



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

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Special acknowledgment is due Robbie L. Robinson, SEWRPC  
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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING REPORT NUMBER 199 (3rd Edition)

**A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN  
FOR THE VILLAGE OF  
MOUNT PLEASANT: 2035**

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April 2015

Inside Region \$10.00

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page		Page
<b>Chapter I—INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1	Village Land (Open Space/Conservancy) .....	22
Introduction .....	1	Village Land (Open Space/Trail) .....	22
Planning Framework .....	2	Village Land (Open Space/Conservancy) .....	22
Regional and County Park and		Village Land (Open Space/Conservancy) .....	22
Open Space Planning .....	2	Village Land (Stormwater Basin).....	22
Village Plans .....	2	Village Land (Stormwater Basin).....	22
Village/Town Park and		Village Land (Stormwater Basin).....	22
Open Space Planning.....	3	Village Land (Stormwater Basin).....	22
Advisory Committee .....	3	Village Civic Campus.....	23
Public Participation and Plan Adoption.....	3	Former Park Sites .....	23
Planning Area .....	4	Racine County Parks.....	23
Report Format.....	4	Trail Facilities.....	23
<b>Chapter II—INVENTORY FINDINGS</b> .....	7	Natural Resource Features .....	24
Introduction .....	7	Surface Water Resources .....	24
Resident Population.....	7	Wetlands .....	28
Land Use Base.....	8	Woodlands .....	29
Park and Open Space Sites .....	12	Environmental Corridors and	
Existing Park and Open Space Sites .....	12	Isolated Natural Resource Areas .....	29
Village of Mount Pleasant Park System.....	18	Primary Environmental Corridors .....	30
Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park .....	20	Secondary Environmental Corridors .....	30
Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park .....	20	Isolated Natural Resource Areas .....	32
Cozy Acres Park .....	20	Natural Areas, Critical Species	
Dirkse Park .....	20	Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites .....	32
Drozd Park .....	20	Summary .....	36
Hoods Creek Corridor.....	20	<b>Chapter III—STATUS OF 2020 PLAN</b>	
James Turek Park .....	20	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	39
K-9 Commons Dog Park.....	20	Introduction.....	39
Lake Park .....	20	Status of Park Plan Recommendations	
Lathrop Manor Subdivision Park.....	21	to be Implemented by the	
Pheasant Creek Park .....	21	Village of Mount Pleasant .....	39
Pike River Corridor.....	21	Outdoor Recreation Element .....	39
Sheridan Woods Park.....	21	Recommendations Related to Parks .....	39
Smolenski Park .....	21	Recommendations Related to Trails.....	41
Stewart-McBride Park .....	21	Open Space Preservation Element.....	41

	Page		Page
Status of Plan Recommendations to be Implemented by Other Units of Government.....	41	Facility Needs Based on Per Capita Standards.....	63
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources .	41	Facility Needs Based on Service Area Standards .....	67
Racine County.....	42	Baseball Diamonds.....	67
Recommendations Related to County Parks .....	42	Basketball Goals.....	67
Recommendations Related to County Trails .....	42	Playfields.....	67
Summary .....	42	Playgrounds.....	67
<b>Chapter IV—FRAMEWORK FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>43</b>	Soccer Fields .....	67
Village Plans Affecting the Park and Open Space Plan .....	43	Softball Diamonds (Sandlot).....	73
Park and Open Space Plans and Related Plans .....	43	Softball Diamonds (League) .....	73
Village of Mount Pleasant Master Bicycle Plan 2030 .....	44	Tennis Courts .....	73
Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan and Multi- Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County .....	44	Swimming Pool or Beach.....	73
Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Programs.....	46	Application of Standards to Recreational Facilities .....	73
Population Projections .....	48	Village of Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Survey.....	73
Natural Areas .....	48	Summary .....	77
Pike River Watershed Plan.....	49	<b>Chapter V—PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN .....</b>	<b>81</b>
Root River Watershed Restoration Plan .....	51	Introduction.....	81
Root River Revitalization Plan.....	53	Areawide Park and Open Space Recommendations .....	82
Des Plaines River Watershed Plan.....	53	Racine County Park and Open Space Plan Recommendations .....	82
Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan .....	55	Major Parks .....	82
Public Facilities Needs Assessment and Impact Fee Ordinance .....	55	Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails .....	84
County and Regional Plans Affecting the Park and Open Space Plan .....	57	Water Trails .....	85
Regional and County Park and Open Space Plans.....	57	Open Space Preservation .....	85
Regional Natural Areas Plan.....	59	Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites .....	89
Regional Park and Open Space Objectives, Principles, and Standards .....	60	Farmland Preservation Areas.....	91
Park and Open Space Needs.....	61	Village Park and Open Space Recommendations .....	91
Forecast Population.....	61	Parks and Related Recreational Facilities.....	93
Community and Neighborhood Parks .....	61	Proposed New Parks.....	93
Site Needs Based on Per Capita Standards .....	62	Development and Improvement at Existing Village Parks: 2015-2019 .....	98
Site Needs Based on Service Area Standards .....	62	Development at Existing Village Parks: 2020-2035.....	99
		Maintenance of Other Existing Village Parks.....	100
		Open Space Preservation .....	100
		Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes and Recreation Trails.....	100
		Potential Water Trails.....	102
		Other Considerations .....	103
		Public Input .....	103

	Page		Page
Plan Implementation.....	103	<b>Chapter VI—SUMMARY</b> .....	107
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources .....	103	Inventory Findings .....	108
Wisconsin Department of Transportation .....	103	Status of 2020 Plan Recommendations.....	109
Racine County.....	104	Park and Open Space Objectives, Principles, and Standards and Needs Analysis .....	110
Village of Mount Pleasant.....	104	Park and Open Space Plan .....	110
Plan Costs.....	105		
Summary .....	105		

### LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix		Page
A	Regional Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Planning Objectives, Principles, and Standards .....	115
B	Plan Commission Resolution and Village Board Ordinance Adopting the Park and Open Space Plan as a Component of the Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive Plan.....	125
C	Grant Programs to Help Implement County and Local Park and Open Space Plans .....	129
Table C-1	Potential Funding Programs to Implement Recommendations for Open Space Preservation and Water Quality Protection and Improvements.....	130

### LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
<b>Chapter II</b>		
1	Resident Population of the Village of Mount Pleasant: 1900-2014 .....	8
2	Existing Land Uses in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2010.....	10
3	Park and Open Space Sites in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2014 .....	13
4	Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities for General Use in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2013 .....	16
5	Village of Mount Pleasant Park System: 2014.....	18
6	Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2010.....	30
7	Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2009.....	33
<b>Chapter IV</b>		
8	Per Capita Acreage Requirements for Community and Neighborhood Parks in the Village of Mount Pleasant .....	63
9	Per Capita Requirements for Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities in the Village of Mount Pleasant .....	66

**Chapter V**

10	Existing and Proposed Ownership of Open Space Land in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2035 .....	88
11	Recommended Protection of Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and a Geological Site in the Village of Mount Pleasant.....	90
12	Recommended Acquisition and Development at Existing and Proposed Park Sites in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2015-2035.....	94
13	Proposed Development and Improvements at Existing Parks in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2015-2019.....	96

**LIST OF FIGURES**

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

**Chapter II**

1	Historical and Projected Population Levels in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 1095-2035 .....	8
---	--	---

**LIST OF MAPS**

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

**Chapter I**

1	Location of the Village of Mount Pleasant in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region.....	5
---	---	---

**Chapter II**

2	Generalized Historical Urban Growth in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 1920-2010.....	9
3	Existing Land Uses in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2010.....	11
4	Park and Open Space Sites in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2014 .....	15
5	Village of Mount Pleasant Park System: 2014.....	19
6	Existing Trails in the Village of Mount Pleasant and Environs: 2013 .....	25
7	Surface Water Resources in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2012.....	26
8	Environmental Corridors and Stream Buffers in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2010.....	31
9	Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2009.....	35

**Chapter IV**

10	Year 2035 Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan .....	45
11	Green Infrastructure Priority Protection Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant as Identified in the Pike River Watershed Plan .....	50
12	Potential Wetland and Prairie Restoration Areas in the Root River Watershed within the Village of Mount Pleasant .....	54
13	Farmland Preservation Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2035.....	56
14	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant Urban Service Not Adequately Served by a Community Park.....	64

Map		Page
15	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant Urban Service Not Adequately Served by a Neighborhood Park.....	65
16	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant Urban Service Not Adequately Served by a Baseball Diamond .....	68
17	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant Urban Service Not Adequately Served by a Basketball Goal .....	69
18	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant Urban Service Not Adequately Served by a Playfield.....	70
19	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant Urban Service Not Adequately Served by a Playground.....	71
20	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant Urban Service Not Adequately Served by a Soccer Field .....	72
21	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant Urban Service Not Adequately Served by a Sandlot Softball Diamond .....	74
22	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant Urban Service Not Adequately Served by a League Softball Diamond.....	75
23	Planned Residential Areas in the Village of Mount Pleasant Urban Service Not Adequately Served by a Tennis Court .....	76

### **Chapter V**

24	Outdoor Recreation Element of the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan: 2035 .....	83
25	Open Space Preservation Element for the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2035 .....	86
26	Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2035 .....	92
27	Trail System Plan for the Village of Mount Pleasant and Environs: 2035 .....	101

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## Chapter I

# INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

This park and open space plan for the Village of Mount Pleasant is intended to assist in promoting environmental stewardship and to assess current and future park, recreation, and open space needs within the Village. The plan is further intended to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land for park, outdoor recreation, and open space purposes through the implementation over time of the recommendations set forth in Chapter V. The plan seeks to provide a variety of recreational sites and facilities that will offer opportunities for Village residents to participate in an appropriate range of active and passive recreational pursuits and to protect and enhance natural resources within the Village. This plan, which is an update of the park and open space plan adopted in 2003, was approved by the Village of Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on December 18, 2014. The park board approved an update on February 19, 2015, to add a new park (Polzin Park) to the plan. A joint public hearing was held on March 17, 2015 by the Village Plan Commission and Village Board. This plan was approved by the Village Plan Commission on April 22, 2015, and was adopted by the Village Board as an amendment to and component of the Village's comprehensive plan<sup>1</sup> on April 27, 2015.

Broadly defined, recreation is an activity or experience undertaken solely for the pleasure or satisfaction derived from it. Recreation can be experienced indoors or outdoors, encompasses a wide variety of human activities, and permits the opportunity for participation in many resource and nonresource-oriented activities. It includes both mental and physical exercise and personal enjoyment, enhances the quality of life, and provides various social, environmental, and economic benefits. Such benefits include improvements to physical health and mental well-being for individuals, protection of biological communities and natural resources, attractions for tourism and commercial and residential development, and potentially increased property values for communities.

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<sup>1</sup>*In July 2009, the Village Board adopted the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County as the comprehensive plan for the Village, which is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, November 2009. The multi-jurisdictional plan supplements the Village master land use plan, which is documented in a report entitled, Year 2030 Master Plan for Land Use and Transportation, Mt. Pleasant, Racine County, Wisconsin, January 2003. In January 2014, the Village Board adopted an amendment to the 2030 Master Plan and the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan that affected the land use classification of 318 parcels in the Village. The amended Village master plan was renamed the 2035 Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan to be consistent with the design year of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan.*

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, we consider only outdoor recreation.

## **PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

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

Owing to the importance of outdoor recreation sites and areas for natural resource protection, park and open space development and use have long been issues of concern to public officials and citizen leaders. On December 1, 1977, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, which identified existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommended a system of large resource-oriented parks, recreational corridors, a regional trail system, smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, and attendant recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan was refined and detailed within Racine County through preparation of a park and open space plan for the County in 1988. The Racine County Park and Open Space Plan was updated and adopted as a second edition by the County Board in May 2001. That plan was designed to the year 2020. In December 2012, the County Board adopted another update, a third edition, to the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan,<sup>2</sup> which is designed to the year 2035. In March 2013, that plan was subsequently adopted as an amendment to the regional park plan by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

The County park and open space plan includes recommendations to provide a system of large, nature-based regional parks and natural resource-based recreational facilities such as swimming beaches, golf courses, and group picnicking facilities. The County plan also recommends the development and/or maintenance of public boat access facilities on inland lakes and rivers for fishing and boating (both motor boats and carry-in canoes and kayaks) and a County trail system for such uses as biking, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. Existing and planned County trails are located on or within street and highway rights-of-way, within utility and/or former railway corridors, and within recreation corridors (along the Fox River, Pike River, Root River, and Lake Michigan shoreline). The County plan further recommends the development of a water trail system. Potential water trails are planned to be developed along the Fox River, Pike River, Root River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. An inventory of Racine County park and open space sites and facilities within the Village is included in Chapter II.

### **Village Plans<sup>3</sup>**

The Village of Mount Pleasant has a long history of land use planning. In addition to the previous editions of this park and open space plan, the Village has prepared master plans, detailed neighborhood plans, and most recently, an amended Village Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan to guide growth and development of the Village, while protecting important natural resource areas. The Village has also adopted a Master Bicycle Plan<sup>4</sup> that identifies the location of existing Village and County bikeways and trails, future Village bikeways (bike lanes and

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<sup>2</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 3rd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, February 2013.*

<sup>3</sup>*The Town of Mount Pleasant incorporated as a village on September 16, 2003.*

<sup>4</sup>*Documented in a report entitled, Village of Mount Pleasant Master Bicycle Plan 2030, Racine County, Wisconsin, January 2007. The plan was prepared by the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin. The Village comprehensive plan amendment adopted in January 2014 amended the bicycle plan.*



routes) and trails, and future County trails in the Village. A Pike River Watershed-Based Plan<sup>5</sup> was completed in August 2013 and was adopted by the Mount Pleasant Village Board in January 2014. The Pike River, which traverses the center of the Village from north to south, is a vital natural resource feature and recreation corridor in the Village. The plan is focused on modifying the stream channel to control stormwater runoff and reduce flooding, restore wetlands, and improve stream bank erosion and water quality, as well as providing recreational activities, such as a multi-use trail and fishing areas. Additional information about plans that provided a framework for the update of this park and open space plan is provided in Chapter IV.

### ***Village/Town Park and Open Space Planning***

The first edition of this park and open space plan for the Town of Mount Pleasant, which was designed to the year 2010, was adopted in 1991. In 1997, the Town of Mount Pleasant requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the Town in preparing an update to the plan, which was subsequently adopted in April 2003. Shortly thereafter, in September 2003, the Town of Mount Pleasant incorporated as a village. In September 2013, the Village of Mount Pleasant requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the Village in updating the Mount Pleasant park plan that was adopted in 2003. The Commission initiated the plan update in November 2013.

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

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PLAN ADOPTION**

This park and open space plan was adopted as a component of the Village's comprehensive plan. Section 66.1001(4) of the *Wisconsin Statutes* sets forth the required procedure for the adoption or amendment of a comprehensive plan, which includes the adoption of written procedures designed to foster public participation in the development of a comprehensive plan or a plan amendment. The procedures must describe the methods the Village will use to distribute proposed, alternative, or amended elements of a comprehensive plan or plan amendment, and provide an opportunity for written comments on the plan or amendment to be submitted by members of the public to the Village and for the Village to respond to such comments.

The park and open space plan was reviewed and discussed at meetings of the Village Parks and Recreation Advisory Board during 2014. All meetings were open to the public, and meeting agendas were posted on the Village website in advance of the meetings. Upon completion of a draft plan report, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board sponsored a public open house on December 4, 2014, to provide an opportunity for the public to review the plan and provide comments. The draft plan, a plan summary, and a comment form were posted on the SEWRPC website and were available at the open house and Village Engineering Department. Notice of the open house, which included a link to the information on the SEWRPC website, was published in Racine's daily

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<sup>5</sup>*Documented in a report entitled, Pike River Watershed-Based Plan, prepared by Applied Ecological Services, Inc. for the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, August 2013.*

newspaper, *The Journal-Times*, on November 24, 2014. Written comments about the draft plan were accepted through December 12, 2014. One written comment was received and it was addressed at the park board meeting on December 18, 2014. The comment and response are summarized in Chapter V. A public hearing on the plan held jointly by the Village Board and Plan Commission on March 17, 2015, provided an additional opportunity for public comment.

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

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

## **PLANNING AREA**

The planning area, shown on Map 1, consists of the entire Village of Mount Pleasant, which is located in U.S. Public Land Survey Township 3 North and Ranges 22 and 23 East in the eastern portion of Racine County along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Village encompasses 21,686 acres, or about 34 square miles. The Village is bounded on the north by the Village of Caledonia; on the east by the City of Racine, the Village of Elmwood Park, and Lake Michigan; on the west by the Town of Yorkville and IH 94; and on the south by the Town of Somers in Kenosha County. The Village of Sturtevant is located in Township 3 North, Range 22 East, and is surrounded by the Village of Mount Pleasant.

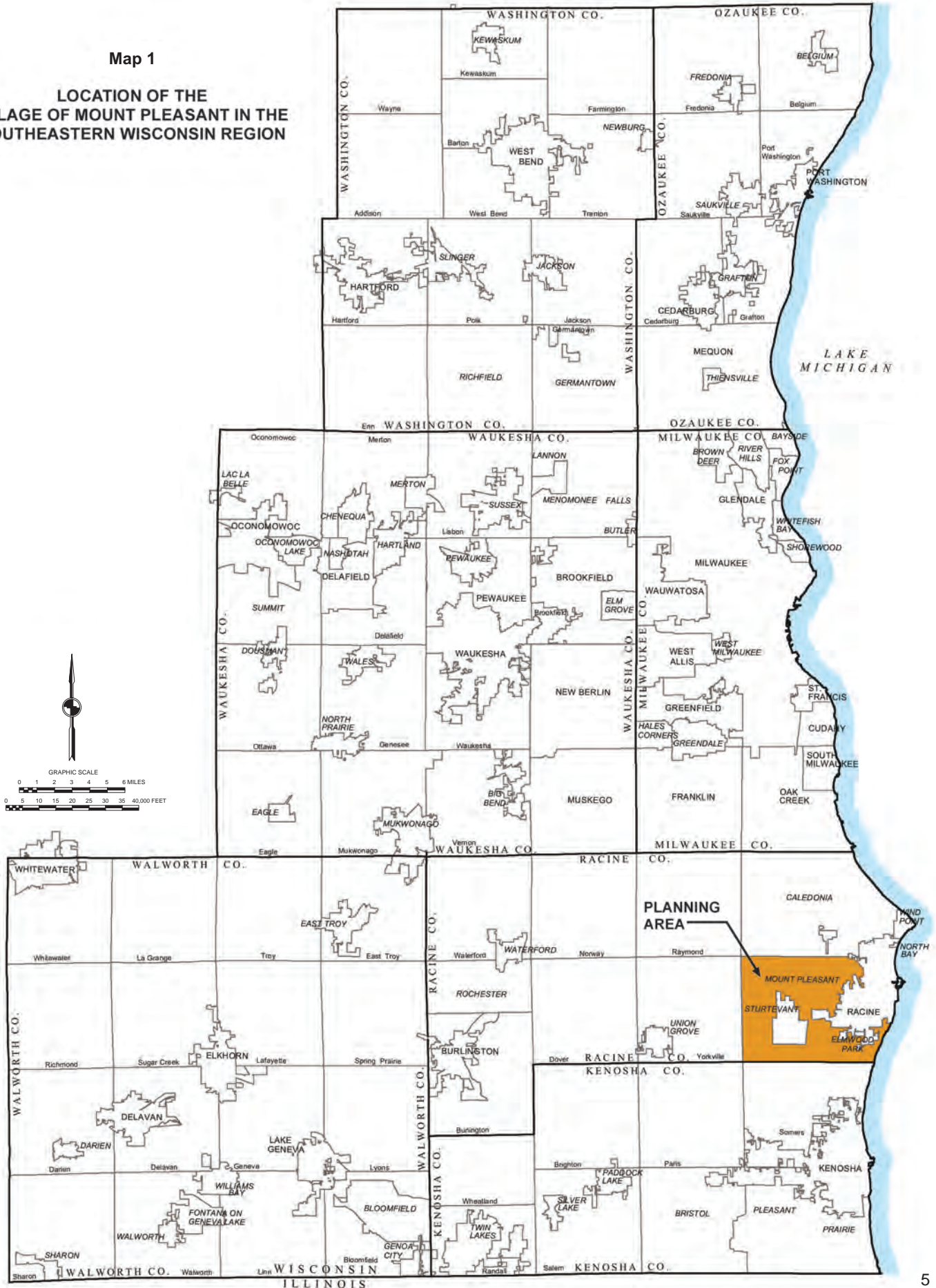
The total acreage of the Village (21,686 acres) used for the preparation of this updated plan is less than the total acreage of the Village (22,493 acres) used for the previous plan. The smaller total acreage is due primarily to a cooperative boundary agreement between Mount Pleasant and the Village of Sturtevant prior to the Town of Mount Pleasant incorporating as a village in September 2003. When Mount Pleasant officially became a village, Mount Pleasant granted about 700 acres of undeveloped land to the Village of Sturtevant, and the Village of Sturtevant granted about 100 acres located north of STH 20 to Mount Pleasant.

## **REPORT FORMAT**

The findings and recommendations of the Village park and open space plan update are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter II presents information about the Village pertinent to park and open space planning, including information on the resident population, the land use pattern, existing park and open space sites and facilities, and important natural resource areas and features within the Village. The implementation status of plan recommendations from the 2020 park plan is presented in Chapter III. Chapter IV summarizes other planning programs affecting this park and open space plan, including the Village's comprehensive (master) land use plan and bicycle plan; describes the park and open space objectives, principles, and standards used to prepare this plan; and the results of applying those standards to the existing park system. Updated park and open space recommendations are presented in Chapter V. Chapter VI presents a summary of the plan.

Map 1

LOCATION OF THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT IN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION



Source: SEWRPC.

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## Chapter II

# INVENTORY FINDINGS

### INTRODUCTION

An inventory of existing resources and other factors that affect development of a system of parks and open space areas within the Village was conducted to assist in the development of plan recommendations. Information about population and population distribution, the pattern of land use development, existing park and open space sites and facilities, and natural resources within the Village of Mount Pleasant was collected and is presented in this chapter. A comparison of similar data from the 2020 Mount Pleasant park plan, which was adopted in 2003 and included inventory information gathered in 2000, is also provided.

### RESIDENT POPULATION

Existing and projected<sup>1</sup> resident population levels are an important consideration in any park and open space planning effort. Data on the historical, existing, and anticipated resident population for Mount Pleasant are presented in Table 1 or shown in Figure 1. It should be noted that the Town of Mount Pleasant incorporated as a village in September 2003, thus all population data prior to 2003 refers to the Town of Mount Pleasant. As indicated in Table 1, the resident population for Mount Pleasant increased between 1900 and 1910 from 2,911 persons to 4,219 persons. The incorporation of the Village of Sturtevant also occurred during this time period, in 1907. Between 1910 and 1920, Mount Pleasant experienced a 4 percent decrease in population, from 4,219 persons to 4,070 persons. From 1920 to 1990, the population increased steadily, with the smallest increases occurring between the years 1950 and 1960 and the years 1980 and 1990. From 1990 to 2000, the population increased 15 percent from 20,084 persons to 23,142 persons. The Village population level for 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was 26,197 persons, an increase of 3,055 persons, or about 13 percent, from 2000. The Wisconsin Department of Administration estimated a Village population of 26,386 residents in 2014. The anticipated resident population for the Village of Mount Pleasant for 2035 is about 35,000 persons. The Village selected the 2035 population projection of 35,000 residents when preparing the Village comprehensive plan.

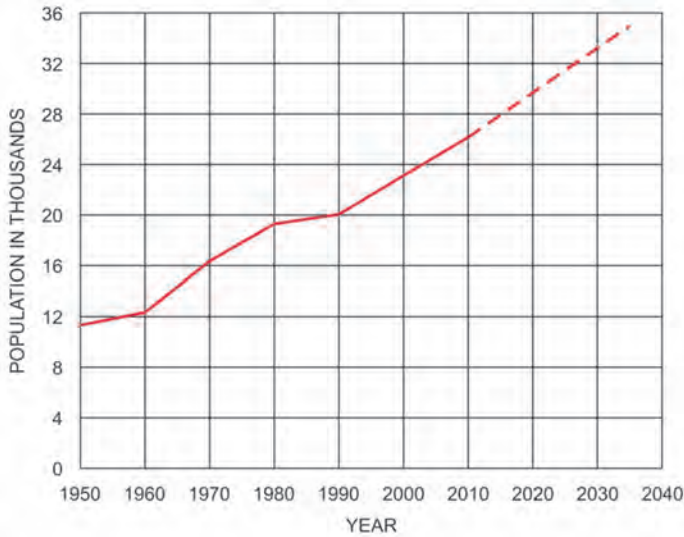
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<sup>1</sup>Projected population levels are presented in Chapter IV of this report, Framework for Plan Development.



**Figure 1**

**HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED POPULATION LEVELS  
IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 1950-2035**



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

**Table 1**

**RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE  
VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 1900-2014**

Year	Population	Change From Preceding Census	
		Number	Percent
1900	2,911	--	--
1910	4,219	1,308	44.9
1920	4,070	-149	-3.5
1930	5,379	1,309	32.2
1940	6,760	1,381	25.7
1950	11,339	4,579	67.7
1960	12,358	1,019	9.0
1970	16,368	4,010	32.4
1980	19,340	2,972	18.2
1990	20,084	744	3.8
2000	23,142	3,058	15.2
2010	26,197	3,055	13.2
2014 <sup>a</sup>	26,386	189	0.7

NOTE: The Town of Mount Pleasant incorporated as a village in September 2003.

<sup>a</sup>Estimate provided by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, as of January 1, 2014.

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

**LAND USE BASE**

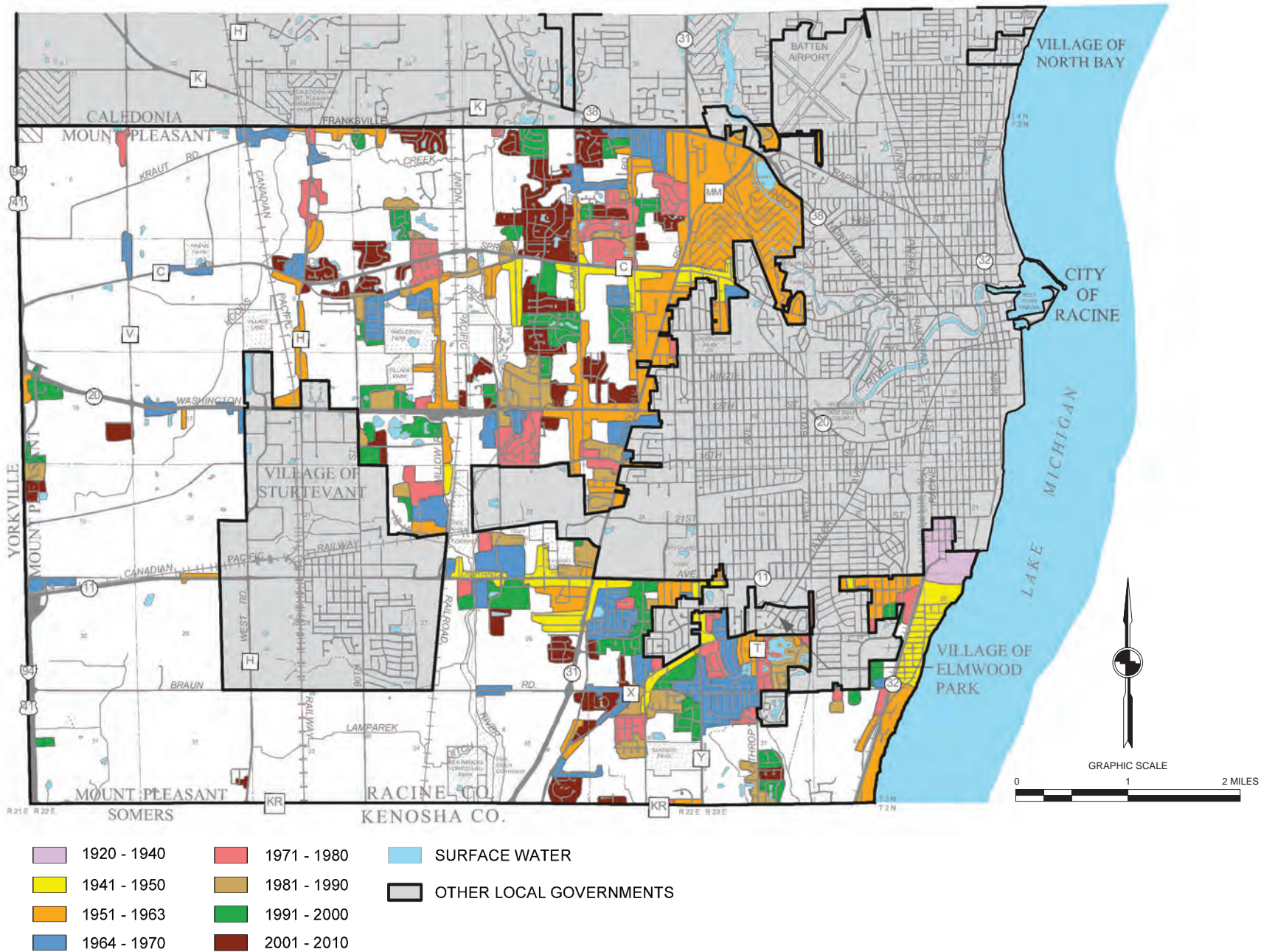
Land use is an important determinant of both the supply of, and the demand for, outdoor recreation, parks, and related open space sites and facilities. Accordingly, an understanding of the amount, type, and spatial distribution of urban and rural land uses within the Village, as well as the historical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

The historic pattern of urban growth in the Village of Mount Pleasant for selected years beginning in 1920 is shown on Map 2. Map 2 identifies areas of the Village where residential structures or other buildings have been constructed in relatively compact groups, thereby indicating concentrations of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, institutional, or other urban land uses. From 1920 to 1940, urban land uses were concentrated in the eastern portion of Mount Pleasant, south of the City of Racine near Lake Michigan. From 1941 to 1950, urban land uses were largely concentrated in the eastern and southeastern portions of Mount Pleasant along major streets and highways and along Lake Michigan. From 1920 to 1950, urban growth encompassed approximately 719 acres. By 1963, urban development continued to occur adjacent to the City of Racine, particularly around the Root River area, along Lake Michigan, near STH 31 and STH 11, and for the first time, in areas scattered throughout Mount Pleasant as far west as IH 94.

Mount Pleasant experienced the largest increase in urban development between 1951 and 1963 when an additional 1,963 acres were developed. By 1970, large residential subdivisions scattered throughout Mount Pleasant accounted for an additional 1,054 acres of urban development. In the years following 1970, the rate of urban growth slowed somewhat, but remained relatively constant at an average of about 735 acres for each 10-year period ending in 1980, 1990, and 2000. New residential subdivisions and expansions of existing subdivisions were prevalent during this period, as well as new commercial and industrial development, especially along major streets and highways. From 2000 to 2010, urban growth continued to occur throughout Mount Pleasant as residential subdivision development increased, particularly in the northern portion of the Village. From 2000 to 2010, about 1,000 acres were developed.

Map 2

GENERALIZED HISTORICAL URBAN GROWTH IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 1920-2010



Source: SEWRPC.

**Table 2**

**EXISTING LAND USES IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2010**

Land Use Category <sup>a</sup>	Acres	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of Total
Urban			
Residential			
Single-Family Residential.....	3,830	39.4	17.7
Multi-Family Residential <sup>b</sup> .....	354	3.6	1.6
Subtotal	4,184	43.0	19.3
Commercial .....	497	5.1	2.3
Industrial.....	611	6.3	2.8
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities			
Streets and Highways .....	1,830	18.8	8.4
Airports and Railways .....	165	1.7	0.8
Communications, Utilities, and Other Transportation.....	43	0.5	0.2
Subtotal	2,038	21.0	9.4
Governmental and Institutional.....	302	3.1	1.4
Parks and Recreational <sup>c</sup> .....	432	4.4	2.0
Undeveloped/Open Land Within Sewer Service Area.....	1,663	17.1	7.7
Subtotal	9,727	100.0	44.9
Nonurban			
Agricultural Lands.....	10,717	89.6	49.4
Landfill .....	10	0.1	-- <sup>d</sup>
Wetlands .....	643	5.4	3.0
Woodlands .....	326	2.7	1.5
Surface Water .....	235	2.0	1.1
Undeveloped/Open Land Outside Sewer Service Area .....	28	0.2	0.1
Subtotal	11,959	100.0	55.1
Total	21,686	--	100.0

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

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

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

<sup>d</sup>Less than 0.05 percent.

Source: SEWRPC.

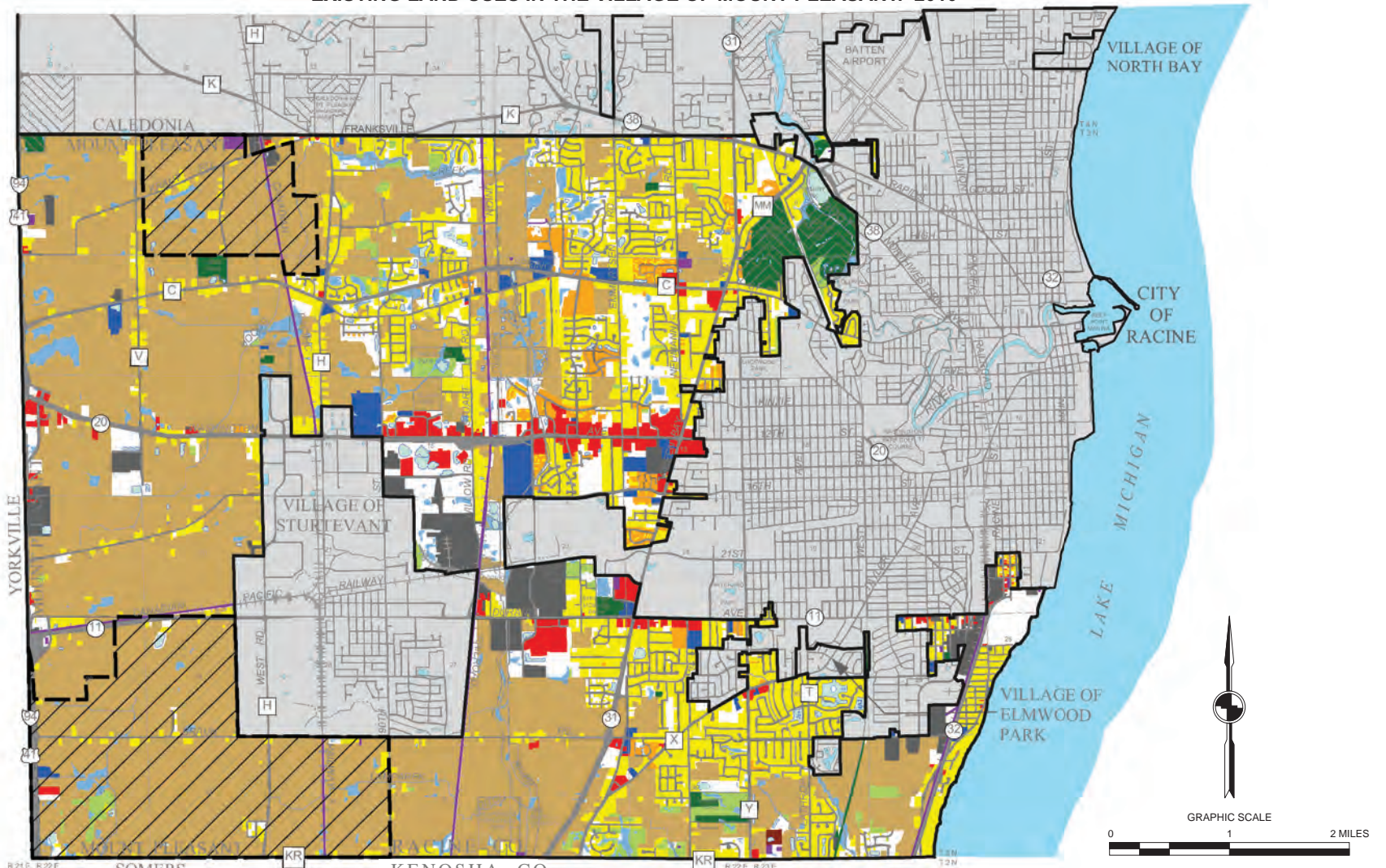
Information on the amount of land devoted to various types of land uses in the Village of Mount Pleasant in 2010 is presented in Table 2 and shown on Map 3. As previously noted, the Village of Mount Pleasant encompasses 21,686 acres, or about 34 square miles. The Village is almost completely surrounded by other incorporated municipalities (city and villages) within Racine County, which will prevent annexations by the Village, with the exception of the Town of Yorkville to the west. Although the Village is also adjacent to the Town of Somers in Kenosha County to the south, State law requires approval of the Town Board from which territory is proposed to be annexed if a city or village is proposing to annex territory outside the county in which it is located. An appeals court decision in 2013 determined that this requirement does not apply if the owners of a parcel across the county line request annexation.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>*Darboj Joint Sanitary District No. 1 and Town of Harrison v. City of Kaukauna, August 6, 2013, (2013 WI APP 113). The Wisconsin Supreme Court denied a petition to review the decision in 2014.*



Map 3

EXISTING LAND USES IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2010



- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL                    | PARKS AND RECREATIONAL                    | SURFACE WATER                                     |
| MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL                     | WETLANDS                                  | STREET RIGHTS-OF-WAY                              |
| COMMERCIAL                                   | WOODLANDS                                 | OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS                           |
| INDUSTRIAL                                   | LANDFILL                                  | PORTIONS OF VILLAGE OUTSIDE OF SEWER SERVICE AREA |
| TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, AND UTILITIES | AGRICULTURAL LANDS                        |   |
| GOVERNMENTAL AND INSTITUTIONAL               | UNDEVELOPED/OPEN URBAN AND NONURBAN LANDS |   |

Source: SEWRPC.

Residential uses accounted for the largest percentage of lands developed for urban use, encompassing 4,184 acres, or about 19 percent of the total area of the Village and about 43 percent of lands developed for urban use in 2010. Lands devoted to other urban uses, including commercial; industrial; transportation, communication, and utilities; governmental and institutional; and parks and recreational, together encompassed 3,880 acres, or about 18 percent of the total area of the Village in 2010. Undeveloped/open land in the sewer service area encompassed 1,663 acres, or about 8 percent of the Village. Thus, 9,727 acres, comprising about 45 percent of the total area of the Village, were devoted to urban uses in 2010.

About 11,959 acres, comprising about 55 percent of the total area of the Village, were devoted to nonurban uses in 2010. Agricultural lands occupied a significant portion of the Village, encompassing 10,717 acres, or about 49 percent of the total area of the Village and about 90 percent of lands in nonurban use in 2010. Natural resource areas, including wetlands, woodlands, and surface water, together encompassed 1,204 acres, or about 6 percent of the total area of the Village. Landfill areas encompassed 10 acres, or less than 1 percent of the Village, and undeveloped/open land outside the sewer service area accounted for less than 1 percent of the total area of the Village, or approximately 28 acres.

The Village of Mount Pleasant is served by a well-developed highway transportation system. Arterial streets and highways serving the Village include IH 94/USH 41, STH 11 (Durand Avenue), STH 20 (Washington Avenue), STH 31 (Green Bay Road), STH 32, STH 38, CTH C (Spring Street), CTH H, CTH K, CTH KR, CTH MM, CTH T, CTH V, CTH X, CTH Y, Airline Road, Braun Road, Chicory Road, Emmertsen Road, Kraut Road, Neumann Road, Stuart Road, Willow Road, and Wood Road. At the request of the Village, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is reviewing the functional classification of several streets that may be added to the arterial system.

In addition, three railway rights-of-way traverse the Village from north to south, including two lines owned by the Union Pacific Railroad and one line owned by the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway. All three lines carry freight traffic, and Amtrak trains also operate on the CP line. A shorter CP line extends east-west through the Village from IH 94/USH 41 to the Village of Sturtevant. John H. Batten Airport, located in the City of Racine northeast and adjacent to the Village, is a privately owned, public-use airport that provides two paved, lighted runways. The airport provides services to corporate, business, and private aircraft, and is the largest privately owned, public-use, reliever airport in the United States.

## **PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES**

### **Existing Park and Open Space Sites**

An inventory of existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the Village of Mount Pleasant was conducted in 2014. As indicated in Table 3 and shown on Map 4, there were 40 park and open space sites, which encompassed 1,527 acres, or about 7 percent of the Village. There were 33 publicly owned sites that encompassed 1,080 acres, or about 71 percent of the total park and open space site acreage. The remaining seven sites, encompassing 447 acres, or about 29 percent of the total park and open space site acreage, were privately owned.

Table 3 includes sites owned by Racine County, the Village of Mount Pleasant, the Village of Caledonia, the City of Racine, and the Racine Unified School District as public sites. School events and school district policies may limit the availability and use of facilities located on public school grounds to the general public.

As indicated in Table 4, the following recreational facilities were located in Village of Mount Pleasant parks and in the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park in 2014: three league ball diamonds, five sandlot ball diamonds, two tennis courts, eight playgrounds, eight playfields, three basketball goals, and 10 soccer fields. Other significant outdoor recreation facilities available within Mount Pleasant parks and the joint park include a dog park, a Kids Connection playground, sand volleyball courts, fishing areas, hiking trails, horseshoe pits, and multi-purpose trails.

Table 3

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2014

Number on Map 4	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres) <sup>a</sup>
	Public			
1	Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park – Undeveloped Park Site .....	T3N, R22E, Sections 34 and 35	Village of Mount Pleasant	87 <sup>b</sup>
2 <sup>c</sup>	Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park.....	T4N, R22E, Section 33	Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant	52
3	Colonial Park.....	T3N, R23E, Sections 7 and 8	City of Racine	6 <sup>d</sup>
4	Cozy Acres Park.....	T3N, R22E, Section 23	Village of Mount Pleasant	27
5	County-owned Land .....	T3N, R22E, Section 22	Racine County	3
6	County-owned Land .....	T3N, R22E, Section 35	Racine County	39
7	Dirkse Park.....	T3N, R23E, Section 31	Village of Mount Pleasant	1
8	Drozdz Park .....	T3N, R22E, Section 1	Village of Mount Pleasant	6
9	Haban Park .....	T3N, R22E, Section 8	Racine County	41
10	Hoods Creek Corridor (10 Parcels <sup>e</sup> ).....	T3N, R22E, Sections 2, 3, 4, 17, and 19	Village of Mount Pleasant	36
11	Horlick Park.....	T3N, R23E, Section 6	Racine County	14 <sup>f</sup>
12	James Turek Park .....	T3N, R22E, Section 25	Village of Mount Pleasant	6
13	J.I. Case High School.....	T3N, R22E, Section 14	Racine Unified School District	38 <sup>g</sup>
14	K-9 Commons Dog Park .....	T3N, R22E, Section 9	Village of Mount Pleasant	4
15	Lake Park .....	T3N, R23E, Sections 28 and 29	Village of Mount Pleasant	2
16	Lathrop Manor Subdivision Park.....	T3N, R23E, Section 31	Village of Mount Pleasant	3
17	Pheasant Creek Park .....	T3N, R22E, Section 11	Village of Mount Pleasant	4
18	Pike River Corridor.....	T3N, R22E, Sections 11, 14, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, and 35	Village of Mount Pleasant	339 <sup>h</sup>
19	Quarry Lake Park .....	T3N, R23E, Section 6	Racine County	38 <sup>i</sup>
20	Sanders Park.....	T3N, R22E, Section 36	Racine County	84
21	Sheridan Woods Park .....	T3N, R23E, Section 29	Village of Mount Pleasant	2
22	Smolenski Park .....	T3N, R22E, Section 10	Village of Mount Pleasant	72
23	Stewart-McBride Park .....	T3N, R22E, Section 23	Village of Mount Pleasant	16
24	Village Land – Open Space/Conservancy .....	T3N, R22E, Sections 8 and 9	Village of Mount Pleasant	70
25	Village Land – Open Space/Trail .....	T3N, R22E, Section 2	Village of Mount Pleasant	1
26	Village Land – Open Space/Conservancy .....	T3N, R23E, Section 31	Village of Mount Pleasant	2 <sup>j</sup>
27	Village Land – Open Space/Conservancy .....	T3N, R23E, Section 32	Village of Mount Pleasant	7
28	Village Land – Stormwater Basin .....	T3N, R22E, Section 1	Village of Mount Pleasant	2
29	Village Land – Stormwater Basin .....	T3N, R22E, Section 15	Village of Mount Pleasant	4
30	Village Land – Stormwater Basin .....	T3N, R22E, Section 13	Village of Mount Pleasant	11
31	Village Land – Stormwater Basin .....	T3N, R22E, Section 23	Village of Mount Pleasant	16
32	Village Civic Campus – Undeveloped Park Site .....	T3N, R22E, Section 15	Village of Mount Pleasant	38
33	West Ridge Elementary School.....	T3N, R22E, Section 13	Racine Unified School District	9 <sup>g</sup>
--	Subtotal – 33 Sites	--	--	1,080

**Table 3 (continued)**

Number on Map 4	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres) <sup>a</sup>
34	Private Meadow Brook Country Club .....	T3N, R23E, Sections 6 and 7	Private	149
35	Pike River Corridor Easements – (Seven Parcels) .....	T3N, R22E, Sections 14, 22, and 23	Private and Racine Unified School District	36 <sup>k</sup>
36 <sup>l</sup>	Racine Area Soccer Association .....	T4N, R22E, Section 33	Organizational	59
37	Racine Country Club .....	T3N, R23E, Sections 5, 6, and 7	Private	163 <sup>m</sup>
38	RCOC, Inc. ....	T3N, R23E, Section 29	Organizational	4
39	South Hills Country Club .....	T4N, R22E, Section 31; T3N, R22E, Section 6	Private	19 <sup>n</sup>
40	YMCA of Racine.....	T3N, R22E, Section 15	Organizational	17
--	Subtotal – Seven Sites	--	--	447
--	Total – 40 Sites	--	--	1,527

<sup>a</sup>Sites smaller than one acre were rounded up to one acre on this table. The narrative provides the exact size for Village-owned sites less than one acre.

<sup>b</sup>The site is adjacent to the Village-owned Pike River Corridor.

<sup>c</sup>Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park is located in the Village of Caledonia. The park is jointly owned and managed by the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant.

<sup>d</sup>Includes only the acreage located within the Village. The remaining 68 acres of the park are located in the City of Racine.

<sup>e</sup>Total of 10 parcels, including a portion of the Caledonia-Mount Pleasant Fire Station parcel located on Northwestern Avenue (CTH K) in Section 4 of the Village of Mount Pleasant.

<sup>f</sup>Includes only the acreage located within the Village. The remaining one acre of the park is located in the City of Racine.

<sup>g</sup>Includes only the acreage located within the active recreational areas or open space areas of the school site.

<sup>h</sup>Includes about nine acres located in the City of Racine and 36 acres of eased lands. The acreage does not include lands associated with the Village-owned, undeveloped Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park, which is adjacent to the corridor.

<sup>i</sup>Includes only the acreage located within the Village. The remaining four acres of the site are located in the City of Racine.

<sup>j</sup>Includes only the acreage located within the Village. The remaining one acre of the site is located in the City of Racine.

<sup>k</sup>Includes about six acres located in the City of Racine.

<sup>l</sup>Racine Area Soccer Association (SCORE Soccer Complex) is located adjacent to the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park in the Village of Caledonia.

<sup>m</sup>Includes only the acreage located within the Village. The remaining 24 acres of the site are located in the City of Racine.

<sup>n</sup>Includes only the acreage located within the Village. The remaining 141 acres of the site are located in the Village of Caledonia.

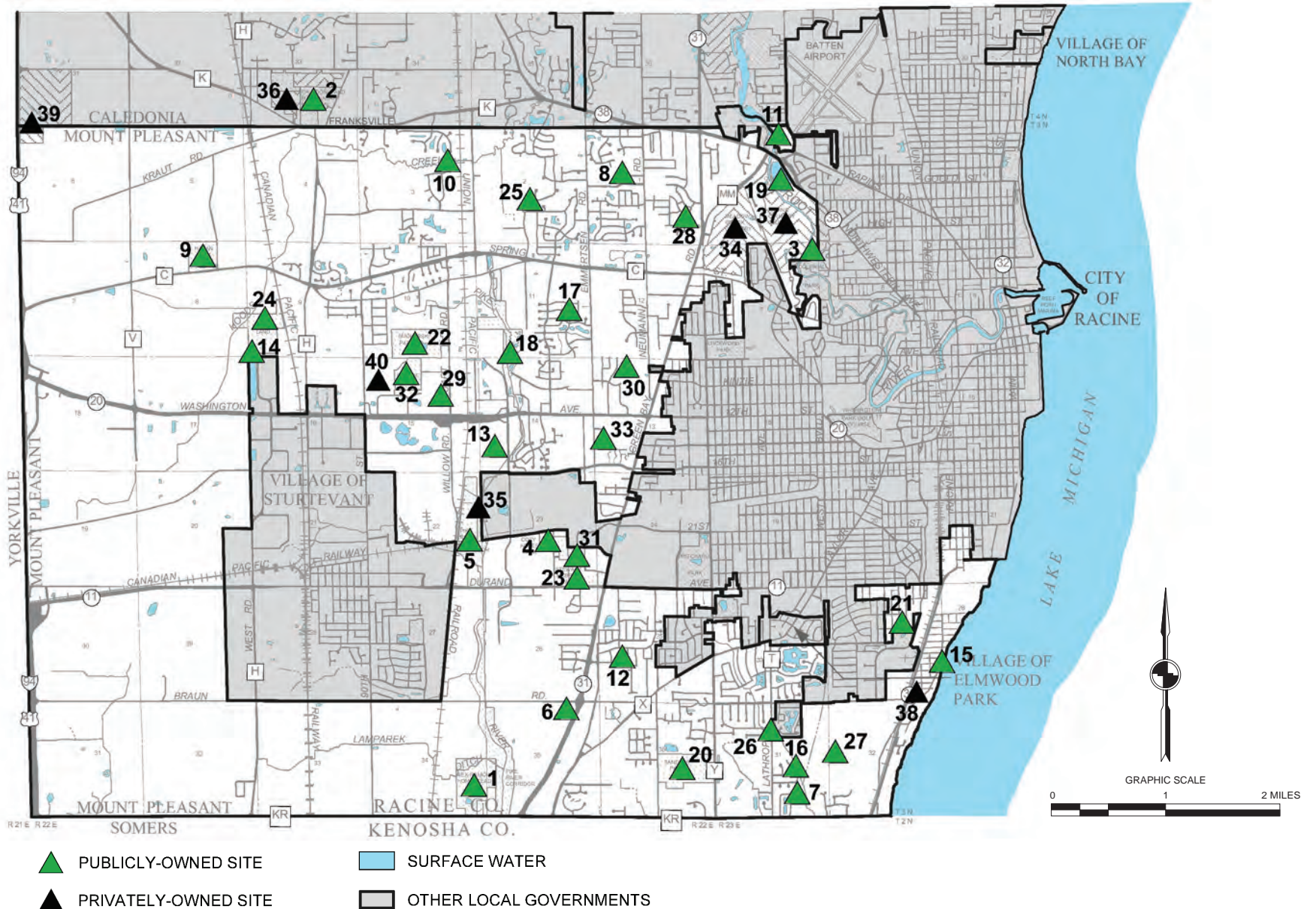
Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

Also indicated in Table 4 are the following recreational facilities located in Racine County parks, City of Racine parks, and Racine Unified School District sites within the Village of Mount Pleasant in 2014: 13 baseball diamonds, nine league ball diamonds, two sandlot ball diamonds, 12 tennis courts, three playgrounds, four playfields, two basketball goals, 10 soccer fields, and two swimming areas. Other significant outdoor recreation facilities located at County and City parks and school district sites within the Village include a football field, a running track, a dog park, a boat/canoe launch, a camping area, sand volleyball courts, fishing areas, and hiking trails.



Map 4

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2014



12 REFERENCE NUMBER  
(SEE TABLE 3)

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

Table 4

## SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES FOR GENERAL USE IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2014

Number on Map 4	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball-League Diamonds	Softball-Sandlot Diamonds	Play-Field	Play-Ground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer Field	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Other
	Public											
1	Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Undeveloped
2	Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park <sup>a</sup> .....	--	1 <sup>b</sup>	2	X	X	2	2	10 <sup>c</sup>	--	--	Sand Volleyball Courts, Picnicking, Restrooms, Kids Connection Playground, Horseshoe Pits, Shelters
3	Colonial Park.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nature Area, Trail, Hiking Trails, Picnic Area, Fishing, Shelter, Restrooms
4	Cozy Acres Park.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space, Trail
5	County-owned Land.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
6	County-owned Land.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Trail
7	Dirkse Park.....	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
8	Drozd Park.....	--	--	1	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	Picnic Shelter
9	Haban Park.....	12	7 <sup>d</sup>	--	X	X	--	1	7 <sup>e</sup>	--	--	Historical Exhibit, Shelters, Informal Picnic Areas, Restrooms, Concessions
10	Hoods Creek Corridor (10 Parcels).....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
11	Horlick Park.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Fishing, Restrooms Shelter, Boat/Canoe Launch
12	James Turek Park.....	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
13	J.I. Case High School.....	1	2	--	X	--	12	--	3	--	X	Running Track, Football Field, Scientific Area
14	K-9 Commons Dog Park.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dog Park
15	Lake Park.....	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
16	Lathrop Manor Subdivision Park.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
17	Pheasant Creek Park.....	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18	Pike River Corridor.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space, Trail, Fishing
19	Quarry Lake Park.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Sand Volleyball Courts, Picnicking, Pier, Fishing, Bath House, Trail, Karen A. Nelson Memorial Dog Park
20	Sanders Park.....	--	--	1	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	Camping (23 Sites), Hiking Trails, Eight Group Picnic Areas, Restrooms, Scientific Area
21	Sheridan Woods Park.....	--	--	1	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
22	Smolenski Park.....	--	--	1	X	X	--	1	--	--	--	Hiking Trails, Shelters, Picnicking, Horseshoe Pits, Sand Volleyball Court
23	Stewart-McBride Park.....	--	2	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	Sand Volleyball Courts, Hiking Trails, Shelter, Picnicking, Restrooms
24	Village Land – Open Space/Conservancy.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Undeveloped, Open Space Racine R/C Club
25	Village Land – Open Space/Trail.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space, Trail

**Table 4 (continued)**

Number on Map 4	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball-League Diamonds	Softball-Sandlot Diamonds	Play-Field	Play-Ground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer Field	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Other
	Public (continued)											
26	Village Land – Open Space/Conservancy.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
27	Village Land – Open Space/Conservancy.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
28	Village Land – Stormwater Basin.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
29	Village Land – Stormwater Basin.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
30	Village Land – Stormwater Basin.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
31	Village Land – Stormwater Basin.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
32	Village Civic Campus – Undeveloped Park Site.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Undeveloped
33	West Ridge Elementary School.....	--	--	1	X	X	--	1	--	--	--	--
	Subtotal - 33 Sites	13	12	7	12	11	14	5	20	--	2	--
	Private											
34	Meadow Brook Country Club.....	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	X	18-Hole Golf Course
35	Pike River Corridor Easements (Seven Parcels).....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area
36	Racine Area Soccer Association <sup>f</sup> .....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	--	--	Shelters, Restrooms
37	Racine Country Club.....	--	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	X	18-Hole Golf Course, Bath House, Platform Tennis Courts
38	RCOC, Inc.....	--	--	1	X	X	--	1	--	--	--	--
39	South Hills Country Club.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18-Hole Golf Course
40	YMCA of Racine.....	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Subtotal - 7 Sites	--	--	1	1	2	10	1	18	--	2	--
--	Total - 40 Sites	13	12	8	13	13	24	6	38	--	4	--

<sup>a</sup>Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park is located in the Village of Caledonia. The park is jointly owned and managed by the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant.

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

<sup>c</sup>Includes four soccer fields located at Caledonia-Mount Pleasant Memorial Park and six soccer fields located on adjacent Village of Caledonia-owned land. Both sites are located in the Village of Caledonia.

<sup>d</sup>The league softball diamonds are baseball diamonds that may also serve for softball use.

<sup>e</sup>The outfield grass areas of the baseball diamonds are used for soccer fields when baseball is not being played.

<sup>f</sup>Located adjacent to the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park in the Village of Caledonia.

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

Table 5

## VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT PARK SYSTEM: 2014

Number on Map 5	Site Name	Location	Type	Size (acres)
1	Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park – Undeveloped Park Site .....	T3N, R22E, Sections 34 and 35	Undeveloped Community Park	87 <sup>a</sup>
2 <sup>b</sup>	Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park.....	T4N, R22E, Section 33	Community Park	52
3	Cozy Acres Park.....	T3N, R22E, Section 23	Conservancy Area	27
4	Dirkse Park.....	T3N, R23E, Section 31	Playlot	1
5	Drozd Park.....	T3N, R22E, Section 1	Neighborhood Park	6
6	Hoods Creek Corridor (10 Parcels <sup>c</sup> ).....	T3N, R22E, Sections 2, 3, 4, 17, and 19	Conservancy Area	36
7	James Turek Park.....	T3N, R22E, Section 25	Neighborhood Park	6
8	K-9 Commons Dog Park.....	T3N, R22E, Section 9	Dog Park	4
9	Lake Park .....	T3N, R23E, Sections 28 and 29	Playlot	2
10	Lathrop Manor Subdivision Park.....	T3N, R23E, Section 31	Open Space Site	3
11	Pheasant Creek Park.....	T3N, R22E, Section 11	Undeveloped Neighborhood Park	4
12	Pike River Corridor .....	T3N, R22E, Sections 11, 14, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, and 35	Conservancy Area/Trail Corridor	339 <sup>d</sup>
13	Sheridan Woods Park.....	T3N, R23E, Section 29	Neighborhood Park	2
14	Smolenski Park.....	T3N, R22E, Section 10	Community Park	72
15	Stewart-McBride Park.....	T3N, R22E, Section 23	Community Park	16
16	Village Land – Open Space/Conservancy.....	T3N, R22E, Sections 8 and 9	Open Space Site	70
17	Village Land – Open Space/Trail .....	T3N, R22E, Section 2	Conservancy Area/Trail	1
18	Village Land – Open Space/Conservancy.....	T3N, R23E, Section 31	Conservancy Area	2 <sup>e</sup>
19	Village Land – Open Space/Conservancy.....	T3N, R23E, Section 32	Open Space Site	7
20	Village Land – Stormwater Basin .....	T3N, R22E, Section 1	Open Space Site	2
21	Village Land – Stormwater Basin .....	T3N, R22E, Section 15	Open Space Site	4
22	Village Land – Stormwater Basin .....	T3N, R22E, Section 13	Open Space Site	11
23	Village Land – Stormwater Basin .....	T3N, R22E, Section 23	Open Space Site	16
24	Village Civic Campus – Undeveloped Park Site.....	T3N, R22E, Section 15	Undeveloped Community Park	38
- -	Total – 24 Sites	- -	- -	808

<sup>a</sup>The site is adjacent to the Village-owned Pike River Corridor.

<sup>b</sup>Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park is located in the Village of Caledonia. The park is jointly owned and managed by the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant.

<sup>c</sup>Total of 10 parcels, including a portion of the Caledonia-Mount Pleasant Fire Station parcel located on Northwestern Avenue (CTH K) in Section 4 of the Village of Mount Pleasant.

<sup>d</sup>Includes about nine acres located in the City of Racine and 36 acres of eased lands. The acreage does not include lands associated with the Village-owned, undeveloped Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park, which is adjacent to the corridor.

<sup>e</sup>Includes about one acre located in the City of Racine.

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

Recreational facilities available at privately owned sites included one sandlot ball diamond, one playfield, two playgrounds, one basketball goal, 10 tennis courts, 18 soccer fields, two swimming pools, three 18-hole regulation golf courses, and platform tennis courts.

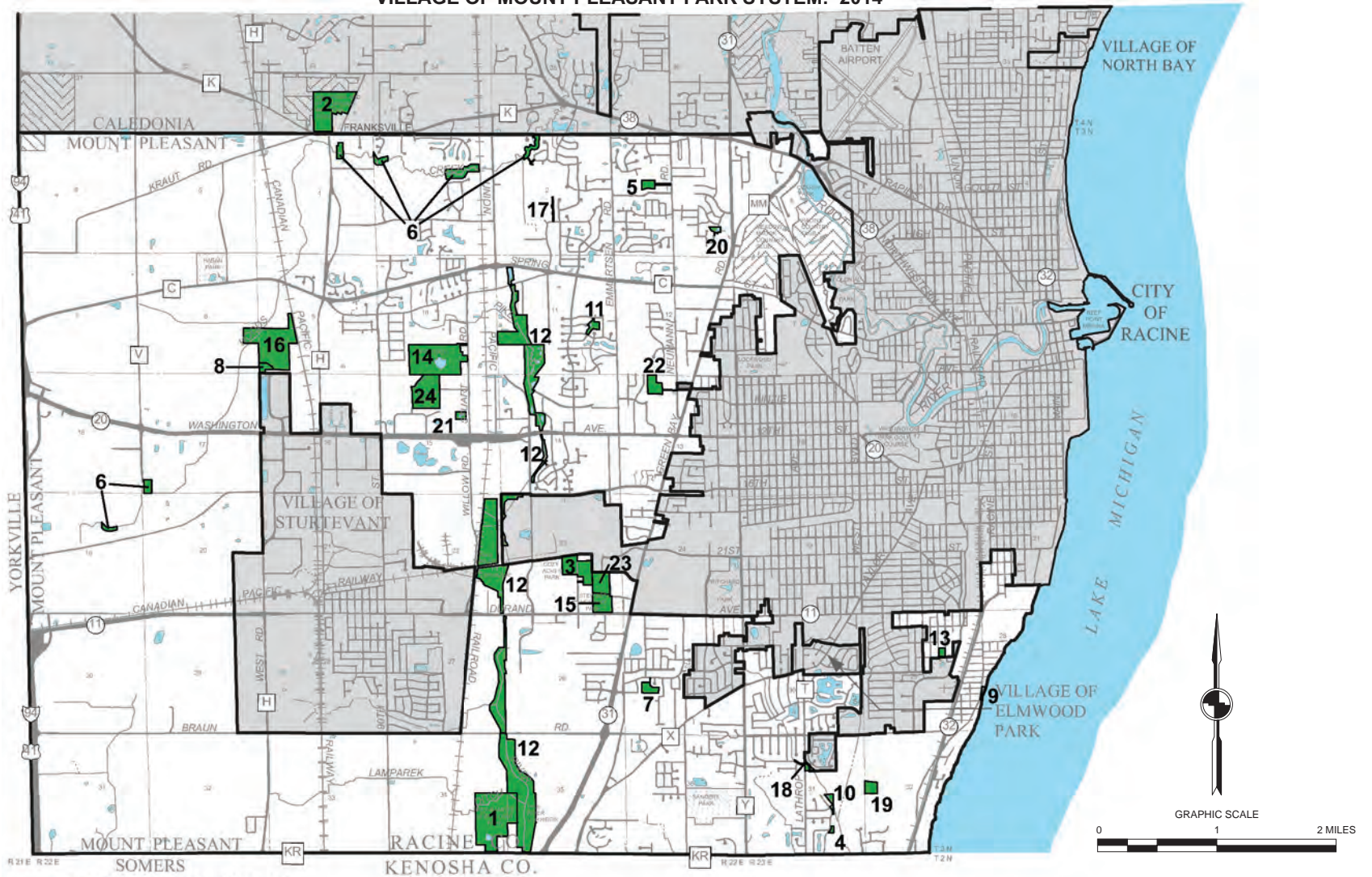
### Village of Mount Pleasant Park System


In 2014, the Village of Mount Pleasant owned 24 park and open space sites, encompassing a total of 808 acres, or about 4 percent of the Village. This represents an increase of 10 sites and 514 acres since 2000. The increase can be attributed to the acquisition of open space lands for the restoration and conservation of the Pike River corridor, with portions of the corridor developed with a multi-use trail, identifying other open space lands used for conservancy areas, and the acquisition of the Biex and Ramcke properties in the southern portion of the Village for use as a community park. The Village of Mount Pleasant park and open space sites range from one acre (Dirkse Park) to 339 acres (Pike River Corridor) in size. Park and open space sites owned by the Village are shown on Map 5 and listed in Table 5. A brief description of each of the 24 Village-owned park and open space sites is presented below.



Map 5

VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT PARK SYSTEM: 2014



 VILLAGE-OWNED PARK OR OPEN SPACE SITE (EXCLUDES EASEMENTS)

**12** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 5)

 SURFACE WATER

 OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

### ***Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park***

Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park is an 87-acre undeveloped community park located along the Pike River and Lamparek Ditch in the south-central portion of the Village. The site is planned to be used for the disposal of excavated material from the Pike River Restoration Project between Braun Road and CTH KR. The park is not expected to be developed until the Pike River Restoration Project is completed between 2015 and 2017 and the appropriate funds are available. The site contains a pond and wetlands. The site is new since the adoption of the previous park plan.

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

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

### ***Cozy Acres Park***

Cozy Acres Park is a 27-acre conservancy area centrally located within the Village adjacent to the City of Racine. A portion of the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail (formerly the Racine-Burlington Trail) runs through the site. The site also includes woodlands and wetlands within 17 acres of isolated natural resource area. In the previous park plan, the site was included as part of Stewart-McBride Park.

### ***Dirkse Park***

Dirkse Park is a one-acre playlot located in the southeastern portion of the Village. Facilities at this site include a playfield and a playground. The site also provides access to the County's North Shore Trail, which abuts the park.

### ***Drozd Park***

Drozd Park is a six-acre neighborhood park located in the northeastern portion of the Village. Facilities at this site include a playfield, a playground, a sandlot softball diamond, and a picnic shelter.

### ***Hoods Creek Corridor***

Hoods Creek Corridor includes Village-owned lands located along Hoods Creek in the northern and western portions of the Village. The Village owns these lands for conservancy purposes. The Village owns 10 parcels along the creek, including a four-acre portion of a parcel that contains the Caledonia-Mount Pleasant Fire Station. Together, these parcels encompass 36 acres, including 17 acres of secondary environmental corridor. Portions of the site also include the Hoods Creek Woods natural area. The site is new since the adoption of the previous park plan.

### ***James Turek Park***

James Turek Park is a six-acre neighborhood park located in the southeastern portion of the Village. The park includes a playfield. A wetland is also located within the park. Since adoption of the previous park plan, a playground was developed at the park. The park was known as Regency Hills Park in the previous park plan.

### ***K-9 Commons Dog Park***

K-9 Commons Dog Park is a four-acre dog park located in northwestern portion of the Village adjacent to the Village of Sturtevant. A wetland is also located within the park. In the previous park plan, the site was referred to as Town-Owned Land, and was undeveloped.

### ***Lake Park***

Lake Park is a two-acre playlot located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the southeastern portion of the Village. The park includes a playground. A primary environmental corridor encompasses the park.

### ***Lathrop Manor Subdivision Park***

Lathrop Manor Subdivision Park is a three-acre open space site located in the southeastern portion of the Village. The park includes wetlands and woodlands within an isolated natural resource area and a small portion of Sorensen Creek. The park was referred to as Unnamed Neighborhood Park in the previous park plan.

### ***Pheasant Creek Park***

Pheasant Creek Park is a four-acre neighborhood park located in the northeastern portion of the Village. A playfield and a pond are located at the park.

### ***Pike River Corridor***

The Pike River Corridor consists of Village-owned lands or lands associated with conservation easements located along the Pike River, which is centrally located within the Village from north to south. The Village owns these lands for conservancy purposes, but the corridor also includes fishing areas and the Pike River Pathway, a multi-use trail that currently extends from Old Spring Street almost to STH 20 (Washington Avenue) and another segment that runs from J.I. Case High School south to the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail (formerly the Racine-Burlington Trail). These lands were acquired as part of the Pike River project, an ecologically based watershed restoration and management plan for the Pike River watershed. The project is focused on increasing public education of the watershed area, protecting and restoring the river corridor, increasing and improving recreational access, increasing protected open space within the watershed, and achieving applicable water quality standards.

The site encompasses 339 acres, including 36 acres over which the Village has an easement. About 110 acres of secondary environmental corridor are included within Village ownership. The site is new since the adoption of the previous park plan, but a 10-acre portion of the site that was identified as Timmer Lane Park in the previous report is included as part of the corridor.

### ***Sheridan Woods Park***

Sheridan Woods Park is a two-acre neighborhood park located in the southeastern portion of the Village. Facilities at the site include a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, and a playground.

### ***Smolenski Park***

Smolenski Park is a 72-acre community park located in the north-central portion of the Village. Since adoption of the previous park plan, a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a basketball goal, a sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, open-air shelters, and appropriate support facilities, including parking and restrooms, were developed at the park. The park also provides hiking trails and includes woodlands, wetlands, and a pond within a 39-acre isolated natural resource area.

### ***Stewart-McBride Park***

Stewart-McBride Park is a 16-acre community park centrally located in the Village adjacent to STH 11. Facilities at this site include two league softball diamonds, a playfield, a playground, two sand volleyball courts, hiking trails, picnic areas, and appropriate support facilities, including parking, restrooms, and a shelter. In the previous park plan, the park encompassed 63 acres. The loss of parkland can be attributed to identifying 27 acres of land in the northern portion of the park as a new park (Cozy Acres Park) and another 16 acres of former parklands in the northern portion of the park as converted for stormwater management purposes.

The latter was a result of the Village selling land that was once the location of the Village Hall and other Village service buildings for stormwater management purposes to help control additional runoff as a result of commercial development in the previous Village Hall area. Additional open space land, a league softball diamond, and a sand volleyball court that were not associated with the park (but were located adjacent to the park on Village property associated with the Village Hall) were also lost due to new commercial development; however, the Village developed a new sand volleyball court adjacent to an existing court in Stewart-McBride Park.

***Village Land (Open Space/Conservancy)***

This site is a 70-acre open space site located in the northwestern portion of the Village, north of the Village of Sturtevant and west of and adjacent to the Canadian Pacific Railway (number 24 on Map 4). The site contains wetlands and woodlands within 16 acres of secondary environmental corridor. The Racine R/C Club, a private radio-controlled model aircraft organization, utilizes a portion of the site. The Village allows the R/C Club to use the land as long as the club members devote a total of four hours once a week during the summer months at the Village compost site, which is also part of the site. Approximately 40 acres of the site is either conservancy area or open space that may be utilized for the potential development of recreational facilities. A portion of Hoods Creek traverses the site. The site was referred to as Town-Owned Land in the previous park plan.

***Village Land (Open Space/Trail)***

This site is a one-acre conservancy area/trail located in the northern portion of the Village, north of Heritage Avenue and west of Raintree Lane (number 25 on Map 4). The site contains a 0.2-mile portion of a paved trail that the Village plans to extend to the north and south when additional residential development occurs. The site contains a small portion of a wetland. The site is new since the adoption of the previous park plan.

***Village Land (Open Space/Conservancy)***

This site is a two-acre conservancy area located in the southeastern portion of the Village. The site is located primarily on the east side of CTH T (Lathrop Avenue). A small portion of the site is also located in the City of Racine. A passive use area and manicured lawn are located on the west side of CTH T along the north side of Garden Drive (number 26 on Map 4). The site contains a wetland and a small portion of Sorenson Creek. The site is new since the adoption of the previous park plan.

***Village Land (Open Space/Conservancy)***

This site is a seven-acre open space site located in the southeastern portion of the Village, east of the County MRK Bike Trail and between Chicory Road and CTH KR (number 27 on Map 4). The site encompasses woodlands within an isolated natural resource area. The site is new since the adoption of the previous park plan.

***Village Land (Stormwater Basin)***

This site is a two-acre open space site located in the northeastern portion of the Village, west of STH 31 and south of Flambeau Drive and Menomonee Avenue (number 28 on Map 4). The site contains a stormwater detention pond. The site is new since the adoption of the previous park plan.

***Village Land (Stormwater Basin)***

This site is a four-acre open space site centrally located in the Village, north of Washington Avenue (STH 20) and west of Stuart Road (number 29 on Map 4). The site contains a wetland and a stormwater detention pond. The site is new since the adoption of the previous park plan.

***Village Land (Stormwater Basin)***

This site is an 11-acre open space site centrally located within the Village, north of Kinzie Avenue and east of Hunter Drive (number 30 on Map 4). The site contains a wetland encompassed within a seven-acre isolated natural resource area and serves as a stormwater detention basin. The site is new since the adoption of the previous park plan.

***Village Land (Stormwater Basin)***

This site is a 16-acre open space site centrally located within the Village, north of and adjacent to Stewart-McBride Park, east of and adjacent to Cozy Acres Park, and south of Regency West Drive and Loni Lane (number 31 on Map 4). The site contains a wetland/stormwater detention basin encompassed within a 10-acre isolated natural resource area. A portion of the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail (formerly the Racine-Burlington Trail) abuts the site. In the previous park plan, the site was associated with Stewart-McBride Park.

### ***Village Civic Campus***

Village Civic Campus is a 38-acre undeveloped community park centrally located within the Village. The site is part of the Village Civic Campus area developed in 2011 and is located along 90th Street north of STH 20. The site contains a wetland. The site is new since the adoption of the previous park plan.

### **Former Park Sites**

Since the adoption of the previous park plan, RCOC Park and Wayside Park have been removed from the Village park system. In the previous park plan, RCOC Park was leased to the Village by Racine County. The RCOC Park site is now owned by a private organization. Wayside Park was a passive use site, but the park was sold with the previous Village Hall and is now developed with commercial uses.

### **Racine County Parks**

Racine County owns six park sites within the Village of Mount Pleasant: an open space site, land associated with a portion of the Racine-Kansasville Trail (formerly the Racine-Burlington Trail), Haban Park, Horlick Park, Quarry Lake Park, and Sanders Park. Haban Park is located in the northwestern portion of the Village at the intersection of CTH C and Borgardt Road. The park encompasses 41 acres and includes 12 baseball diamonds, seven soccer fields, a playground, a playfield, a basketball goal, shelters, a concession stand, and restrooms. Sanders Park is located in the southeastern portion of the Village north of CTH KR and between CTH Y (Meachem Road) and Wood Road. The park encompasses 84 acres and includes a sandlot ball diamond, a playfield, a playground, 23 camping sites, hiking trails, eight group picnic areas, and restrooms. The park also includes a 65-acre isolated natural resource area consisting of woodlands, which contains the Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area.

Quarry Lake Park is a 42-acre park located in the northeastern portion of the Village along STH 38 and the Root River. A four-acre portion of the park is located in the City of Racine. The park includes a swimming beach, a sand volleyball court, a bath house, fishing areas, a picnic area, a trail, restrooms, and the Karen A. Nelson Memorial Dog Park. The park also contains a 29-acre portion of a primary environmental corridor and a 23-acre portion of the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries geological area identified in the regional natural areas plan.<sup>3</sup> Horlick Park is a 15-acre park located in the northeastern portion of the Village along the Root River north of Rapids Drive and southwest of the airport. A one-acre portion of the park is located in the City of Racine. The park includes a boat/canoe launch, a shelter, fishing areas, and restrooms. The park also contains a seven-acre portion of primary environmental corridor and a small portion of the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries geological area.

The County also owns two open space sites within the Village of Mount Pleasant. One open space site encompasses three acres, is centrally located within the Village, east of Willow Road and west of the Pike River, and is part of the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail (formerly the Racine-Burlington Trail). The site is a portion of an abandoned Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way that the County acquired for trail development (number 5 on Map 4). The other open space site encompasses 39 acres and is located in the south-central portion of the Village, southwest of the STH 31 and Braun Road intersection (number 6 on Map 4).

### **Trail Facilities**

Opportunities for trail-related outdoor recreation activities, such as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and cross-country skiing, are provided at trail facilities within park and open space sites in the Village, as noted on Table 4. The Village also provides the Pike River Pathway for biking and hiking and on-street bikeways on the north Frontage Road of STH 20, 90th Street, Stuart Road, Old Spring Street, Sunnyslope Drive, and Mariner Drive. The Pike River Pathway is located along the Pike River and is an off-street trail that extends from Old Spring Street

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<sup>3</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997. An update to the plan was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission in December 2010.*



south to near STH 20 (Washington Avenue) and another segment that runs from J.I. Case High School to the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail (formerly the Racine-Burlington Trail). The pathway is linked to an on-street bikeway segment at Old Spring Street, which in turn, is linked to Stuart Road, the Frontage Road, and 90th Street. These bikeways provide access to Smolenski Park and the Village Civic Campus area. The pathway is also linked to an on-street bikeway segment at Mariner Drive that extends east to Sunnyslope Drive which provides access to businesses along STH 20. The Village provides about 10 miles of trails and bikeways. Existing Village trails and bikeways outside of looped trails in park and open space sites are shown on Map 6.

Racine County maintains the MRK Trail, the North Shore Trail, and the Racine-Kansasville Trail, which provide opportunities for hiking and biking within the Village and environs. The Racine-Kansasville Trail was previously referred to as the Racine-Burlington Trail in the existing Village park plan. The MRK Trail extends from the northern portion of the City of Racine northward to Milwaukee County. The North Shore Trail extends from the southern portion of the City of Racine southward to Kenosha County. The Racine-Kansasville Trail extends westward from the North Shore Trail near West Boulevard in the City of Racine to 96th Street in the Village of Sturtevant, just west of the Village of Mount Pleasant. Portions of the North Shore Trail and Racine-Kansasville Trail are located within the Village. Racine County has also developed a 100-mile, signed on-street bike route throughout the County. A portion of the on-street bike route within the Village runs from CTH KR west to Wood Road, north to CTH X (Taylor Avenue), west to Braun Road, west to CTH H, south to CTH KR, and west to IH-94 and continuing into the Town of Yorkville. Existing County trails/bike routes within the Village encompass about 12 linear miles, and are also shown on Map 6.

The City of Racine also provides two pathways, the Lake Michigan Pathway and the Root River Pathway, for biking and hiking. These pathways provide Village residents with access to destination points within the City, such as the downtown area and Lake Michigan. Village residents can access the Root River Pathway through the County's Racine-Kansasville or North Shore Trails, while the Lake Michigan Pathway can be accessed by the North Shore Trail. The Lake Michigan Pathway is about 10 miles in length and traverses north to south within the City near the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Root River Pathway is about four miles in length and is primarily located along the Root River. The pathway also connects to the County's MRK Trail on the north side of the City. These pathways are also shown on Map 6.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES**

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

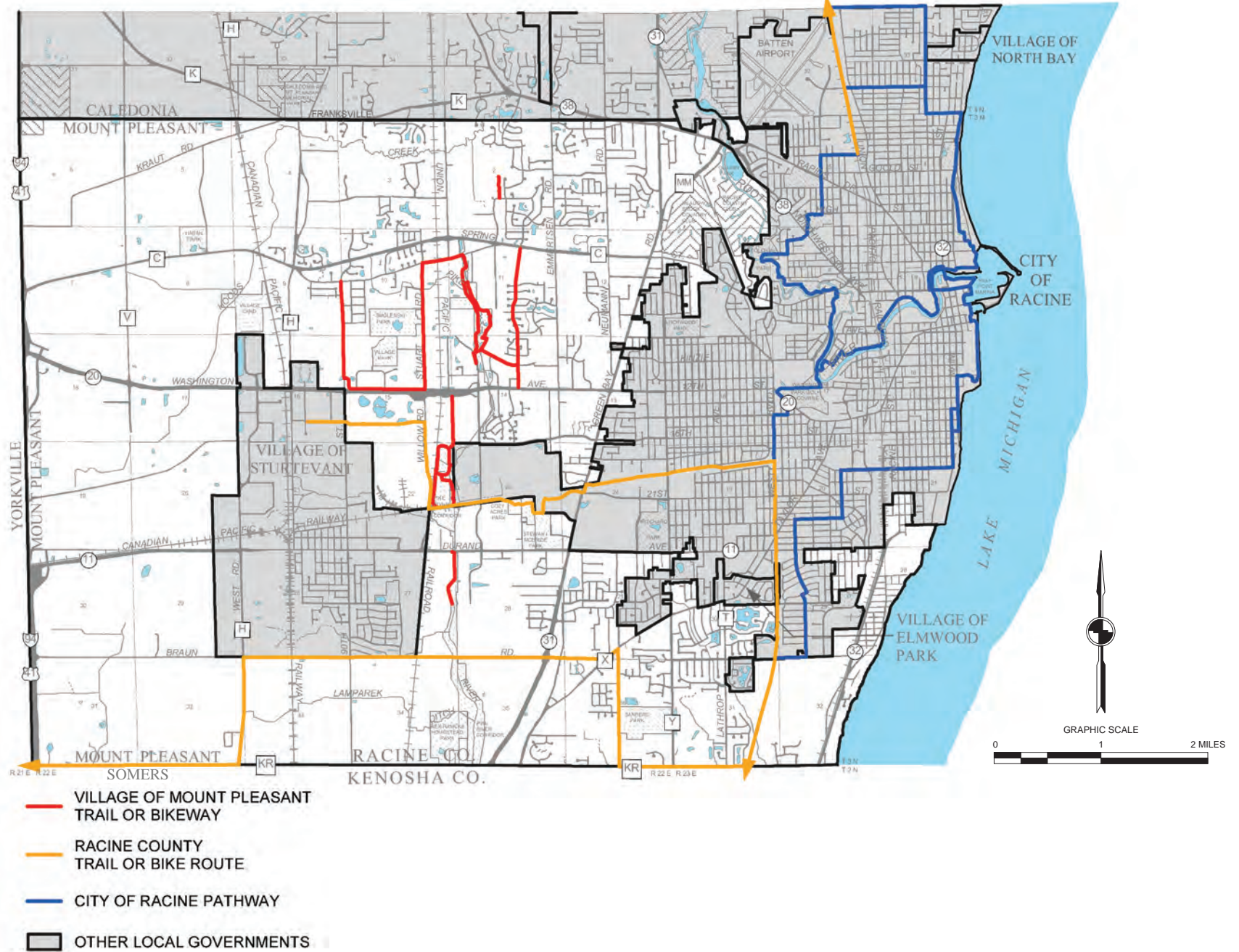
### **Surface Water Resources**

Surface water resources and associated floodplains form an important element of the natural resource base of the Village of Mount Pleasant. The Village consists of the Root River watershed, the Pike River watershed, Des Plaines River watershed, and a watershed that drains directly to Lake Michigan. The Root River, Pike River, and direct drainage watersheds drain to Lake Michigan, while the Des Plaines River watershed, located in the southwestern portion of the Village, ultimately drains to the Mississippi River. Major streams, lakes, and watersheds are shown on Map 7.

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

Map 6

EXISTING TRAILS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT AND ENVIRONS: 2013

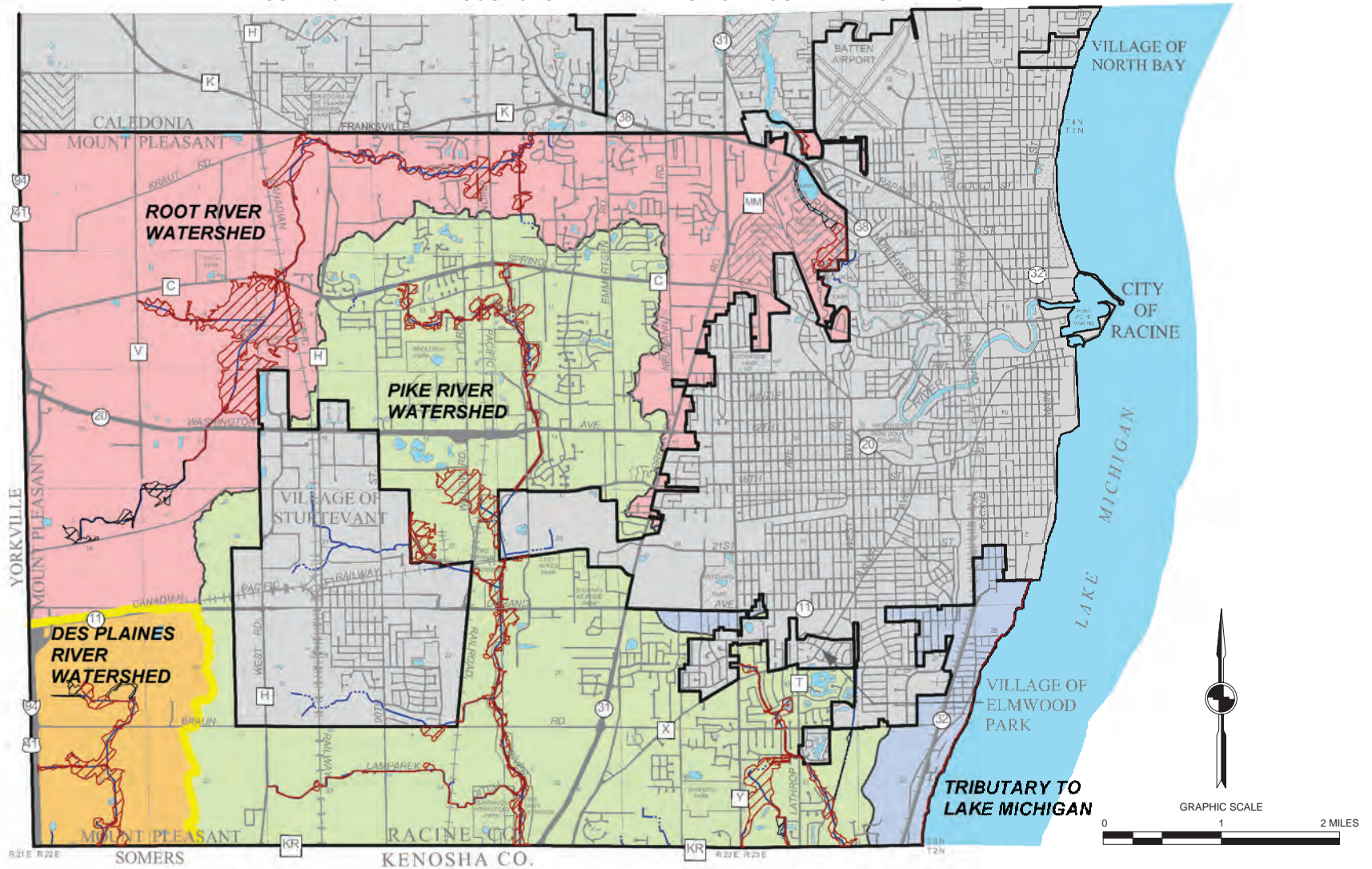


Source: SEWRPC.



Map 7

**SURFACE WATER RESOURCES IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2012**



- 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN BASED ON KNOWN ELEVATIONS
- 100-YEAR APPROXIMATE FLOODPLAIN (ELEVATIONS NOT DETERMINED)
- SURFACE WATER
- SUB-CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
- PERENNIAL STREAM
- INTERMITTENT STREAM
- OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

NOTE: Floodplains shown are based on May 2012 data.

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and SEWRPC.



Approximately 24 linear miles of streams have been identified in the Village. Perennial streams<sup>4</sup> within the Village include the Root River, Pike River, Hoods Creek, Sorenson Creek, Waxdale Creek, Chicory Creek, Nelson Creek, Kilbourn Road Ditch, and Lamparek Ditch. The Root River and Pike River provide opportunities for fishing and canoe/kayaking within the Village.

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

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

Floodplain maps for both incorporated and unincorporated areas were updated under a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Modernization Program for Racine County. Final floodplain maps for the Village of Mount Pleasant and Racine County were completed in May 2012. The floodplain delineations are shown on Map 7, and include floodplains located along the Lake Michigan shoreline, the Root River, Pike River, Hoods Creek, Sorenson Creek, Nelson Creek, Chicory Creek, Waxdale Creek, Kilbourn Road Ditch, and Lamparek Ditch.

The entire stretch of the Pike River within the Village of Mount Pleasant, approximately six miles, is planned to undergo river and corridor restoration. The Pike River Restoration Project is expected to control flooding to protect personal property, enhance stormwater management, improve water quality and fish habitat, protect wetlands, and establish an improved environmental corridor. Floodplain storage areas will be developed to create a new riparian corridor with improved biodiversity through the installation of ponds, shallow and deep marshes, and a new meandering base flow channel. The restoration project is a nine-phase process which began in 2002 and is expected to continue through 2015.

To date, Phases 1 through 6 have been completed, including stretches of the Pike River from Old Spring Street south to one-half mile south of STH 11 (Durand Avenue). Preliminarily, Phase 7 is expected to be completed in 2015 and Phases 8 and 9 are expected to be completed between 2015 and 2017. Thus far, the Pike River Restoration Project has increased flood storage, expanded the existing environmental corridor, improved water quality and aquatic habitat, restored and increased wetlands, and provided a portion of a recreational trail system. The Village of Mount Pleasant plans to continue the Pike River restoration by implementing low-flow channel improvements, expanding in-stream habitats to increase fish and other aquatic wildlife diversity, constructing storm water basins/ponds, restoring riparian areas, replacing invasive plant species with native prairie vegetation and plant emergents (plants that grow in water and are visible above the surface), and expanding the Pike River Pathway recreation trail. The Village also plans to acquire additional lands along the Pike River to expand the functioning environmental corridor.

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<sup>4</sup>*Perennial streams are defined as watercourses that maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. Intermittent streams are defined as watercourses that do not maintain a continuous flow throughout the year.*

Certain portions of the Pike River floodplain associated with the Pike River Restoration Project have been incorporated into the FEMA Map Modernization Program. Phases 1 through 3 have been included in the Map Modernization Program, and includes those stretches of the Pike River from Old Spring Street south through the J.I. Case High School property, which abuts the City of Racine. The remaining portion of the Pike River floodplain downstream within the Village has been delineated on the FEMA maps to account for the stream channel and stormwater management restoration and improvements made upstream. The WDNR will continue to evaluate the remaining portions of the Pike River floodplain downstream within the Village through a phase-by-phase process and plans to revise and amend the floodplain maps once the formal application and review process has been completed.

The Map Modernization Program identifies the 100-year floodplain, including floodway and floodfringe areas and the 500-year floodplain. The 100-year floodplain information consists of floodplains delineated by known flood elevations, often referred to as “detailed” floodplains, and “approximate” floodplains where flood elevations have not been precisely determined. These “approximate” floodplains were based on less precise floodplain maps and other factors, such as soil type and vegetative growth. Detailed floodplains have been identified along all major streams and tributaries and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Approximate floodplains have been identified along the Root River near Quarry Lake Park, along the western reaches of Hoods Creek, along the northern reaches of the Kilbourn Road Ditch, and along an intermittent stream east of CTH T (Lathrop Avenue). The 100-year floodplain encompasses 1,185 acres, or about 5 percent of the Village.

The dispersal of urban land uses over large areas and the accompanying increase in impervious areas increases stormwater runoff, which must be accommodated by a stream network or by engineered stormwater management systems. Such facilities may include 1) curbs and gutters, 2) catch basins and inlets, 3) storm sewers, 4) infiltration facilities, and 5) stormwater storage facilities for quantity and quality control such as dry and wet detention basins, respectively. Detention basins serve to moderate peak rates of runoff following rainstorms and wet detention basins further provide a permanent volume of water to capture and store pollutants. The ponds or storage basins provide floodwater and stormwater management benefits, and may provide opportunities for limited outdoor recreation use, such as fishing and ice skating. There are numerous stormwater basins located in the Village, including some located within Village-owned parks or open space sites.

### **Wetlands**

For planning and regulatory purposes,<sup>5</sup> wetlands are commonly defined as areas in which the water table is at, near, or above the land surface and which are characterized by both hydric soils and the growth of sedges, cattails, and other wetland vegetation. Wetlands generally occur in depressions and near the bottom of slopes, particularly along lakeshores and stream banks, and on large land areas that are poorly drained.

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

Wetlands within the Village of Mount Pleasant are shown on Map 3, and in 2010, encompassed 643 acres, or about 3 percent of the Village. A good portion of wetlands within the Village is located north of STH 20.

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<sup>5</sup>*Wetlands are regulated under Chapters 103 and 117 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code and Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act.*

## **Woodlands**

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

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

Woodlands encompass 326 acres, or about 2 percent of the Village. As shown on Map 3, woodlands are scattered throughout the Village, but larger portions of woodlands are located within the County-owned Sanders Park, the Village-owned Cozy Acres Park and Smolenski Park, and along the Kilbourn Road Ditch.

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

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

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

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

The preservation of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in essentially natural, open uses can help reduce flood flows, reduce noise pollution, and maintain air and water quality. Corridor preservation is important to the movement of wildlife and for the movement and dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. In addition, because of the many interacting relationships between living organisms and their environment, the

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<sup>6</sup>A detailed description of the process of refining the delineation of environmental corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin is presented in SEWRPC Technical Record, Vol. 4, No. 2, Pages 1 through 21, Refining the Delineation of Environmental Corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin, March 1981 (available at [www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPC/LandUse/EnvironmentalCorridors.htm](http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPC/LandUse/EnvironmentalCorridors.htm) or by contacting the Commission).

destruction and deterioration of any one element of the natural resource base may lead to a chain reaction of deterioration and destruction. The draining and filling of wetlands, for example, may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, and the natural filtration action and flood water storage functions of interconnecting stream systems. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to deterioration of the quality of groundwater, which serves as a source of domestic, municipal, and industrial water supply in many areas and on which low flows in rivers and streams may depend. Similarly, the destruction of woodland cover may result in soil erosion and stream siltation, more rapid stormwater runoff and attendant increased flood flows and stages, and destruction of wildlife habitat.

**Table 6**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2010**

Corridor Type	Acres	Percent <sup>a</sup>
Primary Environmental Corridor .....	154	0.7
Secondary Environmental Corridor.....	514	2.4
Isolated Natural Resource Area.....	523	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>5.5</b>

<sup>a</sup>Percent of the Village (21,686 acres) within corridor.

Source: SEWRPC.

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

***Primary Environmental Corridors***

As shown on Map 8, primary environmental corridors are located along the Lake Michigan shoreline and the Root River. As indicated in Table 6, these corridors encompassed a total area of 154 acres, or about 1 percent of the Village, which is a decrease in the number of acres within primary environmental corridors in the Village that existed in the previous edition of this report. The difference can be attributed to areas adjacent to the Lake Michigan shoreline that were considered part of the primary environmental corridor in previous Commission inventories, but have been removed from the environmental corridor where natural resources have been diminished.

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

***Secondary Environmental Corridors***

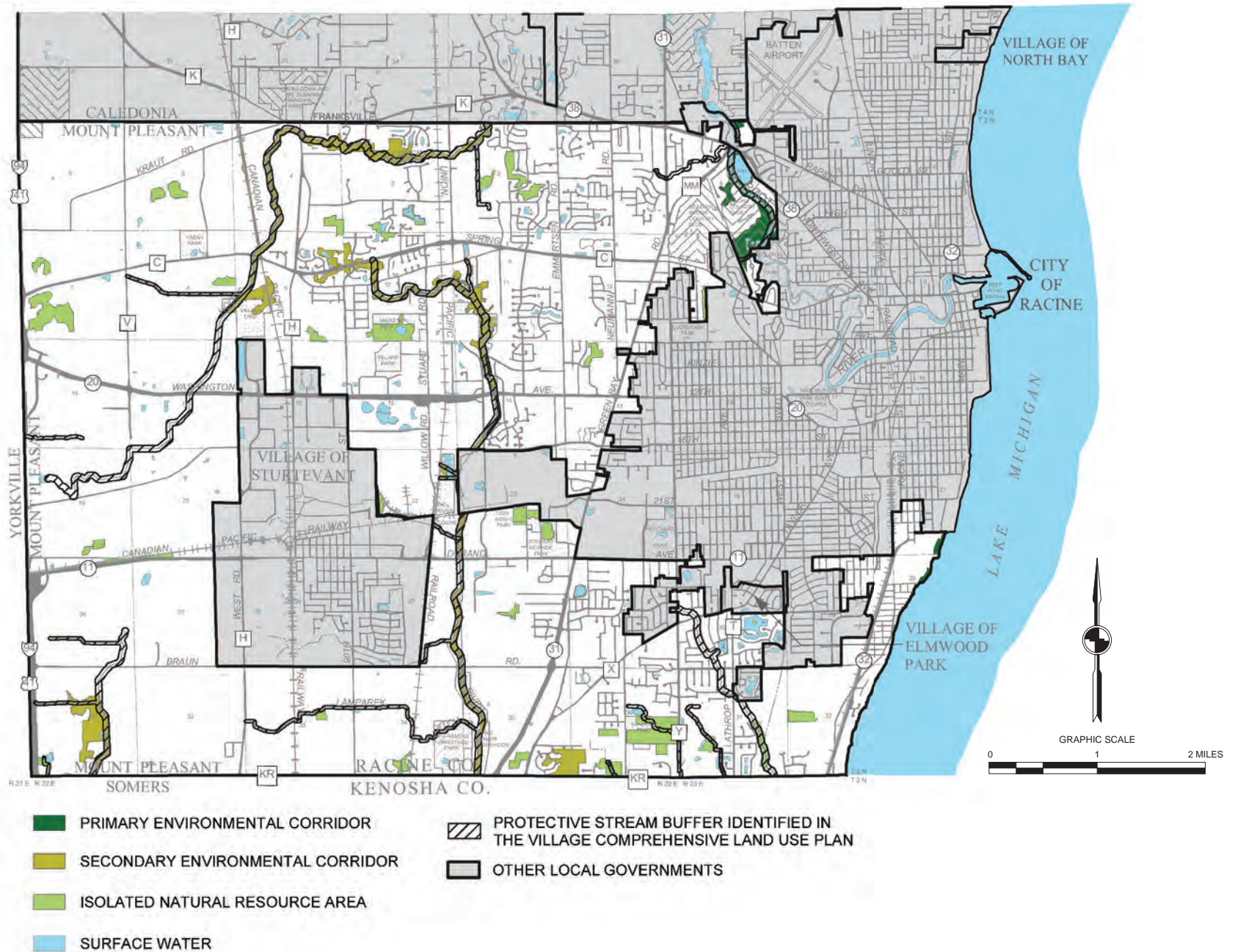
As shown on Map 8, secondary environmental corridors in the Village of Mount Pleasant are located along the Pike River, Hoods Creek, Kilbourn Road Ditch, and the Campbell Woods area located in the south-central portion of the Village. Secondary environmental corridors encompass 514 acres, or about 2 percent of the Village, which is a decrease in the number of acres within secondary environmental corridors in the Village that existed in the previous edition of this report. The difference can be attributed to residential development that has occurred in the Campbell Woods area resulting in the loss of woodlands.

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



Map 8

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND STREAM BUFFERS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2010



Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

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

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

As shown on Map 8 and Table 6, isolated natural resource areas are scattered throughout the Village, with a good portion of the areas located within publicly owned park and open space sites. Isolated natural resource areas encompass 523 acres, or about 2 percent of the Village.

Map 8 also includes areas identified as protective buffers along major streams and other tributaries within the Village. The stream buffers are identified on the Village comprehensive (master) land use plan map adopted in January 2014. The protective riparian buffers include a 150-foot setback on both sides of all major streams, including the Root River, Pike River, Des Plaines River, Hoods Creek, and Sorenson Creek, and a 75-foot setback on both sides of other tributaries, including Chicory Creek, Lamparek Ditch, Nelson Creek, Waxdale Creek, and other tributaries within the Village. The stream buffer areas should be preserved and protected to the extent practicable. The preservation and protection of the riparian buffers will reduce stormwater runoff, enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats, limit nonpoint source pollution, and improve overall water quality.

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

A comprehensive inventory of natural areas and critical species habitat sites in Southeastern Wisconsin was completed in 1994 by WDNR and SEWRPC. The natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological sites inventory was updated in 2009.<sup>7</sup> Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European-settlement landscape. Natural areas are classified into one of the following three categories: natural areas of Statewide or greater significance (NA-1), natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2), or natural areas of local significance (NA-3). Classification of an area into one of these three categories is based on consideration of the diversity of plant and animal species and community types present; the structure and integrity of the native plant or animal community; the extent of disturbance by human activity, such as logging, grazing, water level changes, and pollution; the commonness of the plant and animal communities present; any unique natural features within the area; the size of the area; and the educational value and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement.

As indicated on Map 9 and described in Table 7, five natural areas, two of which are considered to be of Statewide or greater significance, were identified in the Village of Mount Pleasant. The four-acre Franksville Railroad Prairie located along the Canadian Pacific Railway north of CTH C and the 56-acre Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area located in the County-owned Sanders Park are the two sites of countywide or greater significance identified in the 2009 inventory. A 21-acre portion of the Colonial Woods natural area is also located in the Village of Mount Pleasant. The natural area is located in the northeastern portion of the Village along the Root River and is considered to be of countywide or regional significance. The Colonial Woods natural area was not identified in the 1994 inventory. Two natural areas of local significance were also identified within the Village, the 11-acre Sylvania Railroad Prairie and the 72-acre Hoods Creek Woods natural areas. The Hoods Creek Woods natural area was not identified in the 1994 inventory.

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<sup>7</sup>The results of the 1994 inventory are documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997. The plan update is documented in SEWRPC Amendment to Planning Report No. 42, Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.

Table 7

**NATURAL AREAS, CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES,  
AND GEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2009**

Number on Map 9	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Franksville Railroad Prairie	NA-1	T3N, R22E Sections 4 and 9	Private	4	A very rich and diverse remnant of mesic and wet-mesic prairie, located on west side of railway right-of-way. Contains some of the best such remnants in the Region. Regionally uncommon species include wild quinine ( <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> ), prairie Indian plantain ( <i>Cacalia tuberosa</i> ), and marsh blazingstar ( <i>Liatris spicata</i> )
2	Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	T3N, R22E Section 36	Racine County	56	Good-quality southern dry-mesic forest on two low ridges separated by a lowland swale. Good size-class distribution of tree species, including a number of large walnut trees. The ground flora is rich and diverse and includes several large patches of goldenseal ( <i>Hydrastis canadensis</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
3	Colonial Park Woods	NA-2	T3N, R23E Sections 6 and 7	City of Racine and Private	21 <sup>b</sup>	Complex of lowland hardwoods, floodplain forest, and upland mesic to dry-mesic woods bordering the Root River. A number of uncommon species are present, including the State-designated endangered bluestemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ) and the State-designated threatened forked aster ( <i>Aster furcatus</i> )
4	Hoods Creek Woods	NA-3	T3N, R22E Sections 3 and 4	Village of Caledonia, Village of Mount Pleasant, and Private	72	Mix of upland and lowland woods along Hoods Creek
5	Sylvania Railroad Prairie	NA-3	T3N, R22E Sections 20 and 30	Private	11	Mesic prairie remnant extending one mile east of IH 94 along railway right-of-way. Moderate quality, with a good population of wild quinine ( <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> ), a State-designated threatened species
6	Campbell Woods	CSH	T3N, R22E Sections 35 and 36	Private	43	Formerly of NA-3 status, extensive residential development has reduced the wooded acreage. The State-designated special concern red trillium ( <i>Trillium recurvatum</i> ) remains
7	Waxdale Railroad Prairie	CSH	T3N, R22E Section 22	Village of Mount Pleasant and Private	1	Small, disturbed patches of remnant prairie supporting two critical species: wild quinine ( <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> ) and waxy meadow rue ( <i>Thalictrum revolutum</i> )

Table 7 (continued)

Number on Map 9	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
8	Willow Woods	CSH	T3N, R22E Section 36	Private	4	Small woodland supporting red trillium ( <i>Trillium recurvatum</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
9	Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries	GA-1	T3N, R23E Section 6	Racine County and Private	31 <sup>c</sup>	Natural bluffs and old quarries along the Root River, with exposures of richly fossiliferous Racine Dolomite reef strata. Site has produced the largest known diversity of fossil marine organisms from any Silurian reef in the world. Considered for designation as a National Historic Landmark in the History of Science
10	Kilbourn Road Ditch	AQ-3 (RSH)	T3N, R22E Sections 30 and 31	--	2.8 <sup>d</sup> miles	Sedimentation and other water quality problems exist, but this reach is an important reservoir for the pirate perch, a special concern fish species
11	Pike River downstream from Pike Creek (includes Sorenson Creek)	AQ-3 (RSH)	T3N, R23E Section 31	--	1.0 <sup>d</sup> miles	Bisects identified Natural Area; critical fish species present
12	Root River downstream from Nicholson Road to STH 38	AQ-3 (RSH)	T3N, R23E Section 6	--	0.2 <sup>d</sup> miles	Critical herptile species habitat
13	Root River downstream from STH 38 to Spring Street	AQ-3 (RSH)	T3N, R23E Sections 6 and 7	--	1.1 <sup>d</sup> miles	Critical herptile species habitat

<sup>a</sup>NA-1 identifies Natural Areas of statewide or greater significance

NA-2 identifies Natural Areas of countywide or regional significance

NA-3 identifies Natural Areas of local significance

CSH identifies Critical Species Habitat sites

GA-1 identifies Geological Areas of statewide or greater significance

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

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

AQ-3 identifies Aquatic Areas of local significance.

<sup>b</sup>Includes only the acreage located in the Village. Total acreage is 94 acres. The City of Racine owns a 64-acre portion of the site. The remaining acreage is under private ownership.

<sup>c</sup>Includes only the acreage located in the Village. Total acreage is 32 acres. Racine County owns a 24-acre portion of the site. All remaining acreage is under private ownership.

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

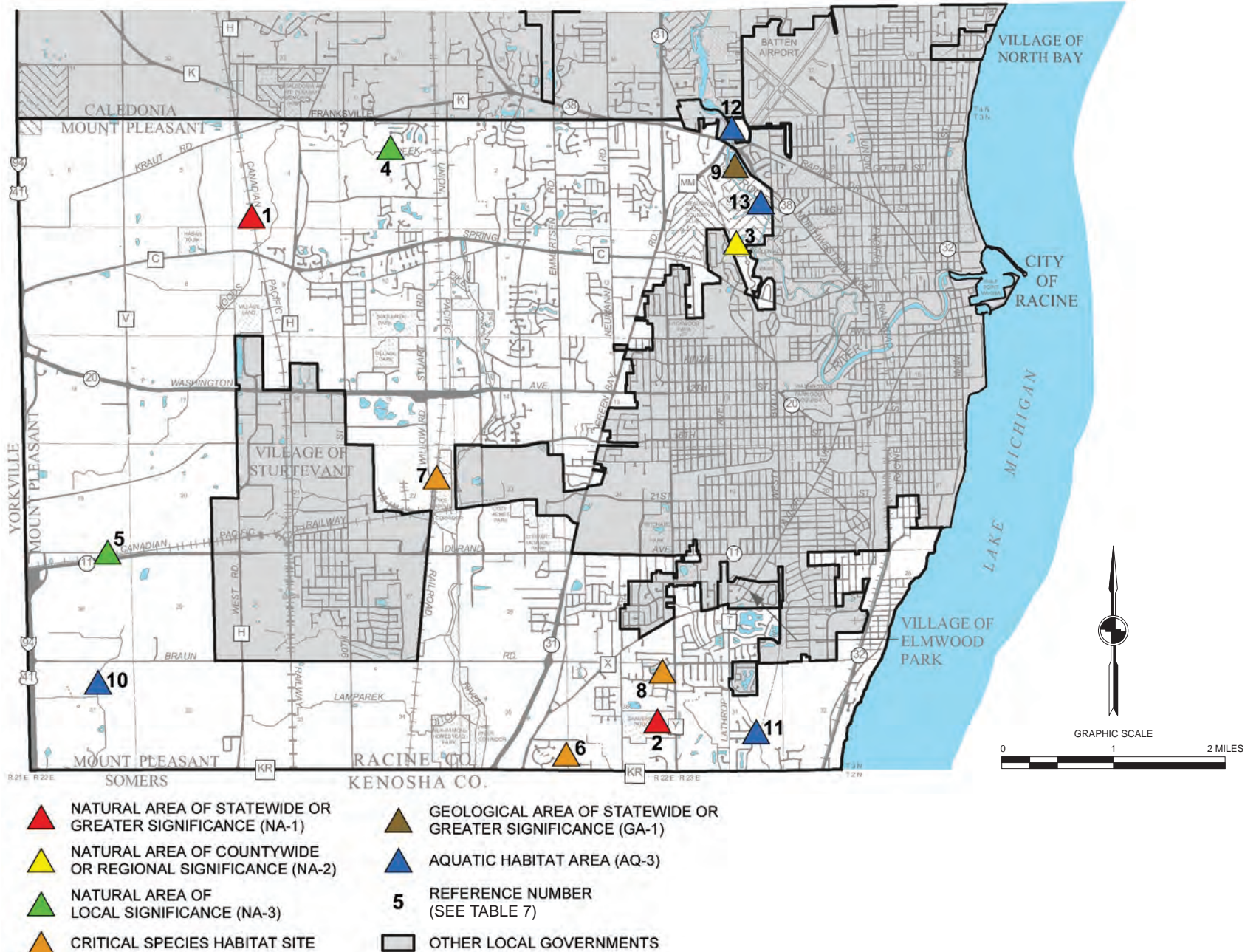
Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.








Critical species habitat sites are defined by the Regional Planning Commission as areas outside natural areas that support rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species. Three critical species habitat sites have been identified within the Village. The three sites are also shown on Map 9 and Table 7 and encompass 48 acres. The Campbell Woods critical species habitat site encompasses 43 acres and is located in the south-central portion of the Village. The site was a natural area of local significance in the 1994 inventory; however, the size of the site was reduced due to residential development and is now classified as a critical species habitat site. The site was not included in the previous park and open space plan, because it was anticipated that the entire site would be



Map 9

**NATURAL AREAS, CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES,  
AND GEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2009**



- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | NATURAL AREA OF STATEWIDE OR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE (NA-1)   |  | GEOLOGICAL AREA OF STATEWIDE OR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE (GA-1) |
|  | NATURAL AREA OF COUNTYWIDE OR REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-2) |  | AQUATIC HABITAT AREA (AQ-3)                                 |
|  | NATURAL AREA OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-3)                  | <b>5</b>  | REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 7)                              |
|  | CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE                              |  | OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS                                     |

Source: SEWRPC.

developed for residential use, thus diminishing all of the natural features of the site; however, residential development in the area has been slow and efforts to protect the remaining portions of the critical species habitat site by local residents and interest groups is still possible. The one-acre Waxdale Railroad Prairie and the four-acre Willow Woods critical species habitat sites were also identified within the Village. The Willow Woods critical species habitat site was not identified in the 1994 inventory.

Aquatic habitat areas consist of rivers, streams, and lakes that support endangered, threatened, or rare fish, herptile, or mussel species; support extensive beds of mussel species; or are located within or adjacent to a natural area. Based on a ranking system developed as part of the regional natural areas plan, aquatic areas were designated as AQ-1, aquatic areas of Statewide or greater significance; AQ-2, aquatic areas of countywide or regional significance; or AQ-3, aquatic areas of local significance. Four aquatic habitat areas were identified within the Village. All four areas are considered to be of local significance. These aquatic habitat areas, inventoried in 1994, are also identified in Table 7 and shown on Map 9 and encompass nearly five linear miles within the Village.

In addition, a portion of the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries geological area, encompassing approximately 31 acres, was identified within the Village. The Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries site has been identified as a geological area of Statewide or greater significance. The majority of the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries site is located in the Village of Mount Pleasant within the County-owned Quarry Lake Park and along the Root River. The site is also identified in Table 7 and shown on Map 9.

## **SUMMARY**

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

- The Village of Mount Pleasant resident population level for 2010, based on U.S. Census data, is 26,197 persons. This represents an increase of 3,055 persons, or 13 percent, from the 2000 population.
- In 2010, the Village of Mount Pleasant encompassed about 21,686 acres. Of this total, 9,727 acres, or about 45 percent of the Village, are currently developed for urban uses. Residential development occupies 4,184 acres, or about 19 percent of the Village, and lands devoted to transportation, communication, and utilities occupy 2,038 acres, or about 9 percent of Village. The remaining 11,959 acres, or about 55 percent of the Village, consist of natural resource areas or other nonurban uses, including 10,717 acres, or about 49 percent of the Village, consisting of agricultural lands.
- An inventory of the existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the Village in 2014 found that there were 40 such sites, which together encompassed about 1,527 acres, or about 7 percent of the Village. There were 24 Village-owned sites, encompassing 808 acres, including the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park, which is jointly owned and maintained by the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant. This represents an increase of 10 sites and 514 acres since the park and open space inventory was last conducted for the Village in 2000. The increase in acreage can be attributed to the acquisition of open space lands for the restoration and conservation of the Pike River Corridor. The Pike River Corridor accounts for 329 of the 514 additional acres.
- The Village-owned Pike River Pathway provides opportunities for biking and hiking within the Village. The Village also provides some on-street bikeway segments that provide links to the Village pathway and other Village-owned sites. Together, the pathway and the on-street bikeways comprise about 10 miles within the Village. Portions of the County's North Shore Trail and Racine-Kansasville Trail (formerly the Racine-Burlington Trail) are also located within the Village and provide additional hiking and biking opportunities for Village residents.

- Primary environmental corridors encompassed 154 acres, or about 1 percent of the Village. Secondary environmental corridors encompassed 514 acres, or about 2 percent of the Village. Isolated natural resource areas encompassed 523 acres, or about 2 percent of the Village.
- The Village contains five natural areas, including two sites that are considered of countywide or greater significance, and one site that is partially located within the Village; three critical species habitat sites; and a geological site, in which the majority of the site is located within the Village. The geological site is considered to be of countywide or greater significance. Together, these sites encompass about 243 acres of the Village. The Village also includes four aquatic habitat areas encompassing about five linear miles.

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## Chapter III

# STATUS OF 2020 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

### INTRODUCTION

The Village of Mount Pleasant Park and Open Space Plan for the year 2020,<sup>1</sup> adopted in 2003, includes a number of recommendations regarding the acquisition of land for parks and open space preservation and the development and/or improvement of recreational facilities. While most of the recommendations are directed to the Village of Mount Pleasant, there are also recommendations directed to other units and agencies of government with jurisdiction within the Village, including Racine County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This chapter summarizes the recommendations made in the previous Village park and open space plan and indicates those recommendations that had been implemented as of the end of 2013. Recommendations that had not been implemented as of 2013 are also summarized, and were reevaluated as part of this plan update. Plan recommendations for the year 2035 are presented in Chapter V.

### STATUS OF PARK PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Since completion of the 2020 park and open space plan, the Village has undertaken a major effort to acquire land within the Pike River corridor and make improvements to mitigate flooding, improve plant and wildlife habitat, and enhance recreational use of the corridor, including the construction of portions of the Pike River Pathway. The Village has also developed a number of the recreational facilities at Smolenski Park that were recommended in the 2020 plan. The following sections provide additional information on the status of 2020 plan recommendations.

#### **Outdoor Recreation Element**

##### ***Recommendations Related to Parks***

Recommendations made in the 2020 plan under the outdoor recreation element related to land acquisition and the development and/or improvement of existing parks and trails include:

- Acquire and develop three new community parks and seven new neighborhood parks:
- Acquire additional land and develop community park facilities at Smolenski Park:

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<sup>1</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 199, 2nd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for the Town of Mt. Pleasant, Racine County, Wisconsin, April 2003. In September 2003, the Town of Mount Pleasant incorporated as a village.*

- Develop community park facilities on existing Town-owned land (now Village land):
- Additional development and continued maintenance to recreational facilities at Drozd Park, Pheasant Creek Park, James Turek Park (formerly Regency Hills Park), Sheridan Woods Park, Stewart-McBride Park, and Timmer Lane Park (now part of the Pike River Corridor):
- Continued maintenance of recreational facilities at Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park: and
- Development of the Pike River Trail (now Pathway) and a local system of bicycle and pedestrian routes and paths.

The following activities related to land acquisition and park and trail development and/or improvement had been completed by the Village through 2013:

- Acquisition of land for two new community parks (Village Civic Campus and Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park). The undeveloped Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park, located along the Pike River in the southern portion of the Village, would satisfy the need for a community park in the southern portion of the Village, replacing the location of Proposed Park Site 3 recommended in the 2020 park plan.
- Developed additional park facilities at Smolenski Park, including a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a basketball goal, a sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, open-air shelters, and appropriate support facilities, including parking and restrooms.
- Developed a dog park on land owned by the Village.
- Developed a playground at James Turek Park.
- Continued to jointly maintain park facilities at Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park with the Village of Caledonia.
- Continued to maintain park facilities at Drozd Park, Pheasant Creek Park, James Turek Park, Sheridan Woods Park, Stewart-McBride Park, and Timmer Lane Park (now part of the Pike River Corridor).
- Acquired open space lands within the Pike River Corridor and developed portions of the Pike River Trail (now Pathway).
- Developed about five miles of on-street bikeways.

Since early 2000, the Village has also pursued new land acquisitions, development, and/or improvements at various park sites that were not specifically recommended in the 2020 park plan, which include: developing a Kids Connection Playground at Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park; acquiring lands along the Pike River associated with the Pike River Restoration Project; and acquiring open space lands along Hoods Creek and other natural resource-oriented or stormwater-related areas for conservancy purposes. The Village has also sold former park land, which included a league softball diamond and a sand volleyball court, from Stewart-McBride Park for the development of commercial uses and the development of a stormwater basin; sold Wayside Park for the development of commercial uses; and no longer leases RCOC Park from Racine County.

The following recommendations from the 2020 plan had not been implemented as of 2013, and were reevaluated as part of this plan update:

- Acquire and develop two new community parks.
- Develop recreational facilities at the two new undeveloped community parks.
- Acquire and develop seven new neighborhood parks.

- Acquire additional land and develop a baseball diamond, two league softball diamonds, four soccer fields, and a basketball goal at Smolenski Park.
- Develop a league softball diamond, four basketball goals, two soccer fields, a sandlot softball diamond, a playground, a playfield, and a community center at Town-Owned land (now Village land).
- Develop two basketball goals at Drozd Park.
- Develop a playground at Pheasant Creek Park.
- Develop two basketball goals and a sandlot softball diamond at James Turek Park.
- Develop two basketball goals at Sheridan Woods Park.
- Develop two basketball goals at Stewart-McBride Park.
- Develop a picnic shelter, restrooms, and parking lot at Timmer Lane Park (now part of Pike River Corridor). Because Timmer Lane Park is now part of the Village-owned Pike River Corridor and trail access facilities, including a parking lot, were developed along Old Spring Street as part of the Pike River Pathway, the development of these facilities may not be needed.

### ***Recommendations Related to Trails***

The outdoor recreation element of the 2020 plan recommends the development of a trail along the Pike River and Hoods Creek within the Village. The trail is proposed to be developed from the northern boundary of the Village at Hoods Creek, along the creek, then to a one-mile portion that serves as a link between the creek and river, and ultimately, to and along the Pike River from CTH C (Spring Street) to the southern boundary of the Village at CTH KR.

The 2020 plan also recommended the development of 14 miles of on-street bikeways along State, County, and local streets within the Village. The 2020 plan also recommended that the Village develop an additional 10 miles of trails within environmental corridors or open space areas within the Village. Both of these recommendations have been partially implemented. The Village has developed about five miles of on-street bikeways and about five miles of trails, including about 4.5 miles of the Pike River Pathway within the Pike River Corridor. Map 6 in Chapter II shows trails and bikeways within the Village.

### **Open Space Preservation Element**

The 2020 plan recommended that all primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas currently in public ownership be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses. In addition to maintaining the 211 acres of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas owned by the County or Village in 2001, the Village has acquired 133 acres of secondary environmental corridor within the Pike River and Hoods Creek Corridors and 11 acres of isolated natural resource areas associated with Village-owned stormwater areas or conservancy areas since 2001.

## **STATUS OF PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY OTHER UNITS OF GOVERNMENT**

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

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) administers State and Federal grant programs for the acquisition and development of land for outdoor recreation and resource protection purposes. In order for the Village to be eligible to apply for such funds, it must adopt a park plan that complies with WDNR requirements. The 2020 park plan was approved by the WDNR. It is anticipated that this plan will also be approved by the WDNR so that the Village will retain its eligibility to apply for and receive available State and Federal grant funds to help implement the plan.



## **Racine County**

### ***Recommendations Related to County Parks***

The 2020 park plan recommended that Racine County continue to provide and maintain facilities at Sanders Park, Haban Park, and Quarry Lake Park within the Village. The plan also recommended that the County acquire additional land at Sanders Park and develop a playground, a playfield, and picnic areas at the park. Between 2003 and 2013, the County developed a playfield and a playground at the park. The 2020 plan also recommended that the County continue to provide and maintain RCOC Park, in cooperation with Village; however, the park is no longer under public ownership and the park and recreational facilities are privately owned.

Racine County developed the 15-acre Horlick Park on land along the Root River owned by the County in the northeastern portion of the Village between 2003 and 2013, and also acquired two open space sites, including a three-acre site associated with the development of the Racine-Kansasville Trail (formerly the Racine-Burlington Trail) during that period.

The 2020 park plan also recommended that the County maintain Pritchard Park and Ives Grove Golf Course, two County-owned sites adjacent to the Village in the City of Racine and Town of Yorkville, respectively.

The 2020 park plan further recommended that Racine County acquire the Sylvania Railroad Prairie natural area located along the Canadian Pacific Railway and STH 11 in the southwestern portion of the Village, which had not been implemented as of 2013, and continue to manage and restore native plant species at Sanders Park, which contains the Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area.

### ***Recommendations Related to County Trails***

The 2020 park plan calls for Racine County to continue to maintain the Lake Michigan MRK Trail located in the southern portion of the Village and to continue to develop and maintain the Racine-Burlington Trail. Since 2003, the County trail located in the southern portion of the Village within the Wisconsin Electric utility corridor has been referred to as the “North Shore Trail.” The previous edition of this plan referred to that trail segment as the “MRK Trail.” In addition, that portion of the Racine-Burlington Trail located within the Village has also been renamed the “Racine-Kansasville Trail.” In the previous park plan, the Racine-Burlington Trail was proposed to extend from the City of Racine to the City of Burlington, partially within an abandoned railway right-of-way. In 2003, an existing segment of this trail within the City of Racine extended from West Boulevard west to Green Bay Road (STH 31). The trail has since been expanded west from Green Bay Road to 96th Street in the Village of Sturtevant, which includes about a 1.5-mile portion located within Village street rights-of-way. It should also be noted that the recent development of the City of Racine’s Lake Michigan Pathway and Root River Pathway provide a connection to Racine County trails that connect to Milwaukee County trails to the north and Kenosha County trails to the south.

## **SUMMARY**

The Village of Mount Pleasant has fulfilled a number of the recommendations made in the 2020 park plan related to land acquisition and the development and/or improvement of Village parks and trails and the preservation of important natural resources within the Village. The following chapter evaluates the need for additional park sites and recreational facilities in the Village. Updated plan recommendations are presented in Chapter V.

## Chapter IV

# FRAMEWORK FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Previous chapters of this report have presented the results of inventories of existing population, land uses, natural resources, and park and open space sites in the Village. This chapter describes additional important factors considered when preparing the park and open space plan update. Specifically, this chapter describes relevant Village, County, and regional plan recommendations; probable future population levels in the Village in the year 2035; and a set of park and open space objectives, principles, and standards which were used as a guide to prepare the plan update. Goals and objectives developed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Village staff to help implement the 2020 park and open space plan are also included, since many of the recommendations from the 2020 plan have been carried forward into this plan update.

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

Sound planning practice requires that each community plan or plan element be properly related to adopted local, county, and regional plans. Plans that have been considered and appropriately incorporated into this updated park and open space plan include the amended 2035 Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan; the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035; the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan; the Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan; the Village of Mount Pleasant Master Bicycle Plan 2030; the Pike River Watershed Plan; the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan; the Des Plaines River Watershed Plan; the updated natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin; and key findings of a park and recreation survey of Village residents.

#### **Park and Open Space Plans and Related Plans**

This plan is the third park and open space plan prepared by SEWRPC for the Village. Background information on the previous plan, which was designed to the year 2020, is provided in the previous chapter. The previous chapter also includes information on the implementation status of recommendations from the previous park and open space plan.

Following adoption of the 2020 park and open space plan in April 2003, the Village of Mount Pleasant developed and adopted the *Year 2030 Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. The Village comprehensive land use plan was subsequently amended in 2014 as the *2035 Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan*. The 2035 comprehensive (master) land use plan includes generalized park, open space, and trail location recommendations, as well as transportation and land use recommendations for continued development of the Village.

### **Village of Mount Pleasant Master Bicycle Plan 2030**

The *Village of Mount Pleasant Master Bicycle Plan 2030* was prepared by the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin in 2007. The bicycle plan complements the Village 2030 master land use plan and the subsequent 2035 comprehensive (master) land use plan amendment adopted in 2014. The 2014 amendment to the Village comprehensive (master) land use plan includes amendments to the bicycle plan. The plan identifies existing and proposed bikeways within the Village, including potential connections to bikeways in adjacent communities. The plan also identifies and prioritizes bike facility needs within the Village and provides goals and measures to implement those needs. The bike plan placed an emphasis on biking for transportation purposes as well as for recreational purposes; for example, planning bikeways within the Village for residents to commute to and from work or school.

Public participation and input for the bike plan was solicited through an online survey and by mailing the survey to every household in the Village in association with the Village newsletter. About 250 to 257 residents responded to each of the survey questions. Of the 257 respondents, almost 40 percent and 10 percent replied that they bike “multiple” times a month or “daily,” respectively, while 20 percent of respondents “never” bike. Of the 253 respondents, almost 73 percent replied that it is “very important” or “somewhat important” to improve biking conditions in the Village. Survey respondents were asked which factors would affect their decision to bicycle more, and of the 252 respondents, 91 percent replied that more on-street facilities (marked lanes or shoulders) would “greatly affect” or “moderately affect” their decision to bike more. Eighty-seven percent and 86 percent of respondents, respectively, replied that more greenway trails and a bicycle facilities map would “greatly affect” or “moderately affect” their decision to bike more. Ninety percent of respondents were “greatly discouraged” or “moderately discouraged” from biking within the Village due to unfriendly roadways for bike use.

The goal of the Village bike plan is to improve the levels, safety, and convenience of biking in the Village by providing biking features in every road/street project in or connecting the Village. The plan lists recommended actions to encourage bicycling and make it more accommodating and safer for users and list numerous potential Federal and State funding sources to assist in bikeway development.

The plan provides detailed recommendations for the location of on-street and off-street bike segments within the Village. Since the adoption of the bike plan in 2007, some of the recommended on-street bike segments have been implemented. The plan also identifies County trails and City of Racine pathways and locations where County, City, and Village bikeways and trails connect, providing increased biking opportunities for Village residents. On-street and off-street recommendations were subsequently amended when the Village Board adopted the amended Village comprehensive land use plan in 2014, and are shown on the land use plan map (Map 10). Additional recommendations and updates to the Village bike plan are included in the recommendations of this plan in Chapter V.

### **Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan and Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County**

The Mount Pleasant Village Board adopted a master land use plan<sup>1</sup> on January 22, 2003 coinciding with Mount Pleasant incorporating as a village. The master plan was amended in 2006 to include the Lakota I-94 Area Plan. On July 27, 2009, the Village Board adopted the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Racine County<sup>2</sup> as the Village’s comprehensive plan, which includes the Village master land use plan map and other information pertinent to the Village. In January 2014, the Village Board adopted an amendment to the Village 2030 master land use plan and the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Racine County (the Village’s comprehensive

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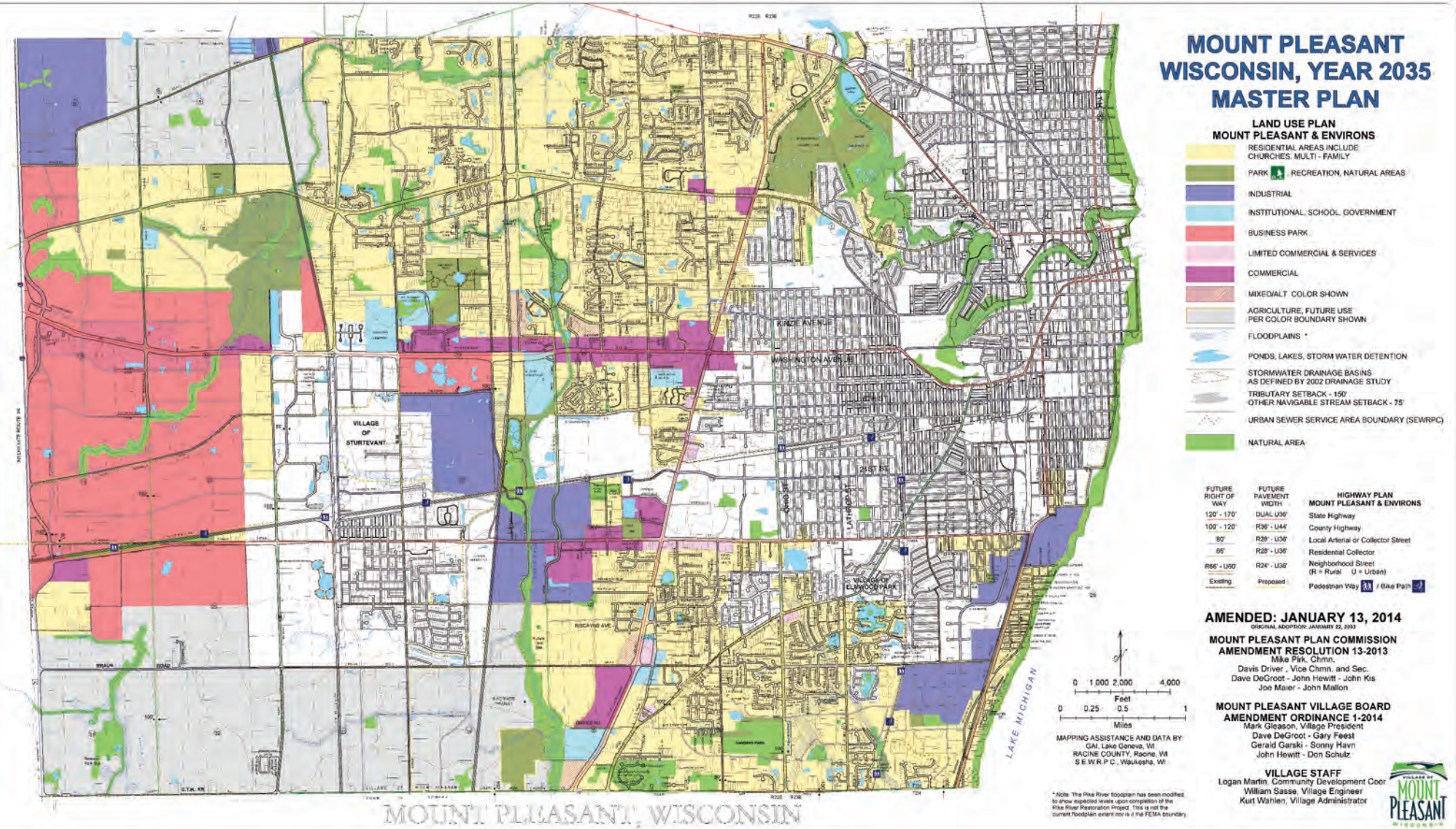
<sup>1</sup>*Documented in a report entitled, Year 2030 Master Plan for Land Use and Transportation, Mt. Pleasant, Racine County, Wisconsin, January 22, 2003.*

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



Map 10

YEAR 2035 VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
COMPREHENSIVE (MASTER) LAND USE PLAN



**MOUNT PLEASANT  
WISCONSIN, YEAR 2035  
MASTER PLAN**

- LAND USE PLAN  
MOUNT PLEASANT & ENVIRONS**
- RESIDENTIAL AREAS INCLUDE CHURCHES, MULTI-FAMILY
  - PARK, RECREATION, NATURAL AREAS
  - INDUSTRIAL
  - INSTITUTIONAL, SCHOOL, GOVERNMENT
  - BUSINESS PARK
  - LIMITED COMMERCIAL & SERVICES
  - COMMERCIAL
  - MIXED/ALT. COLOR SHOWN
  - AGRICULTURE, FUTURE USE PER COLOR BOUNDARY SHOWN
  - FLOODPLAINS \*
  - PONDS, LAKES, STORM WATER DETENTION
  - STORMWATER DRAINAGE BASINS AS DEFINED BY 2002 DRAINAGE STUDY
  - TRIBUTARY SETBACK - 15'
  - OTHER NAVIGABLE STREAM SETBACK - 75'
  - URBAN SEWER SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY (SEWRPC)
  - NATURAL AREA

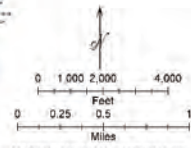
FUTURE RIGHT OF WAY		FUTURE PAVEMENT WIDTH		HIGHWAY PLAN MOUNT PLEASANT & ENVIRONS	
120' - 170'	DUAL U36'	R36' - U44'	State Highway		
100' - 120'	R28' - U36'	R28' - U36'	County Highway		
80'	R28' - U36'	R28' - U36'	Local Arterial or Collector Street		
65'	R28' - U36'	R24' - U32'	Residential Collector		
R65' - U90'	R24' - U32'	R24' - U32'	Neighborhood Street		
Existing	Proposed		(R = Rural U = Urban)		
			Pedestrian Way		

AMENDED: JANUARY 13, 2014

ORIGINAL ADOPTED: JANUARY 23, 2002  
**MOUNT PLEASANT PLAN COMMISSION  
 AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 13-2013**  
 Mike Pfk, Chmn.  
 Davis Driver - Vice Chmn. and Sec.  
 Dave DeGroot - John Hewitt - John Kis  
 Joe Maier - John Mallon

**MOUNT PLEASANT VILLAGE BOARD  
 AMENDMENT ORDINANCE 1-2014**  
 Mark Gleason, Village President  
 Dave DeGroot - Gary Feest  
 Gerald Garski - Sonny Havn  
 John Hewitt - Don Schultz

**VILLAGE STAFF**  
 Logan Martin, Community Development Coord.  
 William Sasse, Village Engineer  
 Kurt Wahnen, Village Administrator



MAPPING ASSISTANCE AND DATA BY:  
 GAI, Lake Geneva, WI  
 RACINE COUNTY, Racine, WI  
 S E W R P C, Waukegan, WI

\*Note: The Rice River floodplain has been modified to show regulated areas upon completion of the Rice River Restoration Project. This is not the current floodplain extent nor is it the FEMA boundary.

MOUNT PLEASANT, WISCONSIN



plan), which affected the land use classification of 318 parcels throughout the Village. The amended Village master plan was renamed the *2035 Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan* to be consistent with the design year of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. The amended Village land use plan map is shown on Map 10.

As required by the Wisconsin comprehensive planning law (Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*), the County comprehensive plan includes recommendations for future land uses, parks and open space, and natural resource preservation; and includes projections of future population and households pertinent to the Village. The comprehensive plan contains park, open space, and trail recommendations and goals, objectives, policies, and programs relevant to this park and open space plan update. The plan is designed to the year 2035.

The amended Village comprehensive (master) plan anticipates that existing parks and open space sites and existing bikeways owned by the Village, which are identified on the amended Village land use plan map, will continue to be maintained to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities to the existing and future population of the Village. The amended Village land use plan map anticipates the acquisition of additional lands for Village park use and/or conservancy purposes, including the park sites recommended by the 2020 Village park and open space plan. As recommended in this updated park and open space plan, some existing sites may be expanded and/or additional recreation facilities developed to serve Village residents (see Chapter V).

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

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

#### *Goals*

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

#### *Objectives*

- Preserve the natural character and vistas in Racine County.
- Preserve open spaces and natural resources as part of future development proposals in the County.
- Provide a comprehensive system of parks and open spaces within Racine County to enhance the quality of the environment and life.
- Provide County residents adequate opportunities to participate in resource and nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, including water-based outdoor recreation activities.
- Support recommendations in regional, county, and local plans related to land use, transportation, water quality management, water supply, lake districts, and parks and open spaces.
- Provide a comprehensive system of parks and outdoor recreation sites and facilities to allow County residents adequate opportunities to participate in resource and nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, including water-based outdoor recreation activities which are consistent with enjoyable surface water use and maintenance of adequate water quality.

- Provide an integrated and accessible system of trails that will provide County residents with a transportation alternative to motor vehicles.
- Foster social, educational, recreational, and leisure-time opportunities for residents.

### *Policies and Programs*

- Implement strategies regarding the preservation and protection of environmental corridors, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites recommended in the County land and water resource management plan, and the Racine County park and open space plan, including updates to the plans.
- Implement strategies regarding the protection and restoration of wetlands, stream corridors, floodplain areas, the Lake Michigan shoreline and bluff, and protection of natural systems, pollution reduction and control, and protection of public safety and public recreation and access recommended in the County land and water resource management plan.
- Implement the recommendations of the Racine County park and open space plan and any subsequent updates.
- Consider the preparation and implementation of local park and open space plans.
- Update County and local park and open space plans as necessary to maintain eligibility for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Stewardship funding.
- Continue to partner with appropriate Federal, State, and Nonprofit Conservation Organizations (NCOs) to promote natural resource enhancements and restorations in Racine County.
- Support carefully planned efforts to restore open space lands to more natural conditions that could result in the expansion of the environmental corridor network. This should include linkages between existing environmental corridors and isolated natural resources, especially those areas that are identified in local and neighborhood land use plans.
- Work with the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust and other NCOs to protect environmental corridors, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites through Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), easements, and/or land purchases.
- Work with local governments to provide a system of public neighborhood and community parks in urban areas that complement the County park and trail system.
- Continue to provide information to local governments about County park and open space sites and recreational facilities, and coordinate with local governments for the joint development and use of facilities, where appropriate.
- Continue to update the County park and open space plan, including updates from the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection plan, to maintain eligibility for available State and Federal outdoor recreation grants and stewardship program funds.
- Identify and seek grant funds to study future needs and demands for recreational programs and facilities for school-age children and teenagers.
- Work with local governments to promote State, County, and local parks and trails to encourage economic development and tourism.
- Consider park and recreation standards developed by SEWRPC, the National Recreation and Park Association, and the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association when updating the County and local park and open space plans to ensure an appropriate number, size, and distribution of parks and recreational facilities.
- Coordinate county-wide on-street and off-street (multi-use) bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian, and waterway trail planning and development to provide connections to local trails and trails in adjacent counties.



- Racine County and its communities should continue to work with the WDNR and non-government organizations to acquire and develop parks, trails, and other recreation facilities, and to acquire and protect valuable natural resource areas as called for in County or local park and open space plans.

### ***Population Projections***

In 2000, there were 23,142 residents and 9,453 households in the Village. When preparing the County comprehensive plan, each local government was given the opportunity to select its own set of projections for use in preparing local components of the plan for the year 2035. The projections were either based on population and household levels from SEWRPC’s 2035 regional land use plan or population and employment trends in each local government between 1980 and 2006. Based on local government-selected projections, the comprehensive plan projects a population of 35,000 residents and 14,800 households in the Village of Mount Pleasant in the year 2035. In 2010, the Village’s population was 26,197 residents and there were 11,136 households. Under the plan, the number of Village residents would increase by 8,803 persons, or by 34 percent; and the number of households would increase by 3,664 households, or by 33 percent, between 2010 and 2035.

### ***Natural Areas***

The Village land use plan map includes a category (“Park, Recreation, and Natural Areas”) applied to existing and planned public parks and private recreational areas, and a category (“Natural Areas”) applied to areas with natural resource features. The “Natural Areas” category includes planned environmental corridors<sup>3</sup> and isolated natural resource areas, stream corridors, selected wetlands, and proposed additions to the environmental corridor network. The Village land use plan map also includes an overlay identifying 100-year floodplains, a stream setback buffer of 150 feet on each side of major (“tributary”) streams and 75 feet on each side of other navigable streams, and an approximately 500-foot setback along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The “Natural Areas,” 100-year floodplain, and stream and lakeshore buffers shown on the Village land use plan map provided the basis for the open space preservation component of this park and open space plan, which is shown on Maps 14 through 23 in this chapter, and is further described in Chapter V.

The natural areas shown on the Village land use plan map were refined as part of this park and open space plan as follows:

- Two planned isolated natural resource areas consisting of 100-year floodplain, woodlands, and wetlands located in the area bounded by 16th Street, Willow Road, the proposed Racine-Kansasville trail, and the Village of Sturtevant were added to the open space network.
- An isolated wetland in Section 6 in the northwestern portion of the Village, which does not meet the minimum size criteria for designation as an isolated natural resource area, is not included in the open space preservation component of this plan. All wetlands in the Village, however, must be protected in accordance with State regulations.
- Stream buffers were decreased to 50 feet on each side of streams in areas platted with urban lots (along Sorenson Creek between Lathrop Street and Meachem Road; along the Pike River between Oakes Road and Mariner Drive; along Nelson Creek within the Mount Pleasant West Subdivision; and along a tributary to the Root River between STH 31 and Green Haze Avenue). In accordance with Section 61.353 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, which was enacted by the Wisconsin Legislature in 2013, villages that incorporated after April 30, 1994 (which includes Mount Pleasant) must, by July 1, 2014, adopt an ordinance establishing a minimum 50-foot setback from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of navigable streams, and requiring property owners to maintain a 35-foot wide vegetative buffer from the OHWM.

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<sup>3</sup>Planned environmental corridors include existing corridors and adjacent undeveloped 100-year floodplains in areas planned to be developed with urban uses.

- The buffer along Lake Michigan was reduced to include the area from the lakeshore to the top of the bluff in areas platted with urban lots. The Racine County Zoning Ordinance generally requires new single-family homes to be set back at least 100 feet from the top of the bluff, but many existing homes (likely constructed prior to adoption of the ordinance) do not provide this setback.

The Pike River Watershed Plan, described in the next section, recommends the establishment of a Green Infrastructure Network within the watershed. The Green Infrastructure Priority Protection Areas identified in the watershed plan are shown on Map 11. The following priority protection areas are included in the open space preservation areas shown on Maps 14 through 23 of this Chapter:

- Priority Protection Areas owned by the Village or Racine County.
- Priority Protection Areas within common open space areas in conservation subdivisions.
- Priority Protection Areas located within a planned environmental corridor or isolated natural resource area.
- Priority Protection Areas identified as a stream or lakeshore buffer on the Village land use plan map, subject to the refinements described in the preceding bullet list.

Additional parcels or portions of parcels may be added to the Green Infrastructure Network as development proposals are reviewed by Village officials, if Priority Preservation Areas are required to be protected as part of the development review and approval process.

### **Pike River Watershed Plan**

In August 2013, the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (Root-Pike WIN) and Applied Ecological Services, Inc., with assistance from UW-Extension and Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, completed a Pike River Watershed Plan.<sup>4</sup> The Village of Mount Pleasant adopted the watershed plan in January 2014 as a guide to water quality management in the Pike River watershed. The Pike River is centrally located, north to south within the Village, and runs from Spring Street (CTH C) to the Racine-Kenosha county line within the Village. The Pike River watershed within the Village encompasses 10,273 acres, or about 47 percent of the Village and about 30 percent of the total watershed. The extent of the Pike River watershed within the Village is shown on Map 7 in Chapter II of this report. The purpose of the plan is to restore and manage an ecologically enhanced watershed area that focuses on protecting and restoring the river corridor, protecting open space areas, increasing and improving recreational access, utilizing a more sustainable development pattern, increasing public education, and ultimately, achieving applicable water quality standards.

Goals and objectives for the plan were also established to address the issues and opportunities raised at public input meetings or sessions. Park-, trail-, and open space-related goals and objectives are:

#### *Goal:*

- Identify, enhance, and protect important natural areas and provide open space for appropriate recreational benefits.

#### *Objectives:*

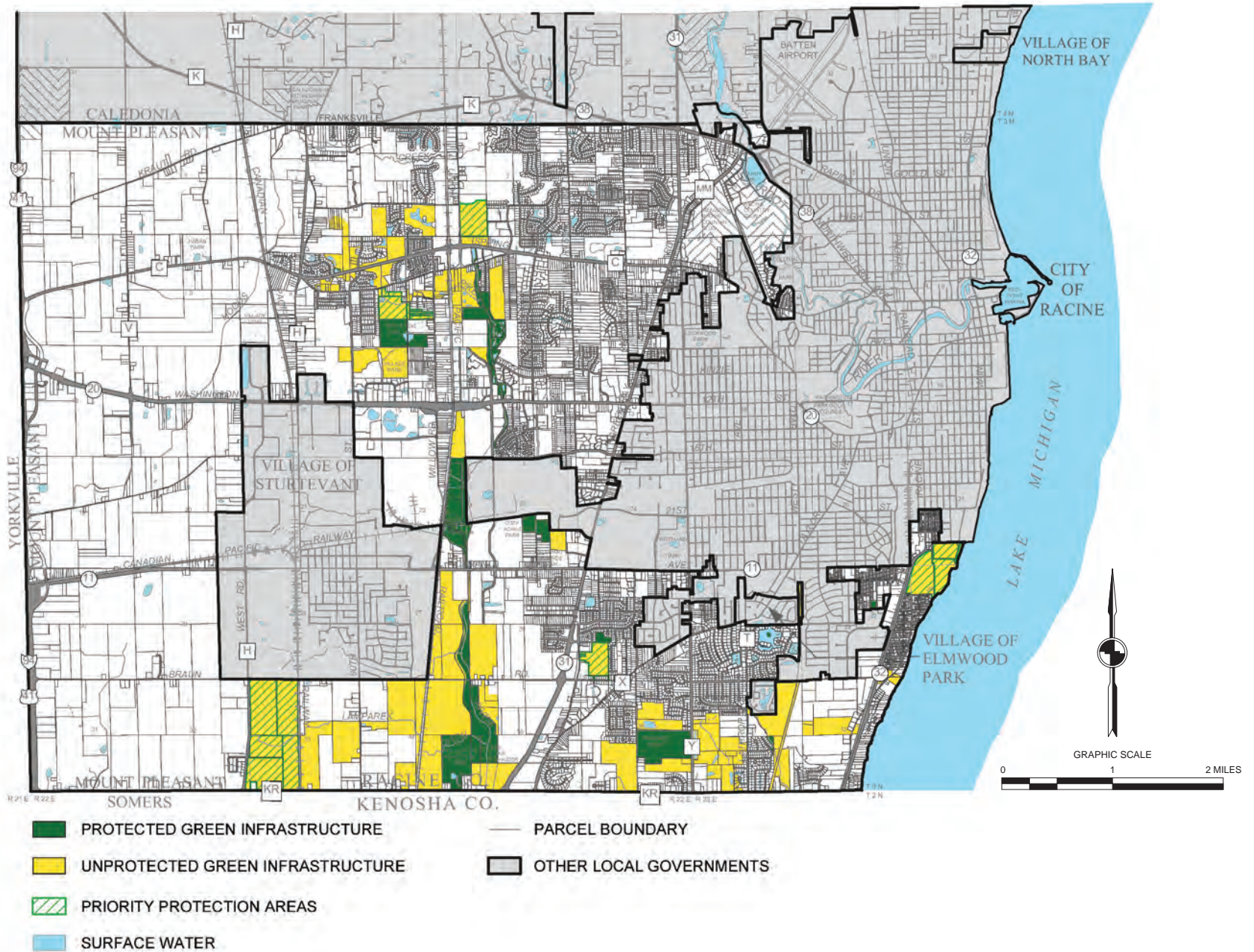
- Increase appropriate water- and land-based recreational opportunities to the Pike River.
- Permanently protect all sites with high-quality natural areas or threatened and endangered species, as identified by primary and secondary environmental corridors by SEWRPC.

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<sup>4</sup>*Documented in a report entitled, Pike River Watershed-Based Plan, prepared by Applied Ecological Services, Inc. for the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, August 2013.*

Map 11

**GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY PROTECTION AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT AS IDENTIFIED IN THE PIKE RIVER WATERSHED PLAN**



Source: Applied Ecological Services, Inc., Village of Mount Pleasant, and SEWRPC.



- Identify and protect open space that provides important green infrastructure, preserves corridor connections, and can provide appropriate recreational opportunities.
- Develop recommendations for adoption of conservation and/or low-impact design standards for all new development or redevelopment.
- Increase environmental and recreational stewardship with volunteers and instructors.
- Create environmental interpretive signage on trails explaining watersheds and water quality.

An important component of the Pike River watershed plan was an examination of open space areas that would ultimately form a “Green Infrastructure Network” for the watershed. The Green Infrastructure Network is defined as an interconnected network of natural resource areas and other open spaces that would conserve the natural ecosystem, sustain clean air and water, and be beneficial to people and wildlife. Natural features such as stream corridors, wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, and grasslands within the watershed are the primary components of open space and green infrastructure.

The plan identifies and classifies “open space” parcels, which are undeveloped; “partially open” parcels, which have been partially developed and but offer some green infrastructure potential; and “developed” parcels, which are mostly developed. “Open” and “partially open” parcels within the watershed were identified as public or private and protected or unprotected. “Open” and “partially open” parcels within the watershed were then prioritized for inclusion in a Green Infrastructure Network based on criteria documented in the report. The Green Infrastructure Priority Protection Areas identified in the plan are shown on Map 11. Parcels identified as “high priority” for inclusion in the Green Infrastructure Network are located adjacent to or near the Pike River, Chicory Creek, Lamparek Ditch, Nelson Creek, and Sorenson Creek. Protection of these lands may be achieved by fee-simple purchase, donation, through conservation easements, or through local regulatory actions, such as zoning, subdivision, or stormwater management ordinances.

In some cases, it would be possible to develop a portion of a parcel shown as a protection area while preserving the natural resources within the parcel. The identification and prioritization of the Green Infrastructure Network for the watershed allows units of government to evaluate conservation opportunities and land use development on the parcels and identify areas as not suitable for development; suitable for development if conservation design standards are implemented; or green infrastructure not affected by proposed development. The watershed plan also recommends that local governments should continue to plan for new trails and possible trail connections within the Green Infrastructure Network, when applicable.

The plan also includes recommendations for improving water quality and reducing stormwater through such measures as establishing stream buffers, restoring wetlands, naturalizing detention basins, and managing agricultural practices to reduce soil and pollutant runoff. The plan further provides program recommendations, which are watershed-wide preventative and remedial actions, and site-specific recommendations, which identify site-specific locations within the watershed where green infrastructure, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and overall water quality improvements should be implemented.

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

The Root River watershed restoration plan<sup>5</sup> was prepared by SEWRPC in response to a request from Racine County, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. (Sweet Water), and the Root-Pike WIN because the watershed historically shows signs of degradation due to

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<sup>5</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 316, A Watershed Restoration Plan for the Root River Watershed, July 2014.*

changing land use patterns and water resource-related problems. The Root River watershed plan builds upon the findings and recommendations of the 2007 regional water quality management plan,<sup>6</sup> and is a comprehensive update to help guide the management and restoration of water resources in the watershed.

The purpose of the watershed plan is to provide specific, targeted recommendations that address improvements to watershed-related conditions with the overall goal of restoring and improving water resources in the Root River watershed. The plan is also designed to assist units of government, State and Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private landowners in identifying methods that will restore and benefit the natural assets of the watershed. About one mile of the Root River is located in the northeastern portion of the Village and is primarily encompassed within the Village by County-owned parks (Horlick and Quarry Lake) and private golf courses (Meadow Brook Country Club and Racine Country Club). The Root River watershed within the Village encompasses 8,724 acres, or about 40 percent of the Village and about 7 percent of the total watershed. The extent of the Root River watershed within the Village is shown on Map 7 in Chapter II of this report.

The watershed restoration plan is focused on four issues: water quality, recreational use and access, habitat condition, and flooding. The Root River provides many recreational opportunities to Village residents, including fishing, hunting, boating, wading, canoeing, kayaking, wildlife watching, and scenic viewing. The portion of the Root River downstream from Horlick Dam supports a trout and salmon fishery that is linked to Lake Michigan. The fishery is based upon stocking of these species by the WDNR.

The watershed plan recommends that riparian buffers be expanded and/or protected along all streams and tributaries within the Root River watershed, which includes the Root River, Hoods Creek, and Ives Grove Ditch located in the Village. The draft plan recommends a minimum 75-foot setback (buffer) along both sides of navigable streams within the watershed, with consideration given to establishing a riparian buffer up to 1,000 feet on both sides of the Root River, Hoods Creek, and Ives Grove Ditch when development proposals are submitted to the Village for review.

Establishing a minimum 75-foot buffer provides quality in-stream habitats and reduces pollution entering the stream, while establishing larger setback requirements provides these in-stream benefits, and also provides essential habitats for a variety of wildlife populations. The Root River watershed plan also supports the 2035 Village comprehensive (master) land use plan recommendation for a 150-foot tributary setback, as an alternative to the 75-foot setback currently required under the Village zoning ordinance, but recommends that a 1,000-foot setback be considered as an optimum setback for the Root River, Hoods Creek, and Ives Grove Ditch. Buffers between 75 and 1,000 feet would also be consistent with the plan.

The plan also recommends site-specific management measures for the Root River watershed, including those within the Village. Recommendations include acquiring a floodplain area along Hoods Creek between CTH C and STH 20 and along Ives Grove Ditch west of CTH V and designating the land use in this area as a parkland/natural area, and connecting a wetland located north of STH 20 and east of IH 94 to Hoods Creek through establishment of a natural area. Both of these recommendations are based on recommendations shown on the Village's 2035 land use plan map.

The watershed plan further recommends efforts to restore farmland and other open space land to more natural conditions, such as wetlands or prairies, especially in areas planned for urban development or in areas no longer being utilized for agricultural production. The watershed plan carries forth a recommendation from the regional water quality management plan update that a total of 10 percent of existing farmland and pasture be converted to either wetland or prairie conditions. The benefits of this practice include reducing fecal coliform bacteria, total suspended solids, total nitrogen, and total phosphorus loads delivered to streams, and to a limited degree, reduced

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<sup>6</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50, A Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds, Parts One and Two, December 2007.*



peak stormwater runoff rates. The focus of this effort should be on marginally productive lands, which are defined as agricultural lands other than those identified as having Class I or Class II soils by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Consistent with this, the water quality management plan update identified candidate areas to be given first consideration when identifying marginally productive lands to be converted to wetlands or prairies. Map 12 shows the location of selected candidate areas in the Village. The areas selected are within or adjacent to planned environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas, and existing farmed wetlands larger than five acres. Farmed wetlands larger than five acres would meet the criteria for designation as isolated natural resource areas if farming activities cease and the wetland reverts to natural conditions. All of the potential restoration areas shown on Map 12 have soils that indicate they would be suitable for restoration as wetlands, but an on-site evaluation would be necessary prior to any restoration efforts.

### **Root River Revitalization Plan**

In July 2008, the Root River Council and the River Alliance of Wisconsin, with assistance from the City of Racine, completed a Root River Revitalization Plan.<sup>7</sup> The purpose of the plan is to guide and inform the redevelopment and revitalization of the Root River in the City of Racine and environs, which includes encouraging innovative, mixed use development along the river, improving and protecting the natural habitat and water quality of the river, and promoting public awareness and use of the river and river corridor. The planning area includes a portion of the Village within the Root River corridor from the Horlick Dam, located just north of Northwestern Avenue (STH 38), to the mouth of the river at Lake Michigan.

The plan recommends creating continuous public access along the riverfront by combining a Riverwalk, the Root River Pathway, and various access points. The plan also recommends the development of a boat launch at the County-owned Quarry Lake Park; prohibiting boat and viewing access points at the City-owned Colonial Park to avoid disturbing ecologically sensitive areas; modifying the boat launch upstream from the weir and steelhead fishery facility; developing a boat launch downstream of the weir and steelhead fishery facility; developing a boat launch at Island Park; and providing signage at parks and along pathways/trails to direct the public to recreational opportunities along the river. Since the completion of the plan in 2008, the City of Racine has developed boat launches at Island Park and Lincoln Park downstream from the weir and steelhead fishery facility and has installed signs along the Root River Pathway and City streets.

### **Des Plaines River Watershed Plan**

The Des Plaines River watershed plan<sup>8</sup> documents the findings and recommendations of the critical flooding, water pollution, and related land use problems of the Des Plaines River watershed. The study was undertaken by SEWRPC in response to requests received from Kenosha and Racine Counties. The plan identifies and quantifies the water resource-related problems of the watershed; sets forth recommended watershed development objectives, principles, and standards; presents alternative floodplain and stormwater management, water quality management, fisheries management, and related land use plan elements; and presents a recommended comprehensive plan for the development of the watershed. A portion of the Des Plaines River watershed is located in the southwestern portion of the Village, which includes a portion of the Kilbourn Road Ditch. The Des Plaines River watershed within the Village encompasses 1,771 acres, or about 8 percent of the Village and about 2 percent of the total watershed. The extent of the Des Plaines River watershed within the Village is shown on Map 7 in Chapter II of this report.

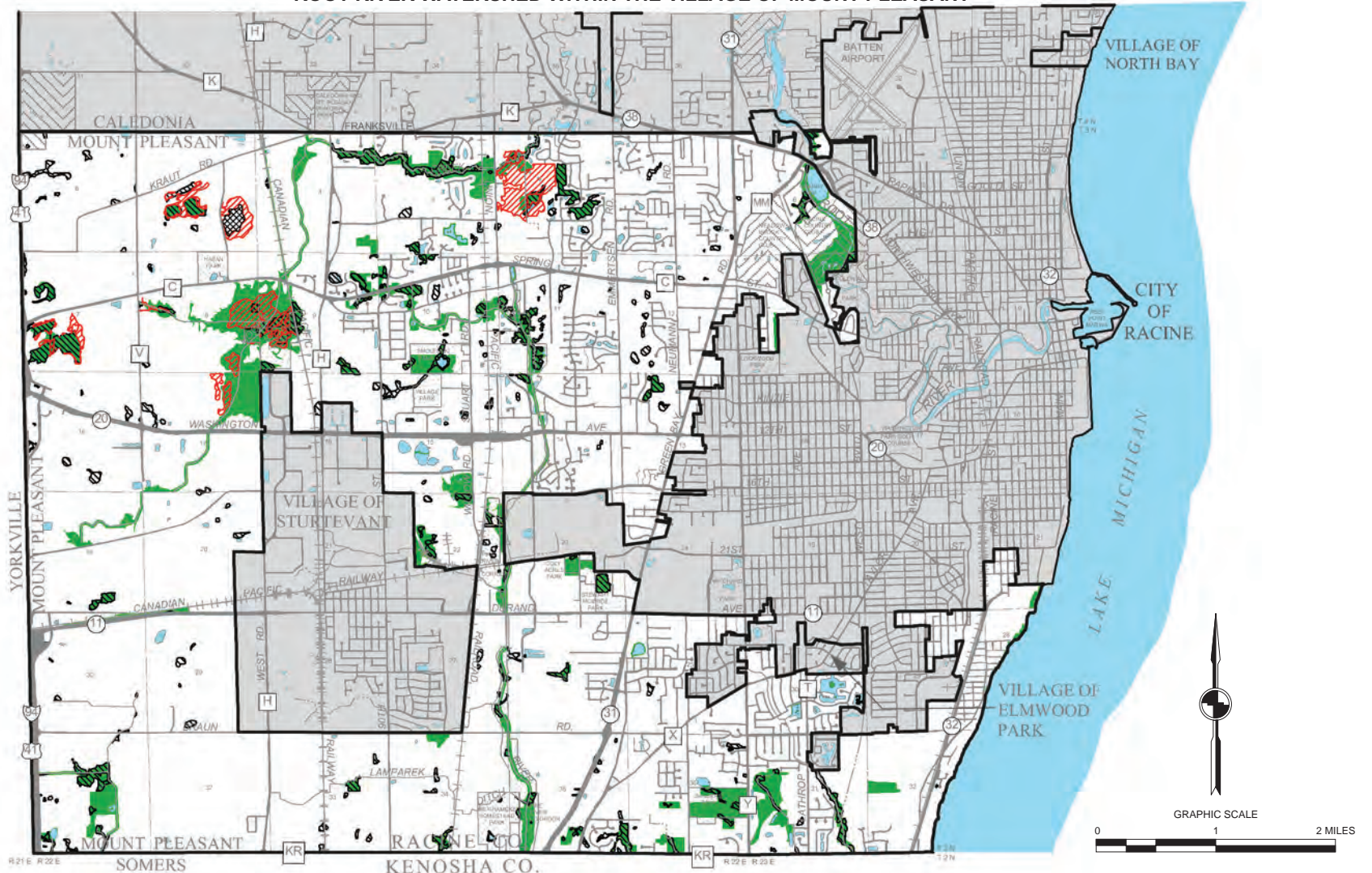
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<sup>7</sup>*Documented in a report titled, Back to the Root: An Urban River Revitalization Plan, prepared by the Root River Council and River Alliance of Wisconsin, July 2008.*

<sup>8</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 44, A Comprehensive Plan for the Des Plaines River Watershed, Parts One, Two, and Three, June 2003.*

Map 12

POTENTIAL WETLAND AND PRAIRIE RESTORATION AREAS IN THE ROOT RIVER WATERSHED WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT

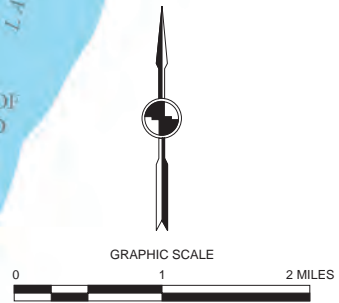


- PLANNED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
- POTENTIAL WETLAND AND PRAIRIE RESTORATION AREA IN THE ROOT RIVER WATERSHED
- EXISTING WETLAND
- FARMED WETLAND FIVE ACRES OR LARGER

- OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- SURFACE WATER

NOTE: POTENTIAL WETLAND AND PRAIRIE RESTORATION AREAS IN THE ROOT RIVER WATERSHED AREA WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE.

Source: SEWRPC.



Recommendations in the plan pertaining to the Village of Mount Pleasant include adopting the plan as a guide to future land use development, park development, and open space preservation; adoption of a stormwater management ordinance to establish riparian buffers in areas of new development or redevelopment; and development of a detailed stormwater management plan for the upper portion of the Kilbourn Road Ditch.

### **Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan**

In 2009, the Wisconsin Legislature passed Wisconsin Act 28 to repeal and recreate the Wisconsin farmland preservation law under Chapter 91 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* and related tax credits under Chapter 71 of the *Statutes*. The new law, also referred to as the “Working Lands Initiative,” requires counties to update their farmland preservation plans. The Racine County farmland preservation plan adopted in 1982 needed to be updated and recertified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in order for farmers to remain eligible to claim farmland tax credits.

On December 10, 2013, the updated Racine County farmland preservation plan was adopted by the Racine County Board. The updated plan was certified by DATCP on December 19, 2013. Farmland preservation areas<sup>9</sup> were identified within the Village of Mount Pleasant and are located in the northwestern portion of the Village (T3N, R22E, Sections 4 and 5) and the southwestern portion of the Village (T3N, R22 E, Sections 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33), as shown on Map 13. Farmland preservation areas in the Village encompass about 3,200 acres, or about 15 percent of the Village.

Lands identified as farmland preservation areas are intended to be preserved for agricultural and agricultural-related uses, including resource protection. The farmland preservation areas in the Village are located in the (AG) Agriculture District of the Village zoning ordinance, which establishes a minimum parcel size of 20 acres and generally limits land use to agricultural-related uses. Landowners with parcels identified as farmland preservation areas, and which meet certain criteria, are eligible to receive farmland preservation tax credits.

Farmland preservation areas may include undeveloped natural resource and open space lands, but may not include any areas that are planned for nonagricultural development within 15 years after the date on which the farmland preservation plan is adopted, in accordance with the *Statutes*. The farmland preservation plan must also be updated at least once every 10 years to remain in compliance with State law.

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

A public facilities needs assessment<sup>10</sup> for the Village was prepared in January 2007. A needs assessment is required by Section 66.0617 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* to demonstrate a need for and determine the amount of impact fees that may be placed on new development to cover the cost of providing public sites and facilities to serve that development. Impact fees for Village park facilities are only assessed for residential developments, because park facilities are generally used only by the residential portion of Village, while other types of facilities, such as fire and rescue, law enforcement, and transportation, are used by residential and nonresidential entities.

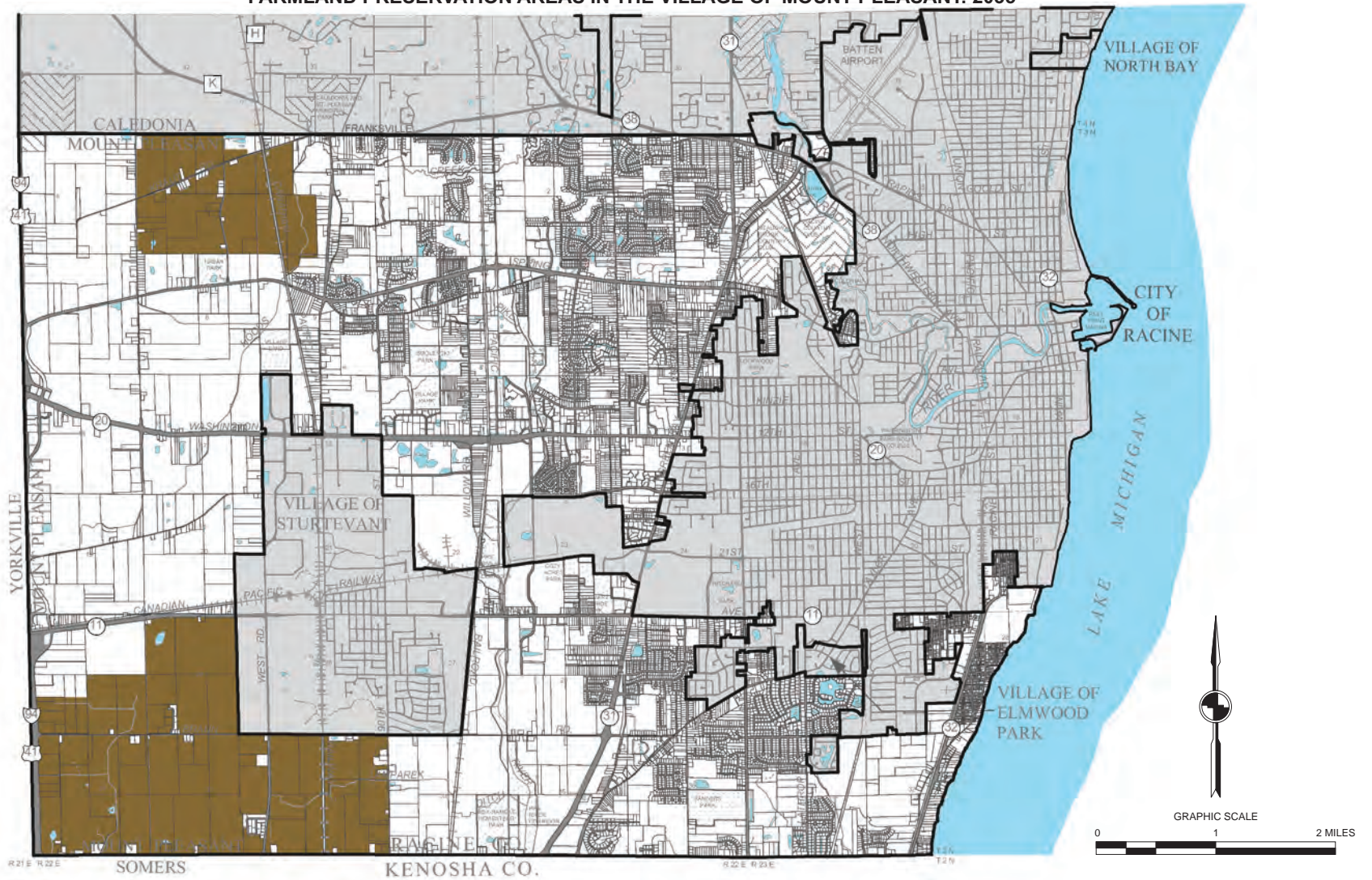
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<sup>9</sup>*The location of farmland preservation areas in the Village were based on the Village’s 2030 master land use land plan; however, the 2030 master plan was amended in January 2014 and renamed as the 2035 Village comprehensive (master) land use plan. Because of the amendment to the Village’s land use plan, some parcels or portions of parcels in the southwestern portion of the Village that are identified as farmland preservation areas are now planned for urban development.*

<sup>10</sup>*Documented in a report entitled, Needs Assessment Study for Parks, Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue, Stormwater, and Transportation Impact Fees for the Village of Mt. Pleasant, Racine County, Wisconsin, prepared by Crispell-Snyder, Inc., January 2007. The impact fee ordinance (Ordinance 3-2007, now Section 91 of the Village Code of Ordinances) was adopted by the Village Board on March 12, 2007, and took effect on July 1, 2007.*



FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2035



- FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREA
- SURFACE WATER
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Source: Racine County and SEWRPC.

Currently, the Village charges a parks-related impact fee of \$1,100.00 for each residential dwelling unit constructed within the Village. The collection of these fees will help offset the costs associated with the acquisition of parklands, the development of additional park facilities, the development of the Village Civic Campus Park, and the acquisition and development of bicycle routes provided by the Village to serve new residential development. As of March 2014, the Village has collected, with interest, about \$172,332, or about \$24,619 per year, in parks-related impact fees since 2007.

The Village also collects impact fees for stormwater facilities associated with the Pike River and Hoods Creek. In 2002, the Village began a restoration program for the entire stretch of the Pike River within the Village, which is proposed to reduce flooding, provide new habitats, improve water quality, and limit stormwater runoff. About 5.5 miles of Hoods Creek are also expected to be restored, and improvements to Hoods Creek are similar to the Pike River improvements. Impact fees for stormwater facilities are assessed for both residential and nonresidential developments within the respective watershed areas.

Currently, the Village charges a Pike River improvements impact fee of \$600.00 for each residential dwelling unit constructed in the Pike River watershed within the Village and an \$800.00 Hoods Creek improvement impact fee for each residential dwelling unit constructed in the Hoods Creek watershed within the Village. Impact fees for stormwater facilities will help offset the costs associated with continued engineering, real estate acquisition, and construction. As of March 2014, the Village has collected about \$72,261, or about \$14,452 per year, in Pike River improvement impact fees and about \$80,918, or about \$16,184 per year, in Hoods Creek improvement impact fees since 2009.

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

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

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

The adopted regional park, outdoor recreation, and related open space plan, as described in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, November 1977, identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommends a system of large regional resource-oriented parks, recreation corridors, and smaller urban parks, together with their attendant recreational facility requirements, to meet these needs. The portion of the regional park plan that applies to Racine County, including the Village of Mount Pleasant, was revised in 1988 through the preparation and adoption of a County park and open space plan. An updated County park and open space plan, a second edition, was adopted by the County Board in 2001, and was designed to the year 2020. In 2012, another update to the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan,<sup>11</sup> a third edition, was adopted by the County Board. That plan is designed to the year 2035 and consists of both an open space preservation element and an areawide outdoor recreation element, intended to, respectively, protect areas containing important natural resources and to provide resource-oriented recreational sites and facilities, including trails.

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<sup>11</sup>Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 3rd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, February 2013.



The outdoor recreation sites recommended within the Village of Mount Pleasant by the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan includes one existing major park within the Village, the 84-acre Sanders Park, located in the south-southeastern portion of the Village. The plan recommends that the County acquire an additional 30 acres to the south of the park for resource protection and outdoor recreation purposes and develop additional picnic facilities at the park. Since the adoption of the previous Village park plan in 2003, the County has developed playground and playfield areas at the park. The plan recommends that the County continue to maintain other County-owned sites within the Village of Mount Pleasant, including Haban Park, Horlick Park, and Quarry Lake Park. Since the adoption of the previous Village park plan in 2003, the County has developed outdoor recreational facilities at Horlick Park.

The plan also recommends that Racine County continue to maintain and provide additional facilities at other major parks located near the Village, where necessary; such as Pritchard Park, located adjacent to the Village in the City of Racine, and Ives Grove Golf Links, located just west of the Village in the Town of Yorkville. The County park plan further recommends that the City of Racine continue to maintain and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities as needed at the City-owned Johnson Park and Golf Course, which is located just north of the Village.

The County park plan recommends the development of a trail within the Root River Recreation Corridor in the northeastern portion of the Village, which would connect with the Root River Corridor in Milwaukee County to the north and the Lake Michigan Corridor in Kenosha County to the south. Since the adoption of the previous Village park plan in 2003, the City of Racine has developed the Lake Michigan Pathway within the City, which fully implements the Lake Michigan Recreation Corridor on the south side of the City of Racine and environs. The pathway provides a connection to the existing Kenosha County North Shore Trail on the south side of the Village and the existing Racine County Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha (MRK) Trail in the City of Racine.

The City of Racine has also developed a four-mile portion of the Root River pathway within the City, which fully implements the Root River Recreation Corridor within the City of Racine. The pathway extends from the Main Street Bridge, near downtown, to Colonial Park. The Root River Pathway currently provides a connection to the Racine County MRK Trail on the north side of the City of Racine and the Kenosha County North Shore Trail on the south side of the Village. The pathway also provides a connection to the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail.

The County plan recommends that Racine County continue to develop the Racine-Kansasville Trail. Since the adoption of the previous Village park plan in 2003, the County has extended an existing portion of the trail from Green Bay Avenue (STH 31) westward to 96th Street in the Village of Sturtevant. Within the Village of Mount Pleasant, the existing trail is located on Village-owned lands, County-owned lands, and Village street rights-of-way. The remaining portion of the trail, west of 96th Street, is proposed to be developed on local, low-volume traffic streets or within an abandoned railway right-of-way. Should the remaining portion of the railway right-of-way become abandoned, it is recommended that the County develop the trail in the abandoned right-of-way from the Village of Sturtevant to Kansasville. The abandoned railway right-of-way from Kansasville westward to the City of Burlington was acquired by the WDNR and a trail was developed by Racine County. The trail is referred to as the White River Trail.

The County plan also recommends that the County continue to maintain signage and other route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route, which includes about a nine-mile portion within the Village, and that the Village of Mount Pleasant continue to maintain and develop the Pike River Pathway within the Pike River Corridor, which will potentially connect with the Pike River Corridor in Kenosha County.

The County plan also recommends the development of water trails. Potential water trails may be located on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline within and adjacent to the Village. These trails would connect with water trails in adjacent counties. An existing public canoe access site is currently located at the County-owned Horlick Park along the Root River within the Village. Existing public canoe access sites are also located at the City of Racine-owned Island Park and Lincoln Park.

## **Regional Natural Areas Plan**

Natural areas and critical species habitat sites in Southeastern Wisconsin were identified in 1994 as part of the regional natural areas study. The inventory of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological sites was updated in 2009.<sup>12</sup> Five natural areas, three critical species habitat sites, and one geological area were identified, wholly or partially, in the Village in 2009. The natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological area in the Village are shown on Map 9 and described on Table 7 in Chapter II.

The regional natural areas plan recommends the protection and preservation of such areas in the Region. The natural areas plan identifies potential sites to be placed in public or private protective ownership, and other sites to be protected, insofar as it is possible, through zoning and other regulatory means without protective ownership. It also recommends that a detailed management plan be prepared and implemented for each site placed under protective ownership.

The existing and recommended ownership of each natural area, critical species habitat site, and geological area is summarized in the following paragraphs. Prior to acquisition by a public agency or nonprofit conservation organization (NCO), boundaries of the natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological area should be precisely identified based on a field delineation. Acquisition may be through fee-simple purchase or by acquisition of a conservation easement.

- The Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area encompasses 56 acres within the Village of Mount Pleasant. The entire natural area is encompassed within the County-owned Sanders Park located in the southern portion of the Village. The updated regional natural areas plan recommends that the County continue to own and maintain the site.
- The Franksville Railroad Prairie natural area encompasses four acres. The natural area is located in the northwestern portion of the Village west of and adjacent to a Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way. Currently, the entire site is privately owned. The updated regional natural areas plan recommends that the natural area be acquired by a nonprofit conservation organization.
- The Colonial Park Woods natural area encompasses 94 acres, including 21 acres located in the Village. A portion of the Root River traverses the site from north to south. Of the 21 acres located in the Village, seven acres are located within the City of Racine-owned Colonial Park and the remaining 14 acres are privately owned within the Racine Country Club. The natural area overall includes 71 acres owned by the City within Colonial Park, 14 acres located within the privately owned Racine Country Club, and the remaining nine acres are located in privately owned residential areas. The updated regional natural areas plan recommends City acquisition of the entire natural area. The Colonial Park Woods Natural Area is a new site identified during the natural areas and critical species habitat sites update, and therefore was not listed in the previous Village park plan.
- The Hoods Creek Woods natural area encompasses 72 acres within the Village. The natural area is located in the north-central portion of the Village and encompasses about a 1.5-mile portion of Hoods Creek. Currently, the Village owns three separate portions of the natural area encompassing 14 acres. The updated regional natural areas plan recommends Village acquisition of the remaining 58 acres of the natural area. The Hoods Creek Woods natural area is a new site identified during the natural areas and critical species habitat sites update, and therefore was not listed in the previous park plan.

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<sup>12</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997. An update to the plan is documented in SEWRPC Amendment to Planning Report No. 42, Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.*

- The Sylvania Railroad Prairie natural area encompasses 11 acres. The natural area is located in the western portion of the Village between STH 11 and a Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way. Currently, the entire site is privately owned. The updated regional natural areas plan recommends that the entire natural area be acquired by Racine County.
- The Campbell Woods critical species habitat site encompasses 43 acres. The site is located in the south-central portion of the Village on the north side of CTH KR. Currently, the entire site is privately owned. The site was a natural area of local significance in the 1994 natural areas inventory; however, the size of the site was reduced due to residential development and is now classified as a critical species habitat site. The site was not included in the previous park and open space plan, because it was anticipated that the entire site would be developed for residential use; however, residential development in the area has been slow and efforts to protect the remaining portions of the critical species habitat site by local residents and interest groups is still possible. The updated regional natural areas plan recommends that the entire site be acquired by a nonprofit conservation organization.
- The Waxdale Railroad Prairie critical species habitat site encompasses one acre. The site is located in the central portion of the Village east of and adjacent to a Union Pacific Railway right-of-way. Currently, the Village owns a very small portion of the site, less than one-quarter of an acre as part of the Pike River Corridor, while the remainder of the site is privately owned. The updated regional natural areas plan recommends that the critical species habitat site be preserved to the extent practicable without additional protective ownership.
- The Willow Woods critical species habitat site encompasses four acres. The site is located in the southeastern portion of the Village west of CTH Y in Section 36. Currently, the entire site is privately owned. The updated regional natural areas plan recommends that the site be preserved to the extent practicable without protective ownership.
- The Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries geological area encompasses 32 acres, including a 31-acre portion located along the Root River in the northeastern portion of the Village and one acre within the City of Racine. Twenty-four acres of the site are located within the County-owned Quarry Lake Park and a three-acre portion of the site is located within the privately owned Racine Country Club, both in the Village. The remaining four acres are located within privately owned, single-family residential lots. The updated regional natural areas plan recommends that the County acquire a conservation easement on the seven acres located within the country club and residential lots.

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

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

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

The attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide residents of the Village with opportunities for high-quality recreational experiences. Under the regional park and open space plan and the Racine County park and open space plan described earlier in this chapter, the responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open

space lands, and associated recreational facilities is shared among various levels of government. The responsibility for acquisition and development of major resource-oriented parks and recreational facilities<sup>13</sup> is largely delegated to the state and county levels of government, although larger cities sometimes provide major parks. The need for major parks will be met within the Village of Mount Pleasant by the continued maintenance and development of Sanders Park by Racine County. Additional major parks, Pritchard Park and Ives Grove Golf Links, located nearby in the City of Racine and Town of Yorkville, respectively, should continue to be maintained and developed by Racine County.

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

## **PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS**

### **Forecast Population**

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

As noted in Chapter II, the 2010 Village population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was 26,197 persons. The anticipated resident population of the Village of Mount Pleasant under the adopted Village of Mount Pleasant comprehensive plan<sup>14</sup> is about 35,000 persons, which is the population level upon which the needs analysis presented in this chapter is based. When preparing the County comprehensive plan, each community was given the opportunity to select its own set of projections for use in preparing local components of the plan for the year 2035. The Village selected a population projection of 35,000 residents, which is a Village-derived alternative population projection that falls about halfway between continuation of population and household trends in the Village between 1980 and 2006 (39,749) and the projected population and household levels from SEWRPC's 2035 regional land use plan (31,570).

### **Community and Neighborhood Parks**

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

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

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<sup>13</sup>*Resource-oriented recreational facilities include camping, golfing, picnicking, skiing, and beach swimming. Such facilities are dependent on the natural resources, such as woodlands and rivers or lakes, of the site in which they are located. Facility requirements for these activities are set forth under Objective No. 3 in Appendix A.*

<sup>14</sup>*The population projection is included in the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Racine County, which was adopted by the Village Board as the comprehensive plan for the Village. The Village adopted an amendment to that plan in January 2014 that supplements the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan.*

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 rivers and railroads were considered as barriers preventing pedestrian access from residential areas to neighborhood parks and recreation facilities, unless a bridge or street provided convenient access across the river or railroad. Arterial streets were also considered barriers to neighborhood parks, except in cases where stop signs or signals provided convenient pedestrian access to the parks from surrounding residential areas.

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

The result of applying the per capita standards for the amount of land needed for community and neighborhood parks to serve Village residents in the year 2035 is presented in Table 8. The 2035 population forecast of 35,000 Village residents is based on the comprehensive plan adopted by the Village Board in July 2009. Application of the per capita standards indicates a need for about 25 additional acres of public outdoor recreation lands at public school sites that serve the Village. Because the amount of acreage in existing Village- and County-owned park sites compensates for the low amount of recreation land at public school sites, there is no need for additional park land to meet the per capita standard. Even when per capita acreage standards are met, however, additional parks may be needed if the distribution of existing parks does not provide convenient access for current and future residents. The accessibility, or service area, analysis is provided in the following section.

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

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

As shown on Map 14, application of the two-mile service area radius to existing parks providing community facilities indicates that small areas in the southeastern and western portions of the Village are not adequately served by a community park. The existing parks providing community park facilities utilized in this analysis include Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park, Haban Park, Quarry Lake Park, Sanders Park, Smolenski Park, Stewart-McBride Park, and Lockwood Park and Pritchard Park in the City of Racine. The Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park and Village Civic Campus Park, both undeveloped, were not included in this service radius analysis due to the fact, while considered community parks by size, there are currently no existing community park facilities at these sites.

As shown on Map 15, application of the 0.75-mile service area radius to existing parks providing neighborhood facilities indicates that areas in the southeastern, southern, northern, western, and central portions of the Village are not adequately served by a neighborhood park. In addition, there are areas within the Village which, although within the 0.75-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to accessibility barriers.



**Table 8**

**PER CAPITA ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT**

Park and School Sites	Minimum Standard Net Acreage Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) <sup>b</sup>	Existing Net Acreage	Per Capita Acreage Requirements			
			Existing 2010 Population: 26,197 Residents		Planned 2035 Population: 35,000 Residents	
			Net Acreage Requirement <sup>c</sup>	Net Acreage Need <sup>d</sup>	Net Acreage Requirement <sup>c</sup>	Net Acreage Need <sup>d</sup>
Parks <sup>a</sup> .....	3.9	561 <sup>e</sup>	102	--	137	--
Schools .....	2.5	62 <sup>f</sup>	66	4	87	25
Total	6.4	623	168	--	224	--

<sup>a</sup> Includes eight Village-owned community and neighborhood park sites, including Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park, Drozd Park, James Turek Park, Pheasant Creek Park, Sheridan Woods Park, Smolenski Park, Stewart McBride Park, and Village Civic Campus Park and one jointly owned park, Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park. Also included are four sites owned by Racine County (Haban Park, Pritchard Park, Quarry Lake Park, and Sanders Park) and one site owned by the City of Racine (Lockwood Park), which provide community and neighborhood recreational facilities to Village residents.

<sup>b</sup> Standard per capita acreage requirements are set forth under Objective No. 1 in Appendix A.

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

<sup>d</sup> Acreage need was determined by subtracting the existing acres from the acreage requirement. Since the remainder was a negative number, the minimum acreage requirement was exceeded and no need for additional parks was identified based on per capita standards. See Maps 14 and 15 for areas located outside the recommended service area for community and neighborhood parks, respectively.

<sup>e</sup> Includes about 270 acres of existing developed (143 acres) and potential developable (127 acres) areas at 14 existing major, community, and neighborhood parks. Developable area excludes wetlands, lowland portions of primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and floodplains within existing parks.

<sup>f</sup> This total includes acreage used for outdoor recreation purposes at two public school sites within the Village of Mount Pleasant and three public school sites (Goodland Elementary, Johnson Elementary, and Jones Elementary) located in the City of Racine that serve Village residents.

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

Existing neighborhood parks used in this analysis include Drozd Park, James Turek Park, Pheasant Creek Park, Sheridan Woods Park, and the community parks noted above.

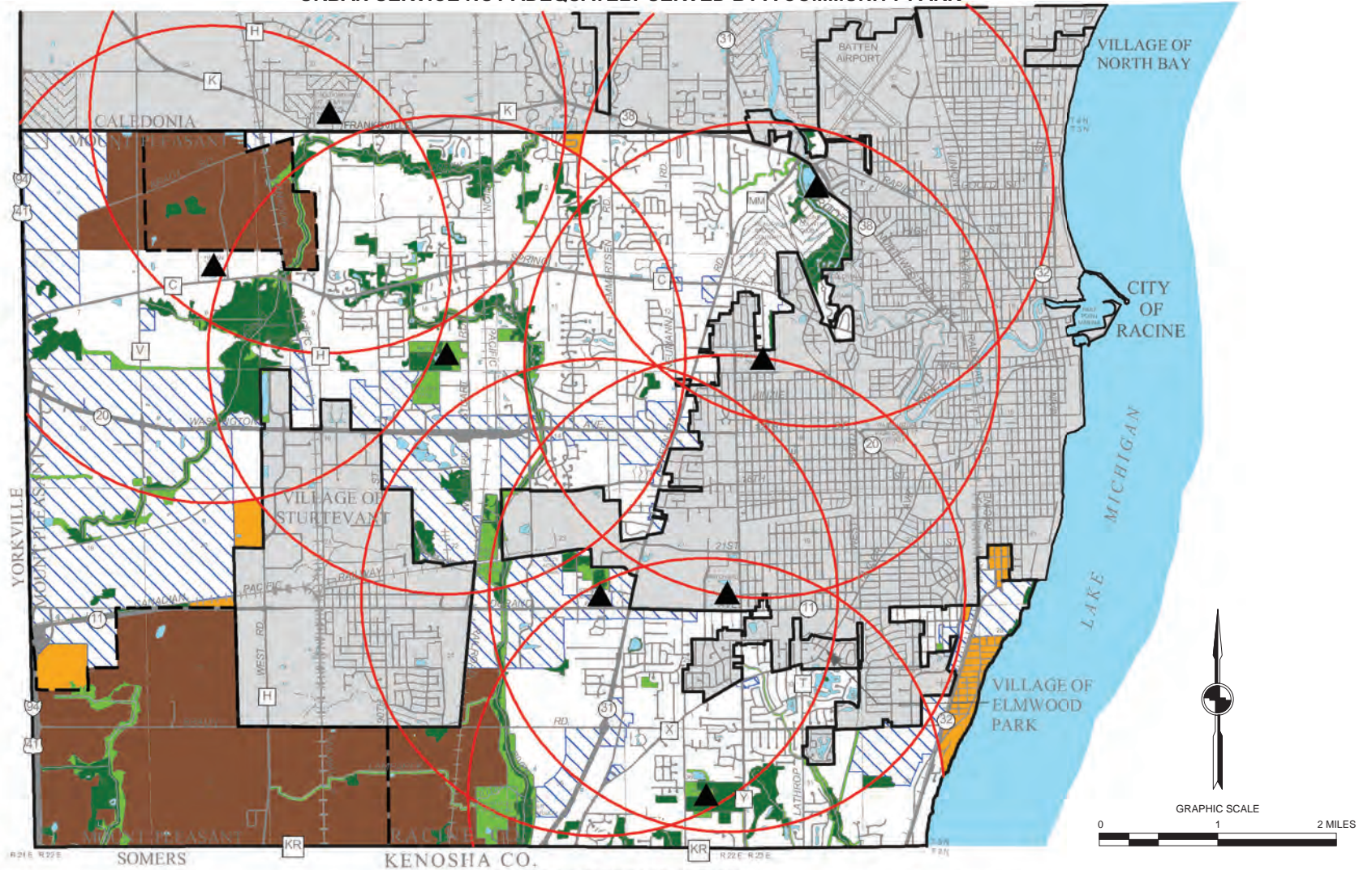
**Facility Needs Based on Per Capita Standards**











The facility standards set forth under Objective No. 2 in Appendix A are concerned with providing an adequate number and distribution of outdoor recreation facilities to afford Village residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive outdoor recreation activities such as baseball, softball, and tennis. The results of applying the adopted per capita facility standards to the projected 2035 population level for the Village of Mount Pleasant are presented in Table 9. The existing quantity of each facility includes those located in public and private sites within the Village. Facilities at public sites include those at community parks, neighborhood parks, and public schools. Facilities at private sites include those at private schools and commercial and organizational recreation sites.

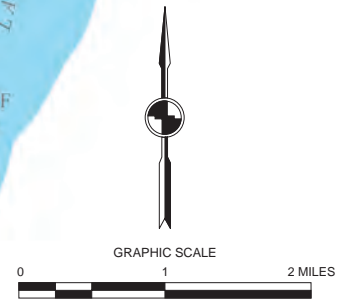
As shown in Table 9, a need was identified through the application of the standards for 34 additional public basketball goals, five additional public playfields, nine additional public softball diamonds, two additional public playgrounds, and four additional public soccer fields. In cases where the number 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. As documented in Chapter V of this report, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board refined the results of the needs analysis as they apply to the Village park system.

Map 14

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
URBAN SERVICE NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A COMMUNITY PARK**



-  EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK
-  COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE RADIUS
-  PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A COMMUNITY PARK
-  PLANNED URBAN - NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
-  PLANNED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
-  OTHER CONSERVANCY LANDS TO BE PRESERVED
-  LANDS OUTSIDE THE SEWER SERVICE AREA OR PLANNED AGRICULTURE THROUGH 2035
-  OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
-  SEWER SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
-  SURFACE WATER

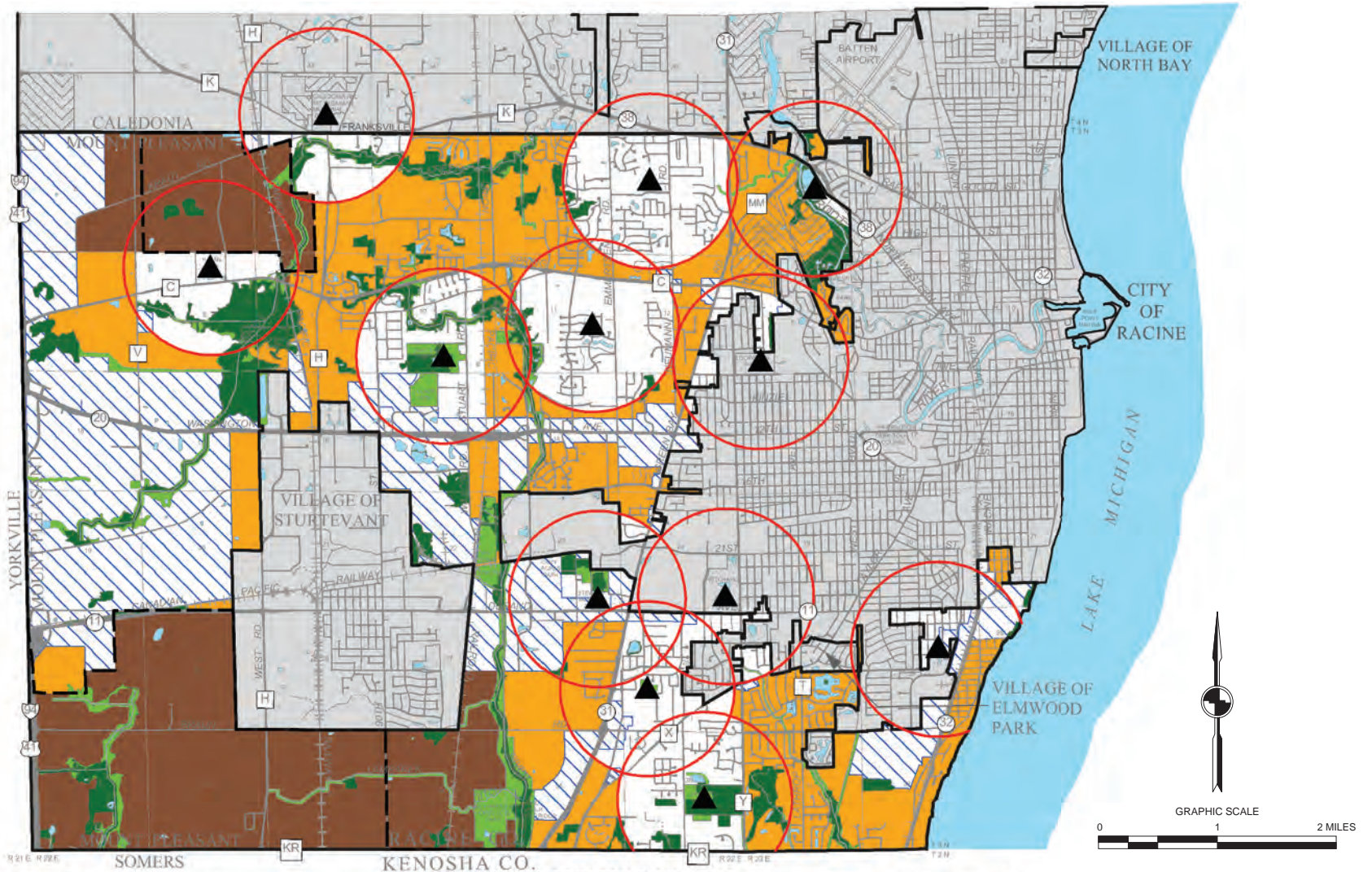


Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

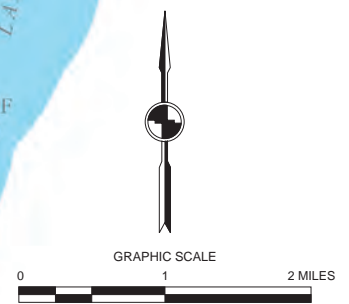


Map 15

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
URBAN SERVICE NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**



- |   |   |   |  |     |                             |
|---|---|---|--|-----|-----------------------------|
| ▲ | EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK  | ■ | OTHER CONSERVANCY LANDS TO BE PRESERVED                                  | ■   | SURFACE WATER               |
| ○ | NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE RADIUS  | ■ | LANDS OUTSIDE THE SEWER SERVICE AREA OR PLANNED AGRICULTURE THROUGH 2035 | ■   |                             |
| ■ | PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK                   | ■ | OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  | --- | SEWER SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY |
| ■ | PLANNED URBAN - NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT  |   |  |     |                             |
| ■ | PLANNED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA |   |  |     |                             |



**Table 9**

**PER CAPITA REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT**

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirements <sup>a</sup>				Facility Requirement <sup>b</sup>	Existing Number of Facilities	Facility Need <sup>c</sup>
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Residents			
Baseball	Diamond	Public	0.09	3	14 <sup>d</sup>	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.01</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	
		Total	0.10	4	14	
Basketball	Goal	Public	0.91	32	5	34 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.22</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	
		Total	1.13	40	6	
Playfield Activities	Playfield	Public	0.39	14	12	5 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	
		Total	0.50	18	13	
Playground Activities	Playground	Public	0.35	12	11	2 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.07</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	
		Total	0.42	15	13	
Soccer	Field	Public	0.69	24	20 <sup>e</sup>	4 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.17</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>18</u> <sup>f</sup>	
		Total	0.86	30	38	
League Softball	Diamond	Public	0.53	19	12 <sup>g</sup>	9 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.07</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	
		Total	0.60	21	12	
Tennis	Court	Public	0.41	14	14 <sup>h</sup>	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.09</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	
		Total	0.50	17	24	

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

<sup>b</sup> The facility requirement was determined by multiplying the facility requirement per 1,000 residents anticipated under the adopted Village of Mount Pleasant comprehensive plan (35,000 residents).

<sup>c</sup> The 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.

<sup>d</sup> Includes the league softball diamond at Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park, which may also be used for baseball.

<sup>e</sup> Includes four soccer fields located at the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park and six soccer fields located on Village of Caledonia-owned land. Both sites are located in the Village of Caledonia. Also includes seven soccer fields at Haban Park when the ball diamonds are not being used for baseball or softball.

<sup>f</sup> Soccer fields are located at the Soccer Complex of Racine (SCORE) adjacent to the jointly-owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park, which is located in the Village of Caledonia.

<sup>g</sup> Includes seven baseball diamonds at the County-owned Haban Park, which can be used for softball.

<sup>h</sup> Includes 12 tennis courts located at J.I. Case High School. Even though the Racine Unified School District sites are public, events and policies at the school may limit the availability and use of the facilities to the general public.

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

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

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

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

As shown on Map 16, baseball diamonds were provided at two public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2013. The league softball diamonds at the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park located in the Village of Caledonia and at Lockwood Park located in the City of Racine also serve as baseball diamonds. Since the maximum service radius of a baseball diamond is two miles, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the southeastern, western, and northern portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of baseball diamonds.

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

As shown on Map 17, basketball goals were provided at two public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2013. Basketball goals were also provided at the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park located in the Village of Caledonia and at Lockwood Park located in the City of Racine. Since the maximum service radius of a basketball goal is 0.5 mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that large portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of basketball goals. In addition, there are limited areas within the Village which, although within the 0.5-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to accessibility barriers.

#### ***Playfields***

As shown on Map 18, playfields were provided at 11 public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2013. Playfields were also provided at the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park located in the Village of Caledonia and the County-owned Pritchard Park and the City-owned Lockwood Park, both located in the City of Racine. Since the maximum service radius of a playfield is 0.5 mile, application of the accessibility requirements indicates that areas in the southeastern, southern, northern, and western portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of playfields. In addition, there are limited areas within the Village which, although within the 0.5-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to accessibility barriers.

#### ***Playgrounds***

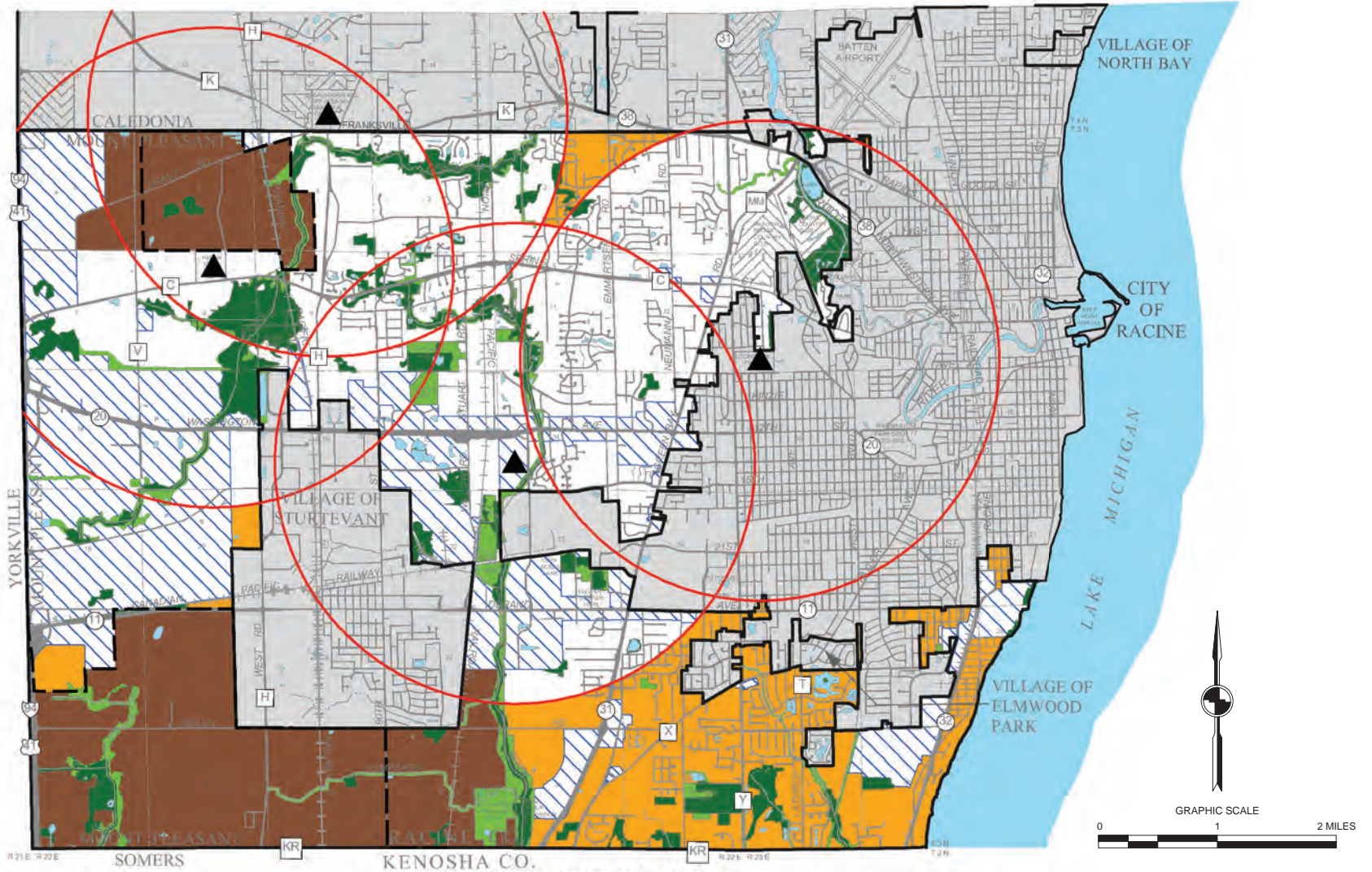
As shown on Map 19, playgrounds were provided at 10 public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2013. Playgrounds were also provided at the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park located in the Village of Caledonia and the County-owned Pritchard Park and the City-owned Lockwood Park, both located in the City of Racine. Since the maximum service radius for a playground is 0.5 mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates areas in the southeastern, southern, northern, western, and central portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of playgrounds. In addition, there are limited areas within the Village which, although within the 0.5-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to accessibility barriers.

#### ***Soccer Fields***

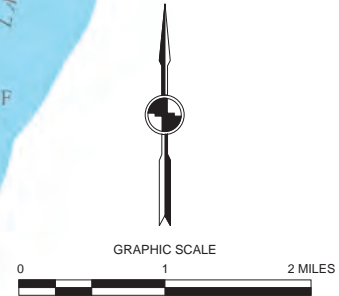
As shown on Map 20, public soccer fields were provided at two public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2013. Public soccer fields were also provided at the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park and at Village of Caledonia-owned land, both located in the Village of Caledonia and at the County-owned Pritchard Park and the City-owned Lockwood Park, both located in the City of Racine. Private soccer fields were also located nearby at the Soccer Complex of Racine (SCORE) in the Village of Caledonia. Since the maximum service radius of a soccer field is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the northern, southeastern, and western portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of soccer fields.



**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
URBAN SERVICE NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A BASEBALL DIAMOND**



- EXISTING BASEBALL DIAMOND
- BASEBALL DIAMOND SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A BASEBALL DIAMOND
- PLANNED URBAN - NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- PLANNED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
- OTHER CONSERVANCY LANDS TO BE PRESERVED
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE SEWER SERVICE AREA OR PLANNED AGRICULTURE THROUGH 2035
- OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- SEWER SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
- SURFACE WATER

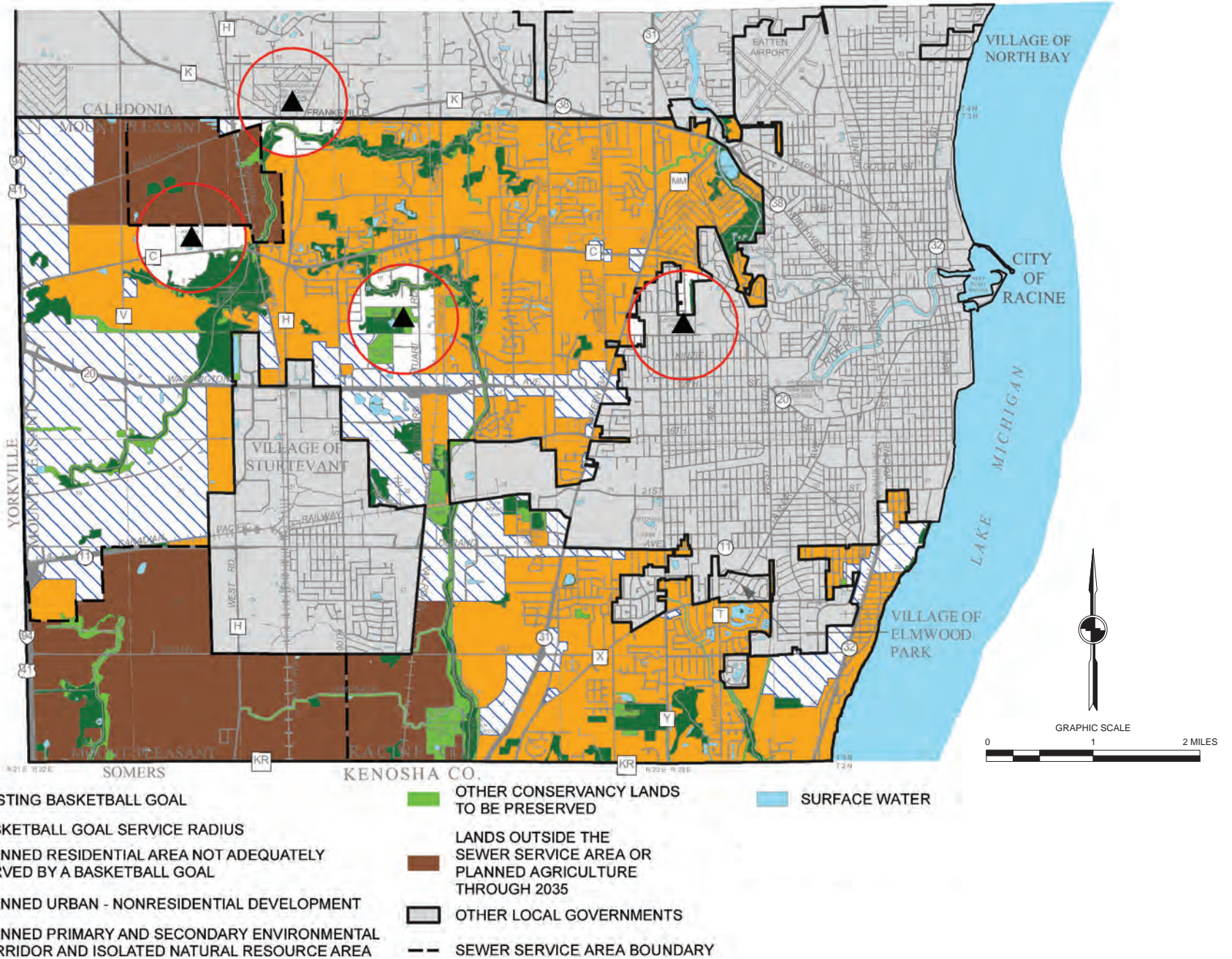


Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.



Map 17

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
URBAN SERVICE NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A BASKETBALL GOAL**

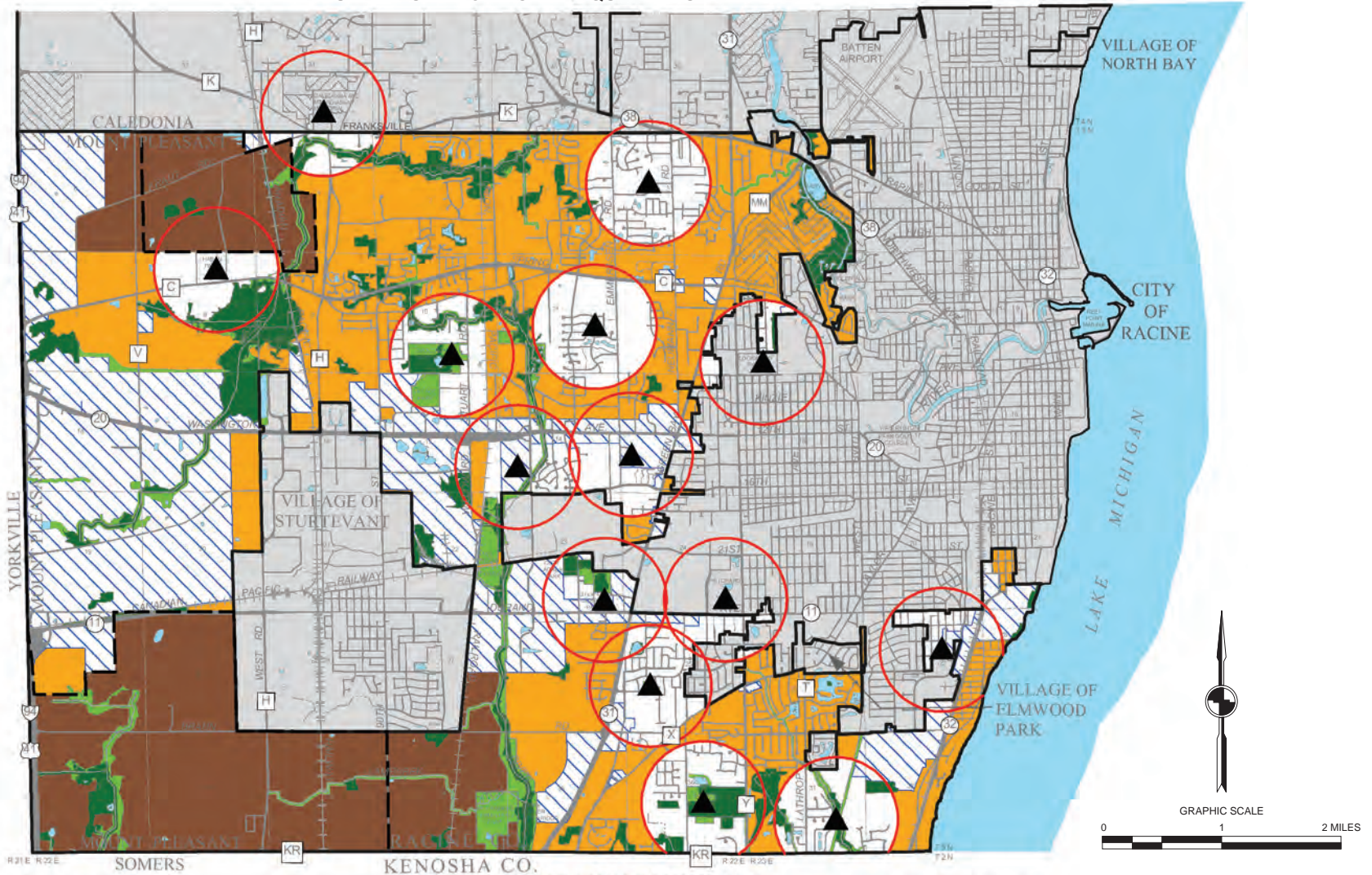


Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.



Map 18

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
URBAN SERVICE NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYFIELD**



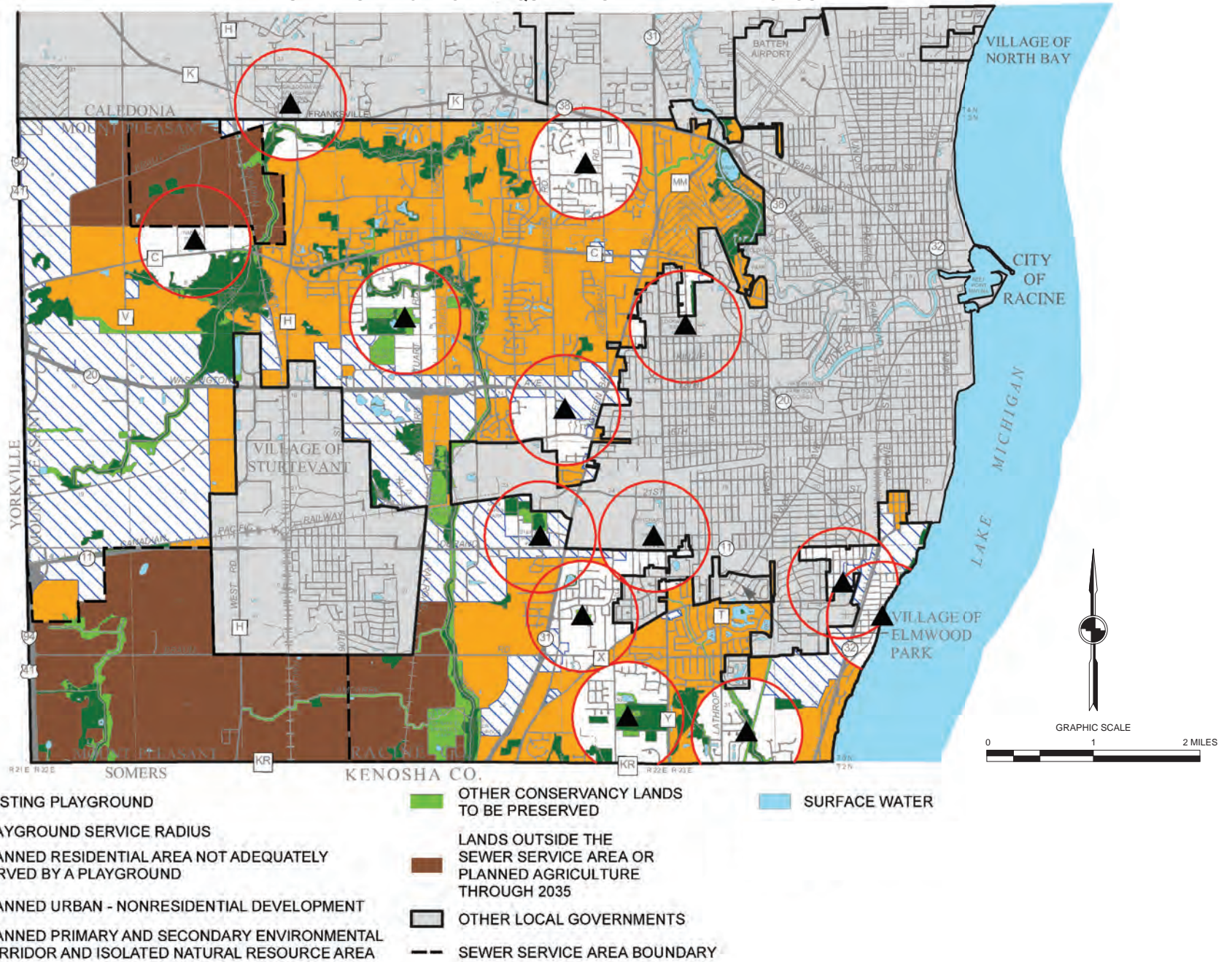
- EXISTING PLAYFIELD
- PLAYFIELD SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYFIELD
- PLANNED URBAN - NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- PLANNED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
- OTHER CONSERVANCY LANDS TO BE PRESERVED
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE SEWER SERVICE AREA OR PLANNED AGRICULTURE THROUGH 2035
- OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- SEWER SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
- SURFACE WATER

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.



Map 19

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
URBAN SERVICE NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYGROUND**

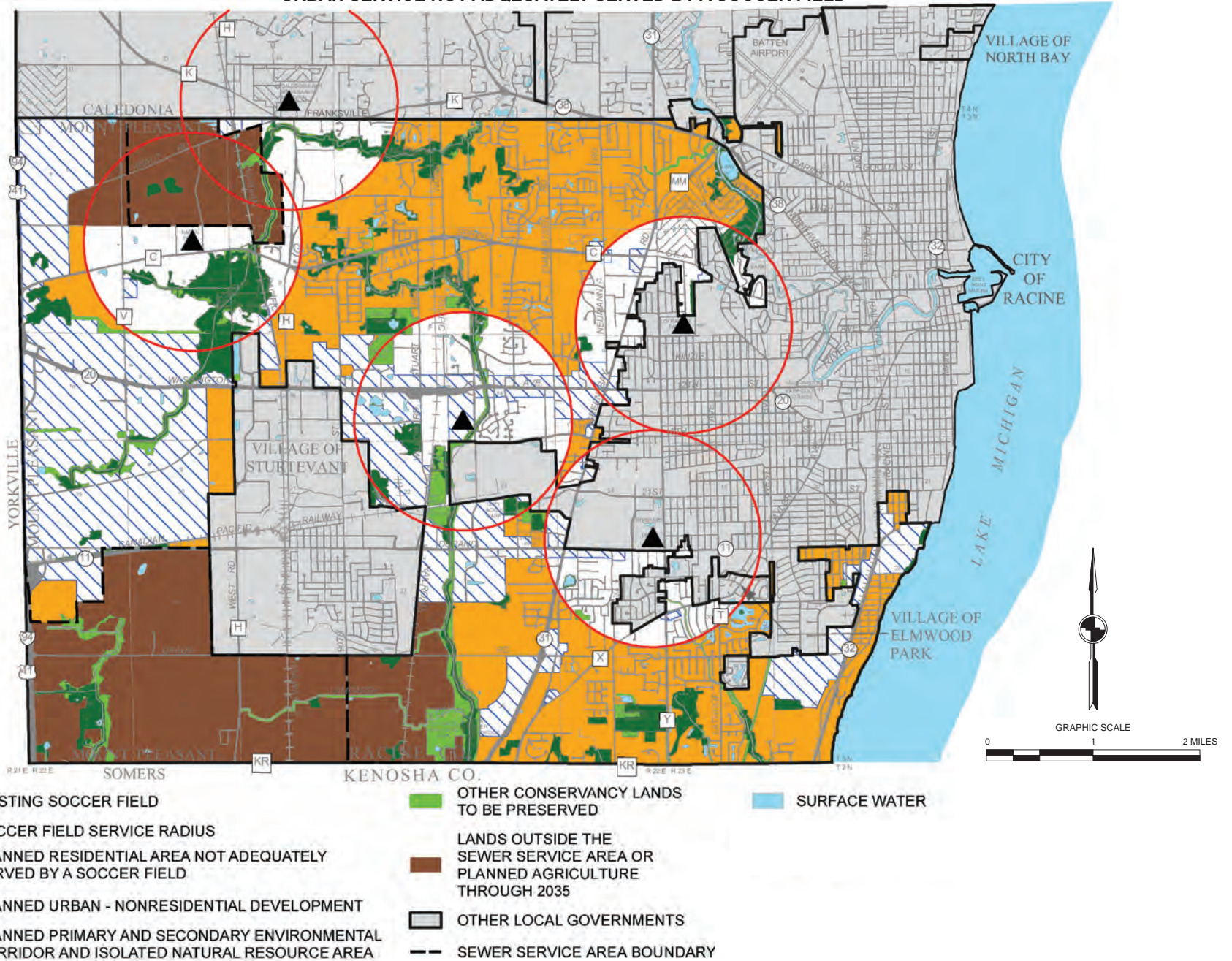


Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.



Map 20

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
URBAN SERVICE NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A SOCCER FIELD



Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.



### *Softball Diamonds (Sandlot)*

As shown on Map 21, sandlot softball diamonds were provided at five public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2013. Sandlot softball diamonds were also provided at the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park located in the Village of Caledonia. Since the maximum service radius for a sandlot softball diamond is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the northern, southeastern, southern, western, and central portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of sandlot softball diamonds. In addition, there are limited areas within the Village which, although within the 1.0-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to accessibility barriers.

### *Softball Diamonds (League)*

As shown on Map 22, league softball diamonds were provided at three public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2013. League softball diamonds were also provided at the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park located in the Village of Caledonia and at the County-owned Pritchard Park and the City-owned Lockwood Park, both located in the City of Racine. Since the maximum service radius for a league softball diamond is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the northern, southeastern, and western portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of league softball diamonds.

### *Tennis Courts*

As shown on Map 23, tennis courts were provided at one public outdoor recreation sites in the Village in 2013. Tennis courts were also provided at the jointly owned Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park located in the Village of Caledonia and at the City-owned Lockwood Park located in the City of Racine. Since the maximum service radius for a tennis court is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the northern, southern, and western portions of the Village are not served by the existing distribution of tennis courts.

### *Swimming Pool or Beach*

One public beach was provided within the Village in 2013, at the County-owned Quarry Lake Park. Village residents are also served by a public beach on Lake Michigan. The beach is located at North Beach in the City of Racine, which is north of the downtown area. Beaches along Lake Michigan have a 10-mile service radius; hence, the entire Village would be served by the existing distribution of public beaches in and near the Village. An indoor swimming pool provided at J.I. Case High School is also located in the Village; however, events and policies of the school district may limit the availability and use of the facility.

### ***Application of Standards to Recreational Facilities***

As shown by Table 9, application of the per capita standards identified a need for 34 additional basketball goals, five additional playfields, nine additional softball diamonds, two additional playgrounds, and four additional soccer fields. The accessibility analysis for recreational facilities contained in the 2020 Village park plan called for the development of additional baseball diamonds, playfields, playgrounds, basketball goals, softball diamonds, soccer fields, and tennis courts to assure that such facilities are conveniently located to serve neighborhood residents. Chapter III identifies the number of recreational facilities recommended in the 2020 Village park plan that have not yet been developed. Development of these facilities would help meet per capita and park distribution standards within the Village.

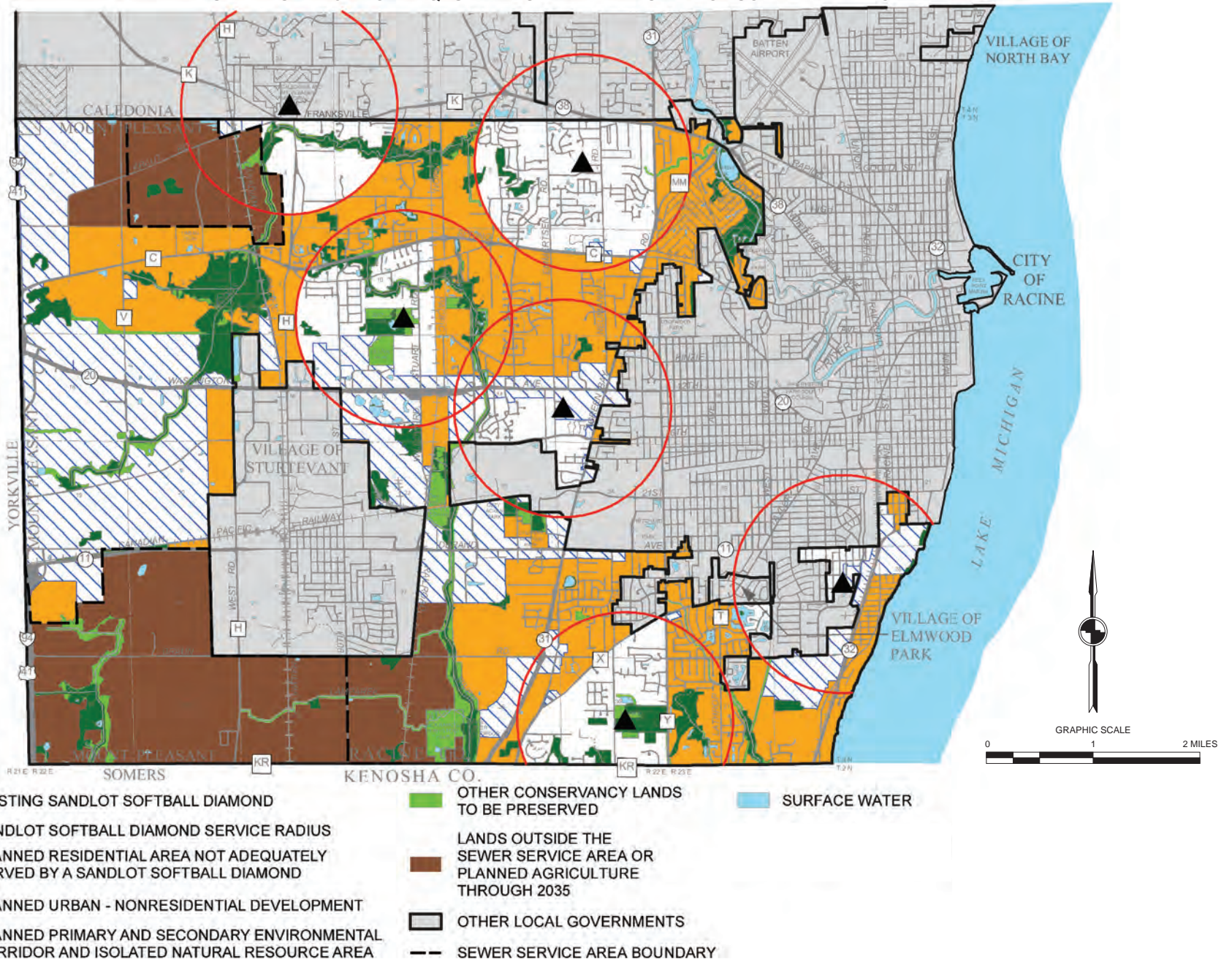
The 2020 Village park plan, based on recommendations from the Parks Commission and Village staff, also recommended the development of a community center with facilities such as swimming, a gymnasium, and other recreational facilities and amenities.

### **Village of Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Survey**

The Village of Mount Pleasant conducted a mail survey about the usage and preferences for parks and recreation facilities in January 2008. The survey was funded by the Village, and the results of the survey were collated and analyzed by Carthage College Department of Sociology in early 2009. A total of 112 questionnaires were returned. Of those residents that responded, 35 percent were ages 35 to 54; 30 percent were 55 to 64; 29 percent were 65 or older; and 6 percent were younger than 35. Ninety-nine percent of the respondents owned their residence, and of those 99 percent, 70 percent resided in a single-family house and 29 percent resided in a condominium. Of the respondents, 72 percent had no children residing with them, while 27 percent had one or more children at home.

Map 21

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
URBAN SERVICE NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A SANDLOT SOFTBALL DIAMOND**

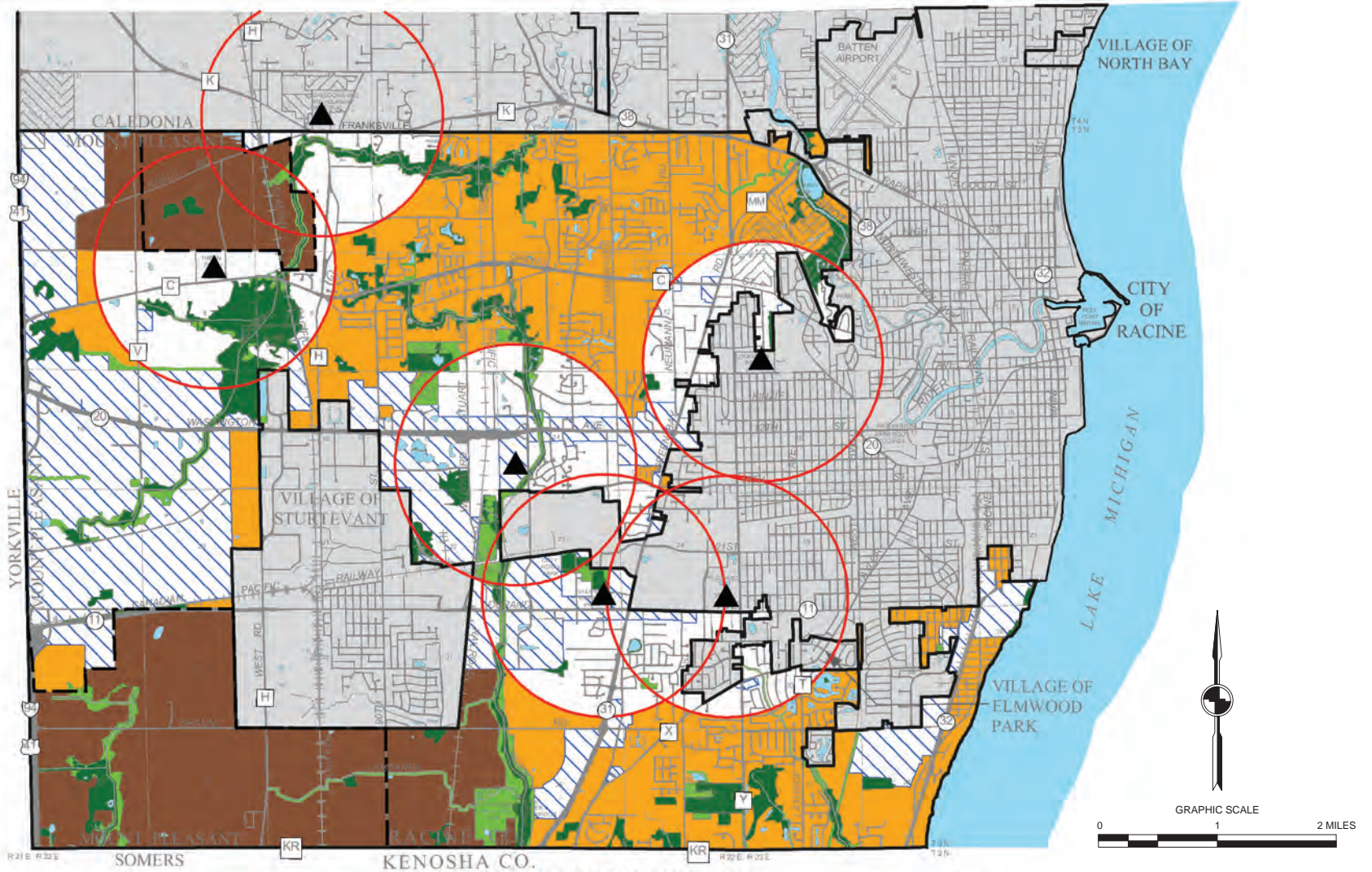


Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.



Map 22

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
URBAN SERVICE NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND**



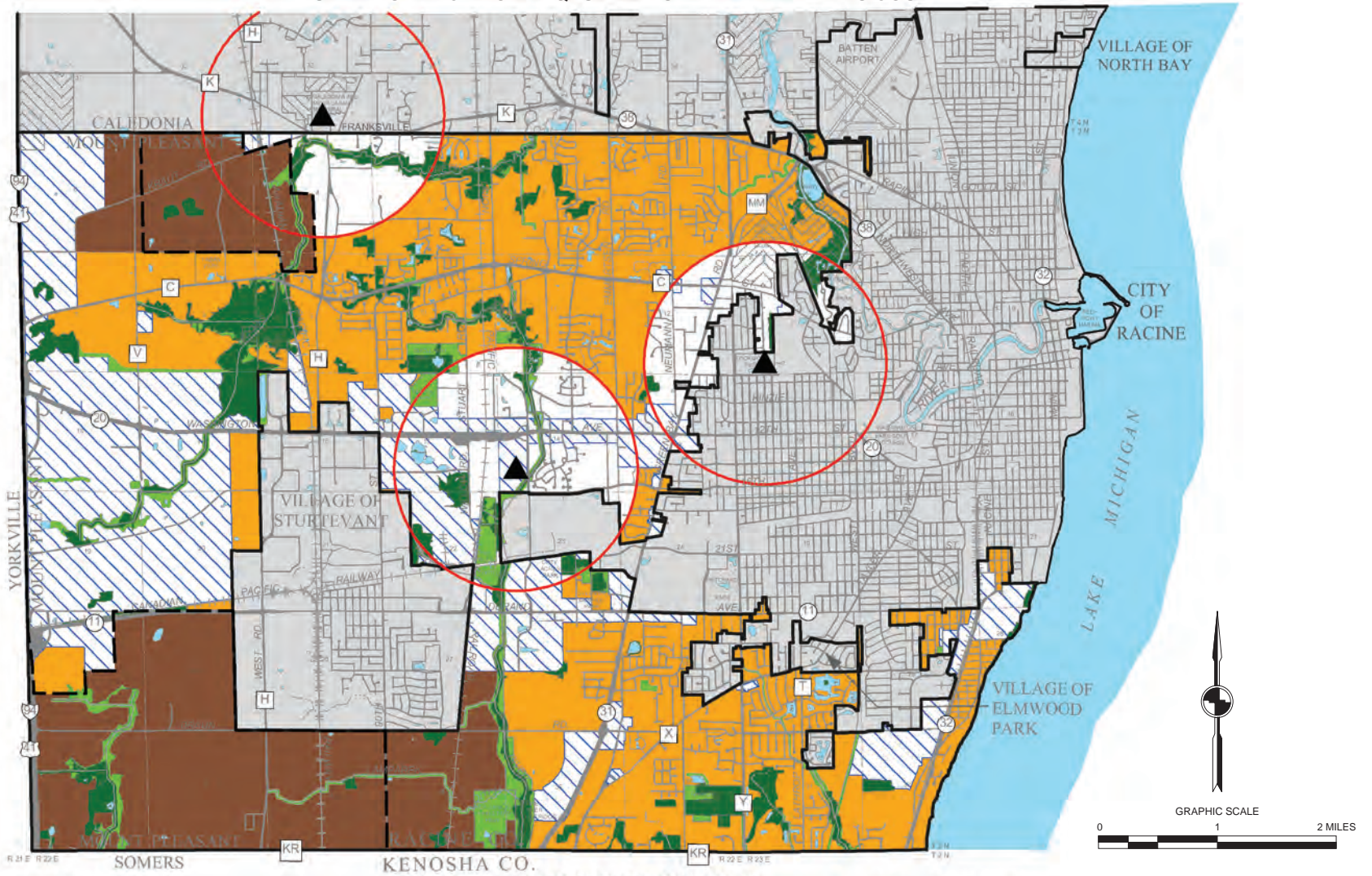
- ▲ EXISTING LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND
- LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND
- ▨ PLANNED URBAN - NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- PLANNED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
- OTHER CONSERVANCY LANDS TO BE PRESERVED
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE SEWER SERVICE AREA OR PLANNED AGRICULTURE THROUGH 2035
- OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- SEWER SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
- SURFACE WATER

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.



Map 23

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT  
URBAN SERVICE NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A TENNIS COURT



- EXISTING TENNIS COURT
- TENNIS COURT SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A TENNIS COURT
- PLANNED URBAN - NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- PLANNED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE SEWER SERVICE AREA OR PLANNED AGRICULTURE THROUGH 2035
- OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- SEWER SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
- SURFACE WATER

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

Survey respondents were asked how often they had visited Village parks, and 43 percent indicated at least monthly; 22 percent indicated several times a week; 27 percent indicated at least once a week; and 8 percent indicated daily. Of those respondents that visited Village parks, 71 percent indicated that a child was also with them. About 77 percent of respondents also rated Village parks as “Excellent” or “Very Good.”

Village residents were also asked what type of recreational facilities they would like the Village to develop generally, and also specifically, at the Village Civic Campus area. Regarding facilities to be generally developed within the Village, 93 percent of respondents indicated either “Very Interested” or “Interested” in bicycle, walking, and hiking paths. Other respondents were “Very Interested” or “Interested” in nature preserves (72 percent); an indoor recreational facility (69 percent); playgrounds (67 percent); gardens (64 percent); picnic areas (60 percent); and a swimming pool (51 percent). Survey respondents indicated low interest in the Village developing typical recreational facilities, such as basketball and tennis courts or soccer and football fields.

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback about desired facilities at the Village Civic Campus area. Ninety-one percent of respondents were “Very Interested” or “Interested” in the Village developing bicycle, walking, and hiking paths at the park. Respondents were also “Very Interested” or “Interested” in the Village developing a nature preserve (76 percent); picnic areas (69 percent); an outdoor swimming pool (68 percent); gardens (65 percent); playground equipment (64 percent); an indoor recreational facility (63 percent); an amphitheater (51 percent); and a mini-golf course (50 percent). Respondents were consistent in regard to the types of facilities they would like the Village to develop generally throughout the Village and at the Village Civic Campus area.

## **SUMMARY**

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

- The 2030 Village bicycle plan identifies existing and proposed bikeways within the Village, including potential connections to bikeways in adjacent communities. The plan provides detailed recommendations for the location of on-street and off-street bike segments within the Village and identifies County trails and City of Racine pathways. The plan further provides the location of where County trails, City of Racine pathways, and Village bikeways and trails connect providing a larger scope of biking opportunities for Village residents. The plan identifies and prioritizes bike facility needs within the Village and provides goals and measures to implement those needs.
- In 2009, the Village Board adopted the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Racine County as the Village’s comprehensive plan. In 2014, the Village Board adopted an amendment to the Village master land use plan and the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. The amended Village comprehensive (master) plan anticipates that existing parks and open space sites owned by the Village will continue to be maintained to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities to the existing and future population of the Village. The plan also recommends that the Village continue to maintain existing bikeways and provide, where necessary, additional on-street and off-street bicycle trails and paths and off-street pedestrian trails within the Village.
- In 2013, the Pike River watershed plan was prepared to restore and manage an ecologically enhanced watershed area that focuses on protecting and restoring the river corridor, protecting open space areas, increasing and improving recreational access, utilizing a more sustainable development pattern, increasing public education, and ultimately, achieving applicable water quality standards. The plan carefully examined open space areas within the watershed that would ultimately make up a Green Infrastructure Network. The identification and prioritization of the Green Infrastructure Network for the



watershed allows levels of government to evaluate conservation opportunities and land use development in certain areas. The plan also recommends that local governments should continue to plan for new trails and possible trail connections within the Green Infrastructure Network, when applicable.

- In 2014, the Root River watershed restoration plan was prepared to provide targeted recommendations that will address improvements to watershed-related conditions with the overall goal of restoring and improving the water resources of the Root River watershed. The plan is focused on four issues: water quality, recreational use and access, habitat condition, and flooding. The Root River watershed provides opportunities for such recreational activities as fishing, hunting, boating, wading, canoeing, kayaking, wildlife watching, and scenic viewing. The 10 highest ranked issues concerning survey respondents about the watershed, in order from highest to lowest priority, include water quality; streambed and bank erosion; nonpoint source pollution; wetland loss; habitat loss; lack of or ineffective riparian buffers; public education and awareness; stormwater runoff; river access; and flooding.
- In December 2013, the updated Racine County farmland preservation plan was adopted by the Racine County Board. Farmland preservation areas were identified within the Village of Mount Pleasant and are located in the northwestern portion and the southwestern portion of the Village. Farmland preservation areas in the Village encompass about 3,200 acres, or about 15 percent of the Village. Lands identified as farmland preservation areas are intended to be preserved for agricultural and agricultural-related uses, including resource protection. Farmland preservation areas may include undeveloped natural resource and open space lands, but may not include any areas that are planned for nonagricultural development within 15 years after the date on which the farmland preservation plan is adopted, in accordance with the *Statutes*.
- The need for major parks has been addressed by the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan. Under that plan, Sanders Park was identified as a major park. The County-owned Sanders Park is 84 acres in size and the County park plan recommends that the County acquire an additional 30 acres to the south of the park for resource protection and outdoor recreation purposes and develop additional picnic areas with appropriate support facilities at the park. Since the adoption of the previous Village park plan in 2003, the County has developed playground and playfield areas at the park.

The County park plan also recommends that the County develop the Root River Trail and the Racine-Kansasville Trail and continue to maintain the North Shore Trail (Lake Michigan Recreation Corridor). Since 2003, the City of Racine has developed the Lake Michigan Pathway within the City, which fully implements the Lake Michigan Corridor, and also developed the Root River pathway within the City, which fully implements the Root River Corridor within the City of Racine. Since 2003, the County has extended an existing portion of the Racine-Kansasville Trail from Green Bay Avenue (STH 31) westward to 96th Street in the Village of Sturtevant.

The County plan also recommends the development of water trails. Potential water trails may be located on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline within the Village.

- There were five natural areas, three critical species habitat sites, and one geological area, wholly or partially, in the Village in 2009. The updated regional natural areas plan recommends that the Village acquire the remaining acres of the Hoods Creek Woods natural area. The plan also recommends that the County continue to protect the Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area, acquire the Sylvania Railroad Prairie natural area, and acquire a conservation easement on remaining unprotected lands associated with the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries geological area within the Village.
- Application of the per capita standards for neighborhood and community parks indicates no additional need for parkland to serve the anticipated 2035 Village population (35,000 persons). There is a need, however, to acquire additional parkland for those areas of the Village that are not adequately served by a community or neighborhood park to meet the accessibility standard. This standard ensures that public parks are spatially distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the existing and future population of the Village.

- Application of the per capita standards for recreational facilities indicates a need for 34 additional public basketball goals, nine additional public league softball diamonds, five additional public playfields, four additional public soccer fields, and two additional public playgrounds in the Village. The accessibility analysis for recreational facilities identifies a need for additional baseball and softball diamonds, basketball goals, playfields, playgrounds, soccer fields, and tennis courts to meet accessibility standards for a desirable distribution of recreational facilities.
- In January 2008, the Village of Mount Pleasant conducted a mail survey about the usage and preferences for parks and recreation facilities. A total of 112 questionnaires were returned. About 77 percent of respondents rated Village parks as “Excellent” or “Very Good.” Regarding facilities to be generally developed within the Village, the highest percentage of responses, 93 percent, indicated either “Very Interested” or “Interested” in developing bicycle, walking, and hiking paths. Developing bicycle, walking, and hiking paths was also the highest percentage of favorable responses regarding the development of facilities at the Village Civic Campus area. About 91 percent of respondents were “Very Interested” or “Interested” in developing bicycle, walking, and hiking paths at the Village Civic Campus area.

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## **Chapter V**

# **PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A high-quality parks system provides cultural, environmental, recreational, and aesthetic benefits that directly contribute to the Village's quality of life. The primary purposes of this park and open space plan for the Village of Mount Pleasant are to provide a sound and workable plan to guide the acquisition of land and the development of recreational facilities to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents, to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base, and to contribute to the economic value and development of the community. The recommended park and open space plan is presented in this chapter. This plan updates the park and open space plan that was adopted by the Village in 2003.

This plan is intended to provide a long-range vision to the year 2035 and guide and assist Village officials and staff in making the day-to-day decisions needed for the continued development of the Village's park and open space system. To assist in the implementation of the plan, both long-term recommendations for the next 21 years, and an "action plan" for the next five years, are presented in this chapter. The plan includes recommendations to acquire additional land for new Village parks and for open space preservation purposes; develop recreational facilities at existing and proposed parks; update, improve, or maintain recreational facilities at existing parks; continue to develop a Village-wide system of recreational trails and bikeways; and continue to protect areas having important natural resources.

Important preliminary steps in the development of this plan included a review of park acquisition and development activities conducted to date to implement the previous park plan, and the collection of updated information regarding land use, population, natural resources, and park and open space sites and recreational facilities within the Village. New or changed conditions affecting park and open space sites and recreational facilities, including pertinent recommendations from the 2035 Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan, the Village of Mount Pleasant Bicycle Plan, the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan, the Pike River Watershed Plan, the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County, the Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan, the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan, and the updated natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin were also identified and incorporated, as appropriate, into this plan update.

The responsibility for implementing recommendations to meet park and open space objectives is shared by several levels of government. Resource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives for large parks, areawide trail facilities, and facilities for such activities as golfing, camping, and boating, are typically the responsibility of the State and County levels of government, although larger cities and villages sometimes provide large parks and associated recreational facilities and segments of areawide trails. Nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation

objectives for community and neighborhood parks for activities such as softball, tennis, soccer, and children's playground activities are typically the responsibility of the local (city, village, or town) level of government. Objectives intended to protect important natural resource features, including environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are the responsibility of all levels of government.

The first part of this chapter summarizes the areawide park and open space plan recommendations for the Village, which are presented in the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan.<sup>1</sup> Included in that plan are recommendations for the provision of resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities and the protection of primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in Racine County, including the Village of Mount Pleasant. The second section of this chapter sets forth recommendations for the provision of Village park and open space sites and facilities. A third section describes actions needed to implement the plan. A summary of the chapter is included in the last section.

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

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

In addition to the County park and open space plan, area-wide plans have been prepared for the Pike River and Root River watersheds. The watershed plans are summarized in Chapter IV. Recommendations from the watershed plans pertinent to this Village park and open space plan are included in the "Open Space Preservation" section of this chapter.

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

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

The outdoor recreation element of the Racine County park and open space plan is shown on Map 24.<sup>2</sup> The plan recommends that a total of 10 major public outdoor recreation sites be provided in the County. One major park, Sanders Park, currently exists within the Village of Mount Pleasant and would continue to be maintained by Racine County. The County plan recommends the acquisition of an additional 30 acres of land and the development of additional picnic facilities at the park. The plan also recommends that the County continue to maintain other County-owned sites within the Village of Mount Pleasant, including Haban Park, Horlick Park, and Quarry Lake Park.

The plan also recommends that Racine County continue to maintain and provide additional facilities at other major parks located near the Village, where necessary; such as Pritchard Park, located adjacent to the Village in the City of Racine, and Ives Grove Golf Links, located just west of the Village in the Town of Yorkville. The

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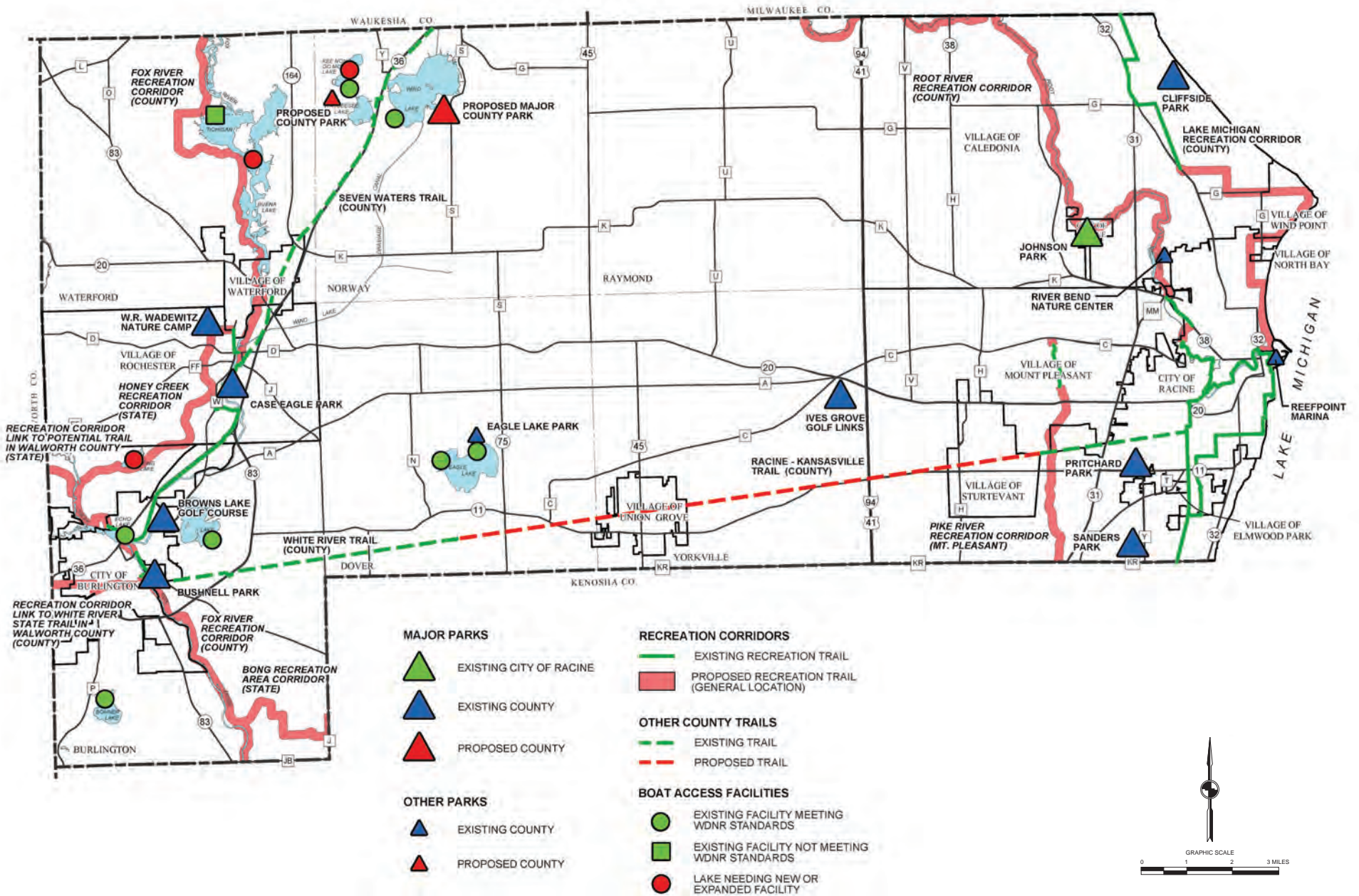
<sup>1</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 3rd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, February 2013.*

<sup>2</sup>*Some of the proposed recreation trails shown on Map 24 have been developed, including the Lake Michigan Trail through the City of Racine and additional sections of the Pike River Trail in the Village. Map 26 and Map 27 show existing trails in 2014.*



Map 24

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



County park plan further recommends that the City of Racine continue to maintain and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities as needed at the City-owned Johnson Park and Golf Course, which is located just north of the Village.

### ***Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails***

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

- A trail within the Root River corridor. The City of Racine has developed that portion of the trail, known as the Root River Pathway, within the City. The pathway extends from the Main Street Bridge, near downtown, to Colonial Park. On-street connections are provided to the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail to the south and the County's Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha (MRK) Trail to the north. The County plan recommends that the County acquire land and develop those portions of the Root River trail north of the City to the Racine-Milwaukee County line.
- A trail within the Fox River corridor on the west side of the County, to be developed by the County.
- A trail along the Lake Michigan shoreline, which has been substantially completed. The City of Racine developed the Lake Michigan Pathway within the City, which connects to the MRK Trail and the North Shore Trail on the north and south sides of the City, respectively. The MRK Trail extends north to Six Mile Road in Caledonia. A gap exists between Six Mile Road and Seven Mile Road,<sup>3</sup> before the Trail resumes north of Seven Mile Road and extends into the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. The North Shore Trail extends south and connects to the Kenosha County North Shore Trail.
- A trail within the Pike River corridor. Portions of the trail have been developed by the Village, from Old Spring Street south to near STH 20 (Washington Avenue) and from J.I. Case High School to the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail. Additional development of the Pike River Trail planned to be carried out by the Village is described later in this chapter.
- The Racine-Kansasville Trail, developed by Racine County. The trail extends from West Boulevard in the City of Racine to 96th Street in the Village of Sturtevant. Within the Village of Mount Pleasant, the existing trail is located on Village-owned lands, County-owned lands, and Village street rights-of-way.

The County park plan recommends that the County develop remaining portions of the Racine-Kansasville Trail, west of 96th Street, on local, low-volume traffic streets. Should the remaining portion of the railway right-of-way become abandoned, it is recommended that the County develop the trail in the abandoned right-of-way from the Village of Sturtevant to Kansasville. The remaining portion of the trail on the abandoned railway right-of-way from Kansasville westward to the City of Burlington was acquired by the WDNR and a trail was developed by Racine County. The trail is referred to as the White River Trail. The trail is proposed to be extended to the west by approximately three miles to connect to the White River Trail in Walworth County.

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

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<sup>3</sup>Map 24 shows the gap in the off-road trail between Six Mile Road and Seven Mile Road as an on-street trail segment.

### ***Water Trails***

The County plan also recommends the development of water trails for canoeing and kayaking. Potential water trails may be located on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline within and adjacent to the Village. These trails would connect with water trails in adjacent counties. An existing public canoe access site is currently located at the County-owned Horlick Park along the Root River within the Village. Existing public canoe access sites are also located at the City of Racine-owned Island Park and Lincoln Park.

## **OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION**

The location and extent of the important open space lands in the Village of Mount Pleasant, including wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, surface water, natural and geological areas, and critical species habitat sites are described in Chapter II. Many of these important natural resources are located within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, which are also described in Chapter II. The preservation of these open space lands in essentially natural, open uses would serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality in, and protect the natural beauty of, the Village of Mount Pleasant, as well as provide valuable recreational opportunities for residents of the Village. Such preservation will also help to avoid the creation of critical and costly environmental and developmental problems within the Village.

The 2035 Village comprehensive (master) land use plan map includes a category (“Park, Recreation, and Natural Areas”) applied to existing and planned public parks and private recreational areas, and a category (“Natural Areas”) applied to areas with natural resource features. The “Natural Areas” category includes planned environmental corridors<sup>4</sup> and isolated natural resource areas, stream corridors, selected wetlands, and proposed additions to the environmental corridor network. The Village land use plan map also includes an overlay identifying 100-year floodplains, a stream setback buffer of 150 feet on each side of major (“tributary”) streams and 75 feet on each side of other navigable streams, and an approximately 500-foot setback along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The “Natural Areas” land use category, the 100-year floodplain, and stream and lakeshore buffers shown on the Village land use plan map provide the basis for the open space preservation component of this park and open space plan, which is shown on Map 25.

The “natural areas” shown on the Village land use plan map were refined as part of this park and open space plan as follows:

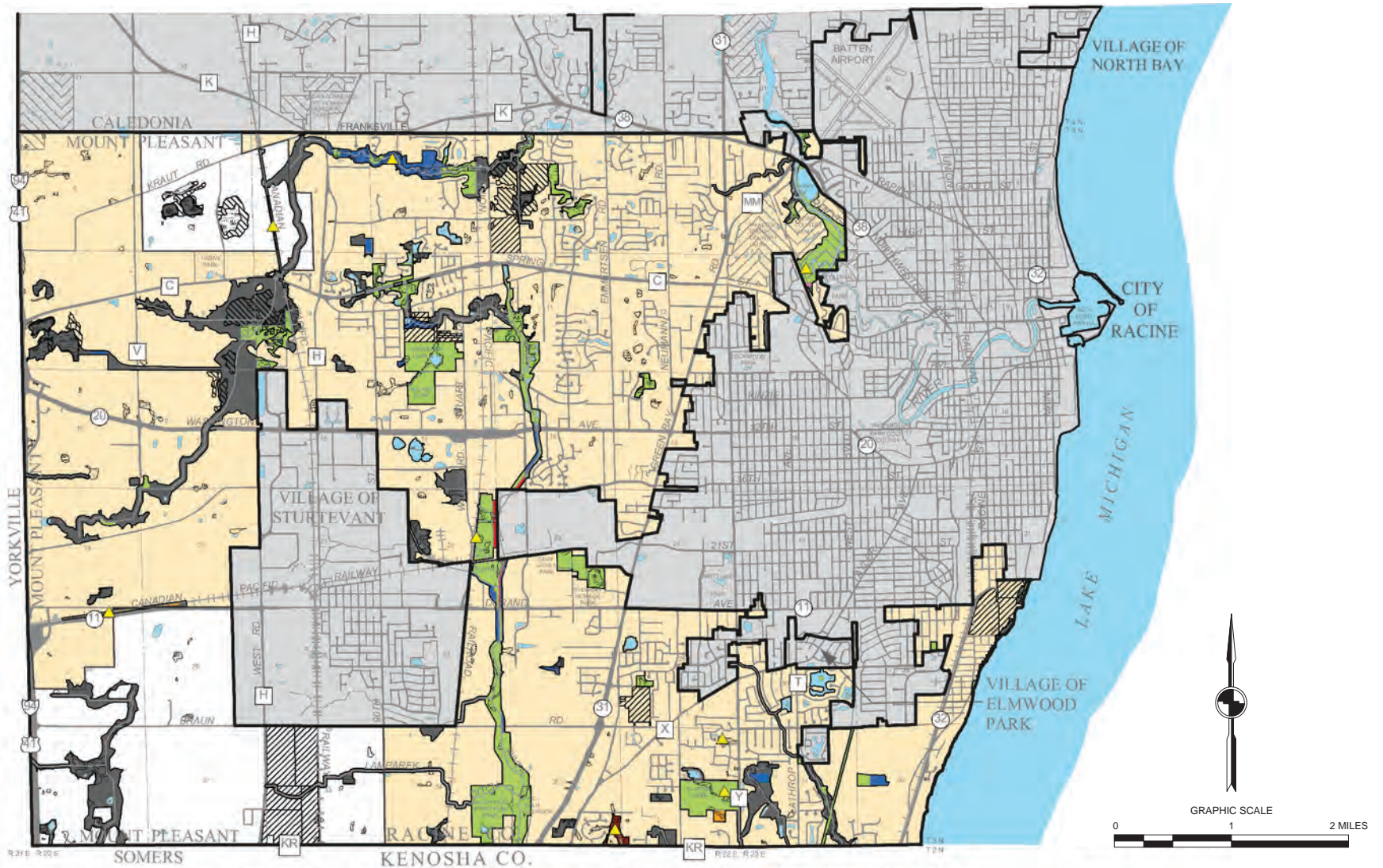
- Two planned isolated natural resource areas consisting of 100-year floodplain, woodlands, and wetlands located in the area bounded by 16th Street, Willow Road, the proposed Racine-Kansasville trail, and the Village of Sturtevant were added to the open space network.
- Stream buffers were decreased to 50 feet on each side of streams in areas platted with urban lots (along Sorenson Creek between Lathrop Street and Meachem Road; along the Pike River between Oakes Road and Mariner Drive; along Nelson Creek within the Mount Pleasant West Subdivision; and along a tributary to the Root River between STH 31 and Green Haze Avenue).
- The buffer along Lake Michigan was reduced to include the area from the lakeshore to the top of the bluff in areas platted with urban lots. The requirements of the Racine County Zoning Ordinance related to setbacks along the Lake Michigan bluff are incorporated into the Village zoning ordinance through the

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<sup>4</sup>*Planned environmental corridors include existing corridors and adjacent undeveloped 100-year floodplains in areas planned to be developed with urban uses.*



OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT FOR THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2035



EXISTING PUBLIC INTEREST OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS

- COUNTY, CITY, VILLAGE, SCHOOL DISTRICT, COMPATIBLE PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE SITE, OR COMMON OPEN SPACE AREAS IN CONSERVATION SUBDIVISIONS
- LANDS UNDER CONSERVATION EASEMENT
- OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- VILLAGE SEWER SERVICE AREA

PROPOSED PUBLIC INTEREST OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS

- RACINE COUNTY
- VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT
- CITY OF RACINE
- NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
- OPEN SPACE LANDS TO BE PROTECTED THROUGH PROPER ZONING
- NATURAL AREA OR CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE
- PRIORITY PROTECTION AREA - PIKE RIVER WATERSHED PLAN
- POTENTIAL RESTORATION AREA - ROOT RIVER WATERSHED PLAN
- EXISTING WETLAND (INCLUDES FARMED WETLANDS)

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.



OCS County Shoreland Overlay Jurisdiction regulations.<sup>5</sup> The County regulations generally require new single-family homes to be set back at least 100 feet from the top of the bluff, but many existing homes (likely constructed prior to adoption of the ordinance) do not provide this setback.

- The 2035 Village master land use plan map designates the area that was formerly identified as the Campbell Woods Natural Area of Local Significance (NA-3) in the regional natural areas plan as a Village “natural area.” Due to residential development, the area no longer meets the criteria for designation as a NA-3 site. Remaining portions of the former woods were identified as a critical species habitat (CSH) site in the 2010 update of the regional natural areas plan. Much of the CSH is located within a secondary environmental corridor, although some portions of the CSH extend outside the environmental corridor. The entire CSH site is recommended for preservation by a nonprofit conservation organization.
- The Green Infrastructure Priority Protection Areas identified in the Pike River Watershed Plan are included in the open space preservation areas, and include:
  - Priority Protection Areas owned by the Village or Racine County.
  - Priority Protection Areas within common open space areas in conservation subdivisions.
  - Priority Protection Areas located within a planned environmental corridor or isolated natural resource area.
  - Priority Protection Areas identified as a stream or lakeshore buffer on the Village land use plan map.

The Root River watershed plan<sup>6</sup> recommends that riparian buffers be expanded and/or continue to be protected along all streams and tributaries within the Root River watershed, which includes the Root River, Hoods Creek, and Ives Grove Ditch located within the Village. A 75-foot stream setback is recommended as the minimum for establishing a riparian buffer; however, when development plans are submitted to the Village for review, it is recommended that the Village consider additional setbacks up to an optimum stream setback of 1,000 feet from the ordinary high water mark. Establishing a minimum 75-foot setback provides quality in-stream habitats and reduces pollution, while establishing larger setback requirements provides these in-stream benefits, but also provides essential habitats for a variety of wildlife populations. The Root River watershed plan also supports the 2035 Village comprehensive (master) land use plan recommendation for a 150-foot tributary setback, as an alternative to the 75-foot setback currently required by the Village zoning ordinance, but recommends that a 1,000-foot setback be considered as an optimum setback.

The Root River watershed plan also recommends efforts to restore farmland and other open space land to more natural conditions, such as wetlands or prairies, especially in areas planned for urban development or in areas no longer being utilized for agricultural production. Selected potential wetland/prairie restoration areas in the Root River watershed area within the Village are noted with a hatch on Map 25. These selected areas are within or adjacent to planned environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas and existing farmed wetlands larger than five acres.

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<sup>5</sup>As of July 1, 2014, County shoreland zoning regulations no longer apply in Villages incorporated after April 30, 1994 (which includes the Village of Mount Pleasant) due to the enactment of 2013 Wisconsin Act 80. Under the Act, the Village must adopt a minimum 50-foot building setback and a minimum 35-foot vegetative buffer requirement for shoreland areas adjacent to navigable streams. The Village may choose to adopt shoreland regulations that are more restrictive than the new minimum State requirements.

<sup>6</sup>Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 316, A Restoration Plan for the Root River Watershed, July 2014.

Table 10

**EXISTING AND PROPOSED OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LAND<sup>a</sup> IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2035**

Ownership	Existing <sup>b</sup> (Acres)	Plan (Acres)	Planned Change (Acres)
Village of Mount Pleasant .....	649	792	143
Racine County.....	134	153	19
Other Public .....	13 <sup>c</sup>	16	3 <sup>d</sup>
Nonprofit Conservation Organization .....	--	18	18
Private Recreation <sup>e</sup> .....	83	83	--
Private – Common Open Space Land in Conservation Subdivisions.....	119	119	--
Private - Protect Through Zoning <sup>f</sup> .....	--	1,498	1,498
Conservation Easement.....	15	22	7 <sup>g</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>2,701</b>	<b>1,688</b>

<sup>a</sup>Includes planned primary environmental corridors, planned secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, 100-year floodplain, selected stream and lakeshore buffers, common open space lands in conservation subdivisions, and portions of the “Natural Areas” land use category on the Village’s 2035 comprehensive (master) land use plan map.

<sup>b</sup>Includes existing ownership in 2014.

<sup>c</sup>Includes lands owned by the City of Racine (10 acres) and the Racine Unified School District (three acres).

<sup>d</sup>Lands recommended to be acquired by City of Racine as part of the Colonial Park Woods Natural Area.

<sup>e</sup>Includes private open space lands held in private ownership for recreational use (for example, golf courses and country clubs).

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

<sup>g</sup>A conservation easement is proposed to be acquired by Racine County on lands associated with the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries Geological Area that are currently privately owned.

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

The Pike River watershed plan recommends the development of a “Green Infrastructure Network,” which is an interconnected network of natural resource areas and other open spaces that would potentially conserve the natural ecosystem and be beneficial to people and wildlife. Several of the Green Infrastructure Priority Protection Areas are included in the open space preservation network described above. Additional Priority Protection Areas in the Pike River watershed within the Village are shown with a hatch on Map 25. In some cases, it may be possible to develop a portion of a parcel shown as a priority protection area while preserving the natural resources within the parcel.

About 29 percent, or 796 acres of existing open space preservation areas within the Village, are publicly owned. About 202 acres of existing open space preservation areas are privately owned, which includes lands within golf courses, country clubs, and common open space areas in conservation subdivisions. About 15 acres of existing open space preservation areas are protected by conservation easements. As shown on Table 10, about 649 acres of open space preservation areas are owned by the Village, and 134 acres of open space preservation areas are owned by Racine County. All publicly owned open space preservation areas should be maintained in public ownership and preserved in open space.

It is recommended that the Village acquire about 143 acres of open space preservation areas associated with the Hoods Creek Woods Natural Area, the Pike River Restoration Project, and the acquisition of parklands for new or existing park sites or for natural resource protection. Acquisition of these areas could be through fee-simple purchase, dedication, or through conservation easements. Acquisition of the Hoods Creek Woods Natural Area by a nonprofit conservation organization would also serve to protect the area and its resources.

It is recommended that 1,498 acres of the open space preservation areas that are not publicly owned be protected through conservancy zoning. Because the Village zoning ordinance currently does not include conservancy zoning districts, other than incorporating County shoreland regulations as an overlay district, it is recommended that the Village consider adopting and applying regulations to protect open space preservation areas.<sup>7</sup> Such regulations should limit development in wetland and floodplain areas to open space uses, and limit development in upland wooded areas to very low density residential use (minimum of five acres per dwelling unit) or compatible recreational uses.

The open space preservation areas may change over time due to updated floodplain and wetland mapping, natural changes in wetland boundaries, and field surveys that precisely identify the boundaries of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas. In addition, floodplain areas adjacent to open space preservation areas that are not developed for urban or recreational uses may revert to natural vegetation and be added to the environmental corridor network. Public acquisition or conservancy zoning of wetlands and environmental corridors/isolated natural resource areas should, therefore, be based on a field delineation of such areas prior to acquisition.

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

The regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan, as documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*,<sup>8</sup> sets forth a number of recommendations related to the preservation of identified natural areas and critical species habitat sites within the Village of Mount Pleasant. The regional natural areas plan is summarized in Chapter IV.

As noted in Chapter II, there are five natural areas, three critical species habitat sites, four aquatic areas, and one geological site partially or wholly located in the Village. The regional natural areas plan recommends that the Village of Mount Pleasant acquire and protect the Hoods Creek Woods natural area. Through acquisition of wetlands and woodlands located in a secondary environmental corridor, the Village should acquire the remaining 58 acres of the natural area that are not currently in public ownership within the Village by fee-simple purchase, dedication, or through a conservation easement. It is also recommended that the Village continue to retain other Village open space or conservancy areas that contain critical species habitat sites for resource protection purposes.

Specific aquatic habitat area plan recommendations were not formulated under the natural areas planning effort since such habitats are under the direct management authority of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The natural areas plan update recommends that the WDNR implement management and regulatory efforts necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the aquatic habitats and their critical species.

The regional natural areas plan update and this park and open space plan recommend that Racine County continue to retain and maintain the Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area and also acquire the entire 11-acre Sylvania Railroad Prairie natural area, which is not currently under protective ownership. The natural areas plan also recommends that Racine County acquire a conservation easement for the protection of the remaining portions of the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries geological site that are not currently under protective ownership.

The above recommendations are reflected on Map 25 and summarized in Table 11. In all, the natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological site recommended for preservation encompass 238 acres within the Village.

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<sup>7</sup>*The Village Post-Construction Stormwater Management regulations require “Protective Areas” in and adjacent to wetlands, lakes, and streams for residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional land uses and associated roads.*

<sup>8</sup>*An update to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat plan is documented in SEWRPC Amendment to Planning Report No. 42, Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.*

Table 11

**RECOMMENDED PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS, CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES,  
AND A GEOLOGICAL SITE IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT**

Number on Map 9	Site Identification		Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Existing Protective Ownership	Proposed to Be Acquired	Total	
1	Franksville Railroad Prairie	NA-1	--	4	4	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
2	Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	56	--	56	Racine County
3	Colonial Park Woods	NA-2	7	14	21 <sup>b</sup>	City of Racine
4	Hoods Creek Woods	NA-3	14	58	72	Village of Mount Pleasant
5	Sylvania Railroad Prairie	NA-3	--	11	11	Racine County
6	Campbell Woods	CSH	--	43	43	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
7	Waxdale Railroad Prairie	CSH	--	--	--	-- <sup>c</sup>
8	Willow Woods	CSH	--	--	--	-- <sup>c</sup>
9	Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries	GA-1	24	7	31 <sup>d</sup>	Racine County
10	Kilbourn Road Ditch	AQ-3 (RSH)	--	--	2.8 miles <sup>e</sup>	State of Wisconsin <sup>f</sup>
11	Pike River downstream from Pike Creek (includes Sorenson Creek)	AQ-3 (RSH)	--	--	1.0 miles <sup>e</sup>	State of Wisconsin <sup>f</sup>
12	Root River downstream from Nicholson Road to STH 38	AQ-3 (RSH)	--	--	0.2 miles <sup>e</sup>	State of Wisconsin <sup>f</sup>
13	Root River downstream from STH 38 to Spring Street	AQ-3 (RSH)	--	--	1.1 miles <sup>e</sup>	State of Wisconsin <sup>f</sup>
--	Total – 13 Sites	--	101	137	238	--

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

NA-2 identifies Natural Areas of countywide or regional significance.

NA-3 identifies Natural Areas of local significance.

CSH identifies Critical Species Habitat sites.

GA-1 identifies Geological Areas of statewide or greater significance.

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

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

AQ-3 identifies Aquatic Areas of local significance.

<sup>b</sup> Includes only the acreage located in the Village. Total acreage is 94 acres. Of the 21 acres located within the Village, seven acres are owned by the City of Racine (Colonial Park). The remaining 14 acres include 13 acres located within the privately owned Racine Country Club and one acre located on private residential lots. Those 14 acres are proposed to be protected through acquisition of a conservation easement by the City of Racine.

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

<sup>d</sup> Includes only the acreage located in the Village. Total acreage is 32 acres. Of the 31 acres located within the Village, 24 acres are owned by Racine County as part of Quarry Lake Park; three acres are located within the privately owned Racine Country Club; and four acres are located on private single-family residential lots in the Village. The seven acres that are not currently under protective ownership are proposed to be protected through acquisition of a conservation easement by Racine County.

<sup>e</sup> A portion of the site extends outside of the Village and miles given are entirely within the Village.

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

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.



## **Farmland Preservation Areas**

As described in Chapter IV of this report, the Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan<sup>9</sup> identified farmland preservation areas in the northwestern and southwestern portions of the Village, which encompass about 3,200 acres, or about 15 percent of the Village. It is recommended that the farmland preservation areas in the Village be preserved for agricultural and agricultural-related uses. These farmed areas may also include undeveloped natural resource and open space lands, but may not include any areas that are planned for nonagricultural development within 15 years after the date on which the Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan was adopted by the County Board (December 10, 2013). Landowners with parcels identified as farmland preservation areas, and which meet certain additional criteria, are eligible to receive farmland preservation tax credits.

The County farmland preservation plan designated farmland preservation areas in the Village based on the Village's 2030 master plan. Due to an amendment to the Village's master plan in January 2014, some parcels or portions of parcels in Sections 29 and 30 in the southwestern portion of the Village and two parcels in Section 9 in the northwestern portion of the Village that were identified as farmland preservation areas based on the Village's 2030 master plan are now planned for urban development. It is recommended that the Village consider requesting an amendment to the Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan to reflect the agricultural areas shown on the Village year 2035 master plan. Map 13 in Chapter IV shows the farmland preservation areas adopted as part of the County plan.

In addition, portions of Sections 5 and 6 in the northwestern portion of the Village and portions of Sections 27 and 34 in the south-central portion of the Village are designated for agricultural use by the Village master plan, but are included in the Village's planned sewer service area. It is recommended that the Village consider requesting an amendment to the Greater Racine Sanitary Sewer Service Area Plan to remove areas designated for agricultural use by the Village year 2035 master plan from the sewer service area, or to indicate that such areas will be considered for urban development after the year 2035.

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

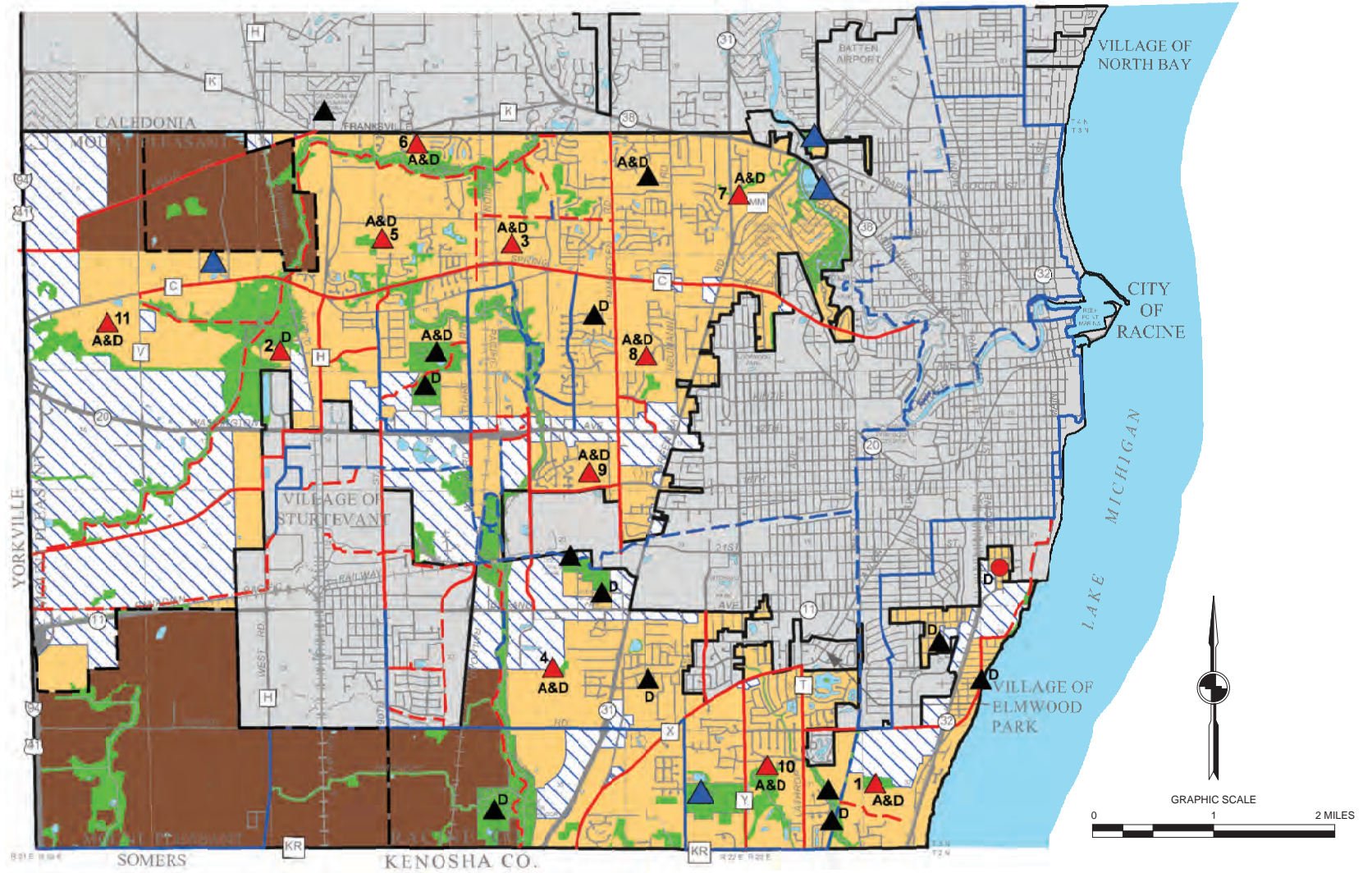
The results of the analysis of outdoor recreation needs based on the regional park and open space standards, presented in Chapter IV, indicate that there is a need in the Village of Mount Pleasant for additional neighborhood parks and additional recreational facilities, including softball diamonds, soccer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



















The park and open space plan for the Village of Mount Pleasant is shown on Map 26 and described in the following sections. Upon full implementation of this plan, the Village would provide a variety of parks and related outdoor recreation facilities; a system of recreation trails; and a system of on-street bikeways. More specifically, upon full implementation of the plan, the Village of Mount Pleasant would provide seven community parks: (Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park (currently undeveloped), Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park, Smolenski Park, Stewart-McBride Park, Village Civic Campus Park (currently undeveloped), and two proposed new community parks, including Village-owned land in Section 9 (located north of the Village of Sturtevant and between Hoods Creek and the Canadian Pacific Railway); 13 neighborhood parks (Drozd Park, James Turek Park, Pheasant Creek Park, Sheridan Woods Park, and nine proposed new neighborhood parks); two playlots (Dirkse Park and Lake Park); and the K-9 Commons Dog Park. The Village also owns land along stretches of the Pike River within the Village referred to as the Pike River Corridor. Portions of the corridor include trail segments of the Pike River Pathway.

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<sup>9</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 46, 2nd Edition, A Farmland Preservation Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, December 2013.*

PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2035



- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
|  EXISTING COUNTY PARK                            |  EXISTING ON-STREET TRAIL OR BICYCLE WAY |  PROPOSED PARK SITE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 12)   |  SEWER SERVICE AREA OR PLANNED AGRICULTURE THROUGH 2035 |
|  EXISTING VILLAGE PARK                           |  PROPOSED ON-STREET TRAIL OR BICYCLE WAY |  SEWER SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY                |  OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS                                |
|  PROPOSED VILLAGE COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK |  EXISTING OFF-STREET TRAIL               |  PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT            |  SURFACE WATER  |
|  PROPOSED VILLAGE POCKET PARK                    |  PROPOSED OFF-STREET TRAIL               |  PLANNED URBAN - NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT |  |
|   |  A ADDITIONAL ACQUISITION PROPOSED       |  OPEN SPACE LANDS TO BE PRESERVED           |  |
|   |  D ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED       |  |  |

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

The Village would also continue to maintain 10 open space sites and conservancy areas that are owned by the Village and used for resource protection or stormwater management purposes. Under the recommended plan, the Village would further provide 27 miles of recreational trails associated with the Pike River Pathway and other off-street trails that can be utilized for jogging, walking, biking, rollerblading, and related activities. This plan also includes about 44 miles of on-street bikeways that would consist of bike lanes, bike paths, and bike routes identified in the Village bicycle plan and updated as part of the year 2035 Village comprehensive (master) plan.

Village staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board also considered the results of an online parks and recreation survey conducted in January 2008 and a public informational meeting held on December 4, 2014 as part of the development of this plan. Biking, walking, and hiking paths were the most important recreational facility identified in the survey. Other important recreational facilities and services identified in the survey include a nature preserve, an indoor recreational facility, playgrounds, gardens, and a swimming pool.

The Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan for the year 2035 recommends that the Village continue to develop on-street bikeways and off-street trails for bicycle and pedestrian use to provide residents a connection to Village and County parks, City of Racine parks, regional trails, schools, and local destination points. In addition, the Racine County comprehensive plan recommends that the Village, in cooperation with Racine County, develop a water trail with appropriate support facilities on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The following recommendations would help to implement those components of the comprehensive plans.

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

This section presents recommendations related to existing and proposed Village parks, including the acquisition and development of new parks and the development of recreational facilities at existing parks. Table 12 lists all proposed Village park improvements and additional land acquisitions from 2015 to 2035. Table 13 lists park-related development and improvement projects anticipated to be implemented between 2015 and 2019. The majority of the projects listed in Table 13 are derived from the Village's capital improvement plan (CIP), which provides estimated development costs for each project. Estimated costs for projects proposed to be provided after 2019 will be developed as part of future capital improvements programming. The CIP is updated on an annual basis, and projects currently identified for implementation may be removed or reprioritized and new projects may be added during each annual update.

The Village has prepared a master park plan for each existing and new Village park, which shows a conceptual layout of recreational facilities and landscaped areas that will potentially be developed at each park.

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

This plan recommends that the Village acquire land for a new community park and nine new neighborhood parks and develop needed outdoor recreational facilities at these sites, as well as develop recreational facilities at an existing undeveloped site (Village-owned land in Section 9). Additional land is also proposed to be acquired to expand Drozd and Smolenski Parks. The location of the 11 proposed new parks is shown on Map 26. It is anticipated that the acquisition and development of these proposed new park sites will likely occur after the year 2019. The recommendations regarding facility development at each proposed new park are listed on Table 12 and are also described below.

Recommendations for new parks include the acquisition of lands by the Village for recreational and open space purposes. The red symbols on Map 26 indicate a need for additional parklands in each 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 parks.

1. *Park Site 1*: Park Site 1 is a proposed community park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southeastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 35 acres, including seven acres of isolated natural resource area currently owned by the Village. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a baseball diamond, two league softball diamonds,

Table 12

**RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT AT EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARK SITES IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2015-2035**

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Proposed Facility Development
Proposed Site 1 (Community Park)	35	Baseball Diamond Two League Softball Diamonds Two Soccer Fields Four Basketball Goals (Two Full Courts) Two Tennis Courts Playground Playfield Nature Trail Picnic Shelter/Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 2 (Community Park)	-- <sup>a</sup>	Two League Softball Diamonds Four Basketball Goals (Two Full Courts) Two Soccer Fields Two Tennis Courts Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 3 (Neighborhood Park)	20	Two League Softball Diamonds Four Basketball Goals (Two Full Courts) Two Tennis Courts Playground Playfield Picnic Shelter/Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 4 (Neighborhood Park)	15	Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 5 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 6 (Neighborhood Park)	20	Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Playfield Nature Trail Picnic Shelter Trail Access General Development
Proposed Site 7 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Soccer Field/Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 8 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 9 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Playground Playfield General Development

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Proposed Facility Development
Proposed Site 10 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 11 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Playfield General Development
Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park	--	Prepare Detailed Master Park Plan Park Development (Alternative 2 Site Plan Features): Baseball Diamond Three League Softball Diamonds Two Soccer Fields/Playfield Playground Nature Trail Shelter Sledding Hill Trailhead Restrooms/Concessions General Development
Dirkse Park	--	General Development (Install Bike Rack, Bench, Picnic Table, and New Trash Can)
Drozd Park	14	Pave Access Road and Parking Lot One Basketball Goal (1/2 Court) Sand Volleyball Courts Construct Restrooms (Extend Sewer & Water) General Development
James Turek Park	--	Sandlot Softball Diamond Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Sand Volleyball Courts Improve Native Plantings General Development
Lake Park	--	Install Children's Play Equipment (Ages Eight to 10) General Development
Pheasant Creek Park	--	Tennis Courts (2) Sand Volleyball Courts Youth/Adult Fitness Equipment Improve Native Plantings Trail Playground One Basketball Goal (1/2 Court) General Development
Pike River Pathway	--	Construct Restrooms (Phase 4) <sup>b</sup> Develop Driveway and Parking Lot Complete Trail Development <sup>c</sup> Develop Fishing Piers General Development (Install Benches, Picnic Tables, Trash Cans, Bike Racks, and Signs <sup>d</sup> ; Plant Trees)



**Table 12 (continued)**

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Proposed Facility Development
Sheridan Woods Park	--	Grade, Weed-Spray, and Replace Ball Diamond Infield Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Sand Diggers (2) General Development (Plant Trees)
Smolenski Park	42	Enclosed Shelter Facility (new) Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Disk Golf Archery Range Community Gardens <sup>e</sup> Replace Ball Diamond Infield Improve Trails/Repair Trail Bridge General Development
Stewart-McBride Park	--	Develop Connecting Path to County Trail Install Ten Spin Develop One Basketball Goal (1/2 Court) Replace Shelter Roof New (Additional) Shelter Exercise/Fitness Equipment for Hill General Development (Install Benches)

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Proposed Facility Development
Village Civic Campus Park <sup>d</sup>	--	Phase I Development (Park Design/Site Plan, Construct Parking Lot and Access Drive, Install Playground, and Construct ADA-Accessible Fishing Pier) Aquatic Facility/Swimming Pool/Splash Pad Ball Fields Construct Restrooms/Concession Area Community Gardens <sup>e</sup> Fishing Pond Ice Skating Area/Rink Outdoor Ping Pong Playfields (Soccer, Flag Football, and/or Lacrosse) Tennis/ Pickle Ball Court(s) Develop Multi-Modal Trail <sup>c</sup> General Development
Total	206	--

NOTES: "General Development" includes such activities and facilities as grading, landscaping, signs, lighting, picnic tables, benches, parking lots, access drives, and walkways. "General Development" items that are considered a capital expense are specifically listed on this table and in Table 13, and are included in the Capital Improvement Plan for 2015-2019.

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

<sup>a</sup>Proposed park site is owned by the Village.

<sup>b</sup>Phase 4 of the Pike River project is located in the Northeast quarter and Southeast quarter of Section 22, Township 3 North, Range 22 East.

<sup>c</sup>Trail development and signage will be funded from the transportation budget.

<sup>d</sup>It is anticipated that donations will be received to cover a portion of the cost of developing park facilities at the Village Civic Campus Park.

<sup>e</sup> Community gardens may be established at either Smolenski Park, or at the Civic Campus Park as an interim use until the park is fully developed.

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

two soccer fields, four basketball goals, two tennis courts, a playfield, a playground, a nature trail, a picnic shelter with restrooms, an area for picnicking and other passive outdoor recreation use, and appropriate support facilities.

2. *Park Site 2:* Park Site 2 is a 70-acre site currently owned by the Village. The site is intended to be developed as a community park and would serve the existing and future residential areas in the northwestern portion of the Village. The site is located north of the Village of Sturtevant and west of and adjacent to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and includes a portion of Hoods Creek. Currently, the Racine R/C Club, a private radio-controlled model aircraft organization, utilizes a portion of the site and another portion is used as the Village's compost site. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include two league softball diamonds, four basketball goals, two soccer fields, two tennis courts, a playground, a playfield, and appropriate support facilities.
3. *Park Site 3:* Park Site 3 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the north-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 20 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include two league softball diamonds, four basketball goals, two tennis courts, a playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities.

**Table 13**

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS AT  
EXISTING PARKS IN THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT: 2015-2019**

Site Name	Proposed Improvement	Development Cost
Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park	Prepare Detailed Park Master Plan	\$ 20,000
	Park Development (Alternative 2 Site Plan Features)	500,000 <sup>a</sup>
	Subtotal	\$ 520,000 <sup>a</sup>
Dirkse Park	General Development (Install Bike Rack, Bench, Picnic Table, and New Trash Can)	\$ 3,000
	Subtotal	\$ 3,000
Drozd Park	Pave Access Road and Parking Lot	\$ 90,000
	Develop One Basketball Goal (1/2 Court)	20,000
	Develop Sand Volleyball Courts	15,000
	Construct Restrooms (Extend Sewer & Water)	100,000
	Subtotal	\$ 225,000
James Turek Park	Develop Two Basketball Goals (Full Court)	\$ 30,000
	Develop Sand Volleyball Courts	15,000
	Improve Native Plantings	5,000
	Subtotal	\$ 50,000
Lake Park	Install Children's Play Equipment (Ages Eight to 10)	\$ 14,000
	Subtotal	\$ 14,000
Pheasant Creek Park	Develop Tennis Courts (2)	\$ 40,000 <sup>a</sup>
	Develop Sand Volleyball Courts	15,000
	Youth/Adult Fitness Equipment	30,000
	Improve Native Plantings	5,000
	General Development	5,000
	Subtotal	\$ 95,000
Pike River Pathway	General Development (Install Benches, Picnic Tables, Bike Racks, and Signs <sup>b</sup> )	\$ 31,000
	Develop Driveway and Parking Lot	150,000 <sup>a</sup>
	Subtotal	\$ 181,000
Sheridan Woods Park	Tree Planting	\$ 15,000
	Develop Two Basketball Goals (Full Court)	30,000 <sup>a</sup>
	Install Sand Diggers (2)	1,000
	Grade, Weed Spray, and Replace Ball Diamond Infield	15,000
	Subtotal	\$ 61,000
Smolenski Park	Repair Trail Bridge	\$ 10,000
	Establish Community Gardens <sup>c</sup>	2,000
	Replace Ball Diamond Infield	15,000
	Improve Trails	3,000
	Develop Two Basketball Goals (Full Court)	30,000
	Develop Archery Range	2,000
	Disk Golf	50,000 <sup>a</sup>
	Land Acquisition	180,000 <sup>d</sup>
	Subtotal	\$ 292,000
Stewart-McBride Park	Install Benches	\$ 3,000
	Install Ten Spin	3,400
	Develop One Basketball Goal (1/2 Court)	20,000
	Replace Shelter Roof	10,000
	Build New (Additional) Shelter	50,000
	Install Exercise/Fitness Equipment for Hill	30,000
	Subtotal	\$ 116,400

**Table 13 (continued)**

Site Name	Proposed Improvement	Development Cost
Village Civic Campus Park	Phase 1 Development (Park Design/Site Plan, Construct Parking Lot and Access Drive, Install Playground, Construct ADA-Accessible Fishing Pier)	\$ 500,000
	Develop Multi-Modal Trail	0 <sup>e</sup>
	Subtotal	\$ 500,000
Total – 11 Sites	--	\$ 1,107,400 <sup>f</sup>

NOTE: Although not included on this table, this plan also recommends that the Village continue routine maintenance activities at all existing Village-owned park and open space sites and recreational facilities. Maintenance activities included in the 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) include painting the park buildings at Drozd and Stewart-McBride Parks, adding gravel to the walking path at Drozd Park, and adding sand at Sheridan Woods Park. Other maintenance activities may be added as part of the annual CIP update.

<sup>a</sup>Facility to be developed or improvement installed after 2019.

<sup>b</sup>Signs will be funded from the transportation budget.

<sup>c</sup>Community gardens may be established at either Smolenski Park, or at the Civic Campus Park as an interim use until the park is fully developed.

<sup>d</sup>Land for park expansion to be acquired after 2019.

<sup>e</sup>Development of the trail will be funded from the transportation budget.

<sup>f</sup>Does not include facilities and land acquisition listed above that are proposed to be conducted or developed after 2019. The total cost to the Village may be reduced through donations and grants for park facilities.

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant and SEWRPC.

4. *Park Site 4:* Park Site 4 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the south-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 15 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include two basketball goals, a sandlot softball diamond, a playground, a playfield, and appropriate support facilities.
5. *Park Site 5:* Park Site 5 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the north-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include two basketball goals, a playfield, a sandlot softball diamond, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
6. *Park Site 6:* Park Site 6 is a proposed neighborhood park along Hoods Creek intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the north-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 20 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include two basketball goals, a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a nature trail, a picnic shelter, an area for picnicking and other passive outdoor recreation use, and appropriate support facilities. The potential exists for this park to serve as an access point to a proposed trail.
7. *Park Site 7:* Park Site 7 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northeastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a soccer field/playfield, two basketball goals, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
8. *Park Site 8:* Park Site 8 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the east-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include two basketball goals, a playfield, a playground, a sandlot softball diamond, and appropriate support facilities.
9. *Park Site 9:* Park Site 9 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the central portion of the Village. This site would encompass about five to 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include two basketball goals, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.

10. *Park Site 10*: Park Site 10 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southeastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass about five to 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include two basketball goals, a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
11. *Park Site 11*: Park Site 11 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northwestern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include two basketball goals, a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, a playground, an area for picnicking and other outdoor recreation use, and appropriate support facilities.

#### ***Development and Improvement at Existing Village Parks: 2015-2019***

It is recommended that the Village develop additional recreational facilities or make improvements to facilities at 10 existing parks and the Pike River Pathway during the five-year period from 2015 through 2019, as described below. The estimated development and improvement costs are included in Table 13.

- *Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park*: Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park is an 87-acre undeveloped community park located along the Pike River and Lamparek Ditch in the south-central portion of the Village. The site contains one acre of primary environmental corridor, a pond, and wetlands. It is recommended that a park master plan be prepared prior to 2019 to detail the recreational facilities to be developed at the park. Development at the park is expected to occur after the Pike River Restoration Project is completed, and will likely occur after 2019.
- *Dirkse Park*: Dirkse Park is a one-acre playlot located in the southeastern portion of the Village. Existing facilities include a playfield and a playground. It is recommended that a bike rack, a bench, a picnic table, and a new trash receptacle be installed.
- *Drozd Park*: Drozd Park is a six-acre neighborhood park located in the northeastern portion of the Village. Existing facilities include a playfield, a playground, a sandlot softball diamond, and a picnic shelter. It is recommended that sand volleyball courts and a basketball goal be developed; the park access road and parking lot be paved; and restrooms be constructed.
- *James Turek Park*: James Turek Park is a six-acre neighborhood park located in the southeastern portion of the Village. The park includes a playfield. It is recommended that two basketball goals and sand volleyball courts be developed and landscaping with native plants be installed.
- *Lake Park*: Lake Park is a two-acre playlot located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the southeastern portion of the Village. The park includes a playground. It is recommended that additional play equipment be provided.
- *Pheasant Creek Park*: Pheasant Creek Park is a four-acre neighborhood park located in the northeastern portion of the Village. A playfield is located at the park. It is recommended that two tennis courts and sand volleyball courts be developed; youth/adult fitness equipment be installed; and landscaping with native plants be installed.
- *Pike River Pathway*: The Pike River Pathway is a multi-use, off-street trail that is primarily located along the Pike River. The trail extends from Old Spring Street south to near STH 20 (Washington Avenue) and another segment runs from J.I. Case High School to the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail. It is recommended that a driveway and parking lot be developed to provide additional access to the trail and that benches, picnic tables, bike racks, and signs be installed along the trail.
- *Sheridan Woods Park*: Sheridan Woods Park is a two-acre neighborhood park located in the southeastern portion of the Village. Existing facilities include a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, and a playground. It is recommended that two basketball goals be developed; the infield of the ball diamond be graded, weed-sprayed, and replaced; two sand diggers and sand be installed; and trees be planted.



- *Smolenski Park*: Smolenski Park is a 72-acre community park located in the north-central portion of the Village. Existing facilities include a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a basketball goal, a sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, open-air shelters, hiking trails, and support facilities, including a parking area and restrooms. The park also includes woodlands, wetlands, and a pond within a 39-acre isolated natural resource area. It is recommended that the trail bridge be repaired; two basketball goals, an archery range, community gardens, and a disk golf course be developed; the infield of the ball diamond be replaced; and the walking trails be improved. A portion of a proposed multi-use trail between 90th Street and Stuart Road that would cross through the park is also recommended to be developed.
- *Stewart-McBride Park*: Stewart-McBride Park is a 16-acre community park centrally located in the Village adjacent to STH 11. Existing facilities include two league softball diamonds, a playfield, a playground, two sand volleyball courts, hiking trails, picnic areas, and support facilities, including a parking area, restrooms, and a shelter. It is recommended that a basketball goal be developed; a shelter be constructed; and benches, a ten spin, and exercise/fitness equipment be installed. Replacing the roof of the existing shelter is also recommended.
- *Village Civic Campus Park*: Village Civic Campus Park is a 38-acre undeveloped community park centrally located within the Village adjacent to the new Village Hall and Public Works facility. It is recommended that a detailed master plan be prepared and a parking lot, access drive and multi-modal trail be developed; a playground be installed; and an ADA-accessible fishing pier be constructed during the next five years as the first phase of park development.

#### ***Development at Existing Village Parks: 2020-2035***

This section describes recommended facility development at existing Village parks after 2019. The development of recreational facilities recommended at each park is listed in Table 12. Implementation of the recommendations is subject to the availability of funding for land acquisition and facility development, operation, and maintenance.

- *Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park*: It is recommended that a baseball diamond, three league softball diamonds, two soccer fields/playfield, a playground, a nature trail, a shelter, a sledding hill, a trailhead, and a restroom/concession building be developed at the park. The recommended facilities may be adjusted based on the detailed master plan to be developed for the park between 2015 and 2019.
- *Drozd Park*: It is recommended that the Village acquire about 14 acres for park expansion, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2015-2019. Much of the area to be acquired is wetland, so no additional facilities are envisioned at the park after 2019.
- *James Turek Park*: It is recommended that a sandlot ball diamond be developed at the park, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2015-2019.
- *Pheasant Creek Park*: It is recommended that a playground, a basketball goal, and a trail be developed at the park, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2015-2019.
- *Pike River Pathway*: Development of the pathway within the Village would be completed after 2019. Additional restrooms, landscaping, and fishing piers are envisioned in addition to the improvements recommended during 2015-2019.
- *Smolenski Park*: It is recommended that a new enclosed shelter be constructed, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2015-2019. It is also recommended that the Village acquire about 42 acres for park expansion.
- *Stewart-McBride Park*: It is recommended that a connecting path to the County Trail be developed at the park, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2015-2019.

- *Village Civic Campus Park*: It is recommended that an aquatic facility/swimming pool/splash pad, an ice skating area/rink, tennis/pickle ball courts, outdoor ping pong tables, ball fields, community gardens, a fishing pond, and playfields (soccer, flag football, and/or outdoor lacrosse) be developed and restrooms/concessions be constructed at the park, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2015-2019. Specific facilities to be developed at the park will be determined through a more detailed master plan recommended to be completed between 2015 and 2019.

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

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

### **Open Space Preservation**

As shown on Map 25, it is recommended that the Village acquire 143 acres of open space preservation areas for the development of parks or trails or for resource-protection purposes. The Village currently owns 649 acres of open space preservation areas. It is recommended that these lands be maintained in Village ownership and preserved in essentially natural, open space uses. The preservation of these lands will serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality and natural beauty in the Village, as well as help to avoid the creation of serious and costly environmental and developmental problems. It is also recommended that the Village enact conservancy zoning regulations and apply those regulations to open space preservation areas that are privately owned.

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes and Recreation Trails**

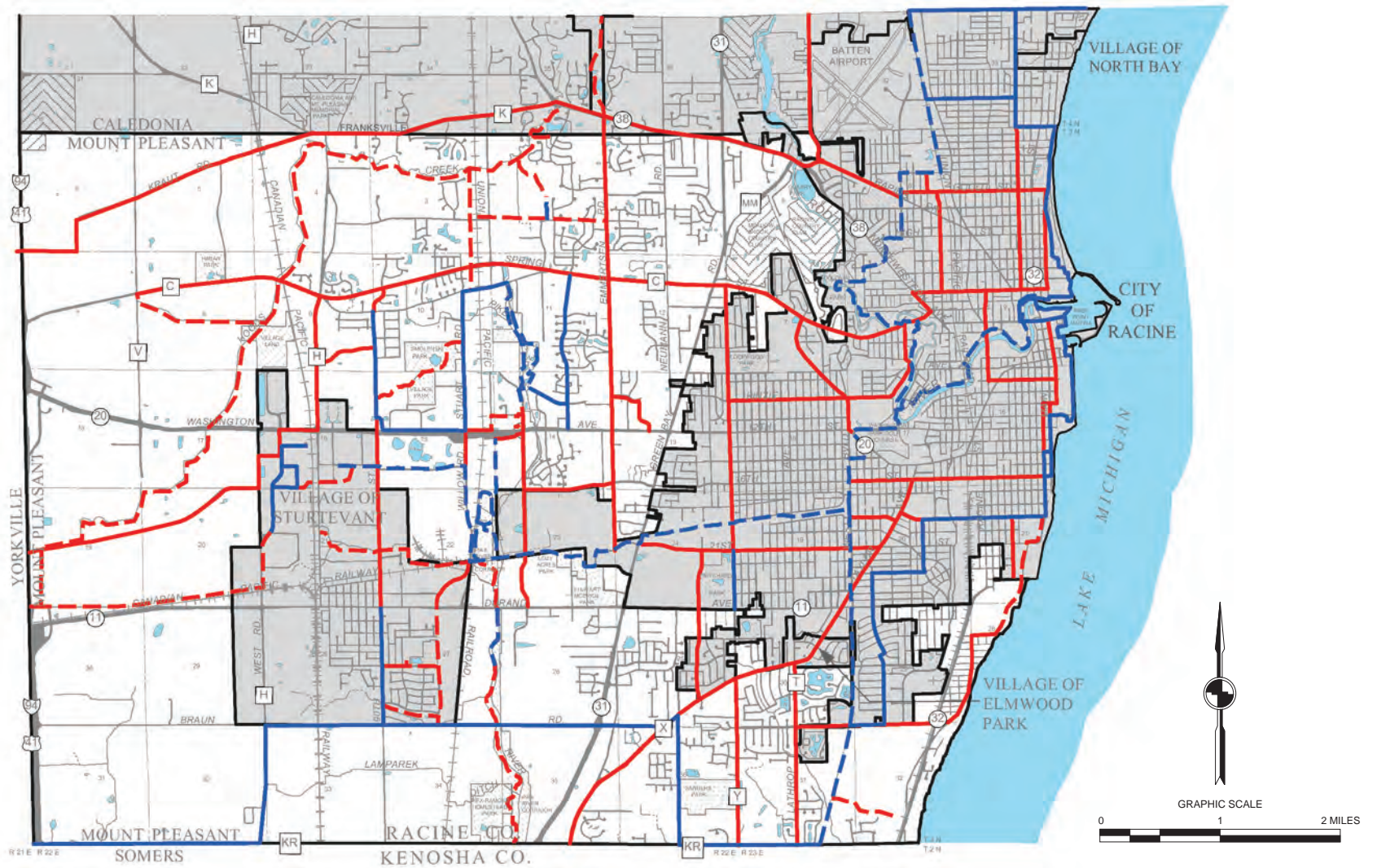
It is recommended that a Village-wide system of recreation trails and bicycle routes continue to be developed to connect existing parks to the regional, county, and adjacent local government trail systems and other parks and destination points, in cooperation with Racine County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and adjoining local governments. The recommended bike and recreation trail system for the Village and environs is shown on Map 27.

The Village has developed portions of the Pike River Pathway within the Village. Portions of the Pike River Pathway total about 4.5 miles and traverse north to south along the Pike River within the Village. The Pike River Pathway is an off-street trail that extends from Old Spring Street south to near STH 20 (Washington Avenue) and another segment that runs from J.I. Case High School to the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail. The pathway is linked to an on-street bikeway segment at Old Spring Street, which in turn, is linked to Stuart Road, the Frontage Road, and 90th Street. The pathway is also linked to an on-street bikeway segment at Mariner Drive that extends east to Sunnyslope Drive, which provides access to businesses along STH 20. It is recommended that the Village develop an additional three miles along the river to complete the pathway, thus the Pike River Pathway would total about eight miles.

In addition to the bikeways and trail described above, the Village's amended 2035 comprehensive (master) land use plan recommends the development of additional on-street bikeways and off-street trails within the Village. The Village comprehensive (master) land use plan includes amendments to the Village 2030 bicycle plan, which was prepared in 2007. The entire bike and recreation trail system within the Village is proposed to include 44 miles of bike routes associated with street rights-of-way and 27 miles of trails associated with environmentally significant areas, potential abandoned railway rights-of-way, or other open space lands. The development of on-street bikeways within the Village is proposed to be undertaken by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (STH 38); Racine County (CTH C, CTH H, CTH K, CTH KR, CTH T, and CTH Y); and the Village of Mount

Map 27

TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT AND ENVIRONS: 2035



-  EXISTING ON-STREET TRAIL OR BICYCLE WAY
-  PROPOSED OFF-STREET TRAIL
-  EXISTING OFF-STREET TRAIL
-  OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
-  PROPOSED ON-STREET TRAIL OR BICYCLE WAY

Source: Village of Mount Pleasant, City of Racine, and SEWRPC.

Pleasant (streets under Village jurisdiction). The development of off-street trails within the Village is proposed to be provided by Racine County (Racine-Kansasville Trail and Root River Recreation Corridor) and the Village (Pike River Pathway, Hoods Creek Trail, and trails providing links to other Village or County trails or parks).

The regional transportation system plan<sup>10</sup> recommends a network of on- and off-street bicycle ways within the County. Bikeways recommended by the regional transportation plan have been refined through the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan.<sup>11</sup> Existing and planned bikeways recommended by the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan are shown on Map 27.

### **Potential Water Trails**

The Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan recommends that the Village of Mount Pleasant and Racine County work together to develop a water trail<sup>12</sup> on the Root River, the Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Water trails, sometimes referred to as paddling trails or canoe/kayaking trails, would identify parts of the Root River and Pike River as waterway that could accommodate low-impact, non-motorized watercraft such as a canoes and kayaks. Important factors for establishing water trails include safe and convenient access to a waterway with unobstructed passageways, adequate support facilities, and safe portaging areas. Identifying and providing signs indicating scenic, historic, and natural view points along the waterway should also be considered. The establishment of a water trail would also promote the responsible use and enjoyment of the Root River and Pike River and would further serve as a place for solitude and respite from the urban environment, while providing educational and recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Development of a water trail in Lake Michigan would provide opportunities for non-motorized boating along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The proposed Root River Water Trail would consist of approximately eight miles; the proposed Pike River would consist of about three miles; and the Lake Michigan Water Trail would consist of approximately six miles within the Village and environs. It is recommended that canoe access and support facilities be maintained and/or developed at regular intervals along the Root River, Pike River, and the Lake Michigan shoreline. Currently, put-in and take-out sites or boat/canoe launches along the Root River are located at the Racine County-owned Horlick Park and the City of Racine-owned 6th Street Park South, Clayton Park, Island Park, and Lincoln Park. Existing public access sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline are located at the City of Racine-owned Pershing Park, Rooney Recreation Area, and Samuel Myers Park. Racine County and local governments in which the water features traverse or abut should consider preparing user-friendly maps for water trail users to identify support facilities and points of interest along the water trail. Nonprofit conservation organizations, such as the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network or the Lake Michigan Water Trail Association, may consider assisting with these efforts.

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<sup>10</sup>*Documented in SEWPRC Planning Report No. 49, A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035, June 2006. A reaffirmation and amendment of the plan was adopted in April 2010 and is documented in SEWPRC Memorandum Report No. 197, Review, Update, and Reaffirmation of the Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, June 2010.*

<sup>11</sup>*Documented in SEWPRC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, November 2009.*

<sup>12</sup>A “water trail” is a designated trail on a lake or stream that regularly contains sufficient water level to navigate small watercraft such as a canoe or kayak with unobstructed passageways while providing safe and convenient access points, and may contain support facilities such as parking areas, restrooms, and picnic areas.



## **Other Considerations**

### ***Public Input***

In December 2014, the Village held a public informational meeting to provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the park plan update and the Village park system. A citizen was concerned about the timing and types of recreational facilities recommended for development at Proposed Park Site 2 (land currently owned by the Village which includes the Village compost site), and how the development of recreational facilities at the site would affect the Racine R/C Club. The club operates radio-controlled model aircraft and has used the site for a number of years. Development of park facilities could limit or prohibit club use of the site; however, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board does not anticipate a need to develop any recreational facilities at the site for at least 15 years, so club activities should not be affected for several years. The park board will consult with the Racine R/C Club at the time park development is proposed to determine if park facilities could be located in a way that would accommodate continued Club use of a portion of the site.

In January 2015, the Village Park Board approved a new “pocket park,”<sup>13</sup> to be located on the northeast corner of Mead Street and 23rd Street, in the southeastern portion of the Village near the City of Racine. The park will be developed on three small lots owned by Racine Community Outpost, totaling about one-third of an acre. The SC Johnson Company is providing a \$275,000 grant to finance construction and purchase playground equipment for the park. In addition to the playground, the park will include a shelter and picnic tables, storage shed, and landscaped areas. The park will be known as Polzin Park. It is anticipated that ownership of the park will be transferred to the Village once construction is completed, likely in mid-2015. The location of the new park is shown on Map 26.

## **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

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

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

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has authority and responsibility for park development, natural resource protection, water quality management, and water use regulation. Certain WDNR functions have particular importance in the implementation of county and local park and open space plans. The Department has the obligation to prepare a comprehensive Statewide outdoor recreation plan and to develop long-range water resource management plans; the authority to protect, develop, and regulate the use of State parks, forests, fish and game, lakes and streams, certain plant life, and other natural resources; and the authority to administer, within the State, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program and the Wisconsin Stewardship Program. The LWCF and Wisconsin Stewardship programs are intended to assist in the acquisition and development of local parks and urban green spaces.

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

### **Wisconsin Department of Transportation**

It is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) 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 highway at the time the street or highway is constructed or reconstructed. It is recognized that major

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<sup>13</sup>A “pocket park” is a very small (less than one acre) park or outdoor area providing open or landscaped areas, and sometimes play equipment, for public recreation and leisure.

bicycle-related improvements, such as the addition of bicycle lanes, may not be able to be accommodated at the time the street is resurfaced. However, consideration should be given to restriping the street or making other improvements to better accommodate bicycle travel. It is anticipated that paving highway shoulders to accommodate bicycle travel may be accomplished at the time a street or highway is resurfaced. The State should make proper arrangements to 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 WisDOT continue to make transportation grants available for the construction of the recommended bikeways, including those recommended to be located off-street and on County and local streets.

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

### **Racine County**

The Racine County Park and Open Space Plan sets forth implementation responsibilities for Racine County. With respect to parks and facilities located wholly or partially within the Village, it is recommended that the County acquire an additional 30 acres to the south of Sanders Park for resource protection and outdoor recreation purposes and develop additional picnic facilities at the park. It is also recommended that Racine County continue to maintain other County-owned park and open space sites within the Village, including Haban Park, Horlick Park, and Quarry Lake Park.

It is recommended that the County develop a trail within the Root River Recreation Corridor in the northeastern portion of the Village, which would connect with the Root River Corridor in Milwaukee County to the north and the Lake Michigan Corridor in Racine and Kenosha Counties to the south. The County plan also recommends that Racine County continue to maintain and develop the Racine-Kansasville Trail.

It is also recommended that the County continue to maintain the North Shore Trail located in the southeastern portion of the Village and provide signage and other route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route. Racine County, in cooperation with local governments, should consider developing a water trail and appropriate support facilities on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

### **Village of Mount Pleasant**

Under the park and open plan for the Village, shown on Maps 25 and 26, the Village of Mount Pleasant would have responsibility for providing a variety of outdoor recreation sites and facilities, including the acquisition and development of 10 new park sites and associated recreational facilities; the development of recreational facilities at three existing undeveloped Village park sites (Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park, Village Civic Campus Park, and Village-owned land site); the acquisition of land for park expansion at Drozd and Smolenski Parks; the development or improvement of recreational facilities at nine existing park sites, including the Pike River Pathway; the acquisition of land and development for off-street trails; the development of on-street bikeways; and the continued improvement and maintenance of all existing Village parks, recreational facilities, and trails. It is also recommended that Mount Pleasant continue to jointly own, manage, and maintain the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park with the Village of Caledonia. Implementation of these recommendations would meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents, and protect areas having important natural resources.

It is also recommended that the Village acquire 206 acres of land for new community and neighborhood parks and park expansion at Drozd and Smolenski Parks, including 41 acres within open space preservation areas, and acquire 102 acres of land for the development of a trail system or for resource-protection purposes, particularly along the Pike River and Hoods Creek corridors. The Village of Mount Pleasant recreation trail system is proposed to provide about 71 miles of biking and hiking opportunities, including about 27 miles of off-street trails and about 44 miles of on-street bikeways. It is recommended that the Village also work with Racine County to develop the Root River, Pike River, and Lake Michigan Water Trails.

## **Plan Costs**

Implementation of the park and open space plan for the Village of Mount Pleasant, as presented herein and summarized in Table 13, would entail a total cost to the Village of \$1,107,400 over the five-year plan implementation period from 2015 through 2019. This includes all park-related improvements included in the Village's five-year Capital Improvement Plan from the period of 2015 through 2019. Costs associated with the general maintenance of existing park facilities are not included in that total.

The cost to the Village for any park or open space acquisition or development of recreational facilities could be reduced through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, such as dedication and conservation easements. State, Federal, and private grants for park or open space acquisition and facility development may also help reduce the cost to the Village of implementing this plan (grant programs for park acquisition and development are summarized in Appendix C). Donations from the public and/or private businesses or organizations may also be used to develop park facilities, and the Village Parks and Recreation Advisory Board anticipates donations to help develop the Civic Center Park in particular.

## **SUMMARY**

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

The key components of the plan are as follows:

- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources should endorse the plan, thereby making the Village eligible to apply for and receive State and Federal grants for the acquisition of park and open space lands and the development of outdoor recreation facilities.
- The Wisconsin Department of Transportation should give consideration to bicyclists when constructing or reconstructing State trunk highways or connecting highways and notify interested parties of any railway abandonment proposed within the Village of Mount Pleasant.
- Racine County should continue to provide and maintain one major park, Sanders Park, within the Village, and acquire an additional 30 acres at the park for resource protection and outdoor recreation purposes and develop additional picnic facilities at the park. The County should continue to maintain Haban Park, Horlick Park, and Quarry Lake Park, which are County-owned sites located wholly or partially within the Village.

The County should continue to develop and maintain the Racine-Sturtevant Trail, develop the Root River Recreation Corridor, and maintain the North Shore Trail within the Village. The County should also maintain bicycle route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route and consider developing a water trail and appropriate support facilities on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The County should also acquire and protect natural areas and geological areas as called for in the regional natural areas plan. Consideration should also be given to extending the Racine-Kansasville Trail, if the existing railroad right-of-way between Sturtevant and Kansasville is abandoned.

- The plan recommends that the Village acquire 102 acres of open space preservation areas for resource-protection or recreation purposes, particularly along the Pike River and Hoods Creek corridors. The Village currently owns 649 acres of open space preservation areas. It is recommended that the Village also acquire 206 acres of land for new or existing community and neighborhood parks, including 41 acres within open space preservation areas. The Village should also acquire and protect natural areas as called for in the regional natural areas plan.

- The plan recommends that the Village consider adopting conservancy zoning regulations and apply the regulations to those portions of open space preservation areas not publicly owned. The plan further recommends that the Village protect the farmland preservation areas located in the southwestern and northwestern portions of the Village, as identified in the Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan; and consider requesting that Racine County amend the Farmland Preservation Plan to be consistent with the farmland preservation areas identified by the year 2035 Village comprehensive (master) plan.
- The park and open space plan recommends the development or improvement of 10 existing Village-owned parks and the Pike River Pathway to upgrade and modernize facilities and equipment. These developments or improvements are likely to occur from 2015 to 2019. A new pocket park, named Polzin Park, is expected to be developed in 2015 by the SC Johnson Company on land owned by Racine Community Outpost, and is anticipated to be donated to the Village following completion of park improvements.
- The park and open space plan also recommends the acquisition and development of recreational facilities for 10 new Village community or neighborhood parks to help ensure that parks and recreational facilities are well-distributed throughout the Village and thereby convenient to all residents. The plan further recommends the development of recreational facilities at three existing undeveloped Village parks and additional development at five other Village parks and the Pike River Pathway. These acquisitions and developments are likely to occur after 2019.
- The park and open space plan further recommends that the Village of Mount Pleasant continue to maintain and develop an additional three miles of the Pike River Pathway within the Village. It is also recommended that the Village cooperate with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Racine County to develop on-street bikeways recommended by the Village's 2035 comprehensive (master) land use plan. The Village of Mount Pleasant recreation trail system is proposed to encompass 71 linear miles, including about 27 miles of off-street trails and about 44 miles of on-street bikeways. The Village should also work with Racine County and, as appropriate, nonprofit conservation organizations to develop the Pike River, Root River, and Lake Michigan Water Trails.
- The cost to the Village to implement the park and open space plan would be \$1,107,400 over the five-year period from 2015 through 2019. Costs for additional park acquisition or facility development recommended by the plan beyond 2019 will be determined through the Village's Capital Improvement Plan process.



## Chapter VI

# SUMMARY

In September 2013, the Village of Mount Pleasant requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the Village in updating its park and open space plan. The resulting plan is documented in this report, and is an update of the park and open space plan adopted by the Town of Mount Pleasant in April 2003.<sup>1</sup> This plan is intended to provide a long-range vision and a guide to assist Village officials and staff in making the day-to-day decisions needed for the continued development of the Village’s park and open space system. To assist in the implementation of the plan, both long-term recommendations for the next 20 years and an “action plan” are presented. The action plan sets forth priorities for implementation of the park and open space plan over the five-year period from 2015 through 2019. Implementation of the plan over time would help to ensure a pleasant, healthy environment with diverse recreational opportunities for Village residents and visitors, and provide the foundation for a healthy, vibrant Village.

Important preliminary steps in the development of this plan included a review of development and improvement activities conducted to date to implement the previous park plan and the collection of updated inventory information regarding land use, population, natural resources, and park and open space sites and recreational facilities within the Village. This plan also reflects recommendations from the 2035 Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan; the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035; the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan; the Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan; the Village of Mount Pleasant Master Bicycle Plan 2030; the Pike River Watershed Plan; the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan; the Des Plaines River Watershed Plan; the updated natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin; and key findings of a park and recreation survey of Village residents.

The planning process was conducted under the guidance of the Village of Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Staff support was provided by the Engineering Department and Parks and Recreation Department. A public informational meeting to present preliminary plan recommendations and provide opportunities for public comment was held on December 4, 2014. This plan was approved by the Village of Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on December 18, 2014. In February 2015, the park board approved an update to the plan to add a new park (Polzin Park).

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<sup>1</sup>*The Town of Mount Pleasant incorporated as a village on September 16, 2003.*

This plan has been adopted as a component of the Village of Mount Pleasant comprehensive plan,<sup>2</sup> following the procedures set forth in Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. A public hearing on the plan was held jointly by the Village Board and Plan Commission on March 17, 2015. The plan was approved by resolution by the Village Plan Commission on April 22, 2015 and adopted by ordinance by the Mount Pleasant Village Board on April 27, 2015. A copy of the Plan Commission resolution and the Village Board ordinance adopting the plan are in Appendix B.

## INVENTORY FINDINGS

The planning area, shown on Map 1 in Chapter I, consists of the entire Village of Mount Pleasant, which is located in U.S. Public Land Survey Township 3 North and Ranges 22 and 23 East in the eastern portion of Racine County along Lake Michigan. The Village of Mount Pleasant encompasses 21,686 acres, or about 34 square miles. The Village is almost completely surrounded by other incorporated municipalities (city and villages), which will prevent annexations by the Village within Racine County, with the exception of the Town of Yorkville to the west. The Village of Sturtevant, which is located in Township 3 North, Range 22 East, is completely surrounded by the Village of Mount Pleasant. Mount Pleasant had a 2010 population level of 26,197 persons.

The Village has a great deal of land available for urban development within the sewer service area portion of the Village. Implementing the *2035 Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan* will ensure that new urban development and growth will be managed in an orderly way by the Village and that effective and consistent decisions will be attained by Village staff and officials. Due to the potential for new urban development in the Village, it is important that the Village follow the recommendations of this park and open space plan update to provide a good distribution of parks and recreational facilities to serve Village residents.

An inventory of outdoor recreation and open space sites and facilities was conducted in 2014. The inventory identified 40 such sites encompassing 1,527 acres, or about 7 percent of the Village. Of the 40 outdoor recreation and open space sites, 33 sites encompassing 1,080 acres, or about 71 percent of the area devoted to outdoor recreation and open space uses, were publicly owned. The remaining seven sites, encompassing 447 acres, or about 29 percent of the total park and open space site acreage, were privately owned. The Village of Mount Pleasant owned 24 park and open space sites, encompassing a total of 808 acres, or about 4 percent of the Village. This represents an increase of 10 sites and 514 acres since 2000. The Village of Mount Pleasant park and open space sites ranged from one acre (Dirkse Park) to 339 acres (Pike River Corridor) in size.

The Pike River Pathway developed by the Village provides opportunities for biking and hiking within the Village. The Pike River Pathway is located along the Pike River and is an off-street trail that extends from Old Spring Street south to near STH 20 (Washington Avenue) and another segment that runs from J.I. Case High School to the County's Racine-Kansasville Trail (formerly the Racine-Burlington Trail). The pathway is linked to an on-street bikeway segment at Old Spring Street, which in turn is linked to Stuart Road, the Frontage Road, and 90th Street. The Village provides about 10 miles of trails and bikeways. Racine County maintains the MRK Trail, the North Shore Trail, the Racine-Kansasville Trail, and a portion of the Racine Bicycle Route within the Village.

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<sup>2</sup>In July 2009, the Village Board adopted the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan as the comprehensive plan for the Village, which is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, November 2009. In January 2014, the Village Board adopted an amendment to the Village 2030 Master Plan as a supplement to the multi-jurisdictional plan and as an amendment to the Village land use plan map included in the multi-jurisdictional plan. The amended Village master plan was renamed the 2035 Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Land Use Plan to be consistent with the design year of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan.

The most important features of the natural resource base in the Village of Mount Pleasant, including the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and stream corridors, occur in linear areas termed environmental corridors. Primary environmental corridors encompass 154 acres, or about 1 percent of the Village, secondary environmental corridors encompass 514 acres, and isolated natural resource areas encompass 523 acres within the Village. There are also 1,185 acres encompassed in the 100-year floodplain and 643 acres of wetlands within the Village.

Five natural areas encompassing 165 acres, three critical species habitat sites encompassing 48 acres, and one geological area encompassing 31 acres were identified in the Village in 2009. Four aquatic habitat sites were identified in the Village in 1994. Two natural areas of Statewide or greater significance were identified in the Village of Mount Pleasant; the four-acre Franksville Railroad Prairie and the 56-acre Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area located in the County-owned Sanders Park. The Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries Geological Area has also been identified as a geological area of statewide or greater significance within the Village.

## **STATUS OF 2020 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Mount Pleasant Park and Open Space Plan for the year 2020 includes a number of recommendations regarding the acquisition of land for parks and open space preservation and the development and/or improvement of recreational facilities. Chapter III provides a summary of the recommendations made in the previous plan and indicates those recommendations that had been implemented by 2013 and those remaining to be implemented.

Between 2003 and 2014, the Village accomplished the following activities related to park and trail development and improvement:

- Acquired land for two new community parks (Village Civic Campus and Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park). The undeveloped Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park, located along the Pike River in the southern portion of the Village, would satisfy the need for a community park in the southern portion of the Village, and replaces the location of Proposed Park Site 3 recommended in the 2020 park plan.
- Developed additional park facilities at Smolenski Park, including a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a basketball goal, a sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, open-air shelters, and appropriate support facilities, including parking and restrooms.
- Developed a dog park on land owned by the Village.
- Developed a playground at James Turek Park.
- Continued to jointly maintain park facilities at Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park with the Village of Caledonia.
- Continued to maintain park facilities at Drozd Park, Pheasant Creek Park, James Turek Park, Sheridan Woods Park, Stewart-McBride Park, and Timmer Lane Park (now part of the Pike River Corridor).
- Acquired 275 acres within the Pike River Corridor and developed portions of the Pike River Trail (now Pathway), as part of a larger project to restore the Pike River for natural resource protection and stormwater management purposes.
- Developed about five miles of on-street bikeways.

Since early 2000, the Village has also pursued new land acquisitions, development, and/or improvements at various park sites that were not specifically recommended in the 2020 park plan, which include: participating in the development of a Kids Connection Playground at Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park; acquiring lands along the Pike River associated with the Pike River Restoration Project; and acquiring open space lands along Hoods Creek and other natural resource-oriented or stormwater-related areas for conservancy purposes.

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

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

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

The attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide residents of the Village with opportunities for high-quality recreational experiences. Under the regional park and open space plan and the Racine County park and open space plan, the responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreational facilities is shared among various levels of government. The responsibility for acquisition and development of major resource-oriented parks and recreational facilities is largely delegated to the state and county levels of government, although larger cities sometimes provide major parks. The need for major parks will be met within the Village of Mount Pleasant by the continued expansion, development, and maintenance of Sanders Park by Racine County.

The responsibility for providing neighborhood and community parks and facilities for intensive outdoor recreational activities, as well as the acquisition of environmental corridors and the development of a local trail system, is delegated to the Village of Mount Pleasant under the regional park and open space plan. The need for community and neighborhood parks and associated recreational facilities in the Village of Mount Pleasant was determined by applying the park and open space standards to the population projection (35,000 persons) identified in the adopted Village comprehensive plan. Accessibility, or service radius, standards were also applied to ensure that community and neighborhood parks will be well-distributed throughout the Village and convenient to Village residents.

The results of applying the adopted SEWRPC per capita and accessibility standards for recreational facilities in the Village identified a need for a variety of recreational facilities, including baseball diamonds, softball diamonds, playfields, playgrounds, soccer fields, tennis courts, and basketball goals. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board identified a need for additional facilities, including additional picnic shelters, exercise/fitness equipment for adults and youths, and development of ballfields, playfields for field sports (such as soccer, lacrosse, and flag football), a concession area, a fishing pond, and a playground and splash pad at the Civic Campus Park.

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

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

- Acquisition and development of one new community park and nine new neighborhood parks, likely after 2019, to help ensure that community and neighborhood parks are well-distributed throughout the Village and convenient to all residents.
- Acquisition and development of one new pocket park.



- Development of recreational facilities at three existing undeveloped, Village-owned community parks, Biex-Ramcke Homestead Park, Village-owned land (located north of the Village of Sturtevant and west of and adjacent to the Canadian Pacific Railway), and the Village Civic Campus Park, likely after 2019.
- Additional development or improvements to eight existing, developed Village parks, and the Pike River Pathway, and acquisition and development of a pocket park, between 2015 and 2019.
- Additional development at six existing Village parks and the Pike River Pathway, and the acquisition of additional land at Drozd and Smolenski Parks, which will likely occur after 2019.
- Continued development and maintenance of the Pike River Pathway within the Pike River Corridor.
- Development of Root River, Pike River, and Lake Michigan Water Trails, in cooperation with Racine County.
- Continued joint ownership and management of the Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park with the Village of Caledonia.
- Continued maintenance of the Village parks system, including improvements to increase access for persons with disabilities.
- Continued development of a Village-wide system of recreation trails and on-street bikeways in accordance with the Village 2035 comprehensive (master) land use plan.
- Continued protection and acquisition of open space preservation lands in the Village, where necessary, including environmental corridors, natural and geological areas, critical species habitat sites, wetlands, undeveloped floodplains, stream corridors, and woodlands.
- Continued implementation of the recommendations of the Pike River Watershed Plan and the Root River Watershed Plan, which propose to protect all streams and tributaries and conserve the natural ecosystem within their respective watershed areas.

The plan also proposes that the Village acquire an additional 143 acres of natural resource areas and continue to protect the natural resources located within existing Village parks. It is also recommended that the Village adopt and apply conservancy zoning regulations to protect important natural resource areas that are privately owned. The plan further recommends that the Village acquire the remaining lands associated with the Hoods Creek Woods Natural Area located along Hoods Creek for resource protection purposes.

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

It is recommended that Racine County continue to expand, develop, and maintain one major park, Sanders Park, within the Village, and continue to provide and maintain Haban Park, Horlick Park, and Quarry Lake Park, which are County parks located wholly or partially within the Village. The County should develop the Root River Recreation Corridor along the Root River; continue to develop and maintain the Racine-Kansasville Trail; and continue to maintain the North Shore Trail. It is also recommended that the County continue to maintain signage and other route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route and, in cooperation with local governments, develop water trails (canoe access points) on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The County should also acquire and protect natural areas and a geological area as called for in the regional natural areas plan and the County park and open space plan.

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## APPENDICES

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## **Appendix A**

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

### **OBJECTIVE NO. 1**

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

#### **PRINCIPLE**

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

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

#### **PRINCIPLE**

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

#### **STANDARDS**

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

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

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

## B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE

### PRINCIPLE

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

### STANDARDS

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

- A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation related open space consisting of linear recreation corridors<sup>p</sup> should be provided for each 1,000 persons in the Region.
- Recreation corridors should have a minimum length of 15 miles and a minimum width of 200 feet.
- The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas.
- Resource-orientated recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
  - Primary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented recreation activities.
  - Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites.
  - Existing trail-type facilities within the Region.

## OBJECTIVE NO. 2

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

### PRINCIPLE

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

### STANDARD

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

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

### OBJECTIVE NO. 3

To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

#### PRINCIPLE

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

#### STANDARD

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

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirement <sup>W</sup>						Design Standards				Service Radius of Facility (miles) <sup>X</sup>		
Activity	Facility	Owner	Per Capita Requirements (facility per 1,000 residents)		Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements	Total Land Requirements (acres per facility)		Resource Requirements	
Camping	Campsite	Public	0.35		Type I and II general use sites	0.33 acre per campsite	Restrooms - showers	--	1.83	Ungrazed wooded area	25.0	
		Nonpublic	1.47				Utility hookups	--				Presence of surface water
		Total	1.82				Natural area backup lands	1.5 acres per campsite				
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public	0.013		Type I and II general use sites	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking, and maintenance	8.0 acres per course	185.00	Suitable topography and soils	10.0	
		Nonpublic	0.027				Practice area	5.0 acres per course				Presence of surface water
		Total	0.040				Woodland or water areas	35.0 acres per course				
Picnicking	Tables	Public	6.35 <sup>V</sup>		Type I, II, III, and IV general use sites	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking	0.02 acre per table (1.5 space per table)	0.11	Topography with scenic views	10.0	
		Nonpublic	2.39				Shelters and grills	--				Shade trees
		Total	8.74				Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table				
Skiing	Developed slope (acres)	Public	0.010		Type I, II, and III general use sites	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet	0.13 acre minimum	2.10	Suitable topography and soils	25.0	
		Nonpublic	0.090				Parking	0.25 acre per acre of slope				(20 percent slope minimum)
		Total	0.100				Ski tows (and lights)	0.40 acre per acre of slope				
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)		Major Inland Lakes	Lake Michigan	Type I, II, and III general use sites	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking	0.2 acre per acre of beach	-- <sup>Z</sup>	Natural beach	10.0	
		Public	6	16			Bathhouse-concessions	0.10 acre minimum				Good water quality
		Nonpublic	12	--			Buffer areas	10 square feet per linear foot				
		Total	18	16								



## OBJECTIVE NO. 4

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

### PRINCIPLE

Participation in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities including biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, pleasure driving, ski-touring, and snowmobiling provides opportunity for contact with natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features. In addition, such activities can increase an individual's perception and intensify awareness of the surroundings, contribute to a better understanding of the environment, and provide a wider range of vision and comprehension of all forms of life both as this life may have existed in the past and as it exists in the present. Similar to intensive resource-orientated activity, the family as a unit also can participate in extensive land based recreation activities; such participation also serves to strengthen social relationships within the family. For activities like biking, hiking, and nature study, participation provides an opportunity to educate younger members of the family in the importance of environmental issues which may become of greater concern as they approach adulthood.

### STANDARD

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

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

## OBJECTIVE NO. 5

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

## PRINCIPLE

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

## STANDARDS

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

## OBJECTIVE NO. 6

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

## PRINCIPLE

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

### A. PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

## PRINCIPLE

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

## STANDARD

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

### B. NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS

## PRINCIPLE

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

## STANDARDS

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

## C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

### PRINCIPLE

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

### STANDARDS

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

### OBJECTIVE NO. 7

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

### PRINCIPLE

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

### STANDARD

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

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### Footnotes

<sup>a</sup>*In urban areas facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented recreational activities are commonly located in Type III or Type IV school outdoor recreation sites. These facilities often provide a substitute for facilities usually located in parks by providing opportunities for participation in intensive nonresource-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.*

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

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

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

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

<sup>f</sup>*For public school sites, which generally provide facilities for intensive nonresource-orientated outdoor recreation activities, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the Region residing in urban areas.*

<sup>g</sup>Type I sites are defined as large outdoor recreation sites with a multi-county service area. Such sites rely heavily on natural resources for their recreational value and character, and provide opportunities for participation in a wide variety of resource-oriented outdoor recreation pursuits.

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>m</sup>The service radius of school outdoor recreation sites, for park and open space planning purposes, is governed primarily by individual outdoor recreation facilities within the school site. For example, school outdoor recreation sites that provide such facilities as playfields, playgrounds, and basketball goals typically have a service radius of 0.5 mile, which is the maximum service radius assigned to such facilities (see standards presented under Objective 2). As another example school outdoor recreation sites that provide tennis courts and softball diamonds typically have a service radius of one mile, which is the maximum service radius assigned to such facilities (see standards presented under Objective 2). It is important to note that areas that offer space for passive recreational use are generally not provided at school outdoor recreation sites and therefore Type III and Type IV school sites generally do not meet Type III and Type IV park accessibility requirements.

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

<sup>o</sup>The maximum service radius of Type IV parks is governed primarily by the population density in the vicinity of the park. In high-density urban areas, each urban resident should reside within 0.5 mile of a Type IV park; in medium-density urban areas, each resident should reside within 0.75 mile of a Type IV park; and in low-density urban areas, each resident should reside within 1.0 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 that offer space for passive recreational uses, as well as facilities that provide opportunities for active recreational uses.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

<sup>x</sup>Participants in intensive resource-oriented recreational activities travel relatively long distances from their homes. The approximate service radius indicates the normal maximum distance a participant in the respective resource-oriented activity should have to travel from his or her place of residence to participate in the corresponding activity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: SEWRPC.

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**Appendix B**

**PLAN COMMISSION RESOLUTION AND VILLAGE BOARD  
ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE  
PLAN AS A COMPONENT OF THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT  
PLEASANT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

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RESOLUTION NO. 9 – 2015

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A NEW PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Mount Pleasant, Racine County, Wisconsin, pursuant to Sections 61.35 and 62.23 of the Wisconsin Statutes, has created a Village Plan Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty and function of the Village Plan Commission, pursuant to Sections 62.23 and 66.1001 of the Statutes, to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan, and amendments thereto, for the development of the Village of Mount Pleasant; and

**WHEREAS**, The Village Board, by the enactment of an ordinance on July 27, 2009, adopted the document titled, *A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035* as the Village Comprehensive Plan, and on January 13, 2014, adopted an amendment to that plan titled the *Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Plan: 2035*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village, in cooperation with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, has developed an updated park and open space plan to help guide development of the Village park and open space system and protect important natural resources, as a component of and an amendment to the Village comprehensive plan; and

**WHEREAS**, public participation procedures for the plan amendment are documented in Chapter I of the park and open space plan report; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village has duly noticed and held a public hearing for the proposed amendment, following the procedures in Section 66.1001(4) of the Statutes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Sections 62.23(3)(b) and 66.1001(4)(b) of the Statutes, the Village of Mount Pleasant Plan Commission hereby recommends adoption of the plan documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Report No. 199, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, *A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2035*, as a component of and an amendment to the Village comprehensive plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Plan Commission does hereby recommend that the Village Board enact an Ordinance adopting the Comprehensive Plan amendment.

Adopted by the Village of Mount Pleasant Plan Commission this 22 day of APRIL, 2015.

Ayes 6 Noes 0 Absent 1

  
Michael Pirk, Plan Commission Chairperson

Attest:

  
Davis Driver, Plan Commission Vice-Chair/Secretary



ORDINANCE NO. 2 - 2015

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT PLEASANT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Village Board of the Village of Mount Pleasant, Racine County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Sections 61.35 and 62.23 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Village of Mount Pleasant is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan as defined in Sections 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2) of the Statutes.

SECTION 2. The Village Board, by the enactment of an ordinance on July 27, 2009, adopted the document titled, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035 as the Village Comprehensive Plan, and on January 13, 2014, adopted an amendment to that plan titled the Village of Mount Pleasant Comprehensive (Master) Plan: 2035.

SECTION 3. The Village Plan Commission, by a majority vote of the entire Commission at a meeting held on April 22, 2015, approved a resolution recommending to the Village Board the adoption of the document titled A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2035 as a component of, and an amendment to, the Village comprehensive plan.

SECTION 4. Public participation procedures for the plan amendment are documented in Chapter I of the park and open space plan report.

SECTION 5. The Village Board has duly noticed and held a public hearing on March 17, 2015, regarding this comprehensive plan amendment.

SECTION 6. The Village Board of the Village of Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin, does, by the enactment of this Ordinance, adopt the document titled A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Mount Pleasant: 2035 as a component of, and an amendment to, the Village of Mount Pleasant comprehensive plan.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the full membership of the Village Board and publication or posting as required by law.

Adopted by the Village of Mount Pleasant Board this 27th day of April, 2015.

Jerry Garski
Jerry Garski, Village President

Ayes 6 Nays 0 Absent 1

Published/Posted:

Attest: Stephanie Kohlhagen, Village Clerk

## Appendix C

# GRANT PROGRAMS TO HELP IMPLEMENT COUNTY AND LOCAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLANS

Primary sources of grant funds for the acquisition and development of county and local (city, town, and village) park and open space sites and the development of trails and bikeways in Southeastern Wisconsin are described in the following sections. Additional grant programs, which are focused on open space preservation and water quality protection and improvement, are listed on Table C-1.

1. **The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program** was established by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1989 for a 10-year period. The program has been renewed twice, most recently as part of the 2007-2009 Wisconsin State Budget for the period 2010 to 2019. The goals of the Stewardship Program are to protect and restore nature-based<sup>1</sup> outdoor recreation areas and areas having scenic or ecological value. The Stewardship Program is financed through the issuance of general obligation bonds and was authorized to distribute about \$86 million annually Statewide for the ten-year period of the program. This amount was reduced to \$60 million annually for fiscal years 2011-2012 through 2019-2020 as part of the 2011-2013 budget bill. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) administers the Stewardship Program. The Stewardship Program is an umbrella for a number of subprograms, each with its own goals, priorities, and criteria, which are summarized below. Projects submitted for grants under the Stewardship Program must be included in a locally-adopted park plan. The following programs are available to counties, local governments, and nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs) and require 50 percent matching funds.

- a. ***Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)***

The ADLP program is a regional allocation program which provides assistance for the acquisition and development of local and county parks and trails. NCOs can use these funds for the acquisition of land or easements only. County and local governments may use ADLP funds for the purchase of land and easements and the development of outdoor recreation areas for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes. The application deadline is May 1 of each year.

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<sup>1</sup>The WDNR defines “nature-based” outdoor recreation as activities where the primary focus or purpose is the appreciation or enjoyment of nature. Such activities include hiking, bicycling, wildlife or nature observation, camping, nature study, fishing, hunting, picnicking, cross-country skiing, canoeing, and multi-use trail activities. Playgrounds are also considered “nature-based” facilities. Support facilities such as access roads, parking, signs, utility and restroom buildings, and habitat restoration are also eligible for funding under the Stewardship program.

Table C-1

**POTENTIAL FUNDING PROGRAMS TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENTS<sup>a, b</sup>**

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
1	Captain Planet Foundation	Captain Planet Foundation Small Grant Program	U.S.-based schools and nonprofit organizations with an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects that provide hands-on environmental opportunities for youth,</li> <li>2. Projects that serve as a catalyst to getting environmental-based education in schools</li> <li>3. Projects that have real environmental outcomes</li> <li>4. Projects that inspire youth and communities to participate in environmental stewardship activities</li> </ol>	<p>Grants ranging between \$500 and \$2,500.</p> <p>Priority given to requests that have secured at least 50 percent matching or in-kind funding for their projects</p>	January 31 September 31
2	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	Nonprofit organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening the environmental community</li> <li>2. Public policies that advance conservation of freshwater ecosystems</li> <li>3. Site-based conservation of freshwater ecosystems</li> </ol>	Grants ranging between \$15,000 and \$250,000	Continuous
3	Corporation for National and Community Service	AmeriCorps	Nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, local units of government, labor organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improvements related to energy and water performance in economically disadvantaged communities</li> <li>2. Sustained recycling and waste treatment activities</li> <li>3. Improvement of at-risk public lands and waterways</li> </ol>	Funds and member slots	Varies
4	Freshwater Future	Healing Our Waters	Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development and implementation of GLRI proposals</li> <li>2. Capacity building</li> </ol>	Up to \$15,000 to aid in development or implementation of GLRI proposals. Up to \$5,000 for capacity building	None
5	Fund for Lake Michigan	Fund for Lake Michigan	Local communities and nonprofit organizations	Projects in southeastern Wisconsin that enhance the ecological health of nearshore and coastal areas and rivers and improve the quality of water flowing into the Lake	Grants, no maximum given	In 2014, January 24



Table C-1 (continued)

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
6	Graham-Martin Foundation	Graham-Martin Foundation	Schools, homeowners, homeowner associations, nonprofit organizations, lake and watershed associations, neighborhood associations, faith centers, State and local governments	Small-scale restoration and rain gardens	Funding to provide rain garden plants at a discount	Apply through the Foundation's website
7	Great Lakes Fishery Trust	Great Lakes Fishery Trust	Nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to the Great Lakes Fishery</li> <li>2. Ecosystem health and sustainable fish populations</li> <li>3. Great Lakes stewardship</li> </ol>	No cost or time limitations on grant requests	Announced by program on website
8	Great Lakes Protection Fund	Great Lakes Protection Fund	State and local units of government, nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses, and individuals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve the health of the Great Lakes</li> <li>2. Promote the interdependence of healthy ecological and economic systems</li> <li>3. Support innovative, creative, and venturesome ideas</li> </ol>	Finance the total cost of accepted projects	Continuous application process
9	James E. Dutton Foundation	James E. Dutton Foundation	Conservation organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wetland restorations</li> <li>2. Stream restorations</li> <li>3. Educational programs</li> </ol>	Project grants	Continuous
10	Joyce Foundation	Joyce Foundation Grant Program	Nonprofit organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects that address the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species in and around the Great Lakes Basin</li> <li>2. Projects that address polluted, nonpoint source runoff from agricultural lands and cities</li> <li>3. Use of green infrastructure to manage stormwater</li> <li>4. Support of Great Lakes restoration and protection policies</li> </ol>	Finance the total cost of accepted projects	Continuous acceptance of letters of inquiry Grant proposals are considered at meetings of the Foundation's Board of Directors in April, July, and December
11	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District	Green Infrastructure Partnership Program	Government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private property owners	Installation of green infrastructure practices	Reimbursement for eligible costs to a maximum of 50 percent of project costs	March 31
12	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District	Green Streets Partnership Program	Owners of roadways	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Addition of green infrastructure to roadway projects</li> <li>2. Retrofitting streets with green infrastructure</li> </ol>	Up to \$125,000 per award Requires a match of staff time. While a funding match is not required, it will increase project scoring	October 1

Table C-1 (continued)

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
13	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District	MMSD Rain Gardens Project	Homeowners, nonprofit groups, business owners	Rain gardens	Provides rain garden plants at reduces prices	March 17
14	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Acres for America	State, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing access to the outdoors</li> <li>2. Conserving critical habitat</li> <li>3. Connecting existed protected lands</li> <li>4. Ensuring the future of rural economies</li> </ol>	\$2.5 million available annually Requires at least one-to-one match	Pre-proposals June 3 Full proposals August 1
15	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Bring Back the Natives/More Fish	Federal, state, local, and tribal governments and agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities and schools	Conservation projects that restore, protect, and enhance sensitive, endangered, or threatened populations of native fish	Grants of \$25,000 to \$100,000 Requires 2 to 1 nonfederal match	Request for proposals typically released in the spring
16	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Environmental Solutions for Communities	State, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stewardship on agricultural lands</li> <li>2. Community-based conservation projects</li> <li>3. Green infrastructure</li> </ol>	Grants of \$25,000 to \$100,000. Match of 100 percent or greater is more competitive	Mid-December
17	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program	Any entity eligible to receive grants. Requires at least five partnering organizations	Eligible projects depend on funding source	Grants of \$20,000 to \$50,000. Requires match of 100 percent or more	Early February
18	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Sustain Our Great Lakes	State, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve the health of the Great Lakes</li> <li>2. Promote the interdependence of healthy ecological and economic systems</li> </ol>	Provides grants of \$25,000 to \$1,500,000. Match of 100 percent or greater is more competitive	Mid-February
19	PeopleForBikes	PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program	Local governments, State and Federal agencies, nonprofit organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bike paths, lanes, and bridges,</li> <li>2. Bike parks</li> <li>3. Bike racks, parking, and storage</li> </ol>	Provides grants of up to \$10,000 for a project. Grant must represent less than 50 percent of project budget	January August
20	Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network	Root-Pike WIN Watershed-Based Grant Program	Nonprofit organizations, units of government and other government agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects to reduce and prevent water, air, and soil pollution</li> <li>2. Education about watershed issues</li> <li>3. Protection and restoration of natural areas</li> <li>4. Projects that improve public access to public waterways</li> </ol>	Provides grants of \$500-\$10,000. Root-Pike WIN prefers not to be sole funder of a project	October 1

Table C-1 (continued)

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
21	Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Coalition	SEWISC Assistance Program	Eligible recipients depend upon funding source and may include individuals, nonprofit organizations, community and civic groups, private businesses, and units of government	Projects to lessen the impacts of invasive species in southeastern Wisconsin	Provides up to \$2,000. Match of at least 25 percent is required	As announced on SEWISC website. Deadline for 2014 is February 28.
22	Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust	Sweet Water Mini-Grant Program	Nonprofit organizations, civic groups, community groups	Projects that improve water quality, restore habitat, promote conservation and advance public education concerning water issues	Provides grants of \$1,000-\$5,000	November 15
23	Surdna Foundation	Surdna Foundation	Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status	Innovative stormwater management projects, green infrastructure	Recent grants have ranged between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000	Continuous
24	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Ecosystem Restoration Program	State and local units of government, nonprofit organizations	Projects to restore aquatic ecosystems for fish and wildlife	65 percent Federal cost-share of construction costs and cannot exceed \$5,000,000	None
25	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Emergency Streambank and Shore Protection Program	Local communities	Bank protection of highways, bridges, essential public works, churches, hospitals, schools, and other public services from flood-induced erosion	Federal share cannot exceed \$1,500,000 for a given project. Cost-share program with local match of 35 percent for design and construction required	None
26	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Program	State and local units of government, public agencies, private interests, nonprofit organizations	Projects to restore degraded ecosystem structure, function, and process to a more natural condition	Federal cost-share of 65 percent of planning, design, and construction costs up to \$10,000,000	None
27	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Small Flood Damage Reduction Program	State and local units of government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects designed to reduce the impact of flood events</li> <li>2. Projects must be designed and constructed by the Corps</li> </ol>	50 to 65 percent Federal cost-share assistance above \$100,000 and cannot exceed \$7,000,000; 35 to 50 percent local match is required	None
28	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Snagging and Clearing for Flood Control Program	State and Local units of government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Removal of obstructions that restrict flood flows in navigable waters</li> <li>2. Projects must be designed and constructed by the Corps</li> </ol>	Project studies are in most cases at Federal expense. 65 percent Federal cost-share is provided for project implementation and cannot exceed \$500,000	None
29	U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency	Conservation Reserve Program	Individual landowners in a 10- or 15-year contract	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grass waterways</li> <li>2. Riparian buffers</li> <li>3. Shallow water areas for wildlife</li> <li>4. Wetland restoration</li> <li>5. Windbreaks</li> </ol>	50 percent Federal cost-share assistance. 50 percent local match from individual; an annual rental payment for the length of the contract is also provided	Annually or ongoing <sup>c</sup>

Table C-1 (continued)

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
30	U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency	Emergency Conservation Program	Individual landowners	Repair damage to farmland caused by natural disasters	Up to 75 percent cost share to implement emergency conservation practices	Announced by FSA
31	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Agency	Emergency Forest Restoration Program	Private landowners with nonindustrial forests	Repair damage to forests caused by natural disasters	Up to 75 percent cost-share to implement emergency conservation practices	Announced by FSA
32	U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency	Grasslands Reserve Program	Private landowners and operators to protect grazing uses with permanent easements or rental contracts of 10-, 15-, or 20-year duration	Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices and production of forage and seed	For permanent easements, compensation up to the fair market value of the land minus grazing value For rental contracts, up to 75 percent of grazing value of land	Continuous
33	U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service	Conservation Stewardship Program	Individual landowners in a five-year contract	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Filter strips</li> <li>2. Riparian buffers</li> <li>3. Wildlife corridors</li> <li>4. Stream habitat improvement</li> </ol>	Payments for maintaining and/or enhancing natural resources not to exceed \$40,000 per year or \$200,000 over a five year period	Annually
34	U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service	Emergency Watershed Protection Program	Individual landowners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Debris removal</li> <li>2. Streambank stabilization</li> <li>3. Levee, dike, and dam repair</li> <li>4. Erosion control</li> <li>5. Floodplain easements</li> </ol>	Up to 75 percent Federal cost-share assistance. 25 percent local match is required	Continuous
35	U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	Individual landowners in a contract ranging from one to 10 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Animal waste management practices</li> <li>2. Soil erosion and sediment control practices</li> <li>3. Nutrient management</li> <li>4. Groundwater protections</li> <li>5. Habitat improvement</li> </ol>	Up to 75 percent Federal cost-share assistance. 25 percent local match is required	Annually
36	U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service	Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	Individual landowners in a contract ranging from one to 10 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instream fish habitat structures</li> <li>2. Invasive species control</li> <li>3. Prairie restoration</li> <li>4. Habitat restoration</li> </ol>	Up to 75 percent Federal cost-share assistance. 25 percent local match is required	Continuous



Table C-1 (continued)

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
37	U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service	Wetlands Reserve Program	Individual landowners in 10-year contracts or 30-year or permanent easements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Easements</li> <li>2. Wetland restoration</li> </ol>	<p>For permanent easements, 100 percent Federal cost share of restoration costs plus easement payment</p> <p>For 30-year easements 75 percent Federal cost share of restoration costs plus 75 percent of easement payment for permanent easement</p>	Continuous
38	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental Justice Small Grant Program	Incorporated nonprofit organizations and Federally recognized Indian tribes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase awareness of stormwater</li> <li>2. Lessen impacts from stormwater</li> <li>3. Watershed education</li> </ol>	Federal grants of \$20,000 to \$50,000	January
39	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Targeted Watershed Grant Program	Watershed organizations nominated by State Governors or Tribal leaders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Watershed projects to protect water resources</li> <li>2. Training and technical assistance to local partnerships</li> </ol>	Maximum 75 percent Federal cost-share assistance. Minimum 25 percent nonfederal match	November
40	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Urban Waters Small Grants	States, local governments, universities and colleges, nonprofit institutions	Research, investigations, training, studies and demonstrations that will advance the restoration of urban waters.	Federal grant of \$40,000 to \$60,000. Minimum local match of \$2,500	January
41	U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency	Flood Mitigation Assistance Program	State agencies and participating National Flood Insurance Program communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elevation, relocation, or demolition of insured structures</li> <li>2. Acquisition</li> <li>3. Dry floodproofing</li> <li>4. Minor structural projects</li> <li>5. Flood mitigation planning</li> </ol>	75 percent Federal cost-share assistance. 25 percent local match required	Announced on FEMA website
42	U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	State agencies and participating National Flood Insurance Program communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Floodproofing</li> <li>2. Relocation</li> <li>3. Elevation of structures</li> <li>4. Property acquisition</li> </ol>	75 percent Federal cost-share assistance. 12.5 percent State match and 12.5 percent local match required	Within 60 days of a Presidential disaster declaration
43	U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	State agencies and participating National Flood Insurance Program communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acquisition and relocation of structures in flood hazard areas</li> <li>2. Floodproofing</li> <li>3. Minor structural projects</li> <li>4. Flood control projects for critical facilities</li> </ol>	75 percent Federal cost-share assistance. 25 percent local match required	<p>Announced on FEMA website</p> <p>Applicants must have a FEMA-approved Mitigation plan in order to qualify for project grants</p>

Table C-1 (continued)

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
44	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program	Federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, other public institutions, and private nonprofit organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat restoration</li> <li>Monitoring and assessment</li> <li>Removal of passage barriers</li> <li>Aquatic plant establishment</li> <li>Programs to manage aquatic invasive species</li> </ol>	<p>Federal grants of \$1,000 to \$750,000 with an average grant of \$75,000</p> <p>No local match required, but matches of at least 50 percent encouraged</p>	Contact FWS regional office for deadline
45	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grant Program	States, Tribal Governments, Native American Treaty Organizations. Local governments, universities, nongovernmental organizations, and conservation organizations can receive funding if sponsored by an eligible entity.	Restoration of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat in the Great Lakes basin	Federal cost-share assistance for up to 75 percent of project costs. Nonfederal match of at least 25 percent required	December 16
46	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	Public and private organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land acquisition</li> <li>Wetland restoration</li> </ol>	<p>Standard grant program: \$75,000 to \$1,000,000 Federal cost-share assistance</p> <p>Small grant program: up to \$75,000 Federal cost-share assistance</p> <p>Both require at least 50 percent local match</p>	<p>February 28, July 87</p> <p>November 7</p>
47	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program	Private landowners for a contract of at least 10 years	Restoration of degraded wetlands, native grasslands, stream and riparian corridors, and other habitat areas	Full cost-share and technical assistance; individual projects cannot exceed \$25,000	Continuous
48	U.S. Forest Service	Community Forest and Open Space Preservation Program	Local units of government, tribes, qualified nonprofit agencies	Acquisition of land for community forests	50 percent Federal cost-share assistance up to \$400,000. 50 percent local match required	January 15
49	Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands	State Trust Fund Loan Program	Counties, cities, villages, towns, metropolitan sewerage districts, sanitary districts, lake districts, drainage districts	Any public purpose	Loans at competitive rates	Continuous
50	Wisconsin Citizen-Based Monitoring Network	Wisconsin Citizen-Based Monitoring Partnership Program	Local units of government, lake districts and associations, school districts, river management organizations, colleges, universities, tech schools, nonprofit conservation organizations	Citizen-based monitoring of natural populations and communities and environmental components such as soil, water, and air.	\$75,000-100,000 available Statewide annually	Spring

Table C-1 (continued)

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
51	Wisconsin Coastal Management Program	Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant Program	Local units of government, State agencies, colleges and universities, school districts, regional planning commission serving coastal areas, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coastal wetland protection and habitat protection</li> <li>2. Nonpoint source pollution control</li> <li>3. Coastal resource and community planning'</li> <li>4. Great Lakes education</li> <li>5. Public access and historic preservation projects</li> </ol>	<p>50 percent State match for projects with budgets of \$60,000 or less with 50 percent local match required</p> <p>40 percent State match for projects with budgets greater than \$60,000 with 60 percent local match required</p>	November
52	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control Grant Program	Local units of government, lake districts and associations, school districts, river management organizations, colleges, universities, tech schools, nonprofit conservation organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Education, prevention, and planning</li> <li>2. Established population control</li> <li>3. Early detection and response</li> <li>4. Maintenance and containment</li> <li>5. Research and Demonstration</li> </ol>	<p>Up to 75 percent State cost share</p> <p>Maximum award depends on type of project</p>	February 1 August 1
53	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	County Conservation Aids	County and tribal governments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aquatic habitat development</li> <li>2. Aquatic vegetation management</li> <li>3. Lake and stream rehabilitation and improvement</li> </ol>	50 percent State cost-share of eligible costs	Contact WDNR regional grant specialist
54	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Dam Removal Grant Program	Counties, cities, villages, towns, lake districts, and private dam owners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dam removal planning</li> <li>2. Dam removal</li> <li>3. Restoration of impoundment</li> </ol>	100 percent of eligible project costs up to \$50,000	Continuous
55	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Environmental Improvement Fund Loan Program	Cities, villages, towns, counties, sanitary districts lake districts, metropolitan sewerage districts, Federally recognized Indian tribes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construction and modification of WWTPs</li> <li>2. Nonpoint source pollution abatement projects</li> </ol>	Low interest loans	Notice of intent to apply due December 31
56	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program	Local units of government, qualified nonprofit conservation organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land acquisition</li> <li>2. Streambank protection</li> <li>3. Fish and wildlife habitat</li> </ol>	50 percent State cost-share assistance. 50 percent local match is required	May 1
57	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Lake Management Planning Grants	Local units of government, lake districts and associations, school districts, river management organizations, colleges, universities, tech schools, nonprofit conservation organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monitoring</li> <li>2. Education</li> <li>3. Organizational development</li> <li>4. Studies</li> <li>5. Plan development</li> </ol>	<p>75 percent State cost-share assistance. 25 percent local match is required</p> <p>Small scale grant maximum of \$3,000. Large-scale grant maximum of \$25,000</p>	February 1 August 1

Table C-1 (continued)

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
58	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Lake Protection Grants	Local units of government, lake districts and associations, school districts, river management organizations, colleges, universities, tech schools, nonprofit conservation organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchase of land or easements</li> <li>2. Restoration of wetlands or shorelands</li> <li>3. Development of local regulations or ordinances</li> <li>4. Lake management plan implementation</li> </ol>	75 percent State cost-share assistance. 25 percent local match is required. Maximum award of \$200,000	May 1
59	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program	State agencies and local units of government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning for acquisition of parks</li> <li>2. Land acquisition for parks and open space</li> <li>3. Supporting facilities that enhance recreational opportunities</li> </ol>	50 percent cost-share assistance	May 1
60	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Landowner Incentive Program	Any land that is not publicly owned	Projects to create and manage habitat for rare and declining species	Technical assistance 75 percent State cost-share, when funds are available	Continuous
61	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Municipal Dam Grant Program	Counties, cities, villages, towns, lake districts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dam maintenance, repair, and modification</li> <li>2. Dam abandonment and removal</li> </ol>	<p>Repair, reconstruction, and modification awards cover 50 percent of the first \$400,000 and 25 percent of the next \$800,000 of eligible project costs</p> <p>Dam abandonment and removal awards cover 100 percent of first \$400,000 of eligible project costs</p>	January 22
62	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Municipal Flood Control Grant Program	Cities, villages, towns, tribes, metropolitan sewerage districts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Structure and land acquisition</li> <li>2. Structure floodproofing</li> <li>3. Riparian restoration</li> <li>4. Flood storage</li> <li>5. Stormwater storage/detention</li> <li>6. Flood mapping</li> </ol>	State grant covers up to 70 percent of eligible costs. Requires minimum 30 percent local cost share	March 17
63	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Recreational Trails Aid Program	Municipal governments and incorporated organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintenance and restoration of existing trails</li> <li>2. Development or rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities</li> <li>3. Construction of new trails</li> <li>4. Land acquisition for trails</li> </ol>	State grant covers up to 50 percent of eligible project costs. Requires 50 percent match. Match may include other State funding	May 1

Table C-1 (continued)

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
64	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	River Protection Grant Program	Counties, cities, villages, towns, lake districts and associations, river management organizations, and nonprofit organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Management plan development</li> <li>2. Education projects</li> <li>3. Land acquisition</li> <li>4. Installation of nonpoint source pollution abatement projects</li> <li>5. River restoration projects</li> </ol>	State provides 75 percent cost-share up to \$10,000 for planning projects or \$50,000 for management projects. 25 percent local match required	December 10 for planning projects February 1 for management projects
65	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Targeted Runoff Management Grant Program	Cities, villages, towns, counties, regional planning commissions, tribal governments, special purpose lake, sewerage, and sanitary districts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construction of structural BMPs</li> <li>2. Implementation of nonstructural cropping practices</li> <li>3. Implementation of State agricultural performance standards</li> </ol>	State covers up to 70 percent of eligible costs. Grants of \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 for large-scale projects and up to \$150,000 for small-scale projects	April 15
66	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Urban Forestry Grant Program	Counties, cities, villages, towns, and nonprofit organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tree inventories</li> <li>2. Urban forestry management plans</li> <li>3. Tree ordinance development</li> <li>4. Tree planting, pruning, maintenance, and removal</li> </ol>	State covers 50 percent of eligible costs. Regular grants of \$1,000 to \$25,000. Startup grants of \$1,000 to \$4,000	October 1
67	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management Grant Program	Local units of government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning</li> <li>2. Education and Information Activities</li> <li>3. Ordinance development and enforcement</li> <li>4. Training</li> <li>5. Structural stormwater BMPs</li> <li>6. Streambank stabilization</li> </ol>	70 percent State cost-share assistance for projects not involving construction, requiring a 30 percent local match. 50 percent State cost-share assistance for projects not involving construction, requiring a 50 percent local match	April 15
68	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Weed Management Area Private Forest Grant Program	Eligible weed management groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information, education, and outreach</li> <li>2. Inventories of invasive plant species</li> <li>3. Control of invasive plant species</li> <li>4. Invasive plant management planning</li> </ol>	State reimburses 75 percent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$15,000 to any weed management group. Requires a 25 percent match	April 1



Table C-1 (continued)

Reference Number	Administrator of Grant Program	Name of Funding Program	Eligibility	Types of Projects and Funding Eligibility Criteria	Assistance Provided	Application Deadline
69	Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services	Wisconsin Fund–Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Replacement or Rehabilitation Financial Assistance Program	Owners of principal residences and small businesses who meet income limits	Replacement or rehabilitation of failing onsite wastewater treatment systems that were built before July 1, 1978	Maximum grant award of \$7,000. Loans are also available	January 31
70	Wisconsin Department of Transportation	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program	Counties, local governments, transit operators, State agencies	Pedestrian and bicycle facilities	State reimburses up to 80 percent costs. Requires a minimum 20 percent match	January of odd-numbered years
71	Wisconsin Department of Transportation	Transportation Alternatives Program	State agencies, local governments with taxing authority, Indian tribes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles</li> <li>2. Mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff</li> <li>3. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad right of ways as trails</li> </ol>	Federal match reimbursing up to 80 percent of project costs. Sponsor must provide at least 20 percent of funding	October of odd-numbered years
72	Wisconsin Environmental Education Board	Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Grant Program	State agencies, local units of government, schools, colleges, universities, nonprofit corporations	Development, dissemination, and implementation of environmental education programs	Project grants of up to \$10,000. Requires minimum 25 percent match	February 15

<sup>a</sup>The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs can be accessed at: <https://www.cfda.gov/?s=main&mode=list&tab=list>. Additional information on grants can be accessed through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at: [http://water.epa.gov/grants\\_funding/](http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/) and through the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries Grants Information Collection at <http://grants.library.wisc.edu>.

<sup>b</sup>Some of the programs described in this table may not be available under all envisioned conditions for a variety of reasons, including eligibility requirements or lack of funds in Federal and/or State budgets at a given time.

<sup>c</sup>Two types of sign-up are available for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): continuous CRP, which has no time line and is used for small sensitive tracts of land and regular CRP, which has an annual application period and is used for large tracts of land.

Source: SEWRPC.

b. ***Urban Green Space (UGS)***

The Urban Green Space program provides grants to acquire or protect scenic, ecological, or other natural features in urban or urbanizing areas and provide land for nature-based outdoor recreation, including noncommercial community gardening. These funds can be used for the acquisition of land only. The application deadline is May 1 of each year.

c. ***Urban Rivers (URGP)***

The Urban Rivers grant program provides grants to purchase land or easements, or to develop shoreline enhancements on or adjacent to rivers that flow through urban or urbanizing areas. This program is intended to preserve or restore urban rivers or riverfronts for the purpose of revitalization and nature-based outdoor recreation activities. NCOs can use these funds for the acquisition of land or easements only. The application deadline is May 1 of each year.

d. ***Acquisition of Development Rights***

The Acquisition of Development Rights program provides grants to acquire development rights (conservation easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, commercial, or industrial development would help protect natural, agricultural, or forestry values and enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. The application deadline is May 1 of each year.

2. **The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)** program was established by the U.S. Congress in 1964 to provide funding for the acquisition of land for park or open space preservation purposes and the development of outdoor recreation facilities. In Wisconsin, LAWCON funds are administered by the WDNR. Up to 50 percent of project costs are eligible for funding under this program. A portion of this amount is available to local and county units of government for the acquisition of land and the development of parks and trails. The “nature-based” restriction in the Stewardship Program does not apply to LAWCON funds. The application deadline is May 1 of each year.

3. **The National Recreational Trails Act (RTA)** grant program provides funds through the transfer of Federal gas taxes paid on fuel used by off-highway vehicles. These funds are used to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized trail uses. The WDNR administers the program in Wisconsin. Funds are available to county and local units of government, State and Federal agencies, school districts, and qualified trail organizations. Matching grants for up to 50 percent of project costs are available. The application deadline is May 1 of each year.

4. **The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program**, administered by the WDNR, distributes \$0.6 million annually Statewide. The program provides grants of up to 50 percent to county and local units of government and NCOs for urban forestry activities. The program includes three subprograms, each with its own criteria, which are summarized below.

a. ***Regular Grants***

Regular urban forestry grants support projects that improve a community’s capacity to manage its trees. Current emphases are on projects that create emerald ash borer preparedness, projects that improve the entire urban forest canopy, and innovative projects that act as models for other projects. Grants provide 50 percent of project costs on a reimbursable basis and range between \$1,000 and \$25,000 to county and local units of government and NCOs. Eligible projects include tree inventories, canopy assessments, urban forestry management plans, tree ordinance development, public outreach, staff or volunteer training, tree planting, tree maintenance, and tree removal. Applications for regular urban forestry grants are due October 1. Projects begin January 1 and must be completed within one calendar year.

b. ***Startup Grants***

Urban forestry startup grants support small projects focused on initial steps in community tree care and management. A long-term goal for applicants should be the development of a sustained community tree management program. Grants provide 50 percent of project costs on a reimbursable basis and range between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to county and local units of government and NCOs. Two of the following criteria are needed to apply: starting, or recently started, a community-wide tree care program; resuming tree care and management activities; community tree care by staff or contractors is infrequently performed; involvement and support for community trees and their care is low to non-existent; or there are no trained personnel to oversee community tree care and management. Eligible activities must relate to community tree management, maintenance, or education within cities, villages or other areas of urbanized development. A maximum of three urban forestry startup grants may be awarded to an applicant within the lifetime of the grant program. Applications for regular urban forestry grants are due October 1. Projects begin January 1 and must be completed within one calendar year.

c. ***Catastrophic Storm Grants***

This grant provides \$4,000 to \$50,000 to county and local units of government that have experienced damage to an urban forest as a direct result of a catastrophic storm event for which the Governor has declared a State of Emergency. Eligible activities include damages to urban forests caused by snow, ice, hail, wind, or tornado. The grant does not include damages due to a forest fire, drought, insect infestation or disease, or water saturation due to flooding. No local share, or match, is required and grant recipients may request a 50 percent advance payment of estimated project costs. Applications must be postmarked no later than 60 days from the date of emergency declaration.

5. **The River Protection Grant Program**, administered by the WDNR, is intended to protect or improve rivers and natural river ecosystems, including water quality, fisheries habitat, and natural beauty. The program includes the following two subprograms:

a. ***River Planning Grants***

This program provides grants to county and local units of government, NCOs, and qualified river management organizations. Eligible activities include river organization development, educational efforts, assessments of water quality and aquatic life, and non-point source evaluations. Reimbursement is limited to \$10,000 per project, up to 75 percent of project costs. The application deadline is May 1 of each year.

b. ***River Management Grants***

This program provides grants to county and local units of government, NCOs, and qualified river management organizations. Eligible activities include purchase of land or easements, development of local ordinances, and restoration of in-stream or shoreland habitat. Reimbursement is limited to \$50,000 per project, up to 75 percent of project costs. The application deadline is May 1 of each year.

6. **Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP)** grants are federally funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), but administered through the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. The WCMP is a voluntary State-Federal partnership that works through a council appointed by the Governor to provide policy coordination among State agencies and to award Federal funds to local governments and other entities for the implementation of initiatives related to the management of coastal zones in the State. Current funding priorities are wetlands protection, habitat restoration, public access, land acquisition, nonpoint source pollution control, land use and community planning, natural hazards, and Great Lakes education projects. The program also provides assistance to local governments in the management and protection of shorelands, wetlands, and floodplains through zoning and permitting. All counties and local governments within a county adjacent to Lake Michigan or Lake Superior are eligible.

Approximately \$1.0 to \$1.5 million is available annually. Projects with a cost of \$60,000 or less require a 50 percent match and those with a cost more than \$60,000 require a 60 percent match. Match may be in-kind, cash, or a combination of the two but cannot be Federal funds, except for tribal “self-sufficiency” grants. The grant deadline is November 1.

7. **MAP-21 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)** created a streamlined and performance-based surface transportation program including all modes of surface travel (highway, transit, bike, pedestrian, rail, and water). The program was enacted in 2012 and focuses on improving safety, maintaining infrastructure condition, reducing traffic congestion, improving the efficiency of the transportation system (including freight movement), protecting the environment, and reducing delays in project delivery. MAP-21 funds surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion nationally for the 2013 and 2014 fiscal years and is administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

MAP-21 is focused on working closely with stakeholders to ensure that county and local governments are able to build multimodal, sustainable projects ranging from passenger rail and transit to bicycle and pedestrian paths. Bicycle projects must be principally for transportation rather than recreational purposes, and must be designed and located pursuant to the transportation plans required of the State and Metropolitan Planning Organizations.<sup>2</sup> The following programs are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation with funding from FHWA. Each program is summarized below:

- a. ***Transportation Alternatives Program***

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are eligible for funding under this program. Local governments with taxing authority, State agencies, and Indian tribes are eligible for funding. Construction projects costing \$200,000 or more are eligible for funding, as are non-construction projects costing \$50,000 or more. This program will provide up to 80 percent of project costs on a reimbursement basis.

- b. ***Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)***

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program provides funding for transportation projects that improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion in counties classified as air quality nonattainment or maintenance areas for ozone or particulate matter. Funds are available to counties, local units of government, transit operators, and State agencies. Eligible projects include pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Construction projects costing \$200,000 or more are eligible for funding, as are non-construction projects costing \$50,000 or more. This program will provide up to 80 percent of project costs on a reimbursement basis. The funds are made available through a competitive application process that generally takes place in odd numbered calendar years. Applications are typically available in late January and due in April.

CMAQ funds are available for all county and local governments in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region as each county in the region either once was or currently is designated as a nonattainment or maintenance area. In April 2014, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designated all of Racine County as a maintenance area.

8. **Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) Watershed Based Grant Program** awards grants to fund a variety of community-based projects in the Root River, Pike River, and Oak Creek watersheds and in the associated Lake Michigan direct drainage area. The types of projects funded include environmental restoration efforts, planning studies and projects, research studies on topics related to restoration and management of the watersheds, construction and installation of recreational access facilities, workshops, and educational efforts. The focus areas for grants include projects to reduce and prevent water, soil, and air pollution from urban and rural sources; projects to establish or improve education and communication

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<sup>2</sup>SEWRPC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region.

about watershed issues; projects that protect or restore natural areas; and projects that improve public access to rivers, streams, lakes, and other public waterways. Potential projects are evaluated based on the degree to which they meet Root-Pike WIN's mission and vision; follow the recommendations of or best management practices suggested by agencies such as SEWRPC and the WDNR; protect unique environmental, archaeological, or cultural areas; can be duplicated throughout the watershed; encourage partnerships and leverage resources; balance a long-term focus with short-term results; and promote excellence by fostering a sense of pride and identification in the watershed. Grants are awarded annually and awards generally range between \$500 and \$10,000, subject to the availability of funds. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, units of government, and other public agencies. Applications for grants are due October 1.

9. **Great Lakes Fishery Trust** provides funding to nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies to enhance, protect, and rehabilitate Great Lakes fishery resources. The Trust provides funding in three broad areas: access to the Great Lakes fishery, ecosystem health and sustainable fish populations, and Great Lakes stewardship. Funding priorities related to access to the Great Lakes fishery include construction of new access sites, upgrading and renovating existing access sites, engineering and feasibility studies for proposed access sites, land acquisition to support access site development, and communication and outreach efforts regarding existing shore-based angling opportunities. Funding priorities related to ecosystem health and sustainable fish populations include targeted acquisition of land or easements to protect essential habitat, restoration of Great Lakes wetlands, removal of dams or barriers to restore fish passage, and targeted evaluations of new or experimental approaches in habitat restoration and fish passage. Funding priorities related to Great Lakes stewardship include projects that build understanding at the ecosystem or watershed level and promote taking related action on Great Lakes issues including protecting biological diversity, sustaining commercial and recreational fisheries, controlling nonnative nuisance species, and reducing pollution.

There are no cost or time limitations on grant requests; however, potential projects are evaluated on the costs versus the expected benefits as well as upon the reasonableness of the time requested to complete the project. The fund accepts proposals for different funding categories at different times throughout the year.

10. **PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program** supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations with a focus on bicycling, active transportation, or community development; county and local governments; and State or Federal agencies. Grants are given to support a specific project or program. In most cases the funds are provided for projects that focus on bicycle infrastructure projects such as:

- Bike paths, lanes, and bridges;
- Bike parks and pump tracks; and
- End of trip facilities, such as bike racks, bike parking, and bike storage.

Eligible costs include engineering and design work, construction costs including materials, labor, and equipment rental, and reasonable volunteer support costs. The maximum grant is \$10,000. While the program does not require a specific percentage match, leverage and funding partnerships are considered during application review. This program does not consider grant requests in which the grant would amount to 50 percent or more of the project budget.

Applications are made with a letter of interest submitted through the PeopleForBikes website. Based on the letter of interest, organizations will be invited to submit a full application. PeopleForBikes generally holds one to two open grant cycles every year, with letters of interest due in January and August.