

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE  
PLANNING REPORT NO. 179  
3RD EDITION

# A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA: 2035

## RACINE COUNTY, WISCONSIN



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RACINE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

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<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 PLANNING FRAMEWORK.....	2
Regional and County Park and Open Space Planning.....	2
Village Plans.....	2
1.3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	2
1.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PLAN ADOPTION.....	2
1.5 PLANNING AREA.....	3
1.6 REPORT FORMAT.....	3
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	
<b>EXISTING CONDITIONS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 INTRODUCTION.....	5
2.2 RESIDENT POPULATION.....	5
2.3 LAND USE BASE.....	5
2.4 PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES.....	7
Existing Park and Open Space Sites.....	7
Conservation Easements.....	9
Village of Caledonia Park System.....	17
Racine County Parks.....	21
Trail Facilities.....	22
2.5 NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES.....	24
Surface Water Resources.....	24
Wetlands.....	26
Woodlands.....	26
Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas.....	27
Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites.....	28
2.6 SUMMARY.....	30
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	
<b>FRAMEWORK FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT.....</b>	<b>37</b>
3.1 VILLAGE PLANS AFFECTING THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN.....	37
Park and Open Space Plans and Related Plans.....	37
Village of Caledonia Land Use Plan and Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County.....	37
Root River Watershed Restoration Plan.....	41
3.2 COUNTY AND REGIONAL PLANS AFFECTING THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN.....	42
Regional and County Park and Open Space Plans.....	42
Regional Natural Areas Plan.....	49
3.3 REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS.....	49
3.4 PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS.....	50
Needs Analysis.....	50
Community and Neighborhood Parks.....	50
Site Needs Based on Per Capita Standards.....	51
Site Needs Based on Service Area Standards.....	51
Facility Needs Based on Per Capita Standards.....	53
Facility Needs Based on Service Area Standards.....	53
3.5 SUMMARY.....	61
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	
<b>PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN.....</b>	<b>67</b>
4.1 INTRODUCTION.....	67
4.2 AREAWIDE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS.....	68
Racine County Park and Open Space Plan Recommendations.....	68
4.3 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION.....	70
Open Space Preservation Recommendations.....	72

4.4	VILLAGE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS.....	74
	Parks and Related Recreational Facilities .....	78
	Open Space Preservation .....	87
	Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities.....	87
	Potential Water Trails .....	89
	Village Impact Fees.....	90
4.5	PLAN IMPLEMENTATION .....	92
	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources .....	92
	Wisconsin Department of Transportation.....	93
	Racine County.....	93
	Plan Costs.....	94
4.6	SUMMARY .....	94

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **SUMMARY..... 97**

5.1	EXISTING CONDITIONS .....	98
5.2	LOCAL PLANS .....	99
5.3	PARK AND OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS AND NEEDS ANALYSIS .....	99
5.4	PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN .....	100

## **APPENDIX A**

### **REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS ..... 105**

## **APPENDIX B**

### **VILLAGE BOARD ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2035 ..... 117**

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

### **Chapter 2**

Figure 2.1	Historical and Projected Population Levels in the Village of Caledonia: 1950-2035 .....	7
------------	---	---

## **LIST OF MAPS**

### **Chapter 1**

Map 1.1	Location of the Village of Caledonia Planning Area in Southeastern Wisconsin .....	4
---------	--	---

### **Chapter 2**

Map 2.1	Generalized Historical Urban Growth in the Village of Caledonia: 1900-2010 .....	8
Map 2.2	Existing Land Uses in the Village of Caledonia: 2010.....	10
Map 2.3	Park and Open Space Sites in the Village of Caledonia Planning Area: 2016 .....	13
Map 2.4	Conservation Easements in the Village of Caledonia: 2016.....	18
Map 2.5	Village of Caledonia Park System.....	20
Map 2.6	Existing Public Trails and Bikeways in The Village of Caledonia and Environs: 2016...23	
Map 2.7	Surface Water Resources in the Village of Caledonia: 2012 .....	25
Map 2.8	Environmental Corridors in the Village of Caledonia: 2010.....	29
Map 2.9	Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites in the Village of Caledonia: 2010.....	31

### **Chapter 3**

Map 3.1	Adopted Land Use Plan Map for the Village of Caledonia: 2035.....	39
Map 3.2	Potential Wetland and Prairie Restoration Areas in the Root River Watershed Within the Village of Caledonia.....	46
Map 3.3	Outdoor Recreation Element of the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan: 2035.....	48

Map 3.4	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Community Park.....	52
Map 3.5	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Neighborhood Park.....	54
Map 3.6	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Baseball Diamond.....	56
Map 3.7	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Basketball Goal.....	57
Map 3.8	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Playfield.....	58
Map 3.9	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Playground.....	59
Map 3.10	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Soccer Field.....	60
Map 3.11	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Sandlot Softball Diamond.....	62
Map 3.12	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a League Softball Diamond.....	63
Map 3.13	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Tennis Court.....	64
<b>Chapter 4</b>		
Map 4.1	Open Space Preservation Element for the Village of Caledonia: 2035.....	71
Map 4.2	Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Caledonia: 2035.....	77
Map 4.3	Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities for the Village of Caledonia and Environs: 2035.....	88

## LIST OF TABLES

### Chapter 2

Table 2.1	Resident Population of the Village of Caledonia: 1900-2017.....	6
Table 2.2	Existing Land Uses in the Village of Caledonia: 2010.....	9
Table 2.3	Park and Open Space Sites in the Village of Caledonia Planning Area: 2016.....	11
Table 2.4	Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities for General Use in the Village of Caledonia Planning Area: 2016.....	14
Table 2.5	Conservation Easements in the Village of Caledonia: 2016.....	19
Table 2.6	Village of Caledonia Park System: 2016.....	21
Table 2.7	Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas in The Village of Caledonia: 2010.....	30
Table 2.8	Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites in the Village of Caledonia: 2010.....	32

### Chapter 3

Table 3.1	Site-Specific Management Measures for the Root River Watershed in the Village of Caledonia: 2014.....	43
Table 3.2	Per Capita Acreage Needs Analysis for Community and Neighborhood Parks in the Village of Caledonia.....	51
Table 3.3	Per Capita Needs Analysis for Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities in the Village of Caledonia.....	55

### Chapter 4

Table 4.1	Existing and Proposed Ownership of Open Space Land in the Village of Caledonia: 2035.....	72
Table 4.2	Recommended Protection of Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat, and Geological Sites in the Village of Caledonia.....	75
Table 4.3	Recommended Acquisition and Development at Existing and Proposed Park Sites in the Village of Caledonia: 2023-2035.....	79
Table 4.4	Proposed Acquisition, Development, and Improvements at Existing Parks in the Village of Caledonia: 2018-2022.....	82





*Credit: SEWRPC Staff*

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This park and open space plan for the Village of Caledonia is intended to assist in promoting environmental stewardship and to assess current and future park, recreation, and open space needs within the Village. The plan is further intended to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land for park, outdoor recreation, and open space purposes through the implementation over time of the recommendations set forth in Chapter 4. The plan seeks to provide a variety of recreational sites and facilities that will offer opportunities for Village residents to participate in an appropriate range of active and passive recreational pursuits and to protect and enhance natural resources within the Village.

This plan is an update of a park and open space plan prepared and adopted by the Village in 2009. This updated plan was approved by the Village of Caledonia Parks and Recreation Commission on July 10, 2018. The Village Planning Commission approved the plan on September 24, 2018. This plan was adopted by the Village Board as an amendment to and component of the Village's comprehensive plan on October 1, 2018.

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

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

## 1.2 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

### Regional and County Park and Open Space Planning

Park and open space planning has long been an issue of concern to public officials and citizen leaders. On December 1, 1977, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, which identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommends a system of large resource-oriented parks, recreational corridors, a regional trail system, smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, and attendant recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan was refined and detailed within Racine County through preparation of a park and open space plan for the County in 1988. The Racine County Park and Open Space Plan was subsequently updated in 2001 with a design year of 2020, and most recently in 2012 with a design year of 2035.<sup>1</sup> In March 2013, the County plan was adopted as an amendment to the regional park plan by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Recommendations from the County plan are summarized in Chapter 3.

### Village Plans

#### Village Comprehensive Plan

The then-Town of Caledonia prepared and adopted a land use plan in 1999 and neighborhood plans that refined and detailed the land use plan in 2006. In 2009, the Village adopted the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan<sup>2</sup> as the Village's comprehensive plan. The former Village land use plan was incorporated into the comprehensive plan. Additional information regarding plans that provided a framework for the update of this park and open space plan is provided in Chapter 3.

#### Village Park and Open Space Plans

The first edition of this park and open space plan for the Town of Caledonia, which was designed for the year 2010, was adopted in 1989. An update to the plan,<sup>3</sup> with a design year of 2020, was adopted by the Town Board in April 2000. In November 2005, the Town of Caledonia incorporated as a village. In 2006, Village of Caledonia staff prepared an update to the Village park plan and was subsequently adopted by the Village Board in 2009. In April 2016, the Village of Caledonia requested that SEWRPC assist the Village in updating the park plan, which is documented in this report.

This updated plan reflects recent park and open space acquisition and development activities within the Village and takes into account the recommendations of the Village Comprehensive Plan and other relevant plans. In addition to updating the recommended park and open space plan for the Village, this plan is intended to maintain Village eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids in support of the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities.

## 1.3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The planning process was conducted under the guidance of the Village of Caledonia Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission consists of Village officials and residents. Staff support was provided by the Village Parks Department. A list of Parks and Recreation Commission members and Village support staff is provided on the inside front cover of this report.

## 1.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PLAN ADOPTION

This park and open space plan was adopted as a component of the Village's comprehensive plan. Section 66.1001(4) of the *Wisconsin Statutes* sets forth the required procedure for the adoption or amendment of a comprehensive plan, which includes the adoption of written procedures designed to foster public

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<sup>1</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 3rd Edition, A Park and Open Place Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, February 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, November 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 199, 2nd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for the Town of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, April 2000.



participation in the development of a comprehensive plan or a plan amendment. The procedures must describe the methods the Village will use to distribute proposed, alternative, or amended elements of a comprehensive plan or plan amendment, and provide an opportunity for written comments on the plan or amendment to be submitted by members of the public to the Village and for the Village to respond to such comments.

The park and open space plan was reviewed and discussed at meetings of the Village Parks and Recreation Commission from the summer 2017 to the spring 2018. All meetings were open to the public, and meeting agendas were posted on the Village website in advance of the meetings. Upon completion of a draft plan report, the Parks and Recreation Commission sponsored a public open house on June 4, 2018, to provide an opportunity for the public to review the plan and provide comments. The draft plan, a plan summary, and a comment form were available at the open house and at the Village Hall prior to the public hearing on the plan. Written comments on the draft plan were accepted through June 18, 2018. The comments and responses are summarized in Chapter 4. A public hearing on the plan was held by the Village Planning Commission on September 24, 2018, which provided an additional opportunity for public comment.

In addition to the public participation procedures described above, the Village followed the other procedural steps required by the *Statutes* for adoption of this plan as an amendment to the Village comprehensive plan, which included:

- Holding a public hearing regarding the proposed plan
- Publishing a Class 1 public notice at least 30 days in advance of the hearing
- Distributing the public notice to nonmetallic mining interests and to persons who have submitted a written request for notification to the Village Clerk under Section 66.1001(4)(f) of the *Statutes*
- A plan commission recommendation regarding adoption of the plan in the form of a resolution
- Village Board adoption of the plan by ordinance
- Distribution of the plan to the local library, Racine County, SEWRPC, the Wisconsin Department of Administration, adjacent local governments, and special-purpose units of government such as school districts.

## **1.5 PLANNING AREA**

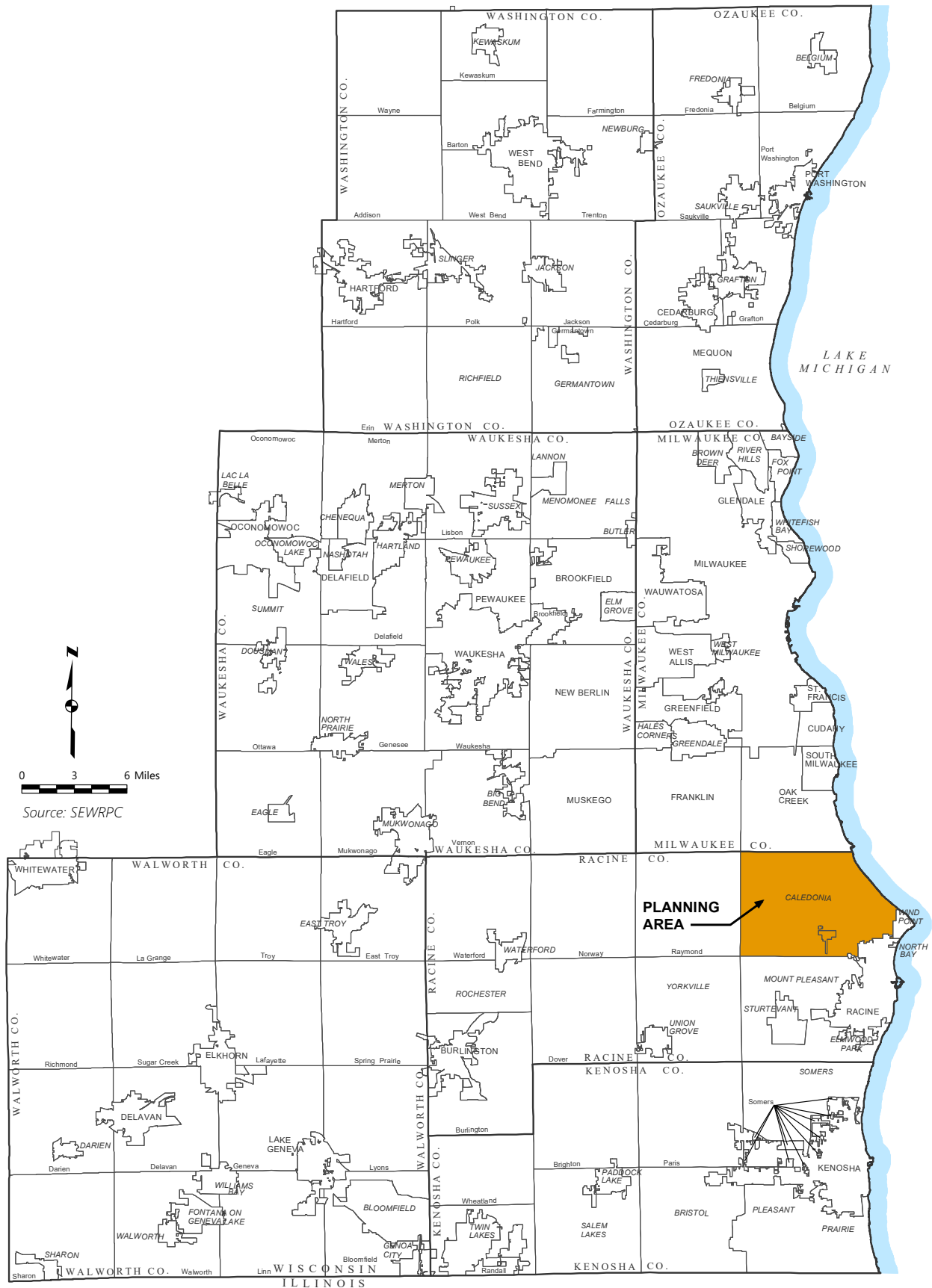
The planning area, shown on Map 1.1, consists of the entire Village of Caledonia, which is located in U.S. Public Land Survey Township 4 North and Ranges 22 and 23 East in the northeastern portion of Racine County along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Village encompasses 29,184 acres, or about 46 square miles. The Village is bounded on the south by the City of Racine and the Village of Mount Pleasant; on the east by the Village of Wind Point and Lake Michigan; on the west by the Town of Raymond and IH 94/IH 41; and on the north by the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. The planning area also includes Johnson Park and Golf Course and Johnson Park Dog Run, both of which are part of the City of Racine, but are completely surrounded by the Village of Caledonia.

## **1.6 REPORT FORMAT**

The findings and recommendations of the Village park and open space plan update are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter 2 presents information about the Village pertinent to park and open space planning, including information on the resident population, the land use pattern, existing park and open space sites and facilities, and important natural resource areas and features within the Village. Chapter 3 summarizes other planning programs affecting this park and open space plan, including the Village's comprehensive plan; describes the park and open space objectives, principles, and standards used to prepare this plan; and the results of applying those standards to the existing park system. Updated park and open space recommendations are presented in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 presents a summary of the plan.

## Map 1.1

### Location of the Village of Caledonia Planning Area in Southeastern Wisconsin







*Credit: SEWRPC Staff*

## 2.1 INTRODUCTION

An inventory of existing resources and other factors that affect development of a system of parks and open space within the Village was conducted to assist in the development of plan recommendations. Information about population and population distribution, the pattern of land use development, existing park and open space sites and facilities, and natural resources within the Village of Caledonia was collected and is presented in this chapter.

## 2.2 RESIDENT POPULATION

Existing and projected<sup>4</sup> resident population levels are an important consideration in any park and open space planning effort. Data on the historical, existing, and anticipated resident population for Caledonia are presented in Table 2.1, and shown in Figure 2.1. It should be noted that the Town of Caledonia incorporated as a village in November 2005, thus all population data prior to 2005 refer to the Town of Caledonia. As indicated in Table 2.1, the resident population for Caledonia increased between 1900 and 1920 from 2,805 persons to 3,479 persons. Between 1920 and 1930, Caledonia experienced a 13 percent decrease in population, from 3,479 persons to 3,031 persons. From 1930 to 2010, the population increased steadily, with population increases of about 70 percent between 1950 and 1960 and again between 1960 and 1970. The Village population level for 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was 24,705 persons, an increase of 1,091 persons, or about 5 percent, from 2000. The Wisconsin Department of Administration estimated a Village population of 24,820 residents in 2017. The Village comprehensive plan projects a resident population of 30,342 Village residents in the year 2035.

## 2.3 LAND USE BASE

Land use is an important determinant of both the supply of, and the demand for, outdoor recreation, parks, and related open space sites and facilities. Accordingly, an understanding of the amount, type, and spatial distribution of urban and rural land uses within the Village, as well as the historical conversion of rural lands

<sup>4</sup> More information about projected population levels is presented in Chapter 3 of this report, Framework for Plan Development.

to urban uses, is an important consideration in this park and open space planning effort.

The historic pattern of urban growth in the Village of Caledonia for selected years beginning in 1900 is shown on Map 2.1. Map 2.1 identifies areas of the Village where residential structures or other buildings have been constructed in relatively compact groups, thereby indicating concentrations of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, institutional, or other urban land uses. Prior to 1920, development in Caledonia was focused in Franksville along CTH H, CTH K, and the Canadian Pacific Railway. From 1921 to 1950, development continued in Franksville and in three areas in the eastern portion of Caledonia, along and south of Four Mile Road between Charles Street and Douglas Avenue and north of Six Mile Road. By 1963, urban development was scattered throughout the Village with the largest concentrations in the eastern and southeastern portions along major streets and highways, along Lake Michigan, and in the Caddy Vista area.

Caledonia experienced the largest increase in urban development between 1951 and 1963 when an additional 4,596 acres were developed. By 1970, an additional 1,446 acres were developed for urban use. The increase in development between 1950 and 1970 corresponds to the large increase in Village population during this time period. Urban development since 1970 has occurred primarily in the eastern and southern portions of Caledonia.

Information on the amount of land devoted to various types of land uses in the Village of Caledonia in 2010 is presented in Table 2.2 and shown on Map 2.2. As previously noted, the Village of Caledonia encompasses 29,184 acres, or about 46 square miles. The Village is almost completely surrounded by other incorporated municipalities (city and villages) within Racine County, which will prevent annexations by the Village, with the possible exception of the Town of Raymond to the west.

Residential uses accounted for the largest percentage of lands developed for urban use, encompassing 5,016 acres, or about 17 percent of the total area of the Village and about 49 percent of lands developed for urban use in 2010. Lands devoted to other urban uses, including commercial; industrial; transportation, communication, and utilities; governmental and institutional; and parks and recreational, together encompassed 3,455 acres, or about 12 percent of the total area of the Village in 2010. Undeveloped/open land in the sewer service area encompassed 1,861 acres, or about 6 percent of the Village. Thus, 10,332 acres, comprising about 35 percent of the total area of the Village, were devoted to urban uses in 2010.

About 18,852 acres, comprising about 65 percent of the total area of the Village, were devoted to nonurban uses in 2010. Agricultural lands occupied a significant portion of the Village, encompassing 14,357 acres, or about 49 percent of the total area of the Village and about 76 percent of lands in nonurban use in 2010. Natural resource areas, including wetlands, woodlands, and surface water, together encompassed 3,763 acres, or about 13 percent of the total area of the Village. Extractive (quarry) areas encompassed 168 acres, or about 1 percent of the Village and landfill areas encompassed 34 acres, or less than 1 percent of the Village. Undeveloped/open land outside the sewer service area accounted for 2 percent of the total area of the Village, or approximately 530 acres.

The Village of Caledonia is served by a well-developed highway transportation system. Arterial streets and highways serving the Village include IH 94/IH 41, STH 31, STH 32 (Douglas Avenue), STH 38, CTH G, CTH H, CTH K, CTH V, 5 ½ Mile Road, Charles Street, Erie Street, Five Mile Road, Foley Road, Four Mile Road, Green Bay Road, Howell Road, Main Street, Nicholson Road, Northwestern Avenue, Nowak Road, Seven Mile Road, Six Mile Road, and Three Mile Road.

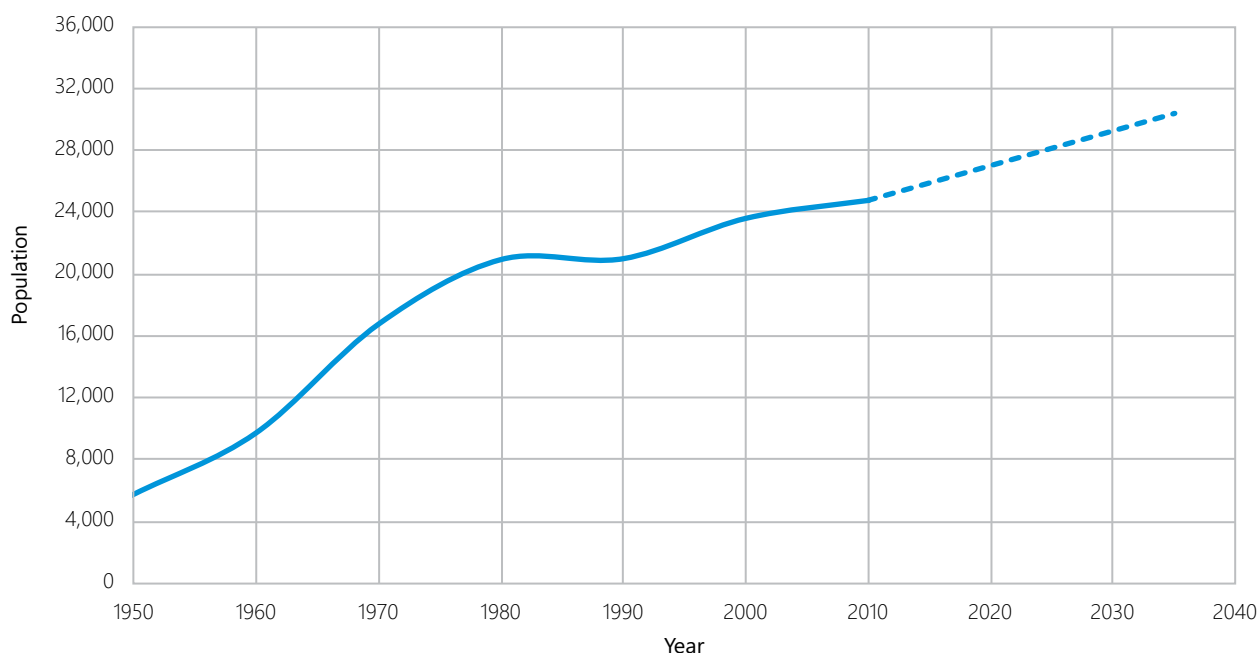
**Table 2.1**  
**Resident Population of the**  
**Village of Caledonia: 1900-2017**

Year	Population	Change from Preceding Census	
		Number	Percent
1900	2,805	--	--
1910	3,073	268	9.6
1920	3,479	406	13.2
1930	3,031	-448	-12.9
1940	4,019	988	32.6
1950	5,713	1,694	42.1
1960	9,696	3,983	69.7
1970	16,748	7,052	72.7
1980	20,940	4,192	25.0
1990	20,999	59	0.3
2000	23,614	2,615	12.5
2010	24,705	1,091	4.6
2017 <sup>a</sup>	24,820	115	0.5

<sup>a</sup> Estimate from the Wisconsin Department of Administration, as of January 1, 2017.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration, and SEWRPC

**Figure 2.1**  
**Historical and Projected Population Levels in the Village of Caledonia: 1950-2035**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and SEWRPC

In addition, three railway rights-of-way traverse the Village from north to south, including two lines owned by the Union Pacific Railroad and one line owned by the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway. All three lines carry freight traffic, and Amtrak trains also operate on the CP line. John H. Batten Airport, located in the City of Racine southeast and adjacent to the Village, is a privately owned, public-use airport that provides two paved, lighted runways. The airport provides services to corporate, business, and private aircraft, and is the largest privately owned, public-use, reliever airport in the United States. General Mitchell International Airport is also within a convenient distance for Village residents and businesses.

## 2.4 PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

### Existing Park and Open Space Sites

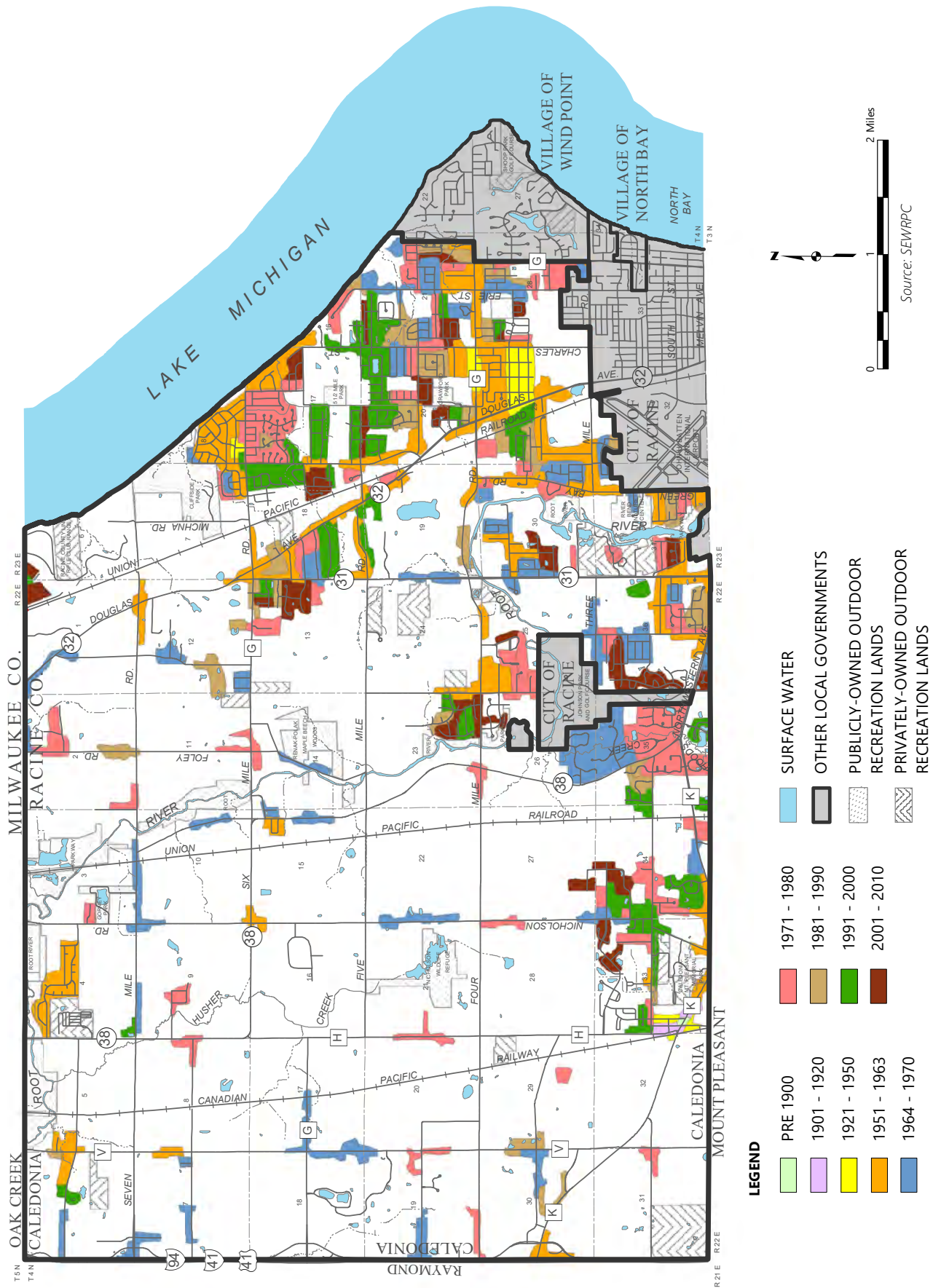
An inventory of existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the Village of Caledonia was conducted in 2016. Since the original inventory was conducted in 2016, the Village sold two Village-owned park-related properties in the fall of 2017, the Caledonia Community Center and Woodland Park. The two park sites are no longer part of the Village park system. As indicated in Table 2.3 and shown on Map 2.3, there are 70 park and open space sites, which encompass 3,018 acres, or about 10 percent of the Village. There are 32 publicly owned sites that encompass 1,895 acres, or about 63 percent of the total park and open space site acreage. The remaining 38 sites, encompassing 1,123 acres, or about 37 percent of the total park and open space site acreage, were privately owned.

Table 2.3 includes sites owned by State of Wisconsin, Racine County, Milwaukee County, the Village of Caledonia, the City of Racine, UW-Parkside, and the Racine Unified School District as public sites. School events and school district policies may limit the availability and use of facilities located on public school grounds to the general public.

As indicated in Table 2.4, the following recreational facilities are located in Village of Caledonia parks: three baseball diamonds, two league ball diamonds, two sandlot ball diamonds, four tennis courts, four playgrounds, five playfields, four basketball goals, and 13 soccer fields. Other significant outdoor recreation facilities available within Caledonia parks and the joint park include sand volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, a Kids Connection playground, fishing areas, nature trails, a boardwalk, a pathway, and hiking trails.



**Map 2.1**  
**Generalized Historical Urban Growth in the Village of Caledonia: 1900-2010**



Also indicated in Table 2.4 are the following recreational facilities located in Racine County parks, City of Racine parks, and Racine Unified School District sites within the Village of Caledonia planning area: one baseball diamond, three league ball diamonds, one sandlot ball diamond, six playgrounds, six playfields, 15 basketball goals, and four soccer fields. Other significant outdoor recreation facilities located at County and City parks and school district sites within the Village planning area include a wayside, campgrounds, an 18-hole regulation golf course, driving range, disc golf course, a dog exercise area, a fieldhouse, canoe launches, a nature study area, fishing areas, hiking trails, and multi-use trails.

Recreational facilities available at privately owned sites include three league ball diamonds, five sandlot ball diamonds, eight playfields, eight playgrounds, 17 basketball goals, 14 tennis courts, 22 soccer fields, two swimming areas, campgrounds, driving ranges, sand volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, miniature golf courses, a waterslide, an outdoor theater, fishing areas, hiking trails, horse trails, cross-country skiing trails, an equestrian center, a shooting/archery range, a kennel club, a recreation and fitness center, and an aquatic center. There is also an 18-hole golf course located at the South Hills Country Club; however, the Country Club and surrounding area are expected to be developed as part of a new business park in the coming years.

In addition, there are numerous private, commercial horse-riding stables and equestrian facilities located within the Village. These sites may have indoor and/or outdoor facilities for horse training. Opportunities at these sites may include horse riding lessons, boarding lessons, dressage lessons, horse maintenance and education, day camps, and training programs for finishing and showing horses.

## Conservation Easements

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 may or may not include provision for public access. There are nine conservation easements in the Village that are protected under three organizations; the Caledonia Conservancy, the Kenosha Racine Land Trust, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Collectively, the nine easements encompass 332 acres, and the location of each easement is

**Table 2.2**  
**Existing Land Uses in the Village of Caledonia: 2010**

Land Use Category <sup>a</sup>	Acres	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of Total
<b>Urban</b>			
Residential			
Single-Family Residential	4,875	47.2	16.7
Multi-Family Residential <sup>b</sup>	141	1.3	0.5
Residential Subtotal	5,016	48.5	17.2
Commercial	192	1.9	0.7
Industrial	183	1.8	0.6
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities (TCU)			
Streets and Highways	1,820	17.6	6.3
Airports and Railways	231	2.3	0.8
Communications, Utilities, and Other Transportation	127	1.2	0.4
TCU Subtotal	2,178	21.1	7.5
Governmental and Institutional	336	3.2	1.1
Parks and Recreational <sup>c</sup>	566	5.5	1.9
Undeveloped/Open Land Within Sewer Service Area	1,861	18.0	6.4
Urban Subtotal	10,332	100.0	35.4
<b>Nonurban</b>			
Agricultural Lands	14,357	76.2	49.2
Extractive	168	0.9	0.6
Landfill	34	0.2	0.1
Wetlands	2,159	11.4	7.4
Woodlands	1,213	6.4	4.2
Surface Water	391	2.1	1.3
Undeveloped/Open Land Outside Sewer Service Area	530	2.8	1.8
Nonurban Subtotal	18,852	100.0	64.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,184</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes associated off-street parking areas for each land use category.

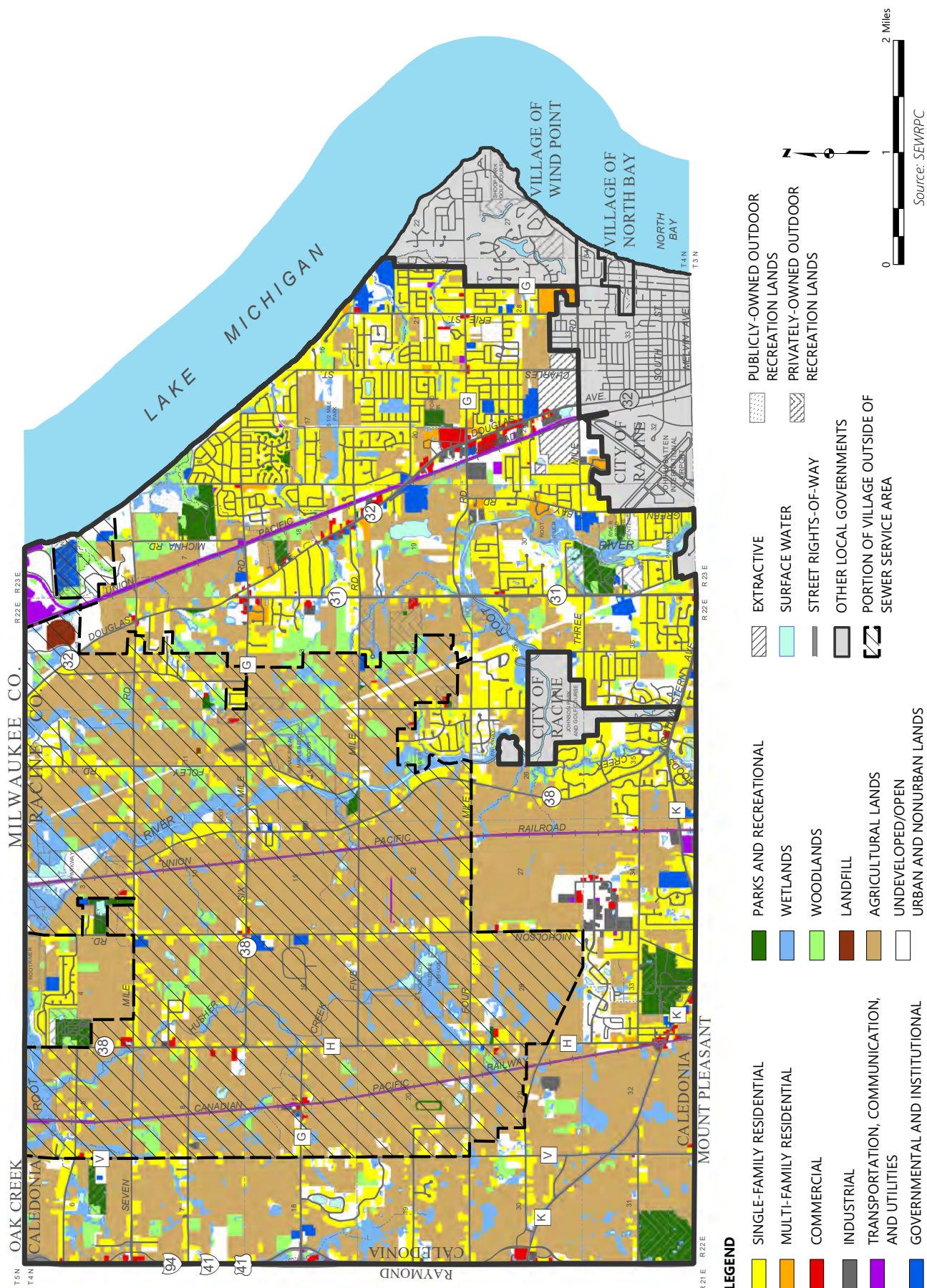
<sup>b</sup> Includes two-family residential areas and mobile home parks in addition to buildings with three or more apartments.

<sup>c</sup> Includes only those lands developed and used for intensive recreational purposes (ball fields, tennis courts, group picnic areas, etc.). Developed land within park sites used for hiking trails or other passive uses is included in the "undeveloped/open land" category. Additional information about the Village park system and the total area within park and open space sites is presented in Table 2.3.

Source: SEWRPC



**Map 2.2**  
Existing Land Uses in the Village of Caledonia: 2010



**Table 2.3**  
**Park and Open Space Sites in the Village of Caledonia Planning Area: 2016**

Number on Map 2.3	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)
	Public			
1	5 ½ Mile Park	T4N, R23E, Section 17	Village of Caledonia	21
2	32nd Division Memorial Marker and Wayside	T4N, R22E, Section 12	State of Wisconsin	3
3	Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park	T4N, R22E, Section 33	Village of Caledonia and Village of Mount Pleasant	52 <sup>a</sup>
4	Chapla Park	T4N, R23E, Section 8	Village of Caledonia	9
5	Cliffside Park	T4N, R23E, Sections 7 and 8	Racine County	223
6	County Land (Along East Frontage Road and North of Seven Mile Road)	T4N, R22E, Section 6	Racine County	26
7	County Land (South of Six Mile Road and the East End of Edgar Terrace)	T4N, R23E, Section 18	Racine County	16
8	County Land (South of County Line Road and West of Foley Road)	T4N, R22E, Section 2	Racine County	2
9	County Line Park	T4N, R22E, Section 2	Village of Caledonia	18
10	Crawford Park	T4N, R23E, Section 20	Village of Caledonia	21
11	Gorney Park	T4N, R22E, Section 3	Village of Caledonia	41
12	Johnson Park and Golf Course	T4N, R22E, Sections 25, 26, and 35	City of Racine	335
13	Johnson Park Dog Run	T4N, R22E, Section 26	City of Racine	28
14	Linwood Park	T4N, R22E, Section 14	Village of Caledonia	12
15	Maple Park	T4N, R23E, Section 28	Village of Caledonia	2
16	Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	T4N, R22E, Section 21	Village of Caledonia	127
17	North Park School	T4N, R23E, Section 29	Racine Unified School District	4
18	Olympia Brown Elementary School	T4N, R23E, Section 17	Racine Unified School District	16
19	Racine Engineering, Arts, and Leadership (REAL) School	T4N, R23E, Section 21	Racine Unified School District	8
20	Renak-Polak Maple Beech Woods	T4N, R22E, Section 14	University of Wisconsin – Parkside	108
21	River Bend Nature Center	T4N, R23E, Section 31	Racine County	75
22	Root River Parkway	T4N, R22E, Section 4	Milwaukee County	38 <sup>b</sup>
23	Root River Parkway	T4N, R22E, Sections 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 23, 25, and 26	Racine County	613 <sup>c</sup>
24	Tabor Sokol Memorial Park	T4N, R23E, Sections 19, 30, and 31	Racine County	1
25	Village Land – Markay Stormwater Basin	T4N, R23E, Section 19	Racine County	1
26	Village Land – SCORE Stormwater Basin	T4N, R23E, Section 28	Village of Caledonia	22
27	Village Land – SCORE Stormwater Basin	T4N, R22E, Section 33	Village of Caledonia	21
28	Village Land – (Village Hall Site and Crawford Park Expansion)	T4N, R23E, Section 20	Village of Caledonia	24
29	Village Land – Caddy Vista Stormwater Basin	T4N, R22E, Section 4	Village of Caledonia	7
30	Village Land – (East Side of Terrace High and North of Richmond Drive)	T4N, R22E, Section 36	Village of Caledonia	4
31	Village Land – (South Side of Four Mile Road and West of Green Bay Road)	T4N, R23E, Section 19	Village of Caledonia	3
32	Village Land – (Southwest Quadrant of Six Mile Road and Union Pacific Railroad)	T4N, R23E, Section 18	Village of Caledonia	3
32	W. Allen Gifford School	T4N, R22E, Section 34	Racine Unified School District	12
Subtotal – 32 Sites				1,895
	Private			
33	Armstrong Park	T4N, R23E, Sections 30 and 31	Private	142
34	Auburn Hills I/II Homeowners Open Space	T4N, R22E, Section 36	Private	33
35	Caledonia Conservancy – King’s Corner	T4N, R22E, Section 24	Organizational	31
36	Caledonia Conservancy – Ehrlich Right-of-Way	T4N, R22E, Sections 13 and 14	Organizational	2
37	Caledonia Conservancy – Aboagye/ South Country	T4N, R22E, Section 25	Organizational	7
38	Caledonia Conservancy – Ehrlich	T4N, R22E, Section 24	Organizational	2

Table continued on next page.

**Table 2.3 (Continued)**

Number on Map 2.3	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)
	Private (continued)			
39	Caledonia Conservancy – Ehrlich Right-of-Way	T4N, R22E, Section 14	Organizational	16
40	Caledonia Conservancy – Estes Family Right-of-Way	T4N, R22E, Section 14	Organizational	1
41	Caledonia Conservancy – Halberstadt Right-of-Way	T4N, R22E, Section 14	Organizational	1
42	Caledonia Conservancy – King’s Corner	T4N, R22E, Section 24	Organizational	2
43	Caledonia Conservancy – Neighborhood Central Walk	T4N, R23E, Section 20	Organizational	15
44	Caledonia Conservancy – New Marshall Right-of-Way	T4N, R22E, Section 11	Organizational	2
45	Caledonia Conservancy – Rohner Right-of-Way	T4N, R22E, Section 11	Organizational	1
46	Caledonia Conservancy – Schumann Right-of-Way	T4N, R22E, Sections 2 and 3	Organizational	6
47	Caledonia Conservancy – Short Road Trail Head	T4N, R22E, Sections 13 and 14	Organizational	14
48	Caledonia Conservancy – Gordon Memorial-McCalvy-Erlandsson Tabor Woods	T4N, R22E, Section 13	Organizational	35
49	Caledonia Conservancy – Trout Ponds Prairie	T4N, R22E, Sections 24 and 25	Organizational	28
50	Crestview Homeowners Park	T4N, R23E, Section 17	Organizational	16
51	Greater Racine Kennel Club	T4N, R22E, Section 11	Commercial	20
52	Husher’s Pub and Grill	T4N, R22E, Section 9	Commercial	2
53	Mulligan’s Mini-Golf	T4N, R23E, Section 18	Commercial	24
54	Oldfield Settlement Homeowners Open Space	T4N, R22E, Section 19	Private	43
55	Orrin C. Stearns Park	T4N, R22E, Section 35	Private	3
56	Prairie Pathways Homeowners Open Space	T4N, R22E, Section 33	Private	55
57	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church/School	T4N, R23E, Section 7	Organizational	3
58	Racine Area Soccer Association (Soccer Complex of Racine - SCORE)	T4N, R22E, Section 33	Organizational	59
59	Racine County Line Rifle Club Range	T4N, R23E, Section 6	Organizational	74
60	Racine County Pony Club	T4N, R22E, Section 25	Organizational	71
61	Racine Tennis Club	T4N, R23E, Section 21	Commercial	2
62	Serbian Soccer Club of Milwaukee/St. Nikola Church	T4N, R22E, Section 6	Organizational	46
63	South Hills Country Club <sup>d</sup>	T4N, R22E, Section 31	Commercial	140 <sup>e</sup>
64	St. Louis Church/School	T4N, R22E, Section 18	Organizational	9
65	St. Rita School	T4N, R23E, Section 29	Organizational	8
66	The Ponds I/II Homeowners Open Space	T4N, R22E, Sections 18 and 19	Private	118
67	Trinity Lutheran Church/School	T4N, R22E, Section 9	Organizational	4
68	Witt’s End	T4N, R22E, Section 17	Commercial	1
69	Wooded Valley Homeowners Open Space	T4N, R22E, Section 13	Private	14
70	Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park	T4N, R22E, Section 4	Commercial	73
Subtotal – 38 Sites				1,123
Total – 70 Sites				3,018

<sup>a</sup> The park is jointly owned and managed by the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant.

<sup>b</sup> Additional parkway lands are located in Milwaukee County.

<sup>c</sup> Includes only the acreage located within the Village. The remaining lands (55 acres) under Racine County ownership are located in the Town of Raymond.

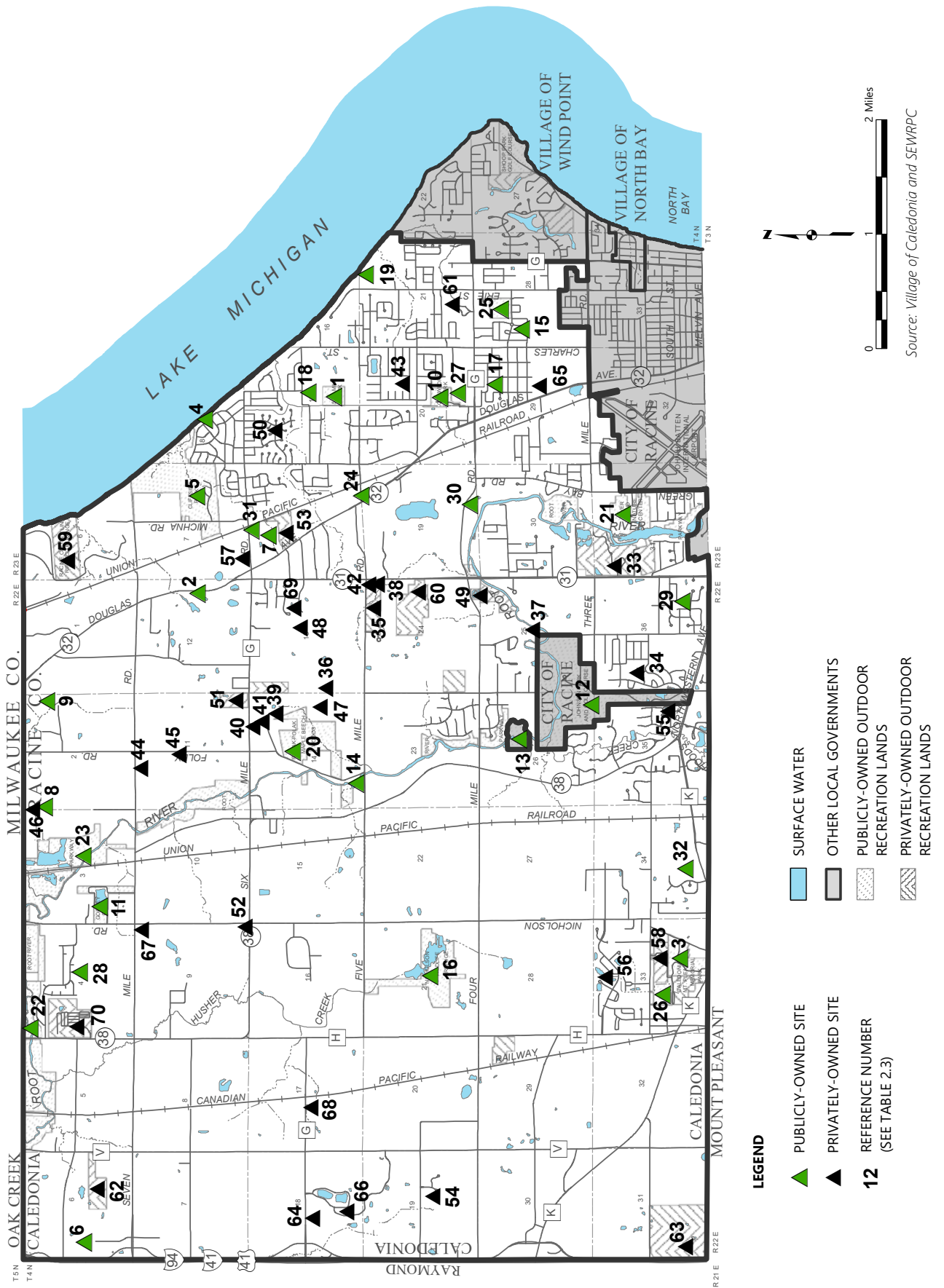
<sup>d</sup> The Country Club is planned to be developed as an industrial park within the next 10 years.

<sup>e</sup> Includes only the acreage located within the Village. The remaining lands (20 acres) are located in the Village of Mount Pleasant.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC



**Map 2.3**  
**Park and Open Space Sites in the Village of Caledonia Planning Area: 2016**



**Table 2.4**  
**Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities for General Use in the Village of Caledonia Planning Area: 2016**

Number on Map 2.3	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball- League Diamonds	Softball- Sandlot Diamonds	Playfield	Play- Ground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer Field	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Other
1	Public											
2	5 ½ Mile Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Undeveloped Park, Open Space
3 <sup>a</sup>	32nd Division Memorial Marker and Wayside Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park	--	--	--	--	X	2	2	5	--	--	Passive Use, Informal Picnic Areas Sand Volleyball Courts, Formal Picnic Areas, Restrooms, Kids Connection Playground, Horseshoe Pits, Shelters
4	Chapla Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive Use, Scenic Overlook
5	Cliffside Park	1	3	--	X	X	--	3	2	--	--	Campgrounds (95 Sites), Group and Informal Picnic Areas, Bicycle and Hiking Trails, Shelters, Restrooms
6	County Land (Along East Frontage Road and North of Seven Mile Road)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
7	County Land (South of Six Mile Road and the East End of Edgar Terrace)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area
8	County Land (South of County Line Road and West of Foley Road)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
9	County Line Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Undeveloped Park, Open Space
10	Crawford Park	2	--	--	X	X	2	2	--	--	--	Sand Volleyball Courts, Shelters, Restrooms, Pathways, Concessions
11	Gorney Park	1	1	--	X	X	--	--	2	--	--	Hiking Trail, Fishing, Shelters, Picnic Areas, Restrooms, Pier
12	Johnson Park and Golf Course	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	2	--	--	18-Hole Golf Course, Picnic Areas, Fishing, Driving Range, Disc Golf Course, Shelters, Restrooms, Concessions, Historical Exhibit, Nature Area
13	Johnson Park Dog Run	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dog Exercise Area
14	Linwood Park	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Horseshoe Pits, Fishing, Shelter, Picnic Areas
15	Maple Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
16	Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Nature Trails, Boardwalk
17	North Park School	--	--	1	X	X	--	4	--	--	--	--
18	Olympia Brown Elementary School	--	--	--	X	X	--	2	--	--	--	--
19	Racine Engineering, Arts, and Leadership (REAL) School	--	--	--	X	X	--	4	--	--	--	Fieldhouse
20	Renak-Polak Maple Beech Woods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area
21	River Bend Nature Center	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nature Study Area, Canoe Launch, Hiking and Cross-Country Skiing Trails, Informal Picnic Areas, Pavilion/Shelter, Restrooms
22	Root River Parkway (Milwaukee County)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Fishing
23	Root River Parkway (Racine County)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Canoe Launch, Fishing
24	Tabor Sokol Memorial Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive Use, Informal Picnic Areas
25	Village Land – Markay Stormwater Basin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
26	Village Land – SCORE Stormwater Basin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	--	--	--
27	Village Land – (Village Hall Site and Crawford Park Expansion)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
28	Village Land – Caddy Vista Stormwater Basin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
29	Village Land – (East Side of Terrace High and North of Richmond Drive)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space

Table continued on next page.

**Table 2.4 (Continued)**

Number on Map 2.3	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball- League Diamonds	Softball- Sandlot Diamonds	Playfield	Play- Ground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer Field	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Other
30	Public (continued) Village Land – (South Side of Four Mile Road and West of Green Bay Road)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
31	Village Land – (Southwest Quadrant of Six Mile Road and Union Pacific Railroad)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
32	W. Allen Gifford School	--	--	--	X	X	--	2	--	--	--	--
	Subtotal – 32 Sites	4	5	3	11	10	4	19	17	--	--	--
33	Private Armstrong Park	--	2	1	X	X	4	2	--	--	--	Sand Volleyball Courts, Hiking Trails, Group and Informal Picnic Areas, Recreation and Fitness Center, Miniature Golf, Driving Range, Horseshoe Pits, Fishing, Shelters, Aquatic Center
34	Auburn Hills /I/I Homeowners Open Space	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
35	Caledonia Conservancy – King's Corner	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trails, Cross- Country Skiing, Horse Trails
36	Caledonia Conservancy – Ehrlich Right-of-Way	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area
37	Caledonia Conservancy – Aboagye/South Country	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trail
38	Caledonia Conservancy – Ehrlich	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trails, Cross- Country Skiing, Horse Trails
39	Caledonia Conservancy – Ehrlich Right-of-Way	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trail
40	Caledonia Conservancy – Estes Family Right-of-Way	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trail
41	Caledonia Conservancy – Halberstadt Right-of-Way	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trails, Cross- Country Skiing, Horse Trails
42	Caledonia Conservancy – King's Corner	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trails
43	Caledonia Conservancy – Neighborhood Central Walk	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trail
44	Caledonia Conservancy – New Marshall Right-of-Way	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trail
45	Caledonia Conservancy – Rohrer Right-of-Way	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trail
46	Caledonia Conservancy – Schumann Right-of-Way	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trail
47	Caledonia Conservancy – Short Road Trail Head	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trails
48	Caledonia Conservancy – Gordon Memorial- McCalvy-Erlandsson Tabor Woods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area, Hiking Trails, Horse Trail, Cross-Country Skiing, Fishing, Picnic Areas
49	Caledonia Conservancy – Trout Ponds Prairie	--	--	--	X	X	1	2	--	--	--	Shelter
50	Crestview Homeowners Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Kennel Club
51	Greater Racine Kennel Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Horseshoe Pits
52	Husher's Pub and Grill	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Miniature Golf, Driving Range
53	Mulligan's Mini-Golf	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space, Hiking Trails
54	Oldfield Settlement Homeowners Open Space	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Informal Picnic Areas, Passive Use
55	Orrin C. Stearns Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	

Table continued on next page.

**Table 2.4 (Continued)**

Number on Map 2.3	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball- League Diamonds	Softball- Sandlot Diamonds	Playfield	Play-Ground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer Field	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Other
	Private (continued)											
56	Prairie Pathways Homeowners Open Space	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space, Hiking Trail
57	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church/School	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
58	Racine Area Soccer Association (Soccer Complex of Racine - SCORE)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	--	--	Shelters, Restrooms
59	Racine County Line Rifle Club Range	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Shooting Range, Archery Range
60	Racine County Pony Club	--	--	--	--	--	9 <sup>c</sup>	1	--	--	--	Equestrian Center
61	Racine Tennis Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Volleyball Court
62	Serbian Soccer Club of Milwaukee/ St. Nikola Church	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	2	--	--	Shelters, Picnic Area, Restrooms
63	South Hills Country Club <sup>d</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18-Hole Golf Course
64	St. Rita School	--	--	1	X	X	--	2	--	--	--	--
65	St. Louis Church/School	--	--	1	X	X	--	5	1	--	--	--
66	The Ponds /11 Homeowners Open Space	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space, Hiking Trails, Gazebo
67	Trinity Lutheran Church/School	--	--	1	X	X	--	3	1	--	--	--
68	Witt's End	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Horseshoe Pits
69	Wooded Valley Homeowners Open Space	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
70	Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park	--	--	1	X	X	--	2	--	--	X	Campgrounds (280 Sites), Sand Volleyball Courts, Horseshoe Pits, Miniature Golf, Waterslide, Outdoor Theater, Fishing, Bath Houses
	Subtotal – 38 Sites	--	3	5	8	8	14	17	22	--	2	--
	Total – 70 Sites	4	8	8	19	18	18	36	39	--	2	--

<sup>a</sup> The park is jointly owned by the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant.

<sup>b</sup> May also serve as a baseball diamond.

<sup>c</sup> The tennis courts are located indoors.

<sup>d</sup> The Country Club is planned to be developed as an industrial park within the next 10 years.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC

shown on Map 2.4 and listed on Table 2.5. All of the conservation easements identified in the Village provide for the permanent protection of resources on private land.

### **Village of Caledonia Park System**

In 2016, the Village of Caledonia owned 18 park and open space sites, encompassing a total of 389 acres, or about 1 percent of the Village; however, in the fall of 2017, the Village sold two Village-owned properties, the Caledonia Community Center and Woodland Park. Those two park sites are no longer part of the Village's park system. Currently, the Village owns 16 park and open space sites encompassing 384 acres. The Village of Caledonia park and open space sites range from two acres (Maple Park) to 127 acres (Nicholson Wildlife Refuge) in size. Park and open space sites owned by the Village are shown on Map 2.5 and listed in Table 2.6. A brief description of each of the 16 Village-owned park and open space sites is presented below.

#### ***5 ½ Mile Park***

5 ½ Mile Park is a 21-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the eastern portion of the Village. The park is located south of 5 ½ Mile Road and Olympia Brown Elementary School and west of Charles Street. The entire site encompasses wetlands within an isolated natural resource area.

#### ***Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park***

Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park is a 52-acre community park located in the southern portion of the Village in the Franksville area. The park is jointly owned and managed by the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant. Facilities at this site include a league softball diamond, two basketball goals, five soccer fields, a playfield, a playground, two sandlot softball diamonds, two tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, a Kids Connection Playground, horseshoe pits, informal and group picnic areas and shelters, and restrooms. The league softball diamond at the park may also serve as a baseball diamond. The privately-owned Soccer Complex of Racine (SCORE) is adjacent on the west and north sides of the park.

#### ***Chapla Park***

Chapla Park is a nine-acre neighborhood park located in the northeastern portion of the Village adjacent to Lake Michigan. The site is also east and south of the County-owned Cliffside Park. The park is a passive use site that provides a scenic overlook of Lake Michigan. The site also encompasses eight acres of primary environmental corridor.

#### ***County Line Park***

County Line Park is an 18-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the northeastern portion of the Village. The park is located south of County Line Road and east of Foley Street. The site encompasses wetlands within 13 acres of an isolated natural resource area.

#### ***Crawford Park***

Crawford Park is a 21-acre community park located in the southeastern portion of the Village along Four Mile Road (CTH G) and east of Douglas Avenue (STH 32). Facilities at this site include two baseball diamonds, two tennis courts, two basketball goals, a playfield, a playground, sand volleyball courts, restrooms, concessions, pathways, and picnic shelters. A wetland is also located within the park. The Village is planning to expand the park and develop additional recreational facilities to the east on existing Village land in the next five years. Part of the development is the existing new Village Hall, which was constructed in the summer of 2017 and is located adjacent to the park.

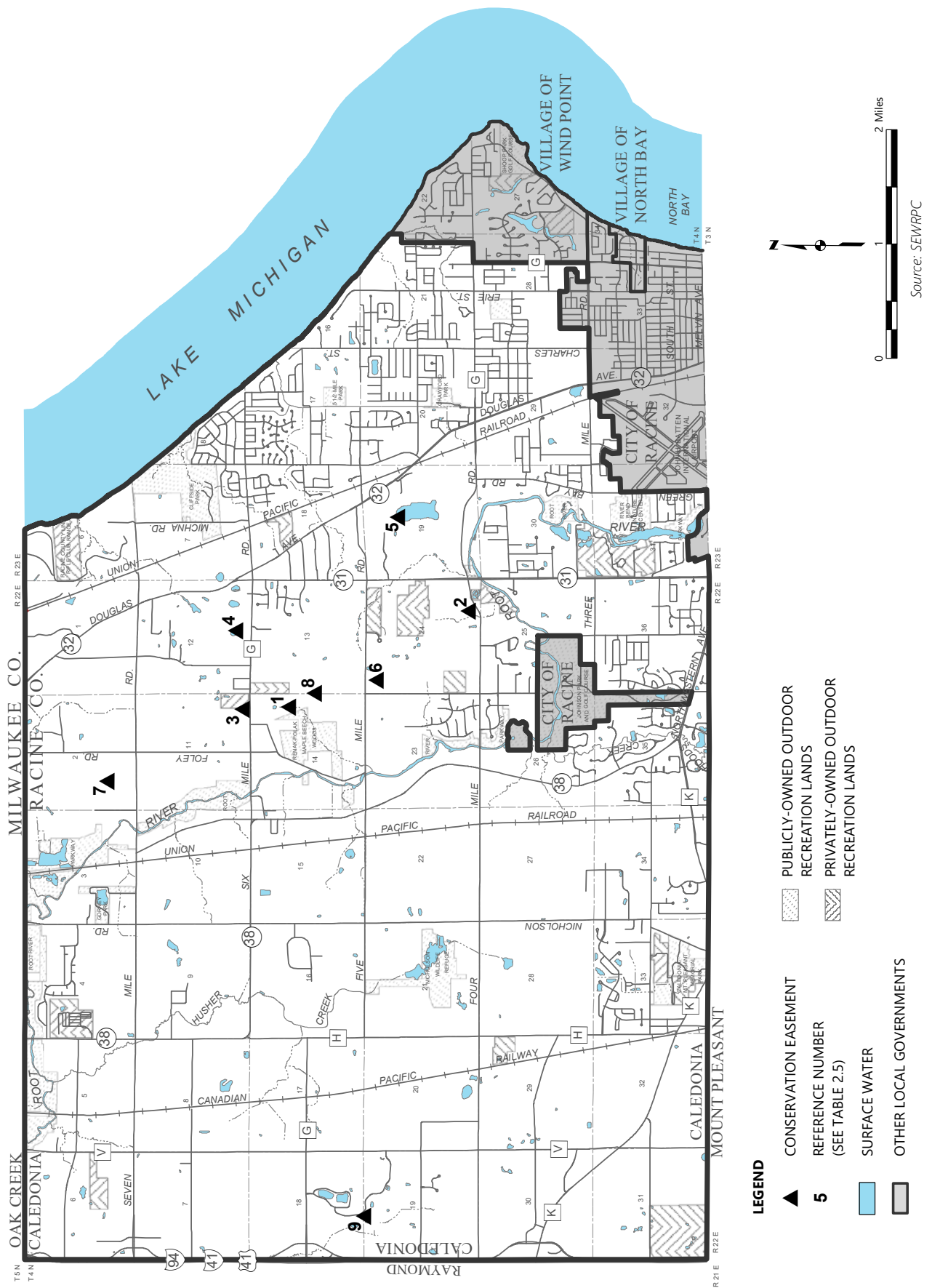
#### ***Gorney Park***

Gorney Park is a 41-acre community park located in the north-central portion of the Village along Seven Mile Road and Nicholson Road. Facilities at this site include a baseball diamond, a league softball diamond, two soccer fields, a playfield, a playground, a hiking trail, shelters, picnic areas, and restrooms. The site also has a pond with a pier that provides opportunities for fishing and launching nonmotorized watercraft.

#### ***Linwood Park***

Linwood Park is a 12-acre neighborhood park centrally located in the Village adjacent to the Root River and along Five Mile Road and east of STH 38. Facilities at this site include a playfield, horseshoe pits, a shelter,

**Map 2.4**  
**Conservation Easements in the Village of Caledonia: 2016**



**Table 2.5**  
**Conservation Easements in the Village of Caledonia: 2016**

Number on Map 2.4	Site Name	Location	Holder of Easement	Size (acres)
1	Duda Easement	T4N, R22E, Section 14	Kenosha Racine Land Trust	12
2	Ehrlich Easement	T4N, R22E, Section 24	Caledonia Conservancy	2
3	Greater Racine Kennel Club Easement	T4N, R22E, Section 11	Caledonia Conservancy	1
4	McCalvy Easement	T4N, R22E, Section 12	Caledonia Conservancy	26
5	Myers Easement	T4N, R23E, Section 19	Kenosha Racine Land Trust	225
6	Neubauer Trail Easement	T4N, R22E, Section 24	Caledonia Conservancy	13
7	Rehbein Right-of-Way Easement	T4N, R22E, Section 2	Caledonia Conservancy	13
8	Ryder Easement	T4N, R22E, Sections 13 and 14	Kenosha Racine Land Trust	36
9	Wetland Easement	T4N, R22E, Sections 18 and 19	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	4
Total – 9 Sites				332

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC

picnic areas, fishing, and an informal canoe launch. The site encompasses wetlands and woodlands within 11 acres of primary environmental corridor.

### **Maple Park**

Maple Park is a two-acre neighborhood park located in the southeastern portion of the Village south of Four Mile Road and east of Charles Street. Facilities at this site include a playfield and a playground.

### **Nicholson Wildlife Refuge**

Nicholson Wildlife Refuge is a 127-acre conservancy area centrally located in the Village between Four Mile Road and Five Mile Road and CTH H and Nicholson Road. The site is encompassed within the Caledonia Wildlife Area, a natural area of countywide or regional significance. The site contains nature trails and a boardwalk and also serves as a site for educational purposes. The site encompasses wetlands and woodlands within 103 acres of secondary environmental corridor.

### **Village Land (Markay Stormwater Basin)**

This site is a 22-acre open space site located in the southeastern portion of the Village south of Four Mile Road and west of Erie Street. The site is a stormwater detention basin, which is typically dry, except during periods of heavy rain.

### **Village Land (SCORE Stormwater Basin)**

This site is a 21-acre open space site located in the south-central portion of the Village adjacent to the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park and the Soccer Complex of Racine (SCORE). The site includes six soccer fields and may also serve as a playfield when the site is not inundated with water. The site is a stormwater detention basin, which is typically dry, except during periods of heavy rain.

### **Village Land (Village Hall Site/Crawford Park Expansion)**

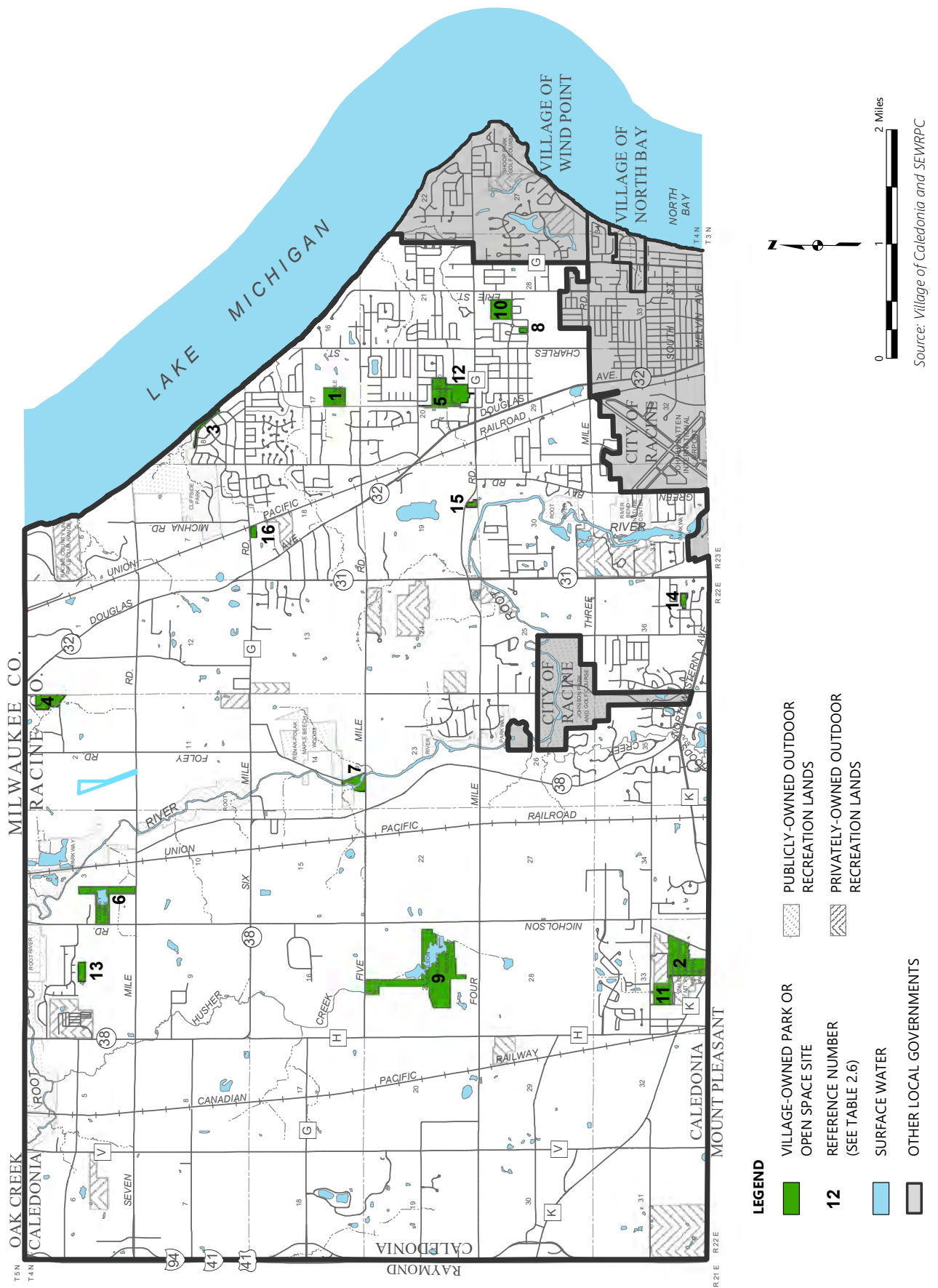
This site is a 24-acre open space site located in the southeastern portion of the Village adjacent to Crawford Park. The site includes the new Village Hall which was completed in the summer of 2017, and was constructed on the southwestern portion of the site. The remaining portion of the site is planned for the expansion of Crawford Park, especially the area east of and adjacent to the existing park.

### **Village Land (Caddy Vista Stormwater Basin)**

This site is a seven-acre open space site located in the north-central portion of the Village south of the Caddy Vista South subdivision. The site is a stormwater detention basin, which is typically dry, except during periods of heavy rain.



## Map 2.5





**Table 2.6**  
**Village of Caledonia Park System: 2016**

Number on Map 2.5	Site Name	Location	Type	Size (acres)
1	5 ½ Mile Park	T4N, R23E, Section 17	Undeveloped Neighborhood Park	21
2	Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park	T4N, R22E, Section 33	Community Park	52 <sup>a</sup>
3	Chapla Park	T4N, R23E, Section 8	Neighborhood Park	9
4	County Line Park	T4N, R22E, Section 2	Undeveloped Neighborhood Park	18
5	Crawford Park	T4N, R23E, Section 20	Community Park	21
6	Gorney Park	T4N, R22E, Section 3	Community Park	41
7	Linwood Park	T4N, R22E, Section 14	Neighborhood Park	12
8	Maple Park	T4N, R23E, Section 28	Neighborhood Park	2
9	Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	T4N, R22E, Section 21	Conservancy Area	127
10	Village Land – Markay Stormwater Basin	T4N, R23E, Section 28	Open Space Site	22
11	Village Land – SCORE Stormwater Basin	T4N, R22E, Section 33	Open Space Site	21
12	Village Land – (Village Hall Site and Crawford Park Expansion)	T4N, R23E, Section 20	Open Space Site	24
13	Village Land – Caddy Vista Stormwater Basin	T4N, R22E, Section 4	Open Space Site	7
14	Village Land – (East Side of Terrace High and North of Richmond Drive)	T4N, R22E, Section 36	Open Space Site	4
15	Village Land – (South Side of Four Mile Road and West of Green Bay Road)	T4N, R23E, Section 19	Open Space Site	3
16	Village Land – (Southwest Quadrant of Six Mile Road and Union Pacific Railroad)	T4N, R23E, Section 18	Open Space Site	3
Total – 16 Sites				384

<sup>a</sup> The park is jointly owned and managed by the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC

#### **Village Land (East Side of Terrace High and North of Richmond Drive)**

This site is a four-acre open space site located in the southeastern portion of the Village, west of STH 31 and north of Northwestern Avenue (STH 38). The site contains wetlands and woodlands.

#### **Village Land (South Side of Four Mile Road and West of Green Bay Road)**

This site is a three-acre open space site located in the southeastern portion of the Village along Four Mile Road, east of STH 31, and west of Green Bay Road.

#### **Village Land (Southwest Quadrant of Six Mile Road and Union Pacific Railroad)**

This site is a three-acre open space site located in the east-central portion of the Village along Six Mile Road, east of Douglas Avenue (STH 32), and the west side of the Union Pacific Railroad. The site contains wetlands.

### **Racine County Parks**

Racine County owns seven park or open space sites within the Village of Caledonia: two open space sites, a conservancy area, Cliffside Park, River Bend Nature Center, Root River Parkway, and Tabor Sokol Memorial Park (see Table 2.3 and Map 2.3). The County also owns Horlick Park and Quarry Lake Park, which are located along the Root River in the City of Racine just south of Caledonia.

Cliffside Park is 223-acre major park<sup>5</sup> located in the northeastern portion of the Village along the Lake Michigan shoreline, north of Six Mile Road and on the east side of Michna Road. The park includes a baseball diamond, three league softball diamonds, two soccer fields, a playground, a playfield, three basketball goals, a campground with 95 sites, shelters, picnic areas, hiking and biking trails, and restrooms. The park also contains the Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks, a 55-acre natural area of countywide or regional significance consisting of woodlands and wetlands within a primary

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

environmental corridor, and the Cliffside Park Old Field, a 55-acre critical species habitat site in which wetland portions of the site are within a primary environmental corridor or an isolated natural resource area. Both sites are identified in the regional natural areas plan,<sup>6</sup> which is described later in this chapter.

The River Bend Nature Center is located in the southeastern portion of the Village along the Root River, on the west side of Green Bay Road and south of Three Mile Road. In June 2012, Racine County acquired the nature center from the Racine YMCA under the condition that a nonprofit corporation, unrelated to the YMCA, could continue to operate the River Bend Nature Center. The site is operated through a public-private partnership between Racine County and River Bend Nature Center, Inc. and is self-sustaining through private support, program revenue, special events, and equipment and facilities rental. The site encompasses 75 acres and includes two indoor facilities for staff and environmental education programs and meetings, hiking and cross-country skiing trails, a canoe launch, a pavilion/shelter, picnic areas, and restrooms. The site also includes the 14-acre River Bend Upland Woods, a critical species habitat site consisting of woodlands and wetlands within a primary environmental corridor.

The Root River Parkway consists of numerous areas of conservancy lands located along the Root River for natural resource protection purposes. Racine County currently owns 613 acres of parkway within the Village. These areas can be used by the public for nature viewing and river access for canoeing or fishing. Milwaukee County also owns a 38-acre portion of parkway lands within the Village, along the County line and north of the Caddy Vista subdivision. These County-owned parkway lands also contain portions of four natural areas and five critical species sites, areas of important natural resource protection.

Tabor Sokol Memorial Park is a one-acre passive use site located on the southeast corner of Douglas Avenue (STH 32) and Five Mile Road. The site has informal picnic areas.

The County also owns two open space sites and a conservancy area within the Village of Caledonia. One open space site encompasses 26 acres and is located in the northwestern portion of the Village along the East Frontage Road of IH 94/IH 41 and north of Seven Mile Road. The other open space site encompasses two acres and is located in the north-central portion of the Village, south of County Line Road and west of Foley Road. This site contains a portion of a pond. The conservancy area encompasses 16 acres and is located south of Six Mile Road between Douglas Avenue (STH 32) and the Union Pacific Railway.

### **Trail Facilities**

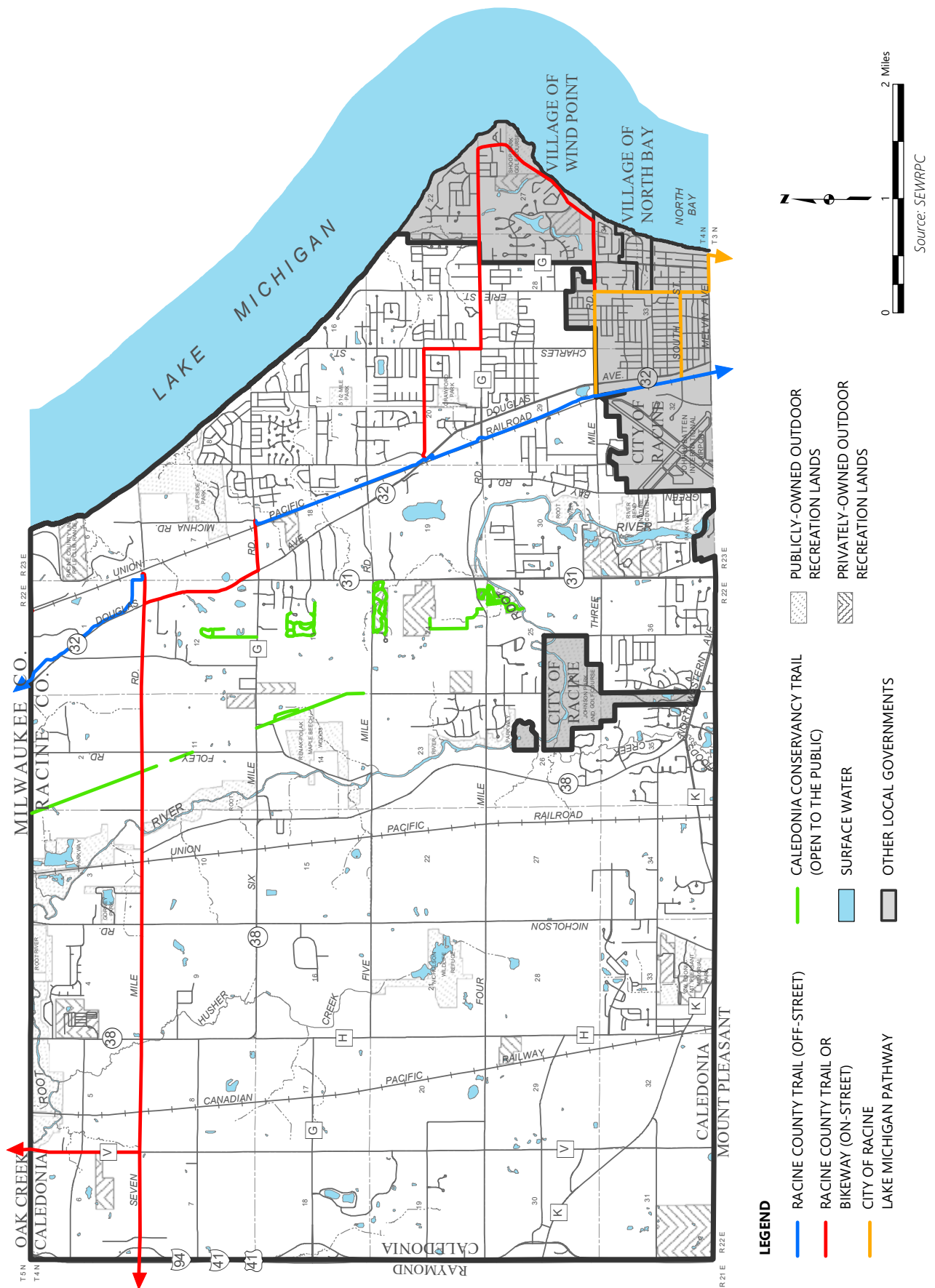
Opportunities for trail-related outdoor recreation activities, such as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and cross-country skiing, are provided at trail facilities within park and open space sites in the Village, as noted in Table 2.4. Public trails and bikeways intended for long distance travel and private trails open to the public are shown on Map 2.6. Racine County maintains 18 miles of trails or bike routes within the planning area. The County-owned MRK Trail is eight linear miles within the planning area and can be used for hiking and biking. The trail runs from Layard Avenue in the City of Racine north to Elm Road in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. The portion of the trail from Layard Avenue to Six Mile Road is primarily located within a WE Energies utility corridor, which is east of and adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad. The trail then transitions to an on-street segment at Six Mile Road and runs west to Douglas Avenue (STH 32) and then north to Seven Mile Road. From Seven Mile Road north to the County line, the trail is located off-street on WE Energies property. Portions of the MRK Trail are also connected to City of Racine pathways; the Lake Michigan Pathway at Three Mile Road and South Street and the Root River Pathway at Layard Avenue. These connections provide Village residents the opportunity to visit destination points in the City of Racine, including the Downtown area.

Racine County has also developed a 100-mile, signed, on-street bike route throughout the County. Portions of the on-street bike route within the Village planning area include CTH V from Seven Mile Road north to the Milwaukee County line; Seven Mile Road from IH 94/IH 41 east to Douglas Avenue (STH 32); and Four Mile Road from Douglas Avenue (STH 32), east to Lighthouse Drive in the Village of Wind Point, south to Three Mile Road, and west to Erie Street in the City of Racine. Existing County bike routes within the planning area encompass about 10 linear miles.

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<sup>6</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997. An update to the plan was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission in December 2010.

**Map 2.6**  
**Existing Public Trails and Bikeways in The Village of Caledonia and Environs: 2016**



The Caledonia Conservancy, a nonprofit conservation organization, also provides trails at numerous conservancy-owned sites within the Village. All of the sites owned by the Caledonia Conservancy in the Village are privately owned, but some of the sites are open to the public. These sites typically provide horse trails that can also be used as hiking or cross-country skiing trails.

## 2.5 NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES

The natural resources of an area are important determinants of the ability of an area to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life and to maintain its social and economic well-being. The park and open space plan should seek to preserve the most significant remaining features of the natural resource base to help retain the ecological balance and natural beauty of the Village of Caledonia. A description of natural resources within the Village, including surface water resources, wetlands, woodlands, environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, natural areas, critical species habitat and aquatic sites, and geological areas, is presented in this section.

### Surface Water Resources

Surface water resources and associated floodplains form an important element of the natural resource base of the Village of Caledonia. The Village is located within the Root River watershed and a watershed that drains directly to Lake Michigan. The Root River watershed also drains to Lake Michigan. Major streams, lakes, and watersheds are shown on Map 2.7.

Surface water resources provide recreational opportunities, influence the physical development, and enhance the aesthetic quality of the Village. Lakes and streams constitute a focal point for water-related recreational activities and greatly enhance the aesthetic quality of the environment. Lake Michigan provides the Village numerous opportunities for water-related recreational activities, such as swimming, fishing, canoe/kayaking, and other watercraft activities. Lake Michigan is also the major source of water for public water utilities serving portions of the Village.

Approximately 23 linear miles of streams have been identified in the Village. Perennial streams<sup>7</sup> within the Village include the Root River, Hoods Creek, Husher Creek, Crayfish Creek, and two unnamed tributaries and a drainage ditch that drain directly into Lake Michigan. The Root River provides opportunities for fishing and canoe/kayaking within the Village.

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

For planning and regulatory purposes, floodplains are normally defined as the areas subject to inundation during a one-percent-annual-probability (100-year recurrence interval) flood event. Floodplain areas are generally not well suited to urban development, not only because of the flood hazard, but also because of the presence of high water tables and of soils poorly suited to urban use. The floodplain areas, however, often contain such important elements of the natural resource base as woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat and, therefore, constitute prime locations for needed open space areas. Every effort should be made to discourage indiscriminate and incompatible urban development on floodplains, while encouraging compatible park and open space use.

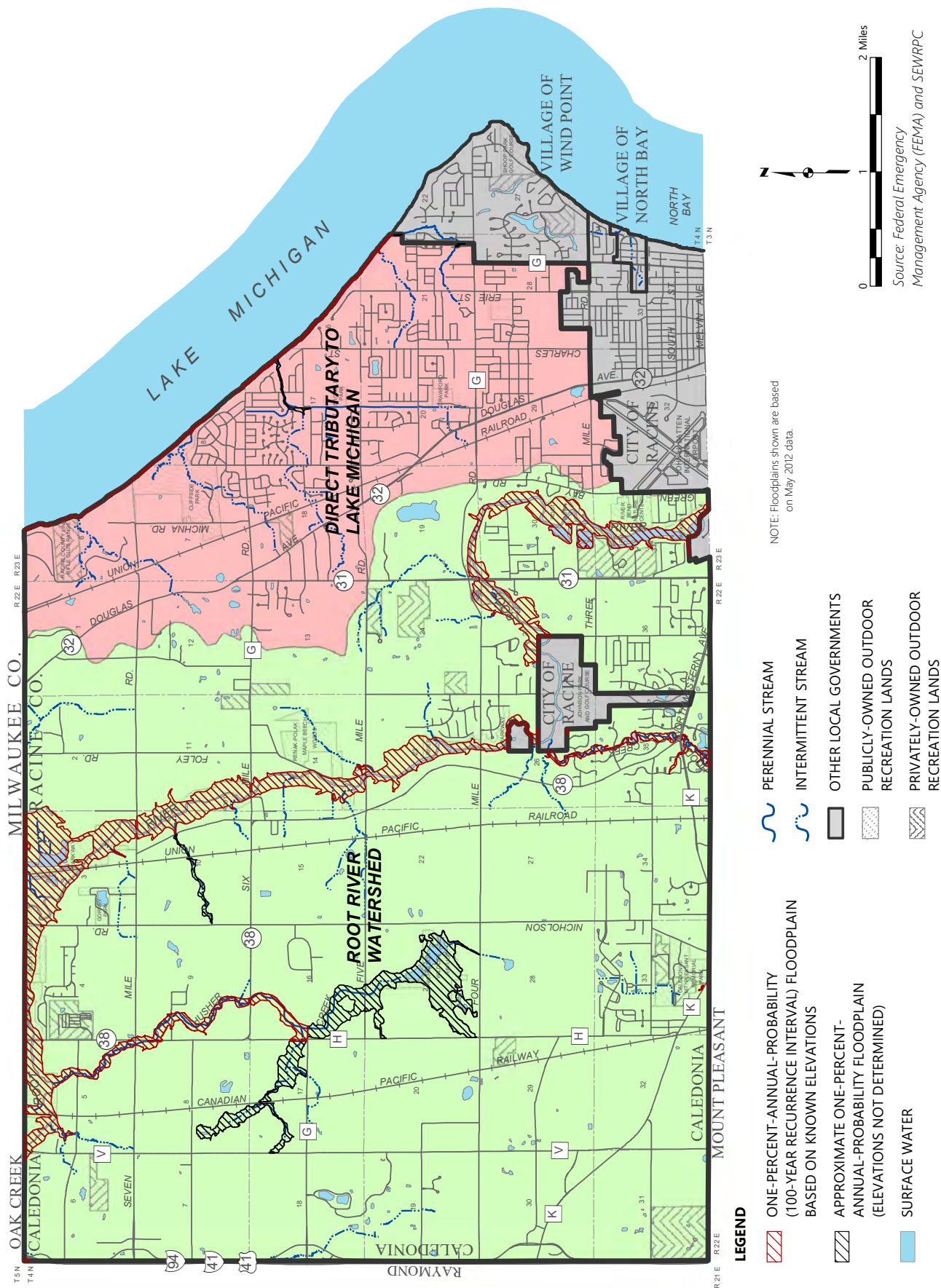
Floodplain maps for Racine County were updated under a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Modernization Program. Final floodplain maps for the Village of Caledonia were completed in May 2012. The floodplain delineations are shown on Map 2.7, and include floodplains located along the Lake Michigan shoreline, the Root River, Hoods Creek, Husher Creek, and an unnamed tributary of Husher Creek.

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<sup>7</sup> Perennial streams are defined as watercourses that maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. Intermittent streams are defined as watercourses that do not maintain a continuous flow throughout the year.



**Map 2.7**  
**Surface Water Resources in the Village of Caledonia: 2012**



The Map Modernization Program identifies the one-percent-annual-probability floodplain, including floodway and floodfringe areas, and the 0.2-percent-annual-probability (500-year recurrence interval) floodplain. The one-percent-annual-probability floodplain information consists of delineated floodplains based on computed flood elevations, often referred to as “detailed” floodplains, and “approximate” floodplains where flood elevations have not been determined. The “approximate” floodplains were delineated on less precise floodplain maps and other factors, such as soil type and vegetative growth. Detailed floodplains have been identified along all major streams and tributaries and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Approximate floodplains have been identified along the upstream portions of Husher Creek, along an unnamed tributary of Husher Creek, in and around the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge, along an unnamed tributary of the Root River, and along an unnamed tributary that drains into Lake Michigan. The one-percent-annual-probability floodplain encompasses 1,720 acres, or about 6 percent of the Village.

The dispersal of urban land uses over large areas and the accompanying increase in impervious areas increases stormwater runoff, which must be accommodated by a stream network or by engineered stormwater management systems. Such facilities may include 1) curbs and gutters, 2) catch basins and inlets, 3) storm sewers, 4) infiltration facilities, and 5) stormwater storage facilities for quantity and quality control such as dry and wet detention basins, respectively. Detention basins serve to moderate peak rates of runoff following rainstorms and wet detention basins further provide a permanent volume of water to capture and store pollutants. The ponds or storage basins provide floodwater and stormwater management benefits, and may provide opportunities for limited outdoor recreation use, such as fishing and ice skating. When dry, the basins are sometimes used for field sports. There are numerous stormwater basins located in the Village, including three large Village-owned basins, the Markay Basin (22 acres), the SCORE Basin (21 acres), and the Caddy Vista Basin (seven acres), as well as other basins located within Village-owned parks or open space sites. The location of the three large basins are shown on Map 2.3 and listed on Table 2.3.

## **Wetlands**

For planning and regulatory purposes,<sup>8</sup> wetlands are commonly defined as areas in which the water table is at, near, or above the land surface and which are characterized by both hydric soils and the growth of sedges, cattails, and other wetland vegetation. Wetlands generally occur in depressions and near the bottom of slopes, along lakeshores and stream banks, and on large land areas that are poorly drained.

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

Wetlands within the Village of Caledonia are shown on Map 2.2, and in 2010, encompassed 2,159 acres, or about 7 percent of the Village. The majority of wetlands within the Village are located along the Root River and other perennial and intermittent streams.

## **Woodlands**

Woodlands are defined by the Regional Planning Commission as those upland areas one acre or more in size with 17 or more deciduous trees per acre, each measuring at least four inches in diameter at breast height and having 50 percent or more tree canopy coverage.

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

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<sup>8</sup> *Wetlands are regulated under Chapters 103 and 117 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code and Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act.*

can and should be maintained, to the extent practicable, for their scenic, wildlife habitat, educational, and recreational value and for air and water quality protection.

Woodlands encompass 1,213 acres, or about 4 percent of the Village. As shown on Map 2.2, woodlands are scattered throughout the Village, but larger portions of woodlands are located in the northern and northeastern portions of the Village, including areas within the State-owned Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods area, Tabor Woods, and in and near the County-owned Cliffside Park.

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

One of the most important tasks completed under the regional planning program for Southeastern Wisconsin has been the identification and delineation of those areas in the Region in which concentrations of remaining natural resources occur. The protection and preservation of such areas in essentially natural, open uses is crucial in maintaining both the ecological balance and natural beauty of the Region, the County, and the Village.

Identification of environmental corridors is based upon the presence of one or more of the following important natural resources: 1) rivers, streams, lakes, and associated riparian buffers and floodplains; 2) wetlands; 3) woodlands; 4) prairies; 5) wildlife habitat areas; 6) wet, poorly drained, and organic soils; and 7) rugged terrain and high relief topography. Certain other features with recreational, aesthetic, ecological, and natural resource values, including existing and potential parks, open space sites, natural areas, historic sites, and scenic viewpoints, are also considered in the delineation of environmental corridors.<sup>9</sup>

The delineation of these natural resource and resource-related elements on a map results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow, elongated areas. Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of important natural resource and resource-related elements and are at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors serve to link primary environmental corridors, or encompass areas containing concentrations of natural resources between 100 and 400 acres in size and at least one mile long. Where secondary corridors serve to link primary environmental corridors, no minimum area or length criteria apply. Isolated natural resource areas consist of smaller concentrations of natural resources, have a minimum of five acres, and are separated physically from the environmental corridors by intensive urban or agricultural land uses.

The preservation of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in essentially natural, open uses can help reduce flood flows, reduce noise pollution, and maintain air and water quality. Corridor preservation is important to the movement of wildlife and for the movement and dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. In addition, because of the many interacting relationships between living organisms and their environment, the destruction and deterioration of any one element of the natural resource base may lead to a chain reaction of deterioration and destruction. The draining and filling of wetlands, for example, may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, and the natural filtration action of interconnecting stream systems. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to deterioration of the quality of groundwater, which serves as a source of domestic, municipal, and industrial water supply in many areas and on which low flows in rivers and streams may depend. Similarly, the destruction of woodland cover may result in soil erosion and stream siltation, more rapid stormwater runoff and attendant increased flood flows and stages, and destruction of wildlife habitat.

Although the effects of any one of these environmental changes may not in and of itself be overwhelming, the combined effects will eventually create serious environmental and developmental problems. These problems include flooding, water pollution, deterioration and destruction of wildlife habitat, loss of groundwater recharge areas, and destruction of the unique natural beauty of the area. The need to maintain the integrity of the remaining environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas thus becomes apparent.

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<sup>9</sup> A detailed description of the process of refining the delineation of environmental corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin is presented in SEWRPC Technical Record, Vol. 4, No. 2, Pages 1 through 21, Refining the Delineation of Environmental Corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin, March 1981 (available at [www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPC/LandUse/EnvironmentalCorridors.htm](http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPC/LandUse/EnvironmentalCorridors.htm) or by contacting the Commission).

### **Primary Environmental Corridors**

As shown on Map 2.8, primary environmental corridors are located along the Lake Michigan shoreline; the Root River; portions of Hoods Creek and Husher Creek; and the Renak-Polak Maple Beech Woods and the Tabor Woods natural areas, which are centrally located in the Village, and the Hunts Woods natural area, which is located in the north-central portion of the Village. As indicated in Table 2.7, these corridors encompassed a total area of 1,772 acres, or about 6 percent of the Village.

Primary environmental corridors include the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas, and are, in effect, composites of the best remaining residual elements of the natural resource base of the Village. These corridors have truly immeasurable environmental and recreational value. The protection of the primary environmental corridors from intrusion by incompatible uses, and thereby from degradation and destruction, should be one of the principal objectives of the Village park and open space plan. Their preservation in an essentially open, natural state, including park and open space uses and very low density residential uses, will serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality in the Village, protect its natural beauty, and provide valuable recreation opportunities.

### **Secondary Environmental Corridors**

As shown on Map 2.8, secondary environmental corridors in the Village of Caledonia are located along a portion of Hoods Creek, along an intermittent stream in the eastern portion of the Village, and the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge area, which contains the Caledonia Wildlife Area natural area, in the western part of the Village. As indicated in Table 2.7, secondary environmental corridors encompass 264 acres, or about 1 percent of the Village.

Secondary environmental corridors facilitate surface water drainage and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife. Such corridors should also be considered for preservation in essentially open, natural uses as development proceeds within the Village, particularly when the opportunity is presented to incorporate the corridors into drainageways, neighborhood parks, or trail corridors.

### **Isolated Natural Resource Areas**

In addition to the environmental corridors, other smaller concentrations of natural resource base elements exist within the Village. These pockets are generally isolated from the environmental corridors by urban or agricultural development. Although separated from the environmental corridor network, these isolated natural resource areas have important natural values. Isolated natural resource areas may provide the only available wildlife habitat in an area, provide good locations for local parks and open space areas, and lend aesthetic character and natural diversity to an area.

As shown on Map 2.8 and Table 2.7, isolated natural resource areas are scattered throughout the Village, with a good portion of the areas located in the northern portion of the Village. Isolated natural resource areas encompass 1,428 acres, or about 5 percent of the Village.

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

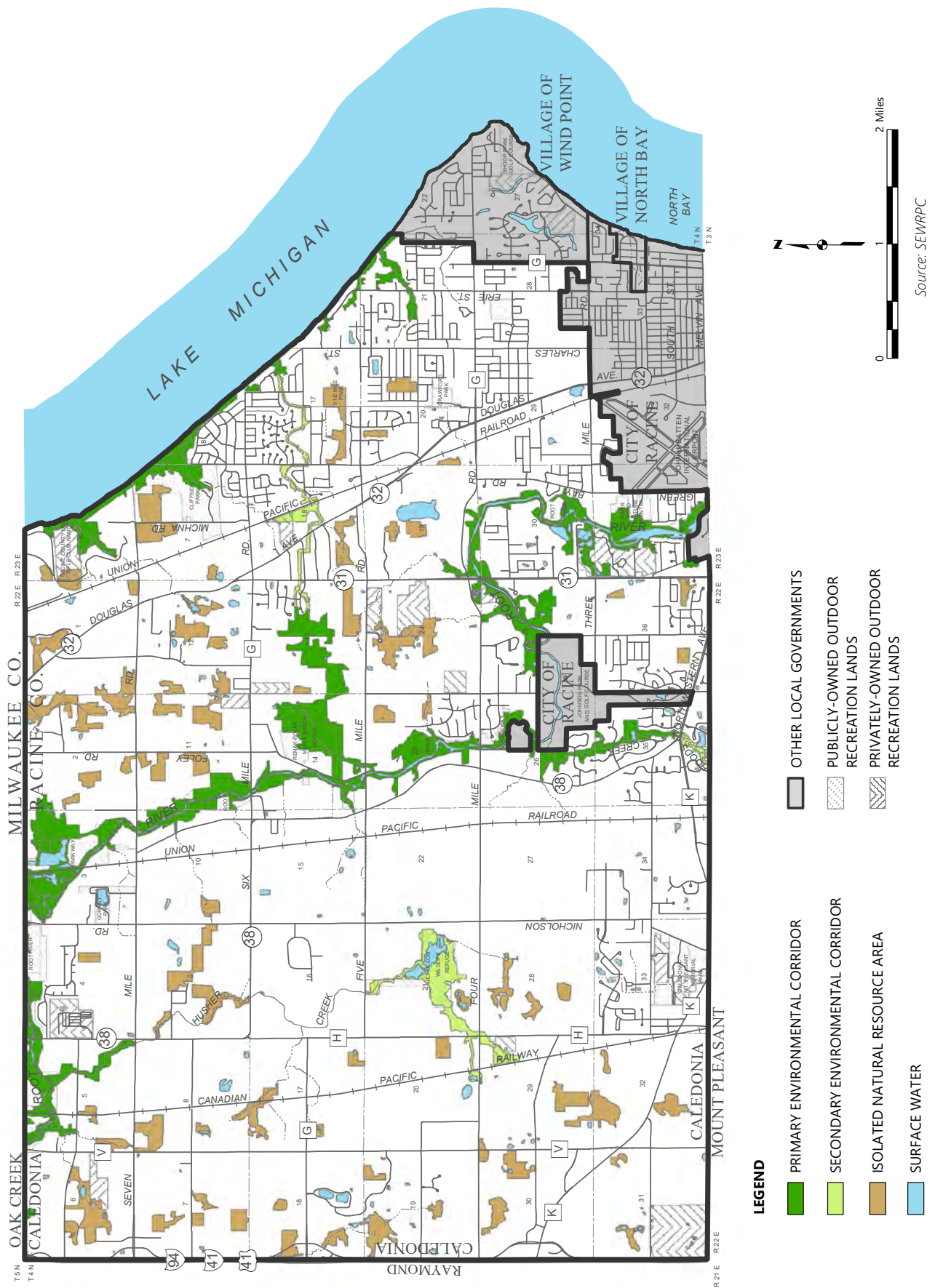
A comprehensive inventory of natural areas and critical species habitat sites in Southeastern Wisconsin was completed in 1994 by WDNR and SEWRPC. The natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological sites inventory was updated in 2010.<sup>10</sup> Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European-settlement landscape. Natural areas are classified into one of the following three categories: natural areas of Statewide or greater significance (NA-1), natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2), or natural areas of local significance (NA-3). Classification of an area into one of these three categories is based on consideration of the diversity of plant and animal species and community types present; the structure and integrity of the native plant or animal community; the extent of disturbance by human activity, such as logging, grazing, water level changes, and pollution; the commonness of the plant and animal communities present; any

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<sup>10</sup> *The results of the 1994 inventory are documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997. The plan update is documented in SEWRPC Amendment to Planning Report No. 42, Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.*



**Map 2.8**  
**Environmental Corridors in the Village of Caledonia: 2010**



unique natural features within the area; the size of the area; and the educational value and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement.

As indicated on Map 2.9 and described in Table 2.8, 14 natural areas, one of which is considered to be of Statewide or greater significance, were identified in the Village of Caledonia. The 138-acre Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area, the site of Statewide or greater significance identified in the 2010 inventory, is centrally located in the Village east of the Root River and along East River Road. Four natural areas considered to be of countywide or regional significance and nine natural areas of local significance were also identified within the Village.

Critical species habitat sites are defined by the Regional Planning Commission as areas outside natural areas that support rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species. Thirteen critical species habitat sites have been identified within the Village. The 13 sites are also shown on Map 2.9 and listed on Table 2.8 and encompass 278 acres within the Village.

Aquatic habitat areas consist of rivers, streams, and lakes that support endangered, threatened, or rare fish, herptile, or mussel species; support extensive beds of mussel species; or are located within or adjacent to a natural area. Based on a ranking system developed as part of the regional natural areas plan, aquatic areas were designated as AQ-1, aquatic areas of Statewide or greater significance; AQ-2, aquatic areas of countywide or regional significance; or AQ-3, aquatic areas of local significance. Three aquatic habitat areas were identified within the Village. All three areas are considered to be of local significance. These aquatic habitat areas, inventoried in 1994, are also identified in Table 2.8 and shown on Map 2.9 and encompass nearly 14 linear miles within the Village.

Geological sites are areas identified as having a significant glacial feature or bedrock feature. The geological sites in Racine County were selected on the basis of scientific importance, significance in industrial history, natural aesthetics, ecological qualities, educational value, and public access potential. Based on a ranking system developed as part of the regional natural areas plan, geological sites were designated as having Statewide or greater significance (GA-1); countywide or regional significance (GA-2); or local significance (GA-3). As identified in the 1994 inventory, there were two geological sites located in the Village, the 14-acre Cliffside Park Clay Banks and the 19-acre Root River Outcrops. The Cliffside Park Clay Banks is a glacial feature located along the Lake Michigan shoreline near the County-owned Cliffside Park and the Village-owned Chapla Park. The Root River Outcrops is a bedrock feature located along the Root River near the City of Racine Johnson Park Dog Run site. Both sites have been identified as geological areas of local significance. These sites are also identified in Table 2.8 and shown on Map 2.9.

## 2.6 SUMMARY

This chapter has presented a general description of the Village of Caledonia, including a description of population levels and land use, existing park and open space sites, and natural resource features such as environmental corridors, floodplains, wetlands, woodlands, surface water, natural areas, geological sites, and critical species habitat and aquatic sites. The key components of this chapter are as follows:

- The Village of Caledonia resident population level for 2010, based on U.S. Census data, is 24,705 persons. This represents an increase of 1,091 persons, or 5 percent, from the 2000 population.
- In 2010, the Village of Caledonia encompassed about 19,184 acres. Of this total, 10,332 acres, or about 35 percent of the Village, are currently developed for urban uses. Residential development occupies 5,016 acres, or about 17 percent of the Village, and lands devoted to transportation, communication, and utilities occupy 2,178 acres, or about 8 percent of Village. The remaining 18,852

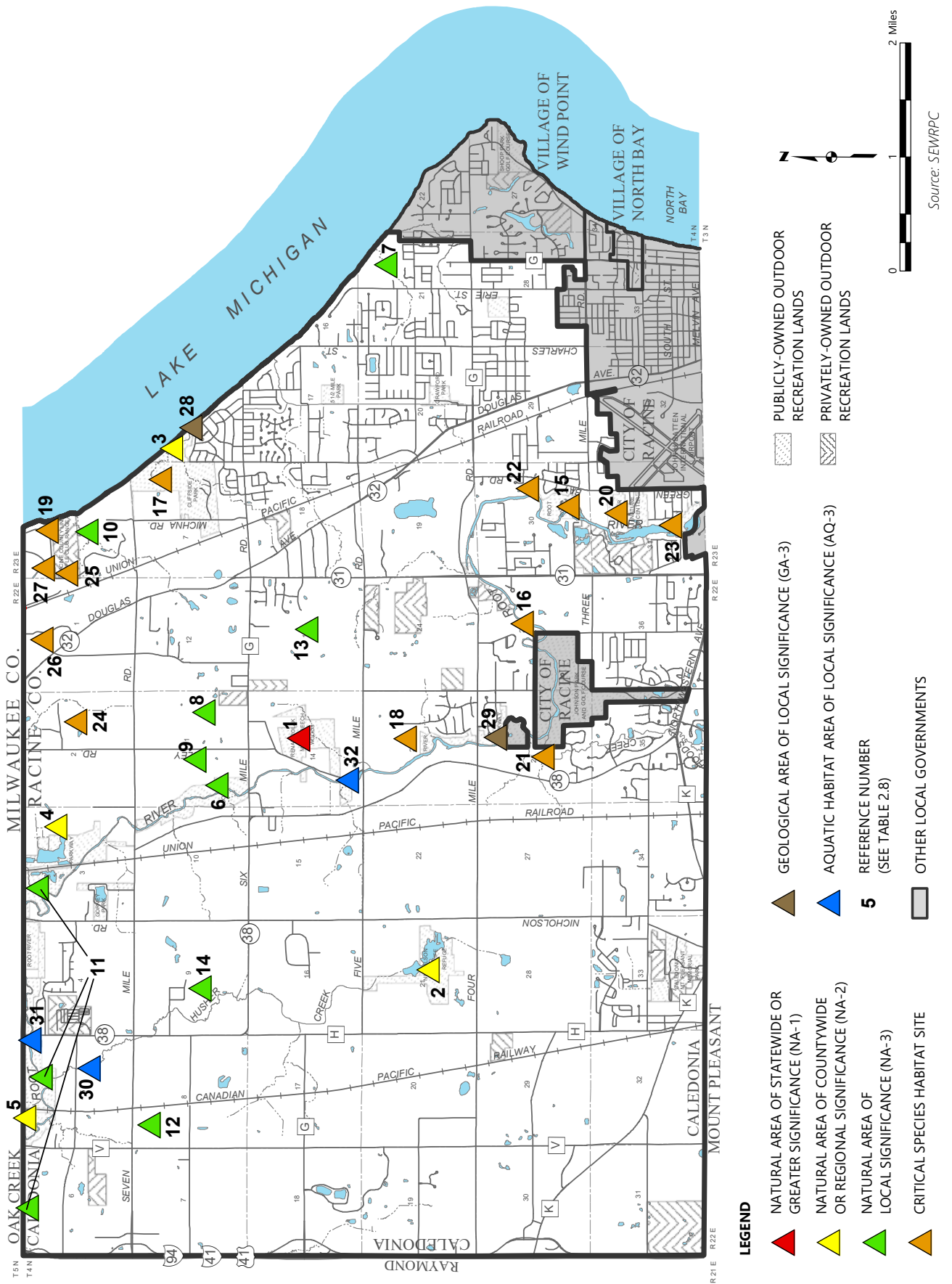
**Table 2.7**  
**Environmental Corridors and**  
**Isolated Natural Resource Areas in**  
**The Village of Caledonia: 2010**

Corridor Type	Acres	Percent <sup>a</sup>
Primary Environmental Corridor	1,772	6.1
Secondary Environmental Corridor	264	0.9
Isolated Natural Resource Area	1,428	4.9
Total	3,464	11.9

<sup>a</sup> Percent of the Village (29,184 acres) within corridor.

Source: SEWRPC

**Map 2.9**  
**Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites in the Village of Caledonia: 2010**



**Table 2.8**  
**Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites in the Village of Caledonia: 2010**

Site Type <sup>a</sup>	Number on Map 2.9	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
NA-1 (SNA)	1	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area	T4N, R22E Section 14	University of Wisconsin – Parkside, Caledonia Conservancy, and other private	138	Outstanding, mostly old-growth low-lying southern mesic forest on east side of Root River. Wet-mesic hardwoods, shrub-carr, and shallow marsh lie along an intermittent stream which crosses the tract. Noted for spectacular displays of spring wildflowers. Probably the best such woods remaining in the Region
	2	Caledonia Wildlife Area	T4N, R22E Section 21	Village of Caledonia and private	166	An open wetland with seasonal ponds that attract a large number of migrating birds such as whistling swans, snow geese, golden plovers, and willets. The pond is one of the few secure stopover areas in the Region, and it is a very good observation area
	3	Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks	T4N, R23E Sections 7 and 8	Racine County and Village of Caledonia	55	Second-growth mesic woods, ravine, and steep clay banks along Lake Michigan harbor a rich and diverse flora, including such uncommon species as buffaloberry, cream gentian, stiff gentian, balsam poplar, and the State-designated endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> )
NA-2	4	Hunts Woods	T4N, R22E Sections 2 and 3	Racine County and private	36	A small but undisturbed remnant of southern mesic hardwoods, dominated by mature beeches and sugar maples. The woods to the south and east are younger, while to the north are lowland hardwoods. The relatively rich ground flora includes the State-designated endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> )
	5	Root River Wet-Mesic Woods—East	T4N, R22E Section 5	Racine County	2 <sup>b</sup>	Wet-mesic and mesic woods bordering a gravel-bottom stream that is tributary to the Root River. Contains a rich, diverse flora, including several rare species
	6	Caledonia Low Woods	T4N, R22E Sections 10, 11, and 14	Racine County and private	107	Moderate-quality lowland hardwoods bordering the Root River. Adjoining upland woods contains three State-designated special concern species: American gromwell ( <i>Lithospermum latifolium</i> ), red trillium ( <i>Trillium recurvatum</i> ), and black haw ( <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> )
NA-3	7	Dominican Ravine	T4N, R23E Section 21	Private	18	Small woodland containing blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ), a State-designated endangered species
	8	Foley Road Woods—East	T4N, R22E Section 11	Private	24	Moderate-quality mesic woods with a rich ground flora; reportedly contains the State-designated endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> )

**Table continued on next page.**

Table 2.8 (Continued)

Site Type <sup>a</sup>	Number on Map 2.9	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
NA-3 (continued)	9	Foley Road Woods—West	T4N, R22E Section 11	Private	19	Medium-age mesic and wet-mesic woods with a large population of black haw ( <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> )
	10	Power Plant Ravine Woods	T4N, R23E Section 6	WE Energies	32	Mesic woods bordering a steep ravine that leads to Lake Michigan. Although the woods has suffered from disturbance, it contains a rich flora, including a large population of the State-designated endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ). The exposed ravine slopes and Lake Michigan clay banks contain a number of unusual species
	11	Root River Riverine Forest	T4N, R22E Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6	Racine County, Milwaukee County, and private	185 <sup>c</sup>	A significant portion of the Root River corridor
	12	Seven Mile Road Woods	T4N, R22E Section 8	Private	20	Second-growth maple-ash-oak woods of about 75 years of age that has been subjected to past selective cutting. Contains a rich and diverse ground flora. Low areas contain ephemeral ponds
	13	Tabor Woods	T4N, R22E Sections 13 and 14	Caledonia Conservancy and other private	106	Relatively large but irregularly shaped mesic, dry-mesic, and wet-mesic woods that have suffered various degrees of disturbance. Portions of the woods are dominated by beech. Threatened by increasing residential development in the area
	14	Zirbes Woods	T4N, R22E Section 9	Private	13	A small but relatively undisturbed mesic woods dominated by basswood, white ash, red oak, and sugar maple, with a rich ground flora. Future high-grading is indicated by a number of the larger oaks which were marked
	15	Caledonia Low Woods – South	T4N, R23E Section 30	Racine County and private	30	Small woodland supporting two State-designated special concern species: red trillium ( <i>Trillium recurvatum</i> ) and hoptree ( <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> )
	16	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way	T4N, R22E Section 25	Caledonia Conservancy, Racine County, and private	74 <sup>d</sup>	Shrubland containing blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ), a State-designated endangered species, and two species of special concern
	17	Cliffside Park Old Field	T4N, R23E Sections 7 and 8	Racine County	55	Old field/grassland complex within county park containing breeding habitat for a number of grassland-nesting birds
	18	Forked Aster Site	T4N, R22E Section 23	Racine County and private	18	Woodland supporting forked aster ( <i>Aster furcatus</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
	19	Lakeside Woods	T4N R23E Section 6	WE Energies	2	Small woodland on grounds of Oak Creek Power Plant containing blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ), a State-designated endangered species
	CSH					

Table continued on next page.



Table 2.8 (Continued)

Site Type <sup>a</sup>	Number on Map 2.9	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
CSH (continued)	20	River Bend Upland Woods	T4N, R23E Section 31	Racine County	14	Dry-mesic woods containing blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ), a State-designated endangered species
	21	Root River Bluff	T4N, R22E Section 26	Racine County and private	39 <sup>e</sup>	Small woodland supporting hoptree ( <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
	22	Root River Ravine Woods	T4N R23E Section 30	Private	5	Small woodland supporting red trillium ( <i>Trillium recurvatum</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
	23	Root River Strip Woods	T4N, R23E Section 31	Racine County and private	2	Small woodland supporting a State-designated special concern species, hoptree ( <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> )
	24	Sherwood Property	T4N, R22E Section 2	Private	4	Wetland containing a population of hoplike sedge ( <i>Carex lupuliformis</i> ), a State-designated endangered species
	25	WEPCO Oak Woods	T4N, R22E Section 1 T4N, R23E Section 6	WE Energies	14	Small woodland on grounds of Oak Creek Power Plant containing blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ), a State-designated endangered species
	26	WEPCO Woods	T4N, R22E Section 1	WE Energies	18	Small woodland on grounds of Oak Creek Power Plant containing blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ), a State-designated endangered species
GA-3	27	Wood Duck Woods	T4N, R23E Section 6	WE Energies	3	Small woodland on grounds of Oak Creek Power Plant containing blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ), a State-designated endangered species
	28	Cliffside Park Clay Banks	T4N, R23E Sections 7 and 8	Racine County, Village of Caledonia, and WE Energies	14	Clay banks along Lake Michigan shoreline
AQ-3	29	Root River Outcrops	T4N, R22E Section 26	Racine County and private	19 <sup>f</sup>	Low outcrops of Racine Dolomite along Root River, one of few places in Racine County where rock is exposed
	30	Husher Creek	T3N, R22E Sections 5, 8, and 9	--	1.9 miles	Bisects an identified Natural Area, the Root River Riverine Forest
AQ-3 (RSH)	31	Root River downstream from County Line Road to Nicholson Road	T3N, R22E Sections 4 and 5	--	1.9 <sup>g</sup> miles	Bisects identified Natural Areas
	32	Root River downstream from Nicholson Road to STH 38	T3N, R22E Sections 3, 10, 11, 14, 23, 25, and 26 T3N, R23E Sections 19, 30, and 31	--	10.0 <sup>g</sup> miles	Critical herptile species habitat

Table continued on next page.

**Table 2.8 (Continued)**

<sup>a</sup> Site types are classified as follows:

- 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
- CSH identifies Critical Species Habitat sites
- GA-3 identifies Geological Areas of local significance
- SNA, or State Natural Area, identifies those sites officially designated as State Natural Areas by the State of Wisconsin
- RSH, or Rare Species Habitat, identifies those Aquatic Areas which support habitat for endangered, threatened, or "special concern" species officially designated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- AQ-3 identifies Aquatic Areas of local significance.

<sup>b</sup> Includes only the acreage located in the Village. Total acreage is 52 acres. Milwaukee County owns the remaining 50-acre portion of the site.

<sup>c</sup> Includes only the acreage located in the Village. Total acreage is 331 acres. Milwaukee County owns a 143-acre portion of the site and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation owns a two-acre portion of the site. The remaining one acre is under private ownership.

<sup>d</sup> Includes only the acreage located in the Village. Total acreage is 94 acres. The remaining 20 acres are located in the City of Racine and owned by the City of Racine as part of Johnson Park and Golf Course.

<sup>e</sup> Includes only the acreage located in the Village. Total acreage is 50 acres. The remaining 11 acres are located in the City of Racine and owned by the City of Racine as part of Johnson Park Golf Course or the Johnson Park Dog Run.

<sup>f</sup> Includes only the acreage located in the Village. Total acreage is 25 acres. The remaining six acres are located in the City of Racine and owned by the City of Racine as part of the Johnson Park Dog Run.

<sup>g</sup> Portion of the site extends outside of the Village and miles given are entirely within the Village.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC



acres, or about 65 percent of the Village, consist of natural resource areas or other nonurban uses, including 14,357 acres, or about 49 percent of the Village, consisting of agricultural lands.

- An inventory of the existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the Village found that there were 70 such sites, which together encompassed about 3,018 acres, or about 10 percent of the Village. There were 16 Village-owned sites, encompassing 384 acres, including the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park, which is jointly owned and maintained by the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant. The 335-acre major park, Johnson Park and Golf Course, and the 28-acre, Johnson Park Dog Run, both sites within the City of Racine and maintained by the City, are surrounded by the Village and also provide Village residents with additional recreational opportunities.
- The Village also contains nine sites that have lands under a conservation easement. The nine sites encompass 332 acres and the lands are protected by either the Caledonia Conservancy, the Kenosha Racine Land Trust, or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- The Racine-County-owned MRK Trail provides opportunities for biking and hiking within the Village. The MRK Trail is eight linear miles within the planning area and runs from Layard Avenue in the City of Racine north to Elm Road in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. Within the Village, the trail is a combination of on-street and off-street segments. Racine County also has about 10 miles of signed on-street bike routes within the Village. Together, the MRK Trail and the on-street bike route comprise about 18 miles within the Village.
- Primary environmental corridors encompassed 1,772 acres, or about 6 percent of the Village. Secondary environmental corridors encompassed 264 acres, or about 1 percent of the Village. Isolated natural resource areas encompassed 1,428 acres, or about 5 percent of the Village.
- The Village contains 14 natural areas, including one site that is considered of Statewide or greater significance, the Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area; 13 critical species habitat sites; and two geological sites. Together, these sites encompass about 1,232 acres of the Village. The Village also includes three aquatic habitat areas encompassing about 14 linear miles.



*Credit: SEWRPC Staff*

The previous chapter of this report presented the results of inventories of existing population, land uses, natural resources, and park and open space sites in the Village. This chapter describes additional important factors considered when preparing the park and open space plan update. Specifically, this chapter describes relevant Village, County, and regional plan recommendations; probable future population levels in the Village in the year 2035; and a set of park and open space objectives, principles, and standards that were used as a guide to prepare the plan update.

## 3.1 VILLAGE PLANS AFFECTING THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Sound planning practice requires that each community plan or plan element be properly related to adopted local, county, and regional plans. Plans that have been considered and appropriately incorporated into this updated park and open space plan include the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035; the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan; the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan; and the updated natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin.

### Park and Open Space Plans and Related Plans

This plan is the third park and open space plan prepared by SEWRPC for the Village.<sup>11</sup> The first edition of the park and open space plan for the Town of Caledonia was designed to the year 2010 and was adopted in 1989. An update to the plan (second edition), with a design year of 2020, was adopted in April 2000. In 2006, Village staff prepared an update to the Village park plan, which was adopted in 2009. In April 2016, the Village of Caledonia requested that SEWRPC assist the Village in preparing an update to the park plan.

### Village of Caledonia Land Use Plan and Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County

The Caledonia Village Board adopted an updated land use plan and a series of more detailed neighborhood plans<sup>12</sup> in 2006. On September 15, 2009, the Village Board adopted the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive

<sup>11</sup> The previous two editions of the SEWRPC prepared park plans were adopted by the then-Town of Caledonia. In November 2005, the Town incorporated as the Village of Caledonia.

<sup>12</sup> Documented in a report entitled, Village of Caledonia Final Land Use Plan, August 2006.

plan for Racine County<sup>13</sup> as the Village's comprehensive plan. The multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan includes recommendations for future land uses, parks, and natural resource preservation; projections of future population and households; and goals, objectives, policies, and programs relevant to this park and open space plan update. The plan is designed to the year 2035. The Village of Caledonia land use plan map adopted as part of the multi-jurisdictional plan is shown on Map 3.1. The map includes amendments adopted by the Village Board through June 2016.

The Village's land use plan adopted in 2006 included standards and guidelines related to environmental corridors and environmentally sensitive areas within the Village. The "Environmental Linkage" Policy encouraged the connection of environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and other significant natural resource areas in order to form larger habitat systems or corridors. The main objective of environmental linkages is to preserve large tracts of land for conservation purposes, with the ability to support diverse wildlife habitats. Based on the Village's Environmental Linkage policy, the following language was incorporated as policy in the multi-jurisdictional plan:

Support carefully planned efforts to restore open space lands to more natural conditions that could result in the expansion of the environmental corridor network. This should include linkages between existing environmental corridors and isolated natural resources, especially those areas that are identified in local and neighborhood land use plans.

The multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan anticipates that existing park and open space sites owned by the Village will continue to be maintained to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities to the existing and future population of the Village. The Village land use plan map adopted as part of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan identifies both existing active park sites and additional areas that may serve as future Village parks as a "Recreational" land use. As recommended in this updated park and open space plan, some existing sites may be expanded and/or additional recreation facilities developed to serve Village residents (see Chapter 4).

### ***Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Programs***

The following goals, objectives, policies, and programs related to the development of the Village park and open space system are taken from the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. The goals, objectives, policies, and programs complement the Regional Park and Open Space Objectives, Principles, and Standards included in Appendix A, which were developed by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC).

#### Goals

- Preserve open space to enhance the total quality of the environment, maximize essential natural resource availability, give form and structure to urban development, and provide opportunities for a full range of outdoor recreation activities
- Maintain the environmental assets of the community and develop methods to protect and preserve valuable natural features, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces, groundwater resources, and floodplains

#### Objectives

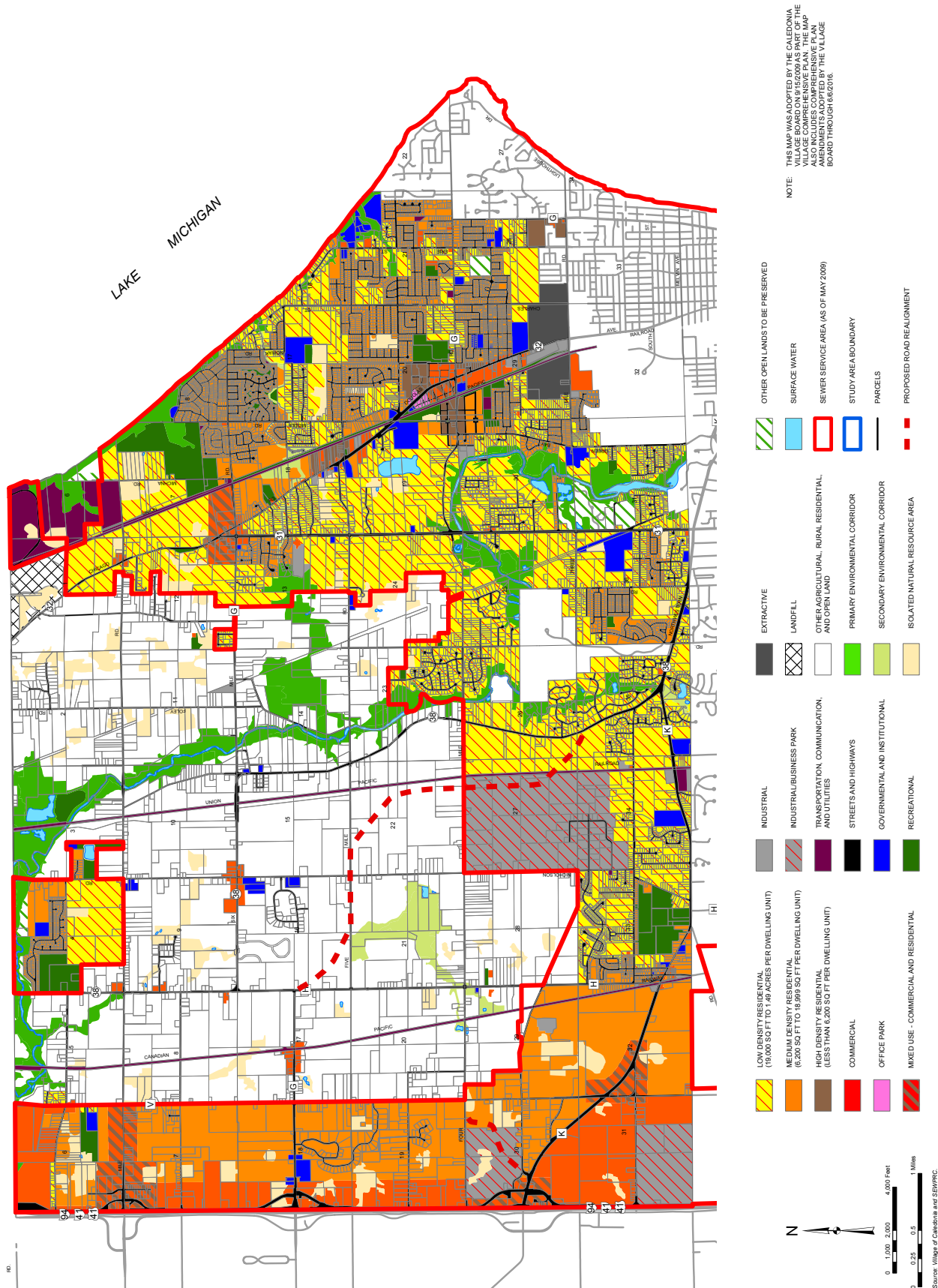
- Preserve the natural character and vistas in Racine County
- Preserve open spaces and natural resources as part of future development proposals in the County
- Provide a comprehensive system of parks and open spaces within Racine County to enhance the quality of the environment and life

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<sup>13</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, November 2009.



**Map 3.1**  
**Adopted Land Use Plan Map for the Village of Caledonia: 2035**



- Provide County residents adequate opportunities to participate in resource and nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, including water-based outdoor recreation activities
- Support recommendations in regional, county, and local plans related to land use, transportation, water quality management, water supply, lake districts, and parks and open spaces
- Provide a comprehensive system of parks and outdoor recreation sites and facilities to allow County residents adequate opportunities to participate in resource and nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, including water-based outdoor recreation activities which are consistent with enjoyable surface water use and maintenance of adequate water quality
- Provide an integrated and accessible system of trails that will provide County residents with a transportation alternative to motor vehicles
- Foster social, educational, recreational, and leisure-time opportunities for residents

#### Policies and Programs

- Implement strategies regarding the preservation and protection of environmental corridors, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites recommended in the County land and water resource management plan and the Racine County park and open space plan, including updates to the plans.
- Implement strategies regarding the protection and restoration of wetlands, stream corridors, floodplain areas, the Lake Michigan shoreline and bluff, and protection of natural systems, pollution reduction and control, and protection of public safety and public recreation and access recommended in the County land and water resource management plan.
- Implement the recommendations of the Racine County park and open space plan and any subsequent updates.
- Consider the preparation and implementation of local park and open space plans.
- Update County and local park and open space plans as necessary to maintain eligibility for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Stewardship funding.
- Continue to partner with appropriate Federal, State, and Nonprofit Conservation Organizations (NCOs) to promote natural resource enhancements and restorations in Racine County.
- Support carefully planned efforts to restore open space lands to more natural conditions that could result in the expansion of the environmental corridor network. This should include linkages between existing environmental corridors and isolated natural resources, especially those areas that are identified in local and neighborhood land use plans.
- Work with the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust and other NCOs to protect environmental corridors, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites through Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), easements, and/or land purchases.
- Work with local governments to provide a system of public neighborhood and community parks in urban areas that complement the County park and trail system.
- Continue to provide information to local governments about County park and open space sites and recreational facilities, and coordinate with local governments for the joint development and use of facilities, where appropriate.
- Identify and seek grant funds to study future needs and demands for recreational programs and facilities for school-age children and teenagers.



- Consider park and recreation standards developed by SEWRPC, the National Recreation and Park Association, and the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association when updating the County and local park and open space plans to ensure an appropriate number, size, and distribution of parks and recreational facilities.
- Coordinate county-wide on-street and off-street (multi-use) bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian, and waterway trail planning and development to provide connections to local trails and trails in adjacent counties.
- Racine County and its communities should continue to work with the WDNR and non-government organizations to acquire and develop parks, trails, and other recreation facilities, and to acquire and protect valuable natural resource areas as called for in County or local park and open space plans.

### **Population Projections**

In 2000, there were 23,614 residents and 8,549 households in the Village. When preparing the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, each local government was given the opportunity to select its own set of projections for use in preparing local components of the plan. The Village selected a projection of 30,342 residents and 11,731 households, which is the projection from SEWRPC's 2035 regional land use plan. In 2010, the Village's population was 24,705 residents and there were 9,629 households. Under the plan, the number of Village residents would increase by 5,637 persons, or by 23 percent; and the number of households would increase by 2,102 households, or by 22 percent, between 2010 and 2035.

### **Root River Watershed Restoration Plan**

The Root River watershed restoration plan<sup>14</sup> was prepared by SEWRPC to address concerns about watershed degradation in response to a request from Racine County, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. (Sweet Water), and the Root-Pike WIN. The watershed plan has been adopted by MMSD, Milwaukee and Racine Counties, the Cities of Racine and Greenfield, the Village of Mount Pleasant, and the Town of Dover. The Root River watershed plan builds upon the findings and recommendations of the 2007 regional water quality management plan update,<sup>15</sup> and is a comprehensive approach to help guide the management and restoration of water resources in the watershed.

The watershed plan provides specific, targeted recommendations with the overall goal of restoring and improving water resources in the Root River watershed. The plan is also designed to assist units of government, State and Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private landowners in identifying methods that will restore and benefit the natural resources of the watershed. About 12 miles of the Root River are located in the Village, which runs centrally through the Village from north to south. Currently, there are three publicly-owned sites (County-owned River Bend Nature Center, County-owned parkway lands, and Village-owned Linwood Park) and three privately-owned sites (two Caledonia Conservancy properties and the privately-owned S.C. Johnson Armstrong Park) located along the Root River within the Village. The publicly-owned lands encompass 738 acres and the privately-owned sites encompass 177 acres along the River; thus a total of 915 acres are protected through public ownership or by a conservation organization or other private entity. The Root River watershed within the Village encompasses 22,945 acres, or about 79 percent of the Village and about 18 percent of the total watershed. The extent of the Root River watershed within the Village is shown on Map 2.7 in Chapter 2 of this report.

The watershed restoration plan is focused on four issues: water quality, recreational use and access, habitat conditions, and flooding.<sup>16</sup> The Root River provides many recreational opportunities to Village residents,

<sup>14</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 316, A Watershed Restoration Plan for the Root River Watershed, July 2014.

<sup>15</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50, A Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds, Parts One and Two, December 2007.

<sup>16</sup> Flood mitigation approaches were addressed in the Root River plan for the Racine County portion of the watershed. Flooding in the Milwaukee County portion of the watershed is being addressed through separate studies.

including fishing, hunting, boating, wading, canoeing, kayaking, wildlife watching, and scenic viewing. The portion of the Root River downstream from Horlick Dam supports a trout and salmon fishery, stocked by the WDNR that is linked to Lake Michigan. The dam is located about 1,150 feet south of the Village in the City of Racine.

The watershed plan recommends that riparian buffers be expanded and/or protected along all the River and its tributaries, which include Hoods Creek, Husher Creek, Crayfish Creek, and the Kilbournville tributary located in the Village. The plan also recommends maintaining or establishing a minimum buffer of natural vegetation within 75 feet on both sides of the River and its tributaries, with consideration given to establishing an optimal riparian buffer up to 1,000 feet on both sides of the Root River. Establishment of such an optimal buffer width could be considered when development or redevelopment proposals are submitted to the Village for review. Establishing a minimum 75-foot buffer provides quality in-stream habitats and reduces pollution entering the stream, while establishing wider buffers enhances these in-stream benefits, and also provides links to essential habitats for a variety of wildlife populations.

Table 79 of the watershed plan lists site-specific water quality, habitat, and recreational use and access recommendations. Recommendations for portions of the Root River within the Village include installing canoe landings; removing invasive plant species; installing water quality monitoring stations; implementation of procedures to better detect illicit discharges from the stormwater system to receiving streams; streambank stabilization; installing grassed waterways; protecting areas of high and very high groundwater recharge potential; considering dam abandonment and removal; investigating water quality issues along Husher Creek; and acquiring land for resource protection. The watershed plan further recommends that the Village evaluate the use of various green infrastructure methods in the Caddy Vista area and other urban portions of the Village. Such methods may include green roofs, rain barrels, rain gardens, cisterns, and porous pavement in areas not subject to application of salt. Specific recommendations from the watershed plan for improvements within the Village are listed in Table 3.1.

In addition to the site-specific recommendations, the watershed plan recommends more detailed floodplain mitigation planning for the Village with a focus on non-structural flood mitigation such as elevating, floodproofing, or demolishing flood-prone buildings.

The watershed plan carries forth a recommendation from the regional water quality management plan that a total of 10 percent of existing marginally-productive farmland and pasture be converted to either wetland or prairie conditions. The benefits of this practice include reducing fecal coliform bacteria, total suspended solids, total nitrogen, and total phosphorus loads delivered to streams, and to a limited degree, reduced peak stormwater runoff rates. The focus of this effort should be on marginally productive lands, which are defined as agricultural lands other than those identified as having Class I or Class II soils by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Consistent with this, the water quality management plan update identified candidate areas to be given first consideration when identifying marginally productive lands to be converted to wetlands or prairies. Map 3.2 shows the location of selected candidate areas in the Village. The areas selected are within or adjacent to planned environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas or farmed wetlands larger than five acres. Farmed wetlands larger than five acres would meet the criteria for designation as an isolated natural resource area if farming activities cease and the wetland reverts to natural conditions. All of the potential restoration areas shown on Map 3.2 have soils that indicate they would be suitable for restoration as wetlands, but an on-site evaluation would be necessary prior to any restoration efforts.

## **3.2 COUNTY AND REGIONAL PLANS AFFECTING THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

### **Regional and County Park and Open Space Plans**

The adopted regional park, outdoor recreation, and related open space plan, documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, November 1977, identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommends a system of large regional resource-oriented parks, recreation corridors, and smaller urban parks, together with their attendant recreational facility requirements, to meet these needs. The portion of the regional park plan that applies to Racine County, including the Village of Caledonia, was revised in 1988 through the preparation and adoption of a County park and open space plan. An updated County park and open space

**Table 3.1****Site-Specific Management Measures for the Root River Watershed in the Village of Caledonia: 2014<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Focus Areas Addressed</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Management Action</b>	<b>Priority<sup>b</sup></b>
Habitat	Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	Remove invasive plants species, restore site	High
Water Quality	Husher Creek south of 5 Mile Road	Add water quality monitoring station	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality, Recreational Use and Access	Husher Creek south of 7 Mile Road	Stream rehabilitation, naturalization, or bank stabilization project to address eroding streambanks. Remeandering of channelized reaches including addition of buffer and canopy cover	Low
Water Quality	Husher Creek at 5 Mile Road	Investigate to determine cause of low dissolved oxygen concentrations at this site during summer	Medium
Habitat	Tabor Woods	Removal and management of invasive plant species	High
Recreational Use and Access	Root River at STH 31	Install canoe landing on west side of the road and north side of the River	Medium
Recreational Use and Access	Green Bay Road and Kennedy Avenue	Access to public land could be provided for foot and snowmobile by a mowed path through an area between apartment buildings that is overrun with invasive species	Low
Recreational Use and Access	Linwood Park	Install canoe landing	Medium
Recreational Use and Access	Root River at upstream crossing of 4 Mile Road at Blue River Reserves	Install canoe landing	Medium
Habitat	Property west of Holy Cross Cemetery and west of STH 32 at 4 1/2 Mile Road (extended)	Currently under conservation easement, acquire for protective ownership when owner wants to sell or donate	Medium
Water Quality	Husher Creek at 7 Mile Road	Investigation to find and remedy source of human <i>Bacteroides</i> in water quality samples upstream from sampling station	Medium
Water Quality	Husher Creek at 7 Mile Road	Investigate agricultural drain tiles that may benefit from a filtration system	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	A 120 foot section of the south bank in tax parcel 104-04-22-26-025-030 and 150 foot section of the northeast bank of Hoods Creek in tax parcel 104-4-22-26-025-024	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 120 feet of Hoods Creek. Erosion height is estimated at an average of four feet	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	Four erosion sites of varying severity on both banks of tax parcel 104-04-22-26-029-000.	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along both banks of Hoods Creek of 30 feet, 120 feet, 100 feet, and 45 feet in length, respectively. Erosion height is estimated to be three feet, four feet, 3.5 feet, and five feet, respectively	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	A 50 foot section of erosion on the west bank of Hoods Creek in tax parcel 104-04-22-26-060-000	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along about 50 feet of Hoods Creek. Removal of old bridge footings should be considered to prevent continued scour. Erosion height is estimated at an average of five feet	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	A 120 foot section of severe erosion on the west bank of Hoods Creek in tax parcel 104-04-22-26-039-010	Bank stabilization to address severe bank erosion along about 120 feet of Hoods Creek. Erosion height is estimated at an average of nine feet	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	A 175 foot section of erosion on the east bank of Hoods Creek in tax parcel 104-04-22-350-540-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 175 feet of Hoods Creek in close proximity to the Hoods Creek Road crossing. Erosion height is estimated at an average of three feet	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	Two erosion sites on the west bank of Hoods Creek in tax parcel 104-04-22-350-620-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 40 feet of Hoods Creek in close proximity to the Hoods Creek Road crossing with an erosion height estimated at four feet; bank stabilization to address erosion along 80 feet of Hoods Creek, with an erosion height estimated at an average of 3.5 feet	Low

**Table continued on next page.**

**Table 3.1 (Continued)**

<b>Focus Areas Addressed</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Management Action</b>	<b>Priority<sup>b</sup></b>
Habitat, Water Quality	A 200 foot section of erosion on the west bank of Hoods Creek in tax parcel 104-04-22-350-850-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 200 feet of Hoods Creek. Erosion height is estimated at an average of 3.5 feet	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	Five erosion sites of varying severity on both banks of Hoods Creek of tax parcels 104-04-22-350-190-00 and 104-04-22-350-200-00 (same owner)	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along both banks of Hoods Creek of 300 feet, 250 feet, 50 feet, 40 feet, and 200 feet in length, respectively. Erosion height is estimated at an average of seven feet, four feet, six feet, six feet, and six feet, respectively. Site HE26 has a high priority due to its proximity to a private driveway crossing; site HE30 has a high priority due to its proximity to a private dam	High
Habitat, Water Quality	Three erosion sites all on the southern bank of Hoods Creek on tax parcels 104-04-22-353-009-51	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along Hoods Creek of 40 feet, 125 feet, and 60 feet in length, respectively. Erosion height is estimated at an average of six feet, 5.5 feet, and 10 feet, respectively	High
Habitat, Water Quality	A 90 foot section of severe erosion on the south bank of Hoods Creek in tax parcel 104-04-22-350-360-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 90 feet of Hoods Creek. Erosion height is estimated at an average of nine feet. Erosion is in close proximity to stormwater detention basin outflow channel located on Jamestown Limited property	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	A 100 foot section of erosion on the west bank of Hoods Creek in tax parcels 104-04-22-351-700-00 and 151-03-22-020-52-000	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 100 feet of Hoods Creek. Erosion height is estimated at an average of six feet. Erosion is in close proximity to a residential garage	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	A 60 foot section of erosion on the southeast bank of the mainstem of the Root River in tax parcel 104-04-22-250-950-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 60 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of six feet	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	A 50 foot section of erosion on the north bank of the mainstem of the Root River in tax parcel 104-04-22-250-410-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 50 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of four feet	Low
Habitat, Water Quality, Recreational Use and Access	A 600 foot section of erosion on the west bank of the mainstem of the Root River in Linwood Park, tax parcel 104-04-22-140-650-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 600 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of four feet. Adjust mowing protocol to leave unmowed area along streambank. Add designated fishing area	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	A 500 foot section of erosion on the west bank of the mainstem of the Root River in tax parcels 104-04-22-140-640-01 and 104-04-22-140-610-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 500 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of six feet	High
Habitat, Water Quality	A 50 foot section of erosion on the east bank of the mainstem of the Root River in tax parcel 104-04-22-140-550-01	Bank stabilization and extension of existing rock toe downstream to address bank erosion along 50 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of 12 feet	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	A 245 foot section of erosion on the east bank of the mainstem of the Root River in tax parcel 104-04-22-110-350-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 245 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of five feet	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	A 240 foot section of erosion on the south bank of the mainstem of the Root River in tax parcel 104-04-22-110-240-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 240 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of five feet	Medium

**Table continued on next page.**

**Table 3.1 (Continued)**

<b>Focus Areas Addressed</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Management Action</b>	<b>Priority<sup>b</sup></b>
Habitat, Water Quality	A 150 foot section of erosion on the west bank of the mainstem of the Root River in tax parcel 104-04-22-100-220-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 150 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of five feet	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	A 590 foot section of erosion on the west bank of the mainstem of the Root River in tax parcel 104-04-22-03-036-000	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 590 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of five feet	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	A 250 foot section of erosion on the northeast bank of the mainstem of the Root River in tax parcels 104-04-22-03-011-000, 104-04-22-03-009-001, and 971-9992-001	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 250 feet of the mainstem of the Root River in close proximity to County Line Road. Erosion height is estimated at an average of four feet	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	Two erosion sites on both banks of the mainstem of the Root River within tax parcels 9729997000 and 104-04-22-04-002-000	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 20 feet and 160 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of eight feet and seven feet, respectively	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	Five erosion sites of varying severity on both banks of the mainstem of the Root River within tax parcels 9739994000 and 104-04-22-04-012-000	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 400 feet, 80 feet, 80 feet, 100 feet, and 120 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of five feet, six feet, four feet, six feet, and five feet, respectively	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	Two erosion sites on the south bank of the mainstem of the Root River in tax parcels 104-04-22-05-010-000 and 104-04-22-05-014-000	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 80 feet and 200 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of six feet for both sites	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	Four erosion sites of varying severity on both banks of the mainstem of the Root River within tax parcels 104-04-22-05-016-000 and 104-04-22-05-024-000	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 80 feet, 200 feet, 240 feet, and 160 feet of the mainstem of the Root River. Erosion height is estimated at an average of five feet, 10 feet, five feet, and five feet, respectively	High
Habitat, Water Quality	Farm field draining to Husher Creek in tax key 104-04-22-160-23-030	Installation of 650-foot long grassed waterway	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	Farm field draining into Husher Creek west of S. Howell Avenue and south of 5 Mile Road in tax key 104-04-22-20-00-10-00	Installation of agricultural BMPs including: Grassed waterways 1,050 feet long; subsurface drain 1,050 feet long	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	Farm field along Husher Creek south of 5 Mile Road and east of S. Howell Avenue in tax keys 104-04-22-21-00-8000 and 104-04-22-21-00-7000	Conversion of 0.8 acre of agricultural land to grass buffer to increase riparian buffer along Husher Creek	High
Habitat, Water Quality	Dam located on Hoods Creek in tax key 104-04-22-35-02-0000	Explore dam abandonment and removal options	Low

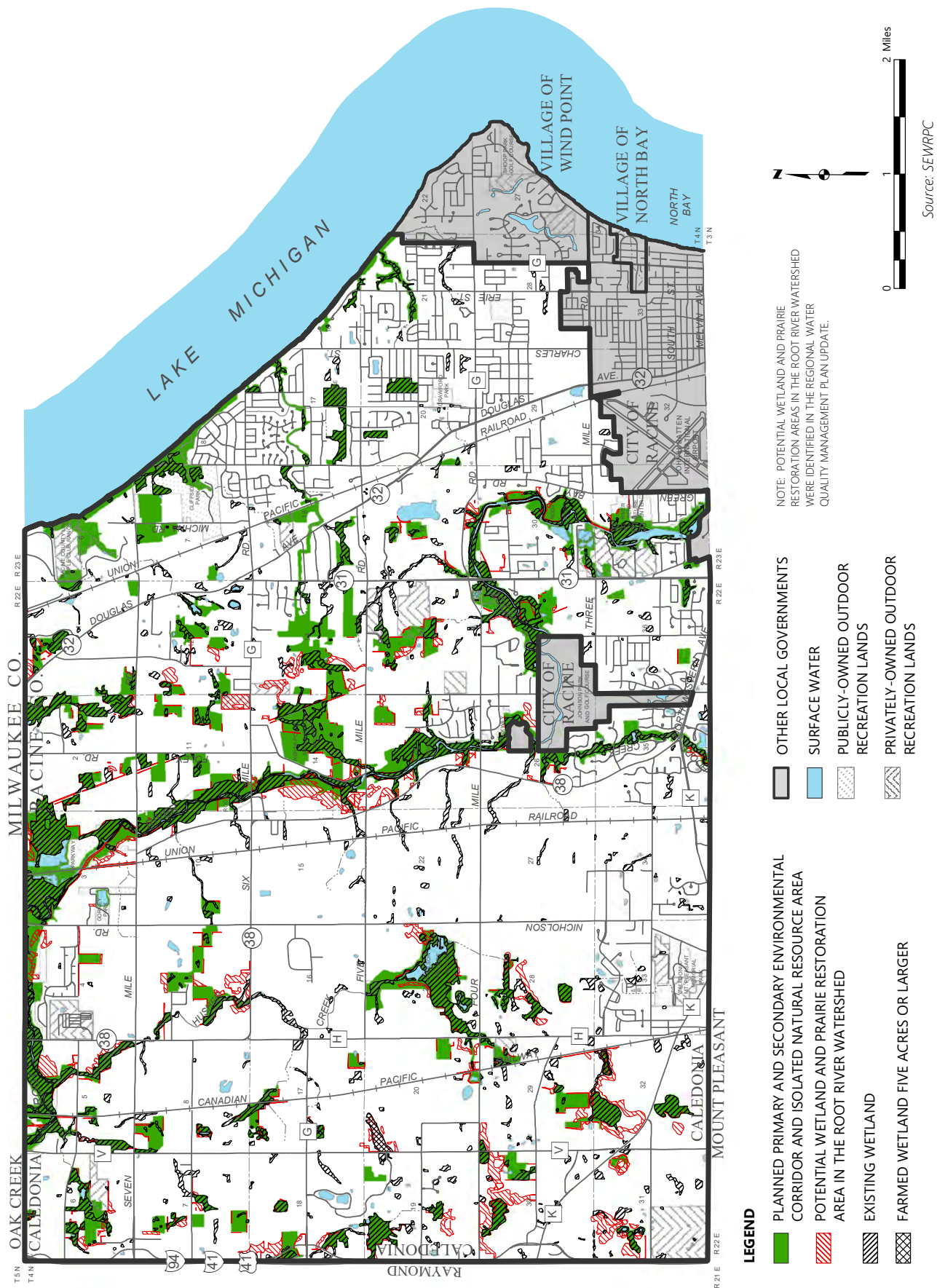
<sup>a</sup> Recommendations are excerpted from Table 79 in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 316, A Watershed Restoration Plan for the Root River Watershed, July 2014.

<sup>b</sup> It is anticipated that most high-priority projects will be implemented over the 10-year period from 2014 through 2023, most medium-priority projects will be implemented over the period from 2024 through 2038, and most low-priority projects will be implemented after 2038. It is recognized that some priority rankings may change during refinement and preliminary engineering of projects.

Source: 1000 Friends of Wisconsin; AECOM; City of Racine; City of Greenfield; Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture; Root River Watershed Restoration Plan Advisory Group; Root River Restoration Planning Group; Racine County Land Conservation Division; Racine Health Department; and SEWRPC



**Map 3.2**  
**Potential Wetland and Prairie Restoration Areas in the Root River Watershed Within the Village of Caledonia**



plan, a second edition, was adopted by the County Board in 2001, and was designed to the year 2020. In 2012, another update to the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan,<sup>17</sup> a third edition, was adopted by the County Board. That plan is designed to the year 2035 and consists of both an open space preservation element and an areawide outdoor recreation element, intended to, respectively, protect areas containing important natural resources and to provide resource-oriented recreational sites and facilities, including trails. The outdoor recreation element of the County park plan is summarized on Map 3.3.

Outdoor recreation sites recommended within the Village of Caledonia by the County park plan include one existing major park within the Village, the 223-acre Cliffside Park, located in the northeastern portion of the Village along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The plan recommends that the County provide additional picnic facilities and trails and develop a nature study center at the park. The proposed nature study center would focus on lakeshore resources. The plan also recommends that the County consider the development of a disc golf course at the park if a public-private partnership were to be established to fund the development. Another major park is also located in the Village's planning area. Johnson Park and Golf Course, a 335-acre park located in the City of Racine and maintained by the City, is surrounded by the Village in the south-central portion of the Village's planning area. The plan recommends that the City of Racine continue to maintain the park and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities.

The County park plan also recommends continued maintenance other County-owned sites within the Village of Caledonia, including the River Bend Nature Center, Root River Parkway lands, and Tabor Sokol Memorial Park. In 2012, Racine County acquired the 75-acre River Bend Nature Center property from the Racine YMCA. The plan recommends that the County continue to maintain the nature center and accommodate resource-oriented activities through a public-private partnership with a nonprofit organization. The plan also recommends that the County continue to acquire lands along the Root River as part of the parkway system for resource protection, where feasible, and develop appropriate recreational facilities associated with the Root River and other resource-oriented activities in these areas.

The plan also recommends that Racine County continue to maintain and provide additional facilities at other County parks located near the Village, including the 39-acre Quarry Lake Park and the 15-acre Horlick Park, both located just south of the Village in the City of Racine and the Village of Mount Pleasant, respectively.

The County park plan recommends that the County develop a trail within the Lake Michigan and Root River Recreation Corridors in the Village. The Lake Michigan Trail has been fully developed in Racine County. Within the Village, the seven-mile trail, also known as the MRK Trail, exists on a combination of off-street and on-street segments with the majority of the trail located within a WE Energies utility corridor or on WE Energies property. The City of Racine has developed the Lake Michigan Pathway within the City which links to the MRK trail in the Village of Caledonia to the North Shore Trail in the Village of Mount Pleasant. The Lake Michigan trail in Racine County connects to the Lake Michigan Corridor in Kenosha County (more commonly known as the North Shore Trail) and is planned to connect with the Lake Michigan Corridor in Milwaukee County (the Oak Leaf Trail). It is recommended that Racine County continue to maintain those portions of the trail located within the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant.

A Root River Trail within the Village is recommended to be developed by Racine County along the Root River. Currently, the City of Racine has developed a four-mile portion of the Root River Pathway within the City, which would eventually connect to the proposed trail within the Village. The trail is proposed to continue along the Root River in Milwaukee County to connect to an existing segment of the trail in the City of Franklin.

The County plan also recommends the County continue to maintain signage and other route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route, which includes about a nine-mile portion within the Village.

The County park plan also recommends the development of water trails. Potential water trails may be located on the Root River and along the Lake Michigan<sup>18</sup> shoreline within and adjacent to the Village. These

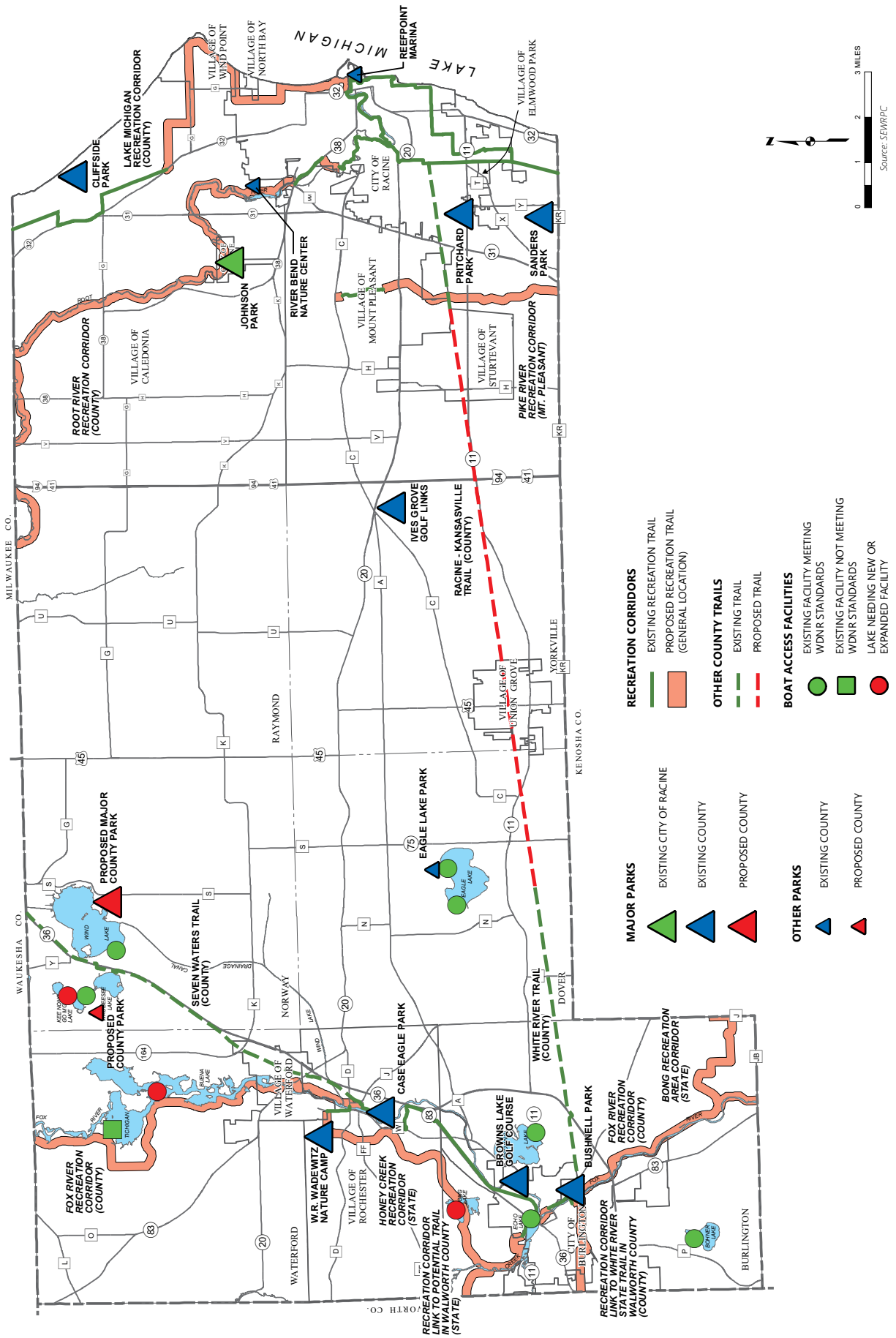
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<sup>17</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 3rd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, February 2013.

<sup>18</sup> In July 2017, the Department of Natural Resources designated the Lake Michigan Water Trail as a State Trail.

Map 3.3

# Outdoor Recreation Element of the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan: 2035



trails would connect with water trails in adjacent counties. Existing public canoe access sites are currently located at the River Bend Nature Center and Horlick Park. The County park plan recommends that public canoe/kayak access points with parking be provided on major streams every 10 miles in Racine County. The Root River watershed plan recommends more specific locations for the development of public canoe/kayak access sites (see Table 3.1).

The County park plan also recognizes the popularity of beach swimming, shore fishing, and other lake-oriented activities and the need for general public access to lakeshore areas for such pursuits. As lakeshore property within the Village becomes available, Racine County and the Village should jointly evaluate the recreational potential and consider acquiring the land for public recreational use.

### **Regional Natural Areas Plan**

Natural areas and critical species habitat sites in Southeastern Wisconsin were identified in 1994 as part of the regional natural areas study. The inventory of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological sites was updated in 2010.<sup>19</sup> Fourteen natural areas, 13 critical species habitat sites, and two geological areas were identified in the Village, which are shown on Map 2.9 and described on Table 2.8 in Chapter 2. Recommendations for the protection of these sites are included in Chapter 4.

## **3.3 REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS**

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

The objectives, principles, and standards developed for the Regional Park and Open Space Plan were used to prepare the Racine County park and open space plan described in the previous section, and this Village park plan. The regional standards have been modified over time to incorporate State regulations regarding lake access and to incorporate a standard for soccer fields. The regional park and open space objectives, principles, and standards are set forth in Appendix A. Applicable goals, objectives, policies, and programs from the Village's comprehensive plan were also used to help guide preparation of this plan.

The attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide residents of the Village with opportunities for high-quality recreational experiences. Under the regional park and open space plan and the Racine County park and open space plan, the responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreational facilities is shared among various levels of government. The responsibility for acquisition and development of major resource-oriented parks and recreational facilities<sup>20</sup> is largely delegated to the state and county levels of government, although larger cities sometimes provide major parks. The need for major parks will be met within the Village of Caledonia by the continued maintenance and development of Cliffside Park by Racine County. An additional major park, Johnson Park and Golf Course, located in the City of Racine and surrounded by the Village, should continue to be maintained and developed by the City of Racine. Bender Park, a 300-acre major park located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County, is also located near the Village. Recreational facilities at the park include a beach, boat launches with trailer parking, hiking trails, fishing, and a recreation building with restrooms.

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<sup>19</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997. An update to the plan is documented in SEWRPC Amendment to Planning Report No. 42, Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.

<sup>20</sup> Resource-oriented recreational facilities include camping, golfing, picnicking, skiing, and beach swimming. Such facilities are dependent on the natural resources, such as woodlands and rivers or lakes, of the site in which they are located. Facility requirements for these activities are set forth under Objective No. 3 in Appendix A.



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

### **3.4 PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS**

#### **Needs Analysis**

A needs analysis was conducted to help determine the need for additional outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the Village. The needs analysis applies the standards set forth in Appendix A for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks and public and private outdoor recreation facilities to the anticipated future resident population of the Village. Per capita and accessibility standards are used to help determine the need for additional parks and recreational facilities.

Per capita standards determine the number of acres of park land or the number of recreational facilities to be provided for every 1,000 Village residents. Recreational facilities include baseball and softball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball goals, and similar facilities. Accessibility standards are intended to ensure that community and neighborhood parks and recreational facilities are well-distributed throughout the Village and convenient to all residents. The accessibility standards apply a recommended distance, or service area, to community and neighborhood parks and recreational facilities.

As noted in Chapter 2, the 2010 Village population was 24,705 persons. The anticipated resident population of the Village of Caledonia under the adopted Village comprehensive plan is about 30,342 persons, which is the population level upon which the needs analysis presented in this section is based.

#### **Community and Neighborhood Parks**

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

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

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

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



**Table 3.2**  
**Per Capita Acreage Needs Analysis for Community and**  
**Neighborhood Parks in the Village of Caledonia**

Park and School Sites	Minimum Net Acreage Standard (developable acres per 1,000 persons) <sup>b</sup>	Existing Net Acreage	Per Capita Acreage Requirements			
			Existing 2010 Population: 24,705 Residents		Planned 2035 Population: 30,342 Residents	
			Net Acreage Need Based on Standard <sup>c</sup>	Additional Net Acreage Need <sup>d</sup>	Net Acreage Need Based on Standard <sup>c</sup>	Additional Net Acreage Need <sup>d</sup>
Parks <sup>a</sup>	3.9	756 <sup>e</sup>	96	--	118	--
Schools	2.5	22 <sup>f</sup>	62	40	76	54
Total	6.4	778	158	--	194	--

<sup>a</sup> Includes seven Village-owned community and neighborhood park sites, including 5 ½ Mile Park, Chapla Park, County Line Park, Crawford Park, Gorney Park, Linwood Park, the Crawford Park expansion and one jointly-owned park, Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park. Also included is one site owned by Racine County (Cliffside Park) and one site owned by the City of Racine (Johnson Park and Golf Course), which provide community and neighborhood recreational facilities to Village residents.

<sup>b</sup> Per capita acreage standards are set forth under Objective No. 1 in Appendix A.

<sup>c</sup> The acreage need for park and school sites was determined by multiplying the acreage standard by the appropriate population in thousands of persons.

<sup>d</sup> Additional acreage need was determined by subtracting the existing acres from the need identified by applying the standard. Since the remainder was a negative number, no need for additional parks was identified based on per capita standards. See Maps 3.2 and 3.3 for areas located outside the recommended service area for community and neighborhood parks, respectively.

<sup>e</sup> Includes about 189 acres of existing developed (143 acres) and potential developable (46 acres) areas at 10 existing major, community, and neighborhood parks. Developable area excludes wetlands, lowland portions of primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and floodplains within existing parks.

<sup>f</sup> This total includes acreage used for outdoor recreation purposes at four public school sites within the Village of Caledonia.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC

As previously noted, neighborhood park sites provide facilities for children's outdoor recreation activities. Such facilities should be accessible through a convenient and safe pedestrian circulation pattern. In the service area analysis for neighborhood parks, features such as rivers and railroads were considered as barriers preventing pedestrian access from residential areas to neighborhood parks and recreation facilities, unless a bridge or street provided convenient access across the river or railroad. Arterial streets were also considered barriers to neighborhood parks, except in cases where stop signs or signals provided convenient pedestrian access to the parks from surrounding residential areas.

### Site Needs Based on Per Capita Standards

The result of applying the per capita standards for the amount of land needed for community and neighborhood parks to serve Village residents in the year 2035 is presented in Table 3.2. Application of the per capita standards indicates a need for additional public outdoor recreation lands at public school sites, however, the amount of acreage in existing Village-, County-, and City-owned park sites compensates for the relatively small amount of recreation land at public school sites. Although the per capita acreage standards are met, additional parks may be needed to provide a good distribution of parks in the Village. The service area analysis is provided in the following section.

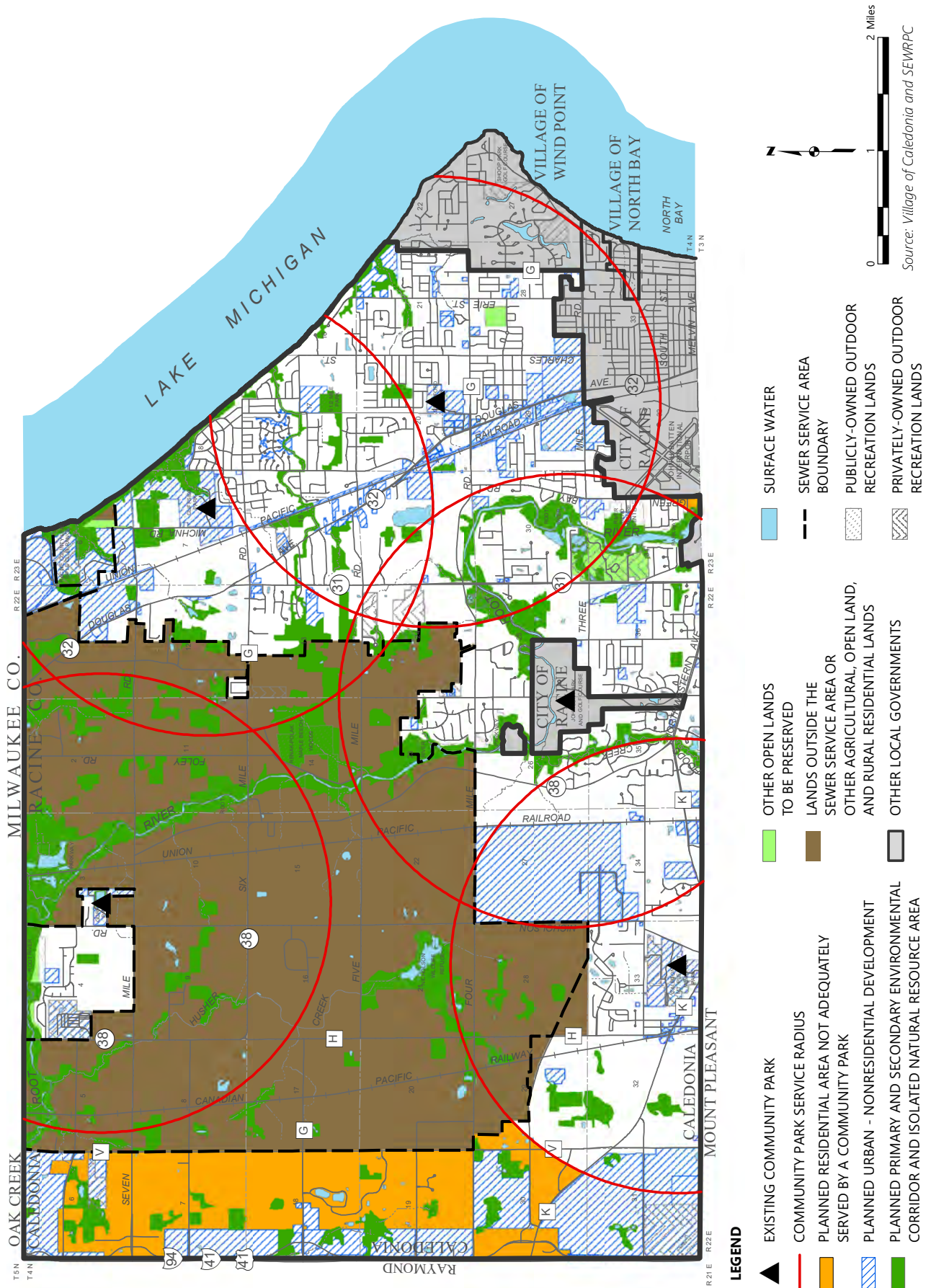
### Site Needs Based on Service Area Standards

The service area standards are intended to ensure that public parks are spatially distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are intended to serve. Areas developed with nonresidential uses need not be served with community or neighborhood parks. Those areas developed or planned to be developed with commercial, industrial, and institutional uses are, therefore, not considered in determining the need for additional park sites.

As shown on Map 3.4, application of the two-mile service area radius to existing parks providing community facilities indicates that planned residential areas west of CTH V are not adequately served by a community

# Map 3.4

## Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Community Park



park. The existing parks providing community park facilities utilized in this analysis include Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park, Cliffside Park, Crawford Park, and Gorney Park in the Village and Johnson Park and Golf Course in the City of Racine. Currently developed areas in the Village are within the recommended service area of existing community parks.

As shown on Map 3.5, application of the 0.75-mile service area radius to existing parks providing neighborhood facilities indicates that much of the Village west of STH 32 is not adequately served by a neighborhood park. In addition, there are areas within the Village which, although within the 0.75-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to railroads or arterial streets. Existing neighborhood parks used in this analysis include Chapla Park, Linwood Park, and Maple Park and the community parks noted above.

### **Facility Needs Based on Per Capita Standards**

The facility standards set forth under Objective No. 2 in Appendix A are concerned with providing an adequate number and distribution of outdoor recreation facilities to afford Village residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive outdoor recreation activities such as baseball, softball, and tennis. The results of applying the adopted per capita facility standards to the projected 2035 population level for the Village of Caledonia are presented in Table 3.3. The existing quantity of each facility includes those located in public and private sites within the Village. Facilities at public sites include those at community parks, neighborhood parks, and public schools. Facilities at private sites include those at private schools and commercial and organizational recreation sites.

As shown in Table 3.3, a need was identified through the application of the standards for nine additional public basketball goals, one additional public playfield, five additional public league softball diamonds, one additional public playground, and eight additional public tennis courts. In cases where the number of private facilities falls below the recommended standard, a need for additional public facilities to fulfill the need was identified, as the public sector has no control over the provision of additional privately-owned recreation facilities.

### **Facility Needs Based on Service Area Standards**

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

#### ***Baseball Diamonds***

As shown on Map 3.6, baseball diamonds were provided at four public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2016. The league softball diamond at the jointly-owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park also serves as a baseball diamond. The maximum service radius of a baseball diamond is two miles. Application of the service area standard indicates that areas in the south-central and western portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of baseball diamonds.

#### ***Basketball Goals***

As shown on Map 3.7, basketball goals were provided at seven public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2016. The maximum service radius of a basketball goal is 0.5 mile. Application of the service area standard indicates that much of the Village west of STH 32, with the exception of the Franksville area, is not served by the existing distribution of basketball goals. In addition, there are limited areas within the Village which, although within the 0.5-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to railroads.

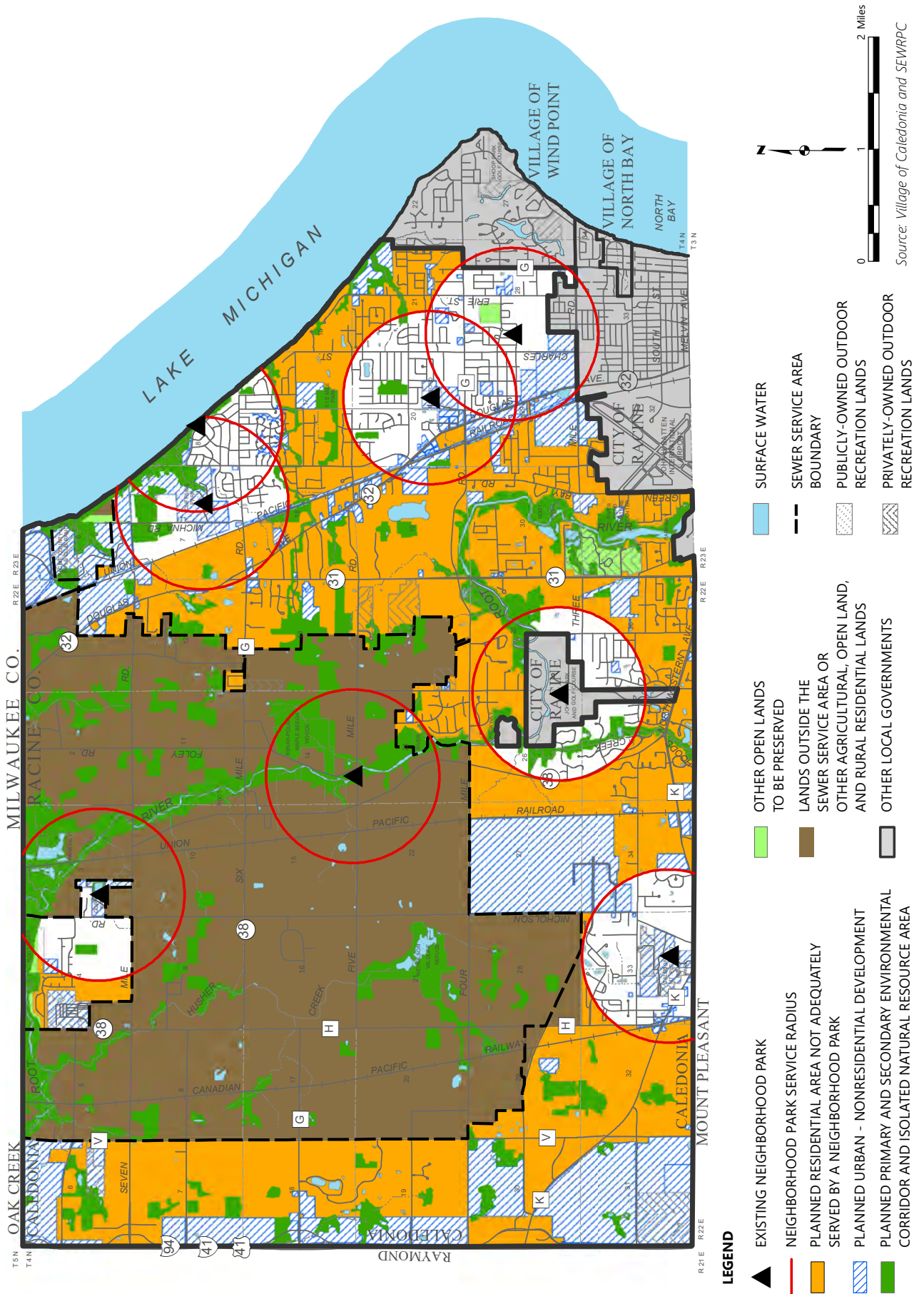
#### ***Playfields***

As shown on Map 3.8, playfields were provided at 11 public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2016. The maximum service radius of a playfield is 0.5 mile. Application of the service area standard indicates that much of the Village west of STH 32, with the exception of the Franksville and Johnson Park areas, are not served by the existing distribution of playfields. In addition, there are limited areas within the Village which, although within the 0.5-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to natural and man-made barriers.



### Map 3.5

#### Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Neighborhood Park



**Table 3.3**  
**Per Capita Needs Analysis for Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities in the Village of Caledonia**

Minimum Per Capita Facility Standards <sup>a</sup>				Facility Need Based on Standard <sup>b</sup>	Existing Number of Facilities	Additional Facility Need <sup>c</sup>
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Residents			
Baseball	Diamond	Public	0.09	3	11 <sup>d</sup>	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.01</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	
		Total	0.10	4	11	
Basketball	Goal	Public	0.91	28	19	9 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.22</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>17</u>	
		Total	1.13	35	36	
Playfield Activities	Playfield	Public	0.39	12	11	1 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.11</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	
		Total	0.50	15	19	
Playground Activities	Playground	Public	0.35	11	10	1 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.07</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	
		Total	0.42	13	18	
Soccer	Field	Public	0.69	21	24 <sup>e</sup>	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.17</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>22</u>	
		Total	0.86	26	46	
League Softball	Diamond	Public	0.53	16	11 <sup>f</sup>	5 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.07</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	
		Total	0.60	18	14	
Tennis	Court	Public	0.41	12	4	8 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.09</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>14<sup>g</sup></u>	
		Total	0.50	15	18	

<sup>a</sup> Per capita facility standards are set forth under Objective No. 2 in Appendix A.

<sup>b</sup> The facility need was determined by multiplying the facility standard per 1,000 residents anticipated under the adopted Village of Caledonia comprehensive plan (30,342 residents).

<sup>c</sup> The need for additional facilities was determined by subtracting the existing number of facilities from the facility need based on application of the standard. In cases where the existing number of facilities exceeds the facility need based on the standard, no additional facility need was identified. In cases where either the number of existing public facilities or the total number of facilities was less than the number called for under the standards, a need for additional public facilities to fulfill the standard was identified.

<sup>d</sup> Includes six baseball diamonds at the County-owned Haban Park, located in the Village of Mount Pleasant, and a league softball diamond at Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park, which may also be used for baseball.

<sup>e</sup> Includes seven soccer fields at Haban Park when the ball diamonds are not being used for baseball or softball.

<sup>f</sup> Includes six softball diamonds at Haban Park.

<sup>g</sup> Includes nine indoor tennis courts located at the Racine Tennis Club.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC

## Playgrounds

As shown on Map 3.9, playgrounds were provided at 10 public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2016. The maximum service radius for a playground is 0.5 mile. Application of the service area standard indicates that the same areas in the urban service area that are not served by a playfield are also outside the recommended service area for playgrounds.

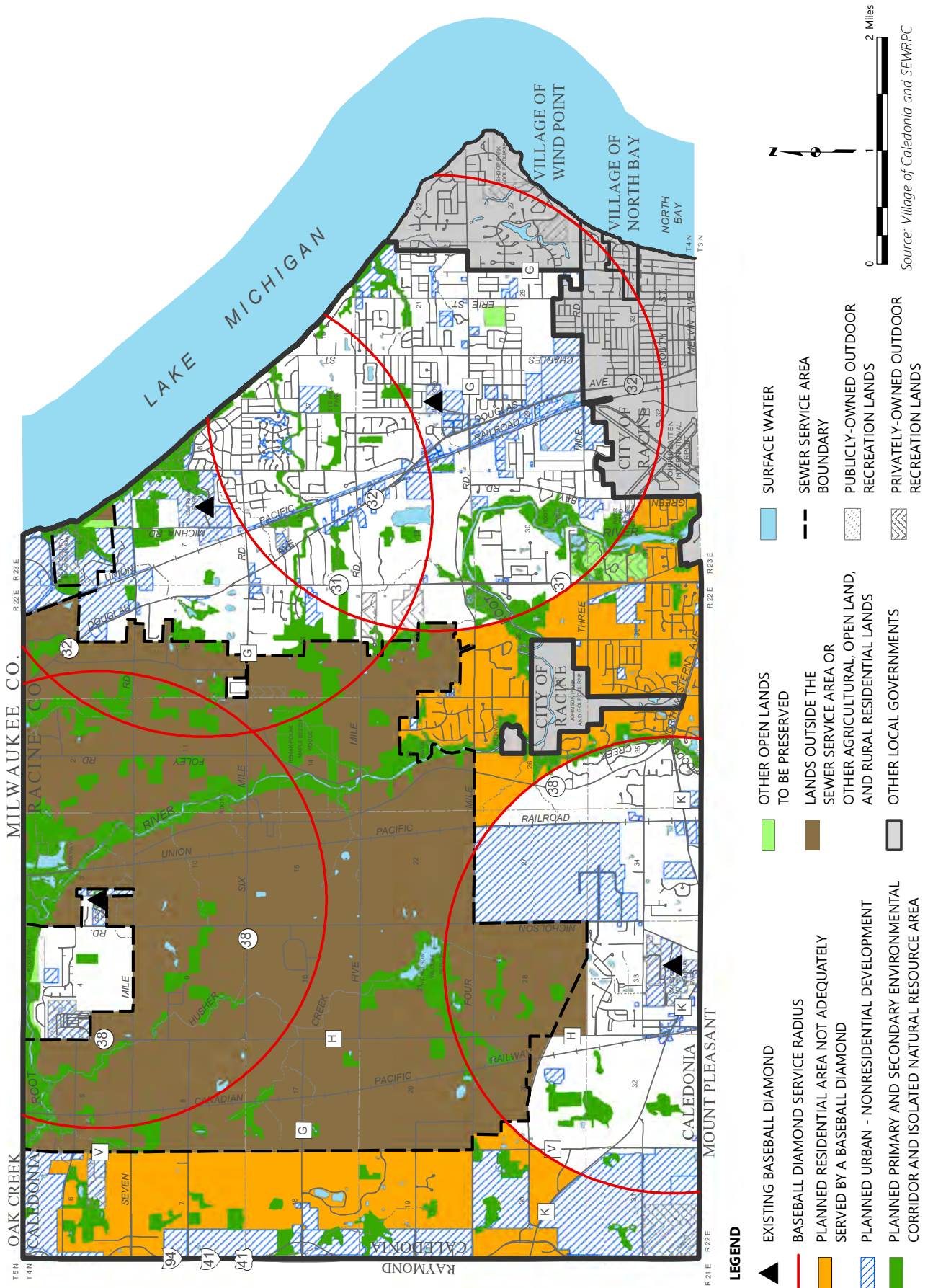
## Soccer Fields

As shown on Map 3.10, public soccer fields were provided at five public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2016. Private soccer fields were also located in the Village at the Soccer Complex of Racine (SCORE), which is adjacent to the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park. The maximum service radius of a soccer field is one mile. Application of the service area standard indicates that areas in the eastern, east-central, and western portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of soccer fields.

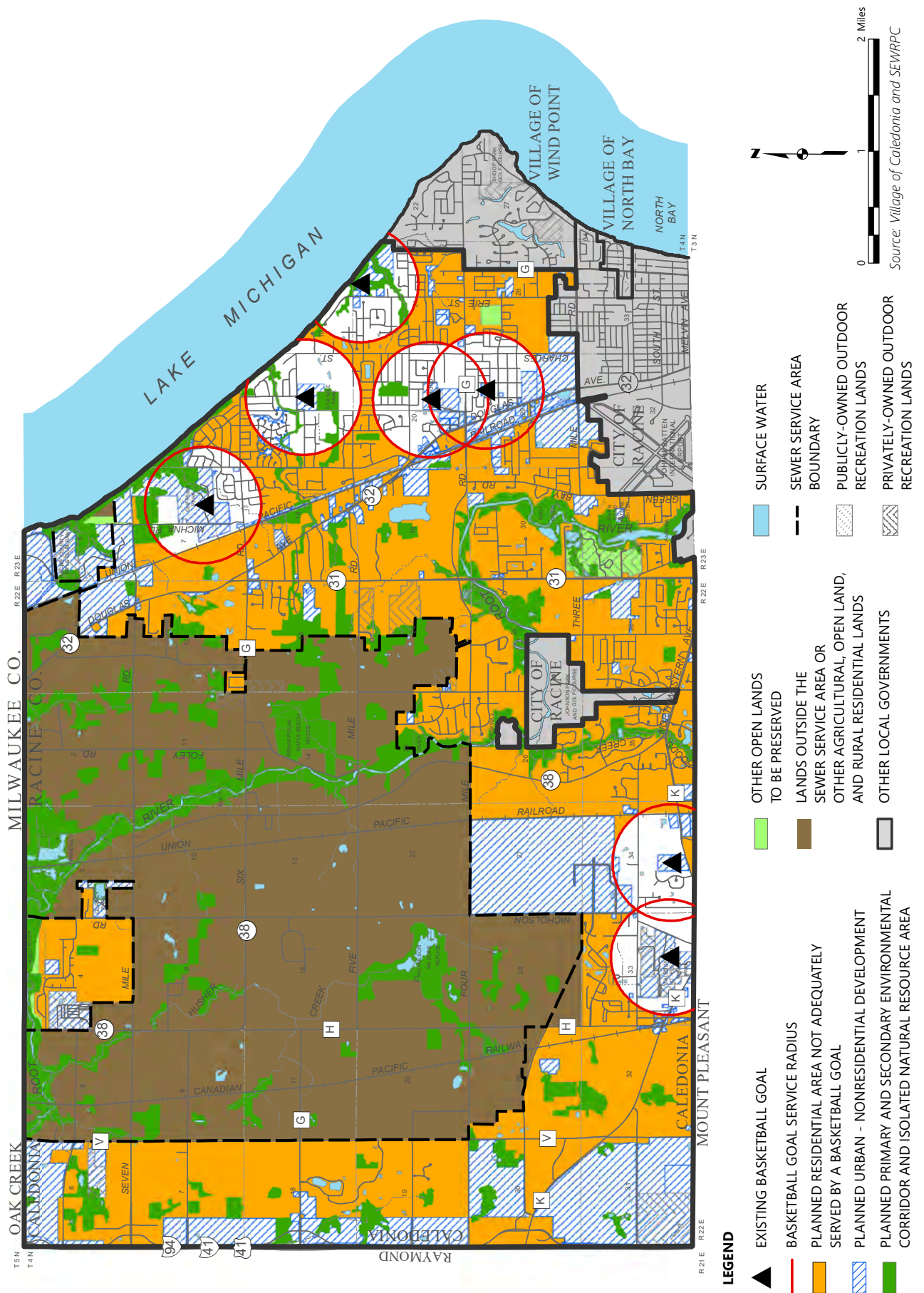


# Map 3.6

## Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Baseball Diamond

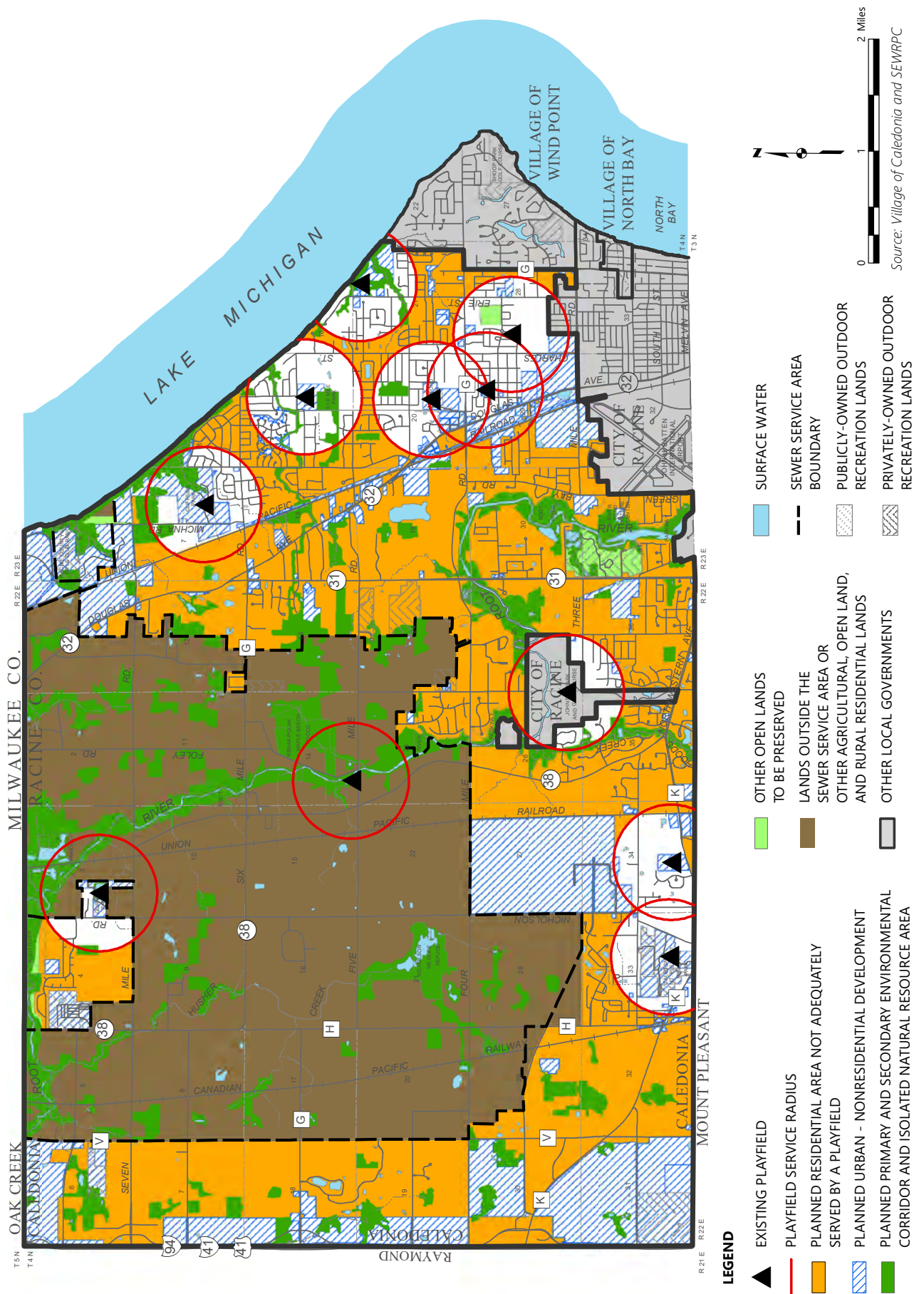


**Map 3.7**  
**Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Basketball Goal**

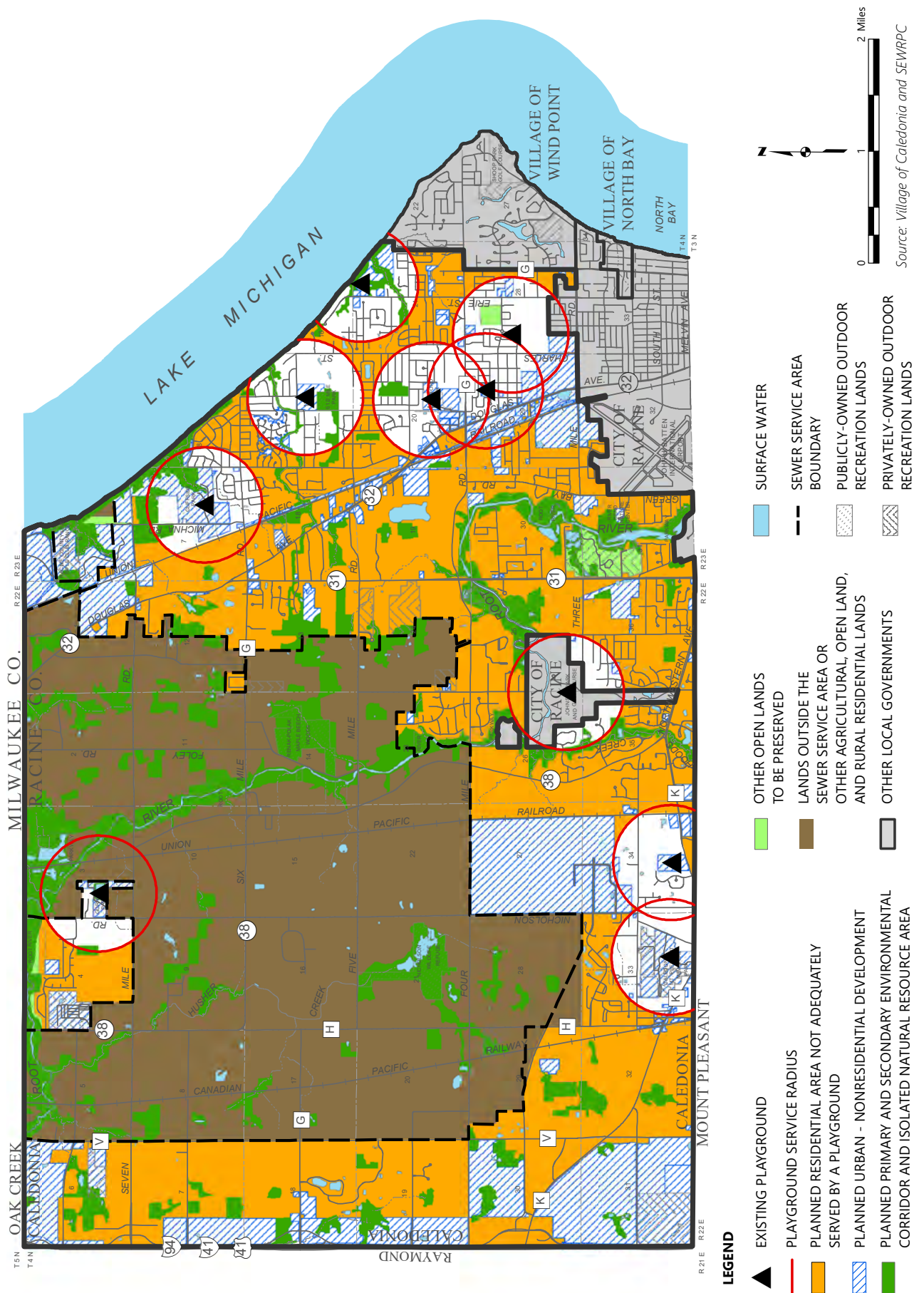




**Map 3.8**  
**Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Playfield**

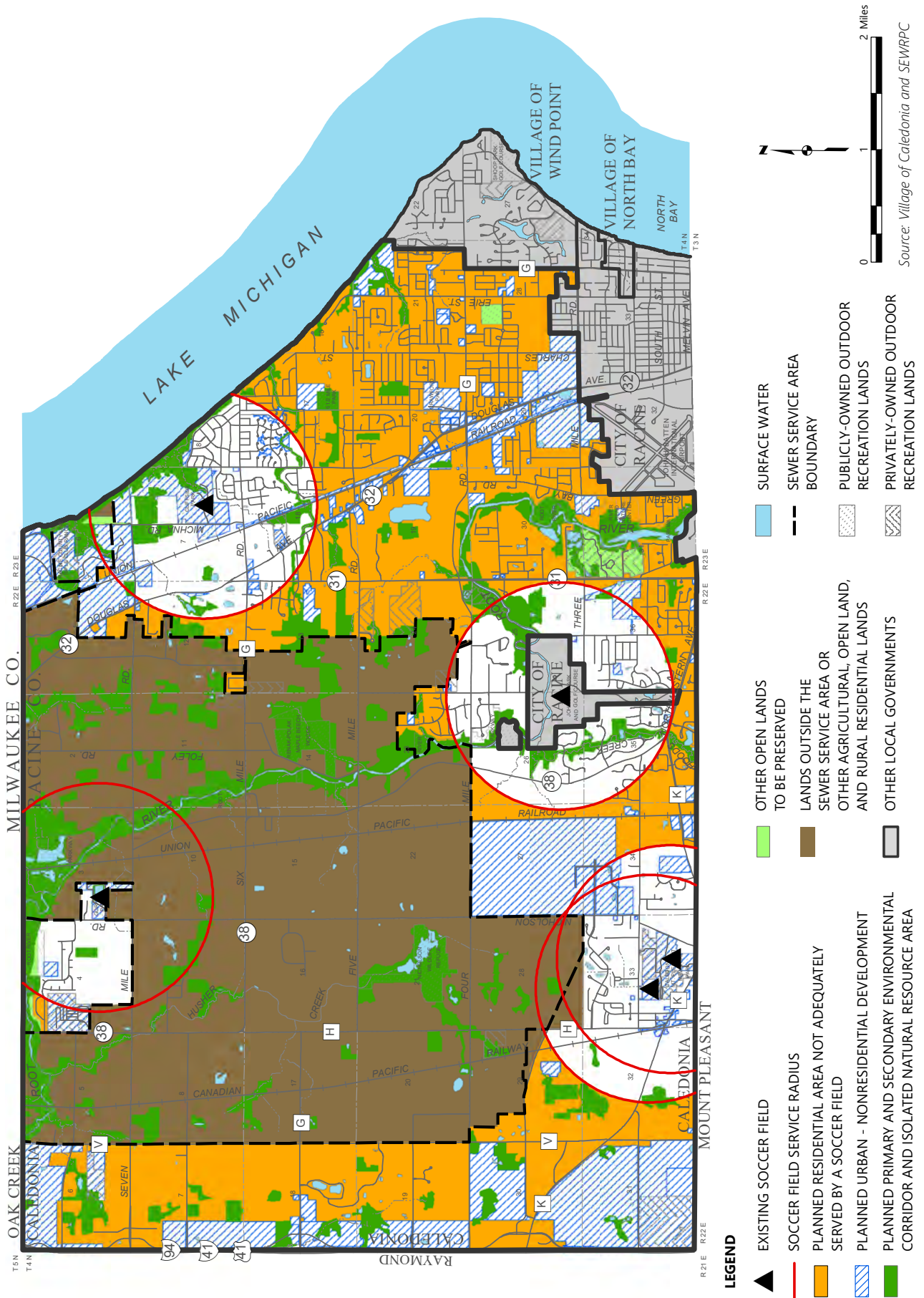


**Map 3.9**  
**Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Playground**





**Map 3.10**  
**Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Soccer Field**





### ***Softball Diamonds (Sandlot)***

As shown on Map 3.11, sandlot softball diamonds were provided at two public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2016. The maximum service radius for a sandlot softball diamond is one mile. Application of the service area standard indicates that much of the Village is not served by the existing distribution of sandlot softball diamonds.

### ***Softball Diamonds (League)***

As shown on Map 3.12, league softball diamonds were provided at three public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2016. The maximum service radius for a league softball diamond is one mile. Application of the service area standard indicates that areas in the eastern, south-central, and western portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of league softball diamonds.

### ***Tennis Courts***

As shown on Map 3.13, tennis courts were provided at two public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2016. The maximum service radius for a tennis court is one mile. Application of the service area standard indicates that much of the Village is not served by the existing distribution of tennis courts.

### ***Swimming Pool or Beach***

Village residents are served by a public beach on Lake Michigan. The beach is located at North Beach in the City of Racine, which is north of the downtown area. Beaches along Lake Michigan have a 10-mile service radius; hence, the entire Village is served by the existing public beach. A public beach is also provided at the County-owned Quarry Lake Park, which is located just south of the Village in the Village of Mount Pleasant.

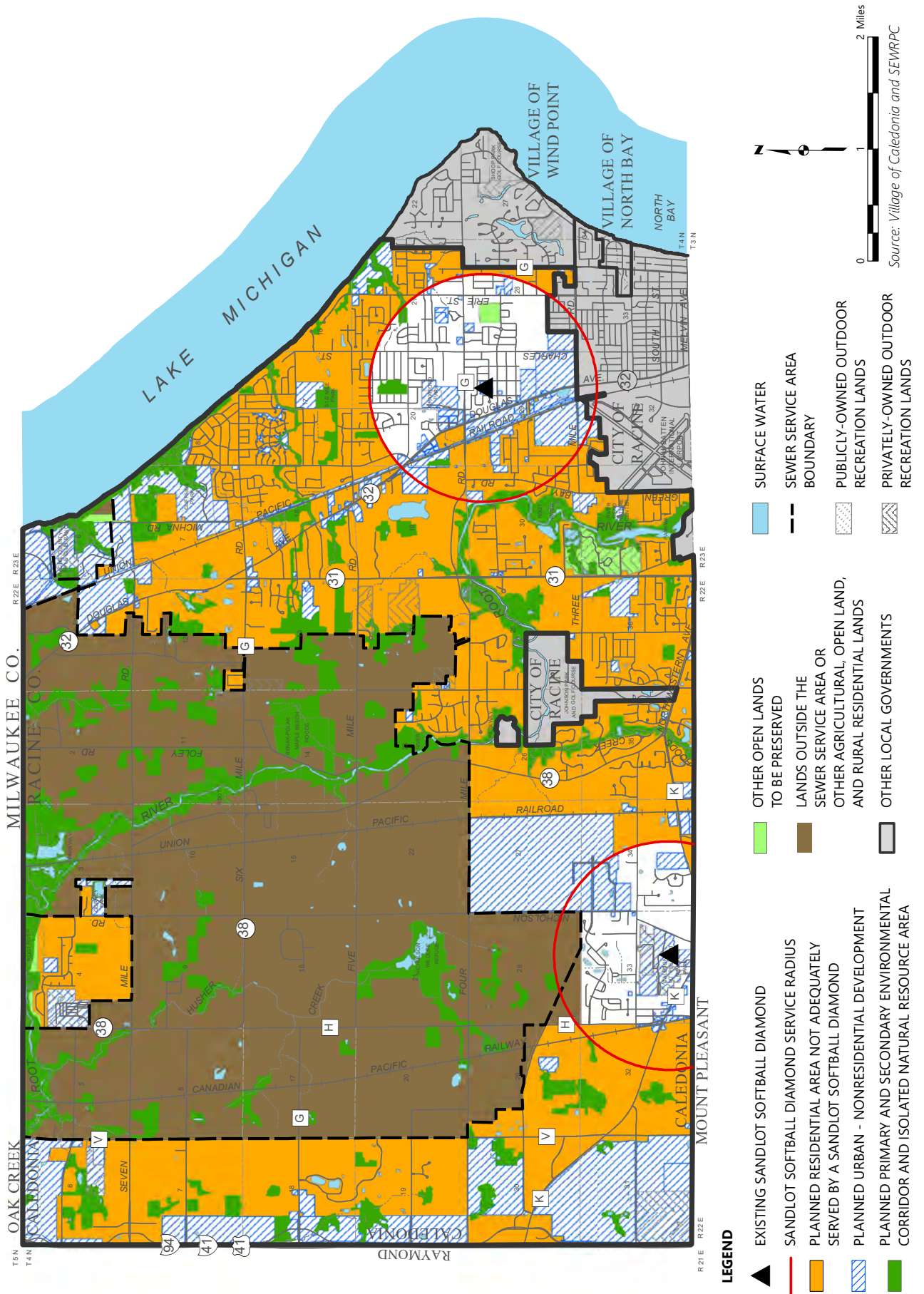
## **3.5 SUMMARY**

This chapter has presented a framework for updating the park and open space plan for the Village of Caledonia, including a summary of Village plans and other planning efforts affecting this plan, the presentation of regional and Village park and open space objectives and accompanying standards, and application of those standards to the Village of Caledonia. The key findings of this chapter are as follows:

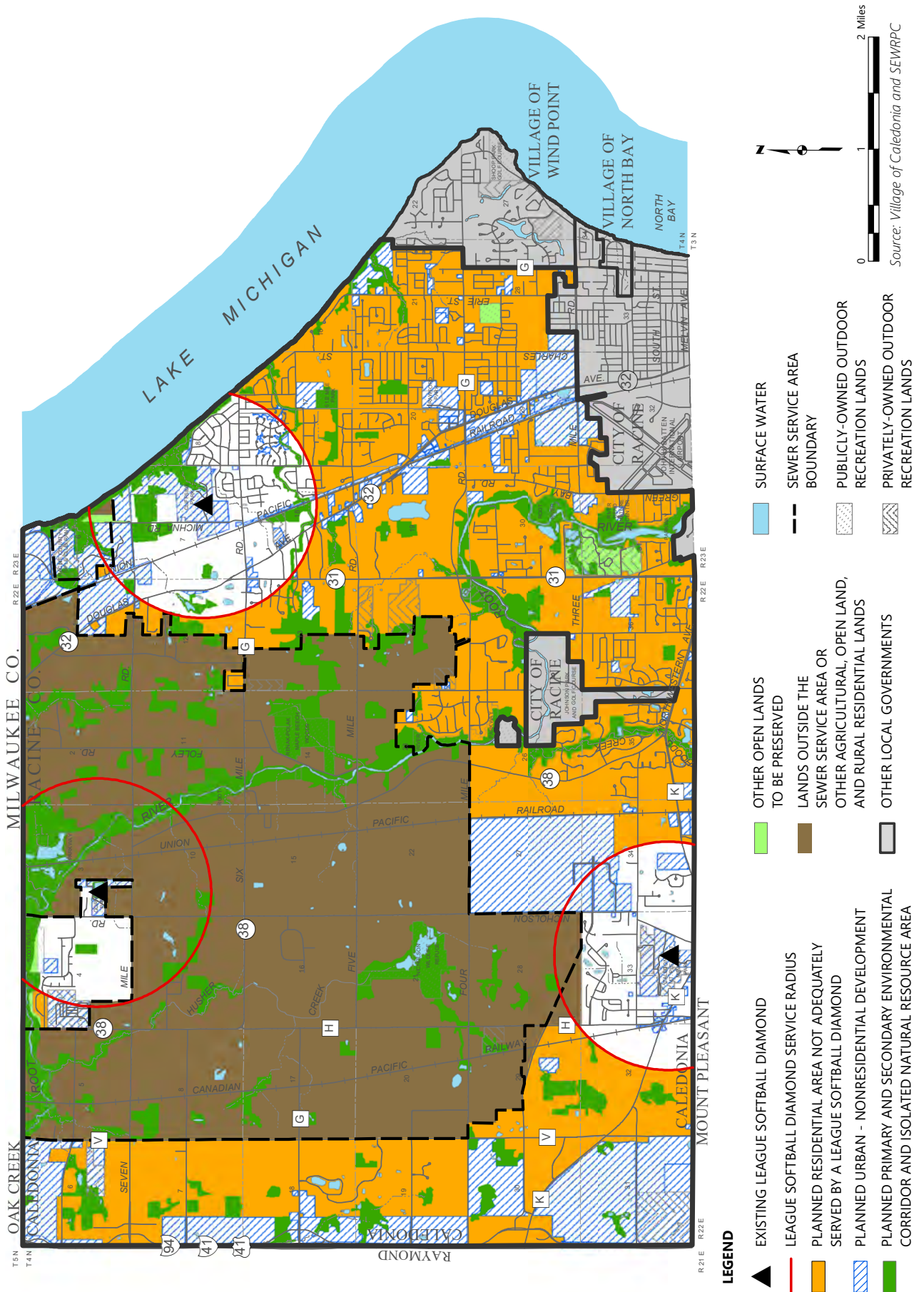
- In 2009, the Village Board adopted the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County as the Village's comprehensive plan. The Village comprehensive plan anticipates that existing parks and open space sites owned by the Village will continue to be maintained to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for current and future Village residents. The plan also recommends that the Village provide on- and off-street bicycle trails and paths and off-street pedestrian trails, where necessary, within the Village.
- In 2014, the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan was completed. The plan provides specific recommendations to address watershed-related conditions, with the overall goal of restoring and improving the water resources of the Root River watershed. The plan is focused on four issues: water quality, recreational use and access, habitat condition, and flooding.
- The need for major parks has been addressed by the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan. Under that plan, Cliffside Park and Johnson Park and Golf Course were identified as major parks. No additional need for major parks exists within the Village.
- The County park plan also recommends that the County continue to develop and maintain the Lake Michigan Trail and Root River Trail. Development of the Lake Michigan Trail has been completed in Racine County, and consists of the MRK Trail through the Village of Caledonia, the Lake Michigan Pathway in the City of Racine, and the North Shore Trail in the Village of Mount Pleasant. The County plan recommends that the County develop that portion of the Root River Corridor Trail within Johnson Park and Golf Course and along the entire portion of the river within Caledonia.
- The County plan also recommends the development of water trails. Potential water trails may be located on the Root River and along the Lake Michigan shoreline within and adjacent to the Village. In July 2017, the WDNR designated the Lake Michigan Water Trail as an existing State trail.

Map 3.11

Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Sandlot Softball Diamond

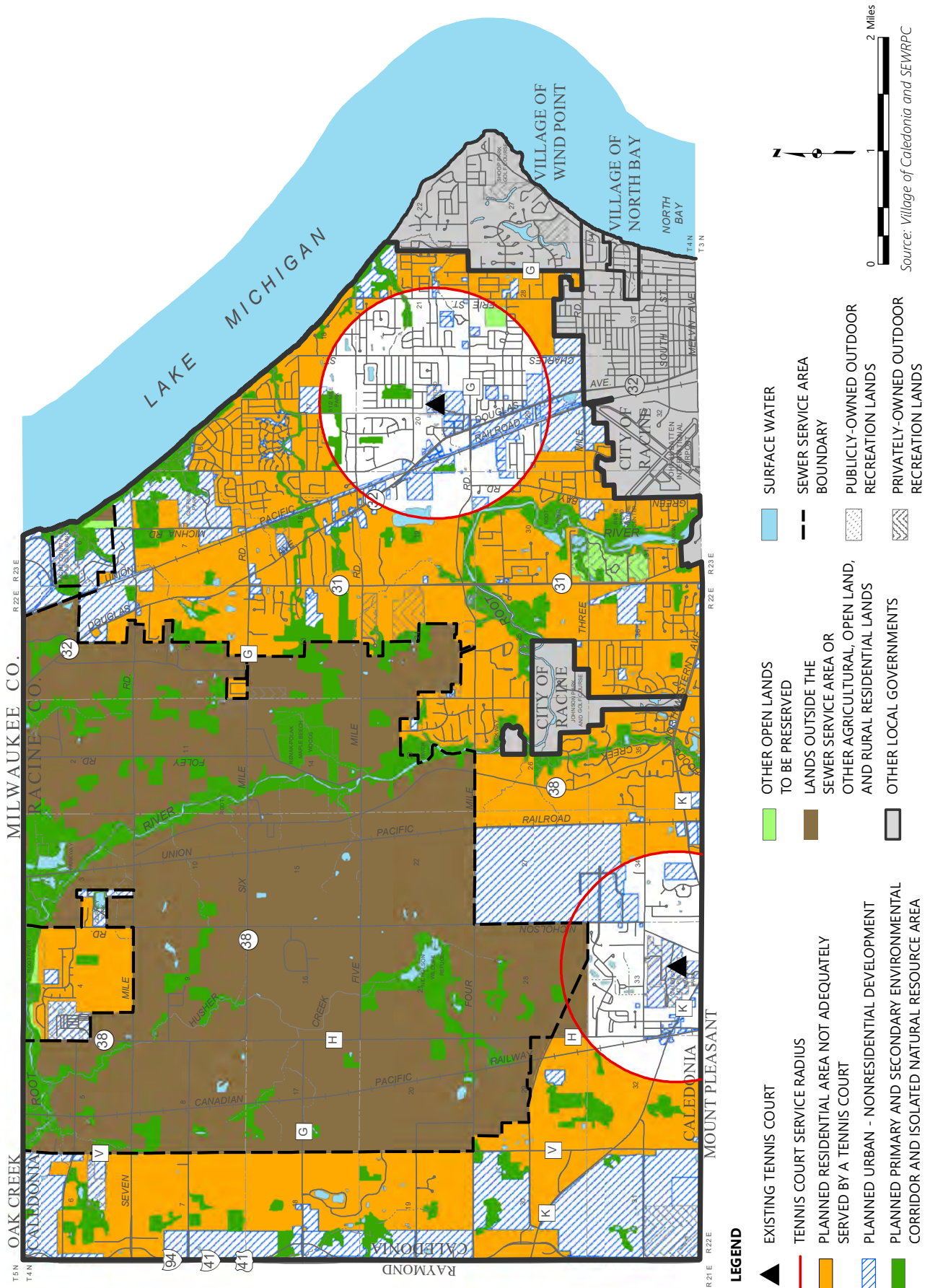


**Map 3.12**  
**Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a League Softball Diamond**





**Map 3.13**  
**Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Caledonia Urban Service Area Not Adequately Served by a Tennis Court**



- Application of the per capita standards for neighborhood and community parks indicates no additional need for parkland to serve the anticipated 2035 Village population (30,342 persons). However, application of the service area standards shows a need for additional parks to provide for a good distribution of community and neighborhood parks within the Village.
- Application of the per capita standards for recreational facilities indicates a need for nine additional public basketball goals, five additional public league softball diamonds, one additional public playfield, eight additional public tennis courts, and one additional public playground in the Village. The service area analysis for recreational facilities identifies a need for additional baseball, league softball, and sandlot softball diamonds; basketball goals; playfields; playgrounds; soccer fields; and tennis courts to meet service area standards for a desirable distribution of recreational facilities.







*Credit: SEWRPC Staff*

## 4.1 INTRODUCTION

A high-quality parks system provides cultural, environmental, recreational, and aesthetic benefits that directly contribute to the Village's quality of life. The primary purposes of this park and open space plan are to provide a sound and workable plan to guide the acquisition of land and the development of recreational facilities to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents, to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base, and to contribute to the economic value and development of the community. The recommended park and open space plan is presented in this chapter.

This plan provides a long-range vision to the year 2035 and guides and assists Village officials and staff in making the day-to-day decisions needed for the continued development of the Village's park and open space system. To assist in implementing the plan, both long-term recommendations for the next 17 years, and an "action plan" for the next five years, are presented in this chapter. The plan includes recommendations to acquire additional land for new Village parks and for open space preservation purposes; develop recreational facilities at existing and proposed parks; update, improve, or maintain recreational facilities at existing parks; continue to develop a Village-wide system of recreational trails and bikeways; and continue to protect areas with important natural resources.

Important preliminary steps in developing this plan included 1) reviewing the current status of park acquisition and development activities recommended under the SEWRPC-prepared park plan adopted in 2000 and 2) collecting updated information regarding land use, population, natural resources, and park and open space sites and recreational facilities within the Village. New or changed conditions affecting park and open space sites and recreational facilities, including pertinent recommendations from the 2035 Village of Caledonia comprehensive land use plan map, the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan, the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County, the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan, and the updated natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin were also identified and incorporated into this plan update, as appropriate.

The responsibility for implementing recommendations to meet park and open space objectives is shared by several levels of government. Resource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives for large parks, areawide

trail facilities, and facilities for such activities as golfing, camping, and boating, are typically the responsibility of the State and County levels of government, although larger cities and villages sometimes provide large parks and associated recreational facilities and segments of areawide trails. Nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives for community and neighborhood parks for activities such as softball, tennis, soccer, and children's playground activities are typically the responsibility of the local (city, village, or town) level of government. Objectives intended to protect important natural resource features, including environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are the responsibility of all levels of government.

The first section of this chapter summarizes the areawide park and open space plan recommendations for the Village, which are presented in the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan.<sup>21</sup> The County plan includes recommendations to provide resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities and protect primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in Racine County, including the Village of Caledonia. The second section of this chapter sets forth recommendations for providing Village park and open space sites and facilities. A third section describes actions needed to implement the plan. A summary of the chapter is included in the last section.

## **4.2 AREAWIDE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The park and open space plan for Racine County contains recommendations which, if implemented, would provide residents of the County with opportunities to participate in a wide range of resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities. Those recommendations, which have been incorporated into this Village plan, are concerned with providing major parks, which provide opportunities for resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, and recreation corridors, which provide opportunities for various trail-oriented activities. In addition, the plan contains recommendations for protecting and preserving open space lands, including natural resource features such as woodlands, wetlands, and floodplains, located within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. The County park and open space plan is summarized in Chapter 3. Recommendations from that plan that are pertinent to this Village park plan are described in this section.

In addition to the County park and open space plan, an areawide plan has been prepared for the Root River watershed. The Root River watershed restoration plan<sup>22</sup> is also summarized in Chapter 3. Recommendations from the watershed plan pertinent to this Village park and open space plan are included in the "Open Space Preservation" section of this chapter.

### **Racine County Park and Open Space Plan Recommendations**

#### ***Major Parks***

The outdoor recreation element of the Racine County park and open space plan is shown in Chapter 3 on Map 3.3.<sup>23</sup> The plan recommends a total of 10 major public outdoor recreation sites in the County.

- One major park, Cliffside Park, currently exists within the Village and would continue to be maintained by Racine County. The County plan recommends developing additional picnic facilities and trails and developing a nature study center at the park. The plan also recommends that the County consider developing a disc golf course at the park if a public-private partnership could be established to fund the development.
- The plan recommends that the County continue to maintain other County-owned sites within the Village, including the River Bend Nature Center, Tabor Sokol Memorial Park, and Root River Parkway lands.

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<sup>21</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 3rd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, February 2013.

<sup>22</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 316, A Restoration Plan for the Root River Watershed, July 2014.

<sup>23</sup> Some of the proposed recreation trails shown on Map 3.3 have been developed, including the Lake Michigan Trail through the City of Racine. Map 4.3 shows existing trails in 2016.

- The plan recommends that the City of Racine continue to maintain and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities at Johnson Park and Golf Course. Johnson Park and Golf Course is a 335-acre major park located in the City of Racine and maintained by the City, which is surrounded by the Village.
- The plan recommends that Racine County continue to maintain and provide additional facilities at other County parks located near the Village, including the 39-acre Quarry Lake Park and the 15-acre Horlick Park, both located just south of the Village in the City of Racine and the Village of Mount Pleasant, respectively.

### ***Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities***

The County plan recommends that about 88 miles of bicycle and pedestrian trails be provided in the County as part of the regionwide trail system, including trails within the Pike River, Root River, Fox River, and Lake Michigan corridors and a trail along a railway right-of-way, which has been partially abandoned, extending from the City of Racine to Walworth County. Recommended bicycle and pedestrian trails include:

- A trail within the Root River corridor. The County plan recommends that the County continue to acquire lands associated with the Root River Parkway system and develop those portions of the Root River trail within the Village. The trail is proposed to extend northward from the City of Racine to the Racine-Milwaukee County line. Currently, the City of Racine has developed that portion of the trail, known as the Root River Pathway, within the City. Root River Pathway on-street connections are also provided to the County's Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha (MRK) Trail, which is also located in the Village and described below.
- A trail within the Fox River corridor on the west side of the County, to be developed by the County.
- A trail along the Lake Michigan shoreline, which has been substantially completed. The City of Racine developed the Lake Michigan Pathway within the City, which fully implements the trail within Racine County. The MRK Trail, the portion of the Lake Michigan Trail located in the Village, exists on a combination of off-street and on-street segments with the majority of the trail located within a WE Energies utility corridor or on WE Energies property. The MRK Trail currently runs from Layard Avenue in the City of Racine north to Elm Road in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. A gap exists between Six Mile Road and Seven Mile Road,<sup>24</sup> before the trail resumes north of Seven Mile Road and extends into Milwaukee County. The plan recommends that Racine County continue to maintain the MRK Trail outside the City of Racine, including within the Village.
- A trail within the Pike River corridor. Portions of the trail have been developed by the Village of Mount Pleasant. Additional development of the Pike River Trail is planned to be carried out by the Village of Mount Pleasant.
- The Racine-Kansasville Trail, developed by Racine County. The trail currently extends from West Boulevard in the City of Racine to 96th Street in the Village of Sturtevant. The County park plan recommends that the County develop the remaining portions of the trail, west of 96th Street. The remaining portion of the trail is proposed to be developed on local, low-volume traffic streets, or within an abandoned railway right-of-way.

In 2014, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company abandoned the railway right-of-way from Sturtevant to Kansasville. The County is currently planning to develop the remainder of the Racine-Kansasville Trail in the abandoned right-of-way, which will connect to existing trail segments in the eastern and western portions of the County. Additional abandoned railway right-of-way from Kansasville westward to the City of Burlington was acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and a trail was developed by Racine County. The trail is referred to as the White River Trail. The trail is proposed to be extended to the west by approximately three miles to connect to the White River Trail in Walworth County.

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<sup>24</sup> Map 3.3 shows the gap in the off-road trail between Six Mile Road and Seven Mile Road as an on-street trail segment.



- The County park plan recommends the County continue to maintain signage and other route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route, which includes about 10 miles within the Village's planning area.

### **Water Trails**

The County plan recommends developing water trails for canoeing and kayaking. The plan proposes developing water trails on the Root River and along the Lake Michigan shoreline within and adjacent to the Village. In July 2017, the WDNR designated the Lake Michigan Water Trail<sup>25</sup> as a State trail. It is recommended that the Village work with the WDNR, Racine County, and the City of Racine to provide accessibility to Lake Michigan. It is also recommended that each governmental entity continue to maintain all existing access sites and develop new access sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline for water trail users within the Village and environs. Currently, there are no access sites located along Lake Michigan within the Village. Existing access sites in the environs are located in the City of Racine and the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. The water trails recommended in the County plan would connect with water trails in adjacent counties.

The County plan also recommends that public canoe/kayak access points with parking be provided at 10-mile intervals on major streams in Racine County. Existing public canoe access sites are currently located at River Bend Nature Center in the Village and at Horlick Park, which is located adjacent to the Village in the Village of Mount Pleasant. Both sites are located along the Root River.

The Root River watershed restoration plan recommends developing formal canoe/kayak access points along the Root River within the Village. Potential locations include the west side of STH 31 and south of Four Mile Road on County right-of-way land; at Linwood Park; and at Four Mile Road east of STH 38. The plan recommends developing one of these access sites to meet the requirement for access points along a major river, and identifies the STH 31 site as the most practicable location; however, the other sites should be thoroughly reviewed as additional or alternative access points.

## **4.3 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION**

The location and extent of the important open space lands in the Village of Caledonia, including wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, surface water, natural and geological areas, and critical species habitat sites are described in Chapter 2. Many of these important natural resources are located within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, which are also described in Chapter 2. Preserving these open space lands in essentially natural, open uses would serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality in the Village and protect the Village's natural beauty. Preserving open space lands also provides valuable recreational opportunities for residents and helps to avoid critical and costly environmental and developmental problems. The open space preservation plan for the Village is shown on Map 4.1.

The Root River watershed restoration plan recommends that riparian buffers be expanded and/or continue to be protected along all streams and tributaries within the Root River watershed, which includes those portions of the Root River, Hoods Creek, Husher Creek, Crayfish Creek, and the Kilbournville tributary that are located in the Village. A 75-foot stream setback is recommended as the minimum for establishing a riparian buffer; however, when development plans are submitted to the Village for review, it is recommended that the Village consider providing a connection between open space and habitat areas within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Establishing a minimum 75-foot setback provides quality in-stream habitats and reduces pollution, while establishing larger setback requirements provides these in-stream benefits, but also provides essential habitats for a variety of wildlife populations.

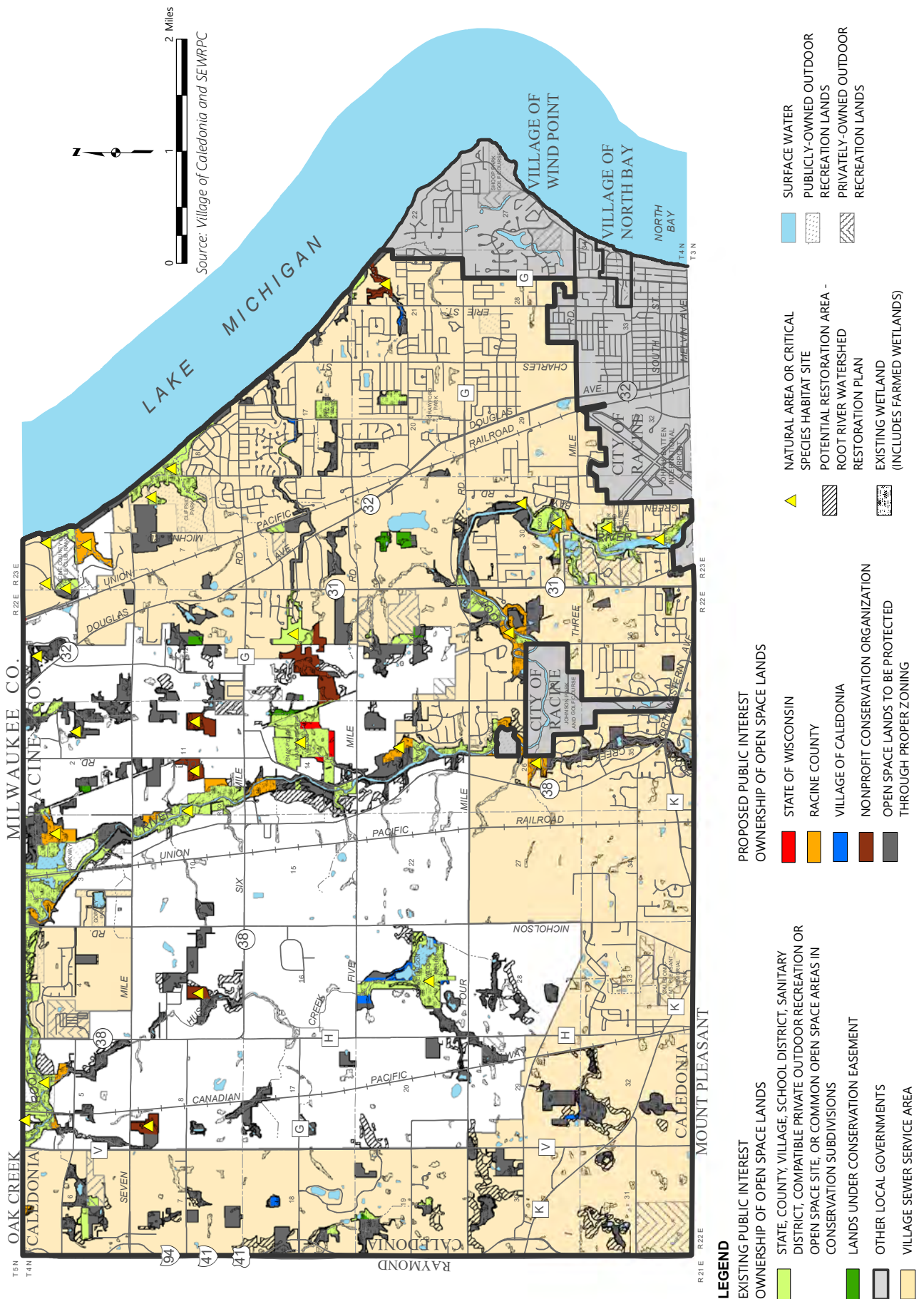
The Root River watershed restoration plan also recommends efforts to restore farmland and other open space land to more natural conditions, such as wetlands or prairies. The restoration of farmland to natural conditions should be considered in areas no longer being utilized for agricultural production. In addition, restoring areas that would revert to resource features such as wetlands should be considered when planning to convert farmland to urban development. Selected potential wetland/prairie restoration areas in the Root River watershed area within the Village are noted with a hatch on Map 4.1. These selected areas are within or adjacent to planned environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas and existing farmed wetlands larger than five acres.

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<sup>25</sup> Information is located at [dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakemichigan](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakemichigan).



**Map 4.1**  
**Open Space Preservation Element for the Village of Caledonia: 2035**



**Table 4.1**  
**Existing and Proposed Ownership of Open Space Land<sup>a</sup> in the Village of Caledonia: 2035**

Ownership	Existing <sup>b</sup> (Acres)	Plan (Acres)	Planned Change (Acres)
Village of Caledonia	199	246	47
State of Wisconsin	243	260	17
Racine County	648	892	244
Other Public	9 <sup>c</sup>	9	--
Nonprofit Conservation Organization	104	277	173
Private Recreation <sup>d</sup>	97	97	--
Private – Common Open Space Land in Conservation Subdivisions	35	35	--
Private – Protect Through Zoning <sup>e</sup>	--	1,857	1,857
Conservation Easement	74	74	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>3,747</b>	<b>2,338</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes land and water associated with planned primary environmental corridors, planned secondary environmental corridors, and planned isolated natural resource areas.

<sup>b</sup> Existing ownership as of 2017.

<sup>c</sup> Includes lands owned by the Caddy Vista Sanitary District (two acres) and the Racine Unified School District (seven acres).

<sup>d</sup> Includes private open space lands held in private ownership for recreational use (for example, shooting ranges, private parks, and driving ranges).

<sup>e</sup> Includes private open space lands proposed to be protected through Village zoning.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC

## Open Space Preservation Recommendations

About 29 percent, or 1,099 acres, of the total amount of open space preservation areas (3,747 acres) within the Village, are publicly owned. About 236 acres of existing open space preservation areas are privately owned, including lands owned by nonprofit conservation organizations and lands within a shooting range, private parks, a driving range, and common open space areas in conservation subdivisions. About 74 acres of existing open space preservation areas are protected by conservation easements. As shown in Table 4.1, about 199 acres of open space preservation areas are owned by the Village and 648 acres are owned by Racine County. The State of Wisconsin owns 243 acres of open space preservation areas, all associated with the Renak-Polak Beech-Maple Woods State Natural Area and the Root River. All publicly-owned open space preservation areas should be maintained in public ownership and preserved in open space.

It is recommended that the Village acquire about 47 acres of open space preservation areas associated with the Caledonia Wildlife Refuge and with the acquisition of parklands for new park sites or for natural resource protection. It is recommended that Racine County acquire about 244 acres of open space preservation areas associated with four natural areas, four critical species habitat sites, and a geological area, which are mainly located along the Root River. It is also recommended that nonprofit conservation organizations, possibly the Caledonia Conservancy, acquire about 173 acres of open space preservation areas associated with six natural areas. Acquisition of these areas could be through fee-simple purchase, dedication, or through conservation easements. If public acquisition is not possible or practical, it is recommended that such areas be maintained in open space for resource preservation purposes and protected through conservancy zoning and, where appropriate, deed restrictions, including conservation easements.

Protecting 1,857 acres of open space preservation areas through the appropriate Village conservancy zoning district is recommended for areas that are not recommended for public ownership or are not acquired by a private conservancy organization district. These regulations will limit development in wetland and floodplain areas to open space uses, and limit development in upland wooded areas to very low density residential use (minimum of five acres of upland areas per dwelling unit) or compatible recreational uses.

The open space preservation areas may change over time due to updated floodplain and wetland mapping, natural changes in wetland boundaries, and field surveys that precisely identify the boundaries of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas. In addition, floodplain areas adjacent to open space preservation

areas that are not developed for urban or recreational uses may revert to natural vegetation and be added to the environmental corridor network. Public acquisition or conservancy zoning of wetlands and environmental corridors/isolated natural resource areas should, therefore, be based on a field delineation of such areas prior to acquisition.

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

The primary environmental corridors, shown on Map 4.1, encompass approximately 2,010 acres of land, and are located along the Lake Michigan shoreline, the Root River, and a portion of Husher Creek within the Village. Under the park and open space plan, all remaining primary environmental corridors would be preserved in essentially natural, open uses. Of the approximately 2,010 acres of primary environmental corridor, 906 acres are currently in existing public ownership, including 127 acres associated with the Root River, and are proposed to be retained in such ownership for resource protection purposes. Approximately 173 acres are located within private recreational areas, resource protection areas, or common open space areas within conservation subdivisions.

It is recommended that the Village acquire about three acres of primary environmental corridor associated with the acquisition of a proposed new Village park and that Racine County acquire about 244 acres associated with the proposed acquisition of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and a geological area. It is also recommended that the State of Wisconsin acquire about 17 acres associated with the Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods and that nonprofit conservation organizations acquire about 96 acres associated with the proposed acquisition of natural areas. The other 571 acres are privately owned, and are recommended to be protected through conservancy zoning or zoning for compatible recreational uses.

### ***Secondary Environmental Corridors***

The secondary environmental corridors, shown on Map 4.1, encompass approximately 317 acres of land. Secondary environmental corridors are located along a portion of Hoods Creek, along an intermittent stream in the eastern portion of the Village, and in the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge area within the Village. The Village of Caledonia currently owns about 129 acres within the Caledonia Wildlife Refuge. An additional 16 acres are within existing private ownership through outdoor recreation or resource protection purposes. It is recommended that the Village acquire about 35 acres of secondary environmental corridor, including 33 additional acres associated with the Caledonia Wildlife Refuge and two acres associated with a proposed new Village park. It is recommended that the Village consider protecting the remaining 137 acres through conservancy zoning or zoning for compatible recreational uses.

### ***Isolated Natural Resource Areas***

The isolated natural resource areas, shown on Map 4.1, encompass about 1,420 acres. Isolated natural resource areas are scattered throughout the Village, with a significant amount located in the northern portion of the Village.

Of the approximately 1,420 acres of isolated natural resource area, 66 acres are currently in existing public protective ownership, including 48 acres owned by the Village and 18 acres owned by Racine County, and are proposed to be retained in such ownership for resource protection purposes. About 120 acres of isolated natural resource area are located within existing private ownership through private outdoor recreation areas, lands within conservation easements, lands owned by nonprofit conservation organizations, or common open space lands within conservation subdivisions.

It is recommended that the Village acquire about eight acres of isolated natural resource area associated with the development of two proposed new Village parks and that a nonprofit conservation organization acquire 77 acres associated with the proposed acquisition of four natural areas. The remaining 1,149 acres of isolated natural resource area are recommended to be maintained in essentially natural, open uses to the extent practicable. Consideration should be given to protecting privately-owned isolated natural resource areas through conservancy zoning.

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

The regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan, as documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management*

*Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*,<sup>26</sup> sets forth a number of recommendations related to preserving identified natural areas and critical species habitat sites within the Village of Caledonia.

As noted in Chapter 2, there are 14 natural areas, 13 critical species habitat sites, three aquatic areas, and two geological sites partially or wholly located in the Village. The regional natural areas plan recommends that the Village of Caledonia continue to protect and acquire the remaining lands associated with the Caledonia Wildlife Area natural area. The Village should acquire the remaining 33 acres of the natural area, primarily wetlands within a secondary environmental corridor, by fee-simple purchase, dedication, or through a conservation easement. It is also recommended that the Village continue to retain other Village parks, open space, or conservancy areas that contain natural areas or geological sites for resource protection purposes.

Specific aquatic habitat area plan recommendations were not formulated under the natural areas planning effort since such habitats are under the direct management authority of the WDNR. The natural areas plan update recommends that the WDNR implement management and regulatory efforts necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the aquatic habitats and their critical species. The plan recommends that the State of Wisconsin/UW-Parkside continue to protect the lands associated with the Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area and acquire the remaining 17 acres of the site for resource protection purposes.

The regional natural areas plan update and this park and open space plan recommend that Racine County continue to retain and maintain lands associated with five natural areas and acquire the remaining lands associated with four natural areas within the Village. The natural areas plan recommends that Racine County continue to retain and maintain lands associated with six critical species habitat sites and acquire the remaining lands associated with four critical species habitat sites within the Village. The plan also recommends that Racine County continue to retain and maintain lands associated with the Cliffside Park Clay Banks and Root River Outcrops geological sites and acquire the remaining lands associated with the Root River Outcrops site within the Village.

The above recommendations are reflected on Map 4.1 and summarized in Table 4.2. In all, the natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological sites recommended for preservation encompass 1,186 acres within the Village.

#### **4.4 VILLAGE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The results of the analysis of outdoor recreation needs based on the regional park and open space standards, presented in Chapter 3, indicate that there is a need in the Village of Caledonia for an additional community park, additional neighborhood parks, and additional recreational facilities, including baseball diamonds, softball diamonds, soccer fields, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball goals. Such recreational facilities are intended to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents and are recommended to be provided by the Village. All proposed facility development must comply with the accessibility requirements set forth under Federal law in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The recommended park and open space plan for the Village is shown on Map 4.2 and described in the following sections. Upon full implementation of this plan, the Village would provide a variety of parks and related outdoor recreation facilities; a system of recreation trails; and a system of on-street bikeways. This includes four community parks (Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park, Crawford Park, Gorney Park, and a proposed new community park); 17 neighborhood parks (Chapla Park, Linwood Park, Maple Park, and 14 proposed new neighborhood parks); three conservancy/nature areas (5 ½ Mile Park, County Line Park, and the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge); and six Village-owned lands (three stormwater detention basins and three open space sites).

Under the recommended plan, the Village would further provide five miles of recreational trails consisting of off-street trails that can be utilized for jogging, walking, biking, rollerblading, and related activities. This

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<sup>26</sup> *An update to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat plan is documented in SEWRPC Amendment to Planning Report No. 42, Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.*

**Table 4.2**  
**Recommended Protection of Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat, and Geological Sites in the Village of Caledonia**

Number on Map 2.9	Site Identification		Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Site Type <sup>a</sup>	Area Name	Existing Protective Ownership	Proposed to Be Acquired	Total	
1	NA-1 (SNA)	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area	121 <sup>b</sup>	17	138	State of Wisconsin/UW-Parkside
2	NA-2	Caledonia Wildlife Area	127	39	166	Village of Caledonia
3	NA-2	Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks	55 <sup>c</sup>	--	55	Racine County
4	NA-2	Hunts Woods	6	30	36	Racine County
5	NA-2	Root River Wet-Mesic Woods – East	2	--	2 <sup>d</sup>	Racine County
6	NA-3	Caledonia Low Woods	72	35	107	Racine County
7	NA-3	Dominican Ravine	--	18	18	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
8	NA-3	Foley Road Woods – East	--	24	24	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
9	NA-3	Foley Road Woods – West	--	19	19	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
10	NA-3	Power Plant Ravine Woods	--	32	32 <sup>e</sup>	Racine County
11	NA-3	Root River Riverine Forest	155	30	185 <sup>f</sup>	Racine County
12	NA-3	Seven Mile Road Woods	--	20	20	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
13	NA-3	Tabor Woods	36 <sup>g</sup>	70	106	Caledonia Conservancy
14	NA-3	Zirbes Woods	--	13	13	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
15	CSH	Caledonia Low Woods – South	24 <sup>h</sup>	6	30	Racine County
16	CSH	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way	22	52	74 <sup>i</sup>	Racine County
17	CSH	Cliffside Park Old Field	55	--	55	Caledonia Conservancy
18	CSH	Forked Aster Site	1	17	18	Racine County
19	CSH	Lakeside Woods	--	--	-- <sup>e</sup>	--
20	CSH	River Bend Upland Woods	14	--	14	Racine County
21	CSH	Root River Bluff	2	37	39 <sup>k</sup>	Racine County
22	CSH	Root River Ravine Woods	--	--	--	--
23	CSH	Root River Strip Woods	2 <sup>l</sup>	--	2	Racine County
24	CSH	Sherwood Property	--	--	--	--
25	CSH	WEPCO Oak Woods	--	--	-- <sup>m</sup>	--
26	CSH	WEPCO Woods	--	--	-- <sup>e</sup>	--
27	CSH	Wood Duck Woods	--	--	-- <sup>e</sup>	--
28	GA-3	Cliffside Park Clay Banks	14	--	14	Racine County
29	GA-3	Root River Outcrops	7	12	19 <sup>n</sup>	Racine County
30	AQ-3	Husher Creek	--	--	1.9 miles	State of Wisconsin <sup>o</sup>
31	AQ-3 (RSH)	Root River downstream from County Line Road to Nicholson Road	--	--	1.9 miles <sup>p</sup>	State of Wisconsin <sup>o</sup>
32	AQ-3 (RSH)	Root River downstream from Nicholson Road to STH 38	--	--	10.0 miles <sup>p</sup>	State of Wisconsin <sup>o</sup>
Total – 32 Sites			715	471	1,186	--

Table continued on next page.



## Table 4.2 (Continued)

<sup>a</sup> Site types are classified as follows:

NA-1 indicates Natural Areas of statewide or greater significance  
NA-2 indicates Natural Areas of countywide or regional significance

NA-3 indicates Natural Areas of local significance

CSH indicates Critical Species Habitat sites

GA-3 indicates Geological Areas of local significance

AQ-3 indicates Aquatic Areas of local significance.

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

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

<sup>b</sup> Currently, 110 acres are owned by UW-Parkside and 11 acres are owned by the Caledonia Conservancy.

<sup>c</sup> Currently, 54 acres are owned by Racine County (Cliffside Park) and one acre is owned by the Village of Caledonia (Chapla Park).

<sup>d</sup> Includes only the area located in the Village. Total area is 52 acres. The two acres located within the Village are owned by Racine County. The remaining 50 acres are located in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County and are owned by Milwaukee County.

<sup>e</sup> Currently, the entire site is located on WE Energies property.

<sup>f</sup> Includes only the area located in the Village. Total area is 331 acres. Of the 185 acres located within the Village, 123 acres are owned by Racine County; 31 acres are owned by Milwaukee County; one acre is owned by the Caddy Vista Sanitary District; and 30 acres are located on private property. The remaining 146 acres of the entire site are located in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County, and of those lands located in Milwaukee County, 143 acres are owned by Milwaukee County, two acres are owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and one acre is located on private property.

<sup>g</sup> Currently, 29 acres are owned by the Caledonia Conservancy and seven acres are located on Wooded Valley Estates South subdivision outlots or residential lots.

<sup>h</sup> Currently, 18 acres are owned by Racine County and six acres are located on a Quarry Springs subdivision outlot.

<sup>i</sup> Includes only the area located in the Village. Total area is 94 acres. Of the 74 acres located within the Village, five acres are owned by Racine County; 17 acres are owned by the Caledonia Conservancy; and 52 acres are located on private property. The remaining 20 acres of the entire site are located in the City of Racine as part of the City-owned Johnson Park and Golf Course.

<sup>j</sup> This site is not proposed to be acquired for protective ownership and is recommended to be protected through appropriate zoning.

<sup>k</sup> Includes only the area located in the Village. Total area is 50 acres. Of the 39 acres located within the Village, two acres are owned by Racine County and 37 acres are located on private property. The remaining 11 acres of the entire site are located in the City of Racine as part of two City-owned parks, Johnson Park and Golf Course and Johnson Park Dog Run.

<sup>l</sup> The majority of the site is located on lands owned by Racine County. One-quarter of an acre of the site is located on private property.

<sup>m</sup> Currently, 10 acres are located within the Racine County Line Rifle Club Range and four acres are located on WE Energies property.

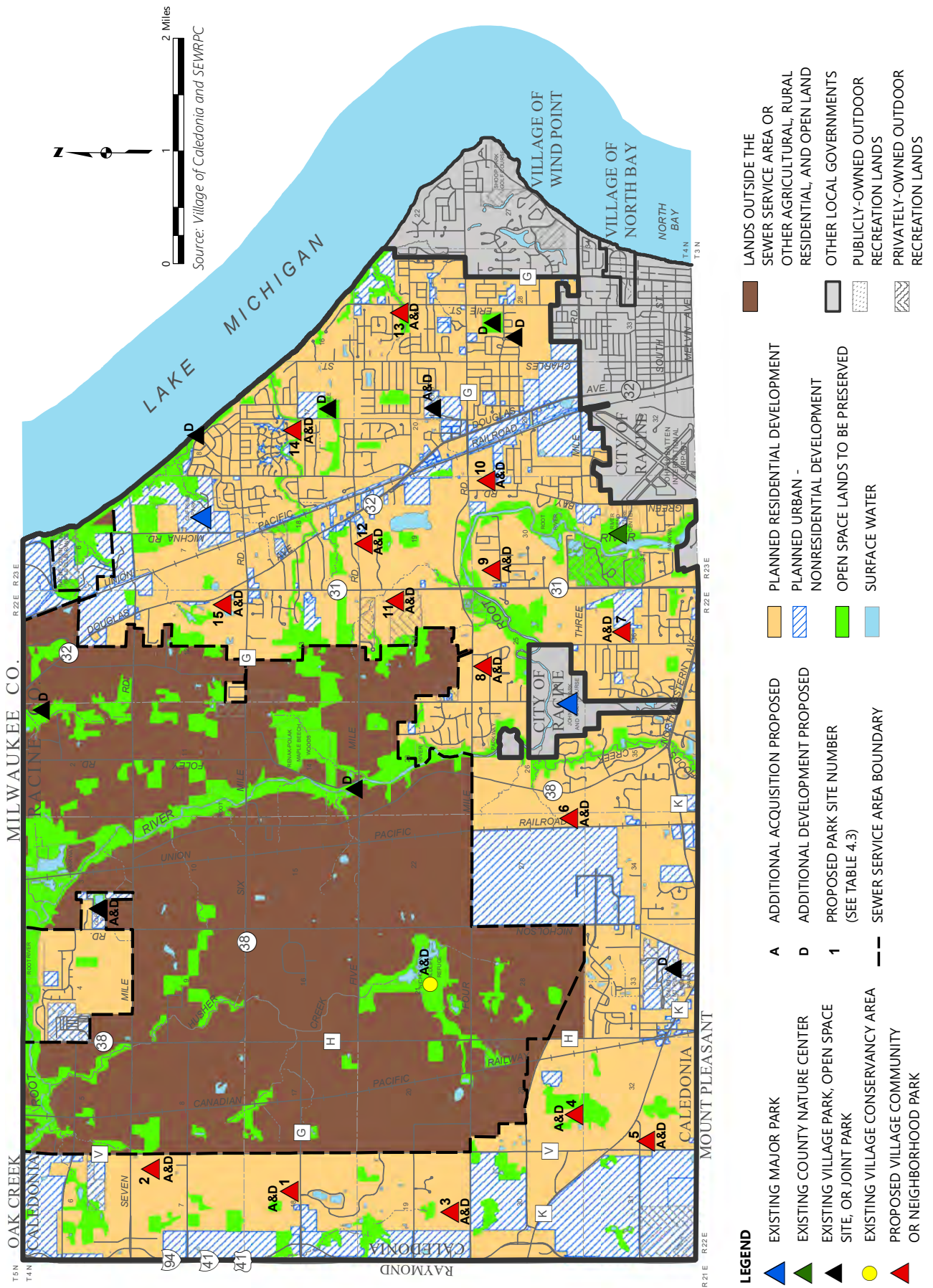
<sup>n</sup> Includes only the area located in the Village. Total area is 25 acres. Of the 19 acres located within the Village, seven acres are owned by Racine County and 12 acres are located on private property. The remaining six acres of the entire site is located in the City of Racine as part of the Johnson Park Dog Run.

<sup>o</sup> Navigable waterway owned by the State and managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

<sup>p</sup> A portion of the site extends outside of the Village and the length given is entirely within the Village.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC

**Map 4.2**  
**Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Caledonia: 2035**



plan also recommends that the Village develop about 32 miles of on-street bikeways that would consist of bike lanes, bike paths, and bike routes.

It is recommended that the Village develop on-street bikeways and off-street trails for bicycle and pedestrian use to provide residents a connection to Village and County parks, City of Racine parks, regional trails, schools, and local destination points. In addition, the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, the Racine County park plan, and the Root River watershed restoration plan recommend that the Village, in cooperation with Racine County, develop access sites with appropriate support facilities associated with the existing Lake Michigan Water Trail and develop a water trail with appropriate support facilities on the Root River.

### **Parks and Related Recreational Facilities**

This section presents recommendations related to existing and proposed Village parks, including the acquisition and development of new parks and the development of recreational facilities at existing parks. Table 4.3 lists all proposed Village park improvements and additional land acquisitions from 2018 to 2035. Table 4.4 lists all parks-related development and improvement projects anticipated to be implemented between 2018 and 2022. Projects implemented between 2018 and 2022 are based on input from the Village's Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission and Village staff provided estimated development costs for each project. Estimated costs for projects proposed to be provided after 2022 will be developed as part of future capital improvements programming (CIP). The CIP is updated on an annual basis, and projects currently identified for implementation may be removed or reprioritized and new projects may be added during each annual update.

#### ***Proposed New Parks***

This plan recommends that the Village acquire land for a new community park and 14 new neighborhood parks and develop needed outdoor recreational facilities at these sites, as well as develop additional recreational facilities on Village land adjacent to Crawford Park, which will ultimately become an expansion to the park. A portion of the expansion area is the location of the existing Village Hall, which was completed in the summer of 2017. Additional land is also recommended to be acquired to expand Gorney Park and the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge. The locations of the 15 proposed new parks are shown on Map 4.2. It is anticipated that the acquisition and development of these proposed new park sites will likely occur after the year 2022. The recommendations regarding facility development at each proposed new park are listed in Table 4.3 and are also described below.

Recommendations for new parks include the acquisition of lands by the Village for recreational and open space purposes. The red symbols on Map 4.2 indicate a need for additional parklands in the area designated. The location of the symbol represents a generalized location and should not be construed as definitive. There may be other sites in the area that are also suitable for park development.

1. *Park Site 1:* Park Site 1 is a proposed community park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the western portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 35 acres, including four acres of isolated natural resource area consisting of wetlands. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a baseball diamond with lights, a league softball diamond with lights, two soccer fields, a basketball full-court/futsal court, a tennis court/pickleball court, a playfield, a playground, a hiking trail, picnic shelters with restrooms, all-season shelter/biergarten with restrooms, picnic shelters, dog park with pavilions, camping area, disc golf course, sand volleyball courts, areas for picnicking and other passive outdoor recreation use, and appropriate support facilities. The Village plans to acquire the land between 2018 and 2022.
2. *Park Site 2:* Park Site 2 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northwestern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 15 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities.
3. *Park Site 3:* Park Site 3 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the western portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately

**Table 4.3**  
**Recommended Acquisition and Development at Existing and**  
**Proposed Park Sites in the Village of Caledonia: 2023-2035**

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Proposed Facility Development
Proposed Site 1 (Community Park)	-- <sup>a</sup>	Baseball Diamond with Lights League Softball Diamonds with Lights Two Soccer Fields Full Court Basketball/Futsal Court Tennis Court/Pickleball Court Playground Playfield Hiking Trail Picnic Shelters with Restrooms All-Season Shelter/Biergarten with Restrooms Picnic Shelters Picnic Areas Dog Park with Pavilions Camping Area Disc Golf Course Sand Volleyball Courts General Development
Proposed Site 2 (Neighborhood Park)	15	Sandlot Softball Diamond One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield Picnic Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 3 (Neighborhood Park)	5	Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 4 (Neighborhood Park)	10	League Softball Diamond with Lights One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Tennis Court Playground Soccer Field/Playfield Picnic Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 5 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 6 (Neighborhood Park)	15	Sandlot Softball Diamond One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 7 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Baseball Diamond with Lights League Softball Diamond with Lights Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Tennis Court Playground Playfield Picnic Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 8 (Neighborhood Park)	5	Sandlot Softball Diamond One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development

**Table continued on next page.**



**Table 4.3 (Continued)**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Proposed Acquisition (acres)</b>	<b>Proposed Facility Development</b>
Proposed Site 9 (Neighborhood Park)	5	Sandlot Softball Diamond Tennis Court One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 10 (Neighborhood Park)	10	League Softball Diamond with Lights Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Playground Soccer Field/Playfield Picnic Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 11 (Neighborhood Park)	5	Sandlot Softball Diamond One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 12 (Neighborhood Park)	20	League Softball Diamond with Lights Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Tennis Court Playground Soccer Field/Playfield Picnic Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 13 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Sandlot Softball Diamond One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 14 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Sandlot Softball Diamond Tennis Court One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 15 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Sandlot Softball Diamond Tennis Court One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
5 ½ Mile Park	--	Hiking Trails Develop Shelter with Restrooms Develop Parking Area Develop Disc Golf Course General Development
Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park	--	Repave Roads and Parking Areas Resurface Tennis Courts
Chapla Park	--	Develop Permanent Benches and Picnic Tables Develop Shelter/Gazebo Develop Outdoor Fitness Area Develop Boardwalk to and near Beach Area Develop Beach Volleyball Court
County Line Park	--	Develop Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Crawford Park Expansion/Village Land	-- <sup>b</sup>	Develop Additional League Softball Diamonds with Lights Develop Community Center Develop Additional Shelter Add Lighting to Ball Diamonds and Tennis and Volleyball Courts

**Table continued on next page.**

**Table 4.3 (Continued)**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Proposed Acquisition (acres)</b>	<b>Proposed Facility Development</b>
Crawford Park Expansion/Village Land (continued)		Develop Walking Trail Develop Additional Picnic Areas Develop Outdoor Fitness Area Develop Amphitheater Develop Full-Court Basketball Court/Futsal Court Develop Pickleball Court Develop Splash Pad/Water Park General Development
Gorney Park	15	Develop Additional Shelter with Restrooms near Seven-Mile Road Access Develop Concessions Building with Restrooms Develop Sand Volleyball Courts Develop Full-Court Basketball Court Add Lights to Ball Diamonds Develop Fishing Areas/Piers around Pond General Development
Linwood Park	--	Develop Canoe/Kayak Launch Develop Restrooms Hiking Trails General Development
Maple Park	--	Develop Full Court Basketball Court Develop Sand Volleyball Courts Two Pickleball Courts Develop New Playground Equipment General Development
Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	49 <sup>c</sup>	Expand Parking Area <sup>d</sup> Develop Picnic Area Develop Play Area with Play Equipment
Village Land – Markay Stormwater Basin	--	Develop Dog Park General Development
Heritage Trail	--	Multi-Use Trail System
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>--</b>

Notes: "General Development" includes such activities and facilities as grading, landscaping, signs, lighting, picnic tables, benches, parking lots, access drives, and walkways. "General Development" items that are considered a capital expense are specifically listed in this table and in Table 4.4.

Although not included in this table, this plan also recommends that the Village continue routine maintenance activities at all existing Village-owned park and open space sites and recreational facilities.

<sup>a</sup> The Village plans to acquire the land for the new Village park between 2018 and 2022.

<sup>b</sup> The Village currently owns about 24 acres of open space land adjacent to Crawford Park. A portion of the site encompasses the new Village Hall.

<sup>c</sup> Includes 39 acres proposed to be acquired by the Village as part of the Caledonia Wildlife Area natural area.

<sup>d</sup> To be completed after the boardwalk and outdoor classrooms are fully developed at the site.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC

**Table 4.4**  
**Proposed Acquisition, Development, and Improvements at**  
**Existing Parks in the Village of Caledonia: 2018-2022**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Proposed Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Development or Acquisition Cost (\$)</b>
Chapla Park	Develop Playground Equipment	50,000
	Develop Canoe/Kayak Access Site	160,000
	Subtotal	210,000
County Line Park	Develop Parking Area	150,000
	Develop Disc Golf Course	150,000
	Develop Hiking Trail	45,000
	Subtotal	345,000
Crawford Park	Develop Additional Shelter with Restrooms	140,000
	Develop Dugouts at Both Ball Diamonds	20,000
	Repair Playground Near Ball Diamonds	25,000
	Acquire 10 Acres of Land Adjacent to Park for Expansion	150,000
	Develop Park Design Plan	10,000
	Grade and Seed Park Expansion Area	75,000
	Develop Service Road and Parking Area(s)	450,000
	Develop Sledding Hill	100,000
	Develop Soccer Fields/Ice Skating Area	60,000
	Install Outdoor Lighting	150,000
	Develop All-Season Shelter/Biergarten and Restrooms	250,000
	Develop Dog Park with Pavilions	90,000
	Subtotal	1,520,000
Gorney Park	Develop Soccer Fields	80,000
	Develop Additional Parking Area(s)	300,000
	Develop Playground by Lower Shelter	75,000
	Develop Maintenance Garage	150,000
	Install Additional Outdoor Lighting	150,000
	Repair/Relocate Portions of Access Road Through Park, Seal Coat Road and Parking Lot, and Re-Stripe Parking Lot	350,000
	Subtotal	1,105,000
Linwood Park	Develop Playground Equipment	75,000
	Subtotal	75,000
Maple Park	Develop Picnic Area with Shelter	150,000
	Subtotal	150,000
Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	Develop Boardwalk to Rear of Site	25,000
	Develop Shelter/Outdoor Classroom Area with Restrooms	250,000
	Develop Observation Area	100,000
	Subtotal	375,000
New Village Park	Acquire 35 Acres of Land for a Park in the Western Portion of the Village	600,000
	Subtotal	600,000
Total – 8 Sites		4,380,000 <sup>a</sup>

Note: Although not included in this table, this plan also recommends that the Village continue routine maintenance activities at all existing Village-owned park and open space sites and recreational facilities.

<sup>a</sup> The total cost to the Village may be reduced through donations and grants for park facilities.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC

five acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.

4. *Park Site 4:* Park Site 4 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southwestern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres, including four acres of isolated natural resource area consisting of wetlands and woodlands. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a league softball diamond with lights, a basketball goal, a tennis court, a playground, a soccer/playfield, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities.
5. *Park Site 5:* Park Site 5 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southwestern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a playground, a playfield, and appropriate support facilities.
6. *Park Site 6:* Park Site 6 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the south-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 15 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, an area for picnicking and other passive outdoor recreation use, and appropriate support facilities.
7. *Park Site 7:* Park Site 7 is also a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the south-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a baseball diamond with lights, a league softball diamond with lights, two basketball goals, a tennis court, a playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities.
8. *Park Site 8:* Park Site 8 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the south-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately five acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a playground, a playfield, and appropriate support facilities.
9. *Park Site 9:* Park Site 9 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southeastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately five acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a tennis court, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
10. *Park Site 10:* Park Site 10 is also a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southeastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a league softball diamond with lights, two basketball goals, a soccer/playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities.
11. *Park Site 11:* Park Site 11 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately five acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
12. *Park Site 12:* Park Site 12 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the east-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 20 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a league softball diamond with lights, two basketball goals, a tennis court, a soccer/playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter with restrooms, an area for picnicking and other passive outdoor recreation use, and appropriate support facilities.



13. *Park Site 13:* Park Site 13 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the eastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres, including three acres of primary environmental corridor consisting of wetlands and woodlands. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
14. *Park Site 14:* Park Site 14 is also a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the eastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres, including three acres of secondary environmental corridor consisting of wetlands. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a tennis court, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
15. *Park Site 15:* Park Site 15 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northeastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a tennis court, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.

### ***Development and Improvements at Existing Village Parks: 2018-2022***

It is recommended that the Village develop additional recreational facilities or make improvements to facilities at seven existing parks and conservancy areas during the five-year period from 2018 through 2022, as described below. The estimated development and improvement costs are included in Table 4.4.

- *Chapla Park:* Chapla Park is a nine-acre neighborhood park located in the northeastern portion of the Village along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Park is a passive use site that provides a scenic overlook of Lake Michigan. It is recommended that playground equipment and a canoe/kayak access site be developed.
- *County Line Park:* County Line Park is an 18-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the northeastern portion of the Village. It is recommended that a parking area, hiking trail, and disc golf course be developed.
- *Crawford Park:* Crawford Park is a 21-acre community park located in the southeastern portion of the Village. Existing facilities include two baseball diamonds, two tennis courts, two basketball goals, a playfield, a playground, sand volleyball courts, restrooms, concessions, pathways, and picnic shelters. The Village is planning to expand the Park to the east adjacent to existing Village-owned land in the next five years. The adjacent existing Village land encompasses 24 acres. Part of the development includes the new Village Hall, which was completed in the summer of 2017. The Village also plans to acquire an additional 10 acres of land adjacent to the park and provide additional access at Sunshine Lane. The plan recommends developing an additional shelter with restrooms and dugouts at both ball diamonds, repairing the playground near the ball diamonds, developing a park design plan for the park expansion, grading and seeding the park expansion area, developing a service road and parking area(s), developing a sledding hill, developing soccer fields/skating area, developing an all-season shelter/biergarten and restrooms, developing a dog park with pavilions, and installing outdoor lighting.
- *Gorney Park:* Gorney Park is a 41-acre community park located in the north-central portion of the Village. Existing facilities include a baseball diamond, a league softball diamond, two soccer fields, a playfield, a playground, a hiking trail, shelters, picnic areas, and restrooms. The Park also has a pond with a pier that provides opportunities for fishing and launching nonmotorized watercraft. The plan recommends developing two soccer fields, repairing and relocating portions of the access road, seal coating<sup>27</sup> the access road and the parking lot, restriping the parking lot, developing additional

<sup>27</sup> It is recommended that any pavement resealing be accomplished using a non-coal tar-based sealant. According to a 2012 paper by B.J. Mahler, P.C. Van Metre, J.L. Crane, M. Scoggins, and E.S. Williams, "Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat and PAHs-Implications for the Environment, Human Health, and Stormwater Management," published in *Environment Science and Technology*, v. 56, pages 3,039 to 3,045: "Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), academic institutions, and State and local agencies have identified coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat as a major source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in urban and suburban areas and a potential concern for human health and aquatic life."

parking areas, developing a playground by the lower shelter, developing a maintenance garage, and installing additional outdoor lighting.

- *Linwood Park*: Linwood Park is a 12-acre neighborhood park centrally located in the Village along the Root River. Existing facilities include a playfield, horseshoe pits, a shelter, picnic areas, fishing, and an informal canoe launch. The plan recommends developing playground equipment.
- *Maple Park*: Maple Park is a two-acre neighborhood park located in the southeastern portion of the Village. Existing facilities include a playfield and a playground. The plan recommends developing a picnic area with a shelter.
- *Nicholson Wildlife Refuge*: Nicholson Wildlife Refuge is a 127-acre conservancy area centrally located in the Village. The site encompasses the Caledonia Wildlife Area, a natural area of countywide or regional significance. Existing facilities include nature trails and a boardwalk and the Refuge also serves as a site for educational purposes. The plan recommends continuing to develop the boardwalk, including an observation deck. The plan also recommends developing an outdoor classroom structure and a shelter with restrooms.

A new Village Hall was developed on Village land adjacent to Crawford Park in the summer of June 2017. All Village staff are housed at the site and all Village meetings are held at the site. Developing the new Village Hall in the southeastern portion of the Village improves access for Village residents, most of whom live in the eastern and southern portions of the Village. The previous Village Hall was located in the northwestern portion of the Village near the southwest intersection of STH 38 and Nicholson Road.

In the fall of 2017, the Village sold the property associated with the one-acre Village-owned Caledonia Community Center located on Douglas Avenue to a private business located adjacent to the property. The business plans to use the site for business expansion purposes. The Community Center held some Village and other governmental meetings, educational and exercise classes, and was a polling station for Village residents. The Village also sold the four-acre Woodland Park, which is located west of, and adjacent to, the Caledonia Community Center to the same private business. Since the majority of Woodland Park is an isolated natural resource area consisting of forested wetlands, the park will remain a natural resource area and will not be developed.

In April 2017, Village of Mount Pleasant officials communicated with Village of Caledonia officials inquiring if Caledonia would be interested in taking sole ownership of the 52-acre Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park located in Franksville. Currently, the park, which is located in the Village of Caledonia, is jointly maintained and managed and equally funded by both Villages. Caledonia officials are interested in sole ownership of the park and have determined that covering Mount Pleasant's portion of the cost is financially feasible, but Village officials will continue to seek more detailed information before a formal decision is approved.

### ***Development at Existing Village Parks: 2023-2035***

This section describes recommended facility development at existing Village parks after 2022. The development of recreational facilities recommended at each park is listed in Table 4.3. Implementing the recommendations is subject to the availability of funding for land acquisition and facility development, operation, and maintenance.

- *5 ½ Mile Park*: 5 ½ Mile Park is a 21-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the eastern portion of the Village. The park encompasses forested wetlands within an isolated natural resource area. The plan recommends developing hiking trails, a shelter with restrooms, a parking area, and a disc golf course.
- *Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park*: Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park is a 52-acre community park located in the southern portion of the Village in the Franksville area. Existing facilities include a league softball diamond, two basketball goals, five soccer fields, a playfield, a playground, two sandlot softball diamonds, two tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, a Kids Connection Playground, horseshoe pits, informal and group picnic areas and shelters, and restrooms. The league softball diamond at the Park may also serve as a baseball diamond. The plan recommends repaving the roads and parking areas and resurfacing the tennis courts.

- *Chapla Park*: The plan recommends developing permanent benches and picnic tables, a shelter/gazebo, an outdoor fitness area, a boardwalk, and a beach volleyball court, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022.
- *County Line Park*: The plan recommends developing a shelter with restrooms, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022.
- *Crawford Park*: It is recommended that the Village expand the park and develop additional recreational facilities on 24 acres of Village-owned land located east of and adjacent to the existing park. A portion of the existing Village-owned land will be the location of the new Village Hall. The plan recommends developing additional league softball diamonds with lights, a walking trail, additional picnic areas, an outdoor fitness area, an amphitheater, a full court basketball court/futsal court, a pickleball court, a splash pad/water park, an additional picnic shelter, and a community center, and installing lighting for the existing ball diamonds, tennis courts, and volleyball courts, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022.
- *Gorney Park*: The plan recommends developing an additional shelter with restrooms, a concessions building with restrooms, sand volleyball courts, a full court basketball court, and fishing areas/piers around the pond, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022. The plan also recommends installing lights on the ball diamonds. It is also recommended that the Village acquire about 15 acres for park expansion.
- *Linwood Park*: The plan recommends developing a canoe/kayak launch, restrooms, and hiking trails, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022.
- *Maple Park*: The plan recommends developing two basketball goals, two sand volleyball courts, two pickleball courts, and new playground equipment, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022. Developing new playground equipment will provide opportunities for children of a variety of ages to use the equipment.
- *Nicholson Wildlife Area*: The plan recommends expanding and replacing the parking area and developing a play area with play equipment and a picnic area, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022. It is also recommended that the Village acquire about 49 acres for resource protection purposes and park expansion.

Based on recommendations from the Nicholson Wildlife Area Management Plan,<sup>28</sup> it is recommended that water control methods be used at the site to enhance and diversify wildlife habitat features, especially for migratory waterfowl and other wetland species, and to improve wetland function. Other habitat enhancements include creating a variety of potholes or ponds, which would allow the site to potentially store permanent areas of water for a sustained wildlife area; prairie restorations in upland areas; developing native vegetative buffers around the site; providing brushpiles; and constructing nesting platforms for birds.

Potential recreational opportunities at the site should include hiking trails and wildlife observation. If water control levels are applied and effective, there may be opportunities to expand or enhance the existing trail network at the site.

- *Village Land – Markay Stormwater Basin*: The stormwater detention basin is a 22-acre open space site located in the southeastern portion of the Village. It is recommended that a dog park/exercise area be developed at a portion of the site. It is recommended that the Village implement measures to avoid potential runoff of pet waste. Such measures may include posting signage encouraging the public to pick up pet waste, providing pet waste bags and anchored waste bins, and providing

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<sup>28</sup> Documented in a report prepared by Hey and Associates, Inc. entitled, Nicholson Wildlife Area Management Plan, Town of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, March 2005. This plan is an update to the SEWRPC plan, Community Assistance Planning Report No. 146, A Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for the Nicholson Wildlife Center, Town of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, May 1986.

anchored seating on the upper slope of the basin. Materials that can float, such as wood chips, should not be used when developing or maintaining the site as these materials may block or clog the basin outlet or downstream storm sewers.

- *Heritage Trail:* It is recommended that the Village develop a multi-use trail system throughout the Village that will provide a connection with existing and proposed parks and other notable sites and existing trails. It is recommended that the Village develop 37 miles of the trail system.

### ***Maintenance of Other Existing Village Parks***

This plan also recommends that the Village continue to maintain all existing Village-owned park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities. The maintenance activities at these sites may include, as necessary, providing, paving, and resurfacing parking lots and trails or walkways; resurfacing volleyball, basketball, and tennis court areas; making existing facilities accessible to people with disabilities; providing, repairing, or replacing support facilities such as sportsfield lighting, park benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains; providing, repairing, or replacing foot bridges, restroom facilities, water supply facilities, maintenance buildings, and picnic shelters; and maintaining lawns, gardens, and other landscape plantings. Such maintenance activities may also include providing additional, or replacement of, playground equipment, playfield areas, and areas for passive recreational use.

### **Open Space Preservation**

As shown on Map 4.1, it is recommended that the Village acquire 47 acres of open space preservation areas for the development of parks or trails or for resource-protection purposes. The Village currently owns 199 acres of open space preservation areas. It is recommended that these lands be maintained in Village ownership and preserved in essentially natural, open space uses. Preserving these lands will serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality and natural beauty in the Village, as well as help to avoid serious and costly environmental and developmental problems. It is also recommended that the Village continue to enforce conservancy zoning regulations and apply those regulations to open space preservation areas that are privately owned.

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities**

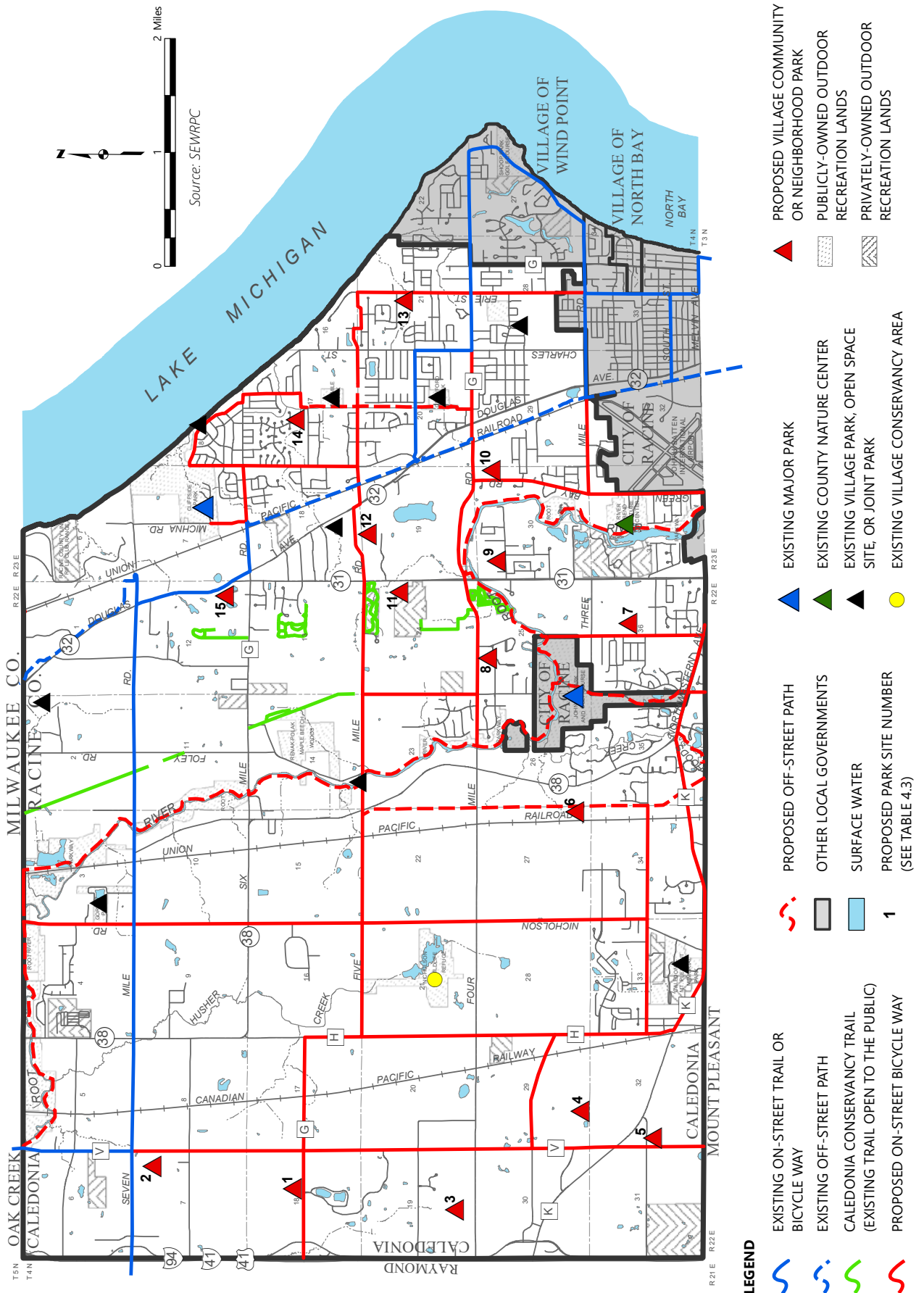
It is recommended that a Village-wide system of recreation trails and bicycle routes continue to be developed to connect existing parks to the regional, county, and adjacent local government trail systems and other parks and destination points, in cooperation with Racine County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), and adjoining local governments. Recommended bike and pedestrian facilities for the Village and environs is shown on Map 4.3.

Racine County has developed 18 miles of trails or bike routes within the Village of Caledonia planning area. The County-owned MRK Trail is eight linear miles within the planning area and runs from Layard Avenue in the City of Racine north to Elm Road in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. The portion of the trail from Layard Avenue to Six Mile Road is primarily located within a WE Energies utility corridor, which is east of and adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad. The trail then transitions to an on-street segment at Six Mile Road and runs west to Douglas Avenue (STH 32) and then north to Seven Mile Road. From Seven Mile Road north to the County line, the trail is located off-street on WE Energies property. Portions of the MRK Trail are also connected to City of Racine Lake Michigan and Root River Pathways. The remaining 10 miles within the Village planning area consists of the Racine County signed, on-street bike route.

The entire system of bike and pedestrian facilities within the Village is proposed to include 55 miles of bike routes associated with street rights-of-way and 22 miles of trails associated with environmentally significant areas, utility corridors, or other open space lands. The development of on-street bikeways within the Village is proposed to be undertaken by WisDOT (portions of Douglas Avenue (STH 32), portions of Northwestern Avenue (STH 38), and portions of CTH K); Racine County (portions of CTH G, portions of CTH H, portions of Four Mile Road, Seven Mile Road, and Three Mile Road); and the Village of Caledonia (streets under Village jurisdiction). The development of off-street trails within the Village is proposed to be accomplished by Racine County (Root River Recreation Corridor) and the Village (Hoods Creek Trail, Klema Ditch, a linear corridor between STH 38 and the Union Pacific Railroad between CTH K and Five Mile Road, and trails providing links to other Village or County trails or parks).



**Map 4.3**  
**Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities for the Village of Caledonia and Environs: 2035**



The year 2035 regional transportation plan<sup>29</sup> recommended a network of on- and off-street bicycle ways within Racine County, which were refined through the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan.<sup>30</sup> Existing and planned bikeways recommended by the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan are shown on Map 4.3. It should be noted that an update to the regional land use and transportation plan (VISION 2050) was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission in 2016. Updates from the bike element may be incorporated into future updates to the Racine County multi-jurisdictional plan.

One of the VISION 2050 recommendations is to develop a network of enhanced bicycle facility corridors in urbanized areas of Racine County, including the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant and the City of Racine. These corridors would connect the communities, serve important regional destination points, and link segments of the off-street bicycle path system. Enhanced bicycle facilities are protected, buffered, or raised bike lanes and separate paths within a road's right-of-way. These facilities are either located on or along an arterial street and go beyond the standard bike lane to improve safety, but they also define bicycle space on roadways and provide clear corridors for bicycle usage. If an enhanced bicycle facility is not feasible on an arterial street, a parallel local road could be utilized for bicycle traffic.

The Caledonia Conservancy also provides trails at numerous conservancy-owned sites within the Village. All of the sites owned by the Caledonia Conservancy in the Village are privately owned, but some of the sites are open to the public. These sites typically provide horse trails that can also be used as hiking or cross-country skiing trails. The Village contains numerous horse farms with outdoor and/or indoor equestrian facilities. Opportunities at these sites may include horse riding lessons, boarding lessons, dressage lessons, horse maintenance and education, day camps, and training programs for finishing and showing horses.

To encourage new equestrian owners and support existing equestrian owners, it is recommended that the Conservancy continue to develop additional equine trails, where feasible, and maintain the existing trails. The Village should continue to support the Conservancy when the organization acquires lands for resource protection purposes and develops multi-use trails that are accessible for public use.

### **Potential Water Trails**

The Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, the County park and open space plan, and the Root River watershed restoration plan recommend that the Village of Caledonia and Racine County work together to develop a water trail<sup>31</sup> on the Root River and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Water trails, sometimes referred to as a paddling trail or canoe/kayaking trail, would identify parts of the Root River that could accommodate low-impact, non-motorized watercraft such as a canoes and kayaks. Important factors for establishing water trails include safe and convenient access to a waterway with unobstructed passageways, adequate support facilities, and safe portaging areas. Identifying and providing signs indicating scenic, historic, and natural view points along the waterway should also be considered. The establishment of a water trail would promote the responsible use and enjoyment of the Root River and would further serve as a place for solitude and respite from the urban environment, while providing educational and recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Developing a water trail in Lake Michigan would provide opportunities for non-motorized boating along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The proposed Root River Water Trail would be approximately 12 miles and the Lake Michigan Water Trail<sup>32</sup> would be approximately eight miles within the Village and environs. It is recommended that canoe access and support facilities be maintained and/or developed at regular intervals along the Root River and the Lake

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<sup>29</sup> Documented in SEWPRC Planning Report No. 49, A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035, June 2006. A reaffirmation and amendment of the plan was adopted in April 2010 and is documented in SEWPRC Memorandum Report No. 197, Review, Update, and Reaffirmation of the Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, June 2010.

<sup>30</sup> Documented in SEWPRC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, November 2009.

<sup>31</sup> A "water trail" is a designated trail on a lake or stream that regularly contains sufficient water level to navigate small watercraft such as a canoe or kayak with unobstructed passageways while providing safe and convenient access points, and may contain support facilities such as parking areas, restrooms, and picnic areas.

<sup>32</sup> In July 2017, the Department of Natural Resources designated the Lake Michigan Water Trail as a State trail.

Michigan shoreline. Currently, informal canoe/kayak launches are located at the County-owned River Bend Nature Center, the Village-owned Linwood Park, and along some street rights-of-way that intersect the River within the Village. A formal boat/canoe launch along the Root River is located at the Racine County-owned Horlick Park, which is located just south of the Village in the Village of Mount Pleasant. Additional launches are also located downstream in the City of Racine at the City-owned 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park South, Clayton Park, Island Park, and Lincoln Park.

Existing public access sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline are located at the City of Racine-owned Pershing Park, Rooney Recreation Area, and Samuel Myers Park.

Racine County and local governments which the water features traverse or abut should consider preparing user-friendly maps for water trail users to identify support facilities and points of interest along the water trail. Nonprofit conservation organizations, such as the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network or the Lake Michigan Water Trail Association, may consider assisting with these efforts.

## **Village Impact Fees**

### ***Public Facilities Needs Assessment and Impact Fee Ordinance***

A public facilities needs assessment<sup>33</sup> for Caledonia was prepared in May 2002. A needs assessment is required by Section 66.0617 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* to demonstrate a need for and determine the amount of impact fees that may be placed on new development to cover the cost of providing public sites and facilities to serve that development. Impact fees for Village park facilities are only assessed for residential developments, because park facilities are generally used only by the residential portion of Village, while other types of facilities, such as fire and rescue, law enforcement, and transportation, are used by residential and nonresidential entities.

Currently, the Village charges a parks-related impact fee of \$1,000.00 for each residential dwelling unit constructed, created, or relocated within Caledonia. Collecting these fees helps offset the costs associated with acquiring parklands, developing additional park facilities, and acquiring and developing bicycle routes provided by the Village to serve new residential development. As of November 30, 2017, the Village has collected, with interest, about \$360,000.

In 2007, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted Wisconsin Act 44, which made some changes to the impact fee law, including deadlines for using impact fees. For fees collected after April 11, 2006, those fees that were collected within seven years of the effective date of the local impact fee ordinance must be used within 10 years after the effective date of the ordinance, with the possibility of a three-year extension in the event of extenuating circumstances. Impact fees not used within the statutory time limit must be refunded to the current owner of the property on which the fee was assessed, plus interest. Any fees collected more than seven years after the effective date of the impact fee ordinance must be used within a reasonable period of time.

### ***Public Input***

In June 2018, the Village held a public open house/informational meeting to allow the public to review and comment on the Village park plan. The following comments were submitted as part of the public open house/informational meeting:

- Develop permanent restrooms with running water at Gorney Park.
- Develop additional bike/hike trails and sidewalks and provide more access to sidewalks and trails.
- Update playground equipment.
- Develop recreational facilities for teenagers such as zip lines, skate parks, etc.
- Acquire or develop land that would accommodate fishing/ice skating.

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<sup>33</sup> *The impact fee ordinance is documented in Title 15 (Building Code), Section 15-1-26 of the Village Code of Ordinances.*

- Make sure there is a need for additional tennis and basketball courts when future parks development occurs. Currently, tennis and basketball courts are routinely underutilized. Village should continually evaluate the need for court sports and possibly provide an alternative recreational facility in place of a court sport when a park is developed.
- Communicate with the Caledonia Conservancy with likely partnership when land acquisition is considered.
- Make sure the Village budget annually addresses new land acquisition and facility equipment.
- Need more Village personnel to endorse and implement the plan.
- Increase maintenance and improvements at Nicholson Wildlife Refuge, particularly removing invasive plant species; completing the boardwalk; reducing the flooding issues, which may or may not have occurred due to the installation of a culvert pipe; hunting regulations and safety for residents visiting the park during hunting season; surveying the site and installing boundary markers; constructing a birding tower and Heron perches; and focusing on natural resource knowledge, best practices and procedures, and diligent attention is needed and outweighs increased recreational efforts such as tennis courts, baseball diamonds, and playgrounds.
- Maintain Linwood Park by emptying trash receptacles routinely and adding a recycling receptacle.
- Provide trash receptacles along bike trails.
- Improve the coordination between government and private nonprofit conservancy organizations for public recreation needs.
- Preserve primary environmental corridors for habitat and developing recreation trails.
- Village taking oversight of open space development in conservation subdivisions to be sure homeowners associations make responsible plans with expertise and carry them out or be fined.
- Village should work with grass roots programs such as River Bend, Caledonia Conservancy, Kenosha Racine Land Trust, and private and public athletic programs, and include them as part of the planning process for park and open space acquisition and development.
- Recategorize “undeveloped land” as passive recreation or open space. Any publicly-owned land doesn’t have to be developed and can be undisturbed as open space or minimally disturbed for passive recreation.
- Comments to Table 2.3 on Page 11 relating to Caledonia Conservancy lands:
  - #35 Caledonia Conservancy Section 24 is called Trout Ponds Prairie
  - #36 Caledonia Conservancy Sections 13 and 14 could be strip of the old train right-of-way because of the low acreage
  - #42 Caledonia Conservancy (Hwy 31 and 5 Mile Road) should be 36 acres with additions to the two acres
  - New property: Short Trail Trailhead at the end of Short Road, just north of 5 Mile Road (Maybe Section 14)
  - New Property: Cameron/Erlandsson Tabor Woods attached south of other Tabor Woods
- Protect natural resources.



- Increase maintenance, especially at the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge.
- Do not develop more baseball/softball fields or soccer fields.
- Provide more publication on Village website or other ways to promote existing public parks and natural resource areas in the Village.
- Crawford Park – Increase maintenance (including weed control, trimming, and painting); eliminate volleyball, extend basketball court, and redo and maintain tennis courts; redo Village Hall/park entrance and walkway; provide uniform and decorative waste cans similar to Greentree Shopping Center; provide uniform building colors and roofing; provide new playground equipment for younger children and a better playing surface; add a small shelter (not to be rented for groups); add a walking path around the entire park; add small “Crawford Park” sign at path from Sunshine Lane; resurface existing paths and redo areas where puddles collect; add trees, shrubs, and flowering plants/planters; and remove brown poles at Sunshine Lane leading to the park.
- Develop pickleball courts.
- Develop a Biergarten.
- Develop more playgrounds.
- Develop more walking paths.
- Develop more restrooms.
- Develop outdoor fitness areas.
- Develop a walking path at Crawford Park to the Parkview Senior Apartments.
- Install baseball/softball batting cages (for skills and techniques).
- Develop more sand volleyball courts.
- Develop areas for horseshoe pits.
- Do not develop more tennis courts (City courts are not being used).
- Develop an ice skating rink and hockey rink.
- Develop more adult and youth ball diamonds.

## 4.5 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

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

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has authority and responsibility for developing parks, protecting natural resources, managing water quality, and regulating use of waters of the State. Certain WDNR functions are particularly important in implementing county and local park and open space plans. The Department has the obligation to prepare a comprehensive Statewide outdoor recreation plan and to develop long-range water resource management plans; the authority to protect, develop, and regulate the use of State parks, forests, fish and game, lakes and streams, certain plant life, and other natural resources; and the authority to administer, within the State, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund

(LWCF) program and the Wisconsin Stewardship Program. The LWCF and Wisconsin Stewardship programs are intended to assist in acquiring and developing local parks and urban green spaces.

More specifically, in relation to implementing the Village park and open space plan, it is important that the WDNR endorse the plan, thus qualifying the Village for available State and Federal outdoor recreation grants to support implementing the plan.

### **Wisconsin Department of Transportation**

It is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) construct the bicycle ways (bicycle lanes, paved shoulders, widened outside travel lanes, and enhanced bicycle facilities) recommended by this park and open space plan to be provided within the right-of-way of a State trunk highway or connecting highway at the time the street or highway is constructed, reconstructed, or resurfaced. It is recognized that major bicycle-related improvements, such as the addition of bicycle lanes, may not be able to be accommodated at the time a street is resurfaced. However, consideration should be given to restriping the street or making other improvements to better accommodate bicycle travel. It is anticipated that paving highway shoulders to accommodate bicycle travel may be accomplished at the time a street or highway is resurfaced. The State should make proper arrangements to maintain bicycle facilities, including, if necessary, entering into operating or maintenance agreements with other units or agencies of government.

It is also recommended that WisDOT continue to make transportation grants available for the construction of the recommended bikeways, including those recommended to be located off-street and on County and local streets.

It is further recommended that WisDOT promptly notify the WDNR, the County surveyor, the Village of Caledonia, and the Regional Planning Commission of any railway abandonment proposed within the Village. The Department should work with the aforementioned agencies to evaluate the feasibility of acquiring the railway right-of-way proposed to be abandoned for trail development and/or other recreational purposes.

### **Racine County**

The Racine County Park and Open Space Plan sets forth the following implementation responsibilities for Racine County.

#### ***Parks***

With respect to parks and facilities located within the Village, it is recommended that the County provide additional recreational facilities at Cliffside Park. Racine County is also responsible for maintaining other County-owned park and open space sites within the Village and environs, including the River Bend Nature Center, Tabor Sokol Memorial Park, Quarry Lake Park, and Horlick Park. Racine County should also acquire environmentally-sensitive lands for resource protection purposes, especially along the Root River.

#### ***Trail Facilities***

Racine County is responsible for maintaining the Lake Michigan Trail and developing the Root River Trail within the Village. The County is also responsible for maintaining bicycle routes within the Village associated with the Racine County Route System. Racine County should also continue to acquire lands along the Root River as part of the parkway system for natural resource protection, where feasible, and develop appropriate recreational facilities associated with the Root River and other resource-oriented activities in these areas.

#### ***Water Trails***

The County plan recommends developing a water trail along the Root River and providing access sites and associated support facilities with the existing Lake Michigan Water Trail within and adjacent to the Village. These trails would connect with water trails in adjacent counties.

### **Village of Caledonia**

Under the park and open plan for the Village, shown on Maps 4.1 and 4.2, the Village of Caledonia would have responsibility for providing a variety of outdoor recreation sites and facilities, including the acquisition and development of 15 new park sites and associated recreational facilities; the development of new recreational facilities at 10 existing Village park and open space sites; the acquisition of land for

park expansion at Crawford Park, Gorney Park, and the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge; the development or improvement of recreational facilities at seven existing park sites; the acquisition of land and development for off-street trails; the development of on-street bikeways; and the continued improvement and maintenance of all existing Village parks and recreational facilities. Implementing these recommendations would meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents, and protect areas having important natural resources. It is also recommended that any existing outdoor recreation facility not meeting the accessibility requirements set forth in the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act be brought into compliance in a timely fashion.

It is recommended the Village of Caledonia develop a system of bike and pedestrian facilities, including about 22 miles of off-street pathways and about 55 miles of on-street bikeways. It is also recommended that the Village work with Racine County to develop the Root River Water Trail and maintain and enhance the Lake Michigan Water Trail.

### **Plan Costs**

Implementing the park and open space plan for the Village of Caledonia, as presented herein and summarized in Table 4.4, would entail a total cost to the Village of \$4,380,000 over the five-year plan implementation period from 2018 through 2022. This includes park-related improvements based on input from the Village's Parks and Recreation Commission. Costs associated with the general maintenance of existing park facilities are not included in that total.

The cost to the Village for acquiring parks and open spaces, or developing recreational facilities, could be reduced through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, such as dedication and conservation easements. State, Federal, and private grants for park or open space acquisition and facility development may also help reduce the cost to the Village of implementing this plan. Donations from the public and/or private businesses or organizations may also be used to develop park facilities.

## **4.6 SUMMARY**

The recommended park and open space plan consists of both areawide park and open space recommendations and Village park and open space recommendations. The areawide park and open space recommendations are based on the Racine County park and open space plan.

The key components of the plan are as follows:

- The WDNR should endorse the plan, thereby making the Village eligible to apply for and receive State and Federal grants for acquiring park and open space lands and developing outdoor recreation facilities. It is also recommended that the State of Wisconsin, and more specifically, the University of Wisconsin (UW) – Parkside, continue to manage and maintain the Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods, a State Natural Area, and acquire additional lands associated with the natural area for resource protection purposes.
- The park and open space plan recommends that the Village of Caledonia continue to cooperate with WisDOT and Racine County to develop on-street bikeways. The proposed Village of Caledonia bike and pedestrian system is 77 miles in length, including about 22 miles of off-street trails and about 55 miles of on-street bikeways. The Village should also work with Racine County and, as appropriate, nonprofit conservation organizations to develop the Root River Water Trail and develop and maintain the Lake Michigan Water Trail.
- WisDOT should give consideration to bicyclists when constructing or reconstructing State trunk highways or connecting highways and notify interested parties of any railway abandonment proposed within the Village of Caledonia.
- Racine County should continue to provide and maintain one major park, Cliffside Park, within the Village, and provide additional picnic facilities and trails and develop a nature study center at the park. The County may also consider developing a disc golf course at the park if a public-private partnership were established to fund the development. The County should continue to maintain

the River Bend Nature Center, Tabor Sokol Memorial Park, and Root River Parkway lands, which are County-owned sites located within the Village.

The County should continue to maintain the MRK Trail and the bicycle route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route within the Village. It is recommended that the County continue to acquire lands associated with the Root River Parkway system and develop the Root River Trail within the Village. It is further recommended that the County consider developing a water trail and appropriate support facilities on the Root River and develop access sites and the appropriate support facilities associated with the existing Lake Michigan Water Trail. The County should also continue to protect County-owned lands and acquire an additional 258 acres of important natural resource areas associated with natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological sites within the Village as recommended in the regional natural areas plan.

- The plan recommends that the Village acquire 47 acres of open space preservation areas for resource-protection or recreation purposes. The Village currently owns 199 acres of open space preservation areas. It is recommended that the Village also acquire 200 acres of land for new community and neighborhood parks or for expansion of existing parks, including eight acres within open space preservation areas. The Village should also acquire and protect the Caledonia Wildlife Area natural area as called for under the regional natural areas plan.
- The park and open space plan recommends developing or improving seven existing Village-owned parks to upgrade and modernize facilities and equipment. These developments or improvements are likely to occur from 2018 to 2022.
- The park and open space plan recommends acquiring and developing recreational facilities for 15 new Village community or neighborhood parks to help ensure that parks and recreational facilities are well-distributed throughout the Village and, thereby, convenient to all residents. The plan recommends acquiring lands for expansion at Crawford Park, Gorney Park, and the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge. The plan also recommends developing new recreational facilities and improving existing recreational facilities at 10 existing Village parks and open space sites. The park expansions to Gorney Park and Nicholson Wildlife Refuge and the developments are likely to occur after 2022.
- The cost to the Village to implement the park and open space plan would be \$4,380,000 over the five-year period from 2018 through 2022. Costs for additional park acquisition or facility development recommended by the plan beyond 2022 will be determined through capital improvements programming by the Village.







Credit: SEWRPC Staff

In April 2016, the Village of Caledonia requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the Village in updating its park and open space plan. The resulting plan is documented in this report, and is an update of the park and open space plan prepared by Village staff in 2006,<sup>34</sup> and was subsequently adopted by the Village Board in 2009. This plan is intended to provide a long-range vision and a guide to assist Village officials and staff in making the day-to-day decisions needed for the continued development of the Village's park and open space system. To assist in implementing the plan, both long-term recommendations for the next 17 years, and an "action plan," the next five years, are presented. The action plan sets forth priorities for implementation of the park and open space plan from 2018 through 2022.

Important preliminary steps in preparing this plan included a review of development and improvement activities conducted to date to implement the previous park plan and the collection of updated inventory information regarding land use, population, natural resources, and park and open space sites and recreational facilities within the Village. This plan also reflects recommendations from the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035; the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan; the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan; and the updated natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin.

The planning process was conducted under the guidance of the Village of Caledonia Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff support was provided by the Village Parks Department. A public informational meeting to present preliminary plan recommendations and provide opportunities for public comment was held on June 4, 2018. This plan was approved by the Village of Caledonia Parks and Recreation Commission on July 10, 2018.

This plan has been adopted as a component of the Village of Caledonia comprehensive plan,<sup>35</sup> following the procedures set forth in Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. A public hearing on the plan was held

<sup>34</sup> SEWRPC prepared an update to the then-Town of Caledonia park and open space plan with a design year of 2020, which was adopted by the Town Board in April 2000. The Town of Caledonia incorporated as a village in November 2005.

<sup>35</sup> In September 2009, the Village Board adopted the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Racine County as the comprehensive plan for the Village. That plan is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, November 2009.

by the Planning Commission on September 24, 2018. The plan was approved by resolution by the Village Planning Commission on September 24, 2018 and adopted by ordinance by the Caledonia Village Board on October 1, 2018. A copy of the Village Board ordinance adopting the plan are presented in Appendix B.

## 5.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The planning area consists of the entire Village of Caledonia, which is located in U. S. Public Land Survey Township 4 North and Ranges 22 and 23 East in the northeastern portion of Racine County along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Village encompasses 29,184 acres, or about 46 square miles. The Village is bounded on the south by the City of Racine and the Village of Mount Pleasant; on the east by the Village of Wind Point and Lake Michigan; on the west by the Town of Raymond and IH 94/IH 41; and on the north by the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. The planning area also includes Johnson Park and Golf Course and Johnson Park Dog Run, both of which are part of the City of Racine, but are completely surrounded by the Village of Caledonia. The Village had a 2010 population level of 24,705 residents, and the estimated population for the Village in 2017 is 24,820 residents.

The portion of the Village with public sanitary sewer service has a great deal of land available for urban development. Implementing the *Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035* will ensure an orderly urban growth pattern and consistent decisions by Village officials regarding new development. Due to the potential for new urban development in the Village, it is important that the Village follow the recommendations of this park and open space plan update to provide a good distribution of parks and recreational facilities to serve current and future Village residents.

An inventory of outdoor recreation and open space sites and facilities was conducted in 2016 and subsequently updated in the fall of 2017. The inventory identified 70 such sites encompassing 3,018 acres, or about 10 percent of the Village. Of the 70 outdoor recreation and open space sites, 32 sites encompassing 1,895 acres, or about 63 percent of the area devoted to outdoor recreation and open space uses, were publicly owned. The remaining 38 sites, encompassing 1,123 acres, or about 37 percent of the total park and open space site area, were privately owned. The Village of Caledonia owned 16 park and open space sites, encompassing a total of 384 acres, or about 1 percent of the Village. They ranged from two acres (Maple Park) to 127 acres (Nicholson Wildlife Refuge) in size. Nine conservation easements were also located in the Village in 2016, encompassing 332 acres.

Racine County maintains 18 miles of trails or bike routes within the planning area. The County-owned MRK Trail is eight miles in length within the planning area. The trail runs from Layard Avenue in the City of Racine north to Elm Road in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. The trail includes both on-street and off-street segments within the Village. Portions of the MRK Trail are also connected to the City-owned Lake Michigan Pathway at Three Mile Road and South Street and the City-owned Root River Pathway at Layard Avenue. About 10 miles of portions of the Racine County signed, on-street bike route are also located within the Village. In addition, the Caledonia Conservancy provides hiking trails at numerous conservancy-owned sites within the Village that are open to the public.

The most important features of the natural resource base in the Village, including the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and stream corridors occur in linear areas termed environmental corridors. Primary environmental corridors encompass 1,772 acres, or about 6 percent of the Village, secondary environmental corridors encompass 264 acres, and isolated natural resource areas encompass 1,428 acres within the Village. There are also 1,720 acres within the one-percent-annual-probability (100-year recurrence interval) floodplain and 2,159 acres of wetlands within the Village.

Fourteen natural areas encompassing 921 acres, 13 critical species habitat sites encompassing 278 acres, and two geological areas encompassing 33 acres were identified within the Village in 2010. Three aquatic habitat sites were also identified in the Village. One natural area of Statewide or greater significance, the 138-acre Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area, is located in the Village.

## 5.2 LOCAL PLANS

The Village adopted an updated land use plan and a series of more detailed neighborhood plans in 2006. The Village's land use plan included standards and guidelines related to environmental corridors and environmentally sensitive areas within the Village. The "Environmental Linkage" Policy encouraged the connection of environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and other significant natural resource areas to form larger habitat systems or corridors. In 2009, the Village Board adopted the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Racine County as the Village's comprehensive plan. The multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan includes recommendations for future land uses, parks, and natural resource preservation; projections of future population and households; and goals, objectives, policies, and programs relevant to this park and open space plan update. The Village land use plan map adopted as part of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan also identifies as a "Recreational" land use both existing active park sites and additional areas that may serve as future Village parks.

The Root River Watershed Restoration Plan was completed in 2014. The plan provides specific recommendations to address watershed-related conditions, with the overall goal of restoring and improving the water resources of the Root River watershed. About 12 miles of the Root River traverse the Village, and the Root River watershed encompasses about 79 percent of the Village (22,945 acres). The plan is focused on four issues: water quality, recreational use and access, habitat condition, and flooding. The plan also recommends that existing riparian buffers be protected along the Root River and its tributary streams. The plan recommends maintaining or establishing a minimum buffer of natural vegetation within 75 feet on both sides of the River and its tributaries, with consideration given to providing a connection between open space and habitat areas within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Establishment of such an optimal buffer width should be considered when development or redevelopment proposals are submitted to the Village for review.

The watershed plan also sets forth a recommendation from the 2007 regional water quality management plan update<sup>36</sup> to convert a total of 10 percent of existing marginally-productive farmland and pasture to either wetland or prairie conditions. The potential restoration areas in the Village have soils that indicate they would be suitable for restoration as wetlands, but an on-site evaluation would be necessary prior to any restoration efforts. These areas are located within or adjacent to planned environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas or farmed wetlands larger than five acres.

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

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

The regional park and open space objectives, principles, and standards were used to prepare the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan and this Village park plan. The regional standards have been modified over time to incorporate State regulations regarding lake access and to incorporate a standard for soccer fields. The regional park and open space objectives, principles, and standards are set forth in Appendix A. Applicable goals, objectives, policies, and programs from the Village's comprehensive plan were also used to help guide preparation of this plan.

The attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide residents of the Village with opportunities for high-quality recreational experiences. Under the regional park and open space plan and the Racine County park and open space plan, the responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreational facilities is shared among various levels of government. The responsibility for acquiring and developing major resource-oriented parks and recreational facilities is largely delegated to

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<sup>36</sup> Documented in *SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50, A Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds, Parts One and Two, December 2007*.



the State and county levels of government, although larger cities sometimes provide major parks. The need for major parks will be met within the Village of Caledonia planning area by the continued development and maintenance of Cliffside Park by Racine County and Johnson Park and Golf Course by the City of Racine.

The responsibility for providing neighborhood and community parks and facilities for intensive outdoor recreational activities, as well as acquiring environmental corridors and developing a local off-street path system, is delegated to the Village of Caledonia under the regional park and open space plan. The need for community and neighborhood parks and associated recreational facilities in the Village of Caledonia was determined by applying the park and open space standards to the population projection (30,342 residents) identified in the adopted Village comprehensive plan. Service radius standards were also applied to ensure that community and neighborhood parks will be well-distributed throughout the Village and convenient to Village residents.

The results of applying the adopted SEWRPC per capita and service area standards for recreational facilities in the Village identified a need for a variety of recreational facilities, including baseball diamonds, softball diamonds, playfields, playgrounds, soccer fields, tennis courts, and basketball goals. The Parks and Recreation Commission also identified a need for other active and passive use facilities.

## **5.4 PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

Upon full implementation of the park and open space plan for the Village of Caledonia, the Village would provide a variety of parks and related outdoor recreation facilities and a system of on-street bikeways and off-street paths to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents and protect important natural resource areas. Specific recommendations regarding the Village park and open space system and Village bicycle and pedestrian facilities include:

- Acquiring and developing one new community park and 14 new neighborhood parks to help ensure that community and neighborhood parks are well-distributed throughout the Village and convenient to all residents. The community park is expected to be acquired by the Village in the next five years while the neighborhood parks are expected to be acquired after 2022.
- Developing recreational facilities at 10 existing Village-owned parks, likely after 2022.
- Additional development or improvements to seven existing Village parks and open space sites between 2018 and 2022.
- Acquiring additional land at Crawford Park, Gorney Park, and the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge. The acquisition of land at Crawford Park is expected to occur before 2022, while the acquisition of land at the other two sites will likely occur after 2022.
- Developing the Root River Water Trail and developing and maintaining the existing Lake Michigan Water Trail, in cooperation with Racine County.
- Continuing to maintain the Village parks system, including improvements to increase access for people with disabilities.
- Developing a Village-wide system of off-street paths and on-street bikeways, including the Heritage Trail.
- Continuing to protect and acquire open space preservation lands in the Village, where necessary, including environmental corridors, natural and geological areas, critical species habitat sites, wetlands, undeveloped floodplains, stream corridors, and woodlands.
- Continuing to implement the recommendations of the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan for protection of all streams and tributaries and conservation of the natural ecosystem within the watershed.

The plan also recommends the Village acquire an additional 47 acres of natural resource areas and continue to protect the natural resources located within existing Village parks. It is also recommended, that for resource protection purposes, the Village acquire the remaining lands associated with the Caledonia Wildlife Area Natural Area, which is within, and adjacent to, the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge.

In addition to Village implementation of the recommendations listed above, the plan recommends that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) endorse the plan, thereby continuing to make the Village eligible to apply for, and receive, Federal and State grants for land acquisition and the development of outdoor recreation facilities.

It is recommended that the State of Wisconsin, and more specifically, the University of Wisconsin – Parkside, continue to manage and maintain the Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods, a State Natural Area, and acquire additional lands associated with the natural area for resource protection purposes.

It is recommended that Racine County to continue to provide and maintain one major park, Cliffside Park, within the Village, and provide additional picnic facilities and trails and develop a nature study center at the park. The County may also consider developing a disc golf course at the park if a public-private partnership were to be established to fund the development. The County should continue to maintain the River Bend Nature Center, Tabor Sokol Memorial Park, and Root River Parkway lands, which are County-owned sites located within the Village. The County should continue to maintain the MRK Trail and the bicycle route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route, continue to acquire lands associated with the Root River Parkway system, and develop the Root River Trail within the Village. It is also recommended that the County, in cooperation with local governments, develop a water trail and appropriate support facilities on the Root River and develop access sites with the appropriate support facilities associated with the existing Lake Michigan Water Trail. The County should acquire and protect natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and a geological sites as called for in the regional natural areas plan and the County park and open space plan.

Implementing the plan over time would help to ensure a pleasant, healthy environment with diverse recreational opportunities for Village residents and visitors, and provide the foundation for a vibrant Village.



# APPENDICES





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

## **APPENDIX A**



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

- **Principle:** Good physical and mental health is an inherent right of all residents of the Region. 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 Region by lending form and structure to urban development patterns.

## A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

- **Principle:** 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) <sup>b</sup>	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) <sup>a</sup>	
				Urban <sup>c</sup>	Rural
I <sup>d</sup> Regional	250 or more	5.3	Campsites, swimming beach, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski-touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball diamond, or passive-activity area <sup>e</sup>	10.0	10.0
II <sup>f</sup> Multi-Community	100-249	2.6	Campsites, swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski-touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball and/or baseball diamond, or passive-activity area <sup>e</sup>	4.0 <sup>g</sup>	10.0 <sup>g</sup>
III <sup>h</sup> Community	25-99	2.2	Swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, boat launch, nature study area, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other playfields, tennis courts, or passive- activity area <sup>e</sup>	2.0 <sup>i</sup>	--
IV <sup>j</sup> Neighborhood	Less than 25	1.7	Wading pool, picnic areas, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other playfields, tennis court, play-ground, basketball goal, ice-skating rink, or passive-activity area <sup>e</sup>	0.5-1.0 <sup>k</sup>	--

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

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

## B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE

- **Principle:** Meeting the recreation demands of the Region'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 1.1:** 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<sup>p</sup> should be provided for each 1,000 people in the Region
  2. Recreation corridors should have a minimum length of 15 miles and a minimum width of 200 feet
  3. The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas
  4. Resource-orientated recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
    - a. Primary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented recreation activities
    - b. Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites
    - c. Existing trail-type facilities within the Region



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

- **Principle:** 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 Region. 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 <sup>a</sup>				Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles) <sup>r</sup>
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Urban Residents	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements	Total Land Requirement (acres per facility)	
Baseball	Diamond	Public	0.09	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	2.8 acres per diamond	Parking (30 spaces per diamond)  Night lighting <sup>†</sup> Concessions and bleachers <sup>†</sup> Buffer and landscape	0.28 acre per diamond -- 0.02 acre minimum 1.40 acres per diamond	4.5	2.0
		Nonpublic	0.01						
		Total	0.10 <sup>g</sup>						
Basketball	Goal	Public	0.91	Neighborhood parks	0.07 acre per goal	--	--	0.07	0.5
		Nonpublic	0.22						
		Total	1.13						
Ice-Skating	Rink	Public	0.15 <sup>u</sup>	Neighborhood parks	0.30 acre per rink minimum	Warming house	0.05 acre --	0.35 minimum	0.5
		Nonpublic	--						
		Total	0.15						
Playfield Activities	Playfield	Public	0.39	Neighborhood parks	1.0 acre per playfield minimum	Buffer area	0.65 acre minimum	1.65 minimum	0.5
		Nonpublic	0.11						
		Total	0.50						
Playground Activities	Playground	Public	0.35	Neighborhood parks	0.25 acre per playground minimum	Buffer and landscape	0.37 acre	0.62 minimum	0.5
		Nonpublic	0.07						
		Total	0.42						
Soccer	Field	Public	0.69	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	1.0 acre per field minimum	Buffer	0.65 acre	1.65	1.0
		Nonpublic	0.17						
		Total	0.86						
Softball	Diamond	Public	0.53	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	1.70 acre per diamond	Parking (20 spaces per diamond)  Nighttime lighting <sup>†</sup> Buffer	0.18 acre per diamond -- 0.80 acre per diamond	2.68	1.0
		Nonpublic	0.07						
		Total	0.60						
Swimming	Pool	Public	0.015 <sup>v</sup>	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
		Nonpublic	--						
		Total	0.015						
Tennis	Court	Public	0.50	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	0.15 acre per court	Parking (2.0 spaces per court) Nighttime lighting <sup>†</sup> Buffer	0.02 acre per court -- 0.15 acre per court	0.32	1.0
		Nonpublic	0.10						
		Total	0.60						

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

- **Principle:** 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 Region. To meet this standard, the per capita requirements and design criteria for various facilities should be met as follows:

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirement**					Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles)*	
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	1.47				Utility hookups	--		Presence of surface water	
		Total	1.82				Natural area backup lands	1.5 acres per campsite		Suitable topography and soils	
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	0.027				Practice area	5.0 acres per course		Presence of surface water	
		Total	0.040				Woodland or water areas Buffer	35.0 acres per course 2.0 acres per course		Form-giving vegetation desirable	
Picnicking	Tables	Public	6.35 <sup>y</sup>		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	2.39				Shelters and grills	--		Shade trees	
		Total	8.74				Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table		Presence of surface water desirable Suitable soils	
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	25.0
		Nonpublic	0.09				Parking	0.25 acre per acre of slope		(20 percent slope minimum)	
		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		North or northeast exposure	
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)	Major Inland Lakes	6	Lake Michigan	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking	0.2 acre per acre of beach	-- <sup>z</sup>	Natural beach	10.0
		Public	12	16			Bathhouse-concessions	0.10 acre minimum		Good water quality	
		Nonpublic	--	--			Buffer areas	10 square feet per linear foot			
		Total	18	16							

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

- **Principle:** 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 Region. 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 <sup>a,b</sup>			Design Standards				
Activity	Facility	Per Capita Requirements (linear mile per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Minimum Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Suggested Support Facilities and Backup Lands	Minimum Support Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Resource Requirements
Biking	Route	-- <sup>bb</sup>	Scenic roadways	--	Route markers	--	--
	Trail	0.16	Recreation corridor	1.45	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	-- <sup>cc</sup>	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 Region adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities on major inland lakes and rivers and on Lake Michigan, consistent with safe and enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of good water quality.**

- **Principle:** The major inland lakes and rivers of the Region and Lake Michigan 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 Region. The maximum interval between access points on major canoeable streams<sup>dd</sup> 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<sup>ee</sup> of the Region.**

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

#### **A. PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS**

- **Principle:** 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 Region should be preserved in essentially natural open uses.

#### **B. NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS**

- **Principle:** Natural areas and critical species habitats are important in a number of ways - including economically, 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 Region's residents.
- **Standard 6.2:** The remaining natural areas and critical species habitat areas should be preserved.

#### **C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

- **Principle:** Prime agricultural lands, in addition to providing food and fiber, can supply significant wildlife habitat; contribute to maintaining an ecological balance between plants and animals; offer locations close to urban centers for 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 Region.
- **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:** The total resources of the Region are limited and any undue investment in park and open space lands must occur at the expense of other public investment.
- **Standard 7.1:** The sum total of all expenditures required to meet park demands and open space needs should be minimized.

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**Footnotes**

<sup>a</sup> 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 Region has ready access to the variety of outdoor recreation facilities commonly located in parks, including space and facilities for both active and passive outdoor recreational use.

<sup>b</sup> For regional and multi-community parks, which generally provide facilities for resource-orientated outdoor recreation activities for the total population of the Region, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the total resident population of the Region. For 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 Region residing in urban areas.

<sup>c</sup> 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).

<sup>d</sup> 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.

<sup>e</sup> 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.

<sup>f</sup> 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.

<sup>g</sup> In general, each resident of the Region 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.

<sup>h</sup> 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.

<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>j</sup> 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.

<sup>k</sup> 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.

<sup>l</sup> 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.

<sup>m</sup> 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.

<sup>n</sup> 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 Region residing in urban areas.

<sup>o</sup> The service radius of school outdoor recreation sites, for park and open space planning purposes, is governed primarily by individual outdoor recreation facilities within the school site. For example, school outdoor recreation sites 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 standards 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 standards 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.

<sup>p</sup> 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.

<sup>q</sup> 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 Region.

<sup>r</sup> 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.

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

<sup>t</sup> Support facilities such as 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.

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

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

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

<sup>x</sup> 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.

<sup>y</sup> 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 Region to be located in regional and multi-community parks to meet the resource-oriented picnicking standard for the Region and 2.55 tables per 1,000 residents of urban areas in the Region to be located in community and neighborhood parks to meet local picnicking standard for urban areas of the Region.

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

<sup>aa</sup> Both urban and rural residents of the Region participate in trail-related activities. Thus, minimum per capita requirements for trails apply to the total resident population of the Region.

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

<sup>cc</sup> *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.*

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

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

*Source: SEWRPC*



**VILLAGE BOARD ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE  
VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2035**

**APPENDIX B**





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**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-11**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR RACINE COUNTY: 2035 AS IT PERTAINS TO THE VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA UNDER SECTION 13-2-1 OF THE VILLAGE'S CODE OF ORDINANCES BY CREATING SECTION 13-2-2(K) ADDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE VILLAGE'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND INCORPORATING A DOCUMENT ENTITLED "A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA: 2035" WHICH PROVIDES DETAILS OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE VILLAGE'S PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES, AND TO UPDATE THOSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES REFLECTED IN THE VILLAGE'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2035**

The Village Board of the Village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, ordains as follows:

1. That pursuant to Section 61.35 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Village of Caledonia is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan as defined in Sections 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

2. That the Village Board, by the enactment of Ordinance No. 2009-07, created Section 13-2-1 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances and formally adopted the document titled "A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035" as the Village Comprehensive Plan, and incorporated said plan into Section 13-2-1. The Village Board subsequently created Section 13-2-2 to track approved amendments to the Plan.

3. That the Plan Commission, by a majority vote of the entire Commission at a meeting held on September 24, 2018, after a public hearing, recommended to the Village Board the adoption of the document entitled "A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Caledonia: 2035" which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference, as a component of and an amendment to the Village comprehensive plan.

4. Public participation procedures for the plan amendment complied with the requirements for Comprehensive Plan Amendments adopted by the Village Board and as described in Ch. 1 of the park and open space plan and the Village published and posted a Class 1 public notice and held a public hearing regarding the plan amendment on September 24, 2018.

5. The Village Board of the Village of Caledonia hereby adopts the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment incorporating the document entitled "A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Caledonia: 2035" which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference, as a component of and an amendment to the Village comprehensive plan, as recommended by the Village Plan Commission for the Village of Caledonia.

6. That Section 13-2-2(k) of the Municipal Code for the Village of Caledonia be, and hereby is, created to read as follows:

“(k) Amendment adopting the document entitled "A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Caledonia: 2035" which is attached as Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 2018-11 and incorporated into this published Code of Ordinances by reference, as a component of and an amendment to the Village comprehensive plan and such document is on file with the Village of Caledonia and is further available at the Village's website at [www.caledonia-wi.gov](http://www.caledonia-wi.gov).

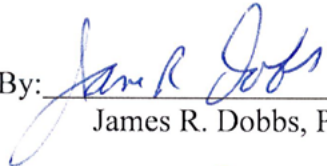
7. The Village Clerk is directed to send a copy of this ordinance and the plan amendment to the parties listed in Section 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

8. That after a sufficient number of land use plan amendments have occurred, the Village Clerk shall cause mapping of the Comprehensive Plan to be updated to reflect the amendment herein as may be appropriate under the amendment.

9. That this ordinance shall take effect upon the day after posting or publication in accordance with ordinance and applicable law.

Adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2018.

**VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA**

By:   
James R. Dobbs, President

Attest:   
Karie Torkilsen, Village Clerk

770272.001(765) 9-18-18