

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR RACINE COUNTY

**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

KENOSHA COUNTY

Vacancy
Adelene Greene,
Secretary
Robert W. Pitts

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Marina Dimitrijevic
William R. Drew,
Vice Chairman
John Rogers

OZAUKEE COUNTY

Thomas H. Buestrin
Vacancy
Gus W. Wirth, Jr.

WAUKESHA COUNTY

Michael A. Crowley
Jose Delgado
James T. Dwyer

RACINE COUNTY

Gilbert Bakke
David Eberle
Peggy L. Shumway

WALWORTH COUNTY

Charles L. Colman
Nancy Russell,
Treasurer
Linda J. Seemeyer

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Daniel S. Schmidt
Daniel W. Stoffel
David L. Stroik,
Chairman

RACINE COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive

James A. Ladwig

Board of Supervisors

Peter L. Hansen, Chairman	Kenneth Lumpkin
Russell A. Clark, Vice-Chairman	Robert N. Miller
Gilbert Bakke	Ronald Molnar
Katherine Buske	Monte G. Osterman
David Cooke	Thomas Pringle
Mike Dawson	Pamela Zenner-Richards
Mark M. Gleason	Q.A. Shakoor, II
Robert D. Grove	Daniel F. Sharkozy
Jeff Halbach	Donnie Snow
Kenneth Hall	John Wisch
Kiana K. Johnson	

**Racine County Park and Open Space Plan
Advisory Committee**

Mike Dawson, Chairperson	Jeffrey Katz
Katherine Buske, Vice-Chairperson	James L. Metzger
Julie A. Anderson	Jim Ritchie

**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF**

Kenneth R. Yunker, PE Executive Director
Stephen P. Adams Public Involvement and
Outreach Manager
Nancy M. Anderson, AICP Chief Community
Assistance Planner
Michael G. Hahn, PE, PH Chief Environmental Engineer
Christopher T. Hiebert, PE Chief Transportation Engineer
Elizabeth A. Larsen Business Manager
John G. McDougall Geographic Information
Systems Manager
John R. Meland Chief Economic Development Planner
Dr. Donald M. Reed Chief Biologist
Donald P. Simon, RLS Chief Planning Illustrator
William J. Stauber Chief Land Use Planner

Special acknowledgment is due David A. Schilling, SEWRPC
Principal Planner for his contribution to this report.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

W239 N1812 ROCKWOOD DRIVE • PO BOX 1607 • WAUKESHA, WI 53187-1607

TELEPHONE (262) 547-6721
FAX (262) 547-1103

Serving the Counties of:

KENOSHA
MILWAUKEE
OZAUKEE
RACINE
WALWORTH
WASHINGTON
WAUKESHA



SUBJECT: Certification of Amendment to the Adopted Regional Park and Open Space Plan
(Racine County Park and Open Space Plan)

TO: The Legislative Bodies of Concerned Local Units of Government within the Southeastern Wisconsin Region, namely: the County of Racine; the Cities of Burlington and Racine; the Towns of Burlington, Dover, Norway, Raymond, Waterford, and Yorkville; and the Villages of Caledonia, Elmwood Park, Mt. Pleasant, North Bay, Rochester, Sturtevant, Union Grove, Waterford, and Wind Point.

This is to certify that at the quarterly meeting of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, held in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on the 13th day of March 2013, the Commission did by unanimous vote by all Commissioners present, being 15 ayes and 0 nays, and by appropriate Resolution, a copy of which is made a part hereof and incorporated by reference to the same force and effect as if it had been specifically set forth herein in detail, adopt an amendment to the regional park and open space plan, which plan was originally adopted by the Commission on the 1st day of December 1977, and amended through the adoption of a park and open space plan for Racine County on the 5th day of December 2001, as part of the master plan for the physical development of the Region. The said amendment to the regional park and open space plan pertains to a revised park and open space plan for Racine County and consists of the inventory findings, maps, charts, figures, supporting data, plans, and plan implementation recommendations contained in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (3rd Edition), *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, published in February 2013, attached hereto and made a part hereof. Such action taken by the Commission is recorded on, and is a part of, said plan, and the plan as amended is hereby transmitted to the constituent local units of government for consideration, adoption, and implementation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal and cause the Seal of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to be hereto affixed. Dated at the City of Pewaukee, Wisconsin, this 13th day of March 2013.

David L. Stroik, Chairman
Southeastern Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission

ATTEST:

Kenneth R. Yunker, Deputy Secretary

(This page intentionally left blank)

RESOLUTION 2013-03

**RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION AMENDING THE ADOPTED REGIONAL PARK
AND OPEN SPACE PLAN, THAT PLAN BEING A PART OF THE MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION COMPRISED OF
THE COUNTIES OF KENOSHA, MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE, RACINE,
WALWORTH, WASHINGTON, AND WAUKESHA IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
(RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN)**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 66.0309(10) of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, at a meeting held on the 1st day of December 1977, duly adopted a regional park and open space plan as documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, at a meeting held on the 5th day of December 2001, adopted an amendment to the regional park and open space plan as it pertains to Racine County, such amendment being documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (2nd Edition), *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2010, Racine County requested that the Commission update the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan and in so doing further refine and detail the regional park and open space plan; and

WHEREAS, all planning studies necessary for the preparation of an update to the park and open space plan as it pertains to Racine County have been concluded, including the preparation of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (3rd Edition), *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*; and

WHEREAS, the Racine County Public Works, Parks, and Facilities Committee, at its meeting on November 8, 2012, and the Racine County Economic Development and Land Use Planning Committee, at its meeting on November 19, 2012, acted to recommend to the Racine County Board of Supervisors adoption of the Racine County park and open space plan as set forth in the aforereferenced SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (3rd Edition); and

WHEREAS, the Racine County Board of Supervisors, at its meeting held on December 11, 2012, acted to adopt the park and open space plan for Racine County as set forth in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (3rd Edition), and

WHEREAS, Section 66.0309(9) of the *Wisconsin Statutes* authorizes and empowers the Regional Planning Commission, as the work of making the whole master plan progresses, to amend, extend, or add to the master plan or carry any part or subject thereof into greater detail;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

FIRST, That the regional park and open space plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region, being a part of the master plan for the physical development of the Region and comprised of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, which was adopted by the Commission as part of the master plan on the 1st day of

December 1977, and thereafter amended, be and the same hereby is further amended to include an updated park and open space plan for Racine County as set forth in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (3rd Edition).

SECOND: That the said SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (3rd Edition), together with the maps, charts, programs, and descriptive and explanatory matter therein contained, is hereby made a matter of public record; and the originals and true copies thereof shall be kept, at all times, at the offices of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission presently located in the City of Pewaukee, County of Waukesha, and State of Wisconsin, or any subsequent office that the said Commission may occupy, for examination and study by whomsoever may desire to examine the same.

THIRD: That a true, correct, and exact copy of this resolution, together with a complete and exact copy of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (3rd Edition), shall be forthwith distributed to each of the local legislative bodies of the local governmental units within the Region entitled thereto and to such other bodies, agencies, or individuals as the law may require or as the Commission, its Executive Committee, or its Executive Director, at their discretion, shall determine and direct.

The foregoing resolution, upon motion duly made and seconded, was regularly adopted at the meeting of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission held on the 13th day of March 2013, the vote being: Ayes 15; Nays: 0.



David L. Stroik, Chairman

ATTEST:



Kenneth R. Yunker, Deputy Secretary

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING REPORT NUMBER 134 (3rd Edition)

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR RACINE COUNTY

Prepared by the

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
www.sewrpc.org

and the

Racine County Public Works and Development Services Department
Ives Grove Office Complex
14200 Washington Avenue
Sturtevant, Wisconsin 53177
www.racineco.com

Adopted by the Racine County Board of Supervisors on December 11, 2012

February 2013

Inside Region \$10.00
Outside Region \$20.00

(This page intentionally left blank)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Chapter I—INTRODUCTION	1	Chapter III—EXISTING PARK AND	
Introduction	1	OPEN SPACE SITES	35
Plan Context	1	Introduction.....	35
County Request	2	Existing Park and Open Space Sites	35
Racine County Park and Open		Park and Open Space Sites	
Space Plan Advisory Committee	2	Owned by Racine County.....	35
Report Format.....	3	Park and Open Space Sites	
		Owned by the State of Wisconsin	38
Chapter II—INVENTORY FINDINGS	5	Wisconsin Department of	
Introduction	5	Natural Resources	38
Demographic and Economic Characteristics.....	5	University of Wisconsin.....	38
Population	5	Wisconsin Department of	
Households.....	5	Transportation	38
Age Distribution.....	6	Park and Open Space Sites Owned by	
Employment.....	6	Local Governments or School Districts.....	39
Historic Urban Growth and		Private and Public-Interest Resource-	
Existing Land Uses	8	Oriented Park and Open Space Sites	40
Historic Urban Growth.....	8	Private Outdoor Recreation	
Existing Land Uses	8	and Open Space Sites	40
Natural Resources.....	12	Private Resource Protection Sites.....	41
Surface Water Resources	12	Conservation Easements.....	41
Groundwater Resources	12	Lake and River Access Sites.....	41
Floodplains	14	Trails and Bicycle Ways	41
Wetlands.....	14	Historic Sites.....	44
Woodlands	16	Status of 2020 Plan Recommendations.....	50
Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat,		Summary	50
and Geological Sites	16		
Natural Areas	16	Chapter IV—OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES,	
Critical Species Habitat.....	17	AND STANDARDS AND PARK AND	
Geological Sites	17	OPEN SPACE NEEDS ANALYSIS	51
Environmental Corridors and		Introduction.....	51
Isolated Natural Resource Areas.....	17	Objectives, Principles, and Standards	51
Primary Environmental Corridors.....	25	Park and Open Space Needs	52
Secondary Environmental Corridors and		Existing and Forecast Population	
Isolated Natural Resource Areas	25	Size and Distribution	52
Agricultural Land	25	Per Capita and Accessibility Standards	53
Summary	29	Standards for Major Park Sites	53

	Page		Page
Standards for Intensive Resource-		Recommended Park and	
Oriented Recreation Facilities.....	55	Outdoor Recreation Element	79
Campsites	55	Major Parks	75
Golf Courses	55	Other County Park and	
Picnicking	56	Outdoor Recreation Sites.....	81
Swimming Beaches.....	56	Development Costs—County Parks	82
Standards for Trail Facilities	56	Areawide Recreation Trails	82
Standards for Lake Access Sites	57	Other Trails.....	84
Other Recreational Needs	57	Lake and River Access	84
Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive		Local Park and Outdoor	
Outdoor Recreation Plan.....	59	Recreation Plan Element	84
Standards for Open Space Preservation	59	Plan Implementation	86
Summary	60	Wisconsin Department of	
		Natural Resources.....	86
		Racine County	87
		Local Units of Government	90
Chapter V—RECOMMENDED		Acquisition Considerations	90
PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN	63	Acquisition and Development	
Introduction	63	Priorities for Racine County	91
Public Informational Meetings	63	Maintenance Impact	91
Recommended Open Space		Summary	91
Preservation Element	63	Open Space Preservation Element.....	91
Environmental Corridor and		Outdoor Recreation Plan Element	92
Isolated Natural Resource		Plan Implementation.....	93
Area Plan Component	64		
Primary Environmental Corridors.....	64	Chapter VI—SUMMARY	95
Secondary Environmental Corridors and		Introduction.....	95
Isolated Natural Resource Areas	65	Existing Conditions.....	96
Natural Areas and Critical Species		Population and Employment Levels	96
Habitat Protection and Management		Land Use.....	96
Plan Component.....	67	Natural Resource Base.....	96
Reestablishment of Forest Interior Sites	69	Inventory of Park and Open Space Sites.....	97
Protection of Geological Areas	75	Recommended Park and Open Space Plan	97
State of Wisconsin Project		Open Space Preservation Element.....	97
Areas Component.....	75	Outdoor Recreation Element	98
Wisconsin Department of		Concluding Remarks.....	99
Natural Resources (WDNR).....	75		
Prime Agricultural Land Plan Component.....	75		

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Cities, Villages, Towns, or School Districts, and Private Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Sites in Racine County: 2010.....	101
B Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan as it Relates to Racine County	117

Appendix	Page
C Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Planning Objectives, Principles, and Standards for Racine County	121
D County Board Adoption of the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan	131

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
Chapter II	
1 Historic Resident Population Levels in Racine County, Southeastern Wisconsin, and the State of Wisconsin: Census Years 1850-2010	6
2 Number of Households in Racine County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Region: Census Years 1970-2010	7
3 Age Distribution of the Population of Racine County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Region: Census Years 1990-2010	7
4 Number of Jobs in Racine County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Region: 1970-2010	8
5 Land Uses in Racine County: 2010	11
6 Natural Areas in Racine County: 2009	19
7 Critical Species Habitat Sites in Racine County: 2009	27
8 Significant Geologic Sites in the Racine County Planning Area: 2009	31
Chapter III	
9 Park and Outdoor Recreation Sites Owned by Racine County: 2010	37
10 Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities within Racine County Parks: 2010	39
11 State of Wisconsin Recreation and Open Space Lands in Racine County: 2010	40
12 Privately Owned Resource Protection Sites in Racine County: 2010	42
13 Lands Under Conservation Easements in Racine County: 2010	44
14 Historic Sites and Districts in Racine County on the National Register of Historic Places: 2010	47
Chapter IV	
15 Boat-Access Site Requirements Under the Wisconsin Administrative Code for Major Lakes in Racine County: 2010	58
Chapter V	
16 Proposed Ownership of Open Space Lands Under the Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County	67
17 Protection of Natural Area and Critical Species Habitat Sites in Racine County	71
18 Geological Areas in Racine County Recommended to be Fully or Substantially Preserved Through Acquisition	77
19 Recommended Additions to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Project Boundaries	78
20 Estimated Development Costs for County Parks Under the Recommended Park Plan	83
21 Summary of Proposed Ownership of Park and Open Space Land and Estimated Acquisition and Development Costs Under the Recommended Racine County Park and Open Space Plan	87
22 Guidelines for Development Considered Compatible with Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Areas	88

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
Chapter II		
1	Resident Population of Racine County: 1850-2010	6

LIST OF MAPS

Map		Page
Chapter II		
1	Historical Urban Growth in Racine County: 1850-2010	9
2	Generalized Land Use in Racine County: 2010	10
3	Surface Waters, Wetlands, and Floodplains in Racine County	13
4	Groundwater Recharge Potential in Racine County: 2010	15
5	Natural Areas in Racine County: 2009	18
6	Critical Species Habitat Sites in Racine County: 2009	26
7	Significant Geological Sites in Racine County: 2009	30
8	Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas in Racine County: 2010.....	32
9	Agricultural Lands in Racine County: 2010.....	33
Chapter III		
10	Racine County and State of Wisconsin Park and Open Space Sites: 2010	36
11	Privately Owned Resource Protection Sites in Racine County: 2010	43
12	Lands Under Conservation Easements in Racine County: 2010	45
13	Existing Bicycle Ways/Trails in Racine County: 2010	46
14	Historic Sites and Districts in Racine County Listed on the National Register of Historic Places: 2010.....	48
Chapter IV		
15	Planned Land Use in Racine County: 2035	54
Chapter V		
16	Open Space Preservation Element of the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan: 2035	66
17	Protection of Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas in Racine County: 2035	68
18	Protection of Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites in Racine County	70
19	Recommended Acquisition and Ownership of Selected Geological Areas in Racine County	76
20	Outdoor Recreation Element of the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan: 2035	80
21	Potential Water Trails for Lake Michigan and Major Rivers in the Racine County Planning Area	85

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Racine County has a long history of park and open space planning, going back to the 1970s. This includes the periodic updating of the County park and open space plan, the current version of which was adopted by the Racine County Board in 2001. The plan was reaffirmed through re-adoption of the plan by the County Board in 2006 to maintain the County's eligibility for Federal and State grants. With the assistance of the Regional Planning Commission, Racine County in 2011 undertook another effort to update its park and open space plan, extending the planning horizon further into the future. This report documents that planning process and presents the resulting updated County park and open space plan.

PLAN CONTEXT

Over the years, park and open space planning and other planning for Racine County have been closely coordinated with regional planning. The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is charged by law with the duty of preparing and adopting a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region,¹ which includes Racine County. The regional plan, which is periodically updated, consists of a number of major elements, including land use, transportation, park and open space, water supply, and water quality management.

The regional land use plan sets forth the fundamental concepts which are intended to guide the development of the Region. The regional land use plan, the most recent version of which was adopted by the Commission in 2006, is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 48, *A Regional Land Use Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035*. Subsequently, the regional land use plan provided the framework for the development of a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Racine County. The County plan was adopted by the Racine County Board of Supervisors in 2009 and is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, *A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035*. The following three recommendations are contained in the regional land use plan and the County comprehensive plan: 1) the preservation of primary environmental corridors in essentially natural, open uses and the preservation of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas whenever possible; 2) the maintenance of the best remaining farmland in long-term

¹The seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region includes Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha Counties.

agricultural uses; and 3) encouragement of a more compact pattern of urban development, one that can be efficiently served by such essential public facilities and services as centralized sanitary sewerage, water supply, and mass transit. These three recommendations provide a basic framework for park and open space planning.

A park and open space plan for Racine County was included as part of the first regional park and open space plan,² which was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on December 1, 1977. That plan identified existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommended a park system consisting of large resource-oriented parks and smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, together with attendant recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan also recommended the development of an approximately 440-mile network of hiking and bicycling trails within natural resource corridors of regional significance, including corridors along the Lake Michigan shoreline, through the Kettle Moraine, and along the riverine areas of the major streams and watercourses of the Region. The regional park and open space plan incorporated the regional land use plan recommendations concerning primary environmental corridors and farmland preservation. The regional park and open space plan as it relates to Racine County was subsequently refined in 1988 as documented in the first edition of this report, SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, September 1988.

In 1995, Racine County again requested that the Planning Commission assist the County in refining and updating the regional park and open space plan as it applied to Racine County. The resulting plan is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (2nd Edition), *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, July 2001. The plan incorporates recommendations for the preservation of natural areas growing out of a regional natural areas plan completed by the Regional Planning Commission in 1997. The updated park and open space plan, which has a design year of 2020, was adopted by the Racine County Board of Supervisors on May 22, 2001, and by the Regional Planning Commission on December 5, 2001.

COUNTY REQUEST

On January 22, 2010, Racine County requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the County in the preparation of a new park and open space plan. The new plan is to be based upon updated information related to land use, population levels and distribution, anticipated growth and development, natural resources, and park and open space acquisition and development activities within the County. The new plan is to be prepared within the framework of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Racine County. It is to be based upon the recommended development pattern set forth in the County comprehensive plan and to refine and detail the park and open space-related recommendations of the comprehensive plan. Like the County comprehensive plan, the updated County park and open space plan, as presented in this report, has a planning horizon of 2035. The new plan is further intended to maintain County eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids in partial support of the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities.

RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The new County park and open space plan was prepared under the guidance of the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan Advisory Committee as established by the Racine County Executive. A complete membership list of the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan Advisory Committee is provided on the inside front cover of this report. The Racine County Park and Open Space Plan Advisory Committee recommendations were forwarded to the Racine Public Works, Parks, and Facilities Committee, the Racine County Economic Development and Land Use Planning Committee, and to the County Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

²Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*: 2000.

REPORT FORMAT

The findings and recommendations of the park and open space planning effort are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter II of this report presents information about the County pertinent to park and open space planning, including information on the existing resident population, land use pattern, and natural resource base of the County. Chapter III provides information on existing park sites and facilities and open space lands within the County. Chapter IV presents the park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives, principles, and supporting standards which served as the basis for the development of the park and open space plan for the County, and also presents an analysis of park and open space needs in the County. Chapter V sets forth the recommended park and open space plan and identifies the actions required to carry out the recommended plan. A summary of the plan is presented in Chapter VI.

(This page intentionally left blank)

Chapter II

INVENTORY FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

The proper formulation of a park and open space plan necessitates the collection and collation of data related to existing demographic and economic characteristics, existing land uses, and natural resources. Such data provide an important basis for determining the need for additional park and open space sites and facilities and for designing a plan to meet those needs. The inventory findings are presented in this chapter.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Population

Population growth in Racine County from 1850 to 2010 is indicated in Table 1 and Figure 1. The population grew steadily between 1850 and 1970. Since 1970, the population of the County continued to grow, but at a reduced rate, increasing to 195,408 in 2010. Between 1970 and 2010, the population of Racine County increased by 14 percent, compared to increases of 15 percent and 29 percent for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region and State, respectively.

The City of Racine is the most populous community in the County, with 78,860 residents, or about 40 percent of the County's population, in 2010. The next most populous communities are the Village of Mt. Pleasant (26,197 persons), the Village of Caledonia (24,705 persons), and the City of Burlington (10,464 persons) – accounting for a combined 31 percent of the County's population in 2010.

Households

Trends in the number of households in Racine County and the Region are shown on Table 2. Both the County and Region experienced significant gains in the number of households between 1970 and 2010. The rate of increase in the number of households has exceeded the rate of population increase due to the decline in the average number of persons per household. Between 1970 and 2010, the rate of increase in the number of households was 52 percent in the County and 49 percent in the Region, compared to a population increase of 14 percent in the County and 15 percent in the Region.

The number of households is of particular importance in land use and public facility planning, because it influences the demand for converting rural land to urban use to accommodate additional residential development. It is also an important component in creating demand for transportation and other facilities and services, including parks and recreational facilities.

Table 1

HISTORIC RESIDENT POPULATION LEVELS IN RACINE COUNTY, SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, AND THE STATE OF WISCONSIN: CENSUS YEARS 1850-2010

Year	Racine County			Southeastern Wisconsin			Wisconsin		
	Population	Change from Preceding Census		Population	Change from Preceding Census		Population	Change from Preceding Census	
		Absolute	Percent		Absolute	Percent		Absolute	Percent
1850	14,973	--	--	113,389	--	--	305,391	--	--
1860	21,360	6,387	42.7	190,409	77,020	67.9	775,881	470,490	154.1
1870	26,740	5,380	25.2	223,546	33,137	17.4	1,054,670	278,789	35.9
1880	32,922	6,182	23.1	277,119	53,573	24.0	1,315,497	260,827	24.7
1890	36,268	3,346	10.2	386,774	109,655	39.6	1,693,330	377,833	28.7
1900	45,644	9,376	25.9	501,808	115,034	29.7	2,069,042	375,712	22.2
1910	57,424	11,780	25.8	631,161	129,353	25.8	2,333,860	264,818	12.8
1920	78,961	21,537	37.5	783,681	152,520	24.2	2,632,067	298,207	12.8
1930	90,217	11,256	14.3	1,006,118	222,437	28.4	2,939,006	306,939	11.7
1940	94,047	3,830	4.2	1,067,699	61,581	6.1	3,137,587	198,581	6.8
1950	109,585	15,538	16.5	1,240,618	172,919	16.2	3,434,575	296,988	9.5
1960	141,781	32,196	29.4	1,573,614	332,996	26.8	3,951,777	517,202	15.1
1970	170,838	29,057	20.5	1,756,083	182,469	11.6	4,417,821	466,044	11.8
1980	173,132	2,294	1.3	1,764,796	8,713	0.5	4,705,642	287,821	6.5
1990	175,034	1,902	1.1	1,810,364	45,568	2.6	4,891,769	186,127	4.0
2000	188,831	13,797	7.9	1,931,165	120,801	6.7	5,363,675	471,906	9.6
2010	195,408	6,577	3.5	2,019,970	88,805	4.6	5,686,986	323,271	6.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and SEWRPC.

Age Distribution

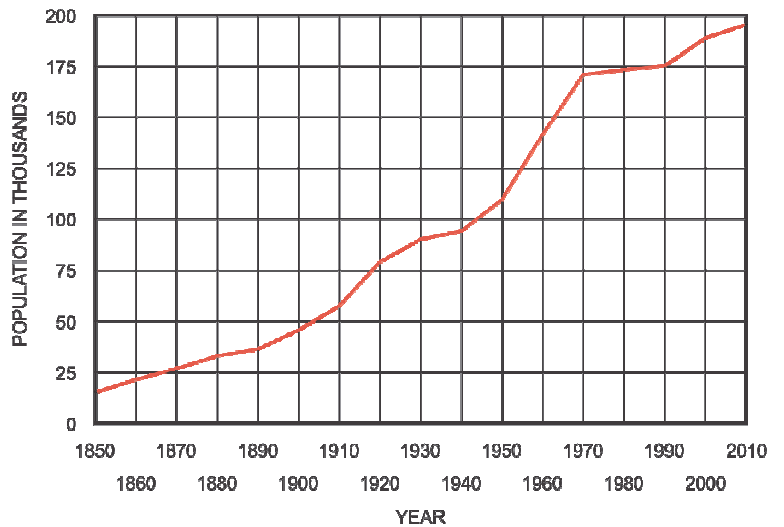
The age distribution of the population may be expected to influence the location and type of recreational areas and facilities provided within Racine County. The age distribution of the population in the County and Region in 1990, 2000, and 2010 is set forth in Table 3. Between 1990 and 2010, there was a significant increase in the number of adults aged 45 to 64 in Racine County. Conversely, the population aged 25 to 44 decreased in number. The population under age 25 in the County was relatively stable. The Region as a whole also experienced a significant increase in the number of adults aged 45 to 64 and a decrease in those aged 25 to 44.

Employment

Trends in job growth in Racine County and the Region are set forth in Table 4. The jobs are enumerated at their location and the data therefore reflect the number of jobs within the County and Region, including both full- and part-time jobs. An increase in the number of jobs may be expected to attract additional residents to the County, thus influencing population growth.

Figure 1

RESIDENT POPULATION OF RACINE COUNTY: 1850-2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and SEWRPC.

Table 2

**NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN RACINE COUNTY AND THE
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: CENSUS YEARS 1970-2010**

Year	Racine County			Southeastern Wisconsin		
	Number of Households	Change from Previous Census		Number of Households	Change from Previous Census	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1970	49,796	--	--	536,486	--	--
1980	59,418	9,622	19.3	627,955	91,469	17.0
1990	63,736	4,318	7.3	676,107	48,152	7.7
2000	70,819	7,083	11.1	749,039	72,932	10.8
2010	75,651	4,832	6.8	800,087	51,048	6.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and SEWRPC.

Table 3

**AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF RACINE COUNTY AND THE
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: CENSUS YEARS 1990-2010**

Racine County								
Age Group	1990		2000		2010		Change 1990-2010	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent
Under 5	13,635	7.8	13,220	7.0	12,747	6.5	-888	-6.5
5-17	34,986	20.0	37,731	20.0	35,763	18.3	777	2.2
18-24	15,712	9.0	15,615	8.3	15,878	8.1	166	1.1
25-44	56,240	32.1	56,535	29.9	49,532	25.4	-6,708	-11.9
45-64	33,371	19.1	42,497	22.5	55,749	28.5	22,378	67.1
65 and Older	21,090	12.0	23,233	12.3	25,739	13.2	4,649	22.0
All Ages	175,034	100.0	188,831	100.0	195,408	100.0	20,374	11.6

Southeastern Wisconsin								
Age Group	1990		2000 ^a		2010		Change 1990-2010	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent
Under 5	138,286	7.3	132,390	6.8	133,503	6.6	-4,783	-3.5
5-17	339,722	18.8	377,706	19.5	364,772	18.1	25,050	7.4
18-24	181,211	10.0	179,500	9.3	194,877	9.6	13,666	7.5
25-44	590,955	32.6	581,351	30.1	527,802	26.1	-63,153	-10.7
45-64	333,818	18.4	420,937	21.8	545,009	27.0	211,191	63.3
65 and Older	226,372	12.5	241,024	12.5	254,007	12.6	27,635	12.2
All Ages	1,810,364	100.0	1,932,908	100.0	2,019,970	100.0	209,606	11.6

^aThe total population by age for 2000 reported by the Census Bureau as indicated in this table differs slightly from the Census Bureau final total population count presented in Table 1.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and SEWRPC.

Table 4

NUMBER OF JOBS IN RACINE COUNTY AND THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: 1970-2010

Year	Racine County			Southeastern Wisconsin		
	Number of Jobs	Change from Previous Time Period		Number of Jobs	Change from Previous Time Period	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1970	64,600	--	--	784,900	--	--
1980	81,000	16,400	25.4	945,900	161,000	20.5
1990	88,900	7,900	9.8	1,054,000	108,100	11.4
2000	93,800	4,900	5.5	1,209,800	155,800	14.8
2010	88,200	-5,600	-6.0	1,177,800	-32,000	-2.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and SEWRPC.

As indicated in Table 4, employment in Racine County increased by 16,400 jobs during the 1970s; increased by 7,900 jobs during the 1980s; increased by 4,900 jobs during the 1990s; and decreased by 5,600 jobs in the 2000s. The overall 37 percent increase in the number of jobs in the County between 1970 and 2010 compares to an increase of 50 percent in the Region during the same period.

HISTORIC URBAN GROWTH AND EXISTING LAND USES

Land use is an important determinant of both the supply of, and the demand for, outdoor recreation and related open space facilities. Accordingly, an understanding of the amount, type, and spatial distribution of urban, agricultural, and other rural land uses, including environmentally sensitive lands, within the County is essential to the development of a sound park and open space plan. This section presents a description of the historic urban development and existing land uses in the County.

Historic Urban Growth

The historic urban development of Racine County is presented on Map 1. Prior to 1900, urban development was largely confined to the City of Racine and the smaller settlement communities of Burlington, Rochester, Union Grove, and Waterford. The period from 1900 to 1950 saw expansion of urban development in the Cities of Burlington and Racine and around the County’s inland lakes. The period from 1950 to 2000 saw significant urban growth adjacent to existing urban areas, along with growth in the form of small, isolated enclaves scattered throughout the County. The period from 2000 to 2010 saw a continuation of this pattern, with considerable development occurring within and adjacent to existing urban centers, along with some additional development in scattered enclaves in outlying areas.

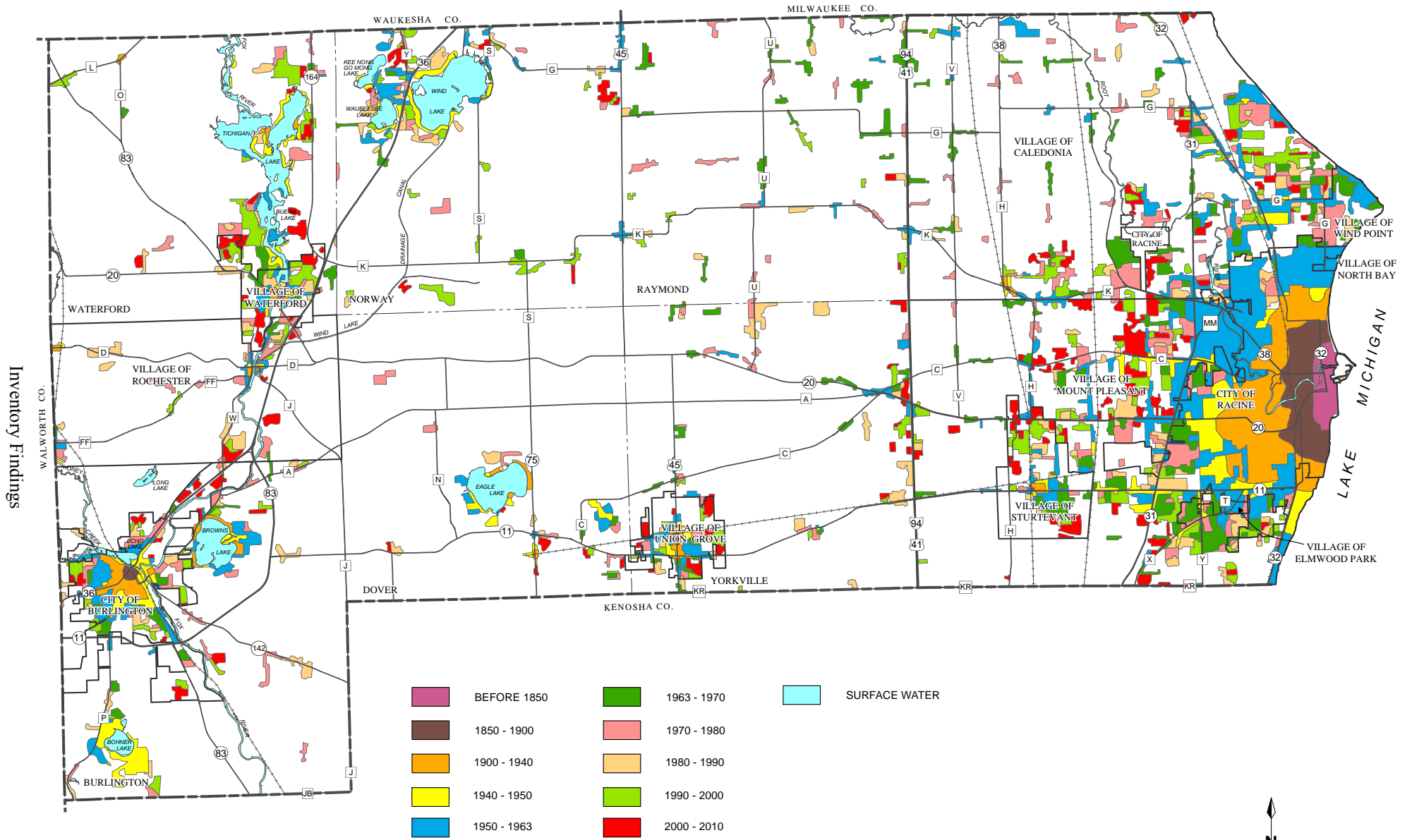
Despite significant urbanization, large tracts of agricultural and other open space and environmentally sensitive lands remain intact, relatively free of encroachment by urban development, particularly in portions of the County west of IH 94. Racine County has the opportunity to continue to plan for widespread preservation of these agricultural and other open space and environmentally sensitive lands.

Existing Land Uses

Land uses in Racine County in 2010 are set forth on Map 2 and in Table 5. In 2010, urban land uses – consisting of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional, recreational, and transportation, communication and utility uses – encompassed about 81.6 square miles, or 24 percent of the total area of the County. Residential land comprised the largest urban land use category, encompassing 41.8 square miles, or about 51 percent of all urban land use and 12 percent of the total area of the County.

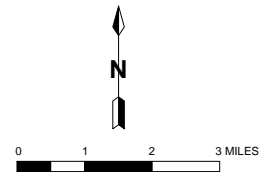
Map 1

HISTORICAL URBAN GROWTH IN RACINE COUNTY: 1850 - 2010



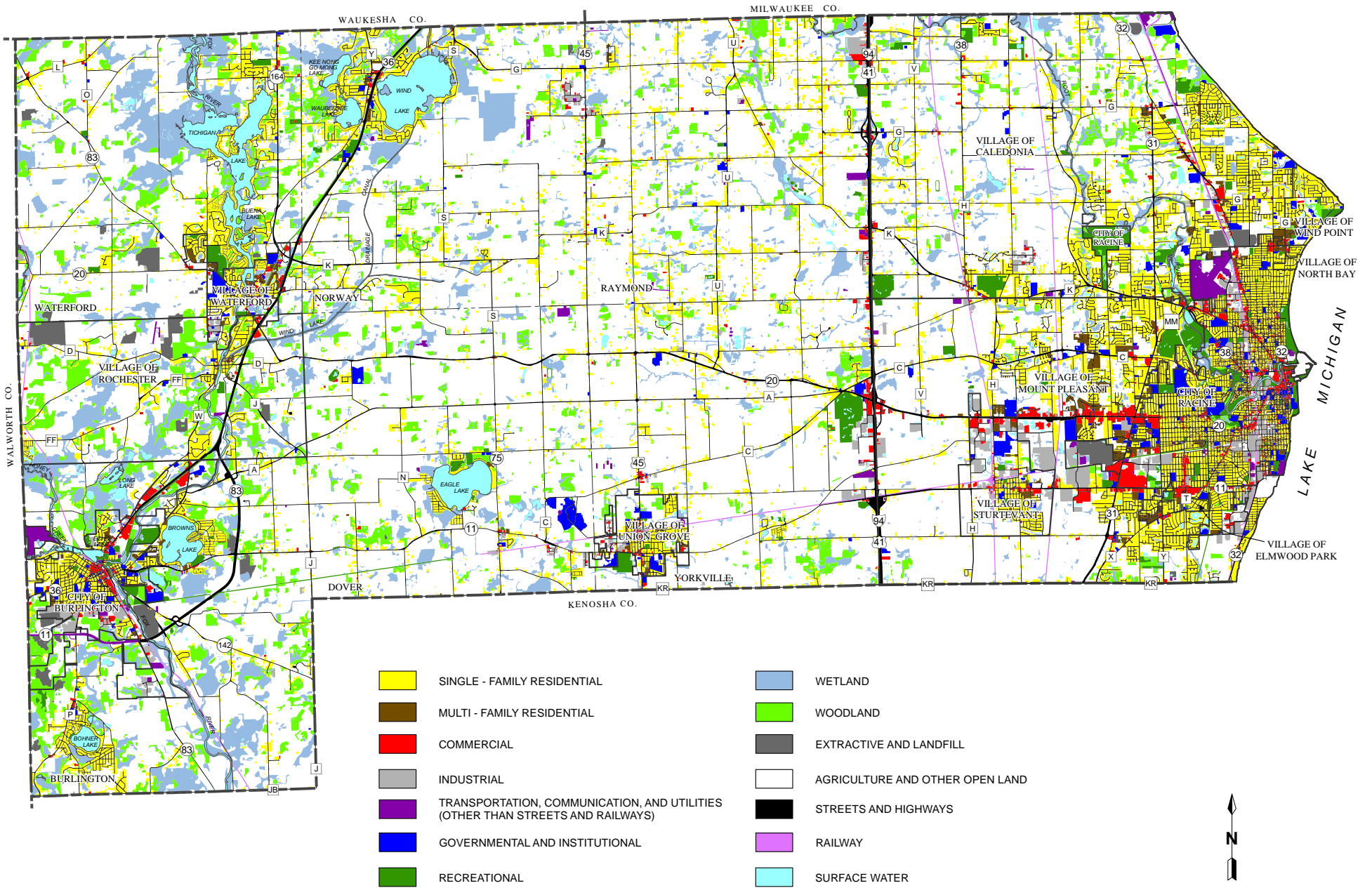
Inventory Findings

Source: SEWRPC.



Map 2

GENERALIZED LAND USE IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 5
LAND USES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010

Land Use Category	Square Miles	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of County
Urban^a			
Single-Family Residential.....	39.0	47.8	11.4
Multi-Family Residential ^b	2.8	3.4	0.8
Commercial.....	3.6	4.4	1.1
Industrial.....	4.3	5.3	1.3
Government and Institutional.....	3.9	4.8	1.1
Recreational.....	5.3	6.5	1.6
Transportation, Communications, and Utilities.....	22.7	27.8	6.7
Subtotal	81.6	100.0	24.0
Rural			
Agricultural.....	178.8	69.0	52.5
Woodlands.....	19.6	7.6	5.7
Nonfarmed Wetlands.....	29.8	11.5	8.7
Farmed Wetlands.....	1.9	0.7	0.6
Water.....	9.4	3.6	2.8
Landfill and Extractive.....	2.5	1.0	0.7
Other Open Lands.....	17.0	6.6	5.0
Subtotal	259.0	100.0	76.0
Total	340.6	--	100.0

^aParking lots are included with the associated use.

^bIncludes two-family residential.

Source: SEWRPC.

Land uses categorized as transportation, communications, and utilities constituted the second largest urban land use category in 2010, encompassing about 22.7 square miles, or about 28 percent of all urban land and about 7 percent of the total area of the County. Streets and highways occupied about 19.6 square miles, or over 86 percent of the uses in this category. Major arterial highways serving the County include, IH 94/USH 41, which traverses the County in a north-south direction; US Highway 45; and State Trunk Highways 11, 20, 31, 32, 36, 38, 75, 83, 142 and 164. Other uses in the transportation, communications, and utilities category within the County include railway freight service lines – operated by the Union Pacific Railroad, Canadian National Railway, and Canadian Pacific Railroad – and the John H. Batten and Burlington Municipal Airports.

Recreational land uses constituted the third largest urban land use category within the County in 2010, encompassing about 5.3 square miles, or about 7 percent of all urban land and about 2 percent of the total area of the County. These figures include only those areas that are developed for intensive recreational use, such as tennis courts, baseball diamonds, playfields, golf courses, and accessory uses. Areas used for passive recreational purposes, such as hiking and nature study, are generally designated as open lands or woodlands. A description of park and open space sites within the County is presented in Chapter III.

About 259 square miles, or about 76 percent of the total area of the County, were rural lands, including agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, surface water, landfill and extractive, and other open lands. Agriculture was the largest single land use in the County, accounting for about 180.7 square miles (including “farmed Wetlands”), or about 53 percent of the area of the County, in 2010.

NATURAL RESOURCES

An important recommendation of the adopted regional land use and park and open space plans is the preservation of the most important elements of the natural resource base of the Region. Since the preparation and adoption of the Racine County park and open space plan in 2001, additional inventory information concerning the location and extent of natural resources has been collected. This section presents such information as it relates to Racine County.

Surface Water Resources

Surface water resources, consisting of streams and lakes, form a particularly important element of the natural resource base. Surface water resources provide recreational opportunities, influence the physical development of the County, provide for wildlife habitat, and enhance its aesthetic quality. Surface water resources and major watersheds in the County are shown on Map 3.

Perennial streams are defined as those which maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. As shown on Map 3, there are approximately 101 miles of such streams in Racine County. The County includes portions of four major watersheds: the Des Plaines River, Fox River, Pike River, and Root River watersheds. The Lake Michigan direct drainage area may be considered to compose a fifth watershed.

The Des Plaines River and Fox River watersheds are tributary to the Mississippi River system. Perennial streams in the Des Plaines River watershed, which includes a small area in the southcentral portion of the County, are the Des Plaines River and the Kilbourn Road Ditch. Perennial streams in the Fox River watershed, which generally includes the western half of the County, are the Fox River, Eagle Creek, Honey Creek, Hoosier Creek, Wind Lake Drainage Canal, Goose Lake Drainage Canal, and Spring Brook.

The Pike River and Root River watersheds and the Lake Michigan direct drainage area are tributary to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River system. Perennial streams in the Pike River watershed, which includes the southeastern portion of the County, are the Pike River and Pike Creek. Perennial streams in the Root River watershed, which includes much of the eastern half of the County, are the Root River, East and West Branch Root River Canal, Husher Creek, and Hoods Creek.

There are 10 major lakes, lakes of 50 or more acres, located entirely within Racine County. These lakes encompass a total of 3,495 acres within the County. The three largest lakes within Racine County are Tichigan Lake, with a surface area of about 892 acres; Wind Lake, with a surface area of about 890 acres; and Eagle Lake, with a surface area of about 520 acres. In addition, the entire eastern side of the County is bounded by Lake Michigan with approximately 15 miles of shoreline.

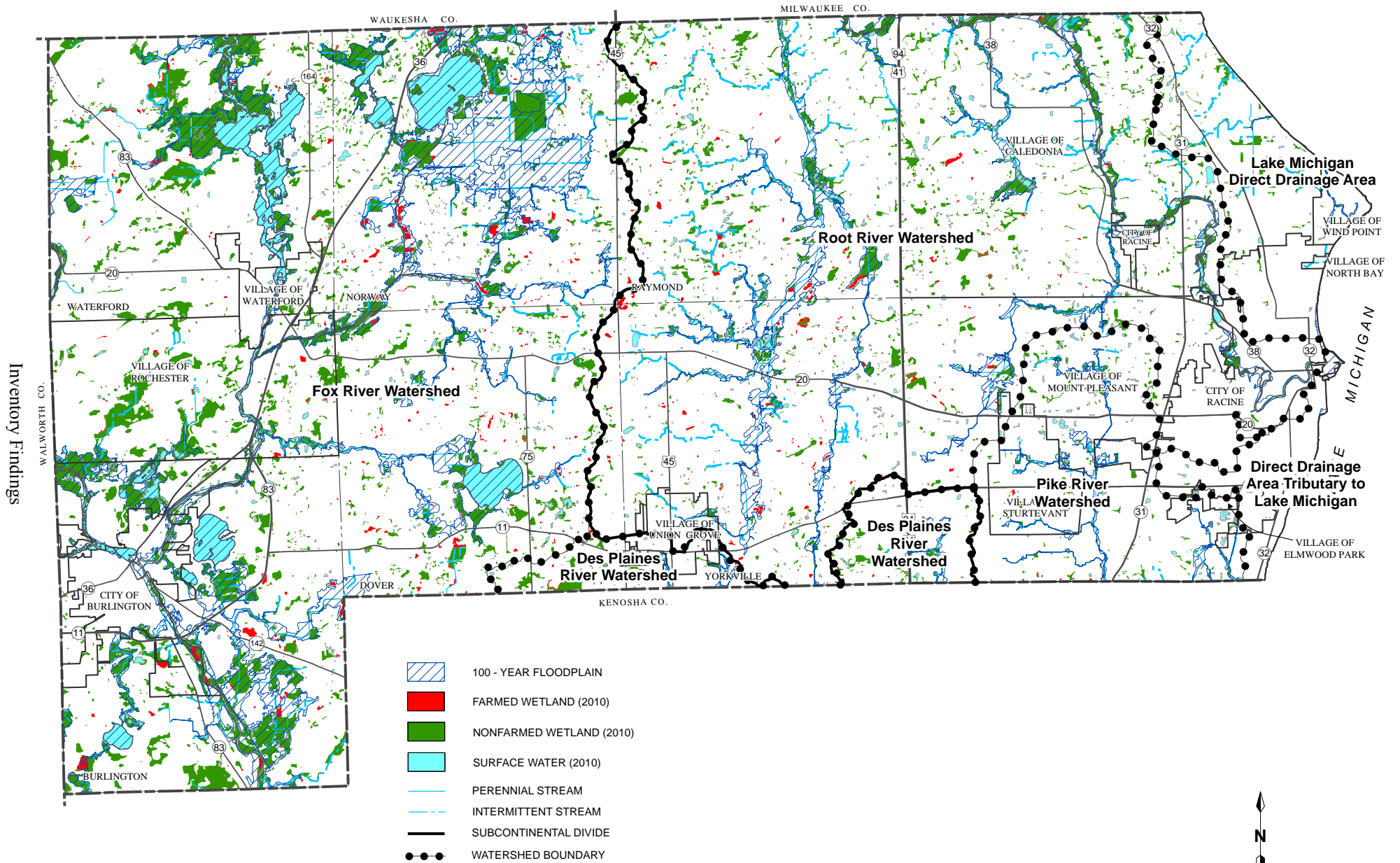
Lakes and streams are readily susceptible to degradation through improper land use development and management. Water quality can be degraded by excessive pollutant loads, including nutrient loads, which enter from malfunctioning and improperly located onsite sewage disposal systems, from sanitary sewer overflows, from construction and other urban runoff, and from careless agricultural practices. The water quality of lakes and streams may also be adversely affected by the excessive development of riparian areas and by the filling of peripheral wetlands, which removes valuable nutrient and sediment traps while adding nutrient and sediment sources. It is important that existing and future development in riparian areas be managed carefully to avoid further water quality degradation and to enhance the recreational, wildlife, and aesthetic values of surface water resources.

Groundwater Resources

Like surface water, groundwater is susceptible to depletion in quantity and to deterioration in quality as a result of contamination and over-usage. The vulnerability of groundwater to contamination is a combination of several factors, including soil type, subsurface material characteristics, and depth to groundwater levels. Thus, land use and park and open space planning must appropriately consider the potential impacts of urban and rural development on this important resource.

Map 3

SURFACE WATERS, WETLANDS, AND FLOODPLAINS IN RACINE COUNTY



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

Recharge of the aquifers underlying Racine County is derived largely by precipitation. Areas of groundwater recharge are shown on Map 4. The map identifies areas based upon the rate of annual groundwater recharge from precipitation in the County. Areas were placed into the following classifications: very high (more than six inches of recharge per year), high (four to six inches of recharge per year), moderate (three to four inches of recharge per year), and low (less than three inches of recharge per year). The protection of recharge areas classified as having a high or very high recharge potential is particularly important in the long term protection and preservation of groundwater resources in Racine County. The protection of these areas may be expected to be largely achieved through the implementation of the 2035 Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County since that plan recommends preservation of the environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, significant natural areas, prime agricultural lands, and other agricultural and open areas of the County. In addition, the use of low impact development designs, cluster developments, and other sustainable development designs have the potential to effectively maintain infiltration capabilities in urban areas.

As shown on Map 4, about 3 percent of the County is rated “very high” for recharge potential, and about 13 percent is rated “high” for recharge potential. High and very high recharge potential areas are scattered throughout the County, with the largest concentration found in the County’s western area. About one-half of the County (about 49 percent) is classified as having “moderate” recharge potential, and about 3 percent is classified as having a “low” potential.

Floodplains

Floodplains are the wide, gently sloping areas contiguous to, and usually lying on both sides of, a stream channel. For planning and regulatory purposes, floodplains are normally defined as the areas, excluding the stream channel, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This is the flood that may be expected to be reached or exceeded in severity once in every 100 years – or stated another way, there is a 1 percent chance of this event being reached or exceeded in severity in any given year. Floodplain areas are generally not well suited to urban development, not only because of the flood hazard, but also because of the presence of high water tables and, generally, of soils poorly suited to urban uses such as hydric soils. Floodplain areas often contain important natural resources, such as high-value woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat and, therefore, constitute prime locations for parks and open space areas. Every effort should be made to discourage incompatible urban development on floodplains, while encouraging compatible park and open space uses.

Floodplain mapping for Racine County was updated as part of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) “Map Modernization Program.” The updated maps were approved by the WDNR and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2011.

Floodplains, as identified in the new FEMA mapping are shown on Map 3. Approximately 42.0 square miles, or about 12 percent of the total area of the County, were located within the 100-year recurrence interval flood hazard area.

Wetlands

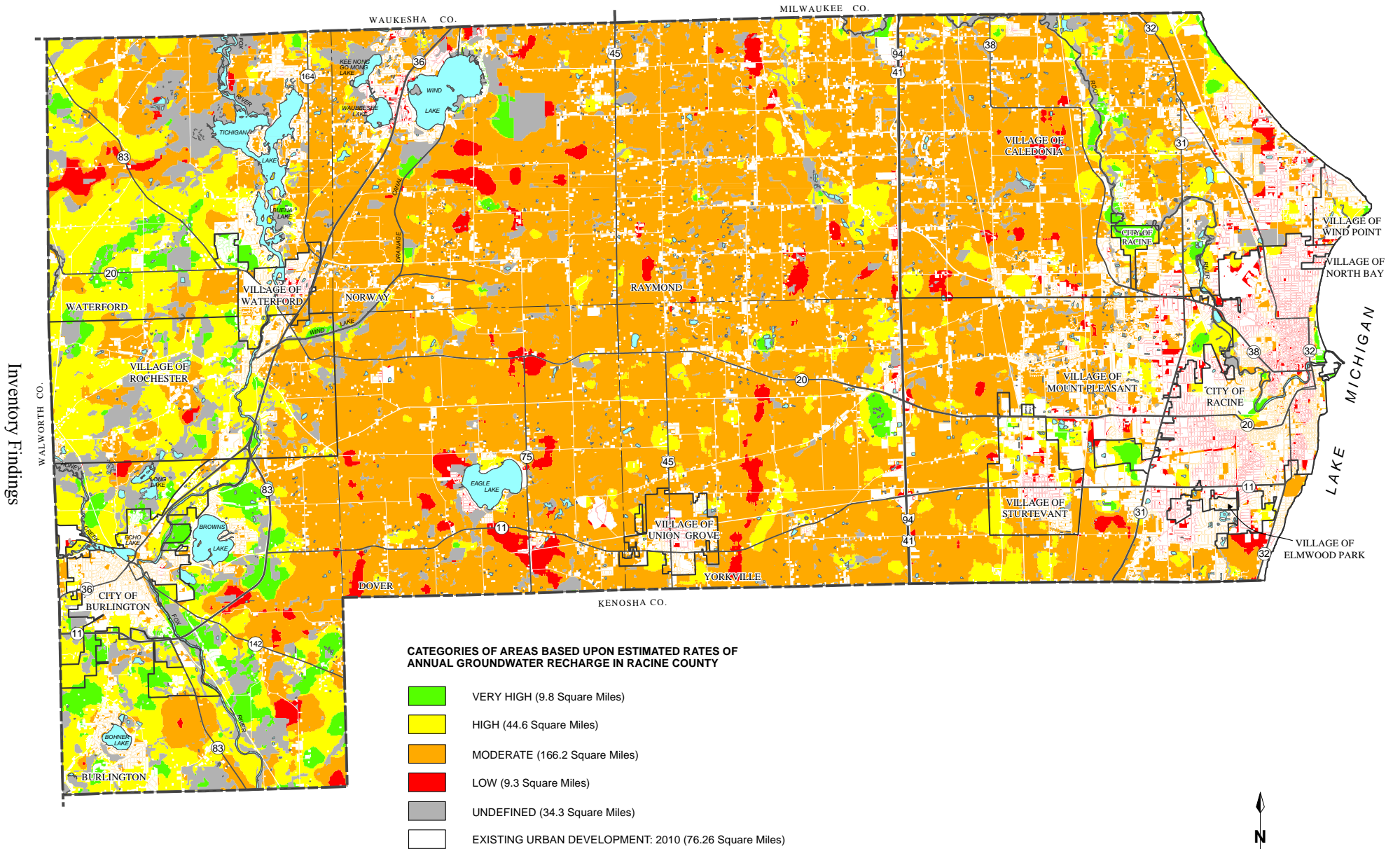
The location and extent of wetlands in the County in 2010, as delineated by the Regional Planning Commission, are shown on Map 3. At that time, wetlands covered about 31.7 square miles, or about 9 percent of the County.

Wetlands are important resources for the ecological health and diversity of the County. They provide essential breeding, nesting, resting, and feeding grounds and provide escape cover for many forms of fish and wildlife. Wetlands also contribute to flood control, because such areas naturally serve to store excess runoff temporarily, thereby tending to reduce peak flows. Wetlands may also serve as groundwater recharge and discharge areas. In addition, wetlands help to protect downstream water resources from siltation and pollution by trapping sediments, nutrients, and other water pollutants.

In consideration of the important natural functions of wetland areas and their recreational value for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing, continued efforts should be made to protect these areas by discouraging wetland draining, filling, and urbanization, which can be costly in both monetary and environmental terms.

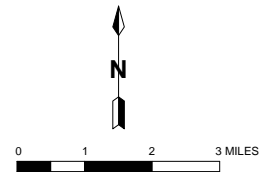
Map 4

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE POTENTIAL IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010



Inventory Findings

Source: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and SEWRPC.



Included in the 31.7 square miles of wetlands are 1.9 square miles which have been classified as “farmed wetlands.” These areas meet the definition of a wetland but were being actively farmed in 2010.

Woodlands

Woodlands are defined as those upland areas one acre or more in size having 17 or more deciduous trees per acre, each measuring at least four inches in diameter at breast height, and having 50 percent or more tree canopy coverage. Coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects are also classified as woodlands.

Woodlands provide an attractive natural resource of immeasurable value. Under good management, woodlands can serve a variety of beneficial functions. In addition to contributing to clean air and water and regulating surface water runoff, the maintenance of woodlands within the County can contribute to sustaining a diversity of plant and animal life. The existing woodlands in the County, which required a century or more to develop, can be destroyed through mismanagement within a comparatively short time. The deforestation of hillsides, ravines, and bluff areas contributes to rapid stormwater runoff, the siltation of lakes and streams, and the destruction of wildlife habitat.

Woodlands, as shown on Map 2, occur in scattered locations throughout the County, with some of the largest concentrations found in the western portions of the County. In 2010, woodland areas covered about 19.6 square miles, or about 6 percent of the County. These woodlands should be maintained for their scenic, wildlife habitat, recreational, and air and water quality protection values.

Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat, and Geological Sites

A comprehensive update to the inventory of natural and geological resources in the County was conducted by the Regional Planning Commission in 2009 as part of an amendment to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan.¹ This update systematically evaluated physical changes to high-quality natural areas, critical species habitat, and sites having geological significance within the Region, including Racine County, and reflects new findings since the preparation of the original natural areas plan. Recommendations developed through the plan amendment for the protection and management of identified natural areas, critical species habitat, and geological sites have been incorporated into this park and open space plan.

Natural Areas

Natural areas are tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement. Natural areas sites are classified into one of three categories: natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1), natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2), and natural areas of local significance (NA-3). Classification of an area into one of these three categories is based upon consideration of the diversity of plant and animal species and community types present; the structure and integrity of the native plant or animal community; the extent of disturbance from human activity, such as logging, agricultural use, and pollution; the commonness of the plant and animal community; unique natural features; the size of the site; and the educational value.

A total of 61 natural areas, encompassing about 5,672 acres, or about 3 percent of the County, were identified in Racine County in 2009. Of the 61 identified sites, seven are classified as NA-1 sites and encompass about 614 acres, 20 are classified as NA-2 sites and encompass about 2,886 acres, and 34 are classified as NA-3 sites and encompass about 2,172 acres. Map 5 depicts the locations of natural areas identified in 2009. Table 6 sets forth a description of each natural area.

¹*SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997, as amended in 2010.*

Critical Species Habitat

Critical species habitat sites are those areas, outside of natural areas, where the chief value lies in their ability to support rare, threatened, or endangered species. Such areas constitute “critical” habitat that is important to ensure survival of a particular species or group of species of special concern.

A total of 38 sites supporting threatened or rare plant or bird species have been identified in Racine County. These sites, which together encompass an area of about 1,426 acres, are shown on Map 6 and described in Table 7.

Geological Sites

A total of six sites of geological importance, including three glacial features and three bedrock geology sites, were identified in the County in 2009. The geological sites included in the inventory were selected on the basis of scientific importance, significance in industrial history, natural aesthetics, ecological qualities, educational value, and public access potential. The six sites selected in Racine County include one site of statewide significance (GA-1), one site of countywide or regional significance (GA-2), and four sites of local significance (GA-3). Together, these sites encompass about 1,310 acres in Racine County. Map 7 depicts the locations of geological sites identified in 2009. Table 8 sets forth a description of each site.

Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

One of the most important tasks completed under the regional planning program for Southeastern Wisconsin has been the identification and delineation of those areas in the Region in which concentrations of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base occur. The preservation of such areas in essentially natural, open uses is vital to maintaining a high level of environmental quality in the Region, protecting its natural heritage and beauty, and providing recreational opportunities in scenic outdoor settings.

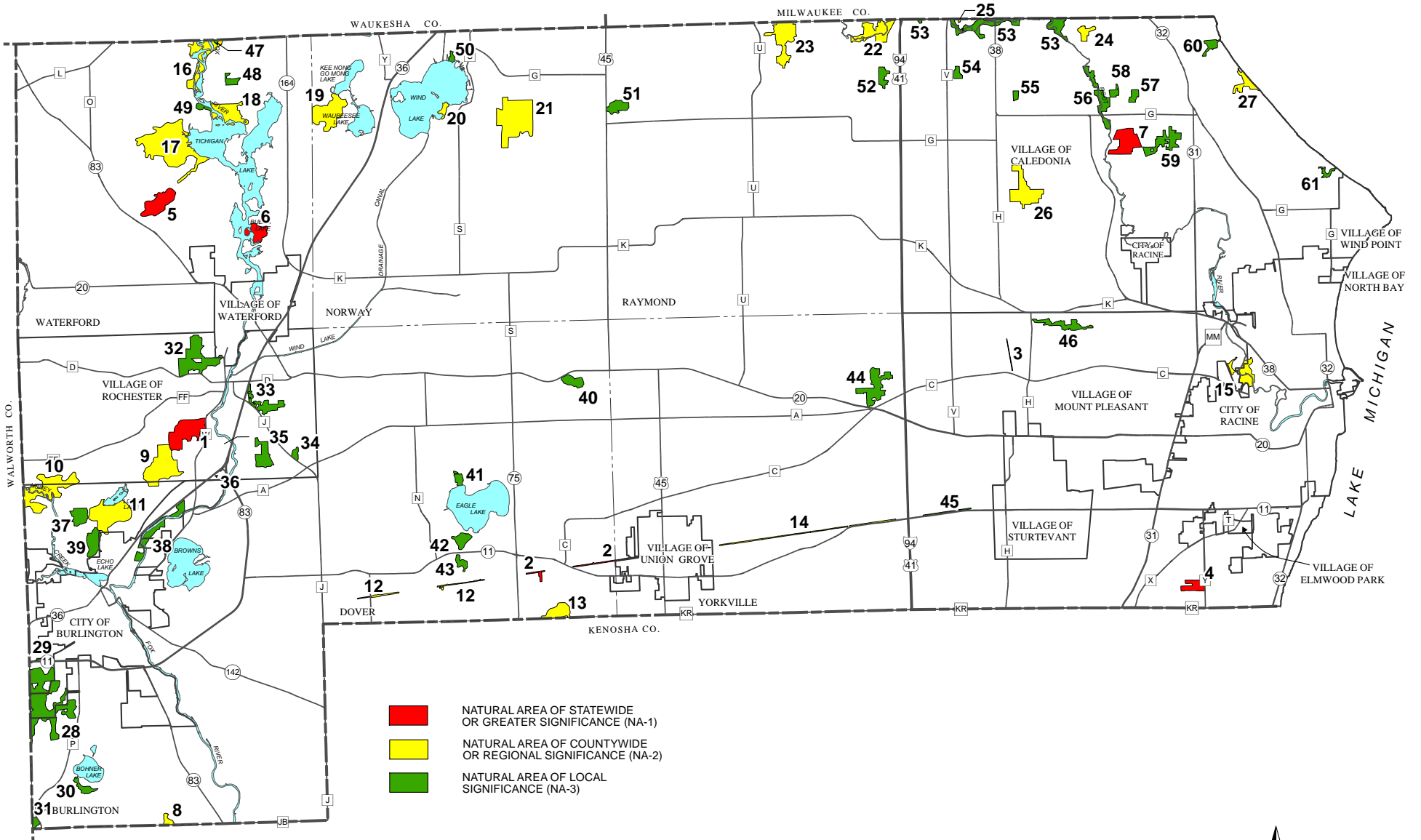
Identification of environmental corridors is based upon the presence of one or more of the following important elements of the natural resource base: 1) rivers, streams, lakes and associated shorelands and floodlands; 2) wetlands; 3) woodlands; 4) prairies; 5) wildlife habitat areas; 6) wet (hydric), poorly drained, and organic soils; and 7) rugged terrain and high relief topography. The presence of elements that are closely related to the natural resource base, including park and open space sites, natural areas, historic sites, and scenic viewpoints, are also considered in the delineation of environmental corridors. Many of the natural resource elements which form the basis for corridor delineation have been described in the preceding sections of this chapter.

The delineation on a map of the natural resource and resource-related elements specified above results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow, elongated areas which have been termed "environmental corridors" by the Regional Planning Commission.² Primary environmental corridors are a minimum of 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors connect with the primary environmental corridors and are at least 100 acres in size and one mile in length. Areas at least five acres in size which contain important natural resource base elements, but are separated physically from primary and secondary environmental corridors by intensive urban or agricultural land uses have also been identified and have been termed "isolated natural resource areas". Environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas within Racine County in 2010 are shown on Map 8. At that time, such areas encompassed about 62.5 square miles, or about 18 percent of the County.

²A detailed description of the process of refining the delineation of environmental corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin is presented in SEWRPC Technical Record, Vol. 4, No. 2 (March 1981), pp. 1-21.

Map 5

NATURAL AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2009



- NATURAL AREA OF STATEWIDE OR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE (NA-1)
- NATURAL AREA OF COUNTYWIDE OR REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-2)
- NATURAL AREA OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-3)

33 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 6)

Source: SEWRPC.

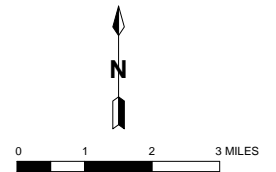


Table 6

NATURAL AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2009

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Cherry Lake Sedge Meadow State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	T3N, R19E Sections 10, 15 Village of Rochester	Department of Natural Resources and private	190	High-quality lowland complex of fen, wet prairie, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, shallow lake, and tamarack relict within a matrix of disturbed upland oak woods. A good combination of alkaline- and acid-loving plant is present. The irregular openings of water provide good nesting and escape cover for waterfowl, especially mallards, wood ducks, and blue-winged teals. The western border is a one-mile-long esker
2	Kansasville Railroad Prairie	NA-1	T3N, R20E Sections 25, 26, 35, 36 Town of Dover T3N, R21E Section 30 Town of Yorkville	Private	28	Discontinuous remnants of mesic prairie located along railway right-of-way between Union Grove and Kansasville. Small sections are of very high quality, representing the best remaining examples of the once-extensive mesic prairie of central Racine and Kenosha counties. Also included is a large old field which has been plowed but in which native prairie species have either persisted or are reinvading from the adjacent railway right-of-way. This latter area could be important for prairie reestablishment
3	Franksville Railroad Prairie	NA-1	T3N, R22E Sections 4, 9 Village of Mt. Pleasant	Private	4	A very rich and diverse remnant of mesic and wet-mesic prairie, located on west side of railway right-of-way. Contains some of the best such remnants in the Region. Regionally uncommon species include wild quinine (<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>), prairie Indian plantain (<i>Cacalia tuberosa</i>), and marsh blazing-star (<i>Liatris spicata</i>)
4	Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	T3N, R22E Section 36 Village of Mt. Pleasant	Racine County	56	Good-quality southern dry-mesic forest on two low ridges separated by a lowland swale. Good size-class distribution of tree species, including a number of large walnuts. The ground flora is rich and diverse, including several large patches of goldenseal (<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>), a State-designated special concern species
5	Tichigan Fen, Springs, and Woods	NA-1	T4N, R19E Sections 21, 22 Town of Waterford	Department of Natural Resources and private	131	A fine example of springs and calcareous fen, with a number of uncommon species present. The site includes the lesser-quality upland woods to the south that protects the water sources of the springs
6	Elm Island Bog—Island Oak Woods	NA-1	T4N, R19E Sections 23, 24, 25, 26 Town of Waterford	Racine County and private	67	Two distinct plant communities of good quality are present—an upland wooded island dominated by red and white oaks without signs of past logging or grazing is bordered on the east by a sphagnum-tamarack bog with a number of characteristic bog species present
7	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	T4N, R22E Section 14 Village of Caledonia	University of Wisconsin—Parkside and private	138	Outstanding, mostly old-growth low-lying southern mesic forest on east side of Root River. Wet-mesic hardwoods, shrub-carr, and shallow marsh lie along an intermittent stream which crosses the tract. Noted for spectacular displays of spring wildflowers. Probably the best such woods remaining in the Region
--	Subtotal	NA-1	7 sites	--	614	--
8	Karcher Springs State Natural Area	NA-2 (SNA)	T2N, R19E Section 21 Town of Burlington	Department of Natural Resources	19	Spring heads originating on east side of a wooded esker supply water for a clear, fast, cold, marl bottomed stream. Along banks is found calcareous fen, habitat for a number of uncommon species

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
9	Brock Lake Fen	NA-2	T3N, R19E Sections 15, 16, 21 Village of Rochester	Department of Natural Resources and private	231	High-quality wetland complex of fen, shallow marsh, sedge meadow, and small, undeveloped lake. The rich native species complement includes a number of uncommon ones, such as beaked spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>), Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>), common bog arrow-grass (<i>Triglochin maritima</i>), and marsh blazing-star (<i>Liatris spicata</i>). An integral part of a long northeast-southwest lowland corridor
10	Honey Lake Marsh and Sedge Meadow	NA-2	T3N, R19E Sections 17-20 Town of Burlington T3N, R18E Sections 13, 24 Town of Spring Prairie	Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and other private	250 (plus 141 in Walworth County)	Large, relatively undisturbed wetland complex, primarily consisting of good-quality sedge meadow and deep and shallow marsh, but also smaller areas containing springs and calcareous fens. Nesting site for sandhill cranes
11	Leda Lake Fen-Meadow	NA-2	T3N, R19E Sections 20, 21 29 Town of Burlington	Department of Natural Resources and private	222	Good-quality wetland complex of small, shallow, undeveloped lake, floating sedge mat, fen, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, and shallow cattail-bulrush marsh. Part of Cherry Lake—Brock Lake—Leda Lake environmental corridor
12	Rosewood Railroad Prairie	NA-2	T3N, R20E Sections 31-34 Town of Dover	Private	25	Discontinuous remnants of mesic prairie extending for three miles along deactivated railway right-of-way between Kansasville and Rosewood. Moderate quality overall, with small portions in better condition. Good diversity of native species, including a number of uncommon ones
13	Schroeder Road Marsh	NA-2	T3N, R20E Sections 35, 36 Town of Dover T2N, R20E Sections 1, 2 Town of Brighton	Private	77 (plus 111 in Kenosha County)	Large wetland area of shallow cattail marsh and sedge meadow that extends into Kenosha County. Perimeter has been disturbed but interior is intact
14	Union Grove Railroad Prairie	NA-2	T3N, R21E Sections 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 Town of Yorkville	Private	44	Discontinuous remnants of mesic prairie along railway right-of-way, extending east from Union Grove to IH 94. Some small patches are of very good quality, containing such uncommon species as wild quinine (<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>) and prairie Indian plantain (<i>Cacalia tuberosa</i>), both designated as threatened in Wisconsin
15	Colonial Park Woods	NA-2	T3N, R23E Section 8 City of Racine	City of Racine and private	94	Complex of lowland hardwoods, floodplain forest, and upland mesic to dry-mesic woods bordering the Root River. A number of uncommon species are present, including the State-designated endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>) and the State-designated threatened forked aster (<i>Aster furcatus</i>)
16	Norris Marsh and Slough	NA-2	T4N, R19E Sections 2, 3, 10 Town of Waterford	Private	183 (plus 26 in Waukesha County)	Good-quality deep and shallow marsh along the Fox River
17	Tichigan Marsh	NA-2	T4N, R19E Sections 9, 10, 15, 16 Town of Waterford	Department of Natural Resources and private	466	Large, good-quality deep and shallow marsh with patches of sedge meadow, bordering Tichigan Lake. Department of Natural Resources has excavated a series of ponds for wildlife
18	Tichigan Wetlands and Low Woods	NA-2	T4N, R19E Sections 10, 11 Town of Waterford	Department of Natural Resources and private	170	Wetland-upland complex consisting of good-quality deep and shallow marsh and sedge meadow bordered on north by older dry, dry-mesic, and wet-mesic woods, and regenerating woods and old field

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
19	Waubessee Oak Woods and Tamarack Relict	NA-2	T4N, R20E Section 7 Town of Norway	Racine County and private	187	Relatively large and mostly intact oak woods on rough glacial topography, with intervening wetlands in depressions, some of which contain relict tamaracks. This is one of the few woods of such size remaining in this rapidly developing part of the Region
20	Wind Lake Shrub-Fen	NA-2	T4N, R20E Section 9 Town of Norway	Private	21	Good-quality wetland complex of fen and shrub-carr on south end of Wind Lake. Contains a good population of Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>)
21	Wind Lake Tamarack Swamp	NA-2	T4N, R20E Sections 10, 11, 14, 15 Town of Norway	Department of Natural Resources and private	334	Large block of former tamarack swamp that is converting to lowland hardwoods due to hydrologic changes resulting from artificial drainage of surrounding agricultural land. This woods remains a refugium for many species with more northerly affinities, such as starflower, goldthread, winterberry, dwarf raspberry, yellow birch, bunchberry, and blueberry
22	County Line Riverine Woods	NA-2	T4N, R21E Section 1 Town of Raymond	Racine County and private	141	Good-quality riverine lowland hardwood forest along the Root River. Smaller upland to north west contains mesic hardwoods with a rich ground flora. An integral part of the Root River environmental corridor
23	Root River Canal Woods	NA-2	T4N, R21E Section 3 Town of Raymond T5N, R21 E Section 34 City of Franklin	Milwaukee County and private	163 (plus 152 in Milwaukee County)	A mixture of good-quality dry-mesic and lowland hardwood forest along the Root River Canal. One of the largest intact forested tracts in this part of the Region
24	Hunts Woods	NA-2	T4N, R22E Section 3 Village of Caledonia	Racine County and private	36	A small but undisturbed remnant of southern mesic hardwoods, dominated by mature beeches and sugar maples. The woods to the south and east are younger, while to the north are lowland hardwoods. The relatively rich ground flora includes the State-designated endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>)
25	Root River Wet-Mesic Woods—East	NA-2	T4N, R22E Section 5 Village of Caledonia T5N, R22E Section 32 City of Oak Creek	Racine County and Milwaukee County	2 (plus 50 in Milwaukee County)	Wet-mesic and mesic woods bordering a gravel-bottom stream that is tributary to the Root River. Contains a rich, diverse flora, including several rare species
26	Caledonia Wildlife Area	NA-2	T4N, R22E Section 21 Village of Caledonia	Village of Caledonia and private	166	An open wetland with seasonal ponds that attract a large number of migrating birds such as whistling swans, snow geese, golden plovers, and willets. The pond is one of the few secure stopover areas in the Region, and it is a very good observation area
27	Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks	NA-2	T4N, R23E Sections 7, 8 Village of Caledonia	Racine County, Village of Caledonia, and private	55	Second-growth mesic woods, ravine, and steep clay banks along Lake Michigan harbor a rich and diverse flora, including such uncommon species as buffaloberry, cream gentian, stiff gentian, balsam poplar, and blue-stemmed goldenrod
--	Subtotal	NA-2	20 sites	--	2,886	--
28	Burlington Hills Woods	NA-3	T2N, R19E Sections 5, 6, 7, 18 Town of Burlington T2N, R18E Sections 1, 12, 13 Town of Lyons	Private, plus a portion of site in Walworth County protected through conservation easement with Geneva Lakes Conservancy	416 (plus 86 in Walworth County)	Rough morainal ridges occupied by mature and second-growth oak woods, with small, scattered patches of dry hill prairie and disturbed openings. Largest remaining upland woods in Racine County; important for forest-interior-breeding birds. However, ongoing sand and gravel mine operations have reduced the wooded acreage

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
29	Burlington Railroad Prairie	NA-3	T2N, R19E Section 6 Town of Burlington T2N, R18E Section 1 Town of Lyons	Private	5 (plus 1 acre in Walworth County)	One-quarter-mile stretch of mesic, dry-mesic, and dry prairie remnants bordering railway right-of-way
30	Bohner Lake Lowlands	NA-3	T2N, R19E Sections 19, 20 Town of Burlington	Private	33	Moderate-quality combination of shallow marsh, sedge meadow, and shrub-carr
31	Tri-County Tamarack Swamp	NA-3	T2N, R19E Section 19 Town of Burlington T2N, R18E Sections 24, 25 Town of Lyons	Private	15 (plus 25 in Walworth County)	Medium-aged tamarack swamp surrounded by dense shrub-carr
32	Wadewitz Woods	NA-3	T3N, R19E Sections 2, 3 Village of Rochester	Racine County and private	204	Large upland complex of disturbed oak woods and former oak openings, cedar glades, dry-mesic woods, small dry hill prairie, and older woods
33	Rowntree Road Woods	NA-3	T3N, R19E Sections 11, 12 Village of Rochester	Private	77	A typical xeric oak woods, with several wet areas containing lowland hardwoods. An active blue heron rookery is present
34	English Settlement Prairie	NA-3	T3N, R19E Section 13 Village of Rochester	Private	16	Moderate-quality wet-mesic prairie with a history of disturbance, including plowing and grazing
35	Eagle Creek Woods	NA-3	T3N, R19E Sections 13, 14 Village of Rochester	Private	84	Typical xeric oak woods—relatively large but with a history of grazing and selective cutting
36	Fox River Prairie	NA-3	T3N, R19E Sections 14, 15 Village of Rochester	Private	2	Small prairie remnants along former railway right-of-way, now a county bicycle trail. Area consists of two separate patches—a hill to the south contains a small, depauperate dry prairie, while to the north a low area contains a larger and better-quality mesic and wet-mesic prairie
37	Honey Lake Leatherleaf Bog	NA-3	T3N, R19E Sections 19, 20 Town of Burlington	Private	63	A large monotypic leatherleaf bog relict, rare in the southern part of the Region
38	Fox River Riverine Forest	NA-3	T3N, R19E Sections 21, 22, 28 Town of Burlington	Racine County and private	131	Lowland and upland woods bordering the Fox River
39	Wehmhoff Park Upland Woods and Wetlands	NA-3	T3N, R19E Section 29 Town of Burlington	Town of Burlington and private	80	Moderate-quality sedge meadow-shallow marsh wetlands, located within an upland matrix of disturbed oak woods and dry hill prairie on hilly glacial terrain
40	Dover Wildlife Area Wetlands	NA-3	T3N, R20E Section 12 Town of Dover	Department of Natural Resources and private	49	Wetland complex maintained by Department of Natural Resources as wildlife refuge, consisting of shallow open water, shallow marsh, shrub-carr, and small wet-mesic prairie
41	Church Road Lowlands	NA-3	T3N, R20E Sections 16, 21 Town of Dover	Department of Natural Resources and private	24	Sedge meadow and shallow marsh on north shore of Eagle Lake
42	Eagle Lake Wetlands	NA-3	T3N, R20E Sections 27, 28 Town of Dover	Department of Natural Resources and private	46	Shallow marsh and shrub-carr on south shore of Eagle Lake. Disturbed by past ditching attempts
43	Vandenboom Road Marsh	NA-3	T3N, R20E Section 28 Town of Dover	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	27	Shallow, cattail-dominated marsh
44	Ives Grove Woods	NA-3	T3N, R21E Section 12 Town of Yorkville	Racine County and private	140	Relatively large upland wooded island, consisting of dry-mesic woods to south and xeric woods to north. Much of south woods is part of Racine County park. The ground flora is rich and diverse. A small stream bisects the two woods

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
45	Sylvania Railroad Prairie	NA-3	T3N, R22E Sections 20, 30 Village of Mt. Pleasant	Private	11	Mesic prairie remnant extending one mile east of IH 94 along railway right-of-way. Moderate quality, with a good population of wild quinine (<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>), a State-designated threatened species
46	Hoods Creek Woods	NA-3	T3N, R22E Section 3 Village of Mt. Pleasant	Village of Mt. Pleasant and private	72	Mix of upland and lowland woods along Hoods Creek
47	Norris Oak Woods and Wetlands	NA-3	T4N, R19E Section 1 Town of Waterford T5N, R19E Sections 26, 35 Town of Vernon	Private	6 (plus 364 in Waukesha County)	Two separate disturbed oak woods and adjoining open wetlands bordering the Fox River
48	Van Valin Woods	NA-3	T4N, R19E Section 2 Town of Waterford	Private	26	Moderate-quality dry-mesic woods dominated by white oak, shagbark hickory, white ash, and sugar maple. Threatened by encroaching residential development
49	Tichigan Wet Prairie	NA-3	T4N, R19E Section 10 Town of Waterford	Department of Natural Resources	16	Moderate- to good-quality combination of wet prairie, sedge meadow, and shallow marsh, with some calciphiles, such as Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>), present. Site is burned periodically to control shrubs
50	Wind Lake Wet Meadow	NA-3	T4N, R20E Section 4 Town of Norway	Private	11	A moderate-quality wetland complex of wet meadow, fen, shallow marsh, and sedge meadow on north shore of Wind Lake. Contains marsh blazing-star (<i>Liatris spicata</i>), a State-designated special concern species
51	Six Mile Road Swamp	NA-3	T4N, R21E Section 7 Town of Raymond	Private	55	Lowland hardwood forest of moderate quality, with a few northern relicts, such as tamarack (mostly dead), winterberry, paper birch, dwarf raspberry, and sphagnum. Dry-mesic upland woods border on the south
52	Kimmel Woods	NA-3	T4N, R21E Section 12 Town of Raymond	Private	40	Moderate-quality southern dry-mesic woods and lowland hardwoods bordering a small stream. Good, representative ground flora
53	Root River Riverine Forest	NA-3	T4N, R22E Sections 3-6 Village of Caledonia T5N, R22E Sections 31-34 City of Oak Creek	Racine County, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and private	184 (plus 147 in Milwaukee County)	A significant portion of the Root River corridor
54	Seven Mile Road Woods	NA-3	T4N, R22E Section 8 Village of Caledonia	Private	20	Second-growth maple-ash-oak woods of about 75 years of age that has been subjected to past selective cutting. Contains a rich and diverse ground flora. Low areas contain ephemeral ponds
55	Zirbes Woods	NA-3	T4N, R22E Section 9 Village of Caledonia	Private	13	A small but relatively undisturbed mesic woods dominated by basswood, white ash, red oak, and sugar maple, with a rich ground flora. Future high-grading is indicated by a number of the larger oaks which were marked
56	Caledonia Low Woods	NA-3	T4N, R22E Sections 10, 11, 14 Village of Caledonia	Racine County and private	107	Moderate-quality lowland hardwoods bordering the Root River. Adjoining upland woods contains three State-designated special concern species: American gromwell (<i>Lithospermum latifolium</i>), red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), and black haw (<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>)
57	Foley Road Woods—East	NA-3	T4N, R22E Section 11 Village of Caledonia	Private	24	Moderate-quality mesic woods with a rich ground flora; reportedly contains the State-designated endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>)
58	Foley Road Woods—West	NA-3	T4N, R22E Section 11 Village of Caledonia	Private	19	Medium-age mesic and wet-mesic woods with a large population of black haw (<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>)

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
59	Tabor Woods	NA-3	T4N, R22E Sections 13, 14 Village of Caledonia	Caledonia Conservancy and other private	106	Relatively large but irregularly shaped mesic, dry-mesic, and wet-mesic woods that have suffered various degrees of disturbance. Portions of the woods are dominated by beech. Threatened by increasing residential development in the area
60	Power Plant Ravine Woods	NA-3	T4N, R23E Section 6 Village of Caledonia	WE Energies	32	Mesic woods bordering a steep ravine that leads to Lake Michigan. Although the woods has suffered from disturbance, it contains a rich flora, including a large population of the State-designated endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>). The exposed ravine slopes and Lake Michigan clay banks contain a number of unusual species
61	Dominican Ravine	NA-3	T4N, R23E Section 21 Village of Caledonia	Private	18	Small woodland containing blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered species
--	Subtotal	NA-3	34 sites	--	2,172	--
--	Total	All Natural Areas	61 sites	--	5,672	--

^a NA-1 identifies Natural Area sites of statewide or greater significance.

NA-2 identifies Natural Area sites of countywide or regional significance.

NA-3 identifies Natural Area sites of local significance.

SNA, or State Natural Area, identifies those sites officially designated as State Natural Areas by the State of Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council.

Source: SEWRPC.

In any consideration of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, it is important to note that the preservation of such resources serves many beneficial purposes, in addition to protecting the important natural resources that make up the corridors. Corridor lands provide areas for the storage of flood waters away from homes and other developed areas; help to protect water quality by filtering sediment and fertilizer from runoff before it enters surface waters; provide wildlife habitat and corridors for the movement of animals; and contribute to the scenic beauty of the County and the Region. Excluding urban development from environmental corridors helps to prevent problems such as water pollution, wet and flooded basements, and building and pavement failures.

In addition, because of the many interacting relationships between living organisms and their environment, the destruction or deterioration of any one element of the natural resource base may lead to a chain reaction of deterioration and destruction. The draining and filling of wetlands, for example, may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge or discharge areas, and the natural filtration action and floodwater storage functions which contribute to maintaining high levels of water quality and stable streamflows and lake stages in a watershed. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to the deterioration of the quality of the groundwater which serves as a source of domestic, municipal, and industrial water supply and on which low flows in rivers and streams may depend. Similarly, the destruction of woodland cover may result in soil erosion and stream siltation, more rapid stormwater runoff and attendant increased flood flows and stages, as

well as destruction of wildlife habitat. Although the effects of any one of these environmental changes may not in and of itself be overwhelming, the combined effects will eventually create serious environmental and developmental problems. The need to maintain the integrity of the remaining environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas thus becomes apparent.

Primary Environmental Corridors

As shown on Map 8, the primary environmental corridors in Racine County are located along the major rivers and their tributaries, along Lake Michigan, around the major lakes in the County, and in large wetland areas. In 2010, about 37.3 square miles, comprising about 11 percent of the total area of the County, were encompassed within the primary environmental corridors.

The primary environmental corridors contain almost all of the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas in the County and are, in effect, a composite of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base. Such areas have immeasurable environmental and recreational value. The protection of the primary environmental corridors from additional intrusion by incompatible land uses, and thereby from degradation and destruction, is one of the principal objectives of this park and open space planning program.

Secondary Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

As shown on Map 8, secondary environmental corridors in Racine County are located chiefly along the small perennial and intermittent streams within the County. About 11.5 square miles, comprising about 3 percent of the County, were encompassed within secondary environmental corridors in 2010. Secondary environmental corridors contain a variety of resource elements and are often remnant resources from primary environmental corridors that have been developed with agricultural or urban uses. Secondary environmental corridors facilitate surface water drainage and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife and for the dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. Such corridors should be considered for preservation in natural, open use or incorporated as drainage ways, stormwater detention or retention areas, or as local parks or recreation trails, in developing areas.

As also shown on Map 8, isolated natural resource areas within Racine County include a geographically well-distributed variety of isolated wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitat; in 2010, these areas encompassed about 13.7 square miles, or about 4 percent of the County. Isolated natural resource areas may provide the only available wildlife habitat in an area, provide good locations for local parks and nature areas, and lend aesthetic character and natural diversity to an area. Such areas should be preserved in natural open uses insofar as practicable, being incorporated for use as parks and open space reservations or stormwater detention or retention areas where appropriate.

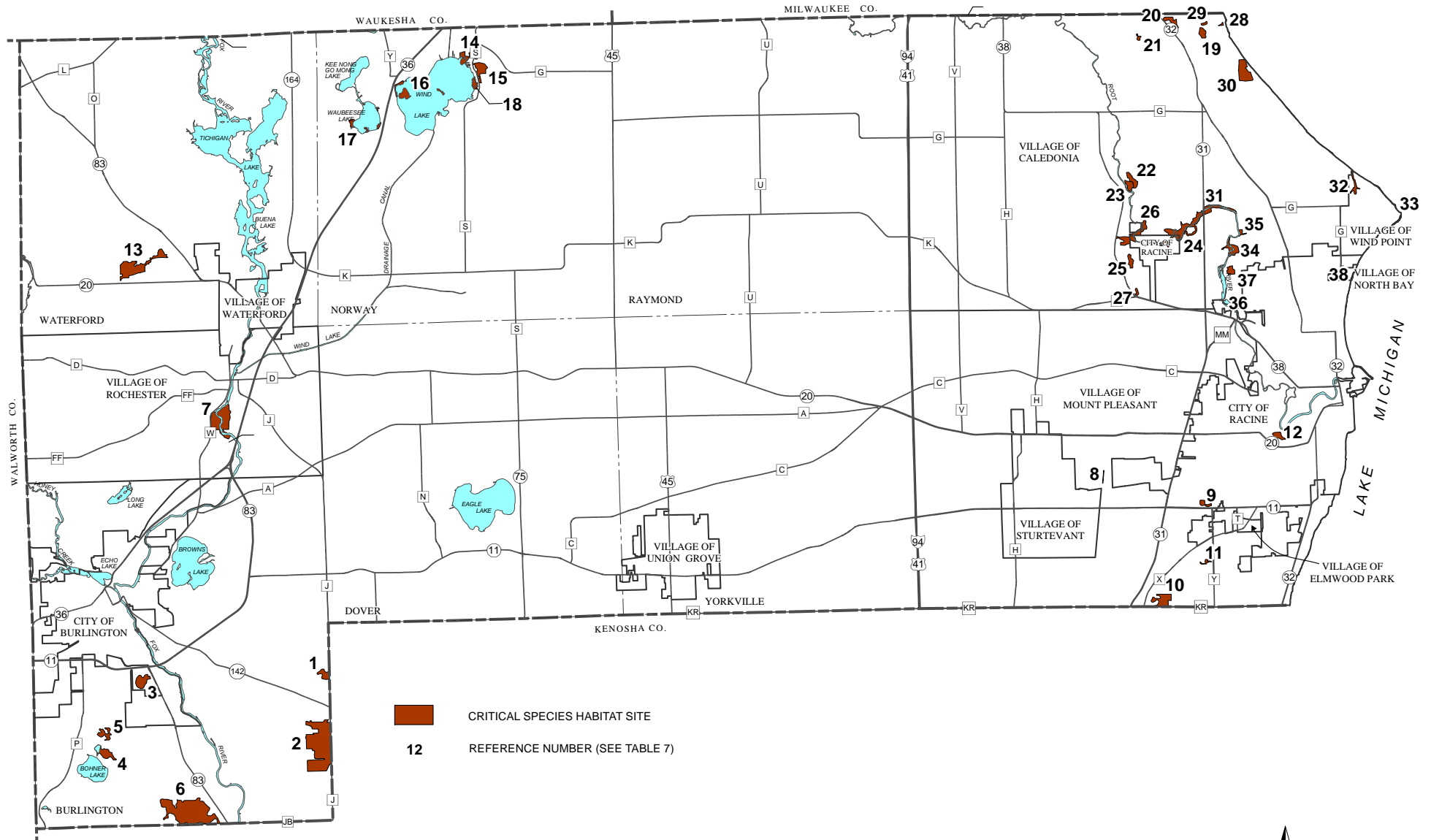
Agricultural Land

In 2010, approximately 180.7 square miles, or 53 percent of Racine County, were in agricultural use. Map 9 shows the extent of agricultural land in Racine County as identified in the year 2010 and also identifies those areas which are covered by soils in agricultural capability Class I, Class II, and Class III as classified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Lands covered by such soils meet the criteria for national prime farmland (largely Class I and Class II soils) and farmland of statewide importance (largely Class III soils). Agricultural lands covered by Class I, Class II, and Class III soils encompassed about 174.7 square miles, or 97 percent of all agricultural land in the County.

A number of important public purposes are served through the preservation of these best remaining agricultural lands. These include the maintenance of agricultural reserves; the maintenance of open space, scenic views, and wildlife habitat; the control of public costs for providing urban services; the preservation of the local economic base; and the preservation of a rural lifestyle.

Map 6

CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2009



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 7

CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2009

Number on Map 6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Mt. Tom Woods	T2N, R19E Sections 1, 12 Town of Burlington T2N, R20E Sections 6, 7 Town of Brighton	Private and Town of Burlington	21 (plus 3 in Kenosha County)	Hilly woodland on border of Kenosha and Racine counties
2	Bong State Recreation Area	T2N, R19E Sections 12, 13 Town of Burlington T2N, R20E Sections 3, 4, 7, 9, 15-23 Town of Brighton	Private, Department of Natural Resources, and Public School Districts	267 (plus 4,754 in Kenosha County)	Extensive artificial grasslands provide critical nesting habitat for grassland birds
3	Burlington Crevasse Filling	T2N, R19E Section 4 Town of Burlington	Private	34	Semi-open woodland supporting a small population of the State-designated threatened kittentails (<i>Besseyia bullii</i>)
4	Margis Wildlife Area	T2N, R19E Section 17 Town of Burlington	Racine County	36	Small areas of wetland bordering open water contain lesser fringed gentian (<i>Gentianopsis procera</i>), a State-designated special concern species
5	Ranger Mac Fen	T2N, R19E Section 17 Town of Burlington	University of Wisconsin—Parkside	22	Lowland shrubland with small areas of fen and associated species
6	Karcher Sedge-Carr	T2N, R19E Sections 21, 22 Town of Burlington	Department of Natural Resources	249	Open wetland complex with a small population of prairie Indian plantain (<i>Cacalia tuberosa</i>), a State-designated threatened species
7	Case-Eagle Park	T3N, R19E Sections 10, 14, 15 Village of Rochester	Racine County	111	Disturbed oak woodland with small depauperate patches of dry prairie; the State-designated threatened kittentails (<i>Besseyia bullii</i>) is present at low densities
8	Waxdale Railroad Prairie	T3N, R22E Sections 15, 22 Village of Mt. Pleasant	Private	1	Small, disturbed patches of remnant prairie supporting two critical species: wild quinine (<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>) and waxy meadow rue (<i>Thalictrum revolutum</i>)
9	Pritchard Park Woods	T3N, R22E Section 24 City of Racine	Racine County	10	Small remnant of dry-mesic and wet-mesic woods containing the State-designated special concern red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>)
10	Campbell Woods	T3N, R22E Sections 35, 36 Village of Mt. Pleasant	Private	43	Formerly of NA-3 status, extensive residential development has reduced the wooded acreage. The State-designated special concern red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>) remains
11	Willow Woods	T3N, R22E Section 36 Village of Mt. Pleasant	Private	4	Small woodland supporting red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), a State-designated special concern species
12	Washington Park Woods	T3N, R23E Section 17 City of Racine	City of Racine	14	Disturbed, very open mesic woods, but with a substantial population of blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered species
13	Maple Road Gravel Pit	T4N, R19E Section 28 Town of Waterford	Private	102	Small patches of disturbed, open woodland bordering gravel pit that contains a small population of the State-designated threatened kittentails (<i>Besseyia bullii</i>)
14	Erwin Wetlands	T4N, R20E Section 3 Town of Norway	Private	2	Disturbed prairie-fen supporting Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>), a State-designated special concern species
15	Patzke Fen	T4N, R20E Section 3 Town of Norway	Private	33	Disturbed prairie-fen supporting Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>), a State-designated special concern species

Table 7 (continued)

Number on Map 6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
16	Wind Lake	T4N, R20E Sections 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17 Town of Norway	Department of Natural Resources and private	58	Wetlands bordering Wind Lake providing nesting habitat for black terns and Forster's terns
17	Waubeesee Lake	T4N, R20E Section 8 Town of Norway	Private	16	Wetlands bordering Waubeesee Lake providing nesting habitat for black terns and Forster's terns
18	Landon Wetland	T4N, R20E Section 10 Town of Norway	Private	12	Disturbed prairie-fen supporting Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>), a State-designated special concern species
19	WEPCO Oak Woods	T4N, R22E Section 1 Village of Caledonia	WE Energies	14	Small woodland on grounds of Oak Creek Power Plant containing blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered species
20	WEPCO Woods	T4N, R22E Section 1 Village of Caledonia	WE Energies	18	Small woodland on grounds of Oak Creek Power Plant containing blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered species
21	Sherwood Property	T4N, R22E Section 2 Village of Caledonia	Private	4	Wetland containing a population of hoplike sedge (<i>Carex lupuliformis</i>), a State-designated endangered species
22	Forked Aster Site	T4N, R22E Section 23 Village of Caledonia	Private	18	Woodland supporting forked aster (<i>Aster furcatus</i>), a State-designated threatened species
23	River Meadow Woods	T4N, R22E Section 23 Village of Caledonia	Private	14	Small woodland supporting red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), a State-designated special concern species
24	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way	T4N, R22E Section 25 Village of Caledonia	Caledonia Conservancy and other private	94	Shrubland containing blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered species, and two species of special concern
25	Hoods Creek Swamp	T4N, R22E Section 26 Village of Caledonia	Private	13	Small woodland supporting red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), a State-designated special concern species
26	Root River Bluff	T4N, R22E Section 26 Village of Caledonia	Private and Racine County	50	Small woodland supporting hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>), a State-designated special concern species
27	STH 38/CTH K	T4N, R22E Section 35 Village of Caledonia	Private	4	Small woodland supporting red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), a State-designated special concern species
28	Lakeside Woods	T4N, R23E Section 30 Village of Caledonia	WE Energies	2	Small woodland on grounds of Oak Creek Power Plant containing blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered species
29	Wood Duck Woods	T4N, R23E Section 6 Village of Caledonia	WE Energies	3	Small woodland on grounds of Oak Creek Power Plant containing blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered species
30	Cliffside Park Old Field	T4N, R23E Sections 7, 8 Village of Caledonia	Racine County	55	Old field/grassland complex within county park containing breeding habitat for a number of grassland-nesting birds
31	Four Mile Road Woods	T4N, R23E Sections 19, 30 Village of Caledonia	Private	31	Small woodland supporting red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), a State-designated special concern species
32	Wind Point Ravine Woods	T4N, R23E Sections 21, 22, 27 Village of Wind Point and Village of Caledonia	Private	14	Small ravine woodland supporting red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), a State-designated special concern species
33	Wind Point	T4N, R23E Section 27 Village of Wind Point	City of Racine	4	Portion of Lake Michigan sand beach supporting sea rocket (<i>Cakile edentula</i>), a State-designated special concern species
34	Caledonia Low Woods—South	T4N, R23E Section 30 Village of Caledonia	Private and Racine County	30	Small woodland supporting two State-designated special concern species: red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>) and hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>)

Table 7 (continued)

Number on Map 6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
35	Root River Ravine Woods	T4N R23E Section 30 Village of Caledonia	Private	5	Small woodland supporting red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), a State-designated special concern species
36	Root River Strip Woods	T4N, R23E Section 31 Village of Caledonia	Racine County	2	Small woodland supporting a State-designated special concern species, hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>)
37	River Bend Upland Woods	T4N, R23E Section 31 Village of Caledonia	Racine County	14	Dry-mesic woods containing blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered species
38	North Bay Ravine and Beach	T4N, R23E Section 33 Village of Caledonia	Private	2	Portion of Lake Michigan sand beach supporting sea rocket (<i>Cakile edentula</i>), a State-designated special concern species
Total	38 sites	--	--	1,426	--

Source: SEWRPC.

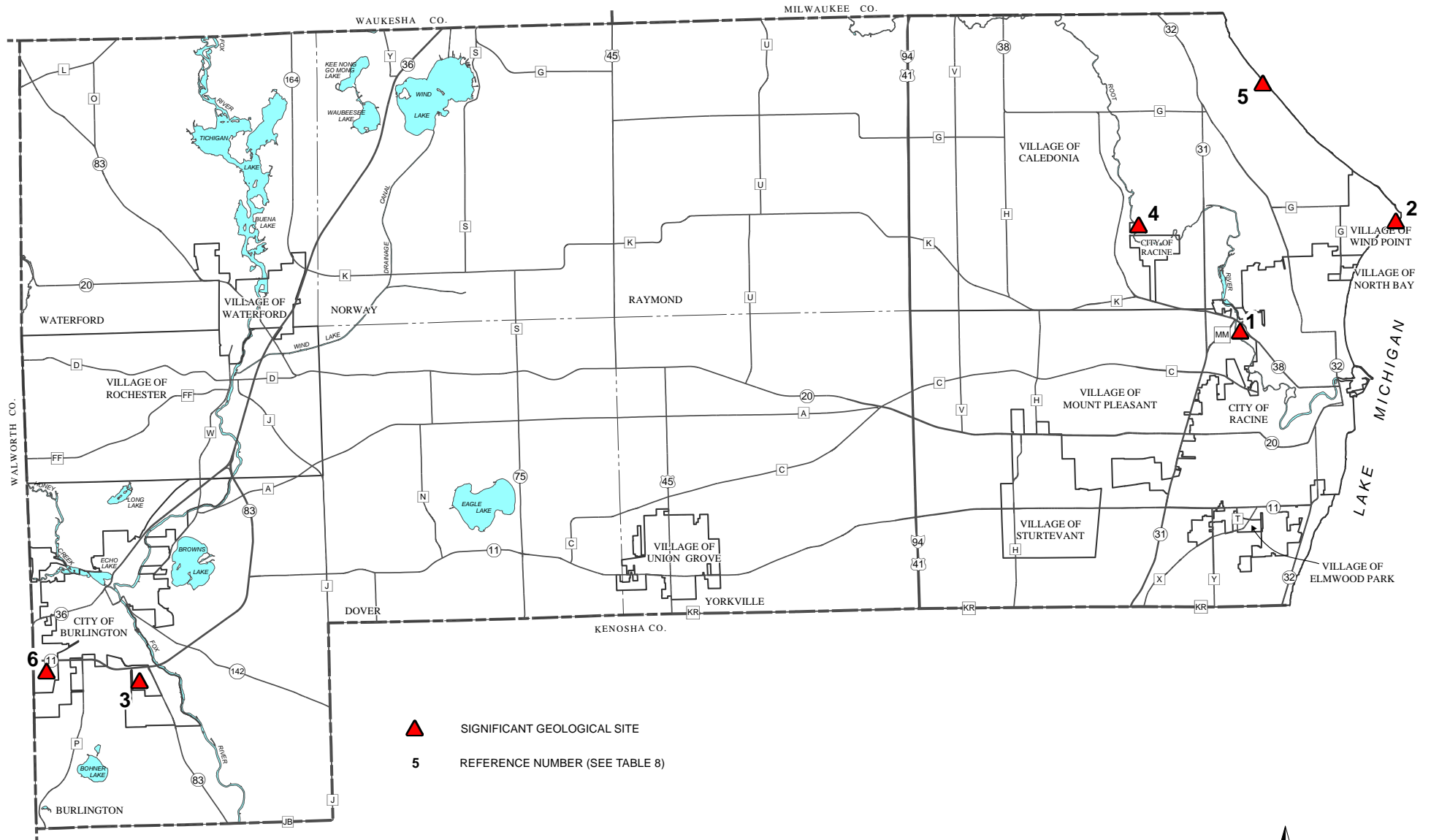
SUMMARY

This chapter has presented data related to existing demographic and economic characteristics, land use, and natural resources for Racine County. The key components of the chapter are as follows:

1. The resident population of Racine County in 2010, the year of the most recent U.S. Census, was 195,408, an increase of 14 percent over 1970. During the same period, households increased by 25,855, or about 52 percent, as the number of persons per household has decreased.
2. An inventory of land use in 2010 indicated that 81.6 square miles, or about 24 percent of the County, were developed with urban uses, while the remaining 259.0 square miles, or about 76 percent of the County, were devoted to rural uses.
3. There are 101 miles of perennial streams and 3,495 acres of major lakes within the County. There are approximately 42.0 square miles, or about 12 percent of the County, located within the 100-year recurrence interval flood hazard area of the perennial streams.
4. The County encompasses a number of significant natural resource base features including wetland areas which occupied about 31.7 square miles, or about 9 percent of the County; and woodlands, which occupied about 19.6 square miles, or about 6 percent of the County. The County contained 61 sites identified as natural areas – areas which contain native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European settlement landscape; and 38 critical species habitat sites – sites which support rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals.
5. The most important elements of the natural resource base and features closely related to that base – including wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat, major lakes and streams and associated shorelands and floodlands, and outdoor recreation sites – when combined, result in an essentially linear pattern in the landscape referred to by the Regional Planning Commission as environmental corridors. Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of important natural resource and resource-related elements and are, by definition, at least 400 acres in size, two miles long, and 200 feet wide. In 2010, primary environmental corridors encompassed about 37.3 square miles, or about 11 percent of the County.
6. Approximately 180.7 square miles, or 53 percent of the County, were in agricultural use in 2010. Agricultural lands consisting of Class I, II, and III soils are best suited for long-term agricultural use and are located throughout the entire County.

Map 7

SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGICAL SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2009



Source: SEWRPC.

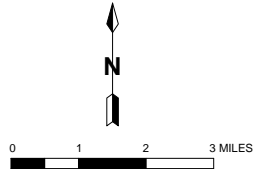


Table 8

SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGIC SITES IN THE RACINE COUNTY PLANNING AREA: 2009

Number on Map 7	Site Name	Classification Code ^a	Site Area (acres)	Location	Ownership	Description
1	Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries	GA-1	30	T3N, R23E Section 6 Village of Mt. Pleasant	Racine County	Natural bluffs and old quarries along the Root River, with exposures of richly fossiliferous Racine Dolomite reef strata. Site has produced the largest known diversity of fossil marine organisms from any Silurian reef in the world. Considered for designation as a National Historic Landmark in the History of Science
2	Wind Point	GA-2	5	T4N, R23E Section 27 Village of Wind Point	Village of Wind Point, City of Racine	Low natural outcrops, exposing highly fossiliferous Racine Dolomite reef rock, extending several hundred feet along Lake Michigan shore
3	Burlington Crevasse Filling	GA-3	35	T2N, R19E Section 4, 9 Town of Burlington	Private	Good example of crevasse fill
4	Root River Outcrops	GA-3	20	T3N, R22E Section 26 Village of Caledonia	Racine County	Low outcrops of Racine Dolomite along Root River; one of few places in Racine County where rock is exposed
5	Cliffside Park Clay Banks	GA-3	20	T4N, R23E Section 7, 8 Village of Caledonia	Racine County and Village of Caledonia	Clay banks along Lake Michigan shoreline
6	Lyons Glacial Deposits	GA-3	1,200 ^b	T2N, R18E Sections 12-15, 21-29 Town of Lyons, Town of Burlington	Private	Outstanding examples of kettle and kame topography

^aGA-1 identifies Geological Area sites of statewide or greater significance.

GA-2 identifies Geological Area sites of countywide or regional significance.

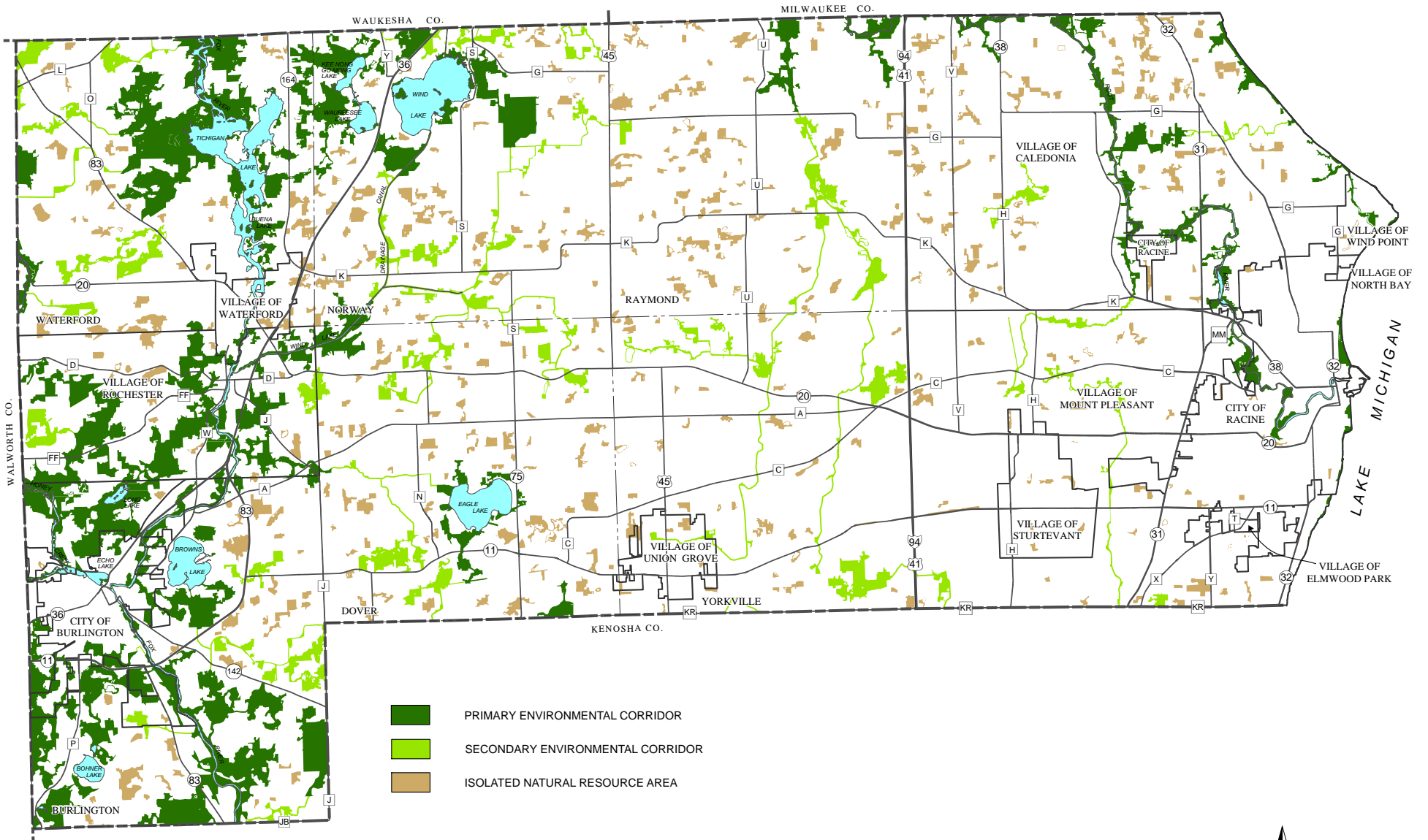
GA-3 identifies Geological Area sites of local significance.

^bIncludes only those lands of the Lyons Glacial Deposits located within Racine County.

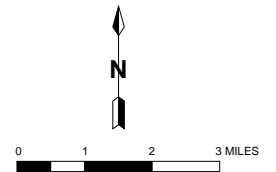
Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, and SEWRPC.

Map 8

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010

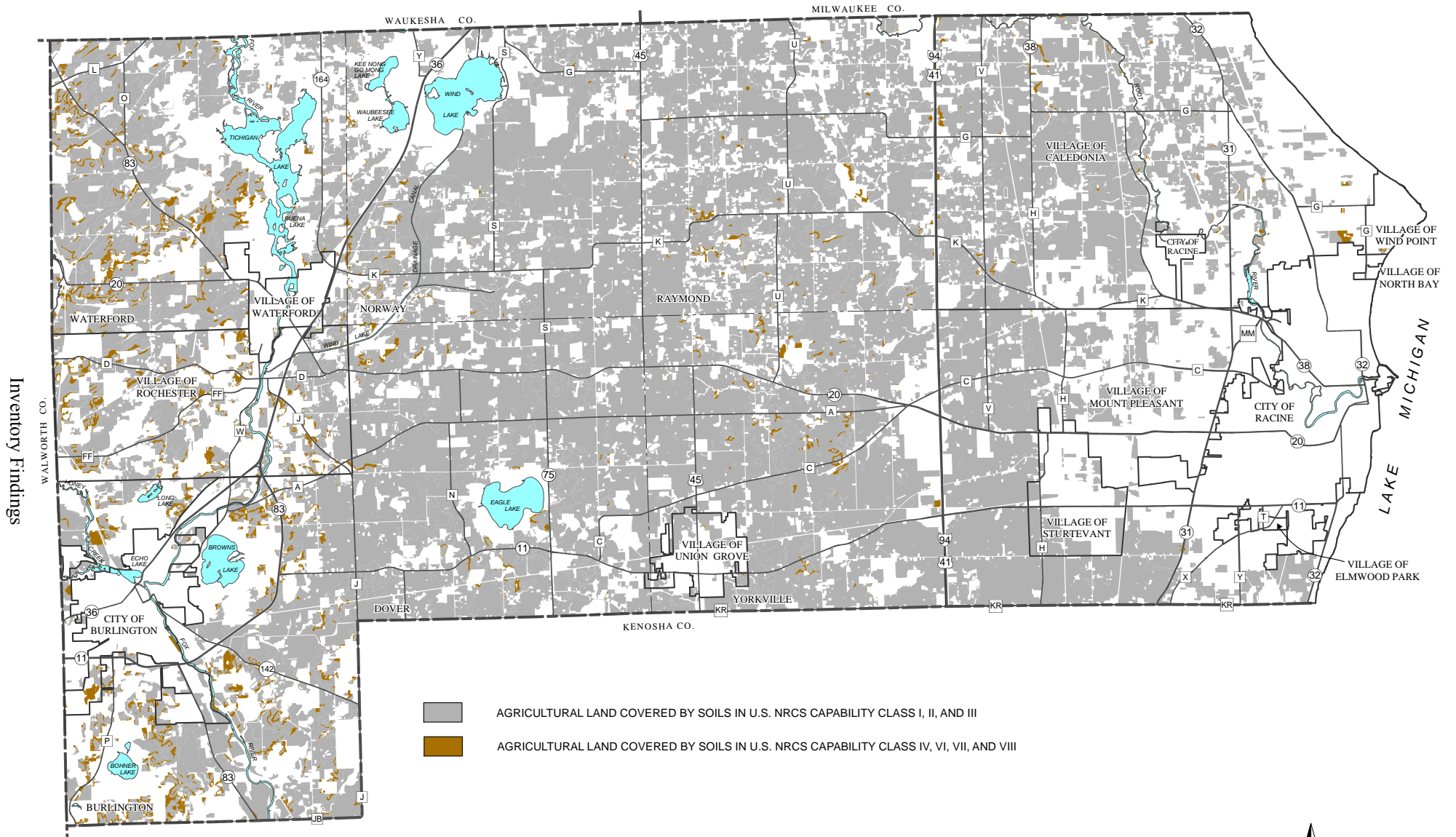


Source: SEWRPC.

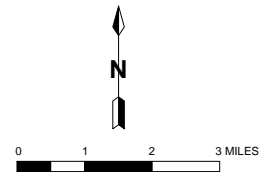


Map 9

AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010



Inventory Findings



(This page intentionally left blank)

Chapter III

EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive areawide inventory of park and open space sites was conducted in 1973 under the initial regional park and open space planning program.¹ The inventory is updated periodically, and was updated in 2007 as part of the Racine County Comprehensive Plan. The inventory of park and open space sites in the County was updated again in 2010 for use in preparing this new County park and open space plan. The findings of the 2010 inventory are presented in this chapter.

The 2010 inventory identified all park and open space sites owned by a public agency, including Federal, State, County, or local units of government and school districts. Also identified in the inventory were lands held in conservation easements by organizations such as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Kenosha Racine Land Trust (KRLT). The inventory also included privately owned resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites such as golf courses, campgrounds, ski hills, boating access sites, swimming beaches, hunting clubs, and group camps such as Scout or YMCA camps, and special use outdoor recreation sites. Sites owned by nonprofit conservation organizations, such as the Caledonia Conservancy, were also identified. The inventory of private outdoor recreation sites focused on resource-oriented sites because the County park and open space plan is most directly concerned with the provision of sites and facilities for resource-oriented activities. The inventory also identified such other recreation resources as existing trails and bicycle ways and historic sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

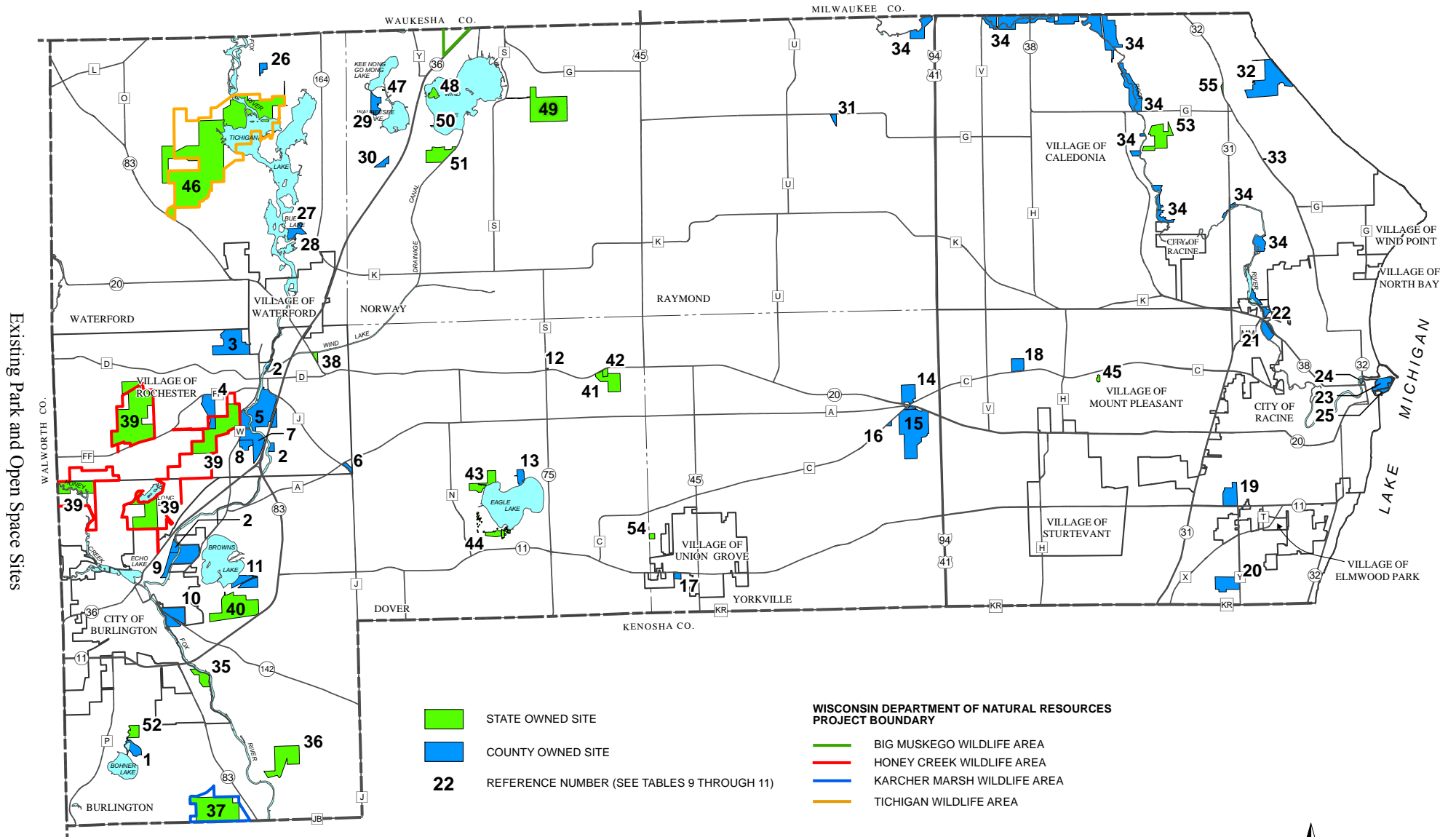
Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Racine County

Park and open space sites owned by Racine County in 2010 are shown on Map 10 and listed on Table 9. In 2010, Racine County owned 34 such sites, encompassing a total of 2,788 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County.

¹The regional park and open space plan is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000, November 1977.

Map 10

RACINE COUNTY AND STATE OF WISCONSIN PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES: 2010



Existing Park and Open Space Sites

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Racine County, and SEWRPC.

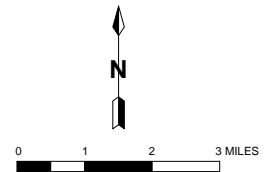


Table 9

PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES OWNED BY RACINE COUNTY: 2010

Number on Map 10	Site Name	Location ^a	Size (acres)
1	John Margis, Jr. Wildlife Area	T2N, R19E, Section 17	45
2	Fox River Parkway	T3N, R19E, Sections 2, 14, 21	38
3	W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp	T3N, R19E, Section 3	176
4	Keucker Property	T3N, R19E, Section 10	85
5	Case Eagle Park	T3N, R19E, Section 11	245
6	Stenhouse Memorial Park.....	T3N, R19E, Section 13	10
7	Saller Woods	T3N, R19E, Sections 14, 15	90
8	Saller Woods Addition.....	T3N, R19E, Section 15	28
9	Browns Lake Golf Course	T3N, R19E, Section 28	140
10	Bushnell Park.....	T3N, R19E, Section 33	95
11	Fischer Memorial Park	T3N, R19E, Section 34	65
12	Beaumont Park	T3N, R20E, Section 2	1
13	Eagle Lake Park.....	T3N, R20E, Section 22	25
14	Evans Park	T3N, R21E, Section 12	64
15	Ives Grove Golf Links.....	T3N, R21E, Section 13	289
16	Skewes Memorial Park	T3N, R21E, Section 14	4
17	Old Settler's Park	T3N, R21E, Section 31	12
18	Haban Park.....	T3N, R22E, Section 8	41
19	Pritchard Park	T3N, R22E, Section 24	73
20	Sanders Park	T3N, R22E, Section 36	84
21	Quarry Lake Park.....	T3N, R23E, Section 6	39
22	Horlick Park	T3N, R23E, Section 6	15
23	Reefpoint Marina.....	T3N, R23E, Section 9	45
24	Belle Harbor Marina.....	T3N, R23E, Section 9	4
25	Racine Harbor Park	T3N, R23E, Section 9	17
26	American Eagle Manor Outlot	T4N, R19E, Section 2	17
27	Fowler's Bay North.....	T4N, R19E, Section 24	6
28	Fowler's Bay Outlot 1.....	T4N, R19E, Sections 25, 26	35
29	Whispering Hills Outlot.....	T4N, R20E, Section 7	43
30	Heg Park.....	T4N, R20E, Section 18	18
31	Koerber Property.....	T4N, R21E, Section 15	11
32	Cliffside Park.....	T4N, R23E, Sections 7, 8	223
33	Tabor Sokol Memorial Park	T4N, R23E, Section 19	1
34	Root River Parkway	T3N, R23E, Section 6 T4N, R21E, Section 1 T4N, R22E, Sections 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 23, 25 T4N, R23E, Sections 19, 30, 31	704
Total - 34 Sites		- -	2,788

^aU.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

Source: Racine County Public Works Division and SEWRPC.

There are eight existing major County parks² encompassing a total of 1,325 acres: Browns Lake Golf Course and Bushnell Park in the Town of Burlington; Cliffside Park in the Village of Caledonia; Sanders Park in the Village of Mt. Pleasant; Pritchard Park in the City of Racine; Case Eagle Park and W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp in the Village of Rochester; and Ives Grove Golf Links in the Town of Yorkville.

Also shown on Map 10 and listed on Table 9 are 26 other park and outdoor recreation sites encompassing a total of 1,442 acres, owned by the County. Included in these sites are parkway lands along the Fox River (17 acres) and Root River (704 acres). The Fox River Parkway and Root River Parkway combined encompass 721 acres.

Selected outdoor recreation facilities within the County park system in 2010 are listed in Table 10. As indicated in that table, 11 parks within the County system currently provide playfields, two parks provide golf courses, 17 parks provide picnic areas, two parks provide a swimming beach, 10 parks provide trails, five parks provide boat launch facilities, and three parks include campsites.

Park and Open Space Sites Owned by the State of Wisconsin

As indicated in Table 11 and shown on Map 10, in 2010 there were 21 State-owned park and open space sites in Racine County, encompassing 3,863 acres, or about 2 percent of the total area of the County. Of these 21 sites, 17 sites, encompassing 3,711 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; two sites, encompassing 141 acres, were owned by the University of Wisconsin; and two sites, encompassing 11 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has acquired large areas of park and open space lands in Racine County for a variety of resource protection and recreational purposes. Sites acquired for natural resource preservation and limited recreational purposes include the Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area, Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Eagle Lake Fishery Areas, Tichigan Wildlife Area, Wind Lake Fishery Area, and numerous scattered wetland sites.

Map 10 also reflects project boundaries that have been approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board for certain WDNR sites within the County. Lands within the approved project boundaries have been identified by the Board as appropriate additions to existing sites and are intended to be acquired by the Department of Natural Resources, on a "willing seller-willing buyer" basis, for recreational or open space purposes as funding permits.

University of Wisconsin

In 2010 there were two open space sites affiliated with the University of Wisconsin. These sites include the 108-acre Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods, a natural area of statewide significance (NA-1), in the Village of Caledonia—and the 33-acre Ranger Mac Fen, a critical species habitat site (CSH) located in the Town of Burlington.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation in 2010 owned two sites within Racine County, one of which was acquired as wetland mitigation sites for open space protection. This open space site is located in the Town of Yorkville. The remaining site owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is a wayside and memorial marker located in the Village of Caledonia.

²Major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for resource-oriented activities and which are generally 100 acres or more in size.

Table 10

SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN RACINE COUNTY PARKS: 2010

Number on Map 10	Site Name	Size (acres)	Playfield	Golf Course	Picnic Area	Swimming Beach	Trails	Boat Launch	Campsites (number)
1	John Margis, Jr. Wildlife Area.....	45	--	--	X	--	X	--	--
2	Fox River Parkway	38	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp.....	176	--	--	--	--	X	--	9
4	Keucker Property.....	85	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5	Case Eagle Park.....	245	X	--	--	--	X	--	--
6	Stenhouse Memorial Park	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
7	Saller Woods	90	--	--	--	--	X	--	--
8	Saller Woods Addition	28	--	--	--	--	X	--	--
9	Browns Lake Golf Course.....	140	--	X	--	--	--	--	--
10	Bushnell Park	95	X	--	X	--	X	--	--
11	Fischer Memorial Park.....	65	X	--	X	X	--	X	--
12	Beaumont Park.....	1	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
13	Eagle Lake Park	25	X	--	X	--	--	X	--
14	Evans Park	64	--	--	X	--	X	--	--
15	Ives Grove Golf Links	289	--	X	--	--	--	--	--
16	Skewes Memorial Park.....	4	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
17	Old Settler's Park.....	12	X	--	X	--	--	--	--
18	Haban Park.....	41	X	--	X	--	--	--	--
19	Pritchard Park.....	73	X	--	X	--	X	--	--
20	Sanders Park.....	84	X	--	X	--	X	--	25
21	Quarry Lake Park	39	--	--	X	X	--	--	--
22	Horlick Park	15	--	--	X	--	--	X	--
23	Reefpoint Marina	45	--	--	--	--	--	X	--
24	Belle Harbor Marina.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	-- ^a	--
25	Racine Harbor Park.....	17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
26	American Eagle Manor Outlot	17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
27	Fowler's Bay North	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
28	Fowler's Bay Outlot 1	35	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
29	Whispering Hills Outlot	43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
30	Heg Park.....	18	X	--	X	--	--	--	--
31	Koerber Property	11	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
32	Cliffside Park	223	X	--	X	--	X	--	95
33	Tabor Sokol Memorial Park.....	1	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
34	Root River Parkway.....	704	--	--	X	--	--	X ^b	--
Total - 34 Sites		2,788	11	2	17	2	10	5	129 ^c

^aBoat launch well.

^bExisting canoe launch in Root River Parkway is for non-motorized boats.

^cThe number of campsites include three group sites at Cliffside Park and nine group sites at W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp.

Source: Racine County Public Works Division and SEWRPC.

Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Local Governments or School Districts

In addition to the County- and State-owned park and open space sites in Racine County, in 2010 there was a total of 238 sites owned by local units of government or school districts. Those sites, listed on Table A-1 and shown on Map A-1 in Appendix A, encompass 3,287 acres, or about 2 percent of the total area of the County. Local governments own 185 park and open space sites and public school districts own 53 sites. The acreage attributed to school district sites includes only those portions of the site used for recreational or open space purposes.

Table 11

STATE OF WISCONSIN RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE LANDS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010

Number on Map 10	Site Name	Location ^a	Size (acres)
	Department of Natural Resources Sites		
35	Statewide Habitat Area.....	T2N, R19E, Section 9	44
36	Scattered Wetland	T2N, R19E, Sections 14, 23	157
37	Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area	T2N, R19E, Sections 21, 22	279
38	Wind Lake Canal Access Site.....	T3N, R19E, Section 1	9
39	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E, Sections 8,10,15,16,17,19, 20	1,010
40	Statewide Habitat Area.....	T3N, R19E, Section 34	227
41	Scattered Wetland	T3N, R20E, Section 12	81
42	Statewide Habitat Area.....	T3N, R20E, Section 12	10
43	Eagle Lake Fishery Area (North).....	T3N, R20E, Section 21	60
44	Eagle Lake Fishery Area (South).....	T3N, R20E, Section 28	37
45	Scattered Wetland	T3N, R22E, Section 10	5
46	Tichigan Wildlife Area.....	T4N, R19E, Sections 10,11,15,16,21,22	1,425
47	Statewide Public Access-Waubessee Lake	T4N, R20E, Section 7	1
48	Wind Lake Fishery Area	T4N, R20E, Section 8	20
49	State Wetland.....	T4N, R20E, Section 11	260
50	Statewide Public Access-Wind Lake	T4N, R20E, Section 17	1
51	Scattered Wetland	T4N, R20E, Section 17	85
	Subtotal - 17 Sites	--	3,711
	University of Wisconsin Sites		
52	Ranger Mac Fen	T2N, R19E, Section 17	33
53	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods	T4N, R22E, Section 14	108
	Subtotal - 2 Sites	--	141
	Department of Transportation Sites		
54	WisDOT Mitigation Site	T3N, R21E, Section 30	8
55	32nd Division Memorial Marker and Wayside.....	T4N, R22E, Section 12	3
	Subtotal - 2 Sites	--	11
--	Total - 21 Sites	--	3,863

^aU.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

Source: SEWRPC.

Of the 238 locally owned public parks, the largest is the 335-acre Johnson Park and Golf Course. Owned by the City of Racine, this major park provides a variety of resource-oriented recreational facilities, including a golf course, picnic areas, playfields, and nature area.

Private and Public-Interest Resource-Oriented Park and Open Space Sites

Private Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Sites

The 2010 inventory of park and open space sites also identified a total of 99 privately owned resource-oriented recreation sites. Those 99 sites are listed on Table A-2 and shown on Map A-2 in Appendix A. Together they encompassed 2,475 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County.

Examples of privately owned recreation sites include hunting clubs, yacht clubs, golf courses, boat access sites, campgrounds, subdivision parks, and recreation areas associated with private schools.

Private Resource Protection Sites

In addition, the 2010 inventory of park and open space sites identified a total of 14 sites owned by private organizations for natural resource protection purposes in Racine County. Those sites are listed on Table 12 and shown on Map 11. The 14 open space area sites owned for resource preservation purposes encompass 198 acres. Those sites include 13 sites owned by the Caledonia Conservancy and one site owned by the River Bend Nature Center.

Conservation Easements

There are 18 privately owned open space and environmentally sensitive sites in Racine County that are protected under conservation easements. In general, conservation easements are voluntary contracts between a private landowner and a land trust or government body that limit, or in some cases prohibit, future development of the parcel. The property owner sells or donates a conservation easement for the property to a land trust or government agency, but retains ownership. The owner is not prohibited from selling the property, but future owners must abide by the terms of the conservation easement. Conservation easements typically do not include any provision for public access. The 18 easements in Racine County, listed on Table 13 and shown on Map 12, encompassed 510 acres in 2010. All of the conservation easements identified on the table and map provide for the permanent protection of resources on private land.

LAKE AND RIVER ACCESS SITES

Lakes and rivers constitute a particularly valuable part of the natural resource base of the County. Lakes and rivers enhance the aesthetic quality of the County and are focal points for water-related recreational activities, including such active uses as swimming, boating, and fishing, and passive uses such as walking, or viewing along the water's edge. Boat access sites, both public and non-public, provide opportunities for persons who do not own land on a body of water to participate in water-related recreational activities. The regional park and open space plan recommends that rivers and major lakes, defined as lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more, be provided with adequate public access, including carry-in-boating and motor-boat access, consistent with safe and enjoyable participation in water-related activities. There are 10 major lakes located entirely within Racine County: Bohner Lake, Browns Lake, Buena Lake, Eagle Lake, Echo Lake, Kee Nong Go Mong Lake, Long Lake, Tichigan Lake, Waubeesee Lake, and Wind Lake. As shown on Map 3 in Chapter II, there are approximately 101 miles of major streams in Racine County.

Publicly owned access sites for motor-boating purposes in Racine County are provided to Lake Michigan, the Fox River, Root River, and all the major lakes except for Long Lake. Canoe/kayak access to the Fox River, Root River, and Lake Michigan is also provided at a number of locations in the County. In addition, there are numerous other sites that provide access to lakes and rivers and Lake Michigan for other recreational activities and passive uses.

TRAILS AND BICYCLE WAYS

The regional park and open space plan, adopted in 1977, recommended the development of an approximately 440-mile network of hiking and bicycling trails in Southeastern Wisconsin. Most of the trails recommended in the regional plan were proposed to be located in areas having natural resource values of regional significance, such as the Lake Michigan shoreline, the Kettle Moraine, and the riverine areas of the Milwaukee, Fox, and Root Rivers. The regional park and open space plan, including the recreation trail component, was subsequently refined through the preparation and adoption of park and open space plans by each of the counties in the Region.

The park and open space plan for Racine County as reflected in the Racine County Comprehensive Plan recommended that a total of 102 miles of trails be provided as part of the following trails: the Lake Michigan Corridor (Lake Michigan Trail); the Fox River Corridor; the Root River Corridor; the White River Corridor (White River State Trail); the Seven Waters Trail; the Racine-Kansasville Trail; the Bong Recreation Corridor;

Table 12

PRIVATELY OWNED RESOURCE PROTECTION SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010

Number on Map 11	Site Name	Owner	Location ^a	Size (acres)
1	Schumann Right-of-Way	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 2	6
2	Rohner Right-of-Way	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 11	1
3	Marshall Right-of-Way	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 11	2
4	David I. Gordon Memorial-Tabor Woods	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 13	12
5	Wendy McCalvy-Tabor Woods	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 13	14
6	Caledonia Conservancy Property	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 13	2
7	Ehrlich Right-of-Way	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 14	16
8	Halberstadt Right-of-Way	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 14	1
9	Estes Family Right-of-Way	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 14	1
10	Caledonia Conservancy Property	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 24	31
11	King's Corner	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 24	2
12	Trout Ponds Prairie	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 24	28
13	Aboagye Acquisition	Caledonia Conservancy	T4N, R22E, Section 25	7
14	River Bend Nature Center	River Bend Nature Center	T4N, R23E, Section 31	75
--	Total : 14 Sites	--	--	198

^aIndicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

Source: SEWRPC.

and the Honey Creek Corridor. Of the 102 miles, about 50 miles currently exist in the County as part of the Lake Michigan Trail, the Fox River Trail, the Root River Trail, the Seven Waters Trail, the Racine-Kansasville Trail, and the White River State Trail. In addition to the 50 miles of existing trails recommended in the County park and open space plan, a number of on-street bikeways and off-street trails have been established by the County and by local units of government in Racine County. Map 13 shows all existing bikeways and trails in Racine County in 2010.³ The two types of bikeway/trails shown on Map 13 accommodate a variety of users: on-street bikeways generally are used for bicycle travel only; off-street trails can be used for bicycle and pedestrian travel (which includes hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing).

The bicycle and pedestrian facility element of the regional transportation plan,⁴ adopted by the Commission in 2006, recommends a network of on- and off-street bicycle facilities within the County. Map B-1 in Appendix B depicts the bicycle and pedestrian element of the regional transportation plan as that plan pertains to Racine County. This map has been updated to reflect as-built conditions in 2010.

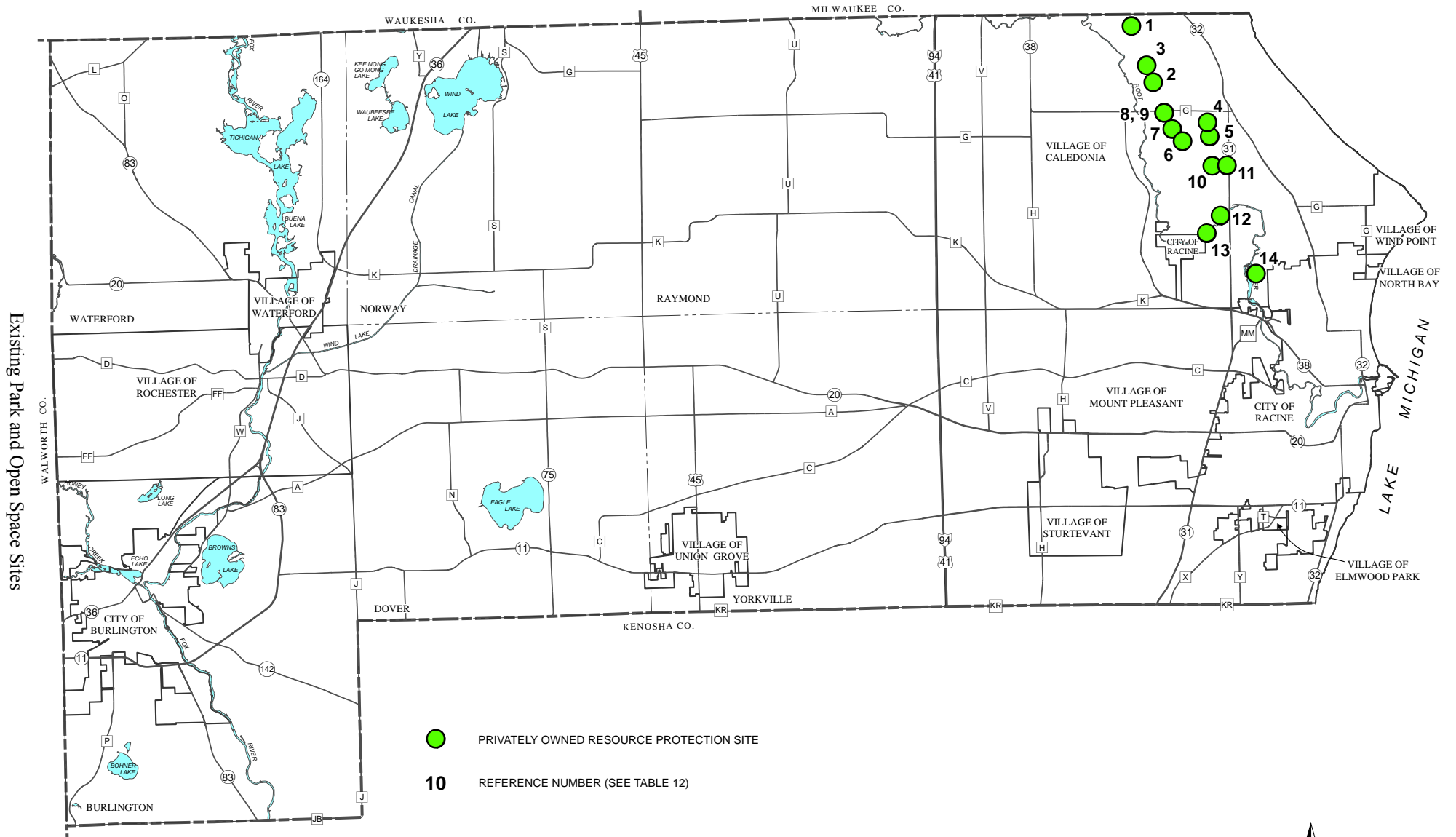
Bicycle use can and does legally occur on many public roadways in Racine County that are not specifically designated for such use. State law permits bicycle use on all public roadways, except expressways and freeways, and on those roadways where the local government concerned has acted to prohibit bicycle use by ordinance.

³For purposes of this report, the term "trails" refers to off-street paths and separate bicycle paths within a highway right-of-way, and the term "bicycle way" refers to facilities for bicycle travel on streets, including signed bicycle routes and striped and signed bicycle lanes. Trails generally accommodate both foot and bicycle travel, while on-street bicycle routes and lanes generally accommodate bicycle travel only.

⁴Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 49, A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin—2035, June 2006.

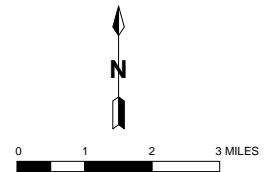
Map 11

PRIVATELY OWNED RESOURCE PROTECTION SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010



Existing Park and Open Space Sites

- PRIVATELY OWNED RESOURCE PROTECTION SITE
- 10** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 12)



Source: Caledonia Conservancy and SEWRPC.

Table 13

LANDS UNDER CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010

Number on Map 12	Holder of Easement	Location ^a	Size (acres)
1	WDNR	T2N, R19E, Section 14	4
2	WDNR	T2N, R19E, Section 23	1
3	WDNR	T3N, R19E, Section 8	31
4	WDNR	T3N, R19E, Section 8	20
5	Kenosha Racine Land Trust (Haubrich)	T3N, R19E, Section 17	88
6	WDNR	T3N, R19E, Section 17	1
7	WDNR	T3N, R20E, Section 21	1
8	WDNR (Statewide Wetland Mitigation Program)	T3N, R22E, Section 2	10
9	Village of Mt. Pleasant (Pike River Corridor)	T3N, R22E, Section 22	30
10	WDNR	T3N, R23E, Section 8	1
11	City of Racine (Case Corporation)	T3N, R23E, Section 9	3
12	Caledonia Conservancy (Racine Kennel Club)	T4N, R22E, Section 11	1
13	Caledonia Conservancy (McCalvy)	T4N, R22E, Section 12	26
14	Kenosha Racine Land Trust (Duda)	T4N, R22E, Section 14	12
15	Kenosha Racine Land Trust (Ryder)	T4N, R22E, Section 14	36
16	WDNR (Statewide Wetland Mitigation Program)	T4N, R22E, Section 19	4
17	Kenosha Racine Land Trust (Myers)	T4N, R23E, Section 19	225
18	Kenosha Racine Land Trust (Urhausen)	T4N, R23E, Section 27	16
--	Total : 18 Sites	--	510

^aIndicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

Note: All of the conservation easements listed above provide for the permanent protection of resources on private land.

Source: Caledonia Conservancy, Kenosha Racine Land Trust, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and SEWRPC.

HISTORIC SITES

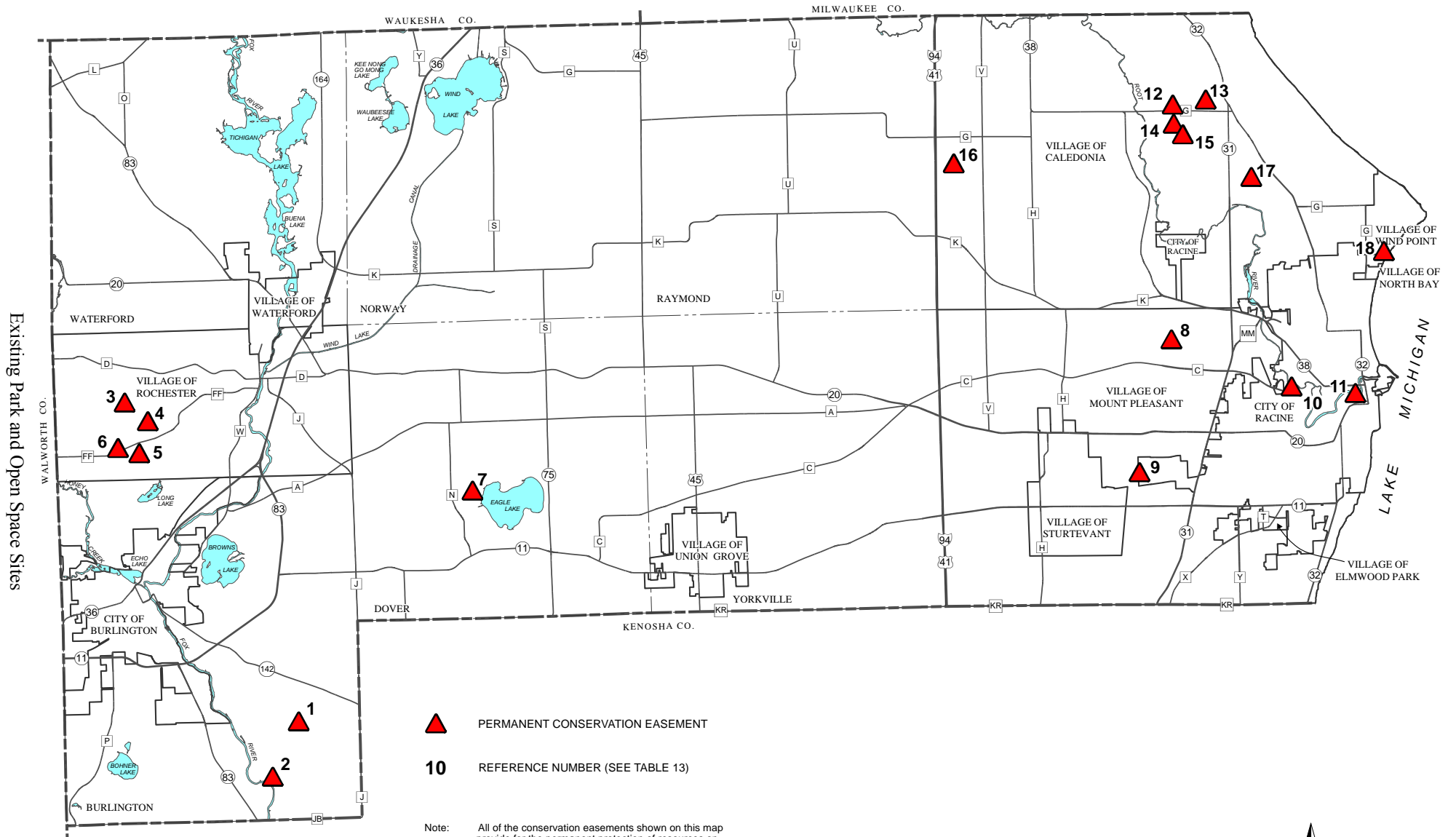
Historic sites in Racine County often have important recreational, educational, and cultural value. A number of inventories and surveys of potentially significant historic sites have been conducted by various units and agencies of government in Racine County since the completion of the regional park and open space plan in 1977. The results of these inventories and surveys, on file at such agencies as The Wisconsin Historical Society, indicate that there are more than 3,000 historic sites in Racine County.

Certain sites of known historic significance are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2010, there were 41 individual sites and eight historic districts⁵ within the County listed on the National Register. The location of sites and districts in Racine County listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010 are presented on Table 14 and on Map 14, respectively.

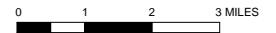
⁵A historic district is a geographically definable area, urban or rural, that contains a concentration of significant historic sites or structures from the same period of time.

Map 12

LANDS UNDER CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010



Note: All of the conservation easements shown on this map provide for the permanent protection of resources on private land.

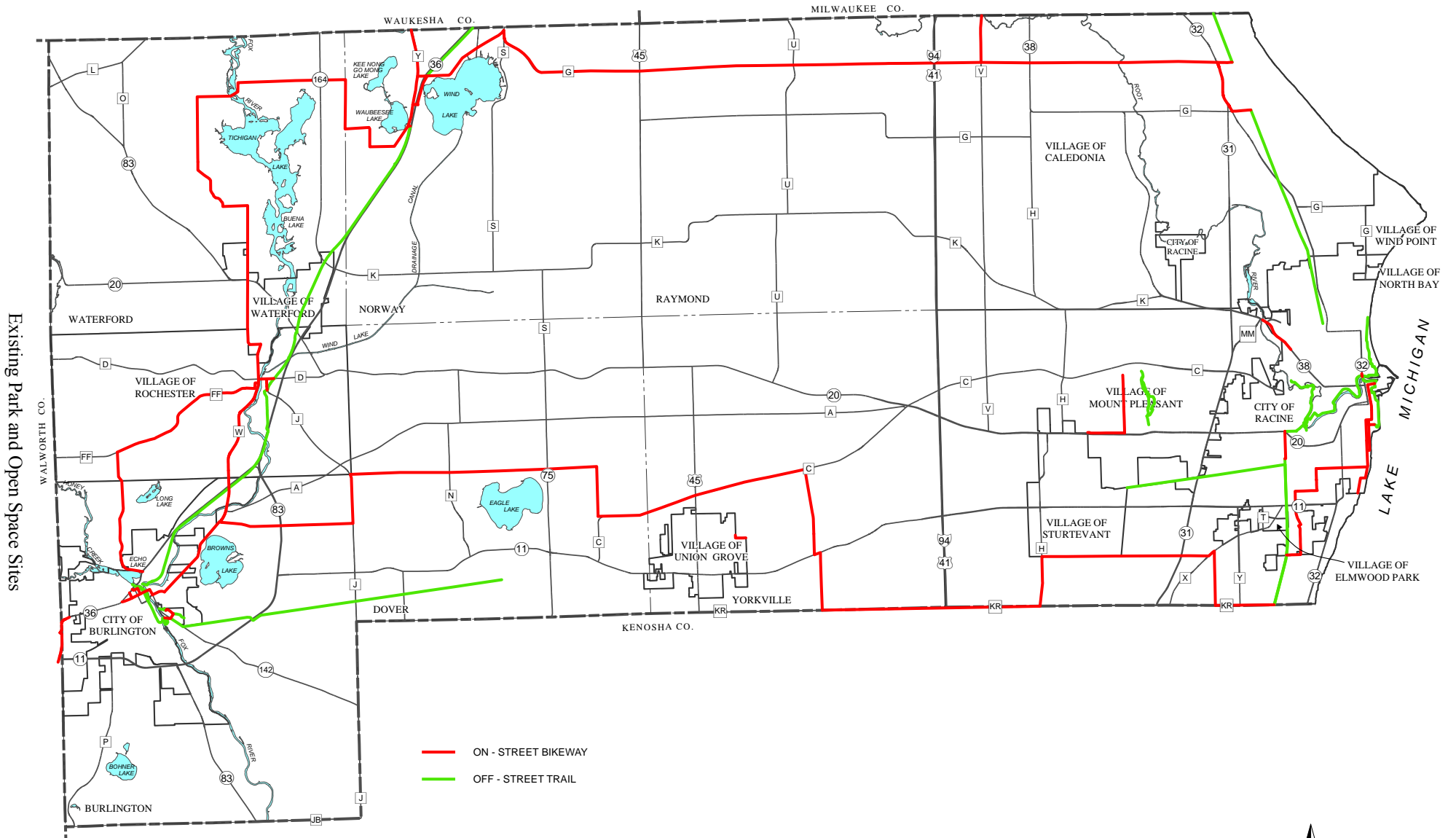


Source: Caledonia Conservancy, Kenosha Racine Land Trust, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and SEWRPC.

Existing Park and Open Space Sites

Map 13

EXISTING BICYCLE WAYS / TRAILS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010



Existing Park and Open Space Sites

Source: Racine County and SEWRPC.

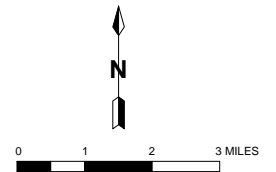


Table 14

HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: 2010

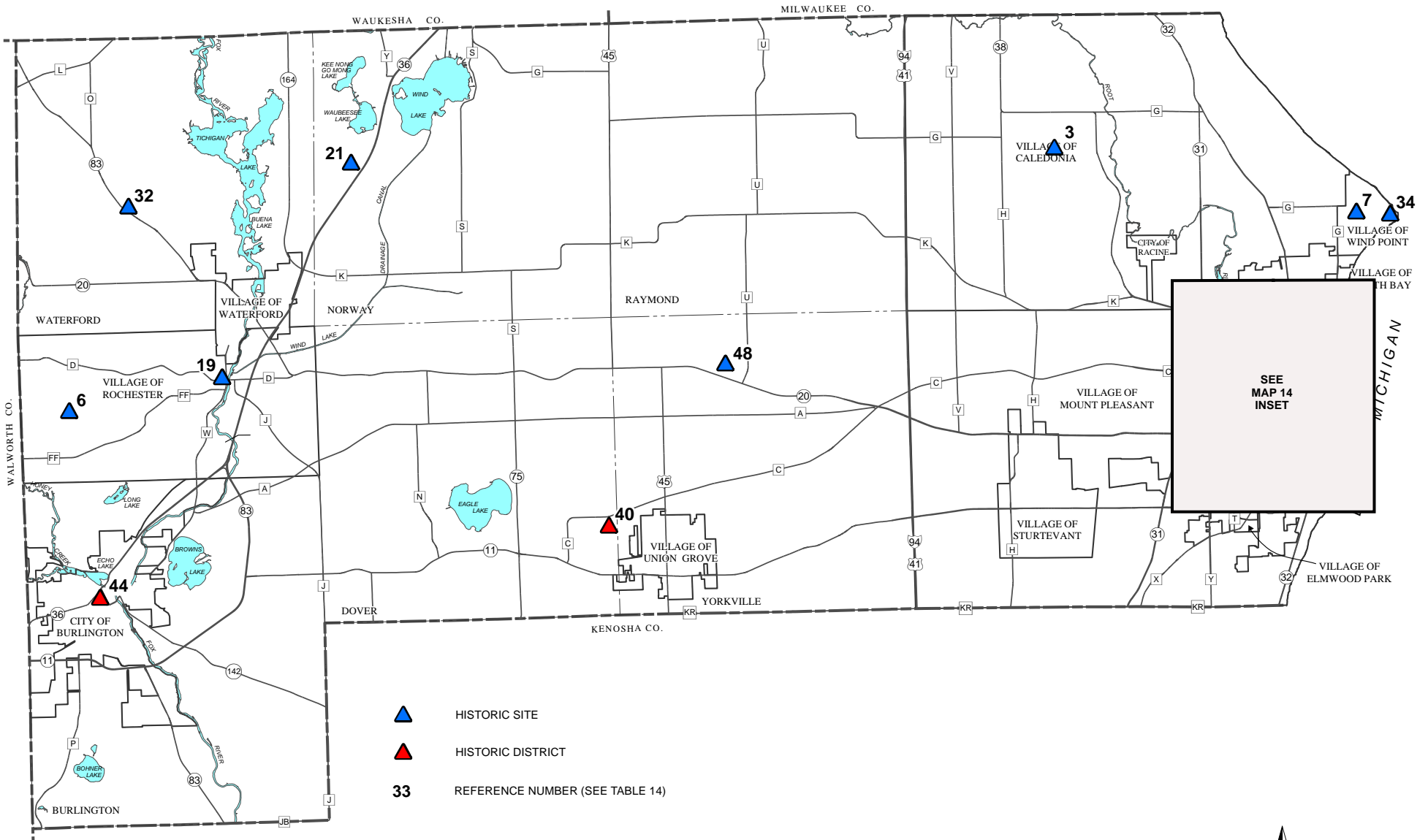
Number on Map 14	Site Name	Location ^a	Civil Division	Year Listed
1	First Presbyterian Church.....	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1973
2	Eli R. Cooley House	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1973
3	John Collins House	T4N, R22E, Section 15	Village of Caledonia	1974
4	Thomas P. Hardy House	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1974
5	S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. Adm. Bldg. and Research Tower....	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1974
6	Franklyn Hazelo House.....	T3N, R19E, Section 7	Village of Rochester	1974
7	Herbert F. Johnson House (Wingspread)	T4N, R23E, Section 27	Village of Wind Point	1975
8	Racine Harbor Lighthouse and Life Saving Station.....	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1975
9	Chauncey Hall House.....	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1976
10	Racine College	T3N, R23E, Section 21	City of Racine	1976
11	McClurg Building	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1977
12	Southside Historic District	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1977
13	Shoop Building	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1978
14	Hansen House.....	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1979
15	George Murray House.....	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	1979
16	No. 4 Engine House	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1979
17	St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1979
18	St. Luke's Episcopal Church/Chapel/Guildhall & Rectory	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1979
19	Whitman-Belden House	T3N, R19E, Section 2	Village of Rochester	1980
20	Memorial Hall	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1980
21	Norwegian Buildings at Heg Park.....	T4N, R20E, Section 18	Town of Norway	1980
22	Racine County Courthouse	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1980
23	Chauncey Hall Building	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1980
24	Racine Depot (Chicago & Northwestern)	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	1980
25	Kaiser's.....	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1980
26	Badger Building.....	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1980
27	Racine Public Library	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1981
28	Karel Jonas House.....	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1982
29	Rickeman Grocery Building.....	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1982
30	Uptown (Majestic Theater)	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	1982
31	YMCA Building	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1982
32	Beardsley-Elam Farmhouse.....	T4N, R19E, Section 21	Town of Waterford	1982
33	United Laymen Bible Student Tabernacle	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1983
34	Wind Point Light Station	T4N, R23E, Section 27	Village of Wind Point	1984
35	Racine Elks Club	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1984
36	Racine Post Office.....	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1985
37	Peter Johnson House.....	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	1986
38	Old Main Street Historic District.....	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1987
39	Historic 6th Street Business District	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1988
40	Southern Wisconsin Home Historic District.....	T3N, R20E, Section 25	Town of Dover	1991
41	Northside Historic Dist. of Cream Brick Workers' Cottages.....	T3N, R23E, Section 4	City of Racine	1994
42	Lincoln School.....	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	1994
43	Wilmanor Apartment.....	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	1994
44	Burlington Downtown Historic District	T3N, R19E, Section 32	City of Burlington	2000
45	The Thomas Driver and Sons Manufacturing Company	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	2004
46	Mitchell Lewis Building.....	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	2005
47	Racine Rubber Company Homes Historic District.....	T3N, R23E, Section 19	City of Burlington	2006
48	Yorkville #4 School	T3N, R21E, Section 9	Town of Yorkville	2011
49	Melvin Avenue Residential Historic District	T4N, R23E, Section 33	City of Racine	2011

^aIndicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

Source: The Wisconsin Historical Society and SEWRPC.

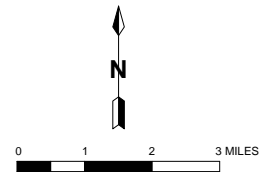
HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: 2010

Existing Park and Open Space Sites



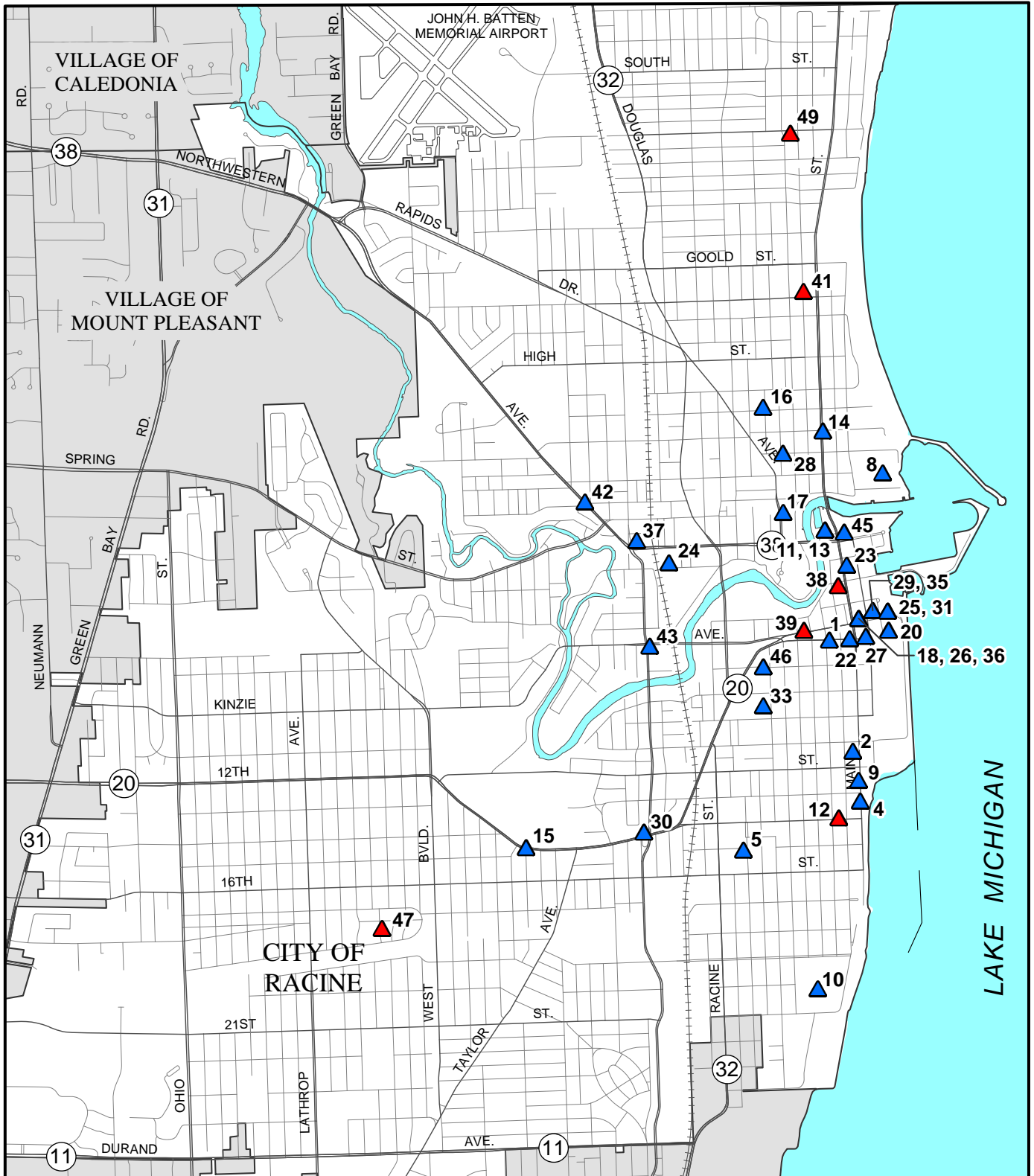
- ▲ HISTORIC SITE
- ▲ HISTORIC DISTRICT
- 33** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 14)

Source: SEWRPC.



Map 14 Inset

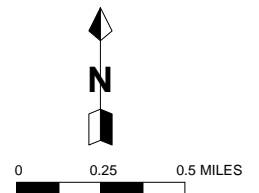
HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: 2010



- ▲ HISTORIC SITE
- ▲ HISTORIC DISTRICT
- 32** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 14)

Source: SEWRPC.

Existing Park and Open Space Sites



STATUS OF 2020 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2020 park and open space plan for Racine County adopted in 2001, contains a number of recommendations regarding the development and acquisition of park and open space lands. The inventory of park and open space sites and facilities described in this chapter include development and acquisition activities that have occurred since the adoption of the 2020 plan. Some of these activities represent progress made in implementing specific recommendations included in the 2020 plan. Examples of 2020 plan recommendations that have been implemented include:

- Expansion by the County of the Racine-Kansasville Trail from Green Bay Road to 96th Street;
- Expansion by the County of the White River State Trail from the Fox River to Vandeenboom Road;
- Acquisition of lands by the County as part of the Root River Parkway;
- Permanent protection of environmental corridor lands through conservation easements and fee simple acquisitions by the Kenosha Racine Land Trust and the Caledonia Conservancy; and
- Acquisition and restoration of environmentally significant lands and trail development by the Village of Mt. Pleasant within the Pike River Corridor.

SUMMARY

This chapter has presented the findings of an inventory of existing outdoor recreation and open space sites in Racine County, including existing parks, other open space sites, lake and river access sites, recreation trails and bicycle ways, and historic sites. The key findings are as follows:

1. In 2010, Racine County owned 34 park and open space sites, which collectively encompassed 2,788 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County. Eight of these sites—Browns Lake Golf Course, Cliffside Park, Sanders Park, Pritchard Park, Case Eagle Park, W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp, and Ives Grove Golf Links—are considered major parks, together encompassing 1,325 acres.
2. The State of Wisconsin owned 21 park and open space sites, encompassing 3,863 acres, or about 2 percent of the total area of the County. Of these 21 sites, 17 sites encompassing 3,711 acres were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; two sites encompassing 141 acres were owned by the University of Wisconsin; and two sites, encompassing 11 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.
3. Local units of government and school districts owned 238 park and open space sites, encompassing 3,287 acres, or about 2 percent of the total area of the County. The largest of these, the City of Racine Johnson Park and Golf Course, also functions as a major park in Racine County.
4. In 2010, a total of 99 privately owned resource-oriented recreation sites encompassing 2,475 acres were located in Racine County.
5. Private conservancy organizations owned 14 sites encompassing 198 acres in Racine County for natural resource protection purposes in 2010.
6. In 2010, private lands protected under conservation easements encompassed 510 acres in Racine County.
7. In total, 13,121 acres, or about 6 percent of the total area of the County, were in public or private ownership, or under conservation easements, for park, recreation, open space, or resource preservation purposes in 2010.
8. Boating access was available on Lake Michigan, nine of 10 major lakes, and along the Fox and Root Rivers in Racine County.
9. In 2010, 41 individual sites and eight historic districts in Racine County were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Chapter IV

OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS AND PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

Planning is a rational process for formulating objectives and meeting those objectives through the preparation and implementation of plans. Objectives guide the preparation of plans and, when converted to specific measures of plan effectiveness, termed standards, provide the structure for evaluating how well the plan meets the objectives.

This chapter sets forth the objectives, principles, and standards used in the preparation of this park and open space plan for Racine County, and applies the standards to the anticipated year 2035 population to help determine the need for major park sites and such outdoor recreation facilities as golf courses, campgrounds, swimming beaches, lake access sites, and hiking and biking trails. Needs identified through the application of the standards are addressed in Chapter V, which sets forth the recommended park and open space plan for Racine County.

OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

The objectives, principles, and standards for the Racine County park and open space plan are based largely on those that were prepared and developed under the regional park and open space plan. The Commission Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee on Regional Park and Open Space Planning, as part of the regional park and open space planning program completed in 1977, formulated a set of park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives and accompanying principles and standards. The regional standards were based on standards previously developed by the National Recreation and Park Association. The Regional Advisory Committee compared the national standards to recreational preferences and demands of the Region as determined by surveys of recreation site managers and users, and modified the standards as necessary to meet park and open space demands within the Region.

The regional park and open space preservation objectives, principles, and standards were incorporated directly into the year 2000 and year 2020 Racine County park and open space plans. Those objectives, principles, and standards have been reaffirmed in this year 2035 Racine County park and open space plan. The plan objectives are set forth below:

1. To provide an integrated system of public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas which will allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.

2. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.¹
3. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
4. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.
5. To provide sufficient access areas to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities on the major inland lakes and rivers and Lake Michigan which are consistent with enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of adequate water quality.
6. To preserve sufficient high-quality open-space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the County.
7. To provide for the efficient and economical satisfaction of outdoor recreation and related open space needs meeting all other objectives at the lowest possible cost.

Each of these objectives, together with its supporting principle and standards, is set forth in Appendix C. Each set of standards serves to facilitate the identification of park and open space needs for plan design and evaluation.

It should be noted that while the attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide the residents of the County with needed opportunities for high-quality recreational experiences, the responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreational facilities, is shared among the various levels, units, and agencies of government. Under the adopted regional park and open space plan and the new County plan presented herein, the responsibility for the provision of large resource-oriented parks, resource-oriented recreational facilities, and areawide recreation trails is delegated primarily to the State and County levels of government, while the responsibility for the provision of smaller community and neighborhood parks and associated intensive nonresource-oriented recreational facilities is delegated primarily to local units of government. The protection of important natural resource features, including environmental corridors and natural areas, is considered the responsibility of all levels of government and nonprofit conservation organizations.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Existing and Forecast Population Size and Distribution

The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the County is determined by applying the standards set forth in Appendix C for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks and outdoor recreation facilities to the existing and anticipated future resident population levels and distribution within the County, and comparing the probable demand for such sites and facilities, as indicated through application of the standards, to the existing supply of recreation sites and facilities.

¹*Resource-oriented activities include activities which rely upon natural resource amenities for the existence of the activity—such as beach swimming, nature study, and fishing—and those activities in which the quality of the recreational experience is significantly enhanced by the presence of natural resource amenities—such as picnicking, camping, and golf. Nonresource-oriented activities are not reliant on natural resource amenities nor is the quality of the recreational experience significantly enhanced by the presence of natural resource amenities; examples include baseball, soccer, tennis, and basketball.*

As noted in Chapter II of this report, the 2010 County population, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, was 195,408 persons. The number of County residents anticipated by the year 2035 based upon forecasts developed by the Regional Planning Commission for the year 2035 regional land use plan would range from 213,600 persons under the adopted regional plan to as high as 243,500 under the high-growth alternative. The population level envisioned for the year 2035 in the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County—224,400 persons—falls within the range anticipated under the above regional plan scenarios.

In addition to information on the overall size of the anticipated future population of the County, information on future population distribution is important to a determination of existing and probable future outdoor recreation needs. The park and outdoor recreation standards call for a major park to be provided within four miles of residents of urban areas having a population of 40,000 or greater and within 10 miles of residents of smaller urban areas and rural areas. The planned urban service areas delineated in the adopted Racine County Comprehensive Plan served as the basis for the identification of planned urban areas within the County, and are shown on Map 15. Planned urban areas, as shown on Map 15, are associated with the Cities of Racine and Burlington; and the Villages of Caledonia, Elmwood Park, Mt. Pleasant, North Bay, Rochester, Sturtevant, Union Grove, Waterford, and Wind Point.

Per Capita and Accessibility Standards

Two types of standards—per capita and accessibility standards—are used to help estimate the number and distribution of outdoor recreation sites and facilities needed to serve the anticipated future population of the County. The per capita standards are intended to help estimate the total number of acres of land needed to satisfy requirements for park and recreational land and related facility requirements based on the anticipated future resident population of the County. It should be recognized that the standards used can be considered minimum standards and do not preclude opportunities for additional sites and facilities beyond those identified in this plan.

For purposes of analyzing future park site and future park facility needs, the population level anticipated under the high-growth scenario—243,500 persons—was considered. This recognizes the need to identify and reserve sufficient high-quality sites which may be required under conditions of more rapid population growth through the year 2035, as well as the need to serve the County population beyond the year 2035.

The accessibility—or service radius—standards are intended to ensure that public parks are spatially distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are intended to serve. It should be recognized that in some situations, while per capita standards may be met, a need may still exist for additional sites or facilities because of the relative inaccessibility or distance of an existing site or facility to some residents of the County. It should also be noted that for certain facilities, the accessibility standard for some residents of the County may be met by facilities located in adjacent counties.

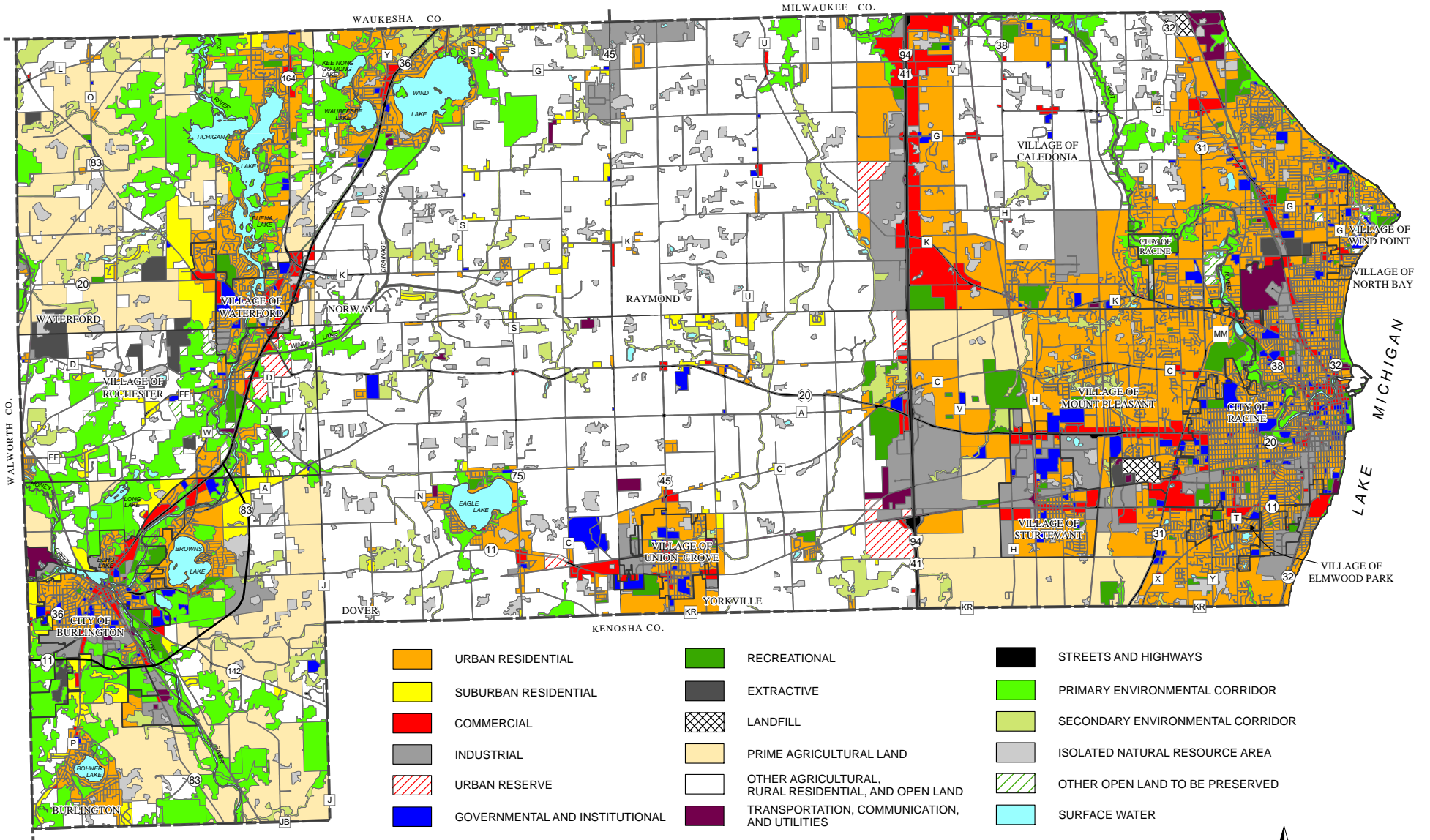
Standards for Major Park Sites

Per capita and service area standards for major parks are set forth under Objective No. 1 in Appendix C. Major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for resource-oriented activities and which are generally 100 acres or more in size. Application of the per capita standards for major park sites to the existing 2010 and anticipated year 2035 County population levels² indicates that while there is an adequate amount of land in major parks to serve the existing population, there is a need for approximately 270 acres of additional park land in major parks to serve the anticipated 2035 County population level. This calculation is based on the acreage of the following major parks

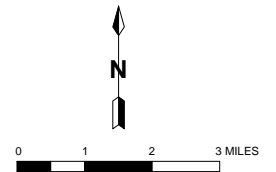
²*In the balance of this chapter the determination of future per capita park site and facility needs is based upon the application of the per capita standards to the 243,500 persons anticipated for the year 2035 under the regional land use plan's high growth scenario.*

Map 15

PLANNED LAND USE IN RACINE COUNTY: 2035



Source: Racine County and SEWRPC.



in Racine County: W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp, Case Eagle Park, Browns Lake Golf Course, Bushnell Park, Ives Grove Golf Links, Pritchard Park, Sanders Park, and Cliffside Park, owned by Racine County; and Johnson Park and Golf Course, owned by the City of Racine.

Application of the 10-mile service radius standard indicates that all residents in Racine County are within the recommended service area of a major park. Application of the four-mile service radius for urban areas (urban areas having a population of 40,000 or greater) indicates that all residents of the greater Racine area are located within the recommended service area for a major park.

Standards for Intensive Resource-Oriented Recreation Facilities

The standards in Objective No. 3 set forth per capita and service area standards for the provision of such resource-oriented recreational facilities as camping, golfing, picnicking, and beach swimming. Separate per capita standards have been established for public and nonpublic facilities. The per capita standards were applied to both the 2010 and anticipated year 2035 County population levels, and need estimates were generally prepared for both public and nonpublic facilities. This recognizes that, even though many nonpublic facilities are not available to the general population, the continued provision of such facilities is important because they do meet a significant portion of the overall demand for these recreation facilities which would otherwise have to be met by the public sector.

Service area standards for campsites, golf courses, picnic areas, and swimming beaches were applied only to public facilities. This recognizes that all residents should have good access to facilities, which, by virtue of their public ownership, are available for use by all.

Campsites

Public campsites in the County are currently provided at Sanders Park and Cliffside Park. Primitive group camping facilities are also available at W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp for nonprofit groups and organizations by reservation only. Campsites are also available to the public (for a fee) at the privately owned Yogi Bear Jellystone Park.

Application of the per capita standards for campsites indicates that the need for publicly owned campsites is met by the existing public campsites, and that there is a need for an additional 122 privately owned campsites to serve the anticipated 2035 population. Private campgrounds located in adjacent counties (Kenosha and Walworth) may serve to meet the needs identified in the application of this standard. The standards call for public campsites to be located within 25 miles of each County resident. This standard is met by the existing public campgrounds in the County.

Golf Courses

Within the County there are currently three publicly owned regulation golf courses with at least 18 holes: Browns Lake Golf Course (18-holes) and Ives Grove Golf Links (27-holes), both owned by Racine County, and Johnson Park and Golf Course (18-holes), owned by the City of Racine. There are also two publicly owned nine-hole golf courses, Shoop Park and Washington Park, both owned by the City of Racine. There are three privately owned courses with 18-holes open to the public: Meadowbrook Country Club, Rivermoor Golf Course and South Hills Country Club. In addition, there is one privately owned nine-hole golf course in the County open to the public, Raymond Heights Golf Center. There are also two privately owned courses not open to the public: Pan Yak Park (par three, nine-holes) and Racine Country Club (18-holes).

Application of the per capita standard for golf courses to both the existing 2010 and anticipated year 2035 population indicates the need for public golf courses in the County is met by the existing courses. Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius to the existing public golf courses in the County indicates that residents in a small area in the north central portion of the County are beyond the recommended service area for an 18-hole public golf course. However, this area does fall within 10 miles of an existing public 18-hole course in Milwaukee

County. Consequently, the County should be considered well served by existing facilities. Application of the per capita standards for non-public golf courses indicates a shortfall of two additional privately owned 18-hole golf courses in the County by 2035.

Picnicking

Public picnic areas in the County are currently provided at four major parks: Bushnell Park, Pritchard Park, Sanders Park, Cliffside Park, and Johnson Park and Golf Course.

The recommended standards call for 3.8 picnic tables per 1,000 County residents at major parks.³ Application of this standard indicates that there may be a need for approximately 490 additional picnic tables at major parks to serve the anticipated year 2035 population. The standards call for public picnicking facilities at major parks to be located within 10 miles of each County resident. Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius to picnic facilities at major parks in the County indicates that residents in the central portion of the County are beyond the recommended service area for picnicking at major parks. It should be noted that this area of the County does fall within the service areas of Muskego Park in Waukesha County and Brighton Dale Park in Kenosha County, both of which provide picnicking facilities.

Swimming Beaches

Publicly owned inland beaches are provided at Lagoon Park on Bohners Lake, Fischer Memorial Park on Browns Lake, and Quarry Lake Park. There are six privately owned beaches in the County; however, access to these beaches by the general public is typically limited. A publicly owned swimming beach is also provided on the shore of Lake Michigan at North Beach.

Separate per capita standards have been established for inland and Lake Michigan beaches. Application of the per capita standards for inland swimming beaches to the existing 2010 and anticipated year 2035 County population levels indicates that while publicly owned inland beaches in the County adequately serve the existing population, there is a shortfall of approximately 210 linear feet to serve the anticipated 2035 County population level. Application of per capita standards for privately owned inland beaches indicates a shortfall of approximately 1,500 linear feet of privately owned inland beaches in the County by the year 2035. The per capita Lake Michigan beach swimming standard was not applied herein, since that standard is intended to be applied and evaluated on a regional, rather than county-by-county, basis.

Application of the 10-mile service radius for public inland beaches indicates that residents in the central portion of the County are beyond the recommended service area for public inland beaches. It should be noted that this area of the County does fall within the service areas of Muskego Park in Waukesha County and Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County, both of which provide public swimming beaches.

Standards for Trail Facilities

Objective No. 1 sets forth a standard for the provision by the public sector of sufficient open space lands to accommodate a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors to meet the resident demand for trail-oriented recreation activities. For the purposes of this report, recreation corridors are defined as publicly owned, continuous, linear expanses of land at least 15 miles in length which are located within scenic areas or areas of natural, cultural, or historic interest, and which provide trails marked and maintained for such activities as hiking, biking, horseback riding, nature trails, and cross-country skiing.

³*This standard is intended to ensure adequate opportunities for picnicking in a natural resource setting typically found at major parks. It should be noted that opportunities for picnicking outside major parks are available at other County parks (approximately 450 picnic tables), as well as at local parks in the County (approximately 365 picnic tables).*

The existing 21-mile long combined segments of the Seven Waters Trail and the White River State Trail does not meet the per capita standard for recreation corridors (0.16 linear mile per 1,000 persons) as applied to the anticipated year 2035 County population. Consequently, additional trails for the various activities should be provided in conjunction with the acquisition and development of a public recreation corridor system. This could be accomplished through the implementation of recreation corridors along Lake Michigan, the Fox, Root, and Pike Rivers, White River/Racine-Kansasville Trail, Bong Recreation Area Trail, and Honey Creek. It should be noted that while recreation corridors 15 miles in length or more are most desirable, the development of trail facilities less than 15 miles should also be encouraged to meet local trail needs.

Objective No. 4 includes standards for trails within recreation corridors for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, nature study, and ski touring. In some cases, particularly in urban areas where they are subject to more intensive use, the trail facilities may be paved. Where they are paved, the trails may also provide opportunities for rollerblading and rollerskiing, as well as opportunities for use by individuals in wheelchairs.

The standards under Objective No. 4 also contain a recommendation for the provision of trails for snowmobiling. Approximately 184 miles of designated trails exist on public lands and on private lands open to the public. This adequately serves both the existing and anticipated 2035 population. Objective No. 4 also contains a standard that each county have a public nature study center. In June 2012, Racine County acquired the River Bend Nature Center. The nature center is operated through a public-private partnership between Racine County and River Bend Nature Center, Inc. to serve the citizens of Racine County as an environmental education and outdoor recreation center.

Standards for Lake Access Sites

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), in keeping with State Statutes which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, has adopted administrative rules regarding lake access. Those rules, set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*, require public boating access sites, including boat launching and parking facilities, to be provided on inland lakes as a condition for the Department to provide natural resource enhancement services for a body of water. The *Administrative Code* requires that launch facilities and at least one car-trailer parking space, and a combined total of five car-trailer and automobile parking spaces, be provided at boating access sites on lakes 50 acres to 99 acres in size. The required number of car-trailer parking spaces increases as the size of the lake increases. One additional parking space, in addition to the minimum specified in the *Administrative Code*, must also be provided for use by disabled persons. The regulations also specify a maximum number of parking spaces to be provided, which also varies according to the size of the lake, in recognition that too many boats on a lake may threaten both the safety of lake users and the environmental quality of the lake. Table 15 sets forth the requirements for public boating access for major lakes in Racine County under the Department rules. Public boating access does not meet State requirements for natural resource enhancement services at Kee-Nong-Go-Mong Lake, Long Lake, and Tichigan/Buena Lakes.

Standards in the *Administrative Code* indicate that public canoeing/kayaking access points with parking should be provided on major streams every 10 miles. Major streams in Racine County are the Fox and Root Rivers. Public boat/canoe/kayak access is currently provided at a number of locations along the Fox and Root Rivers.

Other Recreational Needs

As noted earlier, the responsibility of intensive nonresource-oriented recreation facilities is delegated primarily to local units of government. The standards for these types of facilities are set forth under Objective No. 2 and include baseball and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts, and soccer fields. However, this does not preclude the County park plan from considering the development of these types of facilities as additional improvements are made to County parks in the future.

Table 15

BOAT-ACCESS SITE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE^a FOR MAJOR LAKES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010

Major Lake ^b	Minimum Number of Parking Spaces	Maximum Number of Parking Spaces	Comment
Bohner Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Nine car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (six car-trailer spaces at Town of Burlington access site)
Browns Lake	13 car-trailer spaces	26 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (80 car-trailer spaces at County access site)
Eagle Lake	17 car-trailer spaces	33 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (43 car-trailer spaces at County and Town access sites)
Echo Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (nine car-trailer spaces at City of Burlington Echo Lake Veterans Memorial Park)
Kee-Nong-Go-Mong Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Seven car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR1.91 requirements
Long Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Seven car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR1.91 requirements
Tichigan/Buena Lakes	29 car-trailer spaces	41 car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (17 car-trailer at WDNR access site)
Waubeesee Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Nine car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (five car-trailer spaces at WDNR access site)
Wind Lake	26 car-trailer spaces	37 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (28 car-trailer spaces at WDNR access sites) ^c

^aPublic boating access standards are set forth in Section NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

^bMajor lakes are those having 50 or more acres of surface area.

^cThe number of car-trailer spaces includes eight spaces at the boat access site on the Wind Lake Drainage Canal, in the City of Muskego, Waukesha County.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

In addition, the County park plan should also recognize other emerging recreation facility needs for which no standards have been developed and which have not been addressed to date, or which have been addressed on a limited basis, by the County park system. Among these are dog parks, skate parks, disc golf facilities, mountain biking, and horseback riding, as described below.

- **Dog Parks:** A dog park or dog exercise area is an area, typically fenced, where dogs can be walked and exercised off-leash in a safe park environment. Dog parks also serve as a means for increasing public use of, and activity in, County parks. There are currently three public off-leash dog parks in Racine County: Karen A. Nelson Memorial Dog Park (fenced in), which is part of the County owned Quarry Lake Park in the City of Racine; Johnson Park Dog Run (not fenced in) in the City of Racine; and Burlington Dog Park (fenced in), which is part of St. Mary’s Park-South in the City of Burlington.
- **Skate Parks:** In-line skating and skateboarding have become increasingly popular in recent years. While any relatively flat, smooth, paved surface may be suitable for these activities, many participants seek out areas with challenging obstacles. When pursued in areas not designed for this use (and in some cases regulated against), such as public sidewalks and curbs, there can be a safety hazard for skaters as well as pedestrians, and damage to target structures. A number of communities in southeastern Wisconsin have developed or are contemplating development of skate parks that are designed for skaters to practice their sport. There is one public skate park facility in Racine County, at Pershing Park in the City of Racine.

- **Disc Golf:** In disc golf, a disc similar to a “frisbee” is thrown toward a target (on organized courses, typically a metal basket that has hanging chains to catch the disc) that serves as the hole. Hole lengths vary, but generally fall between 150 and 500 feet. Disc golf facility requirements are minimal and disc golf courses may be incorporated with little impact into a variety of landscapes. A disc golf course does not currently exist in Racine County.
- **Mountain Biking:** Mountain biking has emerged as a popular activity in recent years. Mountain biking is essentially a trail activity that requires challenging hilly topography. Mountain biking can conflict with other trail activities, adversely impact trail conditions and negatively impact sensitive natural resources. Consequently, mountain-biking trails may, perhaps, be best provided as loop trails, separate from the main recreation corridor. The growing popularity of mountain biking should be given due consideration in the development of the new County park plan.
- **Horseback Riding:** Numerous private horse stables which provide opportunities for equestrian activities are located in Racine County. Because of a number of factors, including trail conditions and potential user conflicts, very few public trails are open to horseback riding in or near Racine County. The only horseback riding trails open to the public in Racine County are trails located on Caledonia Conservancy property in the Village of Caledonia. Public trails open to horseback riding near Racine County include trails in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit in Walworth and Waukesha Counties and Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County.

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Since 1965 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has developed and maintained the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This plan examines various recreation trends, assesses current and future recreational needs within the State, and sets forth appropriate recommendations to meet those needs. The SCORP plan is done every five years, the current version being the 2011-2016 SCORP. The SCORP should be used as a reference source as the Racine County park and open space plan is implemented.

Standards for Open Space Preservation

Objective No. 6 calls for the preservation of sufficient high-quality open space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the County. The preservation of these areas helps to protect water quality and protect floodways and floodplains from incompatible uses. These high-quality open space lands include primary environmental corridors, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and prime agricultural lands. The preservation of such lands is based upon the location and composition of existing natural resources, rather than the application of development standards. The preservation and protection of these areas is also consistent with plan recommendations contained in the Racine County Comprehensive Plan.

Primary environmental corridors contain many of the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas within the County. The standard under Objective No. 6 indicates that primary environmental corridors should be preserved in essentially natural, open use. Although not specifically addressed in Objective No. 6, county and local government should consider preserving and protecting secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. Such areas can serve as economical drainageways and stormwater detention basins, and can provide needed open space in developing urban areas.

Natural areas and critical species habitat sites contain rare, threatened, and endangered animal and plant species within the County. The standard under Objective No. 6 indicates that natural areas and critical species habitat sites should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value. Although not specifically addressed in Objective 6, State, county, and local government should consider preserving and protecting significant geological areas, consistent with the recommendations of the regional natural areas plan.

Prime agricultural lands are lands best suited for the production of food and fiber. In addition to their agricultural value, such lands supply significant wildlife habitat and have been identified as areas with significant groundwater recharge potential (see Map 4 in Chapter II). The standard under Objective No. 6 indicates that prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.

SUMMARY

This chapter presents a set of park and open space planning objectives, principles, and standards for Racine County, and identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the County. The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the County is determined by applying the standards for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks and outdoor recreation facilities to the anticipated future resident population levels and distribution within the County, and comparing the probable future demand for such sites and facilities, as indicated through application of the standards, to the existing supply of recreation sites and facilities. Two types of standards, per capita and accessibility standards, are used to help estimate the number and location of outdoor recreation sites and facilities needed to serve the anticipated future population of the County.

For purposes of analyzing future park site and future park facility needs, the population level anticipated under the high-growth scenario—243,500 persons—was considered. This recognizes the need to identify and reserve sufficient high-quality sites which may be required under conditions of more rapid population growth through the year 2035, as well as the need to serve the County population beyond the year 2035. The findings of the recreation site and facility needs analysis are summarized below:

1. Application of the service radius standards for major park sites indicates that all residents of Racine County are properly served by a major park. Application of the per capita standards for major park sites indicate that additional park land in major park sites is needed in the County to serve the anticipated 2035 population level.
2. Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius for 18-hole public golf courses indicates that residents in a small area in the north central portion of the County are beyond the service area of an existing 18-hole public course. However, that area is within 10 miles of an 18-hole public golf course located in Milwaukee County. Consequently, the County should be considered well served by existing facilities.
3. The recommended standards call for 3.8 picnic tables per 1,000 County residents at major public parks. This standard is intended to ensure adequate opportunities for picnicking in a natural resource setting typically found at major parks. Application of this standard indicates that there may be a need for 490 additional picnic tables at major parks in the County to serve the anticipated year 2035 population.
4. Application of the per capita standard for public beaches on inland lakes indicates that there may be a need for just over 200 additional linear feet of public beaches on inland lakes to serve the anticipated year 2035 population.
5. Application of the standards for trails within recreation corridors indicate a need for additional trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, nature study, and ski touring to be provided in conjunction with the continued acquisition and development of public recreation corridors associated with Lake Michigan, the Fox, Root, and Pike Rivers, White River/Racine-Kansasville Trail, Seven Waters Trail, Bong Recreation Trail, and Honey Creek.
6. Application of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources lake access standards, established as a condition for Department lake enhancement services, would require that new or additional access facilities be provided at Kee-Nong-Go-Mong Lake, Long Lake, and Tichigan/Buena Lakes.
7. The County park and open space plan objectives also address open space preservation needs. The need to protect the natural resources of the County cannot be related to per capita or accessibility requirements,

since the achievement of the open space preservation objective is essentially independent of a population level or distribution, but relates, rather, to the location, character, and extent of remaining natural resources. Standards under Objective No. 6 indicate that primary environmental corridors and natural areas and critical species habitat sites should be preserved for natural uses, while prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.

8. While not specifically addressed in the standards, the County park plan should also take into consideration other emerging recreation facility needs for which no standards have been developed and which have not been addressed to date, or which have been addressed on a limited basis, by the County park system. These include dog parks, skate parks, disc golf, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

(This page intentionally left blank)

Chapter V

RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This park and open space plan for Racine County consists of two major elements. The first is an open space preservation element, which sets forth recommendations related to the protection of environmental corridors; natural areas and related resources; lands within State parks, forests, and wildlife areas and associated project boundaries; and prime agricultural land. The second element, the outdoor recreation element, addresses the need for new County parks, park facilities, lake and river access areas and facilities, and trails.

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The recommended park and open space plan for Racine County was presented in preliminary form at a public informational meeting hosted by the Racine County Public Works and Development Services Department and held on September 27, 2012, at the Ives Grove Office Complex in the Town of Yorkville. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint public officials, interested citizens, and landowners with the key recommendations of the plan and to receive comments on and answer questions pertaining to the plan.

Public comment on the County park and open space plan generally included positive feedback on recommendations of the preliminary plan regarding hiking and biking trails, park improvements, and preservation of natural resources. One person commenting suggested that the County park and open space plan should be used as a basis for the development of a detailed county-wide comprehensive bicycle plan.

RECOMMENDED OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT

The open space preservation element consists of four major components. The first is the preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas. The preservation of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological areas and in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the regional natural areas protection and management plan¹ is the second component. The third component calls for the protection of open space lands located within established State project boundaries. The final component calls for the protection of prime agricultural land.

¹*Documented in SEWRPC Amendment to the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.*

Recommended actions with respect to the preservation of open space lands, other than prime agricultural lands, are graphically summarized on Map 16. It is recommended that a total of 38,481 acres of open space lands, or about 18 percent of Racine County, be protected through a combination of public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership,² through conservation easements, or through the application of protective zoning. These 38,481 acres include planned primary and secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, areas outside corridors but within Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) project boundaries, and existing and proposed County park and open space lands. Virtually all natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be preserved are contained within the planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or the planned isolated natural resource areas.

Of the total 38,481 acres of recommended open space lands, 9,021 acres, or about 23 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, under conservation easements, or in compatible private outdoor recreation uses such as golf courses or camps in 2010. These areas are recommended to be preserved in current ownership/conservation easements or, for lands in compatible private outdoor recreation use, maintained in recreational or open space uses. It is recommended that an additional 4,964 acres, or about 13 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations for natural resource protection preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. The estimated cost of acquiring such lands is about \$29.7 million. A summary of the existing and proposed public and nonprofit conservation organization ownership of open space lands, and associated acquisition costs, is presented in Table 16.

The other 24,496 acres of open space lands are recommended to remain in or be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodplain, lowland conservancy and, for upland portions of the corridor, upland conservancy which limits development to rural residential development with an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres.

Each component of the open space preservation plan element is discussed separately below. There is considerable overlap between these components, and, accordingly, between the acreages cited in conjunction with each component. For example, virtually all of the natural areas and critical species habitat areas identified and recommended for public interest acquisition under the natural areas plan component are also recommended for acquisition under the environmental corridor preservation plan component. The tabular summary of the open space preservation plan element (Table 16) thus represents the composite of the environmental corridor, natural area, and WDNR project area plan components, which are described individually below.

Environmental Corridor and Isolated Natural Resource Area Plan Component

Primary Environmental Corridors

The primary environmental corridors contain almost all of the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, lakes and streams, and associated shoreland and floodland areas remaining in the County. Primary environmental corridors are the longest and widest type of environmental corridor—at least 400 acres in area, two miles long, and 200 feet in width (see Chapter II for more details). The protection of the primary environmental corridors from additional intrusion by urban development, thereby preserving such lands in natural, open uses for resource protection, scenic value, and outdoor recreation and education purposes, is one of the primary objectives of this plan. The planned extent and location of primary environmental corridors in Racine County are shown on Map 17. The permanent preservation of the primary environmental corridors in essentially natural, open space uses is most certain when the corridor lands are acquired in the public interest for resource preservation or compatible outdoor recreation uses. The following measures should be taken to protect the primary environmental corridors:

1. Primary environmental corridors that contain natural area sites or critical species habitat sites should be acquired by a public agency or nonprofit conservation organization.

²*Public ownership includes lands owned by a state, county, or local unit of government, school districts, or other public districts.*

2. Primary environmental corridors located in identified State project areas should be acquired in public ownership.
3. Primary environmental corridors needed to accommodate parks or trail facilities proposed under the recommended outdoor recreation plan element described later in this chapter should be acquired in public ownership.
4. Primary environmental corridors that are in existing private recreational uses should be maintained in such uses.
5. Other primary environmental corridors should be protected through appropriate zoning.

A total of 19,872 acres of land are encompassed in the planned primary environmental corridors. Map 17 depicts those primary environmental corridors which are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or under conservation easements. As shown on Map 17, such areas currently encompass a total of 5,400 acres, or about 27 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. Additional such areas recommended for acquisition in the public interest are also shown on Map 17, and encompass a total of 3,791 acres, or about 19 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. An additional 552 acres, or about 3 percent of planned primary environmental corridors, are in compatible private recreational use. The remaining 10,129 acres of planned primary environmental corridors, or about 51 percent, are proposed to be protected through zoning. While zoning is the primary local land use regulation available for resource preservation, primary environmental corridors, as well as portions of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, within planned sewer service areas are provided with protection through State regulations related to public and private sanitary sewer extensions.

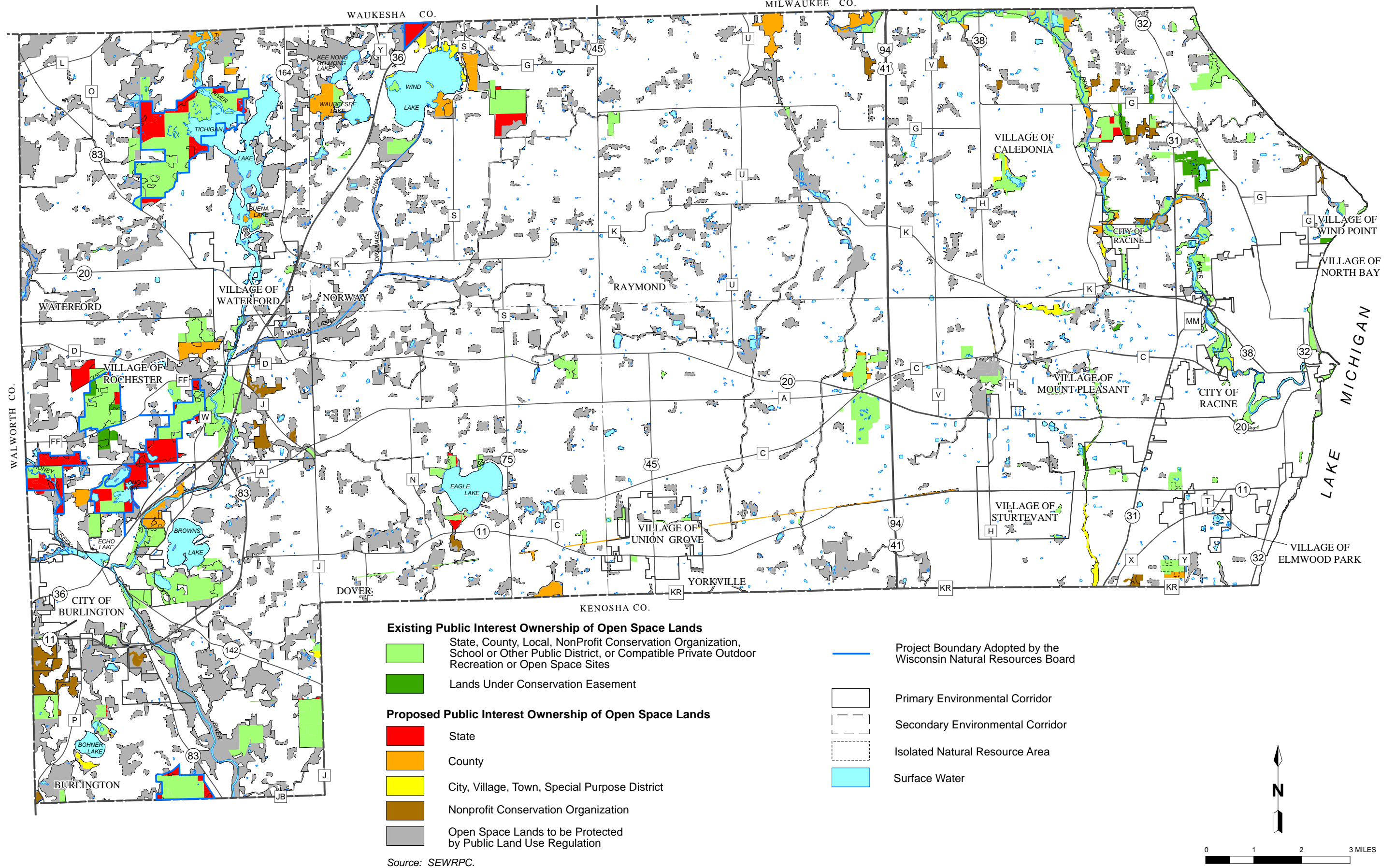
In addition to specific recommendations above, the plan includes the following general recommendations with respect to the public acquisition of primary environmental corridors:

1. Should primary environmental corridor lands not specifically recommended for acquisition in this plan become available for acquisition and use for public open space purposes, it is recommended that the appropriate public agency or nonprofit conservation organization consider the acquisition of such lands.
2. Those primary environmental corridor lands located within the identified urban service areas in the County not recommended for acquisition by the County or State should be acquired for park and open space purposes by the appropriate city or village park agency, as determined in local park and open space plans.
3. Should urban development not proposed or envisioned to occur under this plan threaten to destroy or degrade natural resources located within the primary environmental corridors, an appropriate public agency or nonprofit conservation organization should consider the acquisition of, or other protective measures for, such lands for resource preservation and open space purposes.

Secondary Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

Secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas contain many of the same resources as primary environmental corridors but are smaller in size or physically separated from other resource areas (see Chapter II for more details). Secondary environmental corridors are at least 100 acres in area and one mile long. Isolated natural resource areas are at least five acres in size. It is recommended that secondary environmental corridors be preserved in natural, open use, or incorporated as drainageways, stormwater detention or retention areas, or as local parks or recreation trail corridors, in developing areas. It is also recommended that isolated natural resource areas be preserved in natural open uses, being incorporated for use as parks and open space reservations or stormwater detention or retention areas as appropriate.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT OF THE RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2035



Source: SEWRPC.

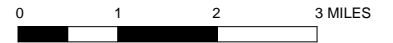


Table 16

**PROPOSED OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS UNDER
THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR RACINE COUNTY^a**

Ownership	Existing ^b (acres)	Planned (acres)	Planned Change (acres)	Estimated Acquisition Cost ^c
State of Wisconsin	3,701	5,567	1,866	\$ 9,824,000
Racine County	2,606	4,489	1,883	11,138,000
Local Government ^d	1,400	1,742	342	1,584,000
Nonprofit Conservation Organization	559	1,432	873	7,119,000
Compatible Private Recreation Use	755	755	--	--
Total	9,021	13,985	4,964	\$29,665,000

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2012 dollars.

^aIncludes planned primary environmental corridors, planned secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, lands within Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources project boundaries, and lands needed for public park or trail use. These figures do not include associated surface water areas.

^bIncludes existing ownership in 2010.

^cUnit costs used to estimate acquisition costs were \$3,000 per acre of wetlands, \$10,000 per acre of woodlands, and \$6,000 per acre of other open lands.

^dIncludes cities, villages, towns, school districts, and other public districts.

Source: SEWRPC.

A total of 7,642 acres of land are encompassed in the planned secondary environmental corridors, and 8,476 acres are encompassed in the planned isolated natural resource areas, for a combined total of 16,118 acres. Map 17 depicts those secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas which are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership or under conservation easements. Such areas currently encompass a total of 812 acres, or about 5 percent of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. An additional 203 acres, or 1 percent of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are in existing compatible outdoor recreation use.

Additional secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas recommended for acquisition in the public interest are shown on Map 17. Such areas, which consist largely of natural area and critical species habitat sites, encompass a total of 338 acres, or about 2 percent of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, including 211 acres of planned secondary environmental corridors and 127 acres of planned isolated natural resource areas.

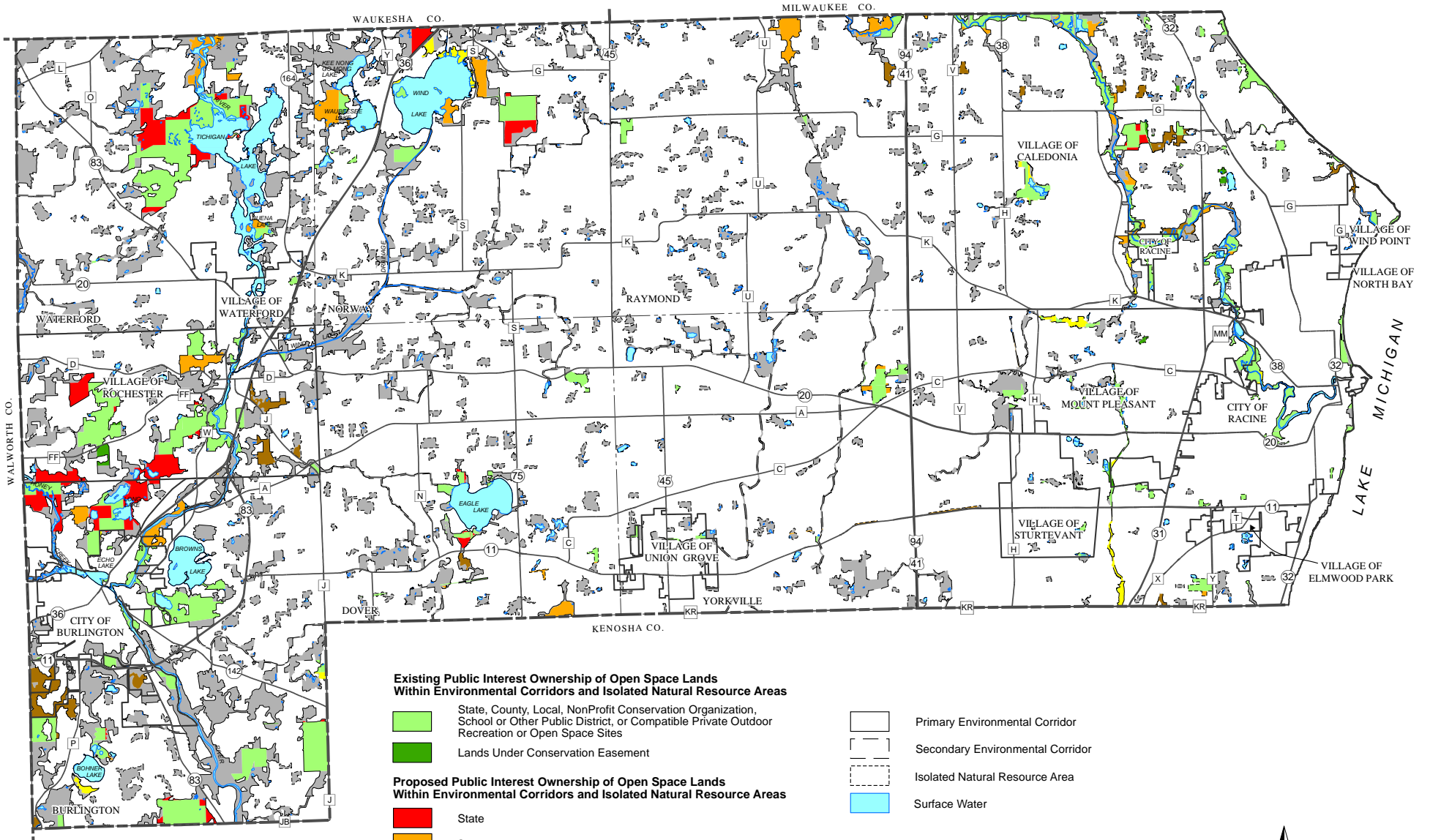
The remaining 14,765 acres, or 92 percent, of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas may be retained in private ownership, but should be placed in a zoning district that would prevent their conversion to urban use. However, as such lands are needed for areawide recreation trails (discussed later in this chapter), local park or recreation purposes, or for another public purpose, such as stormwater detention, it is recommended that the appropriate public agency consider the acquisition of such lands.

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan Component

The regional natural areas protection and management plan, as updated and amended in 2010, sets forth a number of recommendations related to the preservation of identified natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and important geological sites. Pertinent recommendations from that plan have been incorporated into this park and open space plan, and are described in the following paragraphs.

PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2035

Recommended Park and Open Space Plan



**Existing Public Interest Ownership of Open Space Lands
Within Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas**

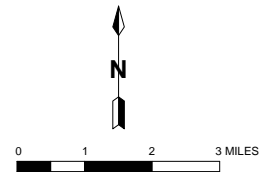
- State, County, Local, NonProfit Conservation Organization, School or Other Public District, or Compatible Private Outdoor Recreation or Open Space Sites
- Lands Under Conservation Easement

**Proposed Public Interest Ownership of Open Space Lands
Within Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas**

- State
- County
- City, Village, Town, Special Purpose District
- Nonprofit Conservation Organization
- Open Space Lands to be Protected by Public Land Use Regulation

- Primary Environmental Corridor
- Secondary Environmental Corridor
- Isolated Natural Resource Area
- Surface Water

Source: SEWRPC.



As noted in Chapter II, a total of 61 natural areas were identified in Racine County in 2009 as part of the regional natural areas management plan. Natural areas are tracts of land so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement (see Chapter II for more details). Seven of the sites, encompassing about 614 acres, are classified as natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1). An additional 20 sites, encompassing about 2,886 acres, are classified as natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2). The remaining 34 sites, encompassing about 2,170 acres, are classified as natural areas of local significance (NA-3). In addition, a total of 38 critical species habitat sites were identified. Critical species habitat sites are those areas that support rare, threatened, or endangered species (see Chapter II for more details). These sites together encompassed about 1,423 acres.

Combined, there are 99 natural areas and critical species habitat sites identified in the County, with a total area of 7,093 acres. It is recommended that 88 of these areas, which encompass 6,853 acres in 59 natural areas and 29 critical species habitat sites, be protected through ownership by public agencies or by nonprofit conservation organizations. It is recommended that the other 11 sites—two natural area sites and nine critical species habitat sites encompassing a total of 240 acres—be protected through appropriate zoning. The protection recommendations for natural areas and critical species habitat sites are shown on Map 18.

Natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be protected through acquisition meet one of the following criteria: 1) the site lies within a primary environmental corridor; 2) the site supports rare, threatened, or endangered plant, bird, or mammal species; and 3) the site is already at least partially in public interest ownership.

Table 17 lists each natural area site and critical species habitat site proposed to be preserved through protective ownership and the proposed acquisition agency. In all, these sites encompass 6,853 acres,³ including 5,583 acres within natural areas and 1,270 acres within critical species habitat sites. Of the total 6,853 acres to be preserved, about 3,397 acres, or about 50 percent, are under existing public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership or under a conservation easement. An additional 3,456 acres, or about 50 percent, are proposed for public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership or management. Virtually all of these areas are encompassed by the planned primary or secondary environmental corridor or by planned isolated natural resource areas. The cost of acquiring these areas is included in Table 16.

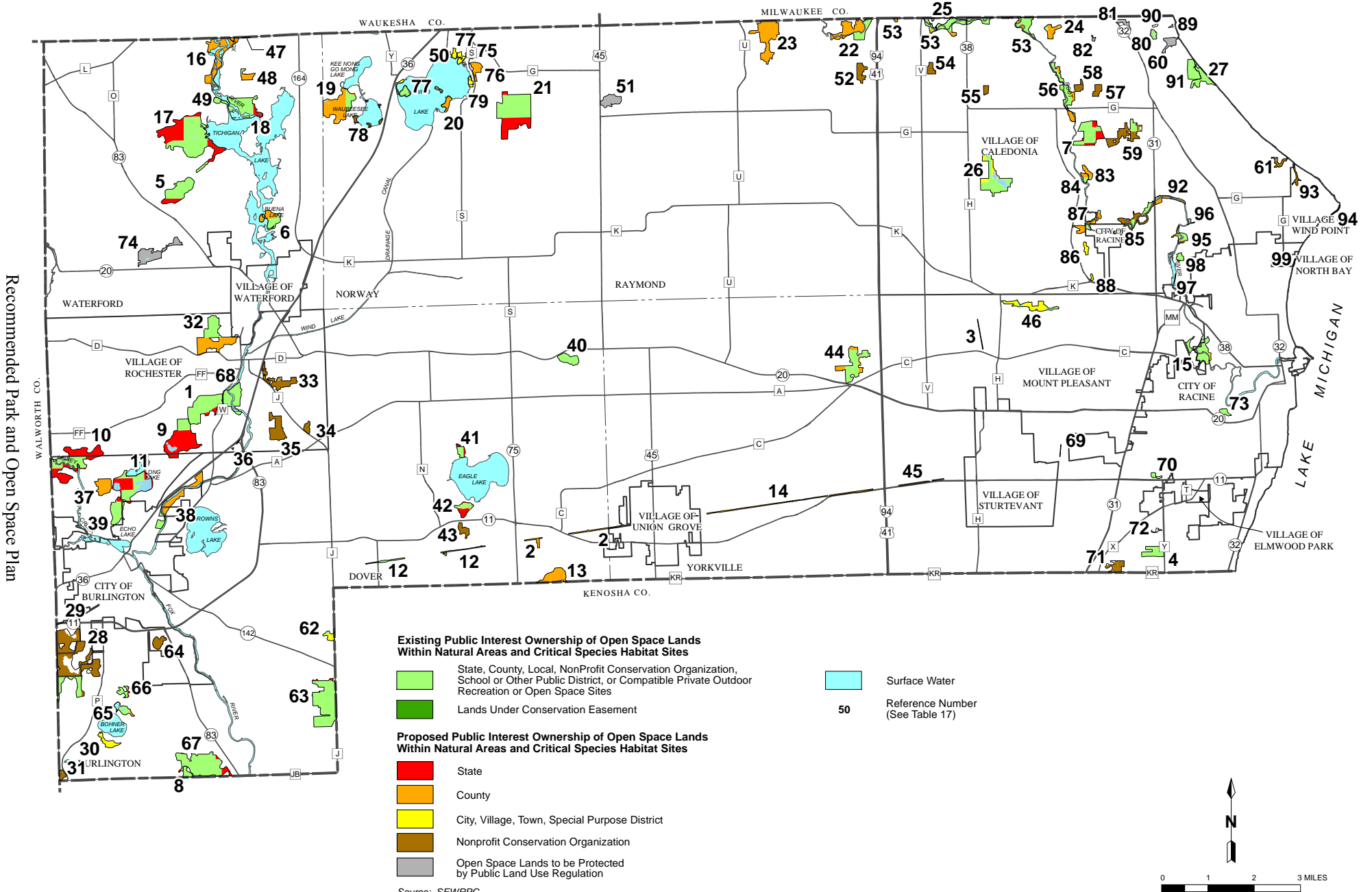
The recommendations made in this plan differ somewhat from those made in the regional natural areas protection and management plan (as amended). The regional plan anticipated that such refinements would be made when the County park and open space plans were updated. Specifically, the proposed acquisition agency differs for one natural area site in Table 17—Erwin Wetlands (Site No. 75). The Erwin Wetland site is recommended in this plan to be acquired by Racine County, rather than the Wind Lake Management District. Adoption of the County park and open space plan by Racine County and the Regional Planning Commission will amend the regional natural areas protection and management plan in these respects.

Reestablishment of Forest Interior Sites

In addition to setting forth recommendations for the protection of existing areas with important biological resources, the regional natural areas protection and management plan also recommends that efforts be made to reestablish relatively large tracts of grasslands and forest interiors in the Region. Reestablishment of such tracts would serve to provide additional habitat for bird populations, which have been adversely affected by loss of habitat due to development in the Region.

³Site acreage listed in Table 17 reflects minor losses to resource areas that have occurred since the inventory was completed.

PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN RACINE COUNTY



Recommended Park and Open Space Plan

Table 17

PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREA AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN RACINE COUNTY

Number on Map 18	Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites Proposed to be Acquired							
1	Village of Rochester	Cherry Lake Sedge Meadow State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	178	12	190	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2	Town of Dover Town of Yorkville	Kansasville Railroad Prairie	NA-1	--	28	28	Racine County
3	Village of Mt. Pleasant	Franksville Railroad Prairie	NA-1 (SNA)	--	4	4	Private conservancy organization
4	Village of Mt. Pleasant	Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	56	--	56	Racine County
5	Town of Waterford	Tichigan Fen, Springs and Woods	NA-1	108	23	131	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
6	Town of Waterford	Elm Island Bog— Island Oak Woods	NA-1	35	32	67	Racine County
7	Village of Caledonia	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	96	42	138	University of Wisconsin-Parkside
8	Town of Burlington	Karcher Springs State Natural Area	NA-2 (SNA)	19	--	19	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
9	Village of Rochester	Brock Lake Fen	NA-2	68	163	231	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
10	Town of Burlington	Honey Lake Marsh and Sedge Meadow	NA-2	93	157	250 ^c	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
11	Town of Burlington	Leda Lake Fen-Meadow	NA-2	151	71	222	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
12	Town of Dover	Rosewood Railroad Prairie	NA-2	23	2	25	Racine County
13	Town of Dover	Schroeder Road Marsh	NA-2	--	77	77 ^d	Racine County
14	Town of Yorkville	Union Grove Railroad Prairie	NA-2	--	44	44	Racine County
15	City of Racine	Colonial Park Woods	NA-2	89	5	94	City of Racine
16	Town of Waterford	Norris Marsh and Slough	NA-2	--	183	183 ^e	Racine County
17	Town of Waterford	Tichigan Marsh	NA-2	313	153	466	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
18	Town of Waterford	Tichigan Wetlands and Low Woods	NA-2	154	16	170	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
19	Town of Norway	Waubeesee Oak Woods and Tamarack Relict	NA-2	39	148	187	Racine County
20	Town of Norway	Wind Lake Shrub-Fen	NA-2	--	21	21	Racine County
21	Town of Norway	Wind Lake Tamarack Swamp	NA-2	221	113	334	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
22	Town of Raymond	County Line Riverine Woods	NA-2	41	100	141	Racine County
23	Town of Raymond	Root River Canal Woods	NA-2	--	163	163 ^f	Racine County
24	Village of Caledonia	Hunts Woods	NA-2	6	30	36	Racine County
25	Village of Caledonia	Root River Wet-Mesic Woods—East	NA-2	2	--	2 ^g	Racine County
26	Village of Caledonia	Caledonia Wildlife Area	NA-2	133	33	166	Village of Caledonia

Table 17 (continued)

Site Identification				Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 18	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites Proposed to be Acquired							
27	Village of Caledonia	Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks	NA-2	55	--	55	Racine County
28	Town of Burlington	Burlington Hills Woods	NA-3	--	416	416 ^h	Private conservancy organization
29	Town of Burlington	Burlington Railroad Prairie	NA-3	--	5	5 ⁱ	Racine County
30	Town of Burlington	Bohner Lake Lowlands	NA-3	--	33	33	Town of Burlington
31	Town of Burlington	Tri-County Tamarack Swamp	NA-3	--	15	15 ^j	Private conservancy organization
32	Village of Rochester	Wadewitz Woods	NA-3	79	125	204	Racine County
33	Village of Rochester	Roundtree Road Woods	NA-3	--	77	77	Private conservancy organization
34	Village of Rochester	English Settlement Prairie	NA-3	--	16	16	Private conservancy organization
35	Village of Rochester	Eagle Creek Woods	NA-3	--	84	84	Private conservancy organization
36	Village of Rochester	Fox River Prairie	NA-3	--	2	2	Racine County
37	Town of Burlington	Honey Lake Leatherleaf Bog	NA-3	--	63	63	Racine County
38	Town of Burlington	Fox River Riverine Forest	NA-3	19	112	131	Racine County
39	Town of Burlington	Wehmhoff Park Upland Woods and Wetlands	NA-3	74	6	80	Town of Burlington
40	Town of Dover	Dover Wildlife Area Wetlands	NA-3	48	1	49	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
41	Town of Dover	Church Road Lowlands	NA-3	22	2	24	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
42	Town of Dover	Eagle Lake Wetlands	NA-3	22	24	46	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
43	Town of Dover	Vandenboom Road Marsh	NA-3	7	20	27	Private conservancy organization
44	Town of Yorkville	Ives Grove Woods	NA-3	106	34	140	Racine County
45	Village of Mt. Pleasant	Sylvania Railroad Prairie	NA-3	--	11	11	Racine County
46	Village of Mt. Pleasant	Hoods Creek Woods	NA-3	14	58	72	Village of Mt. Pleasant
47	Town of Waterford	Norris Oak Woods and Wetlands	NA-3	--	6	6 ^k	Racine County
48	Town of Waterford	Van Valin Woods	NA-3	--	26	26	Racine County
49	Town of Waterford	Tichigan Wet Prairie	NA-3	16	--	16	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
50	Town of Norway	Wind Lake Wet Meadow	NA-3	--	11	11	Wind Lake Management District
52	Town of Raymond	Kimmel Woods	NA-3	--	40	40	Private conservancy organization
53	Village of Caledonia	Root River Riverine Forest	NA-3	155	29	184 ^l	Racine County
54	Village of Caledonia	Seven Mile Road Woods	NA-3	--	20	20	Private conservancy organization
55	Village of Caledonia	Zirbes Woods	NA-3	--	13	13	Private conservancy organization
56	Village of Caledonia	Caledonia Low Woods	NA-3	61	46	107	Racine County

Table 17 (continued)

Number on Map 18	Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites Proposed to be Acquired							
57	Village of Caledonia	Foley Road Woods—East	NA-3	--	24	24	Private conservancy organization
58	Village of Caledonia	Foley Road Woods—West	NA-3	--	19	19	Private conservancy organization
59	Village of Caledonia	Tabor Woods	NA-3	20	84	104	Caledonia Conservancy
61	Village of Caledonia	Dominican Ravine	NA-3	2	16	18	Private conservancy organization
62	Town of Burlington	Mt. Tom Woods	CSH	3	18	21 ^m	Town of Burlington
63	Town of Burlington	Bong State Recreation Area	CSH	263	4	267 ⁿ	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
64	Town of Burlington	Burlington Crevasse Filling	CSH	--	34	34	Private conservancy organization
65	Town of Burlington	Margis Wildlife Area	CSH	32	4	36	Racine County
66	Town of Burlington	Ranger Mac Fen	CSH	19	3	22	University of Wisconsin-Parkside
67	Town of Burlington	Karcher Sedge-Carr	CSH	230	19	249	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
68	Village of Rochester	Case-Eagle Park	CSH	111	--	111	Racine County
70	City of Racine	Pritchard Park Woods	CSH	10	--	10	Racine County
71	Village of Mt. Pleasant	Campbell Woods	CSH	--	40	40	Private conservancy organization
73	City of Racine	Washington Park Woods	CSH	14	--	14	City of Racine
75	Town of Norway	Erwin Wetlands	CSH	--	2	2	Racine County
76	Town of Norway	Patzke Fen	CSH	--	33	33	Racine County
77	Town of Norway	Wind Lake	CSH	22	36	58	Wind Lake Management District
78	Town of Norway	Waubeesee Lake	CSH	--	16	16	Private conservancy organization
79	Town of Norway	Landon Wetland	CSH	--	12	12	Wind Lake Management District
83	Village of Caledonia	Forked Aster Site	CSH	1	17	18	Racine County
84	Village of Caledonia	River Meadow Woods	CSH	6	8	14	Racine County
85	Village of Caledonia	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way	CSH	43	51	94	Caledonia Conservancy
86	Village of Caledonia	Hoods Creek Swamp	CSH	--	13	13	Village of Caledonia
87	Village of Caledonia	Root River Bluff	CSH	13	37	50	Racine County
88	Village of Caledonia	STH 38/CTH K	CSH	--	4	4	Village of Caledonia
91	Village of Caledonia	Cliffside Park Old Field	CSH	55	--	55	Racine County
92	Village of Caledonia	Four Mile Road Woods	CSH	10	21	31	Racine County
93	Village of Caledonia Village of Wind Point	Wind Point Ravine Woods	CSH	--	14	14	Private conservancy organization
94	Village of Wind Point	Wind Point	CSH	4	--	4	City of Racine
95	Village of Caledonia	Caledonia Low Woods—South	CSH	20	10	30	Racine County
97	Village of Caledonia	Root River Strip Woods	CSH	2	--	2	Racine County
98	Village of Caledonia	River Bend Upland Woods	CSH	14	--	14	Racine County
99	Village of Caledonia	North Bay Ravine and Beach	CSH	--	2	2	Private conservancy organization
--	Subtotal: 88 Sites	--	--	3,397	3,456	6,853	--

Table 17 (continued)

Number on Map 18	Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites to be Preserved to the Extent Practicable Without Additional Protective Ownership							
51	Town of Raymond	Six Mile Road Swamp	NA-3	--	--	55	--
60	Village of Caledonia	Power Plant Ravine Woods	NA-3	--	--	32	--
69	Village of Mt. Pleasant	Waxdale Railroad Prairie	CSH	--	--	1	--
72	Village of Mt. Pleasant	Willow Woods	CSH	--	--	4	--
74	Town of Waterford	Maple Road Gravel Pit	CSH	--	--	102	--
80	Village of Caledonia	WEPCO Oak Woods	CSH	--	--	14	--
81	Village of Caledonia	WEPCO Woods	CSH	--	--	18	--
82	Village of Caledonia	Sherwood Property	CSH	--	--	4	--
89	Village of Caledonia	Lakeside Woods	CSH	--	--	2	--
90	Village of Caledonia	Wood Duck Woods	CSH	--	--	3	--
96	Village of Caledonia	Root River Ravine Woods	CSH	--	--	5	--
--	Subtotal: 11 Sites	--	--	--	--	240	--
--	Total: 99 Sites	--	--	3,397	3,456	7,093	--

NOTE: This table is a refinement of the recommendations made in SEWRPC *Amendment to the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*, December 2010.

^aNA-1 identifies natural areas of statewide or greater significance, NA-2 identifies natural areas of countywide or regional significance, NA-3 identifies natural areas of local significance, and CSH identifies critical species habitat sites

SNA, or State Natural Area, identifies those sites officially designated as State Natural Areas by the State of Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council.

^bBased on 2010 data. Includes land under protective ownership, under conservation easement, or surface water.

^cDoes not include 141 acres of this site located in Walworth County.

^dDoes not include 111 acres of this site in Kenosha County.

^eDoes not include 26 acres of this site in Waukesha County.

^fDoes not include 152 acres of this site in Milwaukee County.

^gDoes not include 50 acres of this site in Milwaukee County.

^hDoes not include 86 acres of this site in Walworth County.

ⁱDoes not include one acre of this site in Walworth County.

^jDoes not include 25 acres of this site in Walworth County.

^kDoes not include 364 acres of this site in Waukesha County.

^lDoes not include 147 acres of this site in Milwaukee County.

^mDoes not include three acres of this site in Kenosha County.

ⁿDoes not include 4,754 acres of this site in Kenosha County.

Source: SEWRPC.

One site in Racine County was identified for the reestablishment of forest interior habitat. The site is located in the Village of Rochester along Oak Knoll Road, partially within the WDNR Honey Creek Wildlife Area project boundary. It is envisioned that the forest interior reserve would eventually encompass 166 acres, with the WDNR, which currently owns about 44 acres, being responsible for site acquisition and management. After reforestation, about 86 acres, or about 52 percent, would meet the definition of forest interior—that is, that portion of a forest lying at least 300 feet from the forest edge. As this plan recommendation is implemented, it would result in an enlargement of the primary environmental corridor in this vicinity.

Protection of Geological Areas

Pertinent recommendations regarding the preservation of the significant geological sites set forth in the regional natural areas plan have also been incorporated into this park and open space plan. The inventory of geological areas prepared as part of the regional natural areas protection and management plan and reported in Chapter II identified six sites of geological importance in the County, including three bedrock geology sites and three glacial features.

Map 19 shows the general location of the six geologic areas that have been identified in Racine County. Together, the six areas encompass about 1,310 acres. Of this total, 68 acres are in existing public ownership. Under the plan, five sites are proposed to be entirely protected through public interest ownership, and one site—Lyons Glacial Deposits—is proposed to be partially protected through public interest ownership (see Table 18). In total, 599 acres are recommended to be acquired for protective ownership.

State of Wisconsin Project Areas Component

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

The open space preservation element of this plan includes lands which have been acquired or which are proposed to be acquired by the WDNR, within the project boundaries of the Big Muskego Wildlife Area, Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area, and Tichigan Wildlife Area. Project boundaries for these areas have been approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and are reflected on Map 16. Currently, about 2,382 acres of other open space lands are in public ownership within those project areas. An additional 1,372 acres are proposed to be acquired within the identified project boundaries.

It should be noted that seven natural areas, one critical species habitat site, and the proposed forest interior restoration site are located partially within, and partially outside, the existing WDNR project boundaries. These sites are listed on Table 19. The portions of these sites that are located outside the existing State project boundaries encompass 212 acres. It is recommended that the WDNR consider expanding existing project boundaries to include these sites when the master plans for the project areas are updated.

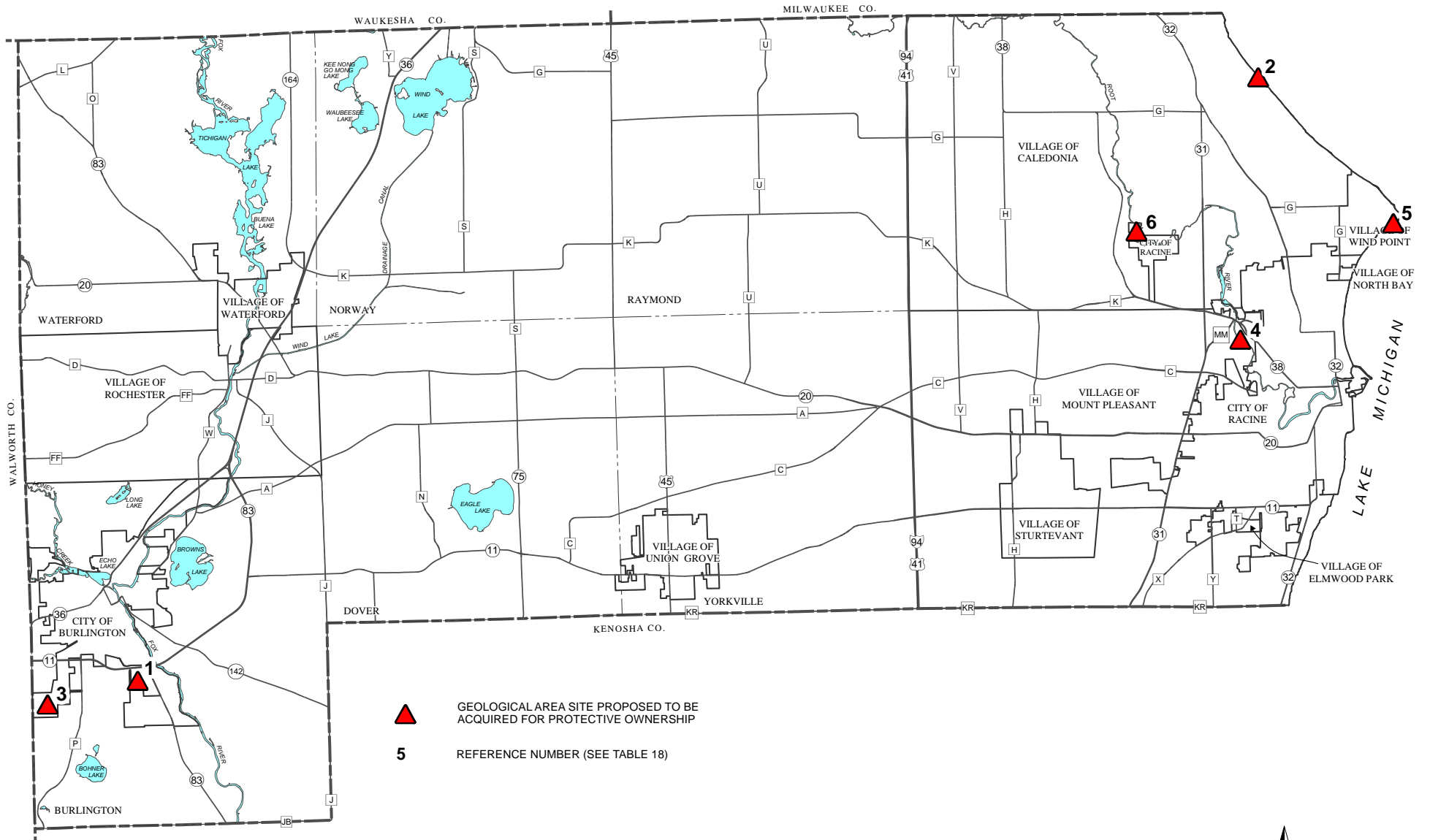
Prime Agricultural Land Plan Component


Under this plan, it is recommended that Racine County and local units of government preserve to the extent practicable prime agricultural lands in Racine County. Historically, efforts to identify and preserve the best remaining farmland in Racine County have included the preparation of the Racine County farmland preservation plan, the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (1977), and the mandating of "use-value" assessment of agricultural land by the Wisconsin Legislature (1995). More recent efforts include the 2009 Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative which includes a revised Farmland Preservation Program, an Agricultural Enterprise Area Program, and the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program.

In order to implement the programs under the working lands initiative, Racine County prepared an updated farmland preservation plan in 2012. The new farmland preservation plan refines and details the lands identified for farmland preservation on the land use plan map in the County comprehensive plan (see Map 15 in Chapter IV).

⁴SEWRPC Planning Report No. 46, A Farmland Preservation Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, 1981.

RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION AND OWNERSHIP OF SELECTED GEOLOGICAL AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY



-  GEOLOGICAL AREA SITE PROPOSED TO BE ACQUIRED FOR PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP
- 5** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 18)

Source: SEWRPC.

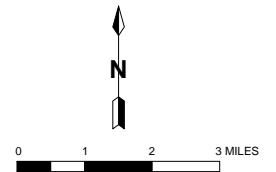


Table 18

**GEOLOGICAL AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY RECOMMENDED
TO BE FULLY OR SUBSTANTIALLY PRESERVED THROUGH ACQUISITION**

Type of Geological Area	Site Identification				Total Site Area (acres)	Portion of Area Already Under Protective Ownership	Portion of Area to Be Acquired for Protective Ownership	Responsible Agency	Remarks
	Civil Division	Name	Geological Area Class	Number on Map 19					
Glacial	Town of Burlington	Burlington Crevasse Filling	GA-3	1	35	--	35	Private conservancy organization	This site contains a Critical Species Habitat site of about 23 acres. It is recommended that the entire area, which lies entirely within the primary environmental corridor, be acquired for protective ownership
	Village of Caledonia	Cliffside Park Clay Banks	GA-3	2	20	20	--	Racine County	The entire area lies within an existing County park and Natural Area of countywide or regional significance
	Town of Burlington Town of Lyons (Walworth County)	Lyons Glacial Deposits	GA-3	3	1,200 ^a	--	557	Private conservancy organization	About 557 acres, or 46 percent, of this area are within an identified Natural Area of local significance proposed to be acquired by a private conservancy organization
Bedrock	Village of Mt. Pleasant	Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries	GA-1	4	30	23	7	Racine County	About 23 acres, or 77 percent, are in County ownership. It is recommended that a conservation easement be acquired over the remaining seven acres
	Village of Wind Point	Wind Point	GA-2	5	5	5	--	Village of Wind Point	Four acres of this site are within a Critical Species Habitat site located within the City of Racine's Shoop Park. The remaining one acre is the site of the Wind Point lighthouse, owned by the Village of Wind Point
	Village of Caledonia	Root River Outcrops	GA-3	6	20	20	--	Racine County	The entire area is located within the Root River Parkway and is owned by Racine County. The site is within a Critical Species Habitat Site
Total	--	--	--	--	1,310	68	599	--	--

^aIncludes only those lands of the Lyons Glacial Deposits located in Racine County.

Source: SEWRPC.

Table 19

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS TO WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT BOUNDARIES

Number on Map 18	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Project	Location	Area Recommended to Be Added to WDNR Project Area (acres)	Comment ^a
1	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E Sections 10, 15 Village of Rochester	12 ^b	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Cherry Lake Sedge Meadow State Natural Area (NA-1) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
9	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E Sections 15, 16, 21 Village of Rochester	18 ^c	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Brock Lake Fen (NA-2) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
10	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E Sections 17-20 Town of Burlington	19 ^d	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Honey Lake Marsh and Sedge Meadow (NA-2) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
11	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E Sections 20, 21, 29 Town of Burlington	2 ^e	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Leda Lake Fen-Meadow (NA-2) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
-- ^f	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E Sections 5, 7, 8 Village of Rochester	122	Expansion is recommended to include a recommended forest interior site, the Oak Knoll Woods, within the project boundary. The forest interior site is adjacent to the Honey Creek State Wildlife Area, but is not located within the site.
67	Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area	T2N, R19E Sections 21, 22 Town of Burlington	2 ^g	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Karcher Sedge-Carr (CSH) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
5	Tichigan Wildlife Area	T4N, R19E Sections 21, 22 Town of Waterford	23 ^h	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Tichigan Fen, Springs, and Woods Natural Area (NA-1) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
17	Tichigan Wildlife Area	T4N, R19E Sections 9, 10, 15, 16 Town of Waterford	10 ⁱ	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Tichigan Marsh (NA-2) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
18	Tichigan Wildlife Area	T4N, R19E Sections 10, 11 Town of Waterford	4 ^j	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Tichigan Wetlands and Low Woods (NA-2) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
Total	--	--	212	--

^aNA-1 identifies a natural area of statewide or greater significance, NA-2 identifies a natural area of countywide or regional significance, NA-3 identifies a natural area of local significance, and CSH identifies a critical species habitat site.

^bAbout 178 acres of the natural area are located within the existing WDNR project boundary. The natural area is about 190 acres in total.

^cAbout 213 acres of the natural area are located within the existing WDNR project boundary. The natural area is about 231 acres in total.

^dAbout 231 acres of the natural area are located within the existing WDNR project boundary. The natural area is about 250 acres in total.

^eAbout 220 acres of the natural area are located within the existing WDNR project boundary. The natural area is about 222 acres in total.

^fThe Oak Knoll Woods forest interior site is located in the Village of Rochester along Oak Knoll Road. About 44 acres of the forest interior site are located within existing State ownership. The proposed forest interior site is about 166 acres in total.

^gAbout 247 acres of the natural area are located within the existing WDNR project boundary. The natural area is about 249 acres in total.

^hAbout 108 acres of the natural area are located within the existing WDNR project boundary. The natural area is about 131 acres in total.

ⁱAbout 456 acres of the natural area are located within the existing WDNR project boundary. The natural area is about 466 acres in total.

^jAn additional 166 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 170 acres in total.

Source: SEWRPC.

RECOMMENDED PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT

The outdoor recreation sites and trail facilities recommended under the County park and open space plan are shown on Map 20. The sites and facilities proposed to be provided include major parks and resource-oriented recreational facilities, trails, and boat access facilities. The recommended recreation sites and facilities are intended to meet the need for such sites and facilities in the County through the year 2035, as identified in Chapter IV. A description of the recommended sites and facilities follows.

Major Parks

Under the park and open space plan for Racine County, 10 major parks⁵ would be provided. Of the 10 major parks, nine are existing parks and one would be a new park to be acquired and developed by Racine County. The nine existing major parks are: Browns Lake Golf Course, Bushnell Park, Cliffside Park, Sanders Park, Pritchard Park, Case Eagle Park, W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp, and Ives Grove Golf Links, owned by Racine County; and Johnson Park and Golf Course, owned by the City of Racine.

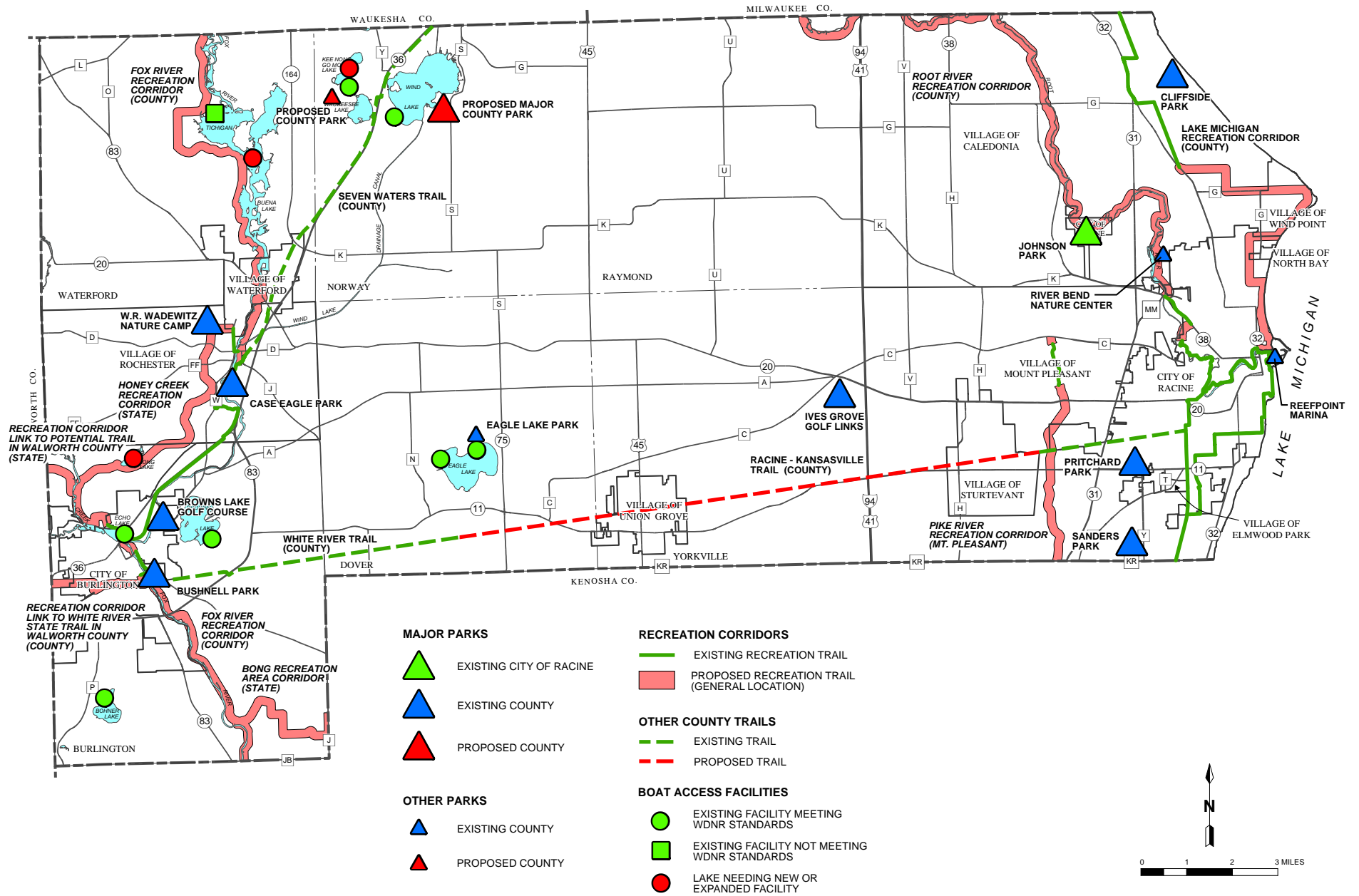
Under this plan, Racine County would acquire additional lands for Browns Lake Golf Course, Sanders Park, and W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp; develop additional specified facilities at Browns Lake Golf Course, Bushnell Park, Sanders Park, Case Eagle Park, and Cliffside Park; acquire and develop a new major County park in the Town of Norway; and develop additional resource oriented recreational facilities at other major County parks as needed.

Specific recommendations for each of the major parks are presented below.

- **Browns Lake Golf Course (Racine County)**
Browns Lake Golf Course presently consists of 140 acres, and is located in the Town of Burlington. Under the plan, it is recommended that the County acquire an additional 60 acres for fairway/practice area expansion and provide kayak/canoe access facilities on the Fox River. This site contains a portion of a natural area known as the Fox River Riverine Forest. As adjacent natural area lands (112 acres) are acquired as recommended in the open space element of this plan, those lands should be considered as additions to the existing park site.
- **Bushnell Park (Racine County)**
Bushnell Park presently consists of 95 acres, and is located in the Town of Burlington. The plan recommends that the County provide additional picnic facilities and trails.
- **Case Eagle Park (Racine County)**
Case Eagle Park, located in the Village of Rochester, presently consists of 245 acres. Under this plan, it is recommended that the County provide picnic facilities and primitive camping facilities, a kayak/canoe launch, and additional trails. In addition, the County should consider the development of a disc golf course if a public-private partnership were to be established to fund the development.
- **Cliffside Park (Racine County)**
Cliffside Park, located in the Village of Caledonia, presently consists of 223 acres. The plan recommends that the County provide additional picnic facilities and trails and develop a nature study center. The proposed nature study center, which would serve residents in the eastern portion of the County, would focus on the lakeshore resources in this area. In addition, the County should consider the development of a disc golf course if a public-private partnership were to be established to fund the development.

⁵Major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for resource-oriented activities and which are generally 100 acres or more in size.

OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2035



Source: SEWRPC.

- **Ives Grove Golf Links (Racine County)**
Ives Grove Golf Links, located in the Town of Yorkville, presently consists of 289 acres. Under this plan, it is recommended that Racine County continue to maintain this site and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities as needed.
- **Pritchard Park (Racine County)**
Pritchard Park, located in the City of Racine, presently consists of 73 acres. Under this plan, it is recommended that Racine County continue to maintain this site and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities as needed.
- **Sanders Park (Racine County)**
Sanders Park, located in the Village of Mt. Pleasant, presently consists of 84 acres. The plan recommends that the County acquire an additional 30 acres. Proposed development at this site includes additional picnic facilities.
- **W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp (Racine County)**
W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp presently consists of 176 acres, and is located in the Village of Rochester. Under the plan, it is recommended that the County acquire an additional 135 acres. Proposed development for this site includes a satellite nature study center and additional trails. The proposed satellite nature study center, which would serve residents in the western portion of the County, would focus on woodland resources in this area. The site contains a portion of a natural area known as the Wadewitz Woods. The remainder of this natural area (125 acres) is located within the proposed park acquisition area.
- **Johnson Park and Golf Course (City of Racine)**
Johnson Park and Golf Course, located in the City of Racine, presently consists of 335 acres. Under this plan, it is recommended that the City of Racine continue to maintain this site and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities as needed.
- **Proposed Major Park (Racine County)**
The proposed major County park would be located on the southeastern shore of Wind Lake, in the Town of Norway, and would consist of 85 acres. The plan recommends that the County provide lake access and picnic areas with the necessary support facilities. This proposed new park site would meet the need for additional park land in this area. The recommended site has natural features and characteristics particularly suitable for development of a park. It encompasses a natural area known as the Wind Lake Shrub-Fen. The site has long been recommended for acquisition and development as a County park. Like all public land acquisition recommended in this plan, acquisition of the proposed site should be accomplished on a willing seller-willing buyer basis.

Other County Park and Outdoor Recreation Sites

In addition to the eight major parks owned by the County, 26 other park and outdoor recreation sites were owned by Racine County in 2010 (see Map 10). Under the recommended plan, Racine County would continue to maintain these sites and provide additional facilities as needed.

Specific recommendations for other County parks include:

- **Eagle Lake Park (Racine County)**
Eagle Lake Park, located in the Town of Dover, presently consists of 25 acres. The plan recommends the development of a swimming beach and beach house to serve the residents in the central portion of the County.
- **Proposed Whispering Hills County Park (Racine County)**
The proposed Whispering Hills County Park would involve the expansion of an existing County open space site and consists largely of the Waubeesee Oak Woods and Tamarack Relict natural area located in

the northwest corner of the Town of Norway. This site would be acquired primarily for resource preservation purposes and would encompass approximately 213 acres. The plan recommends that the County provide picnic areas with necessary support facilities and trail facilities.

- **River Bend Nature Center (Racine County)**

In June 2012, Racine County acquired the River Bend Nature Center property. This 75 acre property, formerly owned by the Racine YMCA, provides trails for hiking and cross-country skiing, river access, and environmental education programs. The plan recommends that the County continue to maintain this site and accommodate resource oriented activities through a public-private partnership with a nonprofit organization.

- **Reefpoint Marina (Racine County)**

Reefpoint Marina, located on the Lake Michigan lakefront in the City of Racine, was completed in 1988. From 1988 to February 2012, all the assets of the marina were owned and operated by a private firm, under a license from Racine County. In February 2012, Racine County acquired the assets from the private firm. The plan recommends that the County continue to maintain and operate the marina as part of the Racine County park system.

Development Costs—County Parks

The development costs related to County-owned parks envisioned under the plan are presented in Table 20. As indicated in Table 20, such costs are estimated at about \$1.9 million. The cost associated with the acquisition of open space lands adjacent to County park sites, as recommended in the open space element of this plan, is included in Table 16.

Areawide Recreation Trails

Under the recommended plan, about 88 miles of trails would be provided within recreation corridors to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. The recommended trails, which are shown on Map 20, are part of a larger, region-wide trail system. The recommended trail system within Racine County includes 32 miles of existing trails and 56 miles of proposed new trails. The location of proposed recreation corridor trails shown on Map 20 are general in nature and are subject to refinement based on detailed facility planning and on negotiations with landowners to purchase land for the trails.

Of the recommended 88-mile trail system within Racine County, about 68 miles (including 29 existing miles), or 77 percent, would be provided by Racine County as part of the following:

- Lake Michigan Corridor This would connect with the Lake Michigan Corridor in Milwaukee County on the north and the Lake Michigan Corridor in Kenosha County on the south.
- Fox River Corridor This would connect with the Fox River Corridor in Waukesha County on the north and the Bong Recreation Area Corridor and Fox River Corridor in Kenosha County on the south.
- Root River Corridor This would connect with the Root River Corridor in Milwaukee County on the north and the Lake Michigan Corridor on the south.
- White River Corridor Link This would link the White River State Trail in Walworth County on the west with the Fox River Corridor on the east.

The WDNR would be responsible for about 14 miles (including one existing mile), or about 17 percent of the recommended trail system, including the following:

- Bong Recreation Area Corridor This would provide a connection between the Fox River Corridor and the Bong State Recreation Area.
- Honey Creek Corridor This would connect with the Fox River Corridor in the Village of Rochester on the north and the Fox River Corridor in the City of Burlington on the south.

Table 20

ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COSTS FOR COUNTY PARKS UNDER THE RECOMMENDED PARK PLAN

County Park	Proposed Facility Development	Development Cost
Major Parks		
Browns Lake Golf Course	Canoe/kayak launch, fairway/practice area expansion	\$ 65,000
Bushnell Park	Additional picnic facilities, trails	50,000
Case Eagle Park	Picnic areas, primitive camping facilities, canoe/kayak launch, disc golf, trails	160,000
Cliffside Park	Additional picnic facilities, nature center, disc golf, trails	570,000
Ives Grove Golf Links	-- ^a	--
Pritchard Park.....	-- ^a	--
Sanders Park.....	Additional picnic facilities	75,000
W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp	Nature trails, satellite nature center	275,000
Proposed Major County Park	Picnic facilities, lake access	250,000
Subtotal – 9 Sites	--	1,445,000
Other County Parks		
Eagle Lake Park	Swimming beach, beach house	250,000
Whispering Hills County Park (proposed).....	Picnic facilities, trails	225,000
Subtotal– 2 Sites	--	475,000
Trails		
Fox River Recreation Corridor.....	15.8 miles of trails	834,200
Root River Recreation Corridor.....	14.6 miles of trails	770,900
White River Recreation Corridor.....	2.5 miles of trails	132,000
Subtotal– 3 Sites	--	1,737,100
Other County Trails		
Seven Waters Trail.....	--	--
White River/Racine-Kansasville Trail	12.8 miles of trails	675,800
Subtotal– 2 Sites	--	675,800
Total	--	\$4,332,900

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2012 dollars.

^aWhile no specific facility development recommendations are made, additional resource-oriented recreation facilities should be developed as needed.

Source: SEWRPC.

Under the plan, the WDNR would also be responsible for a short trail that would connect the Honey Creek Corridor with a potential route in Walworth County.

In addition, under the plan, the Village of Mt. Pleasant would be responsible for about five miles (including one existing mile), or about 6 percent of the recommended trail system, consisting of the Pike River Corridor which would connect to the Pike River Corridor in Kenosha County.

The development of 88 miles of recreation corridor trails within the County is estimated to cost about \$3.2 million—with Racine County responsible for approximately \$1.7 million, the WDNR responsible for \$0.6 million, and the Village of Mt. Pleasant responsible for \$0.9 million. The cost associated with the acquisition of open space to accommodate the proposed trails is included in Table 16.

Other Trails

As shown on Map 20, under the plan Racine County would also be also responsible for the development and maintenance of two other trails—the Seven Waters Trail and the White River/Racine-Kansasville Trail. These trails, while not associated with a recreation corridor described above, provide connections to these recreation corridors. These trails are envisioned to include a total of about 32 miles (including 19 existing miles). The development of the remaining 13 miles of trails is estimated to cost about \$676,000. The existing portion of the White River/Racine-Kansasville Trail was developed by Racine County on a former railroad right-of-way acquired by the WDNR and continues to be under State ownership. It is anticipated that this arrangement will continue on future segments of this trail.

In addition, Racine County is served by a 184 mile system of snowmobile trails located on public land and on private land open to the public. The plan recommends that this trail system continue to be maintained.

Lake and River Access

Boat access sites, both public and non-public, provide opportunities for individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such water-related recreation activities as motor boating, waterskiing, sailing, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking. The regional park and open space plan recommends that rivers and major lakes—lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more—be provided with adequate public boat access consistent with safe and enjoyable participation in various boating activities. The WDNR, in keeping with State Statutes which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, has adopted administrative rules regarding lake access, and surveyed all the major lakes in the State to determine if adequate public access to each was provided and maintained.⁶ Table 15 in Chapter IV lists the major lakes in the County and indicates whether or not public access is provided which meets WDNR standards. As indicated in the table, in 2010, Buena-Tichigan Lakes, Kee Nong Go Mong Lake, and Long Lake in Racine County had no access meeting WDNR standards. Under this plan, then, as shown on Map 20, it is recommended that a public boat access site at those lakes be acquired and developed as appropriate by the WDNR. The total estimated acquisition and development cost for the recommended lake access sites is about \$750,000.

It is recommended that Racine County consider the development of a water trail system. As shown on Map 21, these water trails would be located on the Fox, Pike and Root Rivers, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline and would connect to water trails in adjacent counties. It is recommended that public canoe/kayak access points with parking be provided on major streams every 10 miles in Racine County. Public canoe/kayak access is currently provided at a number of sites in Racine County along the Fox, Pike, and Root Rivers and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. As previously indicated, the recommended improvements at Racine County parks under this plan include proposed new kayak/canoe launch facilities at Browns Lake Golf Course and Case Eagle Park.

In addition to boating and canoeing, the County park plan recognizes the popularity of such activities as beach swimming, shore fishing, and other lake-oriented activities and the need for general public access to lakeshore areas for such pursuits. Lakeshore areas, including Lake Michigan, capable of accommodating additional outdoor recreational development are scarce in Racine County. As lakeshore property, either developed or undeveloped, becomes available in the years ahead, Racine County, or the appropriate municipality, should evaluate their recreational potential and consider their acquisition for public recreational use as appropriate.

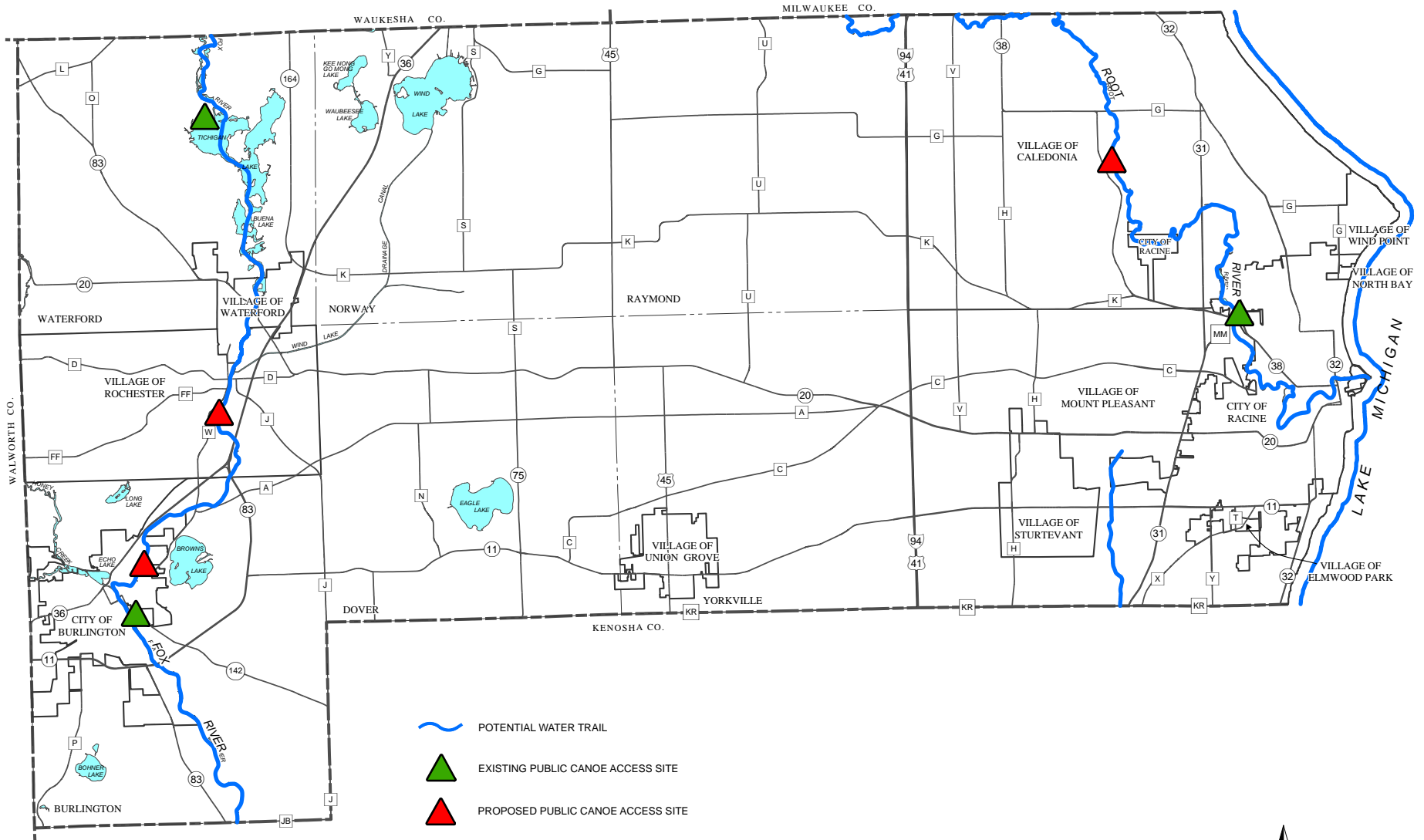
Local Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan Element

In addition to meeting resource-oriented outdoor recreation needs, a park plan must seek to provide sites and facilities for nonresource-oriented activities, such as baseball, tennis, and playground activities. In comparison to the resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities, sites and facilities for nonresource-oriented activities

⁶*The administrative rules, as set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, specify the public boating access facilities that must be provided as a condition for the WDNR to provide natural resource enhancement services for a body of water.*

Map 21

POTENTIAL WATER TRAILS FOR LAKE MICHIGAN
AND MAJOR RIVERS IN THE RACINE COUNTY PLANNING AREA



Source: Racine County and SEWRPC.

rely less heavily on natural resource amenities; generally meet a greater need in urban than rural areas; and have a relatively small service radius. For these reasons, responsibility for providing such sites and facilities generally rests with city, village, and town governments.

Within urban areas of the County, it is recommended that a full range of community and neighborhood park sites and facilities be provided. Recommendations for the provision of local park sites and facilities should be identified through the preparation and adoption of local park and open space plans. As of the end of 2011, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which certifies local park and open space plans for purposes of reviewing applications for state Stewardship Fund and other recreational grant programs, had certified local park and open space plans for the Cities of Burlington and Racine, and the Village of Union Grove.

Within the rural areas of the County, it is generally recommended that one town-owned park and associated outdoor recreation facilities be provided in each town to serve the needs of town residents for local civic events and for organized recreational activities, such as softball and picnicking. As the community recreational facility, the town park should be located in conjunction with another community facility that serves as a focal point for town residents, such as a town hall, school, or fire station. Towns which currently lack park and outdoor recreation facilities should have the opportunity to acquire and develop, with available Federal and State grant-in-aid support, one town park and associated recreation facilities.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The recommended park and open space plan for Racine County consists of an outdoor recreation element providing recommendations for parks and other outdoor recreation sites and facilities, and an open space preservation element providing recommendations for the protection of important natural resources. The recommended plan described in the preceding sections of this chapter provides a design for the attainment of the park acquisition and development objectives and the open space preservation objectives presented in Appendix C of this report. In a practical sense, however, the recommended park and open space plan for the County is not complete until the steps required to implement the plan have been specified. This section is intended to serve as a guide for use in the implementation of the recommended plan, including a description of those actions required by the WDNR and Racine County. Also included is a description of the acquisition and development costs and priorities associated with the implementation of the recommended plan.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The WDNR has authority and responsibility for park development, natural resource protection, water quality control, and water use regulations. Because of this broad range of authority and responsibility, certain WDNR functions have particular importance in the implementation of the County park and open space plan. The Department has the obligation to prepare comprehensive statewide conservation and water resource plans; the authority to protect, develop, and regulate the use of state parks, forests, fish and game, lakes and streams, certain plant life, and other resources; and the authority to acquire conservation and scenic easements. The WDNR also has the obligation to establish standards for floodplain and shoreland zoning and the authority to adopt, in the absence of satisfactory local actions, shoreland and floodplain zoning ordinances. The WDNR also has the authority to administer Federal grant programs known as the Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Fund Program and the Recreation Trails Program within the State, and administers the State Stewardship Fund, which provides funding for county and local park and open space land acquisition and development.

It is important that the WDNR: 1) approve and certify the Racine County park and open space plan in order to maintain the eligibility of the County to receive available State and Federal outdoor recreation grants in support of plan implementation; 2) use available regulatory authority to guide urban development in a way that protects important natural resources; 3) be directly responsible for the maintenance of existing State-owned recreation and open space sites in the County; 4) be responsible for the acquisition and development of lands within established State project boundaries in the County; 5) be responsible for the acquisition of resource preservation sites, including natural areas and critical species habitat sites as recommended in this plan; 6) be responsible for the

Table 21

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED OWNERSHIP OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE LAND AND ESTIMATED ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS UNDER THE RECOMMENDED RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Ownership	Planned Park and Open Space Acquisition		Development Cost	Total Acquisition and Development Cost
	Area (acres)	Cost		
State of Wisconsin	1,866	\$ 9,824,000	\$1,399,400	\$11,223,400
Racine County.....	1,883	11,138,000	4,332,900	15,470,900
Local Governments ^a	342 ^b	1,584,000	908,200	2,492,200
Nonprofit Conservation Organizations	873	7,119,000	- -	7,119,000
Total	4,964	\$29,665,000	\$6,640,500	\$36,305,500

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2012 dollars.

^a Includes city, village, and town governments, school districts, and other public districts

^b Includes only natural area and critical species habitat sites which are recommended for local government acquisition. Additional local government park lands should be determined through the preparation and adoption of local park and open space plans.

Source: SEWRPC.

acquisition and development of boat access sites; 7) be responsible for the acquisition and development of the Bong Recreation Area Corridor and Honey Creek Corridor; and 8) be responsible for acquisition of lands for rails-to-trails projects in Racine County (i.e., White River/Racine-Kansasville Trail). A summary of the costs associated with recommendations directed to the WDNR is included in Table 21.

Racine County

The authority and responsibility for the provision of areawide resource-oriented park and open space sites and facilities in the County rests primarily with the Racine County Board of Supervisors. A summary of the costs associated with recommendations directed to the County under this plan is also included in Table 21.

Under the recommended park and open space plan presented in this chapter, Racine County should acquire additional land as expansions of Browns Lake Golf Course (60 acres), Sanders Park (30 acres), W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp (135 acres), and Whispering Hills County Park (170 acres); and acquire 85 acres for a new major County park in the Town of Norway. Moreover, Racine County should develop additional facilities, at existing major park sites—Browns Lake Golf Course, Bushnell Park, Case Eagle Park, Cliffside Park, and at the proposed new County Park—as listed in Table 20. In addition, the County should develop additional facilities at Eagle Lake Park and the proposed Whispering Hills County Park (see Table 20). It is further recommended that Racine County pursue the acquisition and development of lands to provide the opportunity for public lake access for other recreational activities, such as beach swimming, shore fishing, and other passive uses, as opportunities become available.

Under the open space plan element recommendations, the County should acquire additional land to assure the preservation of important natural resources in the County, including the acquisition of additional environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and for the development of recreation corridor trails. In addition to woodlands, wetlands, and other natural resources, the land recommended to be acquired by the County contains natural areas and critical species habitat sites providing habitat for rare plant and animal species.

For environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas not acquired in the public interest during the implementation of the park and open space plan, the plan recognizes that certain development, including the development of recreational facilities, may be accommodated in such areas without jeopardizing their overall integrity. In this respect, the Racine County Comprehensive Plan included guidelines pertaining to such development within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. Uses considered compatible with environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and guidelines for such uses, are provided in Table 22.

Table 22

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERED COMPATIBLE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND ISOLATED NATURAL AREAS

Component Natural Resource and Related Features within Environmental Corridors ^a	Permitted Development																
	Transportation and Utility Facilities (see General Development Guidelines below)				Recreational Facilities (see General Development Guidelines below)											Rural Density Residential Development (see General Development Guidelines below)	Other Development (See General Development Guidelines below)
	Streets and Highways	Utility Lines and Related Facilities	Engineered Stormwater Management Facilities	Engineered Flood Control Facilities ^b	Trails ^c	Picnic Areas	Family Camping ^d	Swimming Beaches	Boat Access	Ski Hills	Golf	Playfields	Hard-Surface Courts	Parking	Buildings		
Lakes, Rivers, and Streams.....	-- ^e	-- ^{f,g}	--	-- ^h	-- ⁱ	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shoreland ^f	X	X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	--	--	X	X	--	--
Floodplain ^f	-- ⁱ	X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	X	--	--
Wetland ^m	-- ⁱ	X	--	--	X ⁿ	--	--	--	X	--	-- ^o	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wet Soils.....	X	X	X	X	X	--	--	X	X	--	X	--	--	X	--	--	--
Woodland.....	X	X	X ^p	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X ^q	X	X
Wildlife Habitat.....	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Steep Slope.....	X	X	--	--	-- ^r	--	--	--	--	X ^s	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prairie.....	--	-- ^g	--	--	-- ^r	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Park.....	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	--	--
Historic Site.....	--	-- ^g	--	--	-- ^r	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--
Scenic Viewpoint.....	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	X
Natural Area or Critical Species Habitat Site.....	--	--	--	--	-- ^q	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NOTE: An "X" indicates that facility development is permitted within the specified natural resource feature. In those portions of the environmental corridors having more than one of the listed natural resource features, the natural resource feature with the most restrictive development limitation should take precedence.

APPLICABILITY

These guidelines indicate the types of development that can be accommodated within primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas while maintaining the basic integrity of those areas. Throughout this table, the term "environmental corridors" refers to primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

Under the regional plan:

- As regionally significant resource areas, primary environmental corridors should be preserved in essentially natural, open use—in accordance with the guidelines in this table.
- Secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas warrant consideration for preservation in essentially natural open use, as determined in county and local plans and in a manner consistent with State and Federal regulations. County and local units of government may choose to apply the guidelines in this table to secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

- Transportation and Utility Facilities:** All transportation and utility facilities proposed to be located within the important natural resources should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to consider alternative locations for such facilities. If it is determined that such facilities should be located within natural resources, development activities should be sensitive to, and minimize disturbance of, these resources, and, to the extent possible following construction, such resources should be restored to preconstruction conditions.

The above table presents development guidelines for major transportation and utility facilities. These guidelines may be extended to other similar facilities not specifically listed in the table.

- Recreational Facilities:** In general, no more than 20 percent of the total environmental corridor area should be developed for recreational facilities. Furthermore, no more than 20 percent of the environmental corridor area consisting of upland wildlife habitat and woodlands should be developed for recreational facilities. It is recognized, however, that in certain cases these percentages may be exceeded in efforts to accommodate needed public recreational and game and fish management facilities within appropriate natural settings. In all cases however, the proposed recreational development should not threaten the integrity of the remaining corridor lands nor destroy particularly significant resource elements in that corridor. Each such proposal should be reviewed on a site-by-site basis.

The above table presents development guidelines for major recreational facilities. These guidelines may be extended to other similar facilities not specifically listed in the table.

- Rural Density Residential Development:** Rural density residential development may be accommodated in upland environmental corridors, provided that buildings are kept off steep slopes. The maximum number of housing units accommodated at a proposed development site within the environmental corridor should be limited to the number determined by dividing the total corridor acreage within the site, less the acreage covered by surface water and wetlands, by five. The permitted housing units may be in single-family or multi-family structures. When rural residential development is accommodated, conservation subdivision designs are strongly encouraged.
- Other Development:** In lieu of recreational or rural density residential development, up to 10 percent of the upland corridor area in a parcel may be disturbed in order to accommodate urban residential, commercial, or other urban development under the following conditions: 1) the area to be disturbed is compact rather than scattered in nature; 2) the disturbance area is located on the edge of a corridor or on marginal resources within a corridor; 3) the development does not threaten the integrity of the remaining corridor; 4) the development does not result in significant adverse water quality impacts; and 5) development of the remaining corridor lands is prohibited by a conservation easement or deed restriction. Each such proposal must be reviewed on a site-by-site basis.

Table 22 (continued)

Under this arrangement, while the developed area would no longer be part of the environmental corridor, the entirety of the remaining corridor would be permanently preserved from disturbance. From a resource protection point of view, preserving a minimum of 90 percent of the environmental corridor in this manner may be preferable to accommodating scattered homesites and attendant access roads at an overall density of one dwelling unit per five acres throughout the upland corridor areas.

- **Pre-Existing Lots:** Single-family development on existing lots of record should be permitted as provided for under county or local zoning at the time of adoption of the land use plan.
- All permitted development presumes that sound land and water management practices are utilized.

FOOTNOTES

^aThe natural resource and related features are defined as follows:

Lakes, Rivers, and Streams: Includes all lakes greater than five acres in area and all perennial and intermittent streams as shown on U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps.

Shoreland: Includes a band 50 feet in depth along both sides of intermittent streams; a band 75 feet in depth along both sides of perennial streams; a band 75 feet in depth around lakes; and a band 200 feet in depth along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Floodplain: Includes areas, excluding stream channels and lake beds, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event.

Wetlands: Includes areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency, and with a duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Wet Soils: Includes areas covered by wet, poorly drained, and organic soils.

Woodlands: Includes areas one acre or more in size having 17 or more deciduous trees per acre with at least a 50 percent canopy cover as well as coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects; excludes lowland woodlands, such as tamarack swamps, which are classified as wetlands.

Wildlife Habitat: Includes areas devoted to natural open uses of a size and with a vegetative cover capable of supporting a balanced diversity of wildlife.

Steep Slope: Includes areas with land slopes of 12 percent or greater.

Prairies: Includes open, generally treeless areas which are dominated by native grasses; also includes savannas.

Park: Includes public and nonpublic park and open space sites.

Historic Site: Includes sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most historic sites located within environmental corridors are archaeological features such as American Indian settlements and effigy mounds and cultural features such as small, old cemeteries. On a limited basis, small historic buildings may also be encompassed within delineated corridors.

Scenic Viewpoint: Includes vantage points from which a diversity of natural features such as surface waters, wetlands, woodlands, and agricultural lands can be observed.

Natural Area and Critical Species Habitat Sites: Includes natural areas and critical species habitat sites as identified in the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan.

^bIncludes such improvements as stream channel modifications and such facilities as dams.

^cIncludes trails for such activities as hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, nature study, and horseback riding, and excludes all motorized trail activities. It should be recognized that trails for motorized activities such as snowmobiling that are located outside the environmental corridors may of necessity have to cross environmental corridor lands. Proposals for such crossings should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and if it is determined that they are necessary, such trail crossings should be designed to ensure minimum disturbance of the natural resources.

^dIncludes areas intended to accommodate camping in tents, trailers, or recreational vehicles which remain at the site for short periods of time, typically ranging from an overnight stay to a two-week stay.

^eCertain transportation facilities such as bridges may be constructed over such resources.

^fUtility facilities such as sanitary sewers may be located in or under such resources.

^gElectric power transmission lines and similar lines may be suspended over such resources.

^hCertain flood control facilities such as dams and channel modifications may need to be provided in such resources to reduce or eliminate flood damage to existing development.

ⁱBridges for trail facilities may be constructed over such resources.

^jConsistent with Chapter NR 115 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

^kConsistent with Chapter NR 116 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

^lStreets and highways may cross such resources. Where this occurs, there should be no net loss of flood storage capacity or wetlands. Guidelines for mitigation of impacts on wetlands by Wisconsin Department of Transportation facility projects are set forth in Chapter Trans 400 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

^mAny development affecting wetlands must adhere to the water quality standards for wetlands established under Chapter NR 103 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

ⁿOnly an appropriately designed boardwalk/trail should be permitted.

^oWetlands may be incorporated as part of a golf course, provided there is no disturbance of the wetlands.

^pGenerally excludes detention, retention, and infiltration basins. Such facilities should be permitted only if no reasonable alternative is available.

^qOnly if no alternative is available.

^rOnly appropriately designed and located hiking and cross-country ski trails should be permitted.

^sOnly an appropriately designed, vegetated, and maintained ski hill should be permitted.

Source: SEWRPC 2035 Regional Land Use Plan.

The plan recommends the development by the County of about 68 miles of areawide trails along Lake Michigan, the Fox River, and Root River and 32 miles of other trails consisting of the Seven Waters Trail and the White River/Racine-Kansasville Trail as described earlier in this chapter. Racine County should also work cooperatively with the communities in the County to identify and establish other on- and off-street linkages to the areawide recreation corridor trails, including the implementation of the bicycle and pedestrian element of the year 2035 regional transportation system plan as shown on Map B-1 in Appendix B, and provide proper signing and improvements such as safe drainage grates and improved railway crossings where necessary.

Local Units of Government

While the provision of major parks, areawide trails, and water access facilities are largely proposed to be County or State responsibilities, local units of governments should consult with the State and County to identify specific lands required for areawide park and open space preservation purposes. Once such lands are identified, local units of government should utilize their zoning and official map powers to reserve the needed lands for park and open space use. Further, it may be appropriate for local units of government to accept in dedication certain lands identified for State or County acquisition as the land subdivision process proceeds, and then transfer ownership of such lands to the County or State. Similarly, it would be appropriate for the County or State to assume the responsibility for the development of trail facilities in local park lands, as needed, to assure continuity and uniformity in the proposed continuous regionwide system of recreation trails.

In addition to maintaining and developing local park sites and facilities, local units of government should also support efforts relating to preservation of historic sites as identified in Chapter III.

ACQUISITION CONSIDERATIONS

It is the intent of the plan that all land acquisitions occur on a willing-seller, willing-buyer basis and that landowners receive fair market value for their property. Each transaction should follow the WDNR acquisition procedures, which include an appraisal by the WDNR for all acquisitions undertaken by governmental units using WDNR grants.

The recommended acquisition may occur in full fee simple interest or in less-than-fee-simple interest, such as through the purchase of conservation easements. Where a conservation easement is utilized, the landowner retains title to the property; the easement typically precludes mowing or other disturbance of the area by the owner and provides access for site management purposes, such as the removal of woody vegetation which may shade out desired plant species and removal of other nuisance vegetation.

The recommended acquisition may also occur through land subdivision dedication as well as through donations of fee simple title or of conservation easements. Donations may yield income-tax advantages to those who donate, since the value of the land or easement donated generally may be deducted from taxable income as an itemized deduction for Federal income-tax purposes and may be considered in calculating the itemized deduction credit for State income-tax purposes.

The associated costs for the acquisition and development of County park and open space sites, as set forth in Table 21, are estimated at about \$15.5 million. This amount distributed over the 23-year planning implementation period would approximate an expenditure of about \$675,000 per year. Under the assumption that the population of the County would approximate 243,500 persons by the year 2035, the average annual acquisition and development costs would be about \$3.08 per capita⁷ per year. It should be noted that, to the extent that such costs are reduced through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, and through the use of available State funds for acquisition and development, the costs to the County could be significantly reduced.

⁷The average annual per capita costs were estimated by dividing the estimated average annual costs by the average annual population over the 23-year plan implementation period. The average population was determined by calculating the average 2010 population of about 195,400 persons and the plan design year 2035 population of about 243,500, which is 219,450 persons.

ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR RACINE COUNTY

Priorities for the park and open space acquisition and development projects proposed for implementation by Racine County are presented in this section. It is necessary to establish priorities for park and open space acquisition and development because public financial resources available for acquisition and development are limited, and because implementation of the recommended plan will, as a practical matter, occur gradually over time.

It is recommended that the County give top priority to acquiring land specifically for park and recreation purposes and associated open space preservation purposes. Land acquisition is particularly important given the increasing urbanization occurring within the County. As urbanization occurs, development pressures inevitably cause an increase in property values, thus making land acquisition significantly more costly. Racine County should consider the establishment of a fund to acquire park and open space lands at a reasonable cost before their development for urban uses. It is recommended that priority for land acquisition be given first to lands needed for new County parks or for expanding existing County parks; followed by acquisition of lands within the Fox River, Root River, White River, and Lake Michigan corridors; and then by acquisition of other environmental corridor lands.

Maintenance Impact

In addition to recommendations relating to the provision of new park sites and facilities, this plan anticipates the maintenance in continued recreational use of existing publicly owned recreation sites within the County. Maintenance activities at these sites should include, as necessary, such activities as the provision, paving, and resurfacing of parking lots and walkways; resurfacing of volleyball, basketball, and tennis court areas; provision, repair, or replacement of such support facilities as park benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains; provision, repair, or replacement of restroom facilities, water supply facilities, maintenance buildings, and picnic shelters; and the maintenance of lawns and other landscape plantings. Maintenance activities also include, importantly, the retrofitting of facilities where necessary to accommodate access by persons with disabilities.

The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1990, requires that "reasonable accommodation" be made to provide persons with disabilities equal opportunities for access to jobs, transportation, public facilities, and services—including access to recreational facilities. All new or renovated park and recreation facilities within the County must be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of the Act. Existing public park and recreation facilities should be evaluated by the unit of government concerned to determine if improvements are needed to meet Federal accessibility requirements.

SUMMARY

This chapter has presented the recommended park and open space plan for Racine County, consisting of an open space preservation element and an outdoor recreation element. The key recommendations of these plan elements are summarized below.

Open Space Preservation Element

The open space preservation element consists of four major components: preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas; preservation of natural areas and critical species habitat sites; protection of open space lands located within WDNR project boundaries; and protection of prime agricultural lands.

- Overall, the open space plan element recommends the preservation of environmentally significant open space lands encompassing a total of 38,481 acres—including primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resources, and certain adjacent lands. Of this total, 9,021 acres, or about 23 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or in compatible private outdoor recreation use in 2010, and are recommended to be preserved in current

ownership. It is recommended that an additional 4,964 acres, or about 13 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. Of the total of 4,964 acres, 1,866 acres would be acquired by the WDNR; 1,883 acres by Racine County; 342 acres by local governments; and 873 acres by nonprofit conservation organizations.

- The plan recommends that 24,496 acres of environmentally significant lands remain in or be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodland, lowland conservancy, and upland conservancy with an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres.
- The open space preservation element incorporates the recommendations of the regional natural areas protection and management plan as it applies to Racine County. Thus, the open space element recommends the preservation, through public-interest ownership, of 59 natural areas, 29 critical species habitat sites, and six geological areas, along with the restoration of a forest interior.
- The open space preservation element also envisions the continued acquisition of land by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for natural resource protection and recreational purposes—including lands located outside planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas, but within approved project boundaries for the Big Muskego Lake Wildlife Area, Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area, and the Tichigan Wildlife Area.
- Under this open space preservation element, it is further recommended that the County and local units of government protect existing prime agricultural lands. Specifically, it is recommended that all prime agricultural lands identified in the recent update to the farmland preservation plan for Racine County be preserved insofar as practicable in agricultural use.

Outdoor Recreation Plan Element

The outdoor recreation plan element seeks to provide sites and facilities needed to meet anticipated outdoor recreation site and facility needs in the County throughout the year 2035.

- Under the outdoor recreation element of the plan, 10 major parks would be provided within Racine County. Of the 10 major parks, nine are existing parks and one would be a new park to be developed by Racine County. The nine existing major parks are: Browns Lake Golf Course, Bushnell Park, Case Eagle Park, Cliffside Park, Ives Grove Golf Links, Pritchard Park, Sanders Park, and W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp, owned by Racine County; and Johnson Park, owned by the City of Racine. The proposed new major park is recommended to be located on the southeastern shore of Wind Lake, in the Town of Norway.
- In addition to the proposed major park, the County would also provide a new natural area oriented County park—Whispering Hills County Park—in the northwest corner of the Town of Norway.
- The plan recommends the acquisition of additional lands for the expansion of Browns Lake Golf Course, Sanders Park, and W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp. The plan also recommends the development of facilities at the proposed new County parks and the development of additional facilities at Browns Lake Golf Course, Bushnell Park, Case Eagle Park, Cliffside Park, Sanders Park, W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp and Eagle Lake Park as indicated in Table 20.
- Under the recommended plan, an 88-mile system of trails would be provided within recreation corridors to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. A total of 68 miles would be provided by Racine County—including the 21-mile Lake Michigan Corridor, the proposed 23-mile Fox River Corridor, the proposed 21-mile Root River Corridor, and the proposed three-mile White River Corridor link to Walworth County. The WDNR would provide a total of 14 miles to this system, including: four miles as part of the Bong Recreation Area Corridor and 10 miles as part of the Honey Creek Corridor. A total of five miles of this system would be provided by the Village of Mt. Pleasant as part of the Pike River Corridor.

- Two other trails would be provided by Racine County—including nine miles as part of the Seven Waters Trail, and 23 miles as part of the White River/Racine-Kansasville Trail.
- Under the plan, it is recommended that a public boat access site be acquired and developed by the Department of Natural Resources on Buena-Tichigan Lakes, Kee Nong Go Mong Lake, and Long Lake. It is further recommended that Racine County pursue opportunities to provide access to Lake Michigan and inland lakes for beach swimming, shore fishing, and passive recreational activities, as such opportunities arise. In addition, it is recommended that Racine County consider the development of a water trail system that would be located on the Fox River and Root River, and along the Lake Michigan Shoreline.

Plan Implementation

- The total cost of implementing the park and open space plan is estimated to be \$36.3 million, including \$29.7 million for land acquisition and \$6.6 million for recreational facility development. Of the total plan implementation cost, about \$11.2 million, or 31 percent, would be borne by the WDNR; \$15.5 million, or 43 percent, would be borne by Racine County; \$2.5 million, or 7 percent, would be borne by local units of government; and \$7.1 million, or 19 percent, would be borne by nonprofit conservation organizations.
- The total cost to Racine County of \$15.5 million includes \$11.1 million for land acquisition and \$4.4 million for facility development. This amount distributed over the 23-year plan implementation period would approximate about \$675,000 per year. These costs may be off-set through various Federal and State grants provided for recreational and open space purposes. The acquisition and development costs for recreational and open space lands and facilities may also be off-set by donations, land dedications, or by revenues generated by existing parks and recreational facilities.

(This page intentionally left blank)

Chapter VI

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Racine County has a long history of park and open space planning, going back to the 1970s. This includes the periodic updating of the County park and open space plan, the current version of which was adopted by the Racine County Board of Supervisors in 2001. With the assistance of the Regional Planning Commission, Racine County in 2011 undertook another effort to update its park and open space plan, extending the planning horizon further into the future. This report documents that planning process and presents the resulting updated County park and open space plan.

A park and open space plan for Racine County was included as part of the first regional park and open space plan,¹ which was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on December 1, 1977. That plan identified existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommended a park system consisting of large resource-oriented parks and smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, together with associated recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan also recommended the development of an approximately 440-mile network of hiking and bicycling trails within natural resource corridors of regional significance, including corridors along the Lake Michigan shoreline, through the Kettle Moraine, and along the riverine areas of the major streams and watercourses of the Region. The regional park and open space plan incorporated the regional land use plan recommendations concerning primary environmental corridors and farmland preservation. The regional park and open space plan as it relates to Racine County was subsequently refined in 1988 as documented in the first edition of this report, SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, September 1988; and in 2001 as documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (2nd Edition), *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, July 2001.

In 2010, Racine County requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the County in the preparation of a new park and open space plan. The new plan is based upon updated information related to land use, population levels and distribution, anticipated growth and development, natural resources, and park and open space acquisition and development activities within the County. The new plan was prepared within the framework of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Racine County, and is based upon the recommended development

¹Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000.

pattern set forth in the County comprehensive plan and refines and details the park and open space-related recommendations of the comprehensive plan. Like the County comprehensive plan, the updated County park and open space plan, as presented in this report, has a planning horizon of 2035. The new plan maintains County eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids in partial support of the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

A description of the population and employment levels, land use, and natural resources within Racine County is presented in Chapter II. A summary of existing conditions in the County follows.

Population and Employment Levels

The population of the County in 2010 was about 195,408, about 6,580 persons, or 4 percent, above the 2000 level, according to the U.S. Census.

In 2010, there were about 75,650 households in Racine County, representing an increase of about 7 percent, from 2000. With the number of households increasing at a faster rate than population, the number of persons per household has decreased.

The number of jobs in Racine County was estimated to have reached 88,200 in 2010, about 23,600, or 37 percent, above the 1970 level.

Land Use

In 2010, urban land uses—consisting primarily of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional, recreational and transportation, communication, and utility uses—encompassed about 81.6 square miles, or about 24 percent of the total area of the County. Residential land comprised the largest share of the urban land area, encompassing 41.8 square miles, or about 51 percent of all urban land and 12 percent of the total area of the County.

In 2010, nonurban land uses—including agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, surface water, landfill and extractive, and other open lands—encompassed about 259 square miles, or about 76 percent of the County. Agricultural land comprised the largest share of the nonurban land area, accounting for about 180.7 square miles, or about 70 percent of all nonurban lands and about 53 percent of the total area of the County.

Natural Resource Base

The location and extent of various elements of the natural resource base, including wetlands, woodlands, and surface water resources and associated shorelands and floodplains, were inventoried and mapped under the planning program. The most significant of these features lie within areas referred to as environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of important natural resource and resource-related elements and are, by definition, at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Primary environmental corridors are located throughout the County. Such corridors in 2010 encompassed about 37.3 square miles, or about 11 percent of the County. The preservation of these corridors in essentially natural, open use is important for the protection of water quality and areas of groundwater recharge, for the preservation of wildlife habitat, and for the maintenance of the overall quality of the environment and natural beauty of Racine County. Since these corridors are generally poorly suited for urban development, their preservation also helps to avoid the creation of new environmental and developmental problems.

Secondary environmental corridors, often remnants of primary corridors that have been partially converted to intensive urban or agricultural use, also contain a variety of resource elements. By definition, secondary environmental corridors are at least one mile long and 100 acres in area. In 2010, these corridors encompassed

about 11.5 square miles, or about 3 percent of the County. Maintenance of these corridors in open uses can facilitate natural surface water drainage, including groundwater recharge, and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife.

Isolated natural resource areas represent smaller concentrations of natural resource features that have been separated from the environmental corridors. Such areas, which are by definition at least five acres in size, in combination encompassed about 13.7 square miles, or about 4 percent of the County, in 2010. These areas sometimes serve as the only available wildlife habitat in an area, and may function as storm water retention areas.

INVENTORY OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

In 2010, the County owned a total of 34 park and outdoor recreation sites encompassing 2,788 acres. There are an additional 21 park and open space sites, encompassing 3,863 acres, owned by the State of Wisconsin; and 238 sites, encompassing 3,287 acres, owned by local units of government or school districts for outdoor recreation or natural resource preservation purposes. An additional 99 sites, encompassing 2,475 acres, are developed for private resource-oriented outdoor recreational use, and 14 sites, encompassing 198 acres, are owned by private organizations for resource protection purposes. There are also 510 acres of land in Racine County protected under conservation easements.

Publicly owned access sites for motor-boating purposes are provided to Lake Michigan, the Fox River, Root River, and all the major lakes except for Long Lake. There are a number of sites which provide access to lakes and rivers and Lake Michigan for other recreational activities and passive uses.

Existing trails in Racine County include the Lake Michigan Trail, the Fox River Trail, the Root River Trail, the Seven Waters Trail, the White River Trail, and numerous on- and off-street local trails, and 184 miles of designated snowmobile trails.

RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

The recommended park and open space plan for Racine County is intended to guide the acquisition and development of lands to protect existing natural resources and to provide sites and facilities for outdoor recreation. The plan consists of two elements, an open space preservation element and an outdoor recreation element.

Open Space Preservation Element

The open space preservation element consists of four components: 1) the preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas; 2) the preservation of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological areas in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the regional natural areas protection and management plan;² 3) the protection of open space lands located within project boundaries established by the State; and 4) the preservation of prime agricultural lands.

It is recommended that a total of 38,481 acres of open space lands, or about 18 percent of Racine County, be protected through a combination of public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or through the application of protective zoning. These 38,481 acres include planned primary and secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, areas outside corridors but within Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources project boundaries, and existing and proposed County park and open space lands. Virtually all natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be preserved are contained within the planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or the planned isolated natural resource areas.

²*Documented in SEWRPC Amendment to the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.*

Of the total 38,481 acres of recommended open space lands, 9,021 acres, or about 23 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, under conservation easements, or in compatible private outdoor recreation use in 2010, and are recommended to be preserved in such ownership. It is recommended that an additional 4,964 acres, or about 13 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. The remaining 24,496 acres of open space lands are recommended to remain in or be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodplain, lowland conservancy and, for upland portions of the corridor, upland conservancy which limits residential development to an overall density of no more than one dwelling per five acres. In addition, should open space lands not specifically recommended for acquisition in this plan become available for acquisition for open space purposes, consideration should be given to protecting such areas through conservation easements or fee simple acquisition by an appropriate public agency or nonprofit conservation organization.

Under this open space preservation element, it is further recommended that the County and local units of government protect existing prime agricultural lands. Specifically, it is recommended that all prime agricultural lands identified in the updated farmland preservation plan for Racine County prepared in 2012 be preserved for agricultural use.

Outdoor Recreation Element

Under the outdoor recreation element of the plan, 10 major parks would be provided within the County. Of the 10 major parks, nine are existing parks and one would be a new park to be acquired and developed by Racine County. The nine existing major parks are: Browns Lake Golf Course, Bushnell Park, Cliffside Park, Sanders Park, Pritchard Park, Case Eagle Park, W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp, and Ives Grove Golf Links, owned by Racine County; and Johnson Park and Golf Course, owned by the City of Racine.

The plan recommends that Racine County acquire additional lands for Browns Lake Golf Course, Sanders Park, and W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp; develop additional facilities at Browns Lake Golf Course, Bushnell Park, Sanders Park, Case Eagle Park, and Cliffside Park; and acquire and develop a new major County park in the Town of Norway.

In addition to recommendations for major parks in Racine County, the plan also recommends the development of additional facilities at the County owned Eagle Lake Park and the expansion and limited development of the County owned Whispering Hills site.

Under the recommended plan, an 88-mile system of trails would be provided within recreation corridors to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. A total of 68 miles would be provided by Racine County—including the 21-mile Lake Michigan Corridor, the proposed 23-mile Fox River Corridor, the proposed 21-mile Root River Corridor, and the proposed three-mile White River Corridor link to Walworth County.

Under the plan, it is recommended that a public boat access site be acquired and developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on Buena-Tichigan Lakes, Kee Nong Go Mong Lake, and Long Lake. It is further recommended that Racine County pursue opportunities to provide access to Lake Michigan and inland lakes for beach swimming, shore fishing, and passive recreational activities, as such opportunities arise. In addition, it is recommended that Racine County consider the development of a water trail system that would be located on the Fox, Pike, and Root Rivers, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The plan recommends that County and local units of government support efforts relating to the preservation of historic sites and districts in Racine County.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The primary purpose of the park and open space plan for Racine County is to guide the acquisition and development of lands and facilities needed to satisfy the outdoor recreation needs of the existing and probable future year 2035 resident population of the County, and to protect existing natural resources. Implementation of the recommended plan would assure the protection and preservation of important natural resources within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in the County. The plan is also designed to provide a variety of park and open space sites and facilities geographically well distributed throughout the County to meet the existing and probable future recreation needs of County residents.

Under the plan, 4,964 acres, representing about 2 percent of the total area of the County, would be acquired for park and open space purposes at an estimated cost of \$29.7 million. Racine County would be responsible for acquiring about 1,883 acres of that total, at an estimated cost of \$11.1 million. Development costs would total about \$6.6 million, with Racine County responsible for about \$4.4 million of that amount.

The total estimated cost for implementing the County park and open space plan is about \$36.3 million. The estimated cost to Racine County is about \$15.5 million, or about 43 percent of the total. The costs associated with implementation of the County park plan may be offset through State and Federal grants provided for recreational and open space purposes. The acquisition and development costs for recreational and open space lands and facilities may also be offset by donations, land dedications, or by revenues generated by existing parks and recreational facilities.

(This page intentionally left blank)

APPENDICES

(This page intentionally left blank)

Appendix A

**PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY
CITIES, VILLAGES, TOWNS, OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS,
AND PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND
OPEN SPACE SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010**

(This page intentionally left blank)

Table A-1

**PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES,
TOWNS, OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010**

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
1	Town Land	06	021901	40
2	Nestle Park	04	021904	1
3	Beverly Jo Park	04	021905	1
4	Wilmot High School Forest	08	021913	160
5	Burlington School Forest	08	021913	160
6	Lagoon Park	06	021917	2
7	Winkler School	08	021918	2
8	Rochester Commons Park	05	031902	5
9	Pioneer Memorial Park	05	031911	1
10	Bear Meadows Park I	04	031929	4
11	Bear Meadows Park II	04	031929	2
12	Wehmhoff Woodland Preserve	06	031929	80
13	Steinhoff Park	04	031929	2
14	Glen Hintz Sports Complex	04	031929	35
15	Echo Lake Veterans Memorial Park	04	031929	9
16	Beaumont Ball Field/Congress Street Diamond	04	031929	7
17	Grove Street Park	04	031929	1
18	Festival Park	04	031929	5
19	Maryland Park	04	031929	15
20	Wagner Park	04	031930	1
21	Sunset Park	04	031931	2
22	West Edge Park	04	031931	2
23	Dr. Edward G. Dyer Elementary School	08	031931	7
24	Riverside Park	04	031932	13
25	Wehmhoff-Jucker Benson Park	04	031932	3
26	Meinhardt Park	04	031932	1
27	Wehmhoff Square	04	031932	1
28	Riverfront Park	04	031932	1
29	Devor Park	04	031932	6
30	Water Tower Park	04	031932	1
31	Cooper School	08	031932	1
32	Waller School	08	031932	5
33	St. Mary's Park	04	031932	19
34	Karcher Middle School	08	031932	12
35	McCanna Park	04	031933	32
36	McCanna Wetland Preserve	04	031933	7
37	McCanna Park II	04	031933	1
38	St. Mary's Park - South	04	031933	8
39	Burlington High School	08	031933	39
40	Tomahawk Park	06	032021	2
41	Mohican Park	06	032021	1
42	Dover Center	08	032022	1

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
43	Kansasville School	08	032026	2
44	Town of Dover John Zinnen Memorial Park	06	032028	1
45	Town of Dover Park	06	032030	3
46	Raymond District School	08	032105	1
47	Yorkville School	08	032108	5
48	Lauer Wildlife Preserve	05	032129	14
49	Union Grove Union High School	08	032129	17
50	American Legion Memorial Park	05	032129	11
51	Buften Park	05	032129	1
52	Ryan Moe/Michael Young Memorial Park	05	032129	4
53	Lincoln's Woods Park	05	032130	19
54	Well #3 Park	05	032130	1
55	Village Square	05	032130	1
56	Joseph Leider Memorial Park	05	032130	10
57	School Yard Park	05	032132	4
58	18th Avenue Park	05	032132	1
59	Indian Trail Park	05	032132	1
60	Union Grove Grade and Middle Schools	08	032132	29
61	Drozdz Park	05	032201	6
62	Village-owned Land	05	032209	75
63	Smolenski Park	05	032210	72
64	Bud Orth Memorial Park	05	032211	4
65	Goodland Elementary School	08	032212	5
66	Westridge Elementary School	08	032213	11
67	Starbuck Junior High School	08	032213	10
68	J. I. Case High School	08	032214	43
69	Village Park	05	032215	37
70	North Park	05	032221	2
71	Firemen's Park	05	032221	15
72	Sturtevant School	08	032221	1
73	East Park	05	032222	1
74	Village Ball Field	05	032222	2
75	Pike River Corridor	05	032222	258
76	Stewart McBride Park	05	032223	40
77	Cozy Acres Park	05	032223	26
78	Hantschel Park	04	032224	8
79	Giese Elementary School	08	032224	7
80	Wayside Park	05	032224	5
81	Regency Hills Park	05	032225	6
82	Kirkorian Nature Preserve	05	032227	21
83	Frederick Schulte School	08	032227	10
84	Chicory Creek Nature Preserve	05	032227	16
85	South Park	05	032228	4
86	Racine Zoological Gardens	04	032304	25

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
87	City Land	04	032304	3
88	Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School	08	032304	1
89	Hagerer Park	04	032304	1
90	Jonas Park	04	032304	1
91	Red Apple Elementary School	08	032304	1
92	North Beach	04	032304	49
93	Lakeview Park	04	032304	5
94	Douglas Park	04	032305	5
95	Robert G. Heck Airport Park	04	032305	2
96	Wustum Museum	04	032305	10
97	Gilmore Middle School	08	032305	8
98	Horlick High School and Wadewitz School	08	032305	13
99	Horlick Athletic Field	04	032305	9
100	Colonial Park	04	032307	74
101	Lockwood Park	04	032307	38
102	Harvey Park	04	032307	2
103	Maple Grove Park	04	032307	5
104	Marino Park	04	032308	3
105	State Hamilton Park	04	032308	1
106	Builders Park	04	032308	1
107	Mary Ellen Helgren Johnson Preserve	04	032308	4
108	Lincoln Park	04	032308	24
109	Springvale East Park	04	032308	1
110	Springvale West Park	04	032308	3
111	City Land	04	032308	1
112	McKinley Middle School	08	032308	1
113	Island Park	04	032308	22
114	Lee Park	04	032308	3
115	Brose Park	04	032308	5
116	Randolph Park	04	032308	1
117	City Land	04	032308	1
118	Jefferson Lighthouse Elementary School	08	032308	1
119	Colbert Park	04	032309	1
120	Rooney Recreation Area	04	032309	1
121	Pugh Recreation Area	04	032309	1
122	Janes Elementary School	08	032309	1
123	Marquette Park	04	032309	1
124	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	04	032309	2
125	City Hall	04	032309	1
126	Bi-Centennial Gardens	04	032309	1
127	Harris Plaza	04	032309	1
128	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza	04	032309	1
129	6th Street Park North	04	032309	1
130	Julian Thomas Elementary School	08	032309	1

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
131	Park Place	04	03239	1
132	Monument Square	04	032309	1
133	Gaslight Pointe	04	032309	1
134	Sam Azarian Outlook	04	032309	1
135	John Thompson Park	04	032309	1
136	Crosswalk Park	04	032309	1
137	Festival Park	04	032309	4
138	Pershing Park	04	032316	37
139	West Park	04	032316	3
140	Samuel Myers Park	04	032316	7
141	Franklin Park	04	032316	4
142	6th Street Park South	04	032316	2
143	Simonson Park	04	032316	4
144	City Land	04	032316	1
145	Winslow High/Middle School	08	032316	1
146	Parker Park	04	032317	1
147	Jones Park	04	032317	1
148	Clayton Park	04	032317	6
149	Barbee Park	04	032317	1
150	Memorial Drive West	04	032317	1
151	Riverside Park	04	032317	1
152	Cedar Bend Park	04	032317	2
153	Washington Park Golf Course	04	032317	92
154	Tyler-Domer Community Center	04	032317	3
155	Erskine Park	04	032317	8
156	Washington Park High School	08	032317	7
157	Washington Park Bowl	04	032317	11
158	Dr. Pierce Park	04	032318	1
159	Fratt Elementary School	08	032318	2
160	Solbraa Park	04	032318	3
161	N. Owen Davies Park	04	032319	5
162	Johnson Elementary School	08	032319	7
163	Humble Park	04	032319	17
164	Pierce Woods Park	04	032319	7
165	Jay-Eye-See Park	04	032320	1
166	Knapp Elementary School	08	032320	2
167	Mitchell Elementary/Middle School	08	032320	3
168	Case-Harmon Park	04	032320	5
169	Fuller Park	04	032320	1
170	Wallis Park	04	032320	1
171	Wellington Park	04	032320	1
172	City Land	04	032320	1
173	De Koven Woods	04	032321	7
174	Dodge Park	04	032321	5

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
175	Carre Hoagle Park	04	032321	2
176	Grand Park	04	032321	1
177	Dr. Hamilton Park	04	032321	1
178	Bull Fine Arts Elementary School	08	032321	1
179	Roosevelt Park	04	032321	13
180	Olsen Prairie	04	032329	23
181	Sheridan Woods Park	05	032329	2
182	Greencrest Park	04	032329	5
183	Lake Park	05	032329	3
184	Village Hall Playground	05	032330	3
185	Reservoir Park	04	032330	22
186	Jones Elementary School	08	032330	3
187	Dirske Park	05	032331	1
188	Lathrop Manor Subdivision Unnamed Park	05	032331	3
189	Washington School	08	041901	1
190	Jensen Park	06	041901	30
191	Slak Park	06	041917	13
192	Trailside Elementary School	08	041925	12
193	Kettle Glen Conservancy Park and Trail	05	041927	13
194	Safety Building Park	05	041935	1
195	Village Hall Park	05	041935	2
196	Huening Park	05	041935	1
197	Waterford Union High School	08	041935	11
198	Fox River/Evergreen Schools	08	041935	12
199	Woodfield Elementary School	08	041935	14
200	Ten Club Park	05	041935	1
201	Whitford Park	05	041935	13
202	River Bend Park	05	041935	1
203	Cornerstone Crossing Conservancy Park	05	041936	14
204	Drought School	08	042001	3
205	Lakeview School	08	042008	5
206	Meyer Park	06	042017	31
207	Raymond Town Park	06	042116	10
208	Raymond Center School	08	042121	11
209	North Cape School	08	042130	12
210	County Line Park	05	042202	17
211	Gorney Park	05	042203	40
212	Caddy Vista School	08	042204	7
213	Village Owned Land	05	042204	7
214	Linwood Park	05	042214	18
215	Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	05	042221	127
216	Johnson Park and Golf Course	04	042225	335
217	Johnson Park Dog Run	04	042226	27
218	Caledonia Village Land	05	042233	21

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
219	Caledonia \ Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park	05	042233	53
220	W. Allen Gifford School	08	042234	12
221	Chapla Park	05	042308	9
222	5 1/2 Mile Park-Marsh	05	042317	21
223	Open Space Site	08	042317	29
224	Woodland Park	05	042318	4
225	Eastside Community Center	05	042318	1
226	Crawford Park	05	042320	20
227	Olympia Brown Elementary School	08	042321	8
228	Shoop Park Golf Course	04	042327	53
229	Wind Point Lighthouse	05	042327	5
230	The Village Green	05	042327	6
231	Wind Point School	08	042328	7
232	Village Owned Land	05	042328	22
233	North Park School	08	042329	4
234	Carlson Park	04	042333	5
235	North Bay Village Park	05	042333	2
236	Vidian-Cheska Park	04	042333	8
237	Jerstad Agerholm School	08	042333	6
238	Mat Matson Park	04	042333	2
--	Total: 238 Sites	--	--	3,287

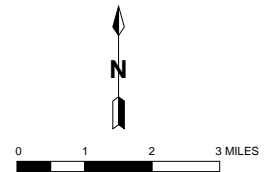
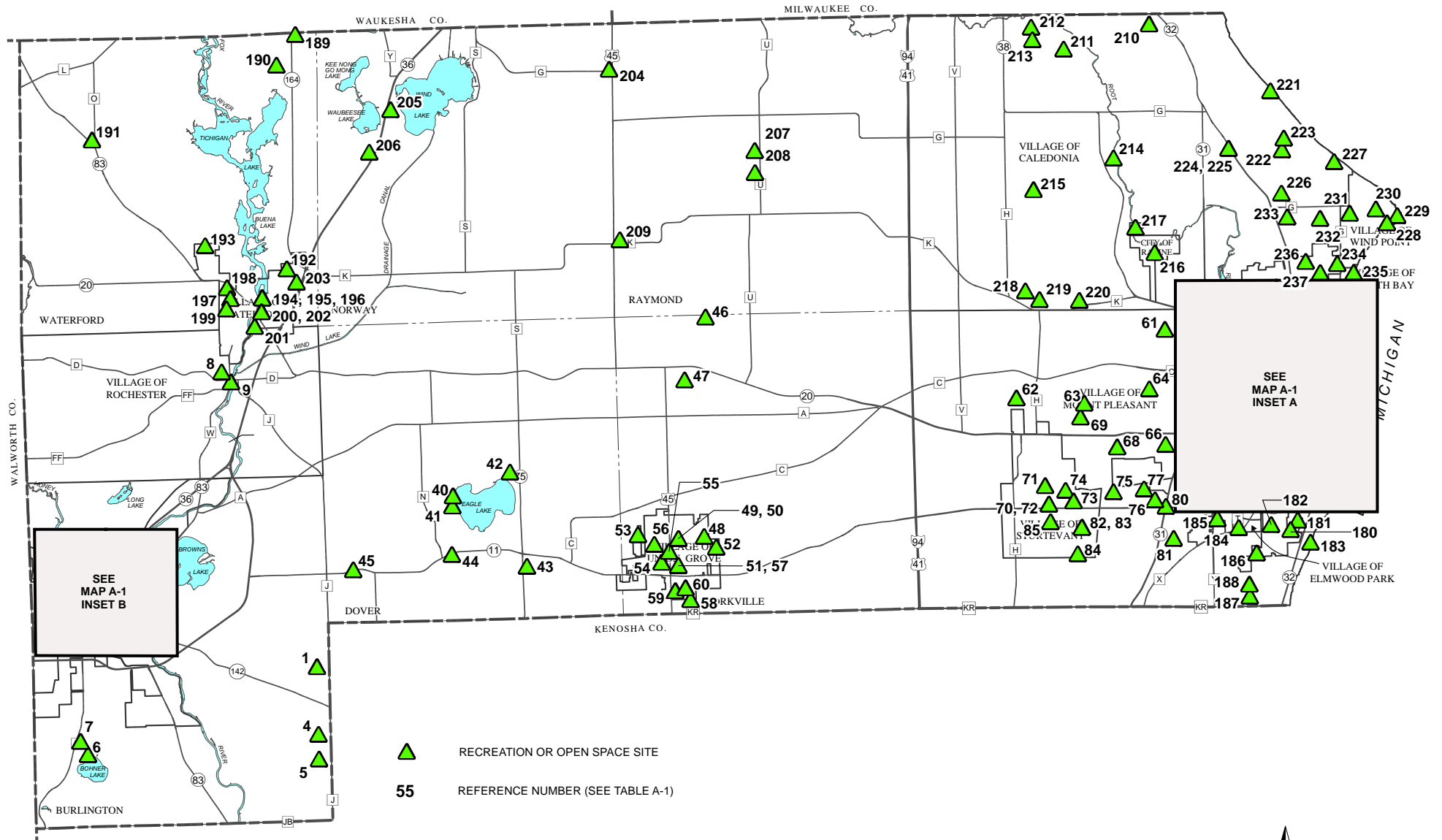
^aThe ownership code numbers signify the following: 04-City, 05-Village, 06-Town, and 08-School District.

^bThe location numbers represent the U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range and Section numbers in which the site is located.

Source: SEWRPC.

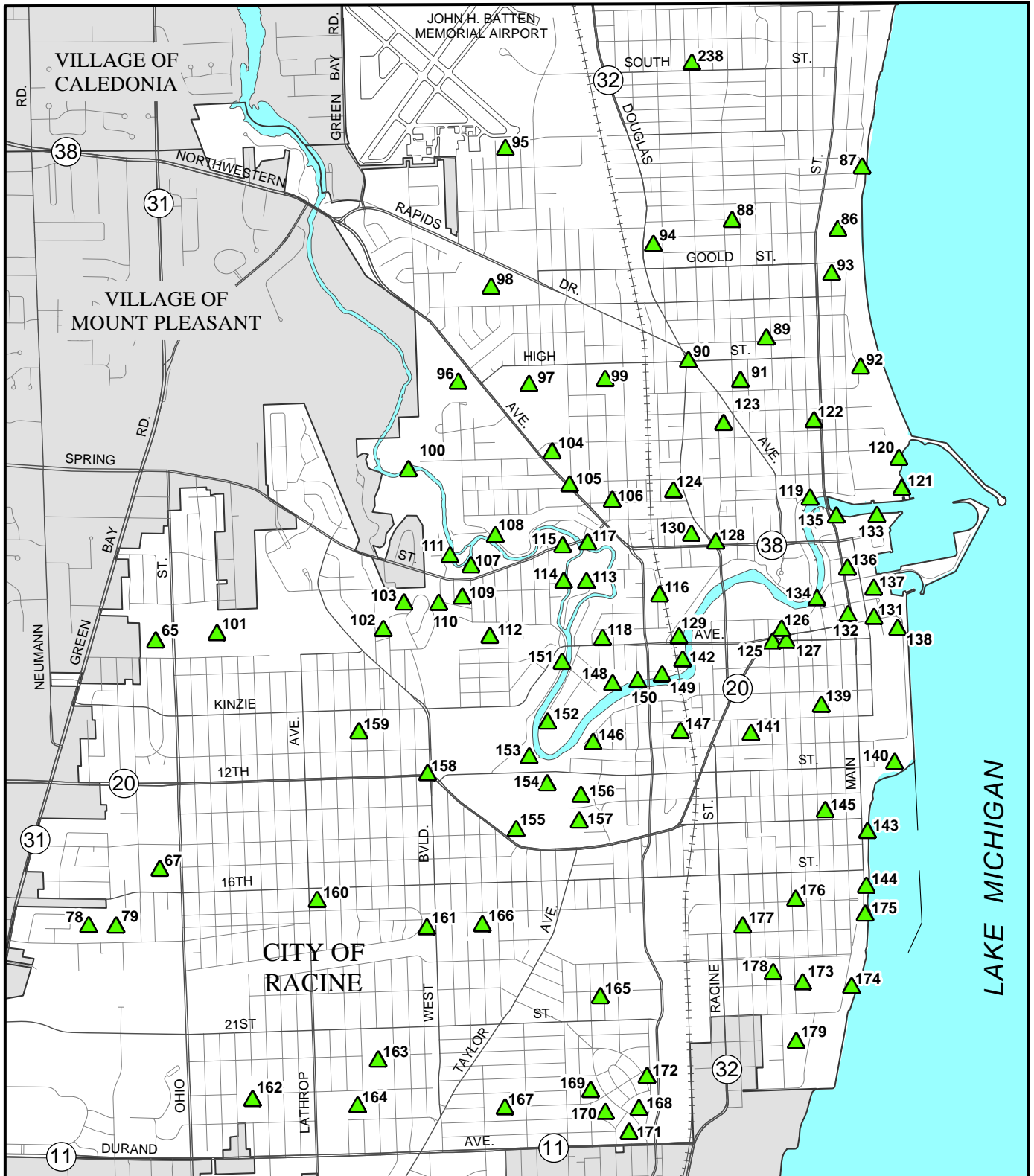
Map A-1


PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES, TOWNS, OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010

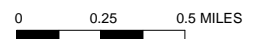


Map A-1 Inset A

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES, TOWNS,
OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010

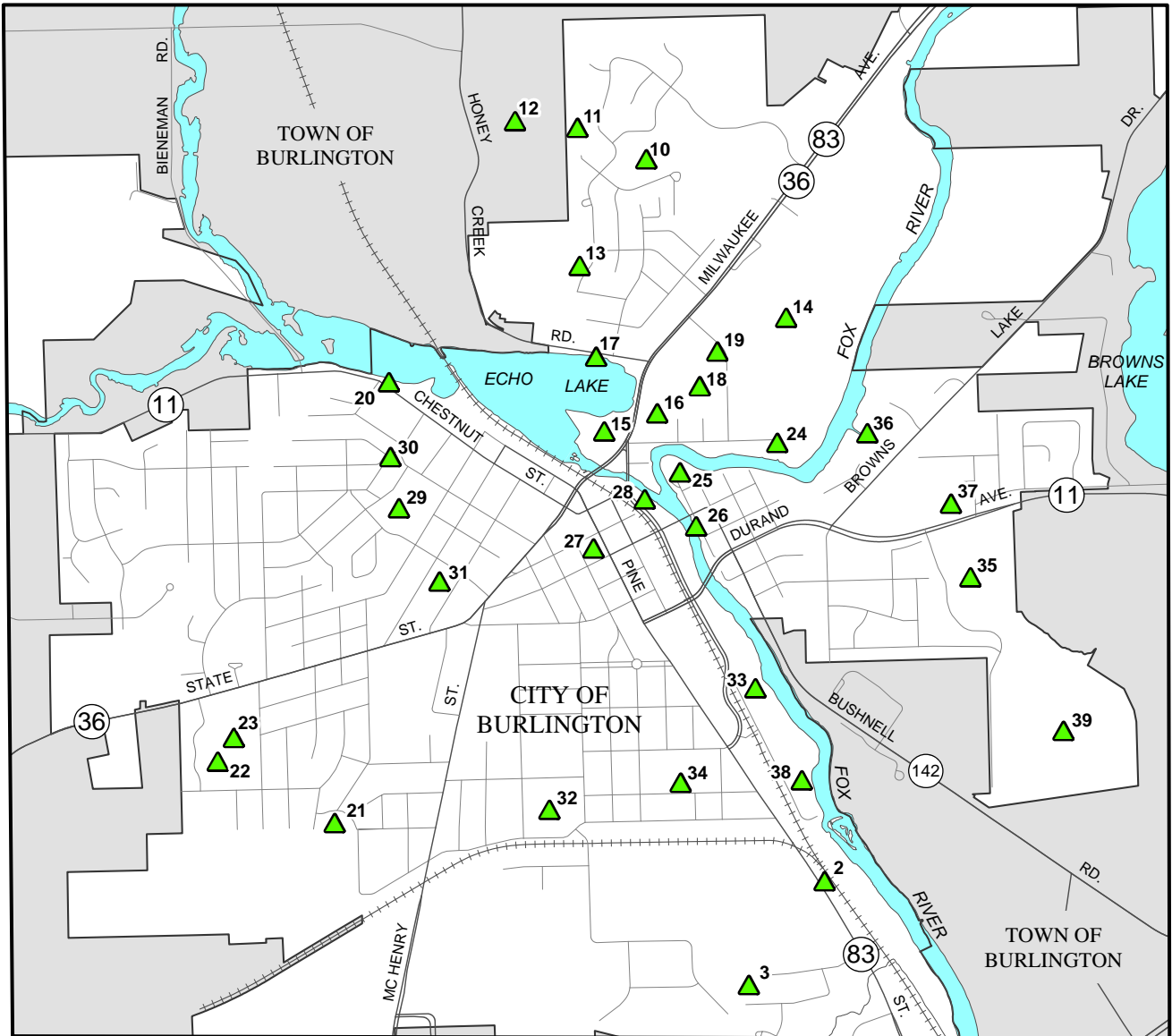



-  RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE SITE
- 90** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE A-1)

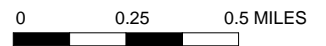


Map A-1 Inset B

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES, TOWNS,
OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010



-  RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE SITE
- 26** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE A-1)



Source: SEWRPC.

Table A-2

PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2010

Number on Map A-2	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
1	Country Ski Club	12	021901	20
2	Buck Trail Archery Club	12	021905	35
3	Sun Ray Hills Camp	12	021907	163
4	Herb Leach Park	12	021918	3
5	Boy Scouts of America Camp Oh-Da-Ko-Da	10	021919	19 ^c
6	Louis Fago Park	12	021920	1
7	Julius Aukes Park	12	021920	1
8	Waterford Landing on the Fox Conservancy/Trail	12	031902	33
9	Fairfield Subdivision Beach	12	031927	1
10	Halls Point Park	12	031927	1
11	Cedar Park Playground	12	031927	3
12	Cedar Park	12	031927	2
13	St. John's Lutheran School	10	031931	4
14	St. Charles School	10	031932	1
15	St. Mary's Catholic School	10	031932	3
16	Lincoln Street Field	10	031932	6
17	Camp Macleah YMCA	10	031933	157
18	Petrie's Resort	11	031934	1
19	Holy Redeemer College	10	032008	73
20	Pan-Yak Park	12	032022	29
21	Bat and Brew Food and Spirits	12	032026	5
22	Eagle Lake Manor Association Park	12	032028	1
23	Racine Instinctive Bowmen Club	12	032112	189
24	Wisconsin Sportsmen's Association Recreation Area	10	032127	23
25	Martin's Pond	10	032129	2
26	St. Bellarmine Catholic Church	12	032130	1
27	Racine County Fairgrounds	10	032131	87
28	Shepherds Home and School	10	032131	7
29	Union Grove Baptist Church	10	032132	8
30	YMCA of Racine	10	032215	17
31	St. Sebastian School	10	032228	6
32	St. John Nepomuk School	10	032304	1
33	Meadow Brook Country Club	12	032306	157
34	Racine Country Club	12	032306	185
35	Sacred Heart	12	032308	3
36	Racine Lutheran High School	10	032308	1
37	St. John's Lutheran School	10	032309	1
38	Pugh Marina	12	032309	7
39	Racine Yacht Club	12	032309	1
40	Azarian Marina	12	032309	11
41	Mauer's Marina	12	032309	1
42	Fifth Street Yacht Club	12	032309	4
43	West Shore Marine	12	032309	2

Table A-2 (continued)

Number on Map A-2	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
44	Harbor Lite Yacht Club	12	032309	1
45	Racine Riverside Marine	12	032309	2
46	Gaslight Pointe Marina	12	032309	2
47	Wisconsin Lutheran School	10	032316	1
48	Bray Center	10	032316	1
49	St. Richard School	10	032316	1
50	St. Catherine's High School	10	032316	3
51	Racine Christian School	10	032318	1
52	St. Edward School	10	032318	2
53	St. Lucy's School	10	032329	1
54	RCOC Park	10	032329	4
55	Concordia Lutheran School	10	032330	1
56	Missy's	11	041903	1
57	Wind Lake Shooting Preserve	12	041909	58
58	Fox River Lodge	11	041910	7
59	Ice Herman's Resort	11	041912	1
60	The Pit Stop	11	041914	4
61	Nann's Southeast Shore	11	041914	1
62	Rivermoor Golf Course	11	041926	108
63	Subdivision Park	12	041926	3
64	Pettit Park	12	041926	1
65	Green Meadows Farms	11	041929	80
66	St. Thomas Aquinas School	10	041935	1
67	Jim's Marina	11	041936	1
68	St. Peter's Rainbow School	10	041936	2
69	Sportsman's Resort	11	042004	2
70	VFW Field	10	042008	5
71	Neighborhood Park	12	042016	1
72	Hidden Valley	10	042018	4
73	Triglav Slovenian Park	12	042018	14
74	Norway Lutheran Church Athletic Field	10	042018	6
75	Raymond Heights Golf Center	11	042112	71
76	West Allis Bowmen's Club	10	042118	59
77	North Shore Winchester Shooting	11	042124	52
78	Yogi Bear Jellystone Park	11	042204	73
79	Serbian Soccer Club of Milwaukee	10	042206	46
80	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church School	10	042209	4
81	Shamrock Pub & Grill	11	042209	3
82	Husher Pub	11	042209	2
83	Greater Racine Kennel Club	11	042211	20
84	Witt's End	11	042217	1
85	St. Louis Catholic Parish School	10	042218	9
86	South Hills Country Club	11	042231	163
87	Racine Area Soccer Association (RASA)	10	042233	59

Table A-2 (continued)

Number on Map A-2	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
88	Orrin C. Stearns Park	12	042235	3
89	Racine County Line Rifle Club Range	10	042306	74
90	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	10	042307	3
91	Crestview Home Owners Park	12	042317	7
92	Private Ball Field	11	042318	8
93	Racine Tennis Club	11	042321	10
94	Sandyhurst Point Lots	12	042322	1
95	Samuel C. Johnson Trust	12	042327	27
96	The Prairie School	12	042327	22
97	Subdivision Recreation Center	12	042328	12
98	St. Rita's School	10	042329	8
99	Armstrong Park	12	042331	142
--	Total: 99 Sites	--	--	2,475

^aThe ownership code numbers signify the following: 10-Organizational; 11-Commercial; 12-Private.

^bThe location numbers represent the U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range and Section numbers in which the site is located.

^cA 150-acre portion of this site is located in the Town of Wheatland, Kenosha County. The site totals 169 acres.

Source: SEWRPC.

(This page intentionally left blank)

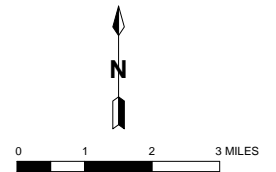
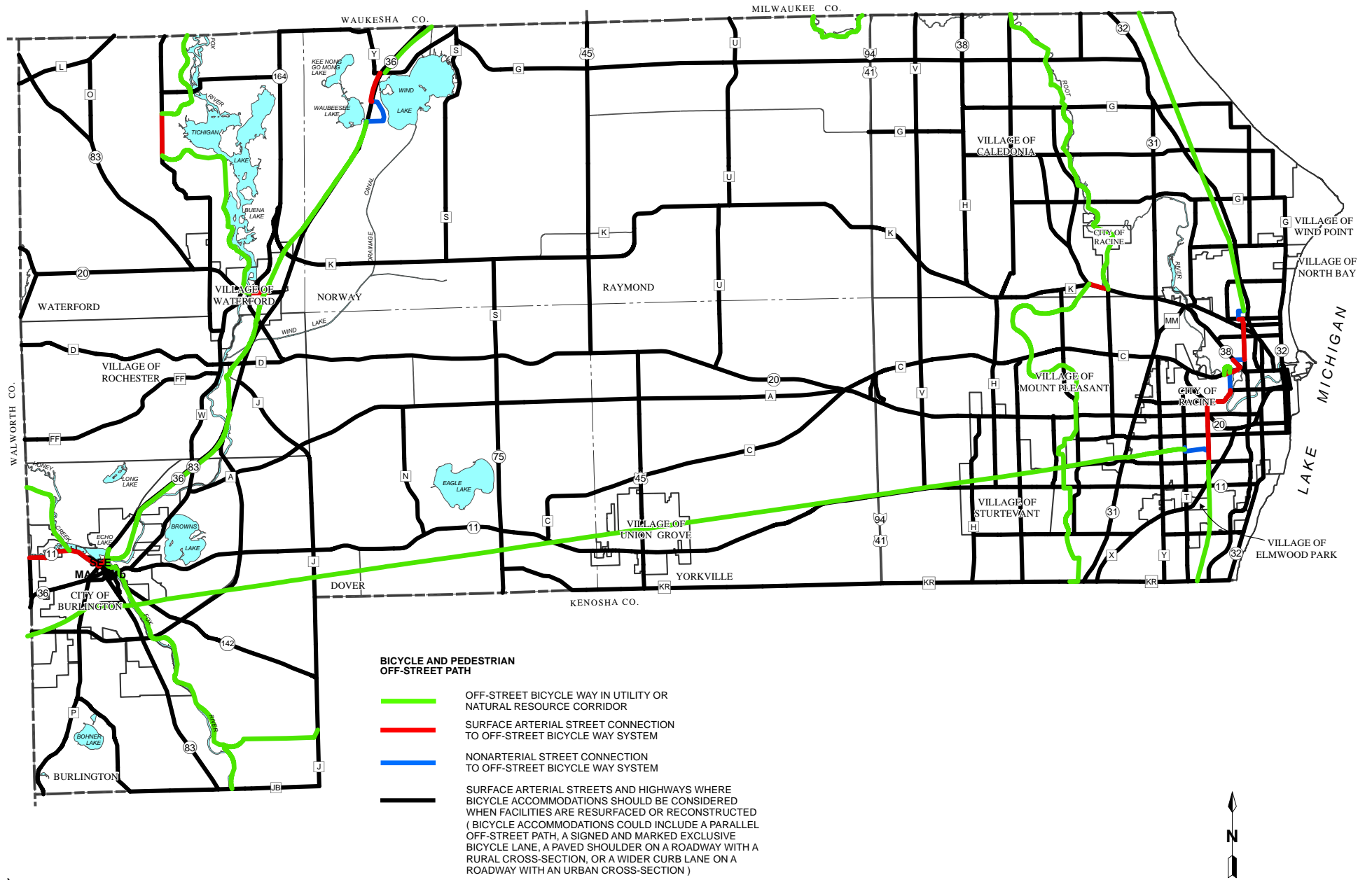
Appendix B

**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ELEMENT OF
THE 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN
AS IT RELATES TO RACINE COUNTY**

(This page intentionally left blank)

Map B-1

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ELEMENT OF THE 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AS IT RELATES TO RACINE COUNTY



Source: SEWRPC.

(This page intentionally left blank)

Appendix C

**OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
PLANNING OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND
STANDARDS FOR RACINE COUNTY**

(This page intentionally left blank)

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS FOR RACINE COUNTY

OBJECTIVE NO. 1

The provision of an integrated system of public general-use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas which allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Attainment and maintenance of good physical and mental health is an inherent right of all residents of the County. The provision of public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas contributes to the attainment and maintenance of physical and mental health by providing opportunities to participate in a wide range of both intensive and extensive outdoor recreation activities. Moreover, an integrated park and related open space system properly related to the natural resource base, such as the existing surface water network, can generate the dual benefits of satisfying recreational demands in an appropriate setting while protecting and preserving valuable natural resource amenities. Finally, an integrated system of public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas can contribute to the orderly growth of the County by lending form and structure to urban development patterns.

A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

PRINCIPLE

Public general use outdoor recreation sites promote the maintenance of proper physical and mental health both by providing opportunities to participate in such athletic recreational activities as baseball, swimming, tennis, and ice-skating—activities that facilitate the maintenance of proper physical health because of the exercise involved—as well as opportunities to participate in such less athletic activities such as pleasure walking, picnicking, or just rest and reflection. These activities tend to reduce everyday tensions and anxieties and thereby help maintain proper physical and mental well being. Well designed and properly located public general-use outdoor recreation sites also provide a sense of community, bringing people together for social and cultural as well as recreational activities, and thus contribute to the desirability and stability of residential neighborhoods and therefore the communities in which such facilities are provided.

STANDARDS

- The public sector should provide general use outdoor recreation sites sufficient in size and number to meet the recreation demands of the resident population. Such sites should contain the natural resource or man-made amenities appropriate to the recreational activities to be accommodated therein and be spatially distributed in a manner which provides ready access by the resident population. To achieve this standard, the following public general use outdoor recreation site requirements should be met as indicated below:

Site Type	Size (gross acres)	Publicly Owned Park and School Sites							
		Parks				Schools ^a			
		Minimum per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^d	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^b		Minimum per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^f	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^c	
				Urban ^e	Rural			Urban ^e	Rural
I ^g Regional	250 or more	5.3	Campsites, swimming beach, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski-touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball diamond, passive-activity area ^h	10.0	10.0	--	--	--	--
II ⁱ Multi-Community	100-249	2.6	Campsites, swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski-touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball and/or baseball diamond, passive activity area ^h	4.0 ^j	10.0 ^j	--	--	--	--
III ^k Community	25-99	2.2	Swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, boat launch, nature study area, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other playfields, tennis courts, passive-activity area ^h	2.0 ^j	--	0.9	Playfield, baseball diamond, softball diamond, tennis court,	0.5-1.0 ^m	--
IV ⁿ	Less than 25	1.7	Wading pool, picnic areas, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other playfields, tennis court, playground, basketball goal, ice-skating rink, passive-activity area ^h	0.5-1.0 ^o	--	1.6	Playfield, playground, baseball diamond, softball diamond, tennis court, basketball goal	0.5-1.0 ^m	--

- Public general use outdoor recreation sites should, as much as possible, be located within the designated primary environmental corridors of the County.

B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE

PRINCIPLE

Effective satisfaction of recreation demands within the County cannot be accomplished solely by providing public general use outdoor recreation sites. Certain recreational pursuits such as hiking, biking, pleasure driving, and ski touring are best provided for through a system of recreation corridors located on or adjacent to linear resource-oriented open space lands. A well designed system of recreation corridors offered as an integral part of linear open space lands can also serve to physically connect existing and proposed public parks, thus forming a truly integrated park and recreation related open space system. Such open space lands, in addition, satisfy the human need for natural surroundings, serve to protect the natural resource base, and ensure that many scenic areas and areas of natural, cultural, or historic interest assume their proper place as form determinants for both existing and future land use patterns.

STANDARDS

The public sector should provide sufficient open space lands to accommodate a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors to meet the resident demand for extensive trail-oriented recreation activities. To fulfill these requirements the following recreation-related open space standards should be met:

1. A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation related open space consisting of linear recreation corridors^p should be provided for each 1,000 persons in the County.
2. Recreation corridors should have a minimum length of 15 miles and a minimum width of 200 feet.
3. The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas.
4. Resource-oriented recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
 - a. Primary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented recreation activities.
 - b. Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites.
 - c. Existing trail-type facilities within the County.

OBJECTIVE NO. 2

The provision of sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participation in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities including basketball, baseball, ice-skating, soccer, playfield and playground activities, softball, pool swimming, and tennis provides an individual with both the opportunity for physical exercise and an opportunity to test and expand his or her physical capability. Such activities also provide an outlet for mental tension and anxiety as well as a diversion from other human activities. Competition in the various intensive nonresource-related activities also provides an opportunity to share recreational experiences, participate in team play, and gain understanding of other human beings.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the County. To achieve this standard, the following per capita requirements and design criteria for various facilities should be met as indicated below:

Minimum per Capita Facility Requirements ^q				Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^r
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Urban Residents	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Total Land Requirement (acres per facility)	
Baseball	Diamond	Public Nonpublic Total	0.09 0.01 0.10 ^s	Types II, III and IV general use site	2.8 acres per diamond	Parking (30 spaces per diamond) Night lighting ^t Concessions and bleachers ^t Buffer and landscape	0.28 acre per diamond -- 0.02 acre minimum 1.40 acres per diamond	4.5	2.0
Basketball	Goal	Public Nonpublic Total	0.91 0.22 1.13	Type IV general use site	0.07 acre per goal	--	--	0.07	0.5
Ice-Skating	Rink	Public Nonpublic Total	0.15 ^u -- 0.15	Type IV general use site	0.30 acre per rink minimum	Warming house	0.05 acre	0.35 minimum	0.5
Soccer Fields or Play Fields	Playfield	Public Nonpublic Total	0.39 0.11 0.50	Type IV general use site	1.0 acre per playfield minimum	Buffer area	0.65 acre minimum	1.65 minimum	0.5
Playground Activities	Playground	Public Nonpublic Total	0.35 0.07 0.42	Type IV general use site	0.25 acre per playground minimum	Buffer and landscape	0.37 acre	0.62 minimum	0.5
Softball	Diamond	Public Nonpublic Total	0.53 0.07 0.60	Type II, III, and IV general use site	1.70 acre per diamond	Parking (20 spaces per diamond) Nighttime lighting ^t Buffer	0.18 acre per diamond -- 0.80 acre per diamond	2.68	1.0
Swimming	Pool	Public Nonpublic Total	0.015 ^v -- 0.015	Type II and III general use site	0.13 acre per pool minimum	Bathhouse and concessions Parking (400 square feet per space) Buffer and landscaping	0.13 acre minimum 0.26 acre minimum 0.70 acre minimum	1.22 minimum	3.0 3.0
Tennis	Court	Public Nonpublic Total	0.50 0.10 0.60	Type II, III, and IV general use site	0.15 acre per court	Parking (2.0 spaces per court) Nighttime lighting ^t Buffer	0.02 acre per court -- 0.15 acre per court	0.32	1.0

OBJECTIVE NO. 3

The provision of sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participation in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities including camping, golf, picnicking, downhill skiing, and stream and lake swimming provides an opportunity for individuals to experience the exhilaration of recreational activity in natural surroundings as well as an opportunity for physical exercise. In addition, the family can participate as a unit in certain intensive resource-oriented activities such as camping, picnicking, and beach swimming.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the County. To meet this standard, the following per capita requirements and design criteria for various facilities should be met as indicated below:

Minimum per Capita Facility Requirement ^w					Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^s	
Activity	Facility	Owner	Per Capita Requirements (facility per 1,000 residents)		Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Total Land Requirements (acres per facility)		Resource Requirements
Camping	Campsite	Public Nonpublic Total	0.35 1.47 1.82		Type I and II general use sites	0.33 acre per campsite	Rest rooms-showers Utility hookups Natural area backup lands	-- -- 1.5 acres per campsite	1.83	Ungrazed wooded area Presence of surface water Suitable topography and soils	25.0
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public Nonpublic Total	0.013 0.027 0.040		Type I and II general use sites	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking, maintenance Practice area Woodland or water areas Buffer	8.0 acres per course 5.0 acres per course 35.0 acres per course 2.0 acres per course	185.0	Suitable topography and soils Presence of surface water Form-giving vegetation desirable	10.0
Picnicking	Tables	Public Nonpublic Total	6.35 ^v 2.39 8.74		Type I, II, III, and IV general use sites	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking Shelters and grills Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table (1.5 space per table) -- 0.02 acre per table	0.11	Topography with scenic views Shade trees Presence of surface water desirable Suitable soils	10.0
Skiing	Developed slope (acres)	Public Nonpublic Total	0.010 0.090 0.100		Type I, II, III general use sites	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet Parking Ski tows (and lights) Buffer and maintenance Landscape	0.13 acre minimum 0.25 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.35 acre per acre of slope	2.1	Suitable topography and soils (20 percent slope minimum) North or northeast exposure	25.0
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)	Public Nonpublic Total		Major Inland Lakes Lake Michigan	Type I, II, III general use sites	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking Bathhouse-concessions Buffer areas	0.2 acre per acre of beach 0.10 acre minimum 10 square feet per linear foot	-- ^z	Natural beach Good water quality	10.0

OBJECTIVE NO. 4

The provision of sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participation in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities including biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, pleasure driving, ski-touring, and snowmobiling provides opportunity for contact with natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features. In addition, such activities can increase an individual's perception and intensify awareness of the surroundings, contribute to a better understanding of the environment, and provide a wider range of vision and comprehension of all forms of life both as this life may have existed in the past and as it exists in the present. Similar to intensive resource-oriented activity, the family as a unit also can participate in extensive land based recreation activities; such participation also serves to strengthen social relationships within the family. For activities like biking, hiking, and nature study, participation provides an opportunity to educate younger members of the family in the importance of environmental issues which may become of greater concern as they approach adulthood.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in land-based outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the County. Public facilities provided for these activities should be located within the linear resource-oriented recreation corridors identified in Objective No. 1. To meet this standard, the following per capita standards and design criteria should be met as indicated below:

Minimum per Capita Public Facility Requirements ^{aa}			Design Standards				
Activity	Facility	Per Capita Requirements (linear mile per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Minimum Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Suggested Support Facilities and Backup Lands	Minimum Support Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Resource Requirements
Biking	Route Trail	-- ^{bb} 0.16	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	-- 1.45	Route markers Backup lands with resource amenities	-- 24.2	-- Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography (5 percent slope average maximum) and soils
Hiking	Trail	0.16	Recreation corridor	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Horseback Riding	Trail	0.05	Recreation corridor Type I general use site	1.21	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Nature Study	Center	1 per county	Type I, II, III general use sites	--	Interpretive center building Parking	--	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils
	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Type I, II, III general use sites	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	
Pleasure Driving	Route	-- ^{cc}	Scenic roadways recreation corridor	--	Route markers	--	--
Ski-touring	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Types I and II general use sites	0.97	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Rolling topography
Snowmobiling	Trail	0.11	Private lands (leased for public use)	1.45	Backup lands, including resource amenities and open lands	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Suitable topography (8 percent slope average maximum) and soils

OBJECTIVE NO. 5

The provision of sufficient access areas to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities on the major inland lakes and rivers and on Lake Michigan which are consistent with enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of adequate water quality.

PRINCIPLE

The major inland lakes and rivers of the County and Lake Michigan accommodate participation in extensive water-based recreation activities, including canoeing, fishing, ice fishing, motorboating, sailing, and water-skiing, which may involve unique forms of physical exercise or simply provide opportunities for rest and relaxation within a particularly attractive natural setting. Participation in extensive water-based recreation activities requires access to the major inland lakes and rivers and Lake Michigan and such access should be available to the general public.

STANDARDS

1. Access sites available for use by the general public on streams and major lakes, that is, lakes of 50 acres or larger, should be provided in accordance with the requirements established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Sections NR 1.90 and NR 1.91 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*.
2. Access sites providing parking should be provided on major streams throughout the County. The maximum interval between access points on major canoeable streams^{dd} should be 10 miles.

OBJECTIVE NO. 6

The preservation of sufficient high-quality open-space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity^{ee} of the County.

PRINCIPLE

Ecological balance and natural beauty within the County are primary determinants of the ability to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life and to maintain the social and economic well being of the County. Preservation of the most significant aspects of the natural resource base, that is, primary environmental corridors, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and prime agricultural lands, contributes to the maintenance of ecological balance, natural beauty, and economic well being of the County.

A. PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

PRINCIPLE

The primary environmental corridors are a composite of the best individual elements of the natural resource base including surface water, streams, and rivers and their associated floodlands and shorelands; woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat; areas of groundwater discharge and recharge; organic soils, rugged terrain, and high relief topography; and significant geological formations and physiographic features. By protecting these elements of the natural resource base, flood damage can be reduced, soil erosion abated, water supplies protected, air cleansed, wildlife population enhanced, biological diversity preserved, and continued opportunities provided for scientific, educational, and recreational pursuits.

STANDARD

1. All remaining nonurban lands within the designated primary environmental corridors in the County should be preserved in essentially natural open uses.

B. NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES

PRINCIPLE

Natural areas and critical species habitat sites contain rare, threatened, and endangered animal and plant species which are important components of the biodiversity of the County. Maintenance of this biodiversity requires the preservation of the habitats concerned.

STANDARDS

1. All natural areas of Statewide or greater significance (NA-1) should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value.
2. All natural areas of Countywide or regional significance (NA-2) and natural areas of local significance (NA-3) lying within primary environmental corridors or containing Federal or State-designated rare, threatened, or endangered animal or plant species habitat should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value.
3. All critical species habitat sites within primary environmental corridors should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value.

C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PRINCIPLE

Prime agricultural lands constitute the most productive farm lands in the County and, in addition to providing food and fiber, contribute significantly to maintaining the ecological balance between plants and animals; provide locations close to urban centers for the production of certain food commodities which may require nearby population concentrations for an efficient production-distribution relationship; provide open spaces which give form and structure to urban development; and serve to maintain the natural beauty and unique cultural heritage of Ozaukee County.

STANDARDS

1. All prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.
2. All agricultural lands should be preserved that surround adjacent high-value scientific, educational, or recreational sites and are covered by soils rated in the regional detailed operational soil survey as having very slight, slight, or moderate limitations for agricultural use. These lands should be considered for preservation to provide a buffer between such resources and urban development.

OBJECTIVE NO. 7

The efficient and economical satisfaction of outdoor recreation and related open space needs meeting all other objectives at the lowest possible cost.

PRINCIPLE

The total resources of the County are limited, and any undue investment in park and open space lands must occur at the expense of other public investment.

STANDARD

The sum total of all expenditures required to meet park demands and open space needs should be minimized.

Footnotes to Appendix C

^aIn urban areas facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented recreational activities are commonly located in Type III or Type IV school outdoor recreation sites. These facilities often provide a substitute for facilities usually located in parks by providing opportunities for participation in intensive nonresource-oriented activities. It is important to note, however, that school outdoor recreation sites do not generally contain natural areas which provide space for passive recreational use.

^bThe identification of a maximum service radius for each park type is intended to provide another guideline to assist in the determination of park requirements and to assure that each resident of the County has ready access to the variety of outdoor recreation facilities commonly located in parks, including space and facilities for both active and passive outdoor recreational use.

^cThe identification of a maximum service radius for each school site is intended to assist in the determination of active outdoor recreation facility requirements and to assure that each urban resident has ready access to the types of active intensive nonresource-oriented facilities commonly located in school recreation areas.

^dFor Type I and Type II parks, which generally provide facilities for resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities for the total population of the County, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the total resident population of the County. For Type III and Type IV sites, which generally provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities primarily in urban areas, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the County residing in urban areas.

^eUrban areas are defined as areas containing a closely spaced network of minor streets which include concentrations of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, or institutional land uses having a minimum total area of 160 acres and a minimum population of 500 persons. Such areas usually are incorporated and are served by sanitary sewerage systems. These areas have been further classified into the following densities: low-density urban areas or areas with 0.70 to 2.29 dwelling units per net residential acre, medium-density urban areas or areas with 2.30 to 6.99 dwelling units per net residential acre, and high-density urban areas or areas with 7.00 to 17.99 dwelling units per net residential acre.

^fFor public school sites, which generally provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the County residing in urban areas.

^gType I sites are defined as large outdoor recreation sites with a multi-county service area. Such sites rely heavily for their recreational value and character on natural resource amenities and provide opportunities for participation in a wide variety of resource-oriented outdoor recreation pursuits.

^hA passive activity area is defined as an area within an outdoor recreation site which provides an opportunity for such less athletic recreational pursuits as pleasure walking, rest and relaxation, and informal picnicking. Such areas are generally located in parks or in urban open space sites, and usually consist of a landscaped area with mowed lawn, shade trees, and benches.

ⁱType II sites are defined as intermediate size sites having a countywide or multi-community service area. Like Type I sites, such sites rely for their recreational value and character on natural resource amenities. Type II parks, however, usually provide a smaller variety of recreational facilities and have smaller areas devoted to any given activity.

^jIn general, each resident of the County should reside within 10 miles of a Type I or Type II park. It should be noted, however, that within urban areas, having a population of 40,000 or greater, each urban resident should reside within four miles of a Type I or Type II park.

^kType III sites are defined as intermediate size sites having a multi-neighborhood service area. Such sites rely more on the development characteristics of the area to be served than on natural resource amenities for location.

^lIn urban areas the need for a Type III park is met by the presence of a Type II or Type I park. Thus, within urban areas having a population of 7,500 or greater, each urban resident should be within two miles of a Type III, II, or I park.

^mThe service radius of school outdoor recreation sites, for park and open space planning purposes, is governed primarily by individual outdoor recreation facilities within the school site. For example, school outdoor recreation sites which provide such facilities as playfields, playgrounds, and basketball goals typically have a service radius of one-half mile, which is the maximum service radius assigned to such facilities (see standards presented under Objective 2). As another example school outdoor recreation sites which provide tennis courts and softball diamonds typically have a service radius of one mile, which is the maximum service radius assigned to such facilities (see standards presented under Objective 2). It is important to note that areas which offer space for passive recreational use are generally not provided at school outdoor recreation sites and therefore Type III and Type IV school sites generally do not meet Type III and Type IV park accessibility requirements.

ⁿType IV sites are defined as small sites which have a neighborhood as the service area. Such sites usually provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities and are generally provided in urban areas. Recreation lands at the neighborhood level should most desirably be provided through a joint community-school district venture, with the facilities and recreational land area required to be provided on one site available to serve the recreation demands of both the school student and resident neighborhood population. Using the Type IV park standard of 1.7 acres per 1,000 residents and the school standard of 1.6 acres per 1,000 residents, a total of 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents or approximately 21 acres of recreation lands in a typical medium-density neighborhood would be provided. These acreage standards relate to lands required to provide for recreation facilities typically located in a neighborhood and are exclusive of the school building site and associated parking area and any additional natural areas which may be incorporated into the design of the park site such as drainageways and associated storm water retention basins, areas of poor soils, and floodland areas.

^oThe maximum service radius of Type IV parks is governed primarily by the population density in the vicinity of the park. In high-density urban areas, each urban resident should reside within 0.5 mile of a Type IV park; in medium-density urban areas, each resident should reside within 0.75 mile of a Type IV park; and in low-density urban areas, each resident should reside within one mile of a Type IV park. It should be noted that the requirement for a Type IV park also is met by a Type I, II, or III park within 0.5-1.0 mile service radius in high-, medium-, and low-density urban areas, respectively. Further, it should be noted that in the application of the service radius criterion for Type IV sites, only multi-use parks five acres or greater in area should be considered as satisfying the maximum service radius requirement. Such park sites generally provide areas which offer space for passive recreational uses, as well as facilities which provide opportunities for active recreational uses.

^pA recreation corridor is defined as a publicly owned continuous linear expanse of land which is generally located within scenic areas or areas of natural, cultural, or historical interest and which provides opportunities for participation in trail-oriented outdoor recreational activities especially through the provision of trails designated for such activities as biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, and ski-touring.

^qFacilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities generally serve urban areas. The minimum per capita requirements for facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, therefore, apply to the total resident population in each urban area of the County.

^rFor each facility for intensive nonresource-oriented activity, the service radius indicates the maximum distance a participant should have to travel from his or her place of residence to participate in the corresponding activity.

^sEach urban area having a population of 2,500 or greater should have at least one baseball diamond.

^tSupport facilities such as night lighting, concessions, and bleachers generally should not be provided in Type IV sites. These sites typically do not contain sufficient acreage to allow an adequate buffer between such support facilities and surrounding neighborhood residences.

^uEach urban area should have at least one ice-skating rink.

^vEach urban area having a population of 7,500 or greater should have one public swimming pool or beach.

^wFacilities for intensive resource-oriented activities serve both rural and urban residents of the County. The minimum per capita requirements for facilities for intensive resource-oriented activities, therefore, apply to the total resident population of the County.

^xParticipants in intensive resource-oriented recreational activities travel relatively long distances from their home. The approximate service radius indicates the normal maximum distance a participant in the respective resource-oriented activity should have to travel from his or her place of residence to participate in the corresponding activity.

^yThe allocation of the 6.35 picnic tables per 1,000 residents to publicly owned general-use sites is as follows: 3.80 tables per 1,000 residents of the County to be located in Type I and Type II parks to meet the resource-oriented picnicking needs of the County and 2.55 tables per 1,000 residents of urban areas in the County to be located in Type III and Type IV parks to meet local picnicking needs in urban areas of the County.

^zA picnic area is commonly provided adjacent to a swimming beach as a support facility. Thus, the total amount of acreage required for support facilities must be determined on a site-by-site basis.

^{aa}Both urban and rural residents of the County participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities. Thus, minimum per capita requirements for trails for extensive land-based activities apply to the total resident population of the County.

^{bb}Bike routes are located on existing public roadways; therefore, no requirement is indicated.

^{cc}Pleasure-driving routes are located on existing public roadways; therefore, no requirement is provided. However, a recreation corridor may provide a uniquely suitable area for the development of a system of scenic driving routes.

^{dd}Major canoeable streams are defined as those streams which have a minimum width of 50 feet over a distance of at least 10 miles.

^{ee}Biodiversity refers to the number and abundance of animal and plant species, their genetic composition and variability, and the ecological connection between and among species.

Source: SEWRPC.

(This page intentionally left blank)

Appendix D

**COUNTY BOARD ADOPTION OF
THE RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

(This page intentionally left blank)

OFFICE OF THE RACINE COUNTY CLERK

Wendy M. Christensen

730 Wisconsin Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin 53403

E-mail Wendy.Christensen@goRacine.org

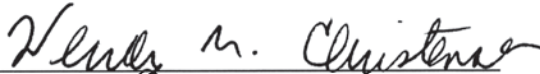
Phone 262-636-3121

Fax 262-636-3491

December 2012

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, Wendy M. Christensen, County Clerk in and for the
County of Racine, State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify
that the attached is a true and correct copy of a
Resolution adopted by the Racine County Board of
Supervisors on December 11, 2012.



Wendy M. Christensen
Racine County Clerk

County Seal

2
3
4 RESOLUTION BY THE RACINE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE
5 PLANNING COMMITTEE TO ADOPT A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR RACINE
6 COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2035

7
8
9 TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

10
11 WHEREAS, Racine County requested that the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional
12 Planning Commission (SEWRPC) assist the County in the preparation of a new park and
13 open space plan for the year 2035; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan Advisory Committee has
16 prepared, with the assistance of the SEWRPC, a park and open space plan for Racine
17 County for the year 2035, said plan being embodied in SEWRPC Community Assistance
18 Planning Report No. 134 (3rd Edition), A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County;
19 and

20
21 WHEREAS, the Racine County Public Works, Parks and Facilities Committee at its
22 meeting on November 8, 2012, acted to recommend to the Racine County Board of
23 Supervisors adoption of the Racine County park and open space plan as set forth in the
24 aforementioned SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (3rd Edition);

25
26 WHEREAS, the Racine County Economic Development and Land Use Planning
27 Committee at its meeting on November 19, 2012, acted to recommend to the Racine
28 County Board of Supervisors adoption of the Racine County park and open space plan as
29 set forth in the aforementioned SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134
30 (3rd Edition);

31
32 BE IT RESOLVED that the Racine County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts
33 SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (3rd Edition), A Park and Open
34 Space Plan for Racine County.

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the
37 Racine County Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution by registered
38 mail to Dave Schilling, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, W239
39 N1812 Rockwood Drive, PO Box 1607, Waukesha, WI 53187-1607, within seven (7) days
40 after this resolution is adopted.

4 Respectfully submitted,

5
6 1st Reading 12-11-12

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE
PLANNING COMMITTEE

7
8 2nd Reading 12-11-12


Mark M. Gleason, Chairman

9
10 BOARD ACTION
11 Adopted yes


David J. Cooke, Vice-Chairman

12 For _____

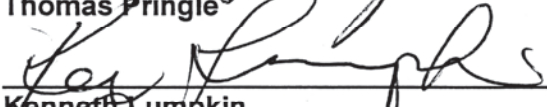

Robert D. Grove, Secretary

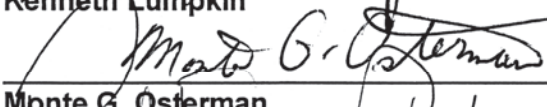
13 Against _____

14 Absent _____

15
16 VOTE REQUIRED: Majority
17
18 Prepared by:
19 Public Works & Development
20 Services Department


Thomas Pringle


Kenneth Lumpkin


Monte G. Osterman


Pamela Zenner-Richards

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32 The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of Racine County,
33 Wisconsin, is hereby:

34
35 Approved: _____

36 Vetoed: _____

37
38 Date: _____,

39
40 _____
41 James A. Ladwig, County Executive

42
43
44 The certificate of publication, in compliance with State Statutes, is available at
45 Racine County Public Works and Development Services.

46
47 FISCAL NOTE - NOT APPLICABLE