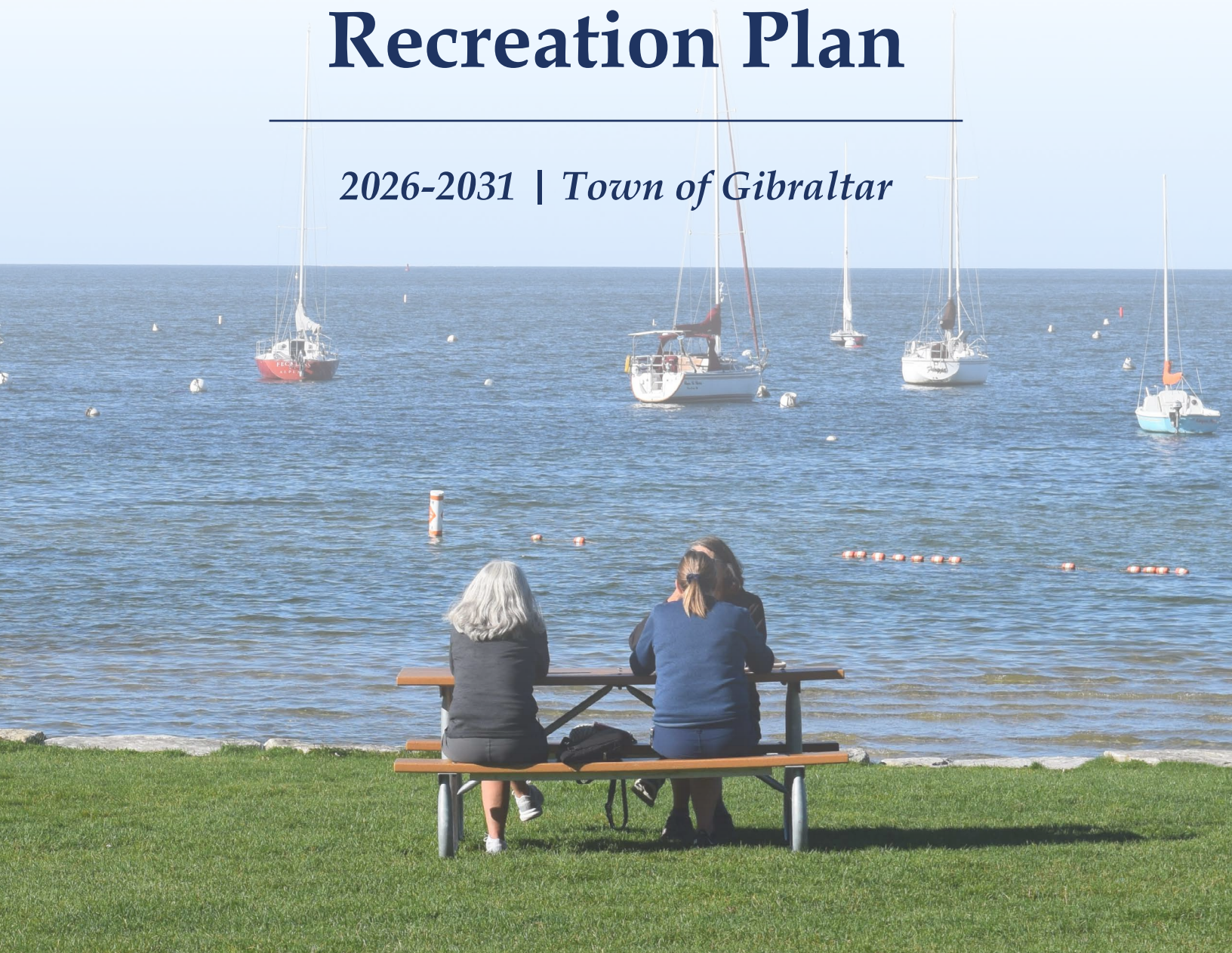




# Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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*2026-2031 | Town of Gibraltar*





# Town of Gibraltar Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2026-2031

Town of Gibraltar Board Adoption  
February 4, 2026

Prepared by:  
Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission  
1861 Nimitz Drive, De Pere, WI 54115  
920-448-2820 | [www.baylakerpc.org](http://www.baylakerpc.org)



Cover Image: Fish Creek Public Beach | Current Image: Fish Creek Park

The Town of Gibraltar is designated as a **Green Tier Legacy Community** focused on advancing sustainable practices. The efforts of the Green Tier Communities network will help the town integrate objectives into the future planning efforts and assist with building resiliency.



## Town of Gibraltar

Door County, Wisconsin

### Parks and Lands Committee

Laurie Buske, Chair

Patty Dixon

Andrea Kinsey-Jauquet

Jayson Merkel

John Lancaster

### Town Board Members

Steve Sohns, Chairman

Vinni Hancock, Supervisor

Jayson Merkel, Supervisor

Tom Birmingham, Supervisor

John Selenica, Supervisor

### Town Administration

Travis Thyssen, Administrator

Laura Reetz, Clerk

Theresa Cain-Bieri, Treasurer





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RESOLUTION NO: 2026-02

APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF GIBRALTAR COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2026-2031

BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GIBRALTAR:

WHEREAS, the Town of Gibraltar is devoted to providing aesthetic and functional parks and recreational facilities to the residents of, and the visitors to, the Town of Gibraltar; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gibraltar Parks and Lands Committee realizes the need for sound planning in order to meet the needs of park and recreational facility users; and;

WHEREAS, this plan highlights: the resources, environment, and natural spaces in the Town of Gibraltar; its population characteristics; outdoor recreation supply inventory; outdoor recreation needs assessment; and recommendations for ADA accessibility in the Town of Gibraltar and the associated parks; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gibraltar outdoor recreation goals, objectives, and capital improvements projects, and annual operation and maintenance programs with respect to implementation of the Plan are also enumerated in the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gibraltar Town Board hereby approves this *Town of Gibraltar Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2026-2031* as the town's official plan for growth, development, and maintenance of parks and recreation opportunities over the next five years.

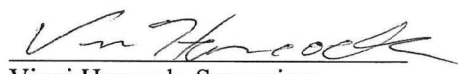
Hereby granted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026, by a majority of a quorum of the Gibraltar Town Board.

  
Steve Sohns, Chair

  
Jayson Merkel, Supervisor

  
Tom Birmingham, Supervisor

  
John Selenica, Supervisor

  
Vinni Hancock, Supervisor

Attested:  
  
Laura M. Reetz, Clerk





### *Vision*

Gibraltar's natural areas and open spaces are invaluable treasures that deserve our care and protection. These serene landscapes not only provide refuge from daily life but also remind us of the beauty and importance of our environment. We must safeguard these precious lands for future generations.

### *Mission*

The Town of Gibraltar Parks and Lands Committee seeks to acquire, restore, and manage lands for the purpose of protecting and preserving public open space, natural areas, and other landscapes in an ecologically healthy state for the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public now and into perpetuity.





# Chapter One

## Introduction and Plan Objectives

### PLAN BACKGROUND

In 2022, the Town of Gibraltar (“town”) adopted the Door County Parks and Open Space Plan 2020-2025 in lieu of having a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). While the county’s plan was a great foundation for identifying the town’s vision in future parks planning, it was ultimately determined that a stand-alone plan was necessary to achieve these goals.

The Town of Gibraltar CORP, 2026-2031 has been developed to serve as a guide in the maintenance and development of quality outdoor recreation and facilities for residents and non-residents alike. This plan shall be used to acknowledge the prior achievements in the town’s existing parks system, identify deficiencies, and create attainable objectives for future park enhancements.

#### *Purpose*

Parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces play a crucial role in the town, offering residents and visitors alike opportunities for leisure and relaxation. As the demand for recreational activities continues to rise, investing in outdoor spaces has become increasingly important for the town’s long-term prosperity. Maintaining these areas has been shown to enhance the overall health, well-being, and safety of the community. The principles outlined in this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan are key to preserving and enhancing the county’s unique natural beauty and amenities.

By adopting this plan, the town will become eligible for valuable resources and funding.

#### *Planning Process*

Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission (Bay-Lake RPC) staff first met with the Town of Gibraltar Parks and Lands Committee in January 2025 to begin preparing for the creation of the town’s first outdoor recreation plan. The process of gathering data included reviewing the town’s inventory of recreational facilities, researching the most recent economic and demographic data, as well as conducting an online survey for residents and visitors to participate in.

Since the town has not previously had an outdoor recreation plan, all outdoor recreation facilities in the county were inventoried. Facility conditions and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) were evaluated by members of the Parks and Lands Committee. Town staff and committee members determined which updates were needed for recreation facilities throughout the Town. The results of these inventories were compared with facility standards set by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to determine where the county may be lacking in recreational facilities or open space park land.

In 2025, the Parks and Lands Committee members reviewed this collected information for an update of facilities, trails, and land. A list of capital improvements was prepared for the five-year planning period of 2026 to 2031, which shall serve as a guide while budgeting and scheduling parks and recreation improvements. The findings of the evaluation and planned improvements were presented on January 20, 2026 to the Parks and Lands Committee.

The Town of Gibraltar should continue to review this plan annually and update it every five years, or when officials, the public, or stakeholders identify a pressing need. Completing updates will allow the town to integrate new ideas, developments, and outcomes not known at the time of this planning process.



COMMUNITY SURVEY

An online survey was determined to be the most effective method of public outreach for the Town of Gibraltar. Both residents and visitors were invited to share feedback about park use, recreational preferences, and future improvements. The survey was accessible through the Town’s website, social media platforms, and QR codes placed on community materials.

The survey was open during the summer of 2024, providing an opportunity for year-round residents, seasonal homeowners, and repeat visitors to participate, regardless of whether they were physically present in Gibraltar at the time. In total, 108 resident responses and 13 visitor responses were collected, offering valuable insight into how people experience and value Gibraltar’s parks, open spaces, and recreation amenities.



Survey Results

Most respondents identified as long-term or seasonal residents who frequently visit Gibraltar’s parks and trails throughout the year. Respondents most often recreate with family, friends, or pets, and reported engaging in outdoor recreation anywhere from a few times per year to weekly. This indicates strong local use and community attachment to Gibraltar’s park system.

In order, the most frequently visited parks were Fish Creek Park, Town Dock, Fish Creek Public Beach, Sunset Beach, Clark Park, and Noble Square. Visitors also reported high use of Waterfront Park and Peninsula State Park, with many noting their enjoyment of Gibraltar’s local parks serving as natural extensions of the larger Door County recreation opportunities.

Respondents were asked to rank their general level of participation and interest in outdoor activities, results shown for residents in Table 1.1 and visitors in Table 1.2. Activities with higher participation levels should be considered in future improvements and investments in new parks and recreation facilities. Activities with lower participation percentages are not of interest to the town’s community members, and should therefore have a lesser focus. Additional responses noted as “Other” included interest in watersports, running, shopping, dining, night sky viewing, painting outdoors, and electric scooters.

A complete list of survey questions and responses can be viewed in Appendix A.

TABLE 1.1: RESIDENT RESPONSES, GENERAL LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION AND INTEREST

Activity	Frequently	Occasionally	Never; interested	Never; no interest
Leisure Walking / Strolling	76.85%	15.74%	0.93%	2.78%
Dog Walking	37.96%	9.26%	2.78%	37.96%
Hiking	50.93%	33.33%	2.78%	8.33%
Biking	39.81%	36.11%	3.7%	16.67%
Horseback Riding	1.85%	15.74%	14.81%	61.11%
Cross-Country Skiing	13.89%	38.89%	10.19%	31.48%
ATVing / UTVing	6.48%	6.48%	14.81%	62.96%
Snowmobiling	6.48%	15.74%	13.89%	58.33%
Boating / Jetskiing	27.78%	37.04%	9.26%	19.44%
Kayaking / Canoeing	24.07%	39.81%	12.04%	18.52%
Swimming	25.93%	45.37%	6.48%	17.59%
Fishing	13.89%	36.11%	6.48%	37.96%
Retreat	4.63%	12.96%	18.52%	54.63%
Camping	11.11%	27.78%	10.19%	45.37%
Foraging	6.48%	14.81%	14.81%	57.41%
Organized Sports	3.70%	23.15%	9.26%	56.48%
Golfing	19.44%	27.78%	4.63%	42.59%
Disc Golfing	2.78%	6.48%	24.07%	59.26%
Pickleball / Tennis	7.41%	19.44%	24.07%	43.52%
Scenic Driving	54.63%	33.33%	1.85%	4.63%
Bird and Wildlife Watching	37.96%	34.26%	11.11%	11.11%
Snow Shoeing	19.44%	40.74%	11.11%	22.22%
Educational Opportunities	12.96%	38.89%	25.00%	16.67%
Geocaching	2.78%	13.89%	23.15%	51.85%
Rock Climbing	1.85%	9.26%	11.11%	72.22%
Picnicking	26.85%	52.78%	6.48%	6.48%
Nature Photography	21.30%	36.11%	13.89%	22.22%

Source: Bay-Lake RPC, 2025.



TABLE 1.2: VISITOR RESPONSES, GENERAL LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION AND INTEREST

Activity	Frequently	Occassionally	Never; interested	Never; no interest
Leisure Walking / Strolling	61.54%	23.08%	0.00%	0.00%
Dog Walking	30.77%	38.46%	0.00%	15.38%
Hiking	30.77%	38.46%	0.00%	7.69%
Biking	30.77%	23.08%	0.00%	30.77%
Horseback Riding	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	46.15%
Cross-Country Skiing	0.00%	46.15%	0.00%	30.77%
ATVing / UTVing	7.69%	7.69%	15.38%	53.85%
Snowmobiling	53.85%	23.08%	15.38%	7.69%
Boating / Jetskiing	38.46%	53.85%	0.00%	0.00%
Kayaking / Canoeing	23.08%	30.77%	0.00%	23.08%
Swimming	30.77%	30.77%	0.00%	15.38%
Fishing	15.38%	38.46%	0.00%	23.08%
Retreat	7.69%	15.38%	7.69%	46.15%
Camping	0.00%	30.77%	7.69%	38.46%
Foraging	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	46.15%
Organized Sports	0.00%	23.08%	7.69%	46.15%
Golfing	7.69%	46.15%	0.00%	30.77%
Disc Golfing	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	69.23%
Pickleball / Tennis	15.38%	15.38%	7.69%	38.46%
Scenic Driving	61.54%	15.38%	0.00%	7.69%
Bird and Wildlife Watching	38.46%	46.15%	0.00%	7.69%
Snow Shoeing	7.69%	38.46%	7.69%	23.08%
Educational Opportunities	0.00%	46.15%	15.38%	15.38%
Geocaching	0.00%	7.69%	15.38%	53.85%
Rock Climbing	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	76.92%
Picnicking	7.69%	53.85%	7.69%	7.69%
Nature Photography	7.69%	38.46%	15.38%	23.08%

Source: Bay-Lake RPC, 2025.

Community Preferences and Themes

Survey participants expressed a strong appreciation for the natural character and scenic beauty of Gibraltar’s parks, particularly those along the waterfront and within wooded areas. Respondents emphasized the importance of quiet, well-maintained spaces for walking, relaxing, and connecting with nature.

Common feedback themes included:

- Expanding and connecting bike and pedestrian trails within Gibraltar and to nearby communities.
- Adding pickleball courts, playgrounds, and family-friendly amenities.
- Improving kayak and canoe access points along the waterfront.
- Enhancing wayfinding signage, shade, and seating.
- Maintaining Gibraltar’s natural charm and small-town atmosphere while supporting recreation opportunities.

Visitor Insights

Visitor survey results closely aligned with resident feedback. The majority of visitors are repeat guests who return to Gibraltar several times per year, primarily to enjoy the waterfront, Peninsula State Park, and scenic trails. Most visitors stay for a half day or weekend, with high participation in walking, scenic driving, snowmobiling, boating, and wildlife watching.

Visitors expressed interest in maintaining snowmobile trail access, improving bike trail safety and connections, and continuing to balance recreation with environmental preservation. Many noted that Gibraltar’s parks are well-kept, safe, and contribute significantly to the overall visitor experience in Fish Creek and Door County.

Overall Satisfaction

Overall satisfaction with Gibraltar’s park and recreation system was consistently high. Nearly all respondents reported feeling very safe in Town parks, and the majority expressed appreciation for the Town’s maintenance and management efforts.

Both residents and visitors encouraged Gibraltar to continue balancing preservation and recreation, ensuring that future improvements strengthen trail connectivity and accessibility while protecting the natural features, viewsheds, and scenic quality that make Gibraltar unique.

Participation and Interests

The most frequently reported recreation activities among residents included walking, hiking, and biking, while visitors favored walking, scenic driving, snowmobiling, boating, and bird or wildlife watching. Both groups demonstrated strong interest in trail-based recreation, reinforcing the importance of continued investment in safe, connected routes for walking, cycling, and snowmobiling.



## ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

### *Modes of Transportation to Parks*

Survey respondents indicated that they primarily drive to parks and recreation areas within the Town of Gibraltar. This reflects both the convenience of available parking and the fact that many respondents travel from outside the immediate downtown area.

However, several participants also reported that their mode of travel varies depending on weather and distance, with many noting that they prefer to walk or bike to local parks during the summer and fall months. The popularity of walking and biking as recreational activities highlights the importance of safe, connected routes between residential areas, the downtown district, and key parks such as Fish Creek Park, Town Dock, and Sunset Beach Park.

### *Willingness to Travel*

Most respondents indicated they are willing to travel up to 30 minutes to reach a recreation destination, while others reported traveling as far as one hour for unique amenities or experiences. This suggests that Gibraltar’s parks not only serve local residents but also attract visitors from neighboring communities across Door County.

Frequent users emphasized that Gibraltar’s central location and proximity to Peninsula State Park make it an important hub for recreation. Continued improvements in trail connectivity, parking, and signage will help strengthen access between these local and regional destinations.

### *Trail Usage*

Survey data showed that walking and hiking trails are among the most frequently used recreation amenities within Gibraltar, followed closely by biking trails and snowmobile routes. These trail types are valued for their scenic views, accessibility, and connections to surrounding parks and neighborhoods.

Residents and visitors alike expressed a desire for more interconnected trail systems, particularly those that link downtown Fish Creek to Peninsula State Park and to other communities within Door County. Respondents also supported maintaining multi-seasonal use, including walking, biking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling where feasible.

Although Gibraltar’s climate and topography naturally influence trail use throughout the year, maintaining seasonal upkeep and clear signage will ensure that trail networks remain safe and accessible year-round.

Additionally, several participants noted that bicyclists often use roadway shoulders as alternatives to dedicated bike paths. Future roadway upgrades and right-of-way projects should consider incorporating bike lanes or wider paved shoulders to accommodate both recreational and commuter cyclists safely.





## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This plan aims to promote the development and maintenance of high-quality, sustainable parks and recreational facilities that serve the needs and preferences of both residents and visitors. The following goals should be considered in all decision-making: Resource Management, Sustainability, Education, and Future Opportunities.

**Resource Management:** Protect, preserve, and restore the park’s resources through appropriate resource management. Develop management strategies and actions based upon each park’s unique ecological and natural resource features.

- Conserve and protect wetlands within the Town.
- Preserve and restore tree canopy with native trees, bushes, and plants.
- Preserve and protect wildlife habitats and environmental corridors.
- Identify, inventory, and/or map all environmental corridors, open space, forests, environmentally sensitive areas, vistas, geological features, archaeological sites, and endangered species within the Town.
- Actively work to remove invasive terrestrial plant species from Town parks and restore them with native vegetation.
- Support the preservation and restoration of Historic structures, including Chambers Island Lighthouse, Alexander Noble House, Windmill, and stone walls and stairs.
- Maintain clean public facilities: restrooms, drinking fountains, benches & picnic tables.
- Strive to keep all public areas accessible and sanitary.
- Continue implementation of the Town’s Bike & Pedestrian plan.

**Sustainability:** Conserving native and natural landscapes, including habitats, creates lasting benefits. It offers public spaces for visitors to connect with nature, encouraging healthy renewal and outdoor recreation.

- Preserve and enhance the environmental health of the Town’s parks.
- Be prepared for changing environmental conditions.
- Be a leader in using sustainable, low-impact, and environmentally responsible practices in all operations.
- Preserve the existing tree canopy and forests through annual disease inspections and plan for the replacement of non-native, dying, or dead trees.
- Support the Town should it decide to join Tree City USA and/or Bird City USA.
- Restore and protect all Town wildlife corridors.
- Create green spaces where they are needed.
- Maintain and improve existing recreational areas.

**Education:** Educational opportunities will enhance the economic benefits of our parks by providing expertise, guidance, and proactive management for future expansion and improvement of our natural resources, while also protecting them and educating our visitors simultaneously.

- Highlight the economic benefits of environmental protection—such as flood mitigation, cleaner air, and carbon reduction—along with the value of free outdoor access and the health advantages of an active lifestyle.
- Maintain and improve educational signage in existing recreational areas by adding wayfinding, location markers and QR codes.
- Actively educate residents and visitors about the ecological impacts of invasive species, including treatment, removal, and replacement options.
- Inform Park visitors about the historical value of preserved historical sites or features.
- Provide educational materials and outreach on Bicycle safety.
- Actively works to educate residents on the need to preserve and restore the trees and/or forests on their private property.
- Educate Town residents on the negative impacts of invasive species and the need to remove them from private properties.

**Future Opportunities:** Plan for future growth and opportunity by reviewing ways to enhance park usage, advance sustainability, increase environmental stewardship, and education.

- Provide areas for biking, bird watching, rest areas, and bike stations.
- Provide areas for personal wellness.
- Provide an area for sports and recreation and a facility for restrooms and outreach.
- Improvement of parks to be inclusive for all age groups. Encourage ADA accessibility and upgrades.
- Plan for increased use of waterfront properties to provide access for non-motorized access, such as kayaks.
- Provide more green space on waterfront properties.
- Plan for Scenic View areas overlooking natural resources, such as bluff views, stream areas, and bridge crossings.
- Plan for the connectivity of trails from one municipality to another and link the State Park to our trail system to include the possibility of multimodal trails.
- Encourage biking and walking in parks and throughout our walkable village and provide facilities that encourage biking, and bike racks in key locations.
- Improvement of Fish Creek’s meander and fish passage.
- A recreation plan that provides dog-friendly use.
- Limit high-volume usage in protected wildlife and wetland areas.



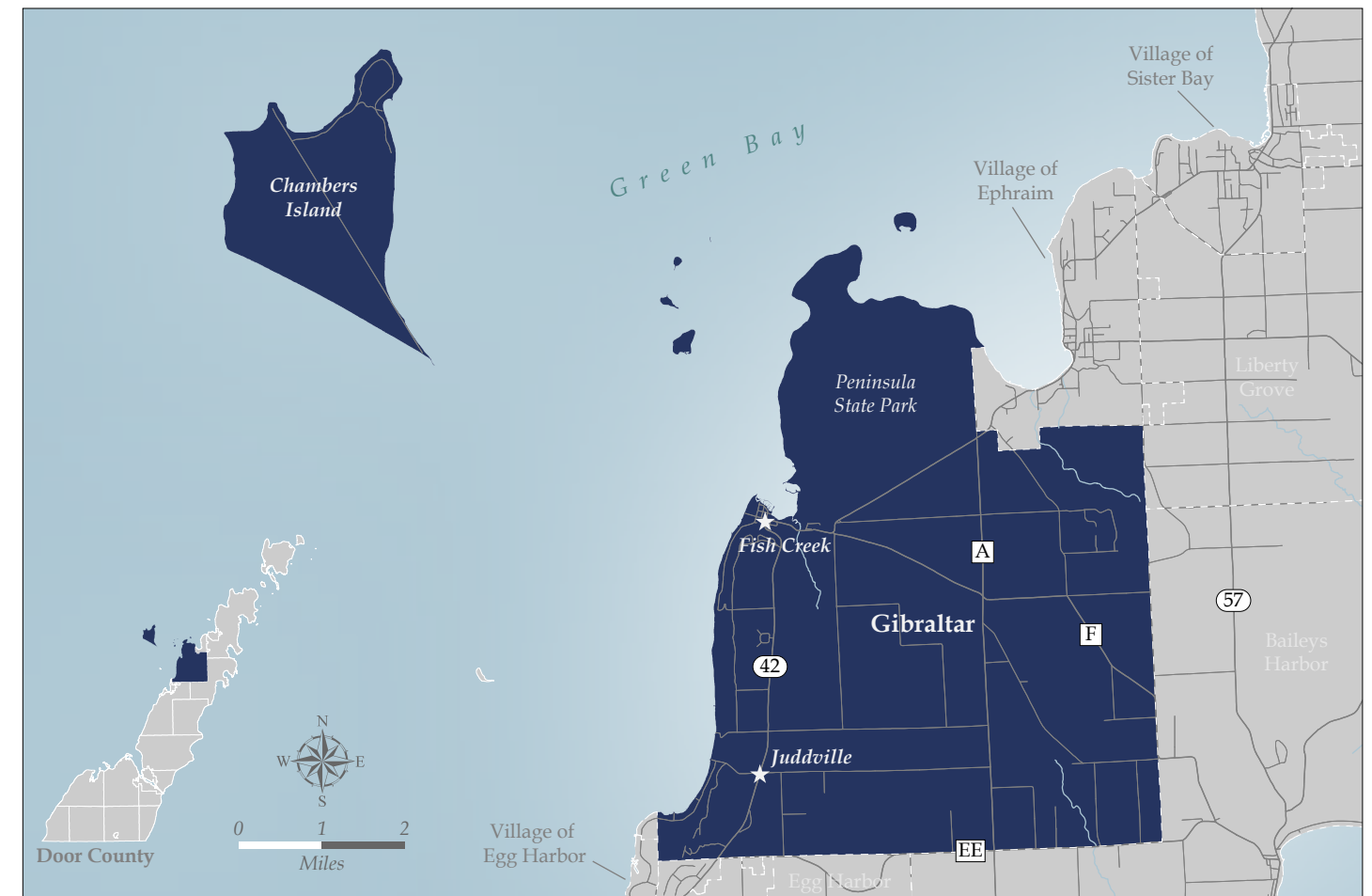
# Chapter Two

## Community Profile

### GENERAL PLANNING AREA

Located in Door County, Wisconsin, the Town of Gibraltar is known for its blend of natural beauty, history, arts, and tourism. With 28 miles of picturesque shoreline along the Green Bay of Lake Michigan, the town offers a variety of recreational activities for residents and visitors. As shown on Map 2.1, the Town of Gibraltar covers of 34 square miles including the unincorporated areas of Fish Creek, Juddville, Chambers Island, and the State-owned land of Peninsula State Park. The town borders the Villages of Egg Harbor and Ephraim, as well as the Towns of Bailey's Harbor, Egg Harbor, and Liberty Grove. For a more detailed analysis, the town's Parks and Lands Committee should utilize the *Town of Gibraltar Comprehensive Plan*.

Map 2.1: Town of Gibraltar, Overview

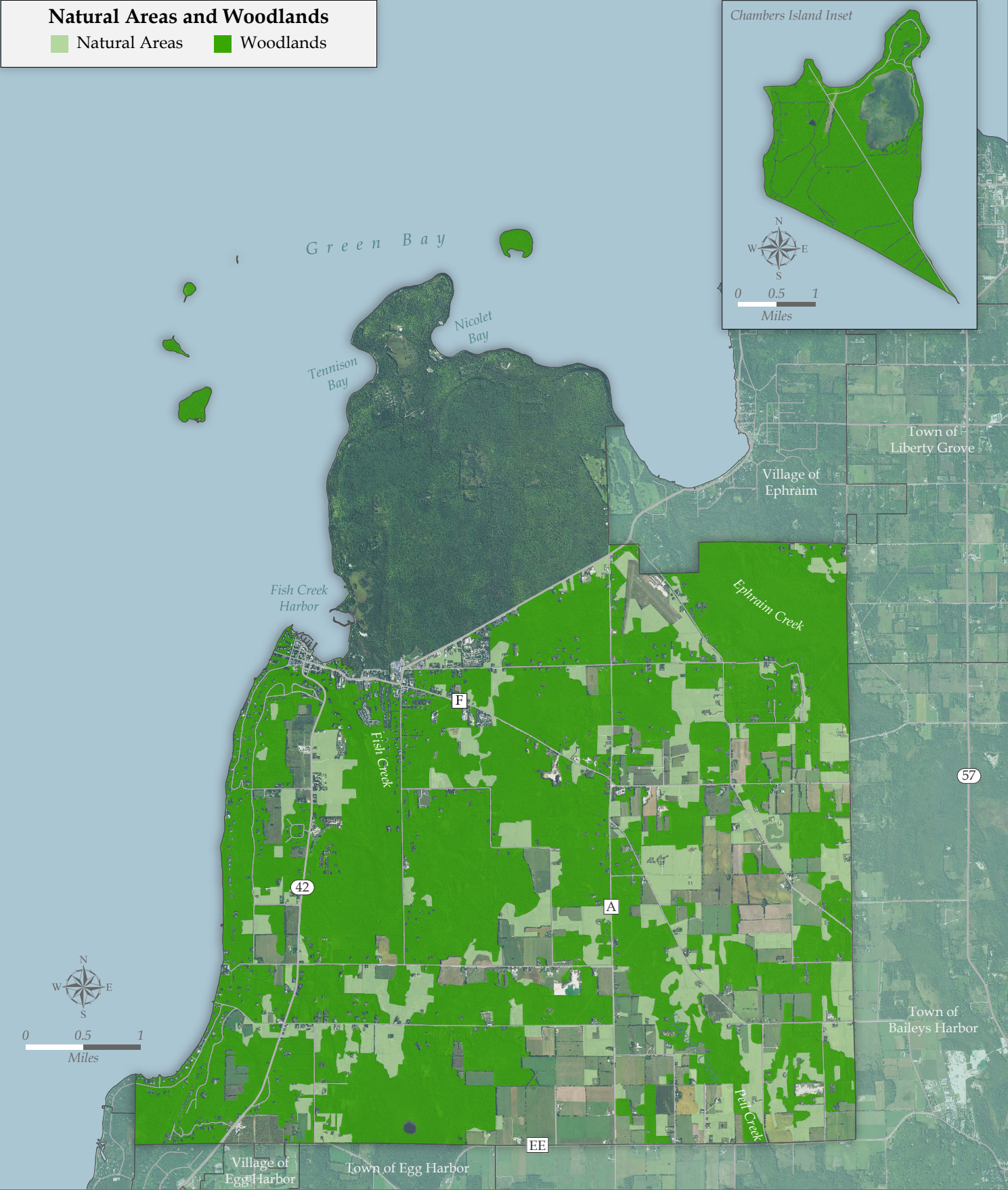


### Landscape

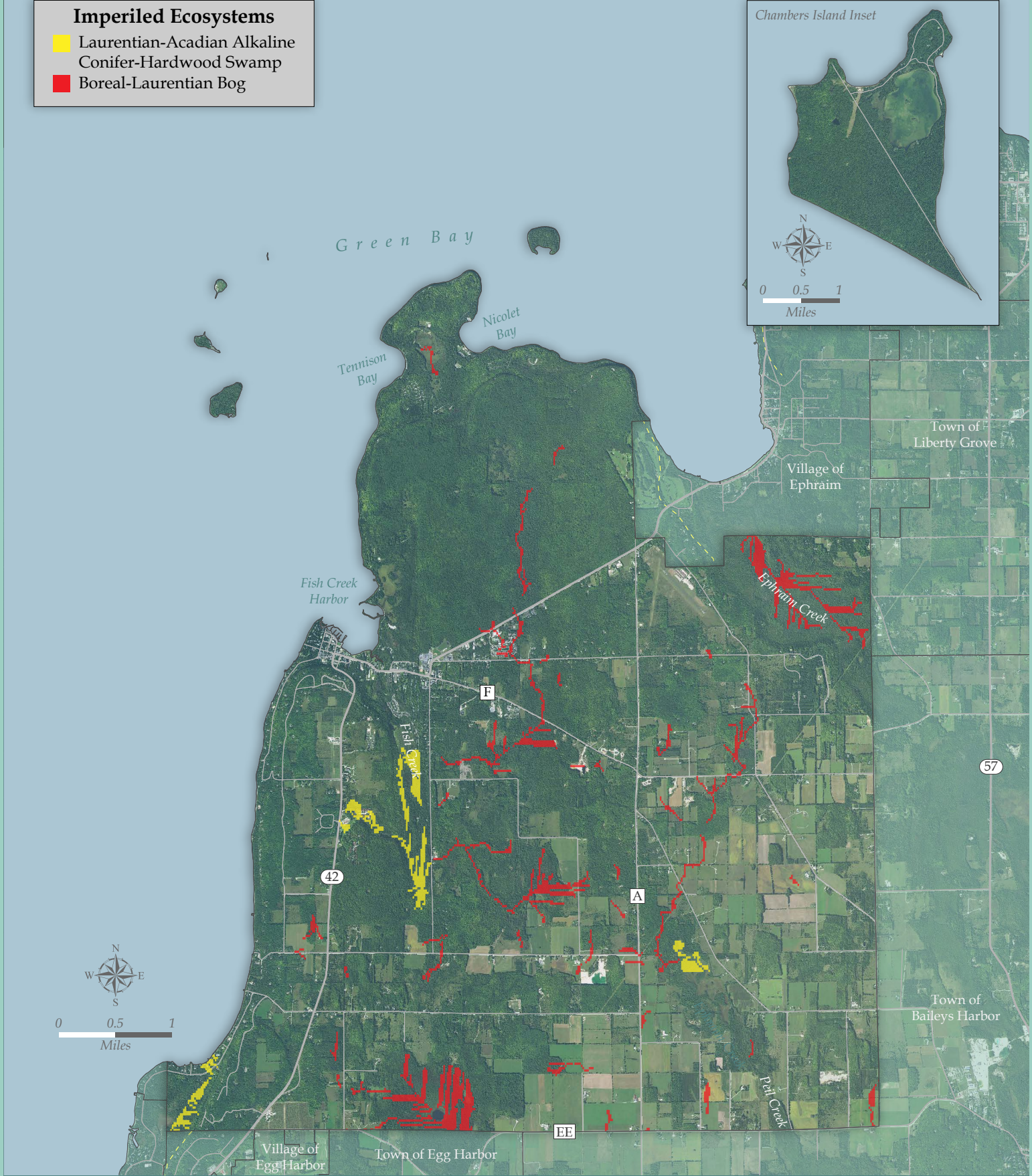
The Town of Gibraltar has a vast amount of natural areas and woodlands that contribute to the community's scenic character and outdoor recreation opportunities that attract many visitors and residents (Map 2.2). In addition to public enjoyment, the maintenance and conservation of these lands is essential to the health of wildlife habitats and water quality. Contrarily, the town's imperiled ecosystems (Map 2.3) are at high risk of degradation due to human activities, environmental stressors, or changing conditions. Instead of being used for recreation, these spaces should be preserved and protected.



Map 2.2: Natural Areas and Woodlands



Map 2.3: Imperiled Ecosystems





*Topography*

Gibraltar’s variety of topographic features are part of the town’s appeal to many residents and visitors. Controlled primarily by the underlying bedrock, these features can be grouped into three general categories of topographic expression. The first includes areas with relief more than 800 feet above mean sea level. The bluffs range in height from 120 to 170 feet in the northern portion of the Town, an area immediately south of Fish Creek, and an area within the southwest section.

Another group of topographic features includes the southern and eastern portions of the town draining to the east and southeast. This large area is characterized by a flat to gently rolling land surface occasionally marked by small depressions. The area slopes gently to the southeast.

The final topographic category consists of a low relatively level plain marked by several wetland areas in the Central area of Gibraltar. The area slopes northwesterly and is drained by Fish Creek.

*Soil Characteristics and Limitations*

Soils in Gibraltar are mostly stony loamy sands to loams and tend to be shallow with exposures of the dolomite bedrock. The majority of Gibraltar is very limited for basements because of the depth to bedrock, slope, and the water table being close to the surface.

Scattered areas in the northern section and portions of the south are considered prime farmland in the Town according to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

*Historic Stone Walls*

Our township shares yet another distinctive historical feature of stone walls, patios, stairs, and grottos. These functional additions to properties are most prevalent along Cottage Row, but also can be seen in some parks and residences. Stone fences can be seen along country roads and surrounding fields depicting the 40-acre parcels from yesteryear. Winter’s frost revealed stone every spring which was collected and added to fence lines. Split granite hardheads and beach stone were used decoratively in fireplaces, hearths, and foundations.

Stone walls, many built artfully by Henry Eckert, include:

- Cottage Row
- Noble Square
- Clark Park
- Champagne Rock
- Sunset Park
- Hide Side Leather
- Waterfront Property
- Founder’s Square Pocket Garden

**HYDROLOGY**

*Watersheds and Sub Watersheds*

Gibraltar is located wholly in the Upper Door County Watershed and has five sub-watersheds. Stormwater and snow melt from these watersheds ultimately flows into either Green Bay or Lake Michigan. As water flows across the land, it has the potential to pick up contaminates such as animal and human waste, pesticides, and fertilizers. To mitigate these impacts Gibraltar and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point developed the Fish Creek Watershed Plan. This plan sets goals and objectives to decrease environmental degradation, increase fish and wildlife habitat, and increase accessibility to Fish Creek by taking a comprehensive watershed approach.

*Surface Waters*

According to the WDNR Find a Lake and River Details, none of the surface waters in Gibraltar are listed as outstanding, exceptional, or impaired.

Mackaysee Lake and Mud Lake are both on Chambers Island and provide habitat for several species of fish. On the mainland, Thorp Pond is a 7-acre pond that has no public access, and Fish Creek and Ephraim Creek empty into separate harbors on Green Bay, which is the largest freshwater estuary in the world and located along Gibraltar’s western shoreline. The Fish Creek Watershed drains a large portion of the township of Gibraltar. In December 2022, the Town used a WDNR River Management Grant to install a fish ladder on the concrete apron of the STH 42 culvert to allow fish to get past this barrier and into the wetlands to spawn.

*Shoreline*

Gibraltar has 28 miles of shoreline along Green Bay. The Niagara Escarpment can be seen throughout much of the shoreline. Most of the shoreline in Door County is developed with residential properties, but still maintains an extensive forest. In Gibraltar about half of the shoreline is undeveloped and located in the Peninsula State Park. Gibraltar’s extensive shoreline draws in tourists and provides recreational opportunities.

*Floodplains*

Floodplains are areas with the potential to experience flooding during weather events; 100-year floodplains have a 1% chance of flooding each year. Mapped floodplains in Gibraltar are located along Fish Creek, Fish Creek Harbor, Tennison Bay, and in Peil Creek in the south, and can be viewed on the Environmental Corridors Map of this document. Areas located in floodplains are predominantly wet environments that host streams, swamps, bogs, and river ecosystems. Development in these areas should be avoided because of the risk of property damage with flooding.



Wetlands

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, wetlands are areas that have standing water long enough to support aquatic or hydrophilic vegetation. Wetlands are located throughout Gibraltar and tend to be in floodplains, lowland areas, and areas that water tends to pool.

Wetlands offer several beneficial ecosystem services such as water infiltration and retention during precipitation events, pollution filtration, carbon capture, fish spawning, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic benefits. The Fish Creek Watershed Plan has three main goals: Goal 1. Prevent the Degradation of Surface and Groundwater Quality in Fish Creek and its Watershed; Goal 2. Protect and Improve Fish and Wildlife Habitat; Goal 3. Fish Creek will be Accessible to the Community’s Residents and Visitors. In addition the Plan directs the Town to continue it’s program to monitor Fish Creek through its Fish Creek Watershed Study and to continue its participation in the DNR’s Water Action Volunteers program.

Environmental Corridors

Environmental corridors refer to several features that protect biodiversity and provide for wildlife movement across the Town’s landscape. These features include wetlands, 100-year floodplains, steep slopes (12% or greater), and the required setback area between a structure and a water body such as a river, stream, or lake.

Collectively, these features serve as a guidance tool to promote protection of areas with environmental significance from other land use influences. These areas within the town are illustrated on Map 2.4.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Invasive Species

Invasive species have significant environmental and economic impacts. Established invasive species outside of their native ranges lack native predators to manage their populations and tend to outcompete native species and dominate ecosystems. This can lead to the degradation of habitats for native species and the reduction of recreational opportunities for people. The cost of managing invasive species is generally very high due to their intense ability to spread.

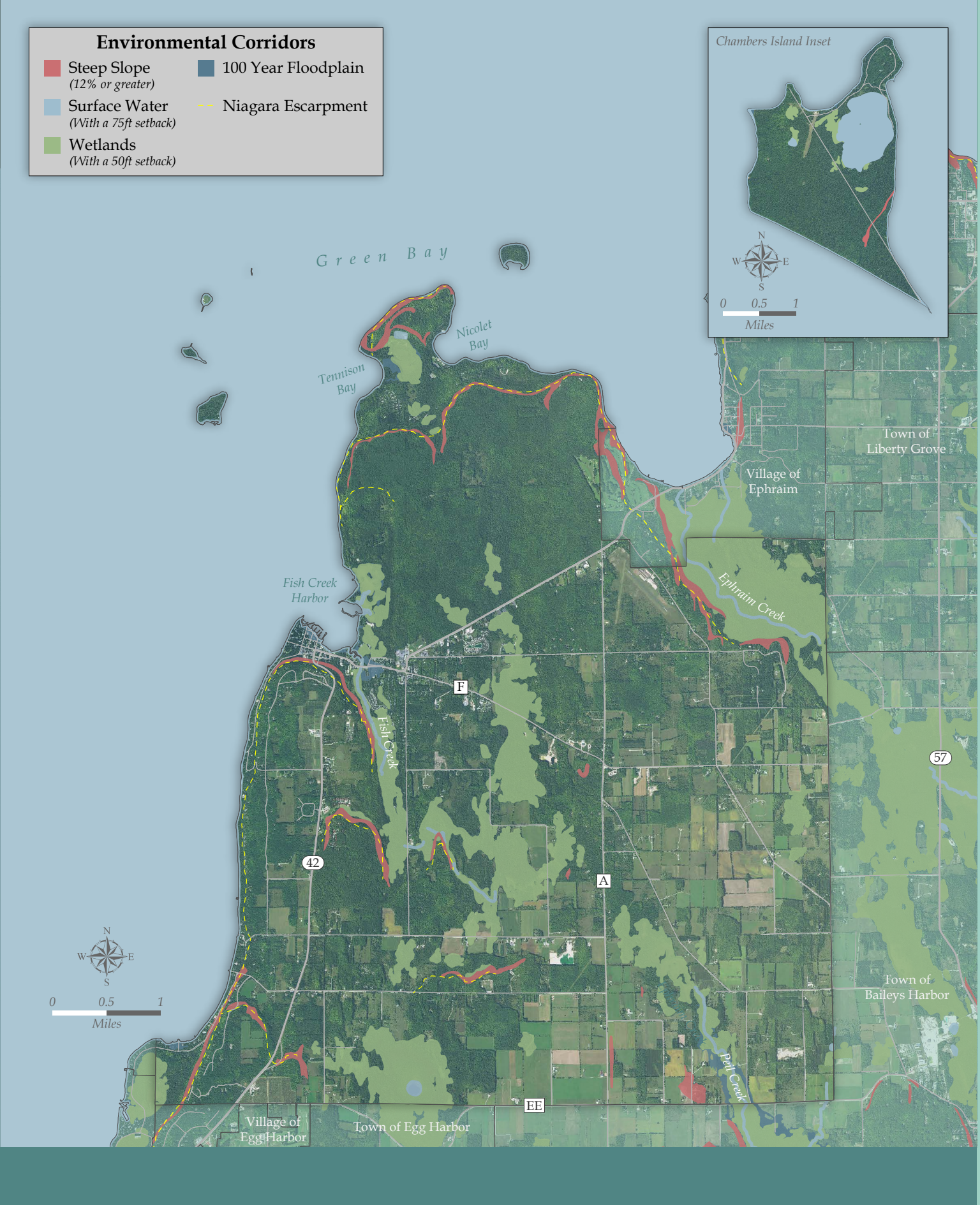
Threatened and Endangered Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists four species as either endangered, threatened, or proposed endangered in Gibraltar: Northern Long-eared Bat, Hine’s Emerald dragonfly, land snail, Dwarf Lake Iris, and Pitcher’s Thistle. The USFWS also lists Gibraltar as an area with critical habitat for the land snail, Hine’s Emerald dragonfly, bald eagle, the goshawk, and the Dwarf Lake Iris. Additionally, the Monarch Butterfly is a candidate species, and the Tricolored Bat is proposed endangered.

Future Changing Conditions

In an effort to protect public infrastructure, natural resources, and outdoor recreation opportunities, the Town of Gibraltar is planning for increased variability in temperature, precipitation, storm intensity, and lake levels. Facilities should be designed to accommodate changing environmental conditions.

Map 2.4: Environmental Corridors





DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Trends and Projections

According to the 2020 US Dicennial Census, the Town of Gibraltar has a population of 1,228 while the county has a population of 30,066 (Table 2.1). The town’s population has grown by 20 percent since the 2010 Census. Population projections released in 2024 by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) predict another 20 percent increase in population for the Town of Gibraltar (Table 2.2). Communities that directly border the town show smaller projected increases, if not a loss in population.

TABLE 2.1: POPULATION TRENDS, 2000-2020

	Town of Gibraltar	Town of Baileys Harbor	Town of Egg Harbor	Village of Ephraim	Door County	Wisconsin
2000	1,084	991	1,232	330	27,961	5,363,675
2010	1,021	1,022	1,342	288	27,785	5,686,986
2020	1,228	1,223	1,458	345	30,066	5,893,718
Change 2010 to 2020						
Number	207	201	116	57	2,281	206,732
Percent	20%	20%	9%	20%	8%	4%

Source: U.S. Census, 2020; Town of Gibraltar Comprehensive Plan, 2023.

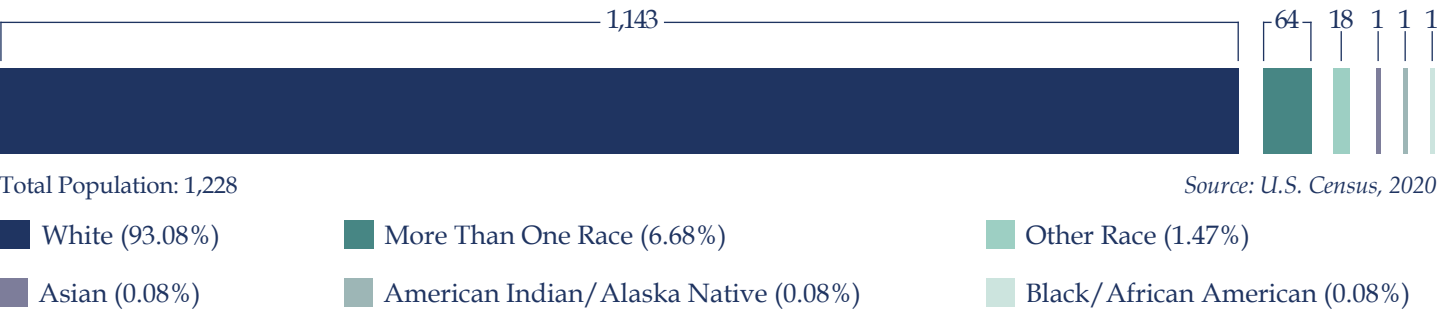
TABLE 2.2: POPULATION PROJECTIONS, 2020-2050

	Town of Gibraltar	Town of Baileys Harbor	Town of Egg Harbor	Village of Ephraim	Door County	Wisconsin
2020	1,228	1,223	1,458	345	30,066	5,893,718
2030	1,366	1,304	1,545	353	30,530	5,890,915
2040	1,441	1,331	1,570	348	29,920	5,841,620
2050	1,475	1,327	1,558	336	28,785	5,710,120
Change 2020-2050						
Number	247	104	100	-9	-1,281	-183,598
Percent	20%	9%	7%	-3%	-4%	-3%

Source: U.S. Census, 2020; WDOA Population Projections, Vintage 2024.

FIGURE 2.1: RACE AND ETHNICITY

93.08% of the town’s population identified as White, while 6.68% reported they identify as more than one race. The town has less than 1% each of people from Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Black/ African American descent. 1.47% of residents identify as races different from those mentioned.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

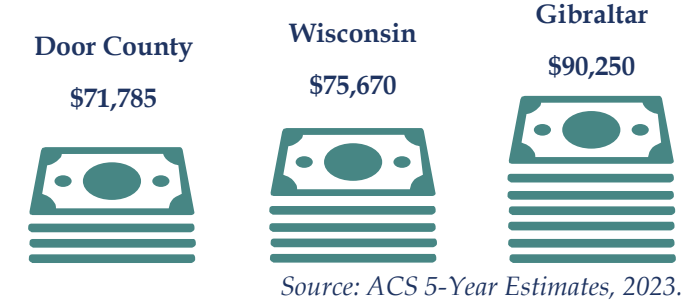
As of 2023, 46.8 percent of the residents in the Town of Gibraltar were part of the labor force (i.e., persons 16 years of age or older who were employed or seeking employment). The unemployment rate in the town was 0.2 percent, significantly lower than Door County’s unemployment rate of 2.0% percent and the state of Wisconsin’s at 2.2 percent (ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2023). Additional socio-economic data can be found in the town’s Comprehensive Plan.

FIGURE 2.2: CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (2023)



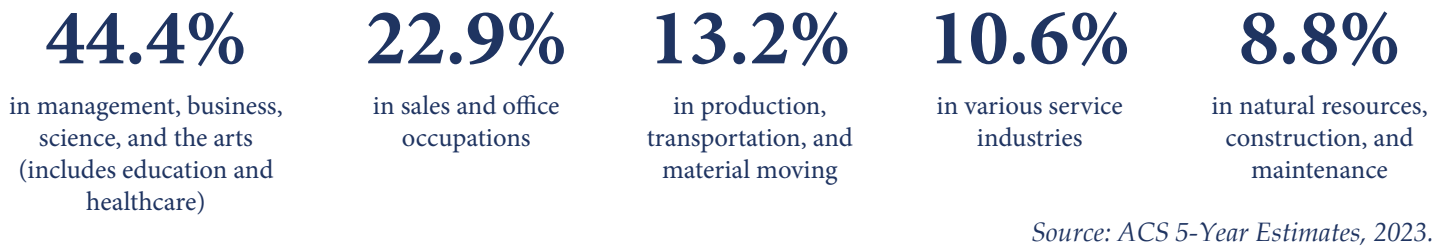
Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2023.

FIGURE 2.3: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2023)



Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2023.

FIGURE 2.4: OCCUPATIONS (2023)



Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2023.

Population Distribution by Age

The Town of Gibraltar’s median age increased from 53.0 in 2010 to 62.7 in 2020 (U.S. Census, 2020). In comparison, the median age was 53.3 in Door County and 39.6 in Wisconsin. These trends affect park and recreation planning, since an older population influences physical ability, facility design, and program demand as the overall population continues to age.

From 2010 to 2020, the town’s population age 65 and over increased by 16.5 percent. Over the same period, the youth population under age 18 declined by 1.3 percent, and the young adult population age 18 and over declined by 1.7 percent. According to the 2020 census, the town’s population included:

- 2.5% under age 5,
- 12.7% under age 18,
- 87.3% age 18 and over,
- and 42.5% age 65 and over.





# Chapter Three

## Outdoor Recreation Inventory

### TOWN OF GIBRALTAR PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the existing parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational facilities within the Town of Gibraltar. All facilities can be viewed at the end of this chapter in Map 3.1. This inventory details the location, size, amenities, and condition of recreation assets in the community. All park photos were provided by the Town of Gibraltar or Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, unless noted otherwise.

The planned or proposed improvements for the town's parks can be viewed in the Capital Improvement Planning section of this document, located at the end of Chapter 5.

#### *Waterfront Vistas*

As a popular tourist and recreation destination, the Town of Gibraltar takes great pride in its unique natural scenic vistas along Green Bay. The vistas attract visitors and residents alike to enjoy these spaces, soaking in their waterfront views and incredible sunsets. A list can be viewed in Map 3.2.

### TRAILS

#### *Recreational Trails*

As shown in Map 3.3, there are several marked recreational trails in the Town of Gibraltar for a cumulative total of 1.84 miles. All of these trails can be found within the vicinity of downtown Fish Creek. Additionally, there are trails within Peninsula State Park maintained by WDNR. Additionally, there are an abundance of scenic, low-traffic volume roads within the Town of Gibraltar that provide many opportunities for recreationists.

These trails are non-motorized and are intended for use by walkers, bicyclists, and seasonal low-impact activities such as cross-country skiing or snow-shoeing.

#### *Multimodal Trails*

Marked all-terrain vehicle (ATV) routes on Map 3.4 cover 11.58 miles in the southeastern portion of the Town of Gibraltar and are available to be used year-round. These routes are strictly on roadways in the area and connect to neighboring jurisdictions where allowed. Users of these roads are required to comply with all applicable regulations.

Seasonal snowmobile trails on Map 3.4 span 34.5 miles throughout the Town of Gibraltar and Peninsula State Park. Area residents, clubs, and visitors enjoy the unique scenery these trails provide. users of these trails are required to comply with all applicable regulations. Ownership of and maintenance of these trails varies.

#### *Bayshore Connectivity Trail Feasibility Study*

The Town of Gibraltar completed the *Bayshore Connectivity Trail Feasibility Study* in 2025 through a WisDOT Transportation Alternatives Program Grant. The study assessed the possibility of creating a safe multi-use trail between northern Door County communities by examining potential trail alignments through public lands, identifying environmental constraints, right-of-way availability, and long-term feasibility. The final document, available online, provides a clear foundation for future implementation.



SUNSET BEACH



Sunset Beach is a scenic waterfront park spanning 1.5 acres, accessible via roadway or wooded walking path beginning at the junction of Main Street and Cottage Row. The park features an open grassy lawn and gardens with stone walls, enhancing the panoramic views of the bay. Recent improvements include shoreline wall maintenance in 2016, drainage erosion control upgrades in 2018, and stairway repairs in 2025.

AMENITIES

- Walking path
- Waterfront/sunset views
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Pet station
- ADA accessible parking
- Nearby on-street parking
- Trash receptacles

ULA PARK



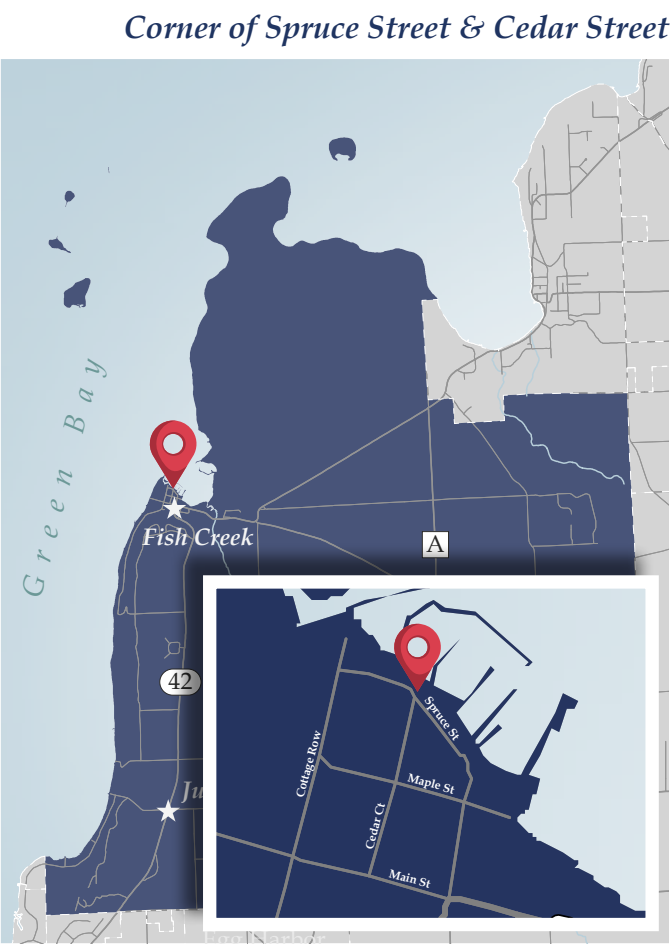
Located at the far north end of Cottage Row near the Harbor Guest House, Ula Street Park occupies less than one acre of land. This small waterfront overlook exists through a 1983 easement agreement that allows the Town perpetual access to the dock and retaining wall for public enjoyment.

AMENITIES

- Waterfront views
- Bench
- Nearby on-street parking



SPRUCE PARK

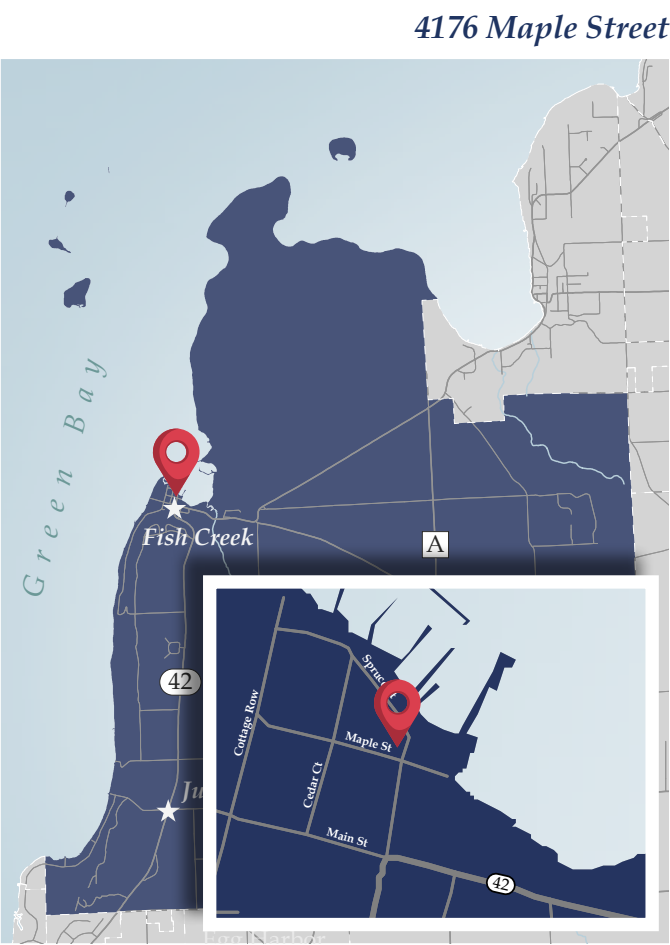


Spruce Park is a 0.07 acre public park at the junction of Spruce Street and Cedar Street. Adjacent to a private marina, the park offers a serene view of the waterfront for visitors to rest and enjoy. There is shrubbery bordering both sides of the park.

AMENITIES

- Waterfront views
- Picnic table
- Benches
- Pet station
- Nearby on-street parking
- Trash receptacles

OLD TOWN HALL



The Town of Gibraltar’s Old Town Hall is located on a 0.15 acre lot across the street from Clark Park. The hall is available to rent for meetings and events, complete with a stage and full kitchen. ADA accessible public restrooms and cleaning storage are located in the back of the building, recently upgraded in 2023. Parking is located outside the restrooms, and on-street parking is located near the entrance. There is currently no wireless internet access in this building.

AMENITIES

- ADA accessible building
- ADA accessible public restrooms
- Event and meeting rental
- Chairs and tables included in rental
- Kitchen
- Bench
- Bike rack
- Parking
- Trash/recycling receptacles



CLARK PARK / TOWN DOCK



Clark Park is 1.16 acres of land nestled between the Fish Creek Town Dock and West Town Dock alongside the town’s marina. The property was donated to the town in 1938 and has deed restrictions regarding usage and view. Often used as an ADA accessible outdoor town event space, the park includes a bike rack, picnic tables, and sprinkler system. The on-site well was redrilled in 2019, allowing for a public drinking fountain. The visual appeal of the park includes two gardens at the entrance, a stone wall, and a walkway along the waterfront.

The Town Dock, located off the eastern edge of Clark Park, has boat slips and a public boat ramp. Fishing is allowed off the public municipal pier. The adjacent parking lot was purchased in 2015 for use by patrons of the municipal docks, which has leased spaces from the town.

AMENITIES

- ADA accessibility
- Drinking fountain
- Large open lawn
- Exceptional water view
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Pet station
- Parking lot
- Trash/recycling receptacles
- Boat dock
- Public boat ramp
- Public fishing

WATERFRONT PARK (Unofficial Name)



This park provides the town with additional green space and excellent water viewing access. The park’s entrance is conveniently located off Main Street, making it very accesible for pedestrians. While in the preliminary planning stages, a future boardwalk is envisioned at the water’s edge to enhance dock access and walkability.

AMENITIES

- Water view
- Picnic table
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Pet station
- Trash receptacles



NOBLE SQUARE



Source: Door County Pulse, Photo by Rachel Lukas.

The Noble Square sits on a 0.95 acre park in the middle of downtown Fish Creek. The property includes the Alexander Noble House Museum, operated by the Gibraltar Historical Association (GHA). The grounds have an abundance of shade, gardens, and a gazebo. The gardens are tended by GHA volunteers. A notable feature includes a long stone wall, which serves as additional seating during free concerts in the park.

The park has ADA accessible bathrooms and parking on the south side.

AMENITIES

- Gazebo with electricity
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Pet station
- Nearby parking
- ADA accessible museum
- ADA accessible restrooms
- Trash/recycling receptacles

4167 Highway 42



FISH CREEK PUBLIC BEACH



Located in the heart of downtown, Fish Creek Public Beach is one acre of an open grass lawn leading to a playground, sandy beach, and viewing platform overlooking the water. A stone wall separates the beach from the park, providing seating for park visitors in addition to the picnic tables and benches. The property also includes a sprinkler system on the grass for easy watering and park maintenance.

There is a bath house near the entrance of Fish Creek Public Beach that has family restrooms, changing rooms, a drinking fountain, and a cleaning station.

AMENITIES

- Drinking fountain
- Outdoor rinsing station
- Playground
- Viewing platform
- Waterfront views
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Bike rack
- ADA accessible family restrooms
- ADA accessible changing rooms
- ADA accessible parking
- 15-minute drop off spaces
- Trash/recycling receptacles
- Electricity in bathroom facility

Off Highway 42





TOWN CENTER

4097 Highway 42



The Town Center serves as Gibraltar’s civic hub and provides several community services. The facility houses the Town Offices, Post Office, Library, and Visitor Center. Public amenities include include restrooms, a community meeting room, Wi-Fi, a drinking fountain, parking and an electric vehicle charging station.

Outside, the property features an informational kiosk along the sidewalk, landscaped seating areas, and stonework surrounding the flagpole. ADA accessible picnic tables, and benches have been added for public enjoyment, as well. The center provides a welcoming space for residents and visitors to access local services and community information.

AMENITIES

- Drive-up ATM
- Open-use meeting room
- Wireless internet
- Drinking fountain
- Informational kiosk
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Electricity
- Bike racks
- Outside amenities
- ADA accessible restrooms
- ADA accessible parking
- Electric vehicle charging station
- Maintenance garage

TOWN PUBLIC PARKING & WET RETENTION POND

4081 Highway 42



Located in the center of town off Highway 42, this 6.67-acre paved site provides short-term public parking to support waterfront access and community activities. This lot is adjacent to the trail connectivity system and is suitable for vehicles, large and small trailers, and ADA accessible parking stalls. Short-term winter snowmobile access and trailer accommodation.

The wet retention pond on-site has been designed in accordance with WDNR regulations, helping to manage stormwater run-off and protect the Fish Creek watershed.

AMENITIES

- Bike rack
- ADA accessible parking
- Parking lot
- Large and small boat trailer parking
- Snowmobile access
- Accessibility to Fish Creek Park



FISH CREEK PARK

4055 Highway 42



The northern trailhead of Fish Creek Park begins off Highway 42 and encompasses 152 wooded acres throughout the Fish Creek watershed, playing a vital role in connectivity between Peninsula State Park and the top of the bluff. The park includes a dam and scenic recreational trails that connect the lower creek area to the upper bluff. The trails include plank bridges and compact gravel, allowing increased mobility for bicyclists and walkers. Dogs are also welcome throughout the park. In the winter, a portion of the trails are open to snowmobiles.

The site holds notable historic interest as the birthplace of the Peninsula Players, the former Bonnie Brook Motel foundation, and remnants of an ancient Nipissing Great Lakes beach ridge. The *Fish Creek Watershed Plan* (UW-Stevens Point, 2017), details the park’s essential role in local watershed protection and connectivity to surrounding natural areas.

AMENITIES

- Recreational trails
- Gazebo with electricity
- Informational kiosk
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Pet stations
- Nearby parking lot
- Trash/recycling receptacles
- Historical marker

EPHRAIM / GIBRALTAR VOLLEYBALL COURTS

9538 County Road A



Source: Door County Pulse, Photo by Katie Sikora.

38.4 acres of the Airport Land has been jointly owned by the Town of Gibraltar and the Village of Ephraim since 1950. It is not open for public use, however, the Northern Door Volleyball Association (NDVA) leases approximately one acre of land in kind off of County Road A. This portion of the land is open for public use by NDVA. The NDVA is also responsible for mowing, trash, and light maintenance for their portion of the property.

AMENITIES

- Sand volleyball courts
- Light utility poles
- Trash/recycling receptacles



COTTAGE ROW ROUNDABOUT & WATER ACCESS *Between 9099 and 9109 Cottage Row*



The Cottage Row Roundabout is a hidden gem at the base of a hairpin curve between 9099 and 9109 Cottage Row. The publicly accessible park space is a 66-foot fire easement that leads to a waterfront view, however, there is no beach or direct shoreline access. There are fences on each side of the property owned by the respective neighbors. New grassy plantings and trees were added in 2023.

AMENITIES

- Waterfront view

CHAMPAGNE ROCK



The Champagne Rock waterfront property consists of less than one acre as a fire easement to the water. Open to the public with 30-minute parking nearby, there are flagstone steps and narrow dirt paths that lead from the two stall parking area to the waters' edge. The namesack rock that used to jut out from the shoreline collapsed in 2020, however efforts to reset the Champagne Rock are ongoing.

What this park lacks in size it makes up for with its striking view of the water and spectacular sunset views. From the small parking area, follow the stone wall, flagstone steps lead to a narrow path to the water's edge.

Park visitors are encouraged to exercise caution along the rocky shoreline, and should be aware of the possibility of poison ivy on either side of the trail.

AMENITIES

- Waterfront view
- Stone wall
- Short-term on-street parking



CHAMBERS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE



Situated on Chambers Island, seven miles northwest from Fish Creek, the Chambers Island Lighthouse is located on the central northern peninsula of the island. The 40.04-acre island is only accessible by public charter boat or private boat. There is a public dock for island visitors, located 1.5 miles east of the lighthouse. A lighthouse volunteer is present to assist visitors.

The lighthouse was originally constructed in 1868 and is now listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places. As a significant Door County landmark, the lighthouse is open to the public when a lighthouse volunteer is present. Historical information is provided inside the building.

The grounds of Chambers Island contain septic on-site since 2018, as well as a lawn mower and boathouse for storage. There are two transient boat slips at the dock, and the town parking lot is a distance from the property.

AMENITIES

- Public restroom outhouse
- Public boat launch (east dock)
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Trash/recycling receptacles

10971 Base Line Road



ADDITIONAL FACILITIES MAINTAINED BY TOWN

Founder’s Square Pocket Garden

*Between 4185 and 4193 Main Street*  
A seasonal garden with eye-catching landscaping.

Windmill Property

*Between 3971 and 3993 Highway 42*  
A triangular piece of land with a historic windmill and building tucked off of State Highway 42.

Blossomburg Cemetery

*4010 Mengelberg Lane (Peninsula State Park)*  
4 acres of wooded land in Peninsula State Park acquired by the town in 1890; plots are provided for town residents. An easement granted in 2008 allows for future expansion. The cemetery is culturally significant in local historical tours. Amenities include benches, a water spigot, and trash/recycling receptacles.

Gibraltar Road Town Shop

*3626 Gibraltar Road*  
Town storage area for mulch, gravel, and other materials.

Gibraltar Fire & Rescue Station

*3496 Highway 42*  
10.14-acre ADA accessible municipal facility, includes on-site training areas, rental meeting space with kitchen, and an emergency facility with a backup generator.

Gibraltar’s Town Shop & Cold Storage

*3478 County Road F*  
5.28-acre site with paved lot and recyclable materials collection area.

Juddville Cemetery

*8683 Gibraltar Bluff Road*  
With Burials dating back to 1878, the cemetery was sold to the Town of Gibraltar in 1958 after the last living Judd family member passed away.

Welcome Sign

*Northbound on Highway 42*  
Town entrance feature with signage and garden.

Chambers Island Fire Station and Parking Lot

*10969 Island Dr*  
Fire station building in progress (2025) on land owned by the Catholic Diocese; includes a meeting space and storage for fire and rescue equipment.



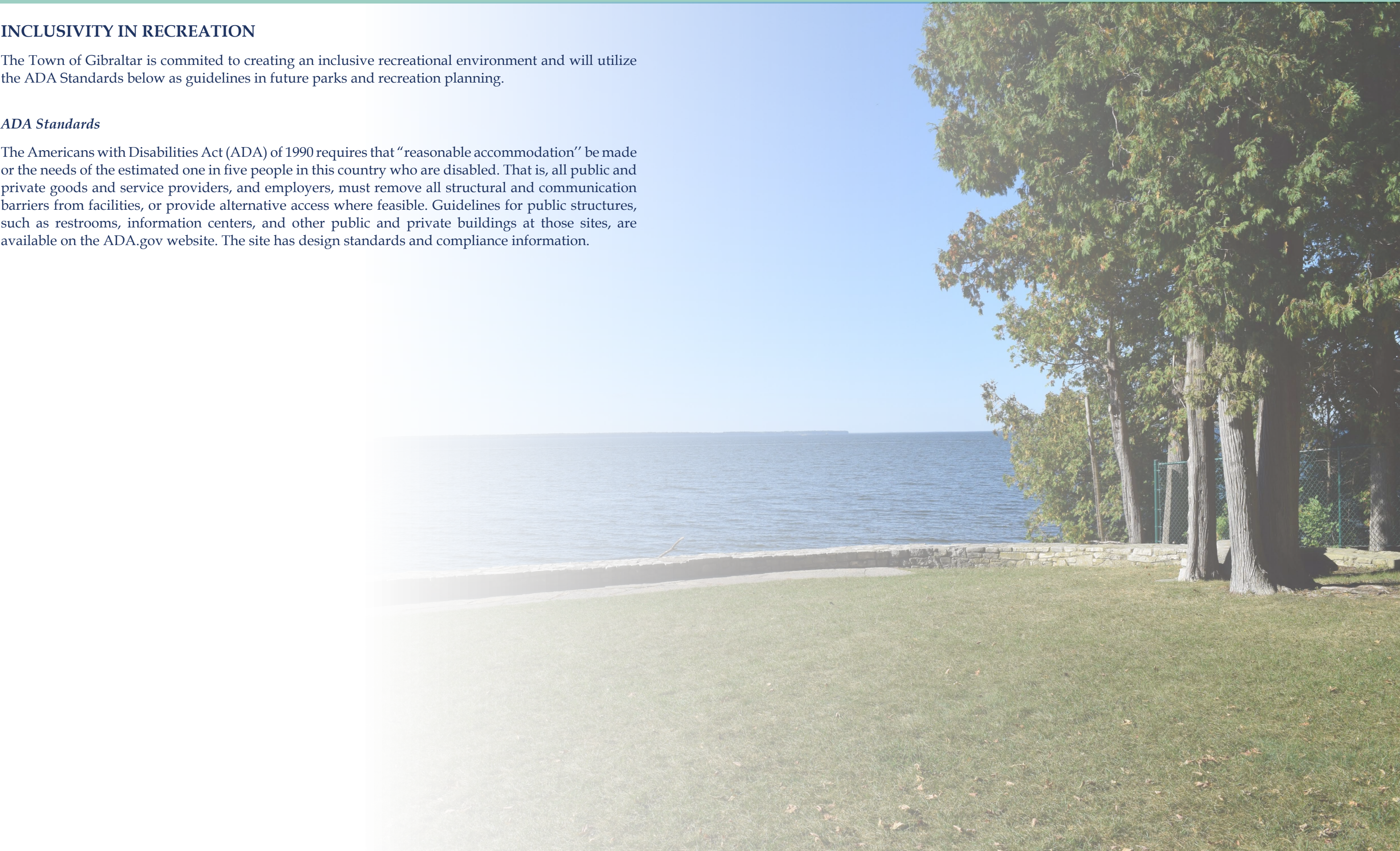


## INCLUSIVITY IN RECREATION

The Town of Gibraltar is committed to creating an inclusive recreational environment and will utilize the ADA Standards below as guidelines in future parks and recreation planning.

### *ADA Standards*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 requires that “reasonable accommodation” be made or the needs of the estimated one in five people in this country who are disabled. That is, all public and private goods and service providers, and employers, must remove all structural and communication barriers from facilities, or provide alternative access where feasible. Guidelines for public structures, such as restrooms, information centers, and other public and private buildings at those sites, are available on the ADA.gov website. The site has design standards and compliance information.





Map 3.1: Parks and Facilities

Parks and Facilities

- |                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Sunset Beach                   | 10. Fish Creek Public Beach                    | 18. Gibraltar Fire and Rescue                    |
| 2. Ula Park                       | 11. Town Center                                | 19. Gibraltar's Town Shop and Cold Storage       |
| 3. Spruce Park                    | 12. Town Public Parking and Wet Retention Pond | 20. Juddville Cemetery                           |
| 4. Old Town Hall                  | 13. Fish Creek Park                            | 21. Cottage Row Roundabout and Water Access      |
| 5. Clark Park                     | 14. Windmill Property                          | 22. Champagne Rock                               |
| 6. Town Dock                      | 15. Blossomburg Cemetery                       | 23. Welcome Sign                                 |
| 7. Waterfront Park*               | 16. Gibraltar Road Town Shop                   | 24. Chambers Island Lighthouse                   |
| 8. Founder's Square Pocket Garden | 17. Ephraim/Gibraltar Volleyball Courts        | 25. Chambers Island Fire Station and Parking Lot |
| 9. Noble Square                   |  |  |

\*Unofficial Name



Map 3.2: Waterfront Vistas

Waterfront Vistas

- |                                |
|--------------------------------|
| 1. Sunset Beach                |
| 2. Ula Park                    |
| 3. Waterfront Park             |
| 4. Barebottom Beach            |
| 5. Rocky Beach                 |
| 6. Juddville Hill Water Access |
| 7. Peninsula Players           |
| 8. Cottage Row Water Access    |
| 9. Champagne Rock              |
| 10. Fish Creek Park            |
| 11. Chambers Island Lighthouse |





Map 3.3: Non-Motorized Trails



Map 3.4: Multimodal Trails





# Chapter Four

## Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment

### PROJECTED TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

#### *Needs Assessment*

The needs assessment for the Town of Gibraltar's Outdoor Recreation Plan is a critical foundational step in the evaluation of the current status of recreational opportunities within the community. This assessment integrates the comprehensive data analysis with public input to determine the extent in which the town's outdoor recreation needs are being met. The results of this evaluation provide essential information that informs the development of strategies and recommendations presented in subsequent sections of this plan.

Standards that have been developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provide a scale against which an existing recreation system can be measured so that guidelines for future needs can be created.

The NRPA Standards link the number of facility units and acreages to the county's population. Variations in outdoor recreation environments throughout the nation, as well as the multiplicity of planning procedures do exist, so there is no single type of resource and facility guideline that can completely meet all outdoor recreation planning needs. Therefore, the long standing NRPA standard of 10 acres/1000 persons is recognized as a guide to be used with local and state plans along with the Wisconsin Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) prepared by WDNR.

#### NRPA STANDARDS

The NRPA suggests that communities with populations under 20,000 typically provide, on average, one park for every 1,225 residents. Parkland acreage is also suggested to be generally maintained at 13 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Additionally, a typical community oversees approximately 4 miles of walking, hiking, running, or biking trails.

Based on this standard, the Town of Gibraltar, with a population estimate of 1,228 in the year 2020, should provide at least 1 park and 16 acres of parkland based on population. The town far exceeds the NRPA minimum standard for outdoor recreation







## STATE CORP ANALYSIS

The SCORP is the five-year plan from the WDNR outlining supply, demand, trends, challenges, and future opportunities for outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. This plan is required for eligibility for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program and establishes a statewide vision for equitable access, sustainability, and collaboration between a variety of stakeholders. Additionally, the SCORP provides guidelines for state and local planning through an assessment of regional differences, demographic trends, emerging socio-economic challenges, and environmental issues.

Key findings in the 2025-2030 SCORP included the following:

- An increase in outdoor recreation activities occurred since the 2020 COVID pandemic and have persisted.
- Wildlife watching, nature photography, winter (fat-tire) biking, canoeing/kayaking, hiking/running, and bicycling all saw significant increases in participation on public lands.
- Recreation is recognized for benefits beyond physical health such as mental health, quality of life, and economic impact through eco- and recreational tourism.
- Shared-use trails, connections between communities, and linking urban areas to natural lands are a necessity that the state is currently lacking.
- Successful outdoor recreation should be inclusive of age, race, gender, culture, and ability.
- Barriers to participation included issues of time, accessibility, and facility/trail conditions.

## PUBLIC INPUT ASSESSMENT

Consistent with the goals of Wisconsin’s SCORP, the Town of Gibraltar conducted public outreach to identify outdoor recreation needs, assess park use and satisfaction, and guide future planning decisions. Public engagement focused on gathering input from residents, seasonal property owners, and visitors. The results of this outreach helped identify Gibraltar’s park and trail system as a diverse, year-round asset that functions as both a local and regional recreation destination.

Public input was collected primarily through online resident and visitor surveys, which provided an accessible method for participation regardless of seasonal residence or physical location. Separate surveys were administered for residents and visitors, resulting in 121 total responses. This approach ensured representation from both local users and those who rely on Gibraltar’s parks as part of the broader Door County recreation network, consistent with the SCORP’s emphasis on inclusive and representative planning processes.

Survey results indicated high overall satisfaction with the town’s parks and recreation facilities, particularly related to maintenance, safety, and scenic quality, aligning with the SCORP priorities for well-maintained, high-quality public recreation spaces. Respondents identified walking, hiking, biking, and trail-based recreation as the most common activities, reflecting statewide participation trends documented in the SCORP and supporting the plan’s emphasis on active recreation and healthy communities.

Strong support emerged for improving non-motorized connectivity, particularly through safe, off-road or separated facilities linking Gibraltar to the surrounding communities and Peninsula State Park. This feedback directly aligns with the SCORP priorities related to safe access, connectivity, and reducing barriers to participation for users of all ages and abilities.

Additional recreation needs identified through public input included improved waterfront access, expanded family-friendly amenities such as playgrounds and pickleball courts, more kayak and canoe launches, continued emphasis on accessibility, and enhanced such as seating, shade, and wayfinding. Many respondents emphasized the importance of balancing recreation improvements with environmental stewardship, particularly along shorelines and in wooded areas, reinforcing the SCORP’s focus on natural resource protection and sustainable recreation development.

The public input process confirmed that Gibraltar’s outdoor recreation system is highly valued and actively used, while also identifying clear opportunities for targeted improvements that support the SCORP goals related to active living, safe access, regional connectivity, equitable use, and vitality. The Town of Gibraltar utilized the findings from this engagement to guide the development of goals and implementation strategies outlined in this plan, ensuring alignment with both local priorities and statewide recreation planning objectives. Furthermore, the conclusions in this document should serve as a foundation for future planning, ensuring that investments and improvements in the town’s parks, trails, and recreational facilities reflect the best interest for the community.



# Chapter Five

## Implementation

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

#### *Capital Improvements*

Capital improvements are major, non-routine investments or additions that enhance the long-term value, accessibility, or functionality of a public facility. Examples include upgrading restrooms to meet ADA standards, replacing playground equipment, or improving trail surfaces for safety and accessibility.

Planning for capital improvements allows the Town of Gibraltar to allocate budget resources more effectively, prioritize community needs, and ensure that local parks and recreation facilities continue to meet the expectations of residents and visitors. A proactive capital improvement strategy also supports grant eligibility and strengthens partnerships with state and regional agencies.

This chapter includes a summary of capital improvement projects for each park and recreation site within the Town of Gibraltar.

#### *Community Feedback*

Community engagement was central to identifying Gibraltar's park and recreation priorities. Both residents and visitors shared valuable input on park use, facility needs, and ideas for future improvements. Respondents represented a broad mix of year-round and seasonal users, with most being long-term residents or frequent visitors who expressed strong appreciation for Gibraltar's natural character, scenic waterfront, and well-kept parks.

Common themes from the surveys included:

- Strengthening trail connectivity for walking, biking, and snowmobiling.
- Providing family-friendly amenities, such as playgrounds, pickleball courts, and picnic areas.
- Expanding water access and kayak launch opportunities.
- Ensuring accessibility, safety, and maintenance remain high priorities.
- Preserving Gibraltar's small-town, natural charm while supporting thoughtful recreation growth.

Overall, satisfaction was consistently high across both groups. Respondents encouraged the town to focus on improving connectivity between major recreation destinations like Fish Creek Park, Town Dock, and Peninsula State Park while maintaining the quiet, scenic qualities that make Gibraltar unique.

#### *Operations and Maintenance*

The Town's Parks & Lands Committee, in collaboration with the Maintenance staff, will oversee the maintenance, preservation, and any needed restoration of the Town beach, parks, green spaces, and recreational areas.



FUNDING PROGRAMS

Funding for recreational development can come from a number of sources both public and private. Most funding for this type of development comes from public local funds. Primarily, local funds come from a number of sources including the sale of bonds, allocations from the local tax base, and donations from individuals and organizations. Non-local funding can come from a number of sources, either in the form of a grant or a loan.

Currently, the WDNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Rural Development (RDA) provide competitive funding relating to outdoor recreation. The Wisconsin Waterways Commission is a good source of funding for acquiring and improving those amenities that primarily benefit recreational boaters in the state. Boat ramps, launches, parking lots, restrooms, and other boating related improvements can be 50% funded under this quarterly grant program administered by the WDNR.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The WDNR is often the main source of funds for outdoor recreation facilities. The Stewardship Program, administered by WDNR, is a fund designed to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, protect land sensitive to environmental degradation, conserve and restore wildlife habitat and protect water quality. As a prerequisite to the following WDNR funding programs, applicants must first submit a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, such as this plan, or a master plan that has been approved by resolution by a local governing unit, or a plan of a higher unit of government. Applicants submitting qualifying comprehensive outdoor recreation plans or master plans may receive eligibility to apply for funding for up to five years. The WDNR’s priority for funding is land acquisition, followed by facility development.

Outdoor recreation grant programs currently administered by WDNR include the following:

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Program

The ATV program provides funds to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquisition, insurance, development, and maintenance of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes.

Recreational Boating Facilities Program

The Recreational Boating Facilities program provides funds to local units of government and qualified lake associations for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities. The program also provides financial assistance for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational boating facilities, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemical treatment of Eurasian water milfoil.

Recreational Trails Program (Motorized and Non-Motorized)

The Recreation Trails Program provides funds for the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with the state snowmobile or ATV programs and Stewardship development projects.

Stewardship Local Assistance - Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Stewardship Local Assistance - Acquisition and Development of Local Parks provides funding to acquire land, rights in land, and develop public outdoor recreation areas for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes.

Stewardship Local Assistance - Acquisition of Development Rights

Stewardship Local Assistance - Acquisition of Development Rights provides funding for the acquisition of development rights that provide or enhance nature-based outdoor recreation areas. Projects must be part of an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The LWCF provides financial assistance to state agencies, counties, villages, towns, school districts, cities, and Indian tribes for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program provides up to 50 percent reimbursement grants for approved state and local projects. Competition for LWCF funds is on a statewide basis.

Snowmobile Trail Grant Program

The Snowmobile Trail Grant Program is administered by WDNR and managed by the Door County Parks Department and the seven Door County snowmobile clubs. Grant aids pay for yearly maintenance of state funded trails, as well as additional funding for bridges and new trail development.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant Program

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement program encourages transportation projects that improve air quality. It includes efforts to enhance public transit, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, ridesharing programs and facilities, and technologies that improve traffic flow and vehicle emissions. CMAQ funds are only available in these southeastern and northeastern Wisconsin non-attainment and maintenance counties: Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee, Walworth, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Door. The department solicits applications every other year. Generally, CMAQ funding emphasizes cost-effective projects, and legislation prioritizes certain projects such as those that reduce particulate matter emissions in areas of nonattainment for this pollutant criteria.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) expands the Build America Bureau’s capacity to help communities advance infrastructure projects. This includes the creation of multiple new programs to be administered by the Bureau that provide technical assistance to help communities explore innovative financing and project delivery methods for their projects.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Planned Parks and Recreation Facility Improvements, 2026-2031

The Parks and Lands Committee held a workshop in December 2025 to review future improvements for the town’s parks and recreation facilities. The committee assigned each improvement a priority level of low, medium, or high. Cost estimates reflect either quotes received by the town or prevailing market and labor rates at the time of plan preparation. These estimates are subject to change over time.

TABLE 5.1: PLAN FOR ALL TOWN PROPERTIES		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Plan for connectivity without sacrificing nature sensitive areas.	High	\$5,000 per year
Protect the watershed and restore natural habitats.	High	\$10,000 to \$250,000
Conservation of town's aesthetics; stone walls, Niagara Escarpment, and other historic features.	Ongoing	*Cost varies
Maintain all park wayfinding and informational signage to be uniform.	Ongoing	\$250 to \$500 per sign
Evaluate acquiring land throughout township in sensitive environmental areas.	Medium	\$30,000 to \$1,000,000 per acre
Maintain health of the town's tree canopy and right aways, hire arborist for tree assessments, health and pruning.	Medium	\$75 to \$250 per hour
Add drinking fountains, seating areas, bike racks, mutt mitts and shaded areas where needed.	Medium	\$5,000
Plan for improved ADA accessibility in future projects.	Medium	*Cost varies
Evaluate areas to incorporate additional playgrounds.	Medium	\$15,000 to \$85,000 per playground
Evaluate areas to incorporate recreational/workout stations.	Medium	\$3,000 to \$5,000 per station

TABLE 5.2: SUNSET BEACH: PARK, TRAIL, & WATERFRONT		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Hire a design firm to address erosion issue with a design that is aesthetically pleasing to the existing wall and prevent future damage.	High	\$80,000 to \$100,000
Repair drainage at entrance, mid-trail, west end of road and waters edge.	High	\$20,000
Improve current path using a switchback design to increase ADA accessibility.	High	\$6,000 to \$10,000
Maintain & Preserve stone wall, benches and steps.	Medium	\$50 to \$100 per hour

\*Cost varies due to changes in market value and labor.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Planned Parks and Recreation Facility Improvements, 2026-2031

TABLE 5.3: ULA PARK		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Remove invasive plants & trees, replace with native species.	Medium	\$50 to \$250 per shrub
Maintain water view.	Low	*Cost varies; in kind

TABLE 5.4: SPRUCE PARK		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Restoration of lawn and gardens after road and storm water projects are complete.	Medium	\$50 to \$100 per hour

TABLE 5.5: OLD TOWN HALL		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Replace stamped concrete with a new sidewalk.	Medium	\$6 to \$15 per square foot
Improve drainage around building.	Medium	\$1,500 to \$5,000
Redo landscaping around building.	Medium	\$50 to \$250 per shrub

TABLE 5.6: CLARK PARK / TOWN DOCK		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Replace stamped concrete with a new sidewalk.	High	\$6 to \$15 per square foot
Preserve & Maintain stone walls to preserve historic character.	Medium	\$50 to \$100 per hour
Add water system to gardens.	Low	\$1.70 per square foot

\*Cost varies due to changes in market value and labor.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Planned Parks and Recreation Facility Improvements, 2026-2031

TABLE 5.7: WATERFRONT PARK (UNOFFICIAL NAME)		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Utilize a professional landscape design firm to create a long range plan for park including: drainage, public access, boardwalk, dock improvements, storm water management, and shade areas.	High	\$70,000 to \$80,000
Create family-friendly areas for picnicking, relaxation, and water viewing.	Medium	\$5,000 to \$20,000
Add Sprinkler System	Medium	\$1.70 per square foot
Plan for restrooms, drinking fountains, benches and picnic tables.	Medium	\$10,000
Add a stone wall or feature to compliment other town parks.	Medium	\$10,000
Install a geese deterrent lawn, and/or other landscape features to deter.	Medium	\$40 to \$700 per 1,000 square feet

TABLE 5.8: FOUNDER’S SQUARE POCKET GARDEN		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Plan for restoration after Main Street Road project.	Medium	\$50 to \$100 per hour

TABLE 5.9: NOBLE SQUARE		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Improvement of the lawn and drainage.	Medium	\$40 to \$700 per 1,000 square feet
Maintain & Preserve stone wall.	Low	\$50 to \$100 per hour
Add sprinkler system	Low	\$1.70 per square foot

TABLE 5.10: FISH CREEK PUBLIC BEACH		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Plan for ADA beach accessibility and connect to sidewalks.	Medium	\$6 to \$15 per square foot

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Planned Parks and Recreation Facility Improvements, 2026-2031

TABLE 5.11: TOWN CENTER		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Update landscaping around building.	Low	\$50 to \$100 per hour
Look into solar panels to create a green building.	Low	Starts at \$32,000; cost varies

TABLE 5.12: TOWN PUBLIC PARKING & WET RETENTION POND		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Improve signage and encourage public use.	Low	\$3,000
Maintain detention pond to extend long term use.	Low	*Cost varies; in kind

TABLE 5.13: FISH CREEK PARK		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Hire a professional firm to create a plan that includes conservation zones, areas for quiet recreation, and natural trails. Make sure the trail master plan focuses on safety, easy navigation, scenic overlooks, bridges, and better accessibility. The plan should also include features such as informational kiosks, recreation areas, restrooms, electricity, water, and other useful amenities.	High	\$90,000
Build a multimodal trail that links the upper and lower parts of the park and connects with neighboring municipalities' routes from the south, north, and east.	High	*Cost varies
Restore fish passage and use existing trees to retain creek shading. Incorporate the hydrologic function of the stream and wetlands.	High	\$150,000
Plan for widespread invasive species removal and habitat restoration to improve native habitat and the diversity of birds, insects, and wildlife.	High	\$140,000
Set up a professional trail maintenance program to prevent damage to trees and support healthy growth. Buy the necessary equipment to care for different types of trails, which will help protect native plants and important trail features.	Medium	\$60 to \$125 per hour
Collaborate with forestry experts to develop sustainable trail maintenance practices including proper tools and machinery.	Medium	*Cost varies
Establish a plan to mitigate impacts of heavy rainfall through trails and habitats.	Medium	\$2,000 to \$13,000
Designate areas for educational programs focused on wildlife conservation issues, encourage habitat diversity.	Low	\$5,000 to \$10,000
Plan for a community gathering place.	Low	\$500 per hour

\*Cost varies due to changes in market value and labor.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Planned Parks and Recreation Facility Improvements, 2026-2031

TABLE 5.14: WINDMILL PROPERTY		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Maintain & restore the windmill and building.	Low	\$50 to \$100 per hour

TABLE 5.15: BLOSSOMBURG CEMETERY		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Plan for future expansion, design layout.	Low	\$5,000 to \$10,000

TABLE 5.16: GIBRALTAR FIRE & RESCUE		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Landscape enhancements to increase biodiversity.	Low	\$50 to \$100 per hour

TABLE 5.17: TOWN SHOP & COLD STORAGE		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Create compost area for residents.	Low	*Cost varies; in kind
Remove invasive species and Hazardous wastes.	Low	*Cost varies; in kind

TABLE 5.18: JUDDVILLE CEMETERY		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Improve grounds: turf, invasives, sunken areas and boundaries.	Low	\$40 to \$700 per square foot
Hire professional to reset old tombstones and x-ray grounds for burials.	Low	\$5,000 to \$50,000; cost varies

\*Cost varies due to changes in market value and labor.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Planned Parks and Recreation Facility Improvements, 2026-2031

TABLE 5.19: COTTAGE ROW ROUNDABOUT & WATER ACCESS		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Improve the area with benches & a bike rack, as a rest stop.	Low	\$1,000 to \$2,000

TABLE 5.20: CHAMPAGNE ROCK		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Shoreline improvement, consideration of the resetting of fallen rock.	Low	\$10,000 to \$20,000
Maintain & Preserve Stone Wall and Stairs	Low	\$50 to \$100 per hour

TABLE 5.21: WELCOME SIGN		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Paint or replace welcome sign.	Low	*Cost varies; in kind
Update landscaping around sign.	Low	\$50 to \$100 per hour

TABLE 5.22: CHAMBERS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Continue restoration of Chambers Island Lighthouse and surrounding property.	Medium	\$100,000 to \$200,000

TABLE 5.23: CHAMBERS ISLAND FIRE STATION		
Improvements	Priority	Estimated Cost
Plan for landscaping around building.	Low	\$1,500 to \$5,000

\*Cost varies due to changes in market value and labor.



APPENDIX A  
COMMUNITY SURVEY: QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Resident Survey - 108 Responses - Any skipped, not applicable, or no answers were omitted

Please select the option that best describes your residency in the Town of Gibraltar?

- 1. Year-round resident of Town of Gibraltar: 51.85%
- 2. Seasonal resident of Town of Gibraltar: 32.41%
- 3. Door County resident of a surrounding community: 12.04%
- 4. Other: 3.70%
  - I live here & Green bay (have a business here)
  - Sister bay part time
  - Short term rental owner who visits often

Since you are a tax-paying resident, do you have any properties in the following areas of the township?

- 1. Town of Gibraltar: 45.37%
- 2. Fish Creek: 43.52%
- 3. Juddville: 7.41%
- 4. Chambers Island: 2.78%
- 5. I’m not sure: 0%
- 6. Other: 1.85%
  - I rent

Since you chose resident of Door County, which community do you live in?

- 1. Baileys Harbor
- 2. Sturgeon Bay
- 3. Baileys Harbor
- 4. Liberty Grove
- 5. Baileys
- 6. Liberty Grove
- 7. Liberty Grove
- 8. Sevastopol
- 9. Sturgeon Bay
- 10. Town of Egg Harbor
- 11. I LIVE in Sturgeon Bay and have a cottage on Chambers Island
- 12. Egg Harbor, but we own a hotel in Fish Creek
- 13. Town of Sevastopol

Within the past year, how often did you visit a park or recreational area in Gibraltar?

- 1. Never: 1.85%
- 2. A few times: 33.33%
- 3. Monthly: 30.56%
- 4. Weekly: 28.70%
- 5. Daily: 5.56%

Which Town of Gibraltar parks have you visited within the past year?

- 1. Cemeteries: 46.3%
- 2. Chambers Island Lighthouse Park: 15.74%
- 3. Champagne Rock Park: 28.70%
- 4. Clark Park: 63.89%
- 5. Community (Town) Center: 35.19%
- 6. Fish Creek Park: 67.59%
- 7. Fish Creek Public Beach: 64.81%
- 8. Noble Square: 53.7%
- 9. Old Town Hall: 49.07%
- 10. Spruce Park: 18.52%
- 11. Sunset Beach Park: 64.81%
- 12. Ula Park: 8.33%
- 13. Volleyball Courts: 6.48%
- 14. Waterfront Park: 39.81%
- 15. I have not visited any: 2.78%
- 16. I’m not sure which park(s) I visited: 1.85%
- 17. Other: 4.63%
  - Snowmobile trails
  - Peninsula State Park
  - I don’t really know them by name

Please tell us your favorite park to visit in the Town of Gibraltar and why?

- 1. Clarke...great to walk, hang out and have water views.
- 2. Sunset Park. It is peaceful to look out over the water and listen to the waves even when the park is busy. The old stonework is beautiful and timeless.
- 3. Fish creek park - it is not overly crowded and I can easily walk my dog there.
- 4. The beach is so gorgeous year round
- 5. We love Sunset and Fish Creek Park. (Champagne Rock was the top but not the same since



- the fall of the rock)
6. I travel outside of Gibralar to visit parks
  7. Waterfront... proximity:-)
  8. Peninsula Park most things to do
  9. Penn park
  10. Fish creek park....because I love the trails and love to walk my dog there. Plus less crowded then the state park trails.
  11. Fish Creek beach
  12. Waterfront, great for picnics
  13. Fish Creek Park, I love the quiet and secluded trails.
  14. Clark -its's close by
  15. I mean I don't go often due to fish creek having such terrible light pollution.. even sunset park the north facing view is blocked by trees.
  16. The cemetery
  17. Water front
  18. Sunset Park. Very historic and natural. Old stone wall. Not changed into a tourist mecca with modern amenities and landscaping.
  19. Blossomberg relatives there
  20. Fish Creek Park, perfect slice of nature in the "city".
  21. Chambers Island. Great place to anchor the boat.
  22. "Clark Park. Nice open green space, location great, waterfront, benches, bathrooms"
  23. Clark park boat launch
  24. Chambers Island Lighthouse Park.
  25. snowmobiling on the beautiful trails in the area. It would be really neat to see the town roads open up to utv traffic as well.
  26. snowmobile trail running through Gibraltar.
  27. clark park - festivals
  28. Clark
  29. Fish Creek Park- expansive/connective tract
  30. Beach, we have grandkids that love to go there.
  31. "Sunset Beach. My childhood home was 100 feet from sunset beach."
  32. Cemeteries as they are left in the least disturbed state. It used to be FCP but it is getting to tourist oriented. People come to FC to see its natural beauty not commercially tuned up parks.
  33. Peninsula State Park : Beauty/variety
  34. "Peninsula State Park. It is huge, varied and beautiful!!"
  35. The beach and sunset parks
  36. Waterfront Park for being on the water, swimming beach, sunset views, restaurants and shopping in walking distance.

37. I like all of the waterfront parks and have a quiet appreciation for Champagne Rock
38. Fish Creek Public Beach - Beautiful view and easy access to bathrooms and food.
39. "Blossomberg because our relatives are buried there – and it's very peaceful (and good morel hunting). Love the trail through the trees to get to sunset beach. Love champagne rock, though rarely visit."
40. Chambers Island Lighthouse because of the history
41. I rarely go through Fish Creek on my way to anywhere. I am near Clark Park when I go on the Quo Vadis. Otherwise I go places where I can paint outdoors, and Pen Park
42. We like many of them. We especially like the concerts at the beach park on Fridays.
43. Peninsula State Park
44. No favorite. Love Pen Park, but I assume that is a state park and not part of the survey.
45. All the parks on the water are my favorite because everyone should have waterfront access.
46. Fish Creek Public Beach. Although the public beach park has changed radically since we first started coming back in '94, I still launch my kayak from there or having launched from another site, I often make the new beach a target point. I often enjoy just dropping by the beach and sitting on one of the benches or picnic tables and just taking in the view which is stunning al year round.
47. Fish Creek beach. It is a destination for our extended family, and the extended view of the waterfront.
48. Old Juddville cemetery, extremely peaceful, I feel close to my Pa there as we decorated the Veteran's graves together
49. Clark Park and Public Beach - tho it would be nice to have a walkway by the water to connect the 2.
50. Fish Creek beach is beautiful. Great place for the fireworks. Ample room. Near the Blue Horse.
51. Fish Creek Park because of the hiking trails and trail expansion, and Clark Park because of Winter Fest
52. Town Center - get stuff done
53. Sunset Park. Lovely spot to walk my dot and watch the sunsets
54. Fish Creek park because I like to hike and it now has wonderful trails.
55. Fish Creek Park is our favorite, because of all the trails. It would be nice if there was a bridge over the creek to access the trails from 1/2 mile bridge.
56. Champagne rock, because of its views and seclusion.
57. Clark Park.
58. Waterfront park, it is adjacent to one of our walking routes
59. Sunset Beach, to watch the sunsets.
60. Fish Creek park because of its lovely hiking and biking trails.
61. "Clark Park and Noble Square. Both are in close proximity to where I live. I love to be able to view the water. Both parks are well kept. Blossomberg"
62. "Fish Creek Park. Fish Creek itself"



63. Fish Creek Park because it offers the most hiking opportunity.
64. I don't have a favorite
65. Fish Creek Park: secluded and hidden trail, but excited about expansion.
66. Town Dock Use Daily
67. I like the one that connects to our hotel
68. Fish creek park & Clark park- Fish creek for the trails & serenity, Clark park for the water view...& Bayside coffee
69. Don't spend time in Gibraltar parks
70. Noble Square to attend concerts, see displays (ie, alpaca shearing) and lighting of Christmas tree.
71. Clark park. beautiful.
72. Sunset Beach - it's just two minutes away, with a gorgeous view
73. I'm partial to the dock for its great view, and fishing opportunities
74. Ephraim firehouse dock for boating
75. Town dock-get to meet many interesting people I
76. I own in hidden harbor so those close by
77. Sunset beach , for the view
78. All the same, walking destinations.
79. Fish Creek Beach for location & nearby amenities
80. Clark Park because of its openness to the water- great views everywhere.
81. Juddville Cemetery, because most of the people buried there are my wife's ancestors.
82. Sunset Beach for sunsets
83. Sunset park
84. "I visit many parks as checked above, however I do not have a favorite park because there is not an entrance to drop in a kayak for older adults without portage a distance. Peninsula FISH CREEK located within the park across from the ranger station would be the most obvious sand beach drop in for older adults however we are not allowed to drive or backdown to the drop area.."
85. Peninsula state park, bike and hiking trails
86. Sunset beach
87. Sunset Park. The sunsets, lol.
88. Champagne Rock... or what's left of it. Love the solitude.
89. Clark Park
90. Fish creek park but needs more work.
91. The new park that links the lower Fish Creek Park to the upper bluff, Starts across from Not Licked Yet. It is a great access point to get down from the upper bluff, where we have our condo. It is a large park and offers so much.
92. Peninsula State Park -- beautiful scenery and trails
93. "Noble Square The concerts"

94. Any of the parks near the water or that have water access. We enjoy spending time out on the water and appreciate the ease of launching various types of watercraft.
95. Chambers Island Light.
96. Fish Creek Park for trails
97. Fish Creek Public Beach-location is great and it's has nice bathrooms. It's also close to restaurants and shopping.
98. Clark park - easy to access good benches, and also place I've been to for events
99. Different parks for different activities! Also seasonal activities determine which park as well
100. Peninsula park
101. Clark, Sunset, Fishcreek Beach, Fishcreek Park - it just depends on what we're doing. Thank you for all our wonderful parks!
102. Clark Park for shady trees, Fish Creek Beach for beach and kayak launching
103. Walking trails in the Fish Creek park are a great improvement and make me excited to walk in town!
104. Clark park

#### **What park do you visit the least in the Town of Gibraltar and why?**

1. Champaign Rock....lots of poison ivy and a large portion of the rock is gone. There isn't any parking either.
2. Chamber's Island Lighthouse. No boat.
3. Sunset beach - to crowded to get there.
4. Clark park
5. While we love Chambers, we only visit when with friends with boats.
6. "To be honest, Gibraltar parks and trails are not family friendly. For example, the beach. It has the smallest playground in Door County. It's embarrassing. Parking at the beach is non-existent. Expecting family's to park in the boat lot, haul your swim gear and your small children across the highway shows that the people who made these design decisions, do not have small children. Another example is our trails. You cannot walk down a trail without getting hit it the face with a limb. You can't enjoy the trails with your family. Why these trails are not maintained are mind boggling. These trails could be the best in door county if the were shown some Maintenance. I feel they are the only trails the are not maintained in Door County. These example, among others, are the reasons why I find myself taking my family outside of Gibralar to enjoy parks."
7. Fish creek park- i'm not familiar with it or the trails, and I never seen a map for it. I don't wanna get lost.
8. Rock-ula -spruce. Not sure even where they are
9. Champagne rock
10. Champagne park...due to location and size.
11. Fish Creek park



12. Champagne, just to show visitors
13. Champagne Rock, poison ivy
14. Fish creek park. I don't know my way around the trails. So I haven't gone in there.
15. Town dock and beach why you ask.. well light pollution
16. everything else there is a state park in fish creek you waist tax payer dollars and you don't listen to the public. you ruined the beach downtown its an ugly eye soar now.
17. I have never heard of some of these
18. Champagne Rock was a favorite until the Rock fell in the water. We thought it was going to be fixed and brought back to its original historic likeness. Now it's a dead end with no identity.
19. Fish Creek Beach NO parking
20. Chambers Island, don't have transportation to the island.
21. "Ula Street Diner know it"
22. Haven't been there
23. Cemetary
24. no issues
25. Community Center becuase I have not had time.
26. champagne rock - never think of it
27. VolleyBall Court
28. I've never been to Ula St Park or the volleyball courts
29. Volleyball, no reason to go there.
30. "Chambers island lighthouse Can't get there easily"
31. Champagne Rock it is no longer what it was as nature changed it.
32. Clark Park: too much dog and geese excrement
33. "Chambers Island. I rarely if ever go over there."
34. Clark Park. We are usually with a group of people in our family, and that space is small.
35. Any not within walking distance of downtown.
36. Spruce Park - not sure where it is located (and I live here)
37. Chambers island—hard to get to
38. Clark Park
39. I don't go to the parks
40. volleyball courts and unsure where Ula Street park is located
41. The ones I did not check, no reason
42. I don't play volleyball but I'm glad to see the courts used when I drive by.
43. Sunset Beach Park...it really isn't laid out as a beach, it is more of just a park, and we visit it to watch a sunset and take in a view of Green Bay.
44. Waterfront park due to the limited size and location.
45. Fish Creek park. We no longer snowmobile due to health & lack of snow.

46. Chambers Island - no way to get there
47. Ulta street park...I didn't know it existed.
48. Champagne Rock, no reason
49. recently moved here, so have a lot to check out yet
50. Chambers Island-don't have a boat
51. Chamber island lighthouse. I no longer have friends with boats or a Girl Scout troop. Years ago our troop would go out to camp there thanks to the Mary Ann Blainic connection.
52. Volleyball Ball Court
53. Fish creek park, lack of time
54. Champagne Rock
55. We don't play volleyball and never go to Chambers
56. Space Park, not sure where it is located.
57. We don't know where Ula Street Park is.
58. Blossomberg Cemetery a few times a year . Fish Creek Park because it does not have clear signage as to where one is.
59. "Volleyball park. Never heard of it"
60. Waterfront Park because it has yet to be developed.
61. I am not familiar with those Gibraltar parks that I have not visited
62. Noble Square: I've walked by and listened to concerts in the park for a few minutes, but feel the Noble House Museum should be relocated and that corner improved.
63. All those not checked above
64. Never been to Chambers island
65. Volleyball court - knees don't take it anymore
66. Fish Creek park due to concern of allergies.
67. Fish Creek Beach. Duck poop.
68. The Public Beach - so visitors have room to enjoy
69. Idk
70. Chambers island as I have no way to get there
71. Spruce Park
72. Noble...no interest
73. Cemeteries
74. "Volleyball Court. Don't know where this is."
75. Champagne Rock. It's not really a park.
76. Not even aware of some of these
77. Peninsula State Park. Not a camper.
78. I don't know them all by name, but based on the above list I would say the Volleyball Court since I have never visited it.
79. Champagne Rock because I've never heard of it



80. Don't know where all the parks are located
81. Sunset Beach, I have many opportunities to watch sunsets many places close to home.
82. most of the others
83. Beach maybe. Tourists are there sunbathing and we give them their space. Not big into the band scene on fridays but a lot seem to enjoy it.
84. Friends who visit enjoy Sunset Beach - view & community camaraderie.
85. Fish Creek Park
86. Sunset. Trail sucks to get to it. No body should have to walk in the road with traffic. Very unsafe.
87. Cemetery, no reason.
88. All the others are tied for zero visits
89. "Town hall. Nothing interesting"
90. Champagne Rock - It's been a few years since I've been there but, the last visit I thought there was a lot of poison ivy along the trail.
91. Fish Creek Public Beach. I'm not into crowds
92. Beach more grass than sand boring small swim area
93. Champagne Rock
94. Champagne rock ... harder to access and have heard the rock was pushed over so really no reason to go to this park any longer?!? hi how are you?
95. Volleyball court - great to have but not for me.
96. Chambers. No boat
97. "The cemeteries although we like walking thru Juddville on occasion. Champaign Park depending on the poison ivy"
98. Champagne, hard to get down, no room
99. There are a bunch I don't visit because they're basically just walk up and see it and leave. And none have a real playground (we go to Gibraltar school most often for that)
100. Volleyball

Please rank your general level of participation and interest in the following outdoor activities:

1. See Table 1.1
2. Other:
  - Shopping, eating; Done frequently
  - Night sky viewing; Done frequently
  - I paint weekly throughout northern Door in warmer months and I walk in my neighborhood; Done frequently
  - Water sports and running; Done frequently
  - Electric Scooter would be nice; Never done, no interest

TABLE 1.1: RESIDENT RESPONSES, GENERAL LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION AND INTEREST

Activity	Frequently	Occassionally	Never; interested	Never; no interest
Leisure Walking / Strolling	76.85%	15.74%	0.93%	2.78%
Dog Walking	37.96%	9.26%	2.78%	37.96%
Hiking	50.93%	33.33%	2.78%	8.33%
Biking	39.81%	36.11%	3.7%	16.67%
Horseback Riding	1.85%	15.74%	14.81%	61.11%
Cross-Country Skiing	13.89%	38.89%	10.19%	31.48%
ATVing / UTVing	6.48%	6.48%	14.81%	62.96%
Snowmobiling	6.48%	15.74%	13.89%	58.33%
Boating / Jetskiing	27.78%	37.04%	9.26%	19.44%
Kayaking / Canoeing	24.07%	39.81%	12.04%	18.52%
Swimming	25.93%	45.37%	6.48%	17.59%
Fishing	13.89%	36.11%	6.48%	37.96%
Retreat	4.63%	12.96%	18.52%	54.63%
Camping	11.11%	27.78%	10.19%	45.37%
Foraging	6.48%	14.81%	14.81%	57.41%
Organized Sports	3.70%	23.15%	9.26%	56.48%
Golfing	19.44%	27.78%	4.63%	42.59%
Disc Golfing	2.78%	6.48%	24.07%	59.26%
Pickleball / Tennis	7.41%	19.44%	24.07%	43.52%
Scenic Driving	54.63%	33.33%	1.85%	4.63%
Bird and Wildlife Watching	37.96%	34.26%	11.11%	11.11%
Snow Shoeing	19.44%	40.74%	11.11%	22.22%
Educational Opportunities	12.96%	38.89%	25.00%	16.67%
Geocaching	2.78%	13.89%	23.15%	51.85%
Rock Climbing	1.85%	9.26%	11.11%	72.22%
Picnicking	26.85%	52.78%	6.48%	6.48%
Nature Photography	21.30%	36.11%	13.89%	22.22%

Source: Bay-Lake RPC, 2025.



**Who do you typically recreate with when visiting parks in the area?**

- 1. Alone: 44.44%
- 2. Immediate family: 78.70%
- 3. Extended family: 33.33%
- 4. Friends: 63.89%
- 5. Your dog(s): 33.33%
- 6. It varies: 14.81%
- 7. Other: 1.85%
  - Don't visit them

**In terms of parks and outdoor recreation, what activity or facility type is currently not available in the Town of Gibraltar that you would like to see if possible?**

- 1. Disc Golf Course
- 2. More accessible and allowed dog walking - maybe even a designated dog park. Would also like someplace to take my dog swimming in the summer.
- 3. "I would like to see a trail system connecting the town. Also there should be a sidewalk from the high school to the BP- kids are walking on the highway and that is very dangerous"
- 4. I just ask that whatever is created, please make it family friendly. Currently, Gibraltar, in my mind, is not family friendly.
- 5. Parkies
- 6. Playground for older kids- shade areas on beach
- 7. Bike trails
- 8. Pickle ball....currently only at YMCA.
- 9. More drinking fountains.
- 10. pay to play
- 11. Dark skies!!! No joke, I stop in sister bay right down by beach and can get shots but fish creek it's sooo bad light pollution wise!!! Also I haven't ever swam at the beach, why? Well goose poop that's why. It's nasty there.
- 12. a beach the public wanted not what the board created against the public wishes.
- 13. Outdoor puckleball
- 14. Keep things natural. We don't need to have everything that is available 15 minutes away in neighboring towns and villages.
- 15. More parking close by
- 16. Biking paths that connect more of the community (especially paths to school so nearby children could bike safely to school).
- 17. Bicycle path Connecting villages/towns
- 18. Snowmobile access into town

- 19. ATV and UTV on the roads
- 20. pickle ball
- 21. Intermunicipal non-motorized trail
- 22. "Kayak launch. A decent kids playground."
- 23. \*\*No dog parks there are enough in surrounding towns and are expensive
- 24. Dog Park!!
- 25. A large beachfront area, that offered public toilets, swimming, children's playgrounds, dogs allowed, grills, picnic tables, beach bar restaurants, perhaps even tennis courts, if space allows.
- 26. Public pickleball courts
- 27. There is nothing additional that I would be looking for
- 28. Having a shady playground geared for small children could be nice.
- 29. Safe bike routes
- 30. Trails that connect current trails.
- 31. bike path around town
- 32. Bike trails to connect the towns
- 33. A designated kayak launch/landing site that is clear of rocks.
- 34. "1. A much larger playground for young children. 2. A dog park to help keep dogs off the beach."
- 35. Place to roller skate
- 36. Outside lawn games
- 37. Pickleball, horseback riding,
- 38. More art pieces incorporated in to our Town Parks creating an Art walk.
- 39. "Famers Market space. Kids splash area/fountain with artworks. dog park (maybe attached to the lovely walking trails behind the post office!) Gondola rides from upper bluff down into Fish Creek"
- 40. Between the town parks and Peninsula, we really have a lot of options. I would love to see the trail system that would connect the towns of northern Door move forward. People love hiking, and biking from town to town all over the world and it would be wonderful to be able to do it here too.
- 41. Pickle ball court.
- 42. More snacks and restaurants
- 43. Readily accessible parking.
- 44. Hiking trails, biking trails
- 45. More bicycle trails, NO MOTORIZED TRAILS. No dog parks or trails. I've been bitten by dogs not properly managed.
- 46. Improve the new bike trail extending south from Fish Creek Park. It is too soft and needs more fine gravel.
- 47. Areas for tennis, pickle ball etc



- 48. Dog park.
- 49. I'm content with the various facilities and parks. Excited for expansion of biking/hiking trails to Egg Harbor.
- 50. I don't honestly know, I don't think there are many ATV UTV Trails
- 51. Pickleball courts (not the Y)
- 52. more boat tours.
- 53. Hiking groups
- 54. Kayak rack to store a kayak in season
- 55. Public indoor/outdoor pool?
- 56. Missing nothing
- 57. Bike trails and more hiking
- 58. Scooter
- 59. I would like to see tours/scheduled transportation to Chambers Island to visit, hike.
- 60. Tennis
- 61. None. The quaint, accepting nature of the townspeople and non-commercial push to "enjoy" touristy activities like those found in other tourist areas.... like splash pads, skate parks, pavilions where groups congregate for events that interrupt the enjoyment of the general populace around them.
- 62. Parks that tourists don't know about
- 63. A sliding hil
- 64. Easy entrance and exit to dropping in to kayaking, no rock crossing to put in.
- 65. Safe, Connected bike trails to other communities.
- 66. Cycling off-road. There is SO MUCH traffic during warmer weather, it feels unsafe to cycling along the roadways.
- 67. Walking/Biking paths btwn communities.
- 68. ADA accessible parks.
- 69. Anything that revolves around fitness and out door activities. Please do not allow UTV/ ATV/Snowmobile or golf carts on any of the trail systems. They do not fit the atmosphere of the area.
- 70. Pool at least 25 yards long for swimming laps
- 71. Longer biking trail
- 72. Nothing I can think off except maybe bike lanes and more shade options in current parks. Ex. Shade umbrellas etc.
- 73. Picnic area with garbage cans
- 74. Dig park
- 75. Bocce ball
- 76. Safe biking
- 77. Regular kayak launch, walking paths updated bathrooms downtown. More trees/shade to sit by the water in parks water drinking fountains.

- 78. We need a real playground for the kids! Look at the hub that Kendall Park is.
  - 79. More access to view harbor. ??
- Is there any outdoor recreation activity that you would like to start doing, or do more often? If yes, please list what activity, and what could help you do this?**
- 1. Better kayak launches that are away from regular boat launching. Personal kayak storage (lockable) at the town dock would be awesome!
  - 2. Cycling. Bike lanes and multiuse trails connecting villages/destinations. Good quality bike racks on as many municipal properties as possible.
  - 3. I know there are regulations about picnicking - especially in Clark park, and limited availability to garbage/waste cans and picnic tables, but it would be nice if it was an easier, more encouraged activity. Also, would like to see public art (mentioned nowhere on this survey), as part of the outdoor recreation plan.
  - 4. More winter cross country akiing
  - 5. I would like to go to the beach, take my kids to a playground and walk on trails. Unfortunately, the way things are, I go elsewhere.
  - 6. Biking
  - 7. Shuffle board
  - 8. Bike trails
  - 9. More bike trails.
  - 10. Trail walking
  - 11. Clearly marked connected hiking trails; kayak rental at the beach
  - 12. hiking, a longer path through difficult terain.
  - 13. I would like to bike more. I just don't want to go out on the trails if I don't know my way around.
  - 14. In fish creek.. night sky photography would be nice. And no champagne rock is not good for it and dangerous but it doesn't have light pollution there at least
  - 15. enjoying my money vs paying money for things which won't benefit me
  - 16. Pickleball
  - 17. Having a MultiMoto trail from the Pen Park to Egg Harbor for Hiking and snowmobiling would be a great addition!
  - 18. The Town should follow the direction of the rest of the state with over 62,000 miles of roads open for ATV/UTV use. Not doing so is a very antiquated way of thinking and is turning away additional tourism opportunities.
  - 19. biking - getting off my butt
  - 20. Biking. Off road / non-motorized trails
  - 21. Equine trails
  - 22. Qigong
  - 23. Walking trails, if they were put in near me
  - 24. We play pickleball in our home community (Menomonee Falls/Sussex), but I would like



- the option to play when we are in Fish Creek too. My son would love a Disc Golf course closer to Fish Creek.
- 25. No additional activities that I am looking to do.
  - 26. Reading outdoors — -perhaps more lounge chairs in the parks
  - 27. Snowshoe trails
  - 28. More hiking.
  - 29. Biking
  - 30. Kayaking launching
  - 31. Roller skating, place to do it
  - 32. Outside lawn games by the water
  - 33. Pickleball would be great if available. Some public places to do this would be wonderful. Also snowmobiling and horseback riding would be sweet.
  - 34. walk/run around a track or measured distance
  - 35. I would like to cycle more but its a little intimidating to start at 49 years old with how crazy the traffic is in town and no bike lanes.
  - 36. “I feel like I have good opportunities for doing the many activities that I enjoy. Hiking, biking, swimming, skiing, stand up paddle boarding.  
The Fish creek Old town all is a perfect space for dance and it was wonderful when we had a such a great dance program and classes. I suppose we do have the Y now for some of that. But the town hall was nicer esthetically , and the suspended wood floor is great for dancing.  
It was fun when the town had an ice rink down on the bay, but I think that ship has sailed as with global warming we are not getting long reliable freezing on the bay . I also think Sister Bay does a nice job and the towns don’t have to duplicate things. If we can support one nice rink in Northern Door, that’s good.”
  - 37. Pickle ball. Make equipment available for rental.
  - 38. “Relaxing. Not sure”
  - 39. Downhill skiing. A ski hill was in our community years ago, and it would be a great addition to bring one back that takes advantage of the hills created by the escarpment. This would be unique to Door County, and help bring in more winter tourism.
  - 40. Anxious for the Fish Creek Park development. More hiking and quietly enjoying the scenic views
  - 41. “I am very satisfied with what the town of Gibraltar offers.  
I could add that the major bicycle and walking events not go through the downtown streets like Main Street in Fish Creek. These streets are already crowded and dangerous.”
  - 42. No. I have access to do everything I want to do.
  - 43. Fishing, never have the time
  - 44. Pickleball - instructions how to play
  - 45. Walking
  - 46. Hiking groups, outdoor yoga or fitness classes
  - 47. Pickleball- are there any local courts?

- 48. Electric scooter
- 49. Covered in survey.
- 50. Pickleball
- 51. The ones I really want to do, I make sure I do them when I can.
- 52. Snowshoeing
- 53. Kayaking
- 54. Kayaking. Access to rentals.
- 55. cycling; better paved off-road trails
- 56. Drone flying
- 57. More hiking
- 58. Swimming for exercise
- 59. Pickle Ball. More courts.
- 60. Biking
- 61. Pickleball - add courts
- 62. A kayak launch would be great

**If you have visited a park in the Town of Gibraltar within the past year, how did you travel to the park(s)?**

- 1. Walking: 59.26%
- 2. Biking: 35.19%
- 3. Driving: 85.19%
- 4. Watercraft (boat, kayak, canoe, paddle board, etc.): 21.3%
- 5. Not applicable: 1.85%
- 6. Other: 1.85%
  - Snowmobile

**How far are you willing to travel to outdoor recreation spots/facilities, in general?**

- 1. 15 minutes or less: 23.15%
- 2. 30 minutes: 50%
- 3. 1 hour: 18.52%
- 4. 2 hours: 1.85%
- 5. 3 hours or more: 6.48%



**Please select which trails you utilized within the past year, in general:**

- 1. ATV/UTV trails: 7.41%
- 2. Snowmobile trails: 12.04%
- 3. Horse trails: 0.93%
- 4. Hiking trails: 70.37%
- 5. Biking trails: 50.93%
- 6. Cross-country skiing trails: 27.78%
- 7. Walking trails: 74.07%
- 8. I do not use the trails: 12.96%
- 9. Other: 1.85%
  - Used to snowmobile

**Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the ease of use and appearance of the Town’s parks?**

- 1. Very dissatisfied: 1.85%
- 2. Dissastisfied: 8.33%
- 3. Neutral: 24.07%
- 4. Satisfied: 41.67%
- 5. Very satisfied: 24.07%

**Do you have any access needs or disability accommodations?**

- 1. No: 94.44%
- 2. Yes: 5.56%

**Overall, how would you rate the ADA accessibility of the parks and recreation areas within the Town of Gibraltar?**

- 1. Not accommodating: 1.85%
- 2. Somewhat accommodating: 3.70%
- 3. Very accommodating: 0%

**If you answered the previous question as “not accommodating” or “somewhat accommodating,” do you have specific examples or suggestions for improvement?**

- 1. Maintain the trails
- 2. Wheel chairs cannot visit places with gravel or wood chips for paths.
- 3. Trail base very difficult to walk for people with balance issues, those needing canes, etc.
- 4. See above age is a factor , kayaking is a main activity, carrying a distance is no longer possible. We were told when the FISH CREEK BEACH was revamped there would be

sand easy access....never happened. The only age friendly access is across from the ranger station within peninsula State Park. Overflow parking. I was stopped from backing down to drop off our kayaks because it is considered illegal, my tax dollar at work ...not.

- 5. Many paths are very uneven for people walking with assistive devices.

**Overall, how safe do you feel in the Town’s parks?**

- 1. Very safe/no concerns: 91.67%
- 2. Somewhat safe: 6.48%
- 3. Unsafe: 1.85%

**If you answered “unsafe” or “somewhat safe,” how could the safety be improved within the park system?**

- 1. Not getting hit in the face with branches would improve safety for everyone.
- 2. The town needs to do a Pedestrian Accessibility Study. Cedar, Spruce and Maple streets have no sidewalks and each year I watch people walking down the middle of the streets sometimes pushing strollers and wheelchairs. That isn’t right and it’s an embarrassment to our town! Come on!
- 3. I don’t have an answer for this - I just am more safety concious as things are changing all over including in Door County.
- 4. Bridges in parks are old

**What age category do you fall into?**

- 1. Under 18 years old: 0%
- 2. 18-29 years old: 0.93%
- 3. 30-39 years old: 1.85%
- 4. 40-49 years old: 10.19%
- 5. 50-59 years old: 24.07%
- 6. 60-69 years old: 27.78%
- 7. 70+ years old: 30.56%
- 8. Prefer not to say: 4.63%

**Does anyone in your household fall into the following age ranges?**

- 1. Elementary school (5-10yrs): 8.33%
- 2. Middle school (11-13yrs): 6.48%
- 3. High school (14-18yrs): 7.41%
- 4. Post-high school (19-22yrs): 14.81%
- 5. Over 65 years old: 40.74%
- 6. Not applicable: 30.56%
- 7. Prefer not to say: 7.41%



**Do you have any other comments regarding recreational opportunities and/or facilities within the Town of Gibraltar?**

1. I am very excited about the extension of the Fish Creek park and the associated trail system connecting the upper and lower parts of town. If we can someday connect that trail system to other countywide trails to allow bikers to travel between towns without using the highways, that would be amazing. I grew up in Door County biking on all the county highways and backroads but it is much busier now, and I don't feel safe as an experienced biker, let alone in a group of mixed age/skill bikers. I'm terrified when I see tourist families with young kids biking through town on HWY 42 in summer. Having also lived in Madison where there is an extensive designated bike trail and bike lane network, I have seen how many people are willing to forego driving their cars everywhere when biking is safe and accessible.
2. I will mention again, as it no where on this survey, that public art should be considered part of the outdoor recreation and trail planning.
3. I think with our current board members and our current leaders on Parks and Lands, we should not invest in new ideas as our current ways of doing things are not family friendly.
4. Maybe consider maps of the trails especially with the new Redmond property :-)
5. Get with the trends. Create the recreational opportunities and not the desire of a few locals that don't want change.
6. We need to make improvements and also keep them natural and easy to maintain. Add trails and boardwalks and do it right on the front end with materials that will last a long time.
7. Love the events at Noble House Square during the summer
8. Would like to see more trees in parks for shade and secluded walking trails.
9. Wish there was a better map. I don't like to go hiking on trails that I don't know my way around. I don't want to get lost
10. "I prefer the parks to be self-sufficient, I'm tired of paying for other people's entertainment. BTW you are forcing answers to questions that aren't qualified. If I don't use parks, I don't travel any minutes to get to them etc, I don't need to comment on feeling safe but am forced to do so. C'mon, let's do better or at least let's have surveys make sense."
11. Turn off the lights! And clean up poop! And stop over building everything.
12. we don't need all this let people use the state park 1/4 mile away you people are so wasteful. you don't even take care of essential maintenance how do you plan to deal with all of this stuff get real! Blossomberg needs lots of work you don't take care of the things you have now. Get to work and take care of what we have you don't need anymore! You just make eyesores and don't listen to the community and people of what they want look what you did to the beach downtown with everything it's disgusting.
13. Many trails I walk and hike may not be accessible to those with limitations. It's nice to have places in nature where everyone can go with minimal tripping hazards and maneuverability
14. Don't change the character of the Town for a small fringe interest or for tourist wants at the expense of the Taxpayer and Nature. We don't need to be like everywhere else, nor do we

need to have what others, close by have. People who live in Town want everything within walking distance, but the majority of Town's people live outside of downtown and have to drive to the town's parks anyway, so they can just as easily drive to a neighboring town for an amenity we don't have. The more infrastructure there is the more maintenance, and employees will be needed as well.

15. Beach parking is not available
16. No but thank you for putting out this survey for the community.
17. Enjoy the snowmobile trails. Thanks
18. Public access and usage is very important to Door County's economy
19. Please leave snowmobile trails intact.
20. Keep the snowmobile trails open to the gas station.
21. "Cross country skiing listed twice. Another option that may be applicable would be ""have done but no interest"""
22. "Please pay attention to pedestrian accessibility in all town project development. Wheelchairs don't roll very well on chipped wood pathways!"
23. Less is more when it comes to creating parks with higher maintenance needs. Natural parks and paths are appreciated.
24. I think Fish Creek parks are very nice!
25. We are parents to two small children (0 and 3). Very appreciative of the town's efforts to retain the "charm" of our town, thank you!
26. "Expansion of recreational activities requires adequate parking (and signs). Fish Creek is handicapped by the proximity of the bluffs, more than other Northern Door Communities. I don't have a solution other than to make parking available above the bluff for bikes, hikes, skiing, snowmobiling, etc. and to include access to the trails from there. The survey says I don't have to answer the question about how safe I feel in the parks but it wouldn't let me submit the survey without answering it. Since I don't use the parks, my answer should be null."
27. Thank you for asking!
28. Visitors and residents are always looking for something to do. You build it and someone will use it.
29. As a taxpayer on 1 home & 2 businesses in Fish Creek I hope & pray that you think of us and try your hardest to be fiscally responsible on endeavors. I do not think the Redman property needs a shelter, flush toilets or a well. Outdoor enthusiasts are hearty souls & can figure it out! Thank you
30. I'd like to see the new waterfront property developed with users in mind - no parking lot
31. No, but I am happy you are doing this survey.
32. Continue updating and expanding Fish Creek Park
33. "The town beach needs to allow leashed dogs so that the geese will go away. Even if 2 people a day don't pick up after their dog it's better than goose poo everywhere. It's unlikely folks wouldn't pick up after their dog however due to the fact that everyone is watching! Also Noble square park needs to be better maintained. Been saying it for years and things have improved somewhat but there are always twigs and branches everywhere and it



- needs to be mowed regularly so they don't make hay when they do mow.  
 Town beach needs to switch to dark sky lighting.  
 Need a couple succinct signs around town letting people know about the beautiful trails behind the post office.  
 Gondola coming down from the bluff! I know it sounds crazy but all good ideas start out that way. What an amazing view/ride it would be. Could divert parking to top of bluff. Could attach bikes to side of Gondola. Could have a halfway down stop for picnicking. Could be a good source of revenue for the town."
34. "What immediately comes to mind is please stop with maintaining the lawns with herbicides and pesticides. We need to change our mentality about the darn green grass. Isn't it more important for our children and pets to be able to safe on the lawn than to have this boring , destructive, green, monoculture? To say nothing of the birds and the bees and the bugs. We need those bugs if we are going to survive on this planet. And what about the run off and leeching into the bay. Wouldn't we rather have people be able to swim and fish than a green lawn?  
 The town should be providing a model for this community . Stop with the chemicals!"
35. So sorry that you weren't able to stop the housing on the ridge of the Settlement property. There were such nice trails and woods on the ridge.
36. "I am happy you are doing this survey but as always for me, controlling government spending is my biggest concern. The \$ being spent by the school district drives me crazy. It is too easy to spend other people's money,"
37. Downhill skiing. A ski hill was in our community years ago, and it would be a great addition to bring one back that takes advantage of the hills created by the escarpment. This would be unique to Door County, and help bring in more winter tourism, and stabilize additional year round jobs and activity.
38. Thanks and keep up the good work!
39. Finishing up the newly purchased areas of Fish Creek park. Finishing trails, parking lot off Choke Cherry Ln and I think a dog park would get lots of use.
40. Please keep the NATURAL appearance of Fish creek/ Gibraltar. Stop the unnecessary tree cutting....we don't want a modern suburb appearance.
41. kill the geese.
42. It upsets me when there are so many unsightly educational signs on trails and all trails are so wide , covered by ugly n white gravel and tons of trees are cut to put them in. Please !!!leave some natural and minimal damage and disruption of nature.
43. It would be great to have more parking, but realize there just isn't space. Consider allowing electric scooter for people to get around.
44. Why can Sister Bay & Sevastapol have tennis courts & Gibraltar cannot? Partner with adjacent communities??
45. Use the Kinsey property wisely. Keep it natural, with an uninterrupted view of the waterfront. Do not add structures to that small land area that would restrict views and appreciation of the harbor's beauty.
46. Keep the town quaint and historic
47. Thank you for the effort

48. Needs more public water access. More green spaces. More trails. More natural views of creek. Stop wasting time on old trees and start planting for future. Stop listening to a few people and do what is right for the long term future.
49. I would hope that the parks are a way to encourage outdoor activities in a positive healthy manner. Physical activities, etc. Noise is a major concern as you look to the future. UTV/ATV have no place in the parks. I have seen what they have done to communities in northern WI and there impact is a negative. They have gone to these for revenue generation, Door County has plenty of revenue from the tourist. Please have no consideration of these vehicles in any future plans. I would like to see all plans spell out that these vehicles will be prohibited in all park systems (and on the roads).
50. Indoor exercise facility / fitness center would be nice
51. I would like to see both boat launches kept in the plan for the new waterfront. There is definitely a need for the East launch - great for launching smaller watercraft, helps alleviate traffic jams by the West launch, is needed in emergency situations when the West launch is needed for emergency use.



*Visitor Survey - 13 responses - Any skipped, not applicable, or no answers were omitted*

**Please select the option that best describes how you generally spend your time in Door County:**

- 1. Frequent visitor, multiple times per year (non-resident): 69.23%
- 2. Annual visitor, once per year (non-resident): 15.38%
- 3. First time visitor: 7.69%
- 4. Other: 7.69%
  - Full time resident of other Door County community

**How many times per year do you visit the Town of Gibraltar? This includes the unincorporated areas of Fish Creek, Juddville, and Chambers Island.**

- 1. Once every few years: 0%
- 2. Once per year: 15.38%
- 3. A few times per year: 15.38%
- 4. Monthly: 30.77%
- 5. Weekly: 38.46%

**How long do you usually stay when you visit the Town of Gibraltar/Fish Creek?**

- 1. Half-day: 46.15%
- 2. Full-day (overnight): 0%
- 3. Weekend: 30.77%
- 4. Week: 15.38%
- 5. A few weeks: 7.69%
- 6. One month: 0%
- 7. More than one month: 0%

**Please select which season(s) you most frequently visit in:**

- 1. Winter: 84.62%
- 2. Spring: 61.54%
- 3. Summer: 84.62%
- 4. Fall: 84.62%

**When you visit Door County, do you typically stay in the Town of Gibraltar? This includes Fish Creek, Juddville, and Chambers Island.**

- 1. No: 46.15%
- 2. Yes: 38.46%
- 3. Other: 15.38%
  - Friends
  - Brussels

**Please select the type of accommodation you are currently staying in or prefer to stay in when visiting:**

- 1. Hotel/motel: 7.69%
- 2. AirBnb, Vrbo, or vacation rental: 0%
- 3. Campground (recreational vehicle, camper, or tent): 0%
- 4. Other: 92.31%
  - Ephraim
  - I live in a different municipality
  - I stay in Sturgeon Bay
  - Live in Brussels
  - I live in door county near Carlsville and i have poeple in the fish creek area
  - Second home in Egg Harbor
  - Condo
  - Prefer not to say
  - Condo owner
  - Condo
  - Own property in Juddville
  - Family home

**Where do you prefer to stay?**

- 1. White Gull Inn: 7.69%

**Within the past year, how often did you visit a park or recreation area in the Town of Gibraltar?**

- 1. Never: 0%
- 2. Occasionally: 46.15%
- 3. Monthly: 23.08%
- 4. Weekly: 30.77%
- 5. Daily: 0%



**To your best knowledge, please select any parks you have visited before within the Town of Gibraltar:**

- 1. Cemeteries: 46.15%
- 2. Chambers Island Lighthouse Park: 30.77%
- 3. Champagne Rock Park: 30.77%
- 4. Clark Park: 46.15%
- 5. Community (Town) Center: 15.38%
- 6. Fish Creek Park: 69.23%
- 7. Fish Creek Public Beach: 100%
- 8. Noble Square: 53.85%
- 9. Old Town Hall: 53.85%
- 10. Spruce Park: 30.77%
- 11. Sunset Beach Park: 84.62%
- 12. Ula Park: 92.31%
- 13. Volleyball Courts: 7.69%
- 14. Waterfront Park: 84.62%
- 15. I have not visited any: 0%
- 16. I'm not sure which park(s) I visited: 7.69%
- 17. Other: 0%

**Please tell us your favorite park to visit in the Town of Gibraltar and/or its surrounding communities:**

- 1. Chambers island
- 2. LOVE Noble Square for its history and uniqueness
- 3. Nice and Clean beaches and waterfront
- 4. Snowmobile trails
- 5. Waterfront park is our favorite.
- 6. Peninsula Park; Biking trails, snowmobiling trails walking and hiking trails
- 7. Peninsula state park
- 8. Probably Peninsula.
- 9. Fish creek park for the trails.
- 10. Penninsula state park- we visit to run/walk/swim/kayak/paddleboard/ dog walk/bike and x country ski.
- 11. Sunset
- 12. Sunset beach to watch the water any time of day

**What park do you visit the least in the Town of Gibraltar and why?**

- 13. Peninsula state park
- 14. The cemetery - no real reason. Just have never been there. Never thought of it as a park
- 15. Beaches and waterfront and snowmobile trails when open
- 16. All without snowmobile trails
- 17. Ula. Just have not been there.
- 18. Ula, minimal parking available
- 19. It's just great
- 20. Volley Ball
- 21. chambers island
- 22. The smaller parks within Gibraltar because we typically are looking for longer trails or safe areas to engage in other sports so parks are too small and we have to travel busy roads to get to them.
- 23. spruce...not familiar with
- 24. Chambers island park. Not easily accessible

**Who do you typically recreate with when visiting parks in the area?**

- 1. Alone: 30.77%
- 2. Immediate family: 84.62%
- 3. Extended family: 30.77%
- 4. Friends: 76.92%
- 5. Your dog(s): 61.54%
- 6. It varies: 7.69%
- 7. Other: 0%

**In terms of parks and outdoor recreation, what activity or facility type is currently not available in the Town of Gibraltar that you would like to see if possible?**

Snowmobiling. Would love new trails if possible outside of the park.

- 1. No idea. There is a lot available here
- 2. Snowmobiling
- 3. We are avid snowmobilers. Please keep the trails open in Gibraltar.
- 4. None, try and stay quaint.
- 5. pickleball courts
- 6. Bike paths, connected trails
- 7. horticulture gardens



Is there any outdoor recreation activity that you would like to start doing, or do more often? If yes, please list what activity, and what could help you do this?

- 8. Again, already do what I like to do
- 9. More snow
- 10. We would like to snowmobile more in Door County.
- 11. Snowmobile
- 12. Biking..wish there was safer path from White Gull Inn to Peninsula state park
- 13. Pickleball. Need info on entry level matches

If you have visited a park in the Town of Gibraltar within the past year, how did you travel to the park(s)?

- 1. Walking: 30.77%
- 2. Biking: 15.38%
- 3. Driving: 61.54%
- 4. Watercraft (boat, kayak, canoe, paddle board, etc.): 30.77%
- 5. Not applicable: 0%
- 6. Other: 30.77%
  - Snowmobile

How far are you willing to travel to outdoor recreation spots/facilities, in general?

- 1. 15 minutes or less: 15.38%
- 2. 30 minutes: 23.08%
- 3. 1 hour: 30.77%
- 4. 2 hours: 7.69%
- 5. 3 hours or more: 23.08%

Please rank your general level of participation and interest in the following outdoor activities:

- 1. See Table 1.2

TABLE 1.2: VISITOR RESPONSES, GENERAL LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION AND INTEREST

Activity	Frequently	Occassionally	Never; interested	Never; no interest
Leisure Walking / Strolling	61.54%	23.08%	0.00%	0.00%
Dog Walking	30.77%	38.46%	0.00%	15.38%
Hiking	30.77%	38.46%	0.00%	7.69%
Biking	30.77%	23.08%	0.00%	30.77%
Horseback Riding	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	46.15%
Cross-Country Skiing	0.00%	46.15%	0.00%	30.77%
ATVing / UTVing	7.69%	7.69%	15.38%	53.85%
Snowmobiling	53.85%	23.08%	15.38%	7.69%
Boating / Jetskiing	38.46%	53.85%	0.00%	0.00%
Kayaking / Canoeing	23.08%	30.77%	0.00%	23.08%
Swimming	30.77%	30.77%	0.00%	15.38%
Fishing	15.38%	38.46%	0.00%	23.08%
Retreat	7.69%	15.38%	7.69%	46.15%
Camping	0.00%	30.77%	7.69%	38.46%
Foraging	0.00%	15.38%	15.38%	46.15%
Organized Sports	0.00%	23.08%	7.69%	46.15%
Golfing	7.69%	46.15%	0.00%	30.77%
Disc Golfing	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%	69.23%
Pickleball / Tennis	15.38%	15.38%	7.69%	38.46%
Scenic Driving	61.54%	15.38%	0.00%	7.69%
Bird and Wildlife Watching	38.46%	46.15%	0.00%	7.69%
Snow Shoeing	7.69%	38.46%	7.69%	23.08%
Educational Opportunities	0.00%	46.15%	15.38%	15.38%
Geocaching	0.00%	7.69%	15.38%	53.85%
Rock Climbing	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	76.92%
Picnicking	7.69%	53.85%	7.69%	7.69%
Nature Photography	7.69%	38.46%	15.38%	23.08%

Source: Bay-Lake RPC, 2025.



**Please select which trails you utilized within the past year, in general:**

- 1. ATV/UTV trails: 15.48%
- 2. Snowmobile trails: 69.23%
- 3. Horse trails: 0%
- 4. Hiking trails: 69.23%
- 5. Biking trails: 38.46%
- 6. Cross-country skiing trails: 15.38%
- 7. Walking trails: 76.92%
- 8. I do not use the trails: 0%
- 9. Other: 0%

**Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the ease of use and appearance of the Town’s parks?**

- 1. Very dissatisfied: 0%
- 2. Dissastisfied: 0%
- 3. Neutral: 15.38%
- 4. Satisfied: 46.15%
- 5. Very satisfied: 38.46%

**Overall, how safe do you feel in the Town’s parks?**

- 1. Very safe/no concerns: 100%

**Do you have any access needs or disability accommodations?**

- 1. No: 100%

**What age category do you fall into?**

- 1. Under 18 years old: 0%
- 2. 18-29 years old: 0%
- 3. 30-39 years old: 0%
- 4. 40-49 years old: 0%
- 5. 50-59 years old: 30.77%
- 6. 60-69 years old: 46.15%
- 7. 70+ years old: 15.38%
- 8. Prefer not to say: 7.69%

**Does anyone in your household fall into the following age ranges?**

- 1. Elementary school (5-10yrs): 7.69%
- 2. Middle school (11-13yrs): 7.69%
- 3. High school (14-18yrs): 7.69%
- 4. Post-high school (19-22yrs): 23.08%
- 5. Over 65 years old: 38.46%
- 6. Not applicable: 23.08%
- 7. Prefer not to say: 15.38%

**Do you have any other comments regarding recreational opportunities and/or facilities within the Town of Gibraltar?**

- 1. If your going to add a trail, please consider adding snowmobile to that trail.
- 2. Please keep, maintain, and enjoy the snowmobile trails.
- 3. Great to visit!

**When you visit the Town of Gibraltar/Fish Creek, do you primarily visit Peninsula State Park?**

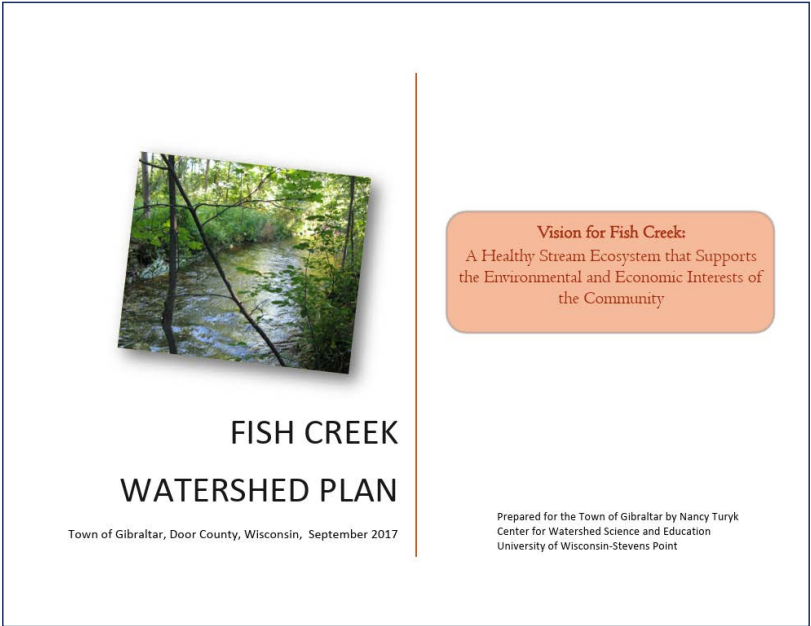
- 1. Yes, I like to visit Peninsula State Park, but I will visit other parks of Fish Creek and the Town of Gibraltar, too: 100%



APPENDIX B  
RELATED TOWN PLANS

UWSP Fish Creek Watershed Plan (2017)

This document is housed on the Town of Gibraltar’s website, found here:  
<https://gibraltarwi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Fish-Creek-Watershed-Plan-FINAL.pdf>



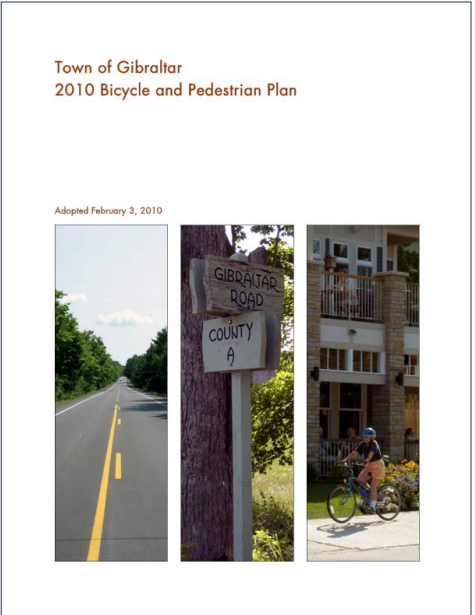
Waterfront Master Plan (2016)

This document is housed on the Town of Gibraltar’s website, found here:  
<https://gibraltarwi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Fish-Creek-Waterfront-Master-Plan-FINAL-P1.pdf>



Town of Gibraltar 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

This document is housed on the Town of Gibraltar’s website, found here:  
<https://townofgibraltar.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Gibraltar-Bike-and-Pedestrian-Plan.pdf>



Town of Gibraltar Comprehensive Plan

This document was prepared by Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission and is hosted on their website, found here:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P9\\_rxSfI3efZ1FMI8TdFSpSOTpsZAcLm/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P9_rxSfI3efZ1FMI8TdFSpSOTpsZAcLm/view?usp=drive_link)

