



# **A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WALWORTH COUNTY**

**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**KENOSHA COUNTY**

Adelene Greene,  
Secretary  
Robert W. Pitts  
Michael J. Skalizky

**RACINE COUNTY**

Gilbert Bakke  
David Eberle  
Peggy L. Shumway

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

Marina Dimitrijevic  
William R. Drew,  
Vice Chairman  
John Rogers

**WALWORTH**

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

**OZAUKEE COUNTY**

Thomas H. Buestrin  
David W. Opitz  
Gus W. Wirth, Jr.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

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

**WAUKESHA COUNTY**

Michael A. Crowley  
Jose Delgado  
James T. Dwyer

**WALWORTH COUNTY OFFICIALS**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Nancy Russell, Chairman  
Jerry A. Grant, Vice-Chairman  
Richard Brandl  
Tim Brellenthin  
Daniel G. Kilkenny  
Kenneth H. Monroe  
Carl Redenius  
Joseph Schaefer  
Rick Stacey  
David A. Weber

**PARK COMMITTEE**

Michael Hurlburt  
Daniel G. Kilkenny  
Mariette Nowak  
Nancy Russell

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Kevin M. Brunner, Director of Central Services

Special acknowledgment is due Timothy Schiefelbein, former County Board Supervisor and Park Committee Chair for his contribution to this report.

**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL  
PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF**

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

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING REPORT NUMBER 135 (3rd Edition)

## **A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WALWORTH COUNTY**

Prepared by the

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive  
P.O. Box 1607  
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607  
[www.sewrpc.org](http://www.sewrpc.org)

and the

Walworth County Public Works Department  
W4097 CTH NN  
Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121  
[www.co.walworth.wi.us](http://www.co.walworth.wi.us)

Adopted by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors on March 11, 2014

March 2014

Inside Region \$10.00

(This page intentionally left blank)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page		Page
<b>Chapter I—INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Chapter III—EXISTING PARK AND</b>	
Introduction .....	1	<b>OPEN SPACE SITES.....</b>	<b>35</b>
Plan Context .....	1	Introduction.....	35
County Request .....	2	Existing Park and Open Space Sites .....	35
Walworth County Park Committee .....	2	Park and Open Space Sites	
Report Format.....	2	Owned by Walworth County.....	35
 <b>Chapter II—INVENTORY FINDINGS.....</b>	 <b>5</b>	Park and Open Space Sites	
Introduction .....	5	Owned by the State of Wisconsin .....	37
Demographic and Economic Characteristics.....	5	Wisconsin Department of	
Population .....	5	Natural Resources .....	37
Households.....	5	University of Wisconsin .....	39
Age Distribution.....	7	Wisconsin Department of	
Employment.....	7	Transportation .....	39
Historic Urban Growth and		Park and Open Space Sites Owned by	
Existing Land Uses .....	7	Local Governments or School Districts.....	39
Historic Urban Growth.....	7	Private and Public-Interest Resource-	
Existing Land Uses .....	10	Oriented Park and Open Space Sites .....	40
Natural Resources.....	10	Private Outdoor Recreation	
Surface Water Resources .....	12	and Open Space Sites .....	40
Groundwater Resources .....	12	Private Resource Protection Sites.....	40
Floodplains.....	15	Conservation Easements.....	40
Wetlands.....	15	Lake and River Access Sites .....	42
Woodlands .....	15	Trails and Bicycle Ways .....	44
Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat,		Historic Sites .....	44
and Geological Sites .....	16	Status of 2020 Plan Recommendations.....	44
Natural Areas .....	16	Summary .....	48
Critical Species Habitat.....	16	 <b>Chapter IV—OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES,</b>	
Geological Sites .....	16	<b>AND STANDARDS AND PARK AND</b>	
Environmental Corridors and		<b>OPEN SPACE NEEDS ANALYSIS.....</b>	<b>49</b>
Isolated Natural Resource Areas.....	24	Introduction.....	49
Primary Environmental Corridors.....	32	Objectives, Principles, and Standards .....	49
Secondary Environmental Corridors and		Park and Open Space Needs .....	50
Isolated Natural Resource Areas .....	32	Existing and Forecast Population	
Agricultural Land .....	32	Size and Distribution .....	50
Summary .....	34	Per Capita and Accessibility Standards .....	51

	Page		Page
Standards for Major Park Sites.....	51	Recommended Park and	
Standards for Intensive Resource-		Outdoor Recreation Element .....	77
Oriented Recreation Facilities.....	52	Major Parks .....	77
Campsites.....	52	Development Costs—County Parks .....	78
Golf Courses .....	52	Areawide Recreation Trails .....	79
Picnicking .....	52	Other Trails.....	81
Swimming Beaches.....	53	Lake and River Access .....	81
Standards for Trail Facilities.....	53	Local Park and Outdoor	
Standards for Lake Access Sites .....	54	Recreation Plan Element .....	83
Other Recreational Needs .....	54	Plan Implementation .....	83
Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive		Wisconsin Department of	
Outdoor Recreation Plan.....	56	Natural Resources.....	83
Standards for Open Space Preservation .....	56	Walworth County .....	84
Summary .....	56	Local Units of Government .....	85
<b>Chapter V—RECOMMENDED</b>		Acquisition Considerations .....	85
<b>PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN.....</b>	59	Acquisition and Development	
Introduction .....	59	Priorities for Walworth County .....	86
Public Informational Meetings .....	59	Maintenance Impact .....	86
Recommended Open Space		Summary .....	86
Preservation Element .....	60	Open Space Preservation Element.....	87
Environmental Corridor and		Outdoor Recreation Plan Element .....	87
Isolated Natural Resource		Plan Implementation.....	88
Area Plan Component.....	62	<b>Chapter VI—SUMMARY .....</b>	89
Primary Environmental Corridors.....	62	Introduction.....	89
Secondary Environmental Corridors and		Existing Conditions.....	90
Isolated Natural Resource Areas .....	64	Population and Employment Levels .....	90
Natural Areas and Critical Species		Land Use.....	90
Habitat Protection and Management		Natural Resource Base.....	90
Plan Component.....	65	Inventory of Park and	
Reestablishment of Grasslands .....	72	Open Space Sites .....	91
Protection of Geological Areas .....	74	Recommended Park and	
State of Wisconsin Project		Open Space Plan.....	91
Areas Component.....	74	Open Space Preservation Element.....	91
Wisconsin Department of		Outdoor Recreation Element .....	92
Natural Resources (WDNR).....	74	Concluding Remarks.....	92
Prime Agricultural Land Plan Component.....	74		

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix		Page
A	Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Cities, Villages, Towns, or School Districts, and Private Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Sites in Walworth County: 2010 .....	97
Map A-1	Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Cities, Villages, Towns, or School Districts in Walworth County: 2010 .....	99
Table A-1	Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Cities, Villages, Towns, or School Districts in Walworth County: 2010 .....	100

Appendix		Page
	Map A-2 Private Outdoor and Open Space Sites in Walworth County: 2010.....	105
	Table A-2 Private Outdoor and Open Space Sites in Walworth County: 2010.....	106
B	Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Planning Objectives, Principles, and Standards for Walworth County .....	111
C	Conceptual Development Plan for White River County Park .....	121
D	County Board Adoption of the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan .....	125

## LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
<b>Chapter II</b>		
1	Historic Resident Population Levels in Walworth County, Southeastern Wisconsin, and the State of Wisconsin: Census Years 1850-2010 .....	6
2	Number of Households in Walworth County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Region: Census Years 1970-2010 .....	7
3	Age Distribution of the Population of Walworth County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Region: Census Years 1990-2010 .....	8
4	Number of Jobs in Walworth County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Region: 1970-2010 .....	8
5	Land Uses in Walworth County: 2010 .....	10
6	Natural Areas in Walworth County: 2009 .....	18
7	Critical Species Habitat Sites in Walworth County: 2009 .....	26
8	Significant Geologic Sites in the Walworth County: 2009 .....	30
<b>Chapter III</b>		
9	Park and Outdoor Recreation Sites Owned by Walworth County: 2010 .....	37
10	Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities within Walworth County Parks: 2010.....	37
11	State of Wisconsin Recreation and Open Space Lands in Walworth County: 2010 .....	38
12	Privately Owned Resource Protection Sites in Walworth County: 2010 .....	40
13	Lands Under Conservation Easements in Walworth County: 2010 .....	42
14	Historic Sites and Districts on the National Register of Historic Places in Walworth County: 2010 .....	46
<b>Chapter IV</b>		
15	Publicly Owned Parks with Swimming Beaches on Inland Lakes in Walworth County: 2012 .....	53
16	Boat-Access Site Requirements Under the Wisconsin Administrative Code for Major Lakes in Walworth County: 2012 .....	55
<b>Chapter V</b>		
17	Proposed Ownership of Open Space Lands Under the Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County.....	62
18	Protection of Natural Area and Critical Species Habitat Sites in Walworth County.....	67
19	Geological Areas in Walworth County Recommended to be Fully or Substantially Preserved Through Acquisition .....	76

Table		Page
20	Recommended Additions to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Project Boundaries.....	77
21	Estimated Development Costs for County Parks Under the Recommended Park Plan .....	79
22	Summary of Proposed Ownership of Park and Open Space Land and Estimated Acquisition and Development Costs Under the Recommended Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan .....	84

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
--------	--	------

### Chapter II

1	Resident Population of Walworth County: 1850-2010 .....	6
---	---	---

## LIST OF MAPS

Map		Page
-----	--	------

### Chapter II

1	Historical Urban Growth in Walworth County: 1850-2010 .....	9
2	Generalized Land Use in Walworth County: 2010.....	11
3	Surface Waters, Wetlands, and Floodplains in Walworth County .....	13
4	Groundwater Recharge Potential in Walworth County: 2010.....	14
5	Natural Areas in Walworth County: 2009.....	17
6	Critical Species Habitat Sites in Walworth County: 2009.....	25
7	Significant Geological Sites in Walworth County.....	29
8	Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas in Walworth County: 2010.....	31
9	Agricultural Lands in Walworth County: 2010.....	33

### Chapter III

10	Walworth County and State of Wisconsin Park and Open Space Sites: 2010 .....	36
11	Privately Owned Resource Protection Sites in Walworth County: 2010 .....	41
12	Lands Under Conservation Easements in Walworth County: 2010 .....	43
13	Existing Bicycle Ways/Trails in Walworth County: 2010 .....	45
14	Historic Sites and Districts Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Walworth County: 2010 .....	47

### Chapter V

15	Open Space Preservation Element of the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan: 2035 .....	61
16	Protection of Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas in Walworth County: 2035 .....	63
17	Protection of Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites in Walworth County .....	66
18	Location of Recommended Sites to Reestablish Grassland Habitat in Walworth County .....	73
19	Recommended Acquisition of Selected Geological Areas in Walworth County .....	75
20	Outdoor Recreation Element of the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan: 2035 .....	80
21	Potential Water Trails for Major Rivers in Walworth County .....	82

## Chapter I

# INTRODUCTION

### INTRODUCTION

Walworth County has a long history of park and open space planning, going back to the 1970s. This includes the periodic updating of the County park and open space plan, the current version of which was adopted by the Walworth County Board in 2000. With the assistance of the Regional Planning Commission, Walworth County in 2011 undertook another effort to update its park and open space plan, extending the planning horizon further into the future. This report documents that planning process and presents the resulting updated County park and open space plan.

### PLAN CONTEXT

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

The regional land use plan sets forth the fundamental concepts which are intended to guide the development of the Region. The regional land use plan, the most recent version of which was adopted by the Commission in 2006, is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 48, *A Regional Land Use Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035*. Subsequently, the regional land use plan provided the framework for the development of a multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Walworth County. The County plan was adopted by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors in 2009 and is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 288, *A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Walworth County: 2035*. Consistent with the regional land use plan, the following three recommendations are contained in the County comprehensive plan: 1) the preservation of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas 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 and water supply. These three recommendations provide a basic framework for park and open space planning.

---

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

A park and open space plan for Walworth County was included as part of the first regional park and open space plan,<sup>2</sup> which was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on December 1, 1977. That plan identified existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommended a park system consisting of large resource-oriented parks and smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, together with attendant recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan also recommended the development of an approximately 440-mile network of hiking and bicycling trails within natural resource corridors of regional significance, including corridors along the Lake Michigan shoreline, through the Kettle Moraine, and along the riverine areas of the major streams and watercourses of the Region. The regional park and open space plan incorporated the regional land use plan recommendations concerning primary environmental corridors and farmland preservation. The regional park and open space plan as it relates to Walworth County was subsequently refined in 1991 as documented in the first edition of this report, SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County*, February 1991.

In 1996, Walworth County again requested that the Planning Commission assist the County in refining and updating the regional park and open space plan as it applied to Walworth County. The resulting plan is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134 (2nd Edition), *A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County*, September 2000. The plan incorporates recommendations for the preservation of natural areas growing out of a regional natural areas plan completed by the Regional Planning Commission in 1997. The updated park and open space plan, which has a design year of 2020, was adopted by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors on September 5, 2000, and by the Regional Planning Commission on December 6, 2000. The plan was subsequently amended by the County Board in 2004 with respect to plan recommendations relating to proposed recreation trails in the northwestern portion of the County.

## **COUNTY REQUEST**

On April 3, 2009, Walworth County requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the County in the preparation of a new park and open space plan. The new plan is to be based upon updated information related to land use, population levels and distribution, anticipated growth and development, natural resources, and park and open space acquisition and development activities within the County. The new plan is to be prepared within the framework of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Walworth County. It is to be based upon the recommended development pattern set forth in the County comprehensive plan and to refine and detail the park and open space-related recommendations of the comprehensive plan. Like the County comprehensive plan, the updated County park and open space plan, as presented in this report, has a planning horizon of 2035. The new plan is further intended to maintain County eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids in partial support of the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities.

## **WALWORTH COUNTY PARK COMMITTEE**

The new County park and open space plan was prepared under the guidance of the Walworth County Park Committee as established by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors. A complete membership list of the Walworth County Park Committee is provided on the inside front cover of this report. The Walworth County Park Committee recommendations were forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

## **REPORT FORMAT**

The findings and recommendations of the park and open space planning effort are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter II of this report presents information about the County pertinent to

---

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

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

(This page intentionally left blank)

## **Chapter II**

# **INVENTORY FINDINGS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

### **DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **Population**

Population growth in Walworth County from 1850 to 2010 is indicated in Table 1 and Figure 1. The County population was relatively stable until 1940, when the resident population stood at 33,103 persons. Since 1940, the County population has grown steadily, increasing to 102,228 in 2010. Between 1940 and 2010, the population of Walworth County increased by 209 percent, compared to increases of 89 percent and 81 percent for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region and State, respectively.

The City of Whitewater is the most populous community in the County, with 11,150 residents in 2010. The next most populous communities are the City of Elkhorn (10,084 persons), the City of Delavan (8,463 persons), and the City of Lake Geneva (7,651 persons). Combined, these four cities account for 37 percent of the County's population in 2010.

#### **Households**

Trends in the number of households in Walworth County and the Region are shown on Table 2. Both the County and Region experienced significant gains in the number of households between 1970 and 2010. The rate of increase in the number of households has exceeded the rate of population increase due to the decline in the average number of persons per household. Between 1970 and 2010, the rate of increase in the number of households was 114 percent in the County and 49 percent in the Region, compared to a population increase of 61 percent in the County and 15 percent in the Region.

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

Table 1

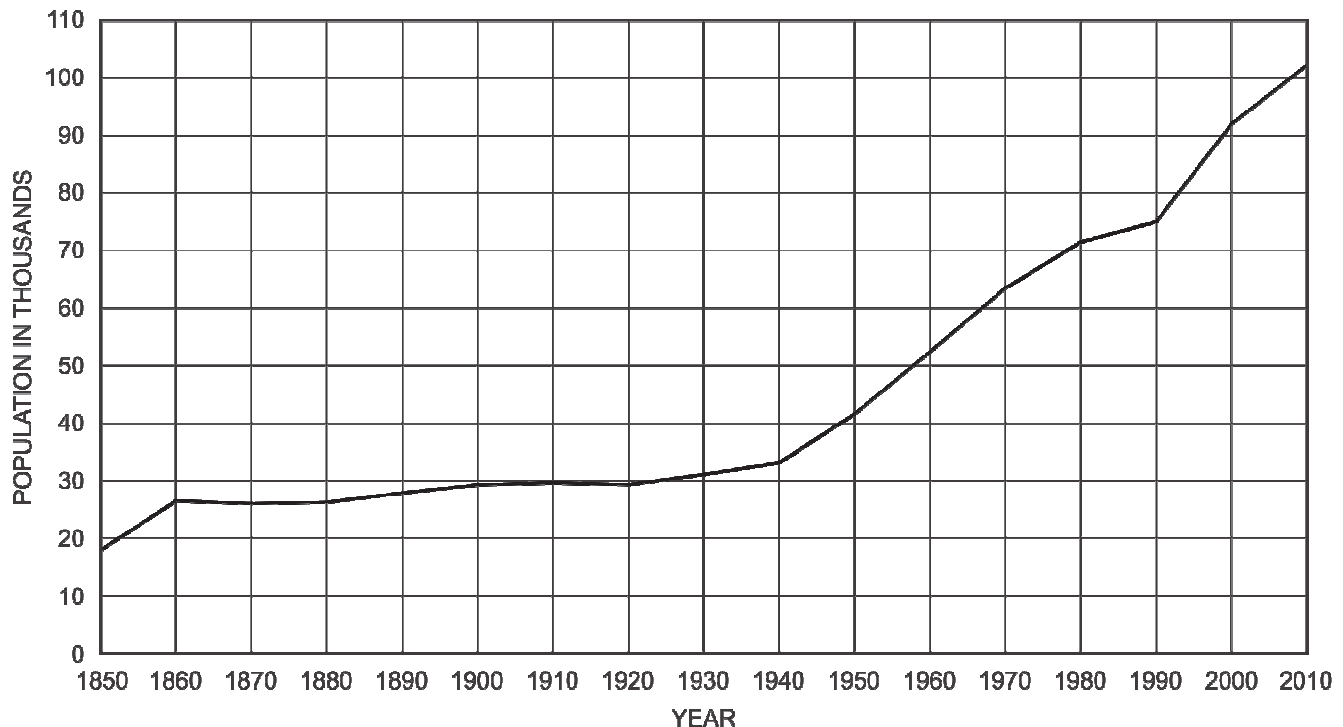
**HISTORIC RESIDENT POPULATION LEVELS IN WALWORTH COUNTY,  
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, AND THE STATE OF WISCONSIN: CENSUS YEARS 1850-2010**

Year	Walworth 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	17,862	--	--	113,389	--	--	305,391	--	--
1860	26,496	8,634	48.3	190,409	77,020	67.9	775,881	470,490	154.1
1870	25,972	-524	-2.0	223,546	33,137	17.4	1,054,670	278,789	35.9
1880	26,249	277	1.1	277,119	53,573	24.0	1,315,497	260,827	24.7
1890	27,860	1,611	6.1	386,774	109,655	39.6	1,693,330	377,833	28.7
1900	29,259	1,399	5.0	501,808	115,034	29.7	2,069,042	375,712	22.2
1910	29,614	355	1.2	631,161	129,353	25.8	2,333,860	264,818	12.8
1920	29,327	-287	-1.0	783,681	152,520	24.2	2,632,067	298,207	12.8
1930	31,058	1,731	5.9	1,006,118	222,437	28.4	2,939,006	306,939	11.7
1940	33,103	2,045	6.6	1,067,699	61,581	6.1	3,137,587	198,581	6.8
1950	41,584	8,481	25.6	1,240,618	172,919	16.2	3,434,575	296,988	9.5
1960	52,368	10,784	25.9	1,573,614	332,996	26.8	3,951,777	517,202	15.1
1970	63,444	11,076	21.2	1,756,083	182,469	11.6	4,417,821	466,044	11.8
1980	71,507	8,063	12.7	1,764,796	8,713	0.5	4,705,642	287,821	6.5
1990	75,000	3,493	4.9	1,810,364	45,568	2.6	4,891,769	186,127	4.0
2000	92,013	17,013	22.7	1,931,165	120,801	6.7	5,363,675	471,906	9.6
2010	102,228	10,215	11.1	2,019,970	88,805	4.6	5,686,986	323,271	6.0

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

Figure 1

**RESIDENT POPULATION OF WALWORTH COUNTY: 1850-2010**



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

**Table 2****NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN WALWORTH COUNTY AND THE  
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: CENSUS YEARS 1970-2010**

Year	Walworth County			Southeastern Wisconsin		
	Number of Households	Change from Previous Census		Number of Households	Change from Previous Census	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1970	18,544	- -	- -	536,486	- -	- -
1980	24,789	6,245	33.7	627,955	91,469	17.0
1990	27,620	2,831	11.4	676,107	48,152	7.7
2000	34,505	6,885	24.9	749,039	72,932	10.8
2010	39,699	5,194	15.1	800,087	51,048	6.8

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

### Age Distribution

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

### Employment

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

As indicated in Table 4, employment in Walworth County increased by 7,000 jobs during the 1970s; increased by 6,200 jobs during the 1980s; increased by 11,600 jobs during the 1990s; and increased by 1,800 jobs in the 2000s. The overall 101 percent increase in the number of jobs in the County between 1970 and 2010 compares to an increase of 50 percent in the Region during the same period.

## HISTORIC URBAN GROWTH AND EXISTING LAND USES

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

### Historic Urban Growth

The historic urban development of Walworth County is presented on Map 1. As shown on that map, small portions of the Cities of Delavan, Elkhorn, Lake Geneva, and Whitewater were developed by 1850. The period from 1850 to 1900 saw additional growth in those communities and the emergence of small urban centers in the Villages of Darien, East Troy, Genoa City, Sharon, and Walworth. By the 1920's lakeshore development was evident around several lakes, including Geneva Lake, Delavan Lake and Lake Beulah. The 1940's and 1950's saw continued development around these lakes and lakeshore development around many other of the County's lakes. The period from 1963 to 2010 saw significant urban growth adjacent to existing urban centers, along with growth in the form of small, isolated enclaves scattered throughout the County.

Table 3

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

**WALWORTH COUNTY**

Age Group	1990		2000		2010		Change 1990-2010	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent
Under 5.....	4,948	6.6	5,527	5.9	6,196	6.1	1,248	25.2
5-17 .....	13,031	17.4	17,127	18.3	17,804	17.4	4,773	36.6
18-24 .....	10,361	13.8	12,931	13.8	12,032	11.8	1,671	16.1
25-44 .....	22,150	29.5	25,841	27.6	24,184	23.6	2,034	9.2
45-64 .....	13,837	18.5	20,399	21.7	28,255	27.6	14,418	104.2
65 and Older.....	10,673	14.2	11,934	12.7	13,757	13.5	3,084	28.9
All Ages	75,000	100.0	93,759	100.0	102,228	100.0	27,228	36.3

**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN**

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

<sup>a</sup>The total population by age for 2000 reported by the Census Bureau as indicated in this table differs slightly from the Census Bureau final total population count presented in Table 1.

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

Table 4

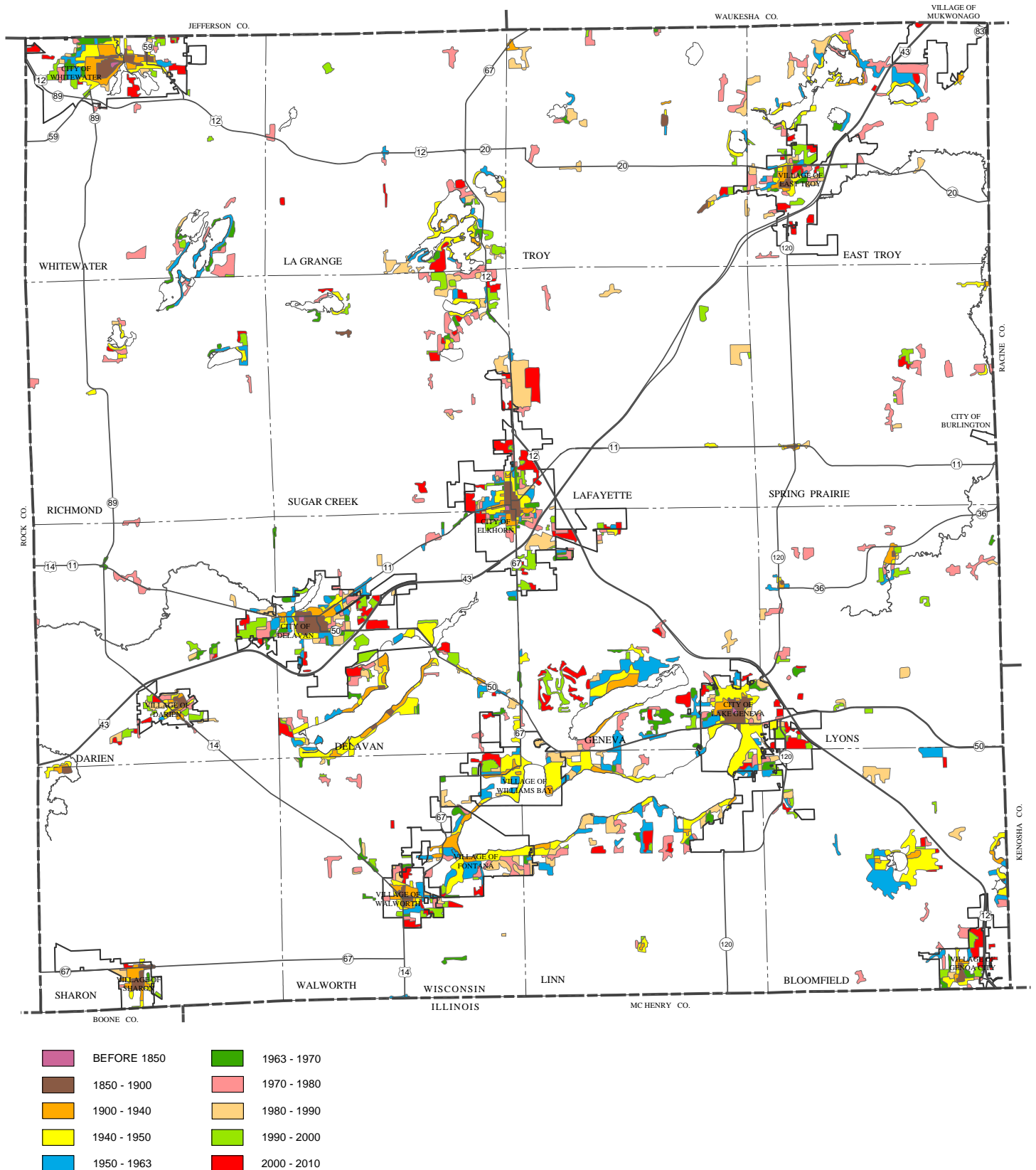
**NUMBER OF JOBS IN WALWORTH COUNTY AND THE  
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: 1970-2010**

Year	Walworth County			Southeastern Wisconsin		
	Number of Jobs	Change from Previous Time Period		Number of Jobs	Change from Previous Time Period	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1970	26,400	--	--	784,900	--	--
1980	33,400	7,000	26.5	945,900	161,000	20.5
1990	39,600	6,200	18.6	1,054,000	108,100	11.4
2000	51,200	11,600	29.3	1,209,800	155,800	14.8
2010	53,000	1,800	3.5	1,177,800	-32,000	-2.6

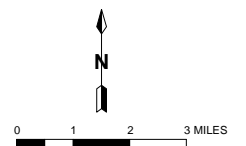
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and SEWRPC.

# Map 1

## HISTORICAL URBAN GROWTH IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 1850 - 2010



Source: SEWRPC.



Despite significant urbanization, large tracts of agricultural and other open space and environmentally sensitive lands remain intact, relatively free of encroachment by urban development, throughout the County. Walworth County has the opportunity to continue to plan for widespread preservation of these agricultural and other open space and environmentally sensitive lands.

### Existing Land Uses

Land uses in Walworth County in 2010 are set forth on Map 2 and in Table 5. In 2010, urban land uses—consisting of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional, recreational, and transportation, communication and utility uses—encompassed about 77.5 square miles, or 13 percent of the total area of the County. Residential land comprised the largest urban land use category, encompassing 34.4 square miles, or about 44 percent of all urban land use and 6 percent of the total area of the County.

Land uses categorized as transportation, communications, and utilities constituted the second largest urban land use category in 2010, encompassing about 26.1 square miles, or about 34 percent of all urban land and about 5 percent of the total area of the County. Streets and highways occupied about 24.0 square miles, or 92 percent of the uses in this category. Major arterial highways serving the County include, IH 43, which traverses the County in a northeast to southwest direction; US Highways 12 and 14; and State Trunk Highways 11, 20, 36, 50, 59, 67, 89, and 120. Other uses in the transportation, communications, and utilities category within the County include railway freight service lines—operated by the Wisconsin & Southern Railway Company, the Union Pacific Railroad, and the Canadian National Railway—and the East Troy Municipal Airport.

Recreational land uses constituted the third largest urban land use category within the County in 2010, encompassing about 7.3 square miles, or about 9 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, golf courses, and accessory uses. Areas used for passive recreational purposes, such as hiking and nature study, are generally designated as open lands or woodlands. A description of park and open space sites within the County is presented in Chapter III.

About 499 square miles, or about 87 percent of the total area of the County, were rural lands, including agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, surface water, landfill and extractive, and other open lands. Agriculture was the largest single land use in the County, accounting for about 352.6 square miles (including “farmed wetlands”), or about 61 percent of the area of the County, in 2010.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

An important recommendation of the adopted regional land use and park and open space plans is the preservation of the most important elements of the natural resource base of the Region. Since the preparation and adoption of the Walworth County park and open space plan in 2000, additional inventory information concerning the location and extent of natural resources has been collected. This section presents such information as it relates to Walworth County.

**Table 5**

### LAND USES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010

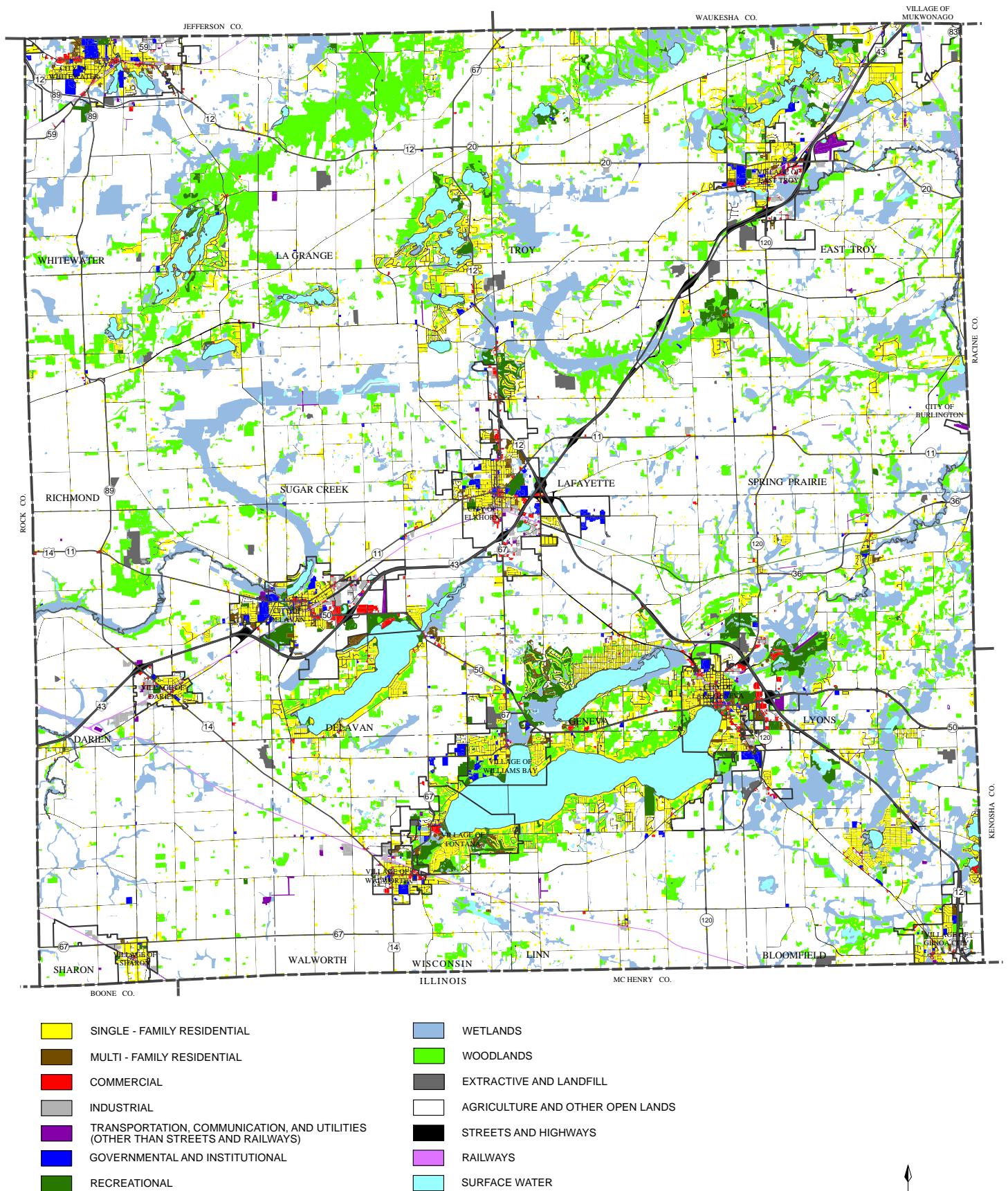
Land Use Category	Square Miles	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of County
Urban <sup>a</sup>			
Single-Family Residential .....	34.4	44.4	6.0
Multi-Family Residential <sup>b</sup> .....	1.9	2.5	0.3
Commercial .....	2.4	3.1	0.4
Industrial .....	2.5	3.2	0.4
Government and Institutional .....	2.9	3.7	0.5
Recreational .....	7.3	9.4	1.3
Transportation, Communications, and Utilities .....	26.1	33.7	4.5
Subtotal	77.5	100.0	13.4
Rural			
Agricultural .....	350.4	70.2	60.8
Woodlands .....	51.9	10.4	9.0
Nonfarmed Wetlands .....	51.4	10.3	8.9
Farmed Wetlands .....	2.2	0.4	0.4
Water .....	23.7	4.8	4.1
Landfill and Extractive .....	2.5	0.5	0.4
Other Open Lands .....	16.9	3.4	3.0
Subtotal	499.0	100.0	86.6
Total	576.5	- -	100.0

<sup>a</sup>Parking lots are included with the associated use.

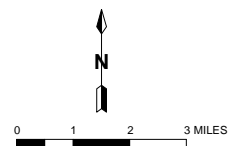
<sup>b</sup>Includes two-family residential.

Source: SEWRPC.

**Map 2**  
**GENERALIZED LAND USE IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010**



Source: SEWRPC.



## **Surface Water Resources**

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

Perennial streams are defined as those which maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. As shown on Map 3, there are approximately 173 miles of such streams in Walworth County. The County includes portions of two major watersheds: the Fox River and Rock River watersheds.

The Fox River and Rock River watersheds are tributary to the Mississippi River system. Perennial streams in the Fox River watershed, which generally includes the eastern half of the County, are Honey Creek, Nippersink Creek, Sugar Creek, and White River. Perennial streams in the Rock River watershed, which generally includes the western half of the County, are Darien Creek, Horton Creek, Ladd Creek, Turtle Creek, and Whitewater Creek.

There are 27 major lakes, lakes of 50 or more acres, located entirely or partially within Walworth County. These lakes encompass about 12,600 acres within the County. The two largest lakes within Walworth County are Geneva Lake, with a surface area of about 5,262 acres; and Delavan Lake, with a surface area of about 2,072 acres.

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

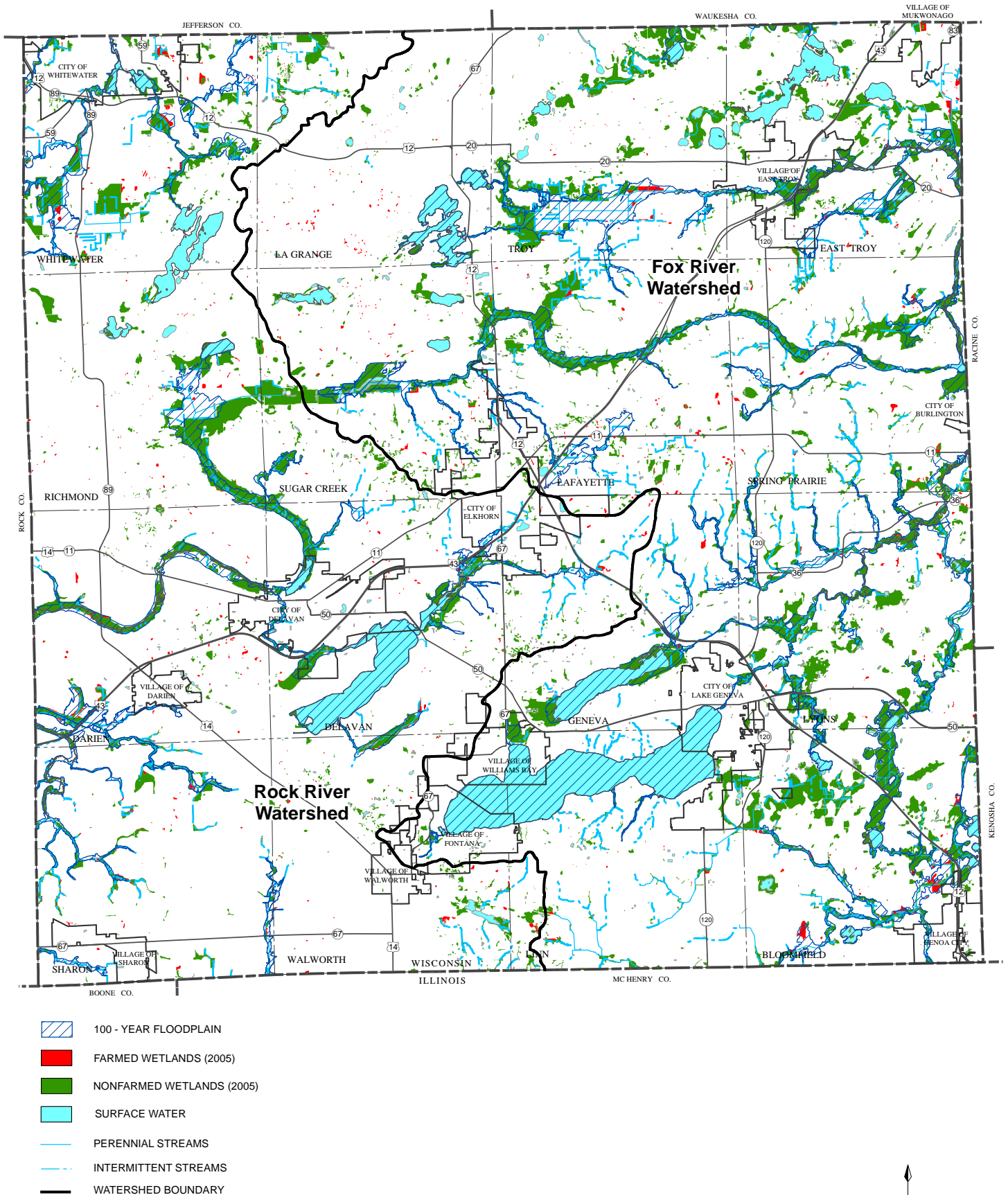
## **Groundwater Resources**

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

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

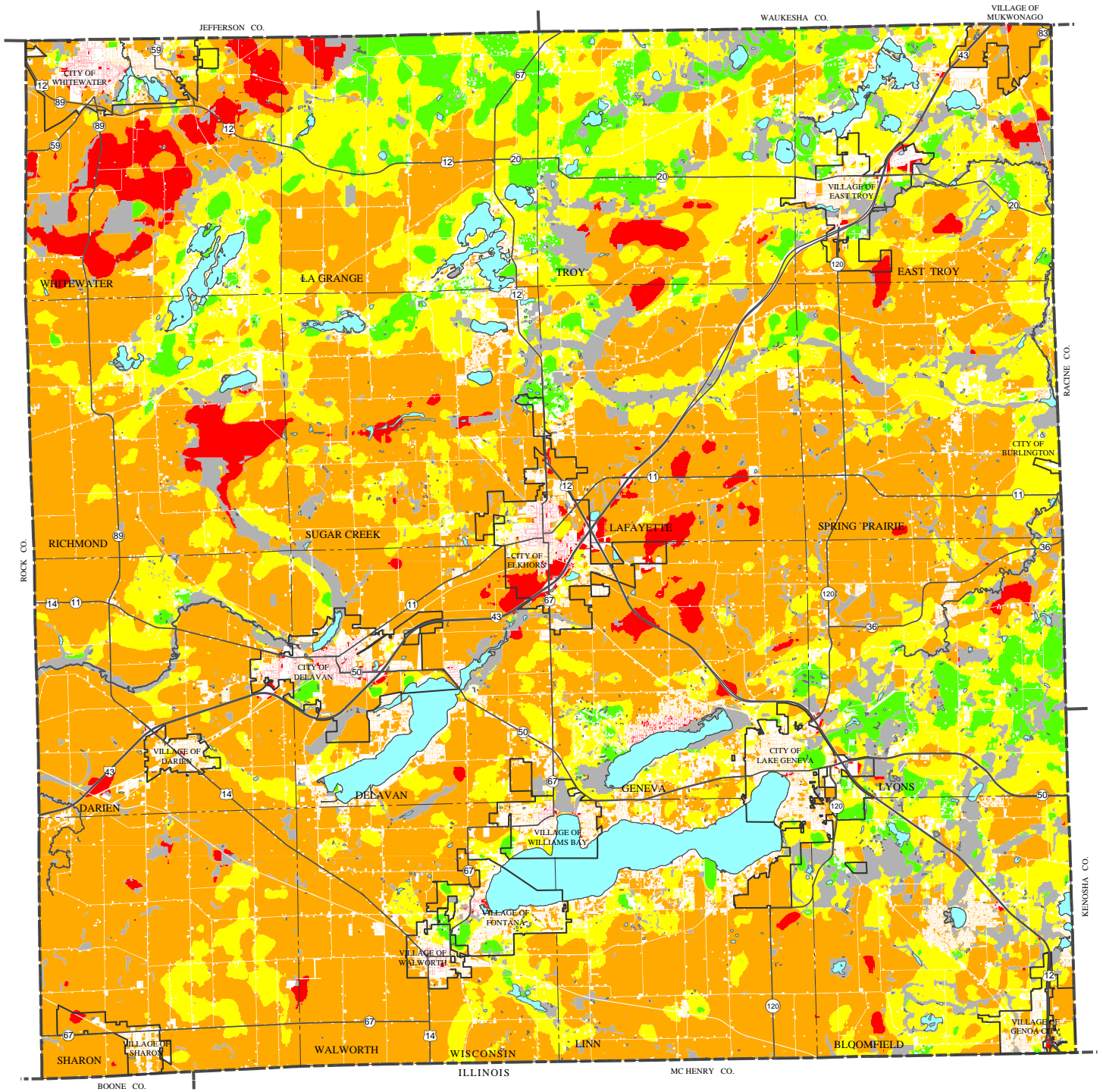
Map 3

**SURFACE WATERS, WETLANDS, AND FLOODPLAINS IN WALWORTH COUNTY**



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

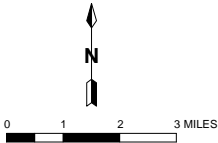
# Map 4 GROUNDWATER RECHARGE POTENTIAL IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010



CATEGORIES OF AREAS BASED UPON ESTIMATED RATES OF ANNUAL GROUNDWATER RECHARGE IN WALWORTH COUNTY

- LOW (19.2 Square Miles)
- MODERATE (267.2 Square Miles)
- HIGH (125.9 Square Miles)
- VERY HIGH (28.3 Square Miles)
- UNDEFINED (65.7 Square Miles)
- SURFACE WATER: 2010
- EXISTING URBAN DEVELOPMENT: 2010

Source: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and SEWRPC.



As shown on Map 4, about 5 percent of the County is rated “very high” for recharge potential, and about 22 percent is rated “high” for recharge potential. High and very high recharge potential areas are scattered throughout the County, with the largest concentration found in the County’s north-central area. About one-half of the County (about 47 percent) is classified as having “moderate” recharge potential, and about 3 percent is classified as having a “low” potential.

### **Floodplains**

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

Floodplain mapping for Walworth County was updated as part of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) “Map Modernization Program.” The updated maps were approved by the WDNR and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2009.

Floodplains, as identified in the new FEMA mapping are shown on Map 3. Approximately 52.4 square miles, or about 9 percent of the total area of the County, were located within the 100-year recurrence interval flood hazard area.

### **Wetlands**

The location and extent of wetlands in the County in 2010, as delineated by the Regional Planning Commission, are shown on Map 3. At that time, wetlands covered about 53.6 square miles, or about 9 percent of the County.

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

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

Included in the 53.6 square miles of wetlands are 2.2 square miles which have been classified as “farmed wetlands.” These areas meet the definition of a wetland but were being actively farmed in 2010.

### **Woodlands**

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

Woodlands provide an attractive natural resource of immeasurable value. Under good management, woodlands can serve a variety of beneficial functions. In addition to contributing to clean air and water and regulating surface water runoff, the maintenance of woodlands within the County can contribute to sustaining a diversity of plant and animal life. The existing woodlands in the County, many of which required a century or more to

develop, can be destroyed through mismanagement within a comparatively short time. The deforestation of hillsides, ravines, and bluff areas contributes to rapid stormwater runoff, the siltation of lakes and streams, and the destruction of wildlife habitat.

Woodlands, as shown on Map 2, occur in scattered locations throughout the County, with some of the largest concentrations found in the Kettle Moraine area. In 2010, woodland areas covered about 51.9 square miles, or about 9 percent of the County. These woodlands should be maintained for their scenic, wildlife habitat, recreational, and air and water quality protection values.

### **Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat, and Geological Sites**

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

#### ***Natural Areas***

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

A total of 86 natural areas, encompassing about 10,169 acres, or about 3 percent of the County, were identified in Walworth County in 2009. Of the 86 identified sites, seven are classified as NA-1 sites and encompass about 1,852 acres, 14 are classified as NA-2 sites and encompass about 2,779 acres, and 65 are classified as NA-3 sites and encompass about 5,538 acres. Map 5 depicts the locations of natural areas identified in 2009. 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 39 sites supporting threatened or rare plant or bird species have been identified in Walworth County. These sites, which together encompass an area of about 3,707 acres, are shown on Map 6 and described in Table 7.

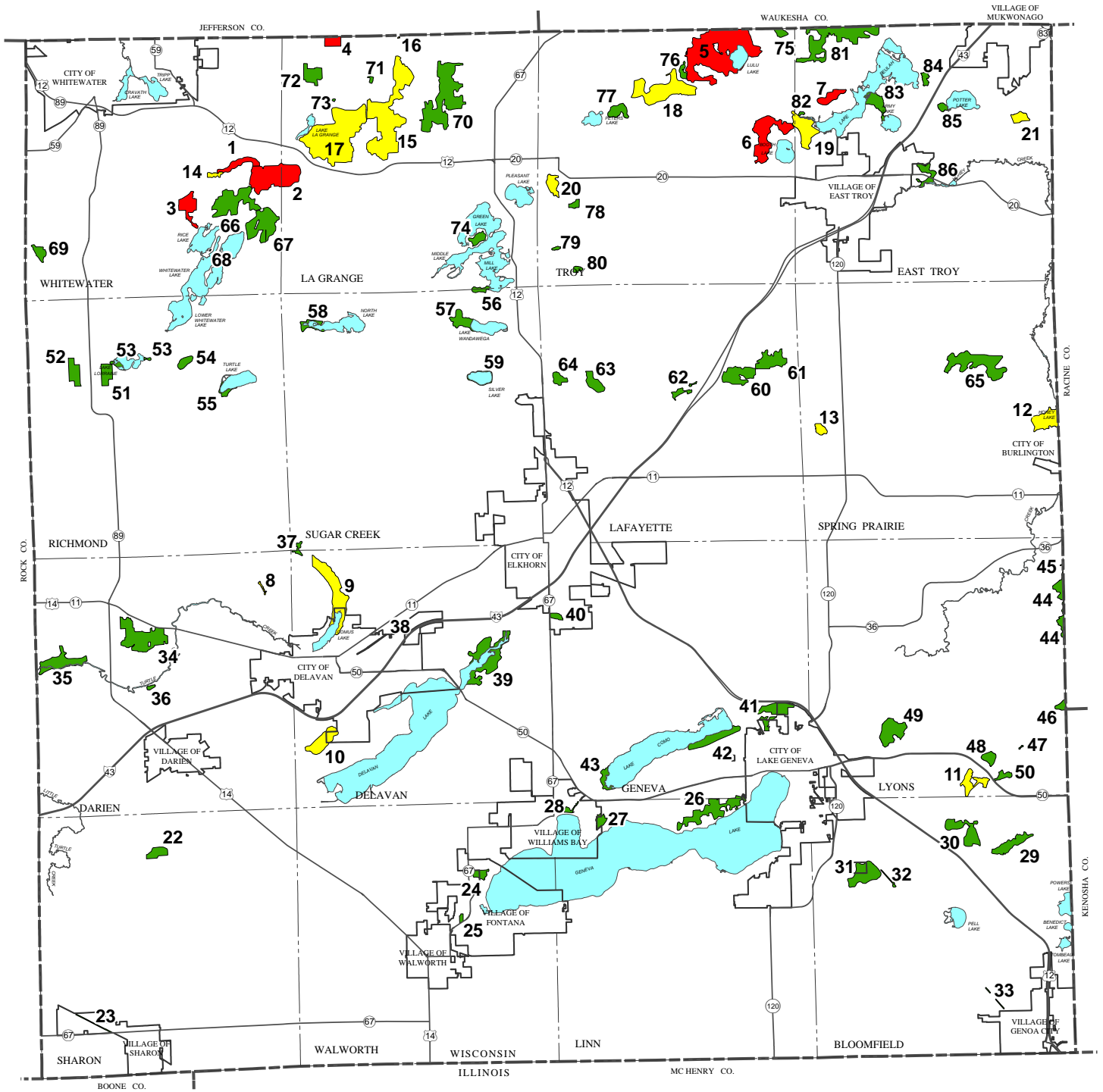
#### ***Geological Sites***

A total of 13 sites of geological importance, including nine glacial features and four bedrock geology sites, were identified in the County in 2009. The geological sites included in the inventory were selected on the basis of

---

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

# Map 5 NATURAL AREAS IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2009



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

33 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 6)

Source: SEWRPC.

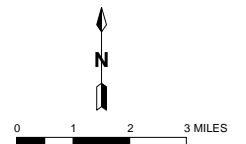


Table 6

## NATURAL AREAS IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2009

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Bluff Creek Fens	NA-1 (SNA)	T4N, R15E Sections 13, 14, 23, 24 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources	79	Excellent-quality springs and associated calcareous fens located at intervals along the headwaters of Bluff Creek. Portions of the stream have been ditched. Contains threatened and endangered species
2	Bluff Creek Woods	NA-1 (SNA)	T4N, R15E Sections 13, 24 Town of Whitewater T4N, R16E Sections 18, 19 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources and private	371	Extensive dry-mesic woods on rough glacial terrain, dominated by mature red oaks. Best areas are of good quality, but some parts have been disturbed by trails and past grazing and selective logging
3	Clover Valley Fen State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	T4N, R15E Sections 22, 26, 27 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources and private	112	Prominent feature is a series of 11,000-year-old peat mounds that rise eight to 10 feet above the surrounding lowland, formed by accumulations of partially decayed vegetation around slowly flowing springs. A large number of characteristic fen plant species are present, including State-designated endangered and threatened ones
4	Young Prairie State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	T4N, R16E Section 5 Town of LaGrange T5N, R16E Section 32 Town of Palmyra (Jefferson County)	Department of Natural Resources	54 (plus 15 in Jefferson County)	Very high-quality wet-mesic prairie, among the best and largest prairie remnants of its type in the Region. The showy flora includes State-designated threatened and endangered species. The area, which extends north into Jefferson County, includes old field that is reverting to prairie through appropriate management
5	Lulu Lake and Eagle Spring Lake Wetland Complex and Adjacent Uplands	NA-1 (SNA)	T4N, R17E Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 Town of Troy T5N, R17E Section 35 Town of Eagle (Waukesha County)	Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and other private	891 (plus 180 in Waukesha County)	Among the most valuable natural areas in the State, containing a large concentration of elements of natural diversity. Uplands support oak woods, oak openings, and dry prairie; lowlands contain one of the state's finest wetland ecosystems, including bog, springs, fen, deep and shallow marsh, and high-quality lake communities
6	Pickereel Lake Fen State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	T4N, R17E Sections 13, 24 Town of Troy	The Nature Conservancy and other private; protected with conservation easement	273	Large, high-quality calcareous fen and associated seepage springs bordering a shallow lake. A number of uncommon species are present, including a large population of beaked spike-rush ( <i>Eleocharis rostellata</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
7	Beulah Bog State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	T4N, R18E Sections 7, 8 Town of East Troy	Department of Natural Resources and private	72	Outstanding acid sphagnum bog communities located in a series of four kettle holes. A small open-water bog lake is surrounded by a quaking mat and tamarack swamp. A wet, open moat separates the bog from wooded and pastured uplands
- -	Subtotal	NA-1	7 sites	- -	1,852	- -
8	Voskuil Dry Prairie	NA-2	T2N, R15E Section 1 Town of Darien	Private	7	Long, narrow stretch of good-quality dry prairie on exposed ridge
9	Comus Lake Wetland Complex	NA-2	T2N, R16E Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 Town of Delavan	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	292	A large wetland complex bordering Comus Lake and Turtle Creek that includes sedge meadow, deep and shallow marsh, shrub-carr, calcareous fens, and seeping and bubbling springs. Some of the fens and springs are of excellent quality, containing such uncommon species as beaked spike-rush ( <i>Eleocharis rostellata</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
10	Delavan Prairie-Fen	NA-2	T2N, R16E Section 30 Town of Delavan	Private	137	High-quality wet prairie-fen surrounded by sedge meadow and shrub-carr. Uncommon species include tussock bulrush ( <i>Scirpus cespitosus</i> ), a State-designated threatened species. Disturbances include past ditching attempts

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
11	Lake Ivanhoe Fen and Sedge Meadow	NA-2	T2N, R18E Sections 34, 35 Town of Lyons	Department of Natural Resources and private	95	Wetland complex on north side of Lake Ivanhoe, consisting of sedge meadow, shallow marsh, and high-quality calcareous fen communities. The fen contains a number of uncommon species, including the beaked spike-rush ( <i>Eleocharis rostellata</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
12	Honey Lake Marsh and Sedge Meadow	NA-2	T3N, R18E Sections 13, 24 Town of Spring Prairie T3N, R19E Sections 17, 18, 19, 20 Town of Burlington (Racine County)	Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and other private	141 (plus 250 in Racine 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
13	Spring Prairie Fen	NA-2	T3N, R18E Section 19 Town of Spring Prairie	Private	34	Wetland complex occupying shallow depression, consisting of high-quality calcareous fen-meadow, with areas of tamarack relict and shrub-carr. Very good species complement, including Ohio goldenrod ( <i>Solidago ohioensis</i> ) and common bog arrow-grass ( <i>Triglochin maritima</i> ), both State-designated special concern species
14	Bluff Creek Prairie	NA-2	T4N, R15E Section 23 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources	21	Relatively large wet-mesic prairie near Bluff Creek, supporting a number of critical plant species. Active management has improved the quality of the site
15	Muir Oak Woods and Duffin Road Fen	NA-2	T4N, R16E Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 16 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources and private	665	Large complex of lowland and upland communities. The dry, morainal uplands support extensive oak woods and small patches of managed dry prairie. Depressions hold leatherleaf-dominated bogs, shallow marsh, and a high-quality fen along the western border. Important to maintain as a large, intact block
16	Kestol Dry Prairie	NA-2	T4N, R16E Section 4 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	1	Good-quality dry hill prairie, containing good native species diversity. Characteristic species include big and little bluestem, prairie dropseed, purple prairie-clover, and yellow flax. Managed by burning
17	LaGrange Oak Woods	NA-2	T4N, R16E Sections 8, 17, 18, 20 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources and private	768	Extensive southern dry forest dominated by large white, red, black, and bur oaks on rough kettle moraine topography. One of the largest blocks of upland forest in the Southern Kettle Moraine, and, as such, is important for forest-interior-breeding birds
18	Upper Mukwonago River Wetland Complex	NA-2	T4N, R17E Sections 3, 9, 10 Town of Troy	The Nature Conservancy and other private	338	A large, good-quality wetland complex that includes seepage springs, calcareous fen, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, shallow marsh, and tamarack relict. Disturbance has been minimal, mostly confined to the bordering wooded uplands
19	Swan Lake Wetland Complex	NA-2	T4N, R17E Sections 12, 13 Town of Troy T4N, R18E Section 18 Town of East Troy	Girl Scouts of Milwaukee Area, Inc., and other private	167	Good-quality wetland complex within an upland matrix of xeric oak woods. Lowland communities include bog, sedge meadow, shallow marsh, lake, and mature tamarack swamp. Contains a good population of showy lady's-slipper orchid ( <i>Cypripedium reginae</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
20	Adams Lake Fen and Marsh	NA-2	T4N, R17E Section 19 Town of Troy	Private	65	Good-quality calcareous fen and seepage springs located at base of uplands on east side of lake. Shallow marsh surrounds lake, on the west side of which is a tamarack relict. Uncommon plant species include swamp agrimony ( <i>Agrimonia parviflora</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
21	Thiede Road Tamarack Swamp	NA-2	T4N, R18E Section 13 Town of East Troy	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	48	Good-quality shallow bog lake, bog mat, and tamarack swamp, bordered by shrub-carr and lowland hardwoods
- -	Subtotal	NA-2	14 sites	- -	2,779	- -

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
22	CTH C Lowland	NA-3	T1N, R15E Section 4 Town of Sharon	Department of Natural Resources	60	Wetland complex in an agricultural landscape, consisting of sedge meadow, fresh (wet) meadow, shrub-carr, and prairie remnants
23	Salt Box Road Railroad Prairie	NA-3	T1N, R15E Sections 29, 30 Town of Sharon	Private	12	Approximately one-mile-long stretch of railroad prairie representing the best remaining example of mesic prairie in this intensely agriculturalized portion of the Region. Good species diversity. The highest-quality portion of this area is at its extreme eastern end
24	North Shore Woods	NA-3	T1N, R16E Section 11 Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	Private	38	Moderate-quality dry-mesic hardwoods
25	Fontana Prairie and Fen	NA-3	T1N, R16E Section 15 Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	10	A moderate-quality calcareous fen and wet-mesic prairie complex that is being actively managed. Several uncommon species are present, including the State-designated threatened beaked spike-rush ( <i>Eleocharis rostellata</i> ). Disturbances include groundwater-level changes resulting from highway construction
26	Wychwood	NA-3	T1N, R17E Sections 2, 3, 4 Town of Linn T2N, R17E Section 35 Town of Geneva	Private	226	A large tract of dry-mesic hardwoods occupying a terminal moraine on the north side of Geneva Lake. Generally good quality throughout, except for the large estates which occupy much of the woods
27	Peninsula Woods	NA-3	T1N, R17E Sections 5, 6 Town of Linn	Private	37	Dry-mesic hardwood stand on north side of Geneva Lake. Contains American gromwell ( <i>Lithospermum latifolium</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
28	Williams Bay Lowlands	NA-3	T1N, R17E Section 6 Village of Williams Bay	Village of Williams Bay	16	Moderate-quality complex of sedge meadow, shrub-carr, shallow marsh, wet prairie, and lowland hardwoods. Contains white lady's-slipper orchid ( <i>Cypripedium candidum</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
29	Hafs Road Marsh	NA-3	T1N, R18E Sections 1, 2, 11 Town of Bloomfield	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	109	Deep and shallow marsh complex with much open water. Dominated by cattails and bulrushes
30	Lake Ivanhoe Sedge Meadow	NA-3	T1N, R18E Sections 3, 10 Town of Bloomfield	Department of Natural Resources and private	150	Moderate- to good-quality wetland complex of sedge meadow, shrub-carr, and tamarack relict
31	Bloomfield Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict	NA-3	T1N, R18E Section 7, 8, 18 Town of Bloomfield	City of Lake Geneva, Department of Natural Resources, and private	171	Large wetland complex of good-quality sedge meadow, with shrub-carr and tamarack relict. Disturbances include past ditching attempts
32	Pell Lake Railroad Prairie	NA-3	T1N, R18E Sections 8, 17 Town of Bloomfield	Private	9	Small remnant of mesic and wet-mesic prairie along abandoned railway right-of-way. Floristically rich, with several regionally uncommon species
33	Bloomfield Prairie	NA-3	T1N, R18E Sections 26, 27 Town of Bloomfield	Private	6	Mesic prairie remnant situated between highway and abandoned railway right-of-way. Characteristic species include prairie dock, golden alexanders, big bluestem, rosinweed, Culver's-root, and prairie cordgrass. One of the best such remnants in this part of the region
34	Darien Oak Woods	NA-3	T2N, R15E Sections 9, 10, 15, 16 Town of Darien	Private	308	A disturbed xeric oak woods that is included because of its size, which offers nesting habitat for forest-interior-breeding birds
35	Turtle Creek Sedge Meadow and Fen	NA-3	T2N, R15E Sections 17, 18 Town of Darien	Department of Natural Resources and private	171	A large, generally disturbed wetland complex of sedge meadow and shrub-carr, with local areas of higher-quality calcareous fens. A documented queen snake hibernaculum is located here
36	Creek Road Fen	NA-3	T2N, R15E Section 21 Town of Darien	Department of Natural Resources	9	Moderate-quality fen, sedge meadow, and shrub-carr complex within the Turtle Creek lowlands. Disturbances include past ditching attempts

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
37	CTH P Sedge Meadow	NA-3	T2N, R16E Section 6 Town of Delavan T3N, R16E Section 31 Town of Sugar Creek	Private	18	Moderate-quality sedge meadow and shrub-carr
38	Marsh Road Railroad Prairie	NA-3	T2N, R16E Section 9 Town of Delavan	Wisconsin Department of Transportation	6	Remnant of dry-mesic prairie along lightly used railway, with some good-quality segments. Characteristic species include leadplant, hoary puccoon, big bluestem, downy phlox, and heart-leaved golden alexanders
39	Lake Lawn Wetland Complex	NA-3	T2N, R16E Sections 13, 14, 23 Town of Delavan	Department of Natural Resources and private	293	A large wetland complex along Jackson Creek at the north end of Delavan Lake. Plant communities include deep and shallow marsh and sedge meadow
40	Jackson Creek Wetlands	NA-3	T2N, R17E Section 7 City of Elkhorn	Kettle Moraine Land Trust	22	Wetland complex, including prairie fen, along Jackson Creek. Managed by prescribed burning
41	Oak Hill Cemetery Woods	NA-3	T2N, R17E Section 25 City of Lake Geneva and Town of Geneva	Private	138	Good-quality upland dry-mesic woods
42	Warbler Trail Wetlands	NA-3	T2N, R17E Sections 26, 27 Town of Geneva	Department of Natural Resources, Town of Geneva, and private	124	Shallow marsh, shrub-carr, sedge meadow, and lowland hardwoods along east shore of Lake Como
43	Lake Como Wetlands	NA-3	T2N, R17E Section 32 Town of Geneva	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	46	Deep and shallow marsh at west end of Lake Como. Has suffered disturbance from construction of adjacent golf course complex
44	Burlington Hills Woods	NA-3	T2N, R18E Sections 1, 12, 13 Town of Lyons T2N, R19E Sections 5, 6, 7, 18 Town of Burlington (Racine County)	Private, plus a portion of site in Walworth County protected through conservation easement with Geneva Lakes Conservancy	86 (plus 416 in Racine County)	Rough morainal ridges occupied by mature and second-growth oak woods, with small, scattered patches of dry hill prairie and disturbed openings. Largest remaining upland woods in Racine County; important for forest-interior-breeding birds. However, ongoing sand and gravel mine operations have reduced the wooded acreage
45	Burlington Railroad Prairie	NA-3	T2N, R18E Section 1 Town of Lyons T2N, R19E Section 6 Town of Burlington (Racine County)	Private	1 (plus 5 in Racine County)	One-quarter-mile stretch of mesic, dry-mesic, and dry prairie remnants bordering railway right-of-way
46	Tri-County Tamarack Swamp	NA-3	T2N, R18E Sections 24, 25 Town of Lyons T2N, R19E Section 19 Town of Burlington (Racine County)	Private; protected with conservation easement	25 (plus 15 in Racine County)	Medium-aged tamarack swamp surrounded by dense shrub-carr. Extends into Racine County
47	Peterson Fen	NA-3	T2N, R18E Section 26 Town of Lyons	Private	2	Good-quality calcareous fen, shrub-carr, and sedge meadow along Ivanhoe Creek. Contains Ohio goldenrod ( <i>Solidago ohioensis</i> ) and small fringed gentian ( <i>Gentianopsis procera</i> ), both State-designated special concern species
48	Cranberry Road Bog	NA-3	T2N, R18E Sections 26, 35 Town of Lyons	Private	46	Large bog and marsh complex occupying a shallow depression, dominated by leatherleaf and glossy buckthorn. Young tamaracks are present near center of bog. Species diversity is low, but a large population of pitcher plant is present. This community occurs near the southern limits of its range
49	Lake Geneva Tamarack Relict	NA-3	T2N, R18E Sections 28, 29 Town of Lyons	Private	163	Large tamarack relict—shrub-carr complex with small, shallow lakes in depressions. Adjacent development and past ditching attempts have disturbed the site

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
50	Ivanhoe Creek Fen	NA-3	T2N, R18E Section 35 Town of Lyons	Private	30	Wetland complex along Ivanhoe Creek, containing shrub-carr, shallow marsh, and good-quality calcareous fen
51	Lake Loraine Woods—East	NA-3	T3N, R15E Section 8 Town of Richmond	Private	74	Xeric woods containing scattered, mature oaks, and relatively intact shrub and herb layers. Disturbances include trails and past grazing and selective cutting
52	Lake Loraine Woods—West	NA-3	T3N, R15E Section 8 Town of Richmond	Private	86	Disturbed xeric oak woods on flat-to-undulating topography. North end is lower and somewhat more mesic. Included because of relatively large size
53	Lake Loraine Marsh	NA-3	T3N, R15E Sections 8, 9 Town of Richmond	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	35	Good-quality deep and shallow marsh on developed lake
54	Lake No. 10	NA-3	T3N, R15E Section 10 Town of Richmond	State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	40	Small, undeveloped lake in a kettle depression, containing deep and shallow marsh
55	Turtle Lake Fen	NA-3	T3N, R15E Section 14 Town of Richmond	Department of Natural Resources	21	Prairie fen on southwest side of Turtle Lake
56	Baywood Road Sedge Meadow	NA-3	T3N, R16E Section 2 Town of Sugar Creek T4N, R16E Section 35 Town of LaGrange	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	27	Good-quality sedge meadow and shallow marsh complex with a strong influx of calciphilic species
57	Lake Wandawega Marsh	NA-3	T3N, R16E Section 6 Town of Sugar Creek	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	83	A large deep and shallow marsh at west end of lake, with good complement of aquatic species. Much of lake upland is developed
58	North Lake Marsh	NA-3	T3N, R16E Section 6 Town of Sugar Creek	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	67	Large marsh on west side of lake, with rich aquatic species complement. Lake upland heavily developed and grazed
59	Silver Lake	NA-3	T3N, R16E Sections 11, 14 Town of Sugar Creek	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	96	Shallow lake that contains a rich complement of native aquatic species. Good water quality. A small dry prairie remnant is located on the north side of the lake
60	Pallottine Maple Woods	NA-3	T3N, R17E Sections 11, 14 Town of Lafayette	Private	152	Moderate-quality mesic and dry-mesic hardwoods with good species diversity. Disturbances include a trail network and past selective cutting
61	Granzeau Woods	NA-3	T3N, R17E Section 12 Town of Lafayette	Private	133	Good-quality dry-mesic hardwoods embedded in a matrix of more-disturbed woods. Dominated by red and white oaks and sugar maple. Currently threatened by logging activity
62	Sugar Creek Fens, Springs, and Sedge Meadow	NA-3	T3N, R17E Section 15 Town of Lafayette	Private	34	Wetland complex along Sugar Creek that has suffered from past and current disturbances. Regionally uncommon species Ohio goldenrod ( <i>Solidago ohioensis</i> ) and small fringed gentian ( <i>Gentianopsis procera</i> ), both State-designated special concern species
63	Sugar Creek Wetlands	NA-3	T3N, R17E Section 17 Town of Lafayette	Private	74	Shallow cattail marsh and shrub-carr along Sugar creek. Area has been disturbed by past ditching attempts
64	Abells Corners Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict	NA-3	T3N, R17E Section 18 Town of Lafayette	Private	42	Moderate-quality tamarack relict and sedge meadow, disturbed by groundwater-level changes
65	Spring Prairie Lowlands	NA-3	T3N, R18E Sections 10, 11, 14, 15 Town of Spring Prairie	Private	297	Large, basically good-quality wetland complex consisting of shallow marsh, shrub-carr, sedge meadow, and tamarack relict. Area has been disturbed by past ditching attempts
66	Lone Tree Trail Oak Woods	NA-3	T4N, R15E Sections 23, 24, 25, 26 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources and private	265	Former mosaic of xeric oak forest, open oak woodland, and oak savanna now overgrown with shrubs, situated on upper slopes of rough, gravely interlobate moraine. Contains the State-designated threatened kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> )

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
67	Whitewater Oak Woods	NA-3	T4N, R15E Sections 24, 25 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources and private	240	Xeric oak woodland that has suffered from fire suppression. Dry prairies on steep south-facing slopes are being actively managed through cutting and burning
68	Rice Lake Dry Prairie	NA-3	T4N, R15E Section 26 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources	1	Small dry prairie remnant, managed by burning
69	Rock Shrub-Fen	NA-3	T4N, R15E Sections 30, 31 Town of Whitewater	Private	46	Good-quality wetland complex, consisting of sedge meadow, shrub-carr, and small areas of marly fen
70	Nordic Trail Oak Woods	NA-3	T4N, R16E Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 15 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources and private; protected with conservation easement	493	Large but patchy mixture of disturbed oak woods, shallow lakes, and small areas of dry prairie
71	Skoponong (Duffin Road) Prairie	NA-3	T4N, R16E Sections 4, 9 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	8	Good-quality mix of mesic and wet-mesic prairie and shallow marsh. Dominated by big and little bluestem, prairie dock, and goldenrods. Quality has improved with burn management
72	Big Spring Road Prairie	NA-3	T4N, R16E Sections 6, 7 Town of LaGrange	Private	93	Degraded wet-mesic prairie used as pastures but offering excellent opportunity for prairie and pothole restoration. The small wetlands are good for amphibian breeding and migratory waterfowl
73	Connelly Fen	NA-3	T4N, R16E Section 8 Town of LaGrange	Private	2	Good-quality calcareous fen containing characteristic fen species
74	Island Woods	NA-3	T4N, R16E Section 26 Town of LaGrange	Kettle Moraine Land Trust and other private	46	Good-quality dry-mesic woods on rough terrain, situated on peninsula in Lauderdale Lakes
75	Eagle Spring Lake Bog, Woods, and Prairie	NA-3	T4N, R17E Section 1 Town of Troy  T5N, R17E Section 36 Town of Eagle (Waukesha County)	Department of Natural Resources	28 (plus 38 in Waukesha County)	Leatherleaf bog, dry upland Woods, and small prairie remnants
76	Crooked Creek Sedge Meadow	NA-3	T4N, R17E Sections 3, 10 Town of Troy	The Nature Conservancy	27	Sedge meadow—shallow marsh wetland disturbed by ditching along east edge
77	Doyle's Lake Wetlands	NA-3	T4N, R17E Sections 8, 9, 16 17 Town of Troy	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	68	Undeveloped lake containing shallow marsh. Used by migrating waterfowl
78	Lein's Road Fen	NA-3	T4N, R17E Section 30 Town of Troy	Private	22	Degraded shrub-fen, disturbed by past grazing and groundwater-level changes from ditching
79	Honey Creek Fen	NA-3	T4N, R17E Section 31 Town of Troy	Private	8	Moderate-quality wetland complex bordering Honey Creek, consisting of calcareous fen, sedge meadow, and shallow marsh. Contains beaked spike-rush ( <i>Eleocharis rostellata</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
80	Troy Fen	NA-3	T4N, R17E Sections 31, 32 Town of Troy	Department of Natural Resources and private	15	Moderate-quality calcareous fen—shrub-carr—sedge meadow wetland. Disturbed by past ditching
81	Rainbow Springs Woods, Wetlands, and Prairies	NA-3	T4N, R18E Sections 5, 6 Town of East Troy  T5N, R18E Sections 31, 32 Town of Mukwonago (Waukesha County)	Department of Natural Resources and private	371 (plus 312 in Waukesha County)	Large area of disturbed upland oak woods, with associated areas of dry prairie and wetlands
82	East Troy Bog	NA-3	T4N, R18E Sections 7, 18 Town of East Troy	Private	6	Good-quality leatherleaf bog
83	Army Lake Lowlands	NA-3	T4N, R18E Sections 8, 9, 16 Town of East Troy	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	92	Large deep and shallow marsh northwest of Army Lake

**Table 6 (continued)**

Number on Map 5	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
84	East Troy Tamaracks	NA-3	T4N, R18E Sections 9, 10 Town of East Troy	Department of Natural Resources	26	Acid sphagnum—tamarack relict, disturbed by groundwater-level changes from ditching attempts
85	Potter Lake Tamaracks	NA-3	T4N, R18E Sections 10, 15 Town of East Troy	Private	22	Disturbed tamarack relict on west side of Potter Lake
86	Hilburn Sedge Meadow	NA-3	T4N, R18E Sections 21, 22 Town of East Troy	Private	66	Sedge meadow and shallow marsh bordering Honey Creek
- -	Subtotal	NA-3	65 sites	- -	5,538	- -
- -	Total	All Natural Areas	86 sites	- -	10,169	- -

<sup>a</sup> NA-1 identifies Natural Area sites of statewide or greater significance.

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

NA-3 identifies Natural Area sites of local significance.

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

Source: SEWRPC.

scientific importance, significance in industrial history, natural aesthetics, ecological qualities, educational value, and public access potential. The 13 sites selected in Walworth County include two sites of statewide significance (GA-1), five sites of countywide or regional significance (GA-2), and six sites of local significance (GA-3). Together, these sites encompass about 12,946 acres in Walworth County. Map 7 depicts the locations of geological sites identified in 2009. Table 8 sets forth a description of each site.

### **Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas**

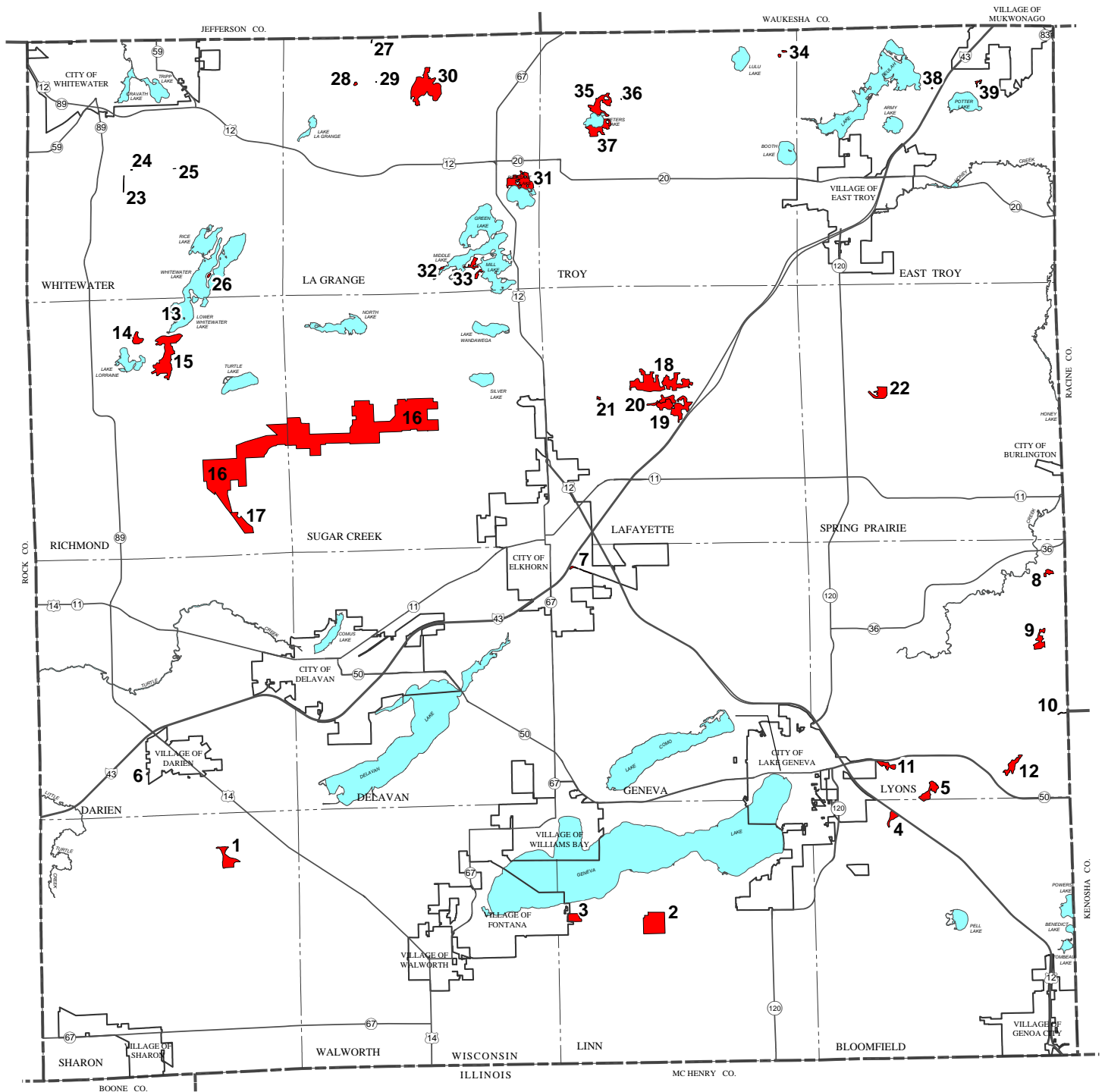
One of the most important tasks completed under the regional planning program for Southeastern Wisconsin has been the identification and delineation of those areas in the Region in which concentrations of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base occur. The preservation of such areas in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

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

The delineation on a map of the natural resource and resource-related elements specified above results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow, elongated areas which have been termed "environmental corridors" by the Regional Planning Commission.<sup>2</sup> Primary environmental corridors are a minimum of 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors connect with the primary environmental corridors and are at least 100 acres in size and one mile in length. Areas at least five acres in size

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

# Map 6 CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2009



- CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE
- SURFACE WATER
- 15 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 7)

Source: SEWRPC.

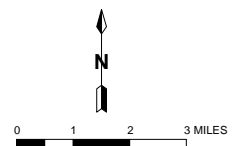


Table 7

## CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2009

Number on Map 6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Railroad Lowland	T1N, R15E Sections 2, 11 Town of Sharon	Department of Natural Resources	64	Disturbed fresh (wet) meadow supporting lesser fringed gentian ( <i>Gentianopsis procera</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
2	Town of Linn Park	T1N, R17E Section 16 Town of Linn	Town of Linn	153	Large expanse of old fields and pastures providing nesting habitat for several grassland bird species
3	Lyons Woods	T1N, R17E Section 18 Village of Fontana	Private	35	Woods containing the Region's only known population of broad beech fern ( <i>Phegopteris hexagonoptera</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
4	Section 5 Marsh and Pond	T1N, R18E Sections 4, 5 Town of Bloomfield	Private	21	Small wetland provides breeding habitat for black terns, a State-designated special concern bird species
5	Townline Pond	T1N, R18E Section 4 Town of Bloomfield T2N, R18E Section 33 Town of Lyons	Private	50	Small wetland provides breeding habitat for black terns, a State-designated special concern bird species; misidentified as "Swift Lake Wetland" CSH in PR-42
6	Darien Railroad Prairie Remnant	T2N, R15E Sections 28, 33 Town of Darien	Private	1	Small remnants of mesic prairie along railway right-of-way. The Region's only known population of wild petunia ( <i>Ruellia humilis</i> ), a State-designated endangered species, is present
7	Elkhorn Railroad Prairie Remnant	T2N, R17E Section 6 City of Elkhorn	City of Elkhorn and Wisconsin Department of Transportation	7	Remnant patches of mesic and wet-mesic prairie along abandoned railway right-of-way support populations of two State-designated threatened species: Sullivant's milkweed ( <i>Asclepias sullivantii</i> ) and cream gentian ( <i>Gentiana alba</i> )
8	White River Railroad Prairie	T2N, R18E Section 1 Town of Lyons	Private	12	Disturbed remnants of wet-mesic prairies bordering recreational trail support a good population of white lady's-slipper orchid ( <i>Cypripedium candidum</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
9	Roden Oak Woods	T2N, R18E Section 13 Town of Lyons	Private	41	Disturbed oak woodland supporting a population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
10	Seno Oak Opening	T2N, R18E Section 25 Town of Lyons	Private (protected through conservation easement)	2	Small oak opening supporting a population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
11	Radio Station Wetland	T2N, R18E Section 32 Town of Lyons	Private	26	Disturbed shrub-carr with a small area of prairie fen supporting lesser fringed gentian ( <i>Gentianopsis procera</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
12	Peterson Property	T2N, R18E Section 35 Town of Lyons	Private	40	Swamp agrimony ( <i>Agrimonia parviflora</i> ), a State-designated special concern species, found along edge of wetland
13	Whitewater Lake Island	T3N, R15E Section 3 Town of Richmond	Walworth County	1	Nesting colony of great egrets, a State-designated threatened bird species, on wooded island in lake
14	Unnamed Wetland	T3N, R15E Section 4 Town of Richmond	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	26	Small wetland provides breeding habitat for black terns, a State-designated special concern bird species
15	Lake Number 10 Open Woods	T3N, R15E Section 10 Town of Richmond	Private	194	Disturbed woodland supporting a population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species

Table 7 (continued)

Number on Map 6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
16	Turtle Valley Wildlife Area	T3N, R15E Sections 23, 24, 26 Town of Richmond T3N, R16E Sections 18, 19 Town of Sugar Creek	Department of Natural Resources and Department of Transportation	2,042	Former agricultural land, now being returned to wetlands. Provides nesting and feeding habitat for a large number of native birds, including several endangered, threatened, and special concern species
17	Island Road Shrub-Carr	T3N, R15E Section 35 Town of Richmond	Private	64	Disturbed shrub-carr with a small area of prairie fen, supporting two State-designated special concern species: lesser fringed gentian ( <i>Gentianopsis procera</i> ) and Ohio goldenrod ( <i>Solidago ohioensis</i> )
18	Sugar Creek Woods—North	T3N, R17E Sections 15, 16 Town of LaFayette	Private	230	Oak woods on rolling topography north of Sugar Creek contains late coral root orchid ( <i>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
19	Sugar Creek Woods—South	T3N, R17E Sections 15, 16, 17 Town of LaFayette	Private	116	Oak woods on rolling topography south of Sugar Creek contains late coral root orchid ( <i>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
20	Sugar Creek Wet Woods	T3N, R17E Section 16 Town of LaFayette	Private	34	Wooded wetland complex of lowland hardwoods and shrub-carr contains giant hyssop ( <i>Agastache nepetoides</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
21	Abells Corners Fen	T3N, R17E Section 17 Town of LaFayette	Private	3	Small, disturbed prairie fen supporting a population of lesser fringed gentian ( <i>Gentianopsis procera</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
22	Hargraves Road Sedge Meadow	T3N, R18E Section 17 Town of Spring Prairie	Private	46	Small, disturbed prairie fen within larger sedge meadow supporting a population of lesser fringed gentian ( <i>Gentianopsis procera</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
23	Mills Road Prairie	T4N, R15E Section 15 Town of Whitewater	Private	3	Mowed roadside containing a small population of Sullivant's milkweed ( <i>Asclepias sullivantii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
24	Anderson Road	T4N, R15E Section 16 Town of Whitewater	Private	1	Mowed roadside containing a small population of Sullivant's milkweed ( <i>Asclepias sullivantii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
25	Island Road Prairie	T4N, R15E Section 21 Town of Whitewater	Private	1	Remnant mesic prairie between gravel road and agricultural fields
26	Whitewater Lake Island Woods	T4N, R15E Section 35 Town of Whitewater	Private	3	Woodland supporting a population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
27	Emerson Esker Prairie	T4N, 16E Section 4 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	1	Small remnants of prairie and oak opening supporting a population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
28	Bennett Dry Prairie	T4N, R16E Section 6 Town of LaGrange	Private	3	Small prairie remnants supporting a population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
29	Duffin Road Dry Prairie	T4N, 16E Section 9 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	1	Small prairie remnants supporting a population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
30	LaGrange Campground	T4N, 16E Section 10 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	203	Small prairie remnants within a larger woodland supporting a population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species

Table 7 (continued)

Number on Map 6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
31	Juniper Knoll Camp Woods	T4N, 16E Section 24 Town of LaGrange	Private	98	Large, but disturbed and patchy woodland with a small population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
32	Middle Lake Sedge Mat	T4N, 16E Section 34 Town of LaGrange	State of Wisconsin Trust Lands	3	Floating sedge mat at edge of Middle Lake
33	Lauderdale Lakes Woods	T4N, 16E Section 35 Town of LaGrange	Private	28	Woodland in a residential area containing forked aster ( <i>Aster furcatus</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
34	Horn Dry Prairies	T4N, R17E Section 1 Town of Troy	Private	5	Small prairie remnants supporting a population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
35	Harmony Hills Savanna	T4N, R17E Section 8 Town of Troy	Private	77	Rare sedge species located within disturbed oak savanna
36	Doyles Lake Prairies	T4N, R17E Section 9 Town of Troy	Private	1	Small prairie remnants supporting a population of kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
37	Camp Timberlee	T4N, R17E Section 17 Town of Troy	Private	65	Swamp agrimony ( <i>Agrimonia parviflora</i> ), a State-designated special concern species, found along edge of wetland
38	Anderson Bog	T4N, R18E Section 10 Town of East Troy	Private	1	Downy willow-herb ( <i>Epilobium strictum</i> ), a State-designated special concern species, located in small bog
39	Eastwood Estates Woods	T4N, R18E Section 11 Town of East Troy	Private	5	Small remnant woodland within residential development, containing hoptree ( <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
Total	39 sites	--	--	3,707	Total

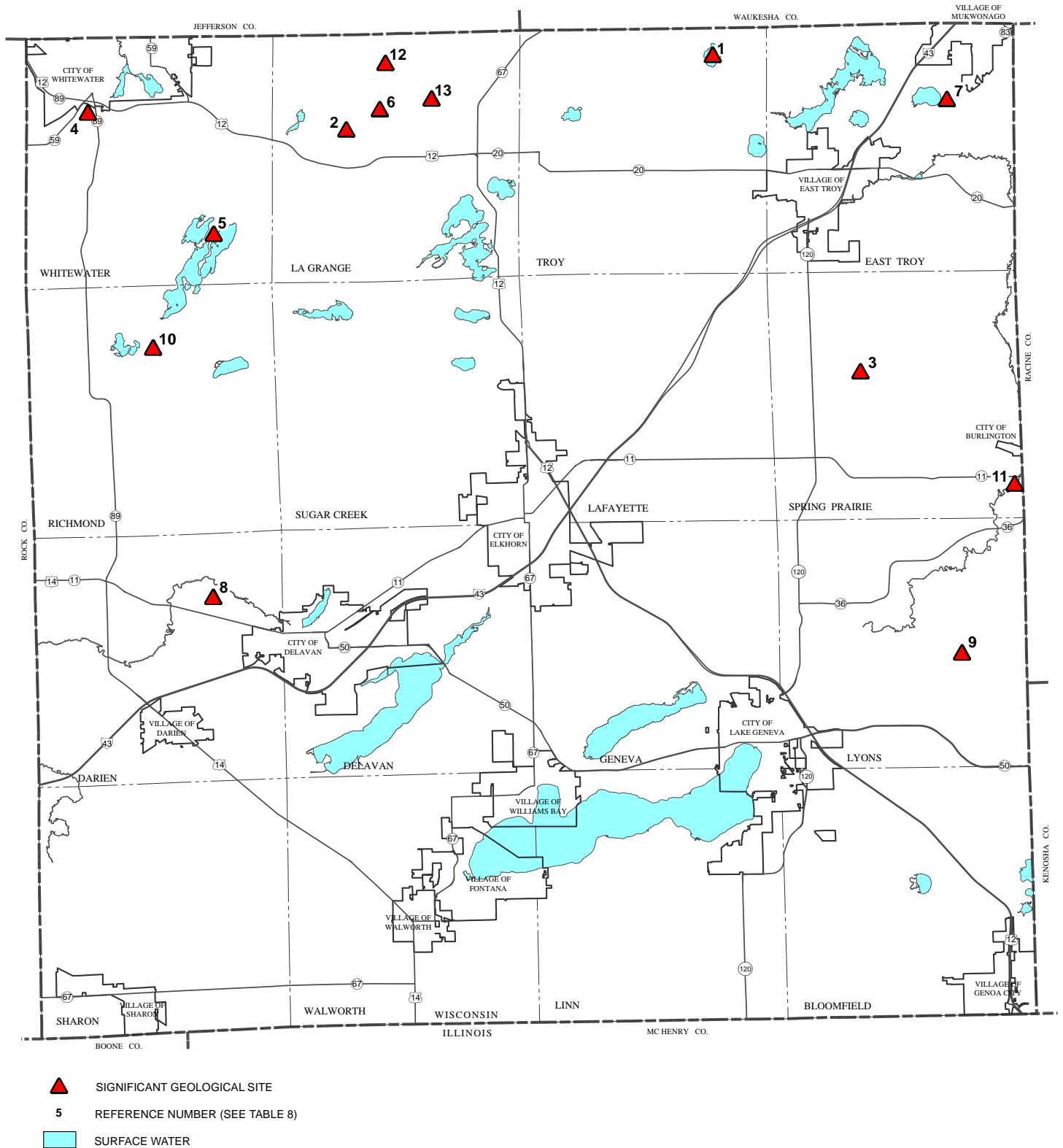
Source: SEWRPC

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 Walworth County in 2010 are shown on Map 8. At that time, such areas encompassed about 136.8 square miles, or about 24 percent of the County.

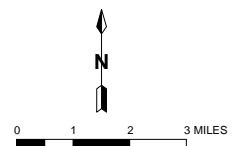
In any consideration of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, it is important to note that the preservation of such resources serves many beneficial purposes, in addition to protecting the important natural resources that make up the corridors. Corridor lands provide areas for 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 County and the Region. Excluding urban development from environmental corridors helps to prevent problems such as water pollution, wet and flooded basements, and building and pavement failures.

In addition, because of the many interacting relationships between living organisms and their environment, the destruction or deterioration of any one element of the natural resource base may lead to a chain reaction of deterioration and destruction. The draining and filling of wetlands, for example, may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge or discharge areas, and the natural filtration action and floodwater storage functions which contribute to maintaining high levels of water quality and stable streamflows and lake stages in a watershed. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to the deterioration of

# Map 7 SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGICAL SITES IN WALWORTH COUNTY



Source: SEWRPC.



**Table 8**  
**SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGIC SITES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2009**

Number on Map 7	Site Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Site Area (Acres)	Location	Ownership	Description
1	Lulu Lake Glacial Lake and Crevasse Filling	GA-1	103	T4N, R17E, Section 2 Town of Troy	Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and other private	A near-classic example of kettle lake located on a pitted outwash terrace. It is associated with the end moraine of the Lake Michigan lobe. Also present is a good example of a crevasse filling
2	Kettle Moraine Interlobate Moraine <sup>b</sup>	GA-1	7,138	Northwest portion of County	Department of Natural Resources, and private	Interlobate moraine consisting of a complex system of irregular, knobby ridges, trending northeast-southwest across the northwest portion of the County
3	Sugar Creek Quarry	GA-2	3	T3N, R18E, Section 16 Town of Spring Prairie	Private	Small abandoned quarry on south bank of Sugar Creek. Only exposure of geologically important fossiliferous Kankakee Dolomite in Wisconsin
4	Whitewater Quarry	GA-2	2	T4N, R15E, Section 8 Town of Whitewater	Private	Old quarry with one of few exposures of Galena Dolomite in region
5	Whitewater Lake-Rice Lake Eskers	GA-2	175	T4N, R15E, Sections 26, 35 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources, and private	Two eskers separating Whitewater Lake from Rice Lake
6	John Muir Trail Kettle Holes	GA-2	28	T4N, R16E, Section 9 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	Large, sphagnum-filled kettle holes
7	Casselman's Quarry	GA-2	2	T4N, R18E, Section 11 Town of East Troy	Private	Small quarry excavated in Silurian Mayville Dolomite. One of the few bedrock exposures in Walworth County
8	Turtle Creek Glacial Spillway	GA-3	2,540	T2N, R15E Sections 5-8, 11, 13, 18 Town of Darien T3N, R15E, Sections 26, 35, 36 Town of Richmond	Department of Natural Resources, and private	A good example of a glacial spillway
9	Lyons Glacial Deposits	GA-3	2,688 <sup>c</sup>	T2N, R18E Sections 12-15, 21-29 Town of Lyons	Private	Outstanding examples of kettle and kame topography
10	Morainic Triple Point	GA-3	218	T3N, R15E, Section 9 Town of Richmond	Private	Point where the interlobate moraine ends, and the Johnstown and Darien terminal moraines begin
11	Voree Quarry	GA-3	16	T3N, R18E, Section 36 Town of Spring Prairie	Private	Old, water-filled quarry, exposing unusual Brandon Bridge Formation of dolomite rock
12	Spirits Wash Bowl	GA-3	1	T4N, R16E, Section 4 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	A kettle hole
13	Nordic Trail Kettle Holes	GA-3	32	T4N, R16E Sections 10, 11 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources, and private	Huge, water-filled kettle holes
Total	--	--	12,946	--	--	--

<sup>a</sup>GA-1 identifies Geological Area sites of statewide or greater significance; GA-2 identifies Geological Area sites of countywide or regional significance; and GA-3 identifies Geological Area sites of local significance.

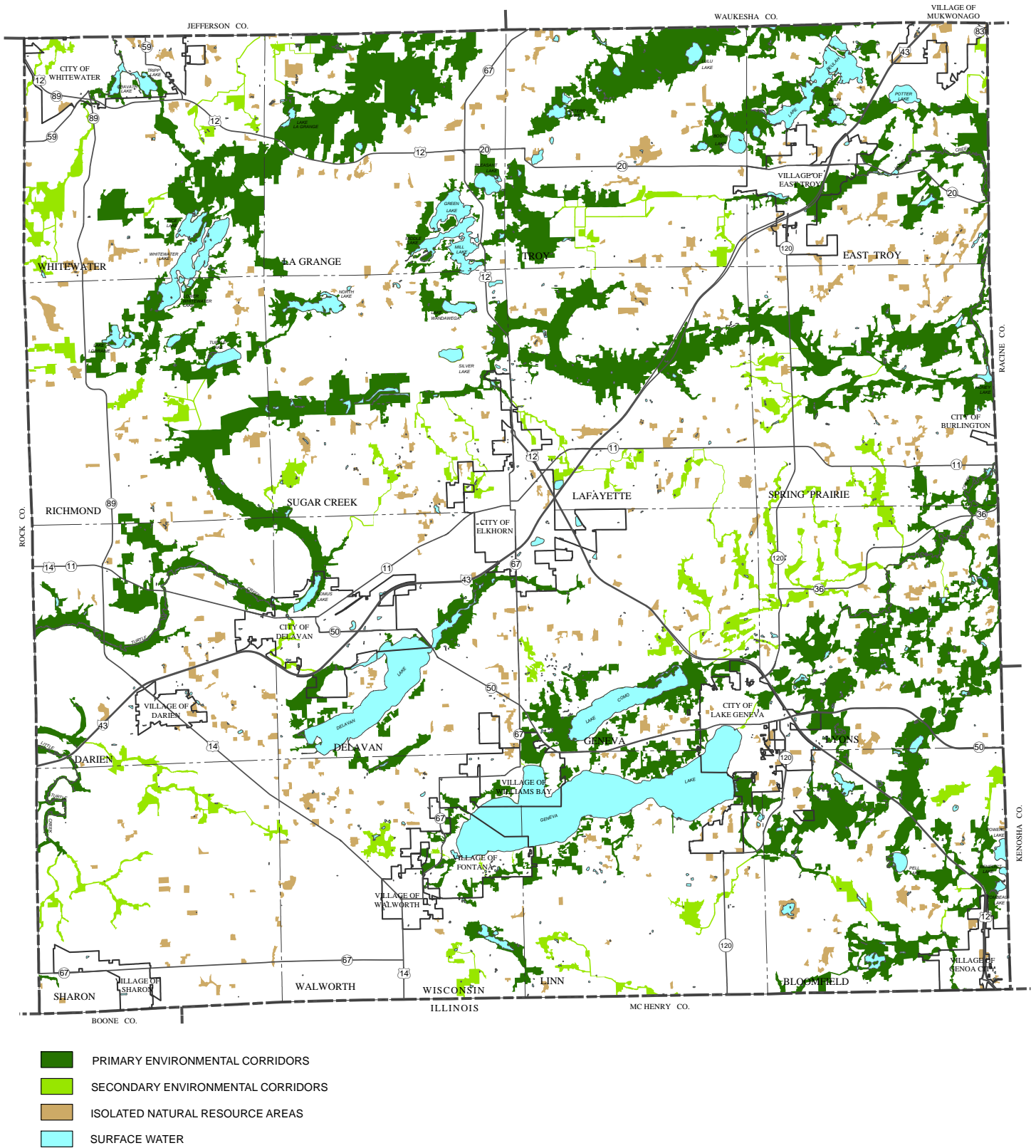
<sup>b</sup>Includes the area within the established project boundary for the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest within Walworth County. The acreage total does not include Natural Areas or Critical Species Habitat Sites within these project boundaries.

<sup>c</sup>Includes only those lands of the Lyons Glacial Deposits located in Walworth County.

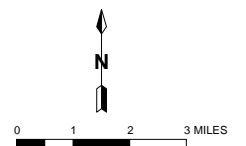
Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, and SEWRPC.

Map 8

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



Source: SEWRPC.



the quality of the groundwater which serves as a source of domestic, municipal, and industrial water supply and on which low flows in rivers and streams may depend. Similarly, the destruction of woodland cover may result in soil erosion and stream siltation, more rapid stormwater runoff and attendant increased flood flows and stages, as well as destruction of wildlife habitat. Although the effects of any one of these environmental changes may not in and of itself be overwhelming, the combined effects will eventually create serious environmental and developmental problems. The need to maintain the integrity of the remaining environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas thus becomes apparent.

### ***Primary Environmental Corridors***

As shown on Map 8, the primary environmental corridors in Walworth County are located along the major rivers and their tributaries, around the major lakes in the County, in large wetland areas, and in the Kettle Moraine. In 2010, about 106.8 square miles, comprising about 18 percent of the total area of the County, were encompassed within the primary environmental corridors.

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

### ***Secondary Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas***

As shown on Map 8, secondary environmental corridors in Walworth County are located chiefly along the small perennial and intermittent streams within the County. About 15.1 square miles, comprising about 3 percent of the County, were encompassed within secondary environmental corridors in 2010. Secondary environmental corridors contain a variety of resource elements and are often remnant resources from primary environmental corridors that have been developed with agricultural or urban uses. Secondary environmental corridors facilitate surface water drainage and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife and for the dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. Such corridors should be considered for preservation in natural, open use or incorporated as drainage ways, stormwater detention or retention areas, or as local parks or recreation trails, in developing areas.

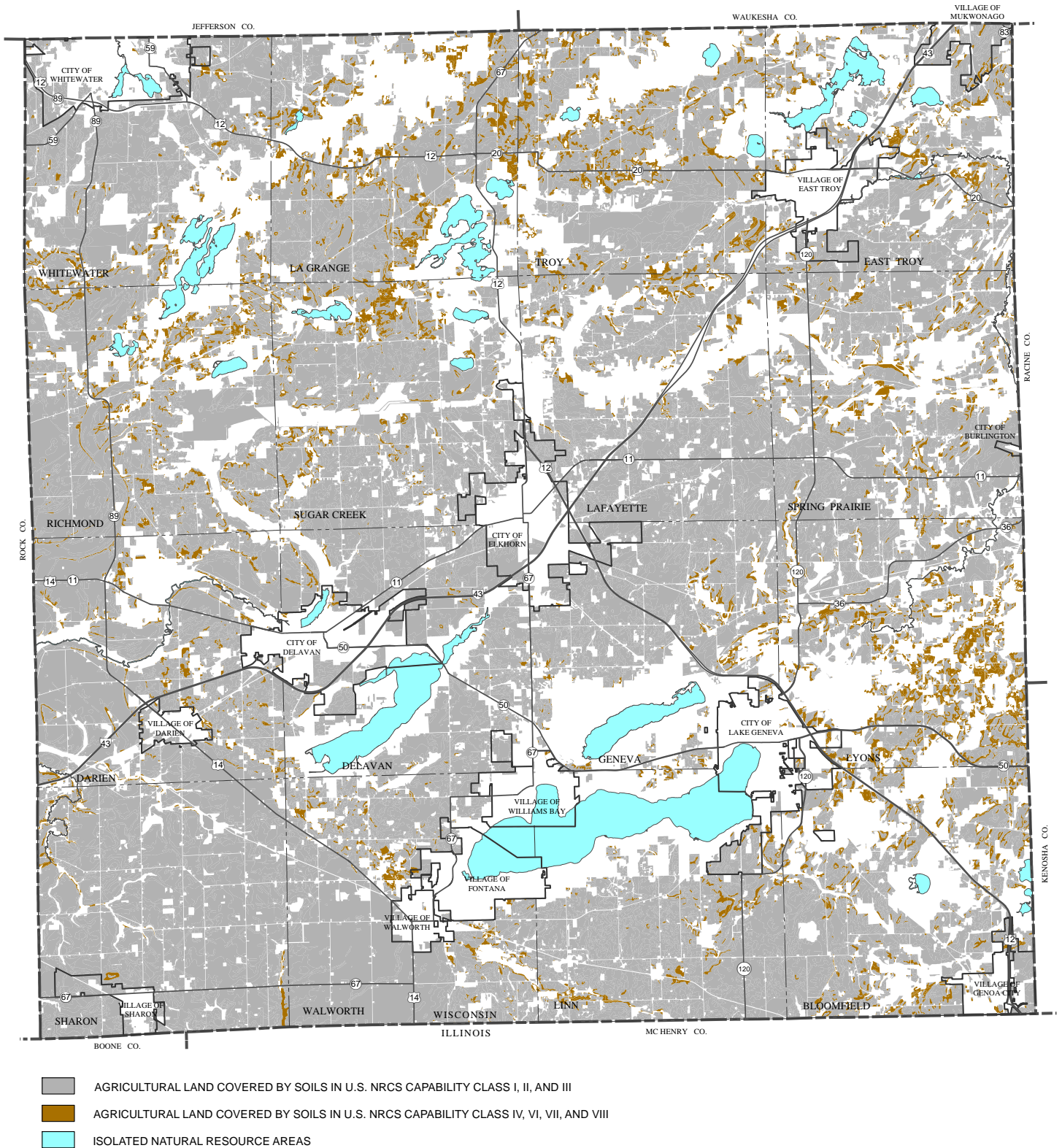
As also shown on Map 8, isolated natural resource areas within Walworth County include a geographically well-distributed variety of isolated wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitat; in 2010, these areas encompassed about 14.9 square miles, or about 3 percent of the County. Isolated natural resource 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.

### ***Agricultural Land***

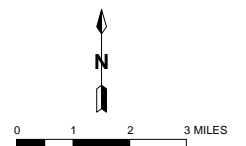
In 2010, approximately 352.6 square miles, or 61 percent of Walworth County, were in agricultural use. Map 9 shows the extent of agricultural land in Walworth County as identified in the year 2010 and also identifies those areas which are covered by soils in agricultural capability Class I, Class II, and Class III as classified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Lands covered by such soils meet the criteria for national prime farmland (largely Class I and Class II soils) and farmland of statewide importance (largely Class III soils). Agricultural lands covered by Class I, Class II, and Class III soils encompassed about 325.5 square miles, or 92 percent of all agricultural land in the County.

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

# Map 9 AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010



Source: U. S. NRCS and SEWRPC.



## SUMMARY

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

1. The resident population of Walworth County in 2010, the year of the most recent U.S. Census, was 102,228, an increase of 61 percent over 1970. During the same period, households increased by 21,155, or about 114 percent, as the number of persons per household has decreased.
2. An inventory of land use in 2010 indicated that 77.5 square miles, or about 13 percent of the County, were developed with urban uses, while the remaining 499.0 square miles, or about 87 percent of the County, were devoted to rural uses.
3. There are 173 miles of perennial streams and about 12,600 acres of major lakes within the County. There are approximately 52.4 square miles, or about 9 percent of the County, located within the 100-year recurrence interval flood hazard area of the perennial streams.
4. The County encompasses a number of significant natural resource base features including wetland areas which occupied about 53.6 square miles, or about 9 percent of the County; and woodlands, which occupied about 51.9 square miles, or about 9 percent of the County. The County contained 86 sites identified as natural areas—areas which contain native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European settlement landscape; and 39 critical species habitat sites—sites which support rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals.
5. The most important elements of the natural resource base and features closely related to that base—including wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat, major lakes and streams and associated shorelands and floodlands, and outdoor recreation sites—when combined, result in an essentially linear pattern in the landscape referred to by the Regional Planning Commission as environmental corridors. Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of important natural resource and resource-related elements and are, by definition, at least 400 acres in size, two miles long, and 200 feet wide. In 2010, primary environmental corridors encompassed about 106.8 square miles, or about 18 percent of the County.
6. Approximately 352.6 square miles, or 61 percent of the County, were in agricultural use in 2010. Agricultural lands consisting of Class I, II, and III soils are best suited for long-term agricultural use and are located throughout the entire County.

## **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.<sup>1</sup> The inventory is updated periodically, and was updated in 2007 as part of the Walworth County Comprehensive Plan. The inventory of park and open space sites in the County was updated again in 2010 for use in preparing this new County park and open space plan. The findings of the 2010 inventory are presented in this chapter.

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

### **EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES**

#### **Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Walworth County**

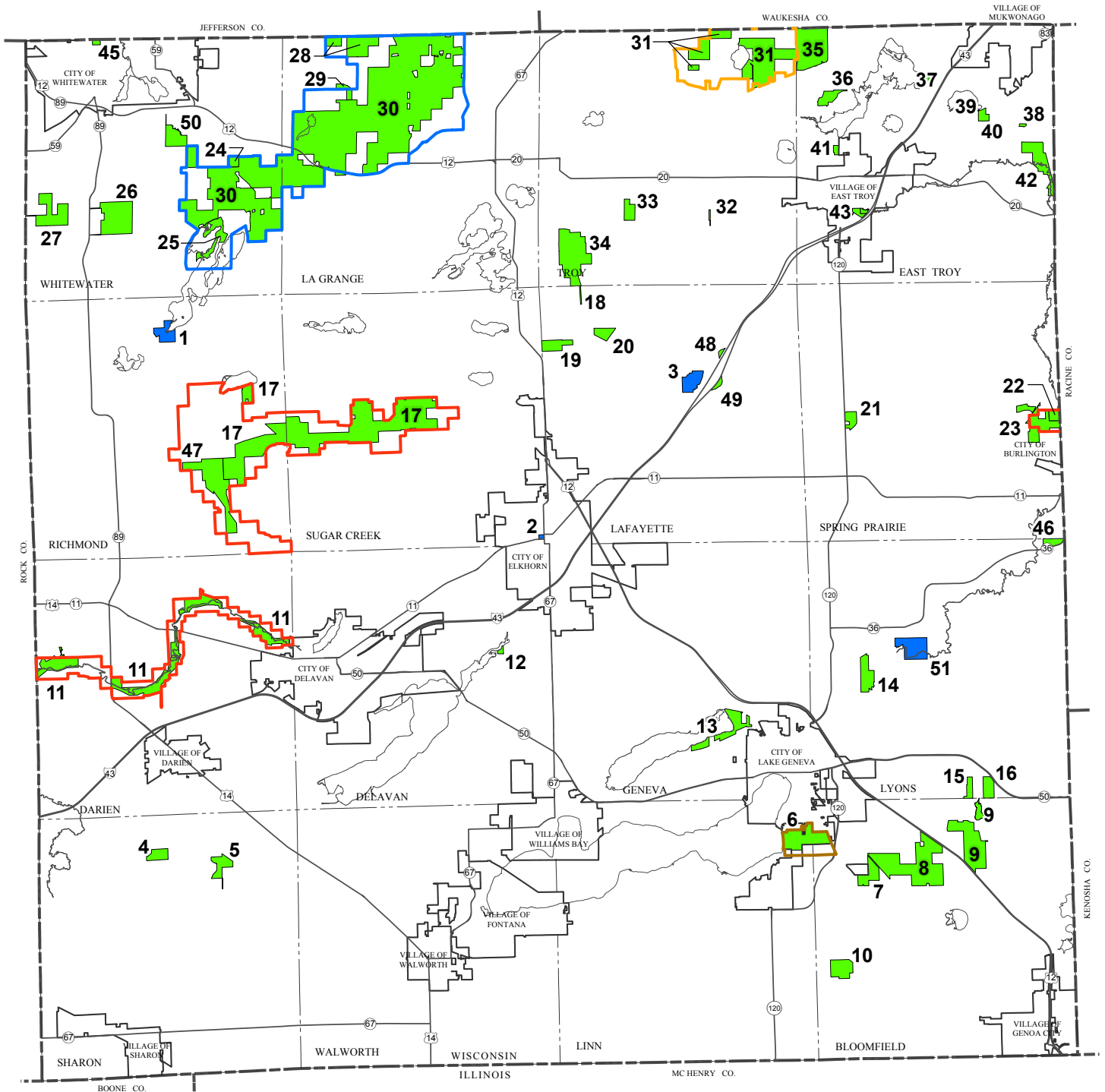
Park and open space sites owned by Walworth County in 2010 are shown on Map 10 and listed on Table 9. In 2010, Walworth County owned four such sites, encompassing a total of 419 acres.

---

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

Map 10

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



- STATE OWNED SITES
- COUNTY OWNED SITES
- 22** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLES 9 AND 11)

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PROJECT BOUNDARIES

- BIGFOOT BEACH STATE PARK
- HONEY CREEK WILDLIFE AREA
- KETTLE MORaine STATE FOREST - SOUTHERN UNIT
- LULU LAKE STATE NATURAL AREA
- TURTLE CREEK WILDLIFE AREA
- TURTLE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA

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

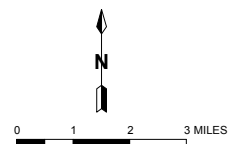


Table 9

**PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES OWNED BY WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010**

Number on Map 10	Site Name	Location <sup>a</sup>	Size (Acres)
1	Natureland Park .....	T3N, R15E, Section 3	104
2	Veterans Park .....	T3N, R16E, Section 36	7
3	Price Conservancy .....	T3N, R17E, Section 15	113
51	White River County Park <sup>b</sup> .....	T2N, R18E, Section 16	195
--	Total - 4 Sites	--	419

<sup>a</sup>Indicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

<sup>b</sup>New park acquired by Walworth County in 2014.

Source: SEWRPC.

Table 10

**SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN WALWORTH COUNTY PARKS: 2010**

Number on Map 10	Site Name	Size (Acres)	Playfield	Golf Course	Picnic Area	Swimming Beach	Trails	Boat Launch	Campsites
1	Natureland Park .....	104	--	--	X	--	X	--	--
2	Veterans Park .....	7	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
3	Price Conservancy .....	113	--	--	X	--	X	--	--
51	White River County Park .....	195	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	Total - 4 Sites	419	--	--	3	--	2	--	--

Source: SEWRPC.

There are three existing major County parks<sup>2</sup> encompassing a total of 412 acres: Price Conservancy in the Town of Lafayette; Natureland Park in the Town of Richmond; and White River County Park in the Town of Lyons.

Selected outdoor recreation facilities within the County park system in 2010 are listed in Table 10. As indicated in that table, three parks within the County system currently provide picnic areas, and two parks provide trails.

**Park and Open Space Sites Owned by the State of Wisconsin**

As indicated in Table 11 and shown on Map 10, in 2010 there were 47 State-owned park and open space sites in Walworth County, encompassing 14,934 acres, or about 4 percent of the total area of the County. Of these 47 sites, 41 sites, encompassing 14,300 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; one site, encompassing 14 acres, was owned by the University of Wisconsin; and five sites, encompassing 620 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

***Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources***

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has acquired large areas of park and open space lands in Walworth 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, Turtle Creek Wildlife Area, Turtle Valley Wildlife Area, Whitewater Lake Recreation Area, southern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Lulu Lake Natural Area, Bluff Creek Fishery Area, Beulah Lake Remnant, and numerous scattered wildlife sites.

<sup>2</sup>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.

Table 11

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

Number on Map 10	Site Name	Location <sup>a</sup>	Size (Acres)
	Department of Natural Resources Sites (WDNR)		
4	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T1N, R15E, Section 4	71
5	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T1N, R15E, Sections 2, 11	97
6	Big Foot Beach State Park .....	T1N, R17E, Sections 1, 12 T1N, R18E, Section 6	265
7	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T1N, R18E, Section 8	109
8	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area.....	T1N, R18E, Sections 4, 9	637
9	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T1N, R18E, Sections 3, 10	386
10	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T1N, R18E, Sections 19, 30	132
11	Turtle Creek Wildlife Area.....	T2N, R15E, Sections 2, 3, 10-13, 15-18, 20, 21	730 <sup>b</sup>
12	Delavan Lake Remnant.....	T2N, R16E, Section 14	10
13	Statewide Habitat Area .....	T2N, R17E, Sections 26, 27	178
14	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area.....	T2N, R18E, Sections 17, 20	135
15	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T2N, R18E, Section 34	44
16	Statewide Habitat Area .....	T2N, R18E, Section 35	77
17	Turtle Valley Wildlife Area.....	T3N, R15E, Sections 23, 24, 26 T3N, R16E, Sections 15-22	1,803
18	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area.....	T3N, R17E, Section 6	7
19	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T3N, R17E, Section 7	94
20	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T3N, R17E, Section 8	62
21	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T3N, R18E, Section 20	58
22	Honey Creek Wildlife Area.....	T3N, R18E, Section 24	40 <sup>b</sup>
23	Hoganson Preserve .....	T3N, R18E, Section 24	228
24	Bluff Creek Fishery Area.....	T4N, R15E, Section 15	39
25	Whitewater Lake Recreation Area.....	T4N, R15E, Sections 22, 26	135
26	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T4N, R15E, Sections 20, 21, 28, 29	347
27	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T4N, R15E, Sections 19, 30	232
28	State Scientific Area .....	T4N, R16E, Section 5	241
29	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T4N, R16E, Section 8	42
30	Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit .....	T4N, R15E, Sections 13, 14, 23-27 T4N, R16E, Sections 3, 4, 7-10, 15-21	6,041 <sup>b</sup>
31	Lulu Lake State Natural Area.....	T4N, R17E, Sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 12	738
32	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area.....	T4N, R17E, Section 27	5
33	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area.....	T4N, R17E, Section 28	69
34	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area.....	T4N, R17E, Sections 29-32	430
35	Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit – Rainbow Springs .....	T4N, R18E, Section 6	415 <sup>b</sup>
36	State Scientific Area .....	T4N, R18E, Sections 7, 8	78
37	Beulah Lake Remnant .....	T4N, R18E, Sections 9, 10	21
38	Stream Bank Protection.....	T4N, R18E, Section 13	6
39	Potter's Lake Access .....	T4N, R18E, Section 11	1
40	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area.....	T4N, R18E, Sections 11, 14	37
41	East Troy Boat Trailer Parking.....	T4N, R18E, Section 18	17
42	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area.....	T4N, R18E, Section 24	210
43	Scattered Wildlife Area .....	T4N, R18E, Section 29	11
44	Stream Bank Protection.....	T4N, R18E, Section 29	22
--	Subtotal – 41 Sites	--	14,300

**Table 11 (continued)**

Number on Map 10	Site Name	Location <sup>a</sup>	Size (Acres)
45	University of Wisconsin Sites UW Lawcon Fields.....	T4N, R15E, Section 5	14 <sup>c</sup>
--	Subtotal - 1 Site.....	--	14
46	Department of Transportation Sites (WisDOT) WisDOT Land (wetland mitigation site) .....	T2N, R18E, Section 1	48
47	WisDOT Land (wetland mitigation site) .....	T3N, R15E, Sections 22, 23, 26, 27, 35	423
48	Wayside .....	T3N, R17E, Section 11	9
49	Wayside .....	T3N, R17E, Section 14	18
50	DOT Land (wetland mitigation site) .....	T4N, R15E, Section 15	122
--	Subtotal - 5 Sites.....	--	620
--	Total - 47 Sites .....	--	14,934

<sup>a</sup>Indicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

<sup>b</sup>Includes only lands located in Walworth County.

<sup>c</sup>Walworth County portion only; total site area is 122 acres.

Source: SEWRPC.

WDNR-owned sites associated with more intensive recreational activities include Big Foot Beach State Park on the eastern shore of Geneva Lake in the Towns of Linn and Bloomfield, and Whitewater Lake Recreation Area, part of the southern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest in the Town of Whitewater. Both sites provide swimming, picnicking, camping, and trail facilities.

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

### ***University of Wisconsin***

In 2010 there was one recreation site affiliated with the University of Wisconsin in Walworth County. That site was a 14-acre portion of the UW-Lawcon Fields. The majority of the site—108 acres—is located in Jefferson County.

### ***Wisconsin Department of Transportation***

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation in 2010 owned five sites within Walworth County. This includes two highway waysides and three wetland mitigation sites. Combined, these five sites encompass 620 acres.

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

In addition to the County- and State-owned park and open space sites in Walworth County, in 2010 there was a total of 199 sites owned by local units of government or school districts. Those sites, listed on Table A-1 and shown on Map A-1 in Appendix A, encompass 2,670 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County. Local governments own 161 park and open space sites and public school districts own 38 sites. The acreage attributed to school district sites includes only those portions of the site used for recreational or open space purposes.

Table 12

## PRIVATELY OWNED RESOURCE PROTECTION SITES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010

Number on Map 11	Site Name	Owner	Location <sup>a</sup>	Size (acres)
1	Jackson Creek Preserve .....	Kettle Moraine Land Trust	T2N, R17E, Section 7	24
2	Island Woods Preserve.....	Kettle Moraine Land Trust	T4N, R16E, Section 26	36
3	Nature Conservancy Property .....	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Section 2	449
4	Crooked Creek Preserve .....	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Section 3	195
5	Baker Property.....	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Section 4	66
6	Meyer Property .....	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Section 6	100
7	Nature Conservancy Preserve .....	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Section 9	117
8	Nature Conservancy Property .....	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Section 12	41
9	Pickeral Lake Fen.....	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Section 13	40
10	Beulah Bluff Preserve.....	Kettle Moraine Land Trust	T4N, R18E, Section 8	8
--	Total : 10 Sites	--	--	1,076

<sup>a</sup>Indicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

Source: Kettle Moraine Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and SEWRPC.

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

### *Private Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Sites*

The 2010 inventory of park and open space sites also identified a total of 162 privately owned resource-oriented recreation sites. Those 162 sites are listed on Table A-2 and shown on Map A-2 in Appendix A. Together they encompassed 11,085 acres, or about 3 percent of the total area of the County.

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

### *Private Resource Protection Sites*

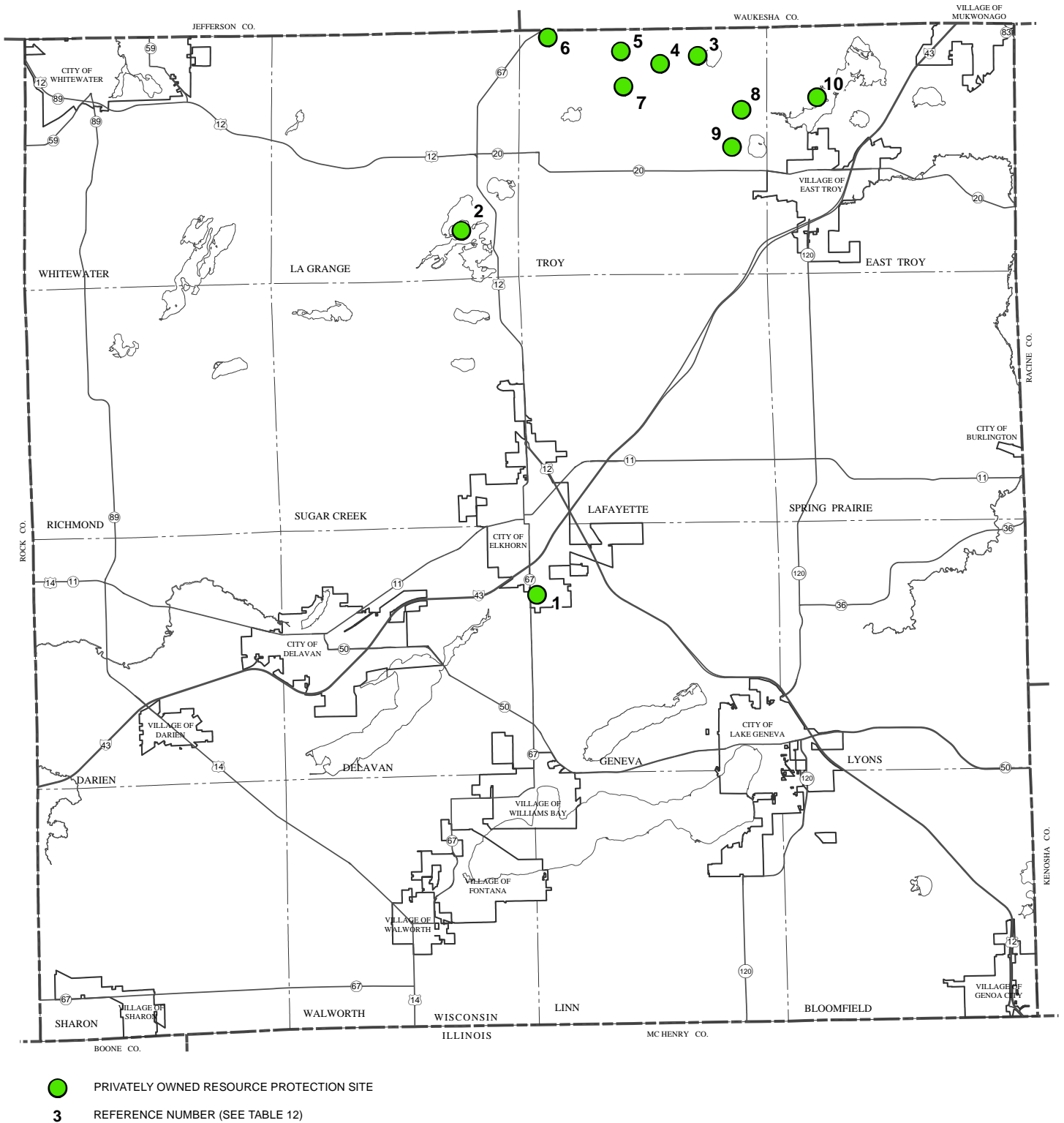
In addition, the 2010 inventory of park and open space sites identified a total of 10 sites owned by private organizations for natural resource protection purposes in Walworth County. Those sites are listed on Table 12 and shown on Map 11. The 10 open space area sites owned for resource preservation purposes encompass 1,076 acres. Those sites include seven sites owned by the The Nature Conservancy and three sites owned by the Kettle Moraine Land Trust.

## Conservation Easements

There are 28 privately owned open space and environmentally sensitive sites in Walworth County that are protected under conservation easements. In general, conservation easements are voluntary contracts between a private landowner and a land trust or government body that limit, or in some cases prohibit, future development of the parcel. The property owner sells or donates a conservation easement for the property to a land trust or government agency, but retains ownership. The owner is not prohibited from selling the property, but future owners must abide by the terms of the conservation easement. Conservation easements typically do not include any provision for public access. The 28 easements in Walworth County, listed on Table 13 and shown on Map 12, encompassed 1,156 acres in 2010. All of the conservation easements identified on the table and map provide for the permanent protection of resources on private land.

Map 11

PRIVATELY OWNED RESOURCE PROTECTION SITES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010



Source: Geneva Lake Conservancy, Kettle Moraine Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and SEWRPC.

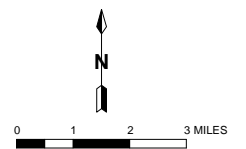


Table 13

**LANDS UNDER CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010**

Number on Map 12	Holder of Easement	Location <sup>a</sup>	Size (acres)
1	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Love) .....	T1N, R16E, Section 13	4
2	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Cobalt Farms) .....	T1N, R16E, Section 16	35
3	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Stenning/Driehaus) .....	T1N, R17E, Section 3	37
4	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Petersen) .....	T1N, R17E, Section 8	3
5	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Black Point) .....	T1N, R17E, Section 8	7
6	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Geraldson) .....	T1N, R17E, Section 9	2
7	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Mcessy) .....	T1N, R17E, Section 9	6
8	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Wooddale) .....	T1N, R17E, Section 9	4
9	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Styberg) .....	T1N, R17E, Section 11	22
10	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Woodstone Prairie) .....	T1N, R17E, Section 16	50
11	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Tameling/Newton) .....	T1N, R17E, Section 18	1
12	WDNR .....	T1N, R18E, Section 19	1
13	WDNR .....	T1N, R18E, Section 30	1
14	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Delavan N. Shore) .....	T2N, R16E, Section 29	7
15	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Burlington Hills) .....	T2N, R18E, Section 12	22
16	WDNR .....	T2N, R18E, Section 24	105
17	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Moelter Farm) .....	T2N, R18E, Section 33	235
18	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Peterson) .....	T2N, R18E, Section 35	84
19	Kettle Moraine Land Trust (Schwartz/Adelman) .....	T3N, R16E, Section 5	2
20	WDNR .....	T3N, R16E, Section 20	23
21	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Sugar Creek) .....	T3N, R17E, Section 14	183
22	WDNR .....	T4N, R16E, Section 10	33
23	Lauderdale Lakes Country Club .....	T4N, R16E, Section 36	57
24	WDNR .....	T4N, R17E, Section 2	2
25	The Nature Conservancy .....	T4N, R17E, Section 24	9
26	Kettle Moraine Land Trust (Hartranft Agricultural) .....	T4N, R17E, Section 24	90
27	Kettle Moraine Land Trust (Hartranft Natural Area) .....	T4N, R17E, Section 24	23
28	WDNR (East Troy Sod Farm) .....	T4N, R18E, Section 14	108
--	Total : 28 Sites	--	1,156

<sup>a</sup> Indicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

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

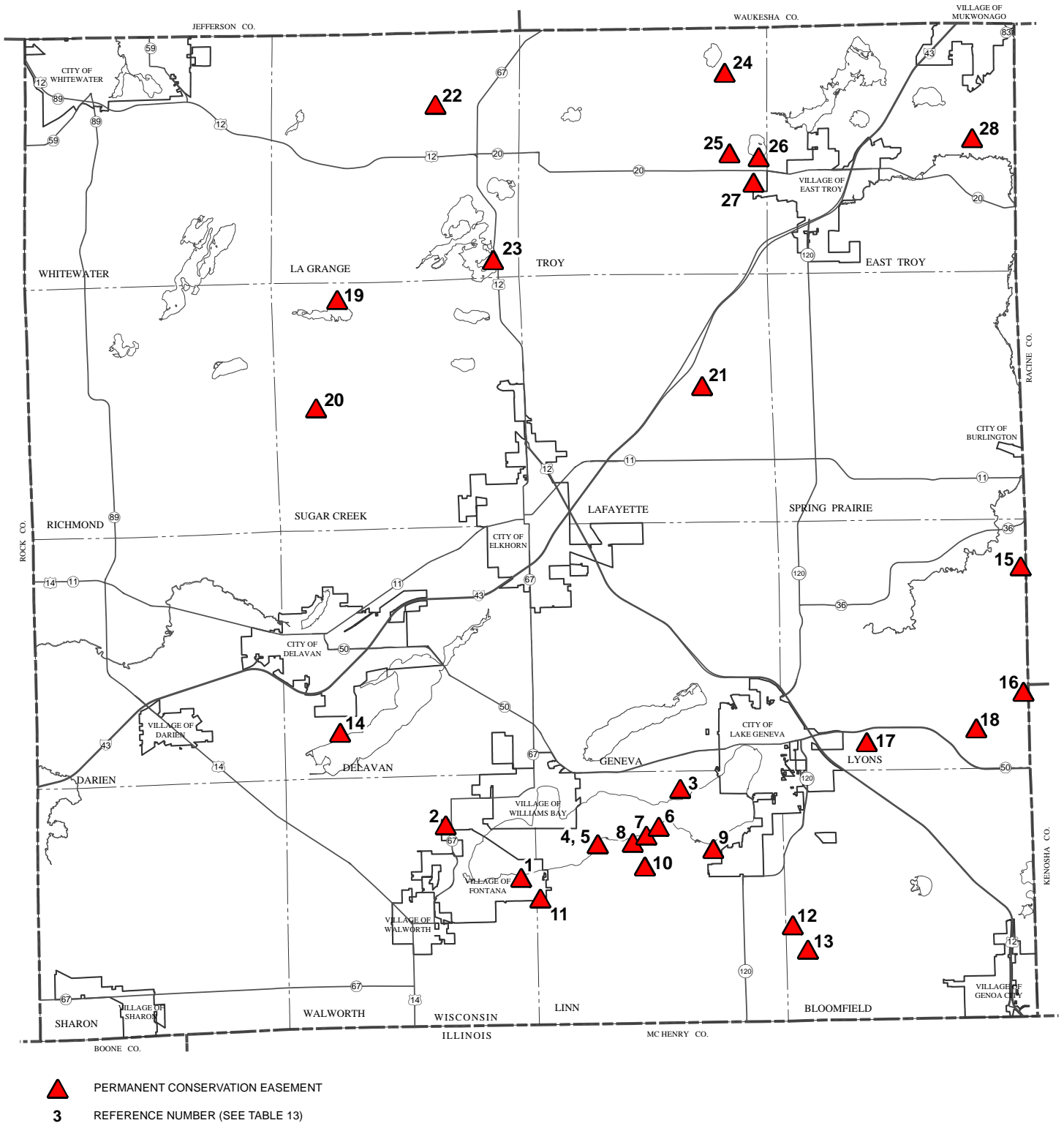
Source: Geneva Lake Conservancy, Kettle Moraine Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and SEWRPC.

## LAKE AND RIVER ACCESS SITES

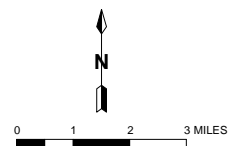
Lakes and rivers constitute a particularly valuable part of the natural resource base of the County. Lakes and rivers enhance the aesthetic quality of the County and are focal points for water-related recreational activities, including such active uses as swimming, boating, and fishing, and passive uses such as walking, or viewing along the water's edge. Boat access sites, both public and non-public, provide opportunities for persons who do not own land on a body of water to participate in water-related recreational activities. The regional park and open space plan recommends that rivers and major lakes, defined as lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more, be provided with adequate public access, including carry-in-boating and motor-boat access, consistent with safe and enjoyable participation in water-related activities. There are 27 major lakes located entirely or partially within

Map 12

LANDS UNDER CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010



Source: Geneva Lake Conservancy, Kettle Moraine Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and SEWRPC.



Walworth County: Army Lake, Benedict Lake, Beulah Lake, Booth Lake, Lake Como, Comus Lake, Cravath Lake, Delavan Lake, Geneva Lake, Green Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lake Loraine, Lulu Lake, Middle Lake, Mill Lake, North Lake, Pell Lake, Peters Lake, Pleasant Lake, Potter Lake, Powers Lake, Rice Lake, Silver Lake, Tripp Lake, Turtle Lake, Lake Wandawega, and Whitewater Lake. As shown on Map 3 in Chapter II, there are approximately 173 miles of major streams in Walworth County.

Publicly owned access sites for motor-boating purposes in Walworth County are provided to all the major lakes except for Army Lake, Benedict Lake, Booth Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lulu Lake, and Peters Lake. In addition, there are numerous other sites that provide access to lakes and rivers for other recreational activities and passive uses.

## **TRAILS AND BICYCLE WAYS**

Existing bikeways and recreational trails in Walworth County are shown on Map 13. Those facilities accommodate a variety of users. On-street bikeways—consisting of striped and signed bicycle lanes and signed bicycle routes on existing streets—are intended to accommodate bicycling. Off-street bicycle-pedestrian trails can be used for bicycling and for pedestrian activities, such as hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Off-street pedestrian-only trails can be used only for pedestrian activity.

As shown on Map 13, there were 27 miles of existing off-street bicycle-pedestrian trails in the County in 2010, the longest of these being the White River State Trail. There were 35 miles of pedestrian-only trails, consisting of the Ice Age Trail, the Geneva Lake Shore Path, and the Duck Lake Nature Trail. In addition there were 20 miles of on-street bikeways intended for bicycle use.

## **HISTORIC SITES**

Historic sites in Walworth 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 Walworth County since the completion of the regional park and open space plan in 1977. The results of these inventories and surveys, on file at such agencies as The Wisconsin Historical Society, indicate that there are more than 3,900 historic sites in Walworth County.

Certain sites of known historic significance are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2010, there were 36 individual sites and four historic districts<sup>3</sup> within the County listed on the National Register. The location of sites and districts in Walworth County listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010 are presented on Table 14 and on Map 14, respectively.

## **STATUS OF 2020 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

The 2020 park and open space plan for Walworth County adopted in 2000 and amended in 2004, contains a number of recommendations regarding the development and acquisition of park and open space lands. The inventory of park and open space sites and facilities described in this chapter include development and acquisition activities that have occurred since the adoption of the 2020 plan. Some of these activities represent progress made in implementing specific recommendations included in the 2020 plan. Examples of 2020 plan recommendations that have been implemented include:

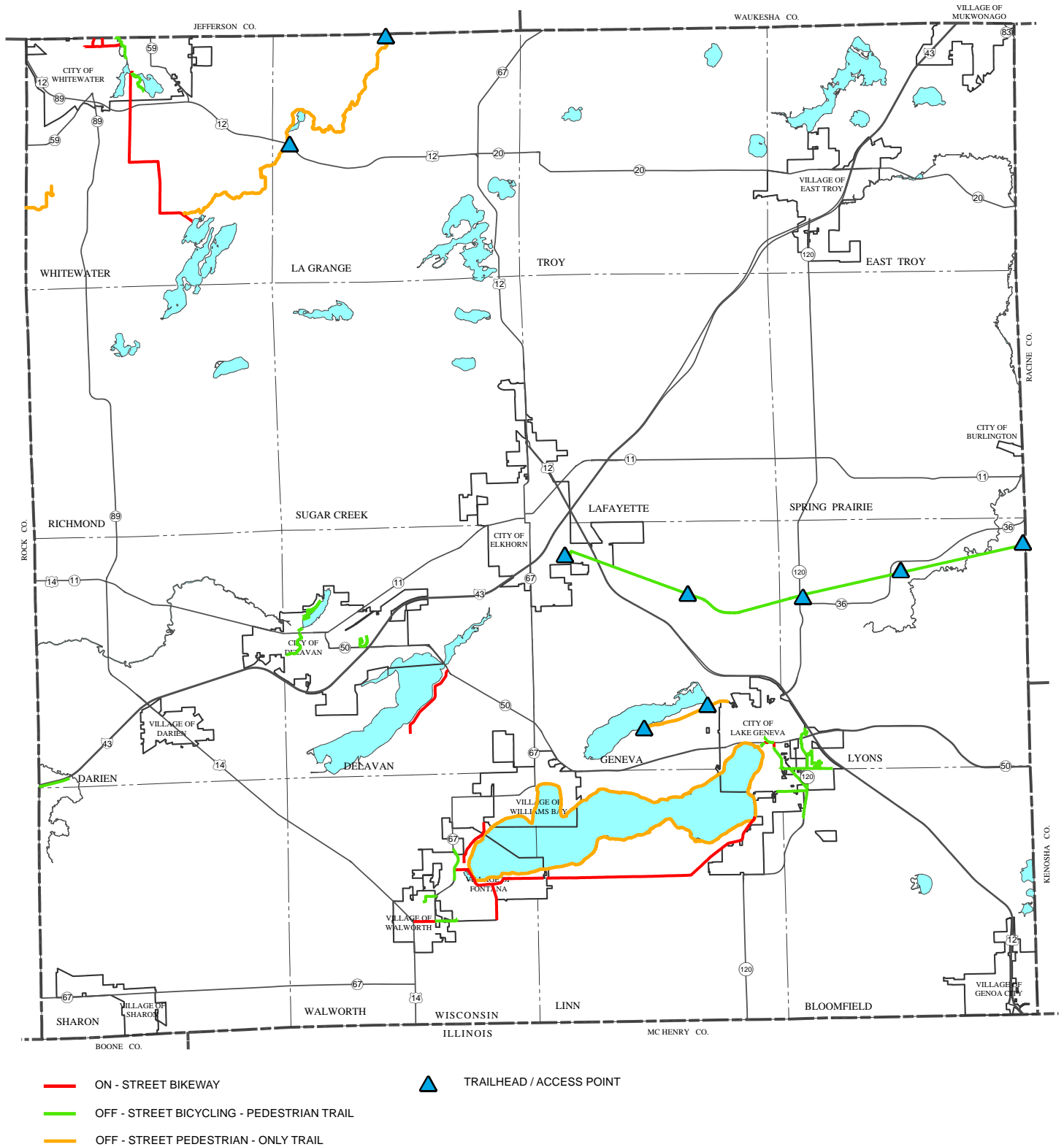
- Development of the White River State Trail – owned by the WDNR and operated by Walworth County;
- Development of picnic and trail facilities at the Price Conservancy;

---

<sup>3</sup>A historic district is a geographically definable area, urban or rural, that contains a concentration of significant historic sites or structures from the same period of time.

Map 13

EXISTING BICYCLE WAYS / TRAILS IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010



NOTE: THIS MAP DOES NOT REFLECT MOUNTAIN - BIKING TRAILS ON WDNR PROPERTY IN THE KETTLE MORaine.

Source: Walworth County and SEWRPC.

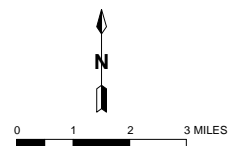


Table 14

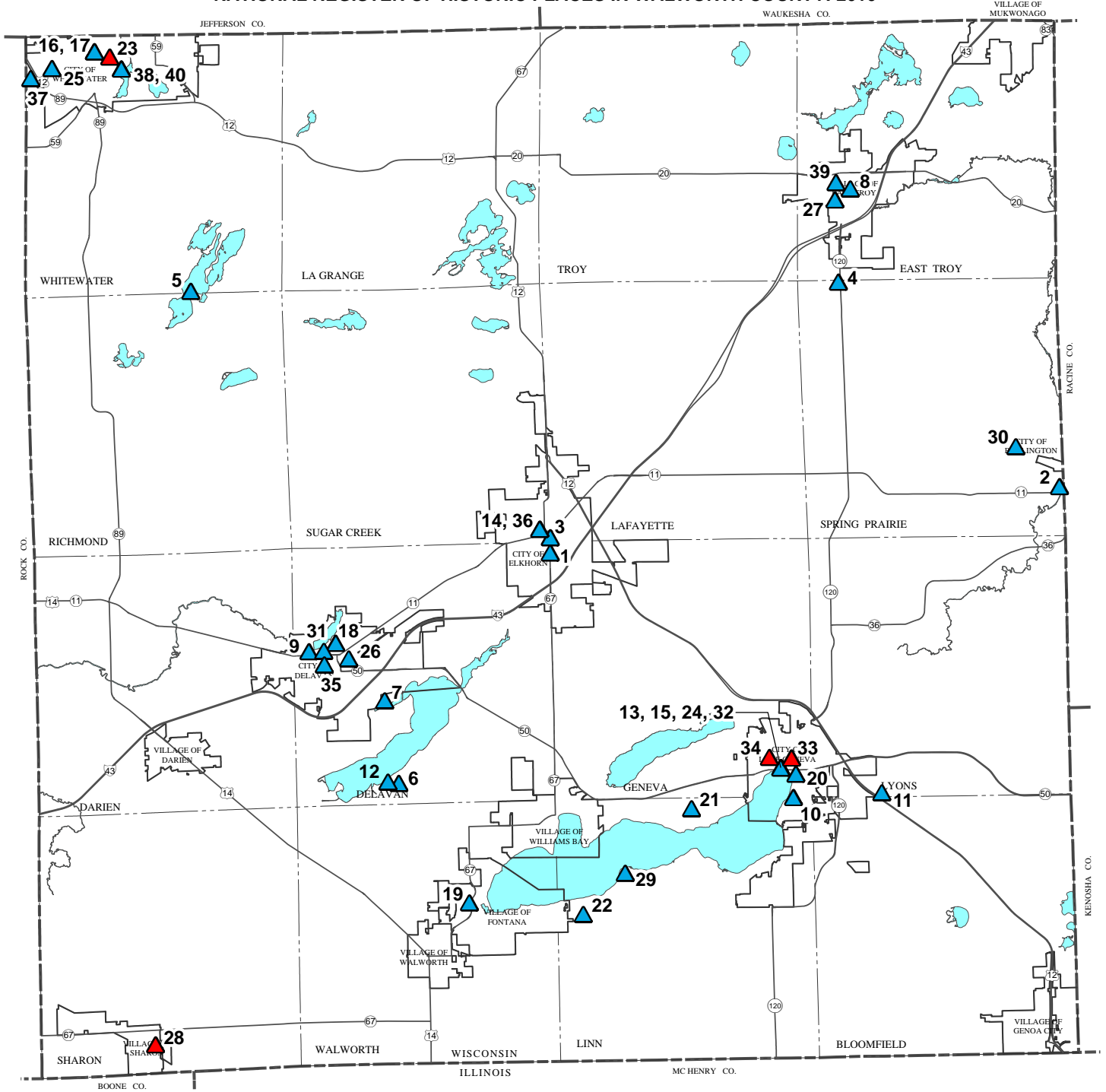
## HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010

Number on Map 14	Site Name	Location <sup>a</sup>	Civil Division	Year Listed
1	Joseph Philbrick Webster House.....	T2N, R16E, Section 1	City of Elkhorn	1972
2	James Jesse Strang House.....	T3N, R18E, Section 25	Town of Spring Prairie	1974
3	Edward Elkerkin House .....	T3N, R16E, Section 36	City of Elkhorn	1974
4	Horace Loomis House.....	T3N, R18E, Section 6	Town of Spring Prairie	1974
5	Heart Prairie Lutheran Church.....	T4N, R15E, Section 34	Town of Whitewater	1974
6	Fred B. Jones Estate .....	T2N, R16E, Section 33	Town of Delavan	1974
7	Mile Long Site.....	T2N, R16E, Section 21	Town of Delavan	1977
8	Buena Vista House.....	T4N, R18E, Section 20	Village of East Troy	1978
9	Israel Stowell Temperance House.....	T2N, R16E, Section 18	City of Delavan	1978
10	Younglands.....	T1N, R17E, Section 1	City of Lake Geneva	1979
11	Meyerhofer Cobblestone House.....	T2N, R18E, Section 32	Town of Lyons	1980
12	A. P. Johnson House.....	T2N, R16E, Section 33	Town of Delavan	1982
13	T. C. Smith House .....	T2N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1982
14	Reynolds-Weed House.....	T3N, R16E, Section 36	City of Elkhorn	1983
15	Redwood Cottage (the Emily Baker residence) .....	T2N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1984
16	East Wing Building (Old Main) UW-Whitewater Campus .....	T4N, R15E, Section 5	City of Whitewater	1984
17	Halverson Log Cabin .....	T4N, R15E, Section 5	City of Whitewater	1985
18	A. H. Allyn House .....	T2N, R16E, Section 18	City of Delavan	1985
19	Douglass-Stevenson House .....	T1N, R16E, Section 15	Village of Fontana-On-Geneva Lake	1986
20	The Riviera .....	T2N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1986
21	Bonnie Brae.....	T1N, R17E, Section 3	Town of Linn	1986
22	Davidson Hall .....	T1N, R17E, Section 18	Town of Linn	1987
23	Main Street Historical District .....	T4N, R15E, Section 5	City of Whitewater	1989
24	Metropolitan Block .....	T2N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1990
25	Maples Mound Group .....	T4N, R15E, Section 6	City of Whitewater	1991
26	Bradley Knitting Company .....	T2N, R16E, Section 17	City of Delavan	1992
27	Smith & Meadows Store Building .....	T4N, R18E, Section 20	Village of East Troy	1993
28	Grace & Pearl Historic District.....	T1N, R15E, Section 33	Village of Sharon	1993
29	Black Point.....	T1N, R17E, Section 8	Town of Linn	1994
30	John and Margaret Bell House.....	T3N, R18E, Section 23	Town of Spring Prairie	1994
31	Delavan's Vitrified Brick Street .....	T2N, R16E, Section 18	City of Delavan	1996
32	Horticultural Hall .....	T2N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1999
33	Walworth Main Street Historic District .....	T2N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	2001
34	Maple Park Historic District .....	T2N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	2005
35	Delavan Post Office.....	T2N, R16E, Section 18	City of Delavan	2006
36	Elkhorn Post Office.....	T3N, R16E, Section 36	City of Elkhorn	2006
37	Warner, Anson, Farmstead .....	T4N, R15E, Section 6	Town of Whitewater	2006
38	Whitewater Post Office .....	T4N, R15E, Section 4	City of Whitewater	2006
39	Sheboygan Light, Power and Railway Company Car .....	T4N, R18E, Section 19	Village of East Troy	2006
40	Whitewater Hotel .....	T4N, R15E, Section 4	City of Whitewater	2010

<sup>a</sup>Indicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

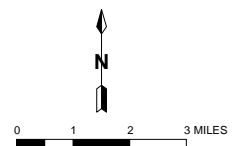
Source: The Wisconsin Historical Society and SEWRPC.

**Map 14**  
**HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS LISTED ON THE**  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010**



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

Source: SEWRPC.



- Permanent protection of environmental corridor lands associated with Geneva Lake through conservation easements acquired by the Geneva Lake Conservancy;
- Acquisition and restoration of environmentally significant lands by the WDNR within the Turtle Valley Wildlife Area; and
- Acquisition of environmental corridor land by The Nature Conservancy within the Lulu Lake Project Area.
- Acquisition of property known as White River County Park by Walworth County in March 2014.

## SUMMARY

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

1. In 2010, Walworth County owned four park and open space sites, which collectively encompassed 419 acres. Three of these sites—Natureland Park, Price Conservancy, and White River County Park—are considered major parks, together encompassing 412 acres.
2. The State of Wisconsin owned 47 park and open space sites, encompassing 14,934 acres, or about 4 percent of the total area of the County. Of these 47 sites, 41 sites encompassing 14,300 acres were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; one site encompassing 14 acres was owned by the University of Wisconsin; and five sites, encompassing 620 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.
3. Local units of government and school districts owned 199 park and open space sites, encompassing 2,670 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County.
4. In 2010, a total of 162 privately owned resource-oriented recreation sites encompassing 11,085 acres were located in Walworth County.
5. Private conservancy organizations owned 10 sites encompassing 1,076 acres in Walworth County for natural resource protection purposes in 2010.
6. In 2010, private lands protected under conservation easements encompassed 1,156 acres in Walworth County.
7. In total, 31,340 acres, or about 8 percent of the total area of the County, were in public or private ownership, or under conservation easements, for park, recreation, open space, or resource preservation purposes in 2010.
8. Boating access was available on 21 of the 27 major lakes in Walworth County.
9. In 2010, 36 individual sites and four historic districts in Walworth County were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Chapter IV**

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

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

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

### **OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS**

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

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

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

2. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.<sup>1</sup>
3. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
4. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.
5. To provide sufficient access areas to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities on the major inland lakes and rivers 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 identification of park and open space needs for plan design and evaluation.

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

## **PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS**

### **Existing and Forecast Population Size and Distribution**

The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the County is determined by applying the standards set forth in Appendix 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.

---

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

As noted in Chapter II of this report, the 2010 County population, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, was 102,228 persons. The number of County residents anticipated by the year 2035 based upon forecasts developed by the Regional Planning Commission for the year 2035 regional land use plan would range from 123,200 persons under the adopted regional plan to as high as 148,400 under the high-growth alternative. The population level for the year 2035 as developed for the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Walworth County—145,800—approaches the level anticipated 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 park and outdoor recreation standards call for a major park to be provided within four miles of residents of urban areas having a population of 40,000 or greater and within 10 miles of residents of smaller urban areas and rural areas. Since there are no urban areas with a population of 40,000 or greater located within Walworth County, only the 10-mile service radius standard will be applied.

### **Per Capita and Accessibility Standards**

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

For purposes of analyzing future park site and future park facility needs, the population level anticipated under the high-growth scenario—148,400 persons—was considered. This recognizes the need to identify and reserve sufficient high-quality sites which may be required under conditions of more rapid population growth through the year 2035, as well as the need to serve the County population beyond the year 2035.

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

### **Standards for Major Park Sites**

Per capita and service area standards for major parks are set forth under Objective No. 1 in Appendix B. Major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for resource-oriented activities and which are generally 100 acres or more in size. Application of the per capita standards for major park sites to the existing 2010 and anticipated year 2035 County population levels<sup>2</sup> indicates that there is a need for an additional 360 acres of park land in major park sites. This calculation is based on the acreage of the following major parks in Walworth County: Big Foot Beach State Park and Whitewater Lake Recreation Area, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Price Conservancy, Natureland Park, and White River County Park, owned by Walworth County.

Application of the 10-mile service radius standard indicates that residents in the southwestern portion of the County are beyond the recommended service area for major parks in Walworth County.

---

<sup>2</sup>*In the balance of this chapter the determination of future per capita park site and facility needs is based upon the application of the per capita standards to the 148,400 persons anticipated for the year 2035 under the regional land use plan's high growth scenario.*

### **Standards for Intensive Resource-Oriented Recreation Facilities**

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

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

#### ***Campsites***

Public campsites in the County are currently provided at the Big Foot Beach State Park and Whitewater Lake Recreation Area. Campsites are also available to the public (for a fee) at the privately owned Scenic Ridge Campground, Snug Harbor Campground, and Meadowlark Acres.

Application of the per capita standards for campsites indicates that the need for publicly and privately owned campsites is met by the existing public and private campgrounds. The service area 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 two publicly owned regulation golf courses: Delbrook Golf Course (27 holes), owned by the City of Delavan, and Lauderdale Lakes Country Club (nine holes), owned by the Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District. There are nine privately owned courses with 18-holes or more open to the public: Abbey Springs Country Club (18 holes), Alpine Valley Resort (27 holes), Evergreen Country Club (27 holes), Geneva National Resort Golf Course (54 holes), Grand Geneva Spa and Resort (36 holes), Hawk's View Golf Course (36 holes), Lake Beulah Country Club (27 holes), Lake Lawn Lodge (18 holes), and Nippersink Manor Golf Course (18 holes). In addition, there is one privately owned nine-hole golf course open to the public, Country Club Estates Golf Club. There are also four privately owned courses with 18-holes not open to the public: Big Foot Country Club, Lake Geneva Country Club, Lakewood Golf Club, and Whitewater Country Club.

Application of the per capita standard for golf courses suggests that there be two 18-hole public golf courses in Walworth County to serve future County population. As noted above, two publicly owned golf courses (the 27-hole Delbrook Golf Course and nine-hole Lauderdale Lakes Country Club) provide a total of 36 regulation holes, equivalent to two 18-hole courses. Consequently, the per capita standard is considered to be met by existing publicly owned golf courses in the County.

With the exception of the easterly area, most of Walworth County lies within 10 miles of the two aforementioned public golf courses. The northeastern part of the County lies within 10 miles of Browns Lake Golf Course, a publicly owned course in western Racine County. However, the southeastern portion of the County lies more than 10 miles from a public golf course. Thus, application of the service area standard indicates that there may be a need for a public golf course to serve residents of the southeastern area of the County.

The need for private golf courses in the County is met by existing facilities.

#### ***Picnicking***

Public picnic areas in the County are currently provided at the four major parks: Big Foot Beach State Park, Natureland Park, Price Conservancy, and Whitewater Lake Recreation Area.

The recommended standards call for 3.8 picnic tables per 1,000 County residents at major parks.<sup>3</sup> Application of this standard indicates that there may be a need for approximately 200 additional picnic tables at major parks to serve the anticipated year 2035 population. Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius to picnic facilities at major parks in the County indicates that residents in the southwestern portion of the County are beyond the recommended service area for picnicking at major parks.

### **Swimming Beaches**

Publicly owned inland beaches are provided at a number of public parks on inland lakes in Walworth County. Table 15 lists the publicly owned parks with swimming beaches and the associated lake. As shown on Table 15, there are 14 public swimming beaches on inland lakes in the County. In addition, there are 23 privately owned beaches in the County; however, access to these beaches by the general public is typically limited.

**Table 15**

### **PUBLICLY OWNED PARKS WITH SWIMMING BEACHES ON INLAND LAKES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2012**

Lake	Public Park
Booth Lake	Booth Lake Memorial Park
Comus Lake	Veterans Memorial Park
Delavan Lake	Town of Delavan Community Park
Geneva Lake	Big Foot Beach State Park Fontana Beach Library Park Williams Bay Beach
North Lake	Town of Sugar Creek Community Beach
Pell Lake	Subdivision Park Subdivision Park
Pleasant Lake	Town Park and Lake Access
Silver Lake	Town of Sugar Creek Boat Launch
Trippe Lake	Trippe Park
Whitewater Lake	Whitewater Lake Recreation Area

Source: SEWRPC.

Application of the per capita standards for inland swimming beaches indicates that existing publicly and privately owned beaches are adequate to serve the 2010 and the anticipated 2035 population. Application of the 10-mile service radius for public inland beaches indicates that Walworth County is adequately served by public swimming beaches located in the County.

### **Standards for Trail Facilities**

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

While segments of potential recreation corridors currently exist in Walworth County in the Kettle Moraine State Forest, along Turtle Creek, and the White River State Trail, none of the areas meet 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 less than 15 miles should also be encouraged to meet local trail needs.

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

---

<sup>3</sup>This standard is intended to ensure adequate opportunities for picnicking in a natural resource setting typically found at major parks. It should be noted that opportunities for picnicking outside major parks are available at local parks in the County (approximately 470 picnic tables).

The standards under Objective No. 4 also contain a recommendation for the provision of trails for snowmobiling. Approximately 350 miles of designated trails exist on public lands and on private lands open to the public. This adequately serves both the existing and anticipated 2035 population. Objective No. 4 also contains a standard that each county have a public nature study center. A nature study center does not currently exist in Walworth County.

### **Standards for Lake Access Sites**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), in keeping with State Statutes which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, has adopted administrative rules regarding lake access. Those rules, set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*, require public boating access sites, including boat launching and parking facilities, to be provided on inland lakes as a condition for the Department to provide natural resource enhancement services for a body of water. The *Administrative Code* requires that launch facilities and at least one car-trailer parking space, and a combined total of five car-trailer and automobile parking spaces, be provided at boating access sites on lakes 50 acres to 99 acres in size. The required number of car-trailer parking spaces increases as the size of the lake increases. One additional parking space, in addition to the minimum specified in the *Administrative Code*, must also be provided for use by disabled persons. The regulations also specify a maximum number of parking spaces to be provided, which also varies according to the size of the lake, in recognition that too many boats on a lake may threaten both the safety of lake users and the environmental quality of the lake. Table 16 sets forth the requirements for public boating access for major lakes in Walworth County under the Department rules. Public boating access does not meet State requirements for natural resource enhancement services at Army Lake, Benedict Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lake Lorraine, Middle Lake, North Lake, Peters Lake, Silver Lake, Turtle Lake, and Lake Wandawega.

Standards in the *Administrative Code* indicate that public canoeing/kayaking access points with parking should be provided on major streams every 10 miles. Major streams in Walworth County are the Honey Creek, Turtle Creek, and White River. Public canoe/kayak access with parking is not currently provided along these streams.

### **Other Recreational Needs**

As noted earlier, the responsibility of intensive nonresource-oriented recreation facilities is delegated primarily to local units of government. The standards for these types of facilities are set forth under Objective No. 2 and include baseball and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts, and soccer fields. However, this does not preclude the County park plan from considering the development of these types of facilities as additional improvements are made to County parks in the future. In addition, the County park plan should also recognize other emerging recreation facility needs for which no standards have been developed and which have not been addressed to date, or which have been addressed on a limited basis, by the County park system. Among these are disc golf facilities, mountain biking, dog parks, and horseback riding, as described below.

- **Disc Golf:** In disc golf, a disc similar to a “frisbee” is thrown toward a target (on organized courses, typically a metal basket that has hanging chains to catch the disc) that serves as the hole. Hole lengths vary, but generally fall between 150 and 500 feet. Disc golf facility requirements are minimal and disc golf courses may be incorporated with little impact into a variety of landscapes. Walworth County currently has five disc golf courses: a six-hole course at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf in the City of Delavan; nine-hole courses at East Troy Middle School in the Village of East Troy, the Duck Pond Recreation Area, and the Abbey Resort in the Village of Fontana; and an 18-hole course at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in the City of Whitewater.
- **Mountain Biking:** Mountain biking has emerged as a popular activity in recent years. Mountain biking is essentially a trail activity that requires challenging hilly topography. Mountain biking can conflict with other trail activities, adversely impact trail conditions, and negatively impact sensitive natural resources. Consequently, mountain-biking trails may, perhaps, be best provided as loop trails, separate from the main recreation corridor. The growing popularity of mountain biking should be given due consideration in the development of the new County park plan. Existing public trails open to mountain bikes in Walworth County include the John Muir Trails in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit.

Table 16

**BOAT-ACCESS SITE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE WISCONSIN  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE<sup>a</sup> FOR MAJOR LAKES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2012**

Major Lake <sup>b</sup>	Minimum Number of Parking Spaces	Maximum Number of Parking Spaces	Comment
Army Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Benedict Lake <sup>c</sup>	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Beulah Lake	24 car-trailer spaces	33 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (30 car-trailer spaces at Town of East Troy access site)
Booth Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Eight car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (12 car-trailer spaces at Town/Village access site)
Lake Como	27 car-trailer spaces	38 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (27 car-trailer spaces at two Town access sites)
Comus Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Eight car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (combination of 16 car and car-trailer spaces at City of Delavan access site)
Cravath Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (five car-trailer spaces at City of Whitewater access site)
Delavan Lake	41 car-trailer spaces	69 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (49 car-trailer spaces at Town of Delavan access site)
Geneva Lake	100 car-trailer spaces	167 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (100 car-trailer spaces at multiple sites)
Green Lake	10 car-trailer spaces	21 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (10 car-trailer spaces at Town of LaGrange access site)
Lake LaGrange	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Lake Lorraine	Five car-trailer spaces	Nine car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (three car-trailer spaces at Town of Richmond access site)
Lulu Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Access requirements not applicable <sup>d</sup>
Middle Lake	Nine car-trailer spaces	17 car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (five car-trailer spaces at Town of LaGrange access site)
Mill Lake	Nine car-trailer spaces	18 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (eight car-trailer spaces at Town of LaGrange access site)
North Lake	Six car-trailer spaces	13 car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (three car-trailer spaces at Town of Sugar Creek access site)
Pell Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (six car-trailer spaces at Town of Bloomfield access sites)
Peters Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Pleasant Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	10 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (seven car-trailer spaces at Town of LaGrange access site)
Potter Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	11 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (eight car-trailer spaces at Town of East Troy access site)
Powers Lake <sup>c</sup>	15 car-trailer spaces	31 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (16 car-trailer spaces at WDNR access site and 16 car-trailer spaces at Town of Randall access site)
Rice Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Nine car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (12 car-trailer spaces provided at WDNR access site)
Silver Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Trippe Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Eight car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (seven car-trailer spaces provided at City of Whitewater access site)
Turtle Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Nine car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Lake Wandawega	Five car-trailer spaces	Eight car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Whitewater Lake	18 car-trailer spaces	33 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (21 car-trailer spaces at WDNR access site)

<sup>a</sup>Public boating access standards are set forth in Section NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

<sup>b</sup>Major lakes are those having 50 or more acres of surface area.

<sup>c</sup>Lake is partially within Walworth and Kenosha County. Boat-access site requirements apply to the total acreage of lake.

<sup>d</sup>The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources typically waives access requirements for lakes associated with sensitive natural areas.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

- Dog Parks: A dog park or dog exercise area is an area, typically fenced, where dogs can be walked and exercised off-leash in a safe park environment. Dog parks also serve as a means for increasing public use of, and activity in, County parks. There is currently one public off-leash dog park in Walworth County, Whitewater Bark Park (fenced in), which is part of the city-owned Moraine View Park in the City of Whitewater.
- Horseback Riding: Because of a number of factors, including trail conditions and potential user conflicts, very few public trails are open to horseback riding in or near Walworth County. The only public trail open to horseback riding in Walworth County is in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit. Public trails open to horseback riding near Walworth County include trails in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit in Waukesha County and at the Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County.

### ***Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan***

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

### **Standards for Open Space Preservation**

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

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

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

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

## **SUMMARY**

This chapter presents a set of park and open space planning objectives, principles, and standards for Walworth County, and identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the County. The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the County is determined by applying the standards for the size,

number, and spatial distribution of public parks and outdoor recreation facilities to the anticipated future resident population levels and distribution within the County, and comparing the probable future demand for such sites and facilities, as indicated through application of the standards, to the existing supply of recreation sites and facilities. Two types of standards, per capita and accessibility standards, are used to help estimate the number and location of outdoor recreation sites and facilities needed to serve the anticipated future population of the County.

For purposes of analyzing future park site and future park facility needs, the population level anticipated under the high-growth scenario—148,400 persons—was considered. This recognizes the need to identify and reserve sufficient high-quality sites which may be required under conditions of more rapid population growth through the year 2035, as well as the need to serve the County population beyond the year 2035. The findings of the recreation site and facility needs analysis are summarized below:

1. Application of the per capita standard for major park sites indicates a need for approximately 360 acres of additional park land in major park sites to serve the anticipated 2035 population level. Application of the 10-mile service radius standard indicates that the residents of the southwestern portion of the County are not within the recommended service area of a major park.
2. The per capita standard for golf is met by existing publicly owned golf courses in the County. However, application of the service area standard for public golf courses indicates that there may be a need for a public golf course to serve residents in the southeastern area of the County.
3. The recommended standards call for 3.8 picnic tables per 1,000 County residents at major public parks. This standard is intended to ensure adequate opportunities for picnicking in a natural resource setting typically found at major parks. Application of this standard indicates that there may be a need for 200 additional picnic tables at major parks in the County to serve the anticipated year 2035 population. Application of the 10-mile service area standard indicates that residents in the southwestern portion of the County are beyond the recommended service area for picnicking at major parks.
4. Application of the standards for public campsites and swimming beaches indicates that projected future needs should be able to be met by existing facilities.
5. Application of the standards for trails within recreation corridors indicates the need for additional trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, nature study, and ski touring which should be provided in conjunction with the acquisition and development of a public recreation corridor system.
6. Application of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources lake access standards would require that new or additional access facilities be provided at Army Lake, Benedict Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lake Lorraine, Middle Lake, North Lake, Peters Lake, Silver Lake, Turtle Lake, and Lake Wandawega. The standards also require public canoe/kayak access to be provided on Honey Creek, Turtle Creek, and the White River.
7. The County park and open space plan objectives also address open space preservation needs. The need to protect the natural resources of the County cannot be related to per capita or accessibility requirements, since the achievement of the open space preservation objective is essentially independent of a population level or distribution, but relates, rather, to the location, character, and extent of remaining natural resources. Standards under Objective No. 6 indicate that primary environmental corridors and natural areas and critical species habitat sites should be preserved for natural uses, while prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.
8. While not specifically addressed in the standards, the County park plan should also take into consideration other emerging recreation facility needs for which no standards have been developed and which have not been addressed to date, or which have been addressed on a limited basis, by the County park system. These include disc golf, mountain biking, dog parks, and horseback riding.

(This page intentionally left blank)

## **Chapter V**

# **RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

### **PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS**

During the process of updating the park and open space plan for Walworth County, four regional informational meetings were held to obtain public comments/suggestions for consideration in the development of the plan. The meetings were held on April 4, 2013, in the Cities of Delavan and Lake Geneva, and on April 17, 2013, in the City of Whitewater and the Village of East Troy. While most of the comments were positive, one area of concern was expressed at one of the meetings. This concern related to the proposed off-street trail system identified in the currently adopted County park and open space plan. Taking those comments into account and that during the Walworth County comprehensive planning process, a number of communities in the County indicated that they were opposed to segments of the off-street trail system as shown in the currently adopted County park and open space plan, the County Park Committee directed the staff to create an updated plan that would include on-street alignments for the trail segments concerned.

The recommended park and open space plan for Walworth County was presented in preliminary form at public informational meetings hosted by the Walworth County Public Works Department and held on January 16, 2014, at the Lake Geneva City Hall, and on January 27, 2014, at the Walworth County Public Works Department building in Elkhorn. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint public officials, interested citizens, and landowners with the key recommendations of the plan and to receive comments on and answer questions pertaining to the plan.

Public comment on the County park and open space plan generally included positive feedback on recommendations of the preliminary plan regarding hiking and biking trails, park improvements, and preservation of natural resources.

## RECOMMENDED OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT

The open space preservation element consists of four major components. The first is the preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas. The preservation of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological areas in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the regional natural areas protection and management plan<sup>1</sup> is the second component. The third component calls for the protection of open space lands located within established State project boundaries. The final component calls for the protection of prime agricultural land.

Recommended actions with respect to the preservation of open space lands, other than prime agricultural lands, are graphically summarized on Map 15. It is recommended that a total of 79,964 acres of open space lands, or about 22 percent of Walworth County, be protected through a combination of public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership,<sup>2</sup> through conservation easements, or through the application of protective zoning. These 79,964 acres include planned primary and secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, areas outside corridors but within Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) project boundaries, and existing and proposed County park and open space lands. Virtually all natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be preserved are contained within the planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or the planned isolated natural resource areas.

Of the total 79,964 acres of recommended open space lands, 22,603 acres, or about 28 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, under conservation easements, or in compatible private outdoor recreation uses such as golf courses or camps in 2012. These areas are recommended to be preserved in current ownership/conservation easements or, for lands in compatible private outdoor recreation use, maintained in recreational or open space uses. It is recommended that an additional 12,048 acres, or about 15 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 \$71.8 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 17.

The other 45,313 acres of open space lands are recommended to remain in or be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodplain, lowland conservancy and, for upland portions of the corridor, upland conservancy which limits development to rural residential development with an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres.

Each component of the open space preservation plan element is discussed separately below. There is considerable overlap between these components, and, accordingly, between the acreages cited in conjunction with each component. For example, virtually all of the natural areas and critical species habitat areas identified and recommended for public interest acquisition under the natural areas plan component are also recommended for acquisition under the environmental corridor preservation plan component. The tabular summary of the open space preservation plan element (Table 17) thus represents the composite of the environmental corridor, natural area, and WDNR project area plan components, which are described individually below.

---

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

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



Table 17

**PROPOSED OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS UNDER  
THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WALWORTH COUNTY<sup>a</sup>**

Ownership	Existing <sup>b</sup> (acres)	Plan (acres)	Planned Change (acres)	Estimated Acquisition Cost <sup>c</sup>
State of Wisconsin .....	15,071	22,829	7,758	\$45,872,000
Walworth County.....	407	1,857	1,450	10,457,000
Local Government <sup>d</sup> .....	1,018	1,641	623	3,327,000
Nonprofit Conservation Organization .....	1,996	4,213	2,217	12,116,000
Compatible Private Recreation Use .....	4,111	4,111	- -	- -
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,603</b>	<b>34,651</b>	<b>12,048</b>	<b>\$71,772,000</b>

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2013 dollars.

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

<sup>b</sup>Includes existing ownership in 2012.

<sup>c</sup>Unit costs used to estimate acquisition costs were \$3,000 per acre of wetlands, \$10,000 per acre of woodlands, and \$6,000 per acre of other open lands.

<sup>d</sup>Includes cities, villages, towns, school districts, and other public districts.

Source: SEWRPC.

## **Environmental Corridor and Isolated Natural Resource Area Plan Component**

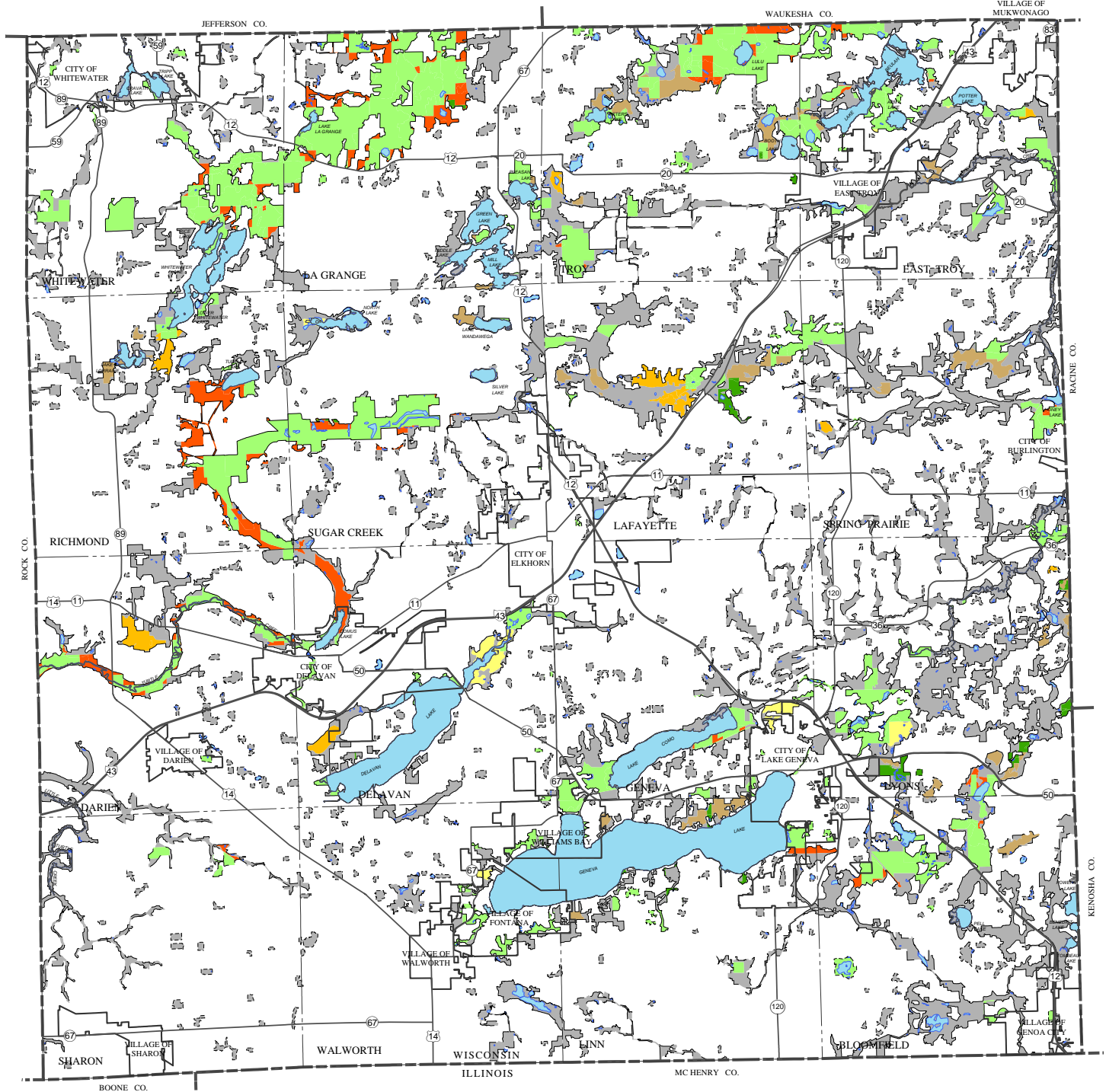
### ***Primary Environmental Corridors***

The primary environmental corridors contain almost all of the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, lakes and streams, and associated shoreland and floodland areas remaining in the County. Primary environmental corridors are the longest and widest type of environmental corridor—at least 400 acres in area, two miles long, and 200 feet in width (see Chapter II for more details). The protection of the primary environmental corridors from additional intrusion by urban development, thereby preserving such lands in natural, open uses for resource protection, scenic value, and outdoor recreation and education purposes, is one of the primary objectives of this plan. The planned extent and location of primary environmental corridors in Walworth County are shown on Map 16. 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 located in identified State project areas should be acquired in public ownership.
3. Primary environmental corridors needed to accommodate parks or trail facilities proposed under the recommended outdoor recreation plan element described later in this chapter should be acquired in public ownership.

Map 16

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



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

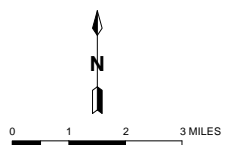
- Federal, State, County, Local, NonProfit Conservation Organization, School or Other Public District, or Compatible Private Outdoor Recreation or Open Space Sites
- Lands Under Conservation Easement

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

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

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

Source: SEWRPC.



4. Primary environmental corridors that are in existing private recreational uses should be maintained in such uses.
5. Other primary environmental corridors should be protected through appropriate zoning.

A total of 53,428 acres of land are encompassed in the planned primary environmental corridors. Map 16 depicts those primary environmental corridors which are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or under conservation easements. As shown on Map 16, such areas currently encompass a total of 14,335 acres, or about 27 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. Additional such areas recommended for acquisition in the public interest are also shown on Map 16, and encompass a total of 6,679 acres, or about 13 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. An additional 3,838 acres, or about 7 percent of planned primary environmental corridors, are in compatible private recreational use. The remaining 28,576 acres of planned primary environmental corridors, or about 53 percent, are proposed to be protected through zoning. While zoning is the primary local land use regulation available for resource preservation, primary environmental corridors, as well as portions of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, within planned sanitary sewer service areas are provided with protection through State regulations related to public and private sanitary sewer extensions.

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

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

### ***Secondary Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas***

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

A total of 9,367 acres of land are encompassed in the planned secondary environmental corridors, and 9,392 acres are encompassed in the planned isolated natural resource areas, for a combined total of 18,759 acres. Map 16 depicts those secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas which are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership or under conservation easements. Such areas currently encompass a total of 813 acres, or about 4 percent of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. An additional 272 acres, or 1 percent of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are in existing compatible outdoor recreation use.

Additional secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas recommended for acquisition in the public interest are shown on Map 16. Such areas, which consist largely of natural area and critical species habitat sites, encompass a total of 484 acres, or about 3 percent of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, including 351 acres of planned secondary environmental corridors and 133 acres of planned isolated natural resource areas.

The remaining 17,190 acres, or 92 percent, of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas may be retained in private ownership, but should be placed in a zoning district that would prevent their conversion to urban use. However, as such lands are needed for areawide recreation trails (discussed later in this chapter), local park or recreation purposes, or for another public purpose, such as stormwater detention, it is recommended that the appropriate public agency consider the acquisition of such lands.

### **Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan Component**

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

As noted in Chapter II, a total of 86 natural areas were identified in Walworth County in 2009 as part of the regional natural areas management plan. Natural areas are tracts of land so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement (see Chapter II for more details). Seven of the sites, encompassing about 1,852 acres, are classified as natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1). An additional 15 sites, encompassing about 2,983 acres, are classified as natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2). The remaining 64 sites, encompassing about 5,373 acres, are classified as natural areas of local significance (NA-3). In addition, a total of 40 critical species habitat sites<sup>3</sup> were identified. Critical species habitat sites are those areas that support rare, threatened, or endangered species (see Chapter II for more details). These sites together encompassed about 3,730 acres.

Combined, there are 126 natural areas and critical species habitat sites identified in the County, with a total area of 13,938 acres. It is recommended that 116 of these areas, which encompass 13,696 acres in 83 natural areas and 33 critical species habitat sites, be protected through ownership by public agencies or by nonprofit conservation organizations. It is recommended that the other 10 sites—three natural area sites and seven critical species habitat sites encompassing a total of 242 acres—be protected through appropriate zoning. The protection recommendations for natural areas and critical species habitat sites are shown on Map 17.

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 18 lists each natural area site and critical species habitat site proposed to be preserved through protective ownership and the proposed acquisition agency. In all, these sites encompass 13,696 acres,<sup>4</sup> including 9,983 acres within natural areas and 3,713 acres within critical species habitat sites. Of the total 13,696 acres to be preserved, about 7,763 acres, or about 57 percent, are under existing public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership or under a conservation easement. An additional 5,933 acres, or about 43 percent, are proposed for public or

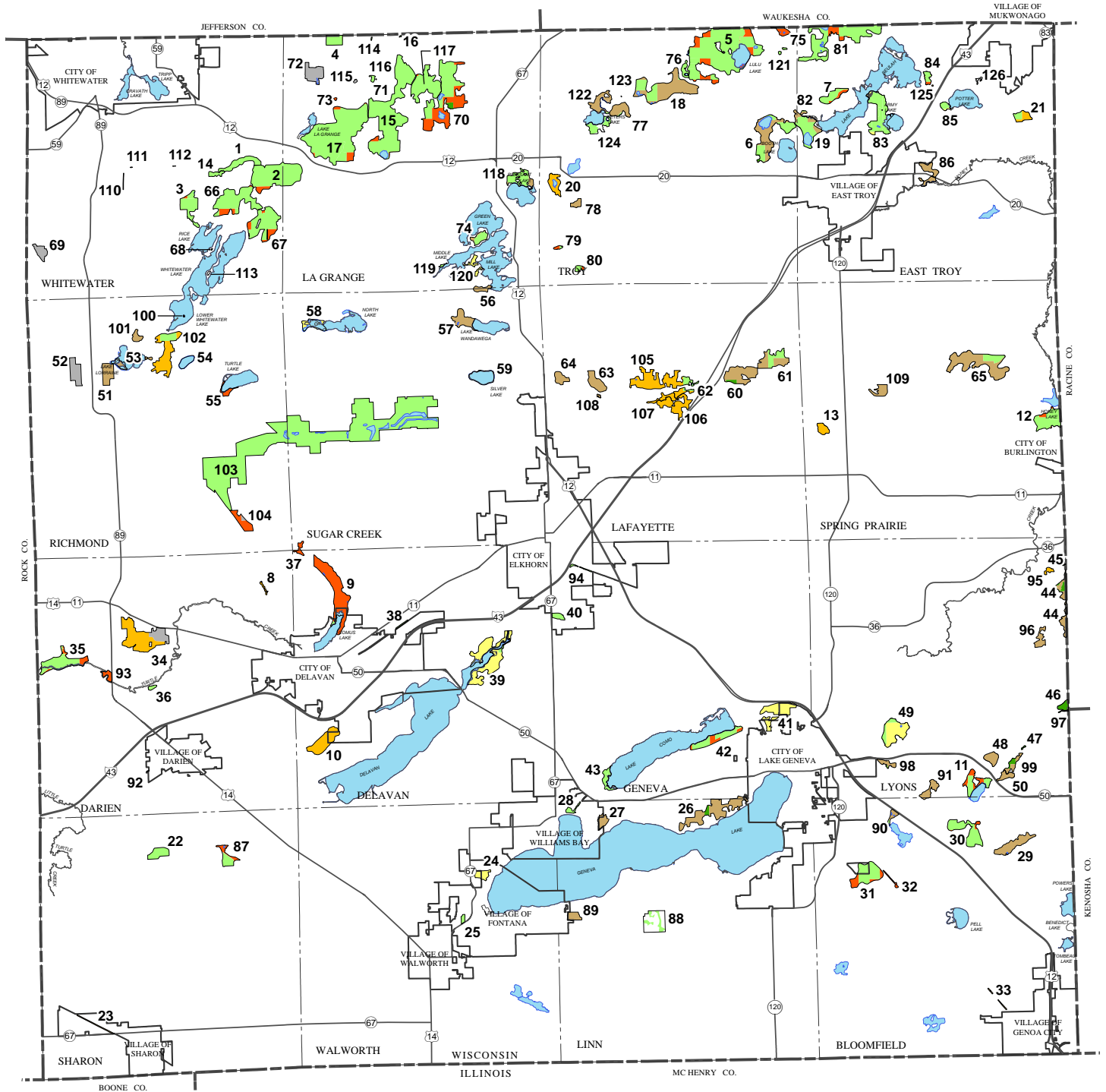
---

<sup>3</sup>*Includes one new critical species habitat site that has been identified since the completion of the 2009 regional natural areas management plan.*

<sup>4</sup>*Site acreage listed in Table 18 reflects minor losses to resource areas that have occurred since the inventory was completed.*

Map 17

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



**Existing Public Interest Ownership of Open Space Lands Within Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites**

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

**Proposed Public Interest Ownership of Open Space Lands Within Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites**

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

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

Surface Water

**58** Reference Number  
(See Table 18)

Source: SEWRPC.

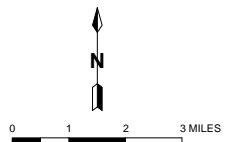


Table 18

## PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREA AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN WALWORTH COUNTY

Site Identification				Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 17	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification <sup>a</sup>	Already under Protective Ownership <sup>b</sup>	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites Proposed to be Acquired							
1	Town of Whitewater	Bluff Creek Fens	NA-1 (SNA)	79	- -	79	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2	Town of LaGrange Town of Whitewater	Bluff Creek Woods	NA-1 (SNA)	352	19	371	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
3	Town of Whitewater	Clover Valley Fen State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	107	5	112	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
4	Town of LaGrange	Young Prairie State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	54	- -	54 <sup>c</sup>	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
5	Town of Troy	Lulu Lake and Eagle Spring Lake Wetland Complex and Adjacent Uplands	NA-1 (SNA)	767	124	891 <sup>d</sup>	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
6	Town of Troy	Pickeral Lake Fen State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	86	187 <sup>e</sup>	273	The Nature Conservancy
7	Town of East Troy	Beulah Bog State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	58	14	72	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
8	Town of Darien	Voskuil Dry Prairie	NA-2	- -	7	7	Walworth County
9	Town of Delavan	Comus Lake Wetland Complex	NA-2	14	278	292	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
10	Town of Delavan	Delavan Prairie-Fen	NA-2	- -	137	137	Walworth County
11	Town of Lyons	Lake Ivanhoe Fen and Sedge Meadow	NA-2	58	37	95	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
12	Town of Spring Prairie	Honey Lake Marsh and Sedge Meadow	NA-2	131	10	141 <sup>f</sup>	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
13	Town of Spring Prairie	Spring Prairie Fen	NA-2	- -	34	34	Walworth County
14	Town of Whitewater	Bluff Creek Prairie	NA-2	21	- -	21	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
15	Town of LaGrange	Muir Oak Woods and Duffin Road Fen	NA-2	654	11	665	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
16	Town of LaGrange	Kestol Dry Prairie	NA-2	1	- -	1	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
17	Town of LaGrange	LaGrange Oak Woods	NA-2	738	30	768	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
18	Town of Troy	Upper Mukwonago River Wetland Complex	NA-2	85	253	338	The Nature Conservancy
19	Town of East Troy Town of Troy	Swan Lake Wetland Complex	NA-2	26	141 <sup>e</sup>	167	Private conservancy organization
20	Town of Troy	Adams Lake Fen and Marsh	NA-2	- -	65	65	Walworth County
83	Town of East Troy	Army Lake Lowlands and Uplands	NA-2	83	121 <sup>e</sup>	204	Town of East Troy
21	Town of East Troy	Thiede Road Tamarack Swamp	NA-2	8	40 <sup>e</sup>	48	Walworth County
22	Town of Sharon	CTH C Lowland	NA-3	60	- -	60	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
23	Town of Sharon	Salt Box Road Railroad Prairie	NA-3	- -	12	12	Private conservancy organization
24	Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	North Shore Woods	NA-3	- -	38	38	Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake
25	Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	Fontana Prairie and Fen	NA-3	10	- -	10	Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake
26	Town of Geneva Town of Linn	Wychwood	NA-3	13	213	226	Private conservancy organization

Table 18 (continued)

Site Identification				Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 17	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification <sup>a</sup>	Already under Protective Ownership <sup>b</sup>	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites Proposed to be Acquired							
27	Town of Linn	Peninsula Woods	NA-3	--	37	37	Private conservancy organization
28	Village of Williams Bay	Williams Bay Lowlands	NA-3	16	--	16	Private conservancy organization
29	Town of Bloomfield	Hafs Road Marsh	NA-3	--	109	109	Private conservancy organization
30	Town of Bloomfield	Lake Ivanhoe Sedge Meadow	NA-3	143	7	150	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
31	Town of Bloomfield	Bloomfield Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict	NA-3	129	42	171	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
32	Town of Bloomfield	Pell Lake Railroad Prairie	NA-3	--	9	9	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
33	Town of Bloomfield	Bloomfield Prairie	NA-3	--	6	6	Private conservancy organization
34	Town of Darien	Darien Oak Woods	NA-3	--	235	235	Walworth County
35	Town of Darien	Turtle Creek Sedge Meadow and Fen	NA-3	136	35	171	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
36	Town of Darien	Creek Road Fen	NA-3	9	--	9	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
37	Town of Delavan Town of Sugar Creek	CTH P Sedge Meadow	NA-3	--	18	18	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
38	Town of Delavan	Marsh Road Railroad Prairie	NA-3	6	--	6	Wisconsin Department of Transportation
39	Town of Delavan	Lake Lawn Wetland Complex	NA-3	25	268	293	Town of Delavan
40	City of Elkhorn	Jackson Creek Wetlands	NA-3	22	--	22	Kettle Moraine Land Trust
41	City of Lake Geneva Town of Geneva	Oak Hill Cemetery Woods	NA-3	--	138	138	City of Lake Geneva
42	Town of Geneva	Warbler Trail Wetlands	NA-3	95	29	124	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
43	Town of Geneva	Lake Como Wetlands	NA-3	--	46 <sup>e</sup>	46	Private conservancy organization
44	Town of Lyons	Burlington Hills Woods	NA-3	16	70	86 <sup>g</sup>	Private conservancy organization
45	Town of Lyons	Burlington Railroad Prairie	NA-3	1	--	1 <sup>h</sup>	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
46	Town of Lyons	Tri-County Tamarack Swamp	NA-3	25	--	25 <sup>i</sup>	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
47	Town of Lyons	Peterson Fen	NA-3	2	--	2	Private conservancy organization
48	Town of Lyons	Cranberry Road Bog	NA-3	--	46	46	Private conservancy organization
49	Town of Lyons	Lake Geneva Tamarack Relict	NA-3	--	163 <sup>e</sup>	163	Town of Lyons
50	Town of Lyons	Ivanhoe Creek Fen	NA-3	--	30	30	Private conservancy organization
51	Town of Richmond	Lake Loraine Woods—East	NA-3	--	74	74	Private conservancy organization
53	Town of Richmond	Lake Loraine Marsh	NA-3	20	15	35	Private conservancy organization
54	Town of Richmond	Lake No. 10	NA-3	40	--	40	Private conservancy organization
55	Town of Richmond	Turtle Lake Fen	NA-3	--	21	21	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Table 18 (continued)

Site Identification				Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 17	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification <sup>a</sup>	Already under Protective Ownership <sup>b</sup>	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites Proposed to be Acquired							
56	Town of LaGrange Town of Sugar Creek	Baywood Road Sedge Meadow	NA-3	--	27	27	Private conservancy organization
57	Town of Sugar Creek	Lake Wandawega Marsh	NA-3	--	83	83	Private conservancy organization
58	Town of Sugar Creek	North Lake Marsh	NA-3	61	6	67	North Lake District
59	Town of Sugar Creek	Silver Lake	NA-3	91	5	96	Private conservancy organization
60	Town of Lafayette	Pallottine Maple Woods	NA-3	10	142	152	Private conservancy organization
61	Town of Lafayette	Granzeau Woods	NA-3	--	133 <sup>e</sup>	133	Private conservancy organization
62	Town of Lafayette	Sugar Creek Fens, Springs, and Sedge Meadow	NA-3	10	24	34	Walworth County
63	Town of Lafayette	Sugar Creek Wetlands	NA-3	--	74	74	Private conservancy organization
64	Town of Lafayette	Abells Corners Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict	NA-3	--	42	42	Private conservancy organization
65	Town of Spring Prairie	Spring Prairie Lowlands	NA-3	--	297 <sup>e</sup>	297	Private conservancy organization
66	Town of Whitewater	Lone Tree Trail Oak Woods	NA-3	204	61	265	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
67	Town of Whitewater	Whitewater Oak Woods	NA-3	187	53	240	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
68	Town of Whitewater	Rice Lake Dry Prairie	NA-3	1	--	1	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
70	Town of LaGrange	Nordic Trail Oak Woods	NA-3	287	206	493	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
71	Town of LaGrange	Skoponong (Duffin Road) Prairie	NA-3	8	--	8	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
73	Town of LaGrange	Connelly Fen	NA-3	--	2	2	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
74	Town of LaGrange	Island Woods	NA-3	34	12	46	Kettle Moraine Land Trust
75	Town of Troy	Eagle Spring Lake Bog, Woods, and Prairie	NA-3	--	28	28 <sup>l</sup>	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
76	Town of Troy	Crooked Creek Sedge Meadow	NA-3	27	--	27	The Nature Conservancy
77	Town of Troy	Doyles Lake Wetlands	NA-3	--	68 <sup>e</sup>	68	Private conservancy organization
78	Town of Troy	Lein's Road Fen	NA-3	--	22	22	Private conservancy organization
79	Town of Troy	Honey Creek Fen	NA-3	2	6	8	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
80	Town of Troy	Troy Fen	NA-3	12	3	15	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
81	Town of East Troy	Rainbow Springs Woods, Wetlands, and Prairies	NA-3	168	203 <sup>e</sup>	371 <sup>k</sup>	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
82	Town of East Troy	East Troy Bog	NA-3	--	6	6	Private conservancy organization
84	Town of East Troy	East Troy Tamaracks	NA-3	19	7	26	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
85	Town of East Troy	Potter Lake Tamaracks	NA-3	19	3	22	Potter Lake District
86	Town of East Troy	Hilburn Sedge Meadow	NA-3	--	66	66	Private conservancy organization
87	Town of Sharon	Railroad Lowland	CSH	41	23	64	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Table 18 (continued)

Site Identification				Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 17	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification <sup>a</sup>	Already under Protective Ownership <sup>b</sup>	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites Proposed to be Acquired							
88	Town of Linn	Town of Linn Park	CSH	153	--	153	Town of Linn
89	Village of Fontana	Lyons Woods	CSH	--	35	35	Private conservancy organization
90	Town of Bloomfield	Section 5 Marsh and Pond	CSH	--	21 <sup>e</sup>	21	Private conservancy organization
91	Town of Bloomfield Town of Lyons	Townline Pond	CSH	--	50	50	Private conservancy organization
93	Town of Darien	Turtle Creek Bike Trail Wetland	CSH	--	23	23	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
94	City of Elkhorn	Elkhorn Railroad Prairie Remnant	CSH	7	--	7	Wisconsin Department of Transportation
95	Town of Lyons	White River Railroad Prairie	CSH	--	12	12	Walworth County
96	Town of Lyons	Roden Oak Woods	CSH	--	41	41	Private conservancy organization
97	Town of Lyons	Seno Oak Opening	CSH	2	--	2	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
98	Town of Lyons	Radio Station Wetland	CSH	1	25	26	Private conservancy organization
99	Town of Lyons	Peterson Property	CSH	13	27	40	Private conservancy organization
100	Town of Richmond	Whitewater Lake Island	CSH	1	--	1	Walworth County
101	Town of Richmond	Unnamed Wetland	CSH	--	26	26	Private conservancy organization
102	Town of Richmond	Lake Number 10 Open Woods	CSH	41	153	194	Walworth County
103	Town of Richmond Town of Sugar Creek	Turtle Valley Wildlife Area	CSH	2,042	--	2,042	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
104	Town of Richmond	Island Road Shrub-Carr	CSH	--	64	64	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
105	Town of Lafayette	Sugar Creek Woods—North	CSH	21	209	230	Walworth County
106	Town of Lafayette	Sugar Creek Woods—South	CSH	--	116	116	Walworth County
107	Town of Lafayette	Sugar Creek Wet Woods	CSH	--	34	34	Walworth County
108	Town of Lafayette	Abells Corners Fen	CSH	--	3	3	Private conservancy organization
109	Town of Spring Prairie	Hargraves Road Sedge Meadow	CSH	--	46	46	Private conservancy organization
114	Town of LaGrange	Emerson Esker Prairie	CSH	1	--	1	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
116	Town of LaGrange	Duffin Road Dry Prairie	CSH	1	--	1	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
117	Town of LaGrange	LaGrange Campground	CSH	201	2	203	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
118	Town of LaGrange	Juniper Knoll Camp Woods	CSH	--	98 <sup>e</sup>	98	Private conservancy organization
119	Town of LaGrange	Middle Lake Sedge Mat	CSH	3	--	3	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
120	Town of LaGrange	Lauderdale Lakes Woods	CSH	--	28	28	Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District
121	Town of Troy	Horn Dry Prairies	CSH	5	--	5	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
122	Town of Troy	Harmony Hills Savanna	CSH	--	77 <sup>e</sup>	77	Private conservancy organization

**Table 18 (continued)**

Site Identification				Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 17	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification <sup>a</sup>	Already under Protective Ownership <sup>b</sup>	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites Proposed to be Acquired							
123	Town of Troy	Doyles Lake Prairies	CSH	--	1	1	Private conservancy organization
124	Town of Troy	Camp Timberlee	CSH	--	65 <sup>e</sup>	65	Private conservancy organization
125	Town of East Troy	Anderson Bog	CSH	--	1	1	Private conservancy organization
--	Subtotal: 116 Sites	--	--	7,763	5,933	13,696	--
Sites to be Preserved to the Extent Practicable Without Additional Protective Ownership							
52	Town of Richmond	Lake Loraine Woods—West	NA-3	--	--	86	--
69	Town of Whitewater	Rock Shrub-Fen	NA-3	--	--	46	--
72	Town of LaGrange	Big Spring Road Prairie	NA-3	--	--	93	--
92	Town of Darien	Darien Railroad Prairie Remnant	CSH	--	--	1	--
110	Town of Whitewater	Mills Road Prairie	CSH	--	--	3	--
111	Town of Whitewater	Anderson Road	CSH	--	--	1	--
112	Town of Whitewater	Island Road Prairie	CSH	--	--	1	--
113	Town of Whitewater	Whitewater Lake Island Woods	CSH	--	--	3	--
115	Town of LaGrange	Bennett Dry Prairie	CSH	--	--	3	--
126	Town of East Troy	Eastwood Estates Woods	CSH	--	--	5	--
--	Subtotal: 10 Sites	--	--	--	--	242	--
--	Total: 126 Sites	--	--	7,763	5,933	13,938	--

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

<sup>a</sup>NA-1 identifies natural areas of statewide or greater significance, NA-2 identifies natural areas of countywide or regional significance, NA-3 identifies natural areas of local significance, and CSH identifies critical species habitat sites

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

<sup>b</sup>Based on 2010 data. Includes land under protective ownership, under conservation easement, or surface water.

<sup>c</sup>Does not include 15 acres of this site located in Jefferson County.

<sup>d</sup>Does not include 180 acres of this site in Waukesha County.

<sup>e</sup>All or a portion of this site is currently privately owned and maintained in compatible private outdoor recreation or open space uses, and is shown as such on Map 17. Should these lands become available for acquisition in the future, the plan recommends that this site be protected through ownership by public agencies or by nonprofit conservation organizations as shown in this table.

<sup>f</sup>Does not include 250 acres of this site in Racine County.

<sup>g</sup>Does not include 416 acres of this site in Racine County.

<sup>h</sup>Does not include five acres of this site in Racine County.

<sup>i</sup>Does not include 15 acres of this site in Racine County.

<sup>j</sup>Does not include 38 acres of this site in Waukesha County.

<sup>k</sup>Does not include 312 acres of this site in Waukesha County.

Source: SEWRPC.

nonprofit conservation organization ownership or management. Virtually all of these areas are encompassed by the planned primary or secondary environmental corridor or by planned isolated natural resource areas. The cost of acquiring these areas is included in Table 17.

The recommendations made in this plan differ somewhat from those made in the regional natural areas protection and management plan (as amended). The regional plan anticipated that such refinements would be made when the County park and open space plans were updated. Specific refinements made as part of this park and open space plan as shown on Map 17 and Table 18 are:

- The proposed acquisition agency for the Burlington Railroad Prairie (Site No. 45) has been changed from Walworth County to the WDNR.
- The proposed acquisition agency for the Tri-County Tamarack Swamp (Site No. 46) and the Seno Oak Opening (Site No. 97) has been changed from a private conservation organization to the WDNR.
- The proposed acquisition agency for the Sugar Creek Wetlands (Site No. 63), the Abells Corners Fen (Site No. 108), and the Hargraves Road Sedge Meadow (Site No. 109) has been changed from Walworth County to a private conservation organization.
- The area of the Army Lake Lowlands (Site No. 83) was enlarged and the site renamed as the Army Lake Lowlands and Uplands. As a result, this site was reclassified from NA-3 to NA-2 and the proposed acquisition agency changed from a private conservation organization to the Town of East Troy.
- A new critical species habitat site—Turtle Creek Bike Trail Wetland (Site No. 93)—has been added. This site is located within the boundary of the Turtle Creek Wildlife Area, and consequently recommended for acquisition by the WDNR.
- The Whitewater Lake Island Woods (Site No. 113) is recommended to be protected through appropriate zoning rather than by protective ownership.

Adoption of the County park and open space plan by Walworth County and the Regional Planning Commission will amend the regional natural areas protection and management plan in these respects.

### ***Reestablishment of Grasslands***

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.

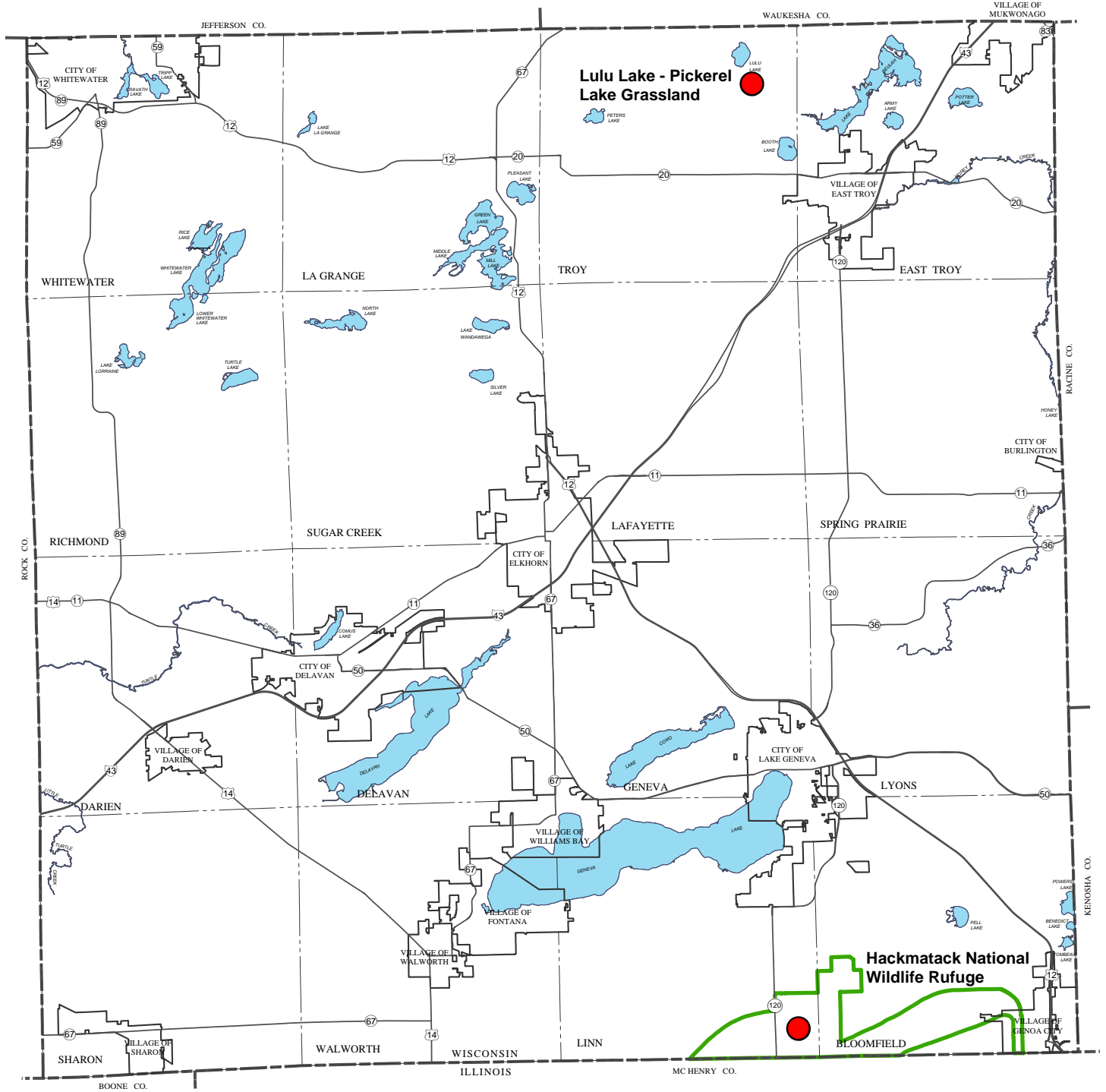
Two sites in Walworth County were identified for the reestablishment of grassland habitat. The general locations of these sites are shown on Map 18. One site is located in the Town of Troy and is partially within the WDNR Lulu Lake State Natural Area project boundary. It is envisioned that the grassland habitat would eventually encompass about 1,700 acres, with the WDNR being responsible for site acquisition and management.<sup>5</sup> The second site, the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), is located in the southeastern portion of the County and extends into northern Illinois. The NWR was officially established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

---

<sup>5</sup>*The acreage of the proposed grassland habitat is not included in the acreage recommended for acquisition by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in this chapter.*

Map 18

LOCATION OF RECOMMENDED SITES TO REESTABLISH GRASSLAND HABITAT IN WALWORTH COUNTY



Service in 2012. The Wisconsin portion of the NWR consists of approximately 5,000 acres, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service being responsible for land preservation in this area through conservation easements, fee-title acquisition, donation, and cooperative agreements.<sup>6</sup> As these plan recommendations are implemented, it would result in an enlargement of the primary environmental corridor in these areas.

### ***Protection of Geological Areas***

Pertinent recommendations regarding the preservation of the significant geological sites set forth in the regional natural areas plan have also been incorporated into this park and open space plan. The inventory of geological areas prepared as part of the regional natural areas protection and management plan and reported in Chapter II identified 13 sites of geological importance in the County, including four bedrock geology sites and nine glacial features.

Map 19 shows the general location of geological areas recommended to be preserved through public agency or nonprofit conservation organization acquisition. It is recommended that nine of the 13 geological area sites be preserved through public interest ownership. These nine areas include eight glacial and one bedrock sites. Together, the nine areas encompass about 12,721 acres. Of this total, 6,732 acres are in existing public ownership. Under the plan, eight sites are proposed to be entirely protected through public interest ownership, and one site—Lyons Glacial Deposits—is proposed to be partially protected through public interest ownership (see Table 19). In total, 3,381 acres are recommended to be acquired for protective ownership. These recommendations are consistent with the regional natural areas protection and management plan.

### **State of Wisconsin Project Areas Component**

#### ***Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)***

The open space preservation element of this plan includes lands which have been acquired or which are proposed to be acquired by the WDNR, within the project boundaries of the Big Foot Beach State Park, Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit, Lulu Lake State Natural Area, Turtle Creek Wildlife Area, and Turtle Valley Wildlife Area. Project boundaries for these areas have been approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and are reflected on Map 15. Currently, about 11,306 acres of open space lands are in public ownership within those project areas. An additional 7,391 acres are proposed to be acquired within the identified project boundaries.

It should be noted that four natural areas are located partially within, and partially outside, the existing WDNR project boundaries. These sites are listed on Table 20. The portions of these sites that are located outside the existing State project boundaries encompass 71 acres. It is recommended that the WDNR consider expanding existing project boundaries to include these sites when the master plans for the project areas are updated.

### **Prime Agricultural Land Plan Component**

Under this plan, it is recommended that Walworth County and local units of government preserve to the extent practicable prime agricultural lands in Walworth County. Historically, efforts to identify and preserve the best remaining farmland in Walworth County have included the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (1977), the preparation of the Walworth County farmland preservation plan in 1978, and the mandating of "use-value" assessment of agricultural land by the Wisconsin Legislature (1995). More recent efforts include the 2009 Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative which includes a revised Farmland Preservation Program, an Agricultural Enterprise Area Program, and the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program. In order to implement the programs under the working lands initiative, Walworth County prepared an updated farmland preservation plan in 2012, further refining and detailing lands identified for farmland preservation.

---

<sup>6</sup>*The acreage of the proposed NWR to be acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not included in this chapter.*

## RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION OF SELECTED GEOLOGICAL AREAS IN WALWORTH COUNTY



Table 19

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

Type of Geological Area	Site Identification				Total Site Area (acres)	Portion of Area Already Under Protective Ownership	Portion of Area to Be Acquired for Protective Ownership	Responsible Agency	Remarks
	Civil Division	Name	Geological Area Class	Number on Map 19					
Glacial	Town of Troy	Lulu Lake Glacial Lake and Crevasse Filling	GA-1	1	103	103	--	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the Lulu Lake State Natural Area and is located within a NA-1
	Town of LaGrange Town of Whitewater	Kettle Moraine Interlobate Moraine	GA-1	2	7,138 <sup>a</sup>	5,635 <sup>a</sup>	1,503 <sup>a</sup>	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest; site contains four NA-1, two NA-2, and four NA-3 sites, and one Critical Species Habitat site, for a total of 3,170 acres within such areas
	Town of Whitewater	Whitewater Lake-Rice Lake Eskers	GA-2	3	175	113	62	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest
	Town of LaGrange	John Muir Trail Kettle Holes	GA-2	4	28	28	--	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and is located within a NA-2
	Town of Darien Town of Richmond	Turtle Creek Glacial Spillway	GA-3	5	2,540	830	1,710	Department of Natural Resources	Portions of this site either lie within the established project boundary for the Turtle Creek Wildlife Area or are in existing State ownership, or both. Site contains one NA-2, one NA-3, and one Critical Species Habitat site
	Town of Lyons	Lyons Glacial Deposits	GA-3	6	2,688 <sup>b</sup>	--	80 <sup>b</sup>	Private conservancy organization	About 80 acres, or 3 percent, of this area are within a NA-3 proposed to be acquired by a private conservancy organization
	Town of LaGrange	Spirits Wash Bowl	GA-3	7	1	1	--	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and is located within a NA-2
	Town of LaGrange	Nordic Trail Kettle Holes	GA-3	8	32	22	10	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and is located within a NA-3
Bedrock	Town of Spring Prairie	Voree Quarry	GA-3	9	16	--	16	Private conservancy organization	--
Total	--	--	--	--	12,721	6,732	3,381	--	--

<sup>a</sup>Includes the area within the established project boundary of the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest within Walworth County. The acreage total does not include Natural Areas or Critical Species Habitat sites within these project boundaries.

<sup>b</sup>Includes only those lands of the Lyons Glacial Deposits located in Walworth County.

Source: SEWRPC.

Table 20

**RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS TO WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT BOUNDARIES**

Number on Map 17	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Project	Location	Area (acres)	Comment <sup>a</sup>
5	Lulu Lake State Natural Area	T4N, R17E Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 Town of Troy	35 <sup>b</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Lulu Lake and Eagle Spring Lake Wetland Complex and Adjacent Uplands (NA-1) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
3	Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit	T4N, R15E Sections 22, 27 Town of Whitewater	3 <sup>c</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Clover Valley Fen State Natural Area (NA-1) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
67	Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit	T4N, R15E Section 25 Town of Whitewater	22 <sup>d</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Whitewater Oak Woods (NA-3) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
35	Turtle Creek Wildlife Area	T2N, R15E Sections 17, 18 Town of Darien	11 <sup>e</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Turtle Creek Sedge Meadow and Fen (NA-3) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
Total	--	--	71	--

<sup>a</sup>NA-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.

<sup>b</sup>An additional 856 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 891 acres in total.

<sup>c</sup>An additional 109 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 112 acres in total.

<sup>d</sup>An additional 218 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 240 acres in total.

<sup>e</sup>An additional 160 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 171 acres in total.

Source: SEWRPC.

**RECOMMENDED PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT**

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

**Major Parks**

Under the park and open space plan for Walworth County, six major parks<sup>7</sup> would be provided. Of the six major parks, five are existing parks and one would be a new park to be acquired and developed by Walworth County. The five existing major parks are: Big Foot Beach State Park and Whitewater Lake Recreation Area, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Price Conservancy, Natureland Park, and White River County Park<sup>8</sup>, owned by Walworth County.

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>New park site acquired by Walworth County in 2014.

Under this plan, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) would maintain Whitewater Lake Recreation Area and would continue to acquire lands at Big Foot Beach State Park. Walworth County would acquire additional lands and develop additional specified facilities at Price Conservancy and Natureland Park; develop new facilities at White River County Park; and acquire and develop one new major County park in the western portion of the County along Turtle Creek.

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

- **Big Foot Beach State Park (WDNR)**  
Big Foot Beach State Park presently consists of 265 acres, and is located in the southeastern portion of Walworth County. Under the plan, it is recommended that the WDNR acquire an additional 158 acres of land within the project area and continue to develop and maintain facilities as identified in the State master plan for this site.
- **Whitewater Lake Recreation Area (WDNR)**  
Whitewater Lake Recreation Area Park presently consists of 135 acres, and is located in the Town of Whitewater. Under the plan, it is recommended that the WDNR continue to maintain and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities as needed.
- **Price Conservancy (Walworth County)**  
Price Conservancy, located in the Town of Lafayette, presently consists of 113 acres. Under this plan, it is recommended that the County acquire an additional 189 acres. Proposed development for this site includes trail facilities, a dog park, and canoe/kayak access facilities. The existing site and recommended acquisition area contain portions of one natural area—Sugar Creek Fens, Springs, and Sedge Meadow—and three critical species habitat (CSH) sites—Sugar Creek Wet Woods, Sugar Creek Woods-North, and Sugar Creek Woods-South. As adjacent natural area/CSH lands are acquired as recommended in the open space element of this plan, those lands should be considered as additions to the existing park site.
- **Natureland Park (Walworth County)**  
Natureland Park, located in the Town of Richmond, presently consists of 104 acres. The plan recommends that the County acquire an additional 158 acres and provide additional picnic facilities and trails.
- **White River County Park (Walworth County)**  
In March 2014, Walworth County acquired the property known as White River County Park. Proposed facility development at this 195 acre site includes picnic areas, prairie/grassland restoration, and necessary support facilities. The site would also include trail and stream access facilities along the White River (see Appendix C for conceptual development plan).
- **Proposed Turtle Creek County Park (Walworth County)**  
Under the plan, it is recommended that the County acquire a new major park site along Turtle Creek in the western portion of the County. It is recommended that about 270 acres of land be acquired. Proposed facility development at this site includes family camping facilities, picnic areas, trails, and necessary support facilities. This proposed new park site would meet the need for additional park land in this area.

Like all public land acquisition recommended in this plan, the proposed acquisition of land for major parks should be accomplished on a willing seller-willing buyer basis.

#### ***Development Costs—County Parks***

The development costs related to County-owned parks envisioned under the plan are presented in Table 21. As indicated in Table 21, such costs are estimated at about \$2.0 million. The cost associated with the acquisition of open space lands for County park sites is included in Table 17.

Table 21

**ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COSTS FOR COUNTY PARKS UNDER THE RECOMMENDED PARK PLAN**

County Park	Proposed Facility Development	Development Cost
Major Parks		
Natureland Park .....	Additional picnic facilities, trails	\$50,000
Price Conservancy .....	Canoe/kayak launch, dog park, trails	\$55,000
White River County Park .....	Picnic facilities, trails, pedestrian bridges, adaptive reuse of barn, canoe/kayak launch, handicap accessible fishing pier, prairie/grassland restoration, general development <sup>a</sup>	\$555,000
Proposed Turtle Creek County Park .....	Picnic areas, family camping facilities, trails, general development <sup>a</sup>	\$350,000
Subtotal – 4 Sites	- -	\$1,010,000
Trails (off-street)		
Sugar Creek Recreation Corridor.....	4.1 miles of trails	\$216,500
White River/Delavan Recreation Corridor .....	15.5 miles of trails	\$807,200
Subtotal– 2 Sites	- -	\$1,023,700
Total	- -	\$2,033,700

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2013 dollars.

<sup>a</sup>General development includes landscaping, parking areas and access drives, and such furnishings as benches, waste containers, and signs.

Source: SEWRPC.

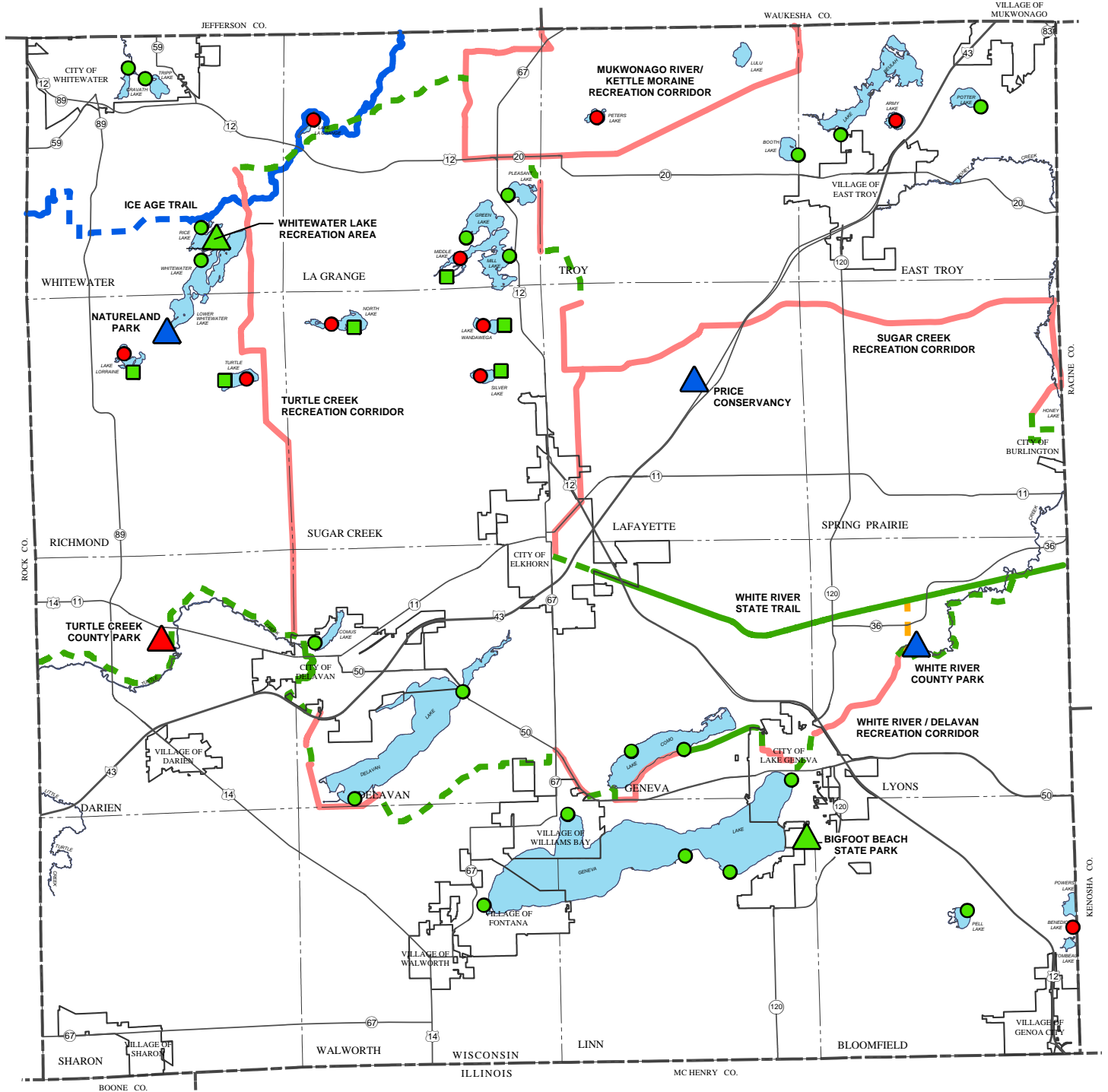
### Areawide Recreation Trails

Under the recommended plan, about 125 miles of trails would be provided as a countywide trail system to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. The recommended trails, which are shown on Map 20, are part of a larger, region-wide trail system. The recommended trail system within Walworth County includes 27 miles of existing trails and 98 miles of proposed new trails. The location of proposed recreation trails is shown on Map 20. As noted earlier in this chapter, during the Walworth County comprehensive planning process and at the public informational meetings related to this plan, a number of communities in the County indicated that they were opposed to segments of the off-street trail system as shown in the currently adopted County park and open space plan. As a result of those concerns, portions of the Mukwonago River/Kettle Moraine, Sugar Creek, and Turtle Creek recreation trails have been shifted to on-street routes. On-street routes could be provided as an on-street bicycle lane or as a separate parallel bicycle/pedestrian path within a highway right-of-way. The on-street alignments would serve to provide connections to other areawide recreation trails thereby maintaining the continuity of the areawide trail system. The location of all the trails are intended to be general in nature and are subject to refinement based on detailed facility planning and, as necessary, on negotiations with landowners to purchase land for the trails.

The off-street segments of the proposed trail system would generally be located within, or in proximity to, environmental corridors or other open space lands to provide opportunities for trail activities through scenic areas. The precise alignment and design of new off-street trails should seek to minimize any impacts on existing natural features. The responsibility for providing the off-street trails would be as follows:

- The WDNR would be responsible for about 30 miles (including 12 existing miles) of off-street trails. The WDNR would be responsible for the off-street Ice Age trail and the off-street trail segments within the WDNR project areas located in the Towns of Darien, LaGrange, and Whitewater. The Ice Age trail provides opportunities for hiking and ski-touring; biking is not permitted. The estimated development costs for the new off-street trails proposed to be provided by the WDNR approximates \$0.8 million. The cost associated with the acquisition of open space to accommodate the proposed trails is included in Table 17.

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



MAJOR PARKS

- EXISTING COUNTY
- PROPOSED COUNTY
- EXISTING STATE

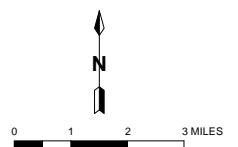
BOAT ACCESS FACILITIES

- EXISTING FACILITY MEETING WDNR STANDARDS
- EXISTING FACILITY NOT MEETING WDNR STANDARDS
- LAKE NEEDING NEW OR EXPANDED FACILITY

RECREATION TRAILS

- EXISTING OFF - STREET TRAIL
- PROPOSED OFF - STREET TRAIL
- PROPOSED ON - STREET TRAIL
- EXISTING ICE AGE TRAIL
- PROPOSED ICE AGE TRAIL
- PROPOSED CONNECTION TRAIL (GENERAL LOCATION)

Source: SEWRPC.



- Walworth County would be responsible for about 31 miles of off-street trails including 12 miles of existing trails and 19 miles of proposed new trails. The estimated development costs for the new off-street trails proposed to be provided by the County approximates \$1.0 million. The cost associated with the acquisition of open space to accommodate the proposed trails is included in Table 17.
- The balance of the off-street trail segments included in the countywide trail system, consists of existing city, village, and town trails (total of about three miles), which would continue to be locally maintained.

Map 20 also identifies one proposed connecting route, with a length of about one mile, which would connect the new White River County Park with the White River State Trail. It is envisioned that this connecting route would generally be provided with a combination of on-street and off-street trails.

As noted above, the on-street segments of the proposed trail system may be provided as bicycle lanes or as separate parallel bicycle/pedestrian paths within the street or highway right-of-way. While much of the proposed on-street trail system would be routed along County roads, smaller segments would be routed over State highways and city, village, or town roads. Walworth County should work with the other concerned units of government to ensure the provision of a coordinated county-wide trail system, including uniform signage.

The provision of such on-street facilities should be considered as the concerned streets and highways are resurfaced or reconstructed. The costs associated with the on-street facilities are not included in this park and open space plan. There are Federal Department of Transportation funding programs which may provide up to 80 percent funding of bicycle facilities.

### **Other Trails**

Walworth County is served by a 350-mile system of snowmobile trails located on public land and on private land open to the public. The plan recommends that this trail system continue to be maintained.

### **Lake and River Access**

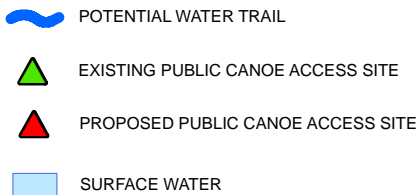
Boat access sites, both public and nonpublic, provide opportunities for individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such water-related recreation activities as motor boating, waterskiing, sailing, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking. The regional park and open space plan recommends that rivers and major lakes—lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more—be provided with adequate public boat access consistent with safe and enjoyable participation in various boating activities. The WDNR, in keeping with State Statutes which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, has adopted administrative rules regarding lake access, and surveyed all the major lakes in the State to determine if adequate public access to each was provided and maintained.<sup>9</sup> Table 15 in Chapter IV lists the major lakes in the County and indicates whether or not public access is provided which meets WDNR standards. As indicated in the table, in 2010, Army Lake, Benedict Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lake Lorraine, Middle Lake, North Lake, Peters Lake, Silver Lake, Turtle Lake, and Lake Wandawega in Walworth County had no access meeting WDNR standards. Under this plan, then, as shown on Map 20, it is recommended that public boat access sites at those lakes be acquired and developed as appropriate by the WDNR. The total estimated acquisition and development cost for the recommended lake access sites is about \$2.5 million.

It is recommended that Walworth County consider the development of a water trail system. As shown on Map 21, these water trails would be located on the White River, Honey Creek, Sugar Creek, and Turtle Creek and would connect to water trails in adjacent counties. It is recommended that public canoe/kayak access points with parking

---

<sup>9</sup>The administrative rules, as set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, specify the public boating access facilities that must be provided as a condition for the WDNR to provide natural resource enhancement services for a body of water.

### Map 21



be provided on major streams every 10 miles in Walworth County. As previously indicated, the recommended improvements at Walworth County parks under this plan include proposed new canoe/kayak launch facilities at Price Conservancy and at the recently acquired White River County Park. It is recommended that the WDNR provide canoe/kayak launch facilities along Turtle Creek within the Turtle Creek Wildlife Area.

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

### **Local Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan Element**

In addition to meeting resource-oriented outdoor recreation needs, a park plan must seek to provide sites and facilities for nonresource-oriented activities, such as baseball, tennis, and playground activities. In comparison to the resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities, sites and facilities for nonresource-oriented activities rely less heavily on natural resource amenities; generally meet a greater need in urban than rural areas; and have a relatively small service radius. For these reasons, responsibility for providing such sites and facilities generally rests with city, village, and town governments.

Within urban areas of the County, it is recommended that a full range of community and neighborhood park sites and facilities be provided. Recommendations for the provision of local park sites and facilities should be identified through the preparation and adoption of local park and open space plans. As of the end of 2012, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which certifies local park and open space plans for purposes of reviewing applications for State Stewardship Fund and other recreational grant programs, had certified local park and open space plans for the Cities of Delavan, Elkhorn, Lake Geneva, and Whitewater; the Villages of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, Walworth, and Williams Bay; and the Towns of Darien, Geneva, and Linn.

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 Walworth 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 WDNR and Walworth County. Also included is a description of the acquisition and development costs and priorities associated with the implementation of the recommended plan.

### **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

The WDNR has authority and responsibility for park development, natural resource protection, water quality control, and water use regulations. Because of this broad range of authority and responsibility, certain WDNR functions have particular importance in the implementation of the County park and open space plan. The

Table 22

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

Ownership	Planned Park and Open Space Acquisition		Development Cost	Total Acquisition and Development Cost
	Area (acres)	Cost		
State of Wisconsin .....	7,758	\$45,872,000	\$3,234,700	\$49,106,700
Walworth County .....	1,450	10,457,000	2,033,700	12,490,700
Local Governments <sup>a</sup> .....	623 <sup>b</sup>	3,327,000	- -	3,327,000
Nonprofit Conservation Organizations.....	2,217	12,116,000	- -	12,116,000
Total	12,048	\$71,772,000	\$5,268,400	\$77,040,400

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2013 dollars.

<sup>a</sup> Includes city, village, and town governments, school districts, and other public districts.

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

Source: SEWRPC.

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

It is important that the WDNR: 1) approve and certify the Walworth 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; 7) be responsible for the acquisition and development of off-street trail segments of the proposed trail system within WDNR project areas; and 8) be responsible for the acquisition and development, in cooperation with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, of the Ice Age Trail. A summary of the costs associated with recommendations directed to the WDNR is included in Table 22.

### **Walworth County**

Much of the authority and responsibility for the provision of areawide resource-oriented park and open space sites and facilities in the County rests with the Walworth County Board of Supervisors. A summary of the costs associated with recommendations directed to the County under this plan is also included in Table 22.

Under the recommended park and open space plan presented in this chapter, Walworth County should acquire additional land and develop additional facilities at two existing major parks—Natureland Park and Price Conservancy; develop new facilities at White River County Park; and acquire and develop one proposed new major County park. It is further recommended that Walworth County pursue the acquisition and development of lands to provide the opportunity for public lake access for other recreational activities, such as beach swimming, shore fishing, and other passive uses, as opportunities become available.

Under the open space plan element recommendations, the County should acquire additional land to assure the preservation of important natural resources in the County, including the acquisition of additional environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and for the development of recreation trails. 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.

For environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas not acquired in the public interest during the implementation of the park and open space plan, the plan recognizes that certain development, including the development of recreational facilities, may be accommodated in such areas without jeopardizing their overall integrity.

The plan recommends the development by the County of about 95 miles of areawide trails within the County. Walworth County should also work cooperatively with the concerned communities to develop the identified trail system, as well as identify and establish other on- and off-street linkages to the areawide recreation trails and provide proper signing and improvements such as safe drainage grates and improved railway crossings where necessary.

### **Local Units of Government**

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

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

## **ACQUISITION CONSIDERATIONS**

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

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

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

The associated costs for the acquisition and development of County park and open space sites, as set forth in Table 22, are estimated at about \$12.5 million. Distributed over the 22-year plan implementation period, the annual cost would approximate \$568,000 per year. Under the assumption that the population of the County would

approximate 148,400 persons by the year 2035, the average annual acquisition and development costs would be about \$4.53 per capita<sup>10</sup> per year. It should be noted that, to the extent that such costs are reduced through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, through the use of available State funds for acquisition and development, and through Federal Funding in support of bicycle trails, the costs to the County could be significantly reduced.

## **ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR WALWORTH COUNTY**

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

It is recommended that the County give top priority to acquiring land specifically for park and recreation purposes and associated open space preservation purposes. Land acquisition is particularly important given the increasing urbanization occurring within the County. As urbanization occurs, development pressures inevitably cause an increase in property values, thus making land acquisition significantly more costly. Walworth County should add to, and publicize the existing County fund that was established 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 associated with the proposed recreation trail system; and then by acquisition of other environmental corridor lands.

### **Maintenance Impact**

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

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

## **SUMMARY**

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

---

<sup>10</sup>The average annual per capita costs were estimated by dividing the estimated average annual costs by the average annual population over the 22-year plan implementation period. The average population was determined by calculating the average 2010 population of about 102,200 persons and the plan design year 2035 population of about 148,400, which is 125,300 persons.

## **Open Space Preservation Element**

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

- Overall, the open space plan element recommends the preservation of environmentally significant open space lands encompassing a total of 79,964 acres—including primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resources, and certain adjacent lands. Of this total, 22,603 acres, or about 28 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or in compatible private outdoor recreation use in 2012, and are recommended to be preserved in current ownership. It is recommended that an additional 12,048 acres, or about 15 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. Of the total of 12,048 acres, 7,758 acres would be acquired by the WDNR; 1,450 acres by Walworth County; 623 acres by local governments; and 2,217 acres by nonprofit conservation organizations.
- The plan recommends that 45,313 acres of environmentally significant lands remain in or be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodland, lowland conservancy, and upland conservancy with an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres.
- The open space preservation element incorporates the recommendations of the regional natural areas protection and management plan, as amended, as it applies to Walworth County. Thus, the open space element recommends the preservation, through public-interest ownership, of 83 natural areas, 33 critical species habitat sites, and nine geological areas, along with the restoration of grassland habitats.
- The open space preservation element also envisions the continued acquisition of land by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for natural resource protection and recreational purposes—including lands located outside planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas, but within approved project boundaries for the Big Foot Beach State Park, Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit, Lulu Lake State Natural Area, Turtle Creek Wildlife Area, and Turtle Valley Wildlife Area.
- Under this open space preservation element, it is further recommended that the County and local units of government protect existing prime agricultural lands. Specifically, it is recommended that all prime agricultural lands identified in the recent update to the farmland preservation plan for Walworth County be preserved insofar as practicable in agricultural use.

## **Outdoor Recreation Plan Element**

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

- Under the outdoor recreation element of the plan, six major parks would be provided within Walworth County. Of the six major parks, five are existing parks and one would be a new park to be developed by Walworth County. The five existing major parks are: Big Foot Beach State Park and Whitewater Lake Recreation Areas, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Price Conservancy, Natureland Park, and White River County Park, owned by Walworth County. The proposed new major park is recommended to be located in the western portion of the County along Turtle Creek.
- The plan recommends the acquisition of additional lands and development of additional facilities at Price Conservancy and Natureland Park and the development of facilities at the recently acquired White River County Park. The plan also recommends the acquisition and development of facilities at a proposed new County park as indicated in Table 21.

- Under the recommended plan, a 125-mile system of trails would be provided to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. A total of 95 miles would be provided by Walworth County and 30 miles would be provided by the WDNR.
- Under the plan, it is recommended that a public boat access site be acquired and developed by the Department of Natural Resources on Army Lake, Benedict Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lake Lorraine, Middle Lake, North Lake, Peters Lake, Silver Lake, Turtle Lake, and Lake Wandawega. It is further recommended that Walworth County pursue opportunities to provide access to inland lakes for beach swimming, shore fishing, and passive recreational activities, as such opportunities arise. In addition, it is recommended that Walworth County consider the development of a water trail system that would be located on the White River, Honey Creek, Sugar Creek, and Turtle Creek.

### **Plan Implementation**

- The total cost of implementing the park and open space plan is estimated to be \$77.0 million, including \$71.8 million for land acquisition and \$5.2 million for recreational facility development. Of the total plan implementation cost, about \$49.1, or 64 percent, would be borne by the WDNR; \$12.5 million, or 16 percent, would be borne by Walworth County; \$3.3 million, or 4 percent, would be borne by local units of government; and \$12.1 million, or 16 percent, would be borne by nonprofit conservation organizations.
- The total cost to Walworth County of \$12.5 million includes \$10.5 million for land acquisition and \$2.0 million for facility development. This amount distributed over the 22-year plan implementation period would approximate about \$568,000 per year. These costs may be off-set through various Federal and State grants provided for recreational and open space purposes. The acquisition and development costs for recreational and open space lands and facilities may also be off-set by donations, land dedications, or by revenues generated by existing parks and recreational facilities.

## Chapter VI

# SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

Walworth County has a long history of park and open space planning, going back to the 1970s. This includes the periodic updating of the County park and open space plan, the current version of which was adopted by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors in 2000. With the assistance of the Regional Planning Commission, Walworth County in 2011 undertook another effort to update its park and open space plan, extending the planning horizon further into the future. This report documents that planning process and presents the resulting updated County park and open space plan.

A park and open space plan for Walworth County was included as part of the first regional park and open space plan,<sup>1</sup> which was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on December 1, 1977. That plan identified existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommended a park system consisting of large resource-oriented parks and smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, together with associated recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan also recommended the development of an approximately 440-mile network of hiking and bicycling trails within natural resource corridors of regional significance, including corridors along the Lake Michigan shoreline, through the Kettle Moraine, and along the riverine areas of the major streams and watercourses of the Region. The regional park and open space plan incorporated the regional land use plan recommendations concerning primary environmental corridors and farmland preservation. The regional park and open space plan as it relates to Walworth County was subsequently refined in 1991 as documented in the first edition of this report, SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County*, February 1991; and in 2000 as documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135 (2nd Edition), *A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County*, September 2000.

In 2009, Walworth County requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the County in the preparation of a new park and open space plan. The new plan is based upon updated information related to land use, population levels and distribution, anticipated growth and development, natural resources, and park and open space acquisition and development activities within the County. The new plan was prepared within the framework of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Walworth County, and is based upon the recommended development pattern set forth in the County comprehensive plan and refines and details the park and open space-

---

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

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

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

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

### **Population and Employment Levels**

The population of the County in 2010 was about 102,228, about 10,220 persons, or 11 percent, above the 2000 level, according to the U.S. Census.

In 2010, there were about 39,700 households in Walworth County, representing an increase of about 15 percent, from 2000. With the number of households increasing at a faster rate than population, the number of persons per household has decreased.

The number of jobs in Walworth County was estimated to have reached 53,000 in 2010, about 26,600, or 50 percent, above the 1970 level.

### **Land Use**

In 2010, urban land uses—consisting primarily of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional, recreational and transportation, communication, and utility uses—encompassed about 77.5 square miles, or about 13 percent of the total area of the County. Residential land comprised the largest share of the urban land area, encompassing 34.4 square miles, or about 44 percent of all urban land and 6 percent of the total area of the County.

In 2010, nonurban land uses—including agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, surface water, landfill and extractive, and other open lands—encompassed about 499 square miles, or about 87 percent of the County. Agricultural land comprised the largest share of the nonurban land area, accounting for about 352.6 square miles, or about 70 percent of all nonurban lands and about 61 percent of the total area of the County.

### **Natural Resource Base**

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

Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of important natural resource and resource-related elements and are, by definition, at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Primary environmental corridors are located throughout the County. Such corridors in 2010 encompassed about 106.8 square miles, or about 18 percent of the County. The preservation of these corridors in essentially natural, open use is important for the protection of water quality and areas of groundwater recharge, for the preservation of wildlife habitat, and for the maintenance of the overall quality of the environment and natural beauty of Walworth County. Since these corridors are generally poorly suited for urban development, their preservation also helps to avoid the creation of new environmental and developmental problems.

Secondary environmental corridors, often remnants of primary corridors that have been partially converted to intensive urban or agricultural use, also contain a variety of resource elements. By definition, secondary environmental corridors are at least one mile long and 100 acres in area. In 2010, these corridors encompassed about 15.1 square miles, or about 3 percent of the County. Maintenance of these corridors in open uses can facilitate natural surface water drainage, including groundwater recharge, and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife.

Isolated natural resource areas represent smaller concentrations of natural resource features that have been separated from the environmental corridors. Such areas, which are by definition at least five acres in size, in combination encompassed about 14.9 square miles, or about 3 percent of the County, in 2010. These areas sometimes serve as the only available wildlife habitat in an area, and may function as storm water retention areas.

## **INVENTORY OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES**

In 2010, the County owned a total of four park and outdoor recreation sites encompassing 419 acres. There are an additional 47 park and open space sites, encompassing 14,934 acres, owned by the State of Wisconsin; and 199 sites, encompassing 2,670 acres, owned by local units of government or school districts for outdoor recreation or natural resource preservation purposes. An additional 162 sites, encompassing 11,085 acres, are developed for private resource-oriented outdoor recreational use, and 10 sites, encompassing 1,076 acres, are owned by private organizations for resource protection purposes. There are also 1,156 acres of land in Walworth County protected under conservation easements.

Publicly owned access sites for motor-boating purposes are provided to all the major lakes except for Army Lake, Benedict Lake, Booth Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lulu Lake, and Peters Lake. There are a number of sites which provide access to lakes and rivers for other recreational activities and passive uses.

Existing trails in Walworth County include the White River State Trail, the Ice Age Trail, the Geneva Lake Shore Path, the Duck Lake Nature Trail, and numerous on- and off-street local trails, and 350 miles of designated snowmobile trails.

## **RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

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

### **Open Space Preservation Element**

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

It is recommended that a total of 79,964 acres of open space lands, or about 22 percent of Walworth County, be protected through a combination of public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or through the application of protective zoning. These 79,964 acres include planned primary and secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, areas outside corridors but within Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources project boundaries, and existing and proposed County park and open space lands. Virtually all natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be preserved are contained within the planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or the planned isolated natural resource areas.

Of the total 79,964 acres of recommended open space lands, 22,603 acres, or about 28 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, under conservation easements, or in compatible

---

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

private outdoor recreation use in 2012, and are recommended to be preserved in such ownership. It is recommended that an additional 12,048 acres, or about 15 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. The remaining 45,313 acres of open space lands are recommended to remain in or be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodplain, lowland conservancy and, for upland portions of the corridor, upland conservancy which limits residential development to an overall density of no more than one dwelling per five acres. In addition, should open space lands not specifically recommended for acquisition in this plan become available for acquisition for open space purposes, consideration should be given to protecting such areas through conservation easements or fee simple acquisition by an appropriate public agency or nonprofit conservation organization.

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

### **Outdoor Recreation Element**

Under the outdoor recreation element of the plan, six major parks would be provided within the County. Of the six major parks, five are existing parks and one would be a new park to be acquired and developed by Walworth County. The five existing major parks are: Big Foot Beach State Park and Whitewater Lake Recreation Area, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR); and Price Conservancy, White River County Park, and Natureland Park, owned by Walworth County.

Under this plan, the WDNR would maintain Whitewater Lake Recreation Area and would continue to acquire lands at Big Foot Beach State Park. Walworth County would acquire additional lands and develop additional facilities at Price Conservancy and Natureland Park; develop facilities at the new White River County Park; and acquire and develop one new major County park in the western portion of the County along Turtle Creek.

Under the recommended plan, a 125-mile system of trails would be provided as a countywide trail system to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. A total of 95 miles would be provided by Walworth County—consisting of both on-street and off-street routes. This would be accomplished through a cooperative effort with other concerned units of government.

Under the plan, it is recommended that a public boat access site be acquired and developed by the Department of Natural Resources on Army Lake, Benedict Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lake Lorraine, Middle Lake, North Lake, Peters Lake, Silver Lake, Turtle Lake, and Lake Wandawega. It is further recommended that Walworth County pursue opportunities to provide access to inland lakes for beach swimming, shore fishing, and passive recreational activities, as such opportunities arise. In addition, it is recommended that Walworth County consider the development of a water trail system that would be located on the White River, Honey Creek, Sugar Creek, and Turtle Creek.

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

### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

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

Under the plan, 12,048 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 \$71.8 million. Walworth County would be responsible for acquiring about 1,450 acres of that total, at an estimated cost of \$10.5 million. Development costs would total about \$5.2 million, with Walworth County responsible for about \$2.0 million of that amount.

The total estimated cost for implementing the County park and open space plan is about \$77.0 million. The estimated cost to Walworth County is about \$12.5 million, or about 16 percent of the total. The costs associated with implementation of the County park plan may be offset through State and Federal grants provided for recreational and open space purposes. The acquisition and development costs for recreational and open space lands and facilities may also be offset by donations, land dedications, or by revenues generated by existing parks and recreational facilities.

(This page intentionally left blank)

## APPENDICES

(This page intentionally left blank)

**Appendix A**

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

(This page intentionally left blank)

Map A-1

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

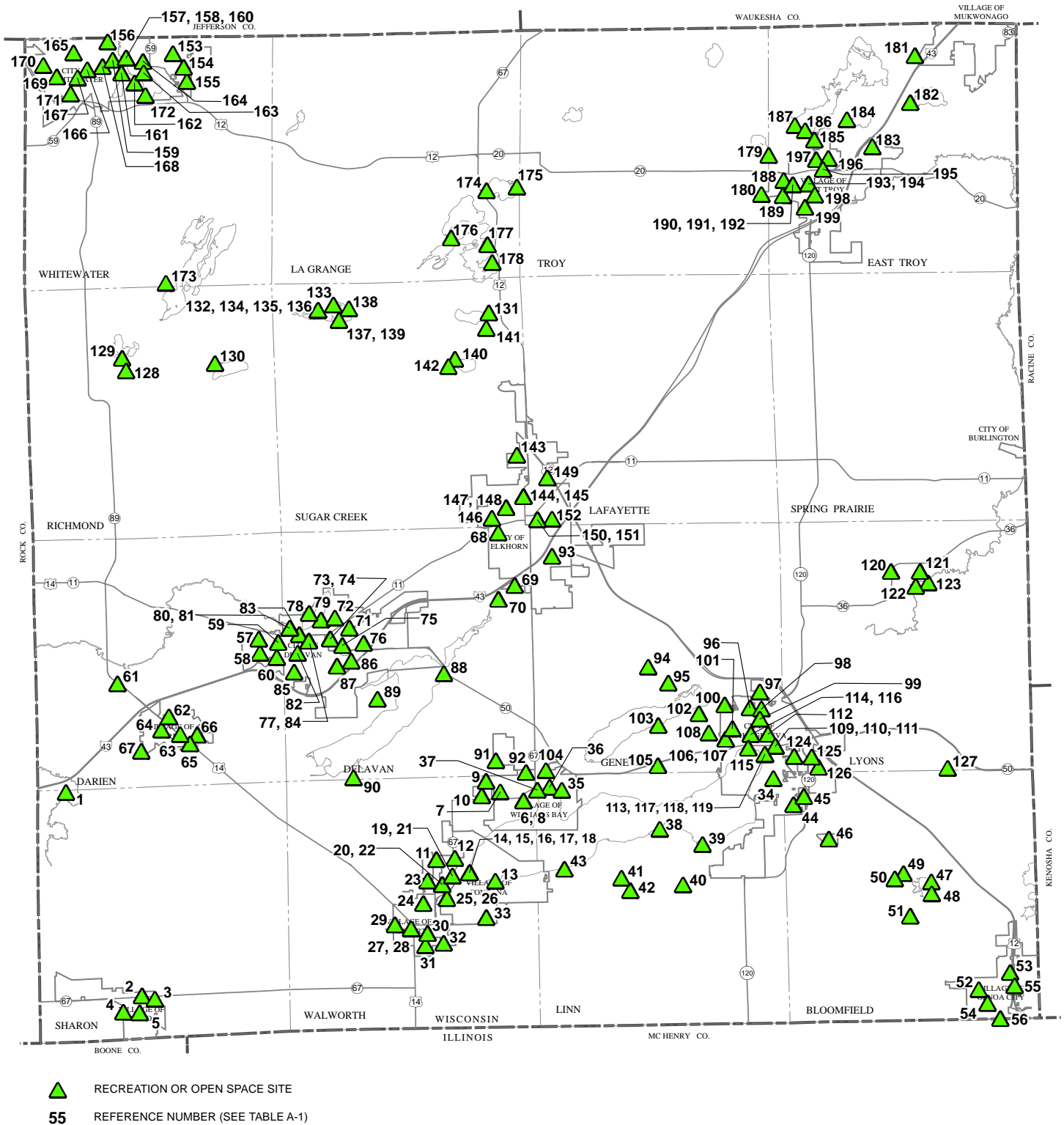


Table A-1

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

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
1	Allens Grove Park	06	011506	2
2	Goodland Memorial Park	05	011533	10
3	Sharon Community School	08	011533	3
4	Ray-Mar Lions Memorial Park	05	011533	4
5	Veterans Memorial Park	05	011533	1
6	Frost Park	05	011601	1
7	Baywood Heights Park	05	011601	2
8	Williams Bay Elementary School	08	011601	3
9	Prairie View Subdivision Park	05	011602	1
10	Williams Bay High School/Junior High	08	011602	24
11	Duck Pond Recreation Area	05	011610	109
12	Triangle	05	011611	3
13	Mohr Public Park	05	011614	1
14	Fontana Beach	05	011614	13
15	Fontana Marine Service	05	011614	1
16	Reid Park	05	011614	1
17	Boat Access	05	011614	1
18	Pioneer Park	05	011614	1
19	Hildebrand Conservancy	05	011615	15
20	Headwaters Park	05	011615	2
21	Porter Court Plaza	05	011615	1
22	Fontana School	08	011615	4
23	Big Foot Nature Study Area	05	011615	16
24	Badger Park	05	011615	8
25	Village of Fontana Park	05	011615	1
26	Fontana Fen	05	011615	11
27	Heyer Park	05	011621	1
28	Walworth School	08	011621	3
29	Toynton Park	05	011621	4
30	Devils Lane Park	05	011622	4
31	Big Foot High School	08	011622	26
32	Rotary Park	05	011622	3
33	HWY B	05	011623	31
34	Rushwood Park	04	011701	2
35	East Park	05	011706	1
36	Williams Bay Beach	05	011706	6
37	Edgewater Park	05	011706	2
38	Linn Pier	06	011709	1
39	Hillside Drive Boat Access	06	011711	1
40	Traver School	08	011715	4
41	Reek School	08	011716	4
42	Town of Linn Nature Park	06	011716	161
43	Shadow Lane Park	06	011718	1
44	Badger High School	08	011806	43
45	Lake Geneva Middle School	08	011806	16
46	Four Seasons Nature Preserve	04	011807	67

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
47	Subdivision Park	06	011815	1
48	Subdivision Park	06	011815	4
49	Star Center School	08	011816	4
50	McKay Park	06	011816	14
51	Bloomfield Community Park	06	011821	3
52	Genoa City Veteran's Memorial Park	05	011835	11
53	Genoa City Middle School	08	011835	10
54	Brookwood School	08	011835	3
55	Dr. Miller Park	05	011836	18
56	Anders Park	05	011836	1
57	W. Gordon Yadon Park	04	021513	13
58	Turtle Creek Elementary School	08	021513	6
59	Delavan-Darien High School	08	021513	29
60	Phoenix School	08	021513	27
61	McCarthy School Park	06	021520	2
62	Salas Park	05	021527	1
63	Bruce Park	05	021527	1
64	Village of Darien West Park	06	021527	23
65	Wildwood Park	05	021527	24
66	Darien Elementary School	08	021527	4
67	Town Hall Park	06	021533	1
68	Sunset Park	04	021601	26
69	Rotary Soccer Complex	04	021612	19
70	Town of Delavan Land	06	021612	135
71	Deckert Park	04	021617	1
72	Ray Court Park	04	021617	1
73	Latimer Park	04	021617	1
74	Gormley Park	04	021617	1
75	Wileman School	08	021617	10
76	Congdon Park	04	021617	28
77	Tower Park	04	021618	1
78	Paul Lange/Ora Rice Arboretums	04	021618	27
79	Robert H. Miller Park/Ned Hollister Conservatory	04	021618	12
80	Veteran's Memorial Park	04	021618	48
81	Horton Park	04	021618	3
82	Springs Park	04	021618	33
83	Terrace Park	04	021618	9
84	Phoenix Park	04	021618	3
85	Delbrook Golf Course	04	021619	216
86	Delavan Fest Park	04	021620	9
87	Lauterbach Park	04	021620	8
88	Town of Delavan Community Park	06	021622	16
89	Cummings Park	06	021628	2
90	Kirkpatrick Memorial Park	06	021632	4
91	Theater Road Athletic Field	05	021636	17
92	Lions Athletic Field/Grandview Hill	05	021636	34
93	"Babe" Mann Park	04	021706	51
94	Charlotte Peterson Park	06	021721	1

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
95	Korona Park	06	021722	1
96	Oak Hill Tot Lot	04	021725	1
97	Stoneridge Park	04	021725	2
98	Olive Longland Park	04	021725	1
99	Moss Park	04	021725	1
100	Edgewood Subdivision Park	04	021726	3
101	Price-Freemont Park	04	021726	5
102	Duck Lake Nature Trail	06	021727	18
103	Town Boat Access	06	021727	1
104	Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy	05	021731	222
105	Woods School	08	021733	2
106	Westgate Tot Lot	04	021735	1
107	Water Tower Open Space	04	021735	3
108	Cobb Park	04	021735	5
109	Mill Park	04	021736	1
110	Potowatomi Trail	04	021736	3
111	Donian Park	04	021736	4
112	Eastview Grade School and Eastview Park	08	021736	17
113	Flat Iron Park	04	021736	2
114	Maple Park	04	021736	3
115	Library Park	04	021736	7
116	Denison School	08	021736	1
117	City Boat Access	04	021736	1
118	Seminary Park	04	021736	3
119	Baker Park	04	021736	1
120	Town Park	06	021809	5
121	Town Park	06	021810	1
122	Lyons School	08	021810	7
123	Riverview Park	06	021810	14
124	Hillmoor Heights	04	021831	13
125	Business Park	04	021831	6
126	Veterans Park	04	021831	38
127	Lake Ivanhoe Town Park	06	021834	4
128	Richmond Community Park	06	031509	6
129	Boat Access	06	031509	1
130	Town of Richmond Boat Landing at Turtle Lake	06	031511	1
131	Town of Sugar Creek Boat Launch	06	031601	1
132	T/Sugar Creek Community Beach-North Lake	06	031605	1
133	T/Sugar Creek Community Park-North Lake	06	031605	1
134	Town Land	06	031605	1
135	Town Land	06	031605	1
136	Town Open Space	06	031605	1
137	Boat Launch	06	031605	1
138	North Lake Subdivision Park	06	031605	1
139	Town Land	06	031605	1
140	Town Land	06	031611	1
141	Tibbets Community School	08	031612	3
142	Town Land	06	021614	1

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
143	Northwest Basin	04	031625	7
144	North Broad Street Park	04	031626	1
145	Tasch Park	06	031636	2
146	Temnitz Park	04	031636	3
147	Lakeland Special School	08	031636	4
148	Westside School	08	031636	5
149	Market Street Park	04	031730	2
150	Harris Park	04	031731	11
151	Elkhorn Area Middle School	08	031731	3
152	Elkhorn Area High School	08	031731	37
153	Moraine View Park	04	041503	43
154	Trailhead Park	04	041503	1
155	East Gate Park	04	041503	2
156	Starin Park	04	041504	37
157	Brewery Hill Park	04	041504	3
158	Mill Race Park	04	041504	1
159	Birge Fountain Park	04	041504	1
160	Main Street Shoppes Courtyard	04	041504	1
161	Cravath Lakefront Park	06	041504	4
162	Trippe Park	04	041504	24
163	Clay Street Nature Park	04	041504	1
164	Washington Elementary	08	041504	7
165	Ward Park	04	041505	3
166	Lincoln Elementary School	08	041505	5
167	Whitewater Middle School	08	041505	23
168	Big Brick Park	08	041505	1
169	Turtle Mound Park	04	041506	1
170	Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve	04	041506	16
171	Whitewater High School	08	041508	60
172	Minneiska Park	04	041509	21
173	Lakeview School	08	041534	7
174	Town Park and Lake Access	06	041624	4
175	Pleasant Lake Boat Access	06	041624	1
176	Green Lake Access	06	041626	3
177	LaGrange Lauderdale Launch	06	041636	1
178	Lauderdale Lakes Country Club	06	041636	55
179	Booth Lake Memorial Park	05	041724	14
180	Prairie View School	08	041725	10
181	Jim Brynes Memorial Park	06	041803	24
182	Potters Lake Conservancy	06	041810	27
183	Village Land	05	041816	7
184	Salvation Army Park	06	041817	63
185	Lake Bluff	05	041817	34
186	Public Boat Access	06	041818	1
187	East Troy Nature Park	06	041818	1
188	East Troy High School	08	041819	32
189	East Troy Middle School	08	041819	15
190	Rossmiller Sports Complex and Skate Park	05	041819	9

**Table A-1 (continued)**

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
191	Mitchell Park	05	041819	15
192	Playmore Park	05	041819	4
193	East Troy Elementary School	08	041819	4
194	Chester Byrnes Elementary School	08	041819	1
195	Lynndale Playground	05	041820	1
196	Pullium Nature Area	05	041820	12
197	West Kettle Nature Area	05	041820	9
198	East Troy Village Square	05	041829	1
199	Mill Pond Park	05	041830	30
- -	Total: 199 Sites	- -	- -	2,670

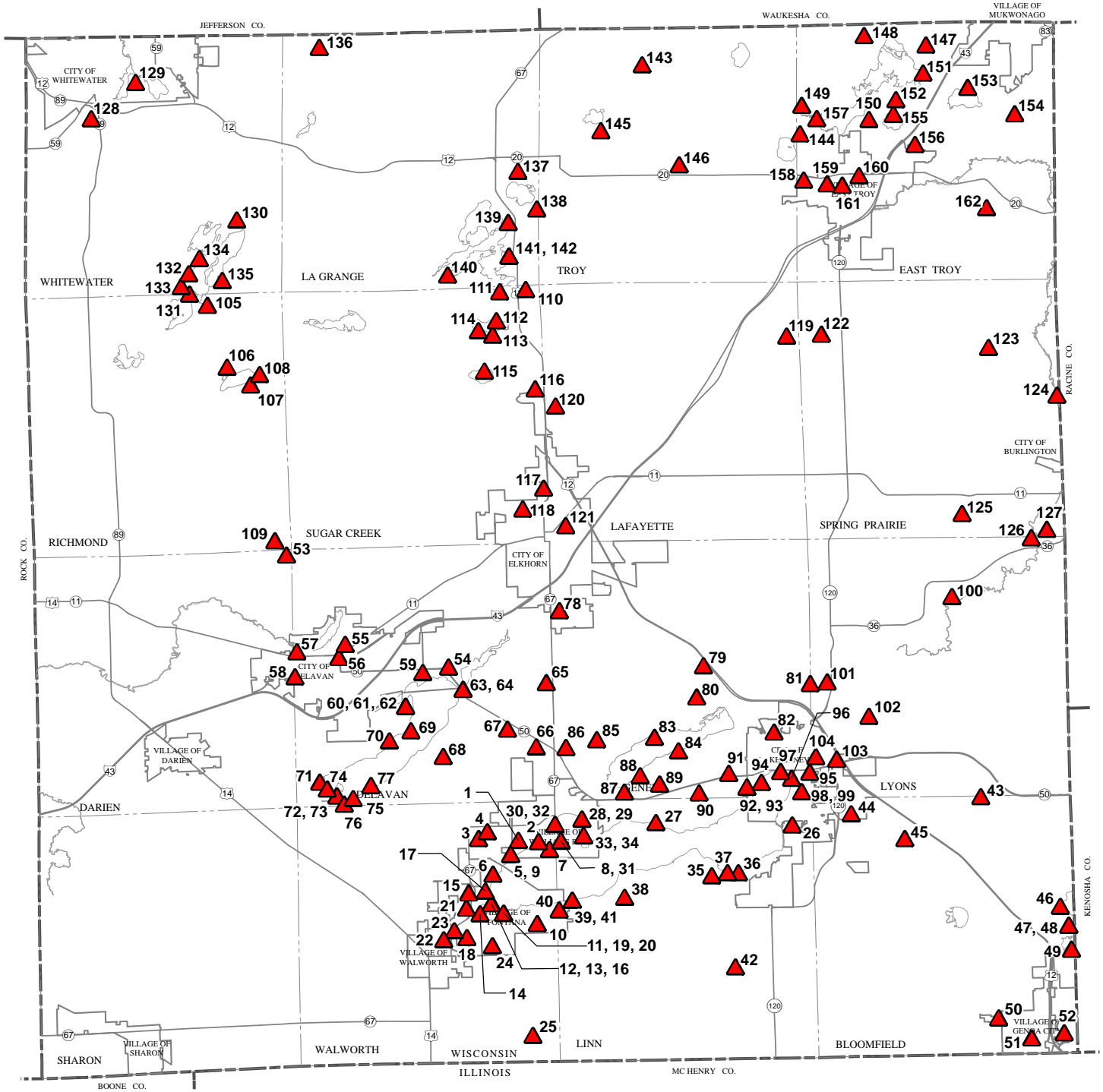
<sup>a</sup>The ownership code numbers signify the following: 04-City, 05-Village, 06-Town, and 08-School District.

<sup>b</sup>The 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 WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010



RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE SITE

12

REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE A-2)

Source: SEWRPC.

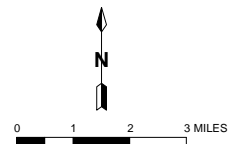


Table A-2

## PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2010

Number on Map A-2	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
1	Aurora University	12	011601	176
2	Wesley Woods Conference Center	10	011601	17
3	Inspiration Center	10	011602	140
4	Faith Christian School	10	011602	15
5	Holiday Home Camp	10	011611	26
6	Belvadere Park	12	011611	3
7	Conference Point Camp	10	011612	24
8	Congress Club	12	011612	1
9	Norman B. Barr Camp	10	011612	5
10	Abbey Springs Country Club	12	011613	269
11	Indian Hills	12	011614	1
12	Jerry's Marine	11	011614	1
13	Gordy's Marine	11	011614	1
14	The Abbey	11	011614	76
15	Myron Audino	12	011614	6
16	Chuck's Lakeshore Inn	12	011614	1
17	Buena Vista	12	011614	11
18	Big Foot Country Club	12	011614	200
19	Glenwood Springs	12	011614	5
20	Club Unique	12	011614	2
21	Frog Hollow Miniature Golf	11	011615	1
22	South Pines Golf Range	11	011615	29
23	Abbey Hill	12	011615	6
24	Country Club Estates Golf Course	11	011623	114
25	Ugly Horse Ranch	11	011636	40
26	Lake Geneva Youth Club	10	011701	42
27	Elgin Club	12	011704	1
28	Oak Grove Park	12	011706	3
29	Subdivision Park	12	011706	1
30	Summerhaven Subdivision Park	12	011706	1
31	Loch Vista Club	12	011706	1
32	Oakwood Launch	12	011706	1
33	Walnut Grove Park	12	011706	4
34	Birch Grove Park	12	011706	3
35	Lake Geneva Country Club	11	011710	122
36	Emma Fleck Memorial Park	12	011711	1
37	Lake Geneva Beach	12	011711	1
38	Majestic Hills Subdivision	12	011717	161
39	Geneva Lake Boat Company	11	011718	5
40	Clearsky Lodge	12	011718	2
41	Lake Geneva Yacht Club	12	011718	3
42	Big Foot Archers, Inc.	10	011723	40
43	Lake Ivanhoe Property Owner's Park	12	011803	1
44	Lake Geneva Raceways	11	011806	107
45	Lakewood Golf Club	12	011809	323
46	Harbor Lite	11	011813	1
47	Oakland Manor Estates	11	011813	4

Table A-2 (continued)

Number on Map A-2	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
48	Private Boat Launch	12	011824	1
49	Nippersink Manor Golf Course	11	011824	8 <sup>c</sup>
50	Recreation Camp	12	011835	75
51	Prime Park	11	011835	11
52	Krisik Park	10	011836	17
53	Delavan Sportsman's Club	12	021501	40
54	Playfield	12	021615	1
55	Delavan Christian Reformed Church/School	10	021617	4
56	St. Andrew's School	10	021617	3
57	Wisconsin School for the Deaf	10	021618	28
58	Our Redeemer Lutheran School	10	021618	8
59	Lake Lawn Lodge	11	021621	251
60	Delavan Assembly Grounds Park	12	021621	7
61	Subdivision Park Tot Lot	12	021621	1
62	Kelly Park	12	021621	1
63	Reed's Marina	11	021622	1
64	Sportsman's Park	11	021622	1
65	Fantasy Hills Stable	11	021624	66
66	Delavan Animal Park	11	021625	39
67	Pines Par 3	11	021626	9
68	Delmar Town Park	12	021627	4
69	Delavan Lake Yacht Club	12	021628	3
70	Delavan Lake Marina	11	021628	1
71	Subdivision Park	12	021631	24
72	House-in-the-Woods Camp	10	021631	21
73	Highlands Subdivision Park	12	021631	4
74	Ravenswood Subdivision Park	12	021631	2
75	Commercial Lake Access	11	021632	1
76	Commercial Lake Access	11	021632	1
77	South Shore Manor Subdivision	12	021632	1
78	Four Lakes Athletic Club	11	021707	9
79	Horse Riding Stable	11	021715	10
80	Royal Glen Woodland Park	12	021722	8
81	Hawk's View Golf Course	11	021724	307
82	First Evangelical Lutheran School	10	021725	4
83	Property Owner's Association Parklands	12	021728	9
84	Schroeder's Resort	11	021728	3
85	Geneva National Resort Golf Course	12	021729	1,545
86	Horse Riding Stable	11	021730	107
87	Interlaken Resort	11	021732	79
88	Mars Resort	11	021733	1
89	Sunset Hills Subdivision Park	12	021733	1
90	Lake Geneva YMCA Camp	10	021734	63
91	Horse Riding Stable	11	021735	2
92	Covenant Harbor Bible Camp/Retreat Center	10	021735	37
93	Snake Road Adventure Center	11	021735	13
94	Lake Geneva Manor Association Park	12	021735	1
95	St. Francis School	10	021736	4

Table A-2 (continued)

Number on Map A-2	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
96	Marina Bay Boat Rentals	11	021736	2
97	Leatherlips Watersports	11	021736	1
98	Par T Miniature Golf	11	021736	1
99	Paradise Golf Park	11	021736	2
100	St. Joseph's School	10	021810	1
101	Mt. Zion School	10	021819	15
102	Grand Geneva Spa and Resort	11	021829	1,163
103	Home Depot Park	11	021831	8
104	Hillmoor Golf Club	11	021831	116
105	Scenic Ridge Campground	11	031502	83
106	Snug Harbor Campground	11	031511	58
107	McIntyre's Resort	11	031513	3
108	Turtle Inn	11	031513	2
109	Turtle Creek Sportsman Club	12	031536	130
110	Charl-Mar Playground	12	031601	3
111	Subdivision Park	12	031601	1
112	Lake Wandewega Community Park	12	031602	11
113	Lake Wandewega Subdivision Park	12	031611	1
114	Interlaken Property Owners Assn. Park	12	031611	1
115	Interlaken Subdivision Park	12	031611	7
116	Willow Creek Resort	12	031613	77
117	Subdivision Park	12	031625	12
118	St. Patrick Parish School	10	031636	8
119	Alpine Valley Resort	11	031712	581
120	Evergreen Country Club	11	031718	193
121	Walworth County Fairgrounds	11	031731	105
122	Happy Hollow Girl Scout Camp	10	031807	280
123	Deer Trail Hunting Club	10	031811	216
124	Honey Lake North Beach	12	031813	4
125	Meadowlark Acres	11	031834	63
126	Wings Over Wisconsin	10	031836	100
127	Burlington Land Trust	10	031836	153
128	Whitewater Country Club	11	041508	79
129	Whitewater Christian Academy	10	041509	2
130	Camp Joy Baptist Camp	10	041526	45
131	JNT's Marina	11	041534	1
132	Oak Terrace Resort	11	041534	2
133	Krahn Dr. Access	12	041534	1
134	Parkside Marina	11	041535	3
135	Scattered Oaks Subdivision Beach	12	041535	1
136	Rainbow Springs Trout Farm	11	041606	20
137	Juniper Knoll Camp	10	041624	186
138	Camp Pottowattomie Hills	10	041625	111
139	Lutherdale Camp	10	041625	52
140	Cool Hill Park	12	041634	1
141	Lauderdale Marina	11	041636	2
142	Sterlingworth	11	041636	4
143	Chapman Hills Camp	10	041704	112

**Table A-2 (continued)**

Number on Map A-2	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
144	Camp Alice Chester	10	041713	345
145	Timber Lee Church Camp	10	041717	467
146	Badger Girl Scout Camp	10	041722	77
147	Lake Beulah Country Club	11	041804	191
148	Burr Oaks-Beber Camp	10	041805	297
149	Triangle Sportsman's Club	10	041807	40
150	Society of Divine Word Seminary	10	041808	189
151	Dockside Grog and Gally	11	041809	5
152	Camp Edwards	10	041809	123
153	Miramar Beach	11	041811	1
154	Southeastern Rod and Gun Club	10	041813	50
155	Salvation Army Camp	10	041816	206
156	Skyknights Parachute Club	11	041816	4
157	Fred's Tap Boat Rental	11	041818	1
158	Good Shepherd Elementary School	10	041819	1
159	St. Peter's School	10	041819	6
160	St. Paul's Elementary School	10	041820	3
161	East Troy Trolley Museum	11	041820	1
162	Sally's Marsh Hunting Club	11	041826	220
--	Total : 162 Sites	--	--	11,085

<sup>a</sup>The ownership code numbers signify the following: 10-Organizational; 11-Commercial; 12-Private.

<sup>b</sup>The location numbers represent the U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range and Section numbers in which the site is located.

<sup>c</sup>Walworth County portion only; total site area is 140 acres.

Source: SEWRPC.

(This page intentionally left blank)

**Appendix B**

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

(This page intentionally left blank)

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

## **OBJECTIVE NO. 1**

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

### **PRINCIPLE**

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

### **A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES**

### **PRINCIPLE**

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

### **STANDARDS**

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

Site Type	Size (gross acres)	Publicly Owned Park and School Sites							
		Parks				Schools <sup>a</sup>			
		Minimum per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) <sup>d</sup>	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) <sup>b</sup>		Minimum per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) <sup>f</sup>	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) <sup>c</sup>	
				Urban <sup>e</sup>	Rural			Urban <sup>e</sup>	Rural
I <sup>g</sup> 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 <sup>h</sup>	10.0	10.0	--	--	--	--
II <sup>i</sup> 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 <sup>h</sup>	4.0 <sup>j</sup>	10.0 <sup>j</sup>	--	--	--	--
III <sup>k</sup> 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 <sup>h</sup>	2.0 <sup>j</sup>	--	0.9	Playfield, baseball diamond, softball diamond, tennis court,	0.5-1.0 <sup>m</sup>	--
IV <sup>n</sup>	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 <sup>h</sup>	0.5-1.0 <sup>o</sup>	--	1.6	Playfield, playground, baseball diamond, softball diamond, tennis court, basketball goal	0.5-1.0 <sup>m</sup>	--

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

### **B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE**

### **PRINCIPLE**

Effective satisfaction of recreation demands within the County cannot be accomplished solely by providing public general use outdoor recreation sites. Certain recreational pursuits such as hiking, biking, pleasure driving, and ski touring are best provided for through a system of recreation corridors located on or adjacent to linear resource-oriented open space lands. A well designed system of recreation corridors

offered as an integral part of linear open space lands can also serve to physically connect existing and proposed public parks, thus forming a truly integrated park and recreation related open space system. Such open space lands, in addition, satisfy the human need for natural surroundings, serve to protect the natural resource base, and ensure that many scenic areas and areas of natural, cultural, or historic interest assume their proper place as form determinants for both existing and future land use patterns.

## STANDARDS

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

1. A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation related open space consisting of linear recreation corridors<sup>p</sup> 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 <sup>a</sup>				Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles) <sup>f</sup>
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 <sup>s</sup>	Types II, III and IV general use site	2.8 acres per diamond	Parking (30 spaces per diamond) Night lighting <sup>l</sup> Concessions and bleachers <sup>l</sup> Buffer and landscape	0.28 acre per diamond -- 0.02 acre minimum 1.40 acres per diamond	4.5	2.0
Basketball	Goal	Public Nonpublic Total	0.91 0.22 1.13	Type IV general use site	0.07 acre per goal	--	--	0.07	0.5
Ice-Skating	Rink	Public Nonpublic Total	0.15 <sup>u</sup> -- 0.15	Type IV general use site	0.30 acre per rink minimum	Warming house	0.05 acre	0.35 minimum	0.5
Soccer Fields or Play Fields	Playfield	Public Nonpublic Total	0.39 0.11 0.50	Type IV general use site	1.0 acre per playfield minimum	Buffer area	0.65 acre minimum	1.65 minimum	0.5
Playground Activities	Playground	Public Nonpublic Total	0.35 0.07 0.42	Type IV general use site	0.25 acre per playground minimum	Buffer and landscape	0.37 acre	0.62 minimum	0.5
Softball	Diamond	Public Nonpublic Total	0.53 0.07 0.60	Type II, III, and IV general use site	1.70 acre per diamond	Parking (20 spaces per diamond) Nighttime lighting <sup>l</sup> Buffer	0.18 acre per diamond -- 0.80 acre per diamond	2.68	1.0
Swimming	Pool	Public Nonpublic Total	0.015 <sup>v</sup> -- 0.015	Type II and III general use site	0.13 acre per pool minimum	Bathhouse and concessions Parking (400 square feet per space) Buffer and landscaping	0.13 acre minimum 0.26 acre minimum 0.70 acre minimum	1.22 minimum	3.0 3.0
Tennis	Court	Public Nonpublic Total	0.50 0.10 0.60	Type II, III, and IV general use site	0.15 acre per court	Parking (2.0 spaces per court) Nighttime lighting <sup>l</sup> Buffer	0.02 acre per court -- 0.15 acre per court	0.32	1.0

### OBJECTIVE NO. 3

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

#### PRINCIPLE

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

#### STANDARD

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

Minimum per Capita Facility Requirement <sup>w</sup>					Design Standards						Service Radius of Facility (miles) <sup>x</sup>	
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	0.35		Type I and II general use sites	0.33 acre per campsite	Rest rooms-showers	--	1.83	Ungrazed wooded area	25.0	
		Nonpublic	1.47				Utility hookups	--				
		Total	1.82				Natural area backup lands	1.5 acres per campsite				Presence of surface water
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public	0.013		Type I and II general use sites	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking maintenance	8.0 acres per course	185.0	Suitable topography and soils	10.0	
		Nonpublic	0.027				Practice area	5.0 acres per course				Presence of surface water
		Total	0.040				Woodland or water areas	35.0 acres per course				Form-giving vegetation desirable
Picnicking	Tables	Public	6.35 <sup>y</sup>		Type I, II, III, and IV general use sites	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking	0.02 acre per table (1.5 space per table)	0.11	Topography with scenic views	10.0	
		Nonpublic	2.39					--				Shade trees
		Total	8.74				Shelters and grills	0.02 acre per table				Presence of surface water desirable
Skiing	Developed slope (acres)	Public	0.010		Type I, II, III general use sites	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet	0.13 acre minimum	2.1	Suitable topography and soils (20 percent slope minimum)	25.0	
		Nonpublic	0.090				Parking	0.25 acre per acre of slope				North or northeast exposure
		Total	0.100				Ski tows (and lights)	0.40 acre per acre of slope				
							Buffer and maintenance	0.40 acre per acre of slope				
							Landscape	0.35 acre per acre of slope				
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	0.2 acre per acre of beach	- <sup>z</sup>	Natural beach	10.0	
			6	16			Bathhouse-concessions	0.10 acre minimum				
			12	--			Buffer areas	10 square feet per linear foot				
			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 <sup>dd</sup>			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	-- <sup>bb</sup> 0.16	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	-- 1.45	Route markers Backup lands with resource amenities	-- 24.2	-- Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography (5 percent slope average maximum) and soils
Hiking	Trail	0.16	Recreation corridor	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Horseback Riding	Trail	0.05	Recreation corridor Type I general use site	1.21	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Nature Study	Center	1 per county	Type I, II, III general use sites	--	Interpretive center building Parking	--	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils
	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Type I, II, III general use sites	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils
Pleasure Driving	Route	-- <sup>cc</sup>	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

- 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*.
- Access sites providing parking should be provided on major streams throughout the County. The maximum interval between access points on major canoeable streams<sup>dd</sup> 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<sup>ee</sup> 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 Walworth County.

### **STANDARDS**

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

## **OBJECTIVE NO. 7**

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

### **PRINCIPLE**

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

### **STANDARD**

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

## Footnotes to Appendix B

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

<sup>b</sup>The 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.

<sup>c</sup>The 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.

<sup>d</sup>For 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.

<sup>e</sup>Urban 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.

<sup>f</sup>For 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.

<sup>g</sup>Type 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.

<sup>h</sup>A 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.

<sup>i</sup>Type 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.

<sup>j</sup>In 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.

<sup>k</sup>Type 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.

<sup>l</sup>In 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.

<sup>m</sup>The 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.

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

<sup>o</sup>The 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.

<sup>p</sup>A 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.

<sup>q</sup>Facilities 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.

<sup>r</sup>For 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.

<sup>s</sup>Each urban area having a population of 2,500 or greater should have at least one baseball diamond.

<sup>t</sup>Support 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.

<sup>u</sup>Each urban area should have at least one ice-skating rink.

<sup>v</sup>Each urban area having a population of 7,500 or greater should have one public swimming pool or beach.

<sup>w</sup>Facilities 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.

<sup>x</sup>Participants 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.

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

<sup>z</sup>A 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.

<sup>aa</sup>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.

<sup>bb</sup>Bike routes are located on existing public roadways; therefore, no requirement is indicated.

<sup>cc</sup>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.

<sup>dd</sup>Major canoeable streams are defined as those streams which have a minimum width of 50 feet over a distance of at least 10 miles.

<sup>ee</sup>Biodiversity refers to the number and abundance of animal and plant species, their genetic composition and variability, and the ecological connection between and among species.

Source: SEWRPC.

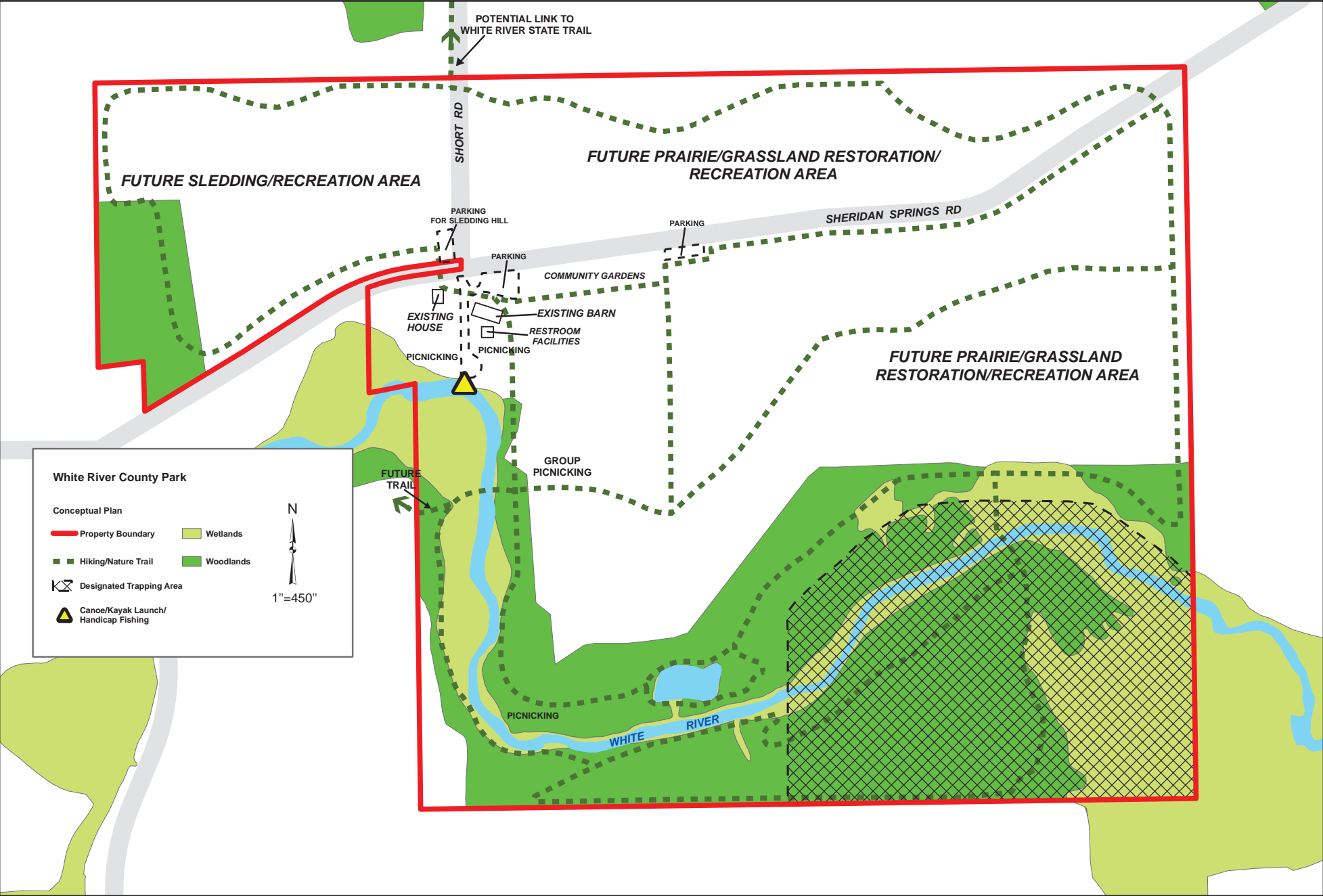
(This page intentionally left blank)

**Appendix C**

**CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
FOR WHITE RIVER COUNTY PARK**

(This page intentionally left blank)

Figure C



(This page intentionally left blank)

**Appendix D**

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

(This page intentionally left blank)

**Resolution No. 88-03/14**  
**Adopting the Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County 2035**

Moved/Sponsored by: Park Committee

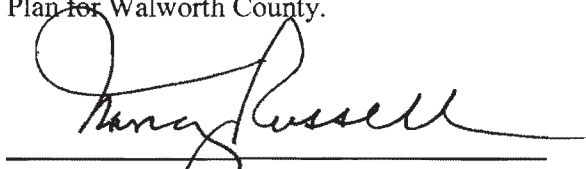
**WHEREAS**, Walworth County requested that the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) assist the County in the preparation of a new park and open space plan for the year 2035; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Walworth County Park Committee has prepared, with the assistance of SEWRPC, a park and open space plan for Walworth County for the year 2035, said plan being embodied in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County; and,

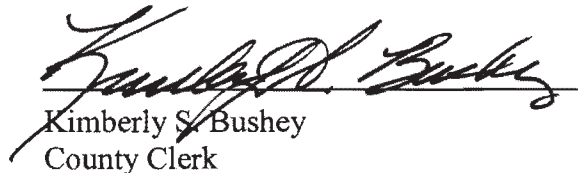
**WHEREAS**, SEWRPC conducted public information meetings on April 17, 2013 in the Village of East Troy and the City of Whitewater to present the Plan and receive public comment and input concerning the Plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Walworth County Parks Committee at its meeting on February 17, 2014, acted to recommend to the Walworth County Board of Supervisors adoption of the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan as set forth in the aforementioned SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County.



Nancy Russell  
County Board Chair



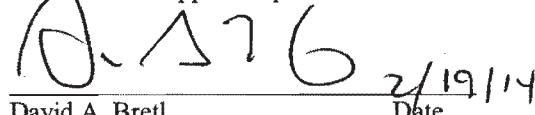
Kimberly S. Bushey  
County Clerk

Action Required: Majority X Two-thirds \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

County Board Meeting Date: March 11, 2014

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.

Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:



David A. Bretl  
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

Date



Nicole Andersen  
Deputy County Administrator - Finance

Date

This Resolution Ordinance was:

Adopted; Roll Call/U.C. Voice

Rejected/Referred/Laid Over

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Noes: \_\_\_\_\_ Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date March 11, 2014

**Policy and Fiscal Note**  
**Resolution No. 88-03/14**

- I. Title:** Adopting the Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County 2035
- II. Purpose and Policy Impact Statement:** The purpose of this resolution is to adopt the Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County 2035.
- III. Budget and Fiscal Impact:** Passage of this resolution will have no immediate fiscal impact on the county budget. Adoption of the Plan, however, will allow the County to apply for future federal and state grants that may become available for park and open space acquisition and development.
- IV. Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:**

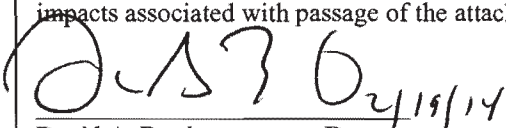
Committee: Park Committee


Meeting Date: February 17, 2014

Vote: 3-0

County Board Meeting Date: March 11, 2014

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David A. Bretl                      Date  
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Andersen                      Date  
Deputy County Administrator - Finance