



A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA

RACINE COUNTY WISCONSIN

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Special acknowledgment is due Donald P. Heckel, SEWRPC
Planner, for his contribution to the preparation of this report.

**COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING REPORT
NUMBER 179 (2nd Edition)**

**A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
FOR THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA
RACINE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Prepared by the

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

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Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

PLAN CONTEXT

Broadly defined, recreation is an activity or experience undertaken solely for the pleasure or satisfaction derived from it. Recreation can be experienced indoors or outdoors. It encompasses a wide variety of human activities, including rest and reflection, development of personal and social skills, meeting challenges, and recovering from disappointment. Recreation includes both mental and physical exercise and personal enjoyment. Although recreational preferences may vary from individual to individual, recreation occupies a necessary and significant place in every person's life. For the purpose of this report, recreation will be viewed in a narrower framework as including only those recreational activities typically carried on outdoors.

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

Park and open space acquisition, development, and use have long been issues of concern to public officials and citizen leaders because of the importance of outdoor recreation sites and areas for natural resource protection. 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, and smaller non-resource-oriented urban parks, together with attendant recreational facilities. That plan, as it related to Racine County, was adopted by the Racine County Board in 1978. At the request of the Racine County Highway and Parks Committee, 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 1988.¹ The Racine County park plan is currently being updated.

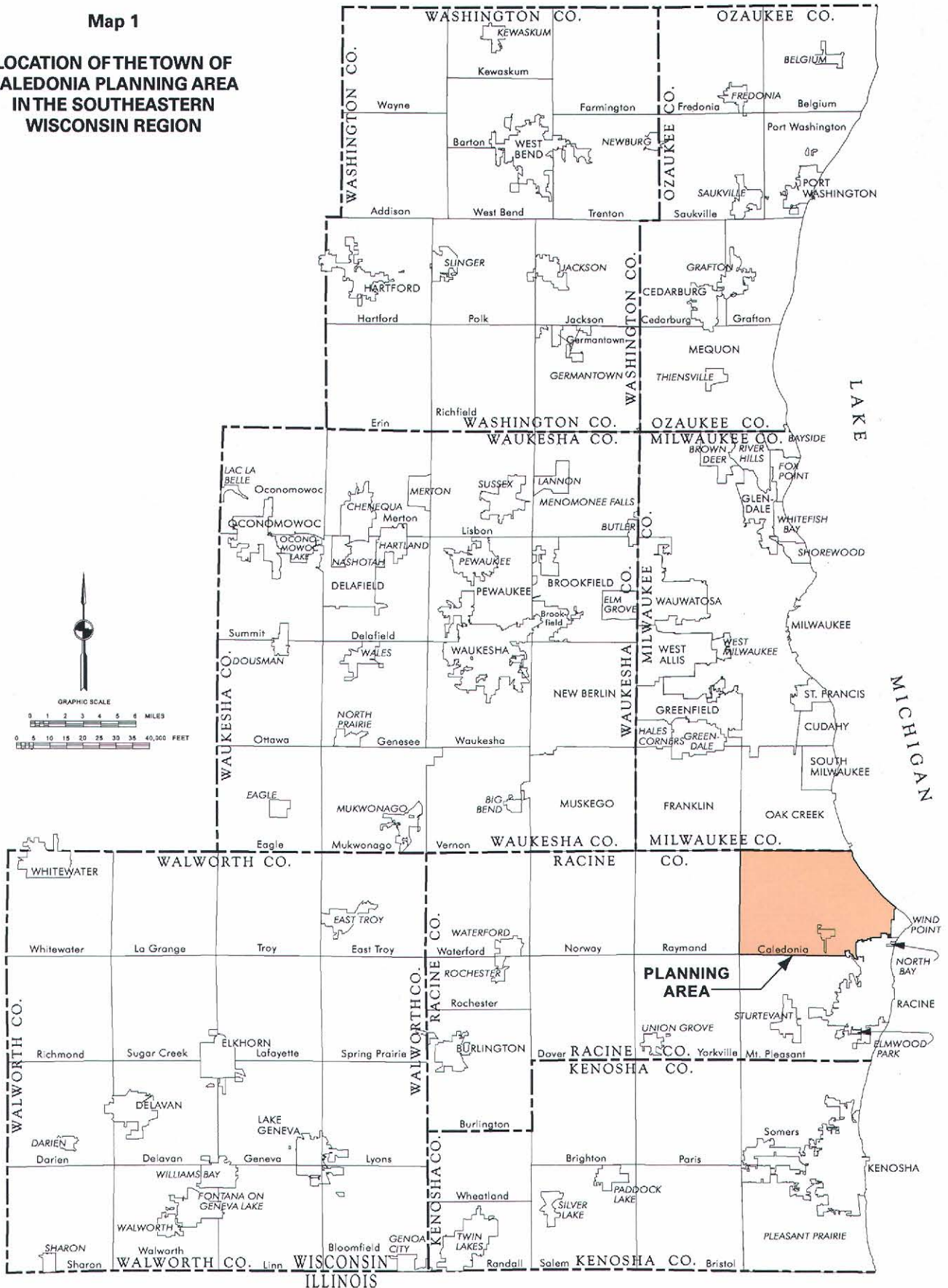
TOWN REQUEST

The Town of Caledonia, on November 5, 1996, requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist in the preparation of a new park and open space plan for the Town. The plan is to reflect recent park and open space acquisition and development activities within the Town and is also intended to maintain Town eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids in partial support of the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities. The requested new plan is documented in this report. This plan updates an earlier park and open space plan prepared for the Town by the Regional Planning Commission. That plan, which has a design year of

¹Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, September 1988*.

Map 1

**LOCATION OF THE TOWN OF
CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA
IN THE SOUTHEASTERN
WISCONSIN REGION**



Source: SEWRPC.

2010, is documented in the first edition of this report published in 1989.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The planning process was conducted under the guidance of the Town of Caledonia Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission consists of government officials and citizens from the Town of Caledonia. A list of the Park Commission members is provided on the inside cover of this report.

PLANNING AREA

The planning area, as shown on Map 1, consists of the Town of Caledonia, which is located in U.S. Public Land Survey Township 4 North and Ranges 22 and 23 East in northeastern Racine County. The planning area also includes Johnson Park, which is part of the City of Racine but is surrounded by the Town. The Town encompasses an area of about 46 square miles. As further shown on Map 1, the Town is bounded on the north by the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County, on the east by Lake Michigan and the Village

of Wind Point, on the southeast by the City of Racine, on the south by the Town of Mount Pleasant, and on the west by IH 94 and the Town of Raymond.

REPORT FORMAT

The findings and recommendations of the Town park and open space plan are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter II presents information about the Town pertinent to park and open space planning, including information on the resident population, the land use pattern, and natural resources within the Town. An inventory of existing park and open space sites and facilities within the Town is also included in Chapter II. Chapter III presents the objectives, principles, and supporting standards which served as the basis for the development of the Town's park and open space plan. Chapter III also provides an analysis of outdoor recreation site and facility needs and open space preservation needs in the Town. The recommended park and open space plan and plan implementation measures are presented in Chapter IV. Lastly, Chapter V presents a summary of the plan.

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Chapter II

INVENTORY FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

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

RESIDENT POPULATION

Resident population levels are an important consideration in any park and open space planning effort. Data on the historic and existing resident population of the planning area are presented in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1. The planning area includes the Town of Caledonia and Johnson Park, which is surrounded by the Town but part of the City of Racine. The resident population of the Town of Caledonia in 1990 was 20,999 persons.

As indicated in Table 1, the resident population of the Town of Caledonia increased steadily from the 1900 population of 2,805 persons to 1920, when the population totaled 3,479 persons. Between 1920 and 1930 the Town experienced a 13 percent decrease in population, from 3,479 persons to 3,031 persons. From 1930 to 1970 the population increased considerably to 16,748 persons. Between 1970 and 1980, the population continued to increase, albeit at a slower rate than the previous four decade period, to 20,940 persons. Between 1980 and 1990 the population change was negligible as it increased slightly to 20,999 persons.

The estimated population level for 1998 is 22,654 persons, an increase of 1,655 persons, or 8 percent, from 1990.

LAND USE BASE

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

The historic pattern of urban growth in the Town of Caledonia planning area is shown on Map 2. Map 2 identifies areas of the Town 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. In 1950 urban land uses in the Town consisted largely of two subdivisions located in the southeastern and southwestern portions of the Town, together with a cluster of development in the northeastern portion of the Town, north of Six-Mile Road. Together these areas encompassed approximately 275 acres. In the years following 1950, urban development began to occur in areas scattered throughout the Town, with the majority fronting on existing roadways. The Town experienced its greatest period of urban growth between 1950 and 1963 when an addi-

Table 1

**RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE TOWN OF
CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1900-1998**

Year	Population	Change from Preceding U.S. 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
1998*	22,654	1,655	7.9

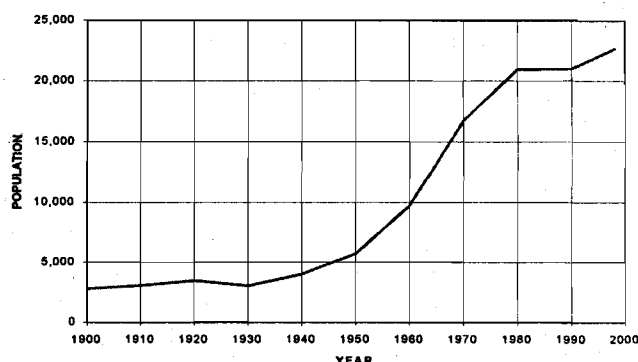
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration, and SEWRPC.

tional 2,639 acres were developed. By 1975, large residential subdivisions in the southern portion of the Town, east of STH 38, and in the northeastern portion accounted for an additional 2,050 acres of urban development. By 1980, an additional 857 acres of land were developed for urban uses. In the years following 1980, the rate of urban growth slowed somewhat and remained relatively constant at about 300 acres for each five-year period ending in 1985, 1990, and 1995.

Information on the amount of land devoted to the various types of land uses in the Caledonia planning area in 1995 is presented in Table 2 and shown on Map 3. The planning area encompasses approximately 29,184 acres. Residential uses occupied about 4,411 acres, or about 15 percent of the planning area. Lands devoted to other urban uses, including commercial, industrial, transportation, governmental and institutional, and recreational, together with undeveloped urban lands, encompassed about 3,129 acres, or about 11 percent of the planning area. Thus, about 7,540 acres, comprising about 26 percent of the planning area, were devoted to urban uses in 1995. Agricultural uses occupied about 16,880 acres, or about 58 percent of the planning area; while extractive and landfill uses occupied about 271 acres, or less than 1 percent of the planning area. Other non-urban land uses, including

Figure 1

**RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE
TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1900-1998**



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

open lands, wetlands, and woodlands together encompassed about 4,198 acres, or about 14 percent of the planning area. Lastly, surface water accounted for roughly 295 acres, or approximately 1 percent of the planning area. Thus, about 21,644 acres, comprising about 74 percent of the area of the planning area, were devoted to non-urban uses in 1995.

The Town of Caledonia is served by a well-developed highway transportation system. Important arterial streets and highways serving the planning area include IH 94, STH 31, STH 32, STH 38, CTH G, CTH K, and CTH V. In addition, the Canadian Pacific Railway and two Union Pacific Railroad rights-of-way traverse the Town from north to south.

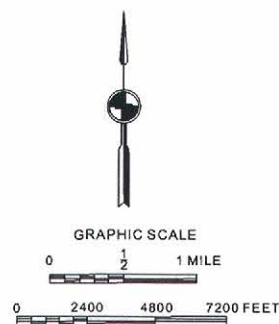
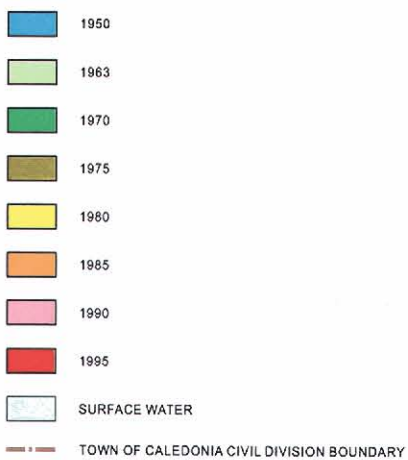
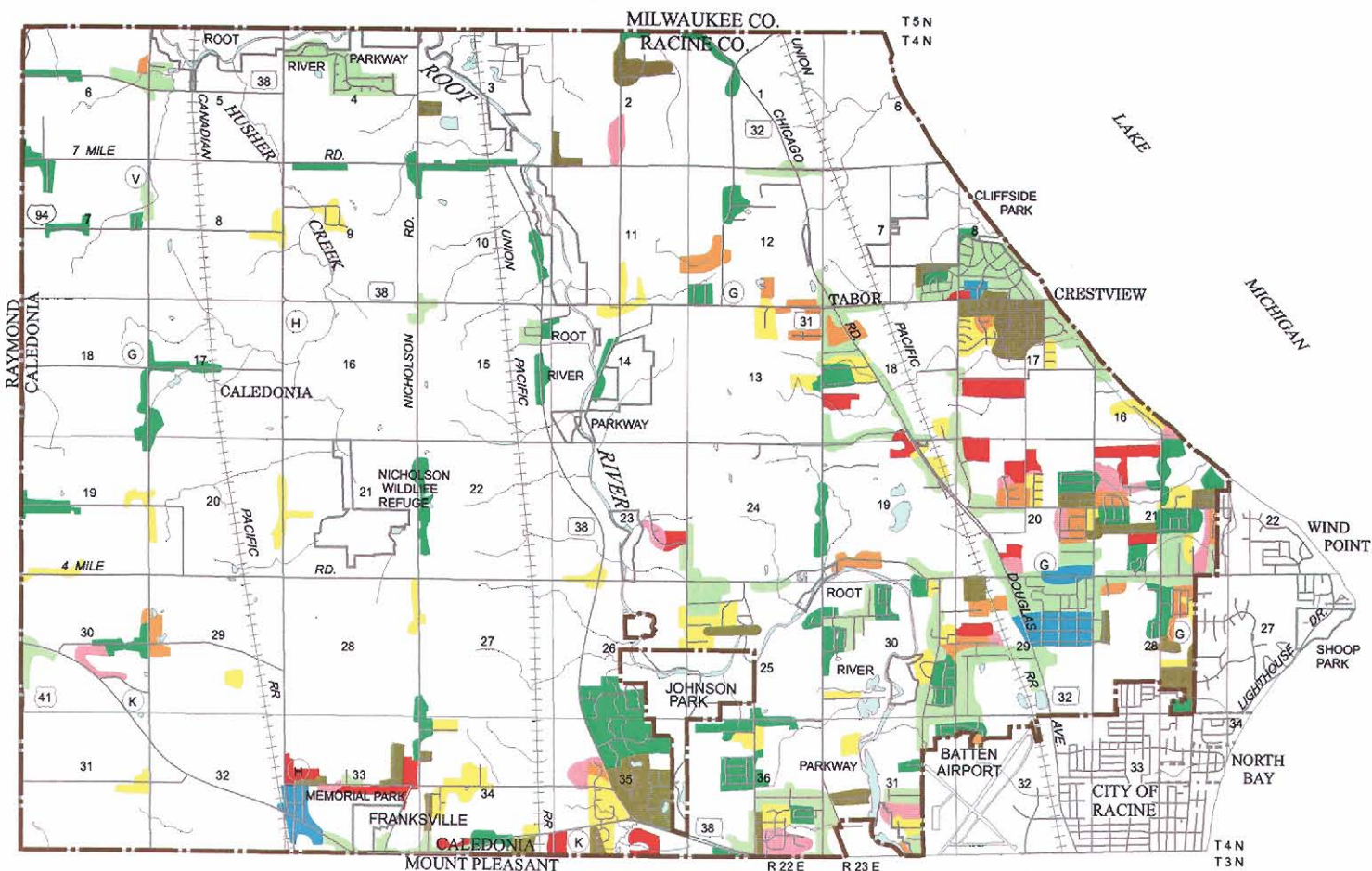
PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

Existing Park and Open Space Sites

A Commission inventory of existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the Caledonia planning area was conducted in 1999. As shown on Map 4 and indicated in Table 3, there were 51 park and open space sites, which encompassed about 2,528 acres, or about 9 percent of the Town, plus a five-mile off-road bicycle trail. Twenty-six sites, encompassing 1,804 acres, or about 71 percent of the

Map 2

GENERALIZED HISTORICAL URBAN GROWTH IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1950-1995



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 2

EXISTING LAND USES IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1995

Land Use Category	Acres	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of Planning Area
Urban			
Residential	4,411	58.5	15.1
Commercial.....	193	2.5	0.7
Industrial	179	2.4	0.6
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities.....	1,774	23.5	6.1
Governmental and Institutional	302	4.0	1.0
Recreational	496	6.6	1.7
Undeveloped Urban.....	185	2.5	0.6
Subtotal	7,540	100.0	25.8
Rural			
Undeveloped Rural	1,341	6.2	4.6
Agricultural.....	16,880	78.0	57.9
Extractive and Landfill	271	1.2	0.9
Wetlands	1,643	7.6	5.6
Woodlands.....	1,214	5.6	4.2
Surface Water	295	1.4	1.0
Subtotal	21,644	100.0	74.2
Total	29,184	--	100.0

Source: SEWRPC.

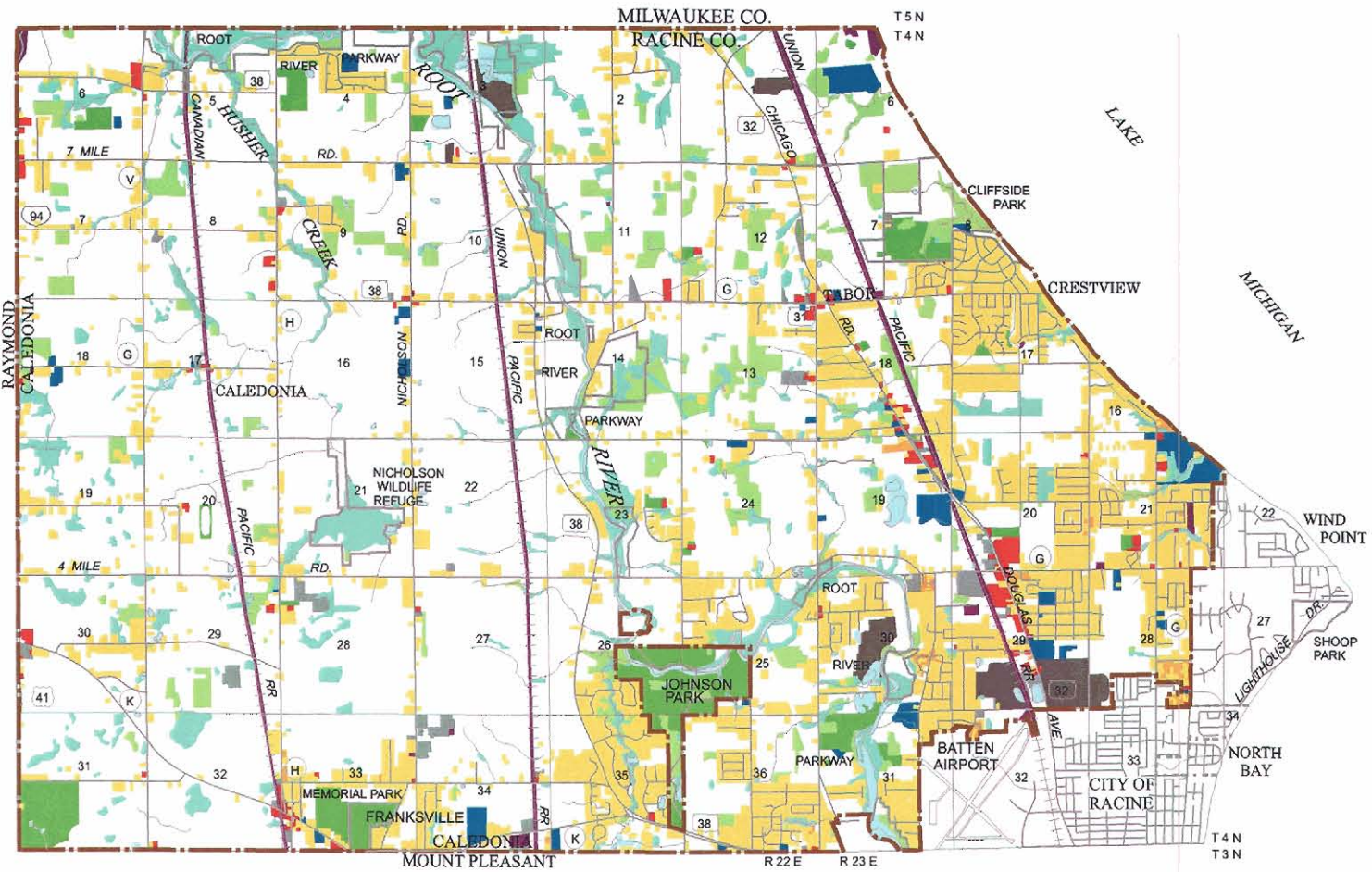
total park and open space site acreage, were publicly owned, including the trail facility. The remaining 25 sites, encompassing 724 acres, or 29 percent of the park and open space site acreage, were privately owned. As indicated in Table 4, selected outdoor recreational facilities in the planning area in 1999 included three baseball diamonds, 42 basketball goals, 20 soccer fields, 16 playgrounds, nine league softball diamonds, 12 sandlot softball diamonds, and 21 tennis courts. Playfields were located at 16 sites. Other significant outdoor recreation facilities available within the Town include a trout pond, a water slide, numerous campsites, two 18-hole golf courses, a wide variety of hiking and nature trails, and two ice skating rinks.

As shown on Map 5 and indicated in Table 3, the Town of Caledonia, in 1999, owned 13 park and open space sites, which together encompassed about 341 acres, or about 1 percent of the area of the Town. A description of each of the Town sites is presented below:

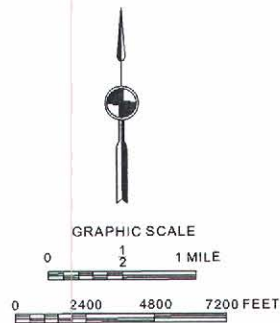
1. **Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park:** Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park is a 52-acre community park located in the southern portion of the Town and is jointly owned by the Towns of Caledonia and Mt. Pleasant. The site includes a baseball diamond, four basketball goals, two soccer fields, a playfield, a playground, one league softball diamond, two sandlot softball diamonds, two tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, informal and group picnic areas, and rest rooms.
2. **Chapla Park:** Chapla Park is a 10-acre neighborhood park located along the Lake Michigan shoreline south of Cliffside Park in the northeastern portion of the Town. The site provides open space for passive recreational pursuits and also contains an ice rink.
3. **Crawford Park:** Crawford Park is a 17-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the eastern portion of the Town.

Map 3

EXISTING LAND USE IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1995



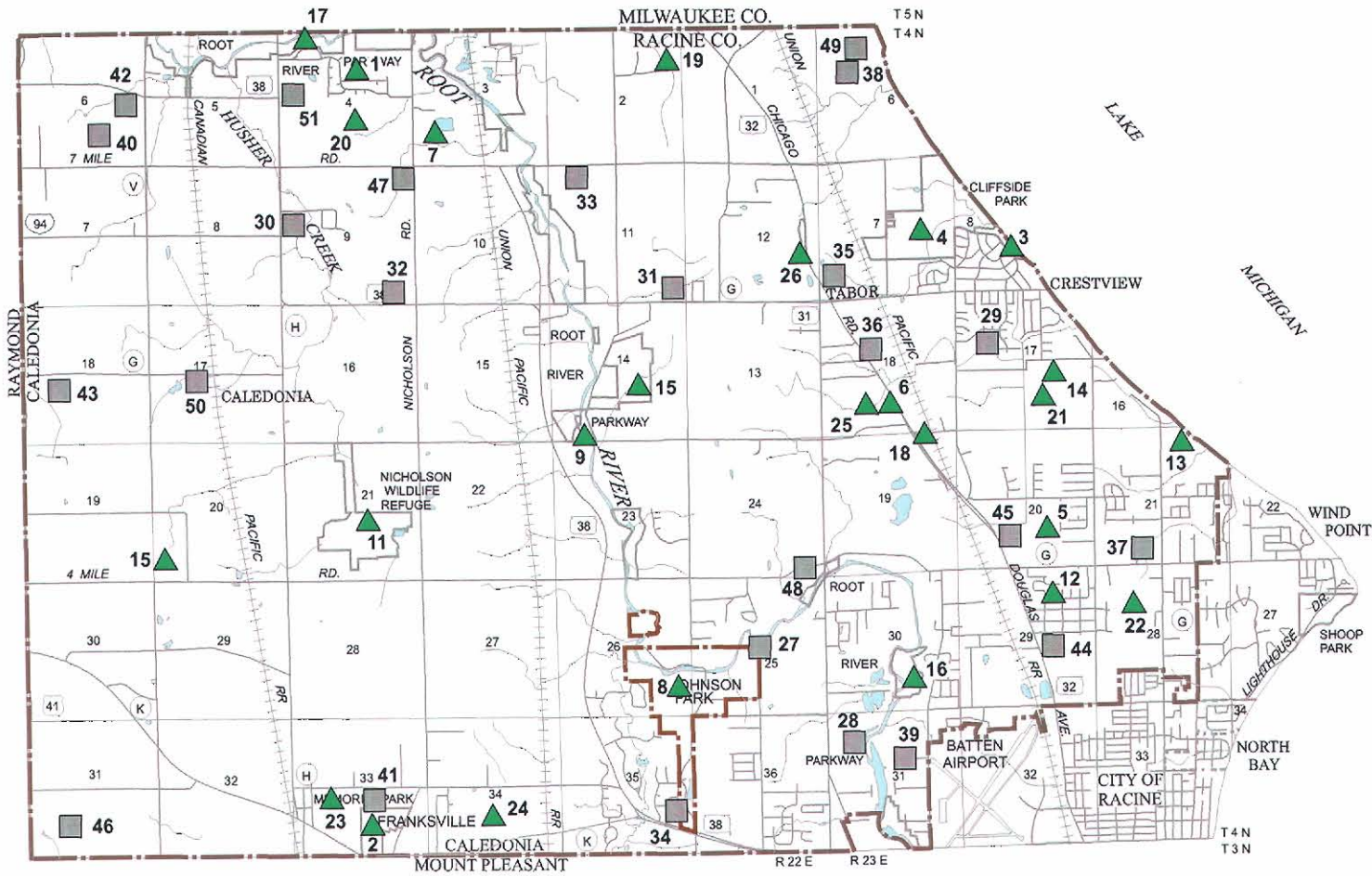
- SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, AND UTILITIES
- GOVERNMENTAL AND INSTITUTIONAL
- PARKS AND RECREATIONAL
- WETLANDS
- WOODLANDS
- EXTRACTIVE AND LANDFILL
- SURFACE WATER
- AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER OPEN LANDS
- TOWN OF CALEDONIA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY



Source: SEWRPC.

Map 4

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1999



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 3

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1999

Number on Map 4	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Acreage
	Public			
1	Caddy Vista School	T 4N-R22E, Section 4	Racine Unified School District	7
2	Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park	T 4N-R22E, Section 33	Towns of Caledonia/Mt. Pleasant	52
3	Chapla Park	T 4N-R23E, Section 8	Town of Caledonia	10
4	Cliffside Park	T 4N-R23E, Section 7	Racine County	233
5	Crawford Park	T 4N-R23E, Section 20	Town of Caledonia	17
6	Eastside Community Center	T 4N-R23E, Section 18	Town of Caledonia	1
7	Gomey Park	T 4N-R22E, Section 3	Town of Caledonia	28
8	Johnson Park	T 4N-R22E, Section 25	City of Racine	357
9	Linwood Park	T 4N-R22E, Section 14	Town of Caledonia	18
10	MRK Off-Road Bicycle Trail	T 4N-R23E, Various	Racine County and WEPCO	-- ^a
11	Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	T 4N-R22E, Section 21	Town of Caledonia	127
12	North Park School	T 4N-R23E, Section 29	Racine Unified School District	4
13	Olympia Brown Elementary School	T 4N-R23E, Section 21	Racine Unified School District	24
14	Open Space Site	T 4N-R23E, Section 17	Racine Unified School District	29
15	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods	T 4N-R22E, Section 14	University of Wisconsin	107
16	Root River Parkway	T 4N-R23E, Section 30	Racine County	648 ^b
17	Root River Parkway	T 4N-R22E, Section 4	Milwaukee County	39 ^b
18	Tabor-Sokol Memorial Park	T 4N-R23E, Section 19	Racine County	1
19	Town-Owned Land (County Line Park)	T 4N-R22E, Section 2	Town of Caledonia	17
20	Town-Owned Land	T 4N-R22E, Section 4	Town of Caledonia	7
21	Town-Owned Land (5 ½ Mile Park-Marsh)	T 4N-R23E, Section 17	Town of Caledonia	21
22	Town-Owned Land	T 4N-R23E, Section 28	Town of Caledonia	21
23	Town-Owned Land	T 4N-R22E, Section 33	Town of Caledonia	18
24	W. Allen Gifford Elementary and Junior High School	T 4N-R22E, Section 34	Racine Unified School District	12
25	Woodland Park	T 4N-R23E, Section 18	Town of Caledonia	4
26	2nd Division Memorial Marker and Wayside	T 4N-R22E, Section 12	State of Wisconsin	2
	Subtotal - 26 Sites	--	--	1,804
	Private			
27	Aboagye Acquisition	T 4N-R22E, Section 25	Caledonia Conservancy	6
28	Armstrong Park	T 4N-R23E, Section 31	Private	139
29	Crestview Home Owners Park	T 4N-R23E, Section 17	Private	5
30	Fieldhouse Pub & Eatery	T 4N-R22E, Section 9	Commercial	2
31	Greater Racine Kennel Club	T 4NR22E, Section 11	Organizational	20
32	Husher Pub and Grill	T 4N-R22E, Section 9	Commercial	3
33	New Marshal Right-of-Way	T 4N-R22E, Section 11	Caledonia Conservancy	2
34	Orrin C. Steams Park	T 4N-R22E, Section 35	Private	3
35	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	T 4N-R23E, Section 7	Organizational	3
36	Private Ball Field	T 4N-R23E, Section 18	Private	3
37	Racine Tennis Club	T 4N-R23E, Section 21	Commercial	11
38	Racine County Line Rifle Club Range	T 4N-R23E, Section 6	Organizational	80
39	River Bend Nature Center	T 4N-R23E, Section 31	Organizational	87
40	Serbian Soccer Club of Milwaukee	T 4N-R22E, Section 6	Organizational	41
41	Soccer Complex of Racine (SCORE)	T 4N-R22E, Section 33	Organizational	55
42	St. John's Evangelical Lutheran School	T 4N-R22E, Section 6	Organizational	1
43	St. Louis Parish School	T 4N-R22E, Section 18	Organizational	9
44	St. Rita's School	T 4N-R23E, Section 29	Organizational	8
45	Stoney's Drive and Putt	T 4N-R23E, Section 20	Commercial	14
46	South Hills Country Club	T 4N-R22E, Section 31	Commercial	134 ^b
47	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School	T 4N-R22E, Section 9	Organizational	4
48	Trout Ponds Prairie	T 4N-R22E, Section 24	Caledonia Conservancy	28
49	Wisconsin Electric Power Company Gun Club	T 4N-R23E, Section 6	Organizational	2
59	Witt's End	T 4N-R22E, Section 17	Commercial	1
51	Yogi Bear Jellystone Park	T 4N-R22E, Section 4	Commercial	63
	Subtotal - 25 sites	--	--	724
	Total 51 sites	--	--	2,528

NOTE: The Prairie School and Wind Point School were utilized in the needs analysis for playgrounds in Chapter III but are not included in this list because they are not located within the Town of Caledonia civil division.

^aThe MRK (Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha) Off-Road Bicycle Trail is a five-mile crushed limestone trail and is a joint venture between Racine County and the Wisconsin Electric Power Company.

^bIncludes only those lands within the Town of Caledonia.

Source: SEWRPC.

Table 4

SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1999

Site Name	Number On Map 4	Regulation Baseball	Basketball Goal	Ice Skating	Soccer Fields	Playfields	Playground	League Softball	Sandlot Softball	Tennis Courts	Other Facilities
Public											
Caddy Vista School	1	--	4	--	1	X	X	--	2	--	Volleyball, Tether ball
Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park	2	1	4	--	2	X	X	1	2	2	Recreation building, Sand volleyball, Informal/group picnic areas
Chapla Park	3	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive use
Cliffside Park	4	1	3	--	2	X	X	4	--	4	Campsites, Informal/ group picnic areas, Bicycle and hiking trails
Crawford Park	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Undeveloped park site
Eastside Community Center	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Multi-use center
Gorney Park	7	1	--	--	1	X	X	1	--	--	Trout pond, Hiking trail
Johnson Park	8	--	--	X	1	X	X	--	1	--	18 hole golf and driving range, Informal/group picnic areas, River frontage
Linwood Park	9	--	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	Recreation building, Horseshoes, Informal/ group picnic areas, River frontage
MRK Off-Road Bicycle Trail	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Five-mile off-road bicycle trail
Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nature trail
North Park School	12	--	6	--	--	X	X	--	1	--	--
Olympia Brown Elementary School	13	--	4	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	Nature trail, Major lake access
Open Space Site	14	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Natural area
Root River Parkway	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive use, River access
Root River Parkway	17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive use
Tabor-Sokol Memorial Park	18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Informal picnic areas
Town-Owned Land (County Line Park-Marsh)	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Undeveloped park site
Town-Owned Land	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Town-Owned Land (5 1/2 Mile Park)	21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Undeveloped park site
Town-Owned Land	22	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Town-Owned Land	23	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
W. Allen Gifford Elementary and Junior High School	24	--	8	--	2	X	X	--	2	2	--
Woodland Park	25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Informal picnic areas, Nature trail
32 nd Division Memorial Marker and Wayside	26	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive use, Informal picnic areas
Subtotal	--	3	29	2	9	8	9	6	8	8	--

4. Eastside Community Center: The Caledonia Community Center is an indoor multi-use center located on a one-acre site in the east-central portion of the Town.
5. Gorney Park: Gorney Park is a 28-acre community park located in the northern portion of the Town. The site includes a baseball diamond, a league softball diamond, a soccer field, a playfield, a playground, rest rooms, a trout pond accessible to disabled persons, and a walking trail.
6. Linwood Park: Linwood Park is an 18-acre neighborhood park located in the central portion

of the Town. The site includes a playfield, a playground, informal picnic areas, horseshoe pits, and Root River frontage.

7. Nicholson Wildlife Refuge: The Nicholson Wildlife Refuge is a 127-acre natural area of countywide or regional significance located in the southwestern portion of the Town. The site includes trail facilities and provides open space for educational and passive recreational pursuits.
8. Town-Owned Land: This Town-owned site is a seven-acre detention basin for stormwater management purposes. The site is located in the northern portion of the Town immediately south

Table 4 (continued)

Site Name	Number On Map 4	Regulation Baseball	Basketball Goal	Ice Skating	Soccer Fields	Playfields	Playground	League Softball	Sandlot Softball	Tennis Courts	Other Facilities
Private											
Aboagye Acquisition	27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Armstrong Park	28	--	--	--	1	X	X	2	2	4	Informal/group picnic areas, Hiking trail, Miniature golf, Driving range, Sand volleyball
Crestview Home Owners Park	29	--	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	Sand volleyball
Fieldhouse Pub & Eatery	30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Sand volleyball, Horseshoe pits
Greater Racine Kennel Club	31	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Husher Pub & Grill	32	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Sand volleyball, Horseshoe pits, Informal picnic area
New Marshal Right-of-Way	33	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Hiking trail
Orrin C. Stearns Park	34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive use, Informal picnic area, Swimming beach
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	35	--	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--
Private Ball Field	36	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Racine Tennis Club	37	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	Swimming pool, Volleyball
Racine County Line Rifle Club Range	38	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Shooting range
River Bend Nature Center	39	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive use, Nature study, Hiking trails, River access
Serbian Soccer Club of Milwaukee	40	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	Group picnic area, Recreation building
Soccer Complex of Racine (SCORE)	41	--	--	--	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran School	42	--	1	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--
St. Louis Parish School	43	--	2	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--
St. Rita's School	44	--	4	--	1	X	X	--	1	--	--
Stoney's Drive and Putt	45	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Miniature golf, Driving range
South Hills Country Club	46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18 hole golf
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School	47	--	4	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--
Trout Ponds Prairie	48	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nature preserve, Hiking/Nature trails
Wisconsin Electric Power Company Gun Club	49	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Shooting range
Witt's End	50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Informal picnic area, Horseshoe pits
Yogi Bear Jellystone Park	51	--	1	--	--	X	--	--	1	--	Campsites, Informal/ group picnic areas, Miniature golf, Water slide, Outdoor theater, Sand volleyball courts, Horseshoe pits
Subtotal	--	0	13	0	11	8	7	3	4	13	--
Total	--	3	42	2	20	16	16	9	12	21	--

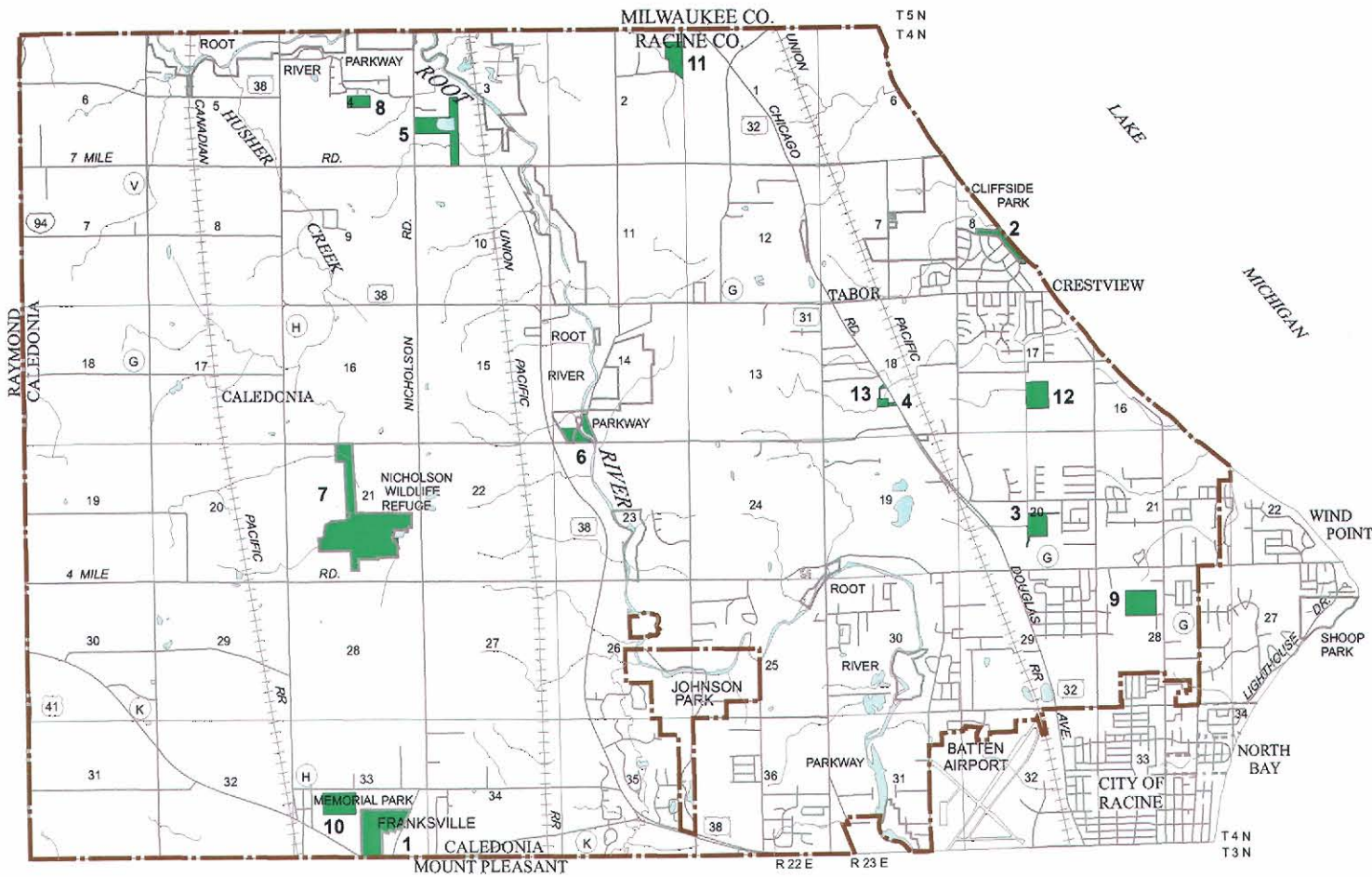
Source: Town of Caledonia Park Commission and SEWRPC.

of the Caddy Vista South subdivision. The site may provide opportunities for limited recreation use.

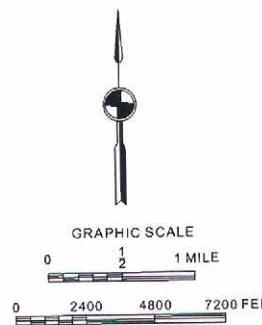
9. Town-Owned Land: This Town-owned site is a 21-acre detention basin for stormwater management purposes. The site is located in the eastern portion of the Town south of CTH G and west of Erie Street. The site may provide opportunities for limited recreation use.
10. Town-Owned Land: This Town-owned site is an 18-acre detention basin for stormwater management purposes. The site is located in the southwestern portion of the Town immediately northwest, and adjacent to, Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park.
11. Town-Owned Land (County Line Park): County Line Park is a 17-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the northern portion of the Town.
12. Town-Owned Land (5 ½ Mile Park): 5 ½ Mile Park is a 21-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the eastern portion of the Town south of 5 ½ Mile Road and north of Five Mile Road.
13. Woodland Park: Woodland Park is a four-acre neighborhood park located in the east-central

Map 5

TOWN-OWNED PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1999



- TOWN-OWNED PARK OR OPEN SPACE SITE
- 1 CALEDONIA-MT. PLEASANT MEMORIAL PARK
- 2 CHAPLA PARK
- 3 CRAWFORD PARK
- 4 EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER
- 5 GORNEY PARK
- 6 LINWOOD PARK
- 7 NICHOLSON WILDLIFE REFUGE
- 8 TOWN-OWNED LAND (STORMWATER DETENTION BASIN SITE)
- 9 TOWN-OWNED LAND (STORMWATER DETENTION BASIN SITE)
- 10 TOWN-OWNED LAND (STORMWATER DETENTION BASIN SITE)
- 11 TOWN-OWNED LAND (COUNTY LINE PARK)
- 12 TOWN-OWNED LAND (5 1/2 MILE PARK)
- 13 WOODLAND PARK
- 1995 TOWN OF CALEDONIA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY



Source: SEWRPC.

portion of the Town behind the Eastside Community Center. The site includes an informal picnic area and a nature trail.

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 planning of parks and open spaces should seek to preserve the most significant remaining aspects of the natural resource base to help retain the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area. A description of the natural resource base of the Caledonia planning area, including surface water resources, wetlands, woodlands, environmental corridors, natural areas, and prime agricultural lands, is presented in this section.

Surface Water Resources

Surface water resources and associated floodlands, shown on Map 6, form a particularly important element of the natural resource base of the Town of Caledonia. Lakes and streams provide water-related activities, an attractive setting for properly planned residential development, and enhance the aesthetic quality of the Town. Rivers and streams may be classified as perennial or intermittent. The perennial and certain intermittent streams within the Town are shown on Map 6. 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. Within the Town, a total of approximately 67 linear miles of perennial and intermittent rivers and streams were identified.

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

For planning and regulatory purposes, floodlands are normally defined as the areas, excluding the channel, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This is the event that would be reached or exceeded in severity once on average every 100 years or, stated another way, there is a 1 percent chance of this event being reached or exceeded in severity in any given year. Floodland areas are generally not well suited to urban development, not only because of the flood hazard, but also because of the presence of high water tables and of soils poorly suited to urban use. The floodland areas, however, generally contain such important elements of the natural resource base as woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat and, therefore, constitute prime locations for needed open space areas. Every effort should be made to discourage indiscriminate and incompatible urban development on floodlands, while encouraging compatible park and open space use.

Floodlands have been delineated and refined within the Town of Caledonia under the Racine County Federal Flood Insurance Study in October of 1981 and SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 152, *A Stormwater Drainage and Flood Control System for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District*, December 1990. These floodland delineations are shown on Map 6 and encompass an area of approximately 1,641 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area.

Wetlands

Wetlands are defined by the Regional Planning Commission as areas in which the water table is at, near, or above the land surface and which is characterized by both hydric soils and the growth of sedges, cattails, and other wetland vegetation. Wetlands generally occur in depressions and near the bottom of slopes, particularly along lakeshores and stream banks, and on large land areas that are poorly drained.

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

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE AND FLOODLANDS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA



groundwater recharge and discharge areas; and provision of opportunities for certain scientific, educational, and recreational pursuits.

As shown on Map 3 and indicated in Table 2, wetlands covered about 1,643 acres or about 6 percent of the planning area in 1995. It should be noted that such areas as tamarack swamps and other lowland wooded areas are classified as wetlands rather than woodlands because the water table is located at, near, or above the land surface, and such areas are characterized by hydric soils that support hydrophytic trees and shrubs.

Woodlands

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

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

Woodlands can and should be maintained for their scenic, wildlife habitat, educational, and recreational value and for air and water quality protection. As shown on Map 3, woodlands occur in scattered locations throughout the Town. In 1995, woodland areas covered 1,214 acres, or about 4 percent of the planning area.

Environmental Corridors

Ecological balance and natural beauty are important determinants of the ability of an area to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life and to maintain its social and economic well being.

One of the most important tasks completed under the regional planning program for southeastern Wisconsin has been the identification and delineation of those areas in the Region in which concentrations of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base

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

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

The delineation of these natural resource and resource-related elements on a map results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow, elongated areas which have been termed "environmental corridors" by the Regional Planning Commission. Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of the important natural resource and resource-related elements and are at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors generally connect with the primary environmental corridors and are at least 100 acres in size and one mile in length. Isolated natural resource areas consist of smaller concentrations of natural resource base elements, have a minimum of five acres, and are separated physically from the environmental corridors by intensive urban or agricultural land uses.

In any consideration of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, it is important to note that the preservation of such resources can assist in flood flow attenuation, water pollution abatement, and favorable climate modification. In addition, because of the many interacting relationships between living organisms and their environment, the destruction or deterioration of any one element of the natural resource base may lead to a chain reaction of deterioration and destruction of other elements. The draining and filling of wetlands, for example, may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge areas, and the natural filtration action and

¹A 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.

floodwater storage functions of interconnecting stream systems. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to deterioration of the quality of groundwater, which serves as a source of domestic, municipal, and industrial water supply and on which low flows in rivers and streams may depend. Similarly, the destruction of woodland cover may result in soil erosion and stream siltation, more rapid stormwater runoff and attendant increased flood flows and stages, and destruction of wildlife habitat.

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

Primary Environmental Corridors

As shown on Map 7, in 1990 the primary environmental corridors were located, for the most part, along the Root River and the northern reach of Husher Creek, as well as the entire stretch of the Lake Michigan shoreline located within the Town of Caledonia. As indicated in Table 5, these corridors encompassed a total area of about 1,860 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area.

The generalized natural resource composition of the primary environmental corridors is summarized in Table 5. Of the 1,860 acres of primary environmental corridor located in the Town in 1990, 214 acres, or 12 percent, were surface water; 778 acres, or 42 percent, were wetlands; 421 acres, or 23 percent, were woodlands; and 447 acres, or 23 percent, consisted of other resources.

The 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 planning area. These corridors have truly immeasurable environmental and recreational value. The protection of the primary environmental corridors from intrusion by incompatible rural and urban uses, and thereby from degradation and destruction, should be one of the principal objectives of the Town park and open space plan. Their preservation in an essentially open, natural state-including park

and open space uses, limited agricultural uses, and very low density residential uses-will serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality in the planning area, protect its natural beauty, and provide valuable recreation opportunities.

Secondary Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

In addition to the primary environmental corridors, other concentrations of natural resource base elements exist within the Town. Although separate from the primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas may provide surface water drainage, maintain pockets of natural resource features, provide wildlife habitat and corridors for the movement of wildlife, and provide good locations for local parks, natural areas, and the development of local trails. Although not as important as primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas should also be preserved in essentially open, natural uses to the extent practicable.

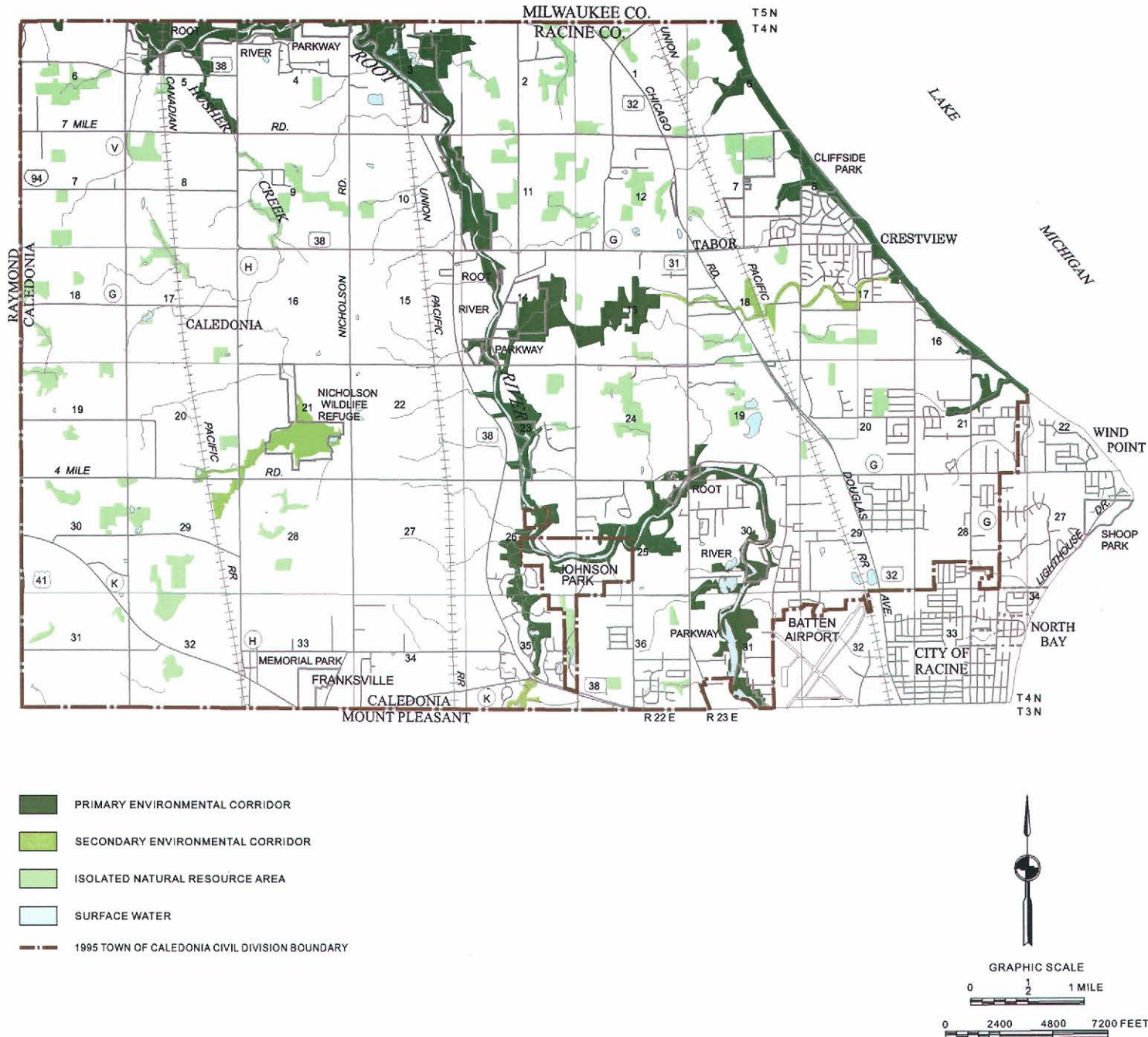
As shown in Map 7 and indicated in Table 5, secondary environmental corridors were located along an intermittent stream in the eastern portion of the Town, as well as Hoods Creek south of STH 38, and also occupied a large portion of the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge. These sites encompassed a total of about 240 acres, or less than 1 percent of the area of the Town. In addition, as further shown on Map 7 and indicated in Table 5, there were 1,304 acres of isolated natural resource areas scattered throughout the planning area.

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

Natural areas are defined by the Regional Planning Commission as tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the affects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement. 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 upon consideration of the diversity of plant and animal species and community types present; the structure and integrity of the native plant or animal community; the extent of disturbance by human activity, such as logging, grazing, water level changes, and pollution; the commonness of the plant and animal communities

Map 7

ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1990



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 5

**ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND ISOLATED
NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS IN THE
TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1990**

Resource	Primary Environmental Corridor		Secondary Environmental Corridor		Isolated Natural Resource Area		Total	
	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total
Surface Water	214	12.0	8	3.0	36	3.0	258	7.0
Wetland	778	42.0	124	52.0	480	37.0	1,382	42.0
Woodland	421	23.0	46	19.0	685	52.0	1,152	34.0
Other Resources	447	23.0	62	26.0	103	8.0	612	17.0
Total	1,860	100.0	240	100.0	1,304	100.0	3,404	100.0

Source: SEWRPC.

present; any unique natural features within the area; the size of the area; and the educational value.

A comprehensive inventory of natural area sites and critical species habitat sites in Racine County was completed in 1994 by the Regional Planning Commission². As shown on Map 8 and indicated in Table 6, 13 natural areas were identified within the Town of Caledonia. These sites covered a total of 901 acres, or about 3 percent of the planning area.

Critical species habitat sites are defined by the Regional Planning Commission as areas that support rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species. Seventeen critical species habitat sites were also identified within the Town. These sites are also shown on Map 8 and identified in Table 6. These sites covered about 334 acres of land, or about 1 percent of the area of the Town, and approximately 18 linear miles of surface water.

Prime Agricultural Land

It is useful for planning purposes to distinguish between prime agricultural lands and other farming areas. Prime agricultural lands are those lands which, in terms of farm size, the total area being farmed, and soil characteristics, are best suited for the pro-

duction of food and fiber. A number of important public purposes are served by the preservation of prime agricultural lands. Such public purposes include maintenance of agricultural reserves, conservation of energy, maintenance of open space, protection of environmentally significant areas, control of public costs, preservation of the local economic base, and preservation of the rural lifestyle. As shown on Map 9, these areas encompassed about 8,439 acres, or about 29 percent of the planning area in 1995.

SUMMARY

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

1. In 1990, the resident population of the Town of Caledonia was 20,999 persons. The resident population level of the Town for the year 1998 was estimated at 22,654.
2. The Caledonia planning area, in 1995 encompassed about 29,184 acres. Of this total, about 7,540 acres, or about 26 percent, were in urban uses. Residential use accounted for the largest percentage of lands developed for urban use,

² Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*, September 1997.

NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1994



- HABITAT SITES

-
- 1995 TOWN OF CALEDONIA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY

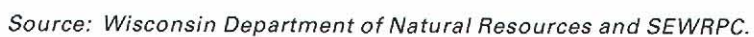


Table 6

**NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES
IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1994**

Number on Map 8	Area Name	Classification Code*	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA, RSH)	T 4N-R22E Section 14	University of Wisconsin-Parkside and private	138	Outstanding, mostly old growth, low-lying southern mesic forest on east side of Root River. Wet-mesic hardwoods, shrub carr, and shallow marsh lie along an intermittent stream which crosses the tract. Probably the best such woods remaining in the Region
2	Root River Wet-Mesic Woods—East	NA-2 (RSH)	T 4N-R22E Section 5 T05N-R22E Section 32 City of Oak Creek	Milwaukee County and Racine County	2 (plus 50 in Oak Creek)	Wet-mesic and mesic woods bordering a gravel-bottom stream that is a tributary of the Root River. Contains a rich, diverse flora, including several rare species
3	Hunts Woods	NA-2 (RSH)	T 4N-R22E Section 3	Racine County and private	34	A small but undisturbed remnant of southern mesic hardwoods, dominated by mature beeches and sugar maples. The relatively rich ground flora includes the State designated endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>)
4	Caledonia Wildlife Area	NA-2	T 4N-R22E Section 21	Town of Caledonia and private	166	An open wetland with seasonal ponds that attract a large number of migrating birds such as whistling swans, snow geese, golden plovers, and willets. The pond is one of the few secure stopover areas in the Region, and is a very good observation area
5	Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks (Cliffside Park)	NA-2 (RSH)	T 4N-R22E Sections 7, 8	Racine County, Town of Caledonia, and private	55	Second-growth mesic woods, ravine, and steep clay banks along Lake Michigan harbor. A rich and diverse flora, including such uncommon species as buffaloberry, yellowish gentian, stiff gentian, balsam poplar, and blue-stemmed goldenrod
6	Root River Riverine Forest	NA-3 (RSH)	T 4N-R22E Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 T05N-R22E Sections 31, 32, 33, 34 City of Oak Creek	Milwaukee County, Racine County, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and private	184 (plus 140 in Oak Creek)	A significant portion of the Root River corridor. Extends north into Milwaukee County
7	Seven Mile Road Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T 4N-R22E Section 8	Private	20	Second-growth maple-ash-oak woods of about 60 years of age that have been subjected to past selective cutting. Contains a rich and diverse ground flora. Low areas contain ephemeral ponds
8	Zirbes Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T 4N-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
9	Caledonia Low Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T 4N-R22E Sections 10, 11, 14	Racine County and private	107	Moderate-quality lowland hardwoods bordering the Root River. Adjoining upland woods contain 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>)
10	Foley Road Woods—West	NA-3 (RSH)	T 4N-R22E Section 11	Private	19	Medium-age mesic and wet-mesic woods with large population of black haw (<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>)
11	Foley Road Woods—East	NA-3 (RSH)	T 4N-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>)
12	Tabor Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T 4N-R22E Sections 13, 14	Private	107	Relatively large but irregularly shaped mesic, dry-mesic, and wet-mesic woods that have suffered various degrees of disturbance. Portions of the woods are dominated by beech. Threatened by increasing residential development in the area
13	Power Plant Ravine Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T 4N-R23E Section 6	Private	32	Mesic woods bordering a steep ravine that leads to Lake Michigan. Although the woods have 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

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 8	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
14	Sherwood Property	CSH	T 4N-R22E Section 2	Private	3	Site contains hoplike sedge (<i>Carex lupuliformis</i>), a State-designated endangered plant species
15	River Meadows Woods	CSH	T 4N-R22E Section 23	Private	13	Site contains red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), a State-designated special concern plant species
16	Forked Aster Site	CSH	T 4N-R22E Section 23	Private	18	Site contains forked aster (<i>Aster furcatus</i>), a State-designated threatened plant species
17	Root River Bluff	CSH	T 4N-R22E Section 26	Private	42	Site contains hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>), a State-designated special concern plant species
18	Hoods Creek Swamp	CSH	T 4N-R22E Sections 26, 35	Private	20	Site contains red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), a State-designated special concern plant species
19	Caledonia Site South ^b	CSH	T 4N-R22E Section 25	Private	--b	Site contains hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>), a State-designated special concern plant species
20	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right of Way	CSH	T 4N-R22E Section 25	Private	75	Site contains blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered plant species, hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>), and heart-leaved skullcap (<i>Scutellaria ovata</i>), both State-designated special concern plant species
21	Four Mile Road Woods	CSH	T 4N-R23E Section 19, 30	Private	30	Site contains red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), a State-designated special concern plant species
22	Caledonia Low Woods	CSH	T 4N-R23E Section 30	Private	29	Site contains hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>) and red trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), both State-designated special concern plant species
23	River Bend Upland Woods	CSH	T 4N-R23E Section 31	Racine County	13	Site contains blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered plant species
24	Root River Strip Woods	CSH	T 4N-R23E Section 31	Private	10	Site contains hoptree (<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>), a State-designated special concern plant species
25	Dominican Ravine	CSH	T 4N-R23E Section 21	Private	16	Site contains blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered plant species
26	Breakers Woods	CSH	T 4N-R23E Section 16	Private	5	Site contains blue-stemmed goldenrod (<i>Solidago caesia</i>), a State-designated endangered plant species
27	Cliffside Park Old Field	CSH	T 4N-R23E Sections 7, 8	Racine County	60	Site contains the following rare bird species: Bobolink (<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>), Upland sandpiper (<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>), Grasshopper sparrow (<i>Ammodramus saviannarum</i>); and the following uncommon bird species: Cooper's hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>) and Wood thrush (<i>Aix sponsa</i>)
28	Root River downstream from County Line Road to Nicholson Road	AQ-3 (RSH)	T 4N-R22E Sections 5, 6	--	3.5 miles	Bisects identified Natural Areas.
29	Husher Creek	AQ-3	T 4N-R22E Sections 5, 8, 9, 16, 21	--	1.9 miles	Bisects an identified Natural Area, Root River Riverine Forest
30	Root River downstream from Nicholson Road to STH 38	AQ-3 (RSH)	T 4N-R22E Sections 3, 10, 11, 14, 23, 25, 26 T 4N-R23E Sections 19, 30, 31	--	12.5 miles	Critical herptile species habitat

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

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

NA-3 identifies Natural Area sites of local significance

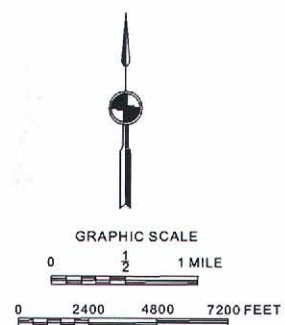
SNA, or State Natural Area, identifies those sites officially designated as State Natural Areas by the State of Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council.

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

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

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 1995



24

- encompassing about 4,411 acres, or about 15 percent of the planning area and about 59 percent of the urban lands within the Town. The remaining 21,644 acres, about 74 percent of the planning area, were devoted to rural uses. Agricultural uses occupied a significant portion of the Town of Caledonia, encompassing about 16,880 acres, or about 58 percent of the planning area; other non-urban land uses including extractive and landfill, woodlands, wetlands, and other open lands, together encompassed about 4,764 acres, or about 16 percent of the planning area.
3. A 1999 inventory of the existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the planning area found that there were fifty-one such sites, which together encompassed about 2,528 acres, or about 9 percent of the Town, and one off-road bicycle trail facility.
 4. In the planning area in 1990 primary environmental corridors encompassed about 1,860 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area. Secondary environmental corridors encompassed a total of about 240 acres, or less than 1 percent of the planning area. Isolated natural resource areas encompassed about 1,304 acres, or about 4 percent of the planning area.
 5. The planning area also includes 13 natural areas, 14 critical species habitat sites, and three aquatic habitat areas encompassing about 1,235 acres. One of the natural areas within the Town is considered to be of statewide or greater significance.
 6. Agricultural lands encompassed about 16,880 acres, or about 58 percent of the planning area in 1995. Of this total, about 8,439 acres, comprising about 29 percent of the planning area, were identified as prime agricultural lands.

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Chapter III

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

INTRODUCTION

This chapter sets forth the objectives, principles, and standards used in the preparation of this park and open space plan for the Town of Caledonia. Objectives guide the preparation of plans, while the standards listed under each objective provide the specific measures used to design the plan. The standards are applied to the anticipated 2020 population of the Town to help determine the need for additional park sites and facilities. Needs identified through the application of the standards are identified in this chapter. Recommendations intended to provide the needed sites and facilities are presented in Chapter IV.

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 facilities as an integral part of an areawide system, the objectives addressed community, neighborhood, and regional park and open space facilities.

The attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide Town residents with opportunities for high quality recreation experiences. The responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreation facilities is shared among various levels of government. The adopted Racine County park

and open space plan¹ and this Town plan divide the responsibility for providing parks and recreation facilities into two levels. The provision of large resource-oriented parks, resource-oriented recreation facilities, parkways, and area-wide recreation trails is largely assigned to the state and county levels of government. The responsibility for providing smaller community and neighborhood parks and facilities for intensive outdoor recreation activities, as well as local trails within the Town, is assigned to the Town of Caledonia. The responsibility for protecting environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas is shared by all levels of government.

Plan Objectives

The following seven park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives were adapted to and used in the development of the park and open space plan for the Town of Caledonia.

1. To provide an integrated system of public outdoor recreation sites and corridors which will afford Town residents adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.
2. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to afford Town residents adequate opportunities

¹Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, September 1988.

to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

3. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to afford Town residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
4. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to afford Town residents adequate opportunities to participate in trail-related outdoor recreation activities.
5. To provide sufficient surface water access areas to afford Town residents adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities, consistent with safe and enjoyable inland lake and river use and the maintenance of good water quality.
6. To preserve sufficient open space lands in essentially natural, open uses to assure the protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity of the Town.
7. To satisfy outdoor recreation and related open space needs in an efficient and economical way.

Plan Standards

Each objective and its accompanying standards are set forth in Appendix A. The standards provide the specific measures used to design the plan and evaluate how well the plan meets the objectives.

Two types of standards, per capita and accessibility, are used to help estimate the number, size, and distribution of outdoor recreation sites and facilities needed to serve the anticipated future population of the Town. The per capita standards help estimate the total number of acres needed to satisfy requirements for park and recreation land based on the anticipated future residential population of the Town. The accessibility, or service area, standards are intended to ensure that public parks and facilities in urban areas are spatially distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are intended to serve. In some situations, while per capita standards may be satisfied, a need may still exist for additional sites or facilities because of the relative inaccessibility or distance of an existing site or facility to some Town residents.

Application of Park and Open Space Standards

The Town of Caledonia has a unique mix of urban and rural land uses. In general, most urban land uses occur in the southern portion of the Town, south of Three Mile Road; and in the eastern portion, mainly east of STH 31. Also included is the Caddy Vista area in the northwestern portion of the Town. The western portion of the Town, roughly between the Root River corridor and Interstate Highway 94, is predominantly rural in nature with large tracts of land dedicated to agricultural uses. The population density in the rural portion of the Town does not warrant the provision of urban-type parks. However, a town-owned park and limited recreation facilities may be warranted in order to promote a desirable sense of community; to serve as a focal point for civic events; and to meet certain outdoor recreation needs, such as the need for softball diamonds and picnic areas. In those portions of the Town that are developed for urban use or planned for such development, urban facilities and services, including neighborhood parks, should be provided. Under the regional water quality management plan, portions of the Town are proposed to be served with public sanitary sewers. For purposes of this plan, it is recommended that the residents of lands lying within the planned sewer service area, as documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 147, *Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the City of Racine and Environs*, November 1986, be served with urban parks and related outdoor recreation facilities. In addition, one town-owned park should be provided in the rural portion of the Town.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Forecast Population

The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the Town is determined by applying the standards set forth in Appendix A for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks and outdoor recreation facilities to the anticipated future resident population of the Town of Caledonia planning area.

As noted in Chapter II, the 1990 Town population, based on the most recent decennial census, was 20,999 persons. The 1998 Town population, based on an estimate prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, was 22,654 persons, an increase of 1,655 residents. The anticipated resident population of the Caledonia planning area under the adopted 2020 regional land use plan is about 26,700 persons.

However, the adopted Town land use plan² depicts additional areas for urban development beyond those designated in the regional land use plan. It is expected that these additional areas could accommodate about 2,300 residents in addition to those envisioned under the regional plan. Thus, the needs analysis presented in this chapter is based on a 2020 Caledonia planning area population level of 29,000 persons.

Resource-Oriented Sites and Facilities

As previously noted, the responsibility for the acquisition and development of such resource-oriented recreation sites and facilities such as major parks, parkways, and trails is typically assigned to the state and county levels of government. The Racine County Park and Open Space Plan sets forth recommendations for these sites and facilities. Accordingly, the need for such sites and facilities within the Town will not be addressed in this Town park and open space plan. Rather, a description of the recommendations of the County plan as they relate to the Town of Caledonia follows.

Recommended Resource-Oriented Outdoor Sites and Facilities

A major park is defined as an outdoor recreation site of 100 acres or more which relies heavily for its recreation value and character on natural resource amenities, and provides opportunities for a wide variety of recreation pursuits. Within the planning area, the Racine County park and open space plan recommends that the County acquire additional land and develop additional facilities at Cliffside Park³. In addition, the plan recommends that the City of Racine continue to maintain the existing golf course, picnicking, and other facilities at Johnson Park. These two existing county and city owned parks, as well as other major parks in the vicinity of the Town of Caledonia planning area, should provide adequate opportunities for intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities for Town residents. Thus, no need exists for additional major parks or facilities within the Town of Caledonia planning area.

Parkways and Trails

Primary environmental corridors located in urban or urbanizing areas in southeastern Wisconsin that are held

in public ownership are often termed "parkways." Parkway are generally located along a stream, river, or other linear natural feature and, thus, often serve as ideal locations for trails. The County park and open space plan recommends that the County acquire and maintain land as parkway along the Root River from the City of Racine upstream to the Racine-Milwaukee County line. The plan also recommends that a trail for hiking and biking be established within the Root River Parkway.

The County park plan also recommends the establishment of a trail along Lake Michigan. Within the Town, the trail are located on a former interurban railroad right-of-way, known as the MRK Racine County bike trail. In addition, about six miles of the Racine County bicycle route are located on Seven Mile Road in the Town of Caledonia. These trail and bike route facilities, along with the trail facilities in recommended recreation corridors adjacent to the Town, should provide adequate opportunities for participation in trail-related activities for the residents of the Town.

Nonresource-Oriented Sites and Facilities

The standards set forth under Objective No. 2 in Appendix A are concerned with the provision of adequate sites and facilities for nonresource-oriented recreation activities. Nonresource-oriented activities are those that do not depend upon the presence of such natural resources as woodlands, slopes, lakes, or wide expanses of land. Nonresource-oriented facilities include ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and basketball courts and goals, which are typically provided at community and neighborhood parks and public schools. The standards specify per capita and accessibility requirements for nonresource-oriented recreation sites and facilities in urban areas. The need for urban outdoor recreation sites and facilities may be determined by applying the standards set forth in Appendix A to the anticipated 2020 resident population level of 29,000 persons. The results of that analysis are presented in this chapter. A recommended plan to address the identified needs is presented in Chapter IV.

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 Town of Caledonia generally consists of low-

²*Documented in Town of Caledonia Land Use Plan, August 1996, revised May 1999, prepared by HNTB.*

³*The recommendation to expand Cliffside Park is to be reevaluated when the County park plan is updated in 2000.*

density residential areas, thus, a service radius of 1.0 mile was applied. Neighborhood parks provide facilities for children's outdoor recreation activities, such as playground and playfield activities, ice-skating, basketball, and other court games.

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

School outdoor recreation sites, while not generally perceived as parks, provide areas 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 outdoor recreation sites. 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.

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

Site Needs Based on Per Capita Standards

The results of applying the per capita area standards to the planned 2020 population level for the Town of Caledonia planning area are presented in Table 7. Application of the per capita standards indicate a need for about 26 additional acres of public outdoor recreation lands in the planning area at public school sites by the year 2020. However, the amount of acreage in existing public park sites compensates for the relatively low amount of recreation land at public school sites.

Site Needs Based on Service Area Standards

In addition to meeting the per capita area standards, the spatial distribution of community and neighborhood parks should provide ready access by Town residents in urban areas. It is important to note that areas developed with non-residential uses need not be served with community or neighborhood parks. Therefore, those areas developed with commercial, industrial, and institutional uses are not considered in determining the need for additional park sites.

As shown on Map 10, application of the two-mile service area radius to existing parks providing community facilities, Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial, Cliffside, Crawford, Gorney, Johnson, and Shoop Parks, indicates that the entire planned urban service area is adequately served by a community park. While Crawford Park does not meet the definition of a community park, relative to size, it is anticipated that it will provide community park facilities and, thus, has been included in this portion of the needs analysis.

As shown on Map 11, application of the 1.0 mile service area radius to existing parks providing neighborhood facilities, Chapla, Crawford, Linwood, and 5½ Mile Parks, as well as to the community parks noted above, indicates that large portions within the planned urban service area are not adequately served by a neighborhood park. In addition, there are two small areas within the planned urban service area which, although within the 1.0-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to accessibility barriers.

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 Town 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 planned year 2020 population levels for the planning area are presented in Table 8. The existing quantity of each facility includes those located in public and private sites within the Town. Facilities at public sites include those at community parks, neighborhood parks, and public schools. Facilities at private sites include those at private schools and subdivision open space sites.

As shown in Table 8, a need was identified through the application of the standards for one additional

Table 7

**PER CAPITA ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY
AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA**

Park and School Sites	Minimum Standard Net Acreage Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^a	Existing Net Acreage	Per Capita Acreage Requirements			
			Existing 1998 Population 22,654		Planned 2020 Population: 29,000	
			Net Acreage Requirement ^d	Net Acreage Need ^e	Net Acreage Requirement ^d	Net Acreage Need ^e
Parks	3.9	150 ^b	88	--	113	--
Schools	2.5	47 ^c	57	10	73	26

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

^bThis total includes acreage within the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park and all Town-owned park sites.

^cThis total includes acreage used for outdoor recreation purposes at four public school sites within the Caledonia planning area.

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

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

Source: SEWRPC.

baseball diamond, three additional playfields, one additional playground, 11 additional soccer fields, nine additional softball diamonds, and seven additional 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.

It should be noted that part of the identified need for soccer fields in the Town is provided for by the private sector; however, the Town perceives a need for additional soccer practice fields within Town parks.

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 Town residents in urban areas. Application of the service radius standards set forth under Objective No. 2 in Appendix A determined which portions of the Caledonia urban service area lack adequate access to selected non-resource-oriented outdoor recreation facilities. Portions

of the planned 2020 urban service area not adequately served by such facilities are identified below.

Baseball Diamonds

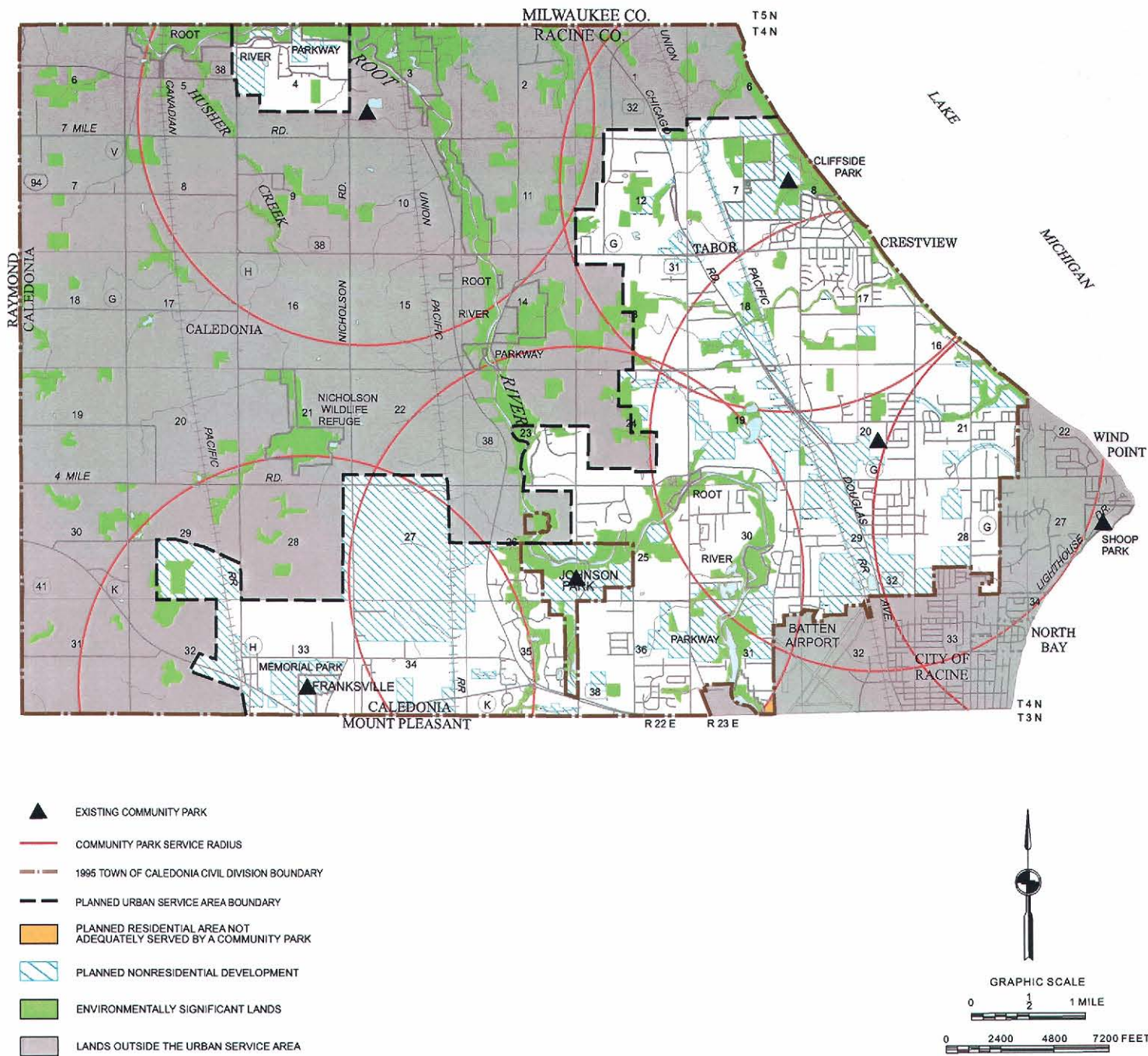
As shown on Map 12, baseball diamonds were located at three public outdoor recreation sites in the Caledonia urban service area in 1999. Since the maximum service radius of a baseball diamond is two miles, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the southeastern portion of the urban service area, primarily east of STH 38 and south of Five Mile Road, would not be served by the existing distribution of baseball diamonds.

Basketball Goals

As shown on Map 13, basketball goals were provided at six public outdoor recreation sites in the Caledonia urban service area in 1999. Since the maximum service radius of a basketball goal is 0.5 miles, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that large portions of the urban service area would not be served by the existing distribution of basketball goals.

Map 10

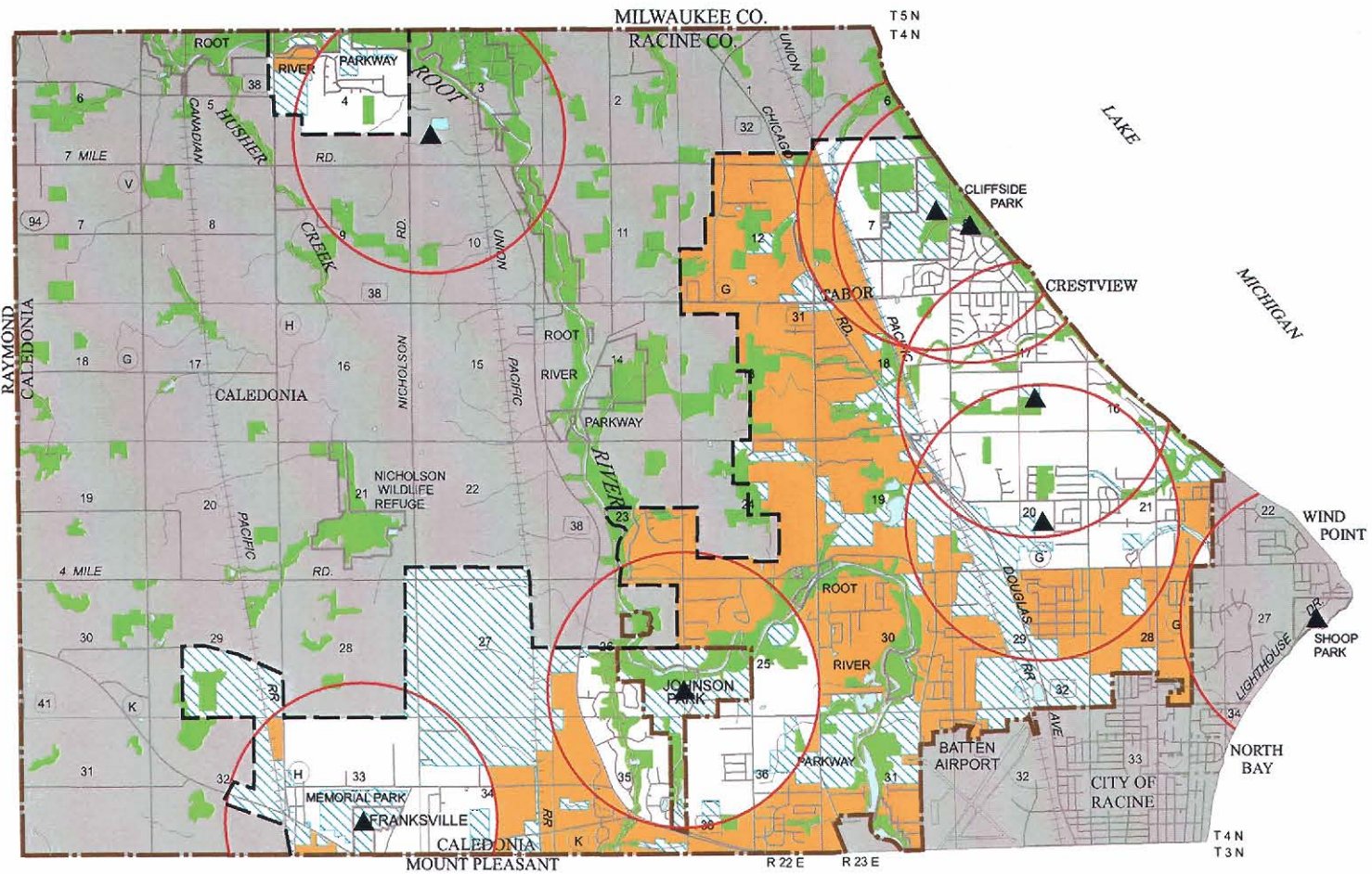
PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A COMMUNITY PARK



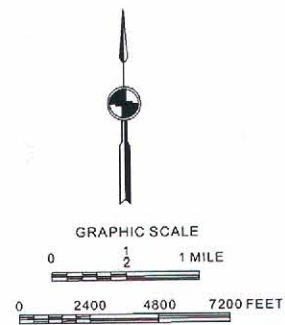
Source: SEWRPC.

Map 11

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



- ▲ EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE RADIUS
- - - PLANNED URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
- - - 1995 TOWN OF CALEDONIA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 8
PER CAPITA REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES
IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirements ^a				Facility Requirement ^b	Existing Number of Facilities	Facility Need ^c
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Residents			
Baseball	Diamond	Public	0.09	3	3	1 Public
		Nonpublic	0.01	1	0	
		Total	0.10	4	3	
Basketball	Goal	Public	0.91	26	29	--
		Nonpublic	0.22	6	13	
		Total	1.13	32	42	
Playfield Activities	Playfield	Public	0.39	11	8	3 Public
		Nonpublic	0.11	3	8	
		Total	0.50	14	16	
Playground Activities	Playground	Public	0.35	10	9	1 Public
		Nonpublic	0.07	2	7	
		Total	0.42	12	16	
Soccer	Field	Public	0.69	20	9	11 Public
		Nonpublic	0.17	5	11	
		Total	0.86	25	20	
Softball	Diamond	Public	0.53	15	6	9 Public
		Nonpublic	0.07	2	3	
		Total	0.60	17	9	
Tennis	Court	Public	0.50	15	8	7 Public
		Nonpublic	0.10	3	13	
		Total	0.60	18	21	

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

^bThe facility requirement was determined by multiplying the facility requirement per 1,000 residents by the anticipated 2020 Town population of 29,000 persons.

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

Source: SEWRPC.

Playfields

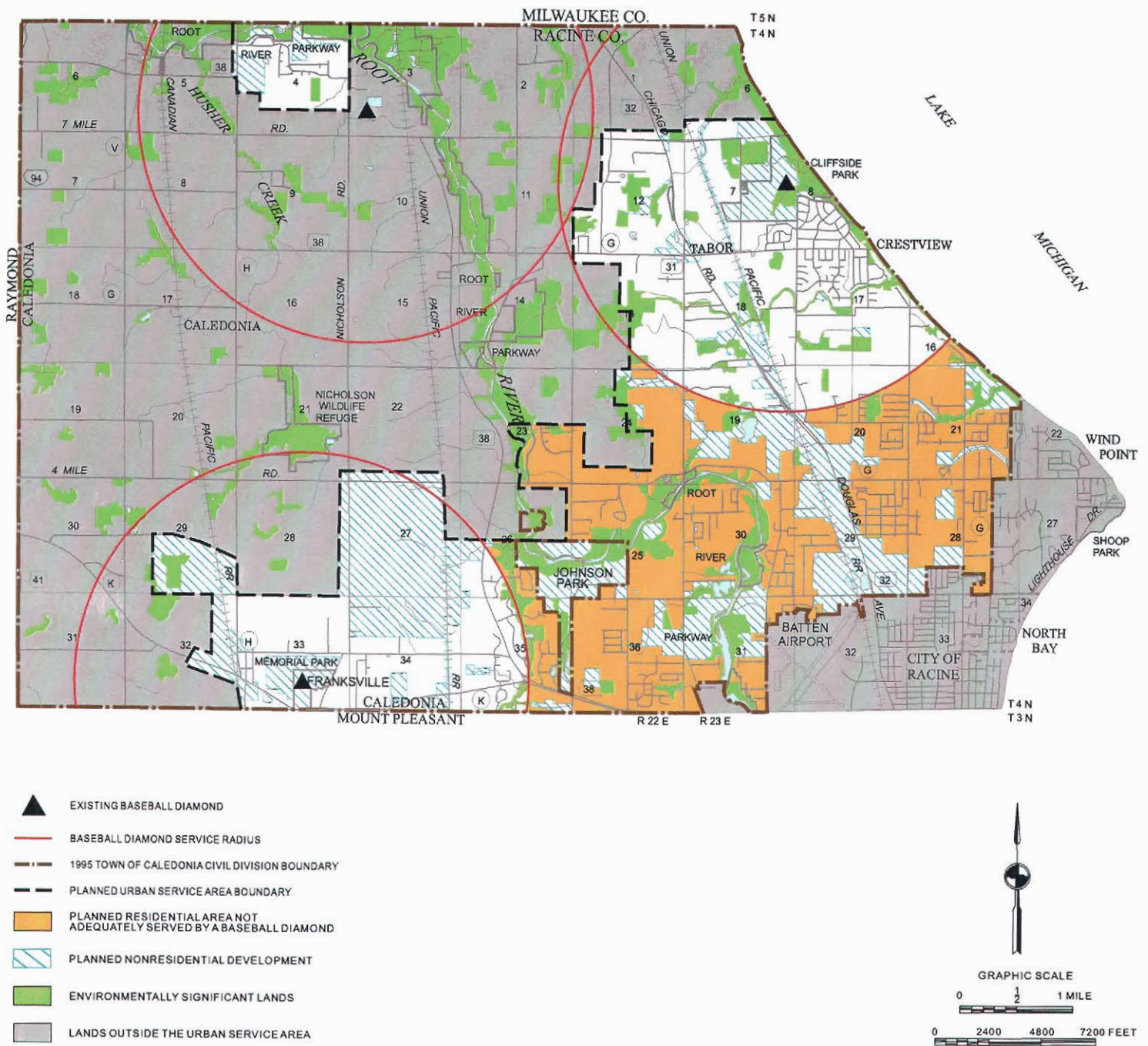
As shown on Map 14, playfields were provided at seven public outdoor recreation sites in the Caledonia urban service area in 1999. Since the maximum service radius of a playfield is 0.5 miles, application of the accessibility requirements indicates that large portions of the urban service area would not be served by the existing distribution of playfields.

Playgrounds

As shown on Map 15, playgrounds were located at eight public outdoor recreation sites in the Caledonia urban service area in 1999. Since the maximum service radius for a playground is 0.5 mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that large portions of the urban service area would not be served by the existing distribution of playgrounds.

Map 12

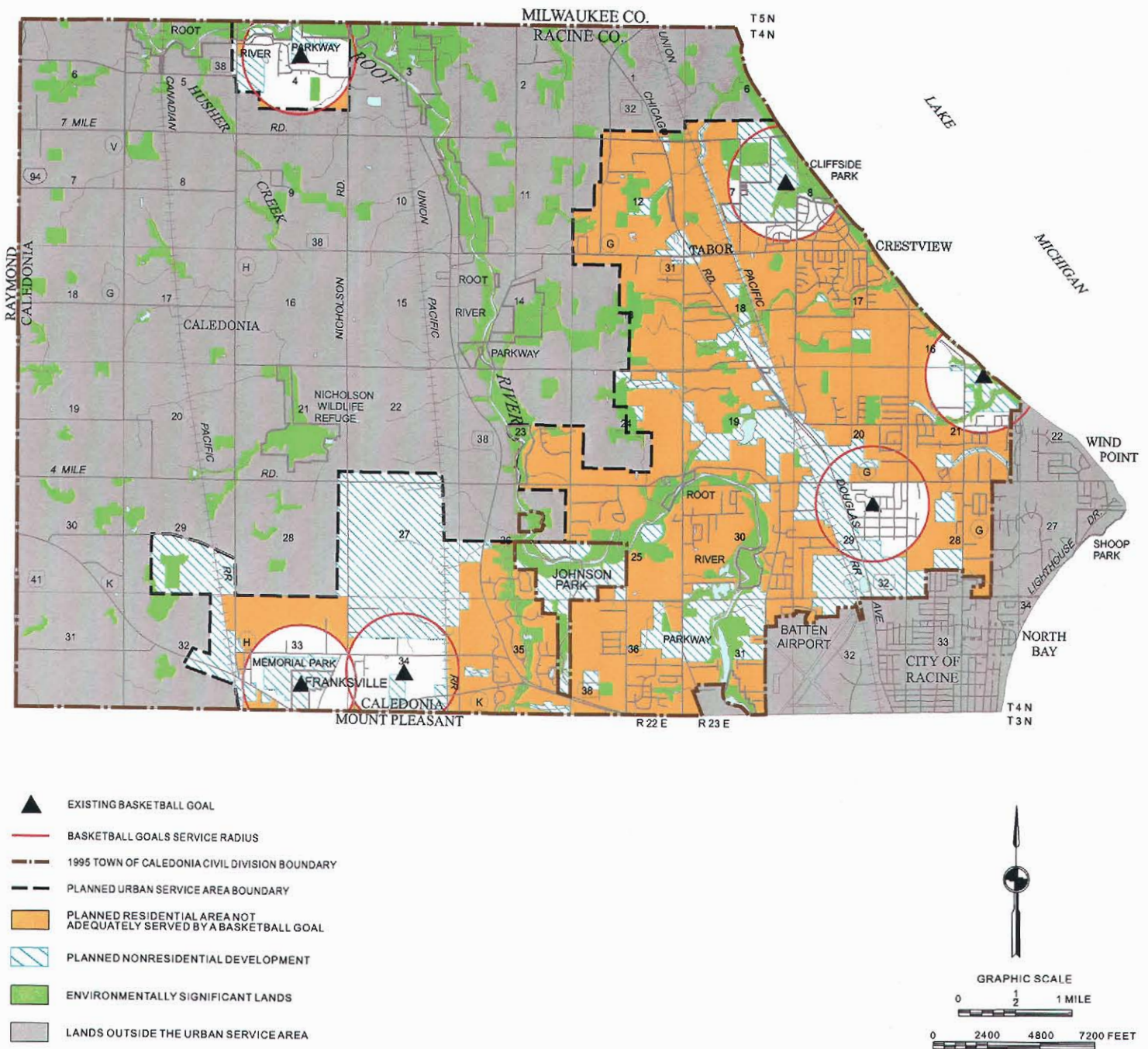
PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A BASEBALL DIAMOND



Source: SEWRPC.

Map 13

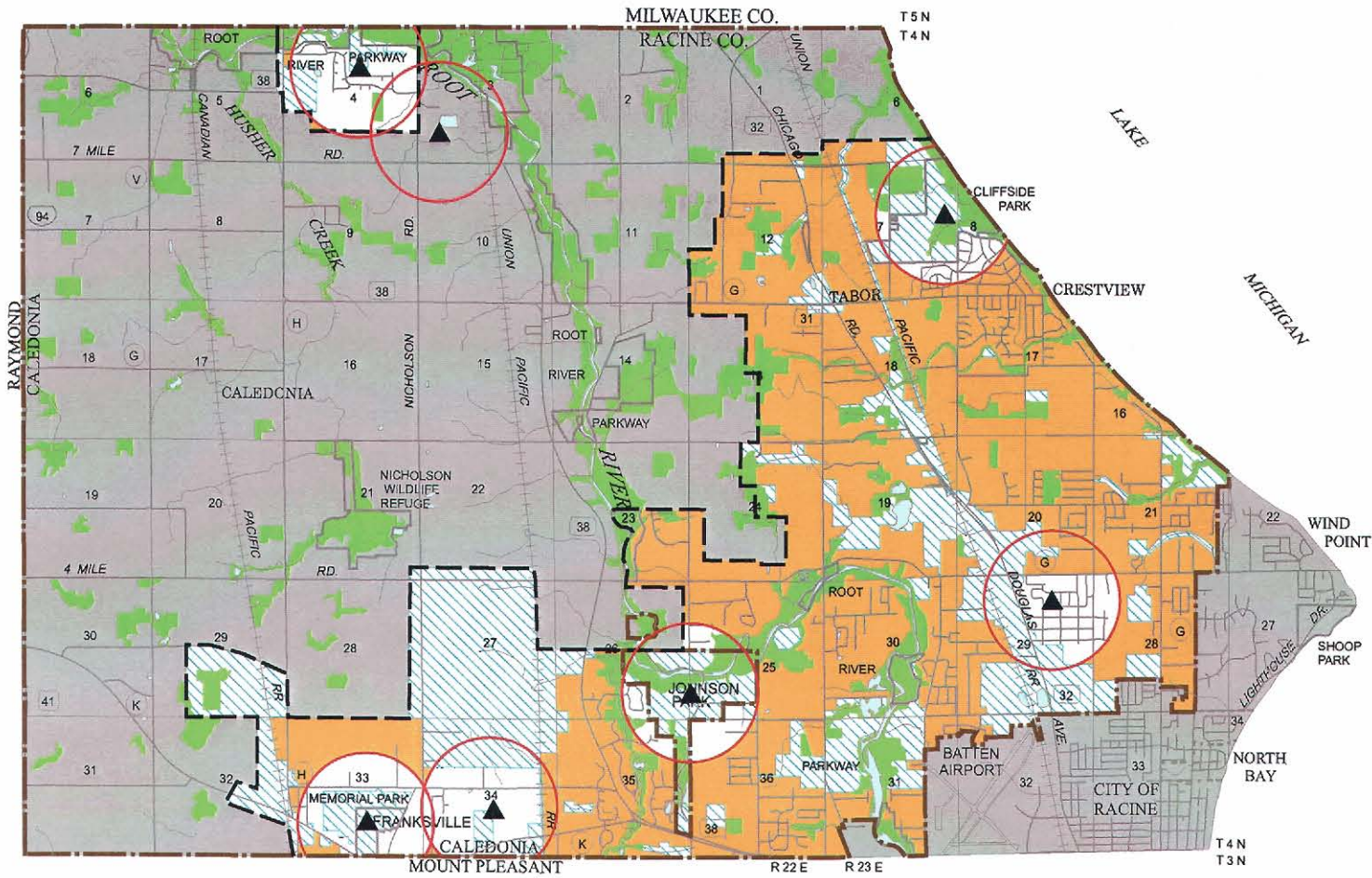
PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A BASKETBALL GOAL



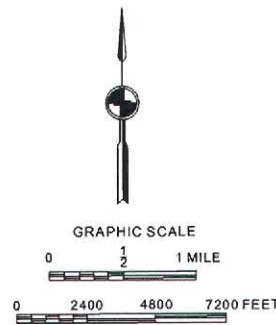
Source: SEWRPC.

Map 14

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYFIELD



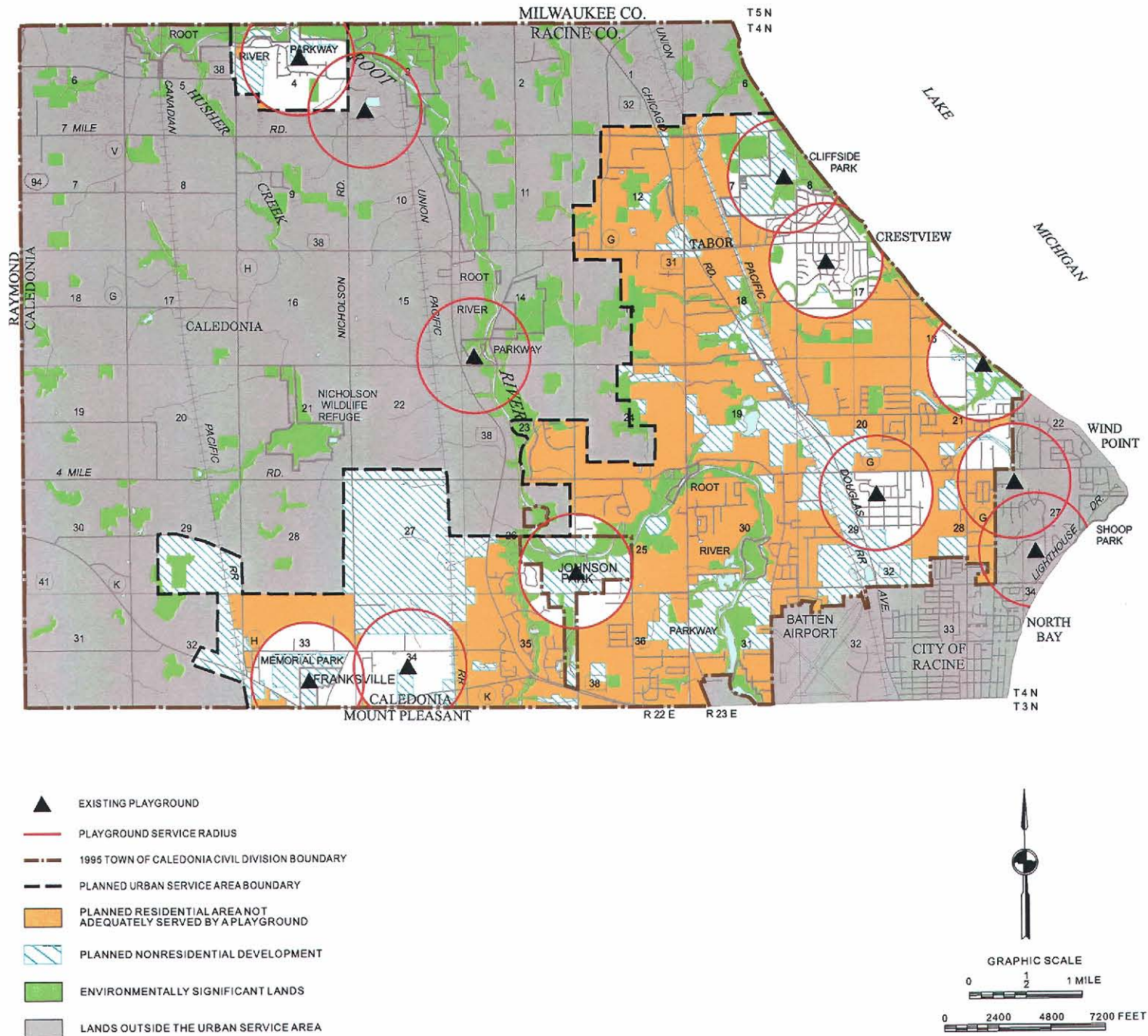
- ▲ EXISTING PLAYFIELD
- PLAYFIELD SERVICE RADIUS
- - - 1995 TOWN OF CALEDONIA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- - - PLANNED URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYFIELD
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

Map 15

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYGROUND



Source: SEWRPC.

Soccer Fields

As shown on Map 16, soccer fields available to the public were located at six outdoor recreation sites in the Caledonia urban service area in 1999. Since the maximum service radius of a soccer field is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that large portions of the urban service area, primarily to the east, would not be served by the existing distribution of soccer fields.

Softball Fields (Sandlot)

As shown on Map 17, sandlot softball fields were located at five public outdoor recreation sites in the Caledonia urban service area in 1999. Since the maximum service radius for a softball diamond is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that large portions of the urban service area would not be served by the existing distribution of sandlot softball diamonds.

Softball Diamonds (League)

As shown on Map 18, league softball diamonds were located at three public outdoor recreation sites in the Caledonia urban service area in 1999. Since the maximum service radius for a softball diamond is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that large portions of the urban service area would not be served by the existing distribution of league softball diamonds.

Tennis Courts

As shown on Map 19, tennis courts were located at three public outdoor recreation sites in the Caledonia urban service area in 1999. Since the maximum service radius for a tennis court is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that large portions of the urban service area, including the Caddy Vista subdivision, would not be served by the existing distribution of tennis courts.

Open Space Preservation Needs

The need to preserve and protect the natural resource base of the Town of Caledonia planning area is set forth under Objective No. 6 in Appendix A. As noted in Chapter II, most of the remaining natural resources within the Town are located within the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. By preserving these environmentally sensitive areas in essentially natural, open uses, flood damage can be reduced, soil erosion abated, water supplies protected, air cleansed, wildlife populations enhanced, and con-

tinued opportunities provided for educational and recreational pursuits. Conversely, the intrusion of urban land uses into these corridors can, because of the soil limitations, high groundwater tables, and flood hazards, result in the creation of serious and costly construction and maintenance problems, such as failing foundations for pavements and buildings, wet basements, excessive clear water infiltration and inflow into sanitary sewerage systems, and poor drainage.

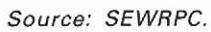
The need to protect the environmentally sensitive areas cannot be related to per capita or accessibility requirements, since the achievement of the open space preservation objective is essentially independent of any population level or distribution and relates rather to the location and character of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

SUMMARY

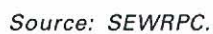
This chapter has presented information concerning the need for park and open space sites and facilities in the Town of Caledonia, including the presentation of park and open space objectives and accompanying standards, application of those standards to the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area, and other needs as identified by the Town of Caledonia Parks and Recreation Commission and Town staff. The key components of this chapter are as follows:

1. The park and open space objectives, principles, and standards used to prepare the plan are set forth in Appendix A.
2. 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 were identified as major parks. No additional need for major parks exists within the Town of Caledonia planning area.
3. Application of the service area standards for community and neighborhood parks indicates that the entire urban service area is adequately served by community parks, but that large portions are not adequately served by neighborhood parks.
4. Application of the per capita standards for recreation facilities indicates a need for one additional baseball diamond, three additional playfields, one additional playground, eleven

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A SOCCER FIELD

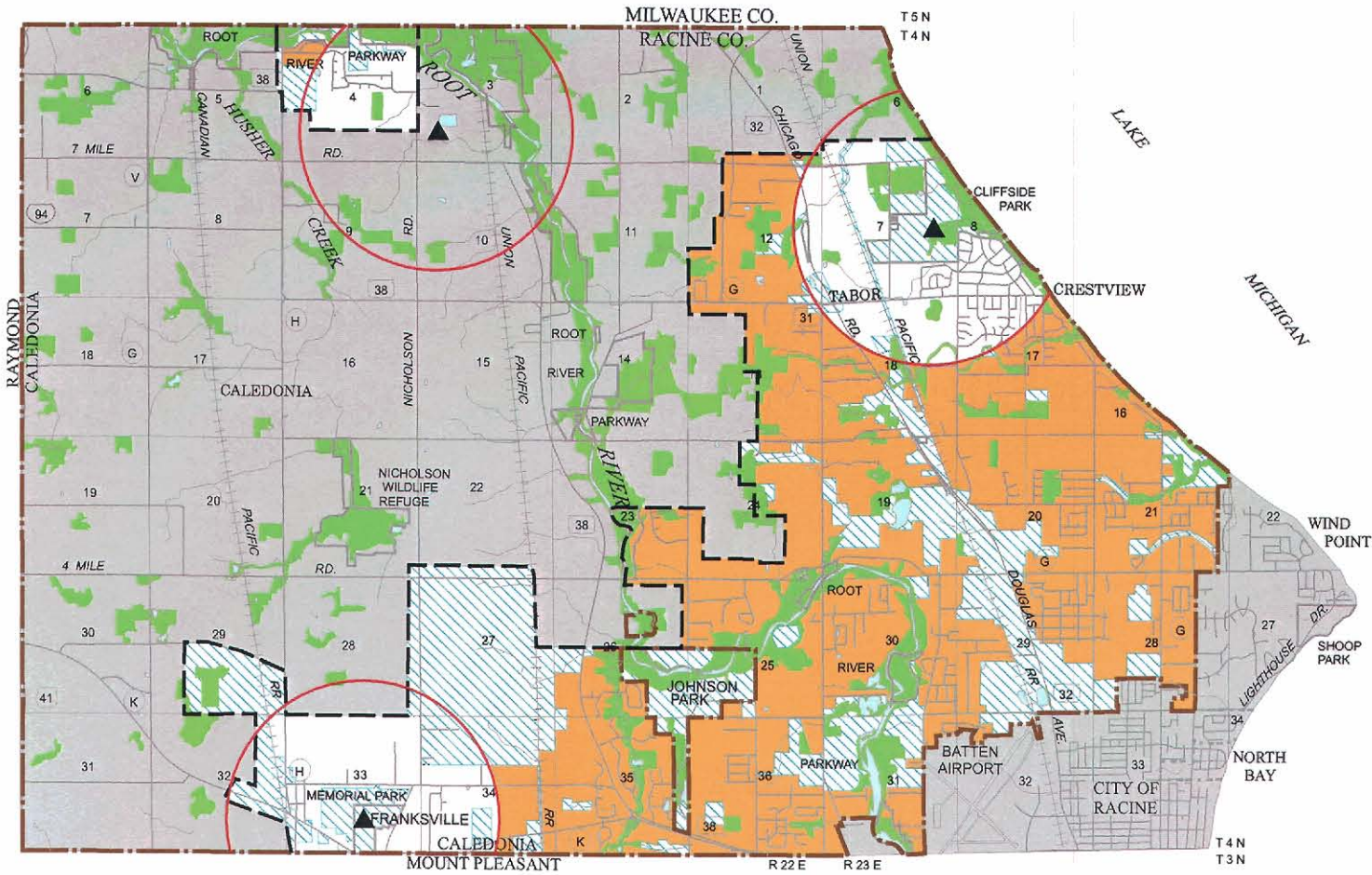


PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A SANDLOT SOFTBALL FIELD

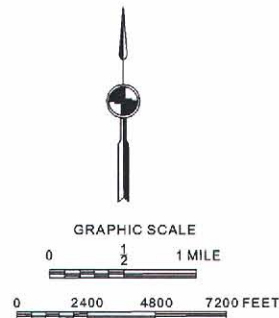


Map 18

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND



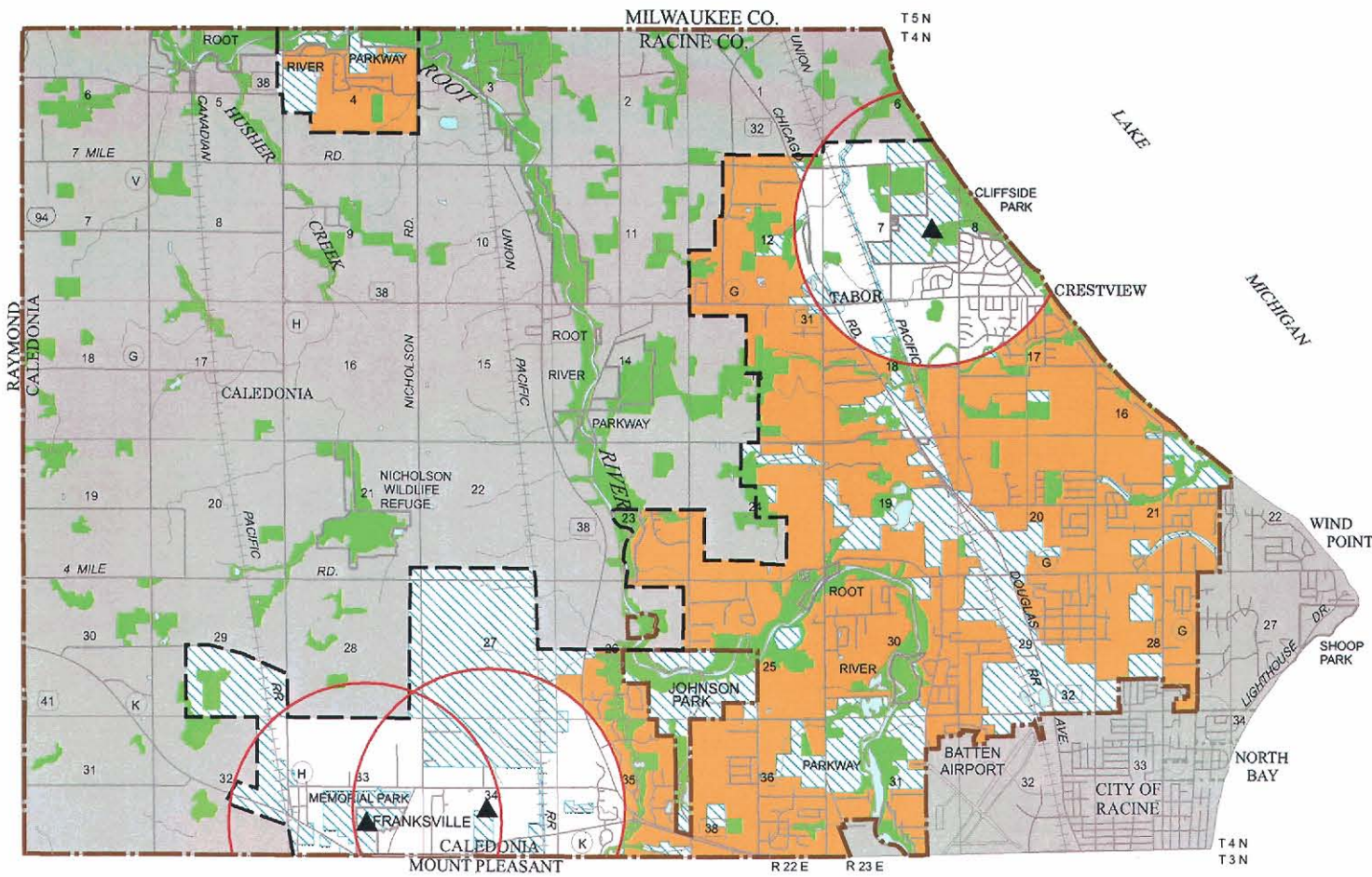
- ▲ EXISTING LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND
- LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND SERVICE RADIUS
- - - 1995 TOWN OF CALEDONIA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- PLANNED URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND
- PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA



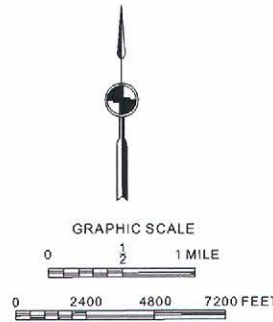
Source: SEWRPC.

Map 19

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A TENNIS COURT



- ▲ EXISTING TENNIS COURT
- TENNIS COURT SERVICE RADIUS
- - - 1995 TOWN OF CALEDONIA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- - - PLANNED URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A TENNIS COURT
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

additional soccer fields, nine additional softball diamonds, and seven additional tennis courts.

playgrounds, soccer fields, sandlot softball fields, league softball diamonds, and tennis courts.

5. Application of the service area standards for recreation facilities indicates several areas within the Caledonia urban service area that are not adequately served by the existing distribution of baseball diamonds, basketball goals, playfields,

6. The maintenance of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in essentially natural, open uses, would generally serve to meet the open space preservation needs of the Town.

Chapter IV

RECOMMENDED PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of the park and open space planning program for the Town of Caledonia is the preparation of a sound and workable plan to guide the acquisition of lands and development of facilities needed to satisfy the outdoor recreation demands of the resident population of the Town, and to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base. Careful consideration was given in the planning effort to the maintenance, redevelopment, and expansion of existing sites and facilities as well as to the acquisition and development of new sites and facilities. Important preliminary steps in the development of the plan included the collection of the necessary planning data, presented in Chapter II, and the preparation of park and open space acquisition and development objectives, principles, and standards and the identification of park and open space needs, presented in Chapter III. The recommended park and open space plan for the Town of Caledonia planning area is presented in this chapter. The recommended plan consists of an open space preservation element and an outdoor recreation element and has a 2020 design year.

The implementation of recommendations directed at meeting the park and open space objectives is generally the responsibility of several levels of government. Resource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives requiring the provision of large parks, areawide trail facilities, and facilities for such activities as golfing, camping, and boating, are typically the responsibility of the State and County levels of government. Nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives requiring the provision of smaller local parks for

activities such as softball, tennis, soccer, and children's playground activities are typically the responsibility of the local level of government.

Natural resource base preservation objectives to protect important natural resource features including environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, prime agricultural lands, and natural areas are the responsibility of all levels of government.

The first part of this chapter summarizes the areawide park and open space plan recommendations for the planning area, which are included SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, September 1988. Included in that plan are recommendations for the provision of resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities and the protection of the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in Racine County, including areas in and adjacent to the Town of Caledonia. The second section of this chapter sets forth recommendations for the provision of local park and open space sites and facilities in the Town of Caledonia by the Town. A third section describes actions needed to implement the plan, including an estimate of the acquisition, development, and maintenance costs of needed and existing park and open space sites and facilities by the Town. A summary of the plan is included in the last section of the chapter.

AREAWIDE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

The regional park and open space plan, as amended by the park and open space plan for Racine County,

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

Major Parks and Trail Facilities

The park and open space plan for Racine County recommends that the State and County levels of government assume responsibility for the provision of major parks. As shown on Map 20, the County plan recommends that a total of eight major public outdoor recreation sites be provided in the County. Two major parks, Cliffside and Johnson, would continue to be provided and maintained by the County and the City of Racine, respectively, within the Town of Caledonia planning area. In addition, the plan recommends that Racine County acquire additional land and develop additional facilities at Cliffside Park,¹ as outlined in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 80, *A Lake Michigan Public Access Study for Racine County, Wisconsin*, September 1982.

The county plan also recommends that about 69 miles of recreation trails be provided in the County as part of the 500-mile regionwide system of recreation corridors.² As shown on Map 20, portions of two recreation corridors, the 18-mile Lake Michigan and 17-mile Root River Parkway, are proposed to be located in the Town of Caledonia planning area. A five-mile segment of the Lake Michigan corridor would be generally located near the Lake Michigan shoreline, on the existing and

proposed MRK Racine County off-street bicycle trail, and the remainder along public road rights-of-way. The Root River Parkway segment would be located along the main stem of the Root River,³ generally on County-owned Root River Parkway lands, and would connect with the Root River recreation corridor, in Milwaukee County, on the north and the proposed Pike Creek trail, in the Town of Mt. Pleasant, on the south, via the proposed on-street bicycle way for CTH K. Combined, these corridor segments would provide about 21 linear miles of recreation trails within the planning area. In addition, about six miles of the Racine County bicycle trail are located on public road rights-of-way in the Town.

In 1995, the Commission adopted a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan⁴ which recommends a network of on- and off-street bicycle ways within the County. That plan, which largely incorporates the recommendations for bicycle facilities contained in the adopted park and open space plan for Racine County, provides for bicycle access to the major activity centers located within the Racine planning area, including: Cliffside and Johnson Parks, the Regency Mall, the Sturtevant Amtrak railway passenger station, the Mt. Pleasant industrial center, and the office, retail, governmental, institutional, and industrial development located within or adjacent to the Racine central business district. The specific locations of these existing and proposed trail facilities are shown on Map 21.

Much of the Root River Parkway and recreation corridor within the Town of Caledonia planning area consists of floodlands associated with the Root River. Floodlands are not well suited to urban development due to flood hazards, high water tables, and incompatible soils. It is recommended that floodlands be preserved and protected in essentially natural, open uses including parks and parkways. It should be noted that certain outdoor recreation facilities may be suitable for development in floodland areas not covered by wetlands or areas of unsuitable soil. Such lands may accommodate playfields, playgrounds, or trails.

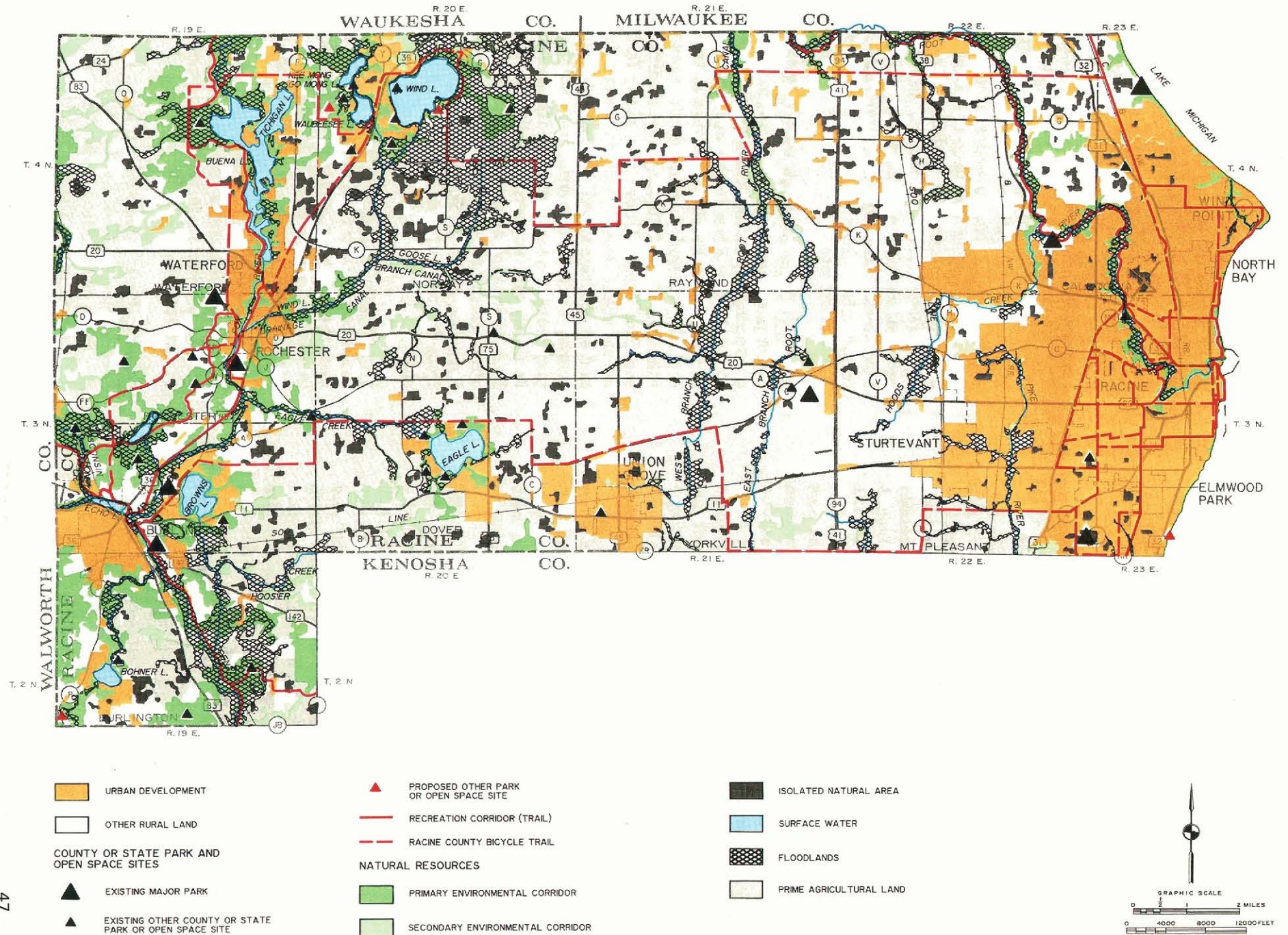
¹ *The recommendation to expand Cliffside Park is to be reevaluated when the County park plan is updated in 2000.*

² *A recreation corridor is defined as a trail at least 15 miles in length located within areas of scenic, scientific, historic, or other cultural interest which provides opportunities for such linear outdoor recreation activities as biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing.*

³ *The regional bicycle way system plan recommended the relocation of that portion of the proposed off-street Root River trail between Northwestern Avenue and Four Mile Road to an on-street bike route on North Green Bay Road.*

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

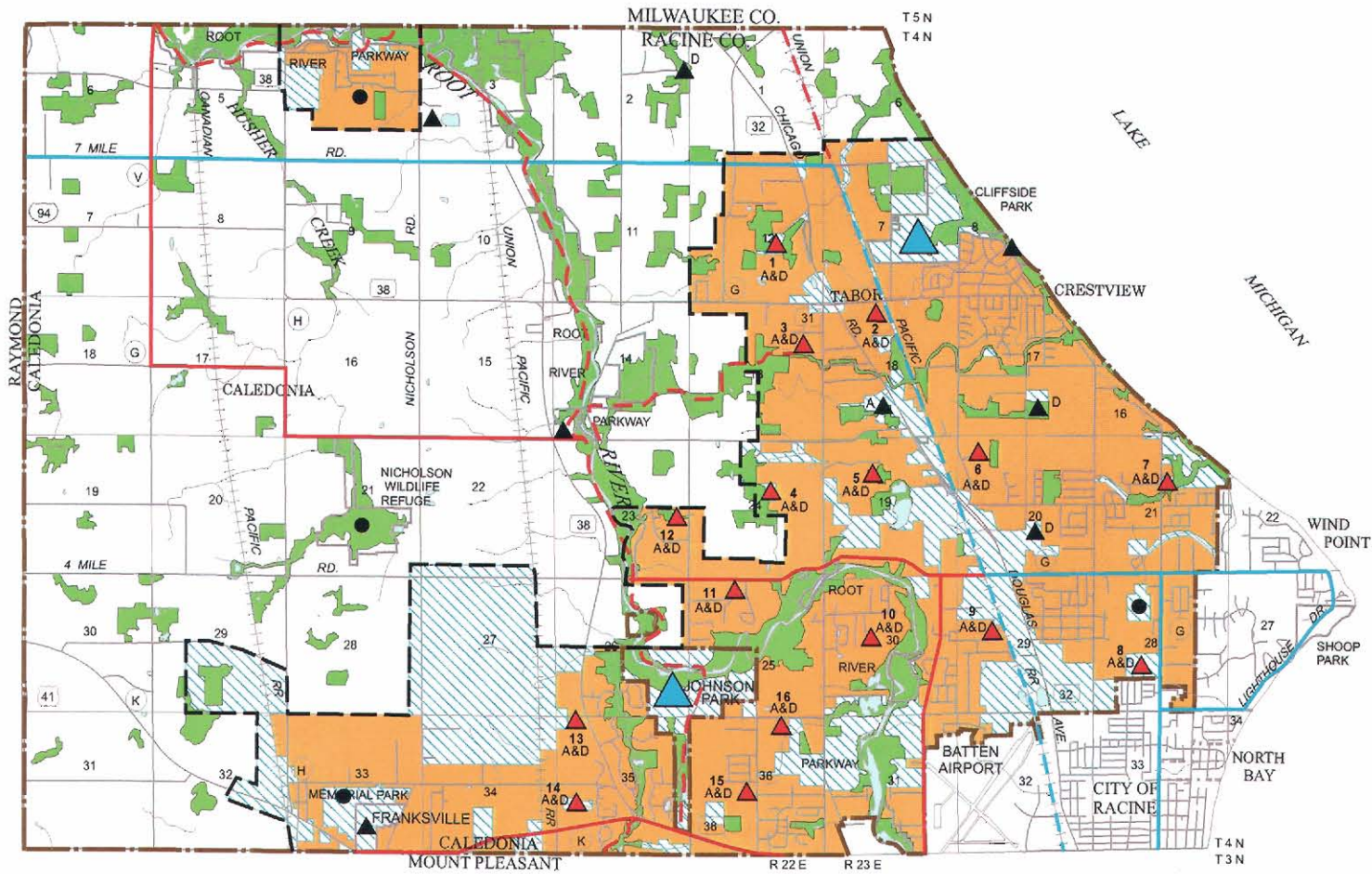
A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR RACINE COUNTY



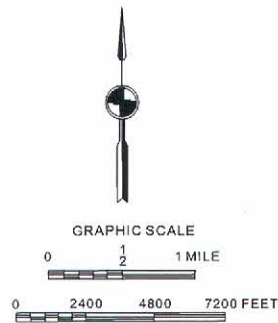
Source: SEWRPC.

Map 21

RECOMMENDED OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN FORTHE TOWN OF CALEDONIA



- EXISTING MAJOR PARK
- EXISTING TOWN OF CALEDONIA COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- PROPOSED TOWN OF CALEDONIA COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- EXISTING OTHER TOWN OF CALEDONIA PARK OR OPEN SPACE SITE
- EXISTING ON STREET RACINE COUNTY BICYCLE ROUTE
- PROPOSED ON STREET BICYCLE ROUTE
- EXISTING OFF STREET RACINE COUNTY MRK TRAIL
- PROPOSED OFF STREET TRAIL
- 1995 TOWN OF CALEDONIA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- PLANNED URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- SURFACE WATER
- A ADDITIONAL ACQUISITION PROPOSED
- D ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED
- 1 PROPOSED PARK SITE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 10)



Source: SEWRPC.

Development of any facilities within floodlands should be carefully evaluated on a site specific basis, with consideration given to natural resource concerns as well as the effects of periodic flooding on the use of the facilities being considered.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

The location and extent of the important open space lands in the Town of Caledonia, including the important surface water, wetlands, floodlands and woodlands within the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and prime agricultural lands are described in Chapter II of this report. The preservation of these open space lands in essentially natural, open uses would serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality in, and protect the natural beauty of, the Town of Caledonia, as well as provide valuable recreational opportunities for residents of the Town. Such preservation will also help to avoid the creation of serious and costly environmental and developmental problems within the Town.

While the park plan is part of the basis for preservation of environmentally significant lands in essentially natural, open space uses, other factors such as the reduction of flood damage, soil erosion, storm water management, air cleansing, reduction of crowding, protection of wildlife habitat, enhancement of educational and scientific areas, all go beyond the park plan and reflect other community planning goals and objectives. These elements add to residential property values, create subdivision amenities, and enhance the quality of life in the Town.

Primary Environmental Corridors

The planned primary environmental corridors, shown on Map 22, encompass approximately 1,932 acres of land. This represents an increase of about 72 acres over the primary environmental corridors identified in 1990 and shown on Map 7. The increase is due to about 66 acres of floodlands along the Root River and a six-acre natural area site of local significance, Power Plant Ravine Woods, being added to the primary environmental corridor. Under the plan, all primary environmental corridors would be preserved in essentially natural, open uses. It is recognized that public as well as certain private outdoor recreation and related open space uses can serve to protect such environmental corridors. The plan recommends that, to the extent practicable, such public and private uses be maintained for resource preservation and limited recreation purposes and that such maintenance be preserved

through proper zoning. The plan further recommends that primary environmental corridor lands located within the planned urban service area, which cannot be maintained in private use or are required for public recreation uses, be acquired by the public. These lands and their proposed public ownership have been identified on Map 22. It is envisioned that the remaining primary environmental corridors located in the rural portions of the planning area will be preserved through proper zoning, with the exception of those lands within natural areas, which are proposed for public acquisition, also identified on Map 22.

Secondary Environmental Corridors

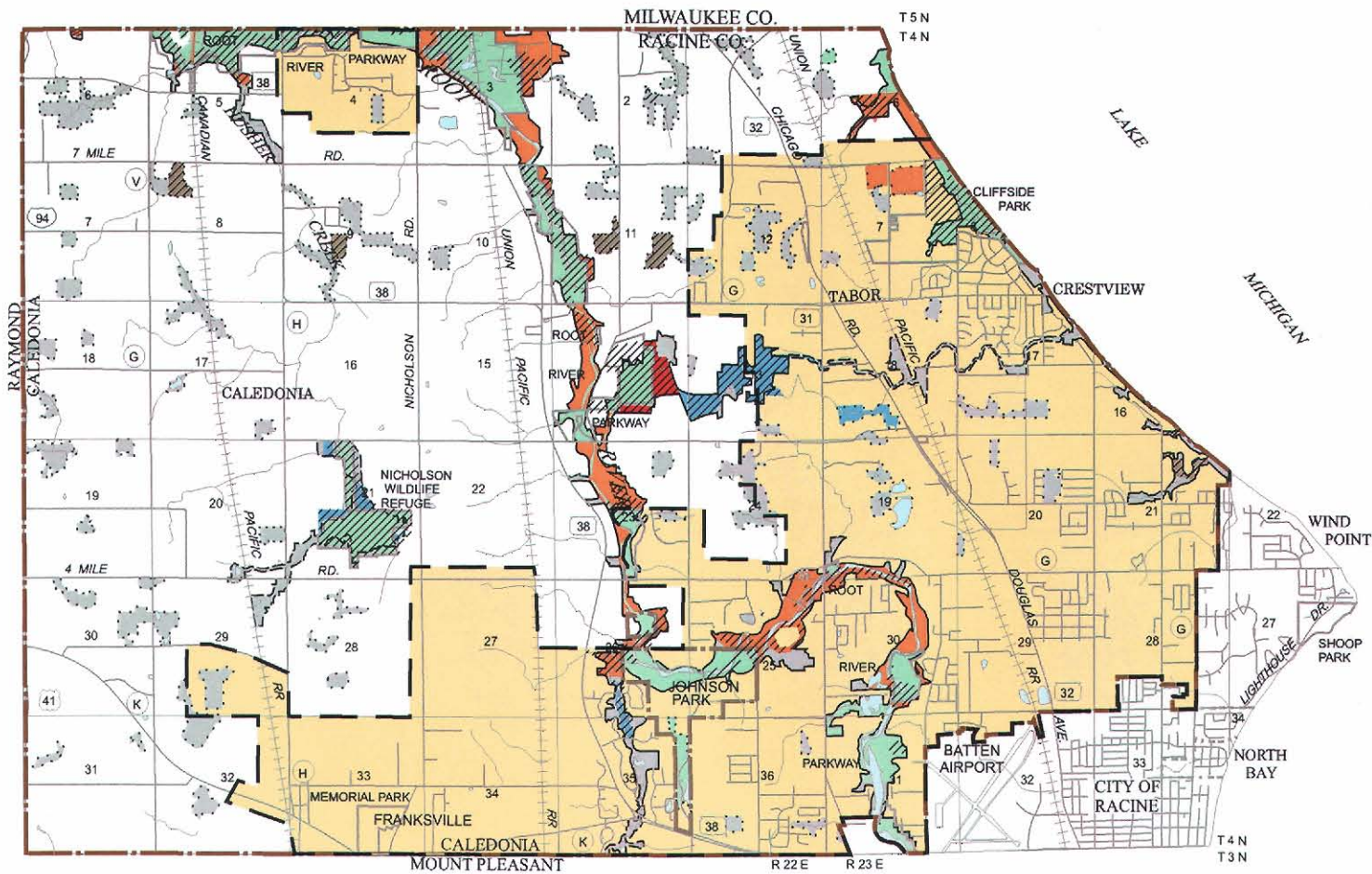
The planned secondary environmental corridors, shown on Map 22, encompass approximately 271 acres of land. This represents an increase of about 31 acres over the secondary environmental corridors identified in 1990 and shown on Map 7. The increase is due to about three acres of floodlands along Hoods Creek being added to the secondary environmental corridor, as well as 28 acres in and around the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge being classified as secondary environmental corridor. It is recommended that secondary environmental corridor lands which are presently held in public or private park and open space use be maintained in such use. The secondary environmental corridor lands within the urban service area not in public or private park and open space use are proposed to be protected through proper zoning and considered for public park and open space acquisition as detailed drainage and neighborhood planning proceed. It is envisioned that secondary environmental corridor lands located in rural portions of the planning area would be preserved through proper zoning, with the exception of about 33 acres of land within the Caledonia Wildlife Natural Area (Nicholson Wildlife Refuge) proposed to be acquired by the Town of Caledonia.

Isolated Natural Resource Areas

The planned isolated natural resource areas, shown on Map 22, encompass about 1,264 acres. This represents a decrease of about 40 acres from the number of acres in isolated natural resource areas identified in 1990 and shown on Map 7. It is recommended that such areas be preserved and protected in essentially natural, open uses. Under this plan, isolated natural resource areas currently held in public or private park and open space use would continue to be maintained in such use. It is recommended that the Town acquire the 25 acre isolated natural resource area adjacent to Woodland Park. Isolated natural resource areas within the planned urban service area that are not in public or private park and

Map 22

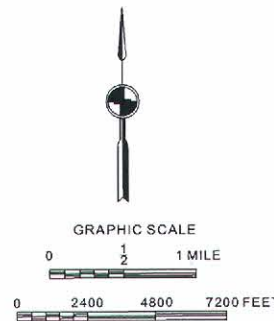
RECOMMENDED OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA: 2020



EXISTING STATE, COUNTY, LOCAL, NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION, OR COMPATIBLE PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE LANDS

PROPOSED PUBLIC INTEREST OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS

- STATE
- COUNTY
- TOWN
- NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
- OPEN SPACE LANDS TO BE PROTECTED THROUGH PROPER ZONING
- NATURAL AREA OR CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE
- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
- TOWN OF CALEDONIA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- PLANNED URBAN SERVICE AREA
- SURFACE WATER



Source: SEWRPC.

open space use are proposed to be protected through proper zoning and considered for park and open space use as detailed drainage and neighborhood planning proceed. It is envisioned that isolated natural resource area lands located in rural portions of the planning area would be protected through proper zoning, with the exception of four natural area sites, together encompassing approximately 76 acres, proposed to be acquired by a nonprofit conservation organization.

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

Recommendations developed through 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 Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*, have been incorporated into this park and open space plan. That plan sets forth a number of recommendations related to the preservation of identified natural areas and critical species habitat sites within the Town of Caledonia planning area.

As noted in Chapter II, there are 13 natural area sites, 14 critical species habitat sites, and three aquatic habitat areas within the planning area. Natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be protected through acquisition meet at least one of the following criteria: 1) the site lies within a primary environmental corridor; 2) the site supports rare, threatened, or endangered plant, bird, or animal species; and 3) the site is already at least partially in public interest ownership. It is recommended that all but one site, the Sherwood Property, identified as site 14 on Map 8 in Chapter II, be protected through public or non-profit conservation organization ownership. Table 9 lists each natural area and critical species habitat site to be acquired and the proposed acquisition agency; these recommendations are also reflected on Map 22.

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 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The natural areas plan, as well as this Town park plan, recommend that the Department of Natural Resources implement management and regulatory efforts necessary to ensure the long term viability of the aquatic habitats and their critical species.

Prime Agricultural Lands

As noted in Chapter II of this report, prime agricultural lands, the majority of which lie outside of the planned

urban service area and west of STH 38, encompass about 8,439 acres, about 29 percent of the total area of the Town. Under the plan, those prime agricultural lands located within the planned urban service area are planned for conversion to residential and other urban land uses. It is recommended that the remaining prime agricultural lands be maintained in agricultural use and protected for such use through proper zoning.

TOWN PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the analysis of outdoor recreation needs, presented in Chapter III of this report, indicated that there is a need in the Town of Caledonia for additional neighborhood park sites and associated facilities, including additional ball diamonds, playfields, and soccer fields. Such parks and facilities are intended to meet the outdoor recreation needs of the residents of the Town of Caledonia and are recommended to be provided by the Town. Because the need for neighborhood parks is greater in more densely populated urban areas than in rural areas, recommendations for such parks focus on that portion of the Town within the urban service area. Residents of the rural portion of the Town are adequately served by the Town's existing community parks, Gorney Park and the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park.

To meet the needs identified in Chapter III, the park and open space plan for the Town of Caledonia, as shown on Map 21, recommends the acquisition and development by the Town of 16 new community and neighborhood park sites within the planned urban service area, as well as the continued maintenance of Town-owned community and neighborhood parks and other Town-owned park and open space sites. In addition, the plan recommends the development of community park facilities at Crawford Park, neighborhood park facilities at 5½ Mile Park, the acquisition of additional land and development of facilities at the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge, as recommended in SEWPRC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 146, *A Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for the Nicholson Wildlife Center*, May 1986, and the acquisition of additional land at Woodland Park. The plan further recommends a local system of bicycle and pedestrian routes and paths throughout the planning area interconnecting park and open space sites whenever feasible and the acquisition of open space lands within the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. It is important to note that the proposed

Table 9

**RECOMMENDED PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES
IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA PLANNING AREA**

Site Identification				Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Reference Number on Map 8	Civil Division	Name	Classification Code ^a	Already under Protective Ownership	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
1	Town of Caledonia	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area	NA-1	96	42	138	UW-Parkside
2	Town of Caledonia/City of Oak Creek	Root River Wet-Mesic Woods—East	NA-2	52	--	52	Milwaukee and Racine County
3	Town of Caledonia	Hunt Woods	NA-2	3	--	3	Racine County
4	Town of Caledonia	Caledonia Wildlife Area	NA-2	133	33	166	Town of Caledonia
5	Town of Caledonia	Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks	NA-2	53	2	55	Racine County
6	Town of Caledonia/City of Oak Creek	Root Riverine Forest	NA-3	323	1	324	Racine County
7	Town of Caledonia	Seven Mile Road Woods	NA-3	--	20	20	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
8	Town of Caledonia	Zirbes Woods	NA-3	--	13	13	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
9	Town of Caledonia	Caledonia Low Woods	NA-3	61	46	107	Racine County
10	Town of Caledonia	Foley Road Woods—West	NA-3	--	19	19	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
11	Town of Caledonia	Foley Road Woods—East	NA-3	--	24	24	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
12	Town of Caledonia	Tabor Woods	NA-3	--	107	107	Town of Caledonia
13	Town of Caledonia	Power Plant Ravine Woods	NA-3	--	32	32	Racine County
15 ^b	Town of Caledonia	River Meadows Woods	CSH	--	13	13	Racine County
16	Town of Caledonia	Forked Aster Site	CSH	--	18	18	Racine County
17	Town of Caledonia	Root River Bluff	CSH	18	24	42	Racine County
18	Town of Caledonia	Hoods Creek Swamp	CSH	--	20	20	Town of Caledonia
19	Town of Caledonia	Caledonia Site South ^c	CSH	--	--	--	Racine County
20	Town of Caledonia	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer R.O.W.	CSH	13	62	75	Racine County
21	Town of Caledonia	Four Mile Road Woods	CSH	--	30	30	Racine County
22	Town of Caledonia	Caledonia Low Woods	CSH	20	9	29	Racine County
23	Town of Caledonia	River Bend Upland Woods	CSH	13	--	13	Racine County
24	Town of Caledonia	Root River Strip Woods	CSH	10	--	10	Racine County
25	Town of Caledonia	Dominican Ravine	CSH	--	16	16	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
26	Town of Caledonia	Breakers Woods	CSH	--	5	5	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
27	Town of Caledonia	Cliffside Park Old Field	CSH	5	--	5 ^d	Racine County
Total	--	--	--	800	519	1,336	--

NOTE: This table is a refinement of the recommendations made in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*, September 1997.

^aNA-1 identifies Natural Area sites of statewide or greater significance.
 NA-2 identifies Natural Area sites of countywide or regional significance.
 NA-3 identifies Natural Area sites of local significance.
 CSH identifies critical species habitat sites.

^bSite No. 14 on Map 8 (Sherwood Property (CSH)) is not proposed to be acquired.

^cThis site is located entirely within the Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right of Way.

^dDoes not include 55 acres of this critical species habitat site located within the Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks Natural Area.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

new urban park sites and facilities should be provided as residential development actually occurs in those areas.

Proposed Park and Open Space Sites and Facilities

Under the park and open space plan for the Town of Caledonia, it is recommended that the Town acquire and develop new park sites and facilities and acquire open space lands for resource preservation and recreation corridors within the Town. Site locations are shown on Map 21 and the proposed facilities are summarized in Table 10.

- *Park Site 1:* Park site 1 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northwestern portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area. This site would encompass approximately 20 acres. Facilities proposed for this site include a league softball diamond, two tennis courts, a playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter with rest rooms, and appropriate support facilities.
- *Park Site 2:* Park site 2 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northwestern portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying east of STH 32 and west of the MRK bicycle path. This site would encompass approximately 12 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
- *Park Site 3:* Park site 3 includes a natural area which is proposed to be acquired by the Town for resource preservation purposes. The site encompasses approximately 33 acres, and is proposed to be developed with trail facilities, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities. The eastern portion of the site lies outside the natural area and is proposed to be developed with a playground to provide limited neighborhood park facilities for residents in the northeastern portion of the Town, west of STH 31. This site should be a high priority for acquisition due to development pressures.

The potential exists for developing a trail that would connect this site to the proposed Root River Trail.

- *Park Site 4:* Park site 4 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future

residential areas in the west-central portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying west of STH 31 on the extreme western boundary of the planned urban service area. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include a playfield, a playground, an area for picnicking and other passive recreation use, and appropriate support facilities.

- *Park Site 5:* Park site 5 is a proposed community park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the west-central portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying between STH 31 and STH 32. This site would encompass approximately 25 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include a baseball diamond, softball diamond, two tennis courts, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities, including rest rooms.
- *Park Site 6:* Park site 6 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the central portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying east of the MRK bicycle path and north of 4½ Mile Road. This site would encompass approximately five acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include basketball goals, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities. This site should be a high priority for acquisition due to development pressures.
- *Park Site 7:* Park site 7 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southeastern portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying east of Erie Street and north of 4½ Mile Road. This site would encompass approximately 12 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include basketball goals, a playfield/soccer practice field, a playground, a sandlot softball diamond, and an area for picnicking and other passive recreation use. This site should be a high priority for acquisition due to development pressures.
- *Park Site 8:* Park site 8 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future

Table 10

**RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT AT PROPOSED
AND EXISTING PARK SITES IN THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA**

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Acquisition Cost ^a	Proposed Facility Development	Development Cost	Total Cost
Proposed Site 1	20	\$ 96,000	League Softball Diamond Picnic Shelter/Restrooms Playfield Playground 2 Tennis Courts General Development	\$ 85,000 65,000 20,000 45,000 45,000 200,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 460,000	\$ 558,000
Proposed Site 2	12	\$ 90,000	Playfield Playground General Development	\$ 20,000 25,000 120,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 165,000	\$ 255,000
Proposed Site 3	33	\$ 197,900	Picnic Shelter/Restrooms Playground Trail Facilities General Development	\$ 65,000 45,000 50,000 330,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 490,000	\$ 687,900
Proposed Site 4	10	\$ 25,400	Playfield Playground General Development	\$ 20,000 25,000 100,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 145,000	\$ 170,400
Proposed Site 5	25	\$ 128,500	Baseball Diamond Picnic Shelter/Restrooms Playfield Playground Sandlot Softball Diamond 2 Tennis Courts General Development	\$ 35,000 65,000 20,000 45,000 25,000 45,000 250,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 485,000	\$ 613,500
Proposed Site 6	5	\$ 30,500	Basketball Goals Playfield Playground General Development	\$ 5,000 20,000 25,000 50,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 110,000	\$ 140,500
Proposed Site 7	12	\$ 64,400	Basketball Goals Picnic Shelter Playfield/Soccer Field Playground Sandlot Softball Diamond General Development	\$ 15,000 25,000 20,000 25,000 25,000 120,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 230,000	\$ 294,400
Proposed Site 8	10	\$ 47,800	Basketball Goals Playfield/ Soccer Field Playground General Development	\$ 15,000 20,000 25,000 100,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 160,000	\$ 207,800
Proposed Site 9	5	\$ 37,500	Basketball Goals Playfield/ Soccer Field Playground General Development	\$ 15,000 20,000 25,000 50,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 110,000	\$ 147,500
Proposed Site 10	15	\$ 112,500	Basketball Goals Picnic Shelter/Restrooms Playground Sandlot Softball Diamond 2 Playfields/Soccer Fields General Development	\$ 5,000 65,000 25,000 25,000 40,000 150,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 320,000	\$ 432,500

Table 10 (continued)

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Acquisition Cost ^a	Proposed Facility Development	Development Cost	Total Cost
Proposed Site 11	7	\$ 52,500	Playfield Playground Sandlot Softball Diamond General Development	\$ 20,000 25,000 25,000 70,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 140,000	\$ 192,500
Proposed Site 12	10	\$ 35,400	Basketball Goals Playfield Playground General Development	\$ 15,000 20,000 25,000 100,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 160,000	\$ 195,400
Proposed Site 13	20	\$ 150,000	League Softball Diamond Picnic Shelter/Restrooms Playfield Playground Sandlot Softball Diamond General Development	\$ 85,000 65,000 20,000 45,000 25,000 250,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 490,000	\$ 640,000
Proposed Site 14	10	\$ 75,000	Basketball Goals Playfield/Soccer Field Playground Sandlot Softball Diamond General Development	\$ 15,000 20,000 25,000 25,000 100,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 185,000	\$ 260,000
Proposed Site 15	10	\$ 68,000	Playfield Playground 2 Tennis Courts General Development	\$ 20,000 25,000 45,000 100,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 190,000	\$ 258,000
Proposed Site 16	15	\$ 106,300	Basketball Goals Picnic Shelter Playfield Playground Sandlot Softball Diamond General Development	\$ 15,000 25,000 20,000 25,000 25,000 150,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 260,000	\$ 366,300
County Line Park	--	--	Trail Facilities	\$ 50,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Crawford Park	--	--	Basketball Goals Concession Building/Restrooms Playfield/Soccer Field Tennis Court Trail Facilities 2 League Baseball Diamonds (lighted) Picnic Shelter/Restrooms 2 Playgrounds 2 Volleyball Courts General Development	\$ 28,000 250,000 20,000 36,000 62,000 275,000 100,000 211,500 4,000 1,119,500	
			Subtotal	\$2,106,000	\$2,106,000
Linwood Park	--	--	Baseball Diamond Basketball Goal Canoe Launch Playground Restrooms Trail Facilities Volleyball Court General Development	\$ 11,000 11,000 1,500 36,000 13,000 4,300 1,800 77,000	
			Subtotal	\$ 155,600	\$ 155,600

Table 10 (continued)

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Acquisition Cost ^a	Proposed Facility Development	Development Cost	Total Cost
Woodland Park	25	\$ 28,300	Gazebo Trail Facilities General Development Subtotal	\$ 5,500 50,000 50,000 \$ 105,500	 \$ 133,800
5½ Mile Park-Marsh	--	--	Picnic Shelter Playfield Playground Trail Facilities General Development Subtotal	\$ 25,000 20,000 25,000 50,000 210,000 \$ 330,000	 \$ 330,000
Open Space Lands	184	\$1,500,500	--	--	--
				--	\$1,463,000
On-Street Bicycle Route	--	--	Seven Miles of Routes Subtotal	\$ 3,500 \$ 3,500	 \$ 3,500
Total	408	\$2,846,500	--	\$ 6,850,600	\$ 9,697,100

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

^aUnit costs used to estimate acquisition costs were \$500 per acre for wetlands, \$1,300 per acre for woodlands, and \$7,500 per acre of other open lands. It should be noted that these per acre acquisition costs could be reduced if parcels of at least five acres are purchased.

Source: SEWRPC.

residential areas in the extreme southeastern corner of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying between Erie Street and Charles Street. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include basketball goals, a playfield/soccer practice field, and a playground. This site should be a high priority for acquisition due to development pressures.

- *Park Site 9:* Park site 9 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the south-central portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying between STH 32 and Green Bay Road. This site would encompass approximately five acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include basketball goals, a playfield/soccer practice field, and a playground. This site should be a high priority for acquisition due to development pressures.

- *Park Site 10:* Park site 10 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the central portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying west of the Root River and east of STH 31. This site would encompass approximately 15 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include basketball goals, two playfields/soccer practice fields, a playground, a sandlot softball diamond, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities. This site should be a medium priority for acquisition.
- *Park Site 11:* Park site 11 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the central portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying west of the Root River and south of Four Mile Road. This site would encompass approximately seven acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include a playfield, a play-

ground, a sandlot softball diamond, and appropriate support facilities. This site should be a high priority for acquisition due to development pressures.

- **Park Site 12:** Park Site 12 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the west-central portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying northeast of the Root River and north of Four Mile Road. This site would encompass 10 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include basketball goals, a playfield, a playground, an area for picnicking and other passive recreation use, and appropriate support facilities.
- **Park Site 13:** Park site 13 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southwestern portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying west of STH 38 and north of Dunkelow Road. This site would encompass approximately 20 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include a playfield, a playground, league softball diamonds, a sandlot softball diamond, an area for picnicking and other passive recreation use, and appropriate support facilities, including rest rooms. This site should be a medium priority for acquisition.
- **Park Site 14:** Park site 14 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southwestern portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying west of STH 38, south of Dunkelow Road, and north of Northwestern Avenue. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include basketball goals, a playfield/soccer practice field, a playground, a sandlot softball diamond, and appropriate support facilities. This site should be a high priority for acquisition due to development pressures.
- **Park Site 15:** Park site 15 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the south-central portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying between Johnson Park and Newman Road, north of Northwestern Avenue. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include a playfield, a playground, an area for picnicking

and other passive recreation use, two tennis courts, and appropriate support facilities.

- **Park Site 16:** Park site 16 is a neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southern portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying between Newman Road and STH 31. This site would encompass approximately 15 acres. Facilities proposed for this site would include a playfield, a playground, an area for picnicking and other passive recreation use, a sandlot softball diamond, basketball goals, and appropriate support facilities.

Existing Park and Open Space Sites and Facilities

Under the park and open space plan for the Town of Caledonia, it is recommended that the Town acquire additional lands adjacent to select park and open space sites and supply additional facilities at select park sites. These recommendations are outlined below.

- **County Line Park:** County Line Park is a 17-acre undeveloped neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northeastern portion of the Town. No additional land is proposed for acquisition for this site. It is envisioned that this site would be best suited as a nature preserve due to its character and land-locked location. Facilities proposed for this site include a hiking trail.
- **Crawford Park:** Crawford Park is a 17-acre undeveloped neighborhood park intended to serve the southeastern portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area. As noted in Chapter III, while this site does not meet the definition of a community park, relative to size, it is anticipated that it will provide community park facilities. Facilities proposed for this site include a playfield/soccer field, two playgrounds, two picnic shelters with rest rooms, two lighted league baseball diamonds, trail facilities, a tennis court, basketball goals, and appropriate support facilities.
- **Linwood Park:** Linwood Park is an 18-acre neighborhood park intended to serve the central portion of the Town of Caledonia. It is recommended that the Town relocate facilities out of the floodplain and restore the area along the Root River to a natural setting. New facilities proposed for this site include a baseball diamond,

a basketball goal, a canoe launch, a playground, rest rooms, trail facilities, and a volleyball court.

- **Woodland Park:** Woodland Park is a four-acre neighborhood park intended to serve the north-central portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area. It is recommended that the Town acquire a 25-acre isolated natural resource area adjacent to the park. Facilities proposed for this site include a gazebo, a nature trail, and an area for passive recreation use.
- **5½ Mile Park-Marsh:** 5½ Mile Park-Marsh is a 21-acre undeveloped neighborhood park intended to serve the north-central portion of the Town of Caledonia planned urban service area lying between 5½ Mile Road and 4½ Mile Road. No additional land is proposed for acquisition for this site. Facilities proposed for this site include a playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter, and trail facilities.
- **Open Space Lands:** As shown on Map 22, it is recommended that the Town acquire 119 acres of primary environmental corridor lands, 40 acres of secondary environmental corridor lands, and 25 acres of isolated natural resource areas, for a total of 184 acres. These lands are intended to be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses and used for future park and trail facilities as needed. The preservation of these lands will serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality and natural beauty in the Town, as well as help avoid the creation of serious and costly environmental and developmental problems.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Route and Trail System:** As shown on Map 21, it is recommended that the Town cooperate with Racine County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and adjoining local governments to develop a system of bicycle and pedestrian routes and paths. It is envisioned that this system would interconnect with major parks in the Town and in adjacent municipalities, and includes a proposed trail within the Root River Parkway. This system is proposed to include about seven miles of routes associated with street rights-of-way and about 23 miles of trails associated with environmentally significant lands within the Town. It should be noted that the bicycle routes and trails shown on Map 21 reflect the recommendations of the regional bicycle way system

plan with the addition of a proposed bicycle way along CTH V, CTH G, CTH H, and Five Mile Road.

Recommendations for new parks include the acquisition of lands by the Town for recreational and open space purposes, as shown on Map 21. The red symbols on the plan map indicate a need for additional park lands 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 development as a park. It is important to note that all proposed facility development should comply with the accessibility requirements set forth under Federal Law in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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 Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Racine County, the City of Racine, and by the Town of Caledonia to implement the recommended park and open space plan for the Town.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has authority and responsibility for park development, natural resources protection, water quality management, and water use regulation. Certain DNR functions have particular importance in the implementation of county and local as well as State level 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 grant program known as the Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) fund program and the Wisconsin Stewardship Program. The LAWCON fund and Wisconsin Stewardship programs are intended to assist in the acquisition and development of local parks and urban green spaces. The DNR also has the responsibility to establish standards for floodland and shoreland zoning; and the authority to adopt, in the absence of satisfactory local action, floodland and shoreland zoning ordinances.

More specifically, relative to the implementation of the Town park and open space plan, it is important that the Department endorse the plan, thus qualifying the Town to apply for and receive available State and Federal outdoor recreation grants in support of plan implementation. In addition, the DNR should use available regulatory authority to guide urban development in accordance with the location and extent of the urban service area proposed under this plan and to enhance the environmental quality in the Town.

Lastly, the Town of Caledonia Department of Parks and Recreation is concerned with low water levels at the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge, which could affect its long-term health. It is recommended that the Department of Natural Resources work with the Town of Caledonia Parks and Recreation Department to address this concern, thus ensuring the viability of this area.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

It is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation construct the bicycle ways recommended by this park and open space plan to be provided within the right-of-way of a State trunk highway or connecting street at the time the street or highway is constructed or reconstructed. 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 the street is simply resurfaced. However, consideration should be given to re-striping the street or making other improvements to better accommodate bicycle travel, be it utilitarian or recreational in nature. It is anticipated that paving highway shoulders to accommodate bicycle travel will be accomplished at the time a street or highway is resurfaced. The State should make proper arrangements to provide for the maintenance of bicycle facilities, including, if necessary, entering into operating or maintenance agreements with other units or agencies of government.

It is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation 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 the Wisconsin Department of Transportation promptly notify the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the County park department, the Town of Caledonia, and the Regional Planning Commission of any railway abandonment

proposed within the Town of Caledonia planning area. The Department should work with the aforementioned agencies to evaluate the feasibility of acquiring the railway right-of-way proposed to be abandoned for recreation purposes, including use as off-street bicycle and pedestrian ways.

Racine County

Racine County has the authority and responsibility for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of the major parks and trails within recreation corridors in the County. It is recommended that Racine County continue to provide and maintain one major park, Cliffside Park, within the Town of Caledonia.

Additionally, the County should acquire additional lands and provide additional facilities at Cliffside Park. Under this proposal, an additional 305 acres of land along the Lake Michigan shoreline within the Town would be acquired for park purposes. Proposed additional facility development includes the provision of a nature center, additional picnic areas, a winter sports area, boat launch facilities, and other resource-oriented facilities and support facilities, such as parking lots, rest rooms, shelters, necessary utilities and landscaping; development of additional, environmentally sensitive, trail facilities for hiking, on- and off-road bicycling, and cross-country skiing; as well as the management or restoration of native plant communities at the site.⁵

Under this plan, Racine County is also responsible for the acquisition of additional lands in the Root River Parkway in the Town of Caledonia. Under this proposal, the County would acquire an additional 559 acres of land in the Town for parkway purposes. It is also recommended that the County develop a variety of resource-oriented outdoor recreation facilities in portions of the parkway, including trail facilities for biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, nature study, and horseback riding; river access, picnic areas, and areas for passive recreation pursuits; and support facilities such as parking lots and rest rooms. Lands proposed for acquisition as part of the Root River Parkway are shown on Map 22. It is recommended that the County continue development of the MRK Trail northward from Seven Mile Road to the Racine County-Milwaukee County line, also the northern Town line. It is envisioned that

⁵ As noted earlier in this chapter, Racine County is in the process of updating its park and open space plan. Recommendations related to Cliffside Park may be modified as a result of that update.

Milwaukee County would extend the trail to Bender Park, located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in southern Milwaukee County, and eventually connect the trail to the Oak Creek Parkway, also in Milwaukee County. It is important to note that, on the south, the MRK Trail now connects with bike routes in the City of Racine that traverse Lake Michigan shoreline parks in the City and eventually connect to Racine and Kenosha County trails south to the Wisconsin-Illinois state line.

It is also recommended that Racine County acquire the natural areas identified for County acquisition on Map 22 and in Table 9, which reflect recommendations made by the regional natural areas plan. Finally, it is recommended that Racine County continue to assist the Town, as necessary, in the preparation of neighborhood and subneighborhood plans for areas within the Caledonia urban service area.

City of Racine

The City of Racine has the authority and responsibility for the provision and maintenance of one major park, Johnson Park, within the Town of Caledonia planning area. It is recommended that the City continue to provide and maintain the existing golf course, picnicking, and other facilities within this park.

Town of Caledonia

Under the recommended plan, shown on Maps 21 and 22, the Town of Caledonia would have responsibility for the provision of a variety of outdoor recreation sites and facilities, including the acquisition and development of several new park sites and facilities, the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands within the Town, and the maintenance of existing Town park sites and facilities. Implementation of these recommendations would result in the attainment of the park acquisition and development and open space preservation objectives presented in Chapter III of this report.

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

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

Other Plan Implementation Considerations

The park and open space plan for the Town of Caledonia proposes that the Town acquire and develop new park sites and facilities and acquire certain open space lands along perennial streams and within natural areas within the Town. The Town zoning ordinance can serve to protect those lands proposed for park and open space uses from incompatible urban uses. Changes to the zoning district map should be made as appropriate to reflect the proposed park and open space land acquisitions and protective zoning recommended in this plan.

It is also important to note that, while the usual manner of acquisition of park and open space land consists of the purchase of fee simple interest, there are other methods of acquiring land. These other methods may include the purchase and leaseback of land; the acquisition of land subject to a life estate; the acquisition of tax delinquent land and acquisition through a gift, donation, or dedication. Further, the Town utilizes impact fees charged to new residential developments, equal to \$750 per dwelling unit, to offset the costs associated with continued residential development for public utilities, parks, and other services provided to the Town's urban residents.

Lastly, due to anticipated development pressures and the need to serve existing residents within the planned urban service area, the following have been identified as high priority sites for acquisition: proposed park sites 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 14. In addition, sites 10 and 13 have been identified as medium priority sites for acquisition.

Plan Costs

Implementation of the park and open space plan for the Town of Caledonia, as presented herein and summarized in Table 10, would entail a total cost to the Town of \$9,697,100 over a 20-year plan implementation period. This does not include the costs associated with maintaining existing park facilities. As indicated in Table 10, the majority of this cost, about \$6,850,600, or 71 percent, would be required for the

development of new outdoor recreation facilities, trails, and bicycle routes throughout the Town. The remaining \$2,846,500 would be required for the acquisition by the Town of land for new park sites and for preservation of environmentally significant lands in the Town.

It is important to note that, even though the open space lands to be acquired by the Town are delegated to the parks department for maintenance and management purposes, many of these lands are beneficial to other Town departments and have minimal, if any, recreational value. Examples of such lands include wetlands, detention basins and floodplains needed by the Department of Public Works for stormwater management, and large open space areas benefiting the water utility by serving as ground water recharge areas. These lands provide a long-term benefit to the Town and to the quality of life of the residents.

As already noted, the estimated acquisition and development costs of \$9,697,100 would be distributed over a 20-year plan implementation period. This would approximate an expenditure of about \$484,855 per year. Under the assumption that the population of the Town would approximate 29,000 persons by the year 2020, the average annual acquisition and development costs would be about \$18.77 per capita⁶ per year. It should be noted that, to the extent that such costs are reduced through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, and through the use of available State and Federal funds for acquisition and development, the costs to the Town could be significantly reduced.

Maintenance Impact

Recommended new facilities will require that maintenance and upkeep costs be planned and budgeted for over the planning period. The Town of Caledonia Parks and Recreation Department operates on an annual maintenance budget of approximately \$67,000 (in 2000). Of this, about \$40,000, or 60 percent, is allocated to the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park. Assuming the Town of Mt. Pleasant matches this

allocation, the per acre cost, for maintenance purposes, is approximately \$1,538. The remaining \$27,000 in the Town of Caledonia maintenance budget is allocated to maintenance of the Town's parks, which is equivalent to approximately \$98 per acre and is extremely low. For example, the City of West Bend Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department operates on an annual maintenance budget of approximately \$600,000 (1999) and maintains approximately 500 acres of parkland. This is equivalent to approximately \$1,200 per acre. The City of Racine Parks Department operates on an annual maintenance budget of approximately \$2,000,000 (1999) and maintains approximately 1,050 acres of parkland. This is the equivalent of approximately \$1,905 per acre. Thus, it is recommended that the Town of Caledonia parks department budget, relative to maintenance, be increased to bring the Town in line with the joint park, other communities, and the rate of inflation.

Further, the parks department budget allocates approximately \$13,000 for staffing purposes. This equates to approximately three part-time seasonal staff members and does not allow the Town to be proactive in terms of maintenance. It is recommended that the budget, relative to staffing, be increased to allow for at least one full-time maintenance person, in addition to part-time seasonal staff.

Since new community and neighborhood parks will be developed as the Town grows and expands, it is recommended that, in addition to the aforementioned recommended budget increases, the maintenance budget grow gradually to meet this demand as the Town tax base expands; in effect, having the new subdivisions and neighborhoods pay for the maintenance of the new neighborhood parks. Facility development at existing Town parks is also likely to increase maintenance efforts by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Finally, it is recommended that, due to development pressure, the Town of Caledonia review its park impact fees to allow for expeditious acquisition of the high- and medium-priority recommended park sites.

It is clear that, due to the Department's limited maintenance budget, the growth of the Town may adversely affect the ability of the Department to maintain the existing and planned park and open space recommendations of the plan unless additional funds are provided.

⁶ The average annual per capita costs were estimated by dividing the estimated average annual costs by the average annual population over the 20 year plan implementation period. The average population was determined by calculating the average of the 1998 population estimate by the Wisconsin Department of Administration of about 22,654 persons and the plan design year 2020 population of about 29,000 persons, which is 25,827 persons.

SUMMARY

The recommended park and open space plan consists of both areawide park and open space recommendations and Town park and open space recommendations. The areawide park and open space recommendations are based on the regional park and open space plan as amended by the park and open space plan for Racine County.

The key components of the plan are as follows:

1. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources should acquire and protect natural areas and critical species habitat sites as called for in the regional natural areas plan.
2. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation should give consideration to bicyclists when constructing or reconstructing a State trunk highway or connecting street and notify interested parties of any railway abandonment proposed within the Town of Caledonia planning area.
3. Racine County should continue to provide and maintain one major park, Cliffside Park, within the Town of Caledonia and acquire additional lands at this site. The County should continue to acquire and develop lands for the Root River Parkway and trail within the Town of Caledonia. The County should also acquire and protect natural areas as called for in the regional natural areas plan.
4. The City of Racine should continue to provide one major park, Johnson Park, within the Town of Caledonia and maintain the golf course, picnic areas, and other facilities at this site.
5. The Town of Caledonia should provide community park facilities at Crawford Park and Park Site 5.
6. Sixteen new community and neighborhood parks are proposed to be acquired and developed by the Town of Caledonia.
7. The Town should provide neighborhood park facilities at 5½ Mile Park, an undeveloped Town-owned park.
8. A local system of bicycle and pedestrian trails and routes throughout the community is recommended to be developed by the Town of Caledonia.
9. The Town should acquire approximately 184 acres of environmentally significant lands to be preserved in essentially natural, open uses.
10. The cost to the Town to implement the plan would be \$9,697,100 over a 20-year plan implementation period. This represents an annual expenditure of about \$484,855, or about \$18.77 per capita per year. Through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, as well as available Federal and State funds and impact fees, the cost to the Town could be significantly reduced.
11. The Town should increase its annual parks department budget, relative to maintenance and staffing, and review its impact fees.

Chapter V

SUMMARY

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 sets forth a plan intended to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of lands needed for outdoor recreation and for the protection of natural resources within the seven county Southeastern Wisconsin Region. At the request of Racine County, the Regional Planning Commission refined and detailed the regional plan as it relates to the County in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*. The County plan was adopted in 1989 by the Racine County Board. A second edition of that plan is currently underway. The regional plan, and the County plan, recommend that each local unit of government refine and detail the adopted regional and county plans as those plans relate to the local municipal jurisdiction.

In 1987, the Town of Caledonia Parks and Recreation Commission requested that the Regional Planning Commission prepare a park plan for the Town. The resulting park and open space plan, which has a design year of 2010, is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 179, *A Park and Open Space Plan for the Town of Caledonia*, November 1989. In 1996, the Parks and Recreation Commission requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the Town in the preparation of a new park and open space plan. The Town of Caledonia Parks and Recreation staff helped guide the necessary planning work. The new plan, which has a design year of 2020, was approved by the Town Parks and Recreation Commission on February 10, 2000. The plan was

adopted by the Caledonia Town Board on April 18, 2000. The adopting resolution is included as Appendix B.

INVENTORY FINDINGS

The planning area used for the preparation of this plan encompasses about 46 square miles, or 29,184 acres, and includes all of the Town of Caledonia and Johnson Park, which is part of the City of Racine but surrounded by the Town of Caledonia. The Town had a 1998 estimated population level of 22,654 persons. In 1995, about 7,540 acres, or about 26 percent of the planning area, was developed for urban use. Residential land uses encompassed about 4,411 acres or 15 percent of the planning area. Transportation, communication and utility land uses encompassed about 1,774 acres, or about 6 percent, while governmental and institutional land uses encompassed about 302 acres, or about 1 percent, of the planning area. Commercial and manufacturing uses encompassed 372 acres, or about 1 percent of the planning area. Natural resource areas including woodlands, wetlands and surface waters encompassed 4,493 acres, or about 15 percent of the planning area.

An inventory of existing outdoor recreation and open space sites and facilities was conducted in 1999. The inventory identified 51 such sites encompassing 2,528 acres, or about 9 percent of the planning area. Of the 51 recreation and open space sites, 26 sites encompassing 1,804 acres, or about 71 percent of the area devoted to outdoor recreation and open space uses, were publicly owned. The Town of Caledonia owned 13 sites, which together encompassed 341 acres.

The most important features of the natural resource base in the Town of Caledonia planning area, including the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat areas, undeveloped floodlands, and sites having historic, scenic, scientific, cultural, and recreational value, occur in linear areas termed environmental corridors. By definition, primary environmental corridors include a variety of the aforelisted natural resource features and are at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. In 1990, primary environmental corridors encompassed about 1,860 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area. Secondary environmental corridors are at least 100 acres in size and one mile in length. Secondary environmental corridors in 1990 encompassed about 240 acres, or less than 1 percent of the planning area. Smaller pockets of natural resource base elements, termed isolated natural resource areas, are a minimum of five acres in size and are separated physically from the environmental corridors by intensive urban or agricultural uses. These isolated natural resource areas encompassed about 1,304 acres, or about 4 percent of the planning area, in 1990.

A total of 13 natural areas encompassing 901 acres were identified in the planning area in 1994. These sites are located within the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. The planning area also contains 14 critical species habitat sites encompassing about 334 acres, and three aquatic habitat sites within streams and rivers.

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

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

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

Responsibility for providing community and neighborhood parks and nonresource-oriented recreational facilities rests with local units of government. The need for community and neighborhood parks in the Town of Caledonia urban service area was determined by applying the park and open space standards to the anticipated 2020 resident population level of 29,000 persons within the Town of Caledonia planning area. Application of the per capita standards indicated a need for an additional 26 acres of public outdoor recreation land. Application of the accessibility standards indicated a need for additional neighborhood park sites in several portions of the urban service area.

Application of both the per capita and accessibility standards for nonresource-oriented recreation facilities indicated a need within the urban service area for additional baseball diamonds, playfields, playgrounds, soccer fields, ball diamonds, and tennis courts.

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

RECOMMENDED PLAN

The park and open space plan includes recommendations concerning open space preservation and both areawide and local outdoor recreation site and facility needs. The plan addresses all of the needs identified through application of the per capita and accessibility standards.

Areawide Park and Open Space Recommendations

In accordance with the recommendations of the Racine County park and open space plan relating to areawide parks and recreational facilities, the County would continue to provide and maintain one major park, Cliffside Park, and the City of Racine would continue to provide and maintain one major park, Johnson Park, within the Town of Caledonia planning area. Other areawide planning recommendations call for Racine County to acquire lands along the Root River for resource protection and recreational purposes. The County should also continue to acquire additional lands and develop additional facilities at Cliffside Park.

Open Space Preservation

It is recommended that all planned environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in the Caledonia planning area be held in a combination of public and private ownership or protected through proper zoning for natural resource preservation, flood control, and outdoor recreation purposes. Under the plan, it is anticipated that the area within the primary environmental corridor will increase from the 1990 level by about 72 acres, to 1,932 acres, or about 7 percent of the planning area. Secondary environmental corridors would encompass 271 acres, or about 1 percent of the planning area, and isolated natural resource areas would encompass 1,264 acres, or about 4 percent of the planning area, in the year 2020.

The plan recommends that certain primary environmental corridor lands within the planning area serve as the basis for a Root River parkway recreation corridor system. The plan also recommends that the 13 identified natural areas, 13 of the 14 identified critical species habitat sites, and all three of the aquatic areas within the planning area be protected through public interest ownership and be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses in accordance with the recommendations of the regional natural areas plan.

Town Park and Open Space Recommendations

The plan recommends the acquisition and development by the Town of 16 new community and neighborhood park sites within the planned urban service area, as well as the continued maintenance of existing Town-owned community and neighborhood parks and other Town-owned open space sites to provide additional needed recreational facilities such as ball diamonds, playfields, playgrounds, and other facilities typically found in community and neighborhood parks. Additionally, the plan recommends the development of community park facilities at Crawford Park, neighborhood park facilities at 5½ Mile Park, the acquisition of additional land and development of facilities at Nicholson Wildlife Refuge, and the acquisition of additional land at Woodland Park.

The plan further recommends a local system of bicycle and pedestrian routes and paths throughout the planning area interconnecting park and open space sites whenever feasible. The plan also recommends that the Town acquire 184 acres of environmentally significant lands to be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses.

Implementation of the recommended plan would entail a total cost to the Town of about \$9,697,100 over a 20-year plan implementation period. The majority of this cost, about \$6,850,600 or 71 percent, would be needed for the development of outdoor recreation facilities, trails, and bicycle routes throughout the Town. The remaining \$2,846,500 would be required for the acquisition, by the Town, of land for new park sites and for preservation of environmentally significant lands in the Town.

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

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APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS FOR THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA

OBJECTIVE NO. 1

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

PRINCIPLE

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

A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

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

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

B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 2

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

PRINCIPLE

Participation in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities including basketball, baseball, ice-skating, soccer, playfield and playground activities, softball, pool swimming, and tennis provides an individual with both the opportunity for physical exercise and an opportunity to test and expand his or her physical capability. Such activities also provide an outlet for mental tension and anxiety as well as a diversion from other human activities. Competition in the various intensive nonresource-related activities also provides an opportunity to share recreational experiences, participate in team play, and gain understanding of other human beings.

STANDARD

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

Minimum per Capita Facility Requirements ^q				Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^t
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Urban Residents	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Total Land Requirement (acres per facility)	
Baseball	Diamond	Public Nonpublic Total	0.09 0.01 0.10 ^s	Types II, III and IV general use site	2.8 acres per diamond	Parking (30 spaces per diamond) Night lighting ^g Concessions and bleachers ^t Buffer and landscape	0.28 acre per diamond -- 0.02 acre minimum 1.40 acres per diamond	4.5	2.0
Basketball	Goal	Public Nonpublic Total	0.91 0.22 1.13	Type IV general use site	0.07 acre per goal	--	--	0.07	0.5
Ice-Skating	Rink	Public Nonpublic Total	0.15 ^u -- 0.15	Type IV general use site	0.30 acre per rink minimum	Warming house	0.05 acre --	0.35 minimum	0.5
Playfield Activities	Playfield	Public Nonpublic Total	0.39 0.11 0.50	Type IV general use site	1.0 acre per playfield minimum	Buffer area	0.65 acre minimum	1.65 minimum	0.5
Playground Activities	Playground	Public Nonpublic Total	0.35 0.07 0.42	Type IV general use site	0.25 acre per playground minimum	Buffer and landscape	0.37 acre	0.62 minimum	0.5
Soccer	Field	Public Nonpublic Total	0.69 0.17 0.86	Multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	1.0 acre minimum	Buffer	.65 acre	1.65	1.0
Softball	Diamond	Public Nonpublic Total	0.53 0.07 0.60	Type II, III, and IV general use site	1.70 acre per diamond	Parking (20 spaces per diamond) Nighttime lighting ^g Buffer	0.18 acre per diamond -- 0.80 acre per diamond	2.68	1.0
Swimming	Pool	Public Nonpublic Total	0.015 ^v -- 0.015	Type II and III general use site	0.13 acre per pool minimum	Bathhouse and concessions Parking (400 square feet per space) Buffer and landscaping	0.13 acre minimum 0.26 acre minimum 0.70 acre minimum	1.22 minimum	3.0 3.0
Tennis	Court	Public Nonpublic Total	0.50 0.10 0.60	Type II, III, and IV general use site	0.15 acre per court	Parking (2.0 spaces per court) Nighttime lighting ^g Buffer	0.02 acre per court -- 0.15 acre per court	0.32	1.0

OBJECTIVE NO. 3

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

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARD

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

Minimum per Capita Facility Requirement ^W				Design Standards						Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^X
Activity	Facility	Owner	Per Capita Requirements (facility per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Total Land Requirements (acres per facility)	Resource Requirements	
Camping	Campsite	Public Nonpublic Total	0.35 1.47 1.82	Type I and II general use sites	0.33 acre per campsite	Rest rooms-showers Utility hookups Natural area backup lands	-- -- 1.5 acres per campsite	1.83	Ungrazed wooded area Presence of surface water Suitable topography and soils	25.0
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public Nonpublic Total	0.013 0.027 0.040	Type I and II general use sites	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking, Maintenance Practice area Woodland or water areas Buffer	8.0 acres per course 5.0 acres per course 35.0 acres per course 2.0 acres per course	185.0	Suitable topography and soils Presence of surface water Form-giving vegetation desirable	10.0
Picnicking	Tables	Public Nonpublic Total	6.35 ^Y 2.39 8.74	Type I, II, III, and IV general use sites	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking Shelters and grills Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table (1.5 space per table) -- 0.02 acre per table	0.11	Topography with scenic views Shade trees Presence of surface water desirable Suitable soils	10.0
Skiing	Developed slope (acres)	Public Nonpublic Total	0.010 0.090 0.100	Type I, II, III general use sites	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet Parking Ski tows (and lights) Buffer and maintenance Landscape	0.13 acre minimum 0.25 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.35 acre per acre of slope	2.1	Suitable topography and soils (20 percent slope minimum) North or northeast exposure	25.0
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)	Public Nonpublic Total	Major Inland Lakes	Type I, II, III general use sites	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking Bathhouse-concessions Buffer areas	0.2 acre per acre of beach 0.10 acre minimum 10 square feet per linear foot	-- ^Z	Natural beach Good water quality	10.0
			Lake Michigan							
			6 12 18							
			16 -- 16							

OBJECTIVE NO. 4

The provision of sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Town adequate opportunity to participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participation in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities including biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, pleasure driving, ski-touring, and snowmobiling provides opportunity for contact with natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features. In addition, such activities can increase an individual's perception and intensify awareness of the surroundings, contribute to a better understanding of the environment, and provide a wider range of vision and comprehension of all forms of life both as this life may have existed in the past and as it exists in the present. Similar to intensive resource-

orientated activity, the family as a unit also can participate in extensive land based recreation activities; such participation also serves to strengthen social relationships within the family. For activities like biking, hiking, and nature study, participation provides an opportunity to educate younger members of the family in the importance of environmental issues which may become of greater concern as they approach adulthood.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in land-based outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the Town. Public facilities provided for these activities should be located within the linear resource-orientated recreation corridors identified in Objective No. 1. To meet this standard, the following per capita standards and design criteria should be met as indicated below:

Minimum per Capita Public Facility Requirements ^{aa}			Design Standards				
Activity	Facility	Per Capita Requirements (linear mile per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Minimum Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Suggested Support Facilities and Backup Lands	Minimum Support Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Resource Requirements
Biking	Route Trail	-- 0.16 ^{bb}	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	-- 1.45	Route markers Backup lands with Resource amenities	-- 24.2	-- Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography (5 percent slope average maximum) and soils
Hiking	Trail	0.16	Recreation corridor	0.73	Backup lands with Resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Horseback Riding	Trail	0.05	Recreation corridor Type I general use site	1.21	Backup lands with Resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Nature Study	Center	1 per County	Type I, II, III general use sites	--	Interpretive center Building Parking	--	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species
	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Type I, II, III general use sites	0.73	Backup lands with Resource amenities	24.2	Suitable topography and soils Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils
Pleasure Driving	Route	-- ^{cc}	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	--	Route markers	--	--
Ski-touring	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Types I and II general use sites	0.97	Backup lands with Resource amenities	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Rolling topography
Snowmobiling	Trail	0.11	Private lands (leased for public use)	1.45	Backup lands, including Resource amenities and open lands	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Suitable topography (8 percent slope average maximum) and soils

OBJECTIVE NO. 5

The provision of sufficient access areas to allow the resident population of the Town adequate opportunity to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities on the major inland lakes and rivers and on Lake Michigan which are consistent with enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of adequate water quality.

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

1. Access sites available for use by the general public on streams and major lakes, that is, lakes of 50 acres or larger, should be provided in accordance with the requirements established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Sections NR 1.90 and NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

2. Access sites providing parking should be provided on major streams throughout the Town. The maximum interval between access points on major canoeable streams^{dd} should be 10 miles.

OBJECTIVE NO. 6

The preservation of sufficient open-space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity^{ee} of the Town.

PRINCIPLE

Ecological balance and natural beauty within the Town are primary determinants of the ability to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life and to maintain the social and economic well being of the Town. Preservation of the most significant aspects of the natural resource base, that is, primary environmental corridors, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and prime agricultural lands, contributes to the maintenance of ecological balance, natural beauty, and economic well being of the Town.

A. PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

PRINCIPLE

The primary environmental corridors are a composite of the best individual elements of the natural resource base including surface water, streams, and rivers and their associated floodlands and shorelands; woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat; areas of groundwater discharge and recharge; organic soils, rugged terrain, and high relief topography; and significant geological formations and physiographic features. By protecting these elements of the natural resource base, flood damage can be reduced, soil erosion abated, water supplies protected, air cleansed, wildlife population enhanced, biological diversity preserved, and continued opportunities provided for scientific, educational, and recreational pursuits.

STANDARD

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

B. NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PRINCIPLE

Prime agricultural lands, in addition to providing food and fiber, can supply significant wildlife habitat; contribute to maintaining an ecological balance between plants and animals; offer locations close to urban centers for the production of certain food commodities which may require nearby population concentrations for an efficient production-distribution relationship; provide opportunities for agricultural and agriculture-related employment; provide open spaces which give form and structure to urban development; and serve to maintain the natural beauty and unique cultural heritage of the Town.

STANDARDS

1. Prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 7

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

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARD

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

Footnotes

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

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

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

^dFor Type I and Type II parks, which generally provide facilities for resource-orientated outdoor recreation activities for the total population of the Town, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the total resident population of the Town. For Type III and Type IV sites, which generally provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities primarily in urban areas, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the Town residing in urban areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

^{aa}Both urban and rural residents of the Town participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities. Thus, minimum per capita requirements for trails for extensive land-based activities apply to the total resident population of the Town.

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

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

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

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

Source: SEWRPC.

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Appendix B

Resolution 2000-19

Adoption of the 2020 Park and Open Space Plan for The Town of Caledonia

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), working at the request of the Town of Caledonia, has prepared a proposed Park and Open Space Plan for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the plan findings and recommendations are set forth in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 179, 2nd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for the Town of Caledonia: 2020; and

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

WHEREAS, the adoption of the plan by the Town is necessary to make the Town eligible for assistance under the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Program and other grant programs for outdoor recreation sites and facilities; and

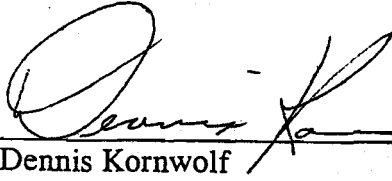
WHEREAS, the Town Park Commission approved the plan on February 10, 2000.

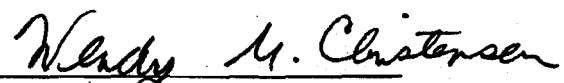
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of Caledonia, on the 18th day of April, 2000, hereby adopts the Park and Open Space for the Town of Caledonia to serve as a guide for the acquisition of parks and open space sites and the development of recreation facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the adoption of the plan does not commit the Town to provide funds for park system acquisition and development.

Dated this 18th day of April, 2000

TOWN OF CALEDONIA

BY: 
Dennis Kornwolf
Town Chairman

ATTEST: 
Wendy M. Christensen, CMC
Town Clerk