

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WALWORTH COUNTY



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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING REPORT
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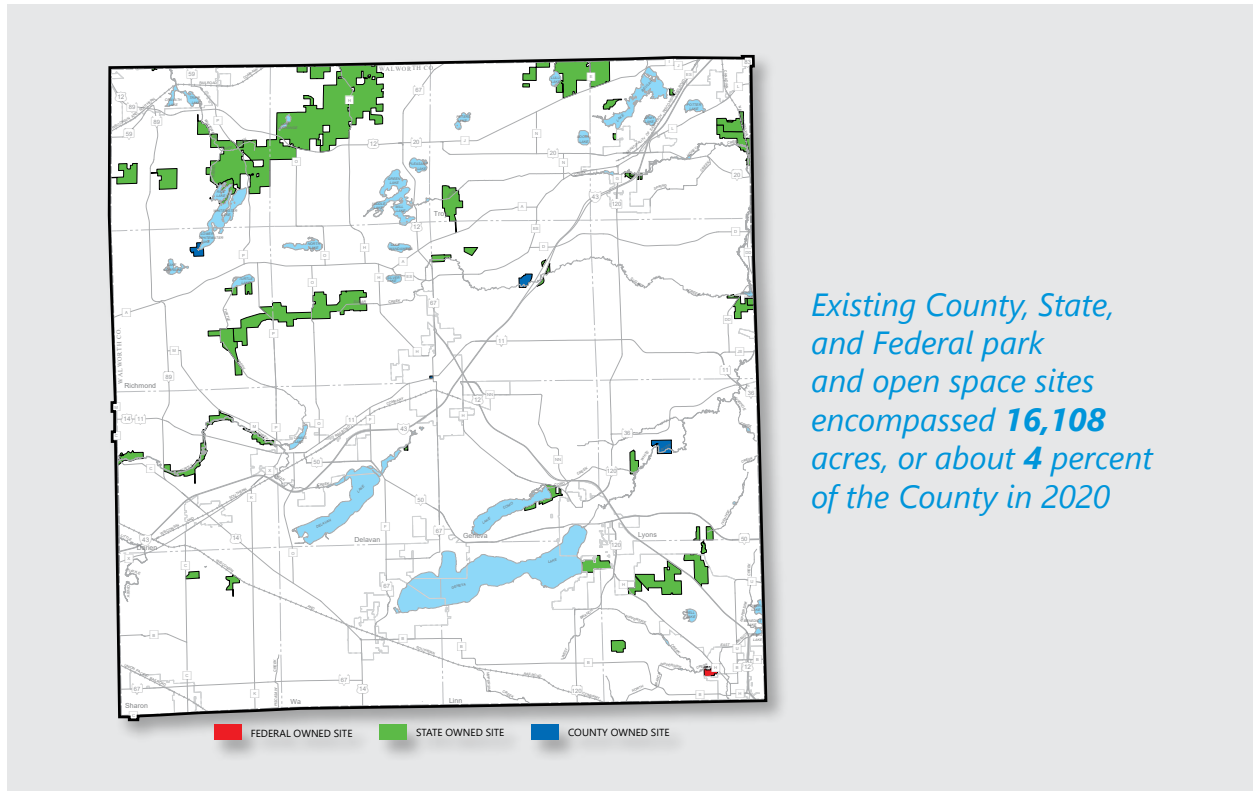
**A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
FOR WALWORTH COUNTY**

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A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WALWORTH COUNTY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Walworth County has an abundance of natural amenities and parks where residents and visitors alike can explore miles of trails and scenic landscapes. The Walworth County park and open space plan will help the County promote the stewardship of its natural resources and assess current and future outdoor recreational and open space needs.

This Plan also ensures that the County remains eligible to apply for and potentially receive Federal and State aids through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to support acquiring and developing park and open space sites and facilities. To become or remain eligible for available Federal and State outdoor recreation grants, the WDNR typically requires a plan that was adopted within five years preceding the submittal of any grant application.

Walworth County has a long history of park and open space planning, going back to the 1970s. A park and open space plan for Walworth County was included as part of the first regional park and open space plan, which was adopted by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) in 1977. The initial stand-alone park and open space plan for Walworth County was approved in 1991. The plan was revised and updated in 2000 and 2014. The 2014 plan was amended in 2015 to include plan recommendations for the newly acquired White River County Park. The plan was once again revised and updated in 2019. This plan is the fourth edition and has a design year of 2050.

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WALWORTH COUNTY

PLAN CONTENT

The Plan is comprised of five chapters and four appendices. The first four chapters provide background information about the County and how the plan was developed, provides the implementation status of the recommendations from the previous County park and open space plan, and identifies the objectives, principles, and standards used to guide this plan. The fifth chapter includes updated park, outdoor recreation facility, trail, and open space recommendations for County-owned sites and facilities. It also includes recommendations for the various park and open space sites and facilities owned by the WDNR located within the County. The plan update was developed under the guidance of the County Park Committee. It was approved by the County Park Committee on June 20, 2022, and was adopted by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2022.

The population of the County in 2020 was 106,478 people according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, an increase of 4,250 people, or about 4 percent, since 2010. The forecasted population for the County in 2050 is expected be around 158,300 people. Because of the forecasted growth, it is important that the County continue to work to meet or exceed the outdoor recreational demands of residents and visitors.

The update includes information about all park and open space sites owned by a public agency (Federal, State, County, and local units of government and school districts), lands held in conservation easements, and outdoor recreation sites that are privately owned. The breakdown of park and outdoor recreation sites in 2020 includes:

In 2020, the County owned and managed four park sites encompassing 419 acres, including three major parks: Natureland Park, Price Park Conservancy, and White River County Park.

- Walworth County owned four park sites encompassing 419 acres
- State of Wisconsin owned 45 park and open space sites, encompassing 15,603 acres
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal site) own an 86-acre site
- Sites owned by local units of government, school districts, or other public entities within the County used for outdoor recreation or natural resource preservation purposes included 202 sites encompassing 2,831 acres
- Private resource-oriented outdoor recreational uses included 173 sites encompassing 10,898 acres
- Private conservation organizations owned 19 sites encompassing 1,964 acres for resource protection purposes
- Lands protected under conservation easements encompass 1,935 acres
- Existing trails include the White River State Trail, the Ice Age Trail, the Geneva Lake Shore Path, the Duck Lake Nature Trail, a portion of the Pelishek-Tiffany Trail, and numerous trails within WDNR and County lands and on- and off-street local trails

There were 27 miles of existing off-street bicycle-pedestrian trails and 35 miles of pedestrian-only trails in the County in 2020

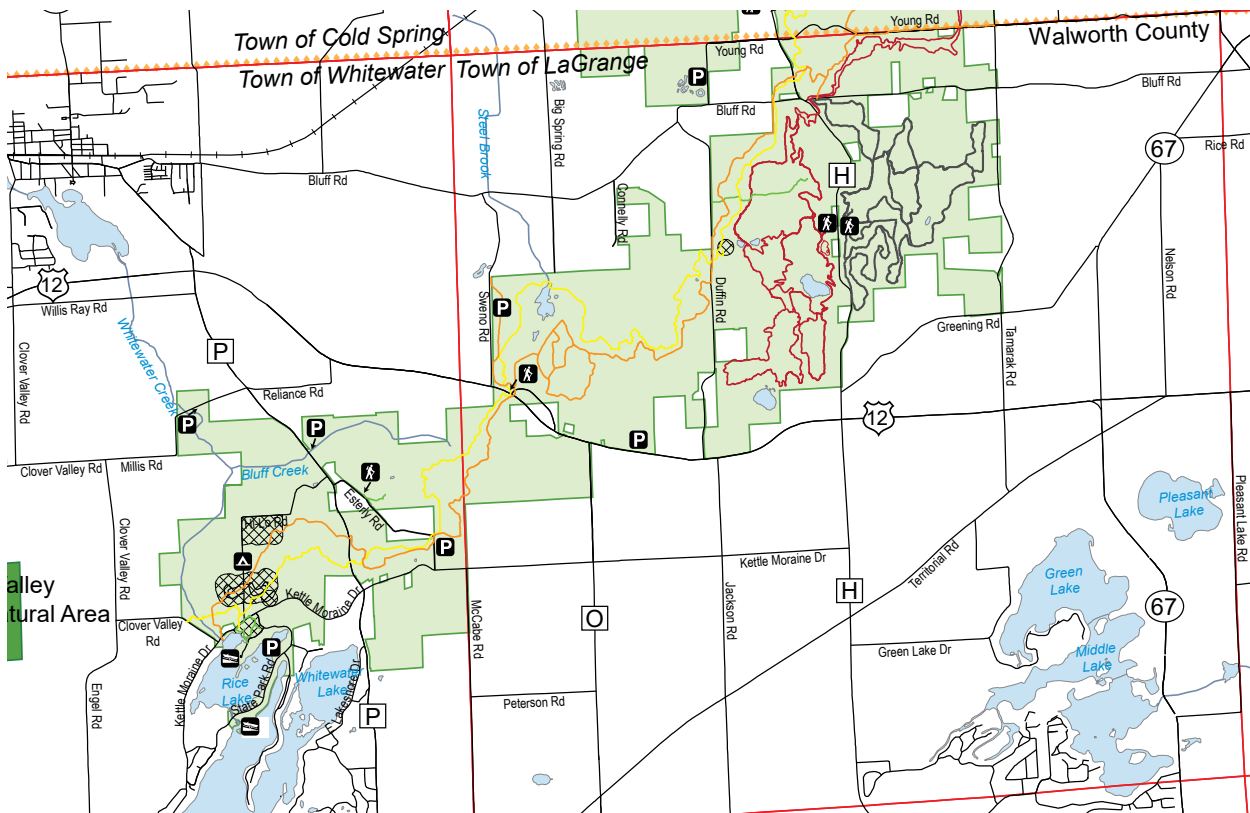
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A portion of the White River State Trail. Within Walworth County, the trail totals over 11 miles.



The County-owned, 195-acre White River County Park.



The Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit within Walworth County.

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WALWORTH COUNTY

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations included in this Park and Open Space Plan are the most important output of the planning effort, providing guidance to the County as it seeks to maintain a high-quality park system that meets the needs of County residents and visitors and enhances and protects the natural resource base. Plan recommendations consist of an open space preservation element and an outdoor recreation element. Some of the key recommendations include:

It is recommended that a total of 77,999 acres of open space lands, or about 21 percent of Walworth County, be protected through a combination of public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, under conservation easements, in compatible private outdoor recreation uses, or through protective zoning

- Acquiring nearly 11,000 acres for natural resource protection, open space preservation purposes, or public park or trail use by various public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations
- Placing nearly 43,600 acres within protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development and resource protection
- Providing six major parks, five existing parks (two owned by the WDNR and three owned by the County) and one new park proposed to be acquired and developed by Walworth County
- The County acquiring additional lands and developing additional facilities at Price Park Conservancy and Natureland Park and developing additional facilities at White River County Park
- Providing a 156-mile Countywide trail system, including 101 miles to be provided by Walworth County, to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring
- Acquiring and developing public boat access sites on Benedict Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lake Lorraine, Middle Lake, North Lake, Peters Lake, Silver Lake, Turtle Lake, and Lake Wandawega by the WDNR to meet WDNR standards for boat access sites on major lakes
- Developing a water trail system with canoe/kayak access sites on the White River, Honey Creek, Sugar Creek, and Turtle Creek
- Pursuing opportunities to provide additional access to inland lakes for beach swimming, shore fishing, and passive recreational activities

There are 27 major lakes—lakes of 50 or more acres—located entirely or partially within Walworth County that encompass about 12,600 acres. Lakes provide valuable water-related recreational activities

The Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan can be accessed online at:
www.sewrpc.org and www.co.walworth.wi.us

For more information, please contact the
Walworth County Department-Parks Division at:
DPWGeneral@co.walworth.wi.us

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Credit: Walworth County

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Walworth County has a long history of park and open space planning, going back to the 1970s. This includes the periodic updating of the County park and open space plan, the current version of which was adopted by the Walworth County Board in 2014. With the assistance of the Regional Planning Commission, Walworth County in 2019 undertook another effort to update its park and open space plan, extending the planning horizon further into the future. This report documents that planning process and presents the resulting updated County park and open space plan.

1.2 PLAN CONTEXT

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

VISION 2050, the Region's advisory long-range land use and transportation plan,² and the Comprehensive Plan for Walworth County³ have set forth recommendations to guide development in Walworth County. The following three recommendations are contained in the regional land use plan and the County comprehensive plan: 1) preserving primary environmental corridors in essentially natural, open uses and

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

² Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 55, VISION 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2050. The plan was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on July 28, 2016.

³ Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 288, 2nd Edition, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Walworth County: 2035, November 2019. The updated comprehensive plan was adopted by the Walworth County Board in June 2019 and incorporates VISION 2050 recommendations.

preserving secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas whenever possible; 2) maintaining the best remaining farmland in long-term agricultural uses; and 3) encouraging more compact pattern of urban development, one that can be efficiently served by such essential public facilities and services as centralized sanitary sewerage, water supply, and mass transit. These three recommendations provide a basic framework for park and open space planning.

A park and open space plan for Walworth County was included as part of the first regional park and open space plan,⁴ which was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on December 1, 1977. That plan identified existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommended a park system consisting of large resource-oriented parks and smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, together with attendant recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan also recommended developing an approximately 440-mile network of hiking and bicycling trails within natural resource corridors of regional significance, including corridors along the Lake Michigan shoreline, through the Kettle Moraine, and along the riverine areas of the major streams and watercourses of the Region. The regional park and open space plan incorporated the regional land use plan recommendations concerning primary environmental corridors and farmland preservation.

The regional park and open space plan as it relates to Walworth County was refined in 1991 as documented in the first edition of this report, SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County*, February 1991. Subsequently, the Planning Commission assisted the County in refining and updating the Walworth County park and open space plan in 2000 (2nd Edition) and 2014 (3rd Edition). An amendment to the 2014 plan was later adopted by the County Board in April 2015 with respect to plan recommendations relating to the development plan for a new County-owned park, White River County Park.⁵

1.3 COUNTY REQUEST

In January 2020, Walworth County formally requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the County in preparing a new park and open space plan. This new plan is based upon updated information related to land use, population levels and distribution, anticipated growth and development, natural resources, and park and open space acquisition and development activities within the County. The new plan refines and details the park and open space-related recommendations within the framework set forth in the Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Walworth County and VISION 2050. Like VISION 2050, the updated County park and open space plan, as presented in this report, has a planning horizon of 2050. The new plan is further intended to allow the County to apply for and receive Federal and State aids in partial support of acquiring and developing park and open space sites and facilities. When the County submits an application to the WDNR to apply for Federal and State recreational funds, the WDNR will request a copy of an updated park and open space plan to ensure eligibility for funding.

1.4 WALWORTH COUNTY PARK COMMITTEE

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

⁴ Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*: 2000, November 1977.

⁵ The amended plan is documented in a SEWRPC report titled, *Amendment to the Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County, White River County Park Master Plan, June 2015*.

1.5 REPORT FORMAT

The findings and recommendations of the park and open space planning effort are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter 2 of this report presents information about the County pertinent to park and open space planning, including information on the existing resident population, land use pattern, and natural resource base of the County. Chapter 3 provides information on existing park sites and facilities and open space lands within the County. Chapter 4 presents the park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives, principles, and supporting standards that served as the basis for developing the park and open space plan for the County, and also presents an analysis of park and open space needs in the County. Chapter 5 sets forth the recommended park and open space plan and identifies the actions required to carry out the recommended plan.



Credit: Walworth County

2.1 INTRODUCTION

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

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Population

Population growth in Walworth County from 1850 to 2020 is indicated in Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1. The County population was relatively stable until 1940, when the resident population stood at 33,103 people. Since 1940, the County population has grown steadily. The 2020 County population stood at 106,478 people, an increase of 4,250 people, or about 4 percent, since 2010.

As indicated in Table 2.1, the population of Walworth County increased by 222 percent between 1940 and 2020, compared to increases of 92 percent and 88 percent for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region and State, respectively.

The City of Whitewater is the most populous community in Walworth County. In 2020, the total population of the City was 14,889 people, of which 11,721 people, or about 79 percent, were located in Walworth County, and 3,168 people, or about 21 percent, were located in Jefferson County. The next most populous communities are the City of Elkhorn (10,247 people), the City of Delavan (8,505 people), and the City of Lake Geneva (8,277 people). Combined, these four cities account for 36 percent of the County's population.

Households

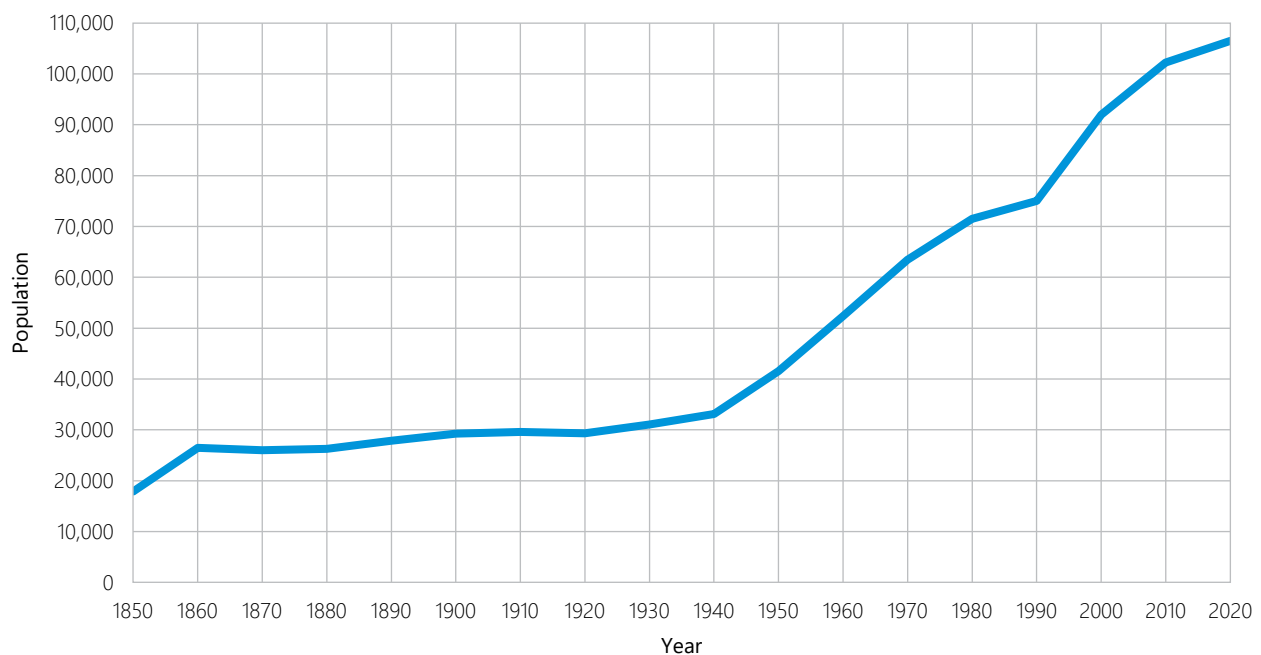
Trends in the number of households in Walworth County and the Region are shown on Table 2.2. Both the County and Region experienced significant gains in the number of households between 1970 and 2020. The rate of increase in the number of households continues to exceed the rate of population increase due to the decline in the average number of persons per household. Between 1970 and 2020, the rate of increase

Table 2.1
Historic Resident Population Levels in Walworth County,
Southeastern Wisconsin Region, and the State of Wisconsin: 1850-2020

Year	Walworth County			Region			Wisconsin		
	Population	Change from Preceding Census		Population	Change from Preceding Census		Population	Change from Preceding Census	
		Absolute	Percent		Absolute	Percent		Absolute	Percent
1850	17,862	--	--	113,389	--	--	305,391	--	--
1860	26,496	8,634	48.3	190,409	77,020	67.9	775,881	470,490	154.1
1870	25,972	-524	-2.0	223,546	33,137	17.4	1,054,670	278,789	35.9
1880	26,249	277	1.1	277,119	53,573	24.0	1,315,497	260,827	24.7
1890	27,860	1,611	6.1	386,774	109,655	39.6	1,693,330	377,833	28.7
1900	29,259	1,399	5.0	501,808	115,034	29.7	2,069,042	375,712	22.2
1910	29,614	355	1.2	631,161	129,353	25.8	2,333,860	264,818	12.8
1920	29,327	-287	-1.0	783,681	152,520	24.2	2,632,067	298,207	12.8
1930	31,058	1,731	5.9	1,006,118	222,437	28.4	2,939,006	306,939	11.7
1940	33,103	2,045	6.6	1,067,699	61,581	6.1	3,137,587	198,581	6.8
1950	41,584	8,481	25.6	1,240,618	172,919	16.2	3,434,575	296,988	9.5
1960	52,368	10,784	25.9	1,573,614	332,996	26.8	3,951,777	517,202	15.1
1970	63,444	11,076	21.2	1,756,083	182,469	11.6	4,417,821	466,044	11.8
1980	71,507	8,063	12.7	1,764,796	8,713	0.5	4,705,642	287,821	6.5
1990	75,000	3,493	4.9	1,810,364	45,568	2.6	4,891,769	186,127	4.0
2000	92,013	17,013	22.7	1,931,165	120,801	6.7	5,363,675	471,906	9.6
2010	102,228	10,215	11.1	2,019,970	88,805	4.6	5,686,986	323,271	6.0
2020	106,478	4,250	4.2	2,048,087	28,117	1.4	5,893,718	206,732	3.6

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

Figure 2.1
Historical Resident Population Levels in Walworth County: 1850-2020



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

Table 2.2
Number of Households in Walworth County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Region: 1970-2020

Year	Walworth County			Region		
	Number of Households	Change from Previous Census		Number of Households	Change from Previous Census	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1970	18,544	--	--	536,486	--	--
1980	24,789	6,245	33.7	627,955	91,469	17.0
1990	27,620	2,831	11.4	676,107	48,152	7.7
2000	34,505	6,885	24.9	749,039	72,932	10.8
2010	39,699	5,194	15.1	800,087	51,048	6.8
2020	42,378	2,679	6.7	839,211	39,124	4.9

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

in the number of households was 128 percent in the County and 56 percent in the Region, compared to a population increase of 68 percent in the County and 17 percent in the Region.

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

It should also be noted that there are numerous seasonal housing units in the County, and most of these units are located adjacent to or near the larger lakes within the County. In 2020, Walworth County has the highest countywide overall vacancy rate (over 20 percent) in the southeastern Wisconsin Region, primarily because of the large number of housing units defined as seasonal, recreational, and occasional housing. The overall vacancy rates of areas with a large percentage of seasonal, recreational, and occasional housing units are skewed upward because people are counted at their usual (year-round) residence, which are generally owned outside of Walworth County.

Age Distribution

The age distribution of the population may be expected to influence the location and type of recreational areas and facilities provided within Walworth County. The age distribution of the population in the County and Region in 1990, 2000, and 2010 is set forth in Table 2.3. Between 1990 and 2010, there was a significant increase in the number of adults aged 45 to 64 in Walworth County. The population aged 25 to 44 in the County was relatively stable. While the Region as a whole also experienced a significant increase in the number of adults aged 45 to 64, there was a decrease in those aged 25 to 44.

Employment

Trends in job growth in Walworth County and the Region are set forth in Table 2.4. The jobs are enumerated at their location and the data therefore reflect the number of jobs within the County and Region, including both full- and part-time jobs. An increase in the number of jobs may be expected to attract additional residents to the County, thus influencing population growth.

As indicated in Table 2.4, employment in Walworth County increased by 7,000 jobs during the 1970s; increased by 6,200 jobs during the 1980s; increased by 11,600 jobs during the 1990s; and increased by 1,800 jobs in the 2000s. The overall 101 percent increase in the number of jobs in the County between 1970 and 2010 compares to an increase of 50 percent in the Region during the same period.

2.3 HISTORIC URBAN GROWTH AND EXISTING LAND USES

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

Table 2.3
Age Distribution of the Population of Walworth County
and the Southeastern Wisconsin Region: 1990-2010

Age Group		1990		2000 ^a		2010		Change 1990-2010	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Walworth County	Under 5	4,948	6.6	5,527	5.9	6,196	6.1	1,248	25.2
	5-17	13,031	17.4	17,127	18.3	17,804	17.4	4,773	36.6
	18-24	10,361	13.8	12,931	13.8	12,032	11.8	1,671	16.1
	25-44	22,150	29.5	25,841	27.6	24,184	23.6	2,034	9.2
	45-64	13,837	18.5	20,399	21.7	28,255	27.6	14,418	104.2
	65 and older	10,673	14.2	11,934	12.7	13,757	13.5	3,084	28.9
	Total	75,000	100.0	93,759	100.0	102,228	100.0	27,228	36.3
Region	Under 5	138,286	7.3	132,390	6.8	133,503	6.6	-4,783	-3.5
	5-17	339,722	18.8	377,706	19.5	364,772	18.1	25,050	7.4
	18-24	181,211	10.0	179,500	9.3	194,877	9.6	13,666	7.5
	25-44	590,955	32.6	581,351	30.1	527,802	26.1	-63,153	-10.7
	45-64	333,818	18.4	420,937	21.8	545,009	27.0	211,191	63.3
	65 and older	226,372	12.5	241,024	12.5	254,007	12.6	27,635	12.2
	Total	1,810,364	100.0	1,932,908	100.0	2,019,970	100.0	209,606	11.6

^a The total Region population by age for 2000 reported by the Census Bureau as indicated in this table differs slightly from the Census Bureau final total population count presented in Table 2.1.

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

Table 2.4
Number of Jobs in Walworth County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Region: 1970-2010

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

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

Historic Urban Growth

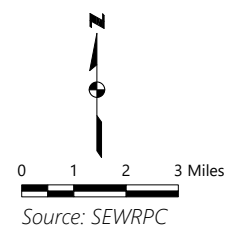
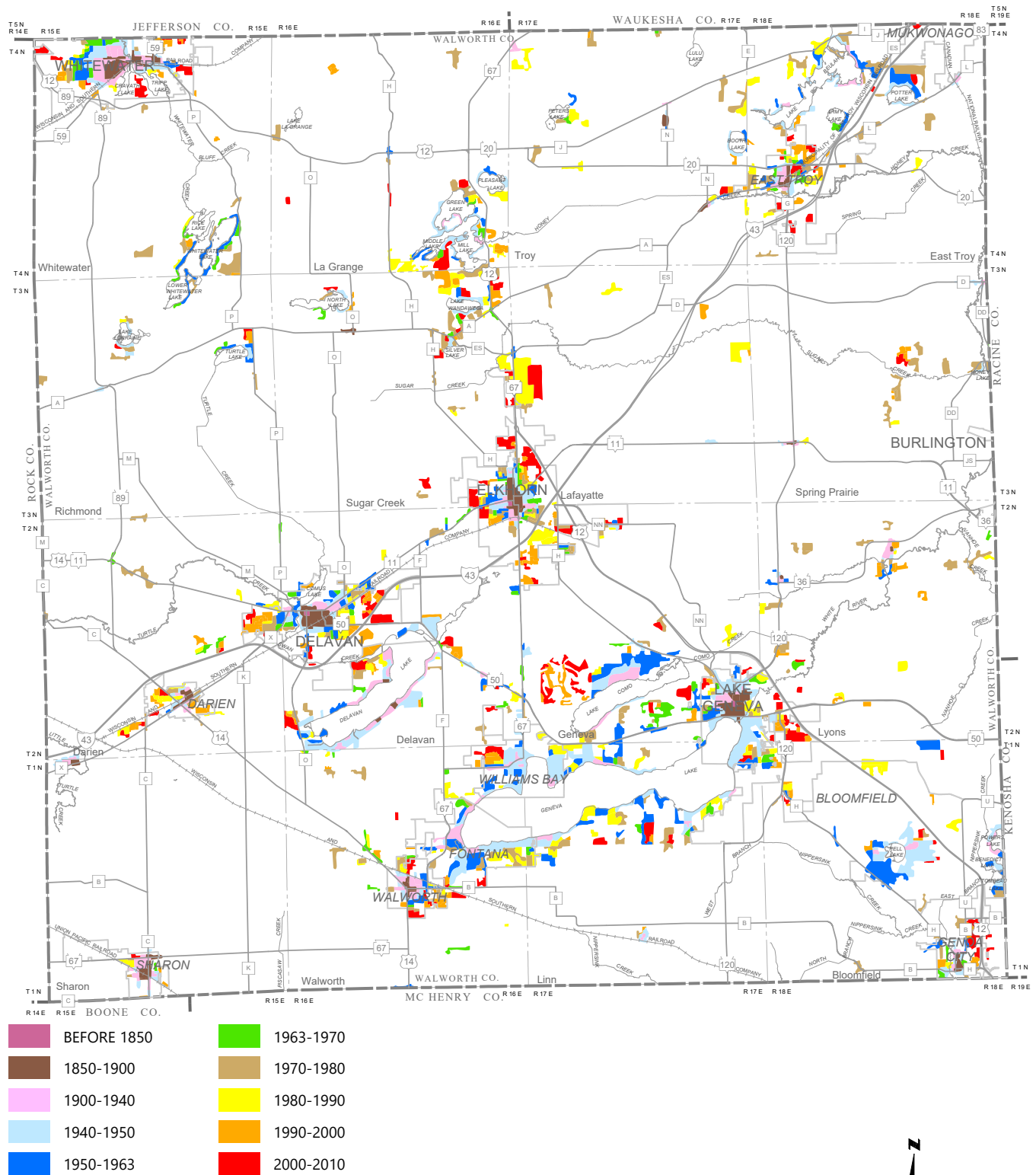
The historic urban development of Walworth County is presented on Map 2.1. As shown on that map, small portions of the Cities of Delavan, Elkhorn, Lake Geneva, and Whitewater were developed by 1850. The period from 1850 to 1900 saw additional growth in those communities and the emergence of small urban centers in the Villages of Darien, East Troy, Genoa City, Sharon, and Walworth. By the 1920's, lakeshore development was evident around several lakes, including Geneva Lake, Delavan Lake and Lake Beulah. The 1940's and 1950's saw continued development around these lakes and lakeshore development around many other of the County's lakes. The period from 1963 to 2010 saw significant urban growth adjacent to existing urban centers, along with growth in the form of small, isolated enclaves scattered throughout the County.

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

Existing Land Uses

Land uses in Walworth County in 2015 are set forth on Map 2.2 and in Table 2.5. In 2015, urban land uses—consisting of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional, recreational, and

Map 2.1 Historical Urban Growth in Walworth County: 1850-2010



Map 2.2
Generalized Land Use in Walworth County: 2015

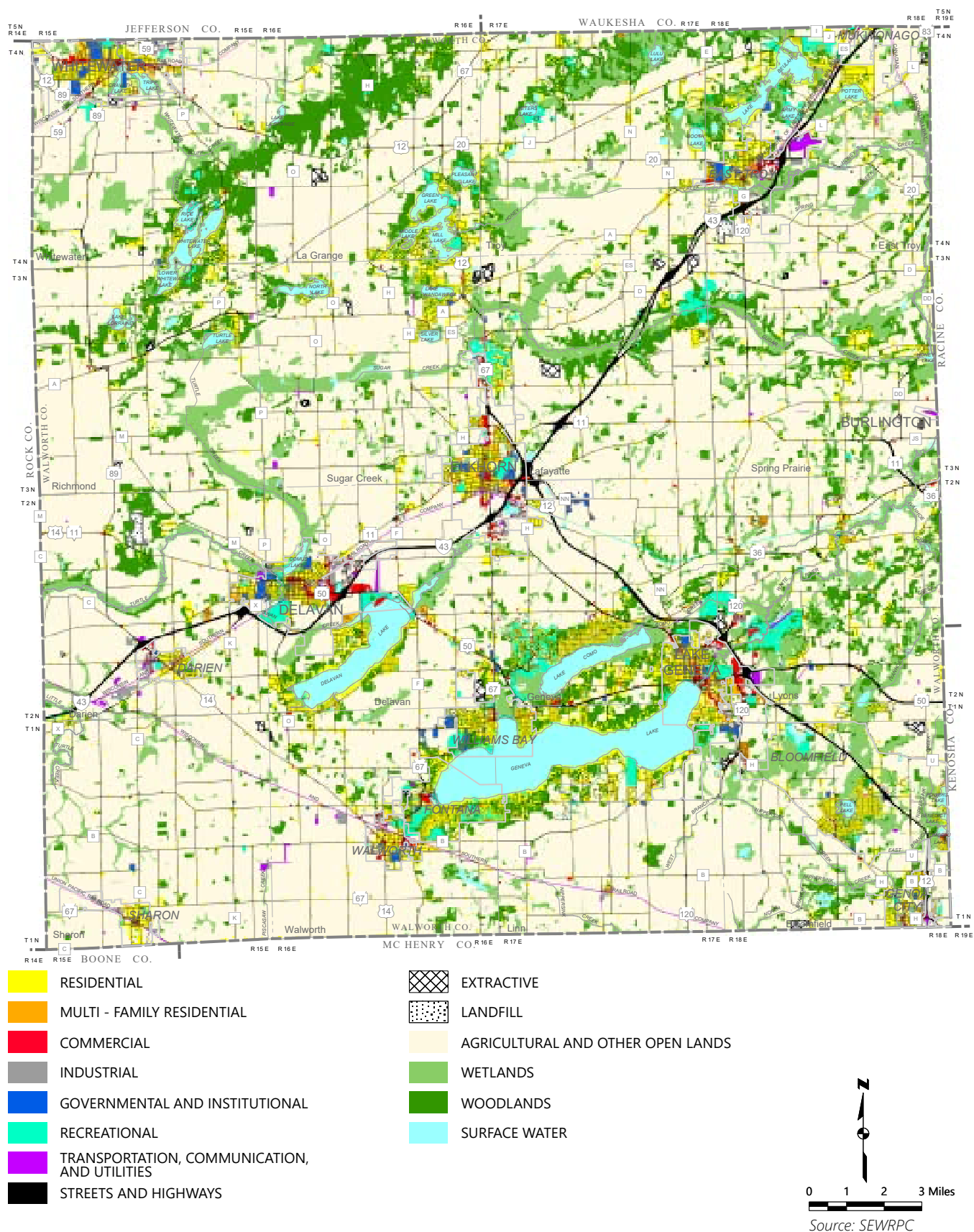


Table 2.5
Land Uses in Walworth County: 2015

Land Use Category ^a	Square Miles	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of County
Urban			
Residential			
Single-Family Residential	34.6	44.0	6.0
Multifamily Residential ^b	2.0	2.5	0.3
Commercial	2.5	3.2	0.4
Industrial	2.7	3.4	0.5
Governmental and Institutional	3.0	3.8	0.5
Recreational ^c	7.4	9.4	1.3
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities (TCU)	26.5	33.7	4.6
Urban Subtotal	78.7	100.0	13.6
Rural			
Agricultural Lands	326.1	65.5	56.6
Woodlands	56.4	11.3	9.8
Wetlands			
Farmed	3.5	0.7	0.6
Nonfarmed	51.2	10.3	8.9
Landfill and Extractive	2.4	0.5	0.4
Other Open Lands	34.5	6.9	6.0
Rural Subtotal	497.8	100.0	86.4
Total	576.5	--	100.0

^a Parking lots are included with the associated use.

^b Includes two-family residential.

^c Includes only those lands developed and used for intensive recreational purposes (ball fields, tennis courts, group picnic areas, etc.).

Source: SEWRPC

transportation, communication and utility uses—encompassed about 78.7 square miles, or 14 percent of the total area of the County. Single-Family Residential land comprised the largest urban land use category, encompassing 34.6 square miles, or about 44 percent of all urban land use and 6 percent of the total area of the County.

Land uses categorized as transportation, communications, and utilities constituted the second largest urban land use category in 2015, encompassing about 26.5 square miles, or about 34 percent of all urban land and about 5 percent of the total area of the County. Streets and highways occupied about 24.2 square miles, or 91 percent of the uses in this category. Major arterial highways serving the County include, IH 43, which traverses the County in a northeast to southwest direction; US Highways 12 and 14; and State Trunk Highways 11, 20, 36, 50, 59, 67, 89, and 120. Other uses in the transportation, communications, and utilities category within the County include railway freight service lines – operated by the Wisconsin & Southern Railway Company, the Union Pacific Railroad, and the Canadian National Railway – and the East Troy Municipal Airport.

Recreational land uses constituted the third largest urban land use category within the County in 2015, encompassing about 7.4 square miles, or about 9 percent of all urban land and about 1 percent of the total area of the County. These figures include only those areas that are developed for intensive recreational use, such as tennis courts, baseball diamonds, playfields, golf courses, and accessory uses. Areas used for passive recreational purposes, such as hiking and nature study, are generally designated as open lands or woodlands. A description of park and open space sites within the County is presented in Chapter 3.

About 498 square miles, or about 86 percent of the total area of the County, were rural lands, including agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, surface water, landfill and extractive, and other open lands. Agriculture was the largest single land use in the County, accounting for about 329.6 square miles (including “farmed wetlands”), or about 57 percent of the area of the County, in 2015.

2.4 NATURAL RESOURCES

An important recommendation of the adopted regional land use and park and open space plans is preserving the most important elements of the natural resource base of the Region. Since the preparation and adoption of the previous Walworth County park and open space plan in 2014, additional inventory information concerning the location and extent of natural resources has been collected. This section presents such information as it relates to Walworth County.

Surface Water Resources

Surface water resources, consisting of streams and lakes, form a particularly important element of the natural resource base. Surface water resources provide recreational opportunities, influence the physical development of the County, provide for wildlife habitat, and enhance its aesthetic quality. Surface water resources and major watersheds in the County are shown on Map 2.3.

Perennial streams are defined as those that maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. As shown on Map 2.3, there are approximately 173 miles of such streams in Walworth County. The County includes portions of two major watersheds: the Fox River and Rock River watersheds.

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

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

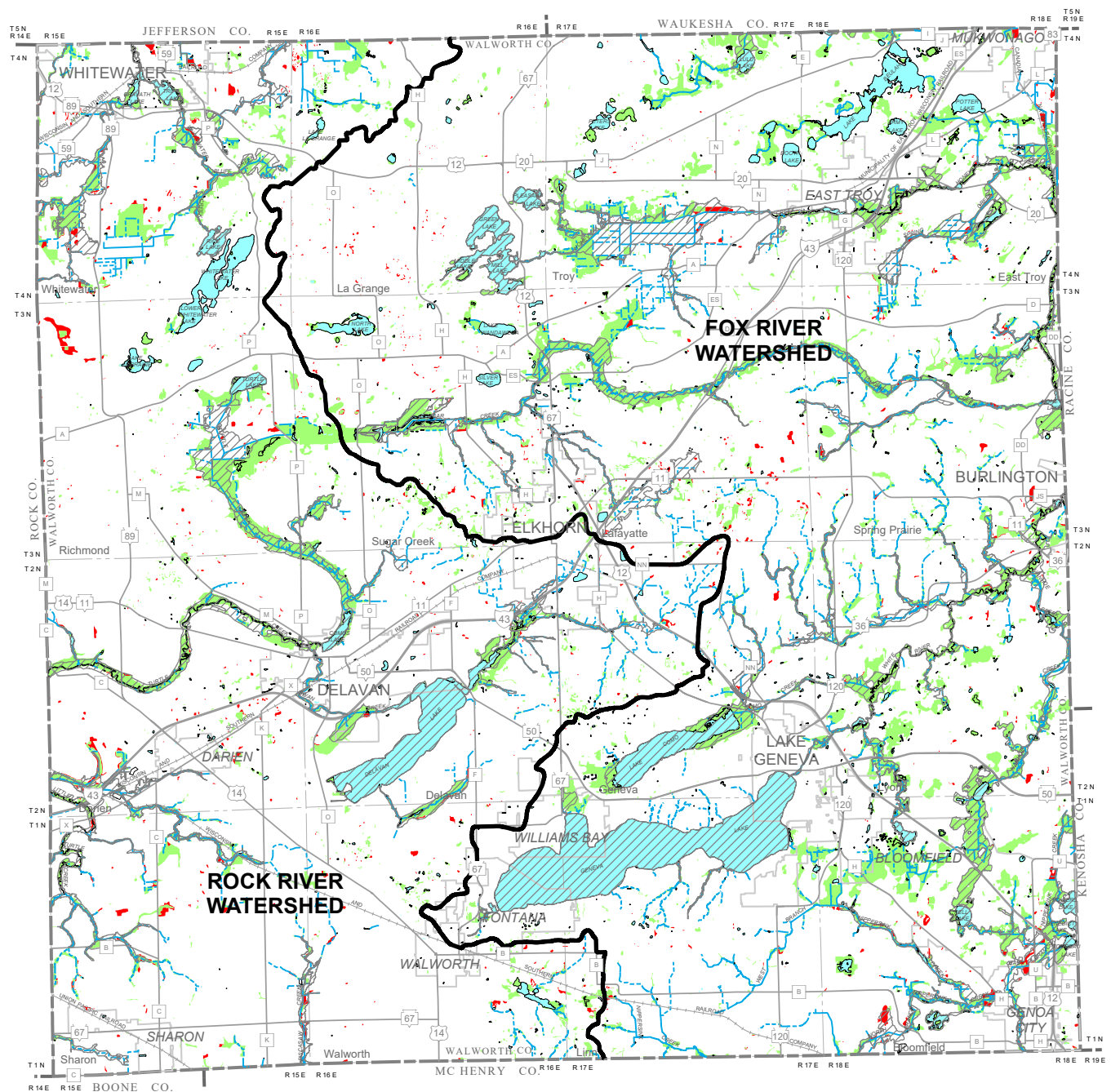
Lakes and streams are readily susceptible to degradation through improper land use development and management. Water quality can be degraded by excessive pollutant loads, including nutrient loads, which enter from malfunctioning and improperly located onsite sewage disposal systems, from sanitary sewer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








Groundwater Resources

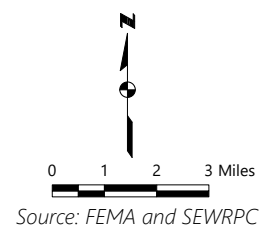
Like surface water, groundwater is susceptible to depleting in quantity and to deteriorating in quality as a result of contamination and over-usage. The vulnerability of groundwater to contamination depends on a combination of several factors, including soil type, subsurface material characteristics,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

Recharge of the aquifers underlying Walworth County is derived largely by precipitation. Areas of groundwater recharge are shown on Map 2.4. The map identifies areas based upon the rate of annual groundwater recharge from precipitation in the County. Areas were placed into the following classifications: very high (more than six inches of recharge per year), high (four to six inches of recharge per year), moderate (three to four inches of recharge per year), and low (less than three inches of recharge per year). Protecting recharge areas classified as having a high or very high recharge potential is particularly important for the long-term protection and preservation of groundwater resources in Walworth County. Protecting these areas is expected to be largely

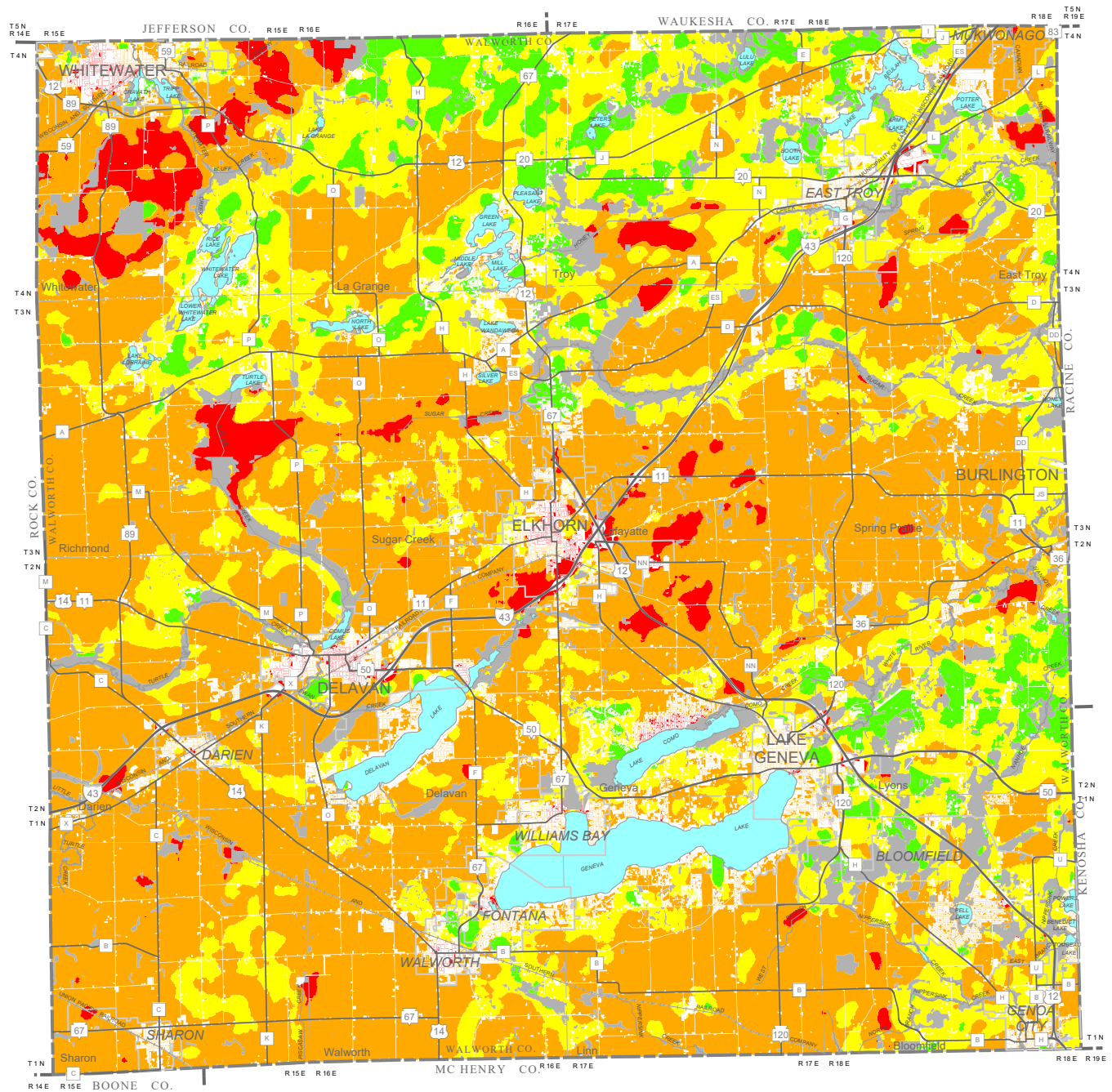
Map 2.3 Surface Waters, Wetlands, and Floodplains in Walworth County



-  1-PERCENT-ANNUAL-PROBABILITY (100-YEAR RECURRENCE INTERVAL) FLOODPLAIN (FIS MARCH 2018)
-  FARMED WETLANDS (2015)
-  NONFARMED WETLANDS (2015)
-  SURFACE WATER
-  PERENNIAL STREAMS
-  INTERMITTENT STREAMS
-  WATERSHED BOUNDARY

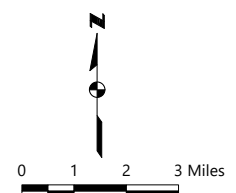


Map 2.4 Groundwater Recharge Potential in Walworth County



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

- LOW (19.2 SQUARE MILES)
- MODERATE (266.7 SQUARE MILES)
- HIGH (125.5 SQUARE MILES)
- VERY HIGH (28.2 SQUARE MILES)
- UNDEFINED (65.7 SQUARE MILES)
- SURFACE WATER
- EXISTING URBAN DEVELOPMENT: 2015



Source: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and SEWRPC

achieved through implementing the Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan⁶ for Walworth County, as that plan recommends preserving environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, significant natural areas, prime agricultural lands, and other agricultural and open areas of the County. In addition, the use of low impact development designs, cluster developments, and other sustainable development designs have the potential to effectively maintain infiltration capabilities in urban areas.

As shown on Map 2.4, about 5 percent of the County is rated “very high” for recharge potential, and about 22 percent is rated “high” for recharge potential. High and very high recharge potential areas are scattered throughout the County, with the largest concentration found in the County’s north-central area. About one-half of the County (about 46 percent) is classified as having “moderate” recharge potential, and about 3 percent is classified as having a “low” potential.

Floodplains

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

Floodplain mapping for Walworth County was updated as part of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) “Map Modernization Program” initiated in 2009. The updated maps were approved by the WDNR and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in March 2018.

Floodplains, as identified in the new FEMA mapping, are shown on Map 2.3. Approximately 52.1 square miles, or about 9 percent of the total area of the County, were located within the 1-percent-annual-probability (100-year recurrence interval) flood hazard area.

Wetlands

The location and extent of wetlands in the County in 2015, were delineated by the Regional Planning Commission under contract with the WDNR (Wisconsin Wetlands Inventory) and have been incorporated into the Commission’s 2015 land use inventory, (see Map 2.3). At that time, wetlands covered about 54.7 square miles, or about 10 percent of the County.

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

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

Included in the 54.7 square miles of wetlands are 3.5 square miles that have been classified as “farmed wetlands.” These areas meet the definition of a wetland but were being actively farmed in 2015.

⁶ Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 288, 2nd Edition, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Walworth County: 2035, November 2019. The updated comprehensive plan was adopted by the Walworth County Board in June 2019 and incorporates VISION 2050 recommendations.

Woodlands

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

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

Woodlands, as shown on Map 2.2, occur in scattered locations throughout the County, with some of the largest concentrations found in the Kettle Moraine area. In 2015, woodland areas covered about 56.4 square miles, or about 10 percent of the County. These woodlands should be maintained for their scenic, wildlife habitat, recreational, and air and water quality protection values.

Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat, and Geological Sites

A comprehensive update to the inventory of natural and geological resources in the County was conducted by the Regional Planning Commission in 2009 as part of an amendment to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan.⁷ This update systematically evaluated physical changes to high-quality natural areas, critical species habitat, and sites having geological significance within the Region, including Walworth County, and reflects new findings since the preparation of the original natural areas plan. Recommendations developed through the plan amendment for protecting and managing identified natural areas, critical species habitat, and geological sites have been incorporated into this park and open space plan.

Natural Areas

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

A total of 86 natural areas, encompassing about 10,169 acres, or about 3 percent of the County, were identified in Walworth County in 2009. Of the 86 identified sites, seven are classified as NA-1 sites and encompass about 1,852 acres, 14 are classified as NA-2 sites and encompass about 2,779 acres, and 65 are classified as NA-3 sites and encompass about 5,538 acres. Map 2.5 depicts the locations of natural areas identified in 2009. Table 2.6 sets forth a description of each natural area.

Critical Species Habitat

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

A total of 39 sites supporting threatened or rare plant or bird species have been identified in Walworth County. These sites, which together encompass an area of about 3,707 acres, are shown on Map 2.6 and described in Table 2.7.

⁷ *SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997, as amended in 2010.*

Map 2.5 Natural Areas in Walworth County

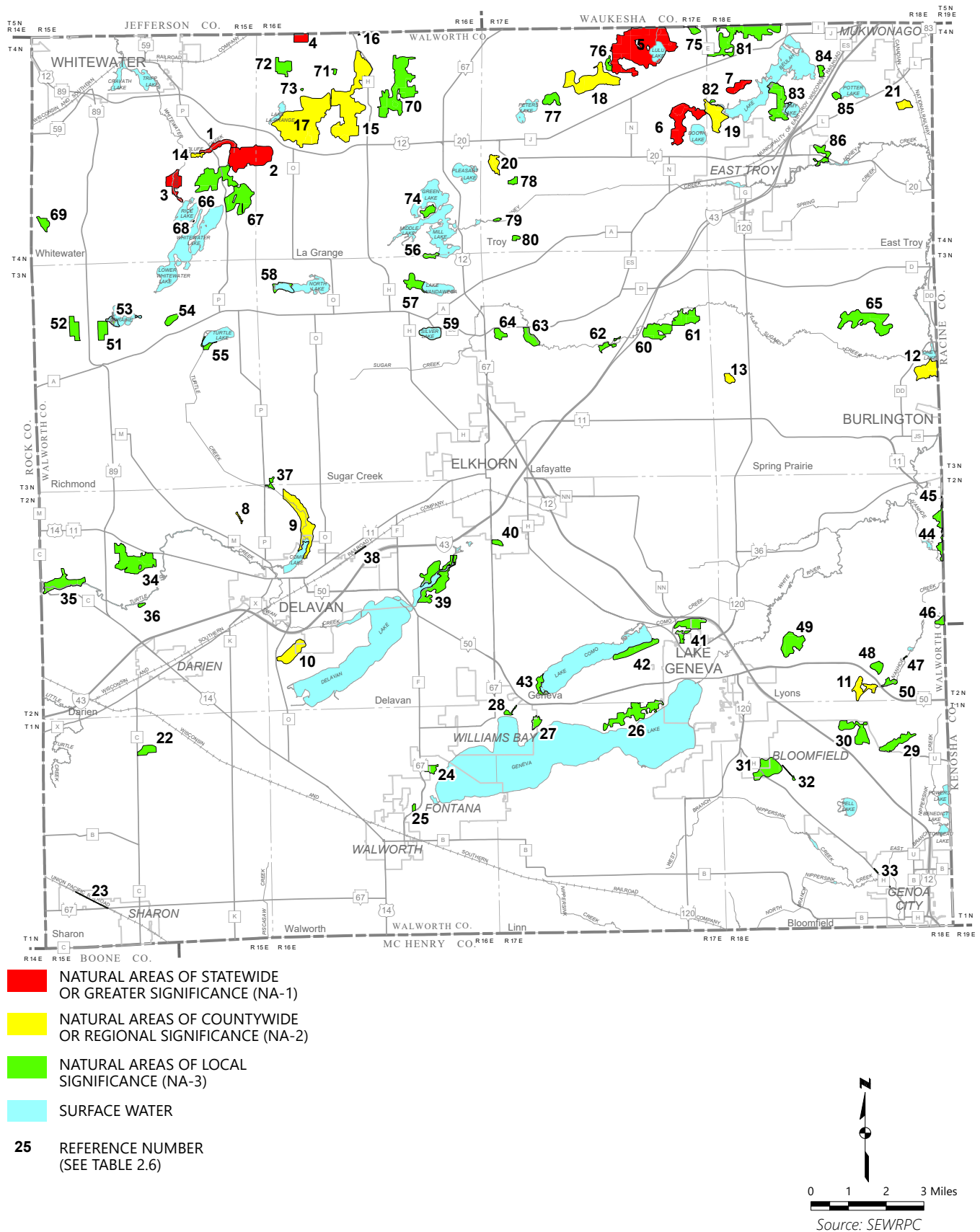


Table 2.6
Natural Areas in Walworth County

Number on Map 2.5	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
			Site Classification: ^a NA-1 ^b		
1	Bluff Creek Fens	T4N, R15E Sections 13, 14, 23, 24 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources	79	Excellent-quality springs and associated calcareous fens located at intervals along the headwaters of Bluff Creek. Portions of the stream have been ditched. Contains threatened and endangered species
2	Bluff Creek Woods	T4N, R15E Sections 13, 24 Town of Whitewater T4N, R16E Sections 18, 19 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources and private	371	Extensive dry-mesic woods on rough glacial terrain, dominated by mature red oaks. Best areas are of good quality, but some parts have been disturbed by trails and past grazing and selective logging
3	Clover Valley Fen State Natural Area	T4N, R15E Sections 22, 26, 27 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources and private	112	Prominent feature is a series of 11,000-year-old peat mounds that rise eight to 10 feet above the surrounding lowland, formed by accumulations of partially decayed vegetation around slowly flowing springs. A large number of characteristic fen plant species are present, including State-designated endangered and threatened ones
4	Young Prairie State Natural Area	T4N, R16E Section 5 Town of LaGrange T5N, R16E Section 32 Town of Palmyra	Department of Natural Resources	54 ^c	Very high-quality wet-mesic prairie, among the best and largest prairie remnants of its type in the Region. The showy flora includes State-designated threatened and endangered species. The area, which extends north into Jefferson County, includes old field that is reverting to prairie through appropriate management
5	Lulu Lake and Eagle Spring Lake Wetland Complex and Adjacent Uplands	T4N, R17E Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 Town of Troy T5N, R17E Section 35 Town of Eagle	Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and other private	891 (plus 180 in Waukesha County)	Among the most valuable natural areas in the State, containing a large concentration of elements of natural diversity. Uplands support oak woods, oak openings, and dry prairie; lowlands contain one of the state's finest wetland ecosystems, including bog, springs, fen, deep and shallow marsh, and high-quality lake communities
6	Pickrel Lake Fen State Natural Area	T4N, R17E Sections 13, 24 Town of Troy	The Nature Conservancy and other private; protected with conservation easement	273	Large, high-quality calcaeous fen and associated seepage springs bordering a shallow lake. A number of uncommon species are present, including a large population of beaked spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>), a State-designated threatened species

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.6 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.5	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
7	Beulah Bog State Natural Area	T4N, R18E Sections 7, 8 Town of East Troy	Site Classification: ^a NA-1 ^b (Continued) Department of Natural Resources and private	72	Outstanding acid sphagnum bog communities located in a series of four kettle holes. A small open-water bog lake is surrounded by a quaking mat and tamarack swamp. A wet, open moat separates the bog from wooded and pastured uplands
NA-1 Subtotal: 7 Sites					--
Site Classification: ^a NA-2					
8	Voskuil Dry Prairie	T2N, R15E Section 1 Town of Darien	Private	7	Long, narrow stretch of good-quality dry prairie on exposed ridge
9	Comus Lake Wetland Complex	T2N, R16E Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 Town of Delavan	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	292	A large wetland complex bordering Comus lake and Turtle Creek that includes sedge meadow, deep and shallow marsh, shrub-carr, calcareous fens, and seeping and bubbling springs. Some of the fens and springs are of excellent quality, containing such uncommon species as beaked spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>), a State-designated threatened species
10	Delavan Prairie-Fen	T2N, R16E Section 30 Town of Delavan	Private	137	High-quality wet prairie-fen surrounded by sedge meadow and shrub-carr. Uncommon species include tussock bulrush (<i>Scirpus cespitosus</i>), a State-designated threatened species. Disturbances include past ditching attempts
11	Lake Ivanhoe Fen and Sedge Meadow	T2N, R18E Sections 34, 35 Town of Lyons	Department of Natural Resources and private	95	Wetland complex on north side of Lake Ivanhoe, consisting of sedge meadow, shallow marsh, and high-quality calcareous fen communities. The fen contains a number of uncommon species, including the beaked spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>), a State-designated threatened species
12	Honey Lake Marsh and Sedge Meadow	T3N, R18E Sections 13, 24 Town of Spring Prairie T3N, R19E Sections 17, 18, 19, 20 Town of Burlington	Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and other private	141 (plus 250 in Racine County)	Large, relatively undisturbed wetland complex, primarily consisting of good-quality sedge meadow and deep and shallow marsh, but also with smaller areas containing springs and calcareous fens. Nesting site for sandhill cranes
13	Spring Prairie Fen	T3N, R18E Section 19 Town of Spring Prairie	Private	34	Wetland complex occupying shallow depression, consisting of high-quality calcareous fen-meadow, with areas of tamarack relict and shrub-carr. Very good species complement, including Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>) and common bog arrow-grass (<i>Triglochin maritima</i>), both State-designated special concern species

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.6 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.5	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
		Site Classification: ^a NA-2 (Continued)			
14	Bluff Creek Prairie	T4N, R15E Section 23 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources	21	Relatively large wet-mesic prairie near Bluff Creek, supporting a number of critical plant species. Active management has improved the quality of the site
15	Muir Oak Woods and Duffin Road Fen	T4N, R16E Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 16 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources and private	665	Large complex of lowland and upland communities. The dry, moraine uplands support extensive oak woods and small patches of managed dry prairie. Depressions hold leatherleaf-dominated bogs, shallow marsh, and a high-quality fen along the western border. Important to maintain as a large, intact block
16	Kestol Dry Prairie	T4N, R16E Section 4 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	1	Good-quality dry hill prairie, containing good native species diversity. Characteristic species include big and little bluestem, prairie dropseed, purple prairie-clover, and yellow flax. Managed by burning
17	LaGrange Oak Woods	T4N, R16E Sections 8, 17, 18, 20 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources and private	768	Extensive southern dry forest dominated by large white, red, black, and bur oaks on rough kettle moraine topography. One of the largest blocks of upland forest in the Southern Kettle Moraine, and, as such, is important for forest-interior-breeding birds
18	Upper Mukwonago River Wetland Complex	T4N, R17E Sections 3, 9, 10 Town of Troy	The Nature Conservancy and other private	338	A large, good-quality wetland complex that includes seepage springs, calcareous fen, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, shallow marsh, and tamarack relict. Disturbance has been minimal, mostly confined to the bordering wooded uplands
19	Swan Lake Wetland Complex	T4N, R17E Sections 12, 13 Town of Troy T4N, R18E Section 18 Town of East Troy	Girl Scouts of Milwaukee Area, Inc., and other private	167	Good-quality wetland complex within an upland matrix of xeric oak woods. Lowland communities include bog, sedge meadow, shallow marsh, lake, and mature tamarack swamp. Contains a good population of showy lady's-slipper orchid (<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>), a State-designated special concern species
20	Adams Lake Fen and Marsh	T4N, R17E Section 19 Town of Troy	Private	65	Good-quality calcareous fen and seepage springs located at base of uplands on east side of lake. Shallow marsh surrounds lake, on the west side of which is a tamarack relict. Uncommon plant species include swamp agrimony (<i>Agrimonia parviflora</i>), a State-designated special concern species

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.6 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.5	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
21	Thiede Road Tamarack Swamp	T4N, R18E Section 13 Town of East Troy	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands NA-2 Subtotal: 14 Sites	48	Good-quality shallow bog lake, bog mat, and tamarack swamp, bordered by shrub-carr and lowland hardwoods
NA-2 Subtotal: 14 Sites					
Site Classification: ^a NA-3					
22	CTH C Lowland	T1N, R15E Section 4 Town of Sharon	Department of Natural Resources	60	Wetland complex in an agricultural landscape, consisting of sedge meadow, fresh (wet) meadow, shrub-carr, and prairie remnants
23	Salt Box Road Railroad Prairie	T1N, R15E Sections 29, 30 Town of Sharon	Private	12	Approximately one-mile-long stretch of railroad prairie representing the best remaining example of mesic prairie in this intensely agriculturalized portion of the Region. Good species diversity. The highest-quality portion of this area is at its extreme eastern end
24	North Shore Woods	T1N, R16E Section 11 Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	Private	38	Moderate-quality dry-mesic hardwoods
25	Fontana Prairie and Fen	T1N, R16E Section 15 Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	10	A moderate-quality calcareous fen and wet-mesic prairie complex that is being actively managed. Several uncommon species are present, including the State-designated threatened beaked spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>). Disturbances include groundwater-level changes because of highway construction
26	Wychwood	T1N, R17E Sections 2, 3, 4 Town of Linn T2N, R17E Section 35 Town of Geneva	Private	226	A large tract of dry-mesic hardwoods occupying a terminal moraine on the north side of Geneva Lake. Generally good quality throughout, except for the large estates which occupy much of the woods
27	Peninsula Woods	T1N, R17E Sections 5, 6 Town of Linn	Private	37	Dry-mesic hardwood stand on north side of Geneva Lake. Contains American gromwell (<i>Lithospermum latifolium</i>), a State-designated special concern species
28	Williams Bay Lowlands	T1N, R17E Section 6 Village of Williams Bay	Village of Williams Bay	16	Moderate-quality complex of sedge meadow, shrub-carr, shallow marsh, wet prairie, and lowland hardwoods. Contains white lady's-slipper orchid (<i>Cypripedium candidum</i>), a State-designated threatened species
29	Hafs Road Marsh	T1N, R18E Sections 1, 2, 11 Town of Bloomfield	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	109	Deep and shallow marsh complex with much open water. Dominated by cattails and bulrushes
30	Lake Ivanhoe Sedge Meadow	T1N, R18E Sections 3, 10 Town of Bloomfield	Department of Natural Resources and private	150	Moderate- to good-quality Wetland complex of sedge meadow, shrub-carr, and tamarack relict

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.6 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.5	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
		Site Classification: ^a NA-3 (Continued)			
31	Bloomfield Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict	T1N, R18E Section 7, 8, 18 Town of Bloomfield	City of Lake Geneva, Department of Natural Resources, and private	171	Large wetland complex of good-quality sedge meadow, with shrub-carr and tamarack relict. Disturbances include past ditching attempts
32	Pell Lake Railroad Prairie	T1N, R18E Sections 8, 17 Town of Bloomfield	Private	9	Small remnant of mesic and wet-mesic prairie along abandoned railway right-of-way. Floristically rich, with several regionally uncommon species
33	Bloomfield Prairie	T1N, R18E Sections 26, 27 Town of Bloomfield	Private	6	Mesic prairie remnant situated between highway and abandoned railway right-of-way. Characteristic species include prairie dock, golden alexanders, big bluestem, rosinweed, Culver's-root, and prairie cordgrass. One of the best such remnants in this part of the region
34	Darien Oak Woods	T2N, R15E Sections 9, 10, 15, 16 Town of Darien	Private	308	A disturbed xeric oak woods that is included because of its size, which offers nesting habitat for forest-interior-breeding birds
35	Turtle Creek Sedge Meadow and Fen	T2N, R15E Sections 17, 18 Town of Darien	Department of Natural Resources and private	171	A large, generally disturbed wetland complex of sedge meadow and shrub-carr, with local areas of higher-quality calcareous fens. A documented queen snake hibernaculum is located here
36	Creek Road Fen	T2N, R15E Section 21 Town of Darien	Department of Natural Resources	9	Moderate-quality fen, sedge meadow, and shrub-carr complex within the Turtle Creek lowlands. Disturbances include past ditching attempts
37	CTH P Sedge Meadow	T2N, R16E Section 6 Town of Delavan T3N, R16E Section 31 Town of Sugar Creek	Private	18	Moderate-quality sedge meadow and shrub-carr
38	Marsh Road Railroad Prairie	T2N, R16E Section 9 Town of Delavan	Wisconsin Department of Transportation	6	Remnant of dry-mesic prairie along lightly used railway, with some good-quality segments. Characteristic species include leadplant, hoary puccoon, big bluestem, downy phlox, and heart-leaved golden alexanders
39	Lake Lawn Wetland Complex	T2N, R16E Sections 13, 14, 23 Town of Delavan	Department of Natural Resources and private	293	A large wetland complex along Jackson Creek at the north end of Delavan Lake. Plant communities include deep and shallow marsh and sedge meadow
40	Jackson Creek Wetlands	T2N, R17E Section 7 City of Elkhorn	Kettle Moraine Land Trust	22	Wetland complex, including prairie fen, along Jackson Creek. Managed by prescribed burning
41	Oak Hill Cemetery Woods	T2N, R17E Section 25 City of Lake Geneva and Town of Geneva	Private	138	Good-quality upland dry-mesic woods

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.6 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.5	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
Site Classification: ^a NA-3 (Continued)					
42	Warbler Trail Wetlands	T2N, R17E Sections 26, 27 Town of Geneva	Department of Natural Resources, Town of Geneva, and private	124	Shallow marsh, shrub-carr, sedge meadow, and lowland hardwoods along east shore of Lake Como
43	Lake Como Wetlands	T2N, R17E Section 32 Town of Geneva	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	46	Deep and shallow marsh at west end of Lake Como. Has suffered disturbance from construction of adjacent golf course complex
44	Burlington Hills Woods	T2N, R18E Sections 1, 12, 13 Town of Lyons T2N, R19E Sections 5, 6, 7, 18 Town of Burlington	Private, plus a portion of site in Walworth County protected through conservation easement with Geneva Lakes Conservancy	86 (plus 416 in Racine County)	Rough moraine ridges occupied by mature and second-growth oak woods, with small, scattered patches of dry hill prairie and disturbed openings. Largest remaining upland woods in Racine County; important for forest-interior-breeding birds. However, ongoing sand and gravel mine operations have reduced the wooded acreage
45	Burlington Railroad Prairie	T2N, R18E Section 1 Town of Lyons T2N, R19E Section 6 Town of Burlington	Private	1 (plus 5 in Racine County)	One-quarter-mile stretch of mesic, dry-mesic, and dry prairie remnants bordering railway right-of-way
46	Tri-County Tamarack Swamp	T2N, R18E Sections 24, 25 Town of Lyons T2N, R19E Section 19 Town of Burlington	Private; protected with conservation easement	25 (plus 15 in Racine County)	Medium-aged tamarack swamp surrounded by dense shrub-carr. Extends into Racine County
47	Peterson Fen	T2N, R18E Section 26 Town of Lyons	Private	2	Good-quality calcareous fen, shrub-carr, and sedge meadow along Ivanhoe Creek. Contains Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>) and small fringed gentian (<i>Gentianopsis procera</i>), both State-designated special concern species
48	Cranberry Road Bog	T2N, R18E Sections 26, 35 Town of Lyons	Private	46	Large bog and marsh complex occupying a shallow depression, dominated by leatherleaf and glossy buckthorn. Young tamaracks are present near center of bog. Species diversity is low, but a large population of pitcher plant is present. This community occurs near the southern limits of its range
49	Lake Geneva Tamarack Relict	T2N, R18E Sections 28, 29 Town of Lyons	Private	163	Large tamarack relict—shrub-carr complex with small, shallow lakes in depressions. Adjacent development and past ditching attempts have disturbed the site
50	Ivanhoe Creek Fen	T2N, R18E Section 35 Town of Lyons	Private	30	Wetland complex along Ivanhoe Creek, containing shrub-carr, shallow marsh, and good-quality calcareous fen

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.6 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.5	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
		Site Classification: ^a NA-3 (Continued)			
51	Lake Loraine Woods—East	T3N, R15E Section 8 Town of Richmond	Private	74	Xeric woods containing scattered, mature oaks, and relatively intact shrub and herb layers. Disturbances include trails and past grazing and selective cutting
52	Lake Loraine Woods—West	T3N, R15E Section 8 Town of Richmond	Private	86	Disturbed xeric oak woods on flat-to-undulating topography. North end is lower and somewhat more mesic. Included because of relatively large size
53	Lake Loraine Marsh	T3N, R15E Sections 8, 9 Town of Richmond	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	35	Good-quality deep and shallow marsh on developed lake
54	Lake No. 10	T3N, R15E Section 10 Town of Richmond	State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	40	Small, undeveloped lake in a kettle depression, containing deep and shallow marsh
55	Turtle Lake Fen	T3N, R15E Section 14 Town of Richmond	Department of Natural Resources	21	Prairie fen on southwest side of Turtle Lake
56	Baywood Road Sedge Meadow	T3N, R16E Section 2 Town of Sugar Creek T4N, R16E Section 35 Town of LaGrange	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	27	Good-quality sedge meadow and shallow marsh complex with a strong influx of calciphilic species
57	Lake Wandawega Marsh	T3N, R16E Section 6 Town of Sugar Creek	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	83	A large deep and shallow marsh at west end of lake, with good complement of aquatic species. Much of lake upland is developed
58	North Lake Marsh	T3N, R16E Section 6 Town of Sugar Creek	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	67	Large marsh on west side of lake, with rich aquatic species complement. Lake upland heavily developed and grazed
59	Silver Lake	T3N, R13N, 16E Sections 11, 14 Town of Sugar Creek	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	96	Shallow lake that contains a rich complement of native aquatic species. Good water quality. A small dry prairie remnant is located on the north side of the lake
60	Pallottine Maple Woods	T3N, R17E Sections 11, 14 Town of Lafayette	Private	152	Moderate-quality mesic and dry-mesic hardwoods with good species diversity. Disturbances include a trail network and past selective cutting
61	Granzeau Woods	T3N, R17E Section 12 Town of Lafayette	Private	133	Good-quality dry-mesic hardwoods embedded in a matrix of more-disturbed woods. Dominated by red and white oaks and sugar maple. Currently threatened by logging activity
62	Sugar Creek Fens, Springs, and Sedge Meadow	T3N, R17E Section 15 Town of Lafayette	Private	34	Wetland complex along Sugar Creek that has suffered from past and current disturbances. Regionally uncommon species Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>) and small fringed gentian (<i>Gentianopsis procera</i>), both State-designated special concern species

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.6 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.5	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
		Site Classification: ^a NA-3 (Continued)			
63	Sugar Creek Wetlands	T3N, R17E Section 17 Town of Lafayette	Private	74	Shallow cattail marsh and shrub-carr along Sugar creek. Area has been disturbed by past ditching attempts
64	Abells Corners Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict	T3N, R17E Section 18 Town of Lafayette	Private	42	Moderate-quality tamarack relict and sedge meadow, disturbed by groundwater-level changes
65	Spring Prairie Lowlands	T3N, R18E Sections 10, 11, 14, 15 Town of Spring Prairie	Private	297	Large, basically good-quality wetland complex consisting of shallow marsh, shrub-carr, sedge meadow, and tamarack relict. Area has been disturbed by past ditching attempts
66	Lone Tree Trail Oak Woods	T4N, R15E Sections 23, 24, 25, 26 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources and private	265	Former mosaic of xeric oak forest, open oak woodland, and oak savanna now overgrown with shrubs, situated on upper slopes of rough, gravelly interlobate moraine. Contains the State-designated threatened kittentails (<i>Besseyia bullii</i>)
67	Whitewater Oak Woods	T4N, R15E Sections 24, 25 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources and private	240	Xeric oak woodland that has suffered from fire suppression. Dry prairies on steep south-facing slopes are being actively managed through cutting and burning
68	Rice Lake Dry Prairie	T4N, R15E Section 26 Town of Whitewater	Department of Natural Resources	1	Small dry prairie remnant, managed by burning
69	Rock Shrub-Fen	T4N, R15E Sections 30, 31 Town of Whitewater	Private	46	Good-quality wetland complex, consisting of sedge meadow, shrub-carr, and small areas of marsh fen
70	Nordic Trail Oak Woods	T4N, R16E Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 15 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources and private; protected with conservation easement	493	Large but patchy mixture of disturbed oak woods, shallow lakes, and small areas of dry prairie
71	Skoaponong (Duffin Road) Prairie	T4N, R16E Sections 4, 9 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	8	Good-quality mix of mesic and wet-mesic prairie and shallow marsh. Dominated by big and little bluestem, prairie dock, and goldenrods. Quality has improved with burn management
72	Big Spring Road Prairie	T4N, R16E Sections 6, 7 Town of LaGrange	Private	93	Degraded wet-mesic prairie used as pastures but offering excellent opportunity for prairie and pothole restoration. The small wetlands are good for amphibian breeding and migratory waterfowl
73	Connelly Fen	T4N, R16E Section 8 Town of LaGrange	Private	2	Good-quality calcareous fen containing characteristic fen species
74	Island Woods	T4N, R16E Section 26 Town of LaGrange	Kettle Moraine Land Trust and other private	46	Good-quality dry-mesic woods on rough terrain, situated on peninsula in Lauderdale Lakes

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.6 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.5	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
Site Classification: ^a NA-3 (Continued)					
75	Eagle Spring Lake Bog, Woods, and Prairie	T4N, R17E Sections 1 Town of Troy T5N, R17E Sections 36 Town of Eagle	Department of Natural Resources	28 (plus 38 in Waukesha County)	Leatherleaf bog, dry upland Woods, and small prairie remnants
76	Crooked Creek Sedge Meadow	T4N, R17E Sections 3, 10 Town of Troy	The Nature Conservancy	27	Sedge meadow—shallow marsh wetland disturbed by ditching along east edge
77	Doyles Lake Wetlands	T4N, R17E Sections 8, 9, 16, 17 Town of Troy	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	68	Undeveloped lake containing shallow marsh. Used by migrating waterfowl
78	Lein's Road Fen	T4N, R17E Section 30 Town of Troy	Private	22	Degraded shrub-fen, disturbed by past grazing and groundwater-level changes from ditching
79	Honey Creek Fen	T4N, R17E Section 31 Town of Troy	Private	8	Moderate-quality wetland complex bordering Honey Creek, consisting of calcareous fen, sedge meadow, and shallow marsh. Contains beaked spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i>), a State-designated threatened species
80	Troy Fen	T4N, R17E Sections 31, 32 Town of Troy	Department of Natural Resources and private	15	Moderate-quality calcareous fen—shrub-carr—sedge meadow wetland. Disturbed by past ditching
81	Rainbow Springs Woods, Wetlands, and Prairies	T4N, R18E Sections 5, 6 Town of East Troy T5N, R18E Sections 31, 32 Town of Mukwonago	Department of Natural Resources and private	371 (plus 312 in Waukesha County)	Large area of disturbed upland oak woods, with associated areas of dry prairie and wetlands
82	East Troy Bog	T4N, R18E Sections 7, 18 Town of East Troy	Private	6	Good-quality leatherleaf bog
83	Army Lake Lowlands	T4N, R18E Sections 8, 9, 16 Town of East Troy	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	92	Large deep and shallow marsh northwest of Army Lake
84	East Troy Tamaracks	T4N, R18E Sections 9, 10 Town of East Troy	Department of Natural Resources	26	Acid sphagnum—tamarack relict, disturbed by groundwater-level changes from ditching attempts
85	Potter Lake Tamaracks	T4N, R18E Sections 10, 15 Town of East Troy	Private	22	Disturbed tamarack relict on west side of Potter Lake
86	Hilburn Sedge Meadow	T4N, R18E Sections 21, 22 Town of East Troy	Private	66	Sedge meadow and shallow marsh bordering Honey Creek
NA-3 Subtotal: 65 Sites				5,538	--
Total: 86 Sites				10,169	--

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

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

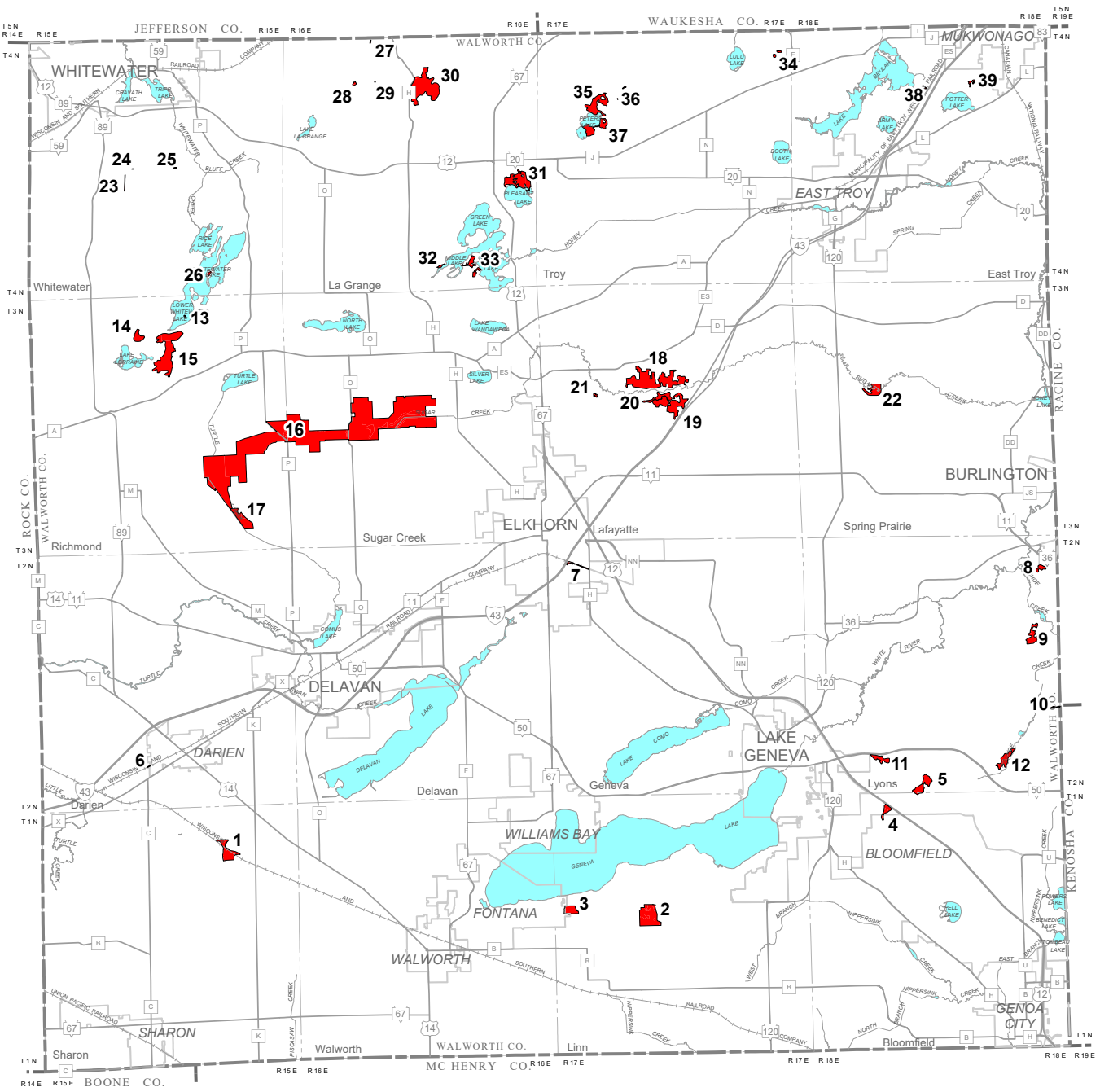
NA-3 identifies Natural Area sites of local significance.

^b All NA-1 sites in the County are classified as a SNA, or State Natural Area, which identifies those sites officially designated as State Natural Areas by the State of Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council.

^c Plus 15 in Jefferson County.

Source: SEWRPC

Map 2.6 Critical Species Habitat Sites in Walworth County



- CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE
- SURFACE WATER
- 25** REFERENCE NUMBER
(SEE TABLE 2.7)

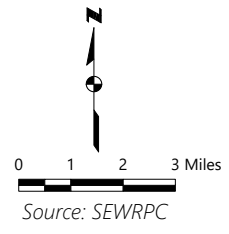


Table 2.7
Critical Species Habitat Sites in Walworth County

Number on Map 2.6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Railroad Lowland	T1N, R15E Sections 2, 11 Town of Sharon	Department of Natural Resources	64	Disturbed fresh (wet) meadow supporting lesser fringed gentian (<i>Gentianopsis procera</i>), a State-designated special concern species
2	Town of Linn Park	T1N, R17E Section 16 Town of Linn	Town of Linn	153	Large expanse of old fields and pastures providing nesting habitat for several grassland bird species
3	Lyons Woods	T1N, R17E Section 18 Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	Private	35	Woods containing the Region's only known population of broad beech fern (<i>Phegopteris hexagonoptera</i>), a State-designated special concern species
4	Section 5 Marsh and Pond	T1N, R18E Sections 4, 5 Town of Bloomfield	Private	21	Small wetland provides breeding habitat for black terns, a State-designated special concern bird species
5	Townline Pond	T1N, R18E Section 4 Town of Bloomfield T2N, R18E Section 33 Town of Lyons	Private	50	Small wetland provides breeding habitat for black terns, a State-designated special concern bird species; misidentified as "Swift Lake Wetland" CSH in PR-42
6	Darien Railroad Prairie Remnant	T2N, R15E Sections 28, 33 Town of Darien	Private	1	Small remnants of mesic prairie along railway right-of-way. The Region's only known population of wild petunia (<i>Ruellia humilis</i>), a State-designated endangered species, is present
7	Elkhorn Railroad Prairie Remnant	T2N, R17E Section 6 City of Elkhorn	City of Elkhorn and Wisconsin Department of Transportation	7	Remnant patches of mesic and wet-mesic prairie along abandoned railway right-of-way support populations of two State-designated threatened species: Sullivant's milkweed (<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>) and cream gentian (<i>Gentiana alba</i>)
8	White River Railroad Prairie	T2N, R18E Section 1 Town of Lyons	Private	12	Disturbed remnants of wet-mesic prairies bordering recreational trail support a good population of white lady's-slipper orchid (<i>Cypripedium candidum</i>), a State-designated threatened species
9	Roden Oak Woods	T2N, R18E Section 13 Town of Lyons	Private	41	Disturbed oak woodland supporting a population of kittentails (<i>Besseyia bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
10	Seno Oak Opening	T2N, R18E Section 25 Town of Lyons	Private (protected through conservation easement)	2	Small oak opening supporting a population of kittentails (<i>Besseyia bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
11	Radio Station Wetland	T2N, R18E Section 32 Town of Lyons	Private	26	Disturbed shrub-carr with a small area of prairie fen supporting lesser fringed gentian (<i>Gentianopsis procera</i>), a State-designated special concern species

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.7 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
12	Peterson Property	T2N, R18E Section 35 Town of Lyons	Private	40	Swamp agrimony (<i>Agrimonia parviflora</i>), a State-designated special concern species, found along edge of wetland
13	Whitewater Lake Island ^a	T3N, R15E Section 3 Town of Richmond	Walworth County	1	Nesting colony of great egrets, a State-designated threatened bird species, on wooded island in lake
14	Unnamed Wetland	T3N, R15E Section 4 Town of Richmond	Private and State of Wisconsin Public Trust Lands	26	Small wetland provides breeding habitat for black terns, a State-designated special concern bird species
15	Lake Number 10 Open Woods	T3N, R15E Section 10 Town of Richmond	Private	194	Disturbed woodland supporting a population of kittentails (<i>Besseyia bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
16	Turtle Valley Wildlife Area	T3N, R15E Sections 23, 24, 26 Town of Richmond T3N, R16E Sections 18, 19 Town of Sugar Creek	Department of Natural Resources and Department of Transportation	2,042	Former agricultural land, now being returned to wetlands. Provides nesting and feeding habitat for a large number of native birds, including several endangered, threatened, and special concern species
17	Island Road Shrub-Carr	T3N, R15E Section 35 Town of Richmond	Private	64	Disturbed shrub-carr with a small area of prairie fen, supporting two State-designated special concern species: lesser fringed gentian (<i>Gentianopsis procera</i>) and Ohio goldenrod (<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>)
18	Sugar Creek Woods—North	T3N, R17E Sections 15, 16 Town of LaFayette	Private	230	Oak woods on rolling topography north of Sugar Creek contains late coral root orchid (<i>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</i>), a State-designated special concern species
19	Sugar Creek Woods—South	T3N, R17E Sections 15, 16, 17 Town of LaFayette	Private	116	Oak woods on rolling topography south of Sugar Creek contains late coral root orchid (<i>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</i>), a State-designated special concern species
20	Sugar Creek Wet Woods	T3N, R17E Section 16 Town of LaFayette	Private	34	Wooded wetland complex of lowland hardwoods and shrub-carr contains giant hyssop (<i>Agastache nepetoides</i>), a State-designated threatened species
21	Abells Corners Fen	T3N, R17E Section 17 Town of LaFayette	Private	3	Small, disturbed prairie fen supporting a population of lesser fringed gentian (<i>Gentianopsis procera</i>), a State-designated special concern species
22	Hargraves Road Sedge Meadow	T3N, R18E Section 17 Town of Spring Prairie	Private	46	Small, disturbed prairie fen within larger sedge meadow supporting a population of lesser fringed gentian (<i>Gentianopsis procera</i>), a State-designated special concern species
23	Mills Road Prairie	T4N, R15E Section 15 Town of Whitewater	Private	3	Mowed roadside containing a small population of Sullivan's milkweed (<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>), a State-designated threatened species

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.7 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
24	Anderson Road	T4N, R15E Section 16 Town of Whitewater	Private	1	Mowed roadside containing a small population of Sullivant's milkweed (<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
25	Island Road Prairie	T4N, R15E Section 21 Town of Whitewater	Private	1	Remnant mesic prairie between gravel road and agricultural fields
26	Whitewater Lake Island Woods	T4N, R15E Section 35 Town of Whitewater	Private	3	Woodland supporting a population of kittentails (<i>Besseya bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
27	Emerson Esker Prairie	T4N, 16E Section 4 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	1	Small remnants of prairie and oak opening supporting a population of kittentails (<i>Besseya bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
28	Bennett Dry Prairie	T4N, R16E Section 6 Town of LaGrange	Private	3	Small prairie remnants supporting a population of kittentails (<i>Besseya bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
29	Duffin Road Dry Prairie	T4N, 16E Section 9 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	1	Small prairie remnants supporting a population of kittentails (<i>Besseya bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
30	LaGrange Campground	T4N, 16E Section 10 Town of LaGrange	Department of Natural Resources	203	Small prairie remnants within a larger woodland supporting a population of kittentails (<i>Besseya bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
31	Juniper Knoll Camp Woods	T4N, 16E Section 24 Town of LaGrange	Private	98	Large, but disturbed and patchy woodland with a small population of kittentails (<i>Besseya bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
32	Middle Lake Sedge Mat	T4N, 16E Section 34 Town of LaGrange	State of Wisconsin Trust Lands	3	Floating sedge mat at edge of Middle Lake
33	Lauderdale Lakes Woods	T4N, 16E Section 35 Town of LaGrange	Private	28	Woodland in a residential area containing forked aster (<i>Aster furcatus</i>), a State- designated threatened species
34	Horn Dry Prairies	T4N, R17E Section 1 Town of Troy	Private	5	Small prairie remnants supporting a population of kittentails (<i>Besseya bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
35	Harmony Hills Savanna	T4N, R17E Section 8 Town of Troy	Private	77	Rare sedge species located within disturbed oak savanna
36	Doyles Lake Prairies	T4N, R17E Section 9 Town of Troy	Private	1	Small prairie remnants supporting a population of kittentails (<i>Besseya bullii</i>), a State-designated threatened species
37	Camp Timberlee	T4N, R17E Section 17 Town of Troy	Private	65	Swamp agrimony (<i>Agrimonia parviflora</i>), a State-designated special concern species, found along edge of wetland

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.7 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
38	Anderson Bog	T4N, R18E Section 10 Town of East Troy	Private	1	Downy willow-herb (<i>Epilobium strictum</i>), a State-designated special concern species, located in small bog
39	Eastwood Estates Woods	T4N, R18E Section 11 Town of East Troy	Private	5	Small remnant woodland within residential development, containing hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>), a State-designated special concern species
Total: 39 Sites				3,707	--

^a As of 2021, the site no longer contains a nesting colony of great egrets. Bald eagles are now nesting on the site.

Source: SEWRPC

Geological Sites

A total of 13 sites of geological importance, including nine glacial features and four bedrock geology sites, were identified in the County in 2009. The geological sites included in the inventory were selected on the basis of scientific importance, significance in industrial history, natural aesthetics, ecological qualities, educational value, and public access potential. The 13 sites selected in Walworth County include two sites of statewide significance (GA-1), five sites of countywide or regional significance (GA-2), and six sites of local significance (GA-3). Together, these sites encompass about 12,946 acres in Walworth County. Map 2.7 depicts the locations of geological sites identified in 2009. Table 2.8 sets forth a description of each site.

Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

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

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

Delineating the natural resource and resource-related elements on a map, as specified above, results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow, elongated areas that have been termed “environmental corridors” by the Regional Planning Commission.⁸ Primary environmental corridors are a minimum of 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors connect with the primary environmental corridors and are at least 100 acres in size and one mile in length. Areas at least five acres in size that contain important natural resource base elements, but are separated physically from primary and secondary environmental corridors by intensive urban or agricultural land uses have also been identified and have been termed “isolated natural resource areas.” Environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas within Walworth County in 2015 are shown on Map 2.8. At that time, such areas encompassed about 137.8 square miles, or about 24 percent of the County.

In considering environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, it is important to note that preserving such resources serves many beneficial purposes, in addition to protecting the important natural resources that make up the corridors. Corridor lands provide areas for the storage of flood waters away from homes and other developed areas; help to protect water quality by filtering sediment and fertilizer from runoff before it enters surface waters; provide wildlife habitat and corridors for the movement of animals; provide favorable climate modification; and contribute to the scenic beauty of the County and the Region. Ecosystems within corridors tend to be naturally resilient and provide linear habitat connectivity, link aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and create thermal refugia⁹ for wildlife. All of these characteristics can contribute to the ecological adaptation to climate change. Excluding urban development from environmental corridors helps to prevent problems such as water pollution, wet and flooded basements, and building and pavement failures.

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

⁸ A detailed description of the process of refining the delineation of environmental corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin is presented in SEWRPC Technical Record, Vol. 4, No. 2 (March 1981), pp. 1-21.

⁹ Refugia is defined as an unaltered climate area that is inhabited by plants and animals during a period of climate change. The area remains as a center of flora and fauna relict forms from which a new dispersion and speciation may take place after climatic readjustment.

A detailed map of Walworth County, Wisconsin, featuring 13 numbered red triangle locations. The map shows a network of roads, including major highways like US-12, US-43, US-50, and US-14, as well as local routes. Numerous lakes are depicted in light blue, including Delavan Lake, Monona Lake, Kegonsa Lake, Koshong Lake, and many smaller ones like Potosi Lake and Kegonsa Lake. Towns and cities are labeled throughout the county, such as Whitewater, Elkhorn, Delavan, Geneva, Fontana, and Sharon. The county's borders with Jefferson, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha, and Boone counties are clearly marked. The 13 red triangles are distributed across the county, with some clustered near specific towns or bodies of water.

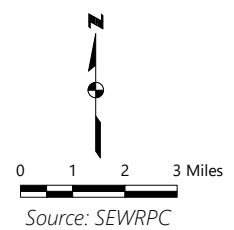


Table 2.8
Significant Geologic Sites in Walworth County

Number on Map 2.7	Site Name	Location	Site Area (Acres)	Ownership	Description
Site Classification: ^a GA-1					
1	Lulu Lake Glacial Lake and Crevasse Filling	T4N, R17E, Section 2 Town of Troy	103	Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and other private	A near-classic example of kettle lake located on a pitted outwash terrace. It is associated with the end moraine of the Lake Michigan lobe. Also present is a good example of a crevasse filling
2	Kettle Moraine Interlobate Moraine ^b	Northwest portion of County	7,138	Department of Natural Resources, and private	Interlobate moraine consisting of a complex system of irregular, knobby ridges, trending northeast-southwest across the northwest portion of the County
Site Classification: ^a GA-2					
3	Sugar Creek Quarry	T3N, R18E, Section 16 Town of Spring Prairie	3	Private	Small, abandoned quarry on south bank of Sugar Creek. Only exposure of geologically important fossiliferous Kankakee Dolomite in Wisconsin
4	Whitewater Quarry	T4N, R15E, Section 8 Town of Whitewater	2	Private	Old quarry with one of few exposures of Galena Dolomite in region
5	Whitewater Lake-Rice Lake Eskers	T4N, R15E, Sections 26, 35 Town of Whitewater	175	Department of Natural Resources, and private	Two eskers separating Whitewater Lake from Rice Lake
6	John Muir Trail Kettle Holes	T4N, R16E, Section 9 Town of LaGrange	28	Department of Natural Resources	Large, sphagnum-filled kettle holes
7	Casselman's Quarry	T4N, R18E, Section 11 Town of East Troy	2	Private	Small quarry excavated in Silurian Mayville Dolomite. One of the few bedrock exposures in Walworth County
Site Classification: ^a GA-3					
8	Turtle Creek Glacial Spillway	T2N, R15E, Sections 5-8, 11, 13, 18 Town of Darien	2,540	Department of Natural Resources, and private	A good example of a glacial spillway
9	Lyons Glacial Deposits	T3N, R15E, Sections 26, 35, 36 Town of Richmond T2N, R18E, Sections 12-15, 21-29 Town of Lyons	2,688 ^c	Private	Outstanding examples of kettle and kametopography

Table continued on next page.

Table 2.8 (Continued)

Number on Map 2.7	Site Name	Location	Site Area (Acres)	Ownership Site Classification: ^a GA-3 (continued)		Description
10	Morainic Triple Point	T3N, R15E, Section 9 Town of Richmond	218	Private		Point where the interlobate moraine ends, and the Johnstown and Darien terminal moraines begin
11	Voree Quarry	T3N, R18E, Section 36 Town of Spring Prairie	16	Private		Old, water-filled quarry, exposing unusual Brandon Bridge Formation of dolomite rock
12	Spirits Wash Bowl	T4N, R16E, Section 4 Town of LaGrange	1	Department of Natural Resources		A kettle hole
13	Nordic Trail Kettle Holes	T4N, R16E, Sections 10, 11 Town of LaGrange	32	Department of Natural Resources, and private		Huge, water-filled kettle holes
Total: 13 Sites			12,946	--		--

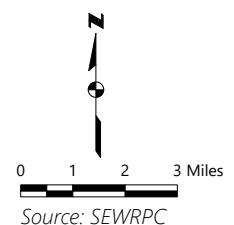
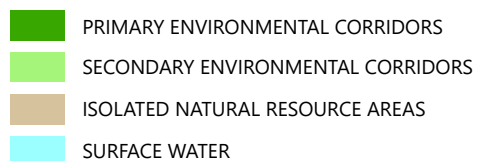
^a GA-1 identifies Geological Area sites of statewide or greater significance; GA-2 identifies Geological Area sites of countywide or regional significance; and GA-3 identifies Geological Area sites of local significance.

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

^c Includes only those lands of the Lyons Glacial Deposits located in Walworth County.

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

Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas in Walworth County: 2015



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

Primary Environmental Corridors

As shown on Map 2.8, the primary environmental corridors in Walworth County are located along the major rivers and their tributaries, around the major lakes in the County, in large wetland areas, and in the Kettle Moraine. In 2015, about 107.6 square miles, comprising about 18 percent of the total area of the County, were encompassed within the primary environmental corridors.

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

Secondary Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

As shown on Map 2.8, secondary environmental corridors in Walworth County are located chiefly along the small perennial and intermittent streams within the County. About 15.0 square miles, comprising about 3 percent of the County, were encompassed within secondary environmental corridors in 2015. Secondary environmental corridors contain a variety of resource elements and are often remnant resources from primary environmental corridors that have been developed with agricultural or urban uses. Secondary environmental corridors facilitate surface water drainage and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife and for the dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. Such corridors should be considered for preservation in natural, open use or incorporated as drainage ways, stormwater detention or retention areas, or as local parks or recreation trails, in developing areas.

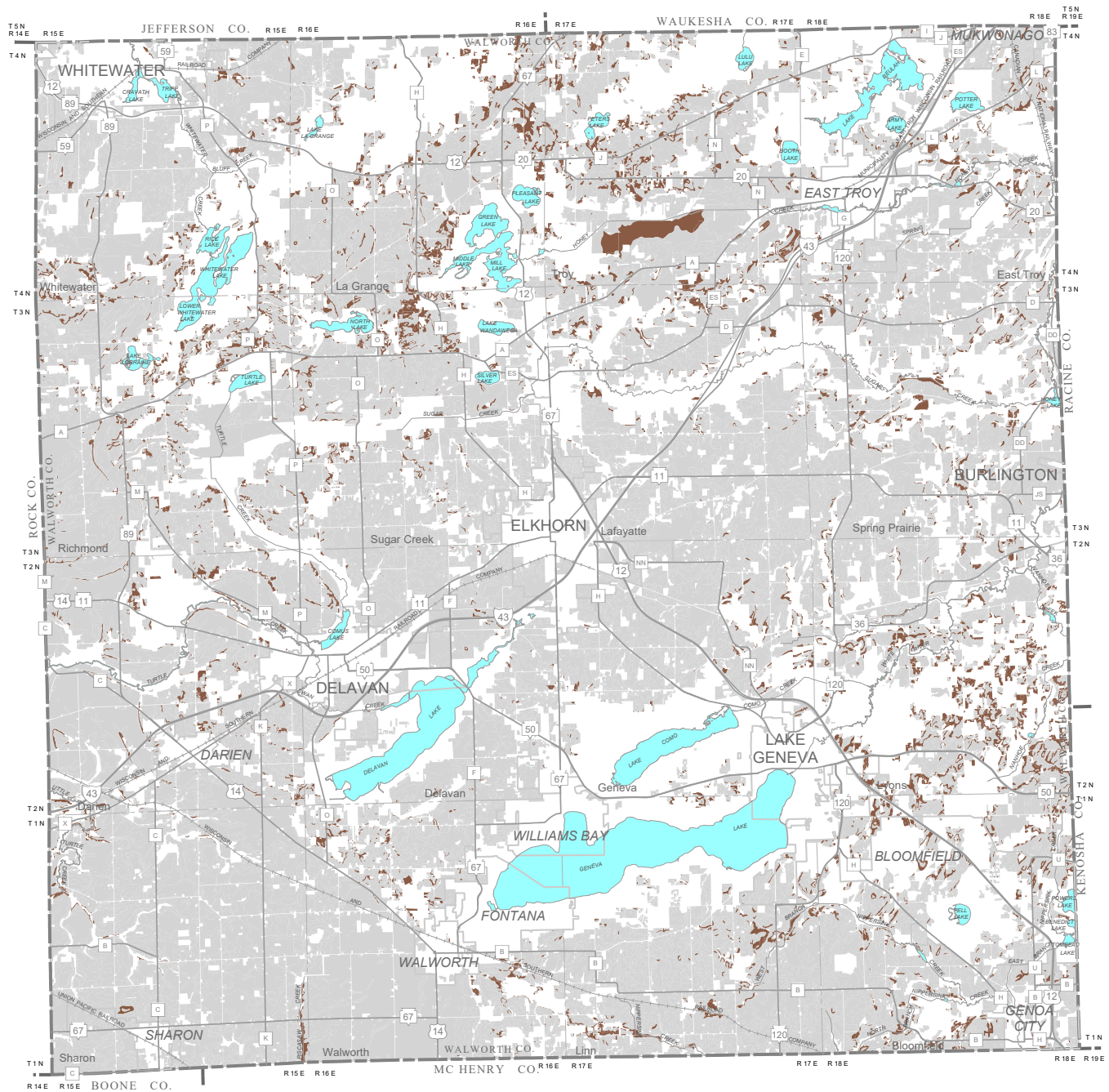
As also shown on Map 2.8, isolated natural resource areas within Walworth County include a geographically well-distributed variety of isolated wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitat; in 2015, these areas encompassed about 15.2 square miles, or about 3 percent of the County. Isolated natural resource areas may provide the only available wildlife habitat in an area, provide good locations for local parks and nature areas, and lend aesthetic character and natural diversity to an area. Such areas should be preserved in natural open uses insofar as practicable, being incorporated for use as parks and open space reservations or stormwater detention or retention areas where appropriate.

Prime Agricultural Land

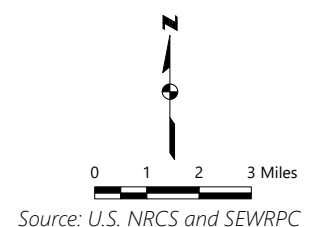
In 2015, approximately 329.6 square miles, or 57 percent of Walworth County, were in agricultural use. Map 2.9 shows the extent of agricultural land in Walworth County as identified in the year 2015 and also identifies those areas which are covered by soils in agricultural capability Class I, Class II, and Class III as classified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Lands covered by such soils meet the criteria for national prime farmland (largely Class I and Class II soils) and farmland of statewide importance (largely Class III soils). Agricultural lands covered by Class I, Class II, and Class III soils encompassed about 308.8 square miles, or 94 percent of all agricultural land in the County.

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

Map 2.9 Agricultural Lands in Walworth County: 2015



- AGRICULTURAL LAND COVERED BY SOILS IN U.S. NRCS CAPABILITY CLASS I, II, AND III
- AGRICULTURAL LAND COVERED BY SOILS IN U.S. NRCS CAPABILITY CLASS IV, V, VI, VII, AND VIII
- SURFACE WATER



EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

3



Credit: Walworth County

3.1 INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive areawide inventory of park and open space sites was conducted in 1973 under the initial regional park and open space planning program.¹⁰ The inventory is updated periodically and was updated in 2020 as part of preparing this new County park and open space plan. The findings of the 2020 inventory are presented in this chapter.

The 2020 inventory identified all park and open space sites owned by a public agency, including Federal, State, County, or local units of government and school districts. Also identified in the inventory were lands held in conservation easements by organizations such as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Geneva Lake Conservancy. The inventory also included privately owned resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites such as golf courses, campgrounds, ski hills, boating access sites, swimming beaches, hunting clubs, and group camps such as Scout or YMCA camps, and special use outdoor recreation sites. Sites owned by nonprofit conservation organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy and the Kettle Moraine Land Trust, were also identified. The inventory of private outdoor recreation sites focused on resource-oriented sites because the County park and open space plan is most directly concerned with providing sites and facilities for resource-oriented activities. The inventory also identified such other recreation resources as existing trails and bicycle ways and historic sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

3.2 EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Walworth County

Park and open space sites owned by Walworth County in 2020 are shown on Map 3.1 and listed on Table 3.1. In 2020, Walworth County owned four such sites, encompassing a total of 419 acres.

¹⁰ The regional park and open space plan is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000, November 1977.

Map 3.1

Walworth County, State of Wisconsin, and Federal Park and Open Space Sites: 2020

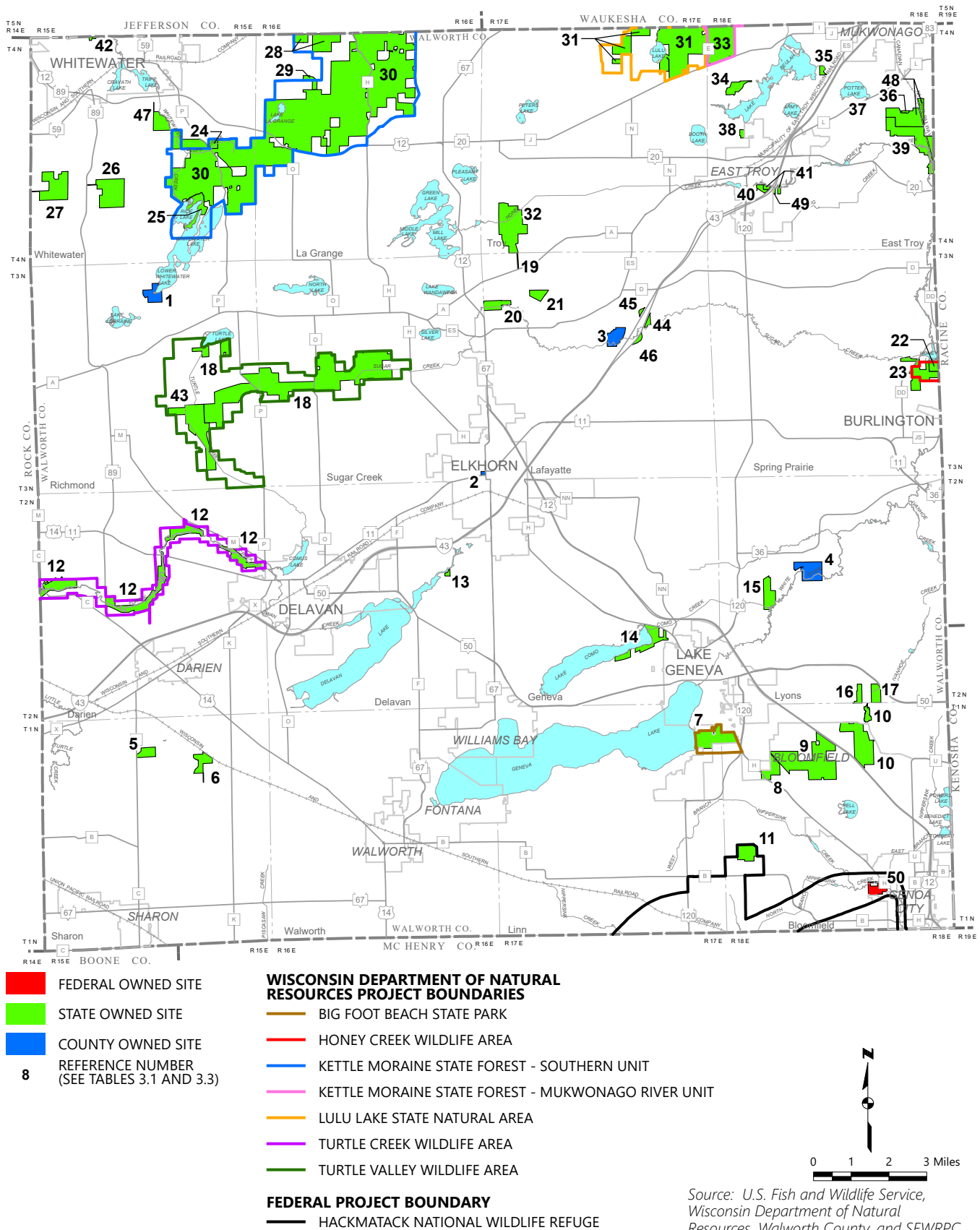


Table 3.1
Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Walworth County: 2020

Number on Map 3.1	Site Name	Location ^a	Size (Acres)
1	Natureland Park	T3N, R15E, Section 3	104
2	Veterans Park	T3N, R16E, Section 36	7
3	Price Park Conservancy	T3N, R17E, Section 15	113
4	White River County Park	T2N, R18E, Section 16	195
Total: 4 Sites			419

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

Source: Walworth County and SEWRPC

There are three existing major County parks¹¹ encompassing a total of 412 acres: Price Park Conservancy in the Town of Lafayette; Natureland Park in the Town of Richmond; and White River County Park in the Town of Lyons.

Selected outdoor recreation facilities within the County park system in 2020 are listed in Table 3.2. As indicated in that table, all four parks within the County system currently provide picnic areas, three parks provide trails, and one park provides canoe access. The Price Park Conservancy also provides a dog park; Natureland Park provides a pavilion that can be rented by the public for group picnics or special events; and White River County Park provides a barn that has been secured structurally and had some exterior work completed, but the interior still needs to be renovated. Once the interior work is completed, it is envisioned that the barn will be used by the Friends of White River Park and Geneva Lake Conservancy for educational exhibits and purposes and organized events and meetings and will also be available (for a rented fee) to the public for special events and gatherings. A pavilion that can be rented for special events and group picnics is also located at White River County Park. The WDNR also allows hunting and trapping by permit in White River County Park with hunting allowed throughout the park and trapping limited to an area in the southeastern portion of the park.

Park and Open Space Sites Owned by the State of Wisconsin

As indicated in Table 3.3 and shown on Map 3.1, in 2020 there were 45 State-owned park and open space sites in Walworth County, encompassing 15,603 acres, or about 4 percent of the total area of the County. Of these 45 sites, 37 sites, encompassing 14,748 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; one site, encompassing seven acres, was owned by the University of Wisconsin; and seven sites, encompassing 848 acres, were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has acquired large areas of park and open space lands in Walworth County for a variety of resource protection and recreational purposes. Sites acquired for natural resource preservation and limited recreational purposes include, but are not limited to, the Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Turtle Creek Wildlife Area, Turtle Valley Wildlife Area, Whitewater Lake Recreation Area, Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit, Kettle Moraine State Forest-Mukwonago River Unit, Lulu Lake Natural Area, Bluff Creek Fishery Area, Beulah Lake Remnant, and numerous scattered wildlife sites.

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

Map 3.1 also reflects project boundaries that have been approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board for certain WDNR sites within the County. Lands within the approved project boundaries have been identified by the Board as appropriate additions to existing sites and are intended to be acquired by the Department of Natural Resources, on a “willing seller-willing buyer” basis, for recreational or open space purposes as funding permits.

¹¹ Major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities that provide opportunities for resource-oriented activities and are generally 100 acres or more in size.

Table 3.2
Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities Within Walworth County Parks: 2020

Number on Map 3.1	Site Name	Acres	Playfield	Golf Course	Picnic Area	Swimming Beach	Trails	Boat/Canoe Access	Campsites
1	Natureland Park	104	--	--	X	--	X	--	--
2	Veterans Park	7	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
3	Price Park Conservancy	113	--	--	X	--	X	--	--
4	White River County Park	195	--	--	X	--	X	X	--
Total: 4 Sites		419	--	--	4	--	3	1	--

Source: Walworth County and SEWRPC

University of Wisconsin

In 2020, there was one recreation site affiliated with the University of Wisconsin in Walworth County. That site was a seven-acre portion of the UW-Lawcon Fields. The majority of the site—108 acres—is located in Jefferson County.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation, in 2020, owned seven sites within Walworth County. This includes two highway waysides, three wetland mitigation sites, and two streambank protection sites. Combined, these seven sites encompass 848 acres.

Federally-Owned Park and Open Space Sites

Map 3.1 and Table 3.3 also identify one open space site in Walworth County owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, encompassing 86 acres, or less than 1 percent of the total area of the County. The open space site was purchased for the purpose of preserving and conserving environmentally sensitive lands that would be valuable for wildlife and is part of the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge which is located in both southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois. The site is located northwest of the Village of Genoa City.

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

In addition to the County- and State-owned park and open space sites in Walworth County, in 2020, there were 202 sites owned by local units of government or school districts. Those sites, listed on Table A.1 and shown on Map A.1 in Appendix A, encompass 2,831 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County. Local governments own 162 park and open space sites, public school districts own 38 sites, and other public entities own two sites. The acreage attributed to school district sites includes only those portions of the site used for recreational or open space purposes.

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

Private Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Sites

The 2020 inventory of park and open space sites also identified a total of 173 privately owned resource-oriented recreation sites. Those 173 sites are listed on Table A.2 and shown on Map A.2 in Appendix A. Together they encompassed 10,898 acres, or about 3 percent of the total area of the County.

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

Private Resource Protection Sites

In addition, the 2020 inventory of park and open space sites identified a total of 19 sites owned by private organizations for natural resource protection purposes in Walworth County. Those sites are listed on Table 3.4 and shown on Map 3.2. The 19 open space area sites owned for resource preservation purposes encompass 1,964 acres. Those sites include seven sites owned by The Nature Conservancy, six sites owned by the Geneva Lake Conservancy, and four sites owned by the Kettle Moraine Land Trust.

Table 3.3
State of Wisconsin and Federal Park and Open Space Sites in Walworth County: 2020

Number on Map 3.1	Site Name	Location ^a	Size (Acres)
Department of Natural Resources Sites (WDNR)			
5	Scattered Wildlife Area	T1N, R15E, Section 4	71
6	Scattered Wildlife Area	T1N, R15E, Sections 2, 11	97
7	Big Foot Beach State Park	T1N, R17E, Sections 1, 12 T1N, R18E, Section 6	265
8	Scattered Wildlife Area	T1N, R18E, Section 8	109
9	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area	T1N, R18E, Sections 4, 8, 9	637
10	Scattered Wildlife Area	T1N, R18E, Sections 3, 10	386
11	Scattered Wildlife Area	T1N, R18E, Sections 19, 30	132
12	Turtle Creek Wildlife Area	T2N, R15E, Sections 2, 3, 10-13, 15-18, 20, 21	723 ^b
13	Delavan Lake Remnant	T2N, R16E, Section 14	10
14	Statewide Habitat Area	T2N, R17E, Sections 26, 27	178
15	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area	T2N, R18E, Sections 17, 20	135
16	Scattered Wildlife Area	T2N, R18E, Section 34	44
17	Statewide Habitat Area	T2N, R18E, Section 35	77
18	Turtle Valley Wildlife Area	T3N, R15E, Sections 13, 14, 23, 24, 26 T3N, R16E, Sections 15-22	1,864
19	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area	T3N, R17E, Section 6	7
20	Scattered Wildlife Area	T3N, R17E, Section 7	94
21	Scattered Wildlife Area	T3N, R17E, Section 8	62
22	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R18E, Section 24	40 ^b
23	Hoganson Preserve	T3N, R18E, Sections 13, 24	216
24	Bluff Creek Fishery Area	T4N, R15E, Section 14	39
25	Whitewater Lake Recreation Area	T4N, R15E, Sections 26, 35	135
26	Scattered Wildlife Area	T4N, R15E, Sections 20, 21, 28, 29	322
27	Scattered Wildlife Area	T4N, R15E, Sections 19, 30	292
28	State Scientific Area	T4N, R16E, Sections 4, 5	241
29	Scattered Wildlife Area	T4N, R16E, Section 8	42
30	Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit	T4N, R15E, Sections 13, 14, 15, 22-27 T4N, R16E, Sections 2, 3, 4, 7-11, 14-21	6,171 ^b
31	Lulu Lake State Natural Area	T4N, R17E, Sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 12	987
32	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area	T4N, R17E, Sections 29-32	430
33	Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit – Rainbow Springs	T4N, R17E, Section 1 T4N, R18E, Section 6	417 ^b
34	State Scientific Area	T4N, R18E, Sections 7, 8	78
35	Beulah Lake Remnant	T4N, R18E, Section 10	21
36	Stream Bank Protection	T4N, R18E, Section 13	8
37	Potter's Lake Access	T4N, R18E, Sections 11, 14	1
38	East Troy Boat Trailer Parking	T4N, R18E, Section 18	17
39	Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area	T4N, R18E, Sections 13, 14, 24	356
40	Scattered Wildlife Area	T4N, R18E, Section 29	22
41	Stream Bank Protection	T4N, R18E, Section 29	22
Subtotal: 37 Sites			14,748
University of Wisconsin Site			
42	UW Lawcon Fields	T4N, R15E, Section 5	7 ^c
Subtotal: 1 Site			7
Department of Transportation Sites (WisDOT)			
43	WisDOT Land (wetland mitigation site)	T3N, R15E, Sections 22, 23, 26, 35	419
44	WisDOT Land (streambank protection)	T3N, R17E, Section 11	17

Table continued on next page.

Table 3.3 (Continued)

Number on Map 3.1	Site Name	Location ^a	Size (Acres)
Department of Transportation Sites (continued)			
45	Wayside	T3N, R17E, Section 11	9
46	Wayside	T3N, R17E, Sections 14, 15	18
47	WisDOT Land (wetland mitigation site)	T4N, R15E, Sections 10, 15	110
48	WisDOT Land (wetland mitigation site)	T4N, R18E, Sections 13, 14	269
49	WisDOT Land (streambank protection)	T4N, R18E, Section 29	6
Subtotal: 7 Sites			848
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Site (USFWS)			
50	USFWS Land	T1N, R18E, Section 13	86
Subtotal: 1 Site			86
Total: 46 Sites			15,689

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

^b Includes only lands located in Walworth County.

^c Walworth County portion only; total site area is 122 acres.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC

Table 3.4
Privately Owned Resource Protection Sites in Walworth County: 2020

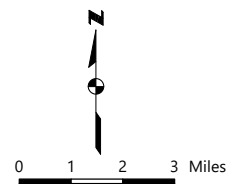
Number on Map 3.2	Site Name	Owner	Location ^a	Size (acres)
1	Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park	Geneva Lake Conservancy	T1N, R17E, Section 6	4
2	Maple Hills Property	Geneva Lake Conservancy	T1N, R17E, Section 18	1
3	Turtle Creek Preserve	Kettle Moraine Land Trust	T2N, R15E, Section 3	13
4	Stevens Property	Geneva Lake Conservancy	T2N, R16E, Sections 29, 32	4
5	Jackson Creek Preserve	Kettle Moraine Land Trust	T2N, R17E, Section 7	24
6	Hermansen Woods	Geneva Lake Conservancy	T2N, R17E, Section 32	16
7	Wings Over Wisconsin Land	Wings Over Wisconsin	T2N, R18E, Section 1	140
8	Kenosha/Racine Land Trust – Seno Woodland Education Center	Kenosha/Racine Land Trust	T3N, R18E, Sections 35, 36 T2N, R18E, Sections 24, 25, 26, 35	189 ^b
9	Hansen Preserve	Geneva Lake Conservancy	T3N, R17E, Section 17	75
10	Bromley Woods	Geneva Lake Conservancy	T4N, R16E, Section 17	40
11	Petersen Island Woods Preserve	Kettle Moraine Land Trust	T4N, R16E, Sections 26, 34	34
12	Nature Conservancy Property	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Sections 2, 11	544
13	Crooked Creek Preserve	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Sections 3, 10	273
14	Baker/Chapman Hills Camp Properties	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Sections 4, 9	173
15	Meyer Property	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Sections 5, 6	130
16	Nature Conservancy Preserve	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Section 9	117
17	Nature Conservancy Property	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Sections 12, 13, 14	69
18	Pickerel Lake Fen	The Nature Conservancy	T4N, R17E, Sections 13, 14, 24	110
19	Beulah Bluff Preserve	Kettle Moraine Land Trust	T4N, R18E, Section 8	8
Total: 19 Sites				1,964

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

^b Includes only lands located in Walworth County. Extends into Kenosha County.

Source: SEWRPC

Privately Owned Resource Protection Sites in Walworth County: 2020



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

Conservation Easements

There are 35 privately owned open space and environmentally sensitive sites in Walworth County that are protected under conservation easements. In general, conservation easements are voluntary contracts between a private landowner and a land trust or government body that limit, or in some cases prohibit, future development of the parcel. The property owner sells or donates a conservation easement for the property to a land trust or government agency, but retains ownership. The owner is not prohibited from selling the property, but future owners must abide by the terms of the conservation easement. Conservation easements typically do not include any provision for public access. The 35 easements in Walworth County, listed on Table 3.5 and shown on Map 3.3, encompassed 1,935 acres in 2020. All of the conservation easements identified on the table and map provide for the permanent protection of resources on private land.

3.3 LAKE AND RIVER ACCESS SITES

Lakes and rivers constitute a particularly valuable part of the natural resource base of the County. Lakes and rivers enhance the aesthetic quality of the County and are focal points for water-related recreational activities, including such active uses as swimming, boating, and fishing, and passive uses such as walking, or viewing along the water's edge. Boat access sites, both public and non-public, provide opportunities for persons who do not own land on a body of water to participate in water-related recreational activities. The regional park and open space plan recommends that rivers and major lakes, defined as lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more, be provided with adequate public access, including carry-in-boating and motor-boat access, consistent with safe and enjoyable participation in water-related activities. There are 27 major lakes located entirely or partially within Walworth County: Army Lake, Benedict Lake, Beulah Lake, Booth Lake, Lake Como, Comus Lake, Cravath Lake, Delavan Lake, Geneva Lake, Green Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lake Lorraine, Lulu Lake, Middle Lake, Mill Lake, North Lake, Pell Lake, Peters Lake, Pleasant Lake, Potter Lake, Powers Lake, Rice Lake, Silver Lake, Tripp Lake, Turtle Lake, Lake Wandawega, and Whitewater Lake. As shown on Map 2.3 in Chapter 2, there are approximately 173 miles of major streams in Walworth County.

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

3.4 TRAILS AND BICYCLE WAYS

Existing bikeways and recreational trails in Walworth County are shown on Map 3.4. Those facilities accommodate a variety of users. On-street bikeways—consisting of striped and signed bicycle lanes and signed bicycle routes on existing streets—are intended to accommodate bicycling. Off-street bicycle-pedestrian trails can be used for bicycling and for pedestrian activities, such as hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Off-street pedestrian-only trails can be used only for pedestrian activity.

As shown on Map 3.4, there were 27 miles of existing off-street bicycle-pedestrian trails in the County in 2020, the longest of these being the White River State Trail. There were 35 miles of pedestrian-only trails, consisting of the Ice Age Trail, the Geneva Lake Shore Path, and the Duck Lake Nature Trail. In addition, there were 25 miles of on-street bikeways intended for bicycle use.

3.5 HISTORIC SITES

Historic sites in Walworth County often have important recreational, educational, and cultural value. A number of inventories and surveys of potentially significant historic sites have been conducted by various units and agencies of government in Walworth County since the completion of the regional park and open space plan in 1977. The results of these inventories and surveys, on file at such agencies as The Wisconsin Historical Society, indicate that there are more than 3,900 historic sites in Walworth County.

Table 3.5
Lands Under Conservation Easements in Walworth County: 2020

Number on Map 3.3	Holder of Easement	Location ^a	Size (acres)
1	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Cobalt Farms)	T1N, R16E, Section 10	35
2	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Love)	T1N, R16E, Section 13	4
3	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Stenning/Driehaus)	T1N, R17E, Section 3	37
4	Land Trust Network (Ryan)	T1N, R17E, Section 3; T2N, R17E, Section 34	76
5	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Brownstein)	T1N, R17E, Section 3	3
6	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Colman Woods)	T1N, R17E, Section 5	28
7	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Griffith-East)	T1N, R17E, Section 5	1
8	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Griffith-West)	T1N, R17E, Section 5	1
9	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Windwood LLC)	T1N, R17E, Section 5	5
10	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Petersen)	T1N, R17E, Section 8	3
11	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Black Point)	T1N, R17E, Section 8	7
12	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Geraldson)	T1N, R17E, Section 9	2
13	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Mcessy)	T1N, R17E, Section 9	6
14	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Wooddale)	T1N, R17E, Section 9	4
15	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Styberg)	T1N, R17E, Section 11	22
16	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Woodstone Prairie)	T1N, R17E, Section 16	50
17	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Tamelng/Newton)	T1N, R17E, Section 18	1
18	WDNR	T1N, R18E, Section 19	1
19	WDNR	T1N, R18E, Section 30	1
20	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Piening)	T2N, R15E, Sections 3, 4 T3N, R15E, Sections 33, 34	556
21	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Delavan N. Shore)	T2N, R16E, Sections 29, 32	7
22	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Burlington Hills)	T2N, R18E, Section 12	22
23	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Moelter Farm)	T2N, R18E, Sections 32, 33	235
24	Kettle Moraine Land Trust (Schwartz/Adelman)	T3N, R16E, Section 5	2
25	WDNR	T3N, R16E, Sections 19, 20	23
26	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Sugar Creek)	T3N, R17E, Sections 14, 23	183
27	WDNR	T4N, R16E, Sections 10, 11	33
28	WDNR	T4N, R17E, Section 2	2
29	The Nature Conservancy (Fields – Agricultural Institute, Inc.)	T4N, R17E, Sections 11, 14	205
30	The Nature Conservancy (Boeing)	T4N, R17E, Sections 13, 24	154
31	The Nature Conservancy (Emerich)	T4N, R17E, Section 24	22
32	Kettle Moraine Land Trust (Hartranft Agricultural)	T4N, R17E, Section 24	92
33	Kettle Moraine Land Trust (Hartranft Natural Area)	T4N, R17E, Section 24	32
34	Geneva Lake Conservancy (Yggdrasil)	T4N, R17E, Section 36	79
35	WDNR (Krueger)	T4N, R18E, Section 17	1
Total: 35 Sites			1,935

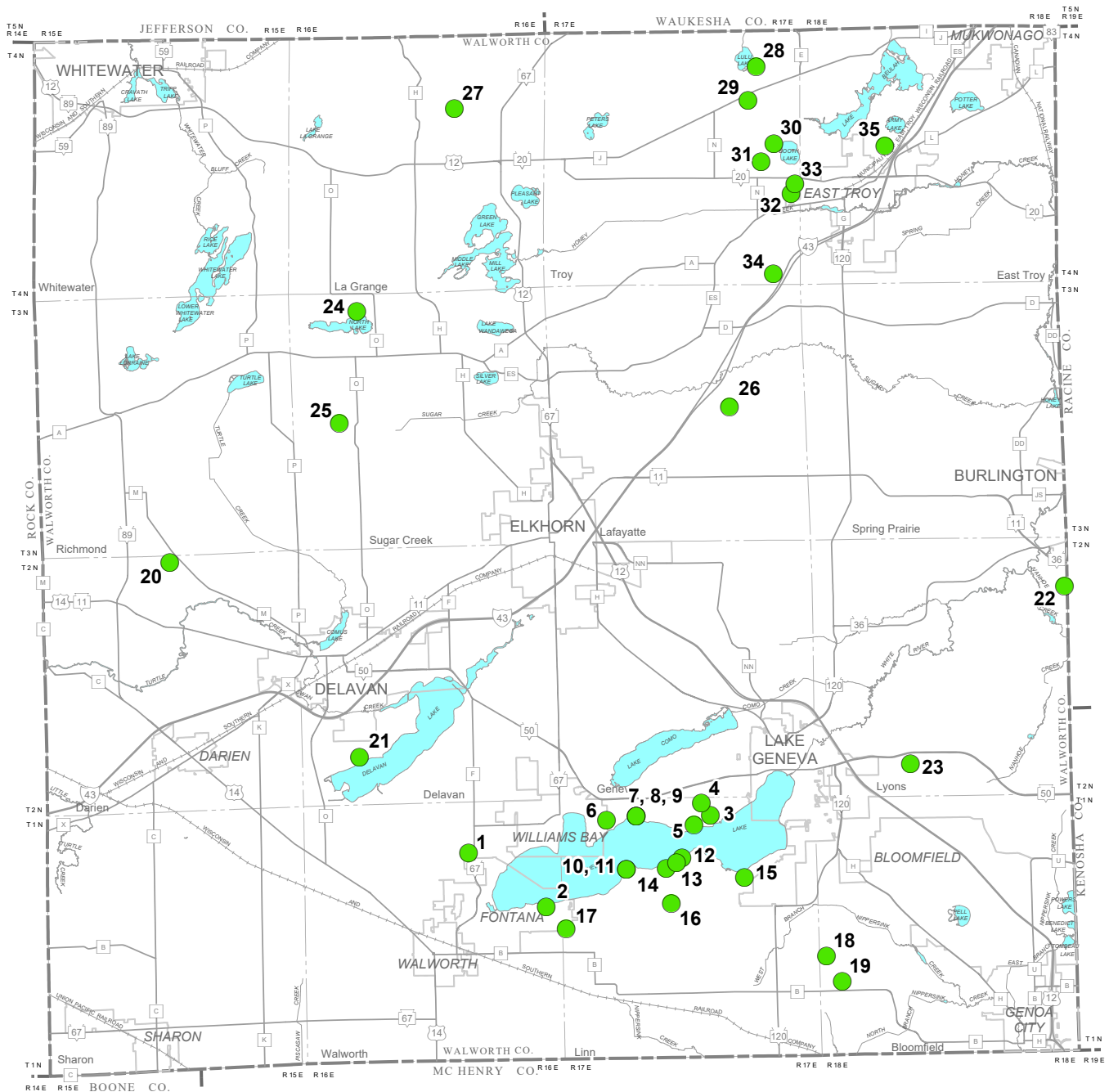
Note: All of the conservation easements listed above provide for the permanent protection of resources on private land. There are some instances where a conservation easement is located on lands that are already owned by a public agency or a private conservation organization, and those easements are not listed on this table.

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

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

Map 3.3

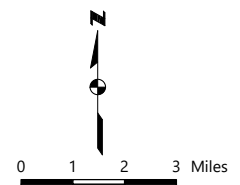
Lands Under Conservation Easements in Walworth County: 2020



● PERMANENT CONSERVATION EASEMENT

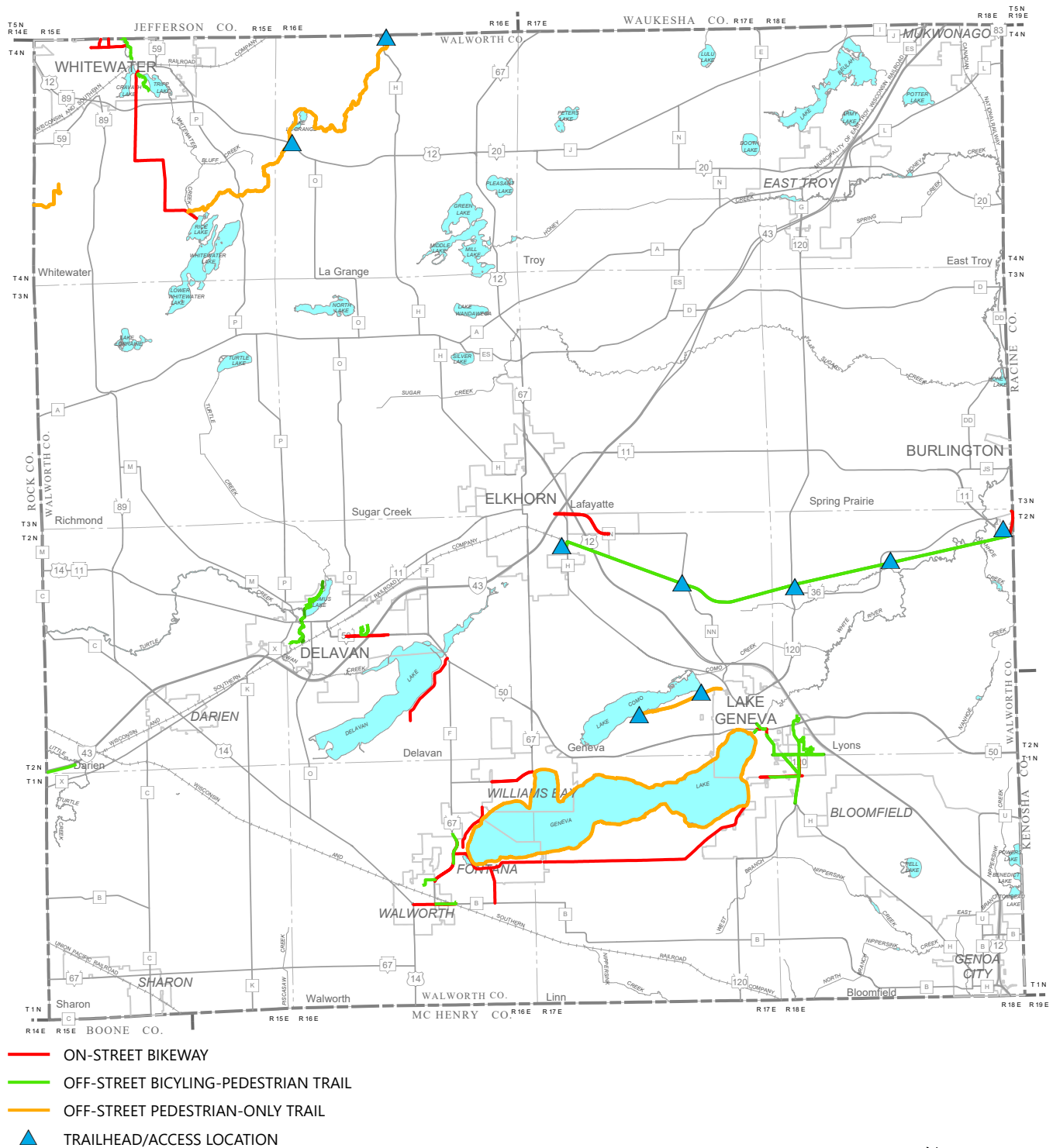
■ SURFACE WATER

8 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 3.5)

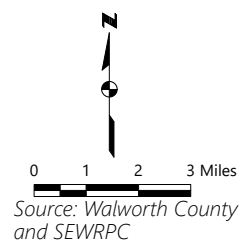


Source: Geneva Lake Conservancy, Kettle Moraine Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and SEWRPC

Map 3.4 Existing Bicycle Ways/Trails in Walworth County: 2019



Note: This map does not reflect mountain-biking trails on WDNR property in the Kettle Moraine State Forest.



Certain sites of known historic significance are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2020, there were 41 individual sites and seven historic districts¹² within the County listed on the National Register. The location of sites and districts in Walworth County listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2020 are presented on Table 3.6 and on Map 3.5, respectively.

3.6 STATUS OF 2035 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2035 park and open space plan for Walworth County adopted in 2014 (and amended in 2015 to incorporate the *White River County Park Master Plan*) contains a number of recommendations regarding the development and acquisition of park and open space lands. The inventory of park and open space sites and facilities described in this chapter include development and acquisition activities that have occurred since the adoption of the 2035 plan. Some of these activities represent progress made in implementing specific recommendations included in the 2035 plan. Examples of 2035 plan recommendations that have been implemented include:

- Developing picnic facilities, restrooms, hiking/cross country skiing trails, pedestrian bridges, canoe/kayak access, a shelter/pavilion, some barn restoration, and prairie/grassland restoration at White River County Park
- Developing trail facilities and a dog park at Price Park Conservancy
- Permanently protecting environmental corridor lands associated with Geneva Lake through conservation easements acquired by the Geneva Lake Conservancy
- Acquiring and restoring significant lands by the WDNR within the Turtle Valley Wildlife Area
- Acquiring environmentally significant lands by the WDNR and Geneva Lake Conservancy within the Kettle Moraine State Forest (KMSF) – Southern Unit Project Area and by the WDNR within the Lulu Lake Project Area
- Acquiring environmentally significant lands by The Nature Conservancy within the Lulu Lake Project Area and the Pickerel Lake Fen State Natural Area

¹² A historic district is a geographically definable area, urban or rural, that contains a concentration of significant historic sites or structures from the same period of time.

Table 3.6

Historic Sites and Districts Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Walworth County: 2020

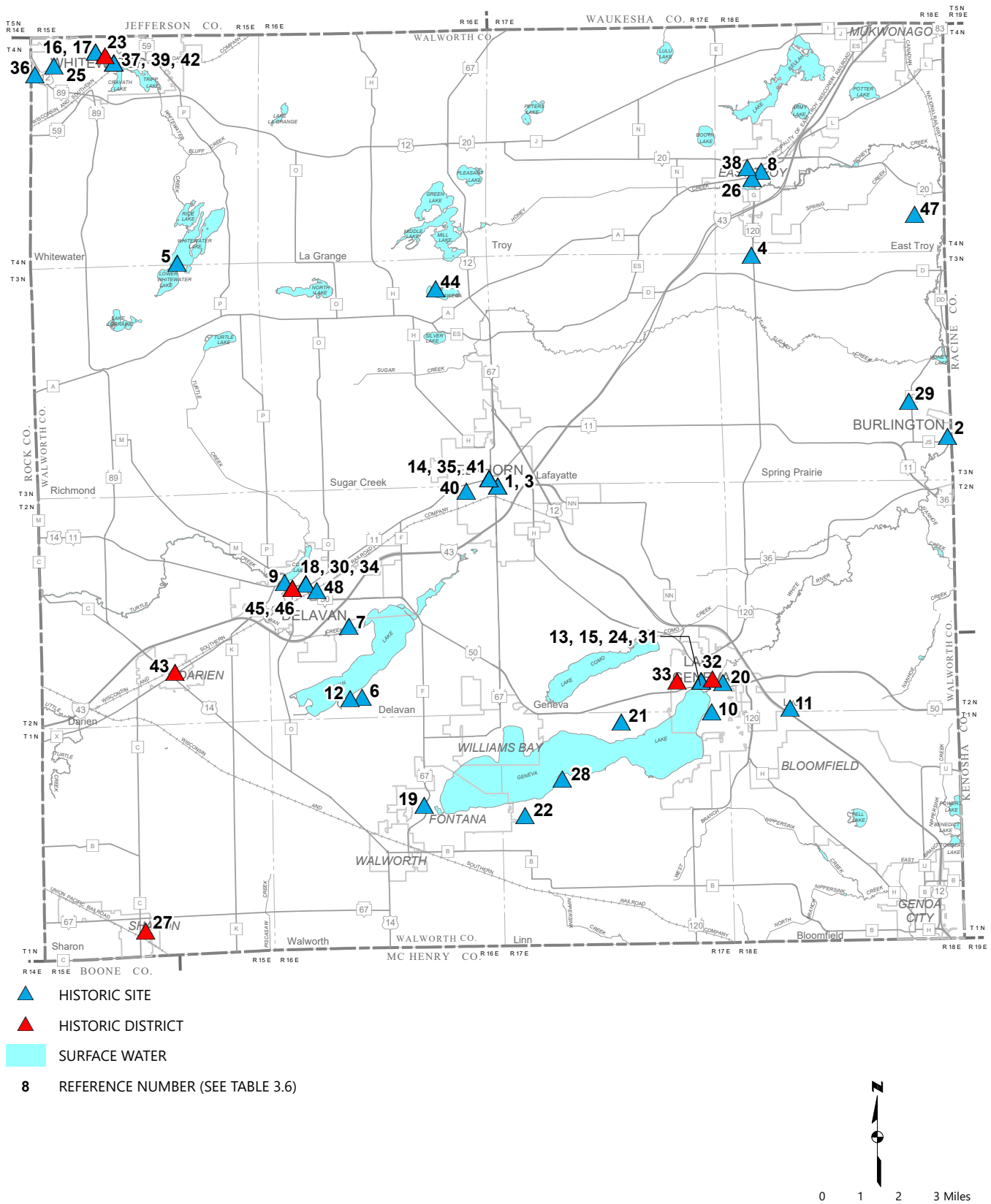
Number on Map 3.5	Site Name	Location ^a	Civil Division	Year Listed
1	Joseph Philbrick Webster House	T02N, R16E, Section 1	City of Elkhorn	1972
2	James Jesse Strang House	T03N, R18E, Section 25	Town of Spring Prairie	1974
3	Edward Elderkin House	T03N, R16E, Section 36	City of Elkhorn	1974
4	Horace Loomis House	T03N, R18E, Section 6	Town of Spring Prairie	1974
5	Heart Prairie Lutheran Church	T04N, R15E, Section 34	Town of Whitewater	1974
6	Fred B. Jones Estate	T02N, R16E, Section 33	Town of Delavan	1974
7	Mile Long Site	T02N, R16E, Section 21	Town of Delavan	1977
8	Buena Vista House	T04N, R18E, Section 20	Village of East Troy	1978
9	Israel Stowell Temperance House	T02N, R16E, Section 18	City of Delavan	1978
10	Younglands	T01N, R17E, Section 1	City of Lake Geneva	1979
11	Meyerhofer Cobblestone House	T02N, R18E, Section 32	Town of Lyons	1980
12	A. P. Johnson House	T02N, R16E, Section 33	Town of Delavan	1982
13	T. C. Smith House	T02N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1982
14	Reynolds-Weed House	T03N, R16E, Section 36	City of Elkhorn	1983
15	Redwood Cottage (the Emily Baker Residence)	T02N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1984
16	East Wing Building (Old Main) UW-Whitewater Campus	T04N, R15E, Section 5	City of Whitewater	1984
17	Halverson Log Cabin	T04N, R15E, Section 5	City of Whitewater	1985
18	A. H. Allyn House	T02N, R16E, Section 18	City of Delavan	1985
19	Douglass-Stevenson House	T01N, R16E, Section 15	Village of Fontana-On-Geneva Lake	1986
20	The Riviera	T02N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1986
21	Bonnie Brae	T01N, R17E, Section 3	Town of Linn	1986
22	Davidson Hall	T01N, R17E, Section 18	Town of Linn	1987
23	Main Street Historical District	T04N, R15E, Section 5	City of Whitewater	1989
24	Metropolitan Block	T02N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1990
25	Maples Mound Group	T04N, R15E, Section 6	City of Whitewater	1991
26	Smith & Meadows Store Building	T04N, R18E, Section 20	Village of East Troy	1993
27	Grace & Pearl Historic District	T01N, R15E, Section 33	Village of Sharon	1993
28	Black Point	T01N, R17E, Section 8	Town of Linn	1994
29	John and Margaret Bell House	T03N, R18E, Section 23	Town of Spring Prairie	1994
30	Delavan's Vitrified Brick Street	T02N, R16E, Section 18	City of Delavan	1996
31	Horticultural Hall	T02N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1999
32	Walworth Main Street Historic District	T02N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	2001
33	Maple Park Historic District	T02N, R17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	2005
34	Delavan Post Office	T02N, R16E, Section 18	City of Delavan	2006
35	Elkhorn Post Office	T03N, R16E, Section 36	City of Elkhorn	2006
36	Warner, Anson, Farmstead	T04N, R15E, Section 6	Town of Whitewater	2006
37	Whitewater Post Office	T04N, R15E, Section 4	City of Whitewater	2006
38	Sheboygan Light, Power and Railway Company Car	T04N, R18E, Section 19	Village of East Troy	2006
39	Whitewater Hotel	T04N, R15E, Section 4	City of Whitewater	2010
40	Elkhorn Band Shell	T02N, R16E, Section 1	City of Elkhorn	2012
41	Elkhorn Municipal Building	T03N, R16E, Section 36	City of Elkhorn	2012
42	Whitewater Passenger Depot	T04N, R15E, Section 4	City of Whitewater	2013
43	Darien Downtown Historic District	T02N, R15E, Section 27	Village of Darien	2013
44	Wandawega Inn	T03N, R16E, Section 2	Town of Sugar Creek	2015
45	Delavan Water Tower Park Historic District	T02N, R16E, Section 18	City of Delavan	2016
46	Delavan Downtown Commercial Historic District	T02N, R16E, Section 18	City of Delavan	2016
47	Carl and Clara Bucholtz Farmstead	T04N, R18E, Section 36	Town of East Troy	2018
48	George W. Borg Corporation	T02N, R16E, Section 17	City of Delavan	2020

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

Source: The Wisconsin Historical Society and SEWRPC

Map 3.5

Historic Sites and Districts Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Walworth County: 2020



Credit: Walworth County

4.1 INTRODUCTION

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

This chapter sets forth the objectives, principles, and standards used in preparing this park and open space plan for Walworth County, and applies the standards to the anticipated year 2050 population to help determine the need for major park sites and such outdoor recreation facilities as golf courses, campgrounds, swimming beaches, lake access sites, and hiking and biking trails. These needs are addressed by the recommended year 2050 park and open space plan for Walworth County, which is set forth in Chapter 5.

4.2 OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

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

The year 2000, 2020, and 2035 Walworth County park and open space plans each incorporate the regional park and open space plan's objectives, principles, and standards. The year 2050 Walworth County park and open space plan also incorporates and reaffirms those objectives, principles, and standards. The plan objectives are set forth below:

1. To provide an integrated system of public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas that allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.
2. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.¹³
3. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
4. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.
5. To provide sufficient access areas to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities on the major inland lakes and rivers that are consistent with enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of adequate water quality.
6. To preserve sufficient high-quality open-space lands to protect the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhance the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity of the County.
7. To satisfy outdoor recreation and related open space needs efficiently and economically while meeting all other objectives at the lowest possible cost.

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

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

4.3 PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Existing and Forecast Population Size and Distribution

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

As noted in Chapter 2 of this report, the U.S. Bureau of the Census 2020 population for Walworth County was 106,478 people. The number of County residents anticipated by the year 2050 based upon forecasts

¹³ *Resource-oriented activities include activities that rely upon natural resource amenities for the existence of the activity—such as beach swimming, nature study, and fishing—and those activities in which the quality of the recreational experience is significantly enhanced by the presence of natural resource amenities—such as picnicking, camping, and golf. Nonresource-oriented activities are not reliant on natural resource amenities nor is the quality of the recreational experience significantly enhanced by the presence of natural resource amenities; examples include baseball, soccer, tennis, and basketball.*

developed by the Regional Planning Commission for VISION 2050, the regional land use and transportation plan, would range from 126,800 people under the VISION 2050 low-growth forecast to as high as 158,300 under the high-growth forecast. However, the population level anticipated under the intermediate-growth forecast is consistent with future population levels envisioned for the year 2050, 140,600 people, in the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Walworth County. Recognizing that existing and future demands on park sites and facilities in Walworth County are attributable in part to non-resident users, the use of the high-growth forecast when applying the per capita standards should be sufficient in meeting those demands.

In addition to information on the overall size of the anticipated future population of the County, information on future population distribution is important to determining existing and probable future outdoor recreation needs. The park and outdoor recreation standards recommend that a major park be within four miles of residents of urban areas having a population of 40,000 or greater and within 10 miles of residents of smaller urban areas and rural areas. Since there are no urban areas with a population of 40,000 or greater located within Walworth County, only the 10-mile service radius standard applies.

Per Capita and Accessibility Standards

This park and open space plan utilizes two types of standards—per capita and accessibility—to help estimate the number and distribution of outdoor recreation sites and facilities needed to serve the anticipated future population of the County. The per capita standards help estimate the total number of acres of land needed to satisfy requirements for park and recreational land and related facility requirements based on the anticipated future resident population of the County. The plan considers the standards to be minimum standards that do not preclude opportunities for additional sites and facilities beyond those identified in this plan.

This plan will use the U.S. Census Bureau 2020 County population of 106,478 residents for analyzing existing park site and existing park facility needs and the high-growth population forecast of 158,300 residents for analyzing future park and park facility needs. The use of the high-growth population forecast recognizes the need to identify and reserve sufficient high-quality sites that may be required if a rapid population growth occurs through the year 2050, as well as the need to serve the County population beyond the year 2050.

To spatially distribute public parks in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are to serve, the park and open space plan uses the accessibility or service radius standards. The plan recognizes that in some situations, while meeting per capita standards, a need may still exist for additional sites or facilities because of the relative inaccessibility or distance of an existing site or facility to some residents of the County. In some cases, the facilities located in adjacent counties may meet the accessibility standards for some residents of Walworth County.

Standards for Major Park Sites

Per capita and service area standards for major parks are set forth under Objective 1 in Appendix B. This park and open space plan defines major parks as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities that provide opportunities for resource-oriented activities and are generally 100 acres or more in size. Applying the per capita standards for major park sites to the 2020 County population level (106,478 people) indicates that there is a need for an additional 20 acres of park lands for major parks in Walworth County. When applying the per capita standard to the anticipated year 2050 County population,¹⁴ there is a need for an additional 440 acres of park land in major park sites. The calculations are based on the acreage of the following major parks in Walworth County: Big Foot Beach State Park and Whitewater Lake Recreation Area, both owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Price Park Conservancy, Natureland Park, and White River County Park, owned by Walworth County.

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

¹⁴ *In the balance of this chapter the determination of future per capita park site and facility needs is based upon the application of the per capita standards to the 158,300 people anticipated for the year 2050 under VISION 2050's high growth forecast.*

Standards for Intensive Resource-Oriented Recreation Facilities

The standards in Objective 3 set forth per capita and service area standards for providing resource-oriented recreational facilities such as camping, golfing, picnicking, skiing, and beach swimming. Both public and nonpublic facilities have separate per capita standards. The per capita standards apply to both the 2020 and the anticipated year 2050 County population levels, and need estimates were generally prepared for both public and nonpublic facilities. This recognizes that, even though many nonpublic facilities are not available to the general population, continuing to provide such facilities is important because they do meet a significant portion of the overall demand for these recreation facilities that the public sector would otherwise have to meet.

Service area standards for campsites, golf courses, picnic areas, skiing, and swimming beaches only apply to public facilities; however, facilities at private sites (especially facilities allowing public use/availability) were also recognized if there were a significant number of such facilities within the County. This recognizes that all residents should have good access to such facilities, which by virtue of their public ownership, are available for use by all. Since downhill skiing is more similar to a regional facility and is typically a privately-owned site open to the public for use, a needs analysis was not undertaken. Privately owned skiing sites in the County are located at Alpine Valley Resort in the Towns of Lafayette and Spring Prairie and at Grand Geneva Resort in the Town of Lyons.

Campsites

Big Foot Beach State Park and Whitewater Lake Recreation Area currently provide public campsites. Campsites are also available to the public (for a fee) at the privately-owned Scenic Ridge Campground, Snug Harbor Campground, Elkhorn Campground, and Timber-Lee Campground.

Both existing public and private campgrounds meet the per capita standards for campsites for the 2020 and anticipated year 2050 County populations. The service area standards call for public campsites to be located within 25 miles of each County resident. The existing public campgrounds in the County currently meet this standard for both the existing and future County populations.

Golf Courses

Within the County there are currently two publicly owned regulation golf courses: Delbrook Golf Course (27 holes), owned by the City of Delavan, and Lauderdale Lakes Country Club (nine holes), owned by the Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District. There are nine privately owned courses with 18-holes or more open to the public: Abbey Springs Country Club (18 holes); Alpine Valley Resort (27 holes); Evergreen Country Club (27 holes); Geneva National Resort Golf Course (54 holes); Grand Geneva Spa and Resort – Brute and Highlands Golf Courses (36 holes); Hawk's View Golf Course (36 holes); Lake Beulah Country Club (27 holes); Majestic Oaks Golf Course at Lake Lawn Resort (18 holes); and Nippersink Manor Golf Course (18 holes). In addition, there are two privately owned nine-hole golf courses open to the public: Country Club Estates Golf Club and Willow Brook Golf Course (formerly Whitewater Country Club). There are also three privately owned courses with 18-holes not open to the public: Big Foot Country Club, Lake Geneva Country Club, and Lakewood Golf Club.

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

Except for the eastern portion of Walworth County, most of the County lies within 10 miles of the two aforementioned public golf courses. The northeastern part of the County does lie within 10 miles of Browns Lake Golf Course, a publicly owned 18-hole course in western Racine County, however, the southeastern portion of the County lies more than 10 miles from a public golf course. Applying the service area standard indicates that there may be a need for a public golf course to serve residents of the southeastern area of the County. However, there are four privately owned courses open to the public (Grand Geneva Spa and Resort-Brute and Highlands Golf Courses, Hawk's View Golf Course, and Nippersink Manor Golf Course) located in the southeastern portion of the County that would satisfy the need for a public golf course in that area of the County.

The existing private golf courses located in the County currently meet the need for the 2020 and anticipated year 2050 County population levels.

Picnicking

The following five major parks currently provide public picnic areas in the County: Big Foot Beach State Park; Natureland Park; Price Park Conservancy; White River County Park; and Whitewater Lake Recreation Area.

The recommended standards call for 3.8 picnic tables per 1,000 County residents at major parks.¹⁵ Applying this standard indicates that the 2020 population is adequately met for picnic tables at major parks, but there may be a need for approximately 210 additional picnic tables at major parks to serve the anticipated year 2050 population. Applying the recommended 10-mile service radius to picnic facilities at major parks in the County indicates that residents in the southwestern portion of the County are beyond the recommended service area for picnicking at major parks. An inventory of the number of picnic facilities at nonpublic sites (with a standard of 2.39 tables per 1,000 persons) is not available. This county park plan assumes nonpublic sites are providing adequate picnic facilities to meet this standard.

In addition, since picnicking, particularly group picnicking, is available at the three major County parks, providing adequate parking at each County park was a concern to the County Park Committee. The recommended design standard for parking for picnic facilities (as set forth in Objective 3, Principle 3.1, Standard 3.1 in Appendix B) calls for 0.02 acre per table (1.5 spaces per table). Applying the parking design standard to the number of picnic tables at each major County park indicates that Natureland Park should provide, at a minimum, 24 parking spaces and Price Park Conservancy and White River County Park should provide, at a minimum, 18 parking spaces each. Applying the parking standard at the three major County parks indicates that Natureland Park needs additional parking spaces to support the existing and anticipated year 2050 population and Price Park Conservancy meets the need for parking spaces for the existing and anticipated population. Applying the parking standard at White River County Park indicates that the park meets the need for the facilities currently developed at the park for the existing population, however, since the park is planned for the development of additional picnic facilities and the existing barn is continuing to be renovated which will allow for rentable opportunities by the public or organizations for group picnics, special events, and organized activities and meetings, additional parking spaces will be necessary for the existing population at the completion of those planned developments and the anticipated population.

Swimming Beaches

A number of public parks located on inland lakes in Walworth County currently provide publicly owned inland beaches. Table 4.1 lists the publicly owned parks with swimming beaches and the associated lake. As shown in Table 4.1, there are 13 public swimming beaches on inland lakes in the County. In addition, there are 44 privately-owned beaches in the County located at private subdivision parks, resorts, camps, and campgrounds; however, these sites typically limit access to the general public.

Applying the per capita standards for inland swimming beaches indicates that existing publicly and privately-owned beaches are adequate to serve the 2020 and the anticipated year 2050 population. The existing public swimming beaches located within the County also adequately meet the service area standard (i.e. 10-mile service radius) for public inland beaches.

Standards for Trail Facilities

Objective 1 sets forth a standard for providing sufficient open space lands to accommodate a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors to meet the resident demand for trail-oriented recreation activities. For the purposes of this report, recreation corridors are defined as publicly owned, continuous, linear expanses of land at least 15 miles in length that are located within scenic areas or areas of natural, cultural, or historic interest, and provide trails marked and maintained for such activities as hiking, biking, horseback riding, nature trails, and cross-country skiing.

¹⁵ This standard intends to ensure adequate opportunities for picnicking in a natural resource setting typically found at major parks. Opportunities for picnicking outside major parks are available at local parks in the County (approximately 470 picnic tables).

While segments of potential recreation corridors currently exist in Walworth County in the Kettle Moraine State Forest, along Turtle Creek, and the White River State Trail, none of the areas meet the aforementioned definition nor the per capita standard for recreation corridors (0.16 linear mile per 1,000 people). Consequently, the County should acquire and develop a public recreation corridor system for trails for various activities. While recreation corridors 15 miles in length or more are most desirable, developing trail facilities less than 15 miles in length also meets local trail needs.

Objective 4 includes standards for public trails within recreation corridors for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, nature study, pleasure driving, and ski touring. In some cases, paving such trail facilities may be appropriate, particularly in urban areas where they are subject to more intensive use. Paving trails may also provide opportunities for rollerblading and rollerskiing, as well as opportunities for use by individuals in wheelchairs. The WDNR Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit provides many of these facilities to the public. Various types of these facilities are also located at State, County, and local sites within the County, such as at Big Foot Beach State Park, White River County Park, Natureland Park, Price Park Conservancy, Duck Pond Recreation Area, Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy and other nature-based sites. Pleasure driving routes are available on many existing public roads; therefore, a needs analysis was unnecessary. In addition, there are six “Rustic Roads” (lightly traveled roads that provide views of significant natural or man-made features) located in the County, consisting of about 28 miles of roads.

The standards under Objective 4 also include a recommendation for providing trails for snowmobiling. Within Walworth County, approximately 350 miles of designated trails exist on public lands and on private lands open to the public. This adequately serves both the 2020 and anticipated year 2050 population.

In addition, Objective 4 includes a standard that each county should have a public nature study center. Currently, a nature study center does not exist in the county. With the exception of a nature study center, all of the Objective 4 facilities meet the per capita standards for the existing and future population of the County.

Standards for Lake Access Sites

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), in keeping with State Statutes that seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, has adopted administrative rules regarding lake access. Those rules, set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*, require that inland lakes provide public boating access sites, including boat launching and parking facilities, as a condition for the Department to provide natural resource enhancement services for a body of water.¹⁶ The *Administrative Code* requires that boating access sites on lakes 50 acres to 99 acres in size provide launch facilities and at least one car-trailer parking space, and a combined total of five car-trailer and automobile parking spaces. The required number of car-trailer parking spaces increases with the size of the lake. In addition to the minimum specified in the *Administrative Code*, boating access sites must also provide one additional parking space for use by people with disabilities. The regulations also specify that boating access sites provide a maximum number of parking spaces that varies according to the size of the lake, in recognition that too many boats on a lake may threaten both the safety of lake users and the environmental quality of the lake. Table 4.2 sets forth the requirements for public boating access for major lakes in Walworth County under the Department rules. Public boating access does not meet State requirements for natural resource enhancement services at Benedict Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lake Lorraine, Middle Lake, North Lake, Peters Lake, Silver Lake, Turtle Lake, and Lake Wandawega.

Table 4.1
Publicly Owned Parks with Swimming Beaches
on Inland Lakes in Walworth County: 2020

Lake	Public Park
Booth Lake	Booth Lake Memorial Park
Comus Lake	Veteran's Memorial Park
Delavan Lake	Town of Delavan Community Park
Geneva Lake	Big Foot Beach State Park
	Fontana Beach
	Hillside Drive Boat Access
	Library Park
	Williams Bay Beach
Pell Lake	Subdivision Park
	Subdivision Park
Trippe Lake	Trippe Park
Wandawega Lake	Town of Sugar Creek Boat Launch
Whitewater Lake	Whitewater Lake Recreation Area

Source: SEWRPC

¹⁶ The Principle and Standards associated with Objective 5 of both the regional park and open space plan and the Walworth County park and open space plan incorporate the requirements established by Chapter NR 1.91.

Table 4.2
Boat-Access Site Requirements Under the Wisconsin
Administrative Code^a for Major Lakes in Walworth County: 2020

Major Lake ^b	Minimum Number of Parking Spaces	Maximum Number of Parking Spaces	Comment
Army Lake	Combination of 5 car and car-trailer spaces	5 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (5 car-trailer spaces provided at WDNR access site)
Benedict Lake ^c	Combination of 5 car and car-trailer spaces	5 car-trailer spaces	No access provided to meet NR 1.91 requirements
Beulah Lake	24 car-trailer spaces	33 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (30 car-trailer spaces at Town of East Troy access site)
Booth Lake	5 car-trailer spaces	8 car-trailer spaces ^d	Adequate public access (12 car-trailer spaces at Town/Village access site)
Lake Como	27 car-trailer spaces	38 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (27 car-trailer spaces at two Town access sites)
Comus Lake	5 car-trailer spaces	8 car-trailer spaces ^d	Adequate public access (combination of 16 car and car-trailer spaces at City of Delavan access site)
Cravath Lake	Combination of 5 car and car-trailer spaces	5 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (5 car-trailer spaces at City of Whitewater access site)
Delavan Lake	41 car-trailer spaces	69 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (49 car-trailer spaces at Town of Delavan access site)
Geneva Lake	100 car-trailer spaces	167 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (100 car-trailer spaces at multiple sites)
Green Lake	10 car-trailer spaces	21 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (10 car-trailer spaces at Town of LaGrange access site)
Lake LaGrange	Combination of 5 car and car-trailer spaces	5 car-trailer spaces	No access provided to meet NR 1.91 requirements
Lake Lorraine	5 car-trailer spaces	9 car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (3 car-trailer spaces at Town of Richmond access site)
Lulu Lake	Combination of 5 car and car-trailer spaces	5 car-trailer spaces	Access requirements not applicable ^e
Middle Lake	9 car-trailer spaces	17 car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (5 car-trailer spaces at Town of LaGrange access site)
Mill Lake	9 car-trailer spaces	18 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (9 car-trailer spaces at Town of LaGrange access site)
North Lake	6 car-trailer spaces	13 car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (3 car-trailer spaces at Town of Sugar Creek access site)
Pell Lake	Combination of 5 car and car-trailer spaces	5 car-trailer spaces ^d	Adequate public access (6 car-trailer spaces at Town of Bloomfield access sites)
Peters Lake	Combination of 5 car and car-trailer spaces	5 car-trailer spaces	No access provided to meet NR 1.91 requirements
Pleasant Lake	5 car-trailer spaces	10 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (7 car-trailer spaces at Town of LaGrange access site)
Potter Lake	5 car-trailer spaces	11 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (8 car-trailer spaces at Town of East Troy access site)
Powers Lake ^c	15 car-trailer spaces	31 car-trailer spaces ^d	Adequate public access (16 car-trailer spaces at WDNR access site and 16 car-trailer spaces at Town of Randall access site)
Rice Lake	5 car-trailer spaces	9 car-trailer spaces ^d	Adequate public access (12 car-trailer spaces provided at WDNR access site)
Silver Lake	Combination of 5 car and car-trailer spaces	5 car-trailer spaces	No access provided to meet NR 1.91 requirements
Trippe Lake	5 car-trailer spaces	8 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (7 car-trailer spaces provided at City of Whitewater access site)
Turtle Lake	5 car-trailer spaces	9 car-trailer spaces	No access provided to meet NR 1.91 requirements
Lake Wandawega	5 car-trailer spaces	8 car-trailer spaces	No access provided to meet NR 1.91 requirements
Whitewater Lake	18 car-trailer spaces	33 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (21 car-trailer spaces at WDNR access site)

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

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

^c Benedict Lake and Powers Lake are partially within Walworth and Kenosha Counties. Boat-access site requirements apply to the total acreage of the lake.

^d The number of existing parking spaces exceeds the maximum number of parking spaces for the lake.

^e The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources typically waives access requirements for lakes associated with sensitive natural areas.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC

Standards in the *Administrative Code* indicate that major streams should provide public canoeing/kayaking access points with parking every 10 miles. Major streams in Walworth County are Honey Creek, Sugar Creek, Turtle Creek, and the White River. The White River at White River County Park, Turtle Creek at Veteran's Memorial Park in the City of Delavan and Spooner Nature Park in the Town of Darien, and Honey Creek at STH 20 in the Town of East Troy currently provide public canoe/kayak access with parking. The existing public access points located along the White River, Turtle Creek, and Honey Creek meet the needs for these facilities in the County, however, there is a need for an access point in the County along Sugar Creek. The County is proposing to develop an access point along Sugar Creek at Price Park Conservancy, which would satisfy the need.

Other Recreational Needs

As noted earlier, this park and open space plan delegates the responsibility for providing intensive nonresource-oriented recreation facilities primarily to local units of government. The standards for these types of facilities are set forth under Objective 2 and include baseball and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts, and soccer fields. However, this does not preclude the County park plan from providing these types of facilities as County parks make additional improvements in the future.

In addition, the County park plan should also recognize other emerging recreation facility needs that have no standards yet, or have only been addressed on a limited basis, by the County park system. Among these are facilities for disc golf, mountain biking, dog parks, and horseback riding, as described below.

- Disc Golf: In disc golf, one throws a disc similar to a “frisbee” toward a target (on organized courses, typically a metal basket that has hanging chains to catch the disc) that serves as the hole. Hole lengths vary, but generally fall between 150 and 500 feet. Disc golf facility requirements are minimal and incorporating disc golf courses with little impact into a variety of landscapes is likely. Walworth County currently has nine disc golf courses:
 - A 6-hole course, Phoenix Disc Golf Course, at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf in the City of Delavan.
 - 9-hole courses at: East Troy Middle School in the Village of East Troy; the Duck Pond Recreation Area and the Abbey Resort in the Village of Fontana; Delavan-Darien High School in the City of Delavan; and the Conference Point Center in the Village of Williams Bay.
 - 18-hole courses at: White River Disc Golf Course in the City of Lake Geneva; the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa in the Town of Linn; and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in the City of Whitewater.
- Mountain Biking: Mountain biking has emerged as a popular activity in recent years. Mountain biking is essentially a trail activity that requires challenging hilly topography. Mountain biking can conflict with other trail activities, adversely impact trail conditions, and negatively impact sensitive natural resources. Consequently, loop trails separate from the main recreation corridor may be the best option for mountain biking trails. Developing the new County park plan should give due consideration to the growing popularity of mountain biking. Existing public trails open to mountain bikes in Walworth County include the John Muir and Emma Carlin Trails in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit.
- Dog Parks: A dog park or dog exercise area is an area, typically fenced, where dogs can walk and exercise off-leash in a safe park environment. Dog parks also serve as a means for increasing public use of, and activity in, County parks. There are currently five public off-leash dog parks in Walworth County: Price Park Conservancy (fenced) in the Town of Lafayette; East Troy Dog Park (fenced), adjacent to the East Troy Village Hall; White River Dog Park (fenced) and Four Seasons Nature Preserve (not fenced) in the City of Lake Geneva; and Whitewater Bark Park (fenced), which is part of the city-owned Moraine View Park in the City of Whitewater.

- Horseback Riding: Because of a number of factors, including trail conditions and potential user conflicts, very few public trails are open to horseback riding in or near Walworth County. The only public trail open to horseback riding in Walworth County is in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit. Public trails open to horseback riding near Walworth County include trails in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit in Waukesha County and at the Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County.

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Since 1965, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has developed and maintained the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This plan examines various recreation trends, assesses current and future recreational needs within the State, and sets forth appropriate recommendations to meet those needs. The WDNR updates the SCORP every five years, the current version being the 2019-2023 SCORP. The County should use the SCORP as a reference source as it implements the Walworth County park and open space plan.

Standards for Open Space Preservation

Objective 6 calls for preserving sufficient high-quality open space lands, protecting the underlying and sustaining natural resource base, and enhancing the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity of the County. Preserving these areas helps to protect water quality and protect floodways and floodplains from incompatible uses. These high-quality open space lands include primary environmental corridors, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and prime agricultural lands. Preserving such lands is based upon the location and composition of existing natural resources, rather than applying development standards. Preserving and protecting these areas is also consistent with plan recommendations contained in the Walworth County Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan.

Primary environmental corridors contain many of the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas within the County. The standard under Objective 6 calls for preserving primary environmental corridors in essentially natural, open use. Although not specifically addressed in Objective 6, county and local government should consider preserving and protecting secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. Such areas can serve as economical drainageways and stormwater detention basins, can help preserve areas of groundwater recharge, and can provide needed open space in developing urban areas. The Walworth County Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan also recommends preserving secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

Natural areas and critical species habitat sites contain rare, threatened, and endangered animal and plant species within the County. The standard under Objective 6 calls for preserving and managing natural areas and critical species habitat sites to maintain their natural value. Although not specifically addressed in Objective 6, State, county, and local governments should consider preserving and protecting significant geological areas, consistent with the recommendations of the regional natural areas plan.

Prime agricultural lands are lands best suited for producing food and fiber. In addition to their agricultural value, such lands supply significant wildlife habitat and sometimes include areas with significant groundwater recharge potential (Map 2.4 in Chapter 2). The standard under Objective 6 calls for preserving prime agricultural lands for agricultural use.



Credit: Walworth County

5.1 INTRODUCTION

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

5.2 PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

A draft of this plan was presented at two public informational meetings hosted by the Walworth County Public Works Department, one held on March 3, 2022, at the Lake Geneva City Hall, and the second held on March 8, 2022, at the County Public Works Facility in Elkhorn. The purpose of the meetings was to acquaint public officials, interested citizens, and landowners with the key recommendations of the plan and to receive comments on and answer questions pertaining to the plan. This plan, which is an update of the park and open space plan adopted in 2014, was approved by the County Park Committee on June 20, 2022. This plan was adopted by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2022.

Public comment on the updated County park and open space plan generally consisted of positive feedback on the recommendations of the preliminary draft. It was noted that the park plan recommends preserving numerous natural resource areas and features within the County for resource protection purposes or passive outdoor recreation activities. Public feedback regarding the types of facility development or improvements planned at existing parks and the proposed development of new trails was also generally positive. Comments submitted during or after both public informational meetings are located in Appendix C of this report. Any comments that identified possible revisions to the plan or requested additional information to the plan were discussed by County staff, and as a result of those discussions, were not included in this plan; however, those revisions or additional information will be included or considered for inclusion in the next plan update.

5.3 RECOMMENDED OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT

The open space preservation element consists of four major components. The first is preserving primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas. Preserving natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological areas in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the regional natural areas protection and management plan¹⁷ is the second component. The third component calls for protecting open space lands located within established State project boundaries. The final component calls for protecting prime agricultural land.

Recommended actions with respect to preserving open space lands, other than prime agricultural lands, are shown on Map 5.1. It is recommended that a total of 77,999 acres of open space lands, or about 21 percent of Walworth County, be protected through a combination of public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership,¹⁸ through conservation easements, or through applying protective zoning. These 77,999 acres include planned primary and secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, areas outside corridors but within Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) project boundaries, and existing and proposed County park and open space lands. Nearly all natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be protected and preserved are located within planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or planned isolated natural resource areas.

Of the total 77,999 acres of recommended open space lands, 23,433 acres, or about 30 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, under conservation easements, or in compatible private outdoor recreation uses such as golf courses or camps in 2020. These areas are recommended to be preserved in current ownership/conservation easements or, for lands in compatible private outdoor recreation use, maintained in recreational or open space uses. It is recommended that an additional 10,982 acres, or about 14 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations for natural resource protection preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. The estimated cost of acquiring such lands is about \$63.9 million. A summary of the existing and proposed public and nonprofit conservation organization ownership of open space lands, and associated acquisition costs, is presented in Table 5.1.

The other 43,584 acres of open space lands are recommended to remain in or be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include the 1-percent-annual-probability (100-year recurrence interval) floodplain, lowland conservancy and, for upland portions of the corridor, upland conservancy which limits development to rural residential development with an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres.

Each component of the open space preservation plan element is discussed separately below. There is considerable overlap between these components, and, accordingly, between the acreages cited in conjunction with each component. For example, nearly all of the natural areas and critical species habitat areas identified and recommended for public interest acquisition under the natural areas plan component are also recommended for acquisition under the environmental corridor preservation plan component. The tabular summary of the open space preservation plan element (Table 5.1) thus represents the composite of the environmental corridor, natural area, and WDNR project area plan components, which are described individually below.

Environmental Corridor and Isolated Natural Resource Area Plan Component

Primary Environmental Corridors

The primary environmental corridors contain almost all the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, lakes and streams, and associated shoreland and floodland areas remaining in the County. Primary environmental corridors are the longest and widest type of environmental corridor—at least 400 acres in area, two miles long, and 200 feet in width. Protecting the primary environmental corridors from additional intrusion by urban development, thereby preserving such lands in natural, open uses for resource protection,

¹⁷ Documented in SEWRPC Amendment to the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.

¹⁸ Public ownership includes lands owned by a state, county, or local unit of government, school districts, or other public districts.

Map 5.1
Open Space Preservation Element of the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan: 2050

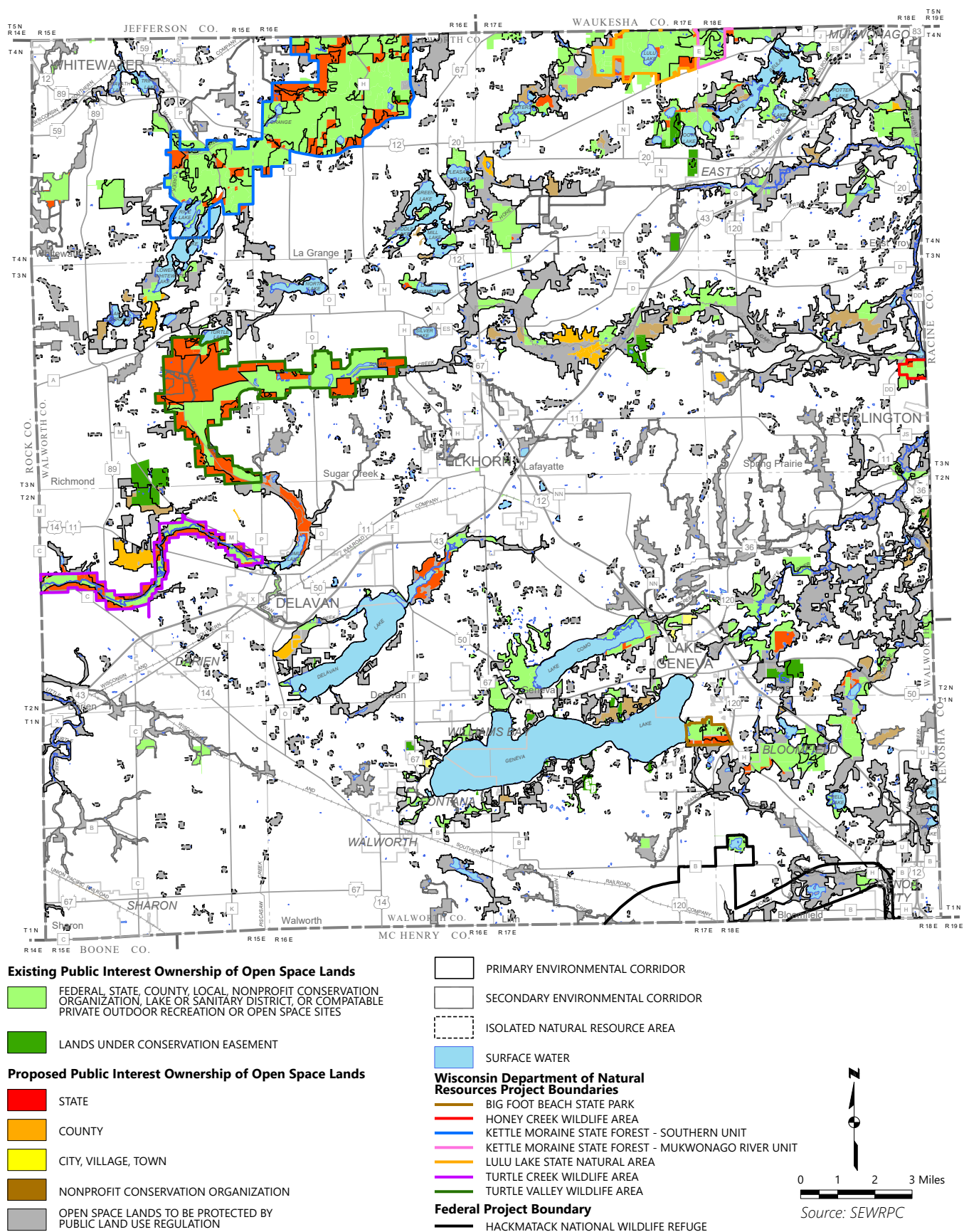


Table 5.1
Proposed Ownership of Open Space Lands
Under the Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County^a

Ownership	Existing^b (acres)	Plan (acres)	Planned Change (acres)	Estimated Acquisition Cost^c (\$)
Federal	16	16	-- ^d	--
State of Wisconsin	15,255	22,924	7,669	41,679,000
Walworth County	413	1,524	1,111	8,654,000
Local Government ^e	1,048	1,164	116	1,015,000
Nonprofit Conservation Organization	2,219	4,305	2,086	12,508,000
Compatible Private Recreation Use	4,482	4,482	--	--
Total	23,433	34,415	10,982	63,856,000

Note: Cost estimates are expressed in 2021 dollars.

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

^b Includes existing ownership in 2020.

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

^d It is anticipated that the majority of lands to be acquired or protected within the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge project area will be with conservation easements. Lands will also be acquired through donations or a purchase from a willing-seller.

^e Includes cities, villages, towns, school districts, and other public districts.

Source: SEWRPC

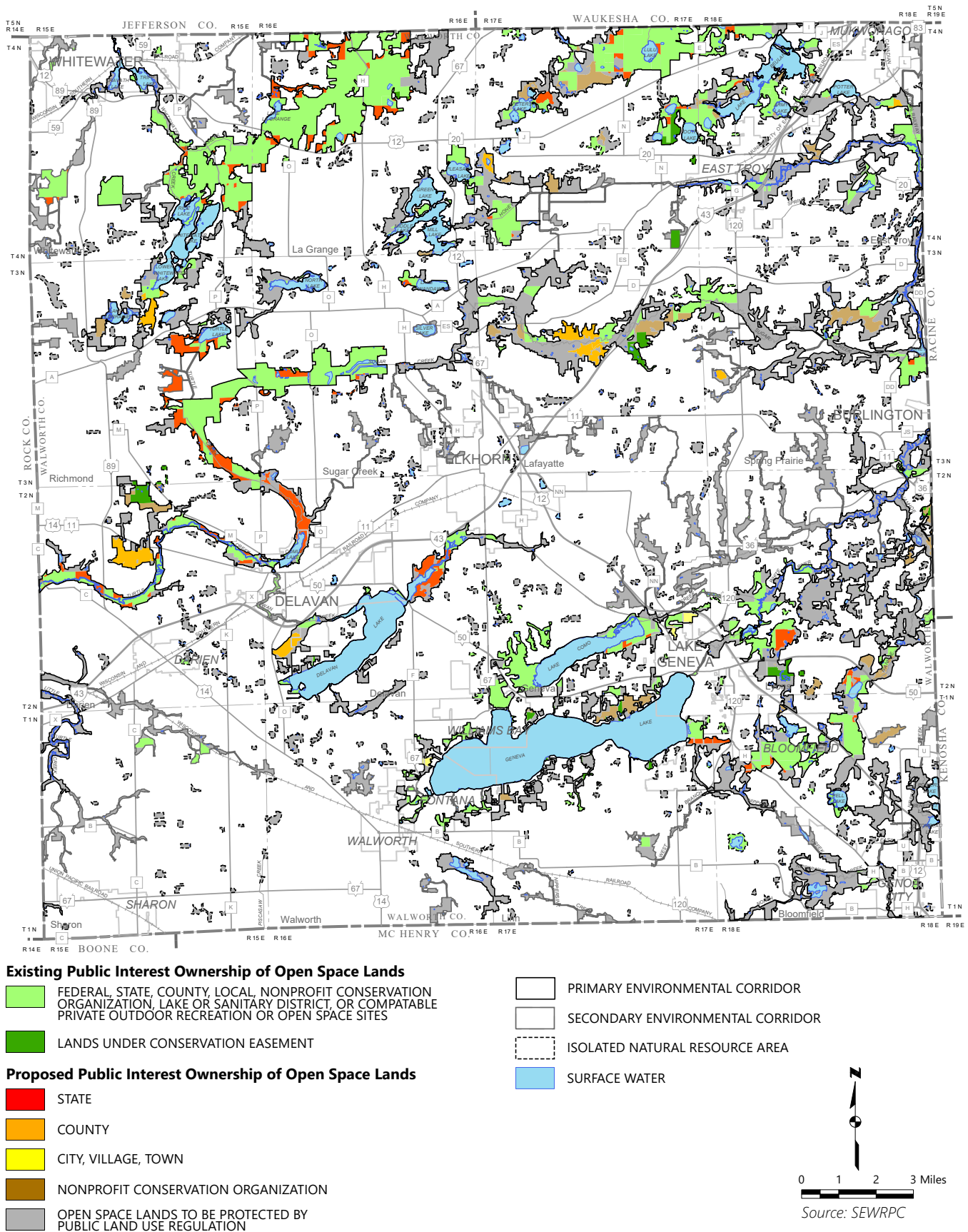
scenic value, and outdoor recreation and education purposes, is one of the primary objectives of this plan. The planned extent and location of primary environmental corridors in Walworth County are shown on Map 5.2. Permanently preserving the primary environmental corridors in essentially natural, open space uses is most certain when the corridor lands are acquired in the public interest for resource preservation or compatible outdoor recreation uses. The following measures should be taken to protect the primary environmental corridors:

1. Primary environmental corridors that contain natural area sites or critical species habitat sites should be acquired by a public agency or nonprofit conservation organization
2. Primary environmental corridors located in identified State project areas should be acquired in public ownership
3. Primary environmental corridors needed to accommodate parks or trail facilities proposed under the recommended outdoor recreation plan element described later in this chapter should be acquired in public ownership
4. Primary environmental corridors that are in existing private recreational uses should be maintained in such uses
5. Other primary environmental corridors should be protected through appropriate zoning

A total of 53,129 acres of land are encompassed in the planned primary environmental corridors. Map 5.2 shows primary environmental corridors that are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or under conservation easements. As shown on Map 5.2, such areas currently encompass a total of 15,783 acres, or about 30 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. Additional areas recommended for acquisition in the public interest or by private conservation organizations are also shown on Map 5.2, and encompass a total of 6,045 acres, or about 11 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. An additional 4,181 acres, or about 8 percent of planned primary

Map 5.2

Protection of Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas in Walworth County: 2050



environmental corridors, are in compatible private recreational use. The remaining 27,120 acres of planned primary environmental corridors, or about 51 percent, are proposed to be protected through zoning. While zoning is the primary local land use regulation available for resource preservation, primary environmental corridors, as well as portions of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, within planned sewer service areas are provided with protection through State regulations related to public and private sanitary sewer extensions.

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

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

Secondary Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

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

A total of 9,163 acres of land are encompassed in the planned secondary environmental corridors, and 9,071 acres are encompassed in the planned isolated natural resource areas, for a combined total of 18,234 acres. Map 5.2 shows secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas that are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership or under conservation easements. Such areas currently encompass a total of 960 acres, or about 5 percent of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. An additional 301 acres, or 2 percent of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are in existing compatible outdoor recreation use.

Additional secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas recommended for acquisition in the public interest or by a private conservation organization are shown on Map 5.2. Such areas, which consist largely of natural areas and critical species habitat sites, encompass a total of 509 acres, or about 3 percent of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, including 359 acres of planned secondary environmental corridors and 150 acres of planned isolated natural resource areas.

The remaining 16,464 acres, or 90 percent, of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas may be retained in private ownership, but should be placed in a zoning district that would prevent their conversion to urban use. However, as such lands are needed for areawide recreation trails (discussed later in this chapter), local park or recreation purposes, or for another public purpose, such as stormwater detention, it is recommended that the appropriate public agency consider acquiring such lands.

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan Component

The regional natural areas protection and management plan, as updated and amended in 2010,¹⁹ sets forth a number of recommendations related to preserving identified natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and important geological sites. Pertinent recommendations from that plan have been incorporated into this park and open space plan, and are described in the following paragraphs.

A total of 87 natural areas²⁰ were identified in Walworth County. Natural areas are tracts of land so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement. Seven of the sites, encompassing about 1,952 acres, are classified as natural areas of Statewide or greater significance (NA-1). An additional 14 sites, encompassing about 2,873 acres, are classified as natural areas of Countywide or regional significance (NA-2). The remaining 66 sites, encompassing about 5,560 acres, are classified as natural areas of local significance (NA-3). In addition, a total of 43 critical species habitat sites²¹ were identified. Critical species habitat sites are those areas that support rare, threatened, or endangered species. These sites together encompassed about 4,649 acres.

Combined, there are 130 natural areas and critical species habitat sites identified in the County, with a total area of 15,034 acres. It is recommended that 119 of these areas, which encompass 14,780 acres in 84 natural areas and 35 critical species habitat sites, be protected through ownership by public agencies or by nonprofit conservation organizations. It is recommended that the other 11 sites—three natural area sites and eight critical species habitat sites encompassing a total of 254 acres—be protected through appropriate zoning. The protection recommendations for natural areas and critical species habitat sites are shown on Map 5.3.

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

Table 5.2 lists each natural area site and critical species habitat site proposed to be preserved through protective ownership and the proposed acquisition agency. In all, these sites encompass 14,780 acres,²² including 10,160 acres within natural areas and 4,620 acres within critical species habitat sites. Of the total 14,780 acres to be preserved, about 9,087 acres, or about 61 percent, are under existing public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership or under a conservation easement. An additional 5,693 acres, or about 39 percent, are proposed for public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership or management. Nearly all of these areas are encompassed by the planned primary or secondary environmental corridor or by planned isolated natural resource areas. The cost of acquiring these areas is included in Table 5.1.

The recommendations made in this plan differ somewhat from those made in the regional natural areas protection and management plan (as amended). The regional plan anticipated that such refinements would be made when the County park and open space plans were updated. Specific refinements made as part of this park and open space plan as shown on Map 5.3 and Table 5.2 are:

- Three new natural areas—Radio Station Fen (Site No. 48); Natureland Park Fen (Site No. 50); and Camp Charles Allis Oak Woodland and Tamaracks (Site No. 80)—have been added. The Natureland Park Fen is currently located within the County-owned park and the Radio Station Fen and Camp Charles Allis Oak Woodland and Tamaracks are recommended to be acquired by a private conservation organization.

¹⁹ An update to the plan is currently underway and is expected to be completed in late 2022.

²⁰ Includes three new natural areas that have been identified and one natural area that has been removed and no longer exists in the County since the completion of the 2010 regional natural areas management plan.

²¹ Includes eight new critical species habitat sites that have been identified and five critical species habitat sites that have been removed and no longer exist in the County since the completion of the 2010 regional natural areas management plan.

²² Site acreage listed in Table 5.2 reflects minor losses to resource areas that have occurred since the inventory was completed in 2009.

Map 5.3

Protection of Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites in Walworth County

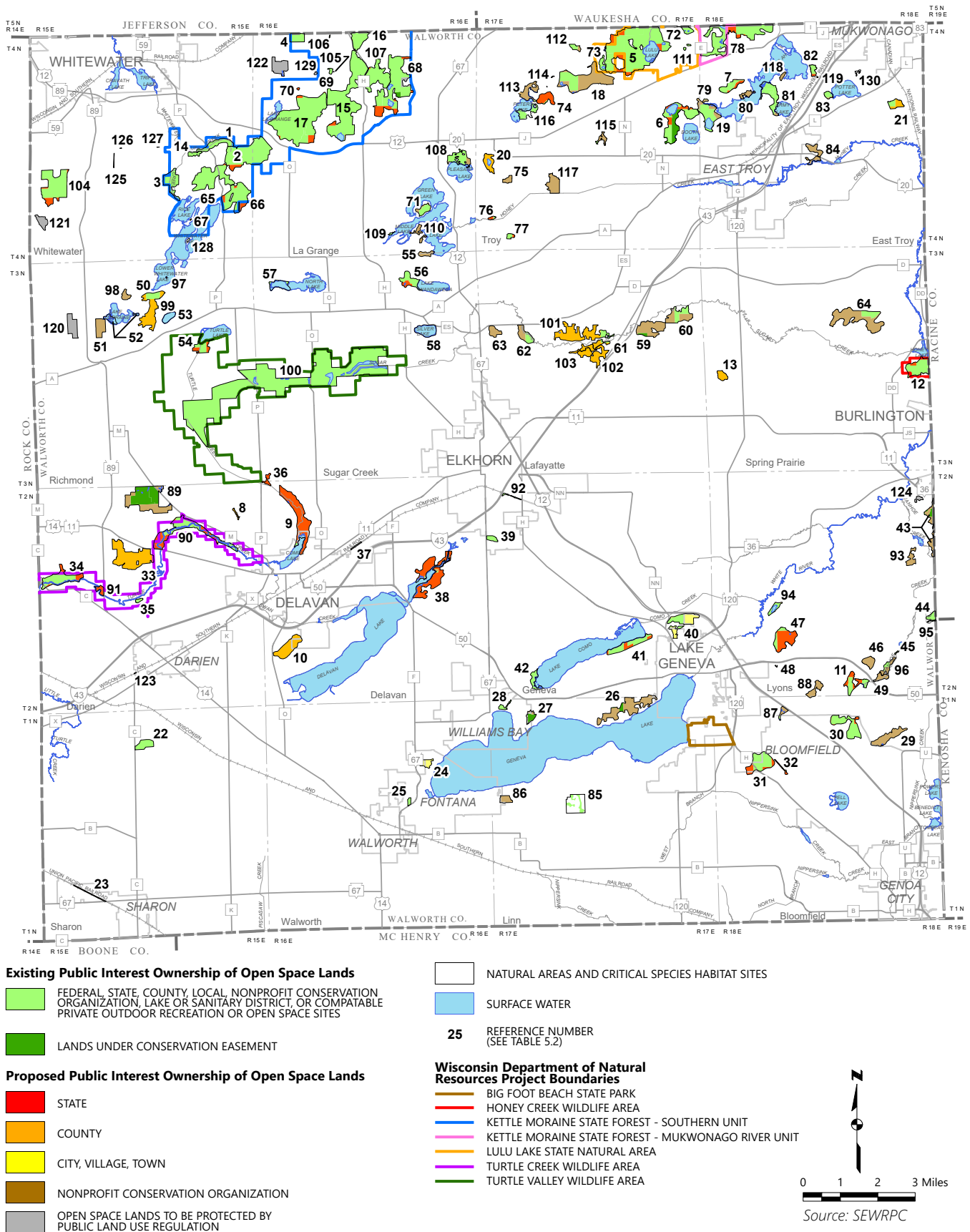


Table 5.2
Protection of Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites in Walworth County

Number on Map 5.3	Site Identification			Classification ^a	Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Civil Division(s)	Name	Sites Proposed to be Acquired		Already Under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
1	Town of Whitewater	Bluff Creek Fens	<p>Bluff Creek Woods</p> <p>Clover Valley Fen State Natural Area</p> <p>Young Prairie State Natural Area</p> <p>Lulu Lake and Eagle Spring Lake Wetland Complex and Adjacent Uplands</p> <p>Pickeral Lake Fen</p> <p>State Natural Area</p> <p>Beulah Bog State Natural Area</p> <p>Voskuil Dry Prairie</p> <p>Comus Lake Wetland Complex</p> <p>Delavan Prairie-Fen</p> <p>Lake Ivanhoe Fen and Sedge Meadow</p> <p>Honey Lake Marsh and Sedge Meadow</p> <p>Spring Prairie Fen</p> <p>Bluff Creek Prairie</p> <p>Muir Oak Woods and Duffin Road Fen</p> <p>Kestol Prairie and Kettle Moraine Oak Opening</p> <p>LaGrange Oak Woods</p>	NA-1 (SNA)	79	--	79	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2	Town of LaGrange	Bluff Creek Woods		NA-1 (SNA)	400	21	421	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
3	Town of Whitewater	Clover Valley Fen State Natural Area		NA-1 (SNA)	107	5	112	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
4	Town of LaGrange	Young Prairie State Natural Area		NA-1 (SNA)	54	--	54 ^c	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
5	Town of Troy	Lulu Lake and Eagle Spring Lake Wetland Complex and Adjacent Uplands		NA-1 (SNA)	845	96	941 ^d	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
6	Town of Troy	Pickeral Lake Fen		NA-1 (SNA)	186	87 ^e	273	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy
7	Town of East Troy	State Natural Area		NA-1 (SNA)	57	15	72	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
8	Town of Darien	Beulah Bog State Natural Area		NA-2	--	7	7	Walworth County
9	Town of Delavan	Voskuil Dry Prairie		NA-2	14	278	292	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
10	Town of Delavan	Comus Lake Wetland Complex		NA-2	--	137	137	Walworth County
11	Town of Lyons	Delavan Prairie-Fen		NA-2	55	40	95	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
12	Town of Spring Prairie	Lake Ivanhoe Fen and Sedge Meadow		NA-2	131	10	141 ^f	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
13	Town of Spring Prairie	Honey Lake Marsh and Sedge Meadow		NA-2	--	34	34	Walworth County
14	Town of Whitewater	Spring Prairie Fen		NA-2	21	--	21	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
15	Town of LaGrange	Bluff Creek Prairie		NA-2	654	11	665	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
16	Town of LaGrange	Muir Oak Woods and Duffin Road Fen		NA-2	95	--	95	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
17	Town of LaGrange	Kestol Prairie and Kettle Moraine Oak Opening		NA-2	738	30	768	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Table continued on next page.

Table 5.2 (Continued)

Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency	
Number on Map 5.3	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already Under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired		Total
				Sites Proposed to be Acquired (Continued)			
18	Town of Troy	Upper Mukwonago River Wetland Complex	NA-2	107	231	338	The Nature Conservancy
19	Town of East Troy	Swan Lake Wetland Complex	NA-2	26	141 ^e	167	The Nature Conservancy
20	Town of Troy	Adams Lake Fen and Marsh	NA-2	--	65	65	Walworth County
21	Town of East Troy	Thiede Road Tamarack Swamp	NA-2	--	48 ^e	48	Walworth County
22	Town of Sharon	CTH C Lowland	NA-3	60	--	60	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
23	Town of Sharon	Salt Box Road Railroad Prairie	NA-3	--	12	12	Private Conservancy Organization
24	Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	North Shore Woods	NA-3	--	38	38	Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake
25	Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	Fontana Prairie and Fen	NA-3	10	--	10	Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake
26	Town of Geneva	Wychwood	NA-3	15	211	226	Private Conservancy Organization
27	Town of Linn	Peninsula Woods	NA-3	28	9	37	Private Conservancy Organization
28	Village of Williams Bay	Williams Bay Lowlands	NA-3	16	--	16	Village of Williams Bay
29	Town of Bloomfield	Hafs Road Marsh	NA-3	--	109	109	Private Conservancy Organization
30	Town of Bloomfield	Lake Ivanhoe Sedge Meadow	NA-3	141	9	150	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
31	Town of Bloomfield	Bloomfield Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict	NA-3	113	34	147	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
32	Town of Bloomfield	Pell Lake Railroad Prairie	NA-3	--	9 ^e	9	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
33	Town of Darien	Darien Oak Woods	NA-3	--	235	235	Walworth County
34	Town of Darien	Turtle Creek Sedge Meadow and Fen	NA-3	135	36	171	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
35	Town of Darien	Creek Road Fen	NA-3	9	--	9	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
36	Town of Delavan	CTH P Sedge Meadow	NA-3	--	18	18	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
37	Town of Sugar Creek	Marsh Road Railroad Prairie	NA-3	6	--	6	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
38	Town of Delavan	Lake Lawn Wetland Complex	NA-3	56	237	293	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Table continued on next page.

Table 5.2 (Continued)

Site Identification			Site Area (acres)				Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 5.3	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already Under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
				Sites Proposed to be Acquired (Continued)			
39	City of Elkhorn	Jackson Creek Wetlands	NA-3	22	--	22	Kettle Moraine Land Trust
40	City of Lake Geneva Town of Geneva	Oak Hill Cemetery Woods	NA-3	--	138 ^e	138	City of Lake Geneva
41	Town of Geneva	Warbler Trail Wetlands	NA-3	95	29	124	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
42	Town of Geneva	Lake Como Wetlands	NA-3	--	46 ^e	46	Lake Como Association
43	Town of Lyons	Burlington Hills Woods	NA-3	16	70	86 ^g	Private Conservancy Organization
44	Town of Lyons	Tri-County Tamarack Swamp	NA-3	25	--	25 ^h	Kenosha/Racine Land Trust
45	Town of Lyons	Peterson Fen	NA-3	2	--	2	Kenosha/Racine Land Trust
46	Town of Lyons	Cranberry Road Bog	NA-3	--	46	46	Private Conservancy Organization
47	Town of Lyons	Lake Geneva Tamarack Relict	NA-3	--	163 ^e	163	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
48	Town of Lyons	Radio Station Fen	NA-3	--	1	1	Private Conservancy Organization
49	Town of Lyons	Ivanhoe Creek Fen	NA-3	--	30	30	Private Conservancy Organization
50	Town of Richmond	Natureland Park Fen	NA-3	1	--	1	Walworth County
51	Town of Richmond	Lake Loraine Woods—East	NA-3	--	74	74	Private Conservancy Organization
52	Town of Richmond	Lake Loraine Marsh	NA-3	28	7	35	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
53	Town of Richmond	Lake No. 10	NA-3	17	23	40	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
54	Town of Richmond	Turtle Lake Fen and Habitat Area	NA-3	41	32	73	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
55	Town of LaGrange Town of Sugar Creek	Baywood Road Sedge Meadow	NA-3	--	27	27	Private Conservancy Organization
56	Town of Sugar Creek	Lake Wandawega Marsh	NA-3	57	26	83	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
57	Town of Sugar Creek	North Lake Marsh	NA-3	67	--	67	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
58	Town of Sugar Creek	Silver Lake	NA-3	86	10 ^e	96	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
59	Town of Lafayette	Pallottine Maple Woods	NA-3	10	142	152	Private Conservancy Organization
60	Town of Lafayette	Granzau Woods	NA-3	--	133 ^e	133	Private Conservancy Organization
61	Town of Lafayette	Sugar Creek Fens, Springs, and Sedge Meadow	NA-3	10	24	34	Walworth County

Table continued on next page.

Table 5.2 (Continued)

Site Identification			Site Area (acres)				Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 5.3	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already Under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
				Sites Proposed to be Acquired (Continued)			
62	Town of Lafayette	Sugar Creek Wetlands	NA-3	33	41	74	Geneva Lake Conservancy
63	Town of Lafayette	Abells Corners Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict	NA-3	--	42	42	Private Conservancy Organization
64	Town of Spring Prairie	Spring Prairie Lowlands	NA-3	--	297 ^e	297	Private Conservancy Organization
65	Town of Whitewater	Lone Tree Trail Oak Woods	NA-3	256	9 ^e	265	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
66	Town of Whitewater	Whitewater Oak Woods	NA-3	201	39	240	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
67	Town of Whitewater	Rice Lake Dry Prairie	NA-3	1	--	1	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
68	Town of LaGrange	Nordic Trail Oak Woods	NA-3	398	95	493	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
69	Town of LaGrange	Skoaponong (Duffin Road) Prairie	NA-3	8	--	8	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
70	Town of LaGrange	Connelly Fen	NA-3	--	2	2	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
71	Town of LaGrange	Island Woods	NA-3	36	10	46	Kettle Moraine Land Trust
72	Town of Troy	Eagle Spring Lake Bog, Woods, and Prairie	NA-3	28	--	28 ⁱ	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
73	Town of Troy	Crooked Creek Sedge Meadow	NA-3	27	--	27	The Nature Conservancy
74	Town of Troy	Doyles Lake Wetlands	NA-3	58	10 ^e	68	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
75	Town of Troy	Lein's Road Fen	NA-3	--	22	22	Private Conservancy Organization
76	Town of Troy	Honey Creek Fen	NA-3	2	6	8	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
77	Town of Troy	Troy Fen	NA-3	12	3	15	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
78	Town of East Troy	Rainbow Springs Woods, Wetlands, and Prairies	NA-3	178	203 ^e	381 ^j	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Private Conservancy Organization
79	Town of East Troy	East Troy Bog	NA-3	--	6 ^e	6	Private Conservancy Organization
80	Town of East Troy	Camp Charles Allis Oak Woodland and Tamaracks	NA-3	--	27	27	Private Conservancy Organization
81	Town of East Troy	Armvy Lake Lowlands and Uplands	NA-3	21	106 ^e	127	Private Conservancy Organization

Table continued on next page.

Table 5.2 (Continued)

Site Identification				Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 5.3	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already Under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites Proposed to be Acquired (Continued)							
82	Town of East Troy	East Troy Tamaracks	NA-3	19	7 ^e	26	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
83	Town of East Troy	Potter Lake Tamaracks	NA-3	19	3	22	Potter Lake District
84	Town of East Troy	Hilburn Sedge Meadow	NA-3	--	66	66	Private Conservancy Organization
85	Town of Linn	Town of Linn Park	CSH	153	--	153	Town of Linn
86	Village of Fontana	Lyons Woods	CSH	--	35	35	Private Conservancy Organization
87	Town of Bloomfield	Section 5 Marsh and Pond	CSH	--	21 ^e	21	Private Conservancy Organization
88	Town of Bloomfield	Townline Pond	CSH	--	50	50	Geneva Lake Conservancy
89	Town of Lyons	Mallard Habitat Area	CSH	208	148	356	Private Conservancy Organization
90	Town of Darien	Turtle Creek Wetland	CSH	168	113	281	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
91	Town of Darien	Turtle Creek Bike Trail Wetland	CSH	--	23	23	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
92	City of Elkhorn	Elkhorn Railroad Prairie Remnant	CSH	7	--	7	Wisconsin Department of Transportation
93	Town of Lyons	Roden Oak Woods	CSH	--	41	41	Private Conservancy Organization
94	Town of Lyons	Sheridan Springs Road Habitat Area	CSH	--	33 ^e	33	Private Conservancy Organization
95	Town of Lyons	Seno Oak Opening	CSH	2	--	2	Kenosha/Racine Land Trust
96	Town of Lyons	Peterson Property	CSH	13	27	40	Kenosha/Racine Land Trust
97	Town of Richmond	Whitewater Lake Island	CSH	1	--	1	Walworth County
98	Town of Richmond	Unnamed Wetland	CSH	--	26	26	Private Conservancy Organization
99	Town of Richmond	Lake Number 10 Open Woods	CSH	41	153	194	Walworth County
100	Town of Richmond	Turtle Valley Wildlife Area	CSH	2,042	--	2,042	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Department of Transportation
101	Town of Lafayette	Sugar Creek Woods—North	CSH	21	209	230	Walworth County
102	Town of Lafayette	Sugar Creek Woods—South	CSH	--	116	116	Walworth County
103	Town of Lafayette	Sugar Creek Wet Woods	CSH	--	34	34	Walworth County
104	Town of Whitewater	Clover Valley State Wildlife Area	CSH	271	36	307	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
105	Town of LaGrange	Duffin Road Dry Prairie	CSH	1	--	1	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Table continued on next page.

Table 5.2 (Continued)

Site Identification			Site Area (acres)				Proposed Acquisition Agency
Number on Map 5.3	Civil Division(s)	Name	Classification ^a	Already Under Protective Ownership ^b	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
Sites Proposed to be Acquired (Continued)							
106	Town of LaGrange	Emerson Esker Prairie	CSH	1	--	1	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
107	Town of LaGrange	LaGrange Campground	CSH	201	2	203	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
108	Town of LaGrange	Juniper Knoll Camp Woods	CSH	--	98 ^e	98	Private Conservancy Organization
109	Town of LaGrange	Middle Lake Sedge Mat	CSH	3	--	3	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
110	Town of LaGrange	Lauderdale Lakes Woods	CSH	--	28	28	Lauderdale Lakes Lake Management District
111	Town of Troy	Horn Dry Prairies	CSH	5	--	5	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
112	Town of Troy	Scout Road Tract	CSH	16	6	22	The Nature Conservancy
113	Town of Troy	Harmony Hills Savanna	CSH	--	77 ^e	77	Private Conservancy Organization
114	Town of Troy	Doyles Lake Prairies	CSH	--	1	1	Private Conservancy Organization
115	Town of Troy	Ebner Woods	CSH	--	24 ^e	24	Private Conservancy Organization
116	Town of Troy	Camp Timberlee	CSH	--	65 ^e	65	Private Conservancy Organization
117	Town of Troy	Section 28 Wetlands	CSH	--	88	88	Private Conservancy Organization
118	Town of East Troy	Lake Beulah Woodland	CSH	--	11	11	Private Conservancy Organization
119	Town of East Troy	Anderson Bog	CSH	--	1	1	Private Conservancy Organization
			Subtotal: 119 Sites	9,086	5,694	14,780	--
Sites to be Preserved to the Extent Practicable Without Additional Protective Ownership							
120	Town of Richmond	Lake Loraine Woods—West	NA-3	--	--	86	--
121	Town of Whitewater	Rock Shrub-Fen	NA-3	--	--	46	--
122	Town of LaGrange	Big Spring Road Prairie	NA-3	--	--	93	--
123	Town of Darien	Darien Railroad Prairie Remnant	CSH	--	--	1	--
124	Town of Lyons	White River Railroad Prairie	CSH	1	--	12	--
125	Town of Whitewater	Mills Road Prairie	CSH	--	--	3	--
126	Town of Whitewater	Anderson Road	CSH	--	--	1	--
127	Town of Whitewater	Island Road Prairie	CSH	--	--	1	--
128	Town of Whitewater	Whitewater Lake Island Woods	CSH	--	--	3	--
129	Town of LaGrange	Bennett Dry Prairie	CSH	--	--	3	--
130	Town of East Troy	Eastwood Estates Woods	CSH	--	--	5	--
			Subtotal: 11 Sites	1	--	254	--
			Total: 130 Sites	9,087	5,694	15,034	--

Table continued on next page.

Table 5.2 (Continued)

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

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

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

^b Based on 2020 data. Includes land under protective ownership, under conservation easement, or surface water.

^c Does not include 15 acres of this site located in Jefferson County.

^d Does not include 180 acres of this site in Waukesha County.

^e All or a portion of this site is currently privately owned and maintained in compatible private outdoor recreation or open space uses and is shown as such on Map 5.3. Should these lands become available for acquisition in the future, the plan recommends protecting this site through ownership by public agencies or by nonprofit conservation organizations as shown in this table.

^f Does not include 250 acres of this site in Racine County.

^g Does not include 335 acres of this site in Racine County.

^h Does not include 15 acres of this site in Racine County.

ⁱ Does not include 38 acres of this site in Waukesha County.

^j Does not include 318 acres of this site in Waukesha County.

Source: SEWRPC

- Eight new critical species habitat sites have been added. They include Mallard Habitat Area (Site No. 89), recommended to be acquired by a private conservation organization; Turtle Creek Wetland (Site No. 90), recommended to be acquired by the WDNR; Sheridan Springs Road Habitat Area (Site No. 94), recommended to be acquired by a private conservation organization; Clover Valley State Wildlife Area (Site No. 104), recommended to be acquired by the WDNR; Scout Road Tract (Site No. 112), recommended to be acquired by The Nature Conservancy; Ebner Woods (Site No. 115), recommended to be acquired by a private conservation organization; Section 28 Wetlands (Site No. 117), recommended to be acquired by a private conservation organization; and Lake Beulah Woodlands (Site No. 118), recommended to be acquired by a private conservation organization.
- The proposed acquisition agency for the Williams Bay Lowlands (Site No. 28) has been changed from a private conservation organization to the Village of Williams Bay because the entire site is currently owned by the Village.
- The proposed acquisition agency for the Lake Lawn Wetland Complex (Site No. 38) has been changed from the Town of Delavan to the WDNR.
- The proposed acquisition agency for the Lake Como Wetlands (Site No. 42) has been changed from a private conservation organization to the Lake Como Association.
- The proposed acquisition agency for the Tri-County Tamarack Swamp (Site No. 44) and the Seno Oak Opening (Site No. 95) has been changed from the WDNR to the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust because the entirety of both sites within the County are currently owned by the Land Trust.
- The proposed acquisition agency for the Lake Geneva Tamarack Relict (Site No. 47) has been changed from the Town of Lyons to the WDNR.
- The proposed acquisition agency for the Lake Loraine Marsh (Site No. 52), Lake No. 10 (Site No. 53), Lake Wandawega Marsh (Site No. 56), Silver Lake (Site No. 58), Doyles Lake Wetlands (Site No. 74) has been changed from a private conservation organization to the WDNR.
- The proposed acquisition agency for the North Lake Marsh (Site No. 57) has been changed from the North Lake District to the WDNR because the entire site is currently owned by the WDNR.
- The areas of the Bluff Creek Woods (Site No. 2), Lulu Lake and Eagle Spring Lake Wetland Complex and Adjacent Uplands (Site No. 5), and Rainbow Springs Woods, Wetlands, and Prairies (Site No. 78) were enlarged.
- The Kestol Prairie and Turtle Lake Fen were enlarged and the sites were renamed as the Kestol Prairie and Kettle Moraine Oak Opening (Site No. 16) and Turtle Lake Fen and Habitat Area (Site No. 54), respectively.
- The Bloomfield Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict (Site No. 31) was reduced in size.
- The area of the Army Lake Lowlands was enlarged and the site was renamed as the Army Lake Lowlands and Uplands (Site No. 81). The site was reclassified from NA-2 to NA-3 and the proposed acquisition agency for the site was changed from the Town of East Troy to a private conservation organization.
- The Burlington Railroad Prairie natural area has been removed from Walworth County, but the site still exists in Racine County.
- The Bloomfield Prairie natural area and the Railroad Lowland, Radio Station Wetland, Island Road Shrub-Carr, Abells Corners Fen, and Hargraves Road Sedge Meadow critical species habitat sites were removed and no longer exist.

- The White River Railroad (Site No. 124) is now recommended to be protected through appropriate zoning rather than by protective ownership.

With Walworth County adopting this park and open space plan, the Regional Planning Commission will amend the regional natural areas protection and management plan in these respects. An update to the regional natural areas plan is currently underway that will include these changes.

Reestablishment of Grasslands

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

Four sites in the Southeastern Wisconsin region were identified for the reestablishment of grassland habitat, including two sites in Walworth County. The general locations of these sites are shown on Map 5.4. One site is proposed to be located in the Town of Troy. Portions of the site are currently owned by the WDNR and the Nature Conservancy in addition to being located partially within the WDNR Lulu Lake State Natural Area project boundary and partially within The Nature Conservancy Lulu Lake-Pickerel Lake Fen project boundary. It is envisioned that the grassland habitat would eventually encompass about 1,700 acres, with the WDNR being responsible for site acquisition and management.²³ The second site, the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), is proposed to be located in the southeastern portion of the County and extend into northern Illinois. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study identified the Peterkin Pond area as a possible site for the reestablishment of grasslands because both wetland and prairie grassland communities would be able to provide numerous bird species and other wildlife the ideal environments for species interaction and sustainability. The NWR was officially established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2012. The Wisconsin portion of the NWR consists of approximately 5,000 acres and will be jointly owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service being responsible for land preservation in this area through conservation easements, fee-title acquisition, donation, and cooperative agreements.²⁴ As these plan recommendations are implemented, primary environmental corridor will be added in these areas. There are no sites in the County for reestablishing forest interiors.

Protecting Geological Areas

Pertinent recommendations regarding preserving the significant geological sites set forth in the regional natural areas plan have also been incorporated into this park and open space plan. The inventory of geological areas prepared as part of the regional natural areas protection and management plan and reported in Chapter 2 identified 13 sites of geological importance in the County, including four bedrock geology sites and nine glacial features.

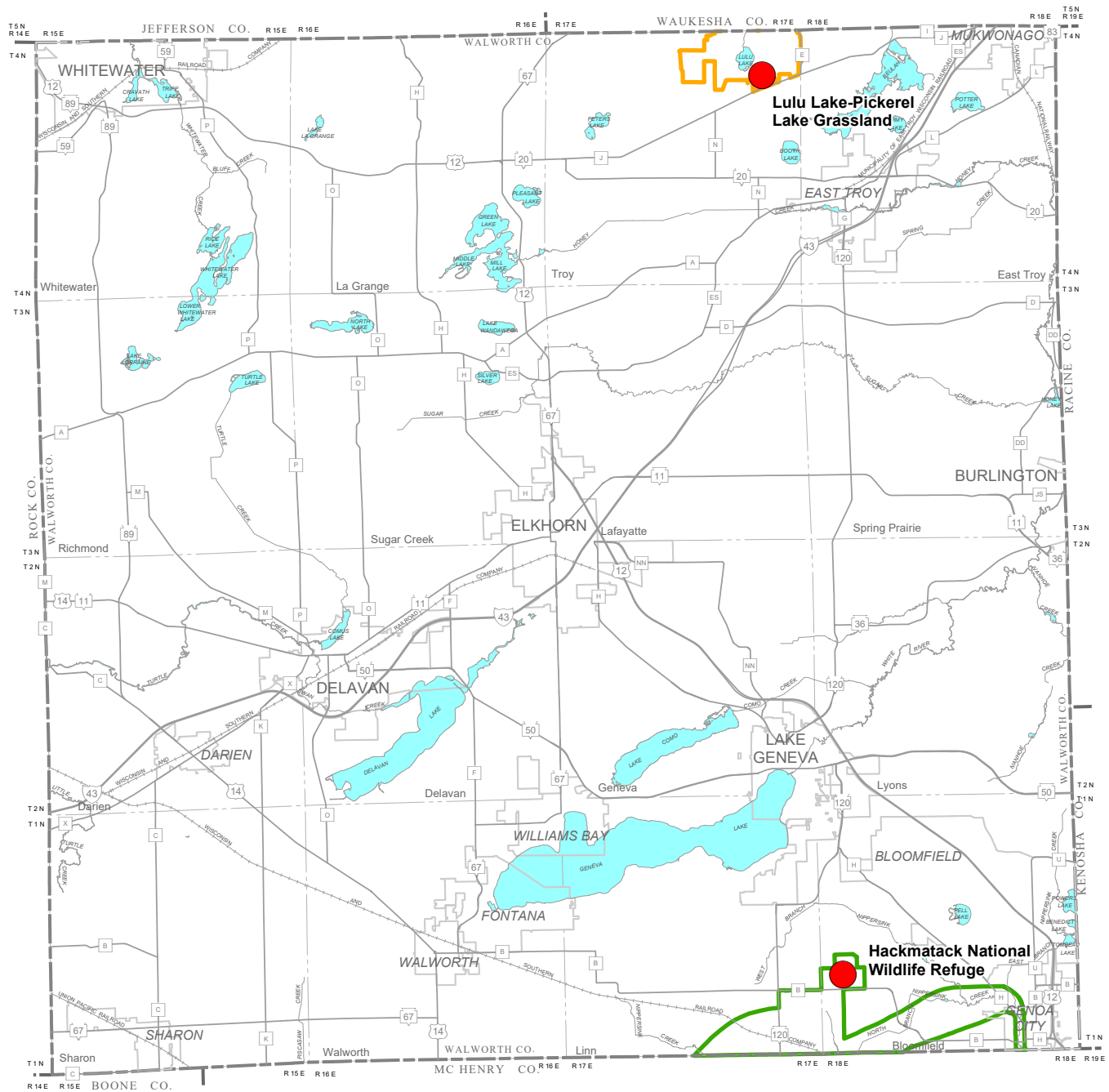
Map 5.5 shows the general location of geological areas recommended to be preserved through public agency or a private nonprofit conservation organization acquisition. As listed on Table 5.3, it is recommended that nine of the 13 geological area sites be preserved through public or private protective ownership. These nine areas include eight glacial and one bedrock sites. Together, the nine areas encompass about 12,721 acres. Of this total, 7,329 acres are in existing protective ownership. Under the plan, eight sites are proposed to be entirely protected through public or private interest ownership, and one site—Lyons Glacial Deposits—is proposed to be partially protected through private interest ownership within the County. In total, 2,882 acres are remaining to be acquired for protective ownership. These recommendations are consistent with the regional natural areas protection and management plan.

²³ The acreage of the proposed grassland habitat is not included in the acreage recommended for acquisition by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in this chapter.

²⁴ The acreage of the proposed NWR to be acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not included in this chapter.

Map 5.4

Location of Recommended Sites to Reestablish Grassland Habitat in Walworth County

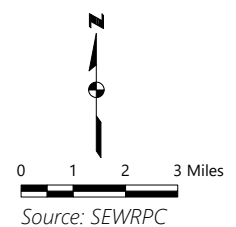


WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT BOUNDARY

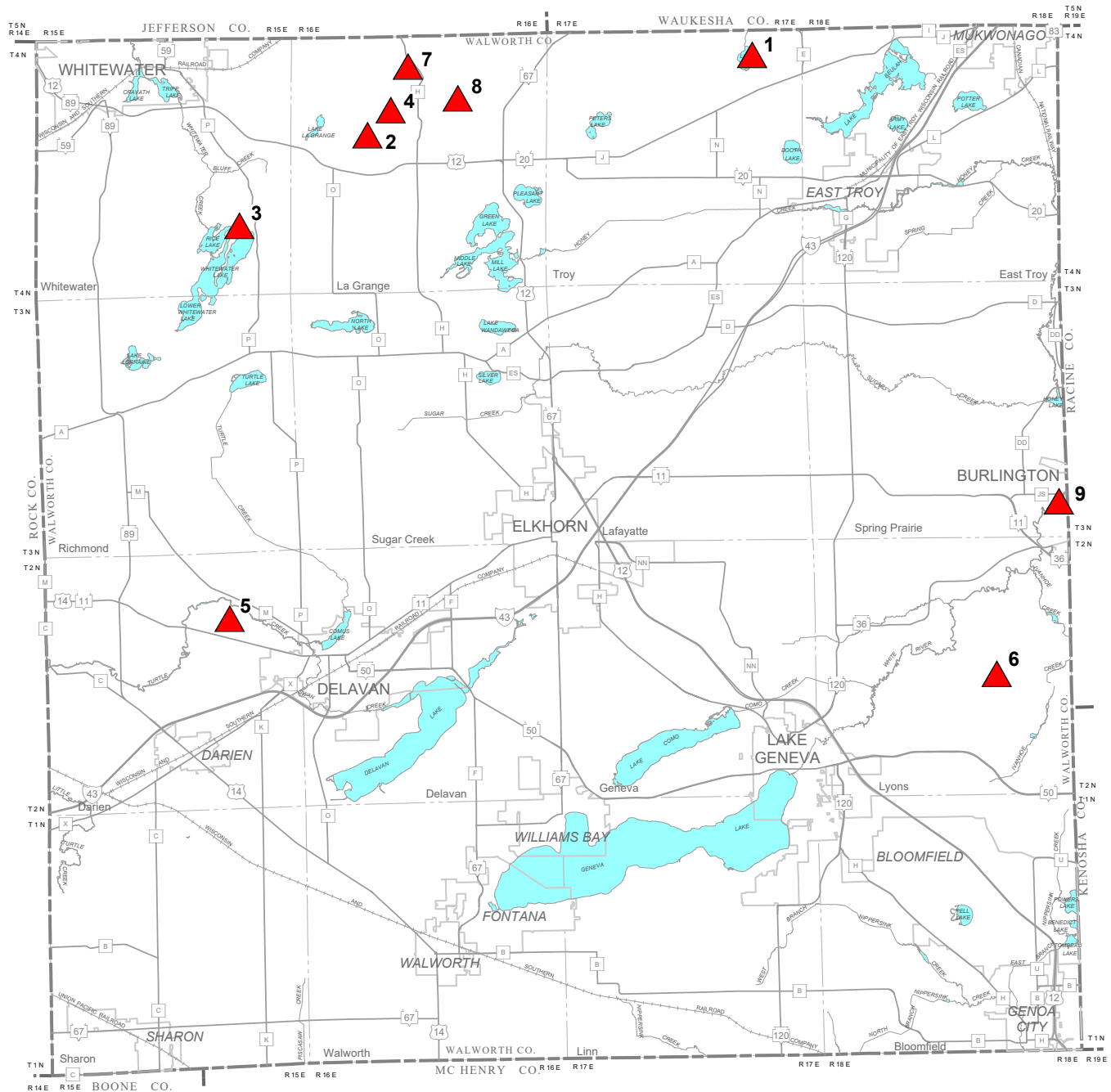
— LULU LAKE STATE NATURAL AREA


FEDERAL PROJECT BOUNDARY

— HACKMATACK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



Map 5.5 Recommended Acquisition of Selected Geological Areas in Walworth County



 GEOLOGICAL AREA SITE PROPOSED TO BE ACQUIRED FOR PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP

 SURFACE WATER

8 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 5.3)

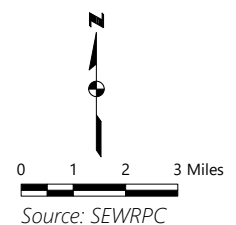


Table 5.3
Geological Areas in Walworth County Recommended to be Fully or Substantially Preserved Through Acquisition

Civil Division	Site Identification			Total Site Area (acres)	Portion of Area Already Under Protective Ownership	Portion of Area to be Acquired for Protective Ownership	Responsible Agency	Remarks
	Name	Geological Area Class	Number on Map 5.5					
Town of Troy	Lulu Lake Glacial Lake and Crevasse Filling	GA-1	1	103	103	--	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the Lulu Lake State Natural Area and is located within a NA-1
Town of LaGrange Town of Whitewater	Kettle Moraine Interlobate Moraine	GA-1	2	7,138	6,102 ^a	1,036	Department of Natural Resources	Majority of the site lies within the established project boundary for the WDNR Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit; site contains three NA-1, four NA-2, and four NA-3 sites, and two critical species habitat sites
Town of Whitewater	Whitewater Lake-Rice Lake Eskers	GA-2	3	175	76	99	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the WDNR Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit. Site contains two NA-3 sites and a critical species habitat site
Town of LaGrange	John Muir Trail Kettle Holes	GA-2	4	28	28	--	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the WDNR Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit and is located within a NA-2
Town of Darien Town of Richmond	Turtle Creek Glacial Spillway	GA-3	5	2,540	928	1,612	Department of Natural Resources	Portions of the site either lie within the established project boundaries for the Turtle Creek Wildlife Area or the Turtle Valley Wildlife Area or are in existing State ownership, or both. Site contains one NA-2, three NA-3 sites, and three critical species habitat sites

Table continued on next page.

Table 5.3 (Continued)

Site Identification				Total Site Area (acres)	Portion of Area Already Under Protective Ownership	Portion of Area to be Acquired for Protective Ownership	Responsible Agency	Remarks
Civil Division	Name	Geological Area Class	Number on Map 5.5					
Glacial (Continued)								
Town of Lyons	Lyons Glacial Deposits	GA-3	6	2,688 ^b	63 ^c	115 ^d	Private Conservancy Organization	About 178 acres, or 7 percent, of this area are within a NA-3 and three critical species habitat sites; all proposed to be acquired by a private conservancy organization
Town of LaGrange	Spirits Wash Bowl	GA-3	7	1	1	--	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the WDNR Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit and is located within a NA-2
Town of LaGrange	Nordic Trail Kettle Holes	GA-3	8	32	28	4	Department of Natural Resources	Site lies within the established project boundary for the WDNR Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit and is located within a NA-3
Bedrock								
Town of Spring Prairie	Voree Quarry	GA-3	9	16	--	16	Private Conservancy Organization	--
Total: Nine Sites				12,721	7,329	2,882	--	--

^a Includes the area within the established project boundary of the WDNR Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit within Walworth County. The acreage total does not include Natural Areas or Critical Species Habitat Sites within these project boundaries.

^b Includes only those lands of the Lyons Glacial Deposits located in Walworth County. The entire geological area is proposed for only partial protection.

^c Includes those lands within the Lyons Glacial Deposits that are currently under public or private protective ownership.

^d Includes only those lands that are recommended to be protected by private ownership for one natural area of local significance and two critical species habitat sites within the Lyons Glacial Deposits.

Source: SEWRPC

State of Wisconsin Project Areas Component

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

The open space preservation element of this plan includes lands that have been acquired or that are proposed to be acquired by the WDNR, within the project boundaries of the Big Foot Beach State Park, Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit, Kettle Moraine State Forest—Mukwonago River Unit, Lulu Lake State Natural Area, Turtle Creek Wildlife Area, and Turtle Valley Wildlife Area. Project boundaries for these areas have been approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and are shown on Map 5.1. Currently, about 12,271 acres of open space lands are in public ownership or protected by a private conservation organization within those project areas and 54 acres are protected by WDNR easements. An additional 6,521 acres are proposed to be publicly acquired within the identified project boundaries.

As listed in Table 5.4 and shown on Map 5.3, there are five natural areas that are located partially within existing WDNR project boundaries. The portions of these sites that are located outside the existing WDNR project boundaries encompass 135 acres. It is recommended that the WDNR consider expanding existing project boundaries to include these sites when the master plans for the project areas are updated.

Federal Project Area Component

One Federal project area is located partially in Walworth County—the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge was established in 2012 in the State of Illinois and plans to acquire lands within the project area to create contiguous natural habitats and to restore and improve wetlands, woodlands, and prairies. The project area within Walworth County encompasses about 5,080 acres and is located in the Village of Genoa City and Towns of Bloomfield and Linn. In 2018, land was acquired within the project boundary just northwest of the Village of Genoa City.

Since the Refuge project area also affects the open space preservation element of this plan, all lands in the Refuge project area will be the focus of acquisition; however, most of the land will be acquired only through donation or a purchase from a willing-seller. It is anticipated that the majority of lands will be protected with a conservation easement. There are no natural areas or critical species habitat sites located within the project area.

Prime Agricultural Land Plan Component

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

5.4 RECOMMENDED PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT

The outdoor recreation sites and trail facilities recommended under the County park and open space plan are shown on Map 5.6. The sites and facilities proposed to be provided include major parks and resource-oriented recreational facilities, trails, and boat access facilities. The recommended recreation sites and facilities are intended to meet the need for such sites and facilities in the County through the year 2050, as identified in Chapter 4. A description of the recommended sites and facilities follows.

Table 5.4
Recommended Additions to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Project Boundaries

Number on Map 5.3	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Project	Location	Area (acres)	Comment ^a
5	Lulu Lake State Natural Area	T4N, R17E Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 Town of Troy	89 ^b	Expansion is recommended to include the portion of the Lulu Lake and Eagle Spring Lake Wetland Complex and Adjacent Uplands (NA-1) that lies partially outside the existing project boundary
3	Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit	T4N, R15E Sections 22, 26, 27 Town of Whitewater	3 ^c	Expansion is recommended to include the portion of the Clover Valley Fen State Natural Area (NA-1) that lies partially outside the existing project boundary
12	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	T3N, R18E Sections 13, 24 Town of Spring Prairie	5 ^d	Expansion is recommended to include the portion of the Honey Lake Marsh and Sedge Meadow (NA-2) that lies partially outside the existing project boundary
65	Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit	T4N, R15E Sections 24, 25 Town of Whitewater	26 ^e	Expansion is recommended to include the portion of the Whitewater Oak Woods (NA-3) that lies partially outside the existing project boundary
35	Turtle Creek Wildlife Area	T2N, R15E Sections 17, 18 Town of Darien	12 ^f	Expansion is recommended to include the portion of the Turtle Creek Sedge Meadow and Fen (NA-3) that lies partially outside the existing project boundary
Total: Five Sites			135	--

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

^b An additional 852 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 941 acres within Walworth County.

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

^d An additional 136 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 141 acres within Walworth County.

^e An additional 214 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 240 acres in total.

^f An additional 159 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 171 acres in total.

Source: SEWRPC

Major Parks

Under the park and open space plan for Walworth County, six major parks²⁵ would be provided. Of the six major parks, five are existing parks and one is a proposed new park to be acquired and developed by Walworth County. The five existing major parks are: Big Foot Beach State Park and Whitewater Lake Recreation Area, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR); and Price Park Conservancy, Natureland Park, and White River County Park, owned by Walworth County.

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

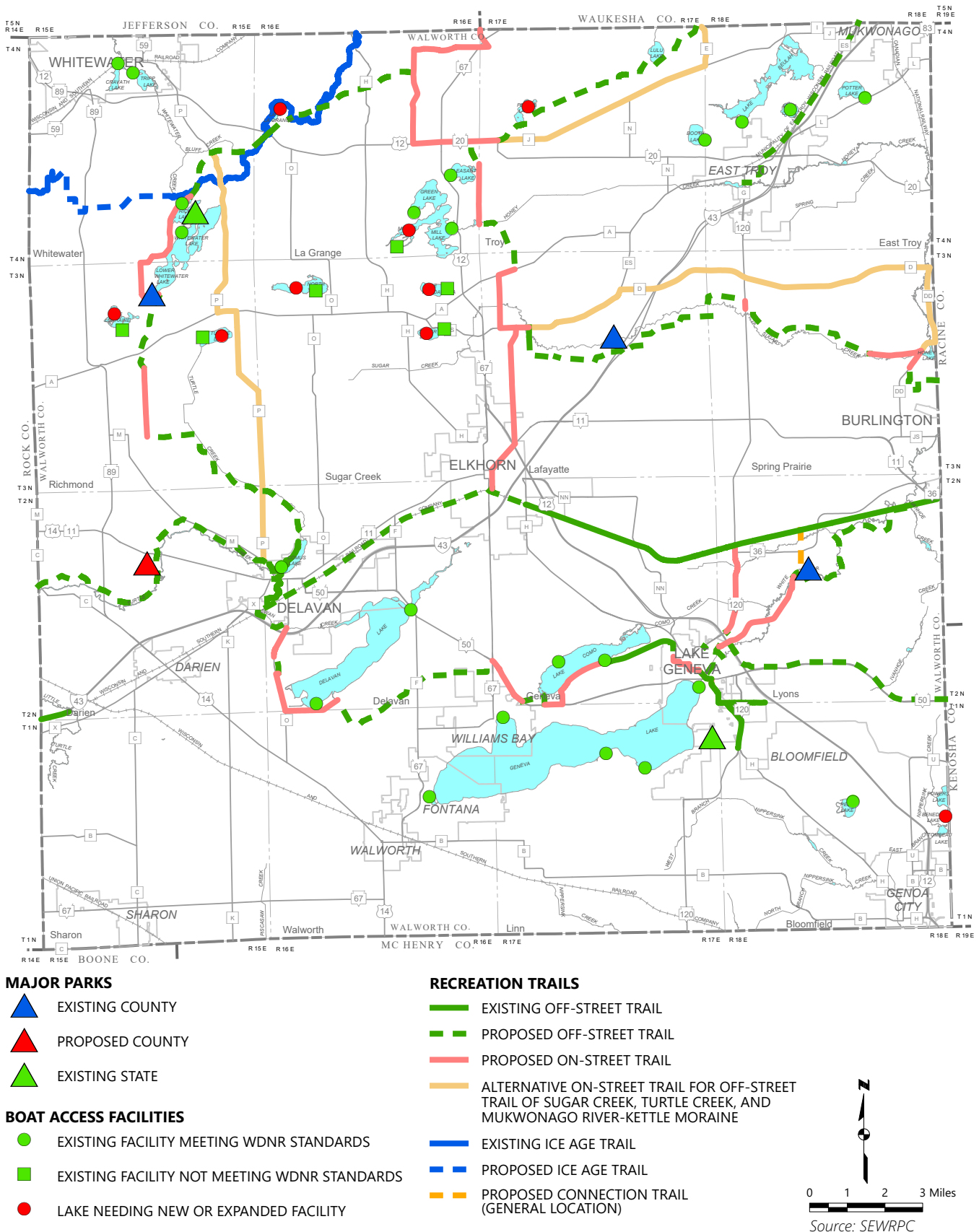
Specific recommendations for each of the major parks are presented below.

- **Big Foot Beach State Park (WDNR)**

Big Foot Beach State Park presently consists of 265 acres and is located in the southeastern portion of Walworth County. Under this plan and as identified in the State master plan for this site, it is recommended that the WDNR acquire an additional 158 acres of land within the project area and

²⁵ Major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for resource-oriented activities and which are generally 100 acres or more in size.

Map 5.6
Outdoor Recreation Element of the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan: 2050



develop new park roads, parking areas, a park entrance, a boat landing area at the lagoon, a navigation channel between the park lagoon and Geneva Lake, and a breakwater with a fishing pier and beach expansion on Geneva Lake and continue to maintain existing facilities.

- **Whitewater Lake Recreation Area (WDNR)**

Whitewater Lake Recreation Area Park presently consists of 135 acres and is located in the Town of Whitewater. Under this plan, it is recommended that the WDNR continue to maintain and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities as needed.

- **Price Park Conservancy (Walworth County)**

Price Park Conservancy presently consists of 113 acres and is located in the Town of Lafayette. Under this plan, it is recommended that the County acquire an additional 189 acres. Since the previous County park plan was adopted, a fenced-in dog park and trail facilities were developed at the park. Proposed development for this site includes additional trail and picnic facilities, a canoe/kayak launch, and a playground. The existing site and recommended acquisition area include portions of one natural area—Sugar Creek Fens, Springs, and Sedge Meadow—and three critical species habitat (CSH) sites—Sugar Creek Wet Woods, Sugar Creek Woods-North, and Sugar Creek Woods-South. As adjacent natural area/CSH lands are acquired, as recommended in the open space element of this plan, those lands should be considered as additions to the existing park site.

- **Natureland Park (Walworth County)**

Natureland Park presently consists of 104 acres and is located in the Town of Richmond. This plan recommends that the County acquire an additional 158 acres and provide additional picnic facilities and trails and an additional parking lot. The existing site includes the Natureland Park Fen natural area and the Whitewater Lake Island critical species habitat (CSH) site. The site and the recommended acquisition area also include the Lake Number 10 Open Woods critical species habitat site. As the Lake Number 10 Open Woods lands are acquired, as recommended in the open space element of this plan, those lands are considered as the expansion area to the existing park.

- **White River County Park (Walworth County)**

In March 2014, Walworth County acquired the 195-acre White River County Park. Since the previous County park plan was adopted the following facilities were developed at the park: a shelter/pavilion, a canoe/kayak access site, picnic areas, hiking/cross-country skiing trails, trail amenities, fishing areas, a parking area, restrooms, and support-related facilities. A barn is also located in the park and some restoration of it has been completed.

Additional plans are to continue to restore and renovate the interior of the barn for a Countywide nature center-based informative area in the lower level and a community programming area for organizational activities and meetings and special events in the upper level. The upper and lower levels of the barn would also be available for seasonal events (late spring, summer, and early fall). Additional exterior improvements are also possible for the barn.

Grassland and prairie restoration has occurred at various areas of the park with plans for continued restoration efforts in other areas of the park for the next five years. Other facilities to be developed at the park include an additional parking lot and additional trails.

It is also recommended that the WDNR and the County continue to allow hunting and trapping by permit in White River County Park with hunting allowed throughout the park and trapping limited to an area in the southeastern portion of the park.

- **Proposed County Park (Walworth County)**

Under this plan, it is recommended that the County acquire a new major park site in the southwestern or west-central portion of the County. About 270 acres of land should be acquired for the park. Proposed facility development at this site includes picnic areas, trails, and necessary support facilities such as parking areas and access drives, landscaping, and park furnishings (benches, tables, waste containers, and signage). This proposed new park site would meet the need for a major park in this portion of the County as well as additional park land in this area.

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

Development Costs—County Parks

The development costs related to County-owned parks envisioned under the plan are presented in Table 5.5. As indicated in Table 5.5, such costs are estimated to range from about \$1.4 million to \$2.0 million, depending on the extent of renovations to the White River County Park barn. The cost associated with acquiring open space lands for County park sites is included in Table 5.1.

Areawide Recreation Trails

Under the recommended plan, about 156 miles of off-street trails would be provided as a countywide trail system for bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. The recommended trails, which are shown on Map 5.6, are part of a larger, region-wide trail system. The recommended off-street trail system within Walworth County includes 33 miles of existing trails and 123 miles of proposed trails. The proposed trails are shown on Map 5.6. Recreation trails are proposed within the Mukwonago River/Kettle Moraine, Sugar Creek/Lauderdale Lakes, and Turtle Creek corridors; along STH 50 and north Geneva Lake corridor; and between East Troy and Mukwonago. However, alternative on-street routes have also been identified for the Mukwonago River/Kettle Moraine, Sugar Creek, and Turtle Creek off-street trails should any portions of those segments not be attainable or feasible for development. On-street routes could be provided as an on-street bicycle lane or as a separate parallel bicycle/pedestrian path within a highway right-of-way. As with the off-street alternative, the on-street alignments would also serve to provide connections to other areawide recreation trails thereby maintaining the continuity of the areawide trail system. All off-street and on-street alignments are intended to be general in nature and are subject to refinement based on detailed facility planning and, as necessary, on negotiations with landowners to purchase land for the trails.

The off-street segments of the proposed trail system would generally be located within, or in proximity to, environmental corridors or other open space lands to provide opportunities for trail activities through scenic areas. The precise alignment and design of new off-street trails should seek to minimize any impacts on existing natural features. It should also be noted that the proposed off-street trails indicate approximate locations only, and are only intended to be developed if an agreement is reached by all parties affected. The responsibility for providing the off-street trails would be as follows:

- The WDNR would be responsible for developing or maintaining about 47 miles of off-street trails, including 13 miles of existing trails and 34 miles of proposed trails. This includes the off-street Ice Age Trail and the off-street trail segments within the WDNR project areas located in the Towns of Darien, LaGrange, Richmond, and Whitewater. The Ice Age Trail provides opportunities for hiking and ski-touring; biking is not permitted. The estimated development costs for the new off-street trails proposed to be provided by the WDNR are about \$2.4 million. The cost associated with acquiring open space to accommodate the proposed trails is included in Table 5.1.
- Walworth County would be responsible for developing or maintaining about 64 miles of off-street trails, including 12 miles of existing trails and 52 miles of proposed trails. The estimated development costs for the proposed trails to be provided by the County are about \$3.6 million. The cost associated with acquiring open space to accommodate the proposed trails is included in Table 5.1. Walworth County also has a Memorandum of Understanding with Rock County on developing and maintaining the Pelishek-Tiffany Trail. The majority of the trail is located in Rock County, but a less than one-mile portion of the trail is located in the Town of Darien. The trail is six miles in length, is located on an abandoned railway, and can be used for biking, hiking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling.

In addition, the Route of the Badger, a regional trail system network in Southeastern Wisconsin with opportunities to connect to other trail systems outside the Region, proposes to develop a new off-street trail in the northeastern portion of the County from the Village of East Troy north to the county line and extend the existing off-street White River State Trail westward to the City of Delavan. Both proposed trails would be developed within existing railway rights-of-way as part of the “Rails to Trails” conservancy program. If or when those portions of railway rights-of-way were to become abandoned, it is recommended that the County develop a trail in both abandoned rights-of-way. The County may also work cooperatively with the State to develop the extension of the White River State

Table 5.5
Estimated Development Costs for County Parks Under the Recommended Plan

County Park	Proposed Facility Development	Development Cost (\$)
Major Parks		
Natureland Park	Additional Parking Lot	100,000
	Additional Picnic Facilities	15,000
	Trails (Development, Improvement, or Signage)	10,000
	Natureland Park Subtotal	125,000
Price Park Conservancy	Canoe/Kayak Launch	15,000
	Additional Picnic Facilities	15,000
	Trails (Development, Improvement, or Signage)	10,000
	Playground	250,000
	Price Park Conservancy Subtotal	290,000
White River County Park	Additional Parking Lot	100,000
	Trails (Development, Improvement, or Signage)	10,000
	Existing Barn – Interior Improvements - Lower Level (Develop Nature Center-based Area; Repurpose Horse Stables for Countywide Natural, Agricultural, and Historical Resources Informative Kiosks/Exhibits)	50,000-200,000
	Existing Barn – Interior Improvements - Upper Level (Improve Lighting and Renovate the Floor and Walls to Develop a Community Programming Area for Organized Events/Gatherings)	50,000-300,000
	Existing Barn – Exterior Improvements (Building Envelope-Replace Siding and Windows and Develop ADA Accessibility)	100,000-300,000
	Continued Prairie/Grassland Restoration	-- ^a
	White River County Park Subtotal	310,000-910,000
Proposed County Park	Picnic Areas	40,000
	Trails (Development and Signage)	50,000
	General Development ^b	600,000
	Proposed County Park Subtotal	690,000
	Parks Subtotal: Four Sites	1,415,000-2,015,000
Trails (off-street)		
Sugar Creek/Lauderdale Lakes Recreation Corridor	15.9 Miles of Trails	1,113,000
White River/Delavan Recreation Corridor (Route of the Badger Segment)	13.0 Miles of Trails	910,000
ATC Spring Valley/North Geneva Lake Corridor	17.4 Miles of Trails	1,218,000
East Troy/Mukwonago Recreation Corridor (Route of the Badger Segment)	5.4 Miles of Trails	378,000
	Trails Subtotal: Four Sites	3,619,000
	Total	5,034,000-5,634,000

Note: Cost estimates are expressed in 2021 dollars.

^a The cost for this project was fully paid for prior to 2021.

^b General development includes landscaping, parking areas and access drives, and furnishings such as benches, waste containers, and signs.

Source: Walworth County and SEWRPC

Trail. The existing segment of the trail within Walworth County is owned by the WDNR, but operated and maintained by Walworth County. The proposed White River State Trail expansion within the railway right-of-way to the City of Delavan is recommended to connect with a State off-street trail that is proposed within State-owned lands associated with Turtle Creek Wildlife Area along Turtle Creek from the City of Delavan westward to the county line.

- Existing city, village, and town off-street trail segments total about eight miles of the countywide trail system. These trails would continue to be locally maintained.

Map 5.6 also identifies a proposed connecting route that is about one mile long. The route would connect White River County Park with the White River State Trail. It is envisioned that the route would be a combination of on-street and off-street trails.

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

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

Other Trails

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

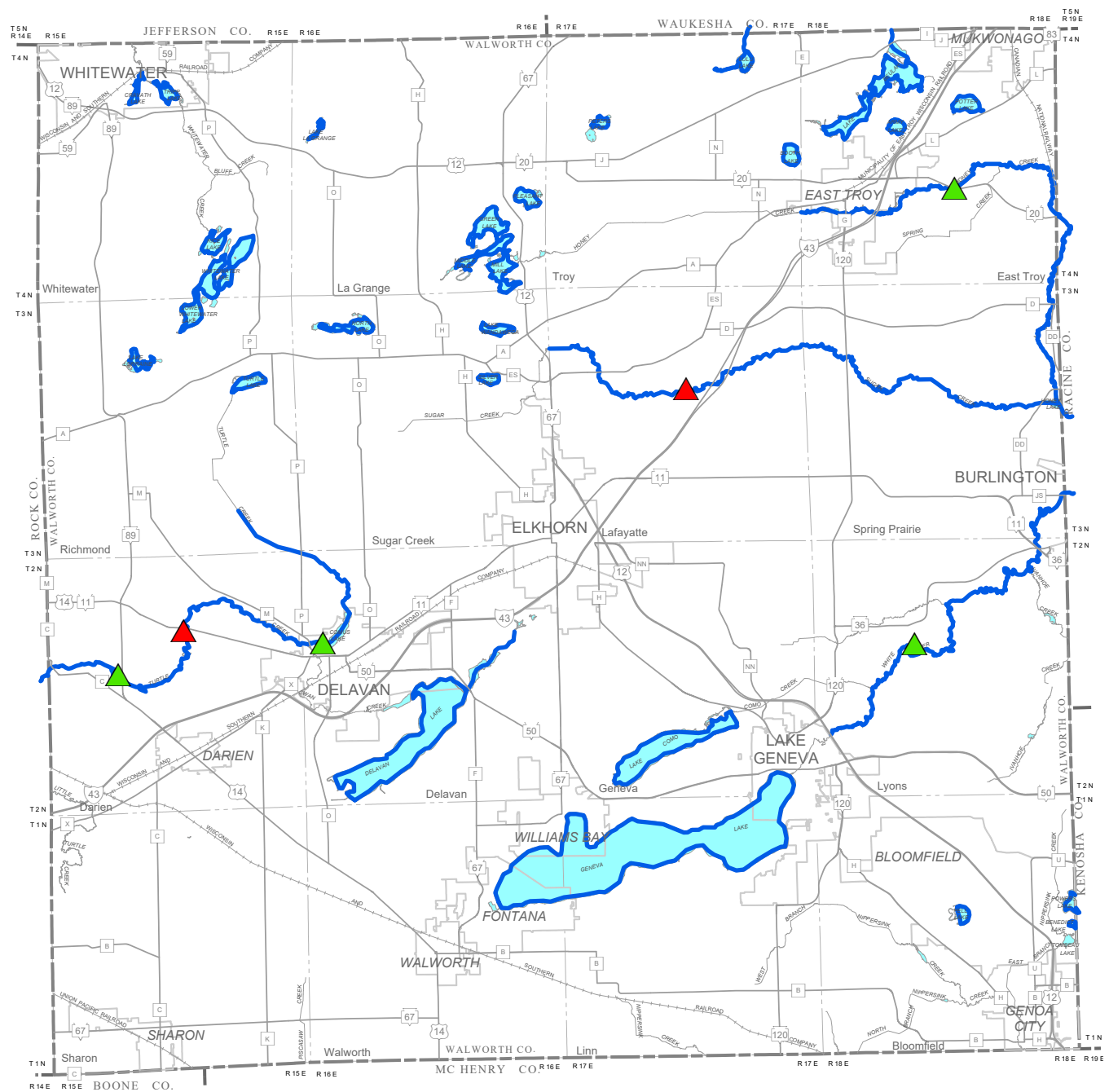
Lake and River Access





Boat access sites, both public and nonpublic, provide opportunities for individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such waterrelated recreation activities such as motor boating, waterskiing, sailing, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking. The regional park and open space plan recommends that rivers and major lakes—lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more—include adequate public boat access to allow safe and enjoyable boating activities. The WDNR, in keeping with State Statutes that seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, has adopted administrative rules regarding lake access, and surveyed all the major lakes in the State to determine if adequate public access to each is provided and maintained.²⁶ Table 4.2 in Chapter 4 lists the major lakes in the County and indicates whether or not public access is provided that meets WDNR standards. As indicated in the table, Benedict Lake, Lake LaGrange, Lake Lorraine, Middle Lake, North Lake, Peters Lake, Silver Lake, Turtle Lake, and Lake Wandawega had no access meeting WDNR standards in 2020. Under this plan, as shown on Map 5.6, it is recommended that a public boat access site at those lakes be acquired and developed as appropriate by the WDNR. The total estimated acquisition and development cost for the recommended lake access sites is about \$3.2 million.

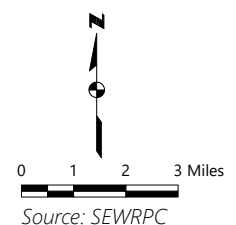
It is recommended that Walworth County develop a water trail system within navigable rivers and streams, which would improve river access and provide additional recreational opportunities. As shown on Map 5.7, these water trails would be located on the White River, Honey Creek, Sugar Creek, and Turtle Creek and would connect to water trails in adjacent counties. It is recommended that public canoe/kayak access points with parking be provided on major streams every 10 miles in Walworth County. Existing canoe/kayak access sites are located along the White River at White River County Park in the Town of Lyons; Honey Creek in the Town of East Troy; and Turtle Creek at Paul Lange Arboretum in the City of Delavan and Spooner Nature Park in the Town of Darien. A recommended County park improvement includes a canoe/kayak launch facility

²⁶ *The administrative rules, as set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, specify the public boating access facilities that must be provided as a condition for the WDNR to provide natural resource enhancement services for a body of water.*

Map 5.7
Potential Water Trails for Major Rivers and Inland Lakes in Walworth County



-  POTENTIAL WATER TRAIL
-  EXISTING PUBLIC CANOE ACCESS SITE
-  PROPOSED PUBLIC CANOE ACCESS SITE
-  SURFACE WATER



along Sugar Creek at Price Park Conservancy. It is recommended that the WDNR provide canoe/kayak launch facilities along Turtle Creek within the Turtle Creek Wildlife Area.

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

Local Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan Element

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

Within urban areas of the County, it is recommended that a full range of community and neighborhood park sites and facilities be provided. Recommendations for providing local park sites and facilities should be identified through preparing and adopting local park and open space plans. As of 2017, the WDNR only reviews local government park and open space plans if local governments are applying for State Stewardship Funds and other recreational grant programs. Local governments with a local park and open space plan adopted in the last five years would be eligible to apply for and potentially receive funding. Thus, it is still important for local governments to develop and adopt local park and open space plans.

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

5.5 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The WDNR has authority and responsibility for developing parks, protecting natural resources, water quality control, and water use regulations. Because of this broad range of authority and responsibility, certain WDNR functions have particular importance in implementing the County park and open space plan. The WDNR is obligated to prepare comprehensive statewide conservation and water resource plans; the authority to protect, develop, and regulate the use of state parks, forests, fish and game, lakes and streams, certain plant life, and other resources; and the authority to acquire conservation and scenic easements. The WDNR is also obligated to establish standards for floodplain and shoreland zoning and the authority to adopt, in the absence of satisfactory local actions, shoreland and floodplain zoning ordinances. In addition, the WDNR has

the authority to administer Federal grant programs known as the Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Fund Program and the Recreation Trails Program within the State, and administers the State Stewardship Fund, which provides funding for county and local park and open space land acquisition and development.

It is important that the WDNR: 1) approves the Walworth County park and open space plan when the County applies for available State and Federal outdoor recreation grants to implement the plan; 2) use available regulatory authority to guide urban development in a way that protects important natural resources; 3) be directly responsible for the maintaining existing State-owned recreation and open space sites in the County; 4) be responsible for acquiring and developing lands within established State project boundaries in the County; 5) be responsible for acquiring resource preservation sites, including natural areas and critical species habitat sites as recommended in this plan; 6) be responsible for acquiring and developing boat and canoe/kayak access sites, where recommended; 7) be responsible for acquiring and developing off-street trail segments of the proposed trail system within WDNR project areas and other areas proposed for a State-designated trail; 8) be responsible for managing the White River State Trail; and 9) be responsible for acquiring and developing, in cooperation with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, the Ice Age Trail. A summary of the costs associated with recommendations directed to the WDNR is included in Table 5.6.

Walworth County

Much of the authority and responsibility for providing areawide resource-oriented park and open space sites and facilities in the County rests with the Walworth County Board of Supervisors. A summary of the costs associated with recommendations directed to the County under this plan is also included in Table 5.6.

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

Under the open space plan element recommendations, the County should acquire additional land to assure preserving important natural resources in the County, including acquiring additional environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and for developing recreation trails. In addition to woodlands, wetlands, and other natural resources, the land recommended to be acquired by the County includes natural areas and critical species habitat sites that provide habitat for rare plant and animal species.

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

The plan recommends the County develop about 101 miles of areawide trails within the County, including 12 miles of existing trails and 89 miles of proposed on-street and off-street trails. Walworth County should also work cooperatively with the concerned communities to develop the identified trail system, as well as identify and establish other on- and off-street linkages to the areawide recreation trails and provide proper signing and improvements such as safe drainage grates and improved railway crossings where necessary.

Local Units of Government

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

Table 5.6
Summary of Proposed Ownership of Park and Open Space Land and Estimated Acquisition and Development Costs Under the Recommended Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan

Ownership	Planned Park and Open Space Acquisition		Development Cost (\$)	Total Acquisition and Development Cost (\$)
	Area (acres)	Cost (\$)		
State of Wisconsin	7,669	41,679,000	11,104,800 ^a	52,783,800
Walworth County	1,111	8,654,000	5,034,000-5,634,000	13,688,000-14,288,000
Local Governments ^b	116 ^c	1,015,000	--	1,015,000
Nonprofit Conservation Organizations	2,086	12,508,000	--	12,508,000
Total	10,982	63,856,000	16,138,800-16,738,800	79,994,800-80,594,800

Note: Cost estimates are expressed in 2021 dollars.

^a Includes costs associated with Big Foot Beach State Park, trails within State-owned project areas and other areas proposed for a State-designated trail and the Ice Age Trail, and lake access sites.

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

^c Includes only natural area and critical species habitat sites that are recommended for local government acquisition. Additional local government park lands should be determined by local governments preparing and adopting park and open space plans.

Source: SEWRPC

In addition to maintaining and developing local park sites and facilities, local units of government should also support efforts related to preserving historic sites as identified in Chapter 3.

5.6 ACQUISITION CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

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

The associated costs for acquiring and developing County park and open space sites, as set forth in Table 5.6, are estimated at about \$14.0 million. Distributed over the 29-year plan implementation period, the annual cost would approximate \$482,000 per year. Under the assumption that the population of the County would be about 158,300 people by the year 2050, the average annual acquisition and development costs would be about \$3.64 per capita²⁷ per year. It should be noted that the costs to the County could be significantly reduced through alternative methods of acquiring land, using available State funds for acquisition and development, and through Federal funding in support of bicycle trails.

²⁷ The average annual per capita costs were estimated by dividing the estimated average annual costs by the average annual population over the 29-year plan implementation period. The average population was determined by calculating the average between the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau population of about 106,500 people and the plan design year 2050 population of about 158,300, which is 132,400 people.

At the time of the writing of this plan, additional funding through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, which was adopted in March 2021, may be evaluated to determine if it should be used for plan implementation. The Interim Final Rule published by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Federal Register/ Vol. 86, No. 93/Monday, May 17, 2021/Rules and Regulations) provides details on the allowable uses for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds that provide funding for States, counties, metropolitan cities, and smaller local governments to help relieve the economic impact of the pandemic. Based upon the Interim Final Rule, among other things, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds can be used for improving outdoor spaces, such as: investments in parks, and public plazas and other public outdoor recreation spaces in response to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments and outdoor recreation and socialization to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; or as many governments saw significantly increased use of parks during the pandemic that resulted in damage or increased maintenance needs, the Interim Final Rule recognizes that “decrease[s to] a state or local government’s ability to effectively administer services” can constitute a negative economic impact of the pandemic and would also be an eligible use of such funds.

5.7 ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR WALWORTH COUNTY

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

It is recommended that the County give top priority to acquiring land specifically for park and recreation purposes and associated open space preservation purposes. Acquiring land is particularly important given the increasing urbanization occurring within the County. As urbanization occurs, development pressures inevitably cause an increase in property values, thus making acquiring land significantly more costly. Walworth County should add to and publicize the existing County fund that was established to acquire park and open space lands at a reasonable cost before the land is developed for urban uses. It is recommended that priority for acquiring land be given first to lands needed for new County parks or for expanding existing County parks; followed by acquiring lands associated with the proposed recreation trail system; and then acquiring other environmental corridor lands.

Maintenance Impact

In addition to recommendations relating to providing new park sites and facilities, this plan anticipates the need to maintain recreational uses at existing publicly-owned recreation sites within the County. Maintenance should include, as necessary, providing, paving, and resurfacing parking lots and walkways; providing, repairing, or replacing support facilities such as park benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains; providing, repairing, or replacing restroom facilities, water supply facilities, maintenance buildings, and picnic shelters; and maintaining lawns and other landscape plantings. More importantly, maintenance activities should also include retrofitting facilities to accommodate access by people with disabilities, where necessary.

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

APPENDICES

**PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES, TOWNS,
OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION
AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN WALWORTH COUNTY: 2020**

APPENDIX A

Table A.1
Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Cities, Villages, Towns,
School Districts, or Other Public Entities in Walworth County: 2020

Number on Map A.1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
1	Allens Grove Park	06	011506	2
2	Goodland Memorial Park	05	011533	10
3	Sharon Community School	08	011533	3
4	Ray-Mar Lions Memorial Park	05	011533	4
5	Veterans Memorial Park	05	011533	1
6	Frost Park	05	011601	1
7	Baywood Heights Park	05	011601	2
8	Williams Bay Elementary School	08	011601	3
9	Prairie View Subdivision Park	05	011602	1
10	Williams Bay High School/Junior High	08	011602	24
11	Duck Pond Recreation Area	05	011610	109
12	Triangle	05	011611	3
13	Mohr Public Park	05	011614	1
14	Fontana Beach	05	011614	13
15	Fontana Marine Service	05	011614	1
16	Reid Park	05	011614	1
17	Boat Access	05	011614	1
18	Pioneer Park	05	011614	1
19	Hildebrand Conservancy/Mill House Pavilion	05	011615	15
20	Headwaters Park	05	011615	2
21	Porter Court Plaza	05	011615	1
22	Fontana School	08	011615	4
23	Big Foot Nature Study Area	05	011615	16
24	Fox Lane Conservancy	05	011615	3
25	Fox Lane Park/Badger Conservancy	05	011615	18
26	Lakeview Park	05	011615	1
27	Fontana Fen	05	011615	11
28	Heyer Park	05	011621	1
29	Walworth School	08	011621	3
30	Toynton Park	05	011621	4
31	Devils Lane Park	05	011622	4
32	Big Foot High School	08	011622	26
33	Rotary Park	05	011622	3
34	Hwy B	05	011623	31
35	Rushwood Park	04	011701	2
36	East Park	05	011706	1
37	Lakefront Park	05	011706	6
38	Edgewater Park	05	011706	2
39	Linn Road Pier	06	011709	1
40	Hillside Drive Boat Access	06	011711	1
41	Traver School	08	011715	4
42	Reek School	08	011716	4
43	Town of Linn Nature Park	06	011716	161
44	Shadow Lane Park	06	011718	1
45	Badger High School	08	011806	43
46	Lake Geneva Middle School	08	011806	16
47	Four Seasons Nature Preserve	04	011807	67
48	Public Beach/Roller Rink Park	05	011815	1
49	Public Beach	05	011815	4
50	Star Center School	08	011816	4

Table continued on next page.

Table A.1 (Continued)

Number on Map A.1	Site Name	Ownership^a	Location^b	Acreage
51	McKay Park	05	011816	14
52	Bloomfield Community Park	05	011821	3
53	Veteran's Park/Children's Park	05	011821	2
54	Genoa City Middle School	08	011825	10
55	Genoa City Veteran's Memorial Park	05	011835	11
56	Brookwood School	08	011835	3
57	Dr. Miller Park	05	011836	18
58	W. Gordon Yadon Park	04	021513	13
59	Turtle Creek Elementary School	08	021513	6
60	Delavan-Darien High School	08	021513	29
61	Phoenix School	08	021513	27
62	Spooner Nature Park	06	021517	30
63	McCarthy School Park	06	021520	2
64	Salas Park	05	021527	1
65	Bruce Park	05	021527	1
66	West Park	06	021527	23
67	Wildwood Park	05	021527	24
68	Darien Elementary School	08	021527	4
69	Town Hall Park	06	021533	1
70	Sunset Park	04	021601	26
71	Rotary Soccer Complex	04	021612	19
72	Town of Delavan Land	06	021612	135
73	Inlet Parks 1 and 2 (Keister and Hidden)	06	021615	2
74	Deckert Park	04	021617	1
75	Ray Court Park	04	021617	1
76	Latimer Park	04	021617	1
77	Gormley Triangle Park	04	021617	1
78	Wileman School	08	021617	10
79	C.C. Congdon Park	04	021617	28
80	Tower Park	04	021618	1
81	Paul Lange/Ora Rice Arboretums	04	021618	27
82	Robert H. Miller Park/Ned Hollister Conservatory	04	021618	30
83	Veteran's Memorial Park	04	021618	48
84	Horton Park	04	021618	3
85	Springs Park	04	021618	33
86	Terrace Park/Rudy Lange Sledding Hill	04	021618	9
87	Phoenix Park	04	021618	3
88	Delbrook Golf Course	04	021619	216
89	Delavan Fest Park	04	021620	4
90	Lauterbach Park	04	021620	8
91	Larson Property	04	021620	68
92	Town of Delavan Community Park	06	021622	16
93	Cummings Park	06	021628	2
94	Kirkpatrick Memorial Park	06	021632	4
95	Theater Road Athletic Field	05	021636	17
96	Lions Athletic Field/Grandview Hill	05	021636	34
97	"Babe" Mann Park	04	021706	51
98	Charlotte Peterson Park	06	021721	1
99	Korona Park	06	021722	1
100	Oak Hill Tot Lot	04	021725	1
101	Stoneridge Park	04	021725	2
102	Olive Longland Park	04	021725	1
103	Edgewood Subdivision Park	04	021726	3
104	Price-Freemont Park	04	021726	5

Table continued on next page.

Table A.1 (Continued)

Number on Map A.1	Site Name	Ownership^a	Location^b	Acreage
105	Duck Lake Nature Trail	06	021727	18
106	Town Boat Access	06	021727	1
107	Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy	05	021731	233
108	Woods School	08	021733	2
109	Westgate Tot Lot	04	021735	1
110	Water Tower Open Space	04	021735	3
111	Cobb Park	04	021735	5
112	Dunn Field	04	021736	13
113	Potawatomi Trail	04	021736	3
114	Samuel Donian Wetland Preserve	04	021736	4
115	Eastview Grade School	08	021736	3
116	Flat Iron Park	04	021736	2
117	Maple Park	04	021736	3
118	Library Park/Riviera Beach	04	021736	7
119	Denison School	08	021736	1
120	City Boat Access	04	021736	1
121	Seminary Park	04	021736	3
122	Baker Park	04	021736	1
123	Town Hall Park	06	021809	5
124	Fritz and Ann Schiller Playground	06	021810	1
125	Lyons School	08	021810	7
126	Riverview Park	06	021810	7
127	Hillmoor Heights	04	021831	13
128	Business Park	04	021831	6
129	Veterans Park	04	021831	38
130	Lake Ivanhoe Town Park	06	021834	4
131	Richmond Community Park	06	031509	6
132	Boat Access	06	031509	1
133	Town of Richmond Boat Landing at Turtle Lake	06	031511	1
134	Town of Sugar Creek Boat Launch	06	031601	1
135	T/Sugar Creek Community Beach-North Lake	06	031605	1
136	T/Sugar Creek Community Park-North Lake	06	031605	1
137	Town Land	06	031605	1
138	Town Open Space	06	031605	1
139	Boat Launch	06	031605	1
140	North Lake Subdivision Park	06	031605	1
141	Town Land	06	031605	1
142	Town Land	06	031611	1
143	Tibbets Community School	08	031612	3
144	Town Land	06	021614	1
145	Northwest Basin	04	031625	7
146	North Broad Street Park	04	031636	1
147	Tasch Park	04	031636	2
148	Temnitz Park	04	031636	3
149	Lakeland Special School	08	031636	4
150	Westside School	08	031636	5
151	Market Street Park	04	031730	2
152	Harris Park	04	031731	11
153	Elkhorn Area Middle School	08	031731	3
154	Elkhorn Area High School	08	031731	37
155	Moraine View Park/Whitewater Bark Park	04	041503	45
156	Trailhead Park	04	041503	1
157	East Gate Park	04	041503	2
158	Starin Park	04	041504	37

Table continued on next page.

Table A.1 (Continued)

Number on Map A.1	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
159	Brewery Hill Park	04	041504	3
160	Mill Race Park	04	041504	1
161	Flat Iron Park (Birge Fountain)	04	041504	1
162	Main Street Shoppes Courtyard	04	041504	1
163	Cravath Lakefront Park	04	041504	4
164	Trippe Lake Park	04	041504	24
165	Clay Street Nature Park	04	041504	1
166	Washington Elementary	08	041504	7
167	Ray Trost Nature Preserve	04	041504	2
168	Ward Park	04	041505	3
169	Lincoln Elementary School	08	041505	5
170	Whitewater Middle School	08	041505	23
171	Big Brick Park	08	041505	1
172	Turtle Mound Park	04	041506	1
173	Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve	04	041506	21
174	Whitewater High School	08	041508	60
175	Minneiska Park	04	041509	21
176	Lakeview School	08	041534	7
177	Town Park and Lake Access	06	041624	4
178	Green Lake Access	06	041626	3
179	Lauderdale Lakes Country Club	09	041636	55
180	Booth Lake Memorial Park	05	041724	14
181	Prairie View School	08	041725	10
182	Jim Brynes Memorial Park	06	041803	24
183	Potters Lake Conservancy	09	041810	27
184	Village Land	05	041816	7
185	Salvation Army Park	06	041817	63
186	Lake Bluff	05	041817	34
187	Public Boat Access	06	041818	1
188	East Troy Nature Park	06	041818	1
189	East Troy High School	08	041819	32
190	East Troy Middle School	08	041819	15
191	Rossmiller Sports Complex and Skate Park	05	041819	9
192	Mitchell Park	05	041819	15
193	Playmore Park	05	041819	4
194	East Troy Elementary School	08	041819	4
195	Chester Byrnes Elementary School	08	041819	1
196	Lynndale Playground	05	041820	1
197	Pulliam Nature Area	05	041820	12
198	West Kettle Nature Area	05	041820	9
199	East Troy Dog Park	05	041820	3
200	Village Archery Range	05	041829	24
201	East Troy Village Square	05	041829	1
202	Mill Pond Park	05	041830	30
Total: 202 Sites				2,831

^a The ownership code numbers signify the following: 04-City, 05-Village, 06-Town, 08-School District, and 09-Other Public.

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

Source: SEWRPC

Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Cities, Villages, Towns, School Districts, and Other Public Entities in Walworth County: 2020

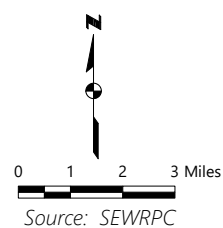
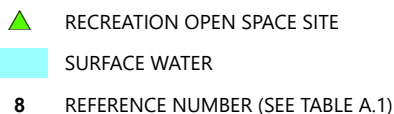


Table A.2
Private Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Sites in Walworth County: 2020

Number on Map A.2	Site Name	Ownership ^a	Location ^b	Acreage
1	Aurora University	12	011601	176
2	Wesley Woods Conference Center	10	011601	17
3	Congress Club	12	011601	1
4	Inspiration Center	10	011602	140
5	Faith Christian School	10	011602	15
6	Holiday Home Camp	10	011611	26
7	Belvadere Park	12	011611	3
8	Conference Point Camp	10	011612	24
9	Norman B. Barr Camp	10	011612	5
10	Abbey Springs Country Club	12	011613	269
11	Indian Hills	12	011614	1
12	Jerry's Marine	11	011614	1
13	Gordy's Marine	11	011614	1
14	The Abbey	11	011614	76
15	Myron Audino	12	011614	6
16	Chuck's Lakeshore Inn	12	011614	1
17	Buena Vista	12	011614	11
18	Big Foot Country Club	12	011614	200
19	Glenwood Springs	12	011614	5
20	Club Unique	12	011614	2
21	Frog Hollow Miniature Golf	11	011615	1
22	South Pines Golf Range	11	011615	29
23	Abbey Hill	12	011615	6
24	Country Club Estates Golf Course	11	011623	114
25	Ugly Horse Ranch	11	011636	40
26	Lake Geneva Youth Club	10	011701	42
27	Elgin Club	12	011704	1
28	Knollwood Park	12	011705	2
29	Oak Grove Park	12	011706	3
30	Subdivision Park	12	011706	1
31	Summerhaven Subdivision Park	12	011706	1
32	Loch Vista Club	12	011706	1
33	Oakwood Launch	12	011706	1
34	Walnut Grove Park	12	011706	4
35	Birch Grove Park	12	011706	3
36	Lake Geneva Country Club	11	011710	122
37	Emma Fleck Memorial Park	12	011711	1
38	Lake Geneva Beach	12	011711	1
39	Aspen Glo Farms	12	011712	18
40	Geneva Lake Boat Company	11	011718	5
41	Clearsky Lodge	12	011718	2
42	Lake Geneva Yacht Club	12	011718	3
43	Big Foot Archers, Inc.	10	011723	40
44	Lake Ivanhoe Property Owner's Park	12	011803	1
45	Safari Lake Geneva	11	011809	76
46	Lakewood Golf Club	12	011809	323
47	Harbor Lite	11	011813	1
48	Oakland Manor Estates	11	011813	4
49	Private Boat Launch	12	011824	1
50	Nippersink Manor Golf Course	11	011824	8 ^c
51	Recreation Camp	12	011835	75

Table continued on next page.

Table A.2 (Continued)

Number on Map A.2	Site Name	Ownership^a	Location^b	Acreage
52	Prime Park	11	011835	11
53	Krisik Park	10	011836	17
54	Anders Park	12	011836	1
55	Delavan Sportsman's Club	12	021501	40
56	Darien Sporting Goods	12	021535	39
57	First Lutheran School	10	021601	2
58	Delavan Christian Reformed Church/School	10	021617	4
59	St. Andrew's School	10	021617	3
60	Wisconsin School for the Deaf	10	021618	28
61	Our Redeemer Lutheran School	10	021618	8
62	Lake Lawn Lodge	11	021621	251
63	Delavan Assembly Grounds Park	12	021621	7
64	Subdivision Park Tot Lot	12	021621	1
65	Kelly Park	12	021621	1
66	Reed's Marina	11	021622	1
67	Sportsman's Park	11	021622	1
68	Fantasy Hills Stable	11	021624	66
69	Delavan Animal Park	11	021625	39
70	Pines Par 3	11	021626	9
71	Delmar Town Park	12	021627	4
72	Delavan Lake Yacht Club	12	021628	3
73	Delavan Lake Marina	11	021628	1
74	Viewcrest Subdivision Park	12	021631	24
75	House-in-the-Woods Camp	10	021631	21
76	Highlands Subdivision Park	12	021631	4
77	Ravenswood Subdivision Park	12	021631	2
78	Commercial Lake Access	11	021632	1
79	Commercial Lake Access	11	021632	1
80	South Shore Manor Subdivision	12	021632	1
81	Four Lakes Athletic Club	11	021707	9
82	Horse Riding Stable	11	021715	10
83	Royal Glen Woodland Park	12	021722	8
84	Hawk's View Golf Course	11	021724	307
85	First Evangelical Lutheran School	10	021725	4
86	Lake Geneva Canopy Tours	11	021726	99
87	Property Owner's Association Parklands	12	021728	9
88	Schroeder's Resort	11	021728	3
89	Geneva National Resort Golf Course	12	021729	1,545
90	Geneva Equestrian	11	021730	107
91	Mars Resort	11	021733	1
92	Sunset Hills Subdivision Park	12	021733	1
93	Lake Geneva YMCA Camp	10	021734	63
94	Covenant Harbor Bible Camp/Retreat Center	10	021735	37
95	Snake Road Adventure Center	11	021735	13
96	Lake Geneva Manor Association Park	12	021735	1
97	St. Francis School	10	021736	4
98	Marina Bay Boat Rentals	11	021736	2
99	Leatherlips Watersports	11	021736	1
100	Par T Miniature Golf	11	021736	1
101	Paradise Golf Park	11	021736	2
102	Jes DeVinnors	12	021803	5
103	Country Estates Recreation Area	10	021808	10
104	St. Joseph's School	10	021810	1
105	Mt. Zion School	10	021819	15

Table continued on next page.

Table A.2 (Continued)

Number on Map A.2	Site Name	Ownership^a	Location^b	Acreage
106	The Valley Club	12	021823	8
107	Bridlewood Equestrian Center	12	021828	34
108	Grand Geneva Spa and Resort	11	021829	1,190
109	Home Depot Park	11	021831	8
110	Hillmoor Golf Club	11	021831	116
111	Scenic Ridge Campground	11	031502	83
112	Snug Harbor Campground	11	031511	58
113	McIntyre's Resort	11	031513	3
114	Turtle Inn	11	031513	2
115	Turtle Creek Sportsman Club	12	031536	130
116	Charl-Mar Playground	12	031601	3
117	Subdivision Park	12	031601	1
118	Lake Wandewega Community Park	12	031602	11
119	Lake Wandewega Subdivision Park	12	031611	1
120	Interlaken Property Owners Assn. Park	12	031611	1
121	Interlaken Subdivision Park	12	031611	7
122	Willow Creek Resort	12	031613	77
123	Subdivision Park	12	031625	12
124	St. Patrick Parish School	10	031636	8
125	Alpine Valley Resort	11	031712	581
126	Evergreen Country Club	11	031718	193
127	Walworth County Fairgrounds	11	031731	105
128	Dawsons Creek Ranch	12	031736	37
129	Happy Hollow Girl Scout Camp	10	031807	280
130	Valley View Stables	12	031810	20
131	Deer Trail Hunting Club	10	031811	216
132	Honey Lake North Beach	12	031813	4
133	Camp Dewan	12	031815	55
134	Legacy Dressage Center	12	031826	10
135	Meadowlark Acres	11	031834	52
136	Whitewater Country Club	11	041508	79
137	Kettle Moraine Baptist Academy	10	041509	2
138	Camp Joy Baptist Camp	10	041526	45
139	JNT's Marina	11	041534	1
140	Oak Terrace Resort	11	041534	2
141	Krahn Dr. Access	12	041534	1
142	Parkside Marina	11	041535	2
143	Scattered Oaks Subdivision Beach	12	041535	1
144	Juniper Knoll Camp	10	041624	186
145	Camp Pottowattomie Hills	10	041625	111
146	Lutherdale Camp	10	041625	52
147	Cool Hill Park	12	041634	1
148	Lauderdale Marina	11	041636	2
149	Sterlingworth	11	041636	4
150	Camp Alice Chester	10	041713	345
151	Timber Lee Church Camp	10	041717	467
152	West 20	12	041718	35
153	Badger Girl Scout Camp	10	041722	77
154	Mukwonago Baptist Academy	10	041802	8
155	Loroge Equestrian Center	12	041803	20
156	Phantom Lake YMCA Camp	10	041803	14
157	Lake Beulah Country Club	11	041804	191
158	Burr Oaks-Beber Camp	10	041805	297
159	Triangle Sportsman's Club	10	041807	40

Table continued on next page.

Table A.2 (Continued)

Number on Map A.2	Site Name	Ownership^a	Location^b	Acreage
160	Society of Divine Word Seminary	10	041808	189
161	Lake Beulah Yacht Club	11	041809	5
162	Camp Edwards	10	041809	123
163	Miramar Beach	11	041811	1
164	Southeastern Rod and Gun Club	10	041813	50
165	Salvation Army Camp	10	041816	190
166	Skyknights Parachute Club	11	041816	4
167	Sorenson Equestrian Center	12	041817	56
168	Fred's Tap Boat Rental	11	041818	1
169	Good Shepherd Elementary School	10	041819	1
170	St. Peter's School	10	041819	6
171	St. Paul's Elementary School	10	041820	3
172	East Troy Trolley Museum	11	041820	1
173	Sally's Marsh Hunting Club	11	041826	220
Total: 173 Sites				10,898

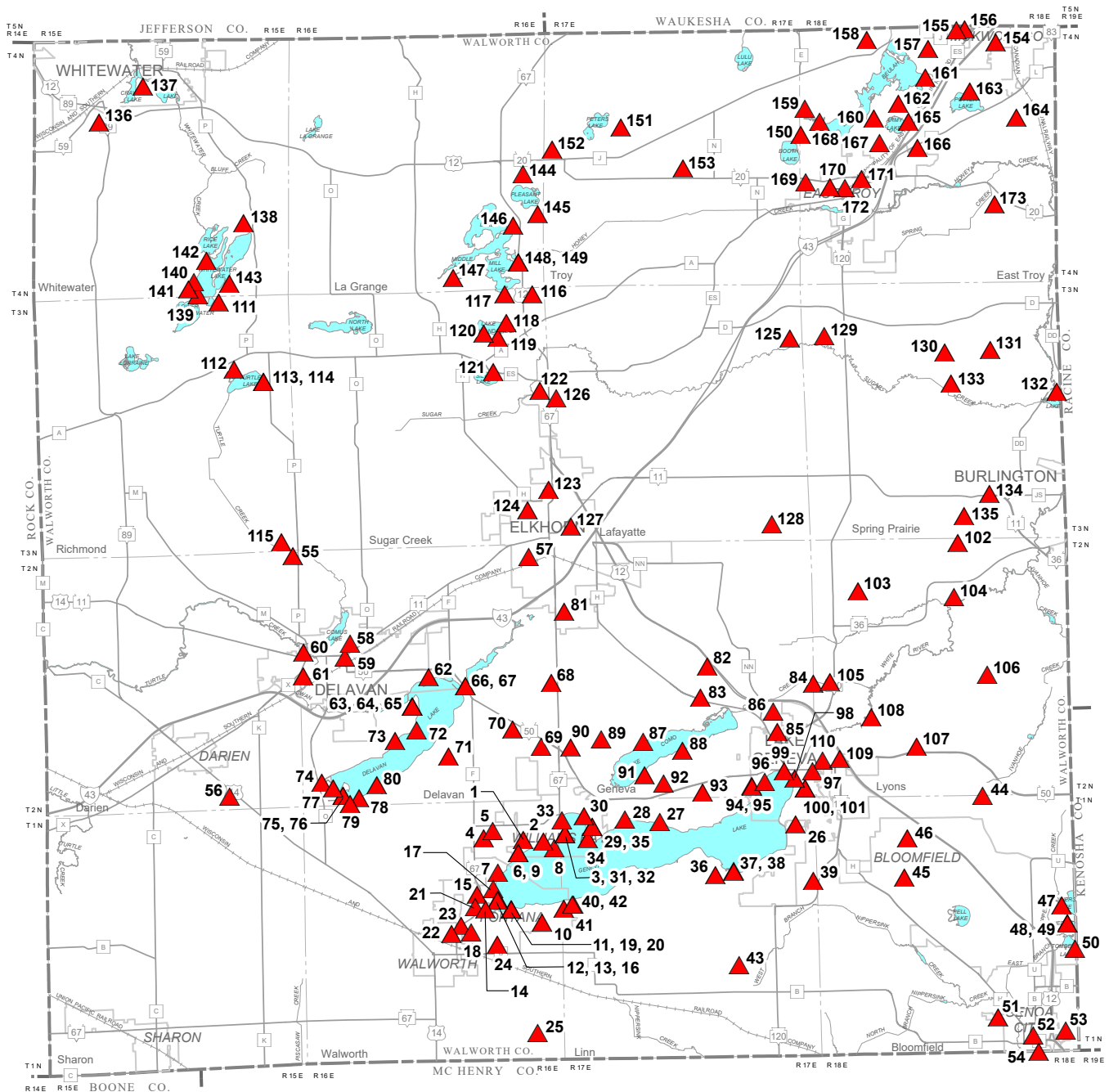
^a The ownership code numbers signify the following: 10-Organizational; 11-Commercial; 12-Private.

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

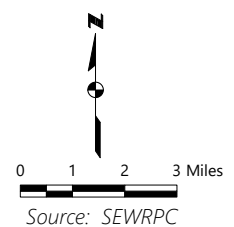
^c Walworth County portion only; total site area is 140 acres.

Source: SEWRPC

Map A.2 Private Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Sites in Walworth County: 2020



- ▲ RECREATION OPEN SPACE SITE
- SURFACE WATER
- 8** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE A.2)



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

APPENDIX B

► **Objective 1: To provide an integrated system of public general-use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas that provide residents of the County with adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation and outdoor education activities.**

- **Principle 1.1:** Good physical and mental health is an inherent right of all residents of the County. Providing public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas contributes to physical and mental health by providing opportunities to participate in a wide range of 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 provide the dual benefits of satisfying recreational demands in an appropriate setting while protecting and preserving valuable natural resource amenities. Finally, an integrated system of public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas can contribute to the orderly growth of the County by lending form and structure to urban development patterns.

A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

- **Principle 1.2:** Public general use outdoor recreation sites promote good physical and mental health both by providing opportunities to participate in such athletic recreational activities as baseball, swimming, tennis, and ice-skating—activities that help maintain physical health because of the exercise involved—as well as opportunities to participate in more leisurely activities such as walking, picnicking, or just rest and relaxation. These activities tend to reduce stress and thereby help maintain 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. This contributes to desirable and stable residential neighborhoods and therefore benefits the communities in which such facilities are provided.
- **Standard 1.1:** The public sector should provide general use outdoor recreation sites sufficient in size and number to meet the recreation demands of the resident population. These sites should be spatially distributed in a manner that provides ready access by the resident population to natural resource or man-made amenities. To achieve this standard, the public general use outdoor recreation site requirements should be met as indicated in the following tables:

Publicly Owned Park Sites					
Site Type	Size (gross acres)	Minimum per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^b	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^a	
				Urban ^c	Rural
I ^d 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, or passive-activity area ^e	10.0	10.0
II ^f 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, or passive-activity area ^e	4.0 ^g	10.0 ^g
III ^h 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, or passive- activity area ^e	2.0 ⁱ	--
IV ^j 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, or passive-activity area ^e	0.5-1.0 ^k	--

Publicly Owned School Sites ¹					
Site Type	Size (gross acres)	Minimum per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ⁿ	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^m	
				Urban ^c	Rural
I ^d Regional	250 or more	--	--	--	--
II ^f Multi-Community	100-249	--	--	--	--
III ^h Community	25-99	0.9	Playfield, baseball diamond, softball diamond, or tennis court	0.5-1.0 ^o	--
IV ^j Neighborhood	Less than 25	1.6	Playfield, playground, baseball diamond, softball diamond, basketball goal, or tennis court	0.5-1.0 ^o	--

- **Standard 1.2:** Public general use outdoor recreation sites should, as much as possible, be located within the designated primary environmental corridors of the County.

B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE

- **Principle 1.3:** Meeting the recreation demands of the County's residents cannot be accomplished solely by providing public general use outdoor recreation sites. Certain recreational activities such as hiking, biking, scenic driving, and cross country skiing are best provided through a system of trails and recreation corridors located on or adjacent to linear resource-oriented open space lands. A well-designed system of recreation following 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 also satisfy the 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 are properly considered in determining existing and future land use patterns.
- **Standard 1.3:** The public sector should provide sufficient open space lands to accommodate a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors to meet the resident demand for trail-oriented recreation activities. To fulfill this recommendation, 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 people in the County
 2. Recreation corridors should have a minimum length of 15 miles and a minimum width of 200 feet
 3. The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas
 4. Resource-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 County

► **Objective 2: To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.**

- **Principle 2.1:** Participating in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities including basketball, baseball, ice-skating, soccer, playfield and playground activities, softball, swimming, and tennis provides an individual with both the opportunity for physical exercise and an opportunity to improve their physical fitness. These activities also provide an outlet for stress and an opportunity to share recreational experiences, participate in team play, and interact with other people in the community.
- **Standard 2.1:** A sufficient number of facilities for participating in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the County. To achieve this standard, the per capita requirements and design criteria for various facilities should be met as indicated in the following table:

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirements ^a				Design Standards				Total Land Requirement (acres per facility)	Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^c
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Urban Residents	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements		
Baseball	Diamond	Public Nonpublic Total	0.09 0.01 0.10 ^s	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	2.8 acres per diamond	Parking (30 spaces per diamond) Night lighting ^t Concessions and bleachers ^t Buffer and landscape	0.28 acre per diamond -- 0.02 acre minimum 1.40 acres per diamond	4.5	2.0
Basketball	Goal	Public Nonpublic Total	0.91 0.22 1.13	Neighborhood parks	0.07 acre per goal	--	--	0.07	0.5
Ice-Skating	Rink	Public Nonpublic Total	0.15 ^u -- 0.15	Neighborhood parks	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	Neighborhood parks	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	Neighborhood parks	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 per field minimum	Buffer	0.65 acre	1.65	1.0
Softball	Diamond	Public Nonpublic Total	0.53 0.07 0.60	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	1.70 acre per diamond	Parking (20 spaces per diamond) Nighttime lighting ^t Buffer	0.18 acre per diamond -- 0.80 acre per diamond	2.68	1.0
Swimming	Pool	Public Nonpublic Total	0.015 ^v -- 0.015	Multi-community and community parks	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	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	0.15 acre per court	Parking (2.0 spaces per court) Nighttime lighting ^t Buffer	0.02 acre per court -- 0.15 acre per court	0.32	1.0

► **Objective 3: To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.**

- **Principle 3.1:** Participating in resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities including camping, golf, picnicking, downhill skiing, and swimming provides an opportunity for recreational activity in natural surroundings as well as an opportunity for physical exercise. In addition, family members can participate together in activities such as camping, picnicking, and swimming.
- **Standard 3.1:** A sufficient number of facilities for participating in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the County. To meet this standard, the per capita requirements and design criteria for various facilities should be met as follows:

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirement ^W				Design Standards						Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^X
Activity	Facility	Owner	Per Capita Requirements (facility per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements	Total Land Requirements (acres per facility)	Resource Requirements	
Camping	Campsite	Public	0.35	Regional and multi-community parks	0.33 acre per campsite	Restrooms – showers	--	1.83	Ungrazed wooded area	25.0
		Nonpublic	<u>1.47</u>			Utility hookups	--			
		Total	1.82			Natural area backup lands	1.5 acres per campsite			
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public	0.013	Regional and multi-community parks	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking, and maintenance	8.0 acres per course	185.00	Suitable topography and soils	10.0
		Nonpublic	<u>0.027</u>			Practice area	5.0 acres per course			
		Total	0.040			Woodland or water areas Buffer	35.0 acres per course 2.0 acres per course			
Picnicking	Tables	Public	6.35 ^Y	Regional, multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking	0.02 acre per table (1.5 space per table)	0.11	Topography with scenic views	10.0
		Nonpublic	<u>2.39</u>			Shelters and grills	--			
		Total	8.74			Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table			
Skiing	Developed slope (acres)	Public	0.01	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet	0.13 acre minimum	2.10	Suitable topography and soils (20 percent slope minimum)	25.0
		Nonpublic	<u>0.09</u>			Parking	0.25 acre per acre of slope			
		Total	0.10			Ski tows (and lights) Buffer and maintenance Landscape	0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.35 acre per acre of slope			
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)	Public	Major Inland Lakes	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking	0.2 acre per acre of beach	-- ^Z	Natural beach	10.0
		Nonpublic	Lake Michigan			Bathhouse-concessions	0.10 acre minimum			
		Total	6 <u>12</u> 18			Buffer areas	10 square feet per linear foot			

► **Objective 4: To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in trail-related and other extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.**

- **Principle 4.1:** Participating in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities including biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, scenic driving, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling provides opportunities for contact with natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features. In addition, these activities can increase an individual's understanding of the environment and potential pressures on the environment. Similar to intensive resource-orientated activity, family members can participate together in extensive land-based recreation activities, which serves to strengthen relationships within the family. Participating in activities like biking, hiking, and nature study provides an opportunity to educate younger members of the family in the importance of environmental issues that may become of greater concern as they approach adulthood.
- **Standard 4.1:** A sufficient number of facilities for participating in land-based outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the County. Public facilities provided for these activities should be located within the linear resource-orientated recreation corridors identified in Objective 1. The following per capita standards and design criteria should be met to achieve this standard:

Minimum Per Capita Public Facility Requirements ^a			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 Regional Park	1.21	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Nature Study	Center	One per county	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	--	Interpretive center building	--	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species
	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Regional, multi-community, and community parks	0.73	Parking 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
Scenic Driving	Route	-- ^{cc}	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	--	Route markers	--	--
Cross Country Skiing	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Regional and multi-community parks	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 5: To provide sufficient surface water access areas to allow the resident population of the County 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 5.1:** The major inland lakes and rivers of the County and Lake Michigan provide opportunities for 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 an attractive natural setting. Participating in such activities requires the general public to have access to major inland lakes and rivers and Lake Michigan.

- **Standard 5.1:** Access sites available for use by the general public on streams and major lakes (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*.
- **Standard 5.2:** Access sites with parking should be provided on major streams throughout the County. The maximum interval between access points on major canoeable streams^{dd} should be 10 miles.

► **Objective 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 biodiversity^{ee} of the County.**

- **Principle 6.1:** Ecological balance and natural beauty are primary elements to sustaining a healthy environment and maintaining the social and economic well-being of the County. Preserving 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 sustaining the ecological balance, natural beauty, and economic well-being of the County.

A. PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

- **Principle 6.2:** The primary environmental corridors are a composite of the best individual elements of the natural resource base including lakes, streams, rivers, and their associated floodplains and riparian buffers; woodlands, wetlands, plant and wildlife habitat; areas of groundwater discharge and recharge; organic soils, rugged terrain, and high relief topography; and significant geological formations and physiographic features. Protecting these elements of the natural resource base reduces flood damage, abates soil erosion, protects water supplies, cleans the air, enhances wildlife population, preserves biological diversity, and provides continued opportunities for scientific, educational, and recreational activities.
- **Standard 6.1:** All remaining nonurban lands within the designated primary environmental corridors in the County should be preserved in essentially natural open uses.

B. NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS

- **Principle 6.3:** Natural areas and critical species habitats are important in a number of ways - including economically, because they support advances in agriculture and medicine; functionally, because 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 the overall quality of life for the County's residents.
- **Standard 6.2:** The remaining natural areas and critical species habitat areas should be preserved.

C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

- **Principle 6.4:** 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 producing certain food commodities that may require nearby population concentrations for efficient distribution; provide opportunities for agricultural and agriculture-related employment; provide open spaces that give form and structure to urban development; and serve to maintain the natural beauty and unique cultural heritage of the County.
- **Standard 6.3:** Prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.
- **Standard 6.4:** Agricultural lands surrounding adjacent areas with high-value natural resource, educational, or recreational attributes should be considered for preservation to provide a buffer between such resources and urban development.

► **Objective 7: To satisfy outdoor recreation and related open space needs in an efficient and economical way.**

- **Principle 7.1:** The total resources of the County are limited and any undue investment in park and open space lands must occur at the expense of other public investment.
- **Standard 7.1:** The sum total of all expenditures required to meet park demands and open space needs should be minimized.

Footnotes

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

^b For regional and multi-community parks, which generally provide facilities for resource-orientated outdoor recreation activities for the total population of the County, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the total resident population of the County. For community and neighborhood parks, which generally provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities primarily in urban areas, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the County residing in urban areas.

^c Urban areas are defined as areas containing a closely spaced network of minor streets that 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 people. These areas are usually incorporated and served by sanitary sewerage systems. These areas have been further classified into the following categories: Mixed-Use City Center (urban land with at least 18.0 dwelling units per net residential acre), Mixed-Use Traditional Neighborhood (urban land with at least 7.0 to 17.9 dwelling units per net residential acre), Small Lot Traditional Neighborhood (urban land with at least 4.4 to 6.9 dwelling units per net residential acre), Medium Lot Neighborhood (urban land with at least 2.3 to 4.3 dwelling units per net residential acre), and Large Lot Neighborhood (urban land with at least 0.7 to 2.2 dwelling units per net residential acre).

^d Regional parks are defined as large outdoor recreation sites with a multi-county service area. Such parks rely heavily on natural resources for their recreational value and character, and provide opportunities for participating in a wide variety of resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

^e A passive activity area is defined as an area within an outdoor recreation site that provides an opportunity for such leisurely recreational activities as walking, rest and relaxation, and informal picnicking. These 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.

^f Multi-community parks are defined as intermediate size sites having a Countywide or multi-community service area. Similar to regional parks, these sites rely on natural resources for their recreational value and character. Multi-community parks, however, usually provide a smaller variety of recreational facilities and have smaller areas devoted to any given activity.

^g In general, each resident of the County should reside within 10 miles of a regional or multi-community park. It should be noted, however, that within urban areas (population of 40,000 or greater) each urban resident should reside within four miles of a regional or multi-community park.

^h Community parks are defined as intermediate size parks having a multi-neighborhood service area. These parks rely more on the development characteristics of the service area than on natural resource amenities for location.

ⁱ The need for a community park in urban areas can be met by the presence of a regional or multi-community park. Each resident of an urban area with a population of 7,500 or greater should be within two miles of a community, multi-community, or regional park.

^j Neighborhood parks are defined as small sites that have a neighborhood as the service area. These sites usually provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities and are generally located in urban areas. Recreation lands at the neighborhood level should ideally 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 populations. Using the neighborhood park standard of 1.7 acres per 1,000 residents and the school standard of 1.6 acres per 1,000 residents, a total of 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents or approximately 21 acres of recreation lands in a typical small lot traditional or medium lot (medium-density) neighborhood would be provided. These acreage standards relate to lands required to provide recreation facilities typically located in a neighborhood and are exclusive of the school building site and associated parking area and any additional natural resource areas that may be incorporated into the design of the park site such as drainageways and associated stormwater retention basins, areas of poor soils, and floodplains.

^k The maximum service radius of neighborhood parks is governed primarily by the population density in the vicinity of the park. In Mixed-use City Center and Mixed-Use Traditional Neighborhood (high-density) urban areas, each resident should reside

within 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park; in Small Lot Traditional Neighborhood and Medium Lot Neighborhood (medium density) urban areas, each resident should reside within 0.75 mile of a neighborhood park; and in Large Lot Neighborhood (low-density) urban areas, each resident should reside within 1.0 mile of a neighborhood park. It should be noted that the need for a neighborhood park can also be met by a regional, multi-community, or community park within the 0.5, 0.75, or 1.0 mile service radii in these areas. Further, it should be noted that in applying the service radius criterion for neighborhood parks, only multi-use parks five acres or greater in area should be considered as satisfying the maximum service radius standard. Such park sites generally provide areas that offer space for passive recreational uses, as well as facilities that provide opportunities for active recreational uses.

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

^m Identifying a maximum service radius for each school site is intended to assist in determining 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.

ⁿ For 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 County residing in urban areas.

^o The service radius of school outdoor recreation sites, for park and open space planning purposes, is governed primarily by individual outdoor recreation facilities within the school site. For example, school outdoor recreation sites that provide facilities such as playfields, playgrounds, and basketball goals typically have a service radius of 0.5 mile, which is the maximum service radius assigned to such facilities (see Standard 2 presented under Objective 2). As another example, school outdoor recreation sites that 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 Standard 2 presented under Objective 2). It is important to note that areas that offer space for passive recreational use are generally not provided at school outdoor recreation sites and therefore community and neighborhood school sites generally are not used when applying community and neighborhood park accessibility standards.

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

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

^r For each facility offering an intensive nonresource-oriented activity, the service radius indicates the maximum distance a participant should have to travel from their home to participate in the corresponding activity.

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

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

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

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

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

^x Participants in intensive resource-oriented recreational activities travel relatively long distances from their homes. The approximate service radius indicates the normal maximum distance a participant in the respective resource-oriented activity should have to travel from their home to participate in the corresponding activity.

^y The allocation of the 6.35 picnic tables per 1,000 residents to publicly owned parks is as follows: 3.80 tables per 1,000 residents of the County to be located in regional and multi-community parks to meet the resource-oriented picnicking standard for the County and 2.55 tables per 1,000 residents of urban areas in the County to be located in community and neighborhood parks to meet local picnicking standard for urban areas of the County.

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

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

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

^{cc} *Scenic 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 that 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

**OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS AFFECTING OR INFLUENCING
THIS PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN AND DOCUMENTATION OF PUBLIC
COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR THIS PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

APPENDIX C

REGIONAL PLANS

SEWRPC Planning Report No. 55, VISION 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2050. July 2017, and 2nd Edition, VISION 2050 Volume III: Recommended Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, June 2020.

SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000, November 1977.

SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997, and SEWRPC Planning Report, Amendment to the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.

SEWRPC Technical Record, Vol. 4, No. 2, Pages 1 through 21, Refining the Delineation of Environmental Corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin, March 1981.

SEWRPC Memorandum Report No. 93: Parts 1, 2, and 3, A Regional Water Quality Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, March 1995.

SEWRPC Planning Report No. 52: Volumes 1 and 2, A Regional Water Supply Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.

COUNTY PLANS

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 288, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Walworth County: 2035, November 2009, and 2nd Edition, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Walworth County: 2035, November 2019.

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135, 3rd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County, March 2014, and SEWRPC Report, Amendment to the Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County, White River County Park Master Plan, June 2015.

Walworth County Farmland Preservation Plan, July 2012.

Walworth County Park System Plan, 2021.

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 60, A Lake Management Plan for Geneva Lake, Walworth County, Wisconsin, 2nd Edition, May 2008.

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 253, A Lake Management Plan for Delavan Lake, Walworth County, Wisconsin, May 2002.

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 224, A Lake Management Plan for Whitewater and Rice Lakes, February 1997.

SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 327, A Lake Protection and Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Pleasant Lake, Walworth County, Wisconsin, March 2016.

SEWRPC Memorandum Report No. 191, Lake Protection Plan for Cravath and Trippe Lakes, Walworth County, Wisconsin, April 2011.

SEWRPC Memorandum Report No. 158, A Lake Protection and Recreational Use Plan for Pell Lake, Walworth County, Wisconsin, May 2006.

SEWRPC Memorandum Report No. 193, A Lake Protection Plan for Powers Lake, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, Wisconsin, November 2011.

STATE PLANS

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: 2019-2023.

WDNR, Big Foot Beach State Park Master Plan, *December 1996*.

WDNR, Southern Region Planning Group - Master Plan and Environmental Analysis, *August 2018*.

WDNR, Kettle Moraine Waters - Master Plan and Environmental Analysis: Kettle Moraine State Forest-Mukwonago River Unit and Lulu Lake State Natural Area, *August 2018*.



Comment Form



Public Review Draft Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan: 2050

March 3, 2022

Thank you for attending the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan open house. The County is interested in your comments about the plan and its recommendations. Please write any additional comments on the back of this sheet.

Which County/State park(s) do you visit most often?

VISIT ALL - WHITE RIVER MOST (HIKE/KAYAK)

When visiting County/State parks, which recreational facilities or activities do you use most often?

HIKING/BIKE TRAILS
KAYAK/WATER CORRIDORS

What are your top three priorities for developing/improving the County park system? Suggestions could include specific resource-oriented outdoor recreation facilities (picnicking/picnic shelters, beach swimming, fishing/fishing piers, canoe access, trails, campsites, skiing, etc.), natural resource protection (in general or specific resources), increased maintenance (in general or at specific parks or recreational facilities) or developing a new park or additional parks, etc. Please share your ideas!

1. LINKING & CONNECTING ALL GREENWAY CORRIDORS
2. OPERATE W/ STRONG STEWARDSHIP PHILOSOPHY BEFORE GROWTH
3. LIMIT MULTIPLE TRAIL CONFLICTS (HIKING, HORSE, SNOWMOBILING)

Are there any outdoor recreational facilities, not included in the plan, that you would like County officials to consider providing?

Name:

KEATY CLARK

Address:

452 Hill Crest Drive - FONTANA 53125

Email or Phone (optional):

THESEARCH@GMAIL.COM

Comments may be submitted to staff at the open house or submitted via e-mail or mailed no later than March 14, 2022 to:

Robbie Robinson
P.O. Box 1607
Waukesha, WI 53187-1607
rrobinson@sewpc.org

Thank you for your interest and input!

Walworth Co. POOSP Comment Form (20200416) DOC

GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY

Comments on the First Draft of the Walworth County Parks and Open Space Plan 2021

March 8, 2022

We applaud and appreciate the Walworth County Board and Staff and the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission for the completion of this well researched and comprehensive plan.

We particularly appreciate the work that was involved to research and catalogue the existing parks and protected open lands in the County. We have some minor corrections to the existing data that are submitted at the end of these comments.

Walworth County is one of the most scenic counties in Wisconsin and should protect its natural beauty and resources. As we reviewed this plan that supports SEWRPC's VISION 2050 we could not help thinking of the parks and lakes that many of our board and staff frequent on weekends, knowing that the majority of car license plates in the parking lots show that they are not County residents but visitors to the County.

Therefore, as the plan notes "recognizing that the existing and future demands on park sites and facilities in Walworth County are attributable in part to non-resident users, the use of the high growth forecast of 158,000 residents by 2050 should be sufficient in meeting these demands."

The Conservancy would like to suggest that with the increased growth predicted for major metropolitan areas within two hours of Walworth County, including Milwaukee, Janesville, Madison and Chicago, the number of park and open space users will be impacted more by the increase of visitors to Walworth County than by growth within the county. These visitor statistics should be incorporated and considered in the Walworth County Parks and Open Space Plan. Many of these statistics are available from local tourism and visitor centers, such as VISIT LAKE GENEVA. In addition, the development of drone technology now allows for visitor counts to be more easily obtained at County parks and open space areas.

Unless these non-residents use of Walworth County's parks and open spaces are incorporated in the plan, the parks and open spaces that are meant to provide County residents with a variety of recreational activities may be overrun with visitors from outside the County in the years ahead.

Second, the plan must incorporate the probable impacts of climate change by 2050 on Walworth County, which will impact parks, lakes, wildlife habitats, floodplains, wetlands and open areas in the County. The Nelson Institutes' Center for Climate Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison predicts the annual average temperature in Walworth County to increase from 2 to 5 degrees over the next three decades.

SEWRPC and the County need to address the effect of our warming climate on natural resources, particularly our lakes, rivers and streams. We already are witnessing how warming temperatures, extreme storms and changing weather patterns are contributing to increased phosphorus levels in many Walworth County lakes making them more vulnerable to blue-green and red algae blooms that make the lakes unsafe for recreational uses. As the climate warms, the impact of climate change on our endangered wildlife, particularly declining bird populations, also needs to be considered, which involves focusing more on protecting landscape scale areas of 500-1000 acres than isolated small parcels. And for the WDNR, the County and private conservation organizations, protecting the remaining open lands in the County with high conservation value is not enough – they also must be stewarded and managed for climate resiliency. We recommend that an additional chapter in this plan be added to address the impact of climate change on our natural resources.

Finally, we believe that the County's oak forests, woodlands and savannas need special attention in this plan. Oak savannas have become one of the rarest landscapes on earth according to scientists. Walworth County still has an abundance of these oak savannas but they are suffering from invasive species in their understory and nearby development. In addition, a recent study by the Morton Arboretum showed that only 17 percent of the oaks that were here prior to European settlement remain. Each oak tree is habitat for more than 500 species and sequesters more carbon than any other tree in North America.

The plan should advocate for the development of a special program to protect oak savannas, forests and woodlands and pay landowners to restore and management them. A consideration of a tree ordinance, similar to that used by the City of Janesville, should be passed by the County board.

We are in full support of the plan's recommendations to protect an additional 10,982 acres of open land, critical habitat areas and natural areas in Walworth County over the next three decades. This will help slow climate change, protect wildlife populations and improve the ecological health of the entire County. While the plan provides a list of individual parcels in need of protection, we will focus on those that provide connectivity and expansion of existing landscape scale projects and environmental corridors.

We fully support the acquisition of additional land for DNR natural areas. We also are committed to the goal for private organizations like the Conservancy to protect 2,219 acres at a cost of \$12.5 million over the next three decades – in fact our board and staff hopes to protect more than this stated goal. In the last five years, we have protected almost 1,000 acres of land and our strategic plan calls for us to continue land protection projects at this pace.

We also will continue to support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in its protection and expansion of the Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge's Wisconsin boundaries and protected lands. We also commit to work with the Walworth County Public Works Department on the possible donation of more than 300 acres of land in western Walworth County to develop a fourth County park as the plan outlines.

We are very grateful to the County and SEWRPC for this thoughtful plan and we look forward to working with you to implement many of the recommendations in the years ahead.

Karen Yancey
Executive Director
Geneva Lake Conservancy

3/8/2022

MINOR CORRECTIONS

p. 77 – Bromley Woods is 60 acres with plans to purchase an additional 23 acres by year end 2022 using Knowles Nelson funds.

A donation of 12.5 acres of woodland in Geneva Township was received by the Conservancy in December, 2021.

p. 78 -The Conservancy has conservation easements on 5 separate organic farms owned by the Yggdrasil Land Foundation totaling approximately 900 acres that were not included in the plan. Yggdrasil Land Foundation is not a conservation organization, it is an agricultural producer that leases its land to area farmers.

In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is not a major partner in the Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge. The partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service and more than 15 land trusts, Ducks Unlimited, watershed groups and other private conservation organizations in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Dear SEWRPC staff:

I am a citizen member of the Walworth County Park Committee, which recently worked with your staff to update the Park and Open Space Plan for our county. I'm greatly concerned about climate change, the most critical issue facing the world, and did not see this addressed in the plan. I urge SEWRPC to consider climate change in all its planning, objectives, and reports.

There are several recent documents and initiatives that emphasize the importance of addressing climate change through land conservation:

1. On Jan. 27, 2021, the President of the United States signed an Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, Sec. 216 which states the goal of conserving at least 30% of US lands and waters by 2030 (also known as 30 x30).

2. The recent IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, 2.28.22 presented dire warnings about climate change:

"The scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet. Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future," said Hans-Otto Pörtner.

"Safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems is fundamental to climate resilient development, in light of the threats climate change poses to them and their roles in adaptation and mitigation (very high confidence). Recent analyses, drawing on a range of lines of evidence, suggest that maintaining the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services at a global scale **depends on effective and equitable conservation of approximately 30% to 50%** of Earth's land, freshwater and ocean areas, including currently near-natural ecosystems (high confidence)."

[Note: My emphasis in bold above.]

3. Many environmental organizations also support the urgent need to reach the 30 X 30 goal, including The Nature Conservancy, the Wilderness Society, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.
4. Paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America:

Natural climate solutions Bronson W. Griscom Justin Adams, Peter W. Ellis, +28. October 16, 2017 doi. org/10.1073/pnas.1710465114

The paper states:

"Natural climate solutions can provide 37% of cost-effective CO2 mitigation needed through 2030."

"To address this, we identify and quantify "natural climate solutions" (NCS): 20 conservation, restoration, and improved land management actions that increase carbon storage and/or avoid greenhouse gas emissions across global forests, wetlands, grasslands, and agricultural lands."

The conclusion of all these experts: It's urgent to conserve 30% of land by 2030 in order to achieve 1/3 (up to 37%) of the needed carbon sequestration through natural solutions.

Yet, despite the President's Executive Order, the IPCC's warnings and the research emphasizing the urgent need to reach the 30X30 goal, SEWRPC'S current objectives do not reflect this.

For example, your Objective 6 states:

To preserve sufficient high-quality open space lands for the protection of the underlying and sustaining of the natural resource base and enhancement of the social economic well-being, environmental quality and biodiversity of the County.

But no where is there any reference to the urgent need to address climate change nor is there a recommendation to try to achieve the 30 X 30 goal.

Furthermore, in the recent draft of *A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County*, January 2022, there is no reference to the climate change and only 21% (not 30%) of open space is the recommended for protection.

I realize the goal of conserving 30% of land will be difficult to achieve in the most populous part of Wisconsin. But none-the-less the goal should be addressed in all your planning materials if we are to achieve a livable future.

I urge SEWRPC give this subject serious and thorough consideration and update its recommendations in line with the latest science.

Sincerely,

Mariette Nowak
Citizen Member, Walworth County Park Committee
Retired Director of Wehr Nature Center, Milwaukee Parks
Author: Birdscaping in the Midwest (UW Press, 2012)

N9053 Swift Lake Dr.
East Troy, WI.
262-642-2352

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

APPENDIX D

Adopting the Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County 2050

Moved/Sponsored by: Parks Committee

WHEREAS, Walworth County requested that Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) assist the County in the preparation of a new park and open space plan for the year 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the Walworth County Park Committee has prepared, with the assistance of SEWRPC, a park and open space plan for Walworth County for the year 2050, the plan being embodied in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135 (4th Edition); A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County; and,

WHEREAS, SEWRPC conducted public information meetings on March 3, 2022, in the City of Lake Geneva and on March 8, 2022, in the City of Elkhorn to present the Plan and receive public comment and input concerning the Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Walworth County Parks Committee at its meeting on June 20, 2022, acted to recommend the Walworth County Board of Supervisors adoption of the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan as outlined in the aforementioned SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135 (4th Edition).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135 (4th Edition), A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County.


Rick Stacey
County Board Chair

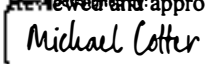

Susi Pike
County Clerk

County Board Meeting Date: July 12, 2022


Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote Other

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.

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


Michael P. Cotter
Corporation Counsel

6/21/2022
Date


Jessica Conley
Finance Director

6/21/2022
Date

DocuSigned by:


Mark W. Lubarda
County Administrator

6/23/2022
Date

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

This Resolution/Ordinance was:
Adopted Roll Call/U.C. Unanimous
Rejected/Referred/Laid Over

Ayes: Noes: Absent:

Date July 12, 2022
NO VOTE: Laufenberg

Policy and Fiscal Note
Resolution No. 39-07/22

- I. Title:** Adopting the Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County 2050
- II. Purpose and Policy Impact Statement:** The purpose of this resolution is to adopt the Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County 2050.
- III. Budget and Fiscal Impact:** Passage of this resolution will have no immediate fiscal impact on the County budget. Adoption of the Plan, however, will allow the County to apply for future federal and state grants that may become available for park and open space acquisition and development.
- IV. Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:**

Committee: Park Committee

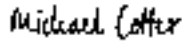
Meeting Date: June 20, 2022

Vote: 4 – 1

County Board Meeting Date: July 12, 2022

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

DocuSigned by:



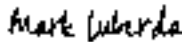
6/21/2022

Michael P. Colter

Date

Corporation Counsel

DocuSigned by:



6/23/2022

Mark W. Lubarda

Date

County Administrator

DocuSigned by:



6/21/2022

Jessica Conley

Date

Finance Director