

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE

RACINE COUNTY WISCONSIN

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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING REPORT
NUMBER 271

**A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
FOR THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
RACINE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Prepared by the

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
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July 2003

Inside Region \$ 5.00
Outside Region \$10.00

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Chapter I—INTRODUCTION	1	Prime Agricultural Lands	22
Plan Context	1	Summary	23
Village Request	2		
Advisory Committee	2	Chapter III—FRAMEWORK FOR	
Planning Area	2	PLAN DEVELOPMENT	25
Report Format.....	2	Plans Affecting the Village Park	
		and Open Space Plan	25
Chapter II—INVENTORY FINDINGS	5	Village of Union Grove	
Introduction	5	Comprehensive Plan	25
Resident Population.....	5	Parks and Recreation Assessment.....	26
Land Use Base.....	5	Village of Union Grove and	
Park and Open Space Sites	7	Environs Sewer Service Area Plan	26
Existing Park and Open Space Sites	7	County and Regional Plans.....	27
Village of Union Grove Park System.....	10	Regional and County Park	
18th Avenue Park.....	10	and Open Space Plans	27
American Legion Memorial Park	10	Regional Natural Areas Plan	27
Bufton Park	10	Objectives, Principles, and Standards	28
Groves Subdivision Park.....	11	Park and Open Space Needs	28
Indian Trail Park	11	Forecast Population	28
Joseph Leider Memorial Park	12	Community and Neighborhood Parks.....	29
Lauer Wildlife Preserve	12	Site Needs Based on	
Village Square.....	12	Per Capita Standards.....	29
Well #3 Park	12	Site Needs Based on	
Racine County Parks	13	Service Area Standards.....	30
Trail Facilities	14	Facility Needs Based on	
Natural Resource Features.....	14	Per Capital Standards	30
Surface Water Resources	14	Facility Needs Based on	
Wetlands.....	16	Service Area Standards.....	33
Woodlands.....	17	Baseball Diamonds.....	33
Environmental Corridors and		Basketball Goals.....	33
Isolated Natural Resource Areas	17	Playfields.....	33
Primary Environmental Corridors.....	18	Playgrounds.....	33
Secondary Environmental Corridors.....	18	Soccer Fields	33
Isolated Natural Resource Areas.....	20	Softball Diamonds (League)	33
Natural Areas and Critical		Tennis Courts	33
Species Habitat Sites	20	Other Site and Facility Need Considerations....	41

	Page		Page
Open Space Preservation Needs	41	Bicycle and Pedestrian	
Summary	41	Route and Trail System	53
Chapter IV—PARK AND		Plan Implementation	53
OPEN SPACE PLAN	43	Wisconsin Department	
Introduction	43	of Natural Resources.....	53
Areawide Park and		Wisconsin Department	
Open Space Recommendations	44	of Transportation	54
Major Parks and Trail Facilities	44	Racine County	54
Open Space Preservation	46	Village of Union Grove	54
Primary Environmental Corridors	46	Plan Costs	55
Secondary Environmental Corridors	46	Summary	55
Isolated Natural Resource Areas	46	Chapter V—SUMMARY	57
Natural Areas	46	Inventory Findings	57
Village Park and		Park and Open Space Objectives, Principles,	
Open Space Recommendations	48	and Standards and Needs Analysis	58
Proposed New Park		Adopted Plan.....	59
Sites and Facilities.....	49	Areawide Park and	
Additional Development		Open Space Recommendations	59
at Existing Village Parks	51	Open Space Preservation	59
Additional Recommendations	52	Village Park and	
Open Space Preservation.....	53	Open Space Recommendations	59

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
A Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Planning Objectives, Principles, and Standards	63
B Resolution of the Union Grove Village Board Adopting the 2020 Park and Open Space Plan for the Village.....	73

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
Chapter II	
1 Resident Population of the Village of Union Grove: 1900-2000	6
2 Existing Land Uses in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2000	8
3 Park and Open Space Sites in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2002	10
4 Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities for General Use in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2002	12
5 Village of Union Grove Park System: 2002	14
6 Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 1995	20
7 Natural Areas in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 1994	22

Table		Page
Chapter III		
8	Per Capita Acreage Requirements for Community and Neighborhood Parks in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area	30
9	Per Capita Requirements for Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area.....	32

Chapter IV

10	Existing and Proposed Ownership of Environmental Corridors in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area	48
11	Recommended Protection of Natural Areas in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area	49
12	Recommended Acquisition and Development at Proposed Park Sites in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area	51
13	Recommended Acquisition, Development, and Improvements at Existing or Proposed Park Sites in the Village of Union Grove: 2003-2007.....	52

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
Chapter II		
1	Historical Population Levels in the Village of Union Grove: 1900-2000	6

LIST OF MAPS

Map		Page
Chapter I		
1	Location of the Village of Union Grove Planning Area in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region.....	3
Chapter II		
2	Historical Urban Growth in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 1900-2000	7
3	Existing Land Uses in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2000	9
4	Existing Park and Open Space Sites in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2002.....	11
5	Village of Union Grove Park and Open Space Sites: 2002	13
6	Surface Water Drainage and Floodplains in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2000	15
7	Environmentally Significant Lands in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 1995	19
8	Natural Areas in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 1994	21
9	Prime Agricultural Lands and Environmentally Significant Lands in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2020	24
Chapter III		
10	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Union Grove Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Neighborhood Park.....	31
11	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Union Grove Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Baseball Diamond.....	34

Map		Page
12	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Union Grove Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Basketball Goal.....	35
13	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Union Grove Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Playfield.....	36
14	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Union Grove Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Playground.....	37
15	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Union Grove Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Soccer Field	38
16	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Union Grove Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a League Softball Diamond.....	39
17	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Union Grove Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Tennis Court	40
Chapter IV		
18	Outdoor Recreational Element of the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan: 2020	45
19	Open Space Preservation Plan for the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2020	47
20	Outdoor Recreation Plan for the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2020	50

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

PLAN CONTEXT

Broadly defined, recreation is an activity or experience undertaken solely for the pleasure or satisfaction derived from it. Recreation can be experienced indoors or outdoors and encompasses a wide variety of human activities and permits the opportunity for participation in many resource and nonresource-oriented activities. It includes both mental and physical exercise, personal enjoyment, enhances the quality of life, and includes various social, environmental, and economical benefits. Such benefits can improve physical health, contribute to mental well-being, protect biological communities, enhance air quality, provide attraction for tourism, make communities more desirable for development, and increase property values.

Although recreational preferences may vary from individual to individual, recreation occupies a necessary and significant place in every person's life. For the purpose of this report, recreation will be viewed in a narrower framework as including only those recreational activities typically carried on outdoors.

The intent of the park and open space plan for the Village of Union Grove is to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land for park, outdoor recreation, and related open space purposes as needed to satisfy the recreational needs of Village residents and to protect and enhance the important natural resources within the Village and the remaining planning area. The plan seeks to provide a variety of recreational sites and facilities that will offer opportunities for Village residents to participate in an appropriate range of active and passive recreational pursuits.

Park and open space acquisition, development, and use have long been issues of concern to public officials and citizen leaders. On December 1, 1977, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, which identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommends a system of large resource-oriented parks, a regional trail system, smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, and attendant recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan was refined and detailed within Racine County through preparation of a park and open space plan for the County in 1988. An updated Racine County Park and Open Space Plan¹ was adopted by the County Board in May 2001. That plan, with a design year of 2020, was adopted as an amendment to the regional plan by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in December 2001.

¹*Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 2nd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, July 2001.*

VILLAGE REQUEST

The Village of Union Grove, in October 2001, requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist in the preparation of this Village park and open space plan. The plan identifies park and open space acquisition and development activities within the Village and recommends additional recreational sites or facilities that may be needed in the planning area. The plan is also intended to establish Village 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.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The planning process was conducted under the guidance of the Village of Union Grove Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission consists of government officials and citizens. A complete membership list of the Parks and Recreation Commission is provided on the inside front cover of this report.

PLANNING AREA

The planning area, as shown on Map 1, is located in the southern portion of Racine County and consists of the Village of Union Grove and portions of the Towns of Dover and Yorkville. The planning area is located in U.S. Public Land Survey Township 3 North and Ranges 20 and 21 East. The planning area encompasses 7,670 acres, or approximately 12 square miles. The Village of Union Grove encompasses 1,130 acres, or about two square miles, and about 15 percent of the planning area. The planning area is bounded on the north and east by the Town of Yorkville, on the north and west by the Town of Dover, and on the south by the Towns of Brighton and Paris in Kenosha County.

REPORT FORMAT

The findings and recommendations of the Village park and open space plan are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter II presents information about the planning area pertinent to park and open space planning, including information on the resident population, the land use pattern, and natural resources within the planning area. An inventory of existing park and open space sites and facilities within the planning area is also included in Chapter II. Chapter III sets forth the framework for plan development, including the forecast population and regional, county, and Village plans affecting the park system. Chapter III also presents the objectives, principles, and supporting standards which served as the basis for the needs analysis and the design of the park plan. The recommended park and open space plan is presented in Chapter IV. Chapter V presents a summary of the plan.

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Chapter II

INVENTORY FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

The proper formulation of a sound park and open space plan requires the collection of inventory data related to population and population distribution, the pattern of land use development, existing park and open space sites and facilities, and natural resources within the Village of Union Grove planning area. The inventory findings for the planning area are presented in this chapter.

RESIDENT POPULATION

Resident population levels are an important consideration in any park and open space planning effort. Data on the historical and existing resident population of the Village are presented in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1. As indicated in Table 1, the resident population of the Village of Union Grove has increased steadily since it was incorporated in 1893. Particularly rapid growth occurred in the period between 1940 and 1980, with over a 30 percent population increase in each of the four decades. The resident population level in 2000, based on U.S. Census data, was 4,322 persons, an increase of 653 persons, or about 18 percent, from 1990.

LAND USE BASE

Land use is an important determinant of both the supply of, and the demand for, outdoor recreation and related open space facilities. Accordingly, an understanding of the amount, type, and spatial distribution of urban and nonurban land uses within the planning area is an important consideration in this park and open space planning effort. This section presents a description of the historical urban development and the existing land use base within the planning area.

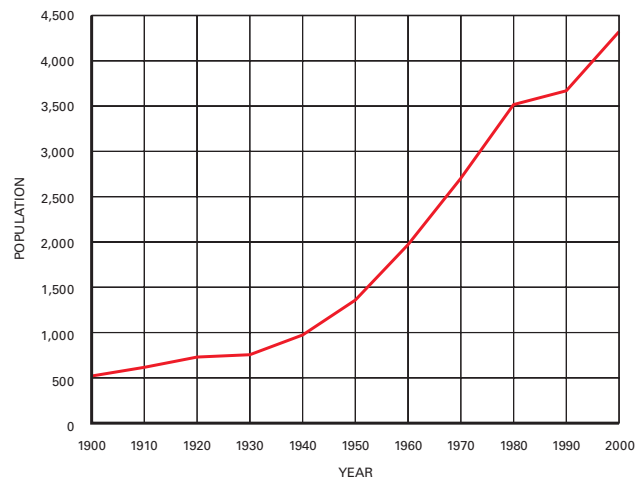
The historical pattern of urban growth in the Village of Union Grove planning area is shown on Map 2. This map identifies areas of the planning area where residential structures or other buildings have been constructed in relatively compact groups, thereby indicating concentrations of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, institutional, or other urban land uses. Development started in 1850 along Main Street (USH 45) just south of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Development occurred in a compact contiguous pattern outward from this area through 1950. In the period between 1951 and 1963, development increased dramatically throughout the Village as larger areas of land were developed. Development since 1963 has occurred in scattered locations on the outskirts of the Village. Since 1996, development has continued to occur on the outskirts of the Village with the majority of development occurring in the eastern and northern portions of the Village. Development has also occurred along STH 11, west of the Village's corporate limits.

Table 1**RESIDENT POPULATION OF
THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE: 1900-2000**

Year ^a	Population	Change from Preceding Census	
		Number	Percent
1900	520	--	--
1910	616	96	18.5
1920	729	113	18.3
1930	755	26	3.6
1940	973	218	28.9
1950	1,358	385	39.6
1960	1,970	612	45.1
1970	2,703	733	37.2
1980	3,517	814	30.1
1990	3,669	152	4.3
2000	4,322	653	17.8

^aThe Village of Union Grove was incorporated in 1893.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and SEWRPC.

Figure 1**HISTORICAL POPULATION LEVELS IN
THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE: 1900-2000**

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

Information on the amount of land devoted to the various types of land uses within the Village and planning area in 2000 is presented in Table 2 and shown on Map 3. In 2000, the Village of Union Grove encompassed 1,130 acres, or about two square miles. Residential uses occupied 354 acres, or about 31 percent of the total area within the Village, and about 46 percent of the developed portion of the Village. Other urban lands combined encompassed 420 acres, or about 37 percent of the total area within the Village, and about 54 percent of the developed portion of the Village. Thus, in 2000, 774 acres, or about 68 percent of the area within the Village, were in urban uses. Agricultural and other open lands accounted for 331 acres, or about 30 percent of the Village, and about 93 percent of the nonurban lands within the Village. Other nonurban land uses, including woodlands, wetlands, and surface water, together encompassed 25 acres, or about 2 percent of the Village, and about 7 percent of the nonurban lands within the Village. Thus, 356 acres, or about 32 percent of the Village, were in nonurban uses.

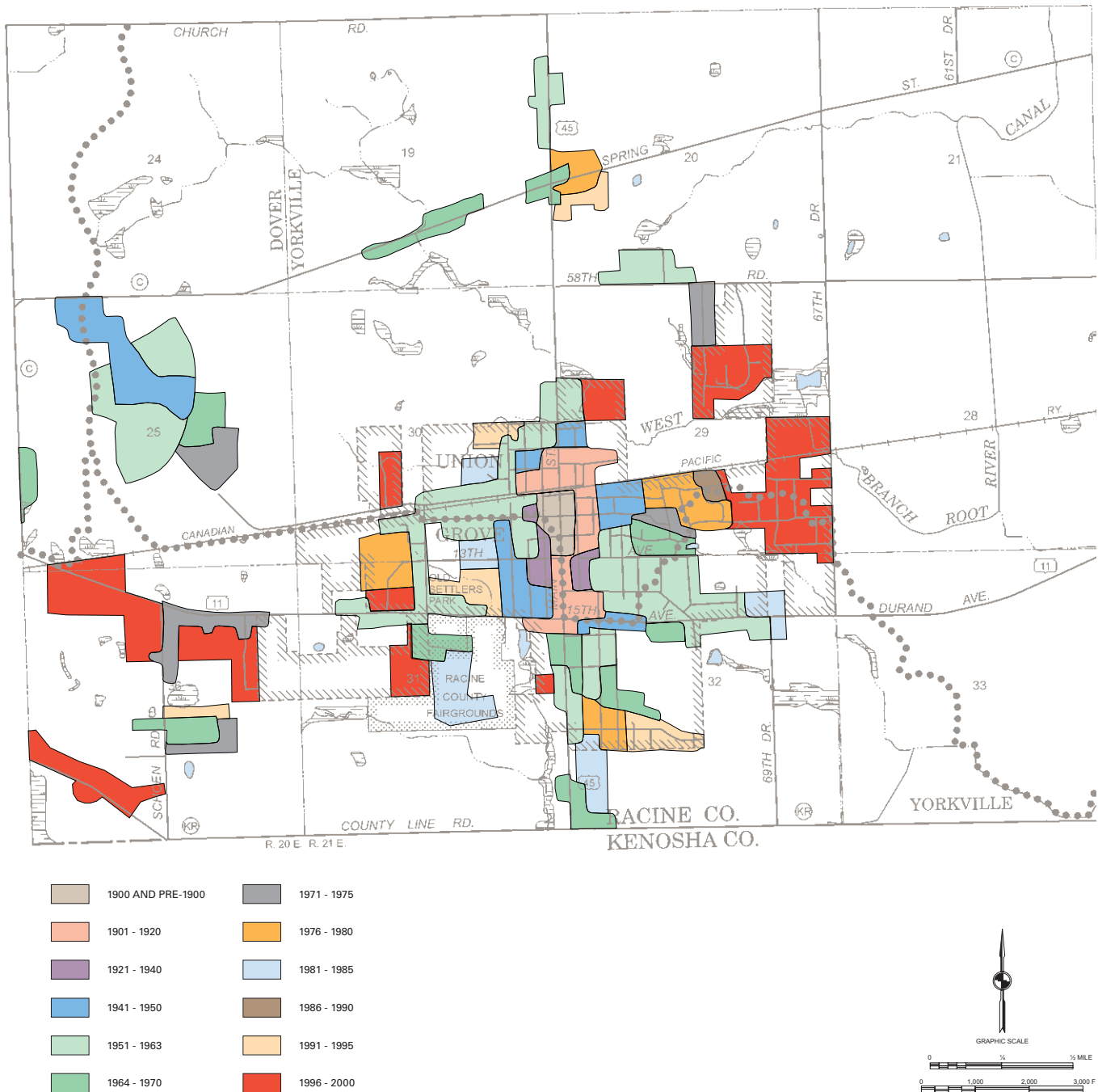
The Village of Union Grove planning area encompasses 7,670 acres, or about 12 square miles. Residential uses occupied 651 acres, or about 9 percent of the planning area; with the majority being devoted to single-family residential, which occupies 617 acres, or about 8 percent of the planning area. Lands devoted to other urban uses, including commercial, industrial, transportation, governmental and institutional, recreational, and other urban open lands, encompassed 989 acres, or about 13 percent of the planning area. In all, about 1,640 acres, comprising about 22 percent of the planning area, were devoted to urban uses in 2000.

Agricultural and other open lands accounted for 5,557 acres, or about 72 percent of the planning area. Ten acres, or less than 1 percent of the planning area, were devoted to extractive areas. Other nonurban uses including wetlands, woodlands, and surface water, together encompassed 463 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area. In all, about 6,030 acres, comprising about 78 percent of the planning area, were devoted to nonurban uses in 2000.

The Village of Union Grove planning area is served by several well-developed highways that support the planning area and the Village on a daily basis. The important highways serving the Village and the planning area are Main Street (USH 45), 15th Avenue (STH 11), CTH C, and CTH KR. In addition, the Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way traverses the planning area from east to west.

Map 2

HISTORICAL URBAN GROWTH IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 1900-2000



Source: SEWRPC.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

Existing Park and Open Space Sites

An inventory of existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the Village of Union Grove planning area was conducted in 2002. As indicated in Table 3 and shown on Map 4, there were 19 park and open space sites, which encompassed about 484 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area. There were 14 publicly

Table 2

EXISTING LAND USES IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 2000

Land Use Category	Village of Union Grove		Remainder of Planning Area		Planning Area Total	
	Acres ^a	Percent	Acres ^a	Percent	Acres ^a	Percent
Urban						
Residential						
Single-Family Residential.....	324	28.7	293	4.5	617	8.1
Multi-Family Residential ^b	30	2.7	4	0.1	34	0.4
Commercial	33	2.9	21	0.3	54	0.7
Industrial.....	42	3.7	34	0.5	76	1.0
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities						
Streets and Highways.....	143	12.7	195	3.0	338	4.4
Railways, Communications, and Utilities ^c	28	2.4	49	0.7	77	1.0
Governmental and Institutional.....	86	7.6	187	2.9	273	3.6
Recreational ^d	12	1.1	69	1.1	81	1.1
Undeveloped Urban Lands	76	6.7	14	0.2	90	1.2
Subtotal	774	68.5	866	13.3	1,640	21.5
Nonurban						
Wetlands.....	9	0.8	140	2.1	149	1.9
Woodlands	15	1.3	289	4.4	304	4.0
Surface Water	1	0.1	9	0.1	10	0.1
Extractive.....	--	--	10	0.2	10	0.1
Agricultural and Other Open Lands	331	29.3	5,226	79.9	5,557	72.4
Subtotal	356	31.5	5,674	86.7	6,030	78.5
Total	1,130	100.0	6,540	100.0	7,670	100.0

^aIncludes associated off-street parking areas for each land use category.

^bIncludes two-family dwellings.

^cIncludes railroad rights-of-way, communication, and utility properties.

^dIncludes only those lands developed and used for intensive recreational use (ballfields, picnic areas, etc.). Developed land within park sites used for hiking trails or other passive uses is included in the "open lands" category.

Source: SEWRPC.

owned sites that encompassed 386 acres, or about 80 percent of the total park and open space site acreage. The remaining five sites, encompassing 98 acres, or about 20 percent of the total park and open space site acreage, were privately owned.

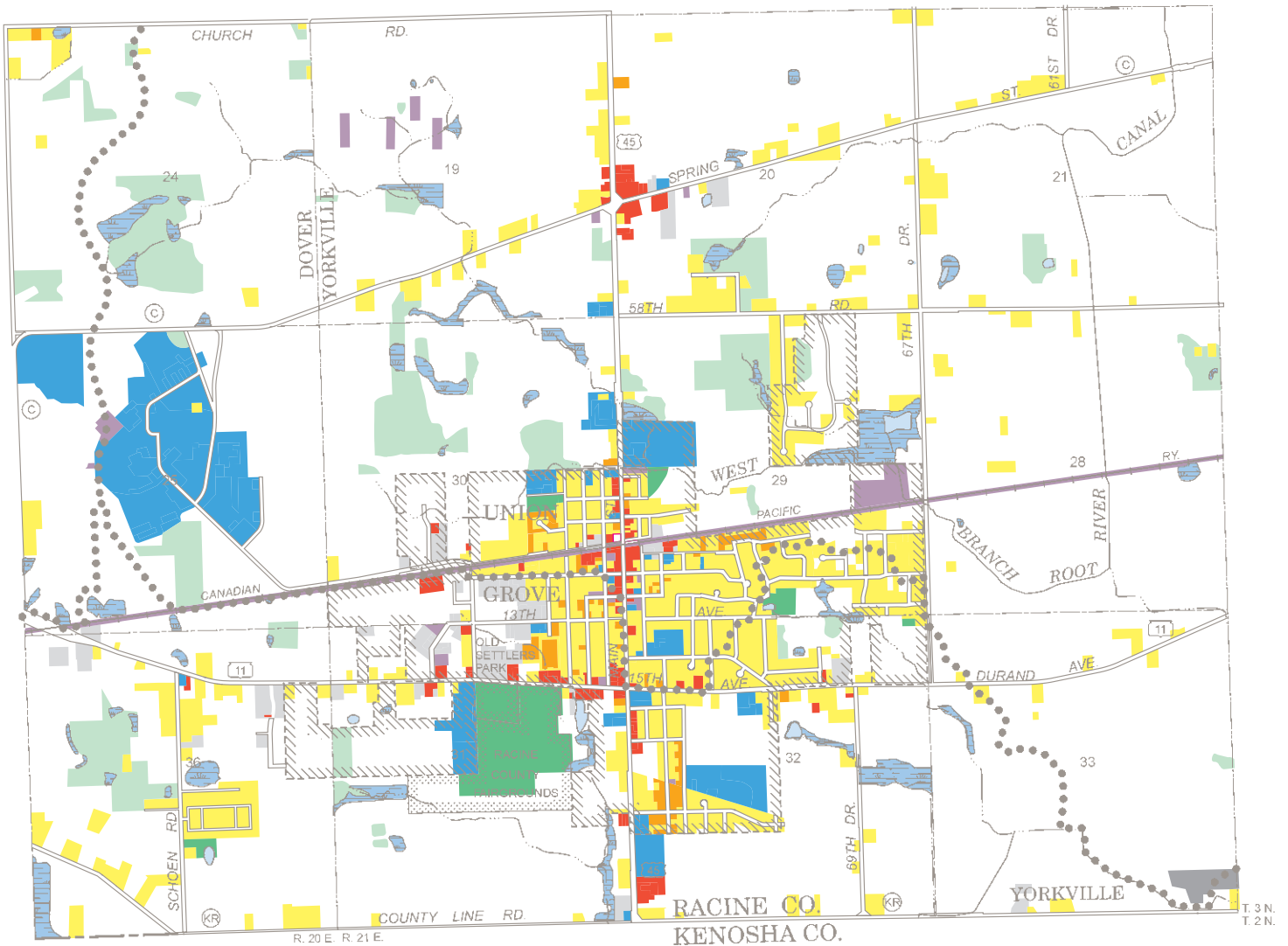
Table 3 includes sites owned by the State of Wisconsin, Racine County, the Village of Union Grove, and the Union Grove School District as public sites. School events and school district policies may limit the availability and use of facilities located on public school grounds to the general public.














As indicated in Table 4, in 2002 the following publicly owned recreational facilities were located in the Village of Union Grove planning area: two baseball diamonds, two league ball diamonds, seven sandlot ball diamonds, four tennis courts, seven playgrounds, seven playfields, five basketball goals, one soccer field, and one ice skating rink. Other significant outdoor recreation facilities available within the planning area include a running track, a football field, walking trails, and horseshoe pits.

Recreational facilities available at privately owned sites included two sandlot ball diamonds, three playfields, two playgrounds, five basketball goals, and one soccer field. Other outdoor recreational facilities at privately owned sites include four volleyball courts and the Racine County Fairgrounds.

Map 3

EXISTING LAND USES IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 2000



- | | |
|--|---|
|  SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL |  GOVERNMENTAL AND INSTITUTIONAL |
|  TWO-AND MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL |  RECREATIONAL |
|  COMMERCIAL |  WOODLANDS |
|  INDUSTRIAL |  WETLANDS |
|  EXTRACTIVE |  SURFACE WATER |
|  TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, AND UTILITIES |  AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER OPEN LANDS |
| |  STREETS AND HIGHWAYS |

Source: SEWRPC.

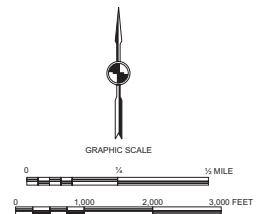


Table 3

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 2002

Number on Map 4	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Acreage ^a
	Public			
1	18th Avenue Park	T3N, R21E Section 32	Village of Union Grove	1
2	American Legion Memorial Park	T3N, R21E Section 29	Village of Union Grove	10
3	Buften Park	T3N, R21E Section 29	Village of Union Grove	1
4	Groves Subdivision Park	T3N, R21E Section 29	Village of Union Grove	3
5	Indian Trail Park	T3N, R21E Section 32	Village of Union Grove	1
6	Joseph Leider Memorial Park	T3N, R21E Section 30	Village of Union Grove	8
7	Lauer Wildlife Preserve	T3N, R21E Section 29	Village of Union Grove	13
8	Old Settler's Park	T3N, R21E Section 31	Racine County	11
9	Southern Wisconsin Center	T3N, R20E Sections 24, 25	State of Wisconsin	286
10	Union Grove Grade School	T3N, R21E Section 32	Union Grove School District	4
11	Union Grove High School	T3N, R21E Section 29	Union Grove School District	17
12	Union Grove Middle School	T3N, R21E Section 32	Union Grove School District	29
13	Village Square	T3N, R21E Section 30	Village of Union Grove	1
14	Well #3 Park	T3N, R21E Section 30	Village of Union Grove	1
	Subtotal - 14 Sites	--	--	386
	Private			
15	Martin's Pond	T3N, R21E Section 29	Private	2
16	Racine County Fairgrounds	T3N, R21E Section 31	Private	85
17	Shepherds Home and School	T3N, R21E Section 31	Organizational	7
18	St. Bellarmine Catholic Church	T3N, R21E Section 30	Organizational	1
19	Union Grove Baptist Church	T3N, R21E Section 32	Organizational	3
	Subtotal - 5 Sites	--	--	98
--	Total - 19 Sites	--	--	484

^aSite area rounded to the nearest whole acre.

Source: Village of Union Grove and SEWRPC.

Village of Union Grove Park System

In 2002, the Village of Union Grove owned nine park and open space sites, encompassing a total of 39 acres, or about 3 percent of the Village. Village-owned sites range from less than one acre up to 13 acres in size. Locations of the Village-owned sites are shown on Map 5 and are listed on Table 5. A brief description of each of the Village-owned sites is presented below.

18th Avenue Park

18th Avenue Park is an approximately 33,000-square foot passive use site located in the south-central portion of the Village.

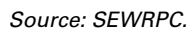
American Legion Memorial Park

American Legion Memorial Park is a 10-acre neighborhood park located in the north-central portion of the Village. Existing facilities include a sandlot softball diamond, a playground, and a playfield. The park includes two acres of secondary environmental corridor consisting of woodlands.

Buften Park

Buften Park is an approximately one-half acre park centrally located within the Village. Existing facilities include two basketball goals and a playground.

EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 2002



Groves Subdivision Park is a three-acre undeveloped park located in the eastern portion of the Village.

Indian Trail Park is an approximately one-half acre park located in the south-central portion of the Village. The site is developed with a playground.

Table 4

**SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES FOR GENERAL USE
IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 2002**

Number Map 4	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball- League Diamonds	Softball- Sandlot Fields	Playfield	Playground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Other
1	Public 18th Avenue Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive Use
2	American Legion Memorial Park	--	--	1	X	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	Buften Park	--	--	--	--	1	--	2	--	--	--	--
4	Groves Subdivision Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Undeveloped
5	Indian Trail Park	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
6	Joseph Leider Memorial Park	--	--	1	X	1	--	1	1	--	--	Group Picnic Shelter, Horseshoe Pits
7	Lauer Wildlife Preserve	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Fishing
8	Old Settler's Park	--	--	1	X	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
9	Southern Wisconsin Center	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Walking Trails
10	Union Grove Grade School	--	--	1	X	1	--	2	--	--	--	--
11	Union Grove High School	1	2	1	X	--	4	--	--	--	--	Running Track, Football Field
12	Union Grove Middle School	1	--	2	X	--	--	--	--	X	--	--
13	Village Square	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive Use
14	Well #3 Park	--	--	--	X	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Subtotal - 14 Sites	2	2	7	7	7	4	5	1	1	--	--
15	Private Martin's Pond	--	--	1	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16	Racine County Fairgrounds	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Fair Grounds
17	Shepherds Home and School	--	--	1	X	1	--	3	--	--	--	Shelter
18	St. Bellarmine Catholic Church	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3 Volleyball Courts
19	Union Grove Baptist Church	--	--	--	X	1	--	2	1	--	--	Volleyball Court
	Subtotal - 5 Sites	--	--	2	3	2	--	5	1	--	--	--
--	Total - 19 Sites	2	2	9	10	9	4	10	2	1	--	--

Source: Village of Union Grove and SEWRPC.

Joseph Leider Memorial Park

Joseph Leider Memorial Park is an eight-acre neighborhood park located in the northwestern portion of the Village. Existing facilities include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a soccer field, a playground, a playfield, horseshoe pits, and a picnic shelter. A five-acre portion of the park is currently undeveloped.

Lauer Wildlife Preserve

Lauer Wildlife Preserve is a 13-acre conservancy area located in the northeastern portion of the Village. The site includes six acres of secondary environmental corridor consisting of wetlands and a pond, which may be used for fishing, located along the West Branch of the Root River.

Village Square

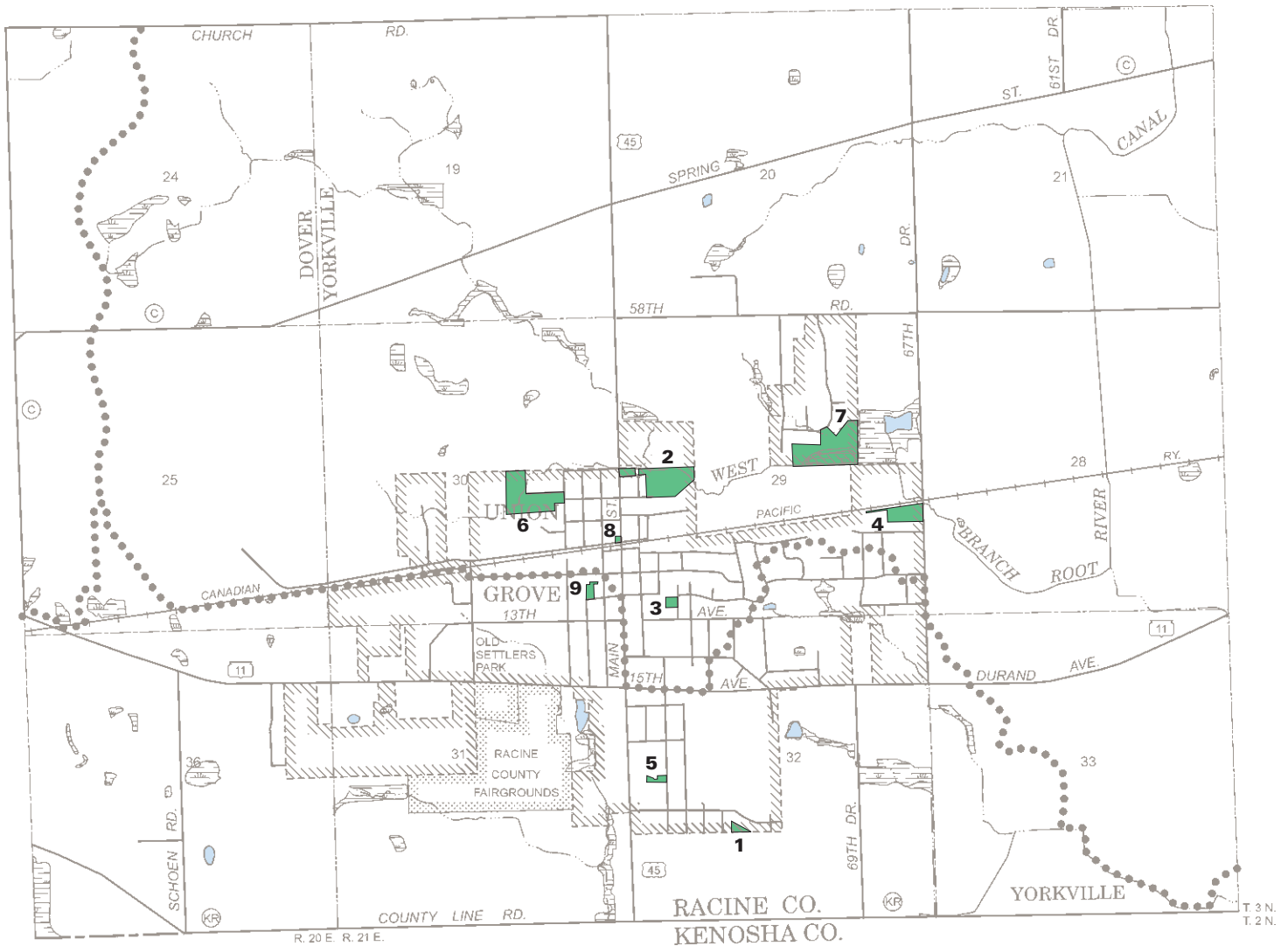
Village Square is an approximately 17,000-square foot passive use site located in the north-central portion of the Village. The site is equipped with benches.

Well #3 Park

Well #3 Park is an approximately one-acre park centrally located within the Village. Existing facilities include a playground and a playfield.

Map 5

VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES: 2002



Source: Village of Union Grove and SEWRPC.

Racine County Parks

In 2002, Racine County owned one park within the Village of Union Grove planning area. Old Settler's Park is an 11-acre County-owned park located south of STH 11 adjacent to the Village of Union Grove corporate limits. Existing outdoor recreational facilities include a sandlot softball diamond, a playground, and a playfield.

Table 5**VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PARK SYSTEM: 2002**

Number on Map 5	Site Name	Location ^a	Type	Acreage ^b
1	18th Avenue Park	Section 32	Passive Use Site	1
2	American Legion Memorial Park	Section 29	Neighborhood Park	10
3	Buften Park	Section 29	Playlot	1
4	Groves Subdivision Park	Section 29	Undeveloped Park	3
5	Indian Trail Park	Section 32	Playlot	1
6	Joseph Leider Memorial Park	Section 30	Neighborhood Park	8
7	Lauer Wildlife Preserve	Section 29	Conservancy Area	13
8	Village Square	Section 30	Passive Use Site	1
9	Well #3 Park	Section 30	Playlot	1
--	Total - 9 Sites	--	--	39

^aAll sites located in Township 3 North, Range 21 East.

^bSite area rounded to the nearest acre.

Source: Village of Union Grove and SEWRPC.

Trail Facilities

The Village has developed a one-half mile nature/pedestrian trail in the northeastern portion of the Village, extending from 67th Drive to the Lauer Wildlife Preserve. The Racine County Bicycle Route is a 100-mile on-road bicycle route located on low traffic volume roads throughout the County. The County bicycle route is located just north of the Village on CTH C. The Village trail and County bicycle route are shown on Map 4.

NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES

The natural resources of an area are important determinants of the ability of an area to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life and to maintain its social and economic well being. The park and open space plan should seek to preserve the most significant remaining aspects of the natural resource base to help retain the ecological balance and natural beauty of the Village of Union Grove planning area. A description of the natural resource base of the planning area, including surface water resources, wetlands, woodlands, environmental corridors, natural areas, and prime agricultural lands, is presented in this section.

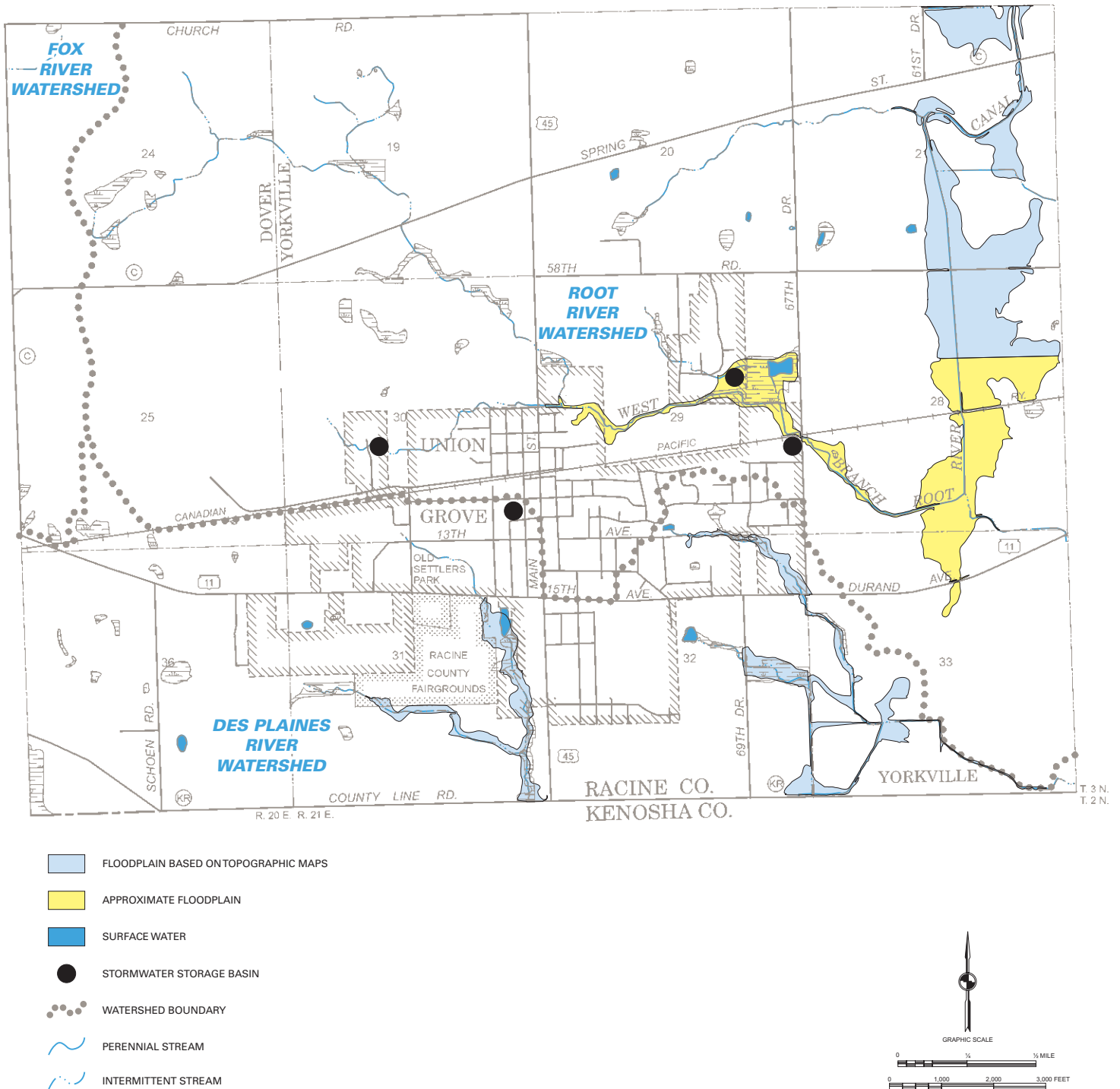
Surface Water Resources

Surface water resources and associated floodplains form an important element of the natural resource base of the Village of Union Grove planning area. The Village lies within two watersheds, with the northern part of the Village within the Root River watershed and the southern portion within the Des Plaines River watershed. The western portion of the planning area lies within the Fox River watershed. The watershed boundaries are shown on Map 6.

Approximately 18 linear miles of streams have been identified in the planning area. A portion of the West Branch of the Root River is the only perennial stream located within the Village. Perennial streams are defined as watercourses that maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. Intermittent streams are defined as watercourses that do not maintain a continuous flow throughout the year.

Map 6

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE AND FLOODPLAINS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 2000



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and SEWRPC.

The floodplains of a river or stream are the wide, gently sloping areas contiguous to, and usually lying on both sides of, the river or stream channel. Rivers and streams occupy their channels most of the time. However, during even minor flood events, stream discharges increase markedly, and the channel may not be able to contain and convey all of the flow. As a result, stages increase and the river or stream spreads laterally over the floodplain. The periodic flow of a river or stream onto its floodplains is a normal phenomenon and, in the absence of costly structural flood control works, will occur regardless of whether urban development exists on the floodplain or not.

For planning and regulatory purposes, floodplains are normally defined as the areas, excluding the channel, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This is the event that would be reached or exceeded in severity once on average 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 of soils poorly suited to urban use. The floodplain areas, however, generally contain such important elements of the natural resource base as woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat and, therefore, constitute prime locations for needed open space areas. Every effort should be made to discourage indiscriminate and incompatible urban development on floodplains, while encouraging compatible park and open space use.

Floodplains have been delineated within the Union Grove planning area under the Federal Flood Insurance Study for Racine County, published in October 1981. Floodplain delineations in the Des Plaines River watershed have been updated by the Regional Planning Commission as part of the Des Plaines River Watershed Study.¹ The floodplains within the Des Plaines River watershed shown on Map 6 are pending review by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The floodplain delineations were being reviewed by the two agencies at the time this report was published.

Floodplain delineations for streams within the Root River watershed are also shown on Map 6. Where the 100-year floodplain elevation was determined as part of the Flood Insurance Study, the floodplain has been mapped by the Regional Planning Commission on detailed large-scale topographic maps. In cases where the Federal study did not determine precise floodplain elevations, the floodplains shown on Map 6 were based on less precise floodplain maps published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These “approximate” floodplains are located along the upper reaches of the West Branch of the Root River, including those stream reaches located within the Village. The floodplain areas shown on Map 6 encompass 640 acres, or about 8 percent of the planning area.

Although not classified as streams, there are other natural and man-made drainageways located within agricultural areas in the planning area. The protection of these drainageways would serve to improve water quality, soil conditions, and wildlife habitat. Racine County participates in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State of Wisconsin. CREP provides an opportunity for Wisconsin landowners to voluntarily protect buffer areas along drainageways in agricultural areas. Racine County is in the process of identifying drainageways that are eligible for the program. Such drainageways should be protected through enrollment in the program, and should continue to be protected through zoning or other protective measures in the event the abutting farmlands are developed in the future for urban uses.

Map 6 also depicts existing stormwater storage basins located within the Village. The storage basins, all of which are owned by the Village, provide floodwater and stormwater management benefits, and may provide opportunities for limited outdoor recreation use. The Village requires stormwater management facilities, including storage basins, to be provided in all new subdivisions developed within the Village.

Wetlands

For planning purposes, wetlands are commonly defined as areas in which the water table is at, near, or above the land surface and which is characterized by both hydric soils and the growth of sedges, cattails, and other wetland

¹*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 44, A Comprehensive Plan for the Des Plaines River Watershed, June 2003.*

vegetation. Wetlands generally occur in depressions and near the bottom of slopes, particularly along lakeshores and stream banks, and on large land areas that are poorly drained.

Wetlands perform an important set of natural functions which include supporting a wide variety of desirable, and sometimes unique, forms of plant and animal life; stabilization of lake levels and stream flows; entrapment and storage of plant nutrients in runoff, thus reducing the rate of enrichment of surface waters and noxious weed and algae growth; contribution to the atmospheric oxygen and water supplies; reduction in stormwater runoff by providing areas for floodwater impoundment and storage; protection of shorelines from erosion; entrapment of soil particles suspended in runoff and reduction of stream sedimentation; provision of groundwater recharge and discharge areas; and provision of opportunities for certain scientific, educational, and recreational pursuits.

Wetlands identified by the Regional Planning Commission within the Union Grove planning area are shown on Map 3. Wetlands are identified primarily through the use of one-inch equals 400-foot scale aerial photographs. Where more precise field delineations of wetland boundaries have been conducted, such delineations are reflected on the aerial photographs. Wetlands covered 149 acres, or about 2 percent of the planning area, in 2000.

In some cases, wetland areas have been converted to cropland by clearing, draining, and/or filling. Such areas are not shown as wetlands on Map 3 if they were being farmed in 2000, or are no longer being farmed, but have not yet reverted to wetland vegetation. Such areas may be reclassified as wetlands in a future inventory, if the land is no longer farmed and the land reverts to wetland conditions.

Woodlands

Woodlands are defined by the Regional Planning Commission as those upland areas one acre or more in size with 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 identified 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, woodlands can contribute to the maintenance of a diversity of plant and animal life. Woodlands, which may require a century or more to develop, can be destroyed through mismanagement within a comparatively short time. The deforestation of hillsides contributes to rapid stormwater runoff, the siltation of lakes and streams, and the destruction of wildlife habitat. Woodlands can and should be maintained for their scenic, wildlife habitat, educational, and recreational value and for air and water quality protection.

As indicated in Table 2, woodlands encompassed 304 acres, or about 4 percent of the planning area in 2000. As shown on Map 3, woodlands are scattered throughout the planning area.

Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

Ecological balance and natural beauty are important determinants of the ability of an area to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life and to maintain its social and economic well being. Preservation of the most significant aspects of the natural resource base is therefore essential to the well being of an area. This section presents a description of the environmental corridors in the Village of Union Grove planning area.

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 protection and preservation of such areas in essentially natural, open uses is crucial in maintaining both the ecological balance and natural beauty of the Region and the planning area.

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 floodplains; 2) wetlands; 3) woodlands; 4) prairies; 5) wildlife habitat areas; 6) wet, poorly drained, and organic soils; and

7) rugged terrain and high relief topography. The presence of elements that are closely related to the natural resource base, including park and open space sites, natural areas, historic sites, and scenic viewpoints, are also considered in the delineation of environmental corridors.²

The delineation of these natural resource and resource-related elements on a map results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow, elongated areas which have been termed “environmental corridors” by the Regional Planning Commission. Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of the important natural resource and resource-related elements and are at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors serve to link primary environmental corridors, or encompass areas containing concentrations of natural resources between 100 and 400 acres in size. Where secondary corridors serve to link primary environmental corridors, no minimum area or length criteria apply; secondary corridors that do not connect to primary corridors are at least 100 acres in size and one mile long. Isolated natural resource areas consist of smaller concentrations of natural resource base elements, have a minimum of five acres, and are separated physically from the environmental corridors by intensive urban or agricultural land uses.

In any consideration of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, it is important to note that the preservation of such resources can assist in flood flow attenuation, water pollution abatement, and favorable climate modification. 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 of other elements. The draining and filling of wetlands, for example, may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge areas, and the natural filtration action and flood water storage functions of interconnecting stream systems. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to deterioration of the quality of 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, and 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. These problems include flooding, water pollution, deterioration and destruction of wildlife habitat, loss of groundwater recharge areas, and destruction of the unique natural beauty of the area. The need to maintain the integrity of the remaining environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas thus becomes apparent.

Primary Environmental Corridors

As shown on Map 7, primary environmental corridors in the Village of Union Grove planning area are located in the southwestern portion of the planning area along the Racine-Kenosha County line. These primary corridors encompass 11 acres of wetlands. There are no primary environmental corridors located within the Village.

Secondary Environmental Corridors

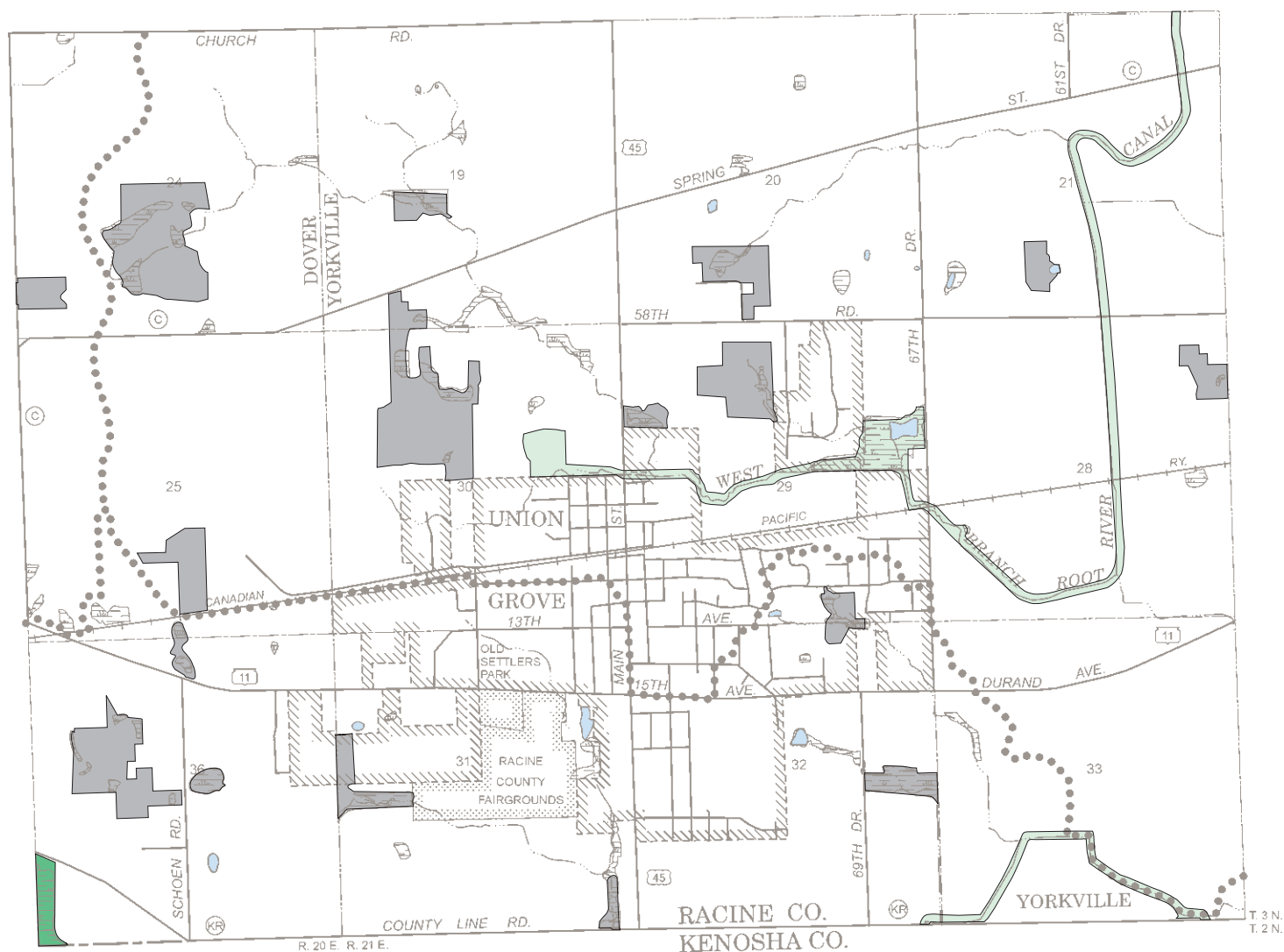
As shown on Map 7, secondary environmental corridors in the Village of Union Grove planning area are located along the West Branch of the Root River and along an intermittent stream in the southeast portion. As shown in Table 6, secondary environmental corridors encompass 136 acres, or about 2 percent of the planning area. Within the Village, secondary environmental corridors encompass 14 acres, or about 1 percent, of the total area of the Village.

Secondary environmental corridors facilitate surface water drainage and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife and for the movement and dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. Such corridors should also

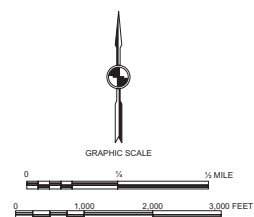
²A detailed description of the process of refining the delineation of environmental corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin is presented in SEWRPC Technical Record, Vol. 4, No. 2, Refining the Delineation of Environmental Corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin, pages 1 through 21.

Map 7

ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 1995



- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 6

**ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE
AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 1995**

Corridor Type	Village of Union Grove		Remainder of Planning Area		Planning Area Total	
	Acres	Percent ^a	Acres	Percent ^b	Acres	Percent ^c
Primary Environmental Corridor.....	--	--	11	0.2	11	0.1
Secondary Environmental Corridor	14	1.2	122	1.9	136	1.8
Isolated Natural Resource Area.....	16	1.4	339	5.2	355	4.6
Total	30	2.6	472	7.3	502	6.5

^aPercent of total Village area (1,130 acres) within corridor.

^bPercent of remainder of planning area (6,540 acres) within corridor.

^cPercent of the total planning area (7,670 acres) within corridor.

Source: SEWRPC.

be preserved in essentially open, natural uses as development proceeds within the planning area, particularly when the opportunity is presented to incorporate the corridors into drainageways, neighborhood parks, or trail corridors.

Isolated Natural Resource Areas

In addition to the environmental corridors, other smaller concentrations of natural resource base elements exist within the planning area. These pockets are generally isolated from the environmental corridors by urban or agricultural development. Although separated from the environmental corridor network, these isolated natural resource areas have important natural values. Isolated natural resource areas may provide the only available wildlife habitat in an area, provide good locations for local parks and open space areas, and lend aesthetic character and natural diversity to an area. As shown on Map 7 and Table 6, isolated natural resource areas encompass 355 acres, or about 5 percent of the planning area. Within the Village, isolated natural resource areas encompass 16 acres, or about 1 percent, of the total area of the Village.

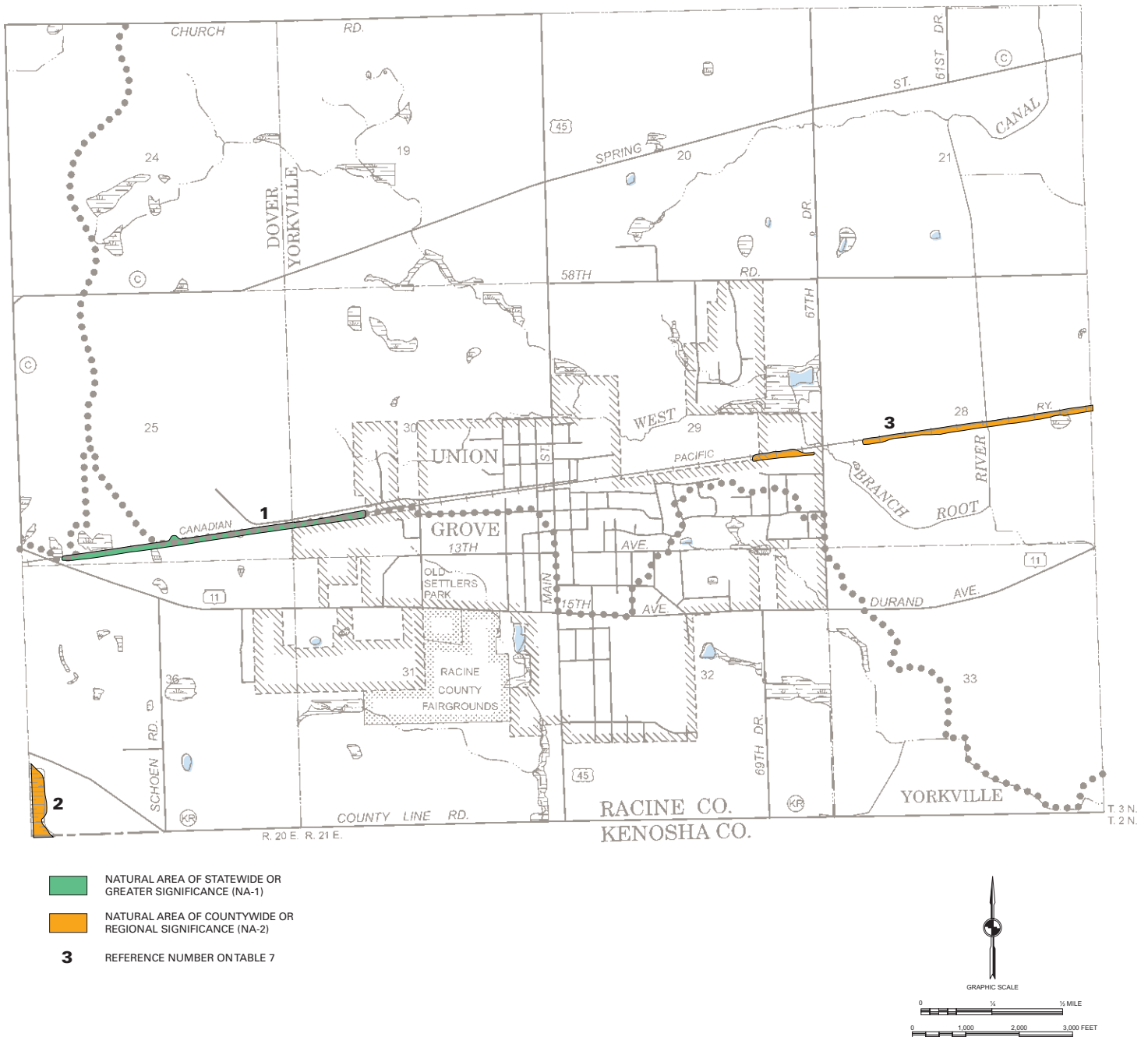
Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

A comprehensive inventory of natural area sites and critical species habitat sites in Southeastern Wisconsin was completed in 1994 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Regional Planning Commission.³ Natural areas are defined as 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 plants that are classified into one of the following three categories: natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1), natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2), or natural areas of local significance (NA-3). Classification of an area into one of these three categories is based on 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 by human activity, such as logging, grazing, water level changes, and pollution; the commonness of the plant and animal communities present; any unique natural features within the area; the size of the area; and the educational value and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement.

³The results of this inventory are documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997.

Map 8

NATURAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 1994



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

As indicated on Map 8 and described in Table 7, three natural areas, one of which is considered to be of statewide or greater significance and two of countywide or regional significance, were identified within the Village of Union Grove planning area. The Kansasville Railroad Prairie natural area is of statewide or greater significance and encompasses 14 acres within the Village of Union Grove planning area. The Schroeder Road Marsh and Union Grove Railroad Prairie natural areas are of countywide or regional significance and encompass seven acres and 15 acres, respectively, within the planning area. These three natural areas encompass a total of 36 acres, or less than 1 percent, of the planning area.

Table 7

NATURAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 1994

Number on Map 8	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Kansasville Railroad Prairie	NA-1 (RSH)	T3N-R20E Sections 25, 36 T3N-R21E Section 30	Private	14	Discontinuous remnants of mesic prairie located along railway right-of-way between Union Grove and Kansasville. Small sections are of very high quality, representing the best remaining examples of the once-extensive mesic prairie of central Racine and Kenosha Counties. Also included is a large old field which has been plowed but in which native prairie species have either persisted or are reinvading from the adjacent railway right-of-way. This latter area could be important for prairie reestablishment
2	Schroeder Road Marsh	NA-2	T3N-R20E Section 26	Private	7 ^b	Large wetland area of shallow cattail marsh and sedge meadow that extends into Kenosha County. Perimeter has been disturbed but interior is intact
3	Union Grove Railroad Prairie	NA-2 (RSH)	T3N-R21E Sections 28, 29	Private	15 ^c	Discontinuous remnants of mesic prairie along railway right-of-way, extending east from Union Grove to IH 94. Some small patches are very good quality, containing such uncommon species as wild quinine (<u>Parthenium integrifolium</u>) and prairie Indian plantain (<u>Cacalia tuberosa</u>), both designated as threatened in Wisconsin

^aNA-1 identifies Natural Areas of statewide or greater significance

NA-2 identifies Natural Areas of countywide or regional significance

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

^bPortion of site extends outside of the planning area and acres given are entirely within the planning area. There are an additional 70 acres within the Town of Dover in Racine County and an additional 111 acres within the Town of Brighton in Kenosha County.

^cPortion of site extends outside of the planning area and acres given are entirely within the planning area. The remaining 17 acres are located along the railway right-of-way, east of the Village of Union Grove, in the Town of Yorkville.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

Critical species habitat sites are defined by the Regional Planning Commission as areas that support rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species. No critical species habitat sites were located within the Village of Union Grove planning area.

Prime Agricultural Lands

It is useful for planning purposes to distinguish between prime agricultural lands and other farming areas. Prime agricultural lands are those lands which, in terms of farm size, the total area being farmed, and soil characteristics, are best suited for the production of food and fiber. A number of important public purposes are served by the preservation of prime agricultural lands. Such public purposes include maintenance of agricultural reserves, conservation of energy, maintenance of open space, protection of environmentally significant areas, control of public costs, preservation of the local economic base, and preservation of a rural lifestyle.

Prime agricultural lands within Racine County were identified under the Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan,⁴ which was adopted by the Racine County Board in 1982. Under the farmland preservation plan, prime agricultural land was defined as farms meeting the following criteria: an individual farm must be at least 35 acres in size; at least one-half of each farm must be covered by soils meeting the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service criteria for national prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance (generally Class I, II, or III soils); and farms must occur in contiguous farming areas of at least 100 acres in size. Map 9 depicts the County farmland preservation plan as it applies to the planning area. The map has been updated to reflect current conditions. Prime agricultural lands encompass 3,883 acres, or about 51 percent, of the Village of Union Grove planning area. All of the prime agricultural lands are located outside of the Village corporate limits.

SUMMARY

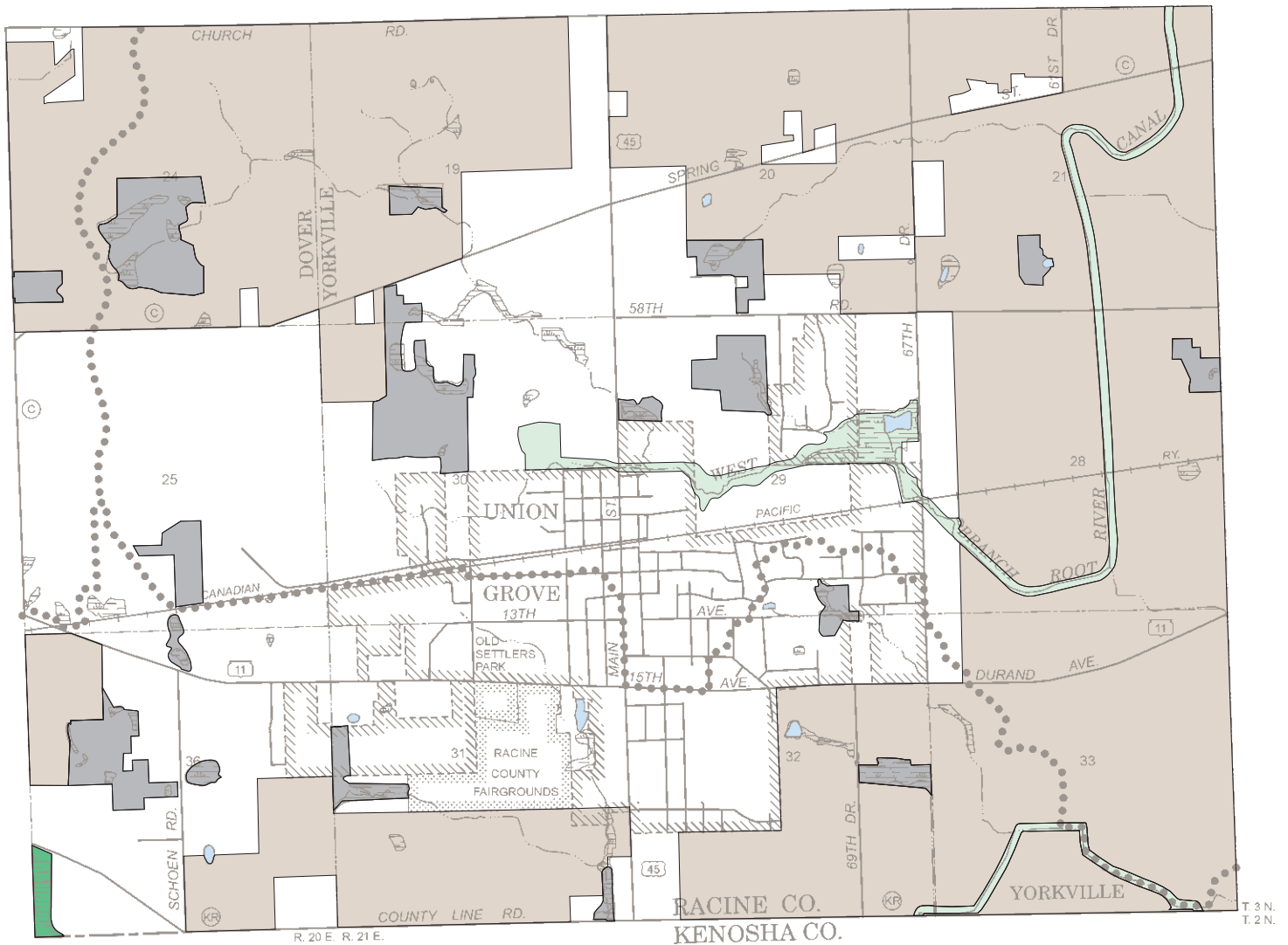
This chapter has presented a general description of the Village of Union Grove planning area, including a description of population levels and land use, existing park and open space sites, and natural resource features such as environmental corridors and natural areas. The key components of this chapter are as follows:

1. The Village population in 2000 was 4,322 persons, based on U.S. Census Bureau data. This represents an increase of 653 persons, or about 18 percent, from the 1990 population of 3,669 persons.
2. In 2000, the Village encompassed an area of 1,130 acres. Of the 1,130 acres, 774 acres, or about 68 percent, were in urban uses and 356, or about 32 percent, were in nonurban uses. The Village of Union Grove planning area encompassed about 7,670 acres. Of this total, 1,640 acres, or about 22 percent of the planning area, were in urban uses. The remaining 6,030 acres, or about 78 percent of the planning area, were in nonurban uses.
3. An inventory of the existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the Village of Union Grove planning area in 2002 found that there were 19 such sites, which together encompassed about 484 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area. In 2002, the Village of Union Grove owned nine park and open space sites encompassing 39 acres, or about 3 percent of the Village. The Village-owned parks ranged from 17,424 square feet to 13 acres in size. The Village maintains about a one-half mile trail located in the northeastern portion of the Village.
4. In 1995, primary environmental corridors encompassed a total of 11 acres, or less than 1 percent of the planning area, and secondary environmental corridors encompassed a total of 136 acres, or about 2 percent of the planning area. Isolated natural resource areas encompassed 355 acres, or about 5 percent of the planning area. Within the Village of Union Grove, secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas encompassed 14 acres and 16 acres, respectively.
5. The Village of Union Grove planning area includes three natural areas that together encompass 36 acres. The Kansasville Railroad Prairie natural area is considered to be of statewide or greater significance. The Schroeder Road Marsh and Union Grove Railroad Prairie natural areas are considered to be of countywide or regional significance.
6. Prime agricultural lands encompass about 3,883 acres, or about 51 percent of the planning area. No prime agricultural lands are located within the Village.

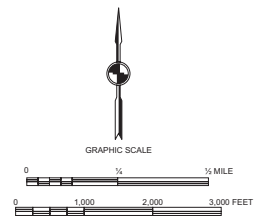
⁴As documented in *SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 46, A Farmland Preservation Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, August 1981*.

Map 9

**PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT
LANDS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 2020**



- PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS
- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

Chapter III

FRAMEWORK FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The previous chapter of this report presented the results of inventories of population, existing land use, natural resources, and park and open space sites in the Village of Union Grove planning area. This chapter sets forth additional important factors to be considered in the preparation of a park and open space plan for the Village and the objectives, principles, and standards used to develop the plan. This chapter describes pertinent Village, County, and regional plan recommendations; probable future population levels in the Village in the year 2020; and a set of park and open space objectives, principles, and standards which will be used to guide preparation of the plan. Needs identified through the application of the standards are also identified in this chapter. Recommendations intended to provide the needed sites and facilities are presented in Chapter IV.

PLANS AFFECTING THE VILLAGE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Sound planning practice requires that each community plan or plan element be properly related to adopted local, county, and regional plans. Plans that should be considered and appropriately incorporated into this new park and open space plan include the Village of Union Grove Comprehensive Plan, the Village Parks and Recreation Assessment and Recommendations Plan, the sewer service area plan for the Village of Union Grove and environs, the Racine County park and open space plan, and the natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin.

Village of Union Grove Comprehensive Plan

The Village of Union Grove Board and Plan Commission adopted an Updated Comprehensive Plan for Development¹ in February 1988. The Regional Planning Commission assisted the Village in preparing an update to the plan, which is included in a joint land use plan for the Village of Union Grove and the Town of Yorkville. The joint plan was adopted by both the Village of Union Grove Plan Commission and the Village Board on July 14, 2003. The Town of Yorkville Plan Commission also adopted the joint land use plan on July 14, 2003.² The plan was adopted by the Yorkville Town Board on August 25, 2003. The planned urban service area boundary, also referred to as the urban service area, identified in the joint land use plan was used for the needs analysis presented in this chapter.

¹*The plan is documented in a report entitled Updated Comprehensive Plan for Development, Village of Union Grove, Wisconsin, prepared by the Racine County Planning and Development Department with assistance from the Village of Union Grove Village Board and Planning Commission, February 1988.*

²*Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 277, A Land Use Plan for the Village of Union Grove and Town of Yorkville: 2020, December 2003.*

The Comprehensive Plan adopted in 1988 recommends acquiring lands for park sites or expanding existing park sites in order to provide one acre of parkland for every 100 Village residents. The plan recommends the development of neighborhood parks to provide convenient access to the park sites for children, the elderly, and future residents. The plan recommends the development of a larger neighborhood park south of STH 11 in the southern portion of the Village.

The comprehensive plan also recommends the conservation of natural resource areas and the potential to develop compatible recreational facilities within these areas, including hiking and biking trails.

Parks and Recreation Assessment

A Parks and Recreation Assessment³ was completed by the Village in 2001. The plan report is intended to provide recommendations regarding the Village's existing park sites and future development. More specifically, the plan is intended to enhance the quality of life for existing and future Village residents and provide sites and facilities for recreational and leisure activities.

As part of the assessment, a park and open space survey was conducted in the Village of Union Grove and the Towns of Raymond and Yorkville to determine recreational needs. The survey was divided into 10 different age groups and consisted of 10 recreational activities ranging from active to passive use. A total of 747 responses were received. Walking trails, improvements to existing parks, and a large community playground equipped with various playground amenities (a "Kids Connection") were the primary needs identified by survey respondents.

Five of the 10 age groups rated walking trails as the Village's biggest need and two of the 10 age groups rated soccer fields as the Village's biggest need. Overall, the largest percentage of people rated walking trails as the Village's biggest need, followed by soccer fields, snowmobile paths, a BMX park, and a skate park. Citizens under 30 years of age rated walking trails, a skate park, and a BMX park as the Village's biggest needs. Citizens over 30 years of age rated walking trails, soccer fields, and snowmobile paths as the Village's biggest needs. In addition, 25 percent of the survey respondents recommended development of a swimming facility within or nearby the Village.

The assessment recommends the evaluation of available and suitable open space lands for acquisition of additional sites and the expansion of existing park sites where feasible. The plan recommends the development of outdoor recreational facilities at 18th Avenue Park, Groves Subdivision Park, American Legion Park, and possibly the Southern Wisconsin Center. The development of a community playground or "Kids Connection" is also recommended. The plan recommends the preservation of natural resource areas and potentially developing recreational activities such as trails within these areas. Also recommended is the continued development of a nature/pedestrian trail that would extend from 67th Drive to the industrial park annex and would connect existing parks and nature-based outdoor recreation sites.

The assessment also recommended that the Village should continue to identify and obtain all available funding for park and recreational activities from local organizations and clubs, through State and Federal grant programs, and from private businesses and corporations.

Village of Union Grove and Environs Sewer Service Area Plan

The adopted sewer service area plan, as described in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 180, *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the Village of Union Grove and Environs, Racine County, Wisconsin*, August 1990, identifies the planned extent of urban development in and adjacent to the Village through 2010. The forecast population for the Village sanitary sewer service area is 7,400 persons by the year 2010.

³*Documented in a report entitled Parks and Recreation Assessment and Recommendations for the Village of Union Grove, prepared by Leadership Union Grove, Class of 2001, August 2001.*

County and Regional Plans

Regional and County Park and Open Space Plans

The adopted regional park, outdoor recreation, and related open space plan, as described in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, November 1977, identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommends a system of large regional resource-oriented parks, recreation corridors, and smaller urban parks, together with their attendant recreational facility requirements, to meet those needs. The portion of the regional park plan that applies to Racine County, including the Village of Union Grove, was revised in 1988 through the preparation and adoption of a County park and open space plan. An updated County park and open space plan was adopted by the Racine County Board in 2001.⁴ That plan consists of both an open space preservation element and an areawide outdoor recreation element, intended to, respectively, protect areas containing important natural resources and to provide resource-oriented recreational sites and facilities, including trails.

The outdoor recreation sites recommended in the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan include one existing major park site near the Village of Union Grove. Ives Grove Golf Course, located in the Town of Yorkville is recommended to provide recreational activities for residents of the Village of Union Grove. The plan recommends that the County continue to maintain and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented outdoor recreational facilities as needed at Ives Grove Golf Course. The County-owned Eagle Lake Park, located in the Town of Dover, is also near the Village of Union Grove and would provide Village residents with recreational opportunities. The plan recommends that the County continue to maintain and develop a swimming beach and beach house at Eagle Lake Park. The plan also recommends that the County continue to maintain Old Settler's Park and the Racine County Fairgrounds, two County-owned sites within the Village of Union Grove planning area. There are no major parks located within the Village of Union Grove planning area.

The County plan recommends the development of a trail from the City of Racine to the City of Burlington. The Racine-Burlington Trail would be located within the right-of-way of the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, now the Canadian Pacific Railway, should the railway become abandoned. The trail would encompass approximately 22 linear miles and extend from the Lake Michigan Trail in the City of Racine to the City of Burlington within the former railroad right-of-way. The trail would encompass approximately four linear miles within the Village of Union Grove planning area. Recreational activities proposed for the trail include biking, hiking, dog walking, and cross-country skiing. It would be the County's responsibility to develop and maintain the recommended trail.

In 1995, the Commission adopted a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan,⁵ which recommends a network of on- and off-street bicycle ways within the County. That plan generally incorporates the recommendations for bicycle facilities contained in the Racine County bicycle plan adopted in 1975, including the existing Racine County Bicycle Route. About five miles of the Racine County Bicycle Route are located on public streets within the planning area.

Regional Natural Areas Plan

Natural areas in Southeastern Wisconsin were identified in 1994 as part of the regional natural areas study.⁶ The inventory of natural area sites identified three natural areas in the planning area, encompassing 36 acres, including the Kansasville Railroad Prairie, which is designated as a natural area of statewide or greater significance. The

⁴*Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 2nd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, July 2001.*

⁵*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 43, A Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2010, December 1994. An update to the plan is documented in a report entitled Amendment to the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2020, December 2001.*

⁶*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997.*

two other natural areas are of countywide or regional significance. The natural areas are shown on Map 8 and described in Table 7 in Chapter II.

The primary purpose of the natural areas plan is to identify the most significant remaining natural areas and critical species habitat sites in the Region, and to recommend means for their protection and management. The plan identifies potential sites to be placed in public or private protective ownership, and other sites to be protected, insofar as it is possible, through zoning and other regulatory means without protective ownership. It also recommends that a detailed management plan be prepared and implemented for each site placed under protective ownership.

The regional natural areas plan and the County park plan recommend that the County acquire all of the Kansasville Railroad Prairie and Union Grove Railroad Prairie natural areas. It is also recommended that Racine County acquire those lands associated with the Schroeder Road Marsh natural area within Racine County and that Kenosha County acquire those lands associated with the Schroeder Road Marsh natural area within Kenosha County.

OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

The Regional Planning Commission, as part of the regional park and open space planning program completed in 1977, formulated a comprehensive set of park and related open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives. Because the study viewed all park and open space sites and facilities as an integral part of an areawide system, the objectives addressed neighborhood, community, and multi-community or regional park and open space sites and facilities.

The objectives, principles, and standards developed for the Regional Park and Open Space Plan were used to prepare this Village park plan. The regional standards have been modified to incorporate State regulations regarding lake access and to incorporate a standard for soccer fields. The regional park and open space objectives, principles, and standards are set forth in Appendix A.

The attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide residents of the Village with opportunities for high-quality recreational experiences. Under the regional park and open space plan and the Racine County park and open space plan described earlier in this chapter, the responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreational facilities is shared among various levels of government. The responsibility for acquisition and development of large resource-oriented parks and recreational facilities⁷ is largely delegated to the State and County levels of government. The need for major parks is met with the close proximity of Ives Grove Golf Course near the Village of Union Grove. Racine County is responsible for the continued maintenance and development of Ives Grove Golf Course.

The responsibility for providing smaller community and neighborhood parks and facilities for intensive outdoor recreational activities is delegated to cities, village, and towns. The need for neighborhood parks and associated recreational facilities in the Village of Union Grove is described in the following sections.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Forecast Population

The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the Village of Union Grove is determined by applying the standards set forth in Appendix A for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks and outdoor recreation facilities to the anticipated future resident population of the Village of Union Grove urban service area in the plan design year.

⁷*Resource-oriented recreational facilities include camping, golfing, picnicking, skiing, and beach swimming. Such facilities are dependent on the natural resources, such as woodlands and water bodies, of the site in which they are located. Facility requirements for these activities are set forth under Objective No. 3 in Appendix A.*

As noted in Chapter II, the 2000 Village population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was 4,322 persons,⁸ an increase of 653 residents from the 1990 population level of 3,669 persons. The projected resident population of the Union Grove urban service area in the year 2020 is 5,630 persons. This projection was chosen based on consideration of the high and intermediate growth population forecasts of 7,880 and 5,030 persons, respectively, developed as part of the 2020 regional land use plan, and of population growth trends in the Village during the last two decades. The population level of 5,630 persons was used in the following needs analysis.

Community and Neighborhood Parks

The standards set forth under Objective No. 2 in Appendix A are concerned with the provision of adequate sites and facilities for nonresource-oriented recreation activities. Nonresource-oriented activities are those that do not depend upon the presence of such natural resources as woodlands, slopes, lakes, or wide expanses of land. Nonresource-oriented facilities include ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and basketball courts and goals, which are typically provided at community and neighborhood parks and public schools.

Community parks range in size from 25 to 99 acres, have a service radius of two miles, and generally provide community-oriented facilities such as baseball diamonds, softball diamonds, and swimming pools. Neighborhood parks range in size from five to 24 acres and have a service radius of 0.5 mile in high-density residential areas, 0.75 mile in medium-density residential areas, and 1.0 mile in low-density residential areas. The Village of Union Grove generally consists of medium-density residential areas, thus, a service radius of 0.75 mile was applied for neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks provide facilities for children's outdoor recreation activities, such as playground and playfield activities, basketball, and other court games.

Community parks can fill the need for neighborhood parks because community parks generally include typical neighborhood park facilities (playfields and playgrounds) in addition to community park facilities (baseball diamonds and swimming pools). Both community and neighborhood parks should also provide landscaped areas for passive recreation uses such as picnicking, walking, and general relaxation.

School outdoor recreation sites, while not generally perceived as parks, provide areas and facilities for recreational uses. Public school outdoor recreation sites are, therefore, taken into account in the application of the per capita acreage standards for urban outdoor recreation sites and facilities and in the application of service area standards for recreation facilities. Because school sites generally do not provide areas for picnicking and other passive uses, school sites are not considered when applying the service area standards for outdoor recreation sites. Even though the Union Grove School District sites are public, events and policies of the District may limit the availability and use of certain facilities to the general public.

As previously noted, neighborhood park sites provide facilities for children's outdoor recreation activities. Such facilities should be accessible through a convenient and safe pedestrian circulation pattern. In the accessibility analysis for neighborhood parks, features such as major roads and railroads were considered as barriers preventing pedestrian access from residential areas to neighborhood parks and recreation facilities.

Site Needs Based on Per Capita Standards

The results of applying the per capita area standards to the forecast population level of 5,630 residents are presented in Table 8. Application of the per capita standards indicates a need for four acres of additional public outdoor recreation lands at public parks within the Village to meet the per capita standard. Even when per capita acreage standards are met, however, additional parks may be needed if the distribution of existing parks does not provide convenient access for current and future residents. The accessibility, or service area, analysis is provided in the following section.

⁸U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000, Summary File 1 (complete-count data)*.

Table 8

**PER CAPITA ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA**

Park and School Sites	Minimum Standard Net Acreage Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^a	Existing Net Acreage	Per Capita Acreage Requirements			
			Existing 2000 Population: 4,322		Planned 2020 Population: 5,630	
			Net Acreage Requirement ^d	Net Acreage Need ^e	Net Acreage Requirement ^d	Net Acreage Need ^e
Parks	3.9	18 ^b	17	- -	22	4
Schools	2.5	50 ^c	11	- -	14	- -

^aStandard per capita acreage requirements are set forth under Objective No. 1 in Appendix A.

^bThis total includes acreage within the Village-owned American Legion Memorial Park and Joseph Leider Memorial Park.

^cThis total includes acreage used for outdoor recreation purposes at three public school sites within the Village of Union Grove.

^dThe acreage requirement for park and school sites was determined by multiplying the standard acreage requirement times the appropriate population in thousands of persons.

^eAcreage need was determined by subtracting the existing acres from the acreage requirement. If the remainder was a negative number, the minimum acreage requirement was exceeded and no per capita acreage was identified.

Source: SEWRPC.

Site Needs Based on Service Area Standards

In addition to meeting the per capita area standards, the spatial distribution of community and neighborhood parks should provide ready access by Village residents. It is important to note that areas developed with nonresidential uses need not be served with local parks. Those areas developed with commercial, industrial, and institutional uses are, therefore, not considered in determining the need for community or neighborhood parks.

As stated earlier, community parks have a service area radius of two miles. There are no community parks within the Village of Union Grove planning area. It is recommended that a community park be developed within the Village of Union Grove to provide community park facilities and possibly serve as a site for Village civic functions and special events.

As shown on Map 10, application of the 0.75-mile service area radius to existing parks providing neighborhood facilities indicates that the southern and eastern portions of the urban service area are not adequately served by a neighborhood park. In addition, there are areas within the urban service area which, although within the 0.75-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to accessibility barriers.

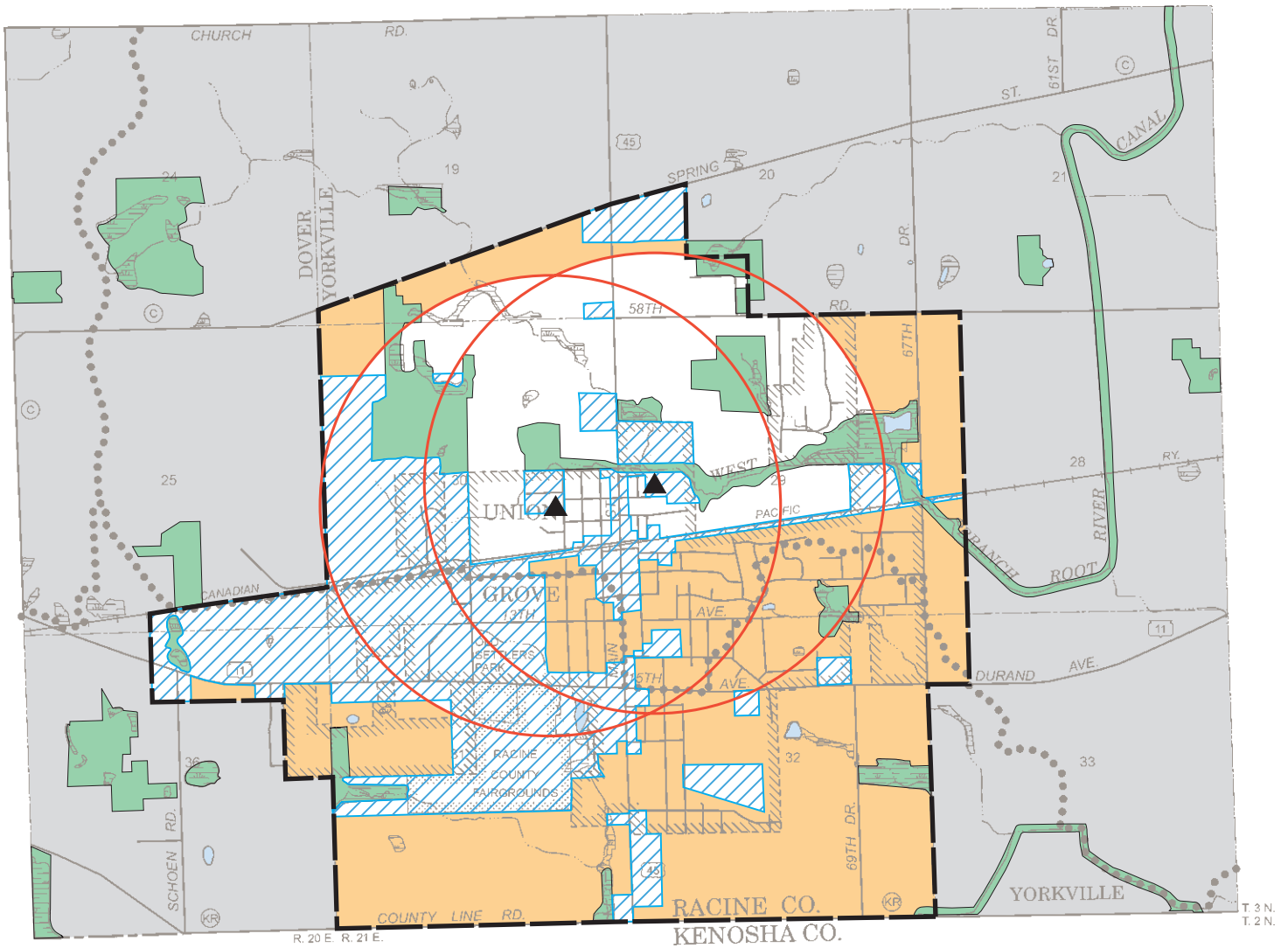
Existing neighborhood parks used in this analysis were the Village-owned American Legion Memorial Park and Joseph Leider Memorial Park.

Facility Needs Based on Per Capita Standards

The facility standards set forth under Objective No. 2 in Appendix A are concerned with providing an adequate number and distribution of outdoor recreation facilities to afford Village residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive outdoor recreation activities such as baseball, softball, and tennis. The results of applying the adopted per capita facility standards to the estimated 2020 population level for the Village of Union Grove urban service area are presented in Table 9. The existing quantity of each facility includes those located in public

Map 10

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**



- ▲ EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY
SERVED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF
UNION GROVE URBAN SERVICE AREA

Source: SEWRPC.

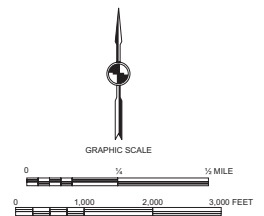


Table 9
PER CAPITA REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED OUTDOOR
RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirements ^a				Facility Requirement ^b	Existing Number of Facilities	Facility Need ^c
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Residents			
Baseball	Diamond	Public	0.09	1	2	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.01</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
		Total	0.10	1	2	
Basketball	Goal	Public	0.91	5	5	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.22</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	
		Total	1.13	6	10	
Playfield Activities	Playfield	Public	0.39	2	7	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	
		Total	0.50	3	10	
Playground Activities	Playground	Public	0.35	2	7	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	
		Total	0.42	2	9	
Soccer	Field	Public	0.69	4	1	3 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.17</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
		Total	0.86	5	2	
Softball	Diamond	Public	0.53	3	2	1 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
		Total	0.60	3	2 ^d	
Tennis	Court	Public	0.41	2	4	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.09</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	
		Total	0.50	3	4	

^aPer capita facility requirements are set forth under Objective No. 2 in Appendix A.

^bThe facility requirement was determined by multiplying the facility requirement per 1,000 residents by the planned 2020 population of 5,630 residents.

^cThe facility need was determined by subtracting the existing number of facilities from the facility requirement. In cases where the existing number of facilities exceeds the facility requirement, no facility need was identified. In cases where either the number of existing public facilities or the total number of facilities was less than the number called for under the standards, a need for additional public facilities to fulfill the requirement was identified.

^dOnly league softball diamonds were used to determine the need for additional softball diamonds.

Source: SEWRPC.

and private sites within the planning area. Facilities at public sites include those at neighborhood parks, playlots, and public schools. Facilities at private sites include those at private schools and churches and commercial sites.

As shown in Table 9, a need was identified through the application of the standards for three additional soccer fields and one additional league softball diamond. In cases where the number of private facilities falls below the recommended standard, a need for additional public facilities to fulfill the need was identified, as the public sector has no control over the provision of additional privately owned recreation facilities.

Facility Needs Based on Service Area Standards

In addition to meeting the per capita acreage standards, the spatial distribution of outdoor recreation facilities should provide ready access by Village residents. Application of the service radius standards set forth under Objective No. 2 in Appendix A determined which portions of the Village of Union Grove urban service area lack adequate access to selected nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation facilities. Portions of the urban service area which are not adequately served by such facilities are identified below.

Baseball Diamonds

As shown on Map 11, baseball diamonds were provided at two public outdoor recreation sites in the urban service area in 2002. Since the maximum service radius of a baseball diamond is two miles, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that the entire Village of Union Grove urban service area is served by the existing distribution of baseball diamonds.

Basketball Goals

As shown on Map 12, basketball goals were provided at three public outdoor recreation sites in the urban service area in 2002. Since the maximum service radius of a basketball goal is 0.5 mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that large portions of the urban service area are not served by the existing distribution of basketball goals.

Playfields

As shown on Map 13, playfields were provided at six public outdoor recreation sites in the urban service area in 2002. A playfield was also located at the County-owned Old Settler's Park, but access to the park is limited. Since the maximum service radius of a playfield is 0.5 mile, application of the accessibility requirements indicates that large portions of the urban service area are not served by the existing distribution of playfields.

Playgrounds

As shown on Map 14, playgrounds were provided at six public outdoor recreation sites in the urban service area in 2002. A playground was also located at the County-owned Old Settler's Park, but access to the park is limited. Since the maximum service radius for a playground is 0.5 mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that large portions of the urban service area are not served by the existing distribution of playgrounds.

Soccer Fields

As shown on Map 15, public soccer fields were provided at one public outdoor recreation site in the urban service area in 2002. Since the maximum service radius of a soccer field is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the southern and eastern portions of the urban service area is not served by the existing distribution of soccer fields.

Softball Diamonds (League)

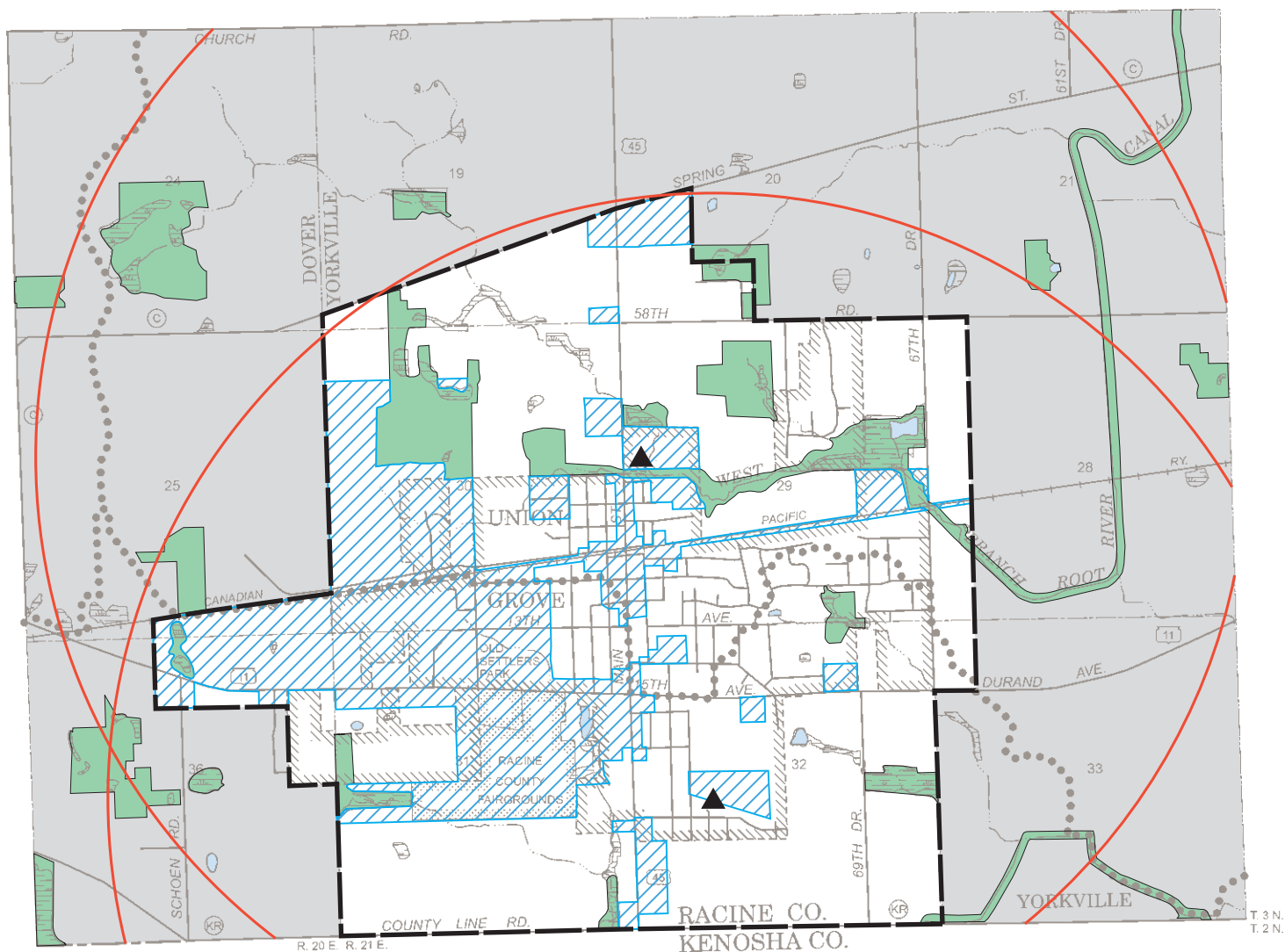
As shown on Map 16, league softball diamonds were provided at one public outdoor recreation site in the urban service area in 2002. Since the maximum service radius for a softball diamond is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the southern portion of the urban service area is not served by the existing distribution of league softball diamonds.

Tennis Courts

As shown on Map 17, tennis courts were provided at one public outdoor recreation site in the urban service area in 2002. Since the maximum service radius for a tennis court is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the southern portion of the urban service area is not served by the existing distribution of tennis courts.

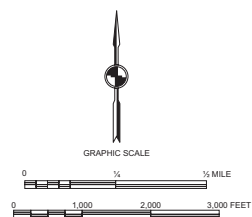
Map 11

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A BASEBALL DIAMOND**



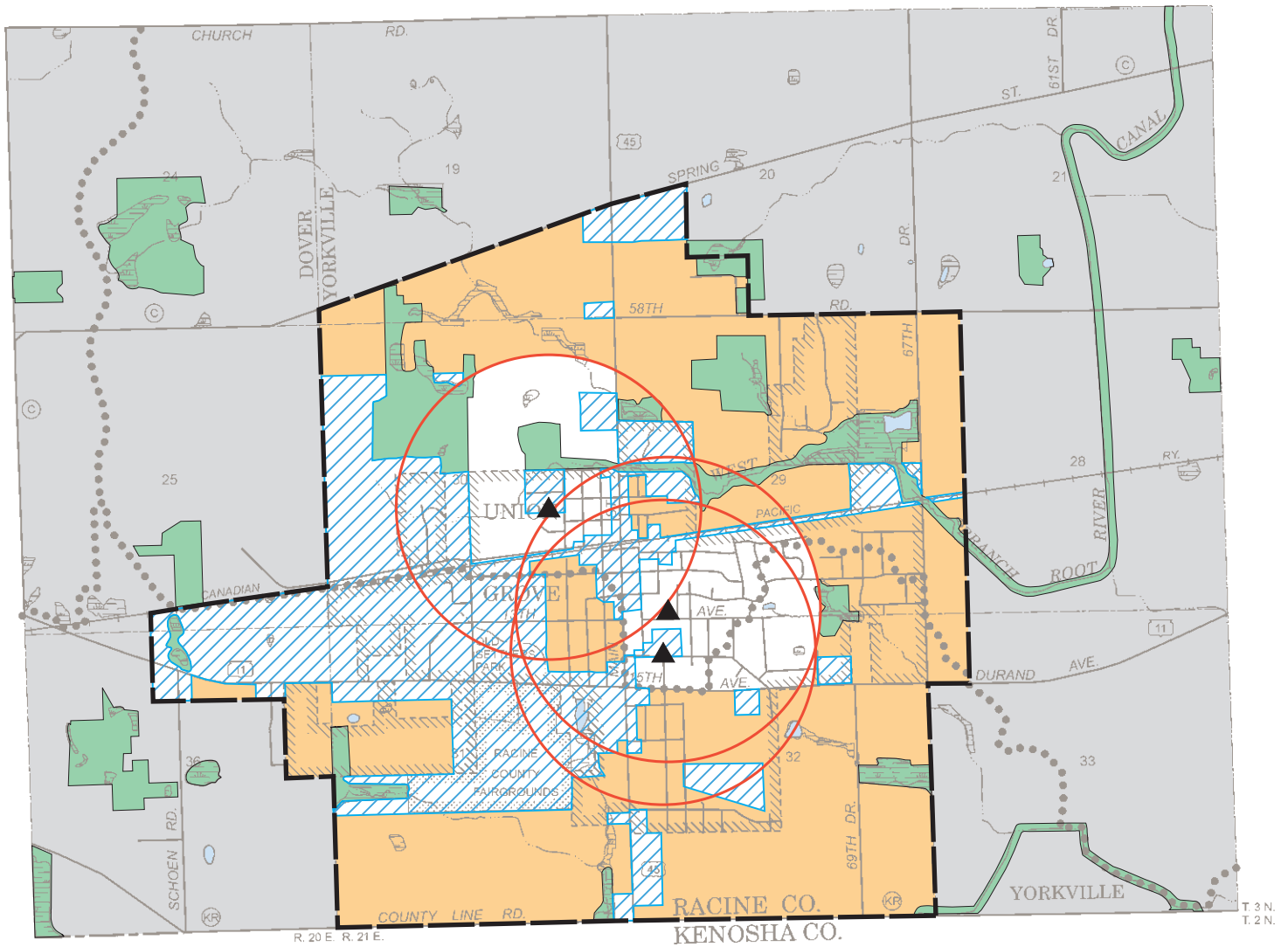
- ▲ EXISTING BASEBALL DIAMOND
- VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA
- BASEBALL DIAMOND SERVICE RADIUS
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF
UNION GROVE URBAN SERVICE AREA

Source: SEWRPC.



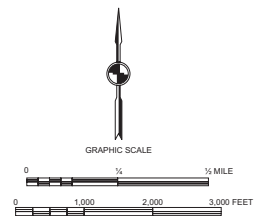
Map 12

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A BASKETBALL GOAL**



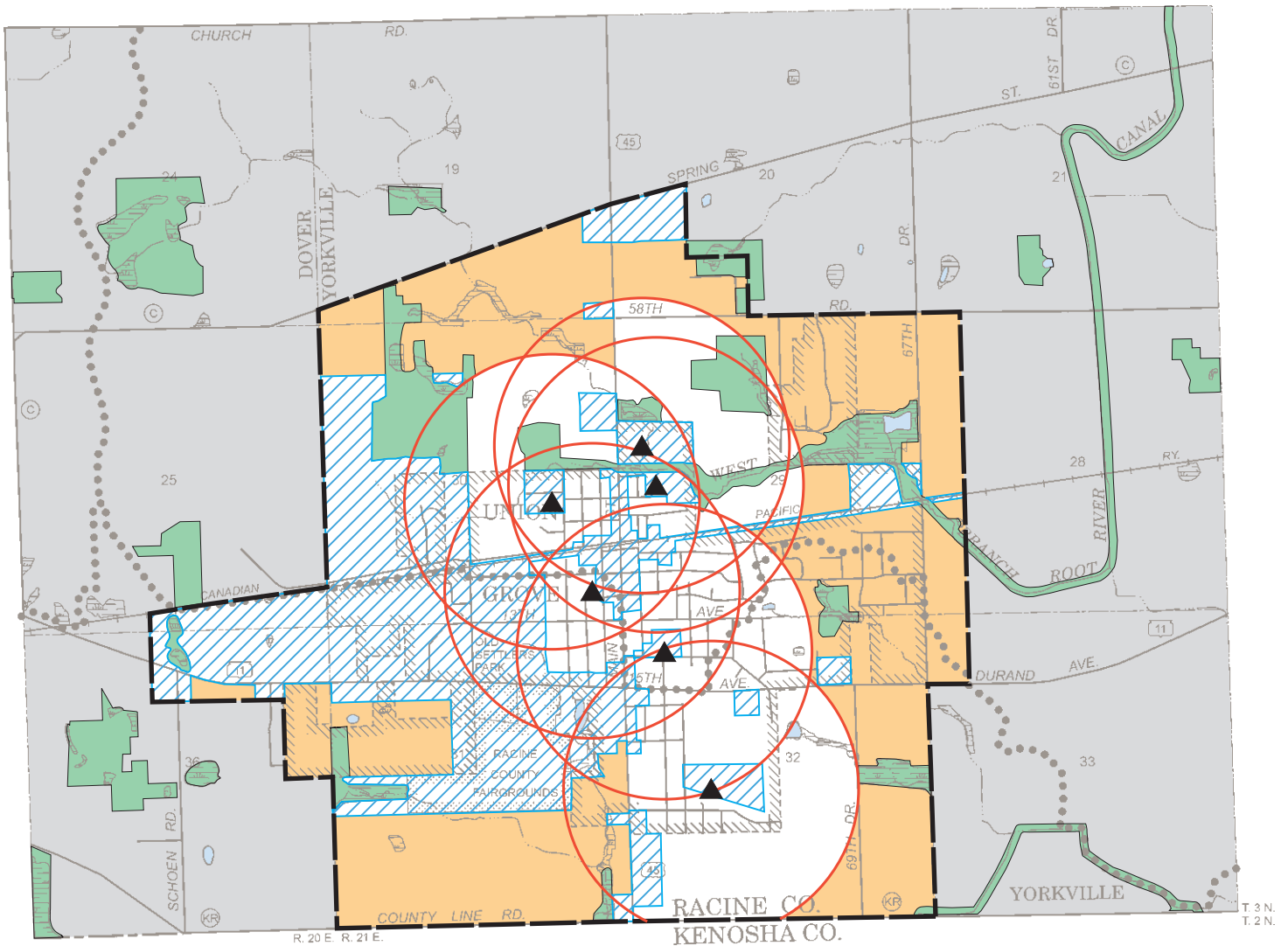
- ▲ EXISTING BASKETBALL GOAL
- VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA
- BASKETBALL GOAL SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY
SERVED BY A BASKETBALL GOAL
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF
UNION GROVE URBAN SERVICE AREA

Source: SEWRPC.



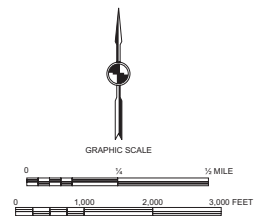
Map 13

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYFIELD**



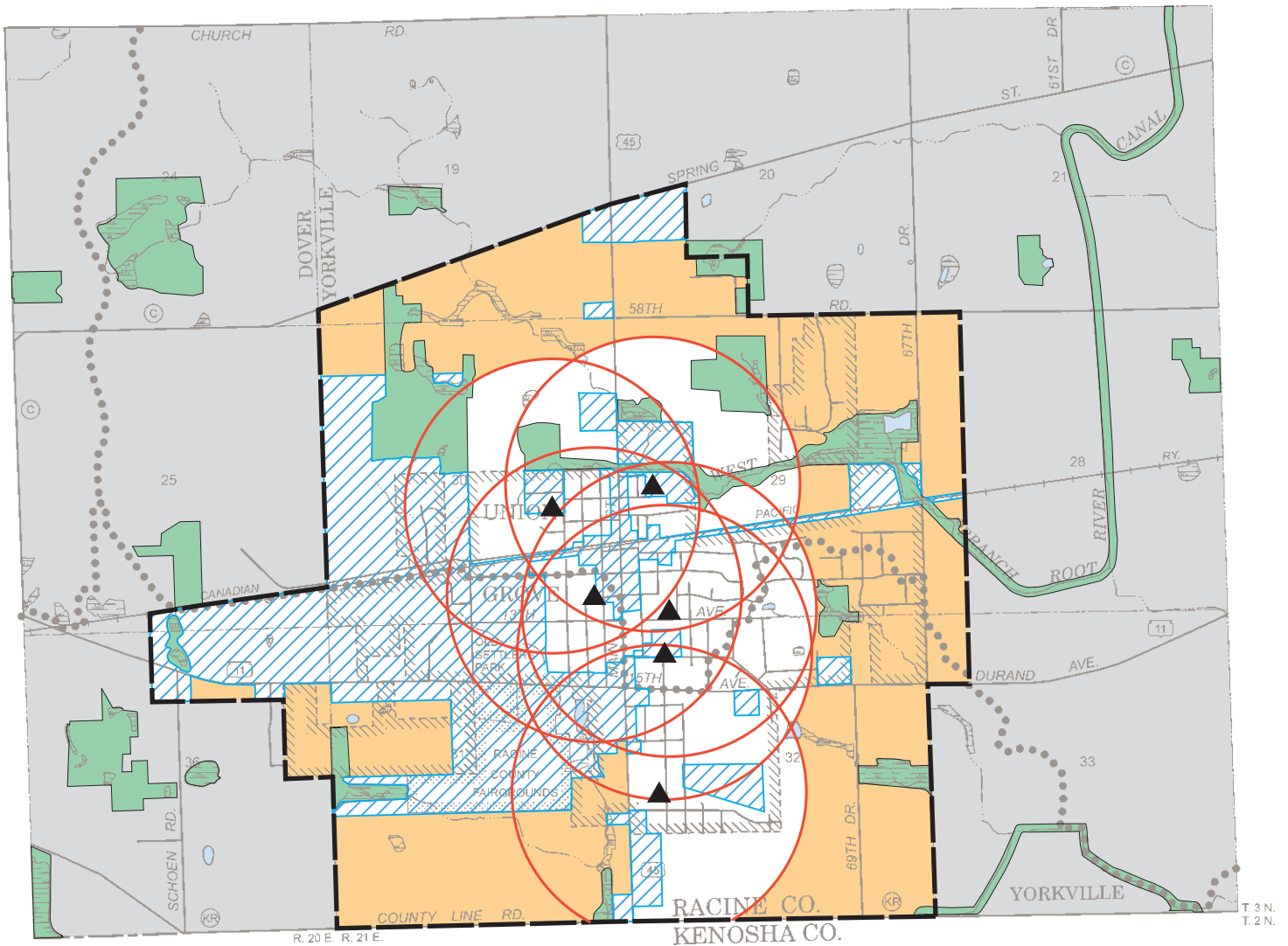
- ▲ EXISTING PLAYFIELD
- VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA
- PLAYFIELD SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT
ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYFIELD
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF
UNION GROVE URBAN SERVICE AREA

Source: SEWRPC.



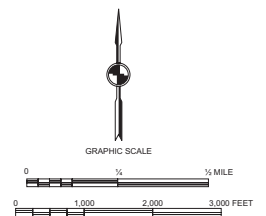
Map 14

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYGROUND**



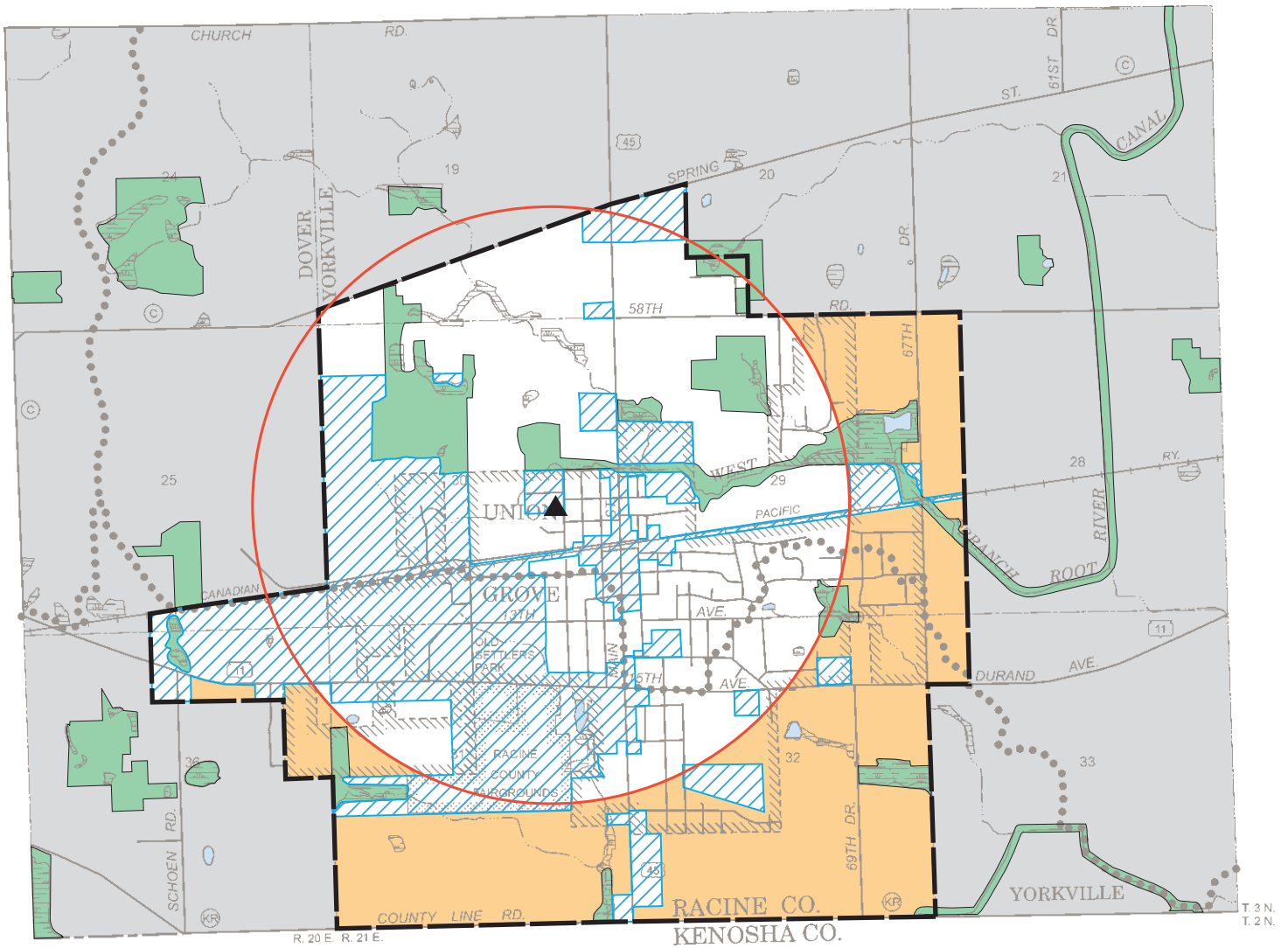
- ▲ EXISTING PLAYGROUND
- VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA
- PLAYGROUND SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT
ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYGROUND
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF
UNION GROVE URBAN SERVICE AREA

Source: SEWRPC.



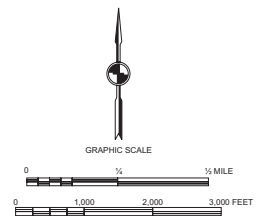
Map 15

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A SOCCER FIELD**



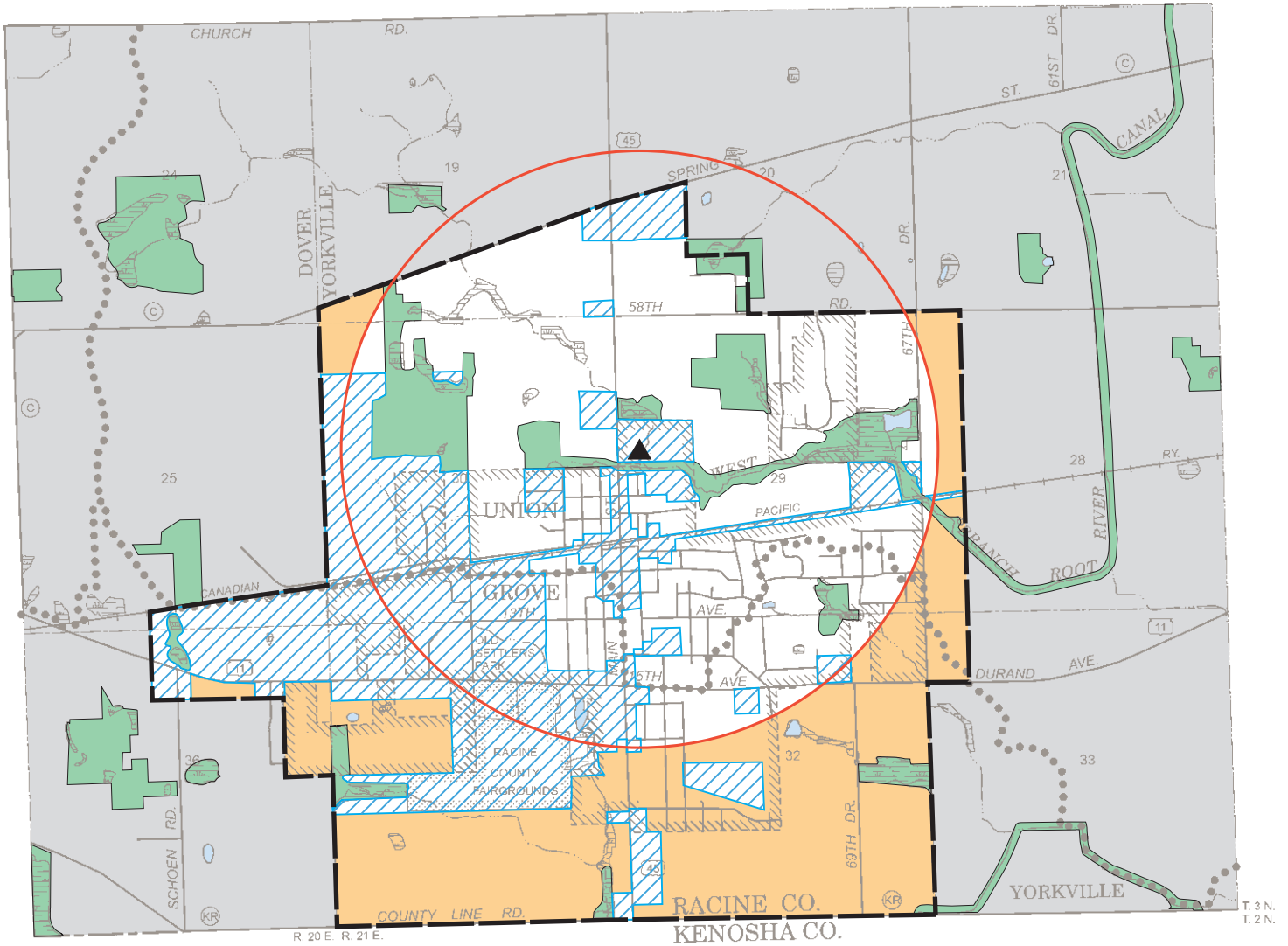
- ▲ EXISTING SOCCER FIELD
- VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA
- SOCCER FIELD SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY
SERVED BY A SOCCER FIELD
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF
UNION GROVE URBAN SERVICE AREA

Source: SEWRPC.

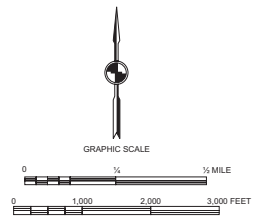


Map 16

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND**



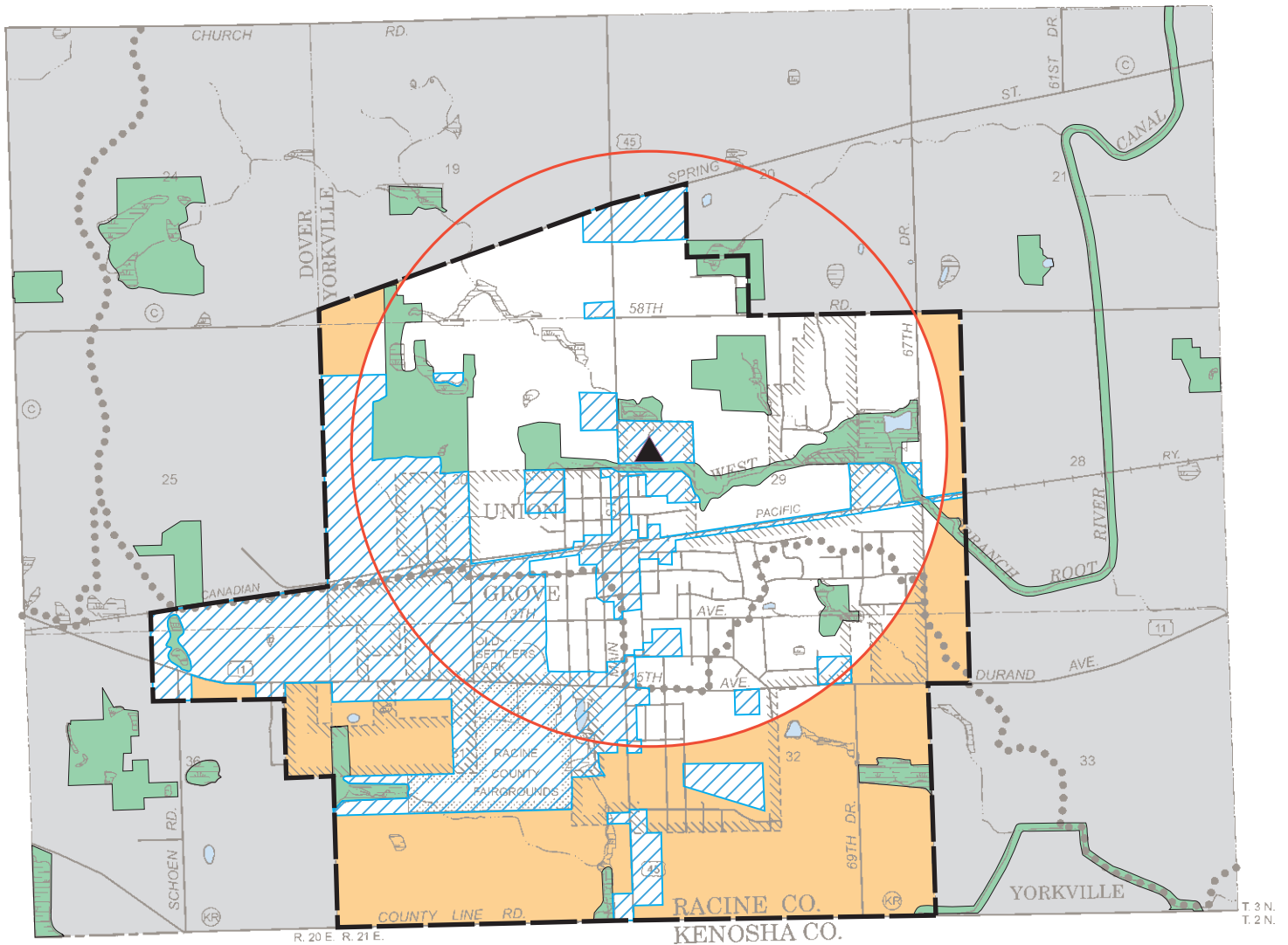
- ▲ EXISTING LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND
- VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA
- LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY
SERVED BY A LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF
UNION GROVE URBAN SERVICE AREA



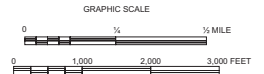
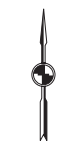
Source: SEWRPC.

Map 17

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A TENNIS COURT**



- ▲ EXISTING TENNIS COURT
- VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
URBAN SERVICE AREA
- TENNIS COURT SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT
ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A TENNIS COURT
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF
UNION GROVE URBAN SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

Other Site and Facility Need Considerations

The preceding sections described per capita and accessibility needs for urban parks and selected outdoor recreation facilities in the Village of Union Grove planning area. These needs were based on the application of the regional park and open space planning standards presented under Objectives 1 and 2 in Appendix A. In addition, the Village of Union Grove Parks and Recreation Commission and Village staff have identified a need for the development of a skate park, an aquatic facility, a community center, and additional basketball goals, ball diamonds, and soccer fields. The Commission also identified a need for a nature-based park site for Village residents.

Open Space Preservation Needs

The need to preserve and protect the natural resource base of the Village of Union Grove planning area is set forth under Objective No. 6 in Appendix A. As noted in Chapter II, most of the remaining natural resources within the Village of Union Grove planning area are located within the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. By preserving these environmentally sensitive areas in essentially natural, open uses, flood damage can be reduced, water supplies protected, air cleansed, and continued opportunities provided for educational and recreational pursuits.

The need to protect the environmentally sensitive areas cannot be related to per capita or accessibility requirements, since the achievement of the open space preservation objective is essentially independent of any population level or distribution and relates rather to the location and character of natural resources.

SUMMARY

This chapter has presented information concerning the areawide framework for preparation of the Village park and open space plan, and an analysis of the need for park and open space sites and facilities in the urban service area. Needs identified by the Village of Union Grove Parks and Recreation Commission and Village staff were taken into account, in addition to the park planning standards developed by SEWRPC. The key components of this chapter are as follows:

1. The park and recreation assessment prepared by the Village recommends the evaluation of available and suitable vacant lands for acquisition of additional park sites, and the expansion of existing park sites where feasible. The plan recommends the development of outdoor recreational facilities at 18th Avenue Park, Groves Subdivision Park, American Legion Park, and possibly, the Southern Wisconsin Center. Also recommended is the development of a community playground or “Kids Connection” and the continued development of a nature/pedestrian trail within the urban service area.
2. The results of a public opinion survey conducted by the Village indicate that walking trails, improvements to existing parks, and a community playground equipped with various playground amenities (a “Kids Connection”), are the primary needs within the Village. Overall, the largest percentage of survey respondents rated walking trails as the Village’s biggest need, followed by soccer fields, snowmobile paths, a BMX park, and a skate park. In addition, 25 percent of the survey respondents favored development of a swimming facility within the Village or planning area.
3. The park and open space objectives, principles, and standards used to prepare the recommended plan described in Chapter IV are set forth in Appendix A.
4. The Racine County park and open space plan recommends the development of a trail by the County from the City of Racine to the City of Burlington. The Racine-Burlington Trail would be located within the right-of-way of the Canadian Pacific Railway, should the railway become abandoned. The trail would encompass approximately four linear miles within the Village of Union Grove planning area. Recreational activities proposed for the trail include biking, hiking, dog walking, and cross-country skiing.

5. The need for major parks has been addressed by the Racine County park and open space plan. Under that plan, Ives Grove Golf Course was identified as a major park. Though not located within the planning area, Ives Grove Golf Course is located near the Village limits. No additional need for major parks exists within the Village of Union Grove planning area.
6. Application of the service area standards for neighborhood parks indicates that the southern and eastern portions of the urban service area are not adequately served by an existing neighborhood park. Because the Village has no community park, a need was also identified for a community park to serve Village residents.
7. Application of the per capita standards for recreation facilities indicates a need for three additional soccer fields and one additional league softball diamond. Application of the per capita standards also indicates a need for four acres of additional public outdoor recreation lands at public parks within the urban service area.
8. Application of the service area standards for recreational facilities indicates several areas that are not adequately served by the existing distribution of basketball goals, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, soccer fields, and league softball diamonds.
9. The Village of Union Grove Parks and Recreation Commission identified a need for the development of a skate park, an aquatic facility, a community center, and additional basketball goals, ball diamonds, and soccer fields.
10. The maintenance of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in essentially natural, open uses, would generally serve to meet open space preservation needs within the planning area.

Chapter IV

PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of this park and open space plan for the Village of Union Grove is to provide a sound and workable plan to guide the acquisition of land and the development of recreational facilities to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents, and to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base. The recommended park and open space plan is presented in this chapter. The plan has a design year of 2020.

This plan is intended to provide a long-range vision and a guide to assist Village officials and staff in making the day-to-day decisions needed for continued development of the Village's park and open space system. To assist in the implementation of the plan, both long-term recommendations, for the next 20 years, and a shorter-term "action plan" are presented in this chapter. The action plan sets forth priorities for implementation of the park and open space plan over the five-year period from 2003 through 2007.

Important preliminary steps in the development of this plan included the collection of inventory information regarding land use, population, natural resources, and park and open sites and facilities within the planning area. Recommendations from the Village Parks and Recreation Assessment and citizen surveys were also identified and incorporated, as appropriate, into this plan.

The implementation of recommendations directed at meeting the park and open space objectives is generally the responsibility of several levels of government. Resource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives requiring the provision of large parks, areawide trail facilities, and facilities for such activities as golfing, camping, and boating, are typically the responsibility of the State and County levels of government. Nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives requiring the provision of smaller local parks for activities such as softball, tennis, soccer, and children's playground activities are typically the responsibility of the local level of government. Objectives intended to protect important natural resource features, including environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are the responsibility of all levels of government.

The first part of this chapter summarizes the areawide park and open space plan recommendations for the planning area, which are presented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 2nd Edition, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, July 2001. Included in that plan are recommendations for the provision of resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities and the protection of the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in Racine County, including the Village of Union Grove planning area. The second section of this chapter sets forth recommendations for the provision of Village park and open space sites and facilities. A third section describes actions needed to implement the plan, including cost estimates

for the acquisition and development of new and existing park and open space sites and facilities. A summary of the chapter is included in the last section.

AREAWIDE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

The park and open space plan for Racine County contains recommendations which, if implemented, would provide residents of the County with opportunities to participate in a wide range of resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities. Those recommendations, which have been incorporated into this Village plan, are concerned with the provision of major parks, which provide opportunities for intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, and recreation corridors, which provide opportunities for various trail-oriented activities. In addition, the plan contains recommendations for the protection and preservation of open space lands, including natural resource features such as woodlands, wetlands, and floodplain, located within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas of the planning area.

Major Parks and Trail Facilities

As shown on Map 18, the County plan recommends that a total of eight major public outdoor recreation sites be provided in the County. One major park, Ives Grove Golf Course, is located near the Village in the Town of Yorkville, about five miles northeast of the Village limits. The plan recommends that the County continue to maintain and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented outdoor recreational facilities as needed at Ives Grove Golf Course. The County-owned Eagle Lake Park, located in the Town of Dover, is also located near the Village. The plan proposes that the County continue to maintain existing facilities at the park, and develop a swimming beach and beach house.

The County plan also recommends that the County continue to maintain Old Settler's Park and the Racine County Fairgrounds, two County-owned sites within the Village of Union Grove planning area.

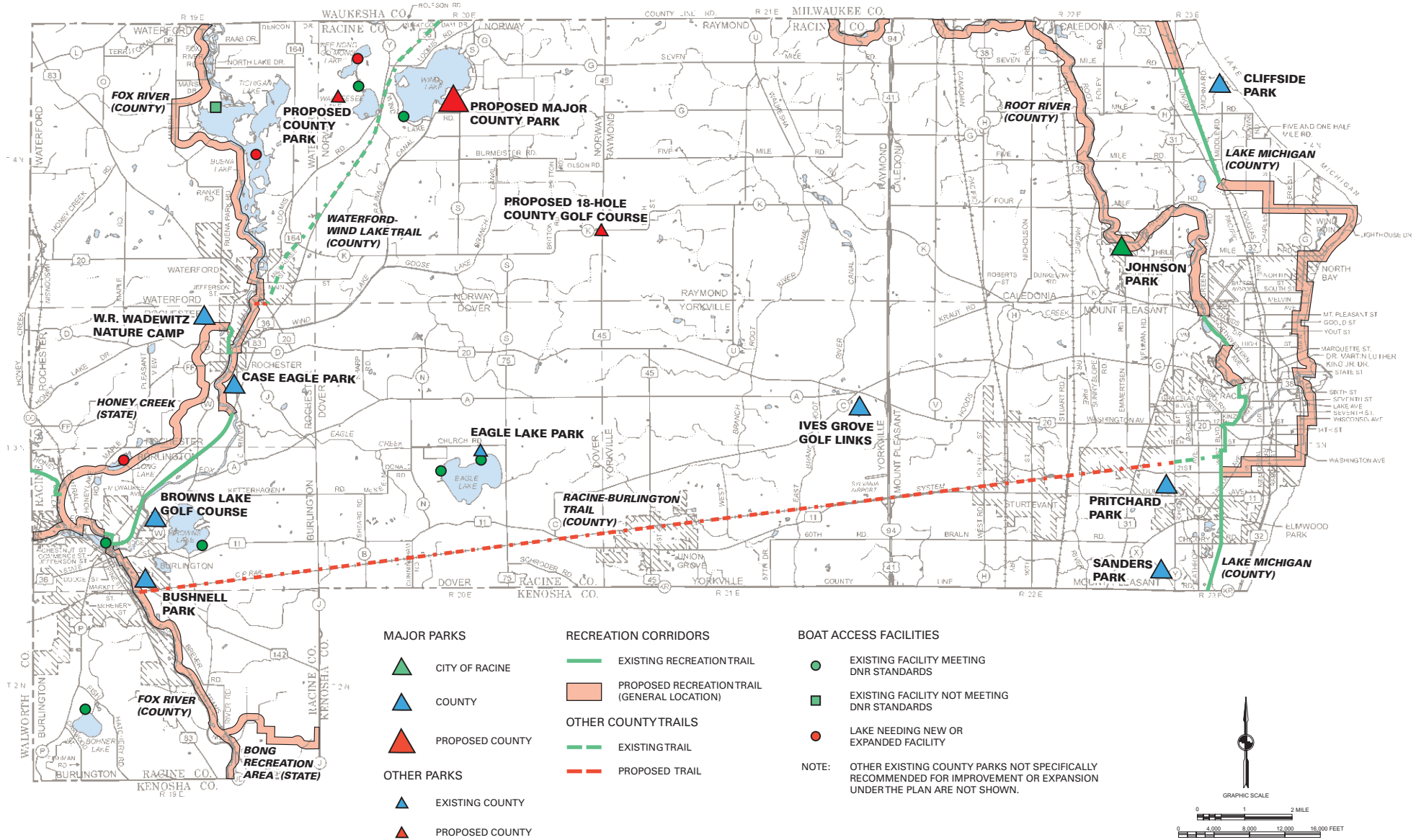
The county plan further recommends that about 70 miles of recreation trails be provided in the County as part of the 500-mile regionwide trail system. As shown on Map 18, the County plan recommends that the County develop and maintain a trail from the City of Racine to the City of Burlington. The Racine-Burlington Trail would be located within the right-of-way of the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, now the Canadian Pacific Railway, should the railway become abandoned. Recreational activities proposed for the trail include biking, hiking, dog walking, and cross-country skiing. The 22-mile trail would extend from the Lake Michigan Trail in the City of Racine to the City of Burlington, and would include approximately four linear miles within the Village of Union Grove planning area. Currently, about a two-mile segment of the trail has been completed on an abandoned portion of the railway within the City of Racine, from West Boulevard westward to STH 31.

In 1995, the Commission adopted a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan¹ which recommends a network of on- and off-street bicycle ways within the County. That plan generally incorporates the recommendations for bicycle facilities contained in the Racine County bicycle plan adopted in 1975, including the existing Racine County Bicycle Route. The Racine County Bicycle Route is a 100-mile on-street bicycle route located on relatively low traffic volume roads throughout the County. An existing portion of the route is located just north of the Village of Union Grove along CTH C. Bikeways recommended by the regional bicycle plan include the bikeway on CTH C and the proposed trail within the Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way.

¹*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 43, A Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2010, January 1995. An update to the plan is documented in a report entitled Amendment to the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2020, December 2001.*

Map 18

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



Source: SEWRPC.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

The location and extent of the important open space lands in the Village of Union Grove planning area, including wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, and natural areas within the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are described in Chapter II of this report. The preservation of these open space lands in essentially natural, open uses would serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality in, and protect the natural beauty of, the Village of Union Grove, as well as provide valuable recreational opportunities for residents of the Village. Such preservation will also help to avoid the creation of serious and costly environmental and developmental problems within the Village. The preservation of environmentally significant lands in essentially natural, open space uses will assist in reducing flood damage and soil erosion, assist with storm water management, and protect wildlife habitat. These benefits will enhance the quality of life for all Village residents.

Primary Environmental Corridors

The planned primary environmental corridors, shown on Map 19, encompass approximately 11 acres of land, and are located in the southwest portion of the planning area along the border of Racine County and Kenosha County. It is recommended that the entire 11 acres of primary environmental corridor be acquired by Racine County as part of the Schroeder Road Marsh natural area.

Secondary Environmental Corridors

The planned secondary environmental corridors, shown on Map 19, encompass approximately 151 acres of land. This represents an increase of about 15 acres over the secondary environmental corridors identified in 1995. The increase is due to the addition of floodplains along the West Branch of the Root River being added to the planned corridor. Secondary environmental corridor lands are located along the West Branch of the Root River in the central and eastern portions of the planning area and along an intermittent stream in the southeastern portion of the planning area.

As shown on Table 10, of the approximately 151 acres of secondary environmental corridor, 16 acres are currently owned by the Village and are recommended to be retained in such ownership for resource protection purposes, and 23 acres are proposed to be acquired by the Village as part of the development of a pedestrian/nature trail along the West Branch of the Root River. The remaining 112 acres, including five acres located within the Village, are privately owned. Consideration should be given to protecting privately owned secondary environmental corridor lands by placing them in a conservancy zoning district.

Isolated Natural Resource Areas

The planned isolated natural resource areas, also shown on Map 19, encompass about 350 acres. This represents a decrease of about five acres from the number of acres in isolated natural resource areas identified in 1995 and described in Chapter II. Isolated natural resource areas consist of pockets of wooded and wetland areas and are scattered throughout the planning area.

As shown on Table 10, of the approximately 350 acres of isolated natural resource area, 18 acres are currently in existing public ownership within the Southern Wisconsin Center, and 16 acres of isolated natural resource areas are proposed to be acquired by the Village for two new parks and one new nature-based outdoor recreation site. It is also recommended that the Village acquire 26 acres of isolated natural resource area to accommodate development of a Village trail system. The remaining 290 acres of isolated natural resource area should be maintained in essentially natural, open uses to the extent practicable, including 16 acres located within the Village. Consideration should be given to protecting privately-owned isolated natural resource areas by placing them in a conservancy zoning district. It is also recommended that the Village contact the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and request that the isolated natural resource area within the Southern Wisconsin Center be preserved.

Natural Areas

Recommendations developed through the regional natural areas plan, documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern*

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 2020

Table 10

**EXISTING AND PROPOSED OWNERSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL
CORRIDORS^a IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA**

Corridor Type	Existing Public ^b	Proposed Public	Protect through Zoning	Total
Primary Environmental Corridor.....	- -	11 ^c	- -	11
Secondary Environmental Corridor	16	23 ^d	112	151
Isolated Natural Resource Area.....	18	42 ^d	290	350
Total	34	76	402	512

^aIncludes planned primary environmental corridors, planned secondary environmental corridors, and planned isolated natural resource areas.

^bIncludes existing ownership in 2002.

^cTo be acquired by Racine County.

^dTo be acquired by the Village of Union Grove.

Source: SEWRPC.

Wisconsin, have been incorporated into the Village park and open space plan. As noted in Chapter II, three natural areas have been identified within the planning area. It is recommended that all three of the natural areas be protected through public ownership by Racine County.

As shown on Table 11, the Kansasville Railroad Prairie is a 14-acre natural area of statewide or greater significance located along the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Towns of Dover and Yorkville. The entire natural area is recommended to be acquired by Racine County. The Union Grove Railroad Prairie is a 32-acre natural area of countywide or regional significance located along the Canadian Pacific Railway, including approximately three acres within the Village and 29 acres within the Town of Yorkville. Fifteen acres of the natural area are located within the planning area. The entire natural area is recommended to be acquired by Racine County.

The Schroeder Road Marsh is a 188-acre natural area of countywide or regional significance located in the Town of Yorkville in Racine County and the Town of Brighton in Kenosha County. It is recommended that Racine County acquire the 77 acres of the natural area located in Racine County, including seven acres within the planning area, and that Kenosha County acquire the 111 acres of the natural area located in Kenosha County. These recommendations are reflected on Map 19. In all, the three natural areas recommended for preservation encompass 36 acres within the planning area, and all 36 acres are recommended to be acquired by Racine County.

VILLAGE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the analysis of outdoor recreation needs, presented in Chapter III of this report, indicated that there is a need in the Village of Union Grove for one community park, two additional neighborhood parks, and associated recreational facilities, including additional softball diamonds and soccer fields. Such parks and facilities are intended to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents and are recommended to be provided by the Village. It is important to note that all proposed facility development must comply with the accessibility requirements set forth under Federal law in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Table 11

**RECOMMENDED PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS
IN THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA**

Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 8	Name	Classification Code ^a	Already under Protective Ownership	Proposed to Be Acquired	Total	
1	Kansasville Railroad Prairie	NA-1	- -	14	14	Racine County
2	Schroeder Road Marsh	NA-2	- -	7	7	Racine County ^b
3	Union Grove Railroad Prairie	NA-2	- -	15	15	Racine County ^c
- -	Total - 3 Sites	- -	- -	36	36	- -

^aNA-1 identifies Natural Areas of statewide or greater significance
NA-2 identifies Natural Areas of countywide or regional significance.

^bThe Schroeder Road Marsh natural area encompasses a total of 188 acres within Racine and Kenosha Counties. It is recommended that Racine County acquire the 77 acres of the natural area located in the Town of Yorkville in Racine County and that Kenosha County acquire the 111 acres of the natural area located in the Town of Brighton in Kenosha County.

^cThe Union Grove Railroad Prairie natural area encompasses a total of 32 acres within Racine County, including three acres located within the Village of Union Grove and 29 acres located within the Town of Yorkville. All 32 acres are proposed to be acquired by Racine County.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

The Village of Union Grove Parks and Recreation Commission identified a need for a nature-based open space site within the urban service area. A 10-acre parcel of open space land located in the northwestern portion of the urban service area is anticipated to be donated to the Village and will serve as a nature-based outdoor recreation site. The Parks and Recreation Commission also identified a need for the development of a skate park, an aquatic facility, a community center, and additional basketball goals, ball diamonds, and soccer fields.

Proposed New Park Sites and Facilities

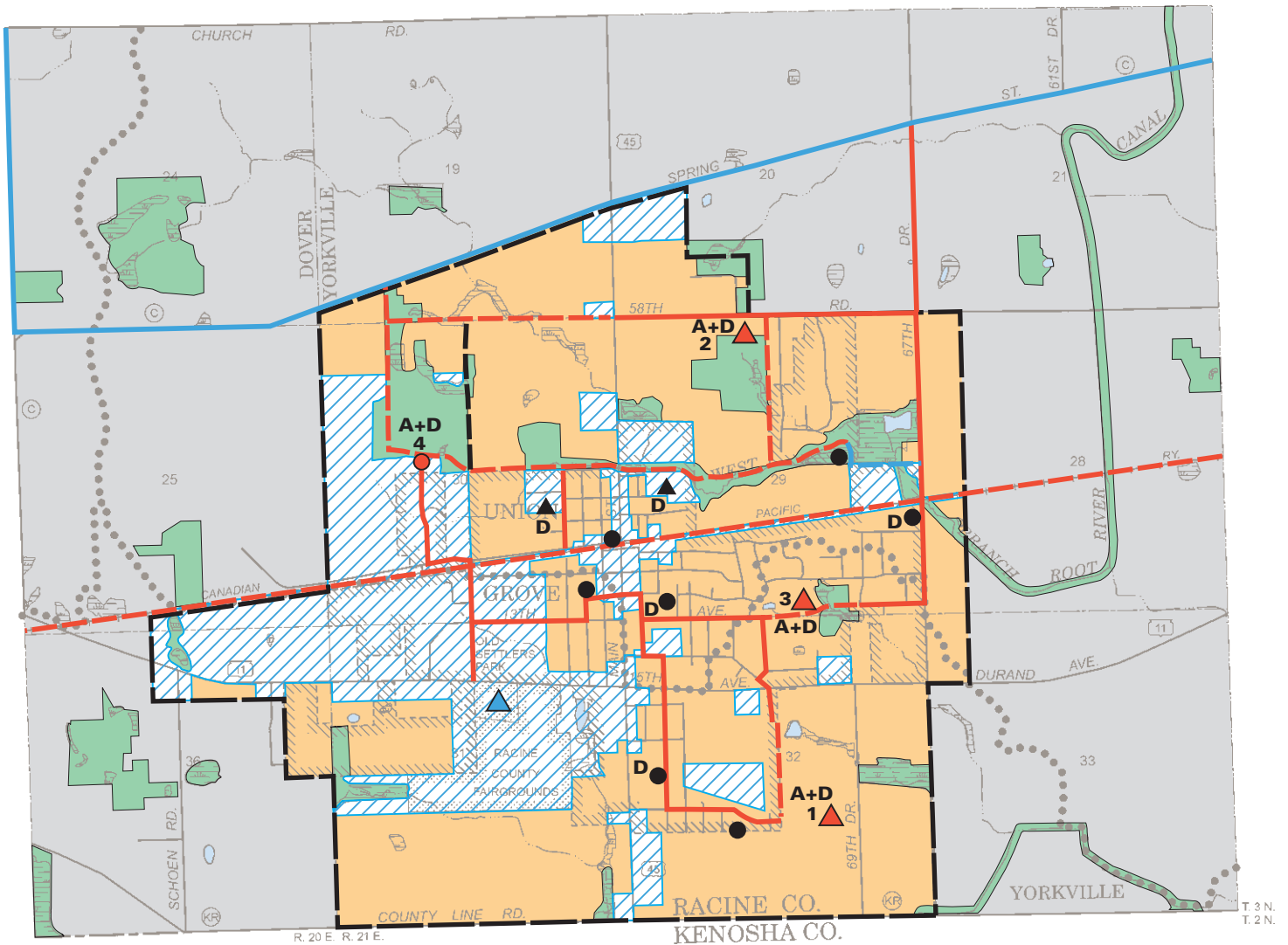
Under the park and open space plan for the Village of Union Grove, it is recommended that the Village acquire one new community park, two new neighborhood parks, and one new nature-based outdoor recreation site and develop needed outdoor recreational facilities at all four sites. General site locations are shown on Map 20, and the proposed size of each park and the facilities proposed to be developed at each park are summarized in Table 12. Specific locations for each proposed new park should be identified and acquired as residential development occurs in the urban service area. Initial recommendations regarding the facilities to be developed at each proposed new park are described below.

No facility development can occur until the proposed park sites are acquired. The acquisition of proposed Park Site 4, the nature-based outdoor recreation site, is the only park site specifically recommended to be acquired and developed during the 2003 through 2007 period; however, should development occur in the vicinity of a proposed new park, the Village should take steps to acquire the site, or identify a new site to be acquired in the park service area. The Village Parks and Recreation Commission has also expressed an interest in possibly acquiring land and developing additional ball diamonds prior to 2008.

- **Park Site 1:** Park Site 1 is a proposed community park intended to serve the entire Village. This site would encompass approximately 35 acres. Facilities proposed for this site include an aquatic facility, two league softball diamonds with lights, two soccer fields, a basketball court, two tennis courts, a playfield, a community playground or "Kids Connection," a picnic shelter with restrooms, an area for picnicking and other passive outdoor recreation use, and appropriate support facilities.

Map 20

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE PLANNING AREA: 2020



- | | | | |
|--|--|----------|---|
| | EXISTING COUNTY PARK | A | ADDITIONAL ACQUISITION PROPOSED |
| | EXISTING VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK | D | ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED |
| | EXISTING VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE OTHER PARK | 2 | PROPOSED PARK SITE NUMBER (SEE TABLES 12 AND 13) |
| | PROPOSED VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK | | VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE URBAN SERVICE AREA |
| | PROPOSED VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE NATURE-BASED OUTDOOR RECREATION SITE | | PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA |
| | EXISTING ON-STREET BICYCLE WAY | | PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT |
| | EXISTING OFF-STREET TRAIL | | ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS |
| | PROPOSED ON-STREET BICYCLE WAY | | LANDS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE URBAN SERVICE AREA |
| | PROPOSED OFF-STREET TRAIL | | |
| | ALTERNATE OFF-STREET TRAIL | | |

Source: SEWRPC.

- **Park Site 2:** Park Site 2 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northeastern portion of the urban service area. This site would encompass approximately 15 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include a basketball court, a playground, a playfield/soccer field, a softball diamond, walking trails, and appropriate support facilities. The site would also encompass eight acres of woodlands within an isolated natural resource area.
- **Park Site 3:** Park Site 3 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southeastern portion of the urban service area. The site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include a skate park, a playground, a playfield, a softball diamond, and appropriate support facilities. The site would also encompass three acres of woodlands and one acre of wetlands within an isolated natural resource area.
- **Park Site 4:** Park Site 4 is a proposed nature-based outdoor recreation site to be located in the northwestern portion of the urban service area. The site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Walking trails are proposed to be developed at this site. The site would also encompass four acres of woodlands within an isolated natural resource area. It is anticipated that this site will be donated to the Village. Acquisition and development of the site is anticipated by 2008.

Table 12

**RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION
AND DEVELOPMENT AT
PROPOSED PARK SITES IN
THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE
PLANNING AREA^a**

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Proposed Facility Development
Proposed Site 1	35	Aquatic Facility Two League Softball Diamonds with Lights Two Soccer Fields Basketball Court Two Tennis Courts Playground (Kids Connection) Playfield Restroom/Shelter General Development
Proposed Site 2	15	Softball Diamond Basketball Court Playground Playfield/Soccer Field Walking Trails General Development
Proposed Site 3	10	Skate Park Softball Diamond Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 4	10	Walking Trails General Development
Total	70	--

NOTE: "General Development" includes such activities as grading, landscaping, signs, lighting, picnic tables, benches, parking lots, and walkways.

^aIt is anticipated that the acquisition and development of Sites 1, 2, and 3 would occur after 2007. Park Site 4 is proposed to be acquired and developed between 2003 and 2007.

Source: SEWRPC.

The land use plan for the Village of Union Grove-Town of Yorkville designates the area west of USH 45 and south of the Racine County Fairgrounds for future residential development; however, it is anticipated that this will be one of the last areas to develop within the Village urban service area. Should development occur within this area prior to the time this park and open space plan is updated, the Village Parks and Recreation Commission should consider the acquisition and development of a neighborhood park and associated recreational facilities to serve residents within the neighborhood bounded by STH 11 on the north, USH 45 on the east, the County line on the south, and Schoen Road on the west.

Additional Development at Existing Village Parks

It is recommended that the Village develop outdoor recreational facilities at one existing undeveloped park site (Groves Subdivision Park) and develop additional or make improvements to outdoor recreational facilities at four existing park sites. The following recommendations are expected to be completed in the next five years (2003 through 2007), and are summarized on Table 13.

- **American Legion Park:** American Legion Park is a 10-acre park located in the north-central portion of the urban service area. Existing park facilities include a sandlot softball diamond, a playground, and

a playfield. It is recommended that improvements be made to the ball diamond and that the bleachers be updated at the park.

- *Buften Park:* Buften Park is a one-half acre park located in the central portion of the urban service area. Existing park facilities include two basketball goals and a playground. It is recommended that the playground equipment be updated at the park.
- *Groves Subdivision Park:* Groves Subdivision Park is a three-acre undeveloped park located in the eastern portion of the urban service area. Facilities proposed to be developed include a playground, a playfield/soccer field, and a shelter. Development of a pedestrian access to the park is also recommended. The Village is also proposing to develop a stormwater storage basin at the park.
- *Indian Trails Park:* Indian Trails Park is a one-half acre park located in the southern portion of the urban service area. It is recommended that the existing playground equipment at the park be updated.
- *Joseph Leider Memorial Park:* Joseph Leider Memorial Park is an eight-acre neighborhood park intended to serve the northwestern portion of the urban service area. A three-acre portion of the park is developed and the remaining five acres are undeveloped. Existing park facilities include a sandlot softball diamond, a playground, a playfield, a soccer field, a basketball goal, horseshoe pits, and a group picnic shelter. It is recommended that additional facilities be developed at the site, including a basketball court, two tennis courts, a sand volleyball court, a second playground, a playfield, a shelter/restroom, walking trails, and an area for picnicking and other passive outdoor recreation use. It is also recommended that improvements be made to the ball diamond and that the existing playground and bleachers be updated at the park.

Additional Recommendations

In addition to the recommendations set forth above, the Village Parks and Recreation Commission supports the development of a community center to serve Village residents. The Village is considering acquiring an abandoned school for development of the community center, which would provide Village residents with the opportunity to participate in a variety of recreational programs and activities. Acquisition of the abandoned school for use as a proposed community center was identified as a high priority by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

As noted in Chapter III, 25 percent of respondents to the public opinion survey conducted in 2001 identified a need for a swimming facility in or near the Village. The Parks and Recreation Commission supports

Table 13

**RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION,
DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPROVEMENTS
AT EXISTING OR PROPOSED PARK
SITES IN THE VILLAGE OF
UNION GROVE: 2003-2007**

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition, Development, or Improvement	Development Cost
American Legion Memorial Park	Improve and maintain ball diamond	\$400
	Replace or repair bleachers	10,000
	Subtotal	\$ 10,400
Buften Park	Update playground equipment	\$ 2,600
Groves Subdivision Park	Playground	\$ 25,000
	Playfield/soccer field	20,000
	Shelter	100,000
	Acquire easement and develop an eight foot wide pedestrian access path	10,000
	Subtotal	\$155,000
Indian Trail Park	Update playground equipment	\$ 4,800
Joseph Leider Memorial Park	Basketball court	\$ 30,000
	Two tennis courts	45,000
	Develop second playground	30,000
	Playfield	20,000
	Walking trails	25,000
	Sand volleyball court	2,000
	Restroom/shelter	50,000
	Update existing playground equipment	10,000
	Improve and maintain ball diamond	400
	Replace or repair bleachers	10,000
	Subtotal	\$222,400
Proposed Nature-based Outdoor Recreation Site	Acquire 10 acres of land	..a
	Develop walking trails	\$ 25,000
Other	Improvements at school sites ^b	\$ 4,800
Total – 7 Sites	- -	\$425,000

^aLand at this site is anticipated to be donated to the Village of Union Grove and the cost given is only for the development of walking trails.

^bThe Village also proposes to contribute \$800 for the improvement and maintenance of two ball diamonds at the Union Grove Middle School and \$4,000 for the improvement and maintenance of a ball diamond and bleachers at the Union Grove Grade School.

Source: SEWRPC.

the development of a swimming facility within the urban service area prior to 2020. The Commission will continue work to identify a suitable site for the facility.

Open Space Preservation

As shown on Map 19, it is recommended that the Village acquire 23 acres of secondary environmental corridor and 42 acres of isolated natural resource areas associated with the development of two proposed neighborhood parks, a nature-based outdoor recreation site, and a Village trail system. These lands are to be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses. Acquisition would likely occur after 2007.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Route and Trail System

As shown on Map 20, it is recommended that the Village cooperate with Racine County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and adjoining local governments to develop a system of bicycle and pedestrian routes and paths. It is envisioned that this system would interconnect with community and neighborhood parks in the Village and with existing and proposed County bikeways and trails, and includes the continued development of a nature/pedestrian trail along the West Branch of the Root River. The trail is currently about one-half mile in length.

The entire bicycle way system within the planning area is proposed to include about six miles of routes associated with street rights-of-way and about four miles of trails associated with environmentally significant lands or open space lands within the urban service area. It is recommended that the Village develop the on-street bikeways and off-street trails within the urban service area. About one mile of on-street bikeway is proposed to be developed along 67th Drive by the Town of Yorkville.

It is recommended that paved shoulders be provided on both sides of 67th Drive and 58th Road along the segments shown on Map 20 to better accommodate bicycle travel. The remaining on-street bicycle ways shown on Map 20 should be signed as bicycle routes. The bicycle routes and trails shown on Map 20 incorporate the recommendations of the regional bicycle way system plan and the Village of Union Grove Parks and Recreation Assessment. Additional bikeways and trails have been identified as part of this planning effort.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The park and open space plan for the Village of Union Grove is not complete until the steps required to implement the plan have been specified. This section includes a description of the actions required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Racine County, and by the Village of Union Grove to implement the recommended park and open space plan for the Village.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has authority and responsibility for park development, natural resource protection, water quality management, and water use regulation within the State. Certain DNR functions have particular importance in the implementation of county and local park and open space plans. The Department has the obligation to prepare a comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and to develop long-range water resource management 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 natural resources; and the authority to administer, within the State, the Federal LAWCON Program and the Wisconsin Stewardship Program. The LAWCON and Stewardship programs are intended to assist in the acquisition and development of local parks and open space areas. The DNR also has the responsibility to establish standards for floodplain and shoreland zoning; and the authority to adopt, in the absence of satisfactory local action, shoreland and floodplain zoning ordinances.

More specifically, in relation to the implementation of the Village park and open space plan, it is important that the DNR endorse the plan, thereby qualifying the Village to apply for outdoor recreation grants in support of plan implementation. A municipality must have a park and open space plan adopted by a resolution of the governing body—the Village Board in the Village of Union Grove—to be eligible to apply for and receive recreational grants administered by the DNR.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

It is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) continue to make transportation grants available for the construction of bikeways recommended by the park and open space plan, including those to be located off-street and on County and local streets. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation should also work cooperatively with the Village to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian trail crossings of STH 11 and USH 45.

It is further recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation promptly notify the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the County surveyor, the Village of Union Grove, and the Regional Planning Commission of any railway abandonment proposed within the Village of Union Grove planning area. The Department should work with the aforementioned agencies to evaluate the feasibility of acquiring the railway right-of-way proposed to be abandoned for recreational purposes, including use as off-street bicycle and pedestrian ways.

Racine County

Racine County has the authority and responsibility for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of the major parks and areawide trails within the County. It is recommended that Racine County continue to provide and maintain existing facilities at Eagle Lake Park and Ives Grove Golf Course, two County-owned parks located near the Village of Union Grove. It is also recommended that the County develop a swimming beach and beach house at Eagle Lake Park and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented outdoor recreational facilities as needed at Ives Grove Golf Course. The plan also recommends that the County continue to maintain Old Settler's Park and the Racine County Fairgrounds, two County-owned sites within the Village of Union Grove planning area.

It is further recommended that the County acquire 11 acres of primary environmental corridor within the planning area. The primary environmental corridor includes seven acres of the Schroeder Road Marsh natural area. The County should also acquire the Kansasville Railroad Prairie and Union Grove Railroad Prairie natural areas located within the planning area.

It is also recommended that the County continue to develop and maintain the Racine-Burlington Trail. The trail would extend from the City of Racine to the City of Burlington, and would be located within the right-of-way of the Canadian Pacific Railway, should the railway become abandoned. The 22-mile trail would include approximately four miles within the Village of Union Grove planning area. The County should also continue to maintain that portion of the Racine County Bicycle Route located within the planning area on CTH C.

Village of Union Grove

Under the adopted park and open space plan, shown on Maps 19 and 20, the Village of Union Grove would have responsibility for providing a variety of outdoor recreational sites and facilities, including the improvement and maintenance of all existing Village park sites and facilities, the acquisition of 60 acres of open space land for development of three new parks and associated recreational facilities, the acquisition of 10 acres of land for a nature-based outdoor recreation site, the development of recreational facilities at one undeveloped existing park site, and the development or improvement of recreational facilities at four existing parks. Implementation of these recommendations would result in the attainment of the park acquisition and development and open space preservation objectives presented in Chapter III of this report.

It is also recommended that the Village develop a trail and bikeway system, and acquire 49 acres of secondary environmental corridor and isolated natural resource areas for development of the trail system.

It is further recommended that the Village adequately maintain all existing Village-owned park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities. The maintenance activities of these sites would include, as necessary, repair and resurfacing of parking lots and walkways; the resurfacing of court areas, such as volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts; the provision, repair, or replacement of such support facilities as sport field lighting, park benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains; the repair or replacement of restroom facilities, water supply facilities, maintenance buildings, and picnic shelters; and the maintenance of lawns and other landscape plantings. In

addition, such maintenance activities would also include the provision of additional playground equipment, playfield areas, picnic tables and areas for passive recreational use. It is also recommended that any existing outdoor recreation facility not meeting the accessibility requirements set forth under Federal law in the Americans with Disabilities Act be brought into compliance in a timely fashion.

Plan Costs

Implementation of the park and open space plan for the Village of Union Grove over a five-year plan implementation period from 2003 through 2007 would entail a total cost of \$425,000. This does not include the costs associated with maintaining existing park facilities. The estimated acquisition, development, and improvement costs of \$425,000 would approximate an average expenditure of about \$85,000 per year over the next five years. Recommended improvements and estimated costs are summarized in Table 13.

During the last five years, the Village has not budgeted any funds for the acquisition of park lands or for the development of park facilities. Two park sites were dedicated to the Village during that time. Implementation of the park plan, as recommended, would represent a significant increase in the amount of money expended for the development of the Village park and open space system. It is recommended that the Village Parks and Recreation Commission work with the Village Board to identify potential funding sources.

The cost of implementing the plan could be reduced significantly through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, particularly dedication, and through the use of available State and Federal grant funds. The Village also utilizes impact fees charged to new residential development. Each dwelling unit within a building of one to four units is charged a fee of \$427.90, and each dwelling unit within a building of five or more units is charged a fee of \$302.40, to help offset the costs associated with continued residential development for park-related facilities provided by the Village. The Village has collected an average of about \$10,000 in park-related impact fees over the last five years.

SUMMARY

The key recommendations of the Village of Union Grove park and open space plan are as follows:

1. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources should endorse the plan, thus qualifying the Village to apply for and receive available State and Federal grants in support of plan implementation.
2. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation should notify interested parties of any railway abandonment proposed within the Village of Union Grove planning area and work with the Village to accommodate trail crossings of STH 11 and USH 45.
3. Racine County should continue to provide and maintain two County parks near the Village of Union Grove, Ives Grove Golf Course and Eagle Lake Park. The County should also continue to maintain Old Settler's Park and the Racine County Fairgrounds within the planning area. It is recommended that the County develop and maintain the Racine-Burlington Trail, which would traverse approximately four linear miles within the planning area, and the County bike route on CTH C. The County should also acquire and protect natural areas as called for in the regional natural areas plan and the County park and open space plan.
4. The park and open space plan recommends the acquisition and development of one new community park, two new neighborhood parks, and a nature-based outdoor recreation site proposed to be acquired and developed by the Village of Union Grove.
5. The park and open space plan also recommends improvements to four existing Village-owned parks to upgrade deficient recreational facilities and modernize outdated facilities, including the development of additional recreational facilities at Joseph Leider Memorial Park. The plan also recommends the development of recreational facilities at Groves Subdivision Park.

6. The park and open space plan further recommends that the Village continue to develop and maintain the pedestrian/nature trail within the urban service area and develop a local system of trails and bikeways.
7. The estimated cost for implementing the park and open space plan is \$425,000 over a five-year plan implementation period from 2003 through 2007. Through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, as well as available Federal and State grant funds and impact fees, the cost to the Village could be significantly reduced.

Chapter V

SUMMARY

In October 2001, the Village of Union Grove Parks and Recreation Commission requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the Village in preparing a park and open space plan. The resulting plan, which has a design year of 2020, is documented in this report. This plan is intended to provide a long-range vision and a guide to assist Village officials and staff in making the day-to-day decisions needed for continued development of the Village's park and open space system. To assist in implementation of the plan, both long-term recommendations, for the next 20 years, and a shorter-term "action plan" are presented. The action plan sets forth priorities for implementation of the park and open space plan over the five-year period from 2003 through 2007.

Important preliminary steps in the development of this plan included the collection of inventory information regarding land use, population, natural resources, and park and open sites and facilities within the Village of Union Grove planning area. This plan also reflects recommendations from applicable regional and county plans, including the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan and the regional natural areas plan.

The Village of Union Grove Parks and Recreation Commission and Village staff helped guide the necessary planning work. A public informational meeting on this plan was held on June 24, 2003. This plan was adopted by the Village of Union Grove Parks and Recreation Commission on June 24, 2003. The Village Plan Commission and the Village Board both adopted the plan on July 14, 2003. The adopting Village Board resolution is included in Appendix B.

INVENTORY FINDINGS

The Village of Union Grove planning area encompasses about 7,670 acres, or about 12 square miles. The Village of Union Grove encompassed 1,130 acres, or about two square miles, and about 14 percent of the planning area. The remainder of the planning area consists of 1,920 acres, or about three square miles, within the Town of Dover and 4,620 acres, or about seven square miles, within the Town of Yorkville. The Village had a 2000 population level of 4,322 persons, an increase of 653 persons, or about 18 percent, from 1990. In 2000, about 774 acres, or about 68 percent, of the Village was developed for urban use. Residential land uses encompassed 354 acres, or about 31 percent, of the Village. Other urban lands such as transportation, communication and utility, commercial, manufacturing, governmental, institutional, and recreational land uses encompassed 420 acres, or about 37 percent, of the Village.

In 2000, nonurban areas encompassed 356 acres, or about 32 percent, of the Village. Agricultural and other open land occupied 331 acres, or about 30 percent, of the Village. Natural resource areas including woodlands, wetlands, and surface water encompassed 25 acres, or about 2 percent, of the Village.

The Village of Union Grove planning area encompassed 7,670 acres. Of this total, 1,640 acres, or about 22 percent, of the planning area were in urban uses. The remaining 6,030 acres, or about 78 percent, of the planning area were in nonurban uses.

An inventory of existing outdoor recreation and open space sites and facilities was conducted in 2002. The inventory identified 19 such sites encompassing 484 acres, or about 6 percent, of the planning area. Of the 19 outdoor recreation and open space sites, 14 sites encompassing 386 acres, or about 80 percent, of the area devoted to outdoor recreation and open space uses, were publicly owned. The Village of Union Grove owned nine sites, encompassing a total of 39 acres, or about 3 percent, of the Village.

The most important features of the natural resource base in the Village of Union Grove planning area, including the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat areas, undeveloped floodplains, and sites having historic, scenic, scientific, cultural, and recreational value, occur in linear areas termed environmental corridors. In 1995, primary environmental corridors encompassed about 11 acres, or less than 1 percent, of the planning area. Secondary environmental corridors encompassed about 136 acres, or about 2 percent, of the planning area including 14 acres within the Village in 1995. Smaller pockets of natural resource base elements, termed isolated natural resource areas, encompassed about 355 acres, or about 5 percent, of the planning area including 16 acres within the Village in 1995. Three natural areas encompassing 36 acres were identified in the planning area in 1994, including the Kansasville Railroad Prairie natural area, which is of statewide or greater significance. Prime agricultural lands encompassed 3,883 acres, or about 51 percent, of the planning area.

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

Seven park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives were formulated under the regional park and open space planning program. These objectives were adapted for use in the development of the park and open space plan for the Village of Union Grove. Each of the objectives is accompanied by a set of standards which provide specific measures that can be and were used in the design of the plan and in the evaluation of how well the plan meets the objectives. Both per capita and accessibility standards were formulated and used to help determine the number, size, and distribution of outdoor recreation sites and facilities needed to serve the existing and probable future resident population of the Village.

Responsibility for the acquisition and development of major parks and other natural resource-oriented outdoor recreation and open space sites and facilities rests primarily with the State and County levels of government. Recommendations relating to the acquisition, improvement, and maintenance of such sites and facilities within the Village of Union Grove planning area are set forth in the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan.

Responsibility for providing community and neighborhood parks and nonresource-oriented recreational facilities rests with local units of government. The need for community and neighborhood parks in the Village of Union Grove was determined by applying the park and open space standards to the estimated 2020 population level of 5,630 persons. Application of the standards indicated a need for a community park and additional neighborhood park sites in limited portions of the urban service area, as well as a need for additional softball diamonds and soccer fields.

In addition, the Village of Union Grove Parks and Recreation Commission identified other park site and facility needs, including a skate park, an aquatic facility, a community center, additional basketball goals, ball diamonds, and soccer fields, and a nature-based outdoor recreation site.

The need to protect the natural resources of the planning area cannot be determined on the basis of per capita or accessibility standards, since such need is related directly to the location and character of the natural resources concerned rather than to population levels or distribution. The maintenance of the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in essentially natural, open uses would generally serve to meet the natural resource preservation and protection objectives within the planning area.

ADOPTED PLAN

The park and open space plan for the Village of Union Grove includes recommendations concerning open space preservation and both areawide and local outdoor recreation site and facility needs. The plan addresses all of the needs identified through application of the per capita and accessibility standards, as well as those identified by the Village Parks and Recreation Commission.

Areawide Park And Open Space Recommendations

The outdoor recreation sites recommended by the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan include the continued maintenance and development at Ives Grove Golf Course and Eagle Lake Park, both County-owned parks located near the Village of Union Grove. The plan also recommends that the County continue to maintain Old Settler's Park and the Racine County Fairgrounds within the Village of Union Grove planning area.

The County park plan recommends the continued development and maintenance of the Racine-Burlington Trail by the County. The Racine-Burlington Trail is proposed to extend from the City of Racine to the City of Burlington within the right-of-way of the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, now the Canadian Pacific Railway, should the railway become abandoned. Should the railway become abandoned in the Village of Union Grove planning area, it is recommended that the County develop approximately four linear miles of the trail within the right-of-way of the railway.

The County plan also recommends that the County maintain approximately four miles of the Racine County Bicycle Route on CTH C within the Village Union Grove planning area.

Open Space Preservation

The most important features of the natural resource base in the Village of Union Grove planning area, including the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat areas, and undeveloped floodplains, are located within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

It is recommended that all planned environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in the Village of Union Grove planning area be held in public ownership or protected through proper zoning for natural resource preservation, flood control, and outdoor recreation purposes. Under the plan, 11 acres of primary environmental corridor within the planning area are recommended to be acquired by Racine County as part of the Schroeder Road Marsh natural area. It is recommended that the Village acquire 23 acres of secondary environmental corridor and 42 acres of isolated natural resource area. The remaining 112 acres of secondary environmental corridor and 290 acres of isolated natural resource area would remain in private ownership and protected through conservancy zoning.

The plan also recommends that three natural areas within the planning area be acquired by Racine County and be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses in accordance with the recommendations of the regional natural areas plan.

Village Park And Open Space Recommendations

Upon full implementation of this park and open space plan for the Village of Union Grove, the Village would provide a variety of parks and related outdoor recreation facilities to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents, and protect areas having important natural resources. Specific recommendations regarding the Village park and open space system in the period from 2003 through 2007 include the acquisition and development of a new nature-based outdoor recreation site and additional improvements to recreational facilities at four existing Village-owned parks, including the development of additional park facilities at Joseph Leider Memorial Park, and the development of park facilities at Groves Subdivision Park.

Additional recommendations to be implemented as part of the 20-year plan include:

- The acquisition and development of one new community park;

- The acquisition and development of two new neighborhood parks;
- The development of a community center;
- The continued maintenance at all existing Village-owned park sites;
- The continued development of a nature/pedestrian trail and the development of a local system of bicycle and pedestrian routes and paths; and
- The acquisition of 65 acres of environmentally sensitive lands to be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses.

Implementation of the plan during the five-year period from 2003 through 2007 would entail an estimated cost of \$425,000. The cost to the Village could be reduced through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, particularly dedication; through the use of park-related impact fees; and through the use of available State and Federal grant funds.

Implementation of the plan over time would help to ensure a pleasant, healthful environment with diverse recreational opportunities for Village residents and visitors.

APPENDICES

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Appendix A

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

OBJECTIVE NO. 1

To provide an integrated system of public general-use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas which allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation and outdoor education activities.

PRINCIPLE

Attainment and maintenance of good physical and mental health is an inherent right of all residents of the Region. 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 Region by lending form and structure to urban development patterns.

A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

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

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

B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

1. A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation related open space consisting of linear recreation corridors^p should be provided for each 1,000 persons in the Region.
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-orientated 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 Region.

OBJECTIVE NO. 2

To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities 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 Region. 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 ^a				Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^c
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 ^b	Types II, III and IV general use site	2.8 acres per diamond	Parking (30 spaces per diamond) Night lighting ¹ Concessions and bleachers ¹ 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 ^b -- 0.15	Type IV general use site	0.30 acre per rink minimum	Warming house	0.05 acre --	0.35 minimum	0.5
Playfield Activities	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
Soccer	Field	Public Nonpublic Total	0.69 0.17 0.86	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	1.0 acre minimum	Buffer	.65 acre	1.65	1.0
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 ¹ Buffer	0.18 acre per diamond -- 0.80 acre per diamond	2.68	1.0
Swimming	Pool	Public Nonpublic Total	0.015 ^b -- 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 ¹ Buffer	0.02 acre per court -- 0.15 acre per court	0.32	1.0

OBJECTIVE NO. 3

To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities 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 Region. 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 ¹					Design Standards						Service Radius of Facility (miles)
Activity	Facility	Owner	Per Capita Requirements (facility per 1,000 residents)		Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Total Land Requirements (acres per facility)	Resource Requirements	
Camping	Campsite	Public Nonpublic Total	0.35 1.4 1.82		Type I and II general use sites	0.33 acre per campsite	Rest rooms-shower Utility hookups Natural area backup lands	-- -- 1.5 acres per campsite	1.83	Ungrazed wooded area Presence of surface water Suitable topography and soils	25.0
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public Nonpublic Total	0.013 0.027 0.040		Type I and II general use sites	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking, maintenance Practice area Woodland or water areas Buffer	8.0 acres per course 5.0 acres per course 35.0 acres per course 2.0 acres per course	185.0	Suitable topography and soils Presence of surface water Form-giving vegetation desirable	10.0
Picnicking	Tables	Public Nonpublic Total	6.35 ² 2.39 8.74		Type I, II, III, and IV general use sites	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking Shelters and grills Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table (1.5 space per table) -- 0.02 acre per table	0.11	Topography with scenic views Shade trees Presence of surface water desirable Suitable soils	10.0
Skiing	Developed slope (acres)	Public Nonpublic Total	0.010 0.090 0.100		Type I, II, III general use sites	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet Parking Ski tows (and lights) Buffer and maintenance Landscape	0.13 acre minimum 0.25 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.35 acre per acre of slope	2.1	Suitable topography and soils (20 percent slope minimum) North or northeast exposure	25.0
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)	Public Nonpublic Total	Major Inland Lakes	Lake Michigan	Type I, II, III general use sites	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking	0.2 acre per acre of beach	-- ²	Natural beach Good water quality	10.0
			6	16			Bathhouse-concessions	0.10 acre minimum			
			12	--			Buffer areas	10 square feet per linear foot			
			18	16							

OBJECTIVE NO. 4

To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in trail-related and other 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-orientated 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 Region. Public facilities provided for these activities should be located within the linear resource-orientated 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 ^{an}			Design Standards				
Activity	Facility	Per Capita Requirements (linear mile per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Minimum Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Suggested Support Facilities and Backup Lands	Minimum Support Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Resource Requirements
Biking	Route Trail	-- ^{bb} 0.16	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	-- 1.45	Route markers Backup lands with resource amenities	-- 24.2	-- Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography (5 percent slope average maximum) and soils
Hiking	Trail	0.16	Recreation corridor	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Horseback Riding	Trail	0.05	Recreation corridor Type I general use site	1.21	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Nature Study	Center	1 per Region	Type I, II, III general use sites	--	Interpretive center Building Parking	--	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species
	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Type I, II, III general use sites	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Suitable topography and soils Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species, suitable topography and soils
Pleasure Driving	Route	-- ^{cc}	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	--	Route markers	--	--
Ski-touring	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Types I and II general use sites	0.97	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Rolling topography
Snowmobiling	Trail	0.11	Private lands (leased for public use)	1.45	Backup lands, including resource amenities and open lands	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Suitable topography (8 percent slope average maximum) and soils

OBJECTIVE NO. 5

To provide sufficient surface water access areas to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities on major inland lakes and rivers and on Lake Michigan, consistent with safe and enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of good water quality.

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 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, environmental quality, and biodiversity⁶⁸ of the Region.

PRINCIPLE

Ecological balance and natural beauty within the Region 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 Region. 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 Region.

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

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

B. NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS

PRINCIPLE

Natural areas and critical species habitats are important in a number of ways—including economically, insofar as they support advances in agriculture and medicine; functionally, insofar as they enhance surface water and groundwater quality, minimize erosion, and enhance air quality; educationally; recreationally; aesthetically; in basic scientific research; and in maintaining biological and genetic diversity. In a less tangible but equally important way, natural areas and critical species habitats contribute to mental well-being and to the overall quality of human life.

STANDARDS

The remaining natural areas and critical species habitat areas should be preserved.

C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PRINCIPLE

Prime agricultural lands, in addition to providing food and fiber, can supply significant wildlife habitat; contribute to maintaining an ecological balance between plants and animals; offer 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 opportunities for agricultural and agriculture-related employment; provide open spaces which give form and structure to urban development; and serve to maintain the natural beauty and unique cultural heritage of the Region.

STANDARDS

1. Prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.
2. Agricultural lands surrounding adjacent high-value scientific, educational, or recreational resources should be considered for preservation to provide a buffer between such resources and urban development.

OBJECTIVE NO. 7

To satisfy outdoor recreation and related open space needs in an efficient and economical way.

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARD

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

Footnotes

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

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

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

^dFor Type I and Type II parks, which generally provide facilities for resource-orientated outdoor recreation activities for the total population of the Region, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the total resident population of the Region. 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 Region residing in urban areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

^{aa}Both urban and rural residents of the Region 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 Region.

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

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

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

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

Source: SEWRPC.

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Appendix B

Resolution of the Union Grove Village Board Adopting the 2020 Park and Open Space Plan for the Village

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), working at the request of the Village of Union Grove, has prepared a Park and Open Space Plan for the Village as an element of the Village Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the plan findings and recommendations are set forth in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 271, *A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Union Grove: 2020*; and

WHEREAS, the plan provides for an integrated system of parks and open space sites within the Village of Union Grove, a system that will preserve natural resources and enhance recreational activities for present and future residents of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the plan by the Village Board will make the Village eligible for assistance under the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Program and other grant programs for outdoor recreation sites and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Village held a public informational meeting on June 24, 2003, to acquaint residents and landowners with the plan recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Union Grove Recreation and Parks Commission has carefully considered the plan over an extended period of time, including statements and requests during the planning process, and has proceeded to incorporate, where deemed appropriate, changes to the recommended plan; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Union Grove Recreation and Parks Commission approved the park and open space plan on June 24, 2003.

WHEREAS, the Village of Union Grove Plan Commission adopted the park and open space plan as an element of the Village Master Plan on July 14, 2003.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Union Grove does hereby adopt the Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Union Grove: 2020 to serve as a guide to the acquisition and protection of park and open space sites and the development of recreational facilities.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2003.

VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE

BY: Robert L. Orre, Sr.
Robert L. Orre
Village President

ATTEST: Janice K. Winget
Janice K. Winget
Village Clerk/Treasurer