



Trails

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*The Recreational Trail along Cushing Park road has been a successful addition to the city*

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## TRAILS, PATHS, ROUTES AND CONNECTORS

Citizen input pointed to trails, paths, bike routes, and other non-motorized paths as the most appreciated and most desired amenities in the city. This strategic plan recommends a steady improvement and expansion of the trail system for the City.

The City of Delafield has a good base of existing trails, and is near a much larger network of inter-urban, county, and state trails. This section will outline the current trails that are available, current plans for expanding trails, and outline efforts that should be made in the next planning period.

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## PRIORITIES AND PLANNING AREAS

Trails and paths are planned in an integrated and comprehensive fashion. The priorities for adopting plans for trails and paths are:

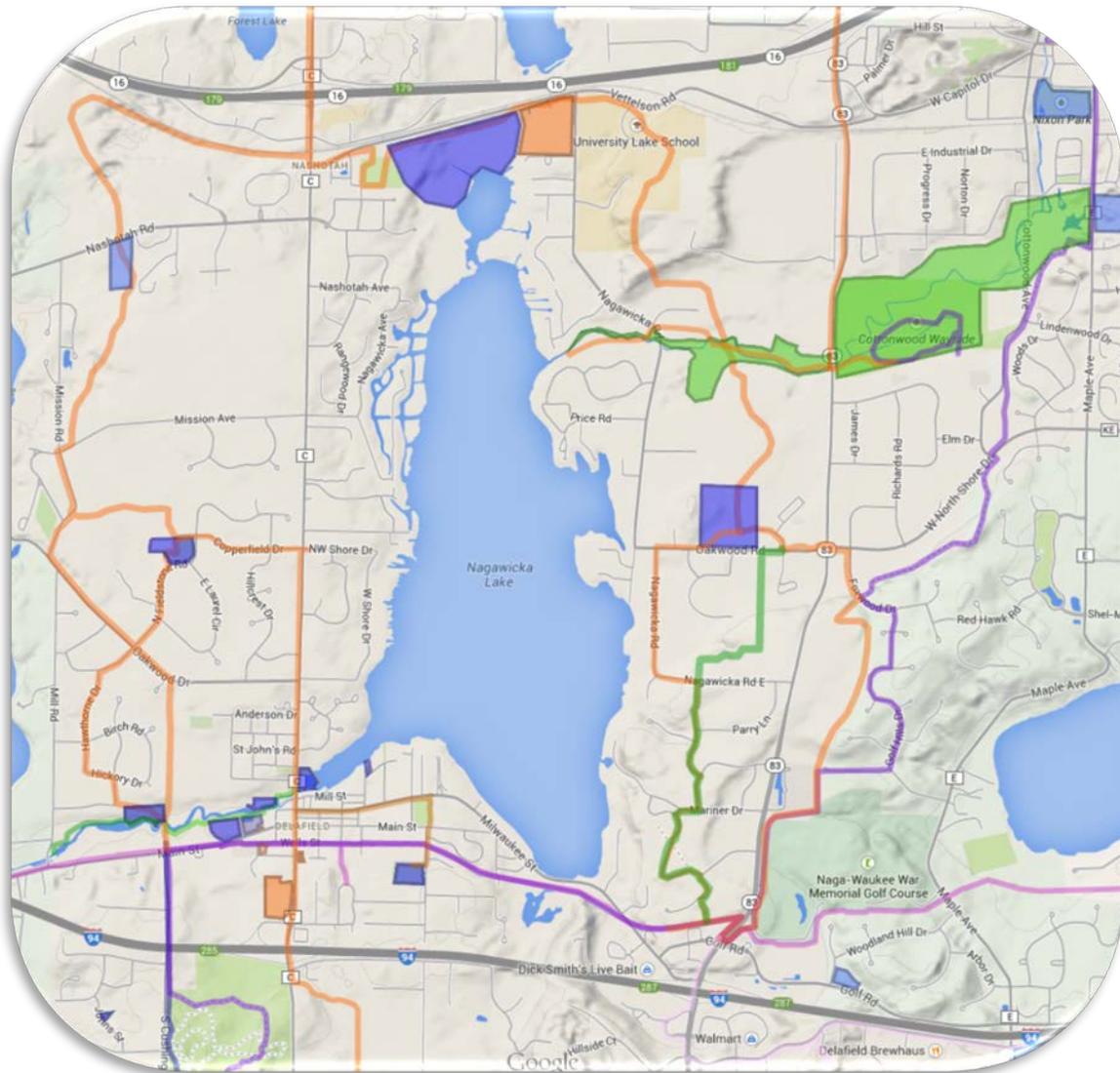
1. Provide a safe method for citizens to walk, bike, and hike in and around Delafield. Wherever possible, motorized and non-motorized activities should be separated.
2. Provide connections between destinations. Trails should connect neighborhoods to destinations, and destinations to destinations.
3. Provide enjoyment, relaxation, and recreation that is fun and interesting
4. Expand access and usage
5. Complement existing neighborhood character
6. Include water based trails for boating and canoeing in planning

The planning areas are divided into several areas of focus. Each area is discussed, and recommendations made. The planning areas are:

1. Historic Downtown
2. Northeast Quadrant of the city
3. West Side of the city
4. Northwest Quadrant of the city
5. South of I-94
6. Bark River and Nagawicka Lake
7. Connections

## OVERVIEW AND TRAIL PLANNING CONCEPTS

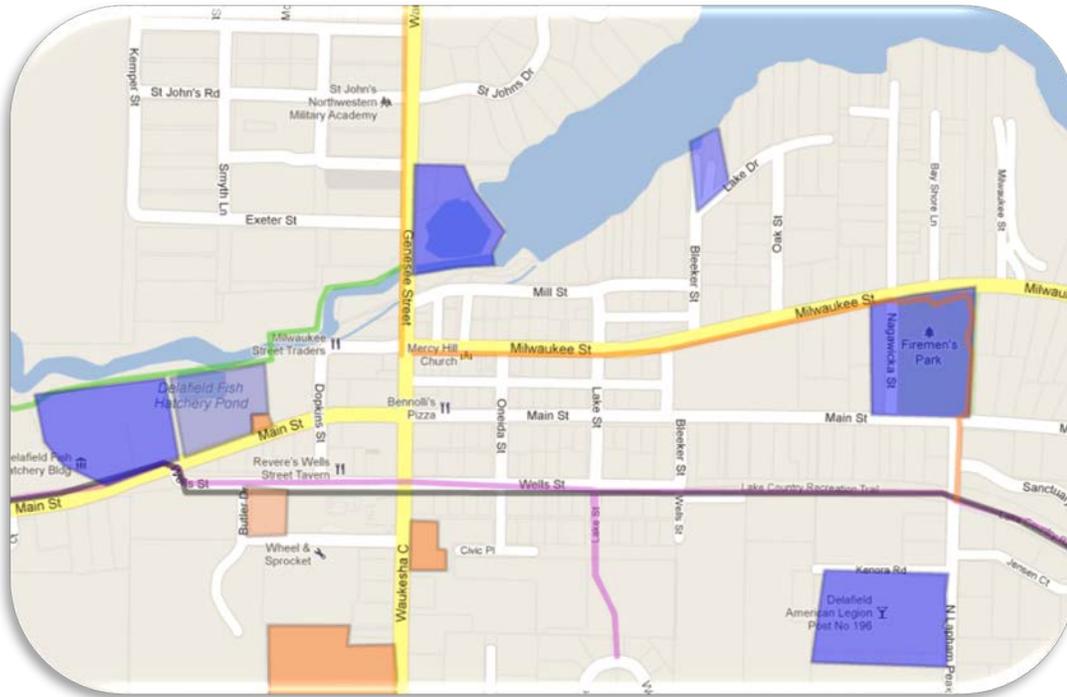
The master plan for trails, paths, routes and connections has multiple purposes. The individual areas of planning combine to form the overall master trail plan for the city of Delafield. The maps included in this section are a generalized outline of the location of trails. It is not an official planning map, and is provided for illustration purposes only. The orange and red lines are existing and proposed trails. The blue/purple line is the approximate path of the ice age hiking trail, and the lake country recreation trail. The green line is the proposed Naga-Oakwood Connector. Connect to [Google Maps \[Click Here\]](#) for an unofficial interactive map.



[<CLICK HERE for interactive map>](#)

## HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

This planning area focuses on downtown Delafield. The downtown has several existing parks, and multiple commercial destinations. It serves as the crossroads for not only Delafield’s trail system, but for regional trails such as the lake country recreation trail. The downtown is the home of many community / special events, and citizens would benefit from trail access to these events.



Historically the city has had limited off-road paths (trail, sidewalk) along the busy downtown streets. Even the lake country recreation trail “disappears”, and citizens use roads or sidewalks to follow the route until the off road trail resumes on the other side of the downtown. The neighborhoods along Milwaukee and main street have limited or no off road access to parks or the downtown. The neighborhoods to the north have a similar situation.

One of the bright spots for access to trails in the downtown is the Veterans Memorial River Walk.

## GOALS AND PRIORITIES

**Goal for this planning area:** Provide robust, safe access for citizens to reach downtown destinations, and easy to navigate, safe passage for citizens transiting the downtown.

- Develop the Lake Country Recreational Trail through downtown as a completely off road trail
  - The preferred route is along Wells street
  - Where possible, expansion of the existing sidewalk should be utilized
  - As part of the development occurring in this area, a connector starting at Lake street should be added (and is currently planned)
- Develop a sidewalk/bike path from the downtown to Fireman’s park along Milwaukee Street, then south through Fireman’s park to the lake country trail.
  - Allows for safe access to downtown from neighborhood north of Milwaukee street
  - Should be developed in conjunction with the repaving of Milwaukee Street.
- Develop an off road path north from the downtown to Copperfield Drive.
  - Allows safe access to downtown from the neighborhoods north of downtown on Genesee Street
  - Allows for safe access along Genesee to and from St. John’s Northwestern Military Academy
  - Should be developed in conjunction with the repaving of Genesee Street, and the replacement of the bridge downtown over the bark river.

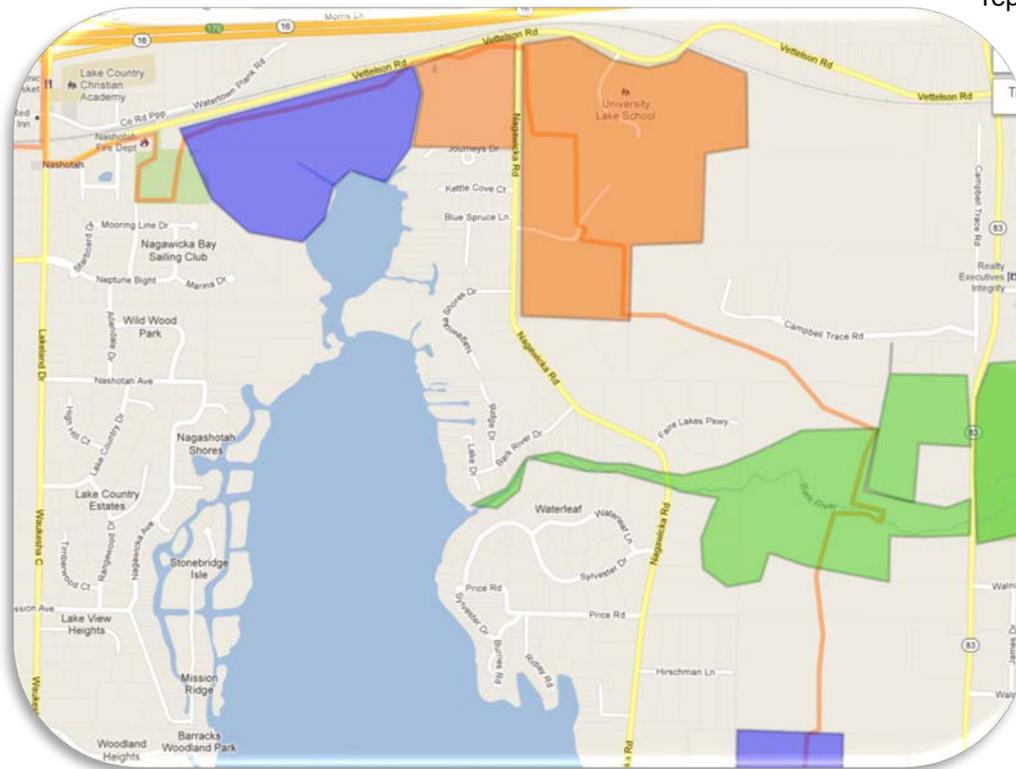
## City of Delafield

- Trail will be connected at the trail head of the Veteran's memorial river walk.

### NORTHEAST QUADRANT OF THE CITY

This planning area focuses on the northeast quadrant of the city. A trail system is largely not developed in this area yet, so the goals and priorities should be used as a guides as the area of the city is developed.

The Lois Jensen nature Preserve has a network of walking / hiking trails. The trail system is connected to Lake Country School on the east side, and the Village of Nashotah Dickton Park on the west side. The trails are used heavily by the school as a nature center to support academic activity. In the winter the park is used by ice fisherman for access to the Nagawicka Lake. Two parking areas have been added in recent years to provide better access to the nature preserve. The nature preserve is represented in blue on the following map.



The area to the east of Nagawicka Road is primarily farm land. In addition, University Lake School is at the north end of the planning area, and Oakwood Community Park is at the south end (in blue on the map). The Bark River bisects the farm land, and the county has designated a conservancy zone on either side of it. The city park planning map shows a 4 acre park to be developed within the area of the Bark River Conservancy near Route 83. Trail planning for this area should take each of these destinations into consideration.

### GOALS AND PRIORITIES

**Goal for this planning area:** Provide off road, multi-use trails connecting the destinations in this quadrant that ultimately connect to other trails in Delafield.

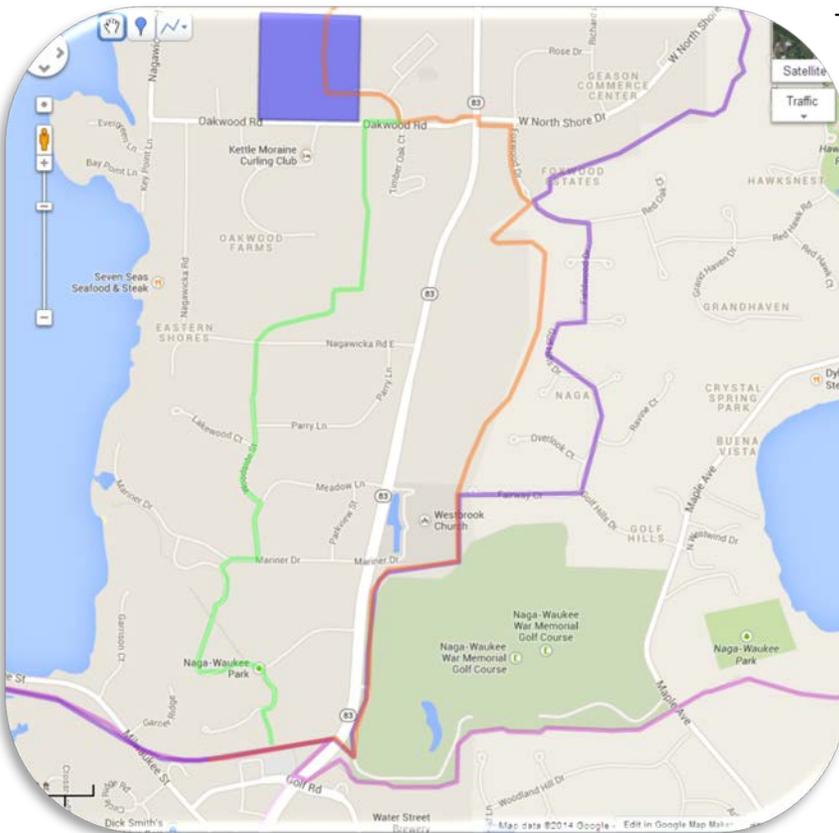
- Since most of the area is farmland, and yet to be developed, make sure that the intent of the city is communicated to potential developers. The goal of trails in this area are to connect the following destinations:
  - Oakwood community park
  - Proposed city park near the Bark River and Highway 83
  - Bark River green space
  - University Lake School
  - Lake Country School

## City of Delafield

- Lois Jensen Nature Preserve
- Dickton park in Nashotah
- Create a nature path along the Bark River, extending the nature path that already exists in the Ice Age Wetland of Hartland. This path should extend from Hartland to the Bark River entrance to Nagawicka Lake.
  - This plan for a future path is documented in Waukesha country's trail planning.
- Coordinate with the Village of Nashotah for trails that connect from Lois Jensen, through Dickton Park and downtown Nashotah to the City of Delafield Northwest Quadrant.

### WEST SIDE OF THE CITY

The dominant destinations on the west side of Delafield are Naga-Waukee Park, and the Commercial shopping areas on Golf road. Additional destinations are Oakwood Park to the north, and Lake Country Recreation Trail leading to downtown Delafield to the west. The connection from downtown to Naga-Waukee and the commercial area are provided by the Lake Country Recreational trail.



The Ice Age Trail also passes through this area, and makes use of city and county trails before transitioning to Town of Delafield streets in Foxwood estates.

The neighborhood to the north of Naga-Waukee park is well developed, with no open land that can be used for an off road park. The area does have a horse trail running through it, but there is **not** a desire by the neighbors or the commission to mix bi-directional traffic made up of horses, walkers, and bikers. As a result, the commission does not see a possible of connection trails through this area.

There is the possibility of creating a trail path along the eastern border of the City and Town of Delafield along an undeveloped tract of land (shown in orange on the map). This trail could then be leveraged for the city trail, and as an off road path for the ice age trail.

The city also believes a path on the west side of Hwy 83 will be valuable. The path would be partially on and partially off road (in green).

### GOALS AND PRIORITIES

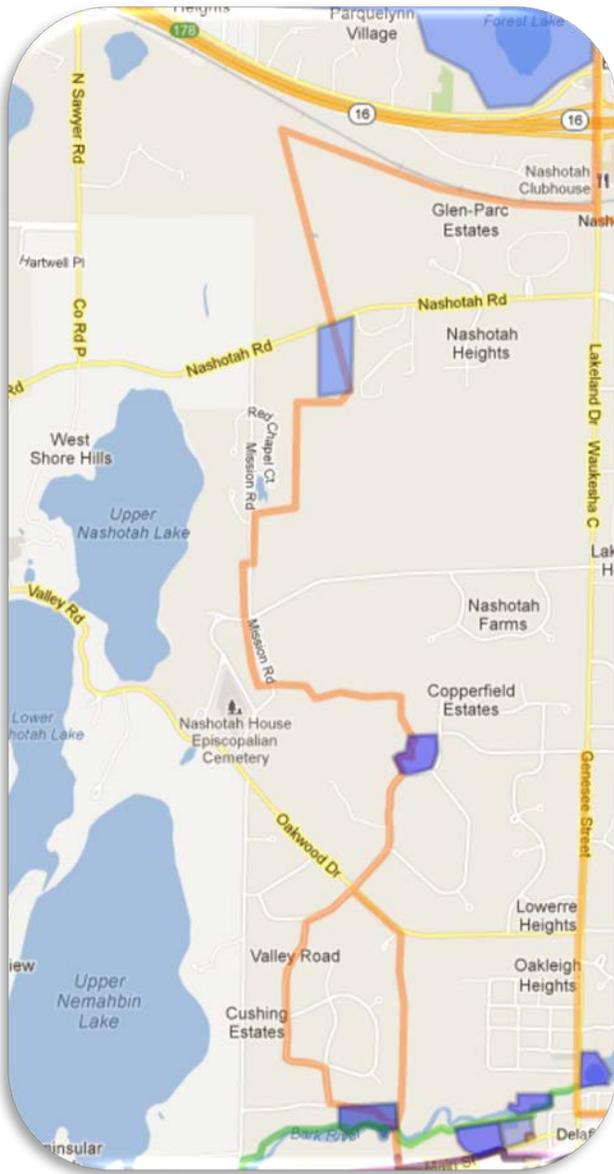
**Goal for this planning area:** Connect key destinations with off road trails.

- Explore the possibility of connecting Naga-Waukee park (and the Lake Country Recreation Trail) to Oakwood community park by an off road path on the Eastern border of the City of Delafield, and the town of Delafield.

## City of Delafield

- Utilize this same path for the Ice Age Trail
- This trail would support any commercial or residential development that occurs in the parcel between highway 83 and the border of the city.
- Preserve the neighborhood horse trails for their intended purpose.

### NORTHWEST QUADRANT OF THE CITY



The northwest quadrant of the city is mostly undeveloped farm land, so plans for trails should be viewed as conceptual and for planning purposes. At the south end, this planning area starts with Cushing Memorial Park, and at the north end this planning area ends with a route through an undeveloped area that will eventually be a residential neighborhood. It is envisioned that the trail will connect with trails through Nashotah at the north end.

Important destinations in this planning area are:

- Nashotah House
- Bostrom Park
- St. Joan of Arc church and school
- St. John's Northwestern Military Academy
- Cushing Memorial Park
- A proposed city park near Nashotah Road

### GOALS AND PRIORITIES

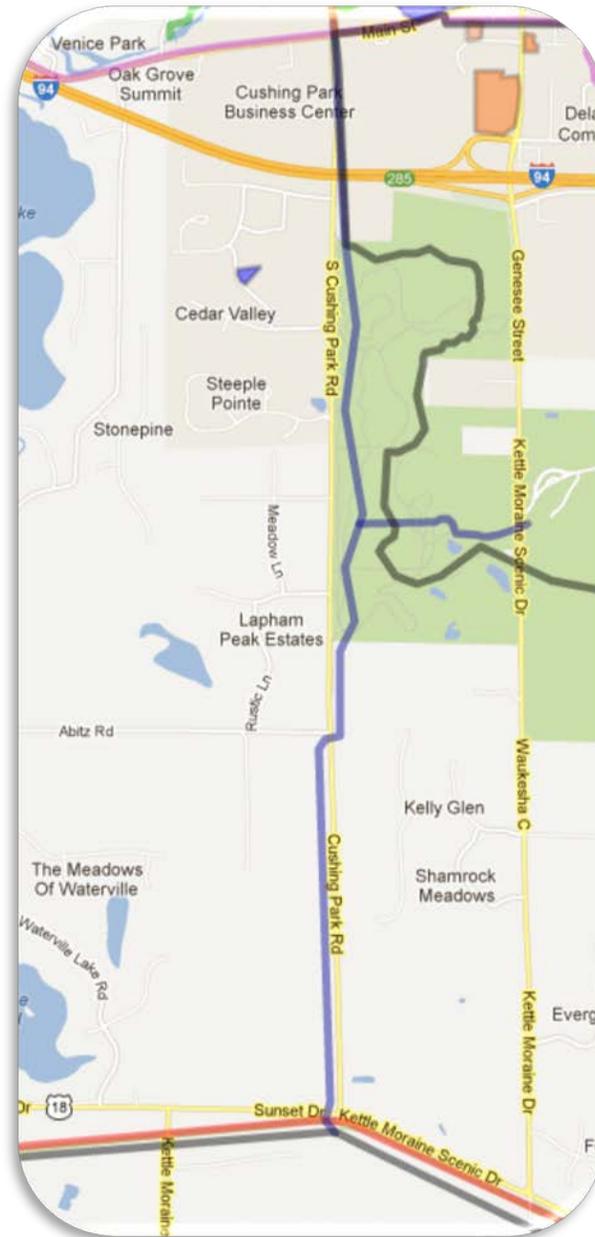
**Goal for this planning area:** Connect important destinations and establish a clear intent for future developers of current farmland.

- Provide signage for an on road bike path between Cushing Park and Bostrom Park through the Valley Road subdivision. Provide a bike path within the boundaries of Cushing Park.
- Continue to explore a primarily off road path to connect Cushing Park and Bostrom through St. John's Northwestern Military academy. As the academy develops additional facilities and plans, make sure that the city's desire is known.
- As the land between Bostrom Park and Nashotah road is developed, ensure that developers are aware of the city's plan to include off road trails in those plans.
- Work with Nashotah house on plans for including access to and through the seminary for off road trails.

SOUTH OF I-94

This planning was completed with the opening of the Cushing Park Road Recreational Trail that connects the Lake Country Recreational trail to the Glacial Drumlin Trail and Lapham Peak State Park. While no data has been documented, the trail is used extensively. It is used at all times of day, evening, and even night.

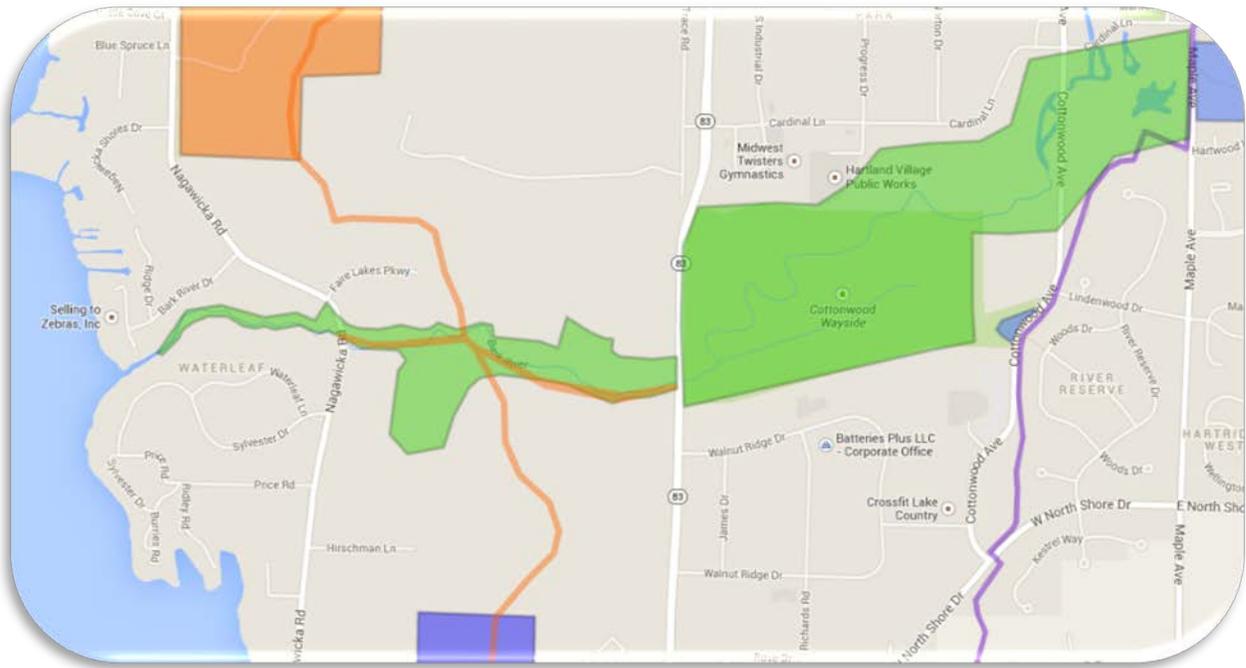
The City should continue to work with Lapham Peak on strategic planning. This access point to the park has become so popular that the 4 car city parking that is provided is often not adequate.



## BARK RIVER AND NAGAWICKA LAKE

The Bark River from Hartland to Upper Nemahbin Lake has the potential to be a water based trail that is primarily in the city of Delafield. This path offers many obstacles today, but for planning purposes, should be considered. The path of this trail starts in the Ice Age Wetlands in Hartland and goes to Nagawicka Lake; passes through Nagawicka Lake from NE to SW, then travels from St. John's Park through the soon to be dismantled mill pond dam, to Upper Nemahbin Lake.

### Ice Age Wetlands to Nagawicka Lake



### St. John's Park to old Mill Pond Dam



(Trail path in former Mill Pond for illustration only. Need additional discussion with Home Owners)

GOALS AND PRIORITIES

**Goal for this planning area:** Develop a detailed plan for a water trail along the length of the Bark River in the City of Delafield.

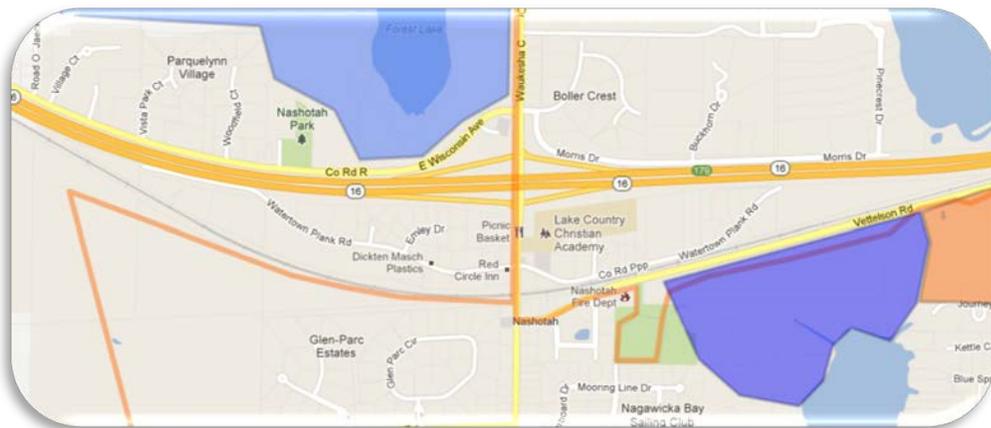
- Develop plans from Hartland to Nagawicka Lake
- Develop plans from St. John’s Park to the old Mill Pond Dam, then to Upper Nemahbin Lake

CONNECTIONS

Inter-urban connectors are the points where the trails of the City of Delafield connect to neighboring communities or county and state facilities. Often these connections are made by connecting to trails or routes that have already been established in the neighboring communities

Lake Country Trail to Summit and Oconomowoc

Nashotah



## City of Delafield

### Existing neighboring trails or routes

Delafield has many existing trails and routes to build on.

- Lake Country Trail
- Glacial Drumlin State Trail
- Ice Age Trail
- Town of Delafield bike routes
- Cushing Road – off road – trail
- Lapham Peak State Park
- Naga-Waukeee County Park
- Nashotah County Park

### Destinations

Trails can be beautiful and enjoyable on their own, but provide extra value to the community if they lead to a destination. Destinations can be commercial, public, or other trails.

- Communities
  - North to Nashotah, Hartland, and Chenequa
  - East to Town of Delafield, Pewaukee, and Oconomowoc lake
  - South to Wales, Genesee Depot, and Dousman
  - West to Village of Summit and Town of Oconomowoc
- Destinations
  - North to Nashotah County Park, Pine, Okauchee and Beaver lake access
  - West to Pabst Farms (shopping and YMCA), Upper & Lower Nemahbin lakes, downtown Oconomowoc
  - South to the Lapham Peak State park, Glacial Drumlin Trail, Wales Community Park
  - East to Hwy-83 Shopping area, Country Inn Water park, Naga-Waukeee county park and boat launch
  - South of I-94 on Hwy-83 connecting to the movie theatre, senior living complex, and on to the Town of Delafield Sports Commons