

Downtown



The Delafield Fish Hatchery is on the National Register of Historic Buildings and anchors the downtown parks

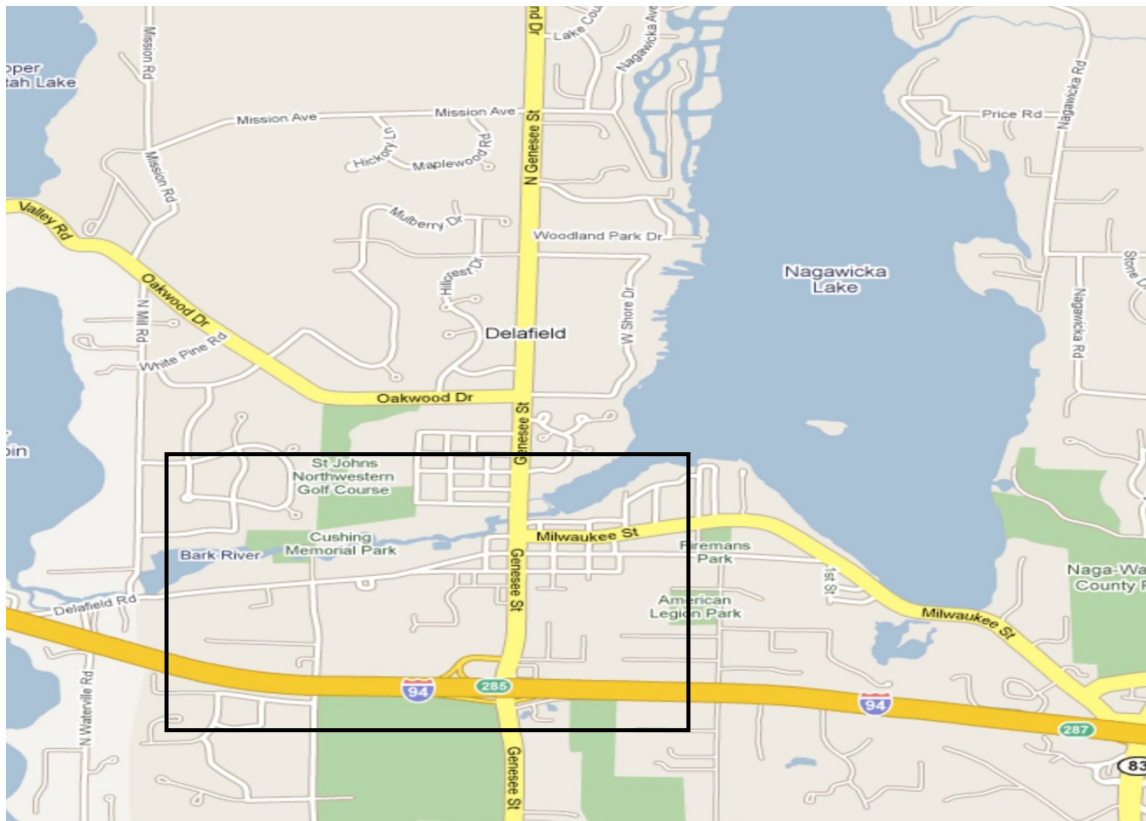
DOWNTOWN AREA

An important feature of the City of Delafield is the existence of a clearly defined and distinctive downtown area. This area serves as a hub for cultural, social, commercial, and tourist activities in Delafield. As a result the parks, trails, and recreation activities in The Downtown go beyond the usual uses and often serve to draw residents and visitors. Because of this, the Downtown will receive specific attention in this plan.

This section will describe the existing park and recreation facilities in The Downtown area and make recommendations for improvement and expansion where appropriate.

DOWNTOWN DEFINED

The Delafield Downtown can be roughly defined as the area between Cushing Road & Park in the West, North Lapham Peak Road in the East, I94 on the South side, and Oakwood Drive on the North.



EXISTING FACILITIES

City of Delafield

The Downtown area includes a number of existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities, some of which are owned and maintained by non-City entities but available to residents and visitors:

Parks

- Cushing Memorial Park – location of Fort Cushing, an extensive play fort for children, and a soccer practice field. Due to its location, this park is not well known to area residents.
- Fish Hatchery Sports Facility - a softball and soccer field, two volleyball courts, a children's play area, as well as a covered picnic area
- St.John's Park – picnic area as well as the newly installed fishing pier
- Fireman's Park – softball field, basketball court, children's play area, and covered picnic area
- American Legion Park (owned by the Delafield American Legion) – softball fields and covered picnic area

Trails

- Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Walk
- Lake Country Trail
- Ice Age Trail

Recreation Facilities

- Delafield Fish Hatchery
- Delafield Public Library
- St.John's Academy Golf Course (owned by SJNMA)
- Bleeker Street Boat Ramp
- Oak Street Nagawicka Lake Access
- Hawks Inn

Note that the Delafield Public Library will be rebuilt in 2010 on the existing site and that the new facility will include a small park area facing Genesee Street.

Also note that the City of Delafield owns land on the North side of the Bark River between the U.S Post Office and SJNMA that is currently undeveloped. This land may, in the future, be designated for park and recreation use.

As can be seen from this list, the Downtown area has a significant number of existing parks. In addition, the area can easily be accessed from the East via the Lake Country Trail and from the South via the Ice Age and Cushing Road trails. There is currently no trail access to the Downtown from the North. In addition, as discussed in the Trails section of this report, many of the trails that pass through Downtown are not marked in the downtown area and are often coincident with city streets.



MAINTENANCE

Several existing Downtown area facilities are in need of maintenance:

Cushing Park: the Fort Cushing play facility was built with a combination of natural wood and man-made materials. Although the wood was pre-treated, it requires a periodic re-treatment with wood preservative in order to extend the life of the facility. This re-treatment is overdue, and should be scheduled for 2010. In addition, the facility should be examined for graffiti monthly during the summer and steps taken to remove it or to cover up.

Garbage and Recycling: Delafield Park and Recreation has been proactive in providing recyclable disposal cans in addition to normal trash cans. However, park users are currently placing a large amount of trash in the recycling containers. While the trash and recycling receptacles are both marked as such, the two are otherwise identical. One suggestion to aid in differentiating the two would be to paint the recycling containers a different color (such as blue).

GOALS

Goals for parks, trails, and recreation facilities in the Downtown are focused on increased access and increased recreational activities

1. Provide trail access to downtown from the North side of Delafield.
2. Provide greater integration of the existing paths and trails in the Downtown area to provide complete access throughout the city center.
3. As a destination or stopover point, appropriate bike parking should be provided. Multiple parking sites should be identified around the Downtown and bike parking installed.
4. Identify a use for the vacant land north of the Bark River. Any use should serve to draw residents and visitors to the downtown area. Some suggestions for usage include an outdoor amphitheatre. Because of the location which is adjacent to SJNMA it may be possible to jointly develop the site, with the goal of sharing costs and increasing site usage.
5. Develop a plan to increase organized recreational activities at existing facilities. This could include programs that
 - make use of the parks, the Fish Hatchery, and non-city facilities such as St. John's Golf Course
 - are focused on different demographic groups (seniors, children, ...)
 - are available in different seasons
 - are run in partnership with local business and organizations (Hawks Inn, craft businesses, local restaurants)

SUMMARY

In Summary, for the purposes of a 5 year plan for the development of downtown park land, we suggest that the land that lies behind the WVMR that was formally used as a brush dump has a natural topography that would lend itself well to some type of amphitheater or other gathering space for community events. It is clear from the block party and the recent 50th Anniversary Celebration for Delafield that this type of community gathering space would be a natural fit for that empty land. In addition, there might an opportunity in the future for some reciprocal agreement with St. John's and the use of their adjoining land, so that both St. John's and the city could benefit from that space.