



A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR RACINE COUNTY

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Special acknowledgment is due David A. Schilling, SEWRPC
Principal Planner, and Heather M. Petre, SEWRPC Planner,
for their contributions to this report.

Special acknowledgment is due Thomas A. Statz, former Director
of Park Planning and Programming for his contribution to the
preparation of this report.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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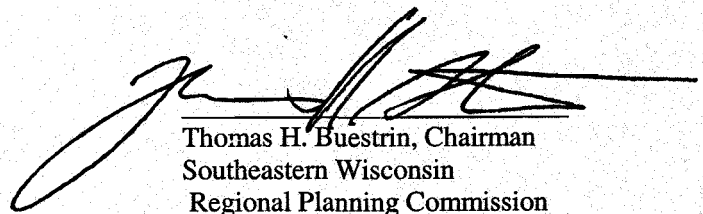
Serving the Counties of: KENOSHA
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WAUKESHA

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

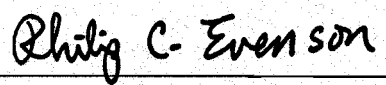
TO: The Legislative Bodies of Concerned Local Units of Government within the Southeastern Wisconsin Region, namely: the County of Racine; the Cities of Burlington and Racine; the Towns of Burlington, Caledonia, Dover, Mount Pleasant, Norway, Raymond, Rochester, Waterford, and Yorkville; and the Villages of Elmwood Park, 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 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the 5th day of December 2001, the Commission did by unanimous vote by all Commissioners present, being 18 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 6th day of March 1989, 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 (2nd Edition), *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, published in July 2001, 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 Waukesha, Wisconsin, this 6th day of December 2001.


Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman
Southeastern Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission

ATTEST:


Philip C. Evenson, Deputy Secretary

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RESOLUTION 2001-28

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 6th day of March 1989, 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, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1995, 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 (2nd Edition), *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*; and

WHEREAS, the Racine County Public Works Committee, at its meeting on April 26, 2001, 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 (2nd Edition); and

WHEREAS, the Racine County Board of Supervisors, at its meeting held on May 22, 2001, acted to adopt the park and open space plan for Racine County as set forth in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (2nd 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:

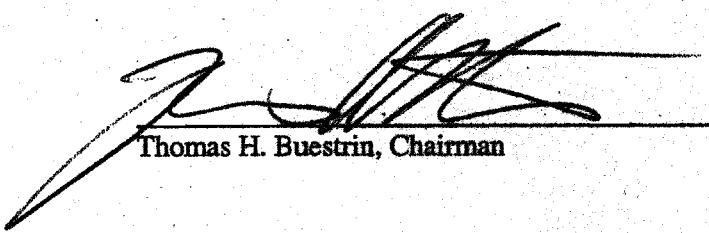
FIRST, That the regional park and open space plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region, being a part of the master plan for the physical development of the Region and comprised of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, which was adopted by the Commission as part of the master plan on the 1st day of December 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 (2nd Edition).

RESOLUTION 2001-28

SECOND: That the said SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (2nd 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 Old Courthouse Building in the City of Waukesha, 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.

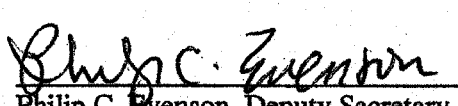
THIRD: That a true, correct, and exact copy of this resolution, together with a complete and exact copy of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (2nd Edition), shall be forthwith distributed to each of the local legislative bodies of the local governmental units within the Region entitled 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 5th day of December 2001, the vote being: Ayes 18; Nays: 0.



Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman

ATTEST:



Philip C. Evenson, Deputy Secretary

PCE/DAS/HMP

#49505

11/19/01

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING REPORT
NUMBER 134 (2nd Edition)

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR RACINE COUNTY

Prepared by the
Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
P.O. Box 1607
Old Courthouse
916 N. East Avenue
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607

July 2001

Inside Region \$ 5.00
Outside Region \$10.00

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Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

PLAN CONTEXT

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, 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, 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 1997, is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 45, *A Regional Land Use Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2020*. That plan was adopted by the Racine County Board of Supervisors on November 17, 1998. The three most important recommendations contained in the regional land use plan are: 1) the preservation of primary environmental corridors in essentially natural, open uses; 2) the maintenance of the best remaining farmland in long-term 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 the basic framework within which other regional plan components, including park and open space plans, are developed.

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 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 such 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.

In 1984, the Racine County Highway and Parks Committee requested that the Regional 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 the first edition of this report, SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, September 1988. The plan, which has a

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

design year of 2000, was adopted by the Racine County Board of Supervisors on February 14, 1989, and by the Regional Planning Commission on March 6, 1989.

The 1989 County park and open space plan called for the acquisition of additional land at four of the existing major parks. Ten acres have since been acquired at one of those sites—Cliffside Park. The plan further called for the development of a variety of outdoor recreation facilities at all of the major parks. To date, an additional nine holes of golf have been added to Ives Grove Golf Links, and the development of facilities at Case Eagle Park is underway.

The 1989 plan also called for a combined total of 56 linear miles of trails in the Lake Michigan, Root River, and Fox River recreation corridors in the County. To date, there are approximately 16.5 miles of existing trails associated with natural resource related outdoor recreation corridors. It was also recommended that the County acquire an additional 1,010 acres associated with the Root River Parkway and an additional 914 acres associated with the Fox River Parkway. At this time, the County has acquired 651 acres for the Root River Parkway and 14 acres for the Fox River Parkway. In addition, it was recommended that access to Lake Michigan be provided in the City of Racine Harbor and canoe access to the Fox River be provided at three existing County parks. The County has since developed Racine Harbor Park.

The 1989 plan further recommended the acquisition of additional land at a County park site known as the Kuecker Property, and the development of facilities at eight smaller County park sites. Finally, it was recommended that the County acquire and develop three new smaller County park sites. Since that time Racine County has acquired six smaller park sites: American Eagle Manor Outlot, Fowler's Bay Outlot 1, Haban Park, Heg Park, John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area, and Saller Woods. None of these sites were specifically recommended in the 1989 plan.

COUNTY REQUEST

On April 17, 1995, 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 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. The new plan is documented in this report. The plan, which is based upon the recommended development pattern set forth in the year 2020 regional land use plan, is designed to extend the recommendations of the existing Racine County park and open space plan to that design year.

REPORT FORMAT

The findings and recommendations of the requested park and open space planning effort are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter II 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.

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

The area that is now the Southeastern Wisconsin Region was first included in the Federal census in 1850. In that year, the Region had a resident population of about 113,400 persons, or about 37 percent of the total population of the State. By 1990, the year of the most recent decennial census, the Region population was about 1,810,400 persons, also comprising about 37 percent of the total population of the State. Historic population levels within Racine County, the Region, and the State are provided in Table 1.

Population growth in Racine County from 1850 to 1990 is graphically summarized by Figure 1. In 1850, Racine County had a resident population of about 15,000. The County's population rose gradually from 1850 through 1890, and then began to increase at a greater rate until 1930, when population growth leveled off. Following 1940, the resident population

of the County increased rapidly, with the highest rate of growth, over 32,000 persons, or a 29 percent increase, occurring between 1950 and 1960. This large increase in Racine County's population paralleled the trend during the same 10-year period in the Region as a whole, which grew in population by about 27 percent, and in the State, which grew by about 15 percent. A high rate of population growth also occurred between 1960 and 1970 in the County, about 20 percent, and in the Region, about 12 percent. Population growth in both the Region and Racine County occurred at more moderate levels in the decades between 1970 and 1980 and between 1980 and 1990. Between 1980 and 1990, the County population increased by only about 1 percent, from 173,100 to 175,000 persons, while the regional population growth increased only about 3 percent, from 1,764,800 to 1,810,400 persons. The 2000 County population, based on an estimate by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, was 189,473 persons.

The City of Racine is the most populous community in the County, with 84,298 residents, or about 48 percent of the County's population, in 1990. The next most populous communities are the Town of Caledonia, with 20,999 residents, or about 12 percent of the County's population; the Town of Mount Pleasant, with 20,084 residents, or about 11 percent of the County's population; and the City of Burlington, with 8,851 residents, or about 5 percent of the County's population.

Based on 2000 estimates by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, several of the communities

Table 1

**HISTORIC RESIDENT POPULATION LEVELS IN RACINE COUNTY,
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, AND THE STATE OF WISCONSIN: 1850-1990**

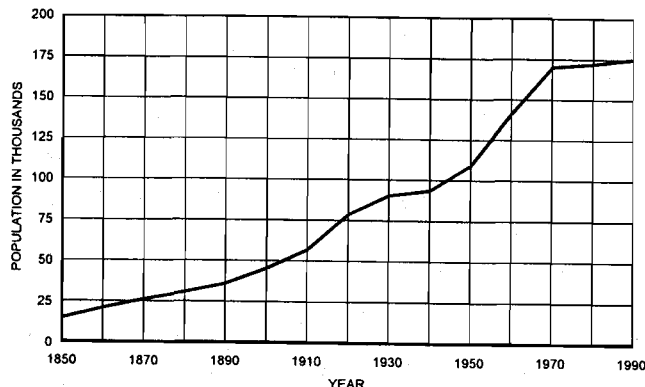
Year	Racine County			Southeastern Wisconsin			Wisconsin		
	Population	Change from Preceding Census		Population	Change from Preceding Census		Population	Change from Preceding Census	
		Absolute	Percent		Absolute	Percent		Absolute	Percent
1850	14,973	--	--	113,389	--	--	305,391	--	--
1860	21,360	6,387	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	30,922	4,182	15.6	277,119	53,573	24.0	1,315,497	260,827	24.7
1890	36,268	5,346	17.3	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

NOTE: The State estimated population level of Racine County in 2000 was 189,473 persons.

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

Figure 1

**HISTORIC POPULATION LEVELS
IN RACINE COUNTY: 1850-1990**



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

in Racine County have experienced a relative population increase of more than 20 percent from 1990 to 2000. These communities include the Village of Sturtevant, increasing from 3,803 persons to 5,368 persons, or 41 percent; the Village of Waterford, increasing from 2,431 persons to 3,691 persons, or 52 percent; the Town of Waterford, increasing

from 4,255 persons to 5,576 persons, or 31 percent; and the Town of Norway, increasing from 5,493 persons to 7,012 persons, or 28 percent.

Households

Trends in the number of households in the County and the Region are shown in Table 2. Both the County and Region experienced significant gains in the number of new households between 1970 and 1990. The rate of increase in the number of households has exceeded the rate of population increase in both cases. Between 1970 and 1990, the rate of increase in the number of households was 28 percent in the County and 26 percent in the Region, compared to a population increase of 2 percent in the County and 3 percent in the Region. With the number of households increasing at a faster rate than the population, the number of persons per household has decreased.

The number of households is of particular importance in land use and public facility planning, because it greatly 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

Table 2

**NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN RACINE COUNTY AND THE
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: CENSUS YEARS 1970-1990**

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

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

facilities and services, including parks and recreational facilities.

Age Distribution

The age distribution of the population may be expected to influence the location and type of recreational areas and facilities needed within the County. The age distribution of the population of the County and Region in 1970, 1980, and 1990 is set forth in Table 3. While the total population of the County increased only slightly between 1970 and 1990, the age composition changed significantly. Significant increases occurred in the number of persons aged 25 to 44 and in the number of persons aged 65 and older, while significant decreases occurred in the younger age groups, particularly in the number of persons aged five to 17 years. This trend is similar to that of the Region as a whole.

Employment

Trends in job growth in the County and Region are set forth in Table 4. The jobs are enumerated at their location and the data thus reflect the number of jobs within the County and Region, including both full- and part-time jobs. A significant increase in the number of jobs may be expected to attract additional residents to the County, thus influencing population growth. It should be noted, however, that a substantial number of Racine County employed residents—17,358 of the 82,750 workers in 1990, or about 21 percent—worked outside the County, and 1,943 workers, or 2 percent, worked outside the State.

As indicated in Table 4, employment growth was significant in the County between 1970 and 1990,

with an increase in the number of jobs from 64,500 to 88,800. This 38 percent rate of increase in the number of jobs in the County was similar to the rate of increase in the Region during the same period, which experienced an increase of 283,100 jobs, or about 36 percent.

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 and rural land uses within the County, as well as the historic conversion of rural lands to urban use, 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 during this century is presented on Map 1. Prior to 1950, urban development in the County had generally occurred in tight concentric rings around the established communities of Racine, Burlington, Waterford, and Union Grove; and along the shorelines of several of the larger lakes in the County. The period between 1950 and 1963 saw a significant increase in urban development within the County, a portion of which occurred in scattered enclaves throughout the County rather than adjacent to the established urban centers. In the decades following 1963, land development for urban uses continued both

Table 3

**AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF RACINE COUNTY AND THE
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: CENSUS YEARS 1970-1990**

Racine County								
Age Group	1970		1980		1990		Change 1970-1990	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent
Under 5	15,981	9.4	13,510	7.8	13,635	7.8	-2,346	-14.7
5-17	50,041	29.3	39,838	23.0	34,986	20.0	-15,055	-30.1
18-24	17,239	10.1	21,710	12.5	15,712	9.0	-1,527	-8.9
25-44	40,034	23.4	47,454	27.4	56,240	32.1	16,206	40.5
45-64	32,102	18.8	33,040	19.1	33,371	19.1	1,269	4.0
65 and Older	15,441	9.0	17,580	10.2	21,090	12.0	5,649	36.6
All Ages	170,838	100.0	173,132	100.0	175,034	100.0	4,196	2.5
Southeastern Wisconsin								
Age Group	1970		1980 ^a		1990		Change 1970-1990	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent
Under 5	153,243	8.7	128,085	7.3	138,286	7.7	-14,957	-9.8
5-17	472,342	26.9	375,653	21.3	339,722	18.8	-132,620	-28.1
18-24	193,211	11.0	234,264	13.3	181,211	10.0	-12,000	-6.2
25-44	412,831	23.5	482,615	27.3	590,955	32.6	178,124	43.1
45-64	354,845	20.2	349,008	19.8	333,818	18.4	-21,027	-5.9
65 and Older	169,415	9.7	195,294	11.0	226,372	12.5	56,957	33.6
All Ages	1,755,887	100.0	1,764,919	100.0	1,810,364	100.0	54,477	3.1

^aThe 1980 regional population of 1,764,919 includes 123 persons who were subtracted from this number after the conduct of the 1980 census but were not allocated to the various age group categories.

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

Table 4

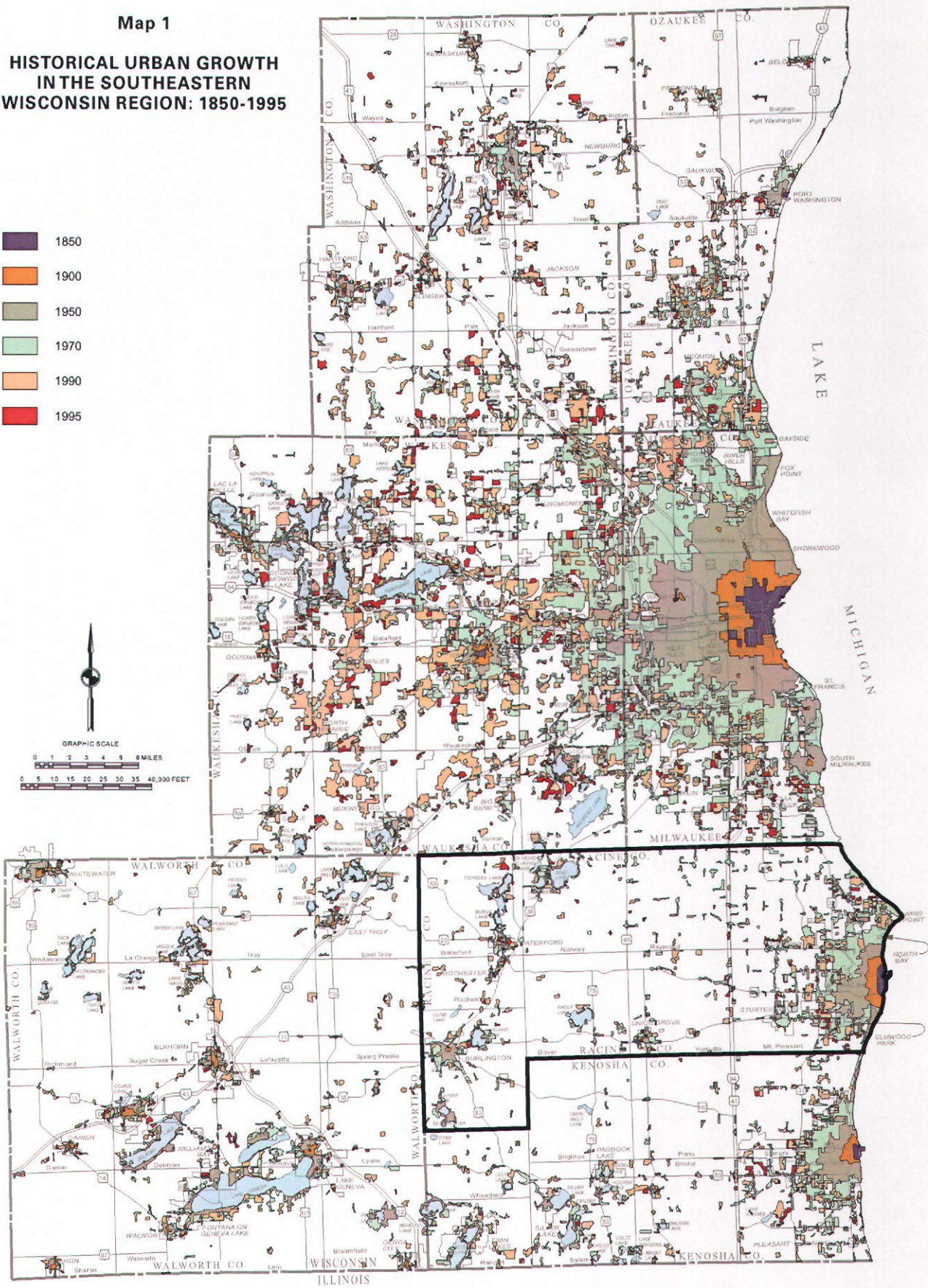
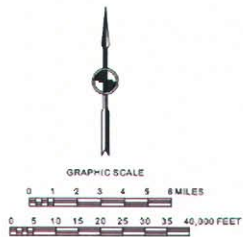
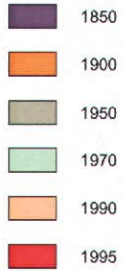
**NUMBER OF JOBS IN RACINE COUNTY AND THE
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: 1970-1990**

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	64,506	--	--	784,136	--	--
1980	80,900	16,394	25.4	945,186	161,050	20.5
1990	88,768	7,868	9.7	1,067,202	122,016	12.9

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

Map 1

**HISTORICAL URBAN GROWTH
IN THE SOUTHEASTERN
WISCONSIN REGION: 1850-1995**



Source: SEWRPC.

adjacent to existing urban areas and in a generally scattered pattern throughout the County, outside of established urban centers. Providing urban services and facilities, including public parks, to scattered, low density urban development in outlying areas can be inefficient and costly.

Existing Land Uses

Land uses in Racine County in 1995 are set forth on Map 2 and in Table 5. Urban land uses occupied about 67.3 square miles, or about 20 percent of the County in 1995. Intensive urban development, including most commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential development, is concentrated within or near the communities of Racine, Burlington, Waterford, Sturtevant, and Union Grove or along the IH 94 corridor. Much of the single-family residential development also occurred within or surrounding these urban centers, while scattered low density development occurred outside these communities amid predominantly rural areas. Single-family residential development was the largest component of urban land uses, encompassing about 31.7 square miles, or about 47 percent of the urban land uses and about 9 percent of the total area of the County.

Land uses categorized as transportation, communication, and utilities constituted the second largest urban land use category in 1995, encompassing about 19.5 square miles, or about 29 percent of the area of all urban land and about 6 percent of the total area of the County. Major arterial highways serving the County include IH 94/USH 41 and USH 45, which traverse the County in a north-south direction; and STH 20 and STH 11, which traverse the County in a generally east-west direction. Other uses in the transportation, communications, and utilities category within the County include four railway freight service lines, two of which are operated by the Union Pacific Railroad, one by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the other by the Wisconsin Central Ltd. An intercity passenger rail service operated by Amtrak utilizes the Canadian Pacific Railway line. This service, which operates between Milwaukee and Chicago, has a stop in the Village of Sturtevant. Racine County also has six airports which serve the public: Burlington Municipal Airport, owned by the City of Burlington; and five others under private ownership—Batten Airport, Fox River Airport, Cindy Guntly Memorial Airport, Sylvania Airport, and Valhalla Airport.

Recreational land uses constituted the third largest urban land use category within the County in 1995, encompassing about 4.3 square miles, or about 6 percent of all urban land and about 1 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, 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.

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 year 2000 Racine County park and open space plan in 1989, 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.

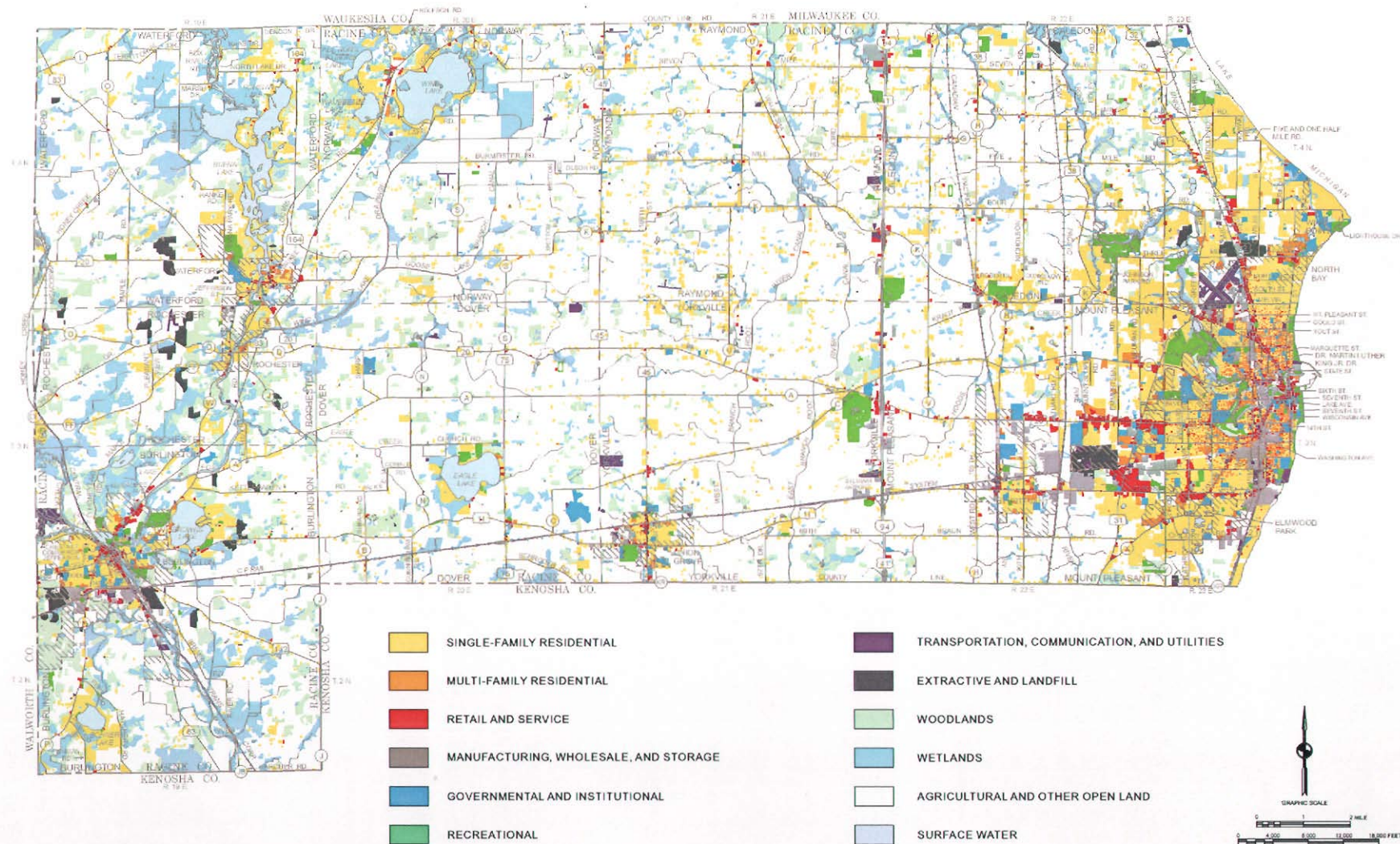
Surface Water Resources

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, and enhance its aesthetic quality. Watershed boundaries and major streams and lakes within the County are shown on Map 3.

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 remove 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 and aesthetic values of surface water resources.

Map 2

LAND USES IN RACINE COUNTY: 1995



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 5

LAND USES IN RACINE COUNTY: 1995

Land Use Category ^a	Square Miles	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of County
Urban			
Single-Family Residential	31.7	47.1	9.3
Multi-Family Residential ^b	2.2	3.2	0.6
Commercial	2.9	4.3	0.9
Industrial	3.3	5.0	1.0
Transportation, Communications, and Utilities	19.5	29.0	5.7
Governmental and Institutional	3.4	5.0	1.0
Recreational	4.3	6.4	1.3
Subtotal	67.3	100.0	19.8
Nonurban			
Agricultural	204.0	74.7	59.9
Woodlands	20.6	7.5	6.0
Wetlands	24.7	9.1	7.3
Water	8.2	3.0	2.4
Landfill and Extractive	2.3	0.8	0.7
Other Open Lands	13.5	4.9	3.9
Subtotal	273.3	100.0	80.2
Total	340.6	--	100.0

^aParking lots are included with the associated use.

^bIncludes two-family residential.

Source: SEWRPC.

Major streams are defined as those which maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. There are approximately 101 miles of such streams in Racine County, located within four watersheds: the Fox (Illinois) River, Root River, Pike River, and Des Plaines River watersheds. A fifth watershed encompasses those areas adjacent to Lake Michigan which drain directly into the Lake through intermittent streams. The Fox River watershed generally encompasses the western half of the County and includes the Fox River, Honey Creek, White River, Wind Lake Drainage Canal, Goose Lake Drainage Canal, Eagle Creek, Hoosier Creek, and Spring Brook. The Des Plaines River watershed covers a small portion of the extreme southern part of the County and includes the Kilbourn Road Ditch, and the beginning of the mainstem of the Des Plaines River near Union Grove. The Root River watershed encompasses most of the eastern half of the County

and includes the Root River, East Branch Root River Canal, West Branch Root River Canal, Husher Creek, and Hoods Creek. The Pike River watershed, in the County's southeastern corner, includes the beginning of the mainstem of the Pike River.

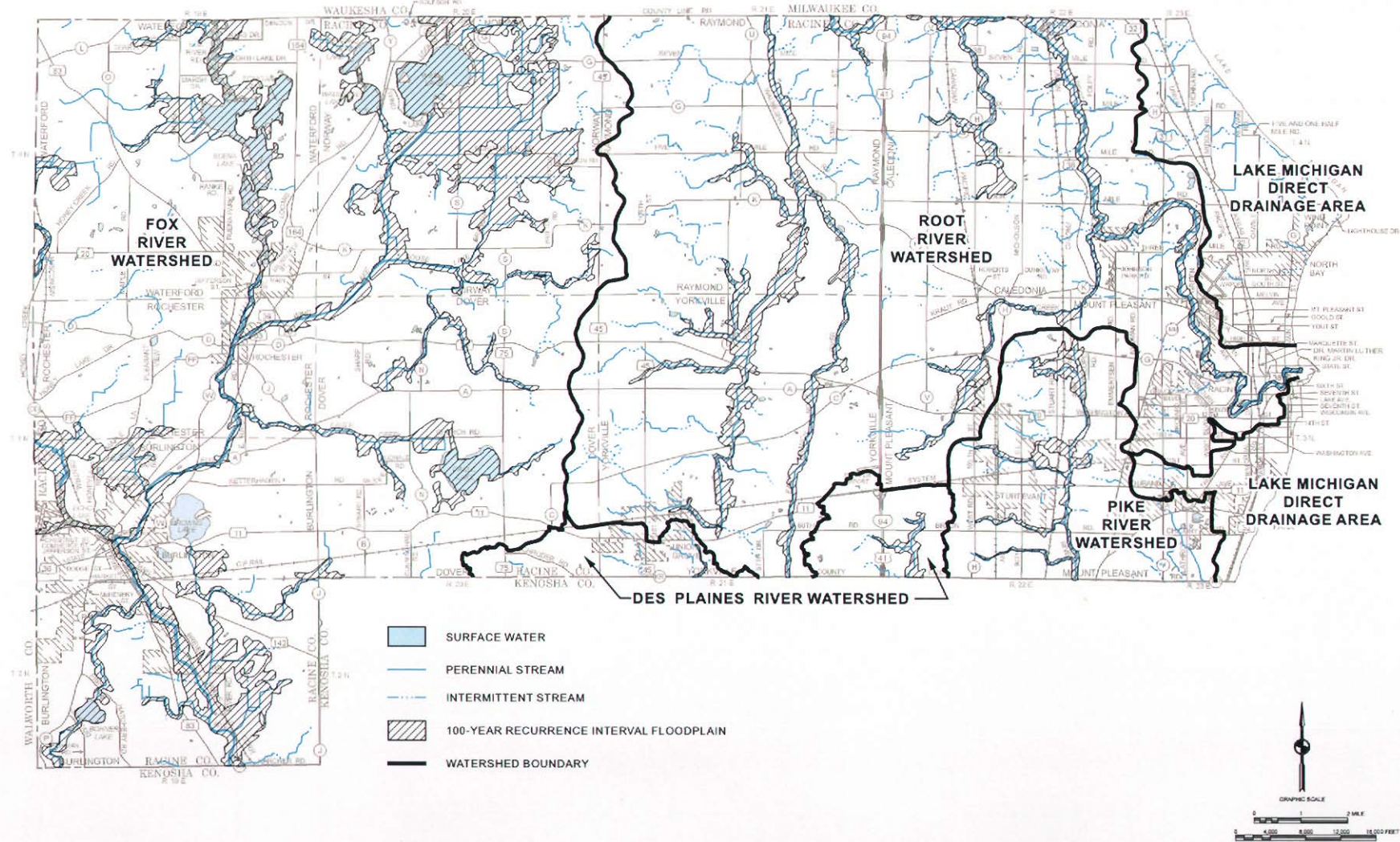
There are 10 major lakes—that is, lakes of 50 acres or more—in Racine County. All of the major lakes lie within the Fox River watershed. The major lakes include Bohner Lake, Browns Lake, Buena Lake, Eagle Lake, Echo Lake, Kee Nong Go Mong Lake, Long Lake, Tichigan Lake, Waubeesee Lake, and Wind Lake.

Floodlands

Floodlands are the wide, gently sloping areas contiguous to, and usually lying on both sides of, a stream channel. For planning and regulatory purposes, floodlands are normally defined as the areas, excluding the stream channel, subject to inundation

Map 3

SURFACE WATER RESOURCES AND FLOODLANDS IN RACINE COUNTY



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and SEWRPC.

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. Floodland 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. Floodland 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 floodlands, while encouraging compatible park and open space uses.

Floodlands identified by the Commission and by the Federal Emergency Management Agency are shown on Map 3. Approximately 17.2 square miles, not including surface water in lakes and existing stream channels, or about 5 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 1995, as delineated by the Regional Planning Commission, are shown on Map 2. At that time, wetlands covered about 24.7 square miles, or about 7 percent of the County. The three largest wetland complexes, Tichigan Wildlife Area, Honey Creek Wildlife Area, and Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area, are designated as State of Wisconsin wildlife areas and managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

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 areas. In addition, wetlands help to protect downstream water resources from siltation and pollution by trapping sediments, nutrients, and other water pollutants.

In view 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.

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 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. In 1995, woodland areas covered about 20.6 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 inventory of natural and geological resources in the County was conducted by the Regional Planning Commission in 1994 as part of the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan prepared by the Commission.¹ The inventory systematically identified all remaining high-quality natural areas, critical species habitat, and sites having geological significance within the Region. Recommendations developed through that program for the protection and management of identified natural areas, critical

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

species habitat, critical aquatic habitat, and significant 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 county-wide 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 59 natural areas, encompassing 5,623 acres, or about 3 percent of the County, were identified in Racine County in 1994. Of the 59 identified sites, seven are classified as NA-1 sites and encompass 588 acres, 19 are classified as NA-2 sites and encompass 2,729 acres, and 33 are classified as NA-3 sites and encompass 2,306 acres. Map 4 depicts the locations of natural areas identified in 1994. Table 6 sets forth a description of each natural area.

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 33 sites supporting threatened or rare plant or bird species have been identified in Racine County. These sites, which together encompass an area of 945 acres, are shown on Map 5 and described in Table 7. A total of 28 aquatic sites supporting threatened or rare fish, herptile, or mussel species have also been identified in the County (see Map 5 and Table 8). There are 50.2 stream miles and 3,471 lake acres of critical aquatic habitat in Racine County.

As noted earlier, the comprehensive inventory of these sites was conducted by the Regional Planning Commission in 1994. Since that time, new information is continuously becoming available relating to the degradation of known sites, as well as the discovery of previously unknown sites. Examples of this include: the destruction of the Ives Grove Prairie Remnant by new residential development; and the discovery of new sites such as the Oak Knoll Woods in the Town of Rochester, which contains the state-threatened Hooded Warbler, and the Dover Pond and Marsh in the Town of Dover, which contains the state-threatened Great Egret. New information such as this will be given appropriate consideration in the development of the plan.

Geological Sites

Two significant geological features distinguish the landscape of the County. Eastern Racine County has several areas in which Racine Dolomite reef strata are exposed either through natural outcroppings along the Root River and Lake Michigan or in old quarries. This reef strata, from the Silurian period, has a rich diversity of fossil marine organisms.

Glacial topography extends from Walworth County into southwestern Racine County. Good examples of kettle and kame glacial formations can be found in this area.

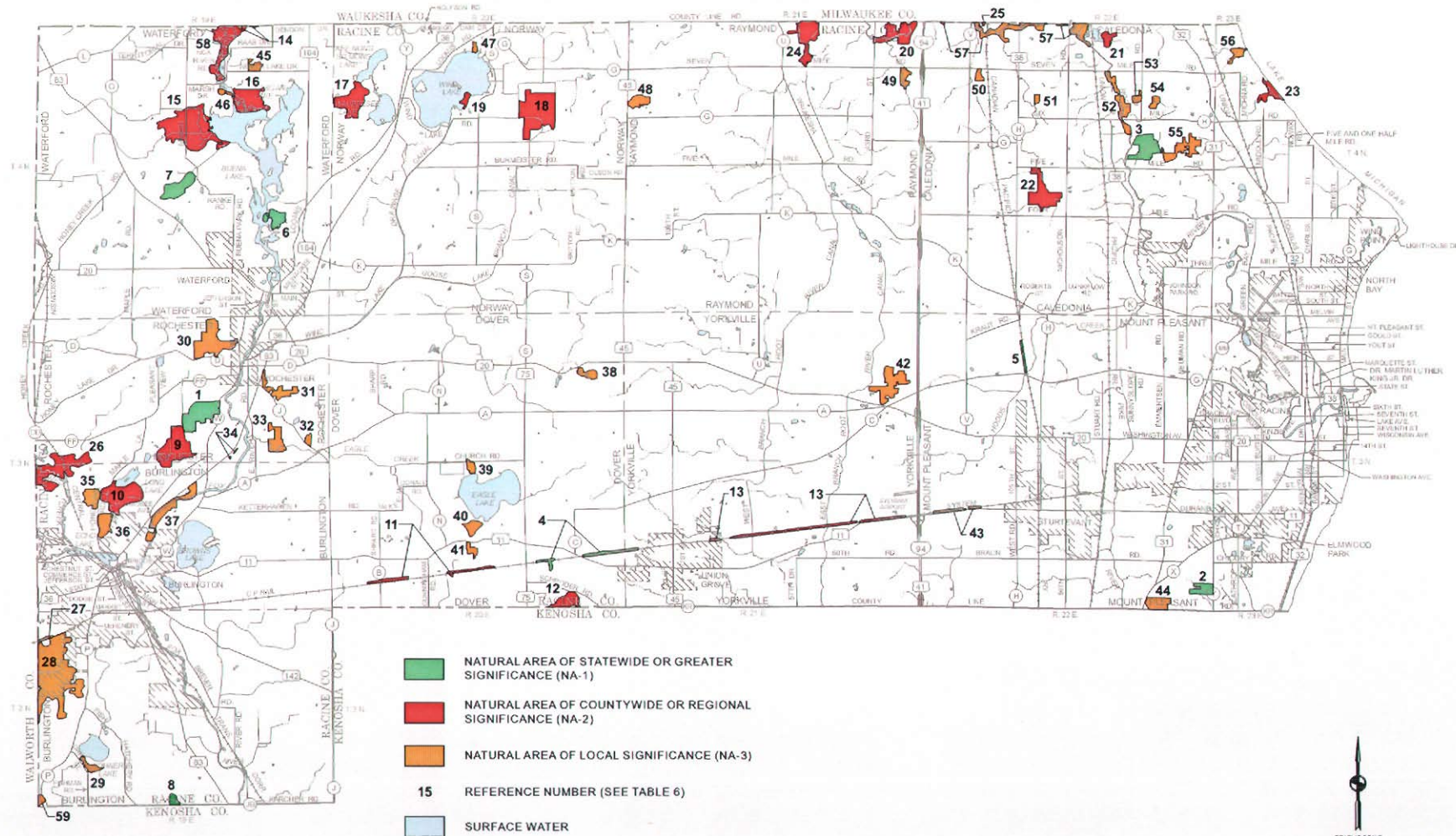
A total of six sites of geological importance, including three bedrock geology sites and three glacial features, were identified in the County in 1994. The geological sites included in the inventory were selected on the basis of scientific importance, significance in industrial history, natural aesthetics, 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 regional or county significance (GA-2), and four sites of local significance (GA-3). Together, these sites encompass 1,310 acres in Racine County. Map 6 depicts the locations of geological sites identified in 1994. Table 9 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 essen-

Map 4

NATURAL AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY: 1994



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 6

KNOWN NATURAL AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY: 1994

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Cherry Lake Sedge Meadow State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA, RSH)	T3N, R19E Sections 10, 15 Town 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 plants 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	Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA, RSH)	T3N, R22E Section 36 Town 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
3	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA, RSH)	T4N, R22E Section 14 Town 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
4	Kansasville Railroad Prairie	NA-1 (RSH)	T3N, R20E Sections 25, 26, 35, 36 Town of Dover T3N, R21E Section 30 Town of Yorkville	Private	14	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
5	Franksville Railroad Prairie	NA-1 (RSH)	T3N, R22E Sections 4, 9 Town 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>)
6	Elm Island Bog-Island Oak Woods	NA-1 (RSH)	T4N, R19E Sections 23, 24, 25, 26 Town of Waterford	Racine County and private	68	Two distinct plant communities of good quality are present, an upland wooded island dominated by red and white oaks without signs of past grazing or logging is bordered on the east by a sphagnum-tamarack bog with a number of characteristic bog species present

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
7	Tichigan Fen	NA-1 (RSH)	T4N, R19E Sections 21, 22 Town of Waterford	Department of Natural Resources and private	118	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
	Subtotal	NA-1	7 sites	--	588	--
8	Karcher Springs State Natural Area	NA-2 (SNA, RSH)	T2N, R19E Section 21 Town of Burlington	Department of Natural Resources	23	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
9	Brock Lake Fen	NA-2 (RSH)	T3N, R19E Sections 15, 16, 21 Town 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 maritimum</i>), and marsh blazing-star (<i>Liatris spicata</i>). An integral part of a long northeast-southwest lowland corridor
10	Leda Lake Fen-Meadow	NA-2 (RSH)	T3N, R19E Sections 20, 21, 29 Town of Burlington	Department of Natural Resources and private	221	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
11	Rosewood Railroad Prairie	NA-2 (RSH)	T3N, R20E Sections 31-34 Town of Dover	Private	18	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
12	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
13	Union Grove Railroad Prairie	NA-2 (RSH)	T3N, R21E Sections 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 Town of Yorkville	Private	32	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
14	Norris Marsh and Slough	NA-2	T4N, R19E Sections 2, 3, 10 Town of Waterford T5N, R19E Sections 34, 35 Town of Vernon	Private	180 (plus 32 in Waukesha County)	Good-quality deep and shallow marsh along the Fox River

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
15	Tichigan Marsh	NA-2	T4N, R19E Sections 9, 10, 15, 16 Town of Waterford	Department of Natural Resources and private	447	Large, good-quality deep and shallow marsh with small patches of sedge meadow, bordering Tichigan Lake. Department of Natural Resources has excavated a series of ponds for wildlife
16	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
17	Waubeesee Oak Woods and Tamarack Relict	NA-2 (RSH)	T4N, R20E Section 7 Town of Norway	Racine County and private	169	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. Contains cerulean warbler (<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>) and the acadian flycatcher (<i>Empidonax virescens</i>), both designated as state-threatened bird species.
18	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
19	Wind Lake Shrub-Fen	NA-2 (RSH)	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>)
20	County Line Riverine Woods	NA-2 (RSH)	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 northwest contains mesic hardwoods with a rich ground flora. An integral part of the Root River environmental corridor
21	Hunts Woods	NA-2 (RSH)	T4N, R22E Section 3 Town of Caledonia	Racine County and private	34	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>)
22	Caledonia Wildlife Area	NA-2	T4N, R22E Section 21 Town of Caledonia	Town 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 is a very good observation area

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
23	Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks	NA-2 (RSH)	T4N, R23E Sections 7, 8 Town of Caledonia	Racine County	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, yellowish gentian, stiff gentian, balsam poplar, and blue-stemmed goldenrod
24	Root River Canal Woods	NA-2 (RSH)	T4N, R21E Section 3 Town of Raymond T5N, R21E Section 34 City of Franklin	Private and Milwaukee County	158 (plus 121 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. Extends north into Milwaukee County
25	Root River Wet-Mesic Woods-East	NA-2 (RSH)	T4N, R22E Section 5 Town 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 a tributary to the Root River. Contains a rich, diverse flora, including several rare species
26	Honey Lake Marsh and Sedge Meadows	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 with smaller areas containing springs and calcareous fens. Nesting site for sandhill cranes
	Subtotal	NA-2	19 sites	--	2,729	--
27	Burlington Railroad Prairie	NA-3 (RSH)	T2N, R19E Section 6 Town of Burlington T2N, R18E Section 1 Town of Lyons	Private	4 (plus 1 in Walworth County)	One-quarter-mile stretch of mesic, dry-mesic, and dry prairie remnants bordering railway right-of-way
28	Burlington Hills Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T2N, R19E Sections 5, 6, 7, 18 Town of Burlington T2N, R18E Sections 1, 12, 13 Town of Lyons	Private	557 (plus 80 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. Currently threatened by sand and gravel mine expansion
29	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
30	Wadewitz Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T3N, R19E Sections 2, 3 Town 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 prairies, and older woods
31	Rowntree Road Woods	NA-3	T3N, R19E Sections 11, 12 Town of Rochester	Private	74	A typical xeric oak woods, with several wet areas containing lowland hardwoods. An active blue heron rookery is present
32	English Settlement Prairie	NA-3	T3N, R19E Section 13 Town of Rochester	Private	16	Moderate-quality wet-mesic prairie with a history of disturbance, including plowing and grazing
33	Eagle Creek Woods	NA-3	T3N, R19E Sections 13, 14 Town of Rochester	Private	84	Typical xeric oak woods, relatively large but with a history of grazing and selective cutting

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
34	Fox River Prairie	NA-3	T3N, R19E Sections 14, 15 Town of Rochester	Private	2	Prairie remnants along former railway right-of-way, now 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
35	Honey Lake Leatherleaf Bog	NA-3	T3N, R19E Sections 19, 20 Town of Burlington	Private	69	A large monotypic leatherleaf bog relict, rare in the southern part of the Region
36	Wehmhoff Park Upland Woods and Wetlands	NA-3	T3N, R19E Section 29 Town of Burlington	Town of Burlington and private	73	Moderate-quality sedge meadow-shallow marsh wetlands, located within an upland matrix of disturbed oak woods and dry hill prairie on hilly glacial terrain
37	Fox River Riverine Forest	NA-3	T3N, R19E Section 21, 22, 28 Town of Burlington	Racine County and private	131	Lowland and upland woods bordering the Fox River
38	Dover Wildlife Area Wetlands	NA-3 (RSH)	T3N, R20E Section 12 Town of Dover	Department of Natural Resources and private	39	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
39	Church Road Lowlands	NA-3	T3N, R20E Sections 16, 21 Town of Dover	Department of Natural Resources and private	25	Sedge meadow and shallow marsh on north shore of Eagle Lake
40	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
41	Vandenboom Road Marsh	NA-3	T3N, R20E Section 28 Town of Dover	Private	27	Shallow, cattail-dominated marsh
42	Ives Grove Woods	NA-3	T3N, R21E Section 12 Town of Yorkville	Racine County and private	164	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
43	Sylvania Railroad Prairie	NA-3 (RSH)	T3N, R22E Sections 20, 30 Town of Mt. Pleasant	Private	7	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
44	Campbell Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T3N, R22E Sections 35, 36 Town of Mt. Pleasant	Private	72	Dry to dry-mesic hardwood forest of moderate quality on flat to somewhat rolling topography, with several small temporary ponds and intermittent streams, and a wetland complex to the east. The latter area includes hop-like sedge (<i>Carex lupuliformis</i>), a State-designated endangered species. This is one of the larger, relatively intact woods in this part of Racine County

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
45	Van Valin Woods	NA-3	T4N, R19E Section 2 Town of Waterford	Private	30	Moderate-quality dry-mesic woods dominated by white oak, shagbark hickory, white ash, and sugar maple. Threatened by encroaching residential development
46	Tichigan Wet Prairie	NA-3 (RSH)	T4N, R19E Section 10 Town of Waterford	Department of Natural Resources	15	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
47	Wind Lake Wet Meadow	NA-3 (RSH)	T4N, R20E Section 4 Town of Norway	Private	12	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
48	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
49	Kimmel Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	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
50	Seven Mile Road Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T4N, R22E Section 8 Town of Caledonia	Private	20	Second-growth maple-ash-oak woods of about 60 years of age that has been subjected to past selective cutting. Contains a rich and diverse ground flora. Low areas contain ephemeral ponds
51	Zirbes Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T4N, R22E Section 9 Town 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
52	Caledonia Low Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T4N, R22E Sections 10, 11, 14 Town 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>)
53	Foley Road Woods-West	NA-3 (RSH)	T4N, R22E Section 11 Town of Caledonia	Private	19	Medium-age mesic and wet-mesic woods with a large population of black haw (<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>)
54	Foley Road Woods-East	NA-3 (RSH)	T4N, R22E Section 11 Town 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>)

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
55	Tabor Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T4N, R22E Sections 13, 14 Town of Caledonia	Private	107	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
56	Power Plant Riverine Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T4N, R23E Section 6 Town of Caledonia	Private	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
57	Root River Riverine Forest	NA-3 (RSH)	T4N, R22E Sections 3-6 Town of Caledonia T5N, R22E Section 32 City of Oak Creek	Racine County, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin Department of Transportation and private	184 (plus 40 in Milwaukee County)	A significant portion of the Root River corridor. Extends into Milwaukee County
58	Norris Oak Woods and Wetland	NA-3	T4N, R19E Section 1 Town of Waterford T5N, R19E Section 26, 35 Town of Vernon	Private	6 (plus 358 in Waukesha County)	Two separate disturbed oak woods and adjacent open lowlands bordering the Fox River
59	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. Extends into Walworth County
	Subtotal	NA-3	33 sites	--	2,306	--
	Total	All Natural Areas	59 sites	--	5,623	--

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

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

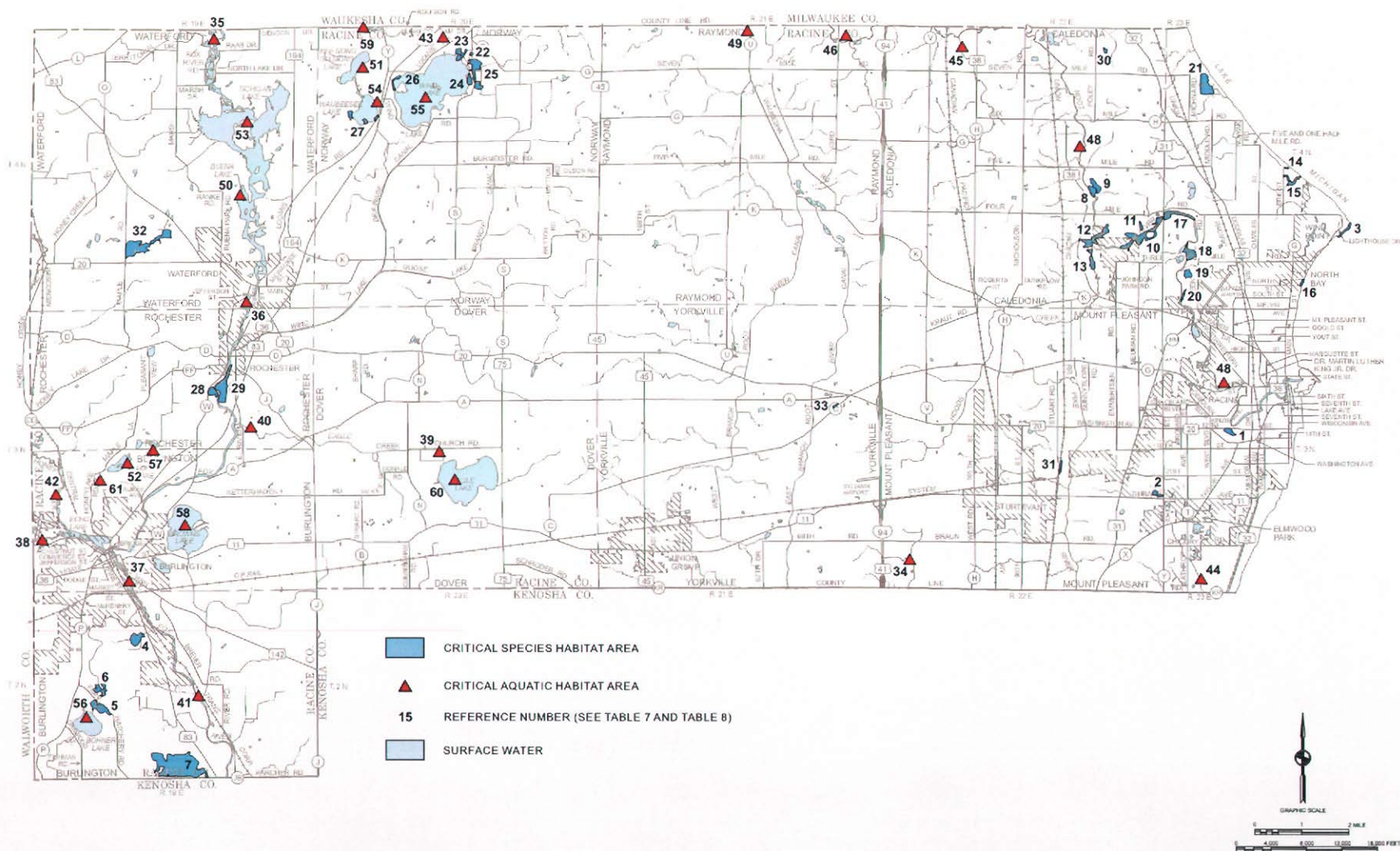
NA-3 identifies Natural Area sites of local significance.

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

RSH, or Rare Species Habitat, identifies those sites which support rare, threatened, or endangered animal or plant species officially designated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES AND CRITICAL AQUATIC HABITAT AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY: 1994



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 7

CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES LOCATED OUTSIDE NATURAL AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY: 1994

Number on Map 5	Site Name and Classification Code ^a	Location	Site Area (acres)	Ownership	Species of Concern ^b
1	Washington Park Woods (P)	T3N, R23E, Section 17	12	City of Racine	<u>Solidago caesia</u> (E)
2	Pritchard Park Woods (P)	T3N, R22E, Section 24	9	Racine County	<u>Trillium recurvatum</u> (R)
3	Wind Point (P)	T4N, R23E, Section 27	4	City of Racine	<u>Cakile edentula</u> (R)
4	Burlington Crevasse Filling (P)	T2N, R19E, Section 4	23	Private	<u>Besseyia bullii</u> (T)
5	Margis Wildlife Area (P, B)	T2N, R19E, Section 17	34	Racine County	<u>Gentiana procera</u> (R) Great egret (T) Hooded merganser (U) Great blue heron (U) Blanding's Turtle (T)
6	Ranger Mac Fen (P)	T2N, R19E, Section 17	28	University of Wisconsin-Parkside	<u>Solidago ohioensis</u> (R) <u>Gentiana procera</u> (R)
7	Karcher Sedge-Carr (P)	T2N, R19E, Sections 21, 22	235	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	<u>Cacalia tuberosa</u> (T)
8	River Meadow Woods (P)	T4N, R22E, Section 23	13	Private	<u>Trillium recurvatum</u> (R)
9	Forked Aster Site (P)	T4N, R22E, Section 23	18	Private	<u>Aster furcatus</u> (T)
10	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way (P)	T4N, R22E, Section 25	75	Private	<u>Solidago caesia</u> (E) <u>Ptelea trifoliata</u> (R) <u>Scutellaria ovata</u> (R)
11	Caledonia Site South (P)	T4N, R22E, Section 25	- ^c	Private	<u>Ptelea trifoliata</u> (R)
12	Root River Bluff (P)	T4N, R22E, Section 26	42	Private	<u>Ptelea trifoliata</u> (R)
13	Hoods Creek Swamp (P)	T4N, R22E, Section 26	20	Private	<u>Trillium recurvatum</u> (R)
14	Breakers Woods (P)	T4N, R23E, Section 16	5	Private	<u>Solidago caesia</u> (E)
15	Dominican Ravine (P)	T4N, R23E, Section 21	16	Private	<u>Solidago caesia</u> (E)
16	North Bay Ravine and Beach (P)	T4N, R23E, Section 33	4	Private	<u>Cakile edentula</u> (R)
17	Four Mile Road Woods (P)	T4N, R23E, Sections 19, 30	30	Private	<u>Trillium recurvatum</u> (R)
18	Caledonia Low Woods (P)	T4N, R23E, Section 30	29	Private	<u>Ptelea trifoliata</u> (R) <u>Trillium recurvatum</u> (R)
19	River Bend Upland Woods (P)	T4N, R23E, Section 31	13	Racine County	<u>Solidago caesia</u> (E)
20	Root River Strip Woods (P)	T4N, R23E, Section 31	10	Private	<u>Ptelea trifoliata</u> (R)
21	Cliffside Park Old Field (B)	T4N, R23E, Sections 7, 8	5	Racine County	Bobolink (R) Upland sandpiper (R) Grasshopper sparrow (R)
22	Erwin Wetlands (P)	T4N, R20E, Section 3	2	Private	<u>Solidago ohioensis</u> (R)
23	Patzke Fen (P)	T4N, R20E, Section 3	50	Private	<u>Solidago ohioensis</u> (R) Cooper's hawk (U) Wood thrush (U)
24	Krieser Fen (P)	T4N, R20E, Section 10	2	Private	<u>Solidago ohioensis</u> (R)
25	Landon Wetland (P)	T4N, R20E, Section 10	11	Private	<u>Solidago ohioensis</u> (R)
26	Wind Lake (B)	T4N, R20E	55	Private	Black tern (R) (colony)
27	Waubesa Lake (P)	T4N, R20E	14	Private	Black tern (R) (colony)
28	Case Eagle Park Dry Prairie ^d (P)	T3N, R19E, Section 10	16	Racine County	<u>Besseyia bullii</u> (T)

Table 7 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Site Name and Classification Code ^a	Location	Site Area (Acres)	Ownership	Species of Concern ^b
29	Case Eagle Park Woods ^d (B)	T3N, R19E, Section 11	58	Racine County	Acadian flycatcher (T) Cooper's hawk (U) Ovenbird (U) American woodcock (U) Blue-gray gnatcatcher (U) Wood thrush (U) Chestnut-sided warbler (U)
30	Sherwood Property (P)	T4N, R22E, Section 2	3	Private	<u>Carex lupuliformis</u> (E)
31	Waxdale Railroad Prairie (P)	T3N, R22E, Sections 15, 22	2	Private	<u>Parthenium integrifolium</u> (T) <u>Thalictrum revolutum</u> (R)
32	Maple Road Gravel Pit (P)	T4N, R19E, Section 28	106	Private	<u>Besseyia bullii</u> (T) <u>Penstemon hirsutus</u> (R)
33	Ives Grove Prairie Remnant (P)	T3N, R21E, Section 13	1	Private	<u>Parthenium integrifolium</u> (T)

^a"P" identifies a critical plant species habitat site; "B" identifies a critical bird species habitat site.

^b"R" refers to species designated as rare or special concern; "T" refers to species designated as threatened; "E" refers to species designated as endangered; "U" refers to species designated as uncommon.

^cThe Caledonia Site South Critical Species Habitat site is located entirely within the Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way Critical Species Habitat site.

^dCase Eagle Park Dry Prairie and Case Eagle Park Woods are listed as Ela Park Dry Prairie and Ela Park Woods respectively in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997.

Source: SEWRPC.

tially 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 such areas 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, 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

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.

Table 8

CRITICAL AQUATIC HABITAT AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY: 1994

Streams				
Number on Map 5	Stream	Size (stream miles)	Rank ^a	Description ^b and Comments
34	Kilbourn Road Ditch	2.0 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Sedimentation and other water quality problems exist, but this reach is an important reservoir for the pirate perch, a "special concern" fish species
35	Fox River downstream from IH 43 to Waterford Impoundment	1.8 miles ^c	AQ-1 (RSH)	Good water quality; important reservoir for critical fish, herptile, and mussel species
36	Fox River downstream from Waterford Impoundment to Echo Lake inflow	10.6 miles	AQ-2 (RSH)	Critical fish, herptile, and mussel species habitat
37	Fox River downstream from Echo Lake inflow to Spring Brook inflow	1.3 miles	AQ-2 (RSH)	Good population of the river redhorse, a threatened fish species
38	White River	1.0 miles	AQ-2 (RSH)	Critical fish species and a good assemblage of mussel species
40	Eagle Creek upstream from Fox River	1.1 miles	AQ-3	Bisects an identified Natural Area, Eagle Creek Woods
41	Fox River downstream from Spring Brook inflow to CTH JB	4.7 miles	AQ-3	Link between upstream and downstream critical Aquatic Areas
42	Honey Creek-lower reaches	2.7 miles ^c	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical fish species present
43	Muskego Canal	1.2 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical fish species present
44	Pike River downstream for Pike Creek (includes Sorenson Creek)	1.1 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Bisects identified Natural Area; critical fish species present
45	Husher Creek	1.9 miles	AQ-3	Bisects an identified Natural Area, Root River Riverine Forest
46	Root River downstream from County Line Road to Nicholson Road	3.5 miles ^c	AQ-3 (RSH)	Bisects identified Natural Areas
47	Root River downstream from Nicholson Road to STH 38	12.5 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical herptile species habitat
48	Root River downstream from STH 38 to Spring Street	3.0 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical herptile species habitat
49	Root River Canal	1.2 miles ^c	AQ-3	Bisects an identified Natural Area, Root River Canal Woods
--	Total (16 stream reaches)	50.2 miles	--	--
Lakes				
Number on Map 5	Lake	Size (acreage)	Rank ^a	Description ^b and Comments
50	Buena Lake	241 acres	AQ-2	Part of the Fox River Impoundment in Waterford; good fish population and diversity
51	Kee Nong Go Mong Lake (Long Lake) (Town of Norway, Racine County)	88 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	A drainage lake with critical fish species present; shoreline and adjoining wetlands important for waterfowl and other wildlife
52	Long Lake (Towns of Burlington and Rochester, Racine County)	102 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	A shallow drainage lake which is a component of the valuable environmental corridor in western Racine County; prime waterfowl habitat

Table 8 (continued)

Lakes				
Number on Map 5	Lake	Size (acreage)	Rank ^a	Description ^b and Comments
53	Tichigan Lake	892 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	Part of the Fox River Impoundment in Waterford; critical fish and herptile species present; adjacent identified Natural Areas; high-value waterfowl habitat
54	Waubeesee Lake	129 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	A deep drainage lake with critical fish species present; adjacent wetlands good for wildlife
55	Wind Lake	936 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	A drainage lake with critical fish and herptile species present
56	Bohner Lake	135 acres	AQ-3	A drainage lake with good water quality
57	Brock Lake	11 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	A drainage lake with an undeveloped shoreline; is a component of a high-quality environmental corridor in western Racine County
58	Browns Lake	396 acres	AQ-3	A drained lake; headwaters of a tributary to the Fox River
59	Lake Denoon	8 acres ^c	AQ-3 (RSH)	A deep seepage lake with critical fish species present; marsh west of lake is of value to wildlife
60	Eagle Lake	520 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	A shallow drainage lake with adjacent marshlands important for waterfowl and herptile species habitat and fishspawning habitat
61	Leda Lake	13 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	A drained lake with an undeveloped shoreline; component of high-quality environmental corridor in western Racine County
Total (12 Lakes)		3,471 acres	--	--

^aAQ-1 identifies Aquatic Area sites of statewide or greater significance.

AQ-2 identifies Aquatic Area sites of countywide or regional significance.

AQ-3 identifies Aquatic Area sites of local significance.

RSH, or Rare Species Habitat, identifies those aquatic areas which support rare, endangered, threatened, or "special concern" species officially designated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

^b"Drainage lakes" are lakes that have both an inlet and an outlet and whose main water source is stream drainage. "Seepage lakes" are lakes which have no inlet or outlet and whose main source of water is direct precipitation and runoff supplemented by groundwater.

"Drained lakes" are lakes which have no inlet but do have an outlet and which are not groundwater-fed; their primary source of water is from precipitation and runoff from the immediate drainage area.

^cLake or stream is located partially within Racine county. Number refers to acreage or stream miles located within the County.

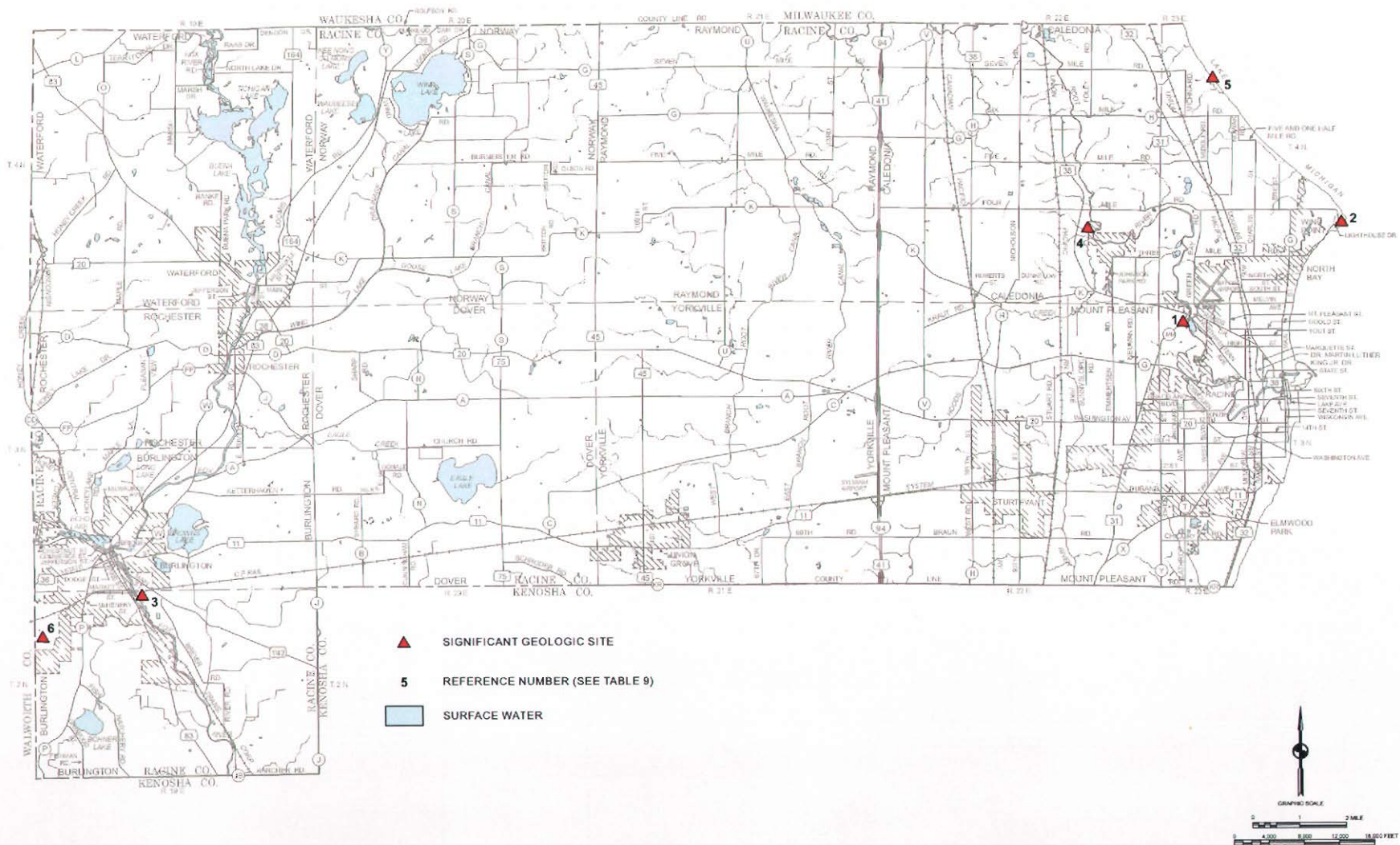
Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

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 1990 are shown on Map 7. At that time, such areas encompassed about 60 square miles, or about 18 percent of the County.

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 Region. Excluding urban development from environmental corridors helps to

Map 6

SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGIC SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 1994



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 9

SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGIC SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 1994

Number on Map 6	Site Name	Classification Code ^a	Site Area (acres)	Location	Ownership	Description
1	Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries	GA-1	30	T3N, R23E Section 6 Town 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 Town 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 Town of Caledonia	Racine County	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.

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 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 7, the primary environmental corridors in Racine County are located along the major rivers and their tributaries, around the major lakes in the County, in large wetland areas, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. In 1990, about 37.5 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 7, secondary environmental corridors in Racine County are located chiefly along the small perennial and intermittent streams within the County. A total of about 11 square miles, comprising about 3 percent of the County, were encompassed within secondary environmental corridors in 1990. 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 drainageways, stormwater detention or retention areas, or as local parks or recreation trails, in developing areas.

As also shown on Map 7, isolated natural resource areas within Racine County include a geographically well-distributed variety of isolated wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitat; in 1990, these areas encompassed about 11.7 square miles, or about 3 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.

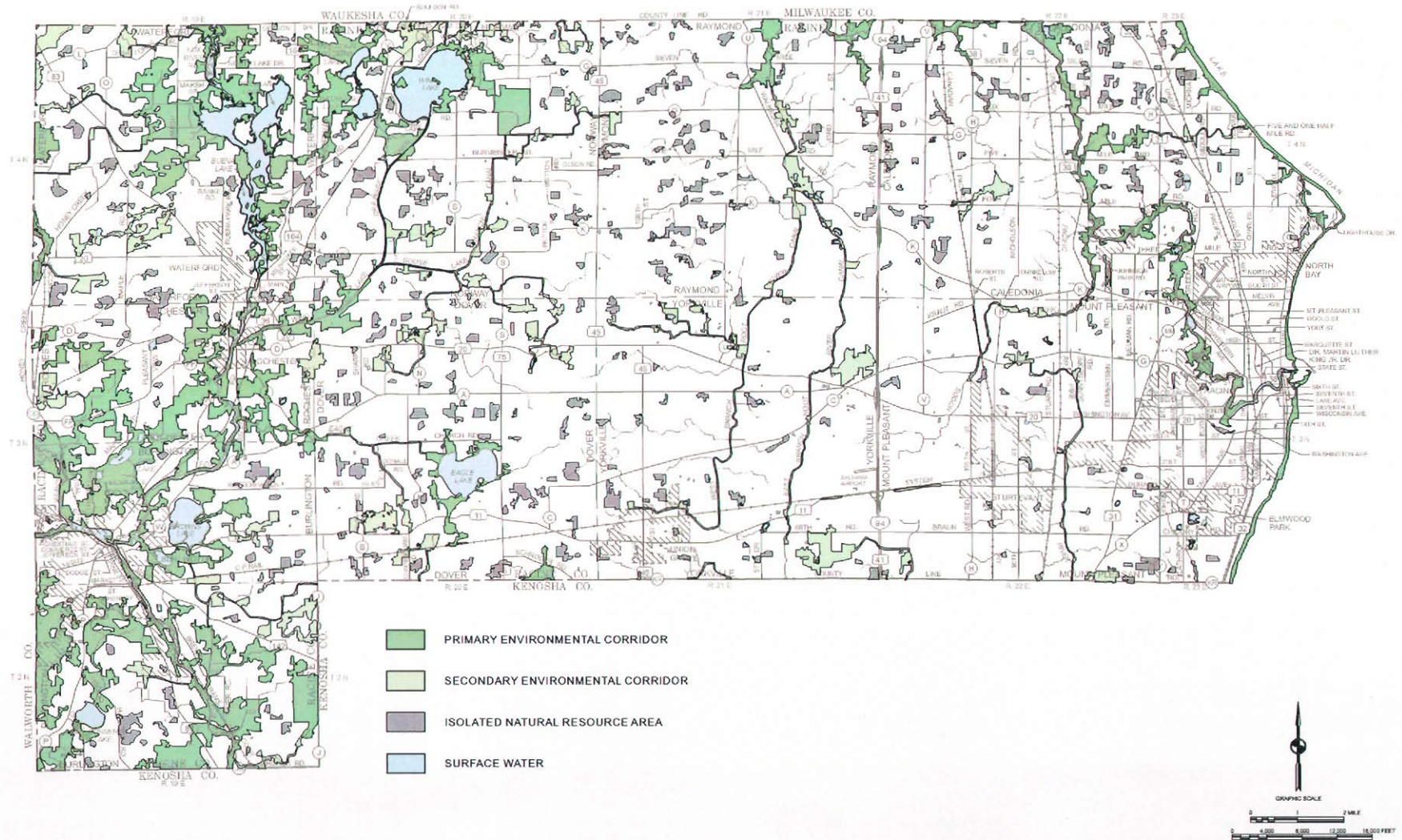
Prime Agricultural Land

In 1995, approximately 204 square miles, or 60 percent of Racine County, were in agricultural use. For planning purposes, it is useful to distinguish between prime agricultural lands and other farming areas. Prime agricultural lands are those lands, which are best suited for the production of food and fiber. Such lands were identified under the Racine County farmland preservation plan, adopted by the Racine County Board in 1982,³ under that plan prime agricultural land was defined as consisting of farm units meeting the following criteria: 1) individual farm unit must be at least 35 acres in size; 2) at least one-half of the individual farm unit must be covered by soils meeting U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service criteria for prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance; 3) the individual farm units must occur in farming area of at least 100 acres in size. In 1995, these areas encompassed about 150 square miles, or about 74 percent of all agricultural land, and about 44 percent of the County. Map 8 shows those lands which were identified as prime agricultural land under the Racine County farmland preservation plan, and which still met the criteria and remained in agricultural use in 1995.

³SEWRPC Planning Report No. 46, A Farmland Preservation Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, 1981.

Map 7

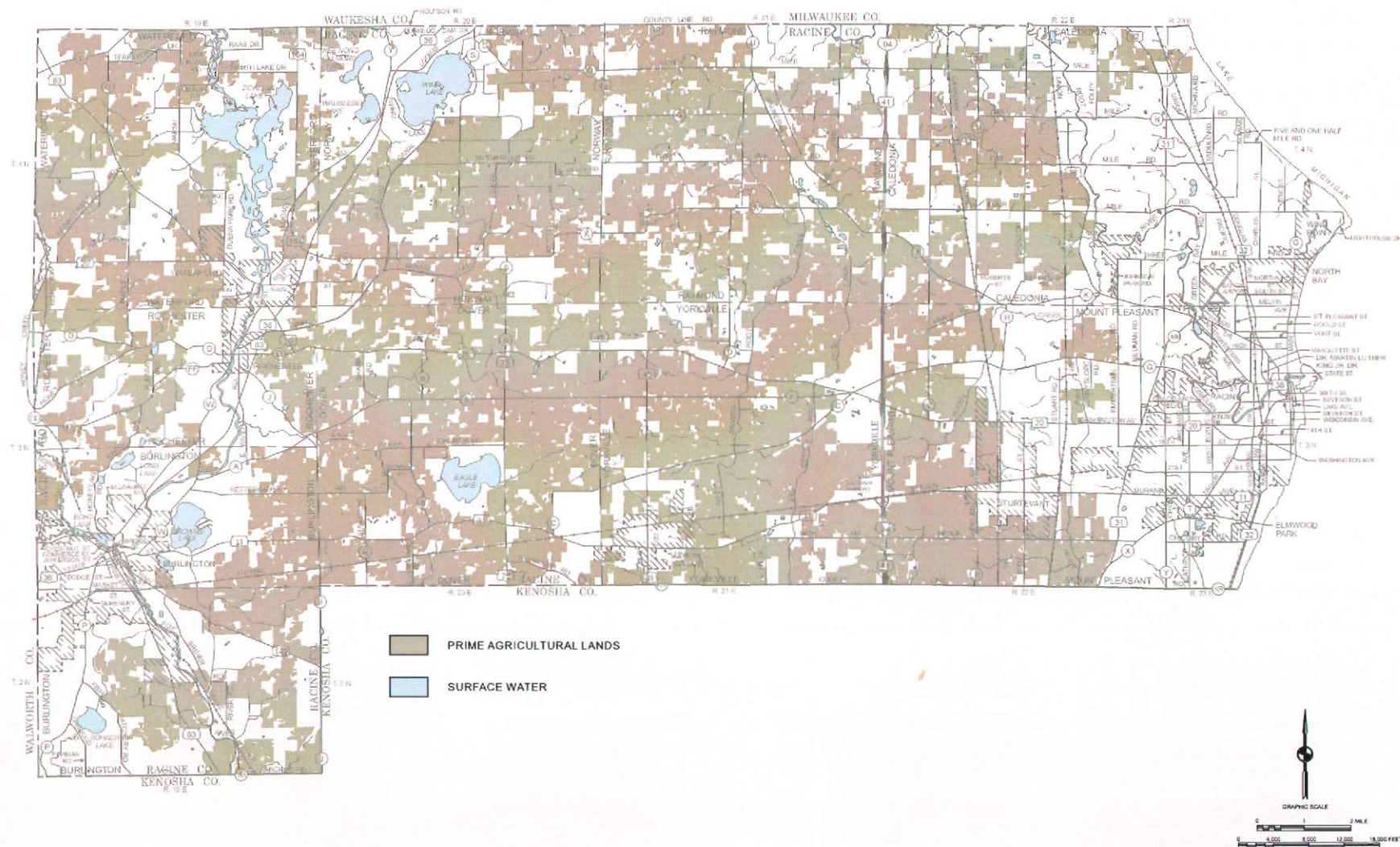
ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS IN RACINE COUNTY: 1990



Source: SEWRPC.

Map 8

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN RACINE COUNTY: 1995



Source: SEWRPC.

A number of important public purposes are served through the preservation of prime agricultural lands. These include the maintenance of agricultural reserves, the maintenance of open space, the control of public costs for providing urban services, the preservation of the local economic base, and the preservation of a rural lifestyle.

SUMMARY

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

1. The population of Racine County in 1990, the year of the most recent U.S. Census, was about 175,000, an increase of 2 percent over 1970. During this same period, households increased by about 13,900, or about 28 percent. With the number of households increasing at a faster rate than the population, the number of persons per household has decreased. The 2000 Racine County population, based on estimates by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, was 189,473 persons. This represents an increase of 14,439 persons, or about 8 percent over 1990.
2. An inventory of land use in 1995 indicated 67.3 square miles, or about 20 percent of the County was developed with urban uses, while the remaining 273.3 square miles, or about 80 percent of the County, was devoted to non-urban uses.
3. There are 101 miles of major streams and 10 major lakes within the County. The eastern

boundary of the County is bordered by Lake Michigan. There are approximately 17.2 square miles of land, or about 5 percent of the County, not including surface water in lakes and streams, located within the 100-year recurrence interval flood hazard area of the major streams.

4. The County encompasses a number of significant natural resource base features including wetland areas which in 1995, occupied about 24.7 square miles, or about 7 percent of the County; and woodlands which occupied about 20.6 square miles, or about 6 percent of the County. The County also contained 59 sites identified as natural areas—areas which contain native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European settlement landscape; and 61 critical species habitat sites—other 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 planning area 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 1990, primary environmental corridors in the County encompassed about 37.5 square miles, or about 11 percent of the County.

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 and updated in 1985 for use in preparing the year 2000 County park and open space plan. The inventory of park and open space sites in the County was updated again in 2000 for use in preparing this new County park and open space plan. The findings of the 2000 inventory are presented in this chapter.

The 2000 inventory identifies all park and open space sites owned by a public agency, including State, County, or local units of government and school districts. The inventory also includes 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 of regional significance. 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 such activities. The inventory also identified such other resources of recreational significance 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 2000 are shown on Map 9 and listed on Table 10. In 2000, Racine County owned 31 such sites, including eight major parks² encompassing 1,342 acres; 21 other park and outdoor recreation sites encompassing 608 acres; and two parkways, encompassing 665 acres. In all, these 31 sites encompass 2,615 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County.

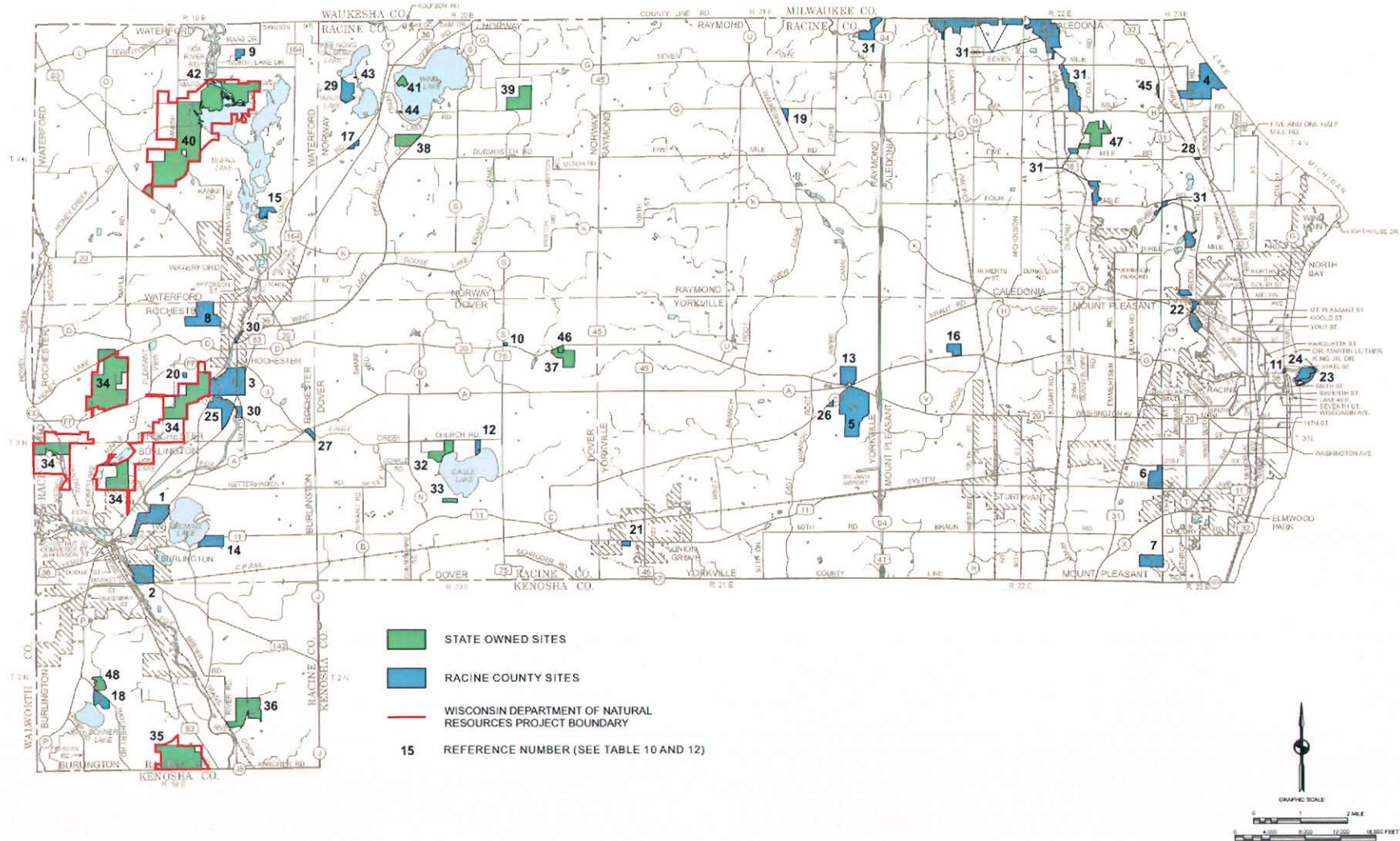
The eight existing major County parks are: Browns Lake Golf Course and Bushnell Park, both in the Town of Burlington; Case Eagle Park and W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp, both in the Town of Rochester; Cliffside Park in the Town of Caledonia; Ives Grove Golf Links in the Town of Yorkville;

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.

²Major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for such resource-oriented activities as camping, golfing, picnicking, and swimming. Major parks include both Type I, or regional parks, which are those having an area of 250 acres or more, and Type II, or multi-community parks, which are those having an area of generally 100 to 250 acres.

Map 9

RACINE COUNTY AND STATE OF WISCONSIN PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES: 2000



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 10

PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES OWNED BY RACINE COUNTY: 2000

Number on Map 9	Site Name	Location ^a	Size (acres)
Major Parks			
1	Browns Lake Golf Course	T3N, R19E, Section 28	144
2	Bushnell Park	T3N, R19E, Section 33	95
3	Case Eagle Park	T3N, R19E, Section 11	239
4	Cliffside Park	T4N, R23E, Section 7, 8	233
5	Ives Grove Golf Links	T3N, R21E, Section 13	291
6	Pritchard Park	T3N, R22E, Section 24	79
7	Sanders Park	T3N, R22E, Section 36	85
8	W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp	T3N, R19E, Section 3	176
Subtotal - 8 Sites			1,342
Other Parks and Outdoor Recreation Sites			
9	American Eagle Manor Outlot	T4N, R19E, Section 2	17
10	Beaumont Park	T3N, R20E, Section 2	1
11	Belle Harbor Marina	T3N, R23E, Section 9	5
12	Eagle Lake Park	T3N, R20E, Section 22	25
13	Evans Park	T3N, R21E, Section 12	66
14	Fischer Memorial Park	T3N, R19E, Section 34	70
15	Fowler's Bay Outlot 1	T4N, R19E, Section 25, 26	44
16	Haban Park	T3N, R22E, Section 8	37
17	Heg Park	T4N, R20E, Section 18	19
18	John Margis, Jr. Wildlife Area	T2N, R19E, Section 17	45
19	Koerber Property	T4N, R21E, Section 15	11
20	Keucker Property	T3N, R19E, Section 10	7
21	Old Settler's Park	T3N, R21E, Section 31	13
22	Quarry Lake Park	T3N, R23E, Section 6	40
23	Racine Harbor Park	T3N, R23E, Section 9	17
24	Reef Point Marina	T3N, R23E, Section 9	40
25	Saller Woods	T3N, R19E, Section 14, 15	91
26	Skewes Memorial Park	T3N, R21E, Section 14	4
27	Stenhouse Memorial Park	T3N, R19E, Section 13	12
28	Tabor Sokol Memorial Park	T4N, R23E, Section 19	1
29	Whispering Hills Outlot	T4N, R20E, Section 7	43
Subtotal - 21 Sites			608
Parkways			
30	Fox River Parkway	T3N, R19E, Section 2, 14	14
31	Root River Parkway	T3N, R23E, Section 6	651
Subtotal - 2 Sites			665
--	Total - 31 Sites	--	2,615

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

Source: Racine County Public Works Division and SEWRPC.

Sanders Park in the Town of Mount Pleasant; and Pritchard Park in the City of Racine.

These major County parks are well distributed throughout the County and provide a variety of outdoor recreation facilities. Selected outdoor recreation facilities within the eight major parks owned by Racine County in 2000 are listed in

Table 11. As shown in Table 11, three parks provide camping, two have regulation golf courses, four have designated picnic areas, six contain recreational trails, and five provide various play-field facilities.

In addition to the eight major parks, 21 other park and open space sites were owned by Racine County in

Table 11

SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN RACINE COUNTY PARKS: 2000

Number on Map 9	Site Name	Size (acres)	Playfield	Golf Course	Picnic Area	Swimming Beach	Trails	Boat Launch	Campsites (number)
	Major Parks								
1	Browns Lake Golf Course	144	--	X	--	--	--	--	--
2	Bushnell Park	95	X	--	X	--	X	--	--
3	Case Eagle Park	239	X	--	--	--	X	--	--
4	Cliffside Park	233	X	--	X	--	X	--	95
5	Ives Grove Golf Links	291	--	X	--	--	--	--	--
6	Pritchard Park	79	X	--	X	--	X	--	--
7	Sanders Park	85	X	--	X	--	X	--	25
8	W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp	176	--	--	--	--	X	--	9
	Subtotal - 8 Sites	1,342	5	2	4	0	6	0	129^a
	Other Parks and Outdoor Recreation Sites								
9	American Eagle Manor Outlot	17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
10	Beaumont Park	1	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
11	Belle Harbor Marina	5	--	--	--	--	--	X	--
12	Eagle Lake Park	25	X	--	X	--	--	X	--
13	Evans Park	66	--	--	X	--	X	--	--
14	Fischer Memorial Park	70	X	--	X	X	--	X	--
15	Fowler's Bay Outlot 1	44	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16	Haban Park	37	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
17	Heg Park	19	X	--	X	--	--	--	--
18	John Margis, Jr. Wildlife Area	45	--	--	X	--	X	--	--
19	Koerber Property	11	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
20	Kuecker Property	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
21	Old Settler's Park	13	X	--	X	--	--	--	--
22	Quarry Lake Park	40	--	--	X	X	--	--	--
23	Racine Harbor Park	17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
24	Reef Point Marina	40	--	--	--	--	--	X	--
25	Saller Woods	91	--	--	--	--	X	--	--
26	Skewes Memorial Park	4	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
27	Stenhouse Memorial Park	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
28	Tabor Sokol Memorial Park	1	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
29	Whispering Hills Outlot	43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Subtotal - 21 Sites	608	6	0	10	2	3	4	--
	Parkways								
30	Fox River Parkway	14	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
31	Root River Parkway	651	--	--	X	--	--	X ^b	--
	Subtotal - 2 Sites	665	0	0	1	0	0	1	--
--	Total - 31 Sites	2,615	11	2	15	2	9	5	129

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

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

Source: Racine County Public Works Division and SEWRPC.

2000. These sites which are listed in Table 10 and 11, provide outdoor recreational facilities which include playfields, picnic areas, swimming beaches, hiking trails and boat launches.

Racine County also owns parkway lands along the Fox and Root Rivers. The Fox River Parkway is composed of two parcels which together encompass 14 acres, including 12 acres located within the

primary environmental corridor. The portion of the Root River Parkway within Racine County is comprised of 11 parcels, which total 651 acres, including 610 acres within the primary environmental corridor. A boat launch is provided at one of the Root River Parkway sites.

Park and Open Space Sites

Owned by the State of Wisconsin

As indicated in Table 12 and shown on Map 9, in 2000 there were 17 State-owned park and open space sites in Racine County, encompassing 3,310 acres, or about 2 percent of the total area of the County. Of these 17 sites, 13 sites encompassing 3,163 acres were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; two sites encompassing 12 acres were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; and two sites, encompassing 135 acres, were owned by the University of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 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 Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Tichigan Wildlife Area, Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area, Eagle Lake Fisheries Areas, Wind Lake Fisheries Area, and four other wetland areas. Boat launching facilities are available at Tichigan Wildlife Area, Waubeesee Lake, and Wind Lake. Public hunting grounds are provided at Honey Creek Wildlife Area and Tichigan Wildlife Area.

Map 9 also reflects project boundaries approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board for State forests, parks, and wildlife areas within the County. Lands within the approved project boundaries have been identified by the Board as appropriate additions to adjacent forests, natural areas, or wildlife areas and are intended to be acquired by the Department of Natural Resources for recreational or open space purposes as funding permits on a "willing seller-willing buyer" basis.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation owned one wetland mitigation site and one wayside within the County in 2000. The mitigation site, located adjacent to a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wetland site on the south side of STH 20 in the Town of Dover, is being restored and enhanced as

a wetland. It is anticipated that the site will be retained in public ownership for natural resource preservation purposes. The 32nd Division Memorial marker and wayside is located along STH 32, in the northeastern portion of the County.

University of Wisconsin

In 2000, there were two open space sites in Racine County affiliated with the University of Wisconsin. These sites include the 107-acre Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods, a natural area of statewide or greater significance, and the 28-acre Ranger Mac Fen, a critical species habitat site. Both sites are identified in the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan.³

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

In addition to the County- and State-owned park and open space sites in Racine County, in 2000 there was a total of 214 sites owned by local units of government or public school districts. Those sites are listed on Table A-1 and shown on Map A-1 in Appendix A, and encompass 2,774 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County. Local governments own 165 park and open space sites, while public school districts own 49 sites. The acreage attributed to school district sites includes only those portions of the site used for recreational or open space purposes.

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

The 2000 inventory of park and open space sites also identified a total of 44 privately owned, resource-oriented recreation sites and seven sites owned by private organizations for natural resource protection purposes. Those 51 sites are listed on Table A-2 and shown on Map A-2 in Appendix A, and encompass 2,065 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County.

The 44 privately owned recreation sites encompass 1,783 acres and include one fair ground, seven hunting clubs, six golf courses, 11 boat access sites, eight marinas, one riding stable, two group camps, two campgrounds, one ski hill, and five swimming beaches. The seven sites owned for resource pro-

³*SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997.*

Table 12

STATE OF WISCONSIN RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE LANDS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2000

Number on Map 9	Site Name	Location ^a	Size (acres)
	Department of Natural Resources Open Space Sites		
32	Eagle Lake Fishery Area (North).....	T3N, R20E, Section 21	80
33	Eagle Lake Fishery Area (South)	T3N, R20E, Section 28	18
34	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E, Sections 8, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20	1,091
35	Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area	T2N, R19E, Sections 21, 22	283
36	Scattered Wetland	T2N, R19E, Sections 14, 23	177
37	Scattered Wetland	T3N, R20E, Section 12	81
38	Scattered Wetland	T4N, R20E, Sections 16, 17	72
39	State Wetland	T4N, R20E, Section 11	120
40	Tichigan Wildlife Area	T4N, R19E, Sections 10, 11, 15, 16, 21, 22	1,221
41	Wind Lake Fishery Area	T4N, R20E, Section 8	18
	Subtotal - 10 Sites	--	3,161
	Department of Natural Resources Boat Access Sites		
42	Public Access-Tichigan Lake (located within Tichigan Wildlife Area)	T4N, R19E, Section 10	--
43	Public Access-Waubessee Lake.....	T4N, R20E, Section 7	1
44	Public Access-Wind Lake	T4N, R20E, Section 17	1
	Subtotal - 3 Sites	--	2
	Department of Transportation Sites		
45	32nd Division Memorial Marker and Wayside.....	T4N, R22E, Section 12	2
46	WIS DOT Mitigation Site.....	T3N, R20E, Section 12	10
	Subtotal - 2 Sites	--	12
	University of Wisconsin Sites		
47	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods	T4N, R22E, Section 14	107
48	Ranger Mac Fen	T2N, R19E, Section 17	28
	Subtotal - 2 Sites	--	135
--	Total-17 - Sites	--	3,310

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

Source: SEWRPC.

tection purposes encompass 282 acres and include the Aboagye Acquisition, Armstrong Park, Hidden Valley, New Marshall right-of-way, River Bend Nature Center, Samuel C. Johnson Trust (Wingspread), and Trout Ponds Prairie.

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 nonpublic, provide opportunities for persons who do not own land on a body of water to participate in water-related recrea-

tional 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 motorboat access, consistent with safe and enjoyable participation in water-related activities. There are 10 major lakes in the County: Bohner Lake, Browns Lake, Buena Lake, Eagle Lake, Echo Lake, Kee Nong Go Mong Lake, Long Lake, Tichigan Lake, Waubessee Lake, and Wind Lake.

Publicly owned access sites for motorboating purposes in Racine County is provided at the following lakes and rivers: Bohner Lake, Browns Lake, Eagle Lake, Fox River, Root River, Tichigan Lake, Waubessee Lake and Wind Lake. Privately owned access sites for motorboating are also provided at Browns Lake, Fox River, Tichigan Lake,

and Wind Lake. Additionally, there were two publicly owned and one privately owned access sites to Lake Michigan. There were also numerous sites which provide access to the Root River, Fox River, 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. 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 year 2000 park and open space plan for Racine County recommended the development of trails along the Root River, Fox River, and Lake Michigan by Racine County, and associated with the Bong Recreation Area and the Honey Creek Wildlife Area by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The regional bicycle and pedestrian plan⁴ adopted by the Commission in 1995 recommends a network of on- and off-street bicycle ways within the County. The plan refines and updates the proposed Racine County bicycle trails included in the year 2000 County park plan. Map 10 depicts the bicycle ways recommended in Racine County by the year 2010 regional bicycle and pedestrian plan.

For purposes of this report, the term “trails” refers to off-street paths and the term “bicycle way” refers to facilities for bicycle travel associated with street rights-of-way, including signed bicycle routes, striped and signed bicycle lanes, and separate bicycle paths within a highway right-of-way. Bicycle paths generally accommodate both foot and bicycle travel,

while on-street bicycle routes and lanes generally accommodate bicycle travel only.

As shown on Map 10, existing bicycle ways associated with natural resource and utility corridors include: the Burlington Trail portion of the Fox River Trail, which extends approximately four miles in the Towns of Burlington and Rochester; the Waterford-Wind Lake Trail, covering approximately eight miles in the Towns of Norway, Rochester, Waterford and in the Villages of Rochester and Waterford; and two portions of the Lake Michigan MRK Trail,⁵ the north segment, which includes approximately four miles in the Town of Caledonia, and one and a half miles in the City of Racine, and the North Shore Trail, which includes two miles within the City of Racine, and one mile within the Town of Mount Pleasant. Existing bicycle ways associated with street or highway rights-of-way are also shown on Map 10.

It is also important to note that bicycle use can and does legally occur on many public roadways in the Region 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.

HISTORIC SITES

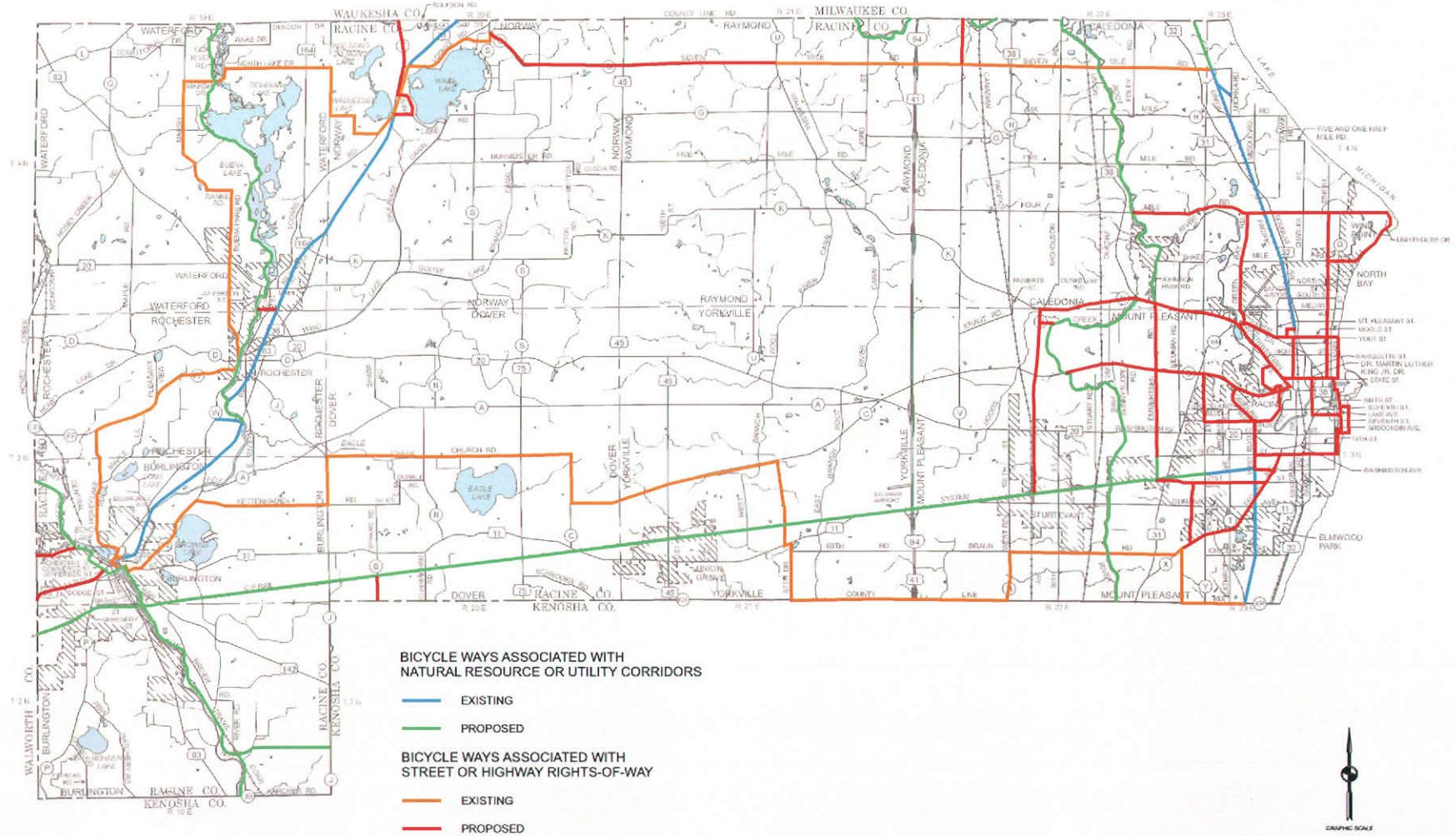
Historic sites in Racine County often have important recreational, educational, and cultural value. A number of inventories and surveys of potentially significant historic sites have been conducted by various units and agencies of government in Racine County since the completion of the regional park and open space plan in 1977. The results of these inventories and surveys, on file at such agencies as the Wisconsin State Historical Society, indicate that there are more than 1,000 historic sites in Racine County.

Certain sites of known historic significance are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2000,

⁴*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No.43, A Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin—2010, January 1995.*

⁵*The MRK (Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha) Trail is located within the former right-of-way of The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company.*

ADOPTED YEAR 2010 BICYCLE WAY SYSTEM PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AS IT RELATES TO RACINE COUNTY



Source: SEWRPC.

there were 38 individual sites and six historic districts⁶ 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 2000 are presented on Table 13 and on Map 11, respectively.

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 components of the chapter are as follows:

1. In 2000, Racine County owned 31 park and open space sites, which collectively encompassed 2,615 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County.

⁶A 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.

2. The State of Wisconsin owned 16 park and open space sites, encompassing 3,310 acres in Racine County in 2000. Of these 16 sites, 13 sites encompassing 3,163 acres were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; two sites encompassing 12 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; and two sites, encompassing 135 acres, were owned by the University of Wisconsin.
3. Local units of government or public school districts owned 214 park and open space sites, encompassing a total of 2,774 acres in Racine County in 2000.
4. In 2000, a total of 51 privately owned recreation and natural resource protection sites covering 2,065 acres were located in Racine County.
5. Boating access was available on seven major inland lakes, Lake Michigan, and the Fox and Root Rivers.
6. There were approximately 20.5 miles of existing bicycle trails associated with natural resource or utility corridors in Racine County.
7. In 2000, 38 individual sites and six historic districts in Racine County were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Table 13

HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: 2000

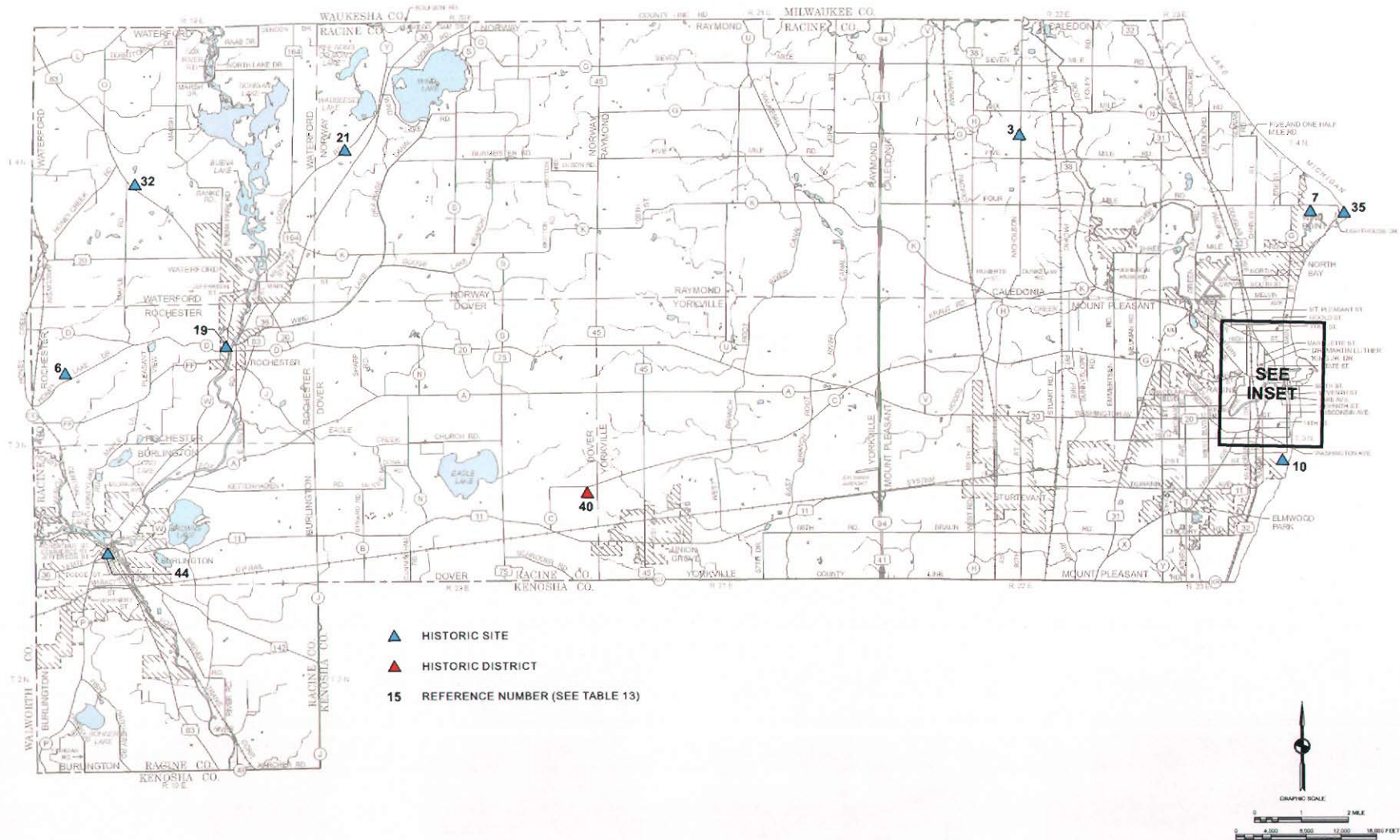
Number on Map 11	Site Name	Location ^a	Civil Division	Year Listed
1	First Presbyterian Church	T03N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1973
2	Eli R. Cooley House	T03N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1973
3	John Collins House	T04N, R22E, Section 15	Town of Caledonia	1974
4	Thomas P. Hardy House	T03N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1974
5	S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. Adm. Bldg. and Research Tower	T03N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1974
6	Franklyn Hazelo House	T03N, R19E, Section 07	Town of Rochester	1974
7	Herbert F. Johnson House (Wingspread)	T04N, R23E, Section 27	Village of Wind Point	1975
8	Racine Harbor Lighthouse and Life Saving Station	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1975
9	Chauncey Hall House	T03N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1976
10	Racine College	T03N, R23E, Section 21	City of Racine	1976
11	McClurg Building	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1977
12	Southside Historic District	T03N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1977
13	Shoop Building	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1978
14	Hansen House	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1979
15	George Murray House	T03N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	1979
16	No. 4 Engine House	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1979
17	St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1979
18	St. Luke's Episcopal Church/Chapel/Guildhall & Rectory	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1979
19	Whitman-Belden House	T03N, R19E, Section 02	Village of Rochester	1980
20	Memorial Hall	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1980
21	Norwegian Buildings at Heg Park	T04N, R20E, Section 18	Town of Norway	1980
22	Racine County Courthouse	T03N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1980
23	Chauncey Hall Building	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1980
24	Racine Depot (Chicago & Northwestern)	T03N, R23E, Section 08	City of Racine	1980
25	Kaiser's	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1980
26	Badger Building	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1980
27	Racine Public Library	T03N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1981
28	Karel Jonas House	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1982
29	Rickman Grocery Building	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1982
30	Uptown (Majestic Theater)	T03N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	1982
31	YMCA Building	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1982
32	Beardsley-Elam Farmhouse	T04N, R19E, Section 21	Town of Waterford	1982
33	United Laymen Bible Student Tabernacle	T03N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1983
34	Racine Elks Club	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1984
35	Wind Point Light Station	T04N, R23E, Section 27	Village of Wind Point	1984
36	Racine Post Office	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1985
37	Peter Johnson House	T03N, R23E, Section 08	City of Racine	1986
38	Old Main Street Historic District	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1987
39	Historic 6th Street Business District	T03N, R23E, Section 09	City of Racine	1988
40	Southern Wisconsin Home Historic District	T03N, R20E, Section 25	Town of Dover	1991
41	Northside Historic Dist. of Cream Brick Workers' Cottages	T03N, R23E, Section 04	City of Racine	1994
42	Lincoln School	T03N, R23E, Section 08	City of Racine	1994
43	Wilmanor Apartment	T03N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	1994
44	Burlington Downtown Historic District	T03N, R19E, Section 32	City of Burlington	2000

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

Source: The State Historical Society and SEWRPC.

Map 11

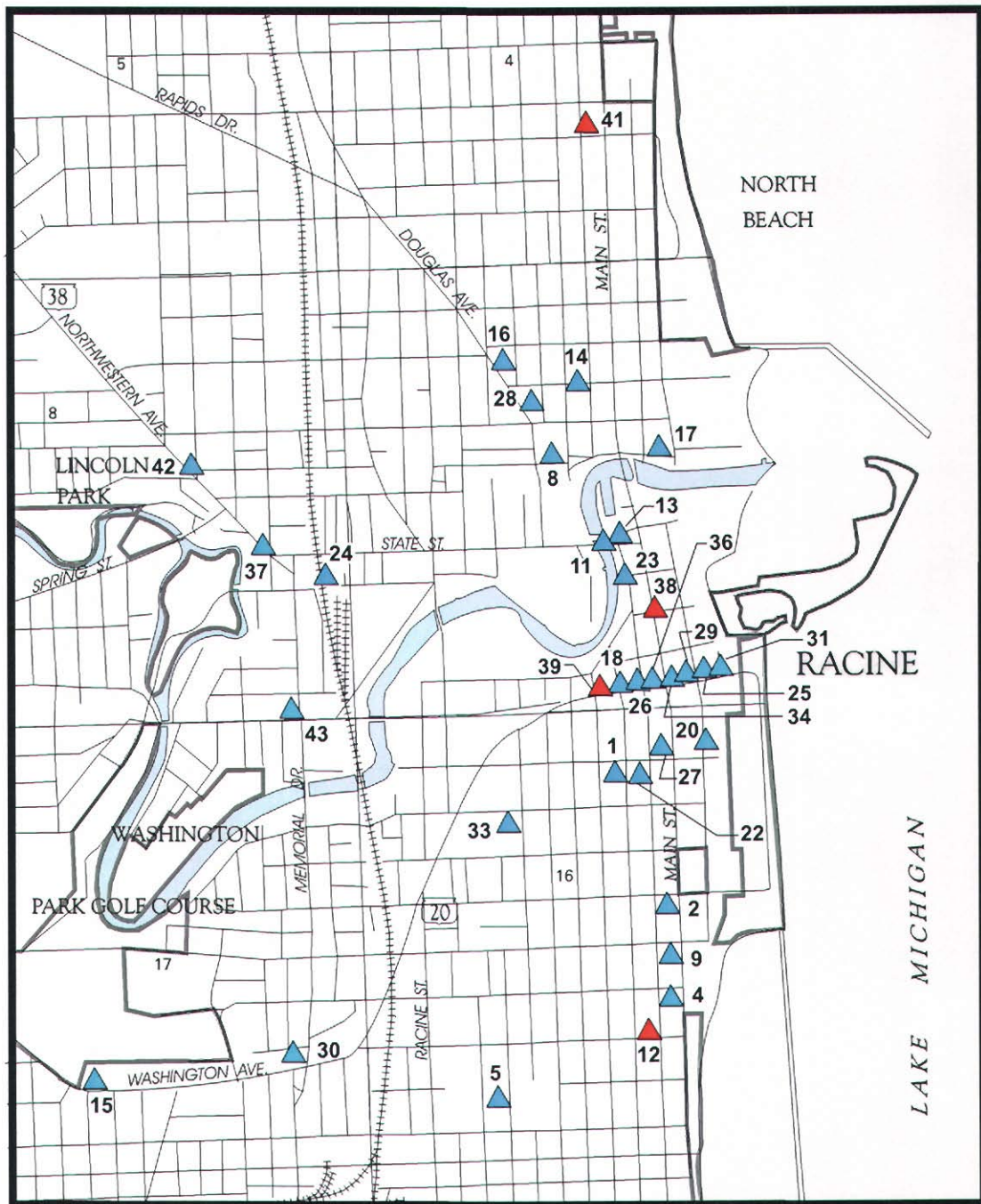
HISTORIC SITES IN RACINE COUNTY ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: 2000



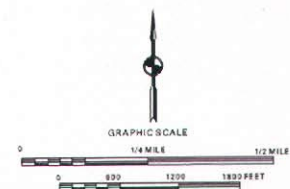
Source: State Historical Society of Wisconsin and SEWRPC.

Inset to Map 11

HISTORIC SITES IN RACINE COUNTY ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: 2000



- ▲ HISTORIC SITE
- ▲ HISTORIC DISTRICT
- 15 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 13)



Source: State Historical Society of Wisconsin and SEWRPC.

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 planning 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 2020 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 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 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 Racine County park and open space plan. Those objectives, principles, and standards have been reaffirmed in this year 2020 Racine County park and open space plan, with certain modifications. These modifications include: the incorporation of the guidelines set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the *Wisconsin Administration Code* relating to the standards for boating access; and the addition of a principle and standard for the preservation of natural areas and critical species habitat sites. 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 nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

3. 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.
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 on 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 B. Each set of standards serves to facilitate the quantitative application of the objective in 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 to primarily local units of government. The protection of important natural resource features, including primary environmental corridors and natural areas, is considered the responsibility of all levels of government.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Existing and Forecast

Population Size and Distribution

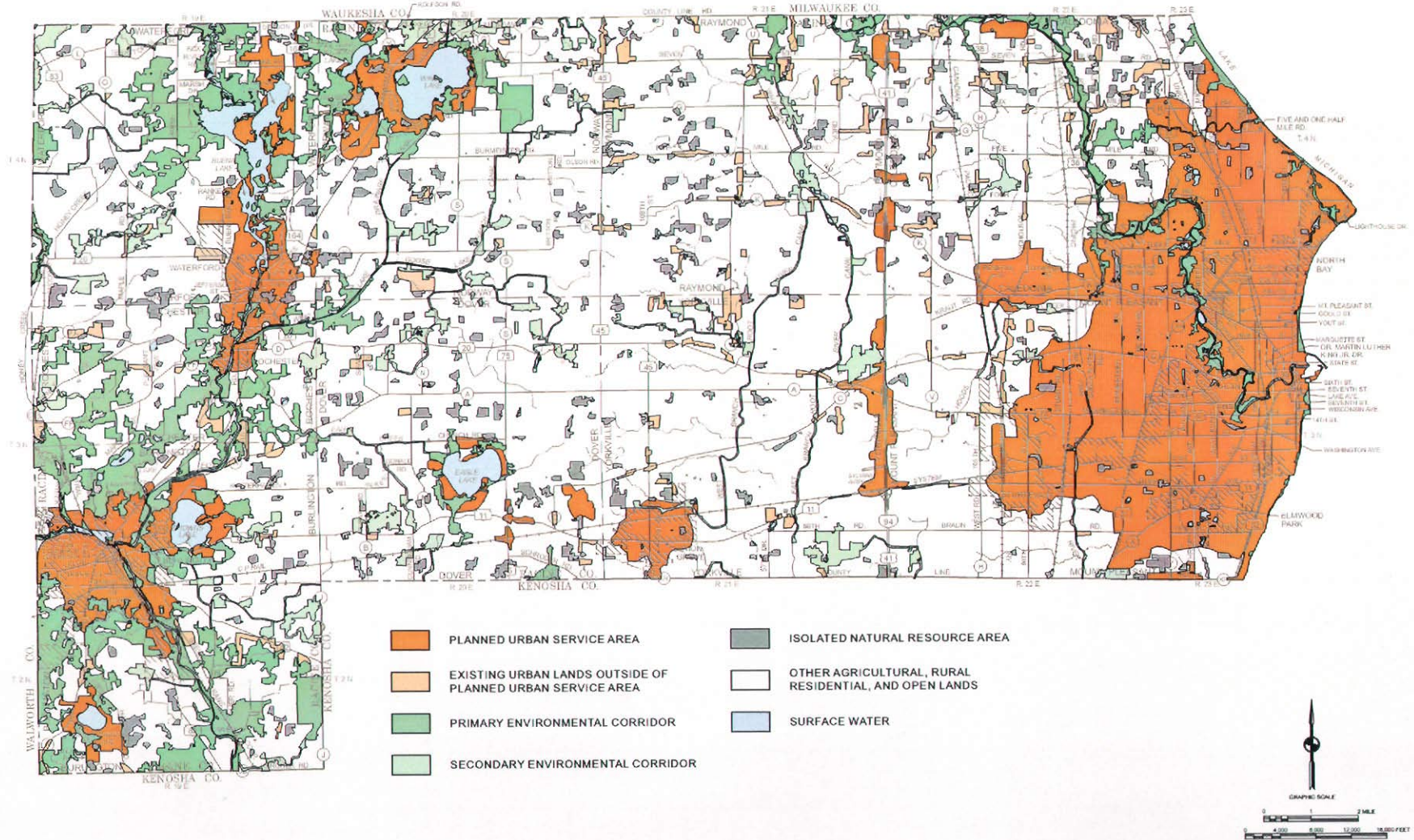
The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the County is determined by applying the standards set forth in Appendix B for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks and outdoor recreation facilities to the existing and anticipated future resident population levels and 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.

As noted in Chapter II of this report, the 2000 County population, based on estimates by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, was 189,500 persons. The number of County residents anticipated by the year 2020 based upon forecasts developed by the Regional Planning Commission for the 2020 regional land use plan would range from 195,600 persons under the adopted regional plan to as high as 248,200 under the high-growth alternative.

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 regional 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 ten miles of residents of smaller urban areas and rural areas. The planned urban service areas delineated in the adopted year 2020 regional land use plan served as the basis for the identification of all planned urban areas within the County. The year 2020 regional land use plan, as it applies to Racine County, is shown on Map 12. Planned urban service areas, which are shown in orange on Map 12, are associated with the City of Burlington; the City of Racine and adjacent urban areas in the Towns of

Map 12

REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN AS IT PERTAINS TO RACINE COUNTY: 2020



Source: SEWRPC.

Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant; and the Villages of Elmwood Park, North Bay, Rochester, Sturtevant, Union Grove, Waterford, and Wind Point. There are also several scattered unincorporated communities included as planned urban service areas, the largest of which is Wind Lake, in the Town of Norway.

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.

For purposes of analyzing future park facility needs, the intermediate-growth scenario population level of 195,600 persons, envisioned in the adopted year 2020 regional plan population, was considered. Should population growth in the County occur at a faster rate, the additional recreational facility requirements could be met incrementally, provided that adequate sites with requisite natural resource features have been reserved. For purposes of analyzing future park site needs, the population level anticipated under a high-growth scenario—248,200 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 2020, as well as the need to serve the County population beyond the year 2020.

The accessibility—or service radius—standards are intended to insure 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 B. As indicated in Chapter III, 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 2000 and anticipated year 2020 County population levels under the adopted regional plan indicates that the County currently has an adequate amount of major park land to serve the existing and anticipated 2020 resident population. This calculation is based on the acreage of the following major parks: 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, all owned by Racine County; and Johnson Park, owned by the City of Racine. Johnson Park, while not a County park, is included because it meets the definition of a major park as described above, and serves a significant portion of Racine County. Application of the per capita standards for major park sites to the year 2020 County population level under the high-growth plan indicates that there is a need for approximately 270 acres of additional park land in major park sites.

Application of the service area standards indicates that all residents of rural areas in the 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 2000 and anticipated year 2020 County population levels,¹ 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

¹*In the balance of this chapter, the determination of per capita facility needs is based upon the application of the per capita standards to the 195,600 persons anticipated under the adopted regional land use plan.*

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 is available at W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp. 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 there is an adequate number of publicly and privately owned campsites to serve both the existing 2000 and anticipated 2020 population. 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: Ives Grove Golf Links (27 holes) and Browns Lake Golf Course (18 holes), both owned by Racine County, and Johnson Park (18 holes), owned by the City of Racine. The City of Racine also has two nine-hole regulation courses: Washington Park Golf Course and Shoop Park Golf Course. There are two privately owned 18-hole courses open to the public: South Hills Country Club and Rivermoor Golf Course. In addition, there is one privately owned nine-hole par three golf course in the County open to the public: Raymond Heights Country Club.

Need estimates for golf course facilities were prepared for both public and nonpublic facilities. As noted earlier, this recognizes that nonpublic facilities such as private golf courses are important because they do meet a significant portion of the overall demand for golf course facilities which would otherwise have to be met by the public sector.

While application of the per capita standards for public golf courses indicates that there is an adequate number of golf courses to serve the existing 2000 and

anticipated year 2020 population, the application of the recommended 10-mile service radius indicates that the residents of the central portion of the County are located beyond the recommended service area for a public golf course. Consequently, there exists a need for a public golf course to serve this area. Application of the per capita standards for nonpublic golf courses indicates that a need exists for two additional privately owned 18-hole golf courses in the County by the year 2020.

Market research data published by the National Sporting Goods Association indicates that the total number of golfers in the United States increased by 10 percent from 1994 to 1999. The data also shows that the number of young golfers (aged 7 to 17) has increased by 42 percent over this same time period. This trend is reflected locally in the fact that the number of rounds of golf played at the two County owned courses increased by 23 percent from 1989 to 1999.

Given the increasing popularity of golf, the needs noted above should be considered minimum needs. If the demand for private facilities is not met, it may be appropriate for the County to consider the development of additional public courses to meet the need for these facilities in the future. At such time as the County considers the development of a new golf course or the expansion of an existing course to meet the future needs for these facilities, detailed feasibility and market studies should be undertaken to ensure that such facilities can and should be accommodated.

Picnicking

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

Application of the per capita standard for picnicking facilities at major parks indicates that a need exists for approximately 300 additional picnic tables at major parks to serve the anticipated year 2020 population. It should be noted, however, that picnic areas are also available at seven other County parks: Beaumont Park, Eagle Lake Park, Evans Park, Fischer Memorial Park, Heg Park, Quarry Lake Park, and Old Settlers Park. These facilities may serve to meet some of the needs identified in the application of this standard. The standards call for public picnicking facilities at major parks to be

located within 10 miles of each County resident. The application of this standard indicates that residents of the central portion of the County are not adequately served by picnicking facilities within a major park. 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 swimming beaches are provided at Fischer Memorial and Quarry Lake County Parks, the City of Racine North Beach, and the Town of Burlington Lagoon Park. There are four privately owned beaches in the County; however, these are not accessible to the general public.

Separate per capita standards have been established for inland and Lake Michigan beaches. Application of the per capita standards for inland swimming beaches indicates that existing publicly owned beaches are adequate to serve the 2000 and the anticipated year 2020 population, but that a need exists for approximately 1,000 additional linear feet of privately owned inland beaches in the County by the year 2020. 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 a county-by-county, basis.

Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius indicates that residents in the central portion of the County are not adequately served by a public swimming beach located in Racine County. Consequently, there exists a need for a public swimming beach in this area. It should be noted that this area of the County does fall within the service area of Muskego Park in Waukesha County and the Bong Recreation Area in Kenosha County, both of which provide swimming beaches.

Standards for Trails 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.

Objective No. 4 sets forth recommended per capita standards for the aforementioned trail activities in association with recreation corridors. While segments of potential recreation corridors currently exist in Racine County along the Fox River, Honey Creek, Lake Michigan, and Root River, neither area meets the aforementioned definition. Consequently, trails for the various activities should be provided in conjunction with the acquisition and development of a public recreation corridor system. It should be noted that while recreation corridors 15 miles in length or more are most desirable, the development of trail facilities under 15 miles should also be encouraged to meet local trail needs.

Objective No. 4 includes standards for trails within recreation corridors for hiking, bicycling, 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 166 miles of designated trails exist on public lands and on private lands open to the public. This adequately serves both the existing and anticipated 2020 population. Objective No. 4 also contains a recommendation that each county have a public nature study center. A nature study center does not currently exist in Racine County.

Standards for Lake Access Sites

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in keeping with State Statutes which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, recently adopted revised 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, with the number of parking spaces varying depending on the size of the lake. 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 vary 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 14 sets forth the requirements for public boating access for major lakes in Racine County under the Department rules.

Public boating access fails to meet State requirements at Kee Nong Go Mong Lake, Long Lake, and Tichigan/Buena Lakes. Although the *Administrative Code* generally requires at least one car-trailer space and a combined total of five car-trailer and vehicle spaces at lakes 50 to 99 acres in size, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources considers Echo Lake adequately served with only carry-in access.

The *Administrative Code* also requires that public canoeing access points with parking should be provided on major streams every 10 miles in Racine County. Existing public canoe access points are located on the Fox River in Bushnell Park and on the Root River on the "Horlick Property."

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. 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.

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, secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas should be considered for preservation based upon local needs and concerns. While secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource

areas may serve as an attractive setting for well-planned residential developments, they also can serve as economical drainageways, stormwater detention basins, and 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.

Prime agricultural lands are lands best suited for the production of food and fiber and supply significant wildlife habitat. The standard under Objective No. 6 indicates that prime agricultural lands should be preserved to the extent practicable for agricultural use.

SUMMARY

This chapter presents a set of park and open space planning principles, objectives, 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 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. The objectives, principles, and standards are presented in Appendix B. The findings of the recreation site and facility needs analysis are summarized below:

1. Application of the per capita standards for major park sites indicates that there is an adequate amount of land within existing major parks to serve the anticipated year 2020 population under the adopted regional plan. However, application of this standard to the year 2020 population envisioned under a high-growth alternative indicates a need for additional land in major park sites.

Table 14

**BOAT-ACCESS SITE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE WISCONSIN
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE^a FOR MAJOR LAKES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2000**

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 (40 car-trailer spaces at County access site)
Eagle Lake	17 car-trailer spaces	33 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (50 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 (100 car spaces at City of Burlington Echo Lake Veterans Memorial Park) ^c
Kee-Nong-Go-Mong Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Seven car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Long Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Seven car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Tichigan/Buena Lakes	29 car-trailer spaces	41 car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (13 car-trailer at WDNR access site)
Waubessee Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Nine car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (five car-trailer spaces at WDNR access site)
Wind Lake	27 car-trailer spaces	37 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (28 car-trailer spaces at WDNR access site) ^d

^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.

^cAlthough NR 1.91 calls for a combination of five car and car-trailer spaces, the existing carry-in access is considered adequate due to the limited motor boating which could be facilitated on this shallow impoundment.

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

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

2. Application of the four-mile service radius standard for major parks in large 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. Application of the 10-mile service radius standard for major parks in smaller urban areas and rural areas indicates that all other residents of the County are properly served by a major park.
3. Application of the standards for resource-oriented recreational facilities indicate a need for: one additional public golf course; two additional private golf courses; a public swimming beach; and additional picnicking facilities at major parks.
4. Application of the standards for trails within recreation corridors indicate a need for hiking, biking, nature study, and ski touring trails in conjunction with the acquisition and development of a public recreation corridor system. The standard also indicates a need for a public nature study center in Racine County.
5. Application of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources lake access standards would require that new or additional access facilities be provided at Kee Nong Go Mong Lake, Long Lake, and Tichigan/Buena Lakes. The standards also require additional public canoe access to be provided on the Fox and Root Rivers.
6. 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.

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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 addresses the need for new County parks, park facilities, lake and river access areas and facilities, and trails.

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 and archeological areas 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 Department of Natural Resources project boundaries, which in Racine County include Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Karcher Marsh Wild-

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

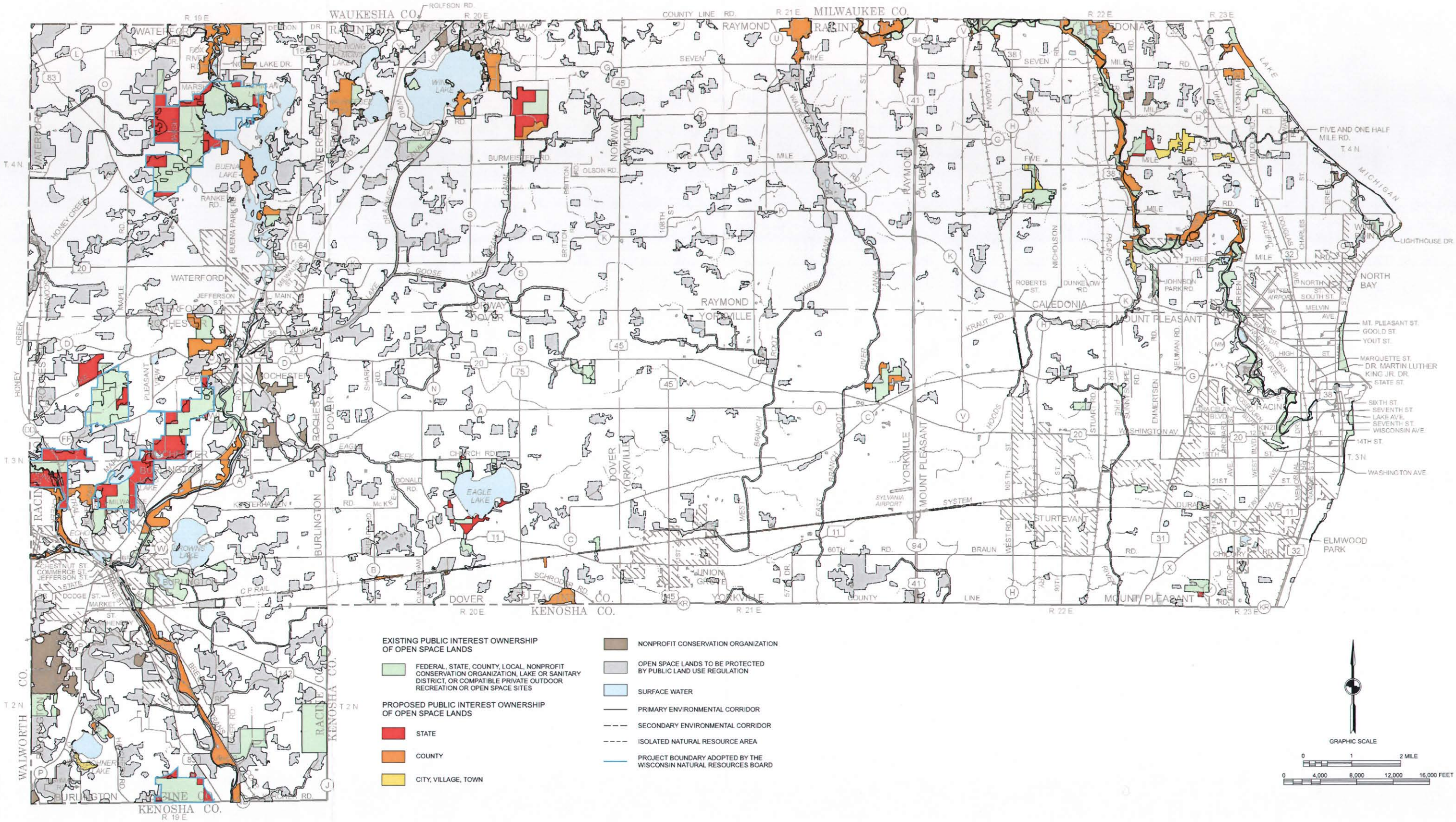
life Area, and Tichigan Wildlife Area. The final component calls for the protection of prime agricultural land.

Recommended actions with respect to the preservation of open space lands, other than prime agricultural lands, are graphically summarized on Map 13. It is recommended that a total of 34,266 acres of open space lands, or about 16 percent of Racine County, be protected through a combination of public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership² or through the application of protective zoning. These 34,266 acres include planned primary and secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, and areas outside corridors but within the Department of Natural Resources project boundaries. 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 34,266 acres of recommended open space lands, 5,934 acres, or about 17 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or in compatible private outdoor recreation uses such as golf courses or camps in 2000. These areas are recommended to be preserved in current ownership or, for lands in compatible private outdoor recreation use, maintained in recreational or

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

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT OF THE RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2020



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 15

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

Ownership	Existing ^b (acres)	Plan (acres)	Planned Change (acres)	Estimated Acquisition Cost ^c
State of Wisconsin	2,965	5,054	2,089	\$ 4,413,800
Racine County.....	1,329	4,358	3,029	5,795,100 ^e
Local Government ^d	713	944	231	683,100
Nonprofit Conservation Organization.....	347	1,359	1,012	3,902,500
Compatible Private Recreation Use	580	580	0	0
Total	5,934	12,295	6,361	\$14,794,500

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2000 dollars.

^aIncludes planned primary environmental corridors, planned secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, and lands within a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources project boundary. These figures do not include associated surface water areas.

^bIncludes existing ownership in 2000.

^cUnit costs used to estimate acquisition costs were \$1,000 per acre of wetlands, \$5,000 per acre of woodlands, and \$2,500 per acre of other open lands.

^dIncludes cities, villages, towns, school districts, and lake and sanitary districts.

^eDoes not include a cost for 565 acres of the 3,029 acres of corridor lands proposed to be acquired by the County. Those 565 acres are located within proposed new or expanded County parks. The cost of acquiring the 565 acres are included in the recommended park and outdoor recreation element of the plan (See Table 20).

Source: SEWRPC.

open space uses. It is recommended that an additional 6,361 acres, or about 19 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 \$14.8 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 15.

The remaining 21,971 acres of open space lands should be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodland, 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.

Should the situation arise where in the County is offered the opportunity to obtain land through a private donation that is not specifically identified for public acquisition in the plan, the County should consider these on a case-by-case basis. The County should evaluate each parcel based on: natural resources present; potential for restoring natural vegetation; suitability for recreational facilities; size of parcel; location of parcel with respect to other parks and recreation corridors; and the potential for the parcel to fulfill a need identified in the plan.

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, 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 15) thus represents the composite of the environmental corridor, natural area, and DNR 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. 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 under the adopted 2020 regional land use plan are shown on Map 13. 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. 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.
3. Primary environmental corridors that are in existing private recreational uses should be maintained in such uses.

Primary environmental corridors located outside natural area sites or critical species habitat sites, corridors which are not needed for future park or trail development, and corridors which are developed

with compatible recreational uses, should be protected through appropriate zoning.

A total of 19,058 acres of land are encompassed in the planned primary environmental corridors. Map 13 depicts those primary environmental corridors which are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership. Such areas currently encompass a total of 4,484 acres, or about 24 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. Additional such areas recommended for acquisition in the public interest are also shown on Map 13, and encompass a total of 5,488 acres, or about 29 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. An additional 450 acres, or 2 percent of planned primary environmental corridors, are in compatible private recreational use. The remaining 8,636 acres of planned primary environmental corridors, or about 45 percent, are proposed to be protected through zoning.

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 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 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

It is recommended that secondary environmental corridors be considered for preservation 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 insofar as practicable, being incorporated for use as parks and open space reservations or stormwater detention or retention areas as appropriate. This plan further recommends that all secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas containing natural areas or critical species habitat sites be protected through acquisition by a public agency or nonprofit conservation organization.

A total of 6,897 acres of land are encompassed in the planned secondary environmental corridors, and 7,277 acres are encompassed in the planned isolated natural resource areas, for a combined total of 14,174 acres. Map 13 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. Such areas currently encompass a total of 430 acres, or about 3 percent of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. An additional 129 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 public interest are shown on Map 13. Such areas encompass a total of 297 acres, or about 2 percent of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, including 124 acres of planned secondary environmental corridors and 173 acres of planned isolated natural resource areas.

The remaining 13,318 acres, or 94 percent, of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas are not anticipated to be needed for future park or trail development, and do not encompass natural area or critical species habitat sites. These areas may be retained in private ownership, but should be placed in a zoning district that would prevent their conversion to urban use. However, should such lands be needed for local park or recreation purposes or for another public purpose,

such as stormwater detention basin, 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 sets forth a number of recommendations related to the preservation of identified natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and important geological and archeological sites. The plan also set forth recommendations for the reestablishment of tracts of grasslands and forest interior to provide additional bird habitat areas. Pertinent recommendations from that plan have been incorporated into this park and open space plan, and are described in the following paragraphs.

As noted in Chapter II, a total of 59 natural areas were identified in Racine County in 1994 as part of the regional natural areas management plan. Seven of the sites, encompassing about 588 acres, are classified as natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1). An additional 19 sites, encompassing about 2,729 acres, are classified as natural areas of county-wide or regional significance (NA-2). The remaining 33 sites, encompassing about 2,306 acres, are classified as natural areas of local significance (NA-3). In addition, a total of 33 critical species habitat sites, located completely or partially outside a natural area, were identified. These sites together encompassed about 945 acres.

Combined, there are 92 natural areas and critical species habitat sites identified in the County, with a total area of 6,568 acres. It is recommended that 80 of these areas, which encompass 5,938 acres in 51 natural areas and 29 critical species habitat sites, be protected through acquisition by public agencies or by nonprofit conservation organizations. Sites proposed to be acquired are shown on Map 14.

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 16 lists each natural area site and critical species habitat site proposed to be preserved through protective ownership and the proposed acquisition

PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR, SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR, AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

NATURAL AREA OF STATEWIDE OR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE

NATURAL AREA OF COUNTYWIDE OR REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

NATURAL AREA OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE

18 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 16)

Source: SEWRPC.

Table 16

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

Site Identification				Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 14	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
1	Town of Caledonia	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area	NA-1	96	42	138	University of Wisconsin-Parkside
2	Town of Dover Town of Yorkville	Kansasville Railroad Prairie	NA-1	--	14	14	Racine County
3	Town of Mt. Pleasant	Franksville Railroad Prairie	NA-1	--	4	4	The Nature Conservancy
4	Town of Mt. Pleasant	Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area	NA-1	56	--	56	Racine County
5	Town of Rochester	Cherry Lake Sedge Meadow State Natural Area	NA-1	163	27	190	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
6	Town of Waterford	Tichigan Fen	NA-1	95	23	118	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
7	Town of Waterford	Elm Island Bog-Island Oak Woods	NA-1	9	59	68	Racine County
8	Town of Burlington	Karcher Springs State Natural Area	NA-2	23	--	23	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
9	Town of Burlington	Leda Lake Fen-Meadow	NA-2	124	97	221	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
10	Town of Caledonia	Hunts Woods	NA-2	3	31	34	Racine County
11	Town of Caledonia	Caledonia Wildlife Area	NA-2	133	33	166	Town of Caledonia
12	Town of Caledonia	Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks	NA-2	53	2	55	Racine County
13	Town of Dover	Rosewood Railroad Prairie	NA-2	--	18	18	Racine County
14	Town of Dover Town of Brighton	Schroeder Road Marsh	NA-2	--	188	188	Kenosha and Racine Counties ^c
15	Town of Norway	Waubesee Oak Woods and Tamarack Relict	NA-2	39	130	169	Racine County
16	Town of Norway	Wind Lake Tamarack Swamp	NA-2	122	212	334	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
17	Town of Norway	Wind Lake Shrub-Fen	NA-2	--	21	21	Racine County
18	Town of Raymond	County Line Riverine Woods	NA-2	41	100	141	Racine County
19	Town of Rochester	Brock Lake Fen	NA-2	68	163	231	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
20	Town of Waterford	Tichigan Marsh	NA-2	252	195	447	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
21	Town of Waterford	Tichigan Wetlands and Low Woods	NA-2	154	16	170	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
22	Town of Waterford Town of Vernon	Norris Marsh and Slough	NA-2	--	212	212	Racine and Waukesha Counties ^d
23	Town of Yorkville	Union Grove and Railroad Prairie	NA-2	--	32	32	Racine County
24	Town of Burlington	Bohner Lake Lowlands	NA-3	--	33	33	Bohner's Lake Sanitary District No. 1
25	Town of Burlington	Honey Lake Leatherleaf Bog	NA-3	--	69	69	Racine County
26	Town of Burlington	Wehmhoff Park Upland Woods and Wetlands	NA-3	67	6	73	Town of Burlington
27	Town of Burlington	Fox River Riverine Forest	NA-3	19	112	131	Racine County
28	Town of Burlington Town of Lyons	Burlington Railroad Prairie	NA-3	--	5	5	Racine and Walworth Counties ^e

Table 16 (continued)

Number on Map 14	Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
29	Town of Caledonia	Seven Mile Road Woods	NA-3	--	20	20	Private conservancy organization
30	Town of Caledonia	Zirbes Woods	NA-3	--	13	13	Private conservancy organization
31	Town of Caledonia	Caledonia Low Woods	NA-3	61	46	107	Racine County
32	Town of Caledonia	Foley Road Woods—West	NA-3	--	19	19	Private conservancy organization
33	Town of Caledonia	Foley Road Woods—East	NA-3	--	24	24	Private conservancy organization
34	Town of Caledonia	Tabor Woods	NA-3	--	107	107	Town of Caledonia
35	Town of Caledonia	Power Plant Ravine Woods	NA-3	--	32	32	Racine County
36	Town of Dover	Dover Wildlife Area Wetlands	NA-3	38	1	39	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
37	Town of Dover	Church Road Lowlands	NA-3	22	3	25	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
38	Town of Dover	Eagle Lake Wetlands	NA-3	16	30	46	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
39	Town of Dover	Vandenboom Road Marsh	NA-3	7	20	27	Private conservancy organization
40	Town of Burlington Town of Lyons	Burlington Hills Woods	NA-3	--	637	637	Private conservancy organization ^f
41	Town of Mt. Pleasant	Sylvania Railroad Prairie	NA-3	--	7	7	Racine County
42	Town of Norway	Wind Lake Wet Meadow	NA-3	--	12	12	Wind Lake Management District
43	Town of Raymond	Kimmel Woods	NA-3	--	40	40	Private conservancy organization
44	Town of Rochester	Wadewitz Woods	NA-3	79	125	204	Racine County
45	Town of Rochester	Rowntree Road Woods	NA-3	--	74	74	Private conservancy organization
46	Town of Rochester	English Settlement Prairie	NA-3	--	16	16	Private conservancy organization
47	Town of Rochester	Eagle Creek Woods	NA-3	--	84	84	Private conservancy organization
48	Town of Rochester	Fox River Prairie	NA-3	--	2	2	Racine County
49	Town of Waterford	Van Valin Woods	NA-3	--	30	30	Racine County
50	Town of Waterford	Tichigan Wet Prairie	NA-3	15	--	15	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
51	Town of Yorkville	Ives Grove Woods	NA-3	54	110	164	Racine County
52	City of Racine	Washington Park Woods	CSH	12	--	12	City of Racine
53	City of Racine	Pritchard Park Woods	CSH	9	--	9	Racine County
54	Village of Wind Point	Wind Point	CSH	4	--	4	City of Racine
55	Town of Burlington	Burlington Crevasse Filling	CSH	--	23	23	Private conservancy organization
56	Town of Burlington	Margis Wildlife Area	CSH	34	--	34	Racine County
57	Town of Burlington	Ranger Mac Fen	CSH	26	2	28	University of Wisconsin-Parkside
58	Town of Burlington	Karcher Sedge-Carr	CSH	214	21	235	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Table 16 (continued)

Number on Map 14	Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
59	Town of Caledonia	River Meadow Woods	CSH	--	13	13	Racine County
60	Town of Caledonia	Forked Aster Site	CSH	--	18	18	Racine County
61	Town of Caledonia	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way	CSH	13	62	75	Racine County
62	Town of Caledonia	Caledonia Site South	CSH	--.9	--.9	--.9	Racine County
63	Town of Caledonia	Root River Bluff	CSH	18	24	42	Racine County
64	Town of Caledonia	Hoods Creek Swamp	CSH	--	20	20	Town of Caledonia
65	Town of Caledonia	Breakers Woods	CSH	--	5	5	Private conservancy organization
66	Town of Caledonia	Dominican Ravine	CSH	--	16	16	Private conservancy organization
67	Town of Caledonia	North Bay Ravine and Beach	CSH	--	4	4	Private conservancy organization
68	Town of Caledonia	Four Mile Road Woods	CSH	--	30	30	Racine County
69	Town of Caledonia	Caledonia Low Woods	CSH	20	9	29	Racine County
70	Town of Caledonia	River Bend Upland Woods	CSH	13	--	13	Racine County
71	Town of Caledonia	Root River Strip Woods	CSH	10	--	10	Racine County
72	Town of Caledonia	Cliffside Park Old Field	CSH	5 ^h	--	5 ^h	Racine County
73	Town of Norway	Erwin Wetlands	CSH	--	2	2	Wind Lake District
74	Town of Norway	Patzke Fen	CSH	--	50	50	Racine County
75	Town of Norway	Krieser Fen	CSH	--	2	2	Wind Lake District
76	Town of Norway	Landon Wetland	CSH	--	11	11	Wind Lake District
77	Town of Norway	Wind Lake	CSH	22	33	55	Wind Lake District ⁱ
78	Town of Norway	Waubessee Lake	CSH	--	14	14	Waubessee Lake Association
79	Town of Rochester	Case Eagle Park Dry Prairie	CSH	16	--	16	Racine County
80	Town of Rochester	Case Eagle Park Woods	CSH	58	--	58	Racine County
Total	--	--	--	2,283	3,655	5,938	--

NOTE: This table is a refinement of the recommendations made in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*.

^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.

^bBased on 1994 data.

^cIncludes 77 acres in Racine County and 111 acres in Kenosha County. It is recommended that each County involved acquire that portion of this Natural Area located within its boundaries.

^dIncludes 180 acres in Racine County and 32 acres in Waukesha County. It is recommended that each County involved acquire that portion of this Natural Area located within its boundaries.

^eIncludes four acres in Racine County and one acre in Walworth County. It is recommended that each County involved acquire that portion of this Natural Area located within its boundaries.

^fIncludes 557 acres in Racine County and 80 acres in Walworth County. It is recommended that the entire Natural Area be acquired by a private conservancy organization.

^gThe Caledonia Site South Critical Species Habitat site is located entirely within the Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way Critical Species Habitat site.

^hDoes not include 55 acres of this Critical Species Habitat site located within the Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks Natural Area.

ⁱThe 22 acres currently under protective ownership are owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The remaining 33 acres are recommended to be acquired by the Wind Lake District.

Source: SEWRPC.

agency. In all, these sites encompass 5,938 acres, including 5,105 acres within natural areas and 833 acres within critical species habitat sites. Of the total 5,938 acres to be preserved, about 2,283 acres, or about 38 percent, are under existing public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership. An additional 3,655 acres, or about 62 percent, are proposed for public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership or management. 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 15.

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.

One site in Racine County was identified for reestablishment of forest interior habitat. The general location of this site is shown on Map 15. The actual boundaries for this site have not yet been determined. It is envisioned that the forest interior reserve would eventually encompass about 162 acres, with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which currently owns about 40 acres, being responsible for site acquisition and management. After reforestation, about 86 acres, or about 53 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 refined and implemented, it could result in an enlargement of the primary environmental corridor in this vicinity.

Protection of Geological Areas

The inventory of geological areas identified as part of the 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. The six sites include one site of statewide significance (GA-1), one site of regional or county significance (GA-2), and four sites of local significance (GA-3).

Map 16 shows the general location of geological areas recommended to be preserved through public agency or nonprofit conservation organization acquisition. Table 17 lists each site and the proposed acquisition agency. It is recommended that all six geological area sites be preserved. Together, the six areas encompass about 1,310 acres. Of this total, 711 acres are within existing public ownership, with the remaining 599 acres, or about 46 percent, proposed for acquisition by a public agency or private conservancy organization.

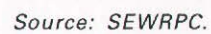
Recommendations relating to the acquisition of geological areas were based on the following considerations. First, some sites overlap in whole or in part with identified natural area sites and critical species habitat sites, and would be protected and preserved under prior recommendations. Second, many geological area sites are either already in public ownership, or would be brought under public ownership upon implementation of existing State, regional, and county plans.

Department of Natural Resources Site Plan Component

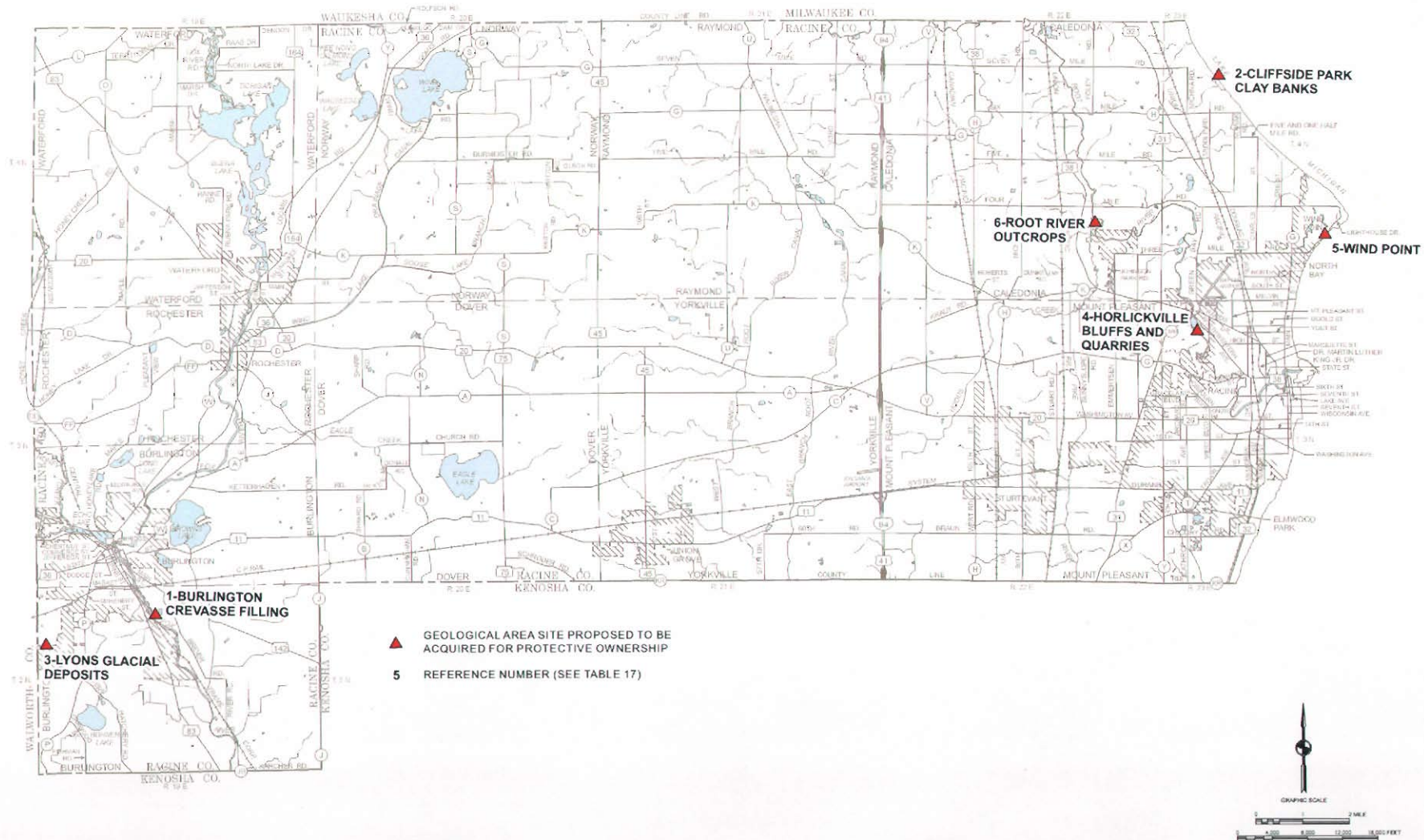
The outdoor preservation element of this plan includes lands which have been acquired or which are proposed to be acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, within the project boundaries of the Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area, and Tichigan Wildlife Area. Project boundaries for each of these areas have been approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and are reflected on Map 13. It is recommended that the Department continue to acquire additional land within the approved project boundaries for open space or outdoor recreation purposes. Currently, the Department owns about 338 acres outside planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas, but within the approved project boundaries. An additional 386 acres of such areas are proposed to be acquired.

It should be noted that six natural areas and one forest interior restoration site are located partially within or adjacent to existing State project boundaries. These sites are listed on Table 18, and encompass 199 acres. It is recommended that the Department of Natural Resources consider expanding existing project boundaries to include these sites when the master plans for the applicable State forest units and wildlife areas are updated. In cases where the natural areas are located within a larger primary environ-

LOCATION OF RECOMMENDED SITE TO REESTABLISH FOREST INTERIOR IN RACINE COUNTY



RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION AND OWNERSHIP OF SELECTED GEOLOGICAL AREAS IN RACINE COUNTY



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 17

**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 to Be Acquired for Protective Ownership	Responsible Agency	Remarks
	Civil Division	Name	Geological Area Class	Number on Map 16				
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
	Town of Caledonia	Cliffside Park Clay Banks	GA-3	2	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	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	Town of Mt. Pleasant	Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries	GA-1	4	30	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	--	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
	Town of Caledonia	Root River Outcrops	GA-3	6	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	599	--	--

Source: SEWRPC.

mental corridor, the Department should consider including the entire primary corridor within the project boundary.

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 recom-

mended for preservation under the Racine County farmland preservation plan.³ Prime agricultural lands recommended to be preserved are shown on Map 17.

³SEWRPC Planning Report No. 46, A Farmland Preservation Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, 1981.

Table 18

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS TO WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT BOUNDARIES

Number on Map 14	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Project	Location	Area (acres)	Comment ^a
5	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E Sections 10, 15 Town of Rochester	27 ^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
19	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E Sections 15, 16, 21 Town of Rochester	12 ^c	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Brock Lake Fen (NA-2) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
9	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E Sections 20, 21, 29 Town of Burlington	5 ^d	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Leda Lake Fen-Meadow (NA-2) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
10 ^e	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R19E Town 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
6	Tichigan Wildlife Area	T4N, R19E Sections 11, 21 Town of Waterford	23 ^f	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Tichigan Fen Natural Area (NA-1) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
20	Tichigan Wildlife Area	T4N, R19E Sections 9, 10, 15, 16 Town of Waterford	69	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Tichigan Marsh (NA-2) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
21	Tichigan Wildlife Area	T4N, R19E Sections 10, 11 Town of Waterford	4 ^h	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	--	--	199	--

^aNA-1 identifies a Natural Area of statewide or greater significance, NA-2 identifies a Natural Area of countywide or regional significance, and NA-3 identifies a Natural Area of local significance.

^bAn additional 163 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 190 acres in total.

^cAn additional 219 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 231 acres in total.

^dAn additional 92 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 221 acres in total.

^eThe Oak Knoll Woods forest interior site is shown on Map 15. An additional 40 acres of the forest interior site are located within existing State ownership. The forest interior site is about 162 acres in total.

^fAn additional 95 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 118 acres in total.

^gAn additional 441 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 447 acres in total.

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

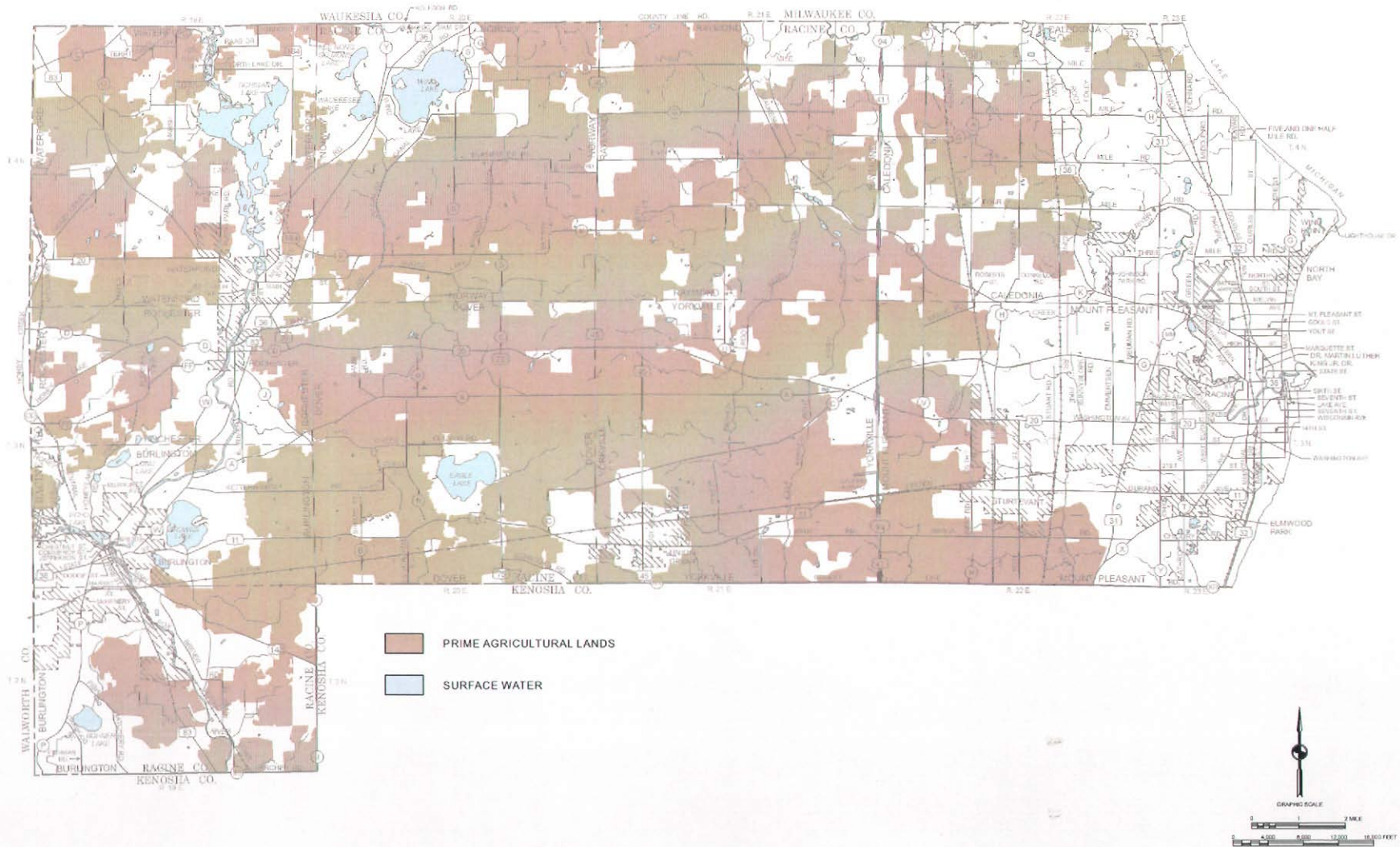
Source: SEWRPC.

Planning for the preservation of agricultural lands and protection of such lands through zoning received impetus in 1977 with the passage of the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program, a program that combines planning and zoning provisions with tax incentives for the purpose of ensuring the preserva-

tion of farmland. The program is intended to help counties and local units of government preserve farmland through local plans and zoning and to provide tax relief, in the form of State income-tax credits, to farmland owners who participate in the program.

Map 17

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2020



Source: SEWRPC.

It is important to note that the exclusive agricultural zoning required as a condition for receipt of tax credits under the Farmland Preservation Program does not ensure the preservation of land held by participating farmers. Landowners can petition the concerned county or local unit of government for a change in zoning to accommodate development, although those who have claimed a tax credit would be liable to pay back at least a portion of the credits. Thus, even with the Farmland Preservation Program, the effectiveness of preserving farmland through exclusive agricultural zoning is dependent upon the level of commitment of the county and local units of government to such zoning.

In 1995, the Wisconsin Legislature took an additional action to lessen the property tax burden on farmers by mandating the "use-value" assessment of agricultural land. Under this system, agricultural land will be assessed based solely on its value for farming, without regard for its development potential. The new legislation froze the assessed value of agricultural land at 1995 levels through 1997, and provided for a phased reduction to "use" values over a 10-year period. In 1999, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue adopted an emergency rule which fully implements use-value assessments beginning in 2000.

Under the 1995 legislation, agricultural land will be assessed at use-value, regardless of existing zoning. Landowners who sell their land after owning the land for less than five years will be required to pay a modest penalty to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, an amount equal to 5 percent of the difference between the sale price and the use-value during the last year of ownership. Thus, while the new program may be expected to provide substantial property tax relief to owners of farmland, it will do so without attaching any additional restrictions to the land, so that there is no guarantee that the land will not be converted to urban use.

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 18. 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 2020, 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 parks 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, 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.

Under this plan, Racine County would maintain all eight existing major County parks and would continue to acquire lands and provide additional facilities at Browns Lake Golf Course, Cliffside Park, Sanders Park, and W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp, and provide additional facilities at Bushnell Park, Case Eagle Park, and Pritchard Park. Racine County would be responsible for the provision of one new major park in the County. This new major park, to be located on the southeastern shore of Wind Lake, in the Town of Norway, would be acquired and developed by the County. The City of Racine would maintain existing outdoor recreation facilities at Johnson Park.

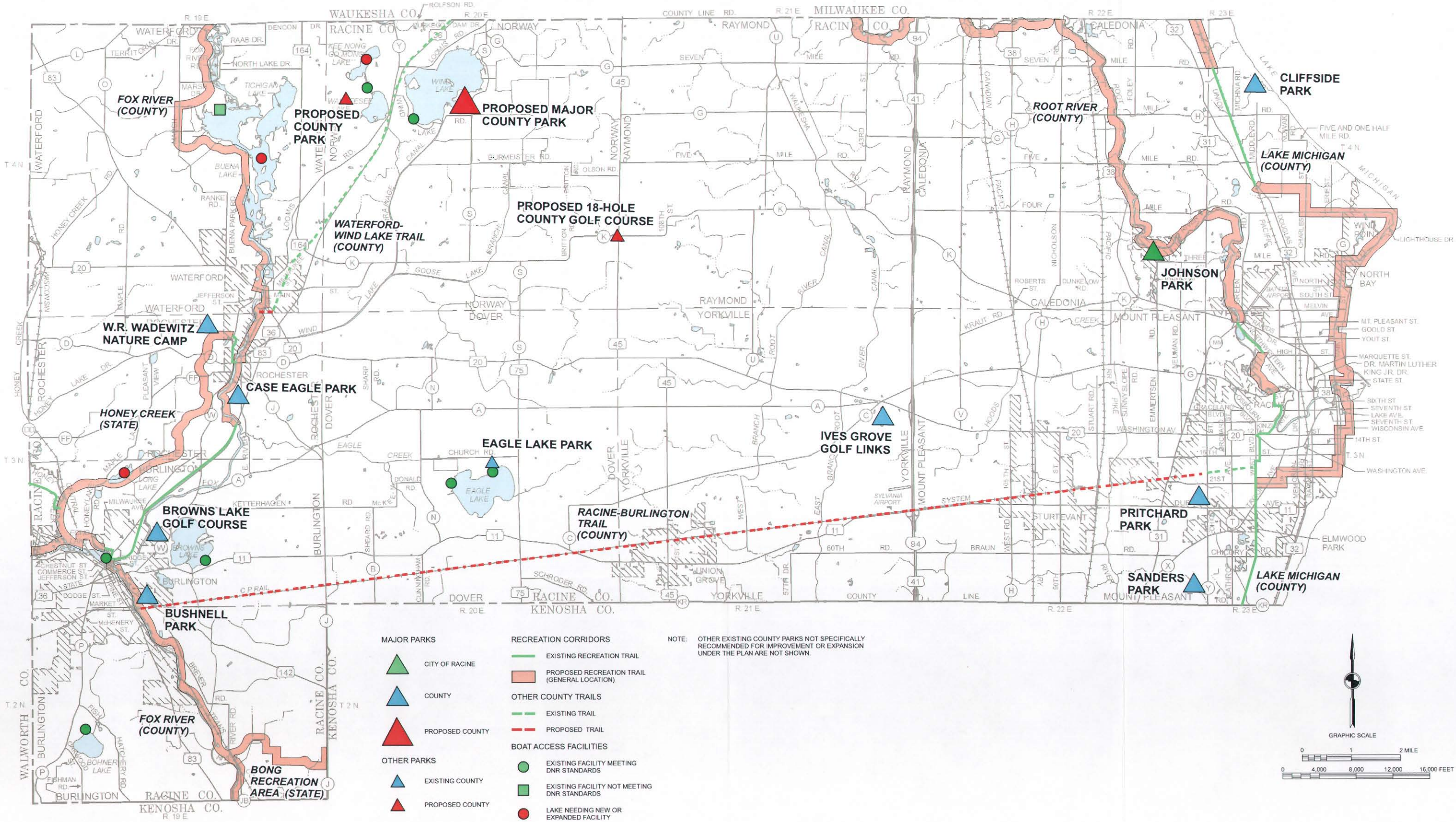
Major recommendations for outdoor recreational facilities at the major County parks include: the development of formal picnic areas at Bushnell Park, Case Eagle Park, Cliffside Park, Pritchard Park, Sanders Park and at the proposed major park on Wind Lake; the development of canoe access facilities at Browns Lake Golf Course and Case Eagle Park; the development of a fairway/practice area expansion at Browns Lake Golf Course; the development of primitive camping facilities at Case Eagle Park; and the development of a nature study center at Cliffside Park and a satellite nature study center at W.R. Wadewitz Nature Center.

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

- **Browns Lake Golf Course**

Browns Lake Golf Course presently consists of 144 acres and is located on the Fox River in the Town of Burlington. The plan recommends that the County acquire an additional 75 acres for fairway/practice area expansion and provide canoe access facilities on the Fox River. Con-

OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2020



Source: SEWRPC.

sideration could also be given to the potential addition of nine holes to the existing golf course should future needs warrant such expansion.

- **Bushnell Park**

Bushnell Park, located in the central portion of the Town of Burlington, presently consists of 95 acres. Under this plan, it is recommended that the County provide picnic areas and necessary support facilities and trail access along the proposed Fox River recreation corridor.

- **Case Eagle Park**

Case Eagle Park is located on the Fox River in the Town of Rochester and presently consists of 239 acres. The plan recommends that the County provide picnic areas and necessary support facilities, primitive camping facilities, and trail and canoe access facilities along the proposed Fox River recreation corridor.

- **Cliffside Park**

Cliffside Park presently consists of 233 acres and is located along Lake Michigan in the Town of Caledonia. Under this plan, it is recommended that the County acquire an additional 305 acres and provide: picnic areas and necessary support facilities; a nature study center; and trail access facilities along the proposed Lake Michigan recreation corridor. 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.

- **Ives Grove Golf Links**

Ives Grove Golf Links, located in the Town of Yorkville, presently consists of 291 acres. Under this plan, it is recommended that the County continue to maintain and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented outdoor recreation facilities as needed.

- **Pritchard Park**

Pritchard Park presently consists of 79 acres and is located in the City of Racine. The plan recommends that the County provide picnic areas with necessary support facilities.

- **Sanders Park**

Sanders Park, located in the Town of Mt. Pleasant, presently consists of 85 acres.

Under this plan, it is recommended that the County acquire an additional 55 acres and provide picnic areas with necessary support facilities.

- **W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp**

W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp, located in the Town of Rochester, presently consists of 176 acres. The plan recommends that the County acquire an additional 187 acres and provide a satellite nature study center and trail facilities along the proposed Honey Creek recreation corridor. The proposed satellite nature study center, which would serve residents in the western portion of the County, would focus on the woodland resources in this area.

- **Johnson Park**

Johnson Park, presently consists of 357 acres and is located along the Root River in the City of Racine. Under this plan, it is recommended that the City of Racine continue to maintain and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented outdoor recreation facilities as needed.

- **Proposed Major County Park**

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 necessary support facilities. This proposed new major County park site would meet the need for additional park land in the area, and the site identified has attributes particularly suitable for development as a park. The site is associated with a natural area known as the Wind Lake Shrub-Fen and has long been recommended as a park site. The actual 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 nine major parks owned by the County, 19 other park and outdoor recreation sites were owned by Racine County in 2000 (see Map 9 in Chapter III). Under the recommended plan, Racine County would continue to maintain all of these sites and provide additional facilities as needed.

Specific recommendations for other Racine County parks include the development of a swimming beach and beach house at Eagle Lake Park to serve the

residents in the central portion of the County and the acquisition and development of two new other County park sites (see Map 18). As noted earlier, the acquisition of each site should be accomplished on a willing seller—willing buyer basis. These two new sites are described as follows:

- **Proposed 18-Hole County Golf Course**

The proposed 18-hole County golf course would be located in the central portion of Racine County and would consist of 160 acres. The plan recommends that the County also provide a clubhouse. The location of this site as shown on Map 18 represents a general site location and should not be construed as definitive. There may be a number of sites in the area that are suitable for development of a golf course.

- **Proposed Whispering Hills County Park**

The proposed Whispering Hills County park would involve the expansion of an existing County open space site and consist largely of the Waubeesee Oak Woods and Tamarack Relict natural area located in the northwestern corner of the Town of Norway. This site would be acquired primarily for resource preservation purposes and would encompass approximately 225 acres. The plan recommends that the County provide picnic areas with necessary support facilities and trail facilities.

Acquisition and Development Costs—County Parks

The acquisition and development costs relating to the twelve County-owned parks envisioned under the plan are presented in Table 19. As indicated in Table 19, such costs are estimated at about \$8.3 million. Of this amount, about \$3.2 million, or about 38 percent, would be required for the acquisition of additional park lands; and about \$5.1 million, or about 62 percent, would be required for development of those lands.

Other Recreation Considerations

The park and open space plan envisions that outdoor ice-skating would continue to be accommodated at certain County parks and at community and neighborhood parks throughout the County during winter months. Recent years have seen an increase in the popularity of participation in ice hockey, figure skating, and casual skating at indoor ice arenas. Indoor ice arenas generally serve large geographic areas and may be considered facilities of countywide significance. In 2000, there were nine indoor ice

arenas located in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. None of these facilities were located in Racine County. Consequently, residents of Racine County interested in indoor participation in ice hockey, figure skating, or casual skating had to rely on facilities in adjacent counties. All of the existing facilities are heavily used and the demand on these facilities is expected to increase in the future. It is therefore recommended that the County consider undertaking a separate study to determine if it is practicable to develop such a facility in Racine County.

Areawide Recreation Trails

Under the recommended plan, about 70 miles of recreation trails would be provided to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. The recommended trails, which are shown on Map 18, are part of a larger, Regionwide trail system. The recommended trail system within Racine County is comprised of six trails, including 27 miles of existing trails and 43 miles of proposed new trails. The trail locations shown on Map 18 are general in nature and are subject to refinement based on detailed facility planning and on negotiations with landowners to purchase land or easements for the trails.

Of the recommended 70-mile trail system within Racine County, about 57 miles (including 25 existing miles) or about 81 percent, would be provided by Racine County as part of the following trails: the Lake Michigan Corridor, which would connect with the Lake Michigan Corridor in Milwaukee County on the north and with the Pike River Corridor in Kenosha County on the south; the Root River Corridor, which would connect with the Root River Corridor in Milwaukee County on the north and with the Lake Michigan Corridor in Racine County on the south; the Fox River Corridor, which would connect with the Fox River Parkway in Waukesha County on the north and the Fox River Parkway in Kenosha County on the south; and two trail connections, which would connect with Walworth County on the west and the Honey Creek and Fox River Corridors in Racine County.

The Department of Natural Resources would be responsible for about 13 miles (including two existing miles) or about 19 percent of the recommended trail system, including: the Bong Recreation Area Corridor, which would connect the State-owned Bong Recreation Area in Kenosha County to the Fox River Corridor in Racine County; and the Honey Creek Corridor, which would connect with the Fox River

Table 19

**ESTIMATED ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS FOR
COUNTY PARKS AS SET FORTH BY THE RECOMMENDED PARK PLAN**

County Park	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Acquisition Cost	Proposed Facility Development	Development Cost	Total Cost
Major Parks					
Browns Lake Golf Course	75	\$ 169,000	Canoe access General development ^a Fairway/practice area expansion	\$ 15,000 50,000 50,000	\$ 284,000
Bushnell Park	None	--	Picnicking Trails	25,000 9,000	34,000
Case Eagle Park	None	--	Picnicking Canoe access General development ^a Primitive camping facilities Trails	25,000 15,000 200,000 25,000 9,000	274,000
Cliffside Park	305	920,000	Picnicking General development ^a Nature center Trails	25,000 50,000 400,000 9,000	1,404,000
Ives Grove Golf Links	None	--	--	--	--
Pritchard Park	None	--	Picnicking General development ^a	25,000 200,000	225,000
Sanders Park	55	138,000	Picnicking General development ^a	25,000 50,000	213,000
W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp	187	681,000	General development ^a Satellite nature center Trails	50,000 200,000 9,000	940,000
Proposed Major County Park	85	158,000	Picnicking General development ^a	25,000 50,000	233,000
Subtotal – 9 sites	707	\$2,066,000	--	\$1,541,000	\$ 3,607,000
Other Parks					
Proposed 18-Hole County Golf Course	160	\$ 400,000	18-hole golf course with clubhouse	\$3,500,000	\$ 3,900,000
Proposed County Park	184	704,000	Picnicking Trails	25,000 9,000	738,000
Eagle Lake Park	--	--	Swimming beach development and beach house	50,000	50,000
Subtotal – 3 Sites	344	\$1,104,000	--	\$3,584,000	\$ 4,688,000
Trails					
Lake Michigan Recreation Corridor	-- ^b	-- ^b	One mile of trails	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000
Root River Recreation Corridor	-- ^b	-- ^b	14 miles of trails	739,000	739,000
Fox River Recreation Corridor	-- ^b	-- ^b	16 miles of trails	845,000	845,000
White River/Delavan Recreation Corridor	-- ^b	-- ^b	One mile of trails	53,000	53,000
Subtotal – 4 Corridors	--	--	--	\$1,690,000	\$ 1,690,000
Other County Trails					
Waterford-Wind Lake Trail	--	--	--	--	--
Racine-Burlington Trail	--	--	22 miles of trails	\$1,162,000	\$ 1,162,000
Subtotal – 2 Trails	--	--	--	\$1,162,000	\$ 1,162,000
Total	1,051	\$3,170,000	--	\$7,977,000	\$11,147,000

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2000 dollars.

^aGeneral development (\$50,000) includes landscaping, parking areas and access drives, and such furnishings as benches, waste containers, and signs. At Case Eagle Park and Pritchard Park, general development (\$200,000) also includes additional facilities such as playfields.

^bThe Lake Michigan, Root River, Fox River, and White River/Delavan recreation corridors are generally proposed to be developed within primary environmental corridor lands. The cost for acquiring such lands is included in Table 15.

Source: SEWRPC.

Corridor in the Village of Rochester on the north and with the Fox River Corridor in the City of Burlington on the south.

The development of 43 miles of trails in the Lake Michigan, Root River, Fox River, Bong Recreation Area, Honey Creek, and White River/Delavan corridors within the County is estimated to cost about \$2.3 million—with Racine County responsible for approximately \$1.7 million, and the Department of Natural Resources responsible for about \$0.6 million.

Other County Trails

As shown on Map 18, Racine County is also responsible for the development and maintenance of two other trails—the Waterford-Wind Lake Trail and the Racine-Burlington 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 30 miles (including eight existing miles). The development of the remaining 22 miles of trails is estimated to cost about \$1,162,000.

Lake and River Access

Boat access sites, both public and nonpublic, 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, fishing, and canoeing. 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 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in keeping with State *Statutes* and regulations which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, recently adopted revised 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. Table 14 in Chapter IV lists the major lakes in the County and indicates whether or not public access is provided which meets Department requirements. As indicated in the table, in 2000, the following major lakes in Racine County had inadequate or no access provided which met Department standards: Kee-Nong-Go-Mong Lake, Long Lake, and Tichigan/Buena Lakes. Under this plan, then, as shown on Map 18, it is recommended that public boat access sites at the aforementioned lakes be expanded or acquired and developed as appropriate by the Wisconsin Depart-

ment of Natural Resources. The total estimated acquisition and development cost for the recommended lake access sites is about \$750,000.

It is recommended that public canoe access points with parking should be provided on major streams every 10 miles in Racine County. Major streams in Racine County include the Fox River and the Root River. Public canoe access is currently provided at Bushnell Park along the Fox River, and at the site informally known as the Horlick Property in the Root River Parkway. Additional public canoe access points with parking should be provided at Case Eagle Park and Browns Lake Golf Course.

In addition to boating and canoeing, the County park plan recognized 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 outdoor recreational use have become increasingly scarce in Racine County, given their desirability for development as homesites. As lakeshore property, either developed or undeveloped, becomes available in the years ahead, Racine County, or the appropriate municipality, should evaluate their recreational and open space potential and consider their acquisition for public recreational and open space 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 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 April 2000, 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 Towns of Caledonia, Mt. Pleasant, and Waterford.

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 B 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 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and by 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 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 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 Department

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 Department 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 Department also has the authority to administer the Federal grant program known as the Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Fund 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 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: 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 acquisition and development of boat access sites to major inland lakes and Lake Michigan; 7) be responsible for the acquisition and development of the Bong Recreation Area Corridor and Honey Creek Corridor. A summary of costs associated with recommendations directed to the Department is included in Table 20.

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 Public Works Committee and the Racine County Board of Supervisors. A summary of the park acquisition and development and open space preservation recommendations for the County is also included in Table 20.

Table 20

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 Open Space Acquisition		Planned Park Land Acquisition		Total Planned Acquisition		Development Cost	Total Acquisition and Development Cost
	Area (acres)	Cost	Area (acres)	Cost	Area (acres)	Cost		
State of Wisconsin.....	2,089	\$ 4,413,800	--	--	2,089	\$ 4,413,800	\$ 580,800	\$ 4,994,600
Racine County.....	2,464	5,795,100	1,051	\$3,170,000	3,515	8,965,100	7,977,000	16,942,100
Local Governments ^a	231	683,100	-- ^b	--	231	683,100	--	683,100
Nonprofit Conservation Organizations.....	1,012	3,902,500	--	--	1,012	3,902,500	--	3,902,500
Total	5,796	\$14,794,500	1,051	\$3,170,000	6,847	\$17,964,500	\$8,557,800	\$26,522,300

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2000 Dollars.

^aIncludes city, village, and town governments, school districts, and lake and sanitary districts.

^bAdditional local government park lands should be determined through the preparation and adoption of local park and open space plans.

Source: SEWRPC.

Under the recommended park and open space plan presented in this chapter, Racine County should: 1) acquire additional land and/or develop additional facilities at seven existing major park sites—Browns Lake Golf Course, Bushnell Park, Case Eagle Park, Cliffside Park, Pritchard Park, Sanders Park, and W.R. Wadewitz Nature Camp; 2) acquire and develop one proposed new major County park; 3) develop additional facilities at Eagle Lake Park; 4) acquire and develop a new County golf course; 5) acquire and develop a new natural area related County park; and 6) maintain existing facilities at Ives Grove Golf Links. 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 an additional 2,726 acres of primary environmental corridors, about 62 acres of secondary environmental corridors, and about 69 acres of isolated natural resource areas. In addition to woodlands, wetlands, and other natural resources, the land recommended to be acquired by the County contain natural areas and critical species

habitat sites providing habitat for rare plant and animal species.

The plan also recommends the development by the County of 57 miles of trails along Lake Michigan, Root River, Fox River, and White River, and 30 miles of the Waterford-Wind Lake Trail and the Racine-Burlington Trail. Racine County should work cooperatively with the associated communities to identify and establish appropriate on- and off-street routes to connect these trails, including the implementation of the year 2010 regional bicycle and pedestrian plan as shown on Map 10, 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, water access facilities, and certain important natural resource features are 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 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 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources acquisition procedures, which include an appraisal by the Department for all acquisitions undertaken by governmental units using Department 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.

As already noted, the associated costs for the acquisition and development of County park and open space sites, as set forth in Table 20, are estimated at about \$16.9 million. This amount distributed over the 20-year planning implementation period would approximate an expenditure of about \$847,000 per

year. Under the assumption that the population of the County would approximate 248,200 persons by the year 2020, the average annual acquisition and development costs would be about \$3.87 per capita⁴ 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.

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 recreational purposes, and also land for 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 acquisitions significantly more costly. Racine County should establish 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, Lake Michigan, Root River, and White River/Delavan corridors; and then by acquisition of other environmental corridor lands.

⁴The average annual per capita costs were estimated by dividing the estimated average annual costs by the average annual population over the 20-year plan implementation period. The average population was determined by calculating the average of the 2000 population estimate by the Wisconsin Department of Administration of about 189,500 persons and the plan design year 2020 population of about 248,200 persons, which is 218,900 persons.

A summary of recommended acquisition and development activities for Racine County parks during the 20-year period between 2000 and 2020 is set forth in Table 19. These actions would allow the County to meet its long term goals of providing sites and facilities for outdoor recreation and for preserving important natural resource areas in Racine County.

In addition to the specific acquisition activities for Racine County described in the plan, other opportunities to acquire land for outdoor recreation and related use may materialize in the years ahead. When County acquisition of such land would significantly enhance existing or planned recreation sites and facilities, or when such acquisition would preserve or provide access to historic or archeological sites that may be discovered in the future, such acquisition should be considered to be in conformance with this plan.

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; this includes 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 the Department of Natural Resources project boundaries for the Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area, and Tichigan Wildlife Area; 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 34,266 acres—including primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resources, and certain adjacent lands. Of this total, 5,934 acres, or about 17 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or in compatible private outdoor recreation use in 2000, and are recommended to be preserved in current ownership. It is recommended that an additional 6,361 acres, or about 19 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. Of the total of 6,361 acres, 2,089 acres would be acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; 3,029 acres by Racine County; 231 acres by local governments; and 1,012 acres by nonprofit conservation organizations.
- The plan recommends that 21,971 acres of environmentally significant lands be protected through zoning districts which 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 51 natural areas, 29 critical species habitat sites, and six geological areas.
- 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 Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area, and 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 farmland preservation plan for Racine County be preserved 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 2020.

- 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 one proposed major County park is 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 18-hole golf course with a clubhouse in the central portion of

the County, and a new natural area oriented County park in the northwestern corner of the Town of Norway.

- Under the recommended plan, a 70-mile system of recreation trails would be provided within the County to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. A total of 13 miles of this system would be provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources—including three miles as part of the Bong Recreation Area Corridor; and 10 miles as part of the Honey Creek Corridor. A total of 57 miles would be provided by Racine County—including 18 miles as part of the Lake Michigan Corridor; 17 miles as part of the Root River Corridor; 21 miles as part of the Fox River Corridor; and one mile as part of the White River/Delavan Corridor. Two other trails would be provided by Racine County—including seven miles as part of the Waterford-Wind Lake Trail; and 23 miles as part of the Racine-Burlington Trail.
- The plan also recommends the development of boat access points on major lakes and streams to provide opportunities for those individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such water-related recreation activities as motor boating, waterskiing, fishing, and canoeing. Under the plan, it is recommended that public boat access sites be expanded or acquired and developed by the Department of Natural Resources on the following lakes: Kee-Nong-Go-Mong Lake; Long Lake; and Tichigan/Buena Lakes.
- In addition to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources providing boat access to the major lakes in the County, facilities for other recreation activities, such as beach swimming, shore fishing, or other passive recreation uses, should also be provided. It is recommended that Racine County pursue opportunities to provide lake access for other recreation activities, as such opportunities become available.

Plan Implementation

- Implementation of the County park and open space plan would involve the acquisition by public agencies and nonprofit conservation organizations of a total of about 6,847 acres of

land. Of this total, 2,089 acres, or 31 percent, would be acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; 3,515 acres, or 51 percent by Racine County; 231 acres, or 3 percent, by local units of government in the County; and 1,012 acres, or 15 percent, by nonprofit conservation organizations (see Table 20).

- The total cost for implementing the park and open space plan is estimated to be \$26.5 million, including \$18.0 million for land acquisition and \$8.5 million for recreational facility development. Of the total plan implementation cost, about \$5.0 million, or 19 percent, would be borne by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; \$16.9 million, or 64 percent, would be borne by Racine County; \$0.7 million, or 2 percent, would be borne by

local units of government; and \$3.9 million, or 15 percent, would be borne by nonprofit conservation organizations.

- The total cost to Racine County of \$16.9 million includes \$9.0 million for land acquisition and \$7.9 million for facility development. This amount distributed over the 20-year plan implementation period would approximate about \$847,000 per year. These costs may be offset through grants provided for recreational and open space purposes by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 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.

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Chapter VI

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

A park and open space plan for Racine County was included in the 1977 park and open space plan for the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region. That plan called for a system of large parks with natural resource amenities, such as lakes and wooded areas, to provide hiking trails and swimming beaches, as well as to accommodate uses such as camping, picnicking, and golfing. The plan also called for the development of smaller community and neighborhood parks for more intensive recreational activities, such as baseball, basketball, tennis, and for playgrounds. Under the regional park plan, responsibility for acquiring and developing large, resource-oriented parks was assigned to the state and county levels of government, and responsibility for acquiring and developing community and neighborhood parks was assigned to cities, villages, and towns.

In addition to a system of parks, the regional park plan also recommended a network of recreational trails along major rivers, and the Lake Michigan shoreline; and further recommended that areas with concentrations of important natural resources, which are referred to as primary environmental corridors, be preserved through a combination of protective zoning and public ownership. The plan also recommended that adequate public access to major lakes and streams for boating and fishing be provided.

In 1984, the Racine County Highway and Parks Committee requested that SEWRPC assist the County in refining and updating the regional park and open

space plan as it applied to Racine County. The resulting plan was documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, September 1988. That plan, which has a design year of 2000, was adopted by the Racine County Board of Supervisors on February 14, 1989.

On April 17, 1995, Racine County requested the assistance of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in the preparation of a new County park and open space plan. This plan is designed to extend the recommendations of the existing Racine County park and open space plan to the design year 2020. The plan is based on 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 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.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

A description of the population and employment levels, natural resources, and land use 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 1990, the most recent year for which data from the U.S. Census are

available, was about 175,000. The population level increased by about 14,500 persons, to a level of 189,500 persons in 2000, about 8 percent greater than the 1990 level, according to State population estimates.

In 1990, there were about 63,700 households in Racine County, representing an increase of about 28 percent, from 1970. With the number of households increasing at a faster rate than population, the number of persons per household has decreased.

There were about 88,800 employment opportunities, or jobs, in Racine County in 1990. The County has experienced a 38 percent increase in employment over the past two decades, with the number of jobs increasing by about 24,300 between 1970 and 1990.

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 1990 encompassed about 38 square miles, or about 11 percent of the County. The preservation of these corridors in essentially natural, open use is important to 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 1990, these corridors encompassed about 11 square miles, or about 3 percent of the County. Maintenance of these corridors in open uses can facilitate natural surface water drainage, 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 12 square miles, or about 3 percent of the County, in 1990. These areas sometimes serve as the only available wildlife habitat in an area, and may function as storm water retention areas.

Land Use

In 1995, urban land uses—consisting primarily of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional, recreational, and transportation, communication, and utility uses—encompassed about 67 square miles, or about 20 percent of the total area of the County. Residential land comprised the largest share of the urban land area, encompassing 34 square miles, or about 50 percent of all urban land and 10 percent of the total area of the County.

In 1995, nonurban land uses—including agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, surface water, landfill and extractive, and other open lands—encompassed about 273 square miles, or about 80 percent of the County. Agricultural land comprised the largest share of the nonurban land area, accounting for about 204 square miles, or about 60 percent of the total area of the County.

INVENTORY OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

An inventory of existing public park and open space sites in Racine County in 2000 found that the County owned a total of 31 park and outdoor recreation sites encompassing 2,615 acres. There are an additional 17 park and open space sites, encompassing 3,310 acres, owned by the State of Wisconsin, and 214 sites, encompassing 2,774 acres, owned by local units of government and school districts for outdoor recreation or natural resource preservation purposes. An additional 44 sites, encompassing 1,783 acres, are developed for private resource-oriented outdoor recreational use, and seven sites, encompassing 282 acres, are owned by private organizations for resource protection purposes.

Public access for motor-boating purposes is provided at Bohner Lake, Browns Lake, Eagle Lake, Fox River, Root River, Tichigan Lake, Waubeesee Lake, and Wind Lake.

Existing recreation trails in Racine County include: 17 miles of the Lake Michigan recreation corridor; three miles of the Root River recreation corridor; and five miles of the Fox River recreation corridor.

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 and archeological areas in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the regional natural areas protection and management plan;¹ 3) the protection of open space lands located within established Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources project boundaries, which in Racine County include the Honey Creek Wildlife Area, the Karcher Marsh Wildlife Area, and the Tichigan Wildlife Area; and 4) the protection of prime agricultural lands.

It is recommended that a total of 34,266 acres of open space lands, or about 16 percent of Racine County, be protected through a combination of public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or through the application of protective zoning. These 34,266 acres include planned primary and secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, and areas outside corridors but within the Department of Natural Resources project boundaries. 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 34,266 acres of recommended open space lands, 5,934 acres, or about 17 percent, were in

public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or in compatible private outdoor recreation use in 2000; and are recommended to be preserved in such ownership. It is recommended that an additional 6,361 acres, or about 19 percent of proposed open space lands, including 565 acres within proposed new or expanded major County park sites, be acquired by public agencies for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. The remaining 21,971 acres of open space lands should be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodland, lowland conservancy and, for upland portions of the corridor, upland conservancy zoning. Upland conservancy zoning should limit residential development to an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres, in areas outside steep slopes.

Prime farmlands are identified in the Racine County farmland preservation plan as farm units at least 35 acres in size, consisting predominantly of soils meeting the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service criteria for prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance, and occurring in a farming area of at least 100 acres in size. Under the plan, it is recommended that all prime agricultural lands identified in the farmland preservation plan for Racine County be preserved in agricultural use.

Outdoor Recreation Element

The outdoor recreation element of the plan recommends a new major park site and facilities, and improvements at existing major parks; new or expanded boat access facilities to major lakes; and the development of areawide trails.

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, 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.

Under the new County park plan, the existing major County parks would be maintained and improved. It is recommended that four of the existing major County parks be expanded to include adjacent lands with important natural resource values. Additional

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

facilities are also recommended to be developed at seven existing major County parks.

In addition to maintaining and improving the eight existing major County parks, Racine County would be responsible for acquiring and developing one new major park, to be located on the southeastern shore of Wind Lake, in the Town of Norway. Recommended facilities at the new park site include the development of picnic areas with necessary support facilities.

Under the recommended plan, the County would also provide a new 18-hole golf course in the central portion of the County, and a new natural area oriented County park in the northwestern corner of the Town of Norway.

The plan also recommends that six major trails be provided within the County. About 57 miles (including 25 existing miles) would be provided by Racine County: the Lake Michigan Corridor, which would connect with the Lake Michigan Corridor in Milwaukee County on the north and with the Pike River Corridor in Kenosha County on the south; the Root River Corridor, which would connect with the Root River Corridor in Milwaukee County on the north and with the Lake Michigan Corridor on the south; the Fox River Corridor, which would connect with the Fox River Parkway in Waukesha County on the north and the Fox River Parkway in Kenosha County on the south; and two trail connections, which would connect with Walworth County on the west and the Honey Creek and Fox River Corridors in Racine County. The Department of Natural Resources would be responsible for about 13 miles (including two existing miles), including: the Bong Recreation Area Corridor, which would connect the State-owned Bong Recreation Area in Kenosha County to the Fox River Corridor in Racine County; and the Honey Creek Corridor, which would connect with the Fox River Corridor in the Village of Rochester on the north and with the Fox River Corridor in the City of Burlington on the south.

In addition to the six recreation corridors, two other County trails, the Waterford-Wind Lake Trail and the Racine-Burlington Trail, will be provided by the County. 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 30 miles (including eight existing miles).

The plan also recommends the development of boat access points on major lakes in accordance with State policy to provide public motor boat access to lakes of 50 acres or more. Such access provides opportunities for those individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such water-related recreation activities as motor boating, waterskiing, fishing, and canoeing. Under the plan, it is recommended that public boat access sites be expanded or acquired and developed as appropriate by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on Kee-Nong-Go-Mong Lake, Long Lake, and Tichigan/Buena Lakes.

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 2020 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, 6,847 acres, representing about 3 percent of the total area of the County, would be acquired for park and open space purposes at an estimated cost of \$18.0 million. Racine County would be responsible for acquiring about 3,500 acres of that total, at an estimated cost of \$9.0 million. Development costs would total about \$8.5 million, with Racine County responsible for about \$7.9 million of that amount.

The total estimated cost for implementing the County park and open space plan, is about \$26.5 million. The estimated cost to Racine County is about \$16.9 million, or about 64 percent of the total. The costs associated with implementation of the County park plan may be offset through grants provided for recreational and open space purposes by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 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.

APPENDICES

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Appendix A

Table A-1

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES, TOWNS, OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2000

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	Winkler School.....	08	021908	2
5	Wilmot High School Forest	08	021913	160
6	Burlington School Forest.....	08	021913	160
7	Lagoon Park	06	021917	2
8	Rochester Commons Park	05	031902	3
9	Pioneer Memorial Park.....	05	031911	1
10	Bear Meadows Park I.....	04	031929	4
11	Bear Meadows Park II.....	04	031929	2
12	Wehmoff Woodland Preserve.....	06	031929	87
13	Steinhoff Park.....	04	031929	2
14	Glen Hintz Sports Complex	04	031929	11
15	Echo Lake Veterans Memorial Park.....	04	031929	9
16	Grove Street Park.....	04	031929	1
17	Festival Park	04	031929	5
18	Maryland Ball Diamond	04	031929	2
19	Baumont Ball Field	04	031929	5
20	Wagner Park.....	04	031930	3
21	Sunset Park	04	031931	2
22	Burlington Junior High	08	031931	7
23	West Edge Park.....	04	031931	2
24	Highridge Park	04	031931	4
25	Riverside Park	04	031932	5
26	Wehmoff-Jucker Benson Park.....	04	031932	6
27	Meinhardt Park.....	04	031932	1
28	Wehmoff Square	04	031932	1
29	Water Tower Park.....	04	031932	1
30	Devor Park	04	031932	7
31	Cooper School	08	031932	1
32	Waller School.....	08	031932	7
33	Burlington High School	08	031932	12
34	St. Mary's Park	04	031932	15
35	McCanna Park	04	031933	32
36	McCanna Wetland Preserve	04	031933	7
37	McCanna Park II	04	031933	2
38	Unnamed Park	04	031933	8
39	Tomahawk Park	06	032021	1
40	Mohican Park	06	032021	1
41	Dover Center ^c	08	032022	1
42	Kansasville School	08	032026	2
43	Veterans Memorial Wayside Park.....	06	032028	3
44	Town Land.....	06	032030	2
45	Raymond District School	08	032105	1
46	Yorkville School.....	08	032108	64
47	Union Grove Union High School	08	032129	17
48	American Legion Memorial Park	05	032129	11
49	Buften Park.....	05	032129	1
50	Groves Subdivision Park	05	032129	3
51	Well #3 Park.....	05	032130	1
52	Village Square.....	05	032130	1
53	Joseph Leider Memorial Park	05	032130	3
54	Union Grove Grade School	08	032132	5
55	Indian Trail Park.....	05	032132	1

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
56	Union Grove Middle School.....	08	032132	9
57	Drozdz Park	06	032201	6
58	Smolenski Park	06	032210	72
59	Timmer Park.....	06	032211	10
60	Bud Orth Memorial Park	06	032211	4
61	Westridge School	08	032213	11
62	Starbuck Junior High School	08	032213	13
63	J. I. Case High School	08	032214	43
64	Sturtevant Park	05	032221	3
65	Sturtevant School.....	08	032221	1
66	Firemen's Park	05	032221	13
67	Stuart McBride Park	06	032223	37
68	Cozy Acres Park	06	032223	26
69	Giese School	08	032224	7
70	Hantschel Park	04	032224	7
71	Wayside Park.....	06	032224	1
72	Regency Hills Park.....	06	032225	6
73	Frederick Schulte School	08	032227	10
74	95th Street Park.....	05	032228	4
75	Zoo Park.....	04	032304	25
76	Theodore Roosevelt School	08	032304	2
77	Hagerer Park.....	04	032304	1
78	Jonas Park	04	032304	1
79	North Beach	04	032304	46
80	Lakeview Park	04	032304	4
81	Douglas Park	04	032305	5
82	Airport Park	04	032305	3
83	Wustum Park and Art Museum.....	04	032305	11
84	Horlick High School and Wadewitz School	08	032305	21
85	Horlick Athletic Field	04	032305	8
86	Colonial Park	04	032307	63
87	Lockwood Park.....	04	032307	38
88	Harvey Playground.....	04	032307	2
89	Maple Grove Park	04	032307	4
90	Builder's Park	04	032308	1
91	Marino Playground.....	04	032308	2
92	State - Hamilton Park	04	032308	1
93	Lincoln Park.....	04	032308	31
94	McKinley School.....	08	032308	2
95	Springvale East Park	04	032308	1
96	Springvale West Park.....	04	032308	2
97	Horlick (Island) Park.....	04	032308	12
98	Lewis Field.....	04	032308	9
99	Lee Park	04	032308	4
100	Jefferson School.....	08	032308	1
101	Brose Park.....	04	032308	3
102	Randolph Park.....	04	032308	1
103	Colbert Park.....	04	032309	1
104	Janes School.....	08	032309	1
105	Rooney Park	04	032309	1
106	Pugh Park.....	04	032309	1
107	Dr. King Park	04	032309	2
108	Marquette Park.....	04	032309	1
109	Harris Plaza	04	032309	1
110	Dr. King Plaza	04	032309	1
111	Monument Square	04	032309	1

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
112	Gaslight Pointe.....	04	032309	3
113	Azarian Park	04	032309	1
114	Thompson Park.....	04	032309	1
115	Crosswalk Park.....	04	032309	1
116	Festival Park	04	032309	5
117	Pershing Park	04	032316	34
118	West Park.....	04	032316	3
119	Myers Park.....	04	032316	8
120	Walden III Middle School.....	08	032316	2
121	Franklin Park.....	04	032316	2
122	Highland Park.....	04	032316	1
123	Simonson Beach.....	04	032316	5
124	H.G. Winslow School	08	032316	1
125	City Land.....	04	032316	1
126	Parker Playground	04	032317	1
127	Jones Park	04	032317	1
128	Clayton Park	04	032317	5
129	Riverside Park	04	032317	15
130	Cedar Bend Park	04	032317	2
131	Washington Park Golf Course.....	04	032317	77
132	Washington Park Recreation Center	04	032317	2
133	Washington Park High School	08	032317	7
134	Washington Park Bowl.....	04	032317	9
135	Erskine Park.....	04	032317	5
136	Dr. Pierce Park.....	04	032318	1
137	Fratt School	08	032318	1
138	Solbraa Field	04	032318	2
139	Back Park	04	032318	1
140	Oak Park.....	04	032319	6
141	Johnson School.....	08	032319	10
142	Humble Park.....	04	032319	19
143	Pierce Woods	04	032319	7
144	Jay-Eye-See Park.....	04	032320	1
145	Knapp School	08	032320	4
146	Mitchell School	08	032320	3
147	Case-Harmon Park.....	04	032320	4
148	Fuller Park.....	04	032320	1
149	Wallis Park	04	032320	1
150	Wellington Park.....	04	032320	2
151	Dodge Park	04	032321	1
152	City Land.....	04	032321	4
153	Carre Hoagle Memorial Park.....	04	032321	3
154	Racine Street Park	04	032321	1
155	Stephen Bull School.....	08	032321	1
156	17th Street Park Site.....	04	032321	3
157	Hamilton Park.....	04	032321	3
158	Roosevelt Park	04	032321	21
159	Sheridan Woods Park	06	032329	3
160	Greencrest Park.....	04	032329	5
161	Lake Park.....	06	032329	3
162	Reservoir Park.....	04	032330	24
163	Jones School.....	08	032330	2
164	Village Hall Playground	05	032330	2
165	Dirske Park.....	06	032331	1
166	Lathrop Manor Subdivision Unnamed Park.....	06	032331	3

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
167	Washington School.....	08	041901	1
168	Undeveloped Park Site	06	041901	39
169	Slack Park	06	041917	12
170	Huening Park.....	05	041935	1
171	Village Hall Park.....	05	041935	3
172	Safety Building Park.....	05	041935	1
173	Waterford Union High School.....	08	041935	60
174	Fox River Middle School.....	08	041935	12
175	Mapleview School	08	041935	3
176	Evergreen Elementary School	08	041935	1
177	Ten Club Park.....	05	041935	1
178	Whitford Park	05	041935	13
179	Drought School.....	08	042001	3
180	Lakeview School.....	08	042008	5
181	Meyer Park.....	06	042017	48
182	Raymond Town Park.....	06	042116	10
183	Raymond Center School.....	08	042121	11
184	North Cape School	08	042130	13
185	County Line Park.....	06	042202	17
186	Gorney Park.....	06	042203	40
187	Caddy Vista School	08	042204	7
188	Town Owned Land	06	042204	7
189	Linwood Park	06	042214	18
190	Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	06	042221	127
191	Johnson Park	04	042225	357
192	Caledonia Town Land	06	042233	18
193	Caledonia/Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park.....	06	042233	52
194	W. Allen Gifford School	08	042234	12
195	Chapla Park	06	042308	10
196	5 1/2 Mile Park-Marsh.....	06	042317	21
197	Open Space Site	08	042317	29
198	Woodland Park.....	06	042318	4
199	Eastside Community Center.....	06	042318	1
200	Olympia Brown Elementary School	08	042321	24
201	Sandyhurst Point Lots.....	05	042322	1
202	Lighthouse Lots	05	042327	2
203	Shoop Park	04	042327	53
204	Wind Point Lighthouse	05	042327	2
205	The Village Green	05	042327	7
206	Wind Point School	08	042328	7
207	Town Owned Land	06	042328	21
208	North Park School	08	042329	4
209	Carlson Park	04	042333	4
210	North Bay Village Park	05	042333	3
211	Jerstad Agerholm School.....	08	042333	9
212	Cheska Park	04	042333	7
213	Matson Park	04	042333	1
214	Lombard Avenue Lake Access	04	042333	1
--	Total: 214 Sites	--	--	2,774

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

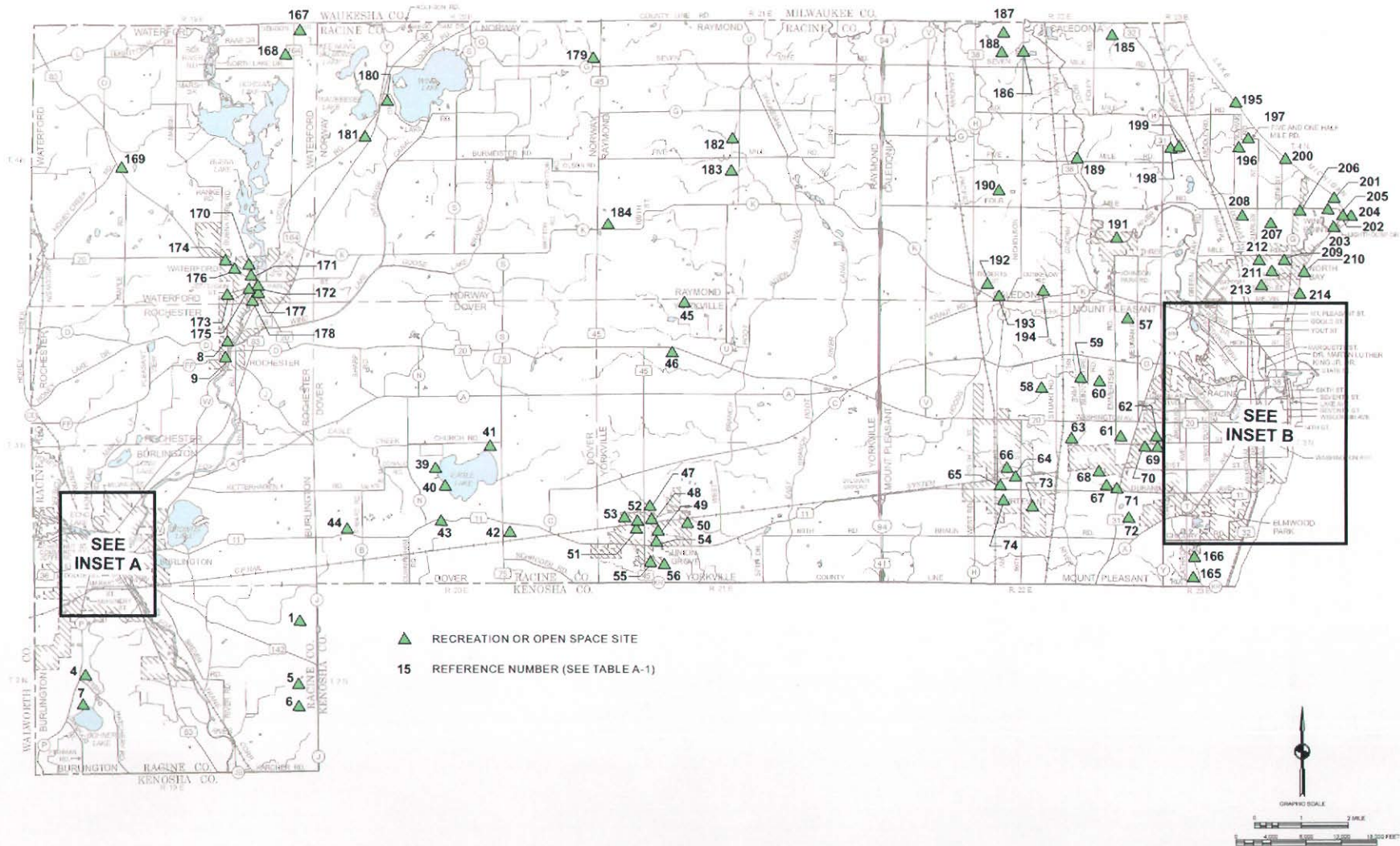
^bThe location numbers represent the U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range and Section numbers in which the site is located.

^cDover School District is leasing the school at St. Mary's Congregation.

Source: SEWRPC.

Map A-1

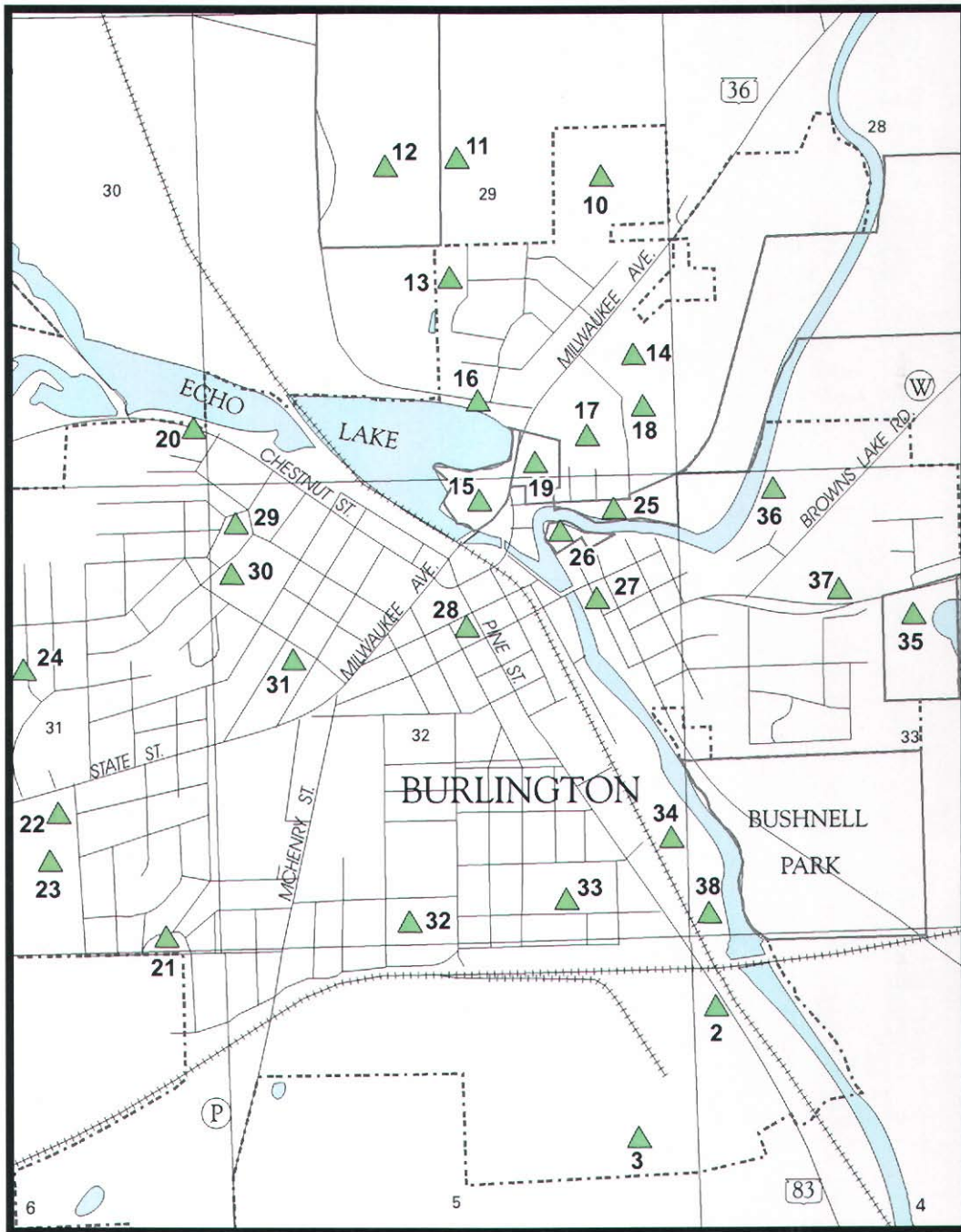
PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES, TOWNS, OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2000



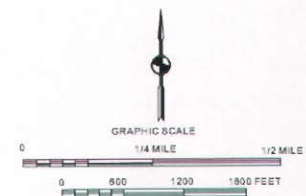
Source: SEWRPC.

Inset A to Map A-1

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES,
TOWNS, OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2000



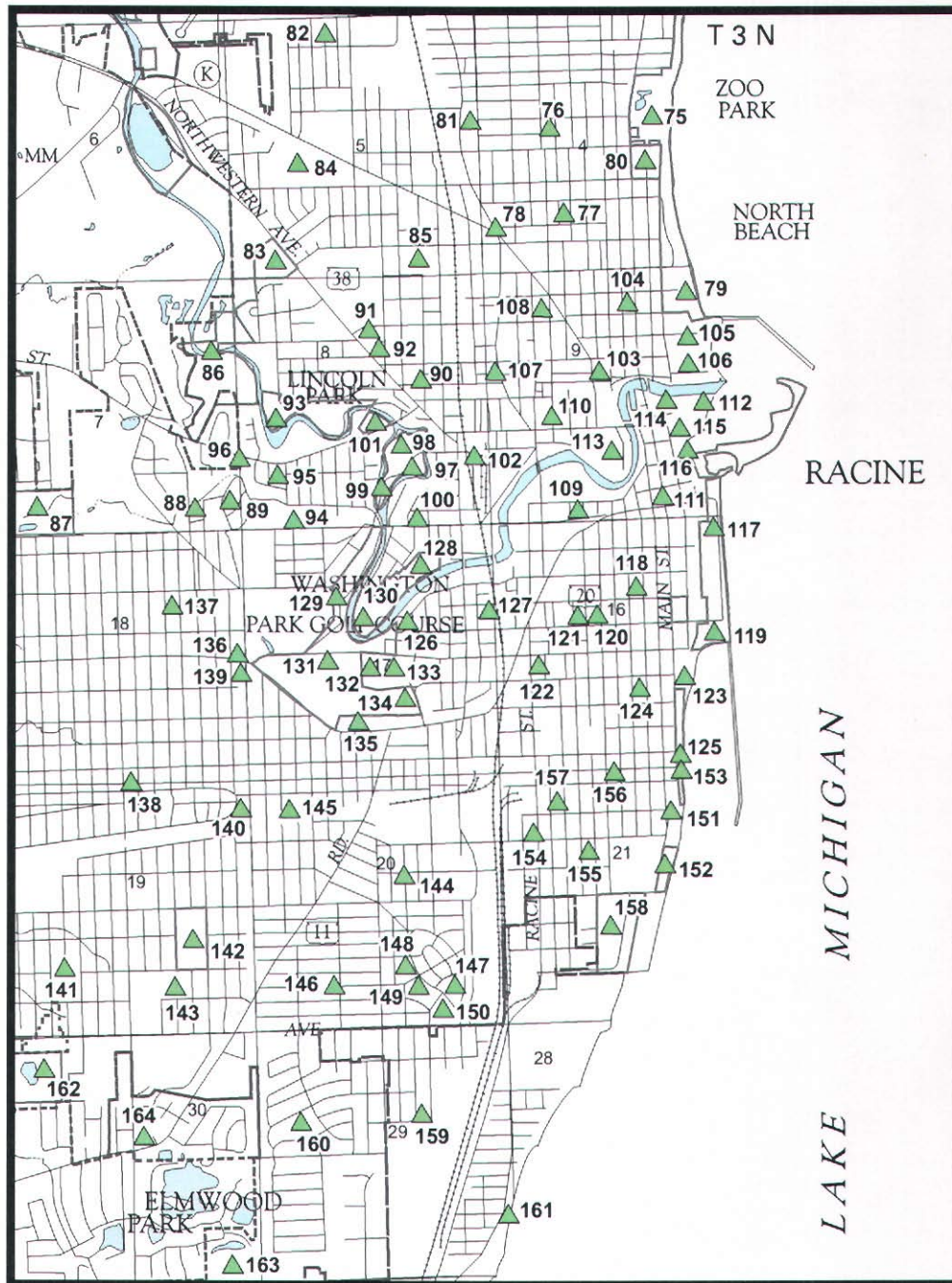
- ▲ RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE SITE
- 15 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE A-1)



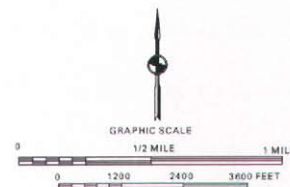
Source: SEWRPC.

Inset B to Map A-1

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES,
TOWNS, OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2000



- ▲ RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE SITE
- 15 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE A-1)



Source: SEWRPC.

Table A-2

PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2000

Number on Map A-2	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
1	Country Ski Club	12	021901	20
2	Sun Ray Hills Camp	12	021907	165
3	Herb Leach Park	12	021918	4
4	Julius Aukes Park	12	021920	1
5	Fairfield Subdivision Beach	12	031927	1
6	Halls Point Park	12	031927	1
7	Cedar Park	12	031927	2
8	Camp Macleah YMCA	10	031933	275
9	Petrie's Resort	11	031934	1
10	Pan-Yak Park	12	032022	22
11	Racine Instinctive Bowmen Club	12	032112	80
12	Wisconsin Sportsmen's Association Recreation Area	10	032127	24
13	County Fair Grounds	10	032131	85
14	Meadow Brook Country Club	12	032306	157
15	Racine Country Club	12	032306	204
16	Pugh Marina	12	032309	11
17	Racine Yacht Club	12	032309	3
18	Fifth Street Yacht Club	12	032309	3
19	Captains Cove	12	032309	1
20	Azarian Marina	12	032309	15
21	Harbor Lite Marina	12	032309	1
22	Palmer Johnson	12	032309	1
23	Hide-a-Way Resort	11	041903	1
24	Wind Lake Shooting Preserve	12	041909	50
25	Fox River Lodge	11	041910	1
26	Ice Herman's Resort	11	041912	1
27	The Pit Stop	11	041914	3
28	Nann's Southeast Shore	11	041914	2
29	Rivermoor Golf Course	11	041926	106
30	Green Meadows Farms	11	041929	80
31	Jim's Marina	11	041936	1
32	Risky Business (VFW)	11	042004	3
33	Sportsman's Resort	11	042004	1
34	Schad's Resort	11	042008	2
35	Neighborhood Park	12	042016	3
36	Triglav Slovenian Park	12	042018	13
37	Hidden Valley	10	042018	6
38	Raymond Heights Country Club	11	042112	73
39	West Allis Bowmen's Club	10	042118	60
40	North Shore Winchester Shooting	11	042124	24
41	Yogi Bear Jellystone Park	11	042204	63
42	New Marshall Right-Of-Way	10	042211	2
43	Trout Ponds Prairie	10	042224	28
44	Aboagye Acquisition	10	042225	6
45	South Hills Country Club	11	042231	134
46	Orrin C. Stearns Park	12	042235	3
47	Racine County Line Rifle Club Range	10	042306	80
48	Wisconsin Electric Power Gun Club	12	042306	2
49	Samuel C. Johnson Trust	12	042327	14
50	River Bend Nature Center	10	042331	87
51	Armstrong Park	12	042331	139
--	Total: 51 Sites	--	--	2,065

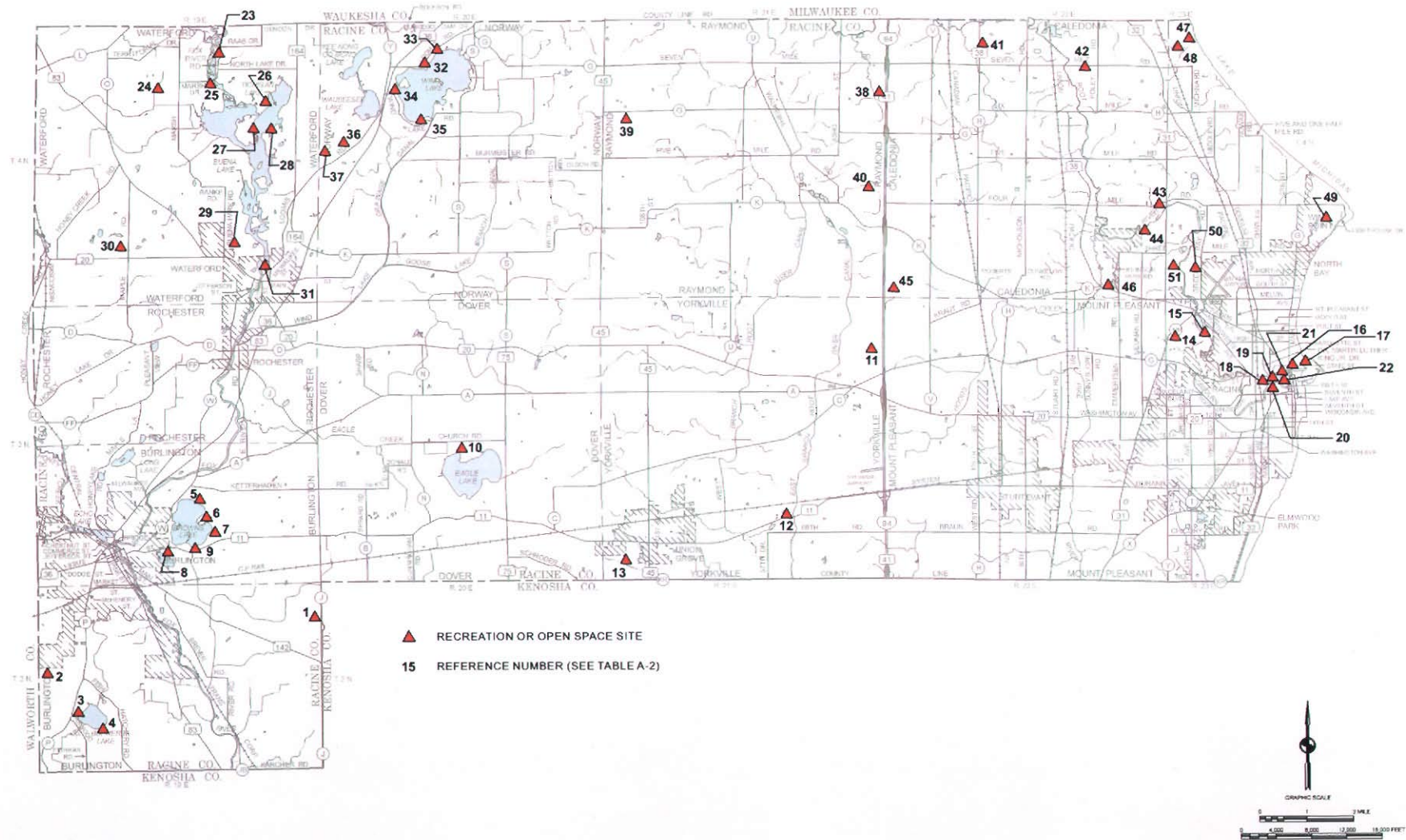
^aThe ownership code numbers signify the following: 10-Organizational; 11-Commercial; 12-Private.

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

Source:SEWRPC.

Map A-2

PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN RACINE COUNTY: 2000



Source: SEWRPC.

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Appendix B

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

1. 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	--

1. 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 corridors⁸ 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 ⁹				Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^f
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 ⁸	Types II, III and IV general use site	2.8 acres per diamond	Parking (30 spaces per diamond) Night lighting [†] Concessions and bleachers [†] 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

Minimum per Capita Facility Requirements ^Q				Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^T
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)	
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 Playfields	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
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 -- 0.05 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) ^X	
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 ^Y 2.39 8.74		Type I, II, III, and IV general use sites	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking Shelters and grill 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
			6	16							
			12	--							
			18	16							

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
	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Type I, II, III general use sites	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Suitable topography and soils Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils
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 Racine 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

^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 non-resource-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.

Footnotes (continued)

^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 thousand residents and the school standard of 1.6 acres per thousand residents, a total of 3.3 acres per thousand 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.

Footnotes (continued)

^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 thousand residents to publicly owned general-use sites is as follows: 3.80 tables per thousand 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 thousand 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.