Area: varies on function

Reservation & Preserves

Usually located outside of the urban area and include large tracts of land that have limited development. Usually provided by state, federal or county governments.

- Desirable size: varies on function
- Acres/1,000 population: varies on function
- Service Area: varies on function

Greenbelts

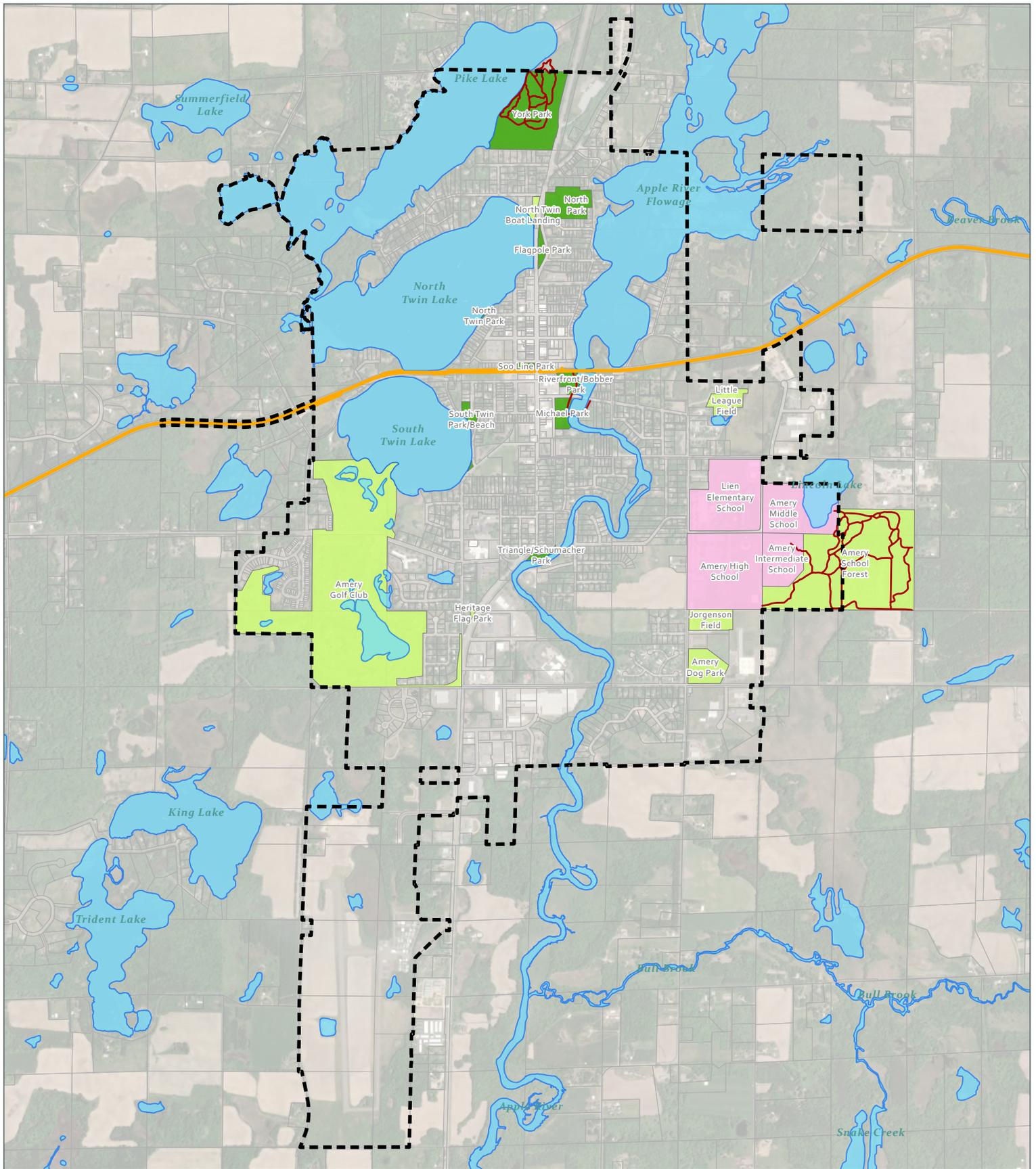
Almost the same characteristics as the reservation or preserve; however, they may be used to shape urban development. Could connect parks within an urban area.

- Desirable size: varies on function
- Acres/1,000 population: varies on function
- Service Area: varies on function

Waysides, Welcome Centers, Historic Markers

Special purpose parks designed to serve motorists and boost the tourist industry. Size and location depends on natural features.

- Desirable size: varies on function
- Acres/1,000 population: varies on function
- Service Area: varies on function



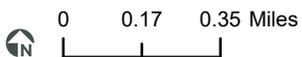
Data Sources
Polk County GIS

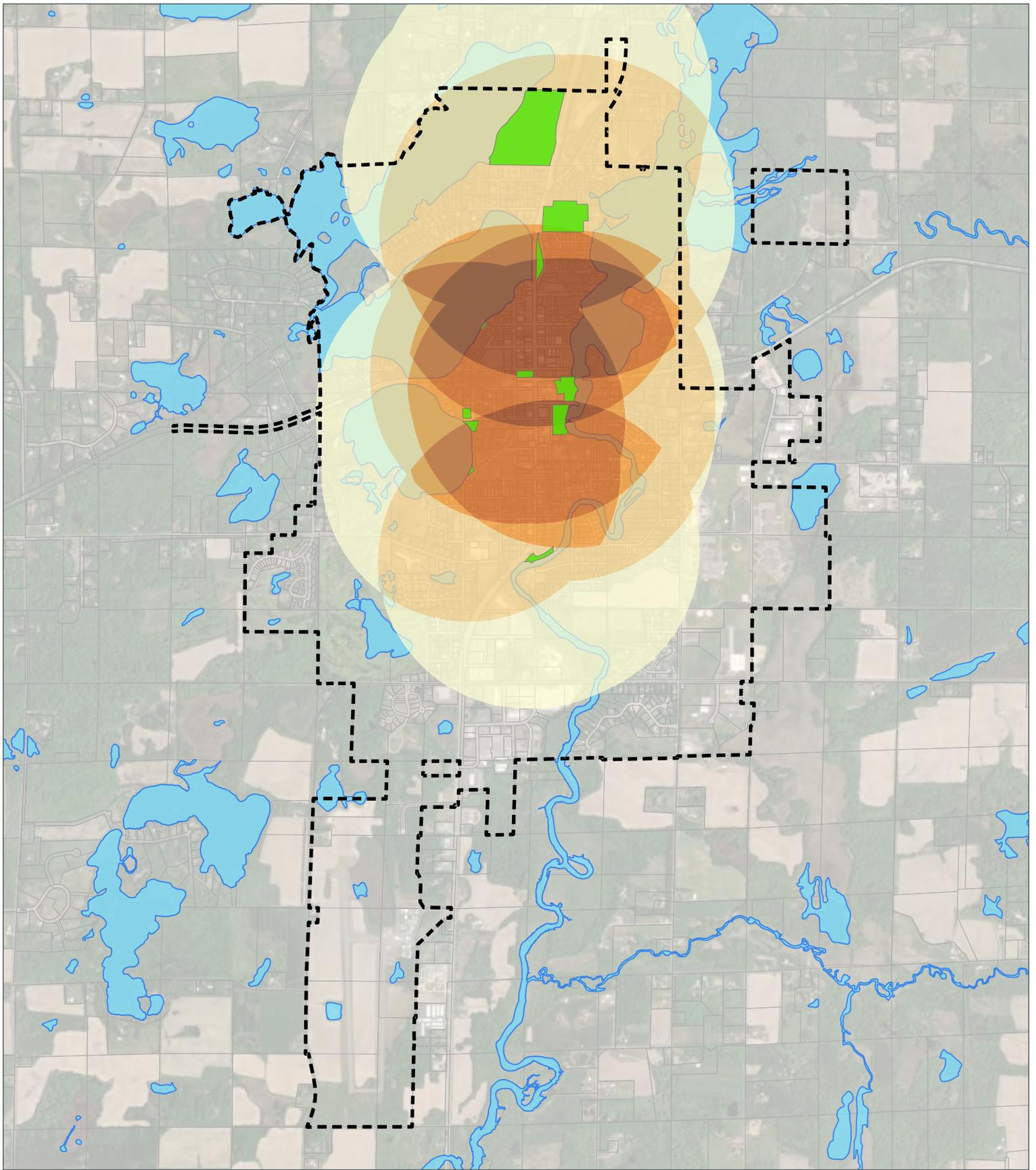
- City-Owned
- Special Purpose Park
- School District
- Public or Quasi-Public Trails
- State Trails
- Amery Boundary
- Lakes & Rivers

EXISTING PARKS & TRAILS

AMERY CORP

CITY OF AMERY
POLK COUNTY, WISCONSIN





Data Sources
Polk County GIS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Within 0.5-mile of... | Amery Boundary |
| 1 park | Lakes & Rivers |
| 2-3 parks | City-Owned Park |
| 4 parks | |
| 5 parks | |
| 6-7 parks | |

PARK SERVICE AREAS

AMERY CORP

CITY OF AMERY
POLK COUNTY, WISCONSIN

