

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF OTTAWA

WAUKESHA COUNTY WISCONSIN

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William J. Stauber, AICP Chief Land Use Planner

Special acknowledgment is due Robbie L. Robinson,
SEWRPC Planner, and Donald P. Heckel, former SEWRPC
Planner, for their contributions to the preparation of this
report.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING REPORT
NUMBER 258

**A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
FOR THE TOWN OF OTTAWA
WAUKESHA COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

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

November 2001

Inside Region \$ 5.00
Outside Region \$10.00

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Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

PLAN CONTEXT

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

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

Owing to the importance of outdoor recreation sites and areas for natural resource protection, park and open space acquisition, development, and use have long been issues of concern to public officials and citizen leaders. On December 1, 1977, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, which identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommends a system of large resource-oriented parks, 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 Waukesha County through preparation of a park and open space plan for the County in 1989. An updated Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan was adopted by the County Board in November 1996 as one element of the County development plan.¹ That plan, with a design year of 2010, was adopted as an amendment to the regional plan by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in December 1996.

TOWN REQUEST

The Town of Ottawa, on October 21, 1999, requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist in the preparation of a new park and open space plan. The plan is to reflect recent park and open space acquisition and

¹The County park plan is documented in Chapter XIII of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 209, A Development Plan for Waukesha County, Wisconsin, August 1996.

development activities within the Town and determine if additional recreational sites or facilities are needed. The plan is also intended to establish Town eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids in partial support of the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities. The requested new plan is documented in this report. This is the first such plan to be prepared for the Town by the Commission.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The planning process was conducted under the guidance of the Town of Ottawa Park Board. The Board consists of Town officials and citizens. A complete membership list of the Park Board is provided on the inside cover of this report.

PLANNING AREA

The planning area, as shown on Map 1, consists of the entire Town of Ottawa. The Town is located in U.S. Public Land Survey Township 6 North, Range 17 East in the western portion of Waukesha County along the Jefferson and Waukesha County border. The Town encompasses 22,535 acres, or about 35 square miles. As further shown on Map 1, the Town is bounded on the north by the Town of Summit and the Village of Dousman, on the east by the Town of Genesee and the Village of North Prairie, on the south by the Town of Eagle, all in Waukesha County, and on the west by the Town of Sullivan in Jefferson County.

REPORT FORMAT

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

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Chapter II

INVENTORY FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

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

RESIDENT POPULATION

Resident population levels are an important consideration in any park and open space planning effort. Data on the historical and existing resident population of the Town are presented in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1. As indicated in Table 1, the resident population of the Town of Ottawa increased between 1900 and 1910 from 883 persons to 934 persons. From 1920 to 1940 the population decreased from 709 persons to 675 persons. From 1950 to 1980 the population increased rather dramatically from 764 persons to 2,795 persons. Between 1980 and 1990, the population continued to increase, albeit at a considerably slower rate, to 2,988 persons. The resident population level for 2000, based on U.S. Census data, is 3,758 persons, an increase of 770 persons, or 26 percent, from 1990. This represents a larger increase than that experienced in the preceding decade.

LAND USE BASE

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

The historic pattern of urban growth in the Town of Ottawa is shown on Map 2. This map identifies areas of the Town where residential structures or other buildings have been constructed in relatively compact groups, thereby indicating concentrations of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, institutional, or other urban land uses. In 1950 urban land uses in the Town were present along the entire shoreline of Pretty Lake and the western shoreline of Hunters Lake. In 1963 and 1970, urban land uses were present adjacent to the Village of Dousman, along the eastern and southern shoreline of School Section Lake, and in the eastern portion of the Town along the Ottawa-Genesee town line. From 1975 to 1995 most urban land uses occurred in scattered locations throughout

Table 1
RESIDENT POPULATION OF
THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 1900-2000

Year	Population	Change from Preceding Census	
		Number	Percent
1900	883	--	--
1910	934	101	11.4
1920	709	-225	-24.1
1930	683	-26	-3.7
1940	675	-8	-1.2
1950	764	9	13.2
1960	1,092	328	42.9
1970	1,698	606	55.5
1980	2,795	1,097	64.6
1990	2,988	193	6.9
2000	3,758	770	25.8

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

the Town, with the majority fronting on major roadways and taking the form of subdivisions adjacent to the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit.

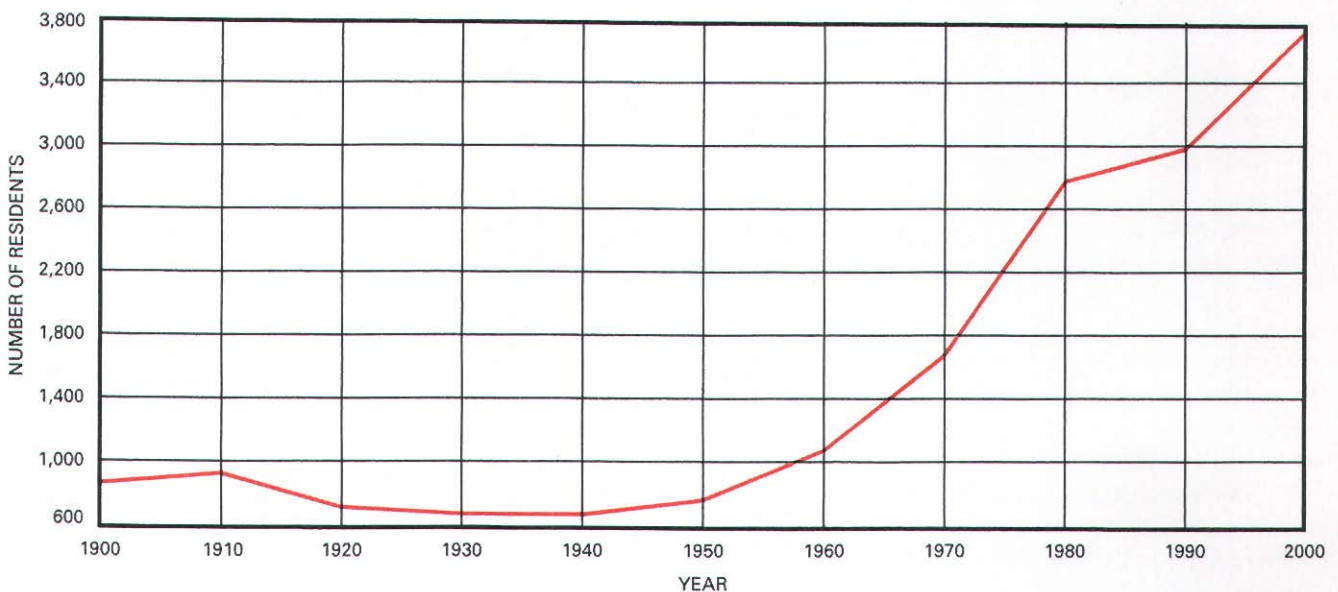
Information on the amount of land devoted to the various types of land uses in the Town in 1995 is presented in Table 2 and shown on Map 3. As previously noted, the Town encompasses 22,425 acres, or about 35 square miles. Residential uses occupied about 1,977 acres, or about 9 percent of the total area of the Town. Lands devoted to other urban uses, including commercial, industrial, transportation, governmental and institutional, and recreational, encompassed about 932 acres, or about 4 percent of the total area of the Town. Thus, about 2,909 acres, comprising about 13 percent of the total area of the Town, were devoted to urban uses in 1995. Agricultural uses occupied about 8,549 acres, or about 38 percent of the total area of the Town; while extractive and landfill uses occupied about 204 acres,

or less than 1 percent of the total area of the Town. Other nonurban land uses, including open lands, wetlands, and woodlands together encompassed about 10,288 acres, or about 46 percent of the total area of the Town. Lastly, surface water accounted for roughly 475 acres, or approximately 2 percent of the total area of the Town. Thus, about 19,516 acres, comprising about 87 percent of the total area of the Town, were devoted to rural uses in 1995.

The Town of Ottawa is served by a well-developed highway transportation system. Important arterial streets and highways serving the Town include STH 67, CTH C, CTH CI, CTH D, CTH Z, and CTH ZZ.

Figure 1

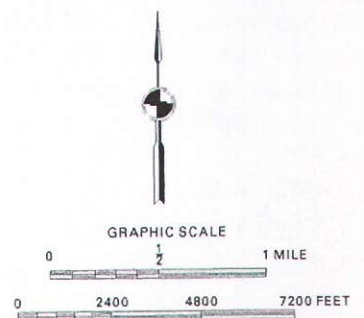
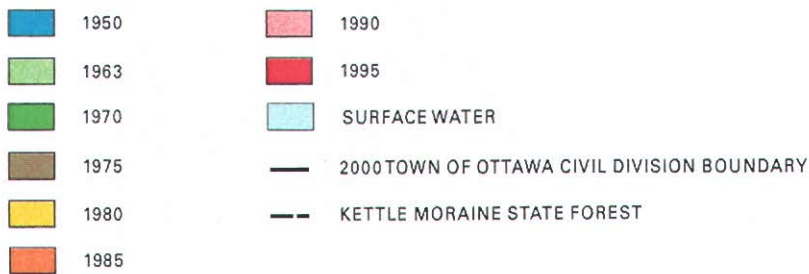
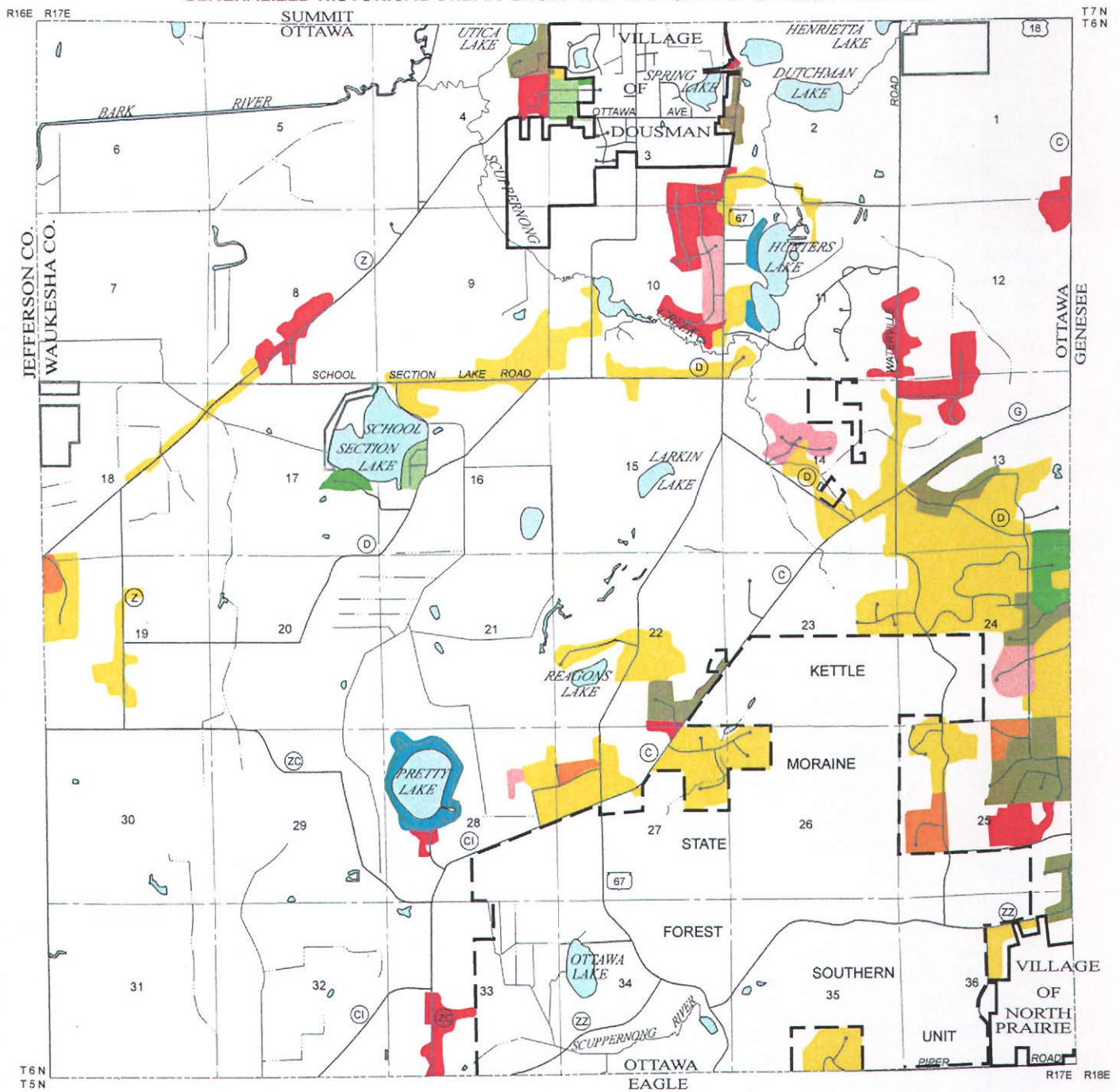
HISTORICAL POPULATION LEVELS IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 1900-2000



Source: SEWRPC.

Map 2

GENERALIZED HISTORICAL URBAN GROWTH IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 1950-1995



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 2

EXISTING LAND USES IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 1995

Land Use Category	Acres	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of Town
Urban			
Residential	1,977	68.0	8.8
Commercial	8	0.3	-- ^a
Industrial	11	0.4	0.1
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities ^b	515	17.7	2.3
Governmental and Institutional	39	1.3	0.2
Recreational	359	12.3	1.6
Undeveloped Urban	0	--	--
Subtotal	2,909	100.0	13.0
Rural			
Undeveloped Rural	939	4.8	4.2
Agricultural	8,549	43.8	38.1
Extractive and Landfill	204	1.1	0.9
Wetlands	5,039	25.8	22.5
Woodlands	4,310	22.1	19.2
Surface Water	475	2.4	2.1
Subtotal	19,516	100.0	87.0
Total	22,425	--	100.0

^aLess than 0.1 percent.

^bThis category includes streets and highways.

Source: SEWRPC.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

Existing Park and Open Space Sites

An inventory of existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the Town of Ottawa was conducted in 2000. As indicated in Table 3 and shown on Map 4, there were 27 park and open space sites, which encompassed about 4,853 acres, or about 22 percent of the total area of the Town. Seventeen sites encompassing 3,827 acres, or about 79 percent of the total park and open space site acreage, were publicly owned. Most of the public land within the Town is located within the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit, managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A six-mile section of the Glacial Drumlin Trail, also owned and maintained by the DNR, is located in the northern portion of the Town. In addition, a nine-mile section of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, managed by the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, is located in the eastern portion of the Town. The remaining 10 sites, encompassing 1,026 acres, or 21 percent of the total park and open space site acreage, were privately owned. As indicated in Table 4, selected outdoor recreational facilities in the Town include three baseball diamonds, four sandlot ball diamonds, three playgrounds, one basketball goal, six soccer fields, and one swimming beach. Playfields were located at four sites. Other significant outdoor recreation facilities available within the Town include sand volleyball courts, a go-kart track, an 18-hole regulation golf course, numerous campsites and trail facilities, and a shooting range.

Of the seventeen public sites, the Town owns five. These five Town-owned sites include a 26-acre Town park located in the central portion of the Town; a one-acre natural spring site; and three one-acre public access sites,

Map 3

EXISTING LAND USE IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 1995

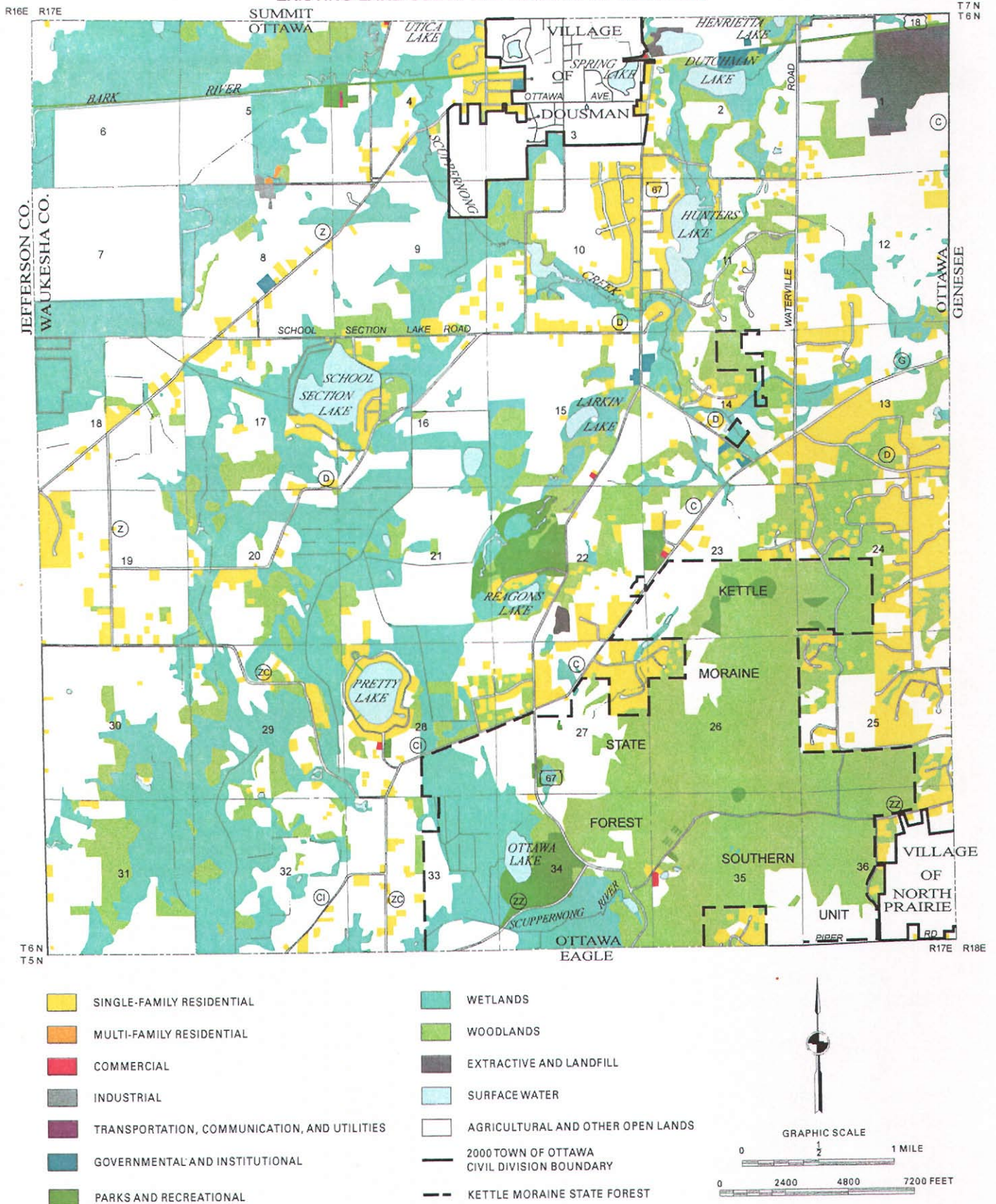


Table 3

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 2000

Number on Map 4	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Acreage
	Public			
1	D.J. Mackie Group Picnic Area	T6N-R17E, Section 35	State of Wisconsin	- . ^a
2	Hunters Lake Public Access	T6N-R17E, Section 11	Town of Ottawa	1
3	Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation	T6N-R17E, Section 14	State of Wisconsin	71
4	Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit	T6N-R17E, Section 36	State of Wisconsin	3,567 ^b
5	Ottawa Dog Trial Grounds	T6N-R17E, Section 27	State of Wisconsin	- . ^a
6	Ottawa Horse & Snowmobile Trails	T6N-R17E, Section 35	State of Wisconsin	- . ^a
7	Ottawa Lake Recreation Area	T6N-R17E, Section 34	State of Wisconsin	- . ^a
8	Ottawa Town Park	T6N-R17E, Section 15	Town of Ottawa	26
9	Pinewoods Campground	T6N-R17E, Section 23	State of Wisconsin	- . ^a
10	Parry's Natural Spring Site	T6N-R17E, Section 2	Town of Ottawa	1
11	Pretty Lake Public Access	T6N-R17E, Section 28	Town of Ottawa	1
12	Pretty Lake Public Access	T6N-R17E, Section 28	Town of Ottawa	1
13	School Section Lake Public Access	T6N-R17E, Section 17	Waukesha County	12
14	Scuppernong Hiking & Skiing Trails	T6N-R17E, Section 26	State of Wisconsin	- . ^a
15	Scuppernong Springs Nature Trail	T6N-R17E, Section 34	State of Wisconsin	- . ^a
16	Undeveloped County Land	T6N-R17E, Section 18	Waukesha County	51
17	Waterville Field Station	T6N-R17E, Section 1	State of Wisconsin	96
	Subtotal - 17 Sites	--	--	3,827
	Private			
18	Badger Kart Club	T6N-R17E, Section 4	Organizational	38
19	Dousman Gun Club	T6N-R17E, Section 3	Organizational	2
20	Izaak Walton League	T6N-R17E, Section 6	Izaak Walton League	425 ^c
21	Kettle Moraine Golf Course	T6N-R17E, Section 22	Commercial	173
22	Nelson Woods	T6N-R17E, Section 10	Waukesha Land Conservancy	114
23	Open Space Site	T6N-R17E, Section 9	Waukesha Land Conservancy	96
24	Open Space Site	T6N-R17E, Section 9	Waukesha Land Conservancy	31
25	Preserve at Hunters Lake Open Space	T6N-R17E, Section 11	Organizational	143
26	Pretty Lake Park	T6N-R17E, Section 28	Organizational	3
27	Willow Springs Neighborhood Park	T6N-R17E, Section 4	Organizational	1
	Subtotal - 10 Sites	--	--	1,026
--	Total - 27 Sites	--	--	4,853

^aAcreage is included within the Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit.

^bExtends into the Town of Eagle; total of 20,399 acres.

^cExtends into the Town of Summit; total of 620 acres.

Source: Town of Ottawa and SEWRPC.

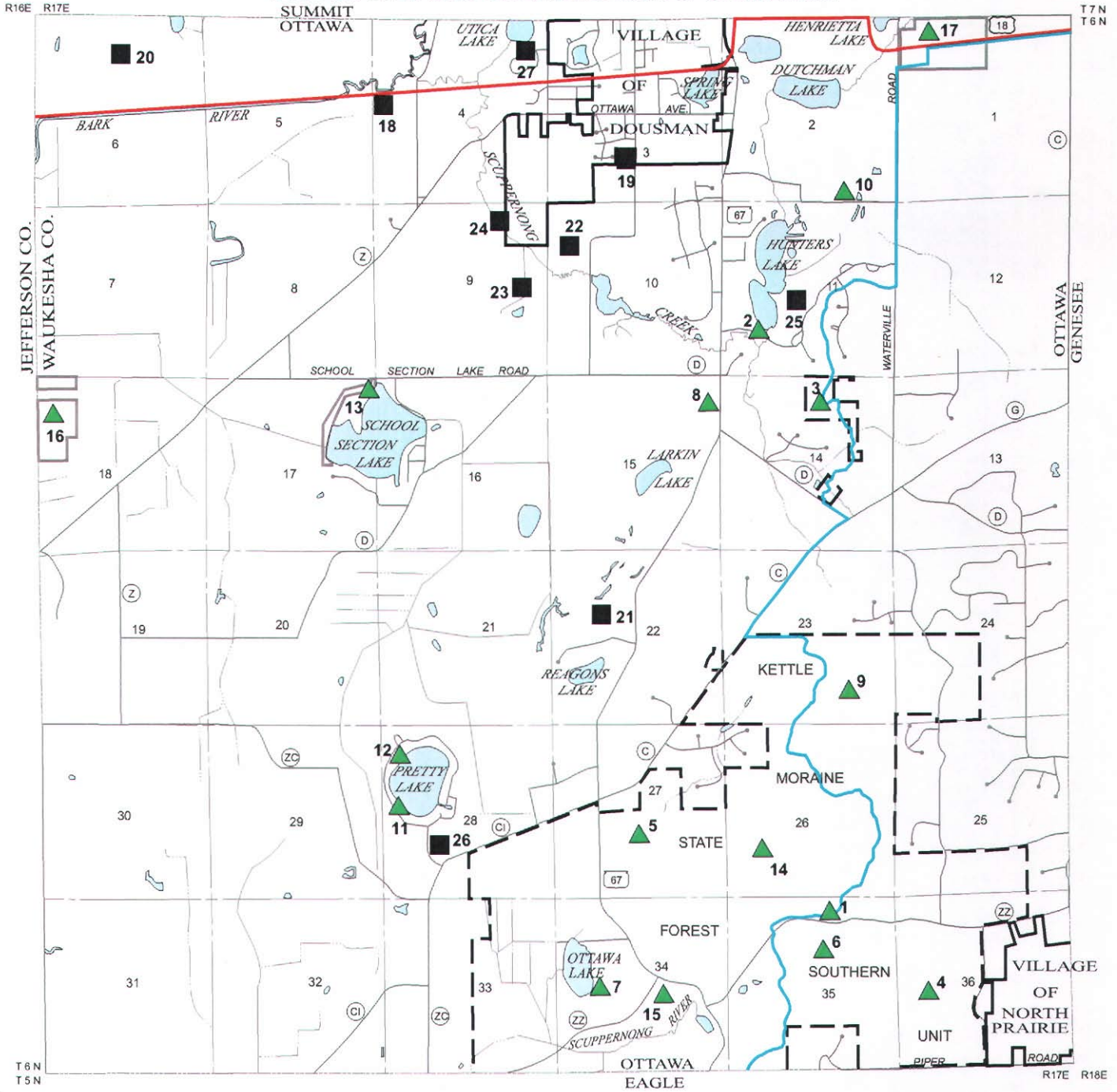
two located along the western shoreline of Pretty Lake and one located on the southern shoreline of Hunters Lake. These sites are shown as site numbers 8, 10, 11, 12, and 2, respectively, on Map 4.

NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES

The natural resources of an area are important determinants of the ability of an area to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life and to maintain its social and economic well being. The planning of parks and open spaces should seek to preserve the most significant remaining aspects of the natural resource base to help retain the ecological balance and natural beauty of an area. A description of the natural resource base of

Map 4

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 2000



▲ PUBLICLY OWNED SITE

■ PRIVATELY OWNED SITE

15 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 3)

— 2000 TOWN OF OTTAWA
CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY

--- KETTLE MORaine STATE FOREST

— GLACIAL DRUMLIN STATE TRAIL

— ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

NOTE: TRAILS SHOWN PARALLEL TO EACH
OTHER SHARE THE SAME TRAIL.



GRAPHIC SCALE

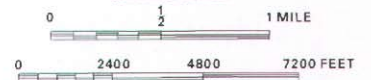


Table 4

SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES FOR GENERAL USE IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 2000

Number on Map 4	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball – League Diamonds	Softball – Sandlot Diamonds	Playfield	Playground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer	Ice Skating	Pool or Beach	Other
1	Public D.J. Mackie Group Picnic Area	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Hunters Lake Public Access	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Carry-in Boat Access
3	Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4	Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5	Ottawa Dog Trial Grounds	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dog Training Area
6	Ottawa Horse & Snowmobile Trails	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Scenic Overlook, Trails
7	Ottawa Lake Recreation Area	--	--	1	X	--	--	--	--	--	1	Bathhouse, Campsites, Boat Access, Picnic Shelters, Sand Volleyball
8	Ottawa Town Park	3	--	1	X	2	--	--	6	--	--	Gazebo, Group Picnic Areas, Restrooms, Sand Volleyball
9	Pinewoods Campground	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Family & Group Campsites
10	Parry's Natural Spring Site	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
11	Pretty Lake Public Access	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Driveway to Lake
12	Pretty Lake Public Access	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Driveway to Lake
13	School Section Lake Public Access	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Parking, Drive-in Boat Launch
14	Scuppernong Hiking & Skiing Trails	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Trails
15	Scuppernong Springs Nature Trail	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Scenic Overlook, Trail
16	Undeveloped County Land	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
17	Waterville Field Station	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Field Station, Nature Trail
Subtotal – 17 Sites		3	--	2	3	2	--	--	6	--	1	--
18	Private Badger Kart Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Go-kart Track
19	Dousman Gun Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Shooting Club
20	Izaak Walton League	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
21	Kettle Moraine Golf Course	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18-hole Golf Course
22	Nelson Woods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
23	Open Space Site	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
24	Open Space Site	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25	Preserve at Hunters Lake	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Trails
26	Open Space Pretty Lake Park	--	--	1	X	1	--	1	--	--	--	Group Picnic Area, Recreation Building
27	Willow Springs Neighborhood Park	--	--	1	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Carry-in Boat Access, Pier
Subtotal – 10 Sites		--	--	2	2	1	--	1	--	--	--	--
Total - 27 Sites		3	--	4	5	3	--	1	6	--	1	--

Source: Town of Ottawa and SEWRPC.

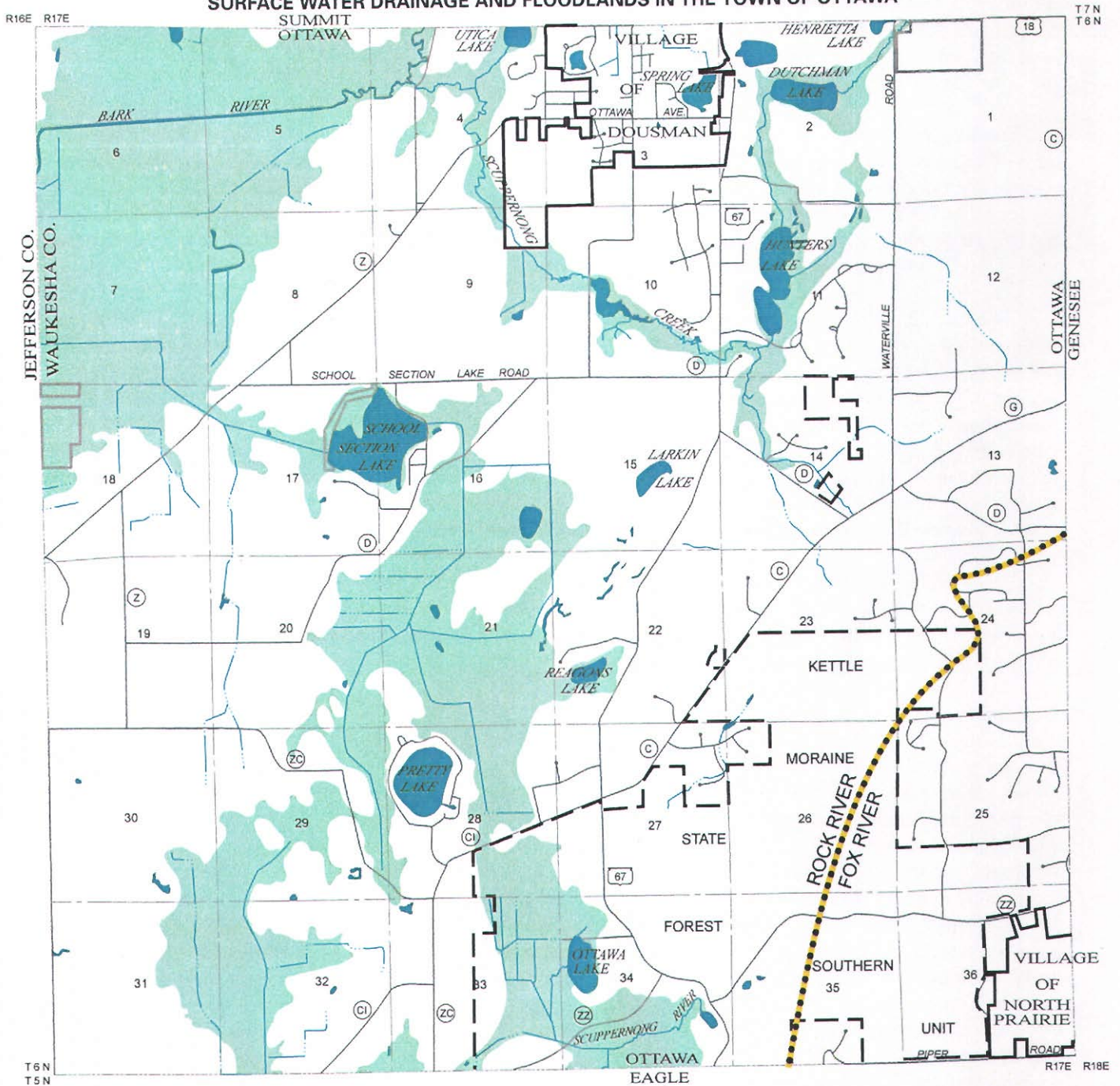
the Town of Ottawa, including surface water resources, wetlands, woodlands, environmental corridors, natural areas, and prime agricultural lands is presented in this section.

Surface Water Resources

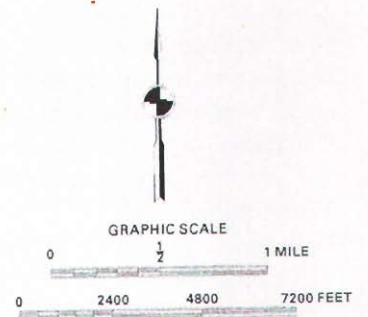
Surface water resources and associated floodlands, shown on Map 5, form a particularly important element of the natural resource base of the Town of Ottawa. Lakes and streams provide opportunities for water-related activities, an attractive setting for properly planned residential development, and enhance the aesthetic quality of the Town. There are three major lakes; that is, inland lakes having 50 acres or more of surface water area, located within the Town. Hunters, Pretty, and School Section Lakes together encompass an area of 254 acres. These major lakes are located in the northeastern, southwestern, and central portions of the Town, respectively.

Map 5

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE AND FLOODLANDS IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA



- FLOODLANDS
- SURFACE WATER
- WATERSHED BOUNDARY
- PERENNIAL STREAM
- INTERMITTENT STREAM
- 2000 TOWN OF OTTAWA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- KETTLE MORaine STATE FOREST



Rivers and streams may be classified as perennial or intermittent. The perennial and certain intermittent streams within the Town of Ottawa are shown on Map 5. 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 through-out the year. Within the Town, a total of approximately 66 linear miles of perennial and intermittent rivers and streams were identified, including the lower reaches of the Bark River and Scuppernong Creek.

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

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

Floodlands have been delineated within the Town of Ottawa by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for flood insurance purposes. The results of the FEMA study are documented in *Flood Insurance Study, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, Unincorporated Areas*, December 1986. These floodland delineations are shown on Map 5 and encompass an area of approximately 5,659 acres, or about 25 percent of the total area of the Town.

Wetlands

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

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

As indicated in Table 2, wetlands encompassed about 5,039 acres, or about 23 percent of the total area of the Town in 1995. It should be noted that such areas as tamarack swamps and other lowland wooded areas are classified as wetlands rather than woodlands because the water table is located at, near, or above the land surface, and such areas are characterized by hydric soils that support hydrophytic trees and shrubs. As shown on Map 3, large wetland areas associated with the Bark River, Scuppernong Creek, and other intermittent streams are distributed throughout the Town.

Woodlands

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

50 percent or more tree canopy coverage. Coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects are also identified as woodlands.

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

As indicated in Table 2, woodlands encompassed 4,310 acres, or about 19 percent of the total area of the Town in 1995. As shown on Map 3, woodlands occur primarily within the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit. It should be noted that much of the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit contains vast areas of lowland woodlands which are classified as wetlands and, therefore, are not included in the woodland acreage total.

Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Primary Environmental Corridors

As shown on Map 6, the primary environmental corridors encompassed large areas of the Town and were located within the Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit, along the Bark River and Scuppernong Creek, along other streams throughout the Town, and around the shorelines of lakes. As indicated in Table 5, these corridors encompassed a total area of about 10,149 acres, or about 45 percent of the total area of the Town.

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

Secondary Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

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

As shown in Map 6 and indicated in Table 5, secondary environmental corridors encompass an intermittent stream and associated wetlands in the northeast portion of the Town and link primary environmental corridors in the western portion of the Town for a total of about 105 acres, or approximately 1 percent of the total area of the Town. In addition, as further shown on Map 6 and indicated in Table 5, there are 228 acres of isolated natural resource areas associated with various wetlands and woodlands scattered throughout the Town.

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

Natural areas are defined by the Regional Planning Commission as tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the affects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement. Natural areas are classified into one of the following three categories: natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1); natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2); or natural areas of local significance (NA-3). Classification of an area into one of these three categories is based upon consideration of the diversity of plant and animal species and community types present; the structure and integrity of the native plant or animal community; the extent of disturbance by human activity, such as logging, grazing, water level changes, and pollution; the

Map 6

ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 1995

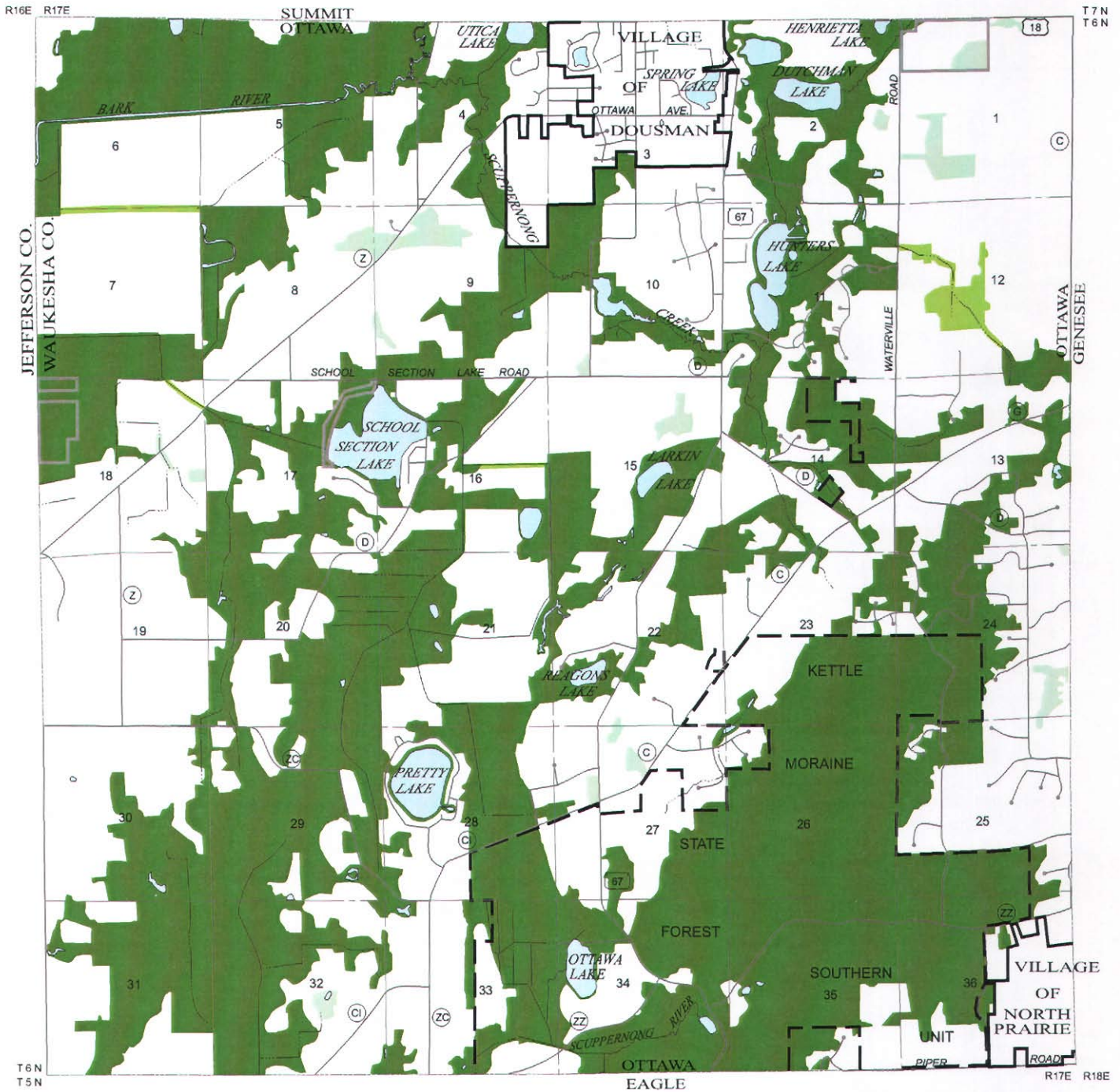


Table 5

**ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND
ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS
IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 1995**

Corridor Type	Acres	Percent ^a
Primary Environmental Corridor	10,149	45.3
Secondary Environmental Corridor	105	0.5
Isolated Natural Resource Area	228	1.0
Total	10,482	46.8

^aPercent of total area of the Town (22,425 acres) within corridor.

Source: SEWRPC.

commonness of the plant and animal communities present; any unique natural features within the area; the size of the area; and the educational value.

A comprehensive inventory of natural area sites and critical species habitat sites in Southeastern Wisconsin was completed in 1994 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Regional Planning Commission.² As indicated in Table 6 and shown on Map 7, 11 natural areas were identified within the Town. One of these sites, Ottawa Lake Fen State Natural Area, is considered to be of statewide or greater significance. These sites, or portions thereof, encompass a total of 2,027 acres, or about 9 percent of the total area of the Town.

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. Seven critical species habitat sites were identified within the Town. These sites are identified in Table 6 and shown on Map 7 and encompass approximately 779 acres, or about 3 percent of the total area of the Town. Aquatic habitat areas consist of rivers, streams, and lakes which 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. Thirteen aquatic habitat areas were identified within the Town. Two of these areas are considered to be of statewide or greater significance. These aquatic habitat areas are also identified in Table 6 and shown on Map 7 and encompass about 332 acres of surface water, or about 1 percent of the total area of the Town, and approximately 11 linear miles.

Prime Agricultural Lands

It is useful for planning purposes to distinguish between prime agricultural lands and other farming areas. Prime agricultural lands are those lands which, in terms of farm size, the total area being farmed, and soil characteristics, are best suited for the production of food and fiber. A number of important public purposes are served by the preservation of prime agricultural lands. Such public purposes include maintenance of agricultural reserves, conservation of energy, maintenance of open space, protection of environmentally significant areas, control of public costs, preservation of the local economic base, and preservation of the rural lifestyle. As shown on Map 8, these areas are located throughout the Town and in 1995 encompassed about 6,075 acres, or about 27 percent of the total area of the Town.

Under the Waukesha County Development Plan, adopted in 1996, the number of acres of prime agricultural land within the Town would decrease to about 420 acres, all located in the western portion of the Town in Sections 19, 30, and 31. The decrease in the amount of prime agricultural lands is due primarily to the County's decision to revise the criteria used to identify prime agricultural land. Prior to adoption of the plan, identification of prime agricultural land was based on the following criteria: each farm must be a minimum of 35 acres; at least 50 percent of each farm must be covered by soils meeting the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service standards for national prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance (generally Class I, II, or III soils); and each block of prime agricultural land must be at least 100 acres in size. The following criteria was used to identify prime agricultural land under the Waukesha County Development Plan: each farm must be a minimum of 35 acres; at least 50 percent of each farm must be covered by soils meeting the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation

²The findings of this inventory are documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1977.

Table 6

NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 1994

Number on Map 7	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Ottawa Lake Fen State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA, RSH)	T6N-R17E Section 34	Department of Natural Resources	25	Two shallow depressions connected by deep marsh and shallow marl flats. The smaller, northern lake is undeveloped and supplied by numerous seepage springs, small boiling springs, and several cold inlet streams. Here are present an unusually large number of wetland and aquatic plant communities, including submerged aquatic, emergent aquatic, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, tamarack swamp, and extensive fen-marl flats which contain several rare species
2	Eagle Fen and Spring	NA-2	T6N-R17E Section 34 T5N-R17E Section 3	Department of Natural Resources and Private	60 ^b	Large wetland complex of fen, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, and stream communities. The clear, fast-flowing stream emanates from a spring east of STH 67. Area has been disturbed by past ditching attempts and creation of a fishing pond
3	Henrietta Lake Bog	NA-2	T6N-R17E Section 2	Private	5	Good-quality sphagnum bog at south end of Henrietta Lake. Typical bog species include tamarack, pitcher plant, sundew, cranberry, and dense cottongrass (<i>Eriophorum spissum</i>)
4	Ottawa Oak Woods and Dry Prairie	NA-2 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36 T5N-R17E Sections 2, 3	Department of Natural Resources and Private	986 ^c	Extensive oak woodland and former oak savannah on irregular morainal topography. Several openings scattered throughout the forested matrix contain moderate- to good-quality dry prairies that are being actively managed
5	CTH ZC Lowlands	NA-3	T6N-R17E Sections 29, 31, 32	Private	380	Extensive wetland complex, disturbed by past land use activities
6	Casper Creek Sedge Meadow	NA-3	T6N-R17E Section 14	Private	16	Good-quality sedge meadow and shallow marsh along Casper Creek
7	Larkin Lake	NA-3	T6N-R17E Section 15	Private	41	Very shallow, mostly undeveloped lake. The surrounding uplands have been grazed and plowed, and are threatened by future residential development
8	Nelson Oak Woods and Lowlands	NA-3	T6N-R17E Sections 9, 10	The Waukesha Land Conservancy	82 ^d	Disturbed oak woods and adjacent lowlands containing sedge meadow and tamarack relict bordering the Bark River. The upland woods contains an active great blue heron rookery
9	Ottawa Limestone Outcrop	NA-3 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Sections 11, 14	Ice Age Trail Foundation and other private	70	Disturbed xeric woods with local area of shaded limestone outcrop, containing walking fern (<i>Camptosorus rhizophyllus</i>)
10	Perkins Property	NA-3	T6N-R17E Sections 5, 6 T7N-R17E Sections 31, 32	Izaak Walton League and other private	361 ^e	Complex of lowland hardwoods, upland oak woods, shallow marsh, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, and tamarack bog. Contains the State-designated threatened forked aster (<i>Aster furcatus</i>). Past history of water-level changes due to ditching of adjacent wetlands
11	Scuppernong Springs Dry Prairie	NA-3	T6N-R17E Section 34	Department of Natural Resources	1	Dry sand prairie on exposed west facing slope, containing regionally uncommon plant species

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 7	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
12	Dog Trial Area	CSH	T6N-R17E Sections 27, 34	Department of Natural Resources	175	Site contains the rare bird species Grasshopper sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>), and the following uncommon bird species: Clay-colored sparrow (<i>Spizella pallida</i>) and the Blue-winged warbler (<i>Vermivora pinus</i>)
13	Dousman Mill Pond	CSH	T6N-R17E Section 10	Private ^f	14	Site contains the following rare bird species: Black tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>), Common moorhen (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>), Least bittern (<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>), and American bittern (<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>)
14	Lurvey Tamaracks	CSH	T6N-R17E Section 15	Private	15	Site contains Showy lady's-slipper (<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>), a State-designated special concern plant species
15	School Section Lake	CSH	T6N-R17E Sections 16, 17	Private	12	Site contains the rare bird species Black tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>)
16	Utica Lake Tamaracks	CSH	T6N-R17E Section 4	Private	35	Site contains Small yellow lady's-slipper (<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i>), a State-designated special concern plant species
17	Unnamed low woods-thicket	CSH	T6N-R17E Sections 15, 16, 21, 22	Private	188	Site contains the following threatened bird species: Acadian flycatcher (<i>Empidonax virens</i>), Cerulean warbler (<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>), Hooded warbler (<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>), and the rare bird species Yellow-breasted chat (<i>Icteria virens</i>), and the following uncommon bird species: Least flycatcher (<i>Empidonax minimus</i>), Blue-winged warbler (<i>Vermivora pinus</i>), Golden-winged warbler (<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>), Mourning warbler (<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>), Chestnut-sided warbler (<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>), Blue-gray gnatcatcher (<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>)
18	Unnamed shrub-grassland	CSH	T6N-R17E Sections 27, 28	Department of Natural Resources	340	Site contains the following rare bird species: Grasshopper sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>), Upland sandpiper (<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>), King rail (<i>Rallus elegans</i>), and the following uncommon bird species: Blue-winged warbler (<i>Vermivora pinus</i>), Golden-winged warbler (<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>), Clay-colored sparrow (<i>Spizella pallida</i>), American woodcock (<i>Philohela minor</i>), Prairie warbler (<i>Dendroica discolor</i>)
19	Bark River upstream from Nagawicka Lake	AQ-1 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Section 4	--	0.6 ^g miles	Contains critical herptile and fish species habitat
20	Bark River downstream from Scuppernong Creek inflow	AQ-1 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Sections 4, 5, 6	--	2.8 ^g miles	Important reservoir for two endangered fish species, the slender madtom and the starhead topminnow; critical mussel species also present
21	Dutchman Lake	AQ-2 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Section 2	--	31	A seepage-drainage lake in the Scuppernong Creek corridor; good water quality and waterfowl habitat
22	Hunters Lake	AQ-2 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Section 11	--	65	A spring-drainage lake in the Scuppernong Creek corridor
23	Ottawa Lake	AQ-2 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Section 34	--	28	A spring lake with good water quality; adjacent to Ottawa Lake Fen State Natural Area; valuable habitat for waterfowl

Table 6 (continued)

Number on Map 7	Area Name	Classification Code ^a	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
24	School Section Lake	AQ-2 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Sections 16, 17	--	125	An impounded drainage lake with adjacent wetlands which are valuable to wildlife
25	Scuppernong Creek	AQ-2 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Sections 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14	--	5.8 ^g miles	Good fish population and diversity, including critical fish species habitat; good water quality
26	Scuppernong River	AQ-2 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Section 34	--	1.5 ^g miles	Class I and II trout stream with good fish population and diversity; bisects large wetland complex with high-quality Natural Areas
27	Henrietta Lake	AQ-3 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Section 2	--	3 ^h	A seepage lake with critical herptile species present; Henrietta Lake Bog, an identified Natural Area, at south end
28	Larkin Lake	AQ-3 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Section 15	--	41	A spring lake; an identified Natural Area
29	Reagons Lake	AQ-3 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Section 22	--	16	A spring lake with valuable wildlife habitat
30	Unnamed Lake	AQ-3 (RSH)	T6N-R17 Section 16	--	12	An undeveloped lake with wilderness character
31	Utica Lake	AQ-3 (RSH)	T6N-R17E Section 4	--	11 ⁱ	A spring lake with critical herptile species habitat

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

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

NA-3 identifies Natural Area sites of local significance

CSH identifies Critical Species Habitat sites

AQ-1 identifies Aquatic Areas of statewide or greater significance

AQ-2 identifies Aquatic Areas of countywide or regional significance

AQ-3 identifies Aquatic Areas of local significance

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

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

^bPortion of the site extends outside of the Town of Ottawa and acreage given is entirely within the Town, total of 155 acres.

^cPortion of the site extends outside of the Town of Ottawa and acreage given is entirely within the Town, total of 996 acres.

^dPortion of the site extends outside of the Town of Ottawa and acreage given is entirely within the Town, total of 91 acres.

^ePortion of the site extends outside of the Town of Ottawa and acreage given is entirely within the Town, total of 438 acres.

^fThe Town of Ottawa owns the dam located at this site.

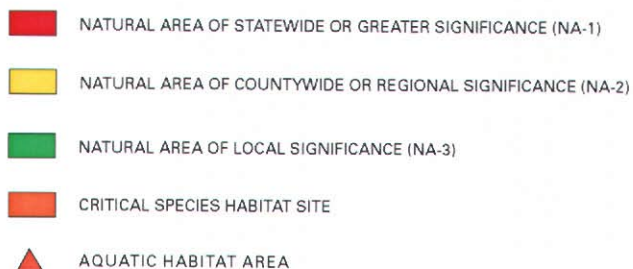
^gPortion of the site extends outside of the Town of Ottawa and miles given are entirely within the Town.

^hPortion of the site extends outside of the Town of Ottawa and acreage given is entirely within the Town, total of 15 acres.

ⁱPortion of the site extends outside of the Town of Ottawa and acreage given is entirely within the Town, total of 14 acres.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 1994



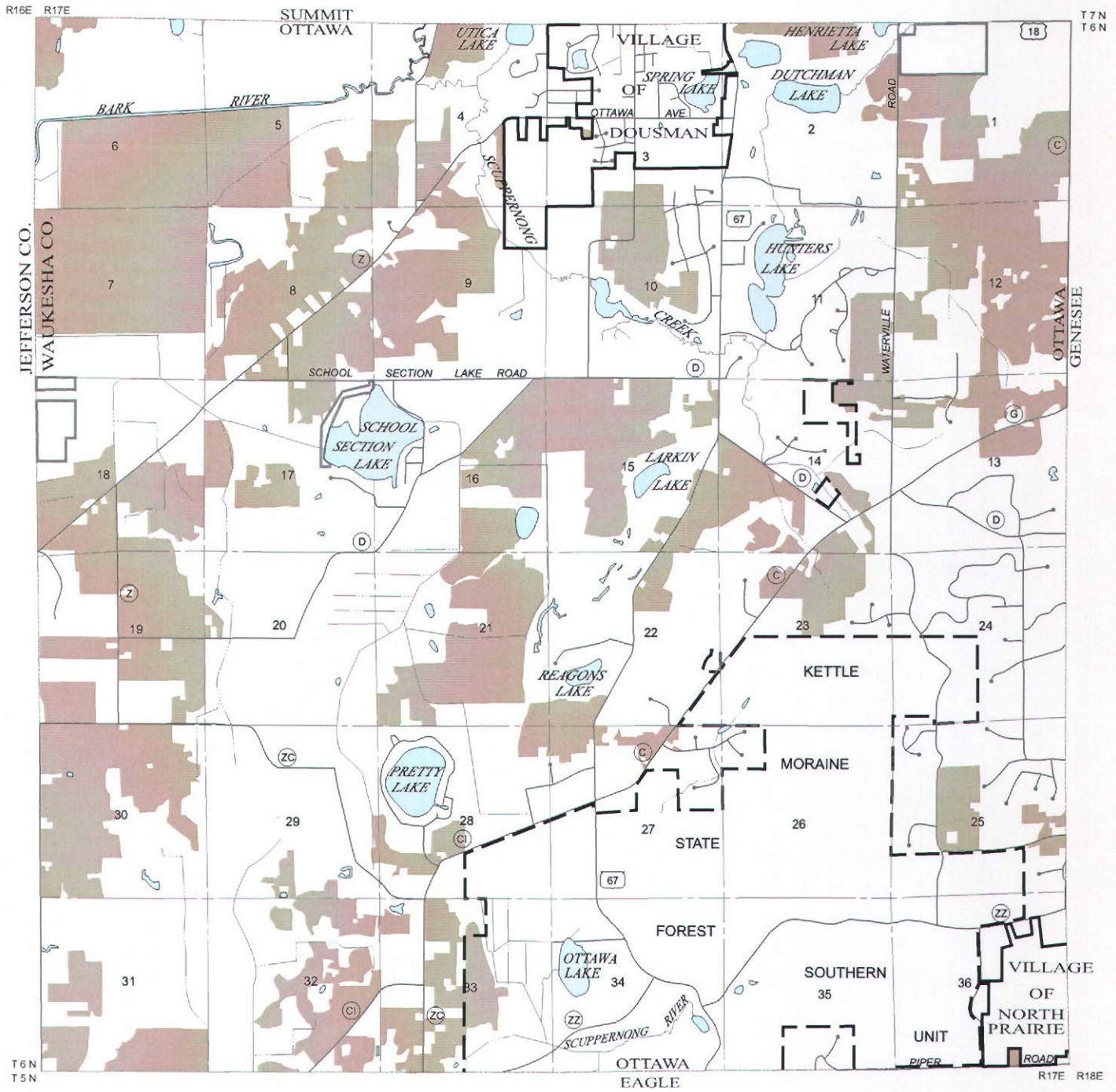
— — KETTLE MORaine
STATE FOREST



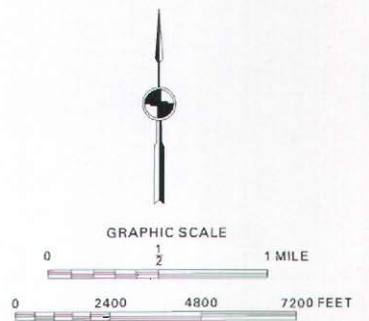
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Map 8

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 1995



- PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS
- SURFACE WATER
- 2000 TOWN OF OTTAWA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- KETTLE MORaine STATE FOREST



Source: SEWRPC.

Service standards for national prime farmland (generally Class I or II soils); and each block of prime agricultural land must be at least five square miles in size. The revised criteria significantly reduced the amount of land designated as prime agricultural within the County as a whole and within the Town of Ottawa.

SUMMARY

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

1. The Town population in 2000 was 3,758 persons, based on U.S. Census data. This represents an increase of 770 persons, or 26 percent, over the 1990 population of 2,988 persons.
2. The Town of Ottawa in 1995 encompassed about 22,425 acres. Of this total, about 2,909 acres, or about 13 percent of the total area of the Town, were in urban uses. The remaining 19,516 acres, about 87 percent of the total area of the Town, were in rural uses.
3. An inventory of the existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the Town in 2000 found that there were 27 such sites, which together encompassed about 4,853 acres, or about 22 percent of the total area of the Town. The Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit encompassed approximately 3,567 acres in the Town. There were five Town-owned sites, encompassing 30 acres.
4. In the Town of Ottawa in 1995, primary environmental corridors encompassed about 10,149 acres, or about 45 percent of the total area of the Town. Secondary environmental corridors encompassed a total of about 105 acres, or less than 1 percent of the total area of the Town. Isolated natural resource areas encompassed about 228 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the Town.
5. The Town includes 11 natural areas, seven critical species habitat sites, and 13 aquatic habitat areas encompassing about 3,138 acres and about 11 linear miles of surface water. One of the natural areas and two of the aquatic habitat areas within the Town are considered to be of statewide or greater significance.
6. In 1995, agricultural lands encompassed about 8,549 acres, or about 38 percent of the total area of the Town. The Waukesha County Development Plan designates about 420 acres of prime agricultural land within the Town.

Chapter III

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

INTRODUCTION

Planning is a rational process for formulating objectives and, through the preparation and implementation of plans, meeting those objectives. The formulation of objectives, therefore, is an essential task that must be undertaken before plans can be prepared. Objectives guide the preparation of plans and, when converted to specific measures of plan effectiveness, termed standards, provide the structure for evaluating the design of the plan.

OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

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

Plan Objectives

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

1. To provide an integrated system of public general-use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas which will afford Town residents adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation and outdoor education activities.
2. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow Town residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
3. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow Town residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
4. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow Town residents adequate opportunities to participate in trail-related outdoor recreation activities.

5. To provide sufficient surface water access areas to afford Town residents adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities on major inland lakes and rivers, consistent with safe and enjoyable water use and the maintenance of good water quality.
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 of the Region.
7. To satisfy outdoor recreation and related open space needs in an efficient and economical way.

Plan Standards

Complementing each of the foregoing objectives is a planning principle and a set of planning standards. Each of these objectives, together with its supporting principle and accompanying standards, is set forth in Appendix A. Each set of standards serves to facilitate the quantitative application of the objective in plan design and evaluation.

Two types of standards—per capita and accessibility—are used to help estimate the number, size, and distribution of outdoor recreation sites and facilities needed to serve the anticipated future population of the Town. The per capita standards help estimate the total number of acres needed to satisfy requirements for park and recreational land based on the anticipated future resident population of the Town. 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. The Waukesha County park plan¹ recommends rural towns, like the Town of Ottawa, provide one town-owned community park and associated outdoor recreation facilities. Thus, for the purposes of this plan, only the per capita standards will be utilized for the needs analysis. In addition, the Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit occupies a considerable portion of the entire Town area, thus negating any accessibility issues for Town residents to major park facilities within the Town.

It should be noted that while the attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide the residents of the Town of Ottawa with the fullest possible opportunity for high-quality recreational experiences, the responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space land, and associated recreational facilities is shared by the private and public sectors, the latter being composed of the various levels, units, and agencies of government operating in the Town of Ottawa. In this regard, under the adopted regional park and open space plan, the responsibility for the provision of large resource-oriented parks, recreation corridors, and resource-oriented recreational facilities is delegated to State and County units of governments, while the responsibility for the provision of smaller community and neighborhood parks and associated intensive nonresource-oriented recreational facilities is delegated to local units of government. The protection of important natural resource features, including primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, is considered the responsibility of all levels of government.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Forecast Population

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

As noted in Chapter II, the 1990 Town population was 2,988 persons. The 2000 Town population, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, is 3,758 persons. Under the Waukesha County Development Plan, it is envisioned that the Town would accommodate a resident population of 4,078 persons under buildout conditions of the adopted county land use plan. This population level will serve as the basis for the needs analysis presented in this chapter.

¹*Presented in Chapter XIII of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 209, A Development Plan for Waukesha County, Wisconsin, August 1996.*

Resource-Oriented Sites and Facilities

As previously noted, the responsibility for the acquisition and development of such resource-oriented recreational sites and facilities as major parks, parkways, and trails is typically delegated to the state and county levels of government. The park and open space component of the Waukesha County Development Plan sets forth recommendations for these sites and facilities. A description of the recommendations of the County plan as they relate to the Town follow.

Recommended Resource-Oriented Outdoor Sites and Facilities

For purposes of this report, a major park is defined as an outdoor recreation site of 100 acres or more which relies heavily for its recreational value and character on natural resource amenities, and provides opportunities for a wide variety of recreational pursuits. Under the park and open space plan for Waukesha County, two State-owned sites, Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and Pine Woods Campground, both located in the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit, were identified as major parks. It is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources continue to maintain existing facilities and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities as needed at these sites. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources would continue to acquire additional land within the approved project boundary of the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit. Under the plan, no new major parks are proposed for development within the Town of Ottawa.

Parkways and Trails

Primary environmental corridors located in urban or urbanizing areas in southeastern Wisconsin that are held in public ownership are often termed “parkways.” Parkway are generally located along a stream, river, or other linear natural feature and thus, often serve as ideal locations for trails. The County park plan calls for the establishment of a parkway and trail along the Bark River in the extreme north-central portion of the Town. This recommendation has been largely implemented by protective ownership of Bark River corridor lands by the Izaak Walton League and the existing Glacial Drumlin State Trail. The County plan also recommends the development of the Pretty Section Trail to be developed by the County in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The proposed trail would connect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest with the Glacial Drumlin Trail. The trail, which is approximately parallel to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, would provide a usable north-south trail for bicycling in the southwestern portion of the County, since bicycling is not permitted on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The Town of Ottawa would prefer that the trail be more centrally located within the Town, and that it provide access to the Town Park.

The County park plan also recommends the continued maintenance and completion of the Ice Age Trail. As shown on Map 4, a portion of the trail extends through the Town. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation share primary responsibility for completing and maintaining the trail.

Lake and River Access Sites

The County park plan recommends the development of boat-access sites to provide opportunities for individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such water-related recreation activities as motorboating, water-skiing, fishing, and canoeing. The regional park and open space plan recommends that rivers and major lakes, lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more, be provided with adequate public boat access consistent with safe and enjoyable participation in various boating activities. As noted in Chapter II, three major lakes, Hunters, Pretty, and School Section Lakes, are located within the Town of Ottawa. Under the County park plan, it is recommended that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) maintain two existing public boat-access sites at Pretty Lake and that Waukesha County maintain its existing public boat-access site at School Section Lake. In addition, the County plan recommended that the DNR develop a public boat-access site on Hunters Lake. Since adoption of the County plan, an access site has been deeded to the DNR and transferred to the Town for use as a carry-in boat access site.

Nonresource-Oriented Sites and Facilities

The standards set forth under Objectives No. 1 and No. 2 in Appendix A are concerned with the provision of adequate sites and facilities for nonresource-oriented recreational activities. Nonresource-oriented activities are

those that do not depend upon the presence of such natural resources as woodlands, slopes, lakes, or wide expanses of land. Nonresource-oriented facilities include ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and basketball courts and goals, which are typically provided at local parks and public schools.

Accessibility Standards

As previously noted, within rural towns such as Ottawa, the County park and open space plan recommends that one town-owned park and associated outdoor recreation facilities be provided in each town to serve the needs of residents for local civic events and for such organized recreational activities as softball and picnicking. As the community recreational facility, the town park should be located in conjunction with another community facility that serves as a focal point for town residents, such as a town hall, school, or fire station. Because only one centrally located community park is called for in rural towns, the accessibility standards under Objective No. 1 for neighborhood and community parks in urban areas do not apply in the Town of Ottawa.

Site Needs Based on Per Capita Standards

The results of applying the per capita area standards to the anticipated population level of 4,078 residents under buildout conditions of the recommended county land use plan for the Town of Ottawa are presented in Table 7. Application of the per capita standards indicates no need for additional public park lands in the Town under this buildout scenario. Although the per capita standards recognize no need for additional park lands, if suitable lands become available, the Town would consider acquiring additional lands. A need for 10 additional acres of public outdoor recreation lands to be located at schools was identified. However, the amount of acreage in existing public park sites compensates for the absence of public school sites in the Town.

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 allow Town residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive outdoor recreational activities such as baseball, softball, and tennis. The results of applying the adopted per capita facility standards to the anticipated population level under buildout conditions of the adopted county land use plan for the Town are presented in Table 8. The existing quantity of each facility includes those located in public and private sites within the Town. Facilities at public sites include those at the Ottawa Town Park and Ottawa Lake Recreation Area.

As shown in Table 8, a need was identified through the application of the standards for four additional basketball goals, one additional playfield, and two tennis courts.

Additional Needs Identified by the Town

In addition to the needs identified in the preceding section, the Town of Ottawa Park Board has identified additional park and open space needs within the Town. These additional needs are the result of an informal park and recreation survey conducted in September 1987. Specifically, such additional needs include: 1) the provision of a system of bicycle and pedestrian trails and paths which would connect to the Glacial Drumlin and Ice Age Trails, and interconnect Town and State-owned park sites; and 2) the provision of additional walking trails, playground equipment, an ice skating rink, an irrigation system, and paved parking facilities at Ottawa Town Park. Lastly, although application of the standards resulted in a need for four additional basketball goals and two additional tennis courts to be located within the Town, it has been perceived by the Park Board that there is no demand for such facilities due to the close proximity of similar facilities located in the Village of Dousman.

Open Space Preservation Needs

The need to preserve and protect the natural resource base of the Town of Ottawa is set forth under Objective No. 6 in Appendix A. As noted in Chapter II, most of the remaining natural resources within the Town are located within the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. By preserving these environmentally sensitive areas in essentially natural, open uses, flood damage can be reduced, soil erosion abated, water supplies protected, air cleansed, wildlife populations enhanced, and continued opportunities provided for educational and recreational pursuits. Conversely, the intrusion of urban land uses into these corridors can, because of the soil limitations, high groundwater tables, and flood hazards, result in the creation of serious and costly construction

Table 7

PER CAPITA ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA

Park and School Sites	Minimum Standard Net Acreage Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^a	Existing Net Acreage	Per Capita Acreage Requirements			
			Existing 2000 Population: 3,758		Recommended County Land Use Plan Buildout Population: 4,078	
			Net Acreage Requirement ^c	Net Acreage Need ^d	Net Acreage Requirement ^c	Net Acreage Need ^d
Parks	3.9	26 ^b	15	--	16	--
Schools	2.5	0	9	9	10	10

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

^bThis total includes acreage within the Town of Ottawa Park.

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

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

Source: SEWRPC.

and maintenance problems, such as failing foundations for pavements and buildings, wet basements, excessive clear water infiltration and inflow into sanitary sewerage systems, and poor drainage.

In addition, the need to preserve and protect natural areas and critical species habitat sites is set forth under Objective No. 6 in Appendix A. As noted in Chapter II, there are a several of these sites within the Town of Ottawa and they are important in a number of ways. Economically, they support agriculture and medicine; functionally, they enhance surface water and groundwater quality, minimize erosion, and enhance air quality. They are important educationally, recreationally, in basic scientific research, and in maintaining biological and genetic diversity. Natural areas and critical species habitat sites also contribute to mental well being and to the overall quality of human life.

The need to protect the environmentally sensitive areas, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites cannot be related to per capita or accessibility requirements, since the achievement of the open space preservation objective is essentially independent of any population level or distribution and relates rather to the location and character of natural resources. Recommendations for the protection of these areas are set forth in Chapter IV.

SUMMARY

This chapter has presented information concerning the need for park and open space sites and facilities in the Town of Ottawa, including the presentation of park and open space objectives and accompanying standards, application of those standards to the Town of Ottawa, and other needs as identified by the Town of Ottawa Park Board. The key components of this chapter are as follows:

1. The park and open space objectives, principles and standards used to prepare the plan are set forth in Appendix A.
2. The need for major parks has been addressed by the park and open space component of the Waukesha County Development Plan. Under that plan, two State-owned sites, Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and

Table 8
PER CAPITA REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED OUTDOOR
RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA

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

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

^bThe facility requirement was determined by multiplying the facility requirement per 1,000 residents by the recommended county land use plan buildout population of 4,078 persons.

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

Source: SEWRPC.

Pine Woods Campground, both located in the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit, were identified as major parks. No additional need for major parks exists within the Town of Ottawa.

3. Application of the per capita standards for community and neighborhood parks indicates no need for additional park land within the Town of Ottawa; however, if suitable lands become available, the Town would consider acquiring additional lands.
4. Application of the per capita standards for recreational facilities indicates a need for four additional basketball goals, one additional playfield, and two tennis courts; however, the Town Park Board has determined that there is no need for such facilities in the Town due to the proximity of such facilities in the Village of Dousman.

5. Additional needs that have been identified by the Town of Ottawa Park Board include a system of bicycle and pedestrian routes and paths, development of walking trails, playground equipment, an ice skating rink, an irrigation system, and paved parking facilities at the Ottawa Town Park.
6. The maintenance of the environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites in essentially natural, open uses, would generally serve to meet the open space preservation needs of the Town.

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Chapter IV

RECOMMENDED PLAN

INTRODUCTION

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

The plan is described in terms of "buildout" conditions. The term "buildout" refers to the land use pattern that may be expected upon full development under the Waukesha County Development Plan. It is envisioned that the Town would accommodate a resident population of 4,078 persons under buildout conditions. Because the land uses set forth in the County development plan are primarily a reflection of local land use plans incorporated into the County plan and are not derived from forecasts of future population, household, and employment levels, a design year cannot be attributed to the plan.

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

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

The first part of this chapter summarizes the areawide park and open space plan recommendations relative to the Town of Ottawa as set forth in the park and open space plan element (Chapter XIII) of SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 209, *A Development Plan for Waukesha County, Wisconsin*, August 1996.

Included in that plan are recommendations for the provision of resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities and the protection of the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in Waukesha County, including areas within the Town of Ottawa. The second section of this chapter sets forth supplementary recommendations for the provision of local park and open space sites and facilities by the Town of Ottawa. A third section describes actions needed to implement the plan, including an estimate of the acquisition and development costs of needed and existing park and open space sites and facilities by the Town. A summary of the plan is included in the last section of the chapter.

AREAWIDE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

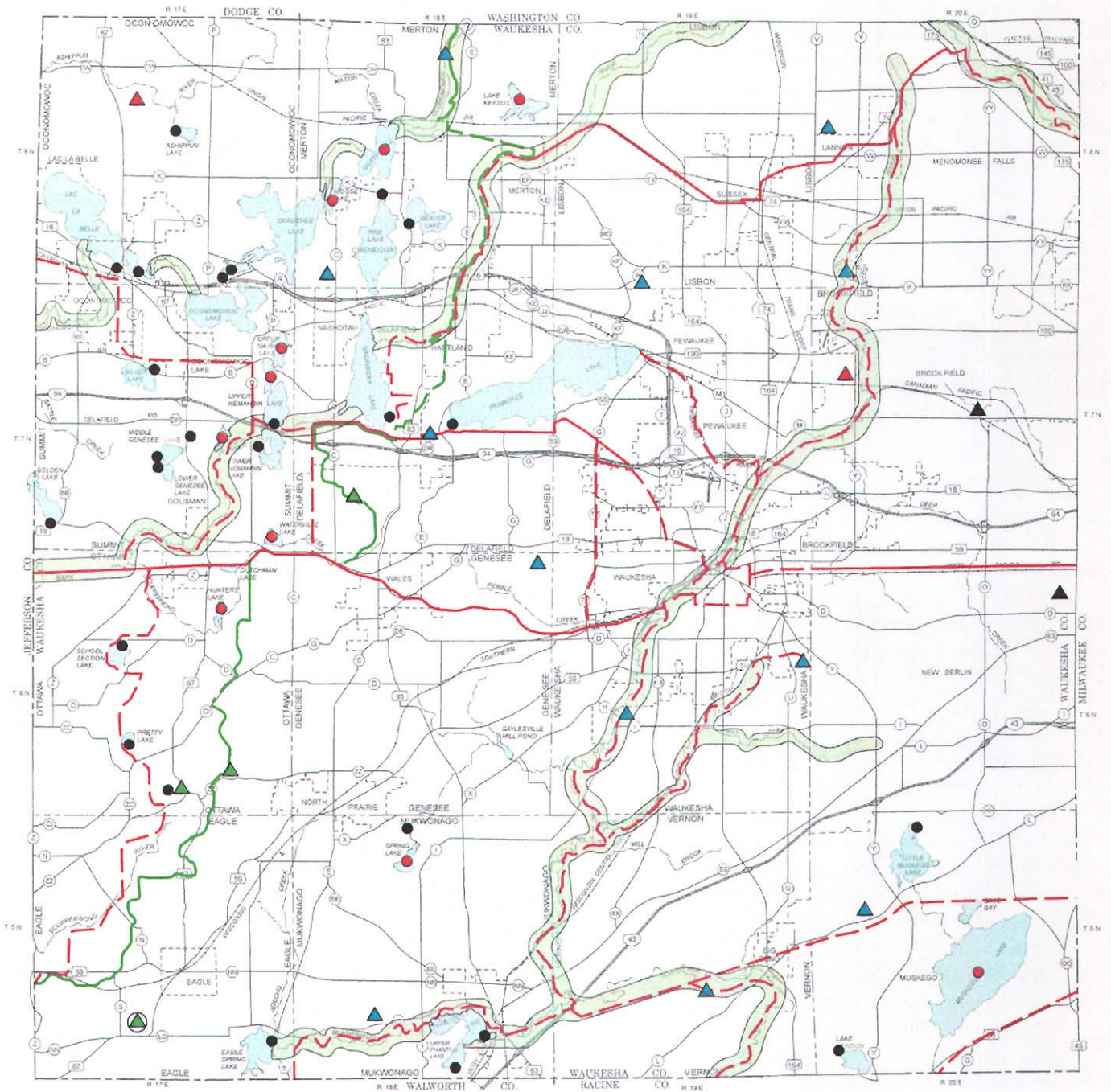
Major Parks and Regional Trail Facilities

The park and open space plan for Waukesha County recommends that the State and County levels of government assume responsibility for the provision of major parks. As shown on Map 9, the County plan recommends that a total of 19 major public outdoor recreation sites be provided in the County. Two State-owned major parks, Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and Pine Woods Campground, both located in the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit, would continue to be provided and maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), within the Town of Ottawa. The County plan also recommends that the DNR provide additional facilities for resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities as needed at these two sites. Additional development for the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit within the Town of Ottawa include, development of a permanent entrance station at Pinewoods Campgrounds; development of an accessible trail, five walk-in campsites, installation of playground equipment, and upgrades to the wildlife blind and entrance station at Ottawa Lake Recreation Area; development of a “Special Events Area” at Dog Trial Grounds; and development of an 80-foot observation tower near the Scuppernong Hiking Trails. In addition, the plan recommends that the DNR continue to acquire additional land within the approved project boundary for the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit.

The county park plan also recommends that about 200 miles of recreation trails be provided in the County as part of the 500-mile regionwide trail system. The recommended trail system within Waukesha County is comprised of 16 trails, including about 80 miles of existing trails and about 120 miles of proposed new trails. As shown on Map 9, a portion of the proposed 16-mile Bark River Trail is to be located along the main stem of the Bark River in the north-central portion of the Town. This trail would connect to the existing Glacial Drumlin Trail. It is recommended that Waukesha County assume responsibility for development of the Bark River Trail. The County plan also recommends development of a proposed Pretty Section Trail, to be developed by the County in cooperation with the DNR and to connect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit with the Glacial Drumlin Trail. The proposed trail is recommended to accommodate hiking and bicycling, and provide off-street bicycle access from the Glacial Drumlin Trail to the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit and also provide access to School Section Lake. The trail, which would approximately parallel the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, would provide a usable north-south trail for bicycling in the southwestern portion of the County, since bicycling is not permitted on the Ice Age Trail. The Town of Ottawa would prefer that the trail be more centrally located within the Town, and that it provide access to the Town Park.

Map 9

OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE WAUKESHA COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



MAJOR PARKS

- ▲ STATE
- ▲ COUNTY
- ▲ PROPOSED COUNTY
- ▲ LOCAL
- SPECIAL OUTDOOR RECREATION SITE

MAJOR PARKS

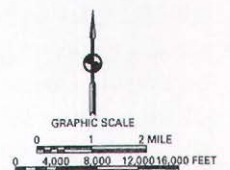
- EXISTING PUBLIC ACCESS
- PROPOSED PUBLIC ACCESS (LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED BY WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES)

TRAILS

- EXISTING ICE AGE TRAIL
- - - PROPOSED ICE AGE TRAIL
- EXISTING AREA-WIDE TRAIL
- - - PROPOSED AREA-WIDE TRAIL

PARKWAYS

- GENERAL PARKWAY LOCATION



The Glacial Drumlin Trail within Waukesha County has been completed and the DNR has assumed responsibility for its continued maintenance. As noted in Chapter II, a six-mile section of this trail traverses the northern portion of the Town from east to west.

The County park plan also recommends the continued maintenance and completion of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The DNR, the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, and the National Park Service share responsibility for completing and maintaining the trail. As previously noted, an approximately nine-mile section of this trail traverses the eastern portion of the Town from north to south. Two segments of the Ice Age Trail within the Town are located on-street and are considered temporary “connecting segments” pending development of the trail in off-street locations. One segment is located north of the Kettle Moraine State Forest along CTH C and CTH D, and the other segment is located along Waterville Road between the Waterville Field Station and the Preserve at Hunters Lake subdivision.

A trail corridor, shown on Map 10, has been approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and sets the preferred boundaries within which the on-street portions of the trail would be replaced by an off-street route. The corridor is intentionally wide to allow flexibility in siting the trail. The trail corridor is general in nature and is subject to change based on facility planning and on negotiations with landowners to purchase land or easements for the trail.

Lake and River Access

The County park plan recommends the development of boat-access sites to provide opportunities for individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such water-related recreation activities as motorboating, water-skiing, fishing, and canoeing. Therefore, it is recommended that the Town of Ottawa maintain two existing public boat-access sites at Pretty Lake and that Waukesha County maintain its existing public boat-access site at School Section Lake. Additionally, the County plan recommends that a public boat-access site be developed at Hunters Lake. It should be noted that, since the adoption of the county park plan, an access site to Hunters Lake has been dedicated to the Town within the Preserve at Hunters Lake subdivision. A minimal carry-in boat access site is available at this time.

Local Park and Outdoor Recreation Element

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

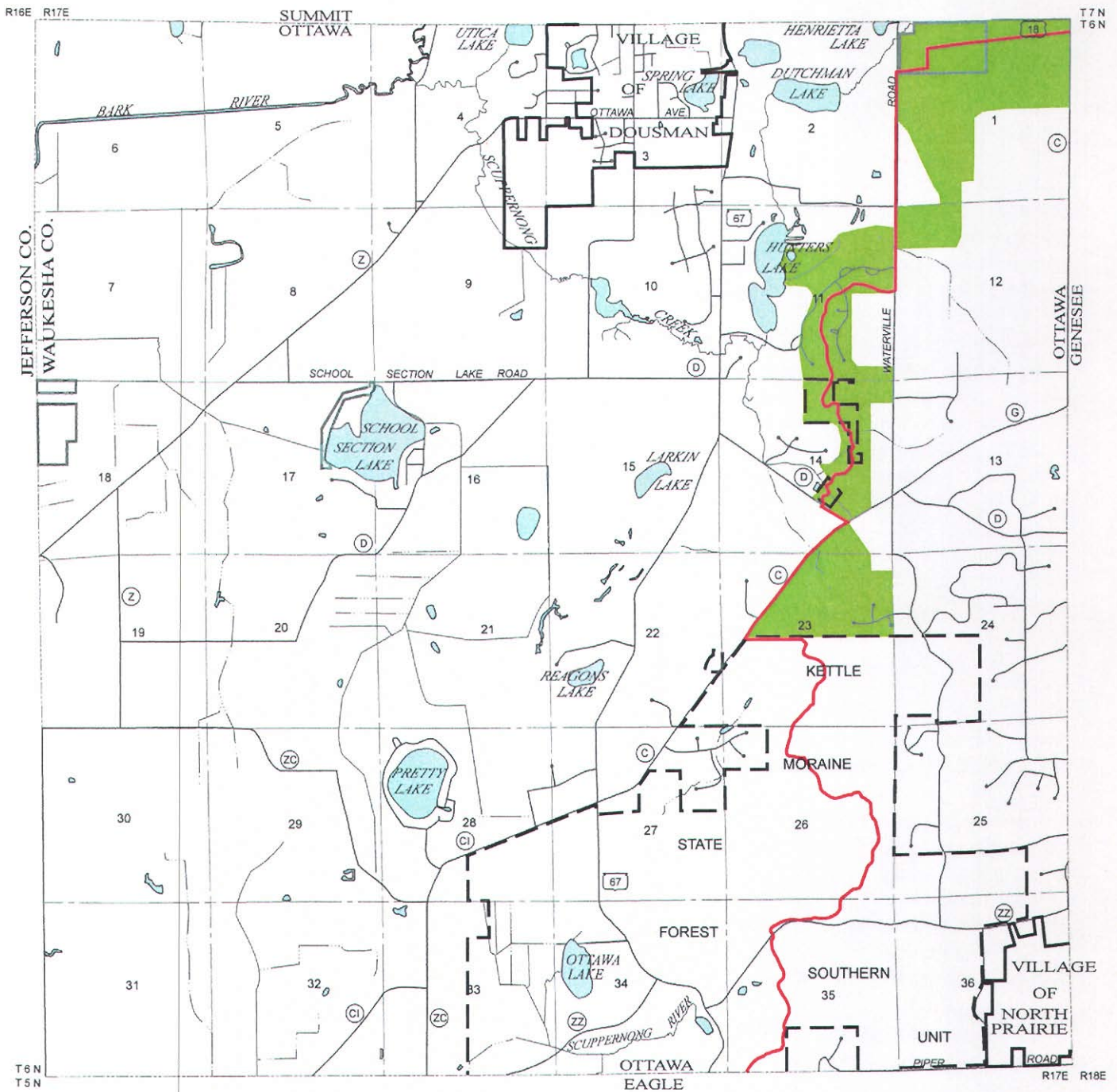
In rural areas of the County, such as the Town of Ottawa, it is generally recommended that one town-owned park and associated outdoor recreation facilities be provided in each town to serve the needs of residents for local civic events and for such organized recreational activities as softball and picnicking. As the community recreational facility, the town park should be located in conjunction with another community facility that serves as a focal point for town residents, such as a town hall, school, or fire station. As noted in Chapter II, the recommendation for the provision of a town-owned park is met by Ottawa Town Park, located adjacent to the Town Hall and recycling center. Existing facilities at this site include ball diamonds, playfields, playgrounds, sand volleyball, and soccer fields.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

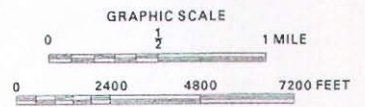
The location and extent of the important open space lands in the Town of Ottawa, including the important surface water, wetlands, floodlands, and woodlands within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and prime agricultural lands are described in Chapter II of this report. The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

Map 10

ICE AGE TRAIL CORRIDOR AND EXISTING TRAIL IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA: 2000



- EXISTING ICE AGE TRAIL
- ICE AGE TRAIL CORRIDOR
- 2000 TOWN OF OTTAWA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- KETTLE MORaine STATE FOREST



residents of the Town. Such preservation will also help to avoid the creation of serious and costly environmental and developmental problems within the Town.

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

The open space preservation element of this Town park plan, shown on Map 11, consists of three major components: preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and parkways associated with primary environmental corridors; preservation of natural areas and critical species habitat sites; and protection of open space lands located within the DNR project boundary for the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Primary Environmental Corridors

The planned primary environmental corridor, shown on Map 11, encompasses approximately 10,149 acres of land. It is recommended that all primary environmental corridors be preserved in essentially natural, open uses. The permanent preservation of the primary environmental corridors is most certain when the corridor lands are acquired in the public interest for resource preservation and compatible outdoor recreation uses. It is therefore recommended that all primary environmental corridors in areas of the County outside a planned urban area, like those in the Town of Ottawa, be acquired if they contain a natural area or critical species habitat site or are needed for future public park or trail development. The remaining primary environmental corridor lands should be protected through appropriate zoning. Appropriate zoning would include a conservancy zoning district or, for upland portions of the corridor, rural residential zoning with an overall density of at least five acres per dwelling unit.

Map 11 depicts those planned primary environmental corridors that are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or public-interest ownership. Such areas in 2000 encompassed a total of 3,437 acres, or about 34 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. It should be noted that 16 acres of the planned primary environmental corridors currently in public-interest ownership is through means of an easement granted to the Waukesha Land Conservancy.

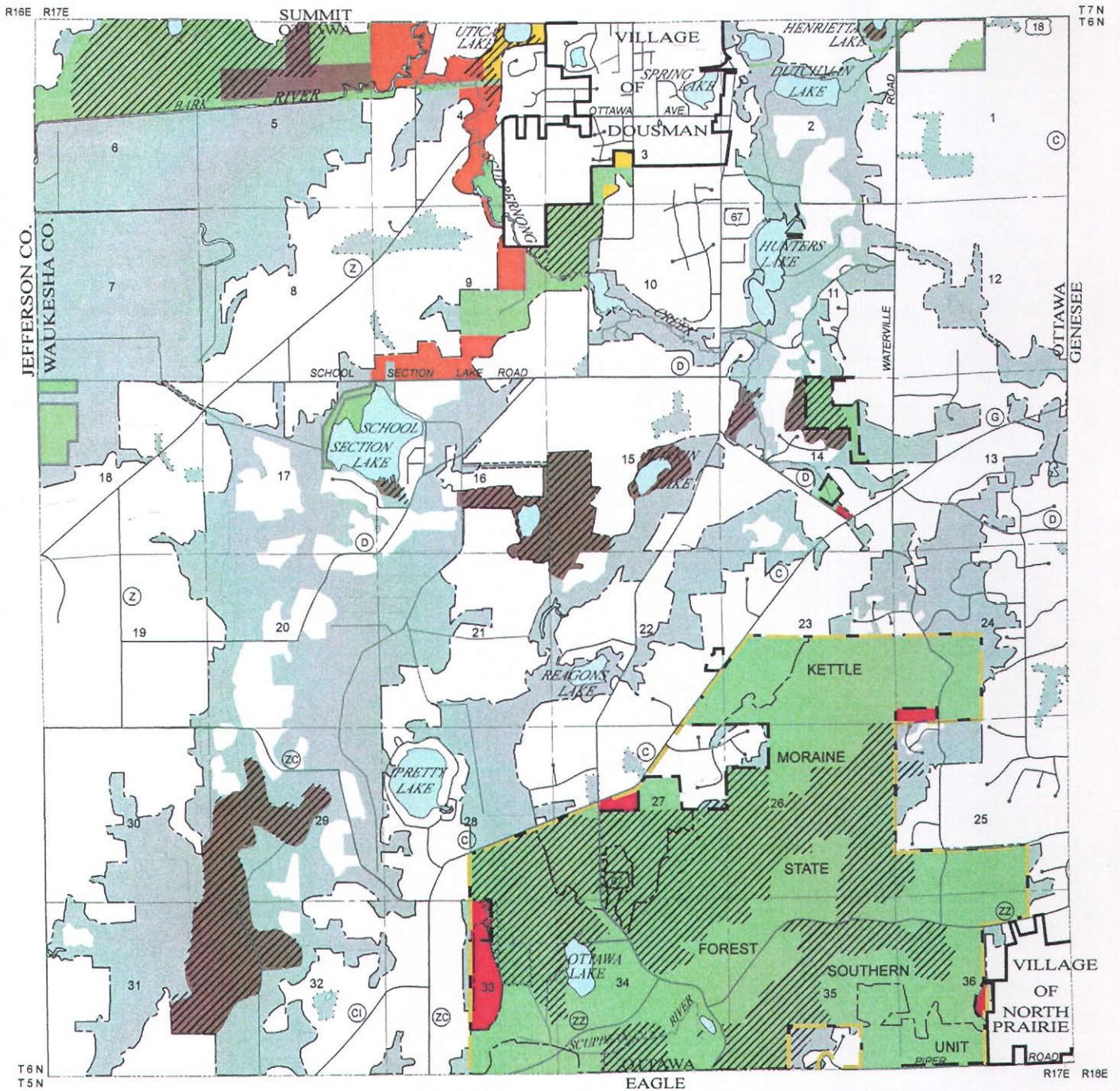
Additional primary environmental corridors recommended for public acquisition, also shown on Map 11, encompass a total of 1,166 acres. Upon full implementation of the plan, about 4,603 acres of primary environmental corridor lands, or about 45 percent of the primary environmental corridors in the Town, would be held in protective ownership. As summarized on Table 9, it is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources acquire 40 additional acres of primary environmental corridor lands as planned additions to the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit. It is also recommended that Waukesha County acquire an additional 342 acres of primary environmental corridor lands to fulfill the recommendations in the adopted County park plan. Lastly, it is recommended that a local unit of government, either the Town of Ottawa or the Village of Dousman as appropriate, acquire 37 acres of primary environmental corridor lands, and that nonprofit conservation organizations acquire an additional 747 acres of primary environmental corridor lands within the Town.

The remaining 5,546 acres, or about 55 percent, of planned primary environmental corridors are proposed to be protected through the application of appropriate zoning districts and such other public land use regulation as official mapping and land subdivision control ordinances.

While calling for the preservation of primary environmental corridor lands, the plan recognizes that certain transportation and utility facilities may, out of necessity, have to be accommodated within such corridors. The plan also recognizes that certain primary environmental corridor lands provide highly desirable settings for

Map 11

RECOMMENDED OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF OTTAWA

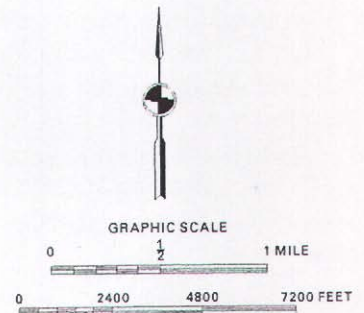


EXISTING STATE, COUNTY, LOCAL, NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION, OR COMPATIBLE PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE LANDS

PROPOSED PUBLIC INTEREST OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS

- STATE OF WISCONSIN
- WAUKESHA COUNTY
- TOWN OF OTTAWA OR VILLAGE OF DOUSMAN
- NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
- OPEN SPACE LANDS TO BE PROTECTED THROUGH PROPER ZONING
- NATURAL AREA OR CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE

- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
- SURFACE WATER
- APPROVED WISCONSIN DNR PROJECT BOUNDARY
- KETTLE MORaine STATE FOREST



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 9

**PROPOSED PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP OF
PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS UNDER THE
PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF OTTAWA**

Ownership	Existing ^a (acres)	Planned (acres)	Planned Change (acres)
State of Wisconsin.....	2,795	2,835	40
Waukesha County.....	86	428	342
Local Unit of Government ^b	0	37	37
Town of Ottawa	2	2	0
Nonprofit Conservation Organization.....	554	1,301	747
Total	3,437	4,603	1,166

^aIncludes existing ownership in 2000.

^bTo be acquired by the Town of Ottawa or the Village of Dousman, as appropriate.

Source: SEWRPC.

residential and recreational development and that certain limited residential and recreational uses may be accommodated in the corridors without jeopardizing the overall integrity of the corridors. The major types of development which may be accommodated within the various component natural resource features of the environmental corridors are indicated in Appendix B.

It should be further noted that cluster residential development is encouraged as an alternative to conventional subdivisions at rural residential densities, particularly when such development is proposed to occur within, or adjacent to, the primary environmental corridor. Clustering of housing units allows greater flexibility in the design of residential development by allowing building lot sizes to be reduced below those normally required by the underlying zoning district in order to concentrate the dwellings in a smaller portion of the parcel being developed. The residual land gained by using the smaller building lot size is left in open space and is protected from future development through deed restrictions or by other means. Open space within the cluster development provides common areas for recreational use by property owners in the development; clustering ideally would exclude development in wetlands, floodplains, on steep slopes, in drainageways, and in other areas that should not be developed because of physical or environmental constraints.

Secondary Environmental Corridors

The planned secondary environmental corridors encompass approximately 105 acres of land. As shown on Map 11, there are no planned secondary environmental corridor lands which are presently held in public or public-interest ownership within the Town and none encompass natural area sites or are anticipated to be needed for future park or trail development. These areas may be retained in private ownership but should be placed in a zoning district that would prevent their conversion to urban uses. However, should such lands be needed for local park or recreation purposes or for another public purpose, such as stormwater detention basins, it is recommended that the appropriate public agency consider the acquisition of such lands.

Isolated Natural Resource Areas

The planned isolated natural resource areas encompass about 228 acres. Map 11 depicts those planned isolated natural resource areas which are currently held in, and are recommended to remain in, public or public-interest ownership. Such areas currently encompass a total of 17 acres, or about 9 percent of the planned isolated natural resource areas. The remaining 211 acres of planned isolated natural resource areas are not anticipated to be

needed for future park or trail development and do not encompass natural areas sites. These areas may be retained in private ownership but should be placed in a zoning district that would prevent their conversion to urban uses. However, should such lands be needed for local park or recreation purposes or for another public purpose, such as stormwater detention basins, it is recommended that the appropriate public agency consider the acquisition of such lands.

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

Recommendations developed through the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan, as documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*, have been incorporated into this park and open space plan. That plan sets forth a number of recommendations related to the preservation of identified natural areas and critical species habitat sites within the Town of Ottawa.

As noted in Chapter II, there are 11 natural area sites, seven critical species habitat sites, and 13 aquatic habitat areas within the Town of Ottawa. It is recommended that all natural areas in the Town be preserved, through a combination of public or public-interest acquisition or through protective zoning. Table 10 lists each natural area and critical species habitat site to be acquired and the proposed acquisition agency; these recommendations are also reflected on Map 11.

Specific aquatic habitat area plan recommendations were not formulated under the natural areas planning effort since such habitats are under the direct management authority of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The natural areas plan, as well as this Town park plan, recommend that the Department of Natural Resources implement management and regulatory efforts necessary to ensure the long term viability of the aquatic habitats and their critical species. In all, 2,806 acres within natural areas and critical species habitat areas are proposed to be protected through public or public-interest ownership. To date 2,026 acres have been acquired.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Open Space Sites

The outdoor preservation element of the County park and open space plan includes lands which have been acquired or which are proposed to be acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) within the approved project boundaries of the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. A project boundary¹ for this area has been approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and is reflected on Map 11. It is recommended that the DNR continue to acquire land within the approved project boundary for open space or outdoor recreation purposes. Currently, the DNR owns about 705 acres outside of the planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas, but within the approved project boundary. An additional 67 acres of such lands are proposed to be acquired.

In addition to lands included within the approved DNR project boundary, a report published in April 1996 by the Kettle Moraine Task Force of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters called for the creation by the DNR of a Kettle Moraine conservancy area to protect those portions of the Kettle Moraine lying between the Northern and Southern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, generally including the areas between CTH C in the Town of Ottawa and Monches County Park in the Town of Merton. The report recommends the acquisition by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations of specified areas for resource protection and public recreation resources, and the protection of the remaining areas through a combination of zoning regulations, conservation easements, and oversight of land development activities by groups of landowners and residents termed "conservation communities" in the report. The report recommends that the DNR assume overall responsibility for the protection and management of the proposed conservancy area.

¹Lands within the approved project boundaries have been identified by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board as an appropriate addition to adjacent State forests and are intended to be acquired by the State for recreational or open space purposes. The landowners affected should be able to initiate desired action by offering to sell the land concerned to the State for a mutually acceptable price.

Table 10
RECOMMENDED PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS AND
CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA

Number on Map 7	Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Civil Division	Name	Classification Code ^a	Already under Protective Ownership	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
1	Town of Ottawa	Ottawa Lake Fen State Natural Area	NA-1	25	--	25	Department of Natural Resources
2	Towns of Eagle and Ottawa	Eagle Fen and Spring	NA-2	60	--	60 ^b	Department of Natural Resources
3	Town of Ottawa	Henrietta Lake Bog	NA-2	--	5	5	The Nature Conservancy
4	Towns of Eagle and Ottawa	Ottawa Oak Woods and Dry Prairies	NA-2	964	22 ^c	986 ^d	Department of Natural Resources
5	Town of Ottawa	CTH ZC Lowlands	NA-3	--	380	380	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
6	Town of Ottawa	Casper Creek Sedge Meadow	NA-3	--	16	16	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
7	Town of Ottawa	Larkin Lake	NA-3	34	7	41	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
8	Town of Ottawa	Nelson Oak Woods and Lowlands	NA-3	76	6	82 ^e	Waukesha Land Conservancy
9	Town of Ottawa	Ottawa Limestone Outcrop	NA-3	30	40	70	Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation
10	Towns of Ottawa and Summit	Perkins Property	NA-3	321	40 ^f	361 ^g	Izaak Walton League
11	Town of Ottawa	Scuppernong Springs Dry Prairie	NA-3	1	--	1	Department of Natural Resources
12	Town of Ottawa	Dog Trial Area	CSH	175	--	175	Department of Natural Resources
13	Town of Ottawa	Dousman Mill Pond	CSH	--	14	14	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
14	Town of Ottawa	Lurvey Tamaracks	CSH	--	15	15	Nonprofit Conservation Organization ^h
15	Town of Ottawa	School Section Lake	CSH	--	12	12	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
16	Town of Ottawa	Utica Lake Tamaracks	CSH	--	35	35	Waukesha County
17	Town of Ottawa	Unnamed Low Woods/Thicket	CSH	12	176	188	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
18	Town of Ottawa	Unnamed Shrub/Grassland	CSH	328	12	340	Department of Natural Resources
Total	--	--	--	2,026	780	2,806	--

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

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

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

NA-3 identifies Natural Area sites of local significance

CSH identifies critical species habitat sites.

^bAn additional 95 acres are located within the Town of Eagle.

^cThe 22 acres not currently owned by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have been developed for large-lot residential use. It is proposed that these 22 acres within the Town of Ottawa remain in private ownership and be protected through public land use regulation. An additional nine acres are proposed to remain in private ownership within the Town of Eagle.

^dAn additional 10 acres are located in the Town of Eagle.

^eAn additional nine acres are located within the Village of Dousman.

^fAn additional four acres are proposed to be acquired within the Town of Summit.

^gAn additional 77 acres are located within the Town of Summit.

^hThese 15 acres have been developed for large-lot residential use. It is proposed that these 15 acres remain in private ownership and be protected through public land use regulation.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

Implementation of this park and open space plan would serve to fulfill the recommendations of the Academy report in the following ways: 1) the recommended acquisition for resource protection and trail development purposes of that portion of the Bark River corridor between the northern Town line and the Glacial Drumlin Trail; 2) the recommended acquisition for resource protection and trail development purposes of a corridor from the Glacial Drumlin Trail south to the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit; 3) recommended acquisition by public agencies or by nonprofit conservation organizations of identified natural areas and critical species habitat sites within the proposed conservancy area; and 4) protection through zoning of other primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas within the proposed conservancy area.

TOWN PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the analysis of outdoor recreation needs, presented in Chapter III of this report, indicated that there is no need under the park and open space standards for additional community and neighborhood park sites. A need was identified under the standards, however, for four additional basketball goals, one additional playfield, and two additional tennis courts. As noted in Chapter III, the Town of Ottawa Park Board has determined that there is no demand for additional playfields or basketball or tennis facilities within the Town. The Park Board did, however, identify the following additional needs within the Town: 1) a system of bicycle and pedestrian trails and paths which would connect local and major parks and regional trails; and 2) the development of additional playground equipment, walking trails, an ice-skating rink, an irrigation system, and paved parking facilities at Ottawa Town Park.

The recommended park and open space plan for the Town of Ottawa is depicted on Map 12. It is important to note that all existing and proposed facility development should comply with the accessibility requirements set forth under Federal Law in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

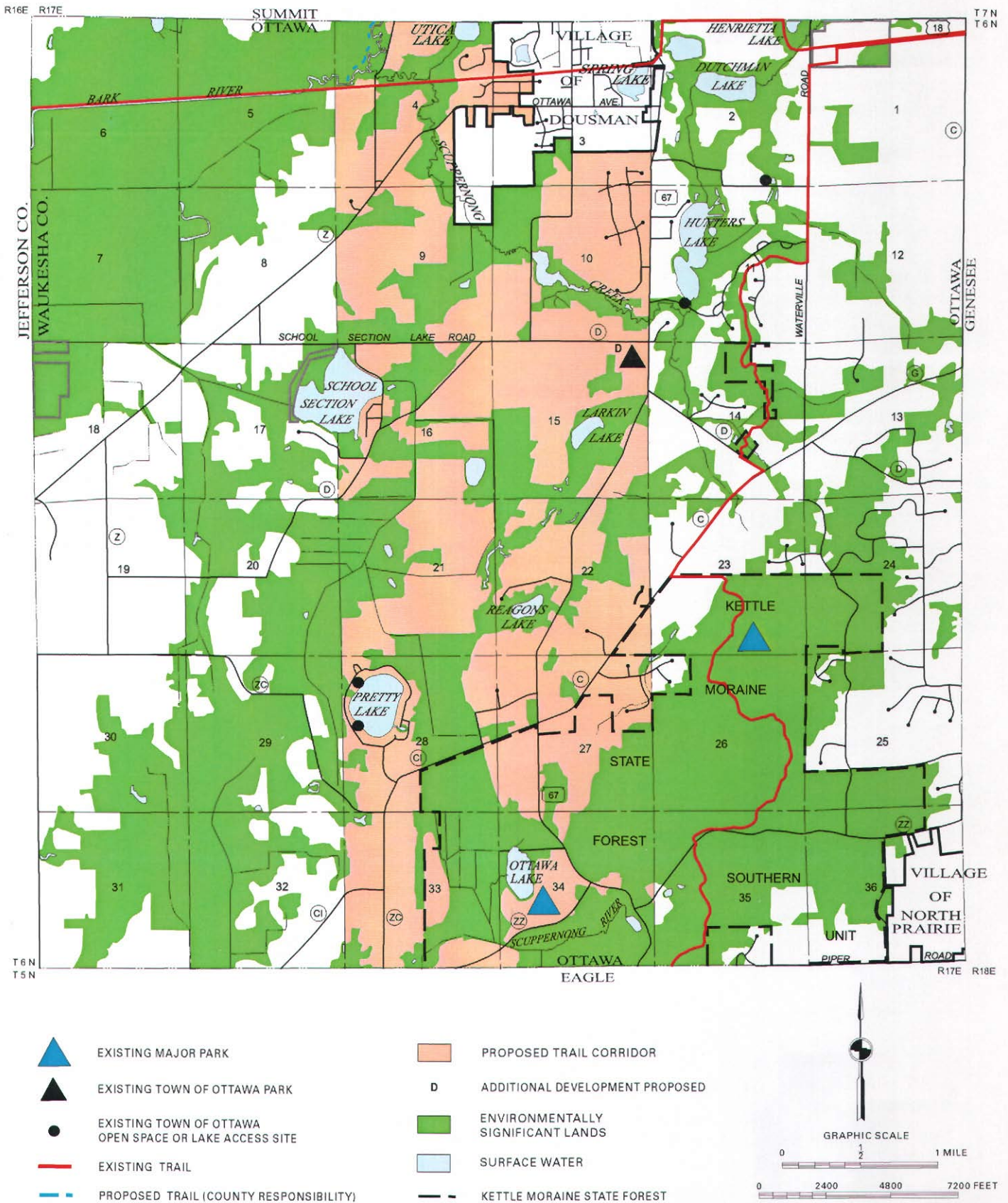
Existing Park and Open Space Sites and Facilities

- *Ottawa Town Park:* Ottawa Town Park is a 26-acre park intended to serve the residents of the Town. The Town is considering expanding the park to accommodate additional support facilities. Additional facilities proposed for development at the park include walking trails, playground equipment, an irrigation system, and paved parking areas. An ice skating rink may also be developed at the park.
- *Parry's Natural Spring:* Parry's Natural Spring is a one-acre site located in the right-of-way of Parry Road. This site is utilized by residents of the Town and surrounding communities as a source for natural spring water. It is recommended that the Town continue to maintain this site.
- *Bicycle and Pedestrian Route and Trail System:* It is recommended that the Town cooperate with Waukesha County to develop a system of biking and hiking trails within the Town. Under the adopted Waukesha County park and open space plan, the County would have primary responsibility for developing a proposed north-south trail within the Town, identified as the Pretty Section Trail in the County plan. The trail is intended to provide a biking and hiking trail between the Glacial Drumlin Trail in the northern portion of the Town and the Kettle Moraine State Forest in the southern portion of the Town. The County would also be responsible for developing that portion of the Bark River Trail between the Glacial Drumlin Trail and the north Town line.

The Town has recommended that the County adjust the location, and possibly rename, the proposed Pretty Section Trail so that it would have a centrally located north-south orientation through the Town. The Town has identified a two-mile wide corridor as the preferred location for the trail. More detailed planning by the County, in cooperation with the Town and the Department of Natural Resources, will be necessary before a precise trail location can be identified.

Map 12

RECOMMENDED OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF OTTAWA



Source: SEWRPC.

Upon establishment of a more precise trail location, it is recommended that the County develop a trail connecting School Section Lake to the proposed trail. It is further recommended that the Town of Ottawa develop a trail connecting the Town Park, the Hunters Lake access site, and the Ice Age Trail to the proposed County trail.

Lake and River Access Sites

- *Hunters Lake Public Access:* The Hunters Lake Public Access site is a public access site on the southern end of Hunters Lake, owned by the Town of Ottawa. The site is minimally developed for carry-in boat access. It is recommended that the Town continue to maintain this site.
- *Pretty Lake Public Access:* The Town owns two public access sites to Pretty Lake. These sites provide boat access to Pretty Lake on the northwest and southwest shorelines of Pretty Lake. It is recommended that the Town continue to maintain these sites.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The recommended park and open space plan is not complete until the steps required to implement the plan have been specified. This section includes a description of the actions required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Waukesha County, the Town of Ottawa, and nonprofit conservation organizations to implement the recommended park and open space plan for the Town.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The DNR has authority and responsibility for park development, natural resources protection, water quality management, and water use regulation. Certain DNR functions have particular importance in the implementation of county and local park and open space plans. The DNR has the obligation to prepare a comprehensive Statewide outdoor recreation plan and to develop long-range water resource management plans; the authority to protect, develop, and regulate the use of State parks, forests, fish and game, lakes and streams, certain plant life, and other natural resources; and the authority to administer, within the State, the Federal grant program known as the Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) fund program and the Wisconsin Stewardship Program. The LAWCON fund and Wisconsin Stewardship programs are intended to assist in the acquisition and development of local parks and urban green spaces. The DNR also has the responsibility to establish standards for floodland and shoreland zoning; and the authority to adopt, in the absence of satisfactory local action, floodland and shoreland zoning ordinances.

More specifically, relative to the implementation of the Town park and open space plan, it is important that the DNR endorse the plan, thus qualifying the Town to apply for and receive available State and Federal outdoor recreation grants in support of plan implementation.

Lastly, the DNR should be directly responsible for the provision and maintenance of Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and Pine Woods Campground, both located in the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit and development of additional facilities for resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities as needed at these sites. The DNR should continue to maintain the existing Glacial Drumlin Trail and share responsibility with the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation for the completion and continued maintenance of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Additionally, the DNR should cooperate with Waukesha County relative to development of a proposed county-owned trail on State-owned lands. The DNR should also be directly responsible for the acquisition of resource preservation sites, including natural areas and critical species habitat sites, as set forth on Map 11 and in Table 10. Under the plan, the DNR would be responsible for acquiring an additional 107 acres of land within the Town, including 40 acres of primary environmental corridor lands.

Waukesha County

Waukesha County has authority and responsibility for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of major parks and certain areawide trails within the County. Under the County plan, Waukesha County is responsible for

the acquisition of lands and development of a trail in the Bark River Parkway in the Town of Ottawa; for acquisition of the natural areas identified on Map 11 and in Table 10; and for the acquisition of land and the development of a proposed north-south trail through the Town. Under the plan, Waukesha County would be responsible for acquiring an additional 363 acres of land within the Town, including 342 acres of primary environmental corridor lands.

Town of Ottawa

Under the recommended plan, shown on Maps 11 and 12, the Town of Ottawa would have responsibility for the provision of a variety of outdoor recreation sites and facilities. The Town would be responsible for the development of additional recreational facilities at Ottawa Town Park and for working with the County to develop the proposed north-south trail and developing connecting trails. The Town would also continue to maintain the Town Park and four other existing Town open space and boat access sites.

Nonprofit Conservation Organizations

Under the adopted regional natural areas plan, it is recommended that certain natural areas of local significance and critical species habitat areas be acquired by nonprofit conservation organizations. Three such organizations currently own and manage land for resource protection purposes within or adjacent to the Town of Ottawa: the Waukesha Land Conservancy, the Izzak Walton League, and The Nature Conservancy. Additional lands proposed to be acquired by nonprofit conservation organizations are identified on Map 11 and encompass approximately 767 acres, including 747 acres of primary environmental corridor lands.

Plan Costs

Implementation of the park and open space plan for the Town of Ottawa, as presented herein and summarized in Table 11, would entail an estimated cost to the Town of \$344,000. This amount does not include the costs associated with maintaining existing park facilities. As indicated in Table 11, all of this cost would be required for the development of new outdoor recreation facilities.

It should be noted that the cost of implementing the plan may be reduced through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, including dedication, and through the use of available State and Federal grant funds, including those available through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Program (LAWCON) and the Wisconsin Stewardship Program.

SUMMARY

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

The key components of the plan are as follows:

1. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources should acquire and protect natural areas and critical species habitat sites as called for in the regional natural areas plan. The DNR should continue to provide and maintain two major parks, Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and Pine Woods Campground, located within the Town and continue to acquire additional lands within the approved project boundary of the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit. The DNR should also continue to provide and maintain the existing Glacial Drumlin Trail within the Town.
2. Waukesha County should acquire and develop lands for the Bark River Parkway and trail and a proposed north-south trail within the Town of Ottawa. The County should also acquire and protect natural areas as called for in the regional natural areas plan and the county park and open space plan.
3. The Town of Ottawa should provide additional outdoor recreation facilities at Ottawa Town Park. Additional facilities proposed for development include walking trails, an ice skating rink, playground

Table 11**RECOMMENDED DEVELOPMENT OF
EXISTING PARK SITES IN THE TOWN OF OTTAWA**

Site Name	Proposed Facility Development	Estimated Development Cost
Ottawa Town Park	Ice Skating Rink Walking Trails Playground Equipment Paved Parking Facilities Irrigation System	\$ 13,000 67,000 40,000 74,000 150,000
Total	--	\$344,000

Source: SEWRPC.

equipment, an irrigation system, and parking facilities. The Town is also considering an expansion of the Town Park to accommodate additional support facilities.

4. The Town should maintain all Town-owned lake access sites and other park and open space sites.
5. It is recommended that the Town develop a trail that would connect the Town Park, the Hunters Lake access site, and the Ice Age Trail to the proposed County trail. The Town should work with the County to determine a more precise trail location.
6. The estimated cost to the Town to implement the plan would be \$344,000. Through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, as well as available Federal and State funds and impact fees, the cost to the Town could be significantly reduced.

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Chapter V

SUMMARY

In 1999, The Town of Ottawa requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist in the preparation of a park and open space plan for the Town. The plan, which is documented in this report, is intended to reflect recent park and open space acquisition and development activities within the Town. The plan is also intended to establish Town eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids in partial support of the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities. The planning process was conducted under the guidance of the Town of Ottawa Park Board.

The Ottawa Town Park Board held a public informational meeting about the plan on October 23, 2001. The plan was adopted by the Ottawa Town Park Board on October 31, 2001, and by the Ottawa Town Plan Commission on November 5, 2001. The plan was adopted by the Ottawa Town Board on November 12, 2001. A copy of the adopting resolution is included as Appendix C.

PLANNING FRAMEWORK

In 1977, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, which identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommends a system of large resource-oriented parks, recreational corridors, a regional trail system, smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, and attendant recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan was refined and detailed within Waukesha County through preparation of a park and open space plan for the County in 1989. An updated Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan was adopted by the County Board in November 1996 as part of the County development plan. The updated County park plan incorporates the recommendations of the regional natural areas plan, which was published in 1997. This Town plan reflects the recommendations of the regional and county park plans, including the objectives, principles, and standards established by the regional and county plans.

INVENTORY FINDINGS

In 1995, the Town of Ottawa encompassed 22,425 acres, or about 35 square miles. Of this total, about 2,909 acres, comprising about 13 percent of the total area of the Town, were devoted to urban uses. Agricultural uses occupied about 8,549 acres, or about 38 percent of the total area of the Town, while other rural uses, including wetlands, woodlands, and other open space lands encompassed about 10,967 acres, comprising about 49 percent of the total area of the Town.

In 2000, there were 27 park and open space sites within the Town, which encompassed about 4,853 acres, or about 22 percent of the total area of the Town. Seventeen sites, encompassing 3,827 acres, or about 79 percent of the total park and open space site acreage, were publicly owned. The Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit was the largest park and open space site, encompassing approximately 3,567 acres. The Town owned five sites, together encompassing about 30 acres. Ten sites, encompassing 1,026 acres, or 21 percent of the total park and open space site acreage, were privately owned.

The most significant remaining features of the natural resource base of the Town of Ottawa include surface water resources, floodlands, wetlands, woodlands, and natural areas. Many of these natural resources are included within identified environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, which are described in Chapter II. In the Town of Ottawa, there are 10,149 acres within primary environmental corridors, 105 acres within secondary environmental corridors, and 228 acres within isolated natural resource areas, for a total of 10,482 acres, or about 47 percent of the total area of the Town. The preservation of these lands in essentially natural, open uses will help to maintain the ecological balance and natural beauty of the Town.

There are 11 natural areas, seven critical species habitat sites, and 13 aquatic habitat areas within the Town, which together encompass 3,138 acres and approximately 11 linear miles of surface water. One of the natural areas and two of the aquatic habitat areas within the Town are considered to be of statewide or greater significance. All of the natural areas and critical species habitat sites are located within the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

RECOMMENDED PLAN

Upon full implementation of this park and open space plan for the Town of Ottawa, the Town would provide a variety of outdoor recreation facilities, including a Town park, access for water-based recreation, and trail facilities connecting the Town park to the regional trail system. Specific recommendations regarding the Town park system include:

- Development of additional outdoor recreation facilities and support facilities at the Town park, and possible expansion of the park;
- The development of a trail that would connect the Town Park, the Hunters Lake access site, and the Ice Age Trail to the proposed north-south trail to be developed by Waukesha County; and
- Maintenance of the Town Park and Town-owned lake access sites.

The plan further recommends that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) endorse the plan, thereby making the Town 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. It is also recommended that the DNR acquire those lands within the approved project boundary of the Kettle Moraine State Forest–Southern Unit. Also, the DNR should maintain the Glacial Drumlin Trail and assist in the maintenance of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. It is recommended that Waukesha County assume responsibility for the acquisition of a trail corridor and development of a County-owned trail through the Town; that the County acquire lands and develop a trail within the Bark River parkway; and that the County acquire identified natural areas. Upon full implementation of the plan, about 4,603 acres of primary environmental corridor lands, or about 45 percent of the primary environmental corridors in the Town, would be held in protective ownership by the DNR, Waukesha County, the Town of Ottawa and/or the Village of Dousman, and nonprofit conservation organizations.

The estimated cost to the Town to implement the plan would be \$344,000. The cost to the Town could be significantly reduced through the use of available State and Federal grant funds and Town-imposed development impact fees.

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 1

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

PRINCIPLE

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

A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

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

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

B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

1. A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation related open space consisting of linear recreation corridors^p should be provided for each 1,000 persons in the Region.
2. Recreation corridors should have a minimum length of 15 miles and a minimum width of 200 feet.

3. The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas.
4. Resource-orientated recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
 - a. Primary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented recreation activities.
 - b. Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites.
 - c. Existing trail-type facilities within the Region.

OBJECTIVE NO. 2

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

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARD

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

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 3

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

PRINCIPLE

Participation in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities including camping, golf, picnicking, downhill skiing, and stream and lake swimming provides an opportunity for individuals to experience the exhilaration of recreational activity in natural surroundings as well as an opportunity for physical exercise. In addition, the family can participate as a unit in certain intensive resource-orientated 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 ^W				Design Standards						Service Radius of Facility (miles) ^X
Activity	Facility	Owner	Per Capita Requirements (facility per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Total Land Requirements (acres per facility)	Resource Requirements	
Camping	Campsite	Public	0.35	Type I and II general use sites	0.33 acre per campsite	Rest rooms-shower Utility hookups Natural area backup lands	--	1.83	Ungrazed wooded area	25.0
		Nonpublic Total	1.4 1.82				-- 1.5 acres per campsite		Presence of surface water Suitable topography and soils	
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public	0.013	Type I and II general use sites	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking, maintenance Practice area Woodland or water areas Buffer	8.0 acres per course	185.0	Suitable topography and soils	10.0
		Nonpublic Total	0.027 0.040				5.0 acres per course 35.0 acres per course 2.0 acres per course		Presence of surface water Form-giving vegetation desirable	
Picnicking	Tables	Public	6.35 ^Y	Type I, II, III, and IV general use sites	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking Shelters and grills Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table (1.5 space per table)	0.11	Topography with scenic views Shade trees	10.0
		Nonpublic Total	2.39 8.74				-- 0.02 acre per table		Presence of surface water desirable Suitable soils	
Skiing	Developed slope (acres)	Public	0.010	Type I, II, III general use sites	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet Parking Ski tows (and lights) Buffer and maintenance Landscape	0.13 acre minimum	2.1	Suitable topography and soils (20 percent slope minimum)	25.0
		Nonpublic Total	0.090 0.100				0.25 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.35 acre per acre of slope		North or northeast exposure	
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)	Public Nonpublic Total	Major Inland Lakes	Type I, II, III general use sites	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking Bathhouse-concessions Buffer areas	0.2 acre per acre of beach	-- ^Z	Natural beach Good water quality	10.0
			Lake Michigan				0.10 acre minimum 10 square feet per linear foot			
			6 12 18							
			16 -- 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 ^{aa}			Design Standards				
Activity	Facility	Per Capita Requirements (linear mile per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Minimum Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Suggested Support Facilities and Backup Lands	Minimum Support Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Resource Requirements
Biking	Route Trail	-- bb 0.16	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	-- 1.45	Route markers Backup lands with resource amenities	-- 24.2	-- Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography (5 percent slope average maximum) and soils
Hiking	Trail	0.16	Recreation corridor	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Horseback Riding	Trail	0.05	Recreation corridor Type I general use site	1.21	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Nature Study	Center	1 per Region	Type I, II, III general use sites	--	Interpretive center Building Parking	--	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species
	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Type I, II, III general use sites	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Suitable topography and soils Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species, suitable topography and soils
Pleasure Driving	Route	-- cc	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	--	Route markers	--	--
Ski-touring	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Types I and II general use sites	0.97	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Rolling topography
Snowmobiling	Trail	0.11	Private lands (leased for public use)	1.45	Backup lands, including resource amenities and open lands	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Suitable topography (8 percent slope average maximum) and soils

OBJECTIVE NO. 5

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

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 6

To preserve sufficient high-quality open space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity²² 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.

STANDARD

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

C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 7

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

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARD

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

Footnotes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: SEWRPC.

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APPENDIX B

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERED COMPATIBLE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

Component Natural Resource and Related Features within Environmental Corridors ^a	Permitted Development															Rural Density Single-Family Residential Development (see General Development Guidelines below)	
	Transportation and Utility Facilities (see General Development Guidelines below)				Recreational Facilities (see General Development Guidelines below)												
	Streets and Highways	Utility Lines and Related Facilities	Engineered Stormwater Management Facilities	Engineered Flood Control Facilities ^b	Trail ^c	Picnic Area	Family Camping ^d	Swimming Beach	Boat Access	Ski Hill	Golf	Playfield	Hard Surface Courts	Parking	Buildings		
Lakes, Rivers, and Streams	-- ^a	-- ^a	--	-- ^a	-- ^a	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Shoreline	X	X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	--	--	X	--	--	
Floodplain	X	X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	X	--	
Wetland ^e	-- ^a	X	X	X	X ^f	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Wet Soils	X	X	X	X	X	--	--	X	X	--	X	--	--	X	--	--	
Woodland	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wildlife Habitat	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Steep Slope	X	X	--	--	-- ^m	--	--	--	--	X ⁿ	X	--	--	--	--	--	
Prairie	--	-- ^a	--	--	-- ^m	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	--	
Historic Site	--	-- ^a	--	--	-- ^m	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Scenic Viewpoint	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	
Scientific or Natural Area Site	--	-- ^a	--	--	-- ^m	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	

NOTE: An "X" indicates that facility development is permitted within the specified natural resource feature. In those portions of the environmental corridors having more than one of the listed natural resource features, the natural resource feature with the most restrictive development limitation should take precedence.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

- Transportation and Utility Facilities:** All transportation and utility facilities proposed to be located within the important natural resources should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to consider alternative locations for such facilities. If it is determined that such facilities should be located within natural resources, development activities should be sensitive to these resources, and, to the extent possible following construction, such resources should be restored to preconstruction conditions.

The above table presents development guidelines for major transportation and utility facilities. These guidelines may be extended to other similar facilities not specifically listed in the table.

- Recreational Facilities:** In general, no more than 20 percent of the total environmental corridor area should be developed for recreational facilities. Furthermore, no more than 20 percent of the environmental corridor area consisting of upland wildlife habitat and woodlands should be developed for recreational facilities. It is recognized, however, that in certain cases these percentages may be exceeded in efforts to accommodate needed public recreational and game and fish management facilities within appropriate natural settings.

The above table presents development guidelines for major recreational facilities. These guidelines may be extended to other similar facilities not specifically listed in the table.

- Single-Family Residential Development:** Limited single-family residential development within the environmental corridor may occur in various forms ranging from development on large rural estate lots to clustered single-family development. The maximum number of housing units accommodated at a proposed development site within the environmental corridor should be limited to the number determined by dividing the total corridor area within the site less the area covered by surface water and wetlands by five. Individual lots should contain a minimum of approximately one acre of land determined to be developable for each housing unit—with developable lands being defined to include upland wildlife habitat and woodlands, but to exclude areas of steep slope.

Single-family development on existing lots of record should be permitted as provided for under county or local zoning at the time of adoption of the land use plan.

^aThe natural resource and related features are defined as follows:

Lakes, Rivers, and Streams: Includes all lakes greater than five acres in area and all perennial and intermittent streams as shown on U. S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps.

Shoreline: Includes a band 50 feet in depth along both sides of intermittent streams; a band 75 feet in depth along both sides of perennial streams; a band 75 feet in depth around lakes; and a band 200 feet in depth along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Floodplain: Includes areas, excluding stream channels and lake beds, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event.

Wetlands: Includes areas one acre or more in size in which the water table is at, near, or above the land surface and which are characterized by both hydric soils and by the growth of sedges, cattails, and other wetland vegetation.

Wet Soils: Includes areas covered by wet, poorly drained, and organic soils.

Woodlands: Includes areas one acre or more in size having 17 or more deciduous trees per acre with at least a 50 percent canopy cover as well as coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects; excludes lowland woodlands, such as tamarack swamps, which are classified as wetlands.

Wildlife Habitat: Includes areas devoted to natural open uses of a size and with a vegetative cover capable of supporting a balanced diversity of wildlife.

Steep Slope: Includes areas with land slopes of 12 percent or greater.

Prairies: Includes open, generally treeless areas which are dominated by native grasses.

Park: Includes public and nonpublic park and open space sites.

Historic Site: Includes sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Scenic Viewpoint: Includes vantage points from which a diversity of natural features such as surface waters, wetlands, woodlands, and agricultural lands can be observed.

Scientific and Natural Area Sites: Includes tracts of land and water so little modified by man's activity that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the presettlement landscape.

^bIncludes such improvements as stream channel modifications and such facilities as dams.

^cIncludes trails for such activities as hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, nature study, and horseback riding, and excludes all motorized trail activities. It should be recognized that trails for motorized activities such as snowmobiling that are located outside the environmental corridors may of necessity have to cross environmental corridor lands. Proposals for such crossings should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and if it is determined that they are necessary, such trail crossings should be designed to ensure minimum disturbance of the natural resources.

^dIncludes areas intended to accommodate camping in tents, trailers, or recreational vehicles which remain at the site for short periods of time—typically ranging from an overnight to a two-week stay.

^eIt should be recognized that certain transportation facilities such as bridges may be constructed over such resources.

^fIt should be recognized that utility facilities such as sanitary sewers may be located in or under such resources.

^gIt should be recognized that electric power transmission lines and similar lines may be suspended over such resources.

^hIt should be recognized that certain flood control facilities such as dams and channel modifications may need to be provided in such resources to reduce or eliminate flood damage to existing development.

ⁱIt should be recognized that bridges for trail facilities may be constructed over such resources.

^jIt should be recognized that streets and highways may cross such resources. Where this occurs, there should be no net loss of flood storage capacity or wetlands.

^kAny development affecting wetlands must adhere to the water quality standards for wetlands established under Chapter NR 103 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

^lOnly an appropriately designed boardwalk/trail should be permitted.

^mOnly appropriately designed and located hiking and cross country ski trails should be permitted.

ⁿOnly an appropriately designed, vegetated, and maintained ski hill should be permitted.

Source: SEWRPC.

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Appendix C

TOWN OF OTTAWA PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN RESOLUTION NUMBER 11-01

WHEREAS, the Town of Ottawa has adopted village board powers and may act under 61.35 and 62.23, Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, 62.23(2), Wisconsin Statutes, provides that it shall be the function and duty of the Plan Commission to make and adopt a Master Plan for the physical development of the Town; and

WHEREAS, 62.23(3), Wisconsin Statutes, provides that the Plan Commission may, from time to time, by resolution adopt a part or parts of a Master Plan; and

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

WHEREAS, the plan findings and recommendations are set forth in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 258, A Park and Open Space Plan for the Town of Ottawa: 2020; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Ottawa Town Park Board held a public informational meeting on October 23, 2001, to acquaint residents and landowners with the plan recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Ottawa Town Park Board has carefully considered the plan over an extended period of time, including statements and requests during the planning process, and has proceeded to incorporate, where deemed appropriate, changes to the recommended plan; and

WHEREAS, the Ottawa Town Park Board approved the plan on October, 31, 2001.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town of Ottawa Plan Commission, on the 5th day of November, 2001, hereby adopts the Park and Open Space Plan for the Town of Ottawa as an element of the Town Master Plan to serve as a guide to the acquisition and protection of park and open space sites and the development of recreational facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Plan Commission certify the park and open space plan to the Town Board.

DATED: November 5, 2001

TOWN OF OTTAWA PLAN COMMISSION

BY: Vytautas Janusonis
Vytautas Janusonis, Chairman

This resolution approved on a motion by Commissioner Butler, seconded by Commissioner Kershek, and a roll call vote set forth below:

Norman Hanson	<u>absent</u>
Roger Franklin	<u>absent</u>
Guy Ott	<u>aye</u>
Norman Hausser	<u>aye</u>
E. Joseph Kershek	<u>aye</u>
Colin Butler	<u>aye</u>

Town Board Endorsement

At a regular Town of Ottawa Board of Supervisors meeting held November 12, 2001, the above resolution was endorsed on a motion by Supervisor Gottschalk, seconded by Supervisor Stewart, and a roll call vote as follows:

Vytautas Janusonis	<u>aye</u>
Russell Stewart	<u>aye</u>
Richard Arrowood	<u>aye</u>
Gary Goodchild	<u>aye</u>
Thomas Gottschalk	<u>aye</u>