

# A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF RACINE: 2035

## RACINE COUNTY, WISCONSIN



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**A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF RACINE: 2035  
RACINE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

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# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

# 1



*Credit: SEWRPC Staff*

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The park and open space plan for the City of Racine is intended to assist in promoting environmental stewardship and to assess current and future park, recreation, and open space needs within the City. The plan is further intended to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land for park, outdoor recreation, and open space purposes through the implementation over time of the recommendations set forth in Chapter 5. The plan seeks to provide a variety of recreational sites and facilities that will offer opportunities for City residents to participate in an appropriate range of active and passive recreational pursuits and to protect and enhance natural resources within the City. This plan, which is an update of the park and open space plan adopted in 2011, was approved by the City of Racine Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services in March 2018 and by the City Plan Commission on June 13, 2018. This plan was adopted by the Common Council on June 19, 2018 as a component of the City of Racine comprehensive plan.

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

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

## 1.2 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

### Regional and County Park and Open Space Planning

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

### City Plans

The City of Racine has a long and rich history of land use planning. In addition to the previous editions of this park and open space plan, the City has prepared detailed neighborhood plans, a Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan: 2012 (RootWorks), a refinement of the RootWorks plan (RootWorks Area-wide Plan and Implementation Strategy: 2017), and a City Comprehensive Plan: 2009<sup>2</sup> to guide growth and development of the City, while protecting important natural resources. Additional information about plans affecting the City's park system is provided in Chapter 3.

### City Park and Open Space Planning

The first edition of this park and open space plan was adopted in 2003 and incorporated into the City Comprehensive Plan: 2009. An update was adopted in December 2011. In 2016, the City of Racine requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the City in updating the plan. This plan update has a plan design year of 2035, which is the same as the previous plan.

This updated plan reflects recent park and open space acquisition and development activities within the City and other recent planning efforts. In addition to updating the recommended park and open space plan for the City, this plan is intended to maintain City eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids in support of the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities.

### Recommendations of the Previous Park and Open Space Plan

The park and open space plan adopted in 2011 made the following recommendations:

- Development of neighborhood park recreational facilities at nine existing City-owned parks to help ensure that recreational facilities are well-distributed throughout the City and convenient to all residents
- Additional improvements to recreational facilities at 35 existing City-owned recreational parks, special use parks, community centers, golf courses, or cemeteries, including parks-related improvements identified in the City's Capital Improvement Program for 2011 through 2015
- Additional development and improvements to five existing City parks, as proposed in City neighborhood plans, and the development of a formal, outdoor ice skating rink, a community swimming pool, and practice soccer fields
- Development of a Riverwalk along the south side of the Root River from 6th Street to Main Street and the development of a non-motorized boat launch within the proposed Riverwalk, in accordance with the Root River Revitalization Plan

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

<sup>2</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 305, A Comprehensive Plan for the City of Racine: 2035, November 2009.



- Development of Root River and Lake Michigan Water Trails, in cooperation with Racine County
- Development of the Root River Pathway within Johnson Park and Golf Course or in an alternate location that would provide trail continuity
- Continued maintenance of the City-owned Lake Michigan and Root River Pathways
- Continued monitoring and improvements to the water quality of Samuel Myers Park to allow use of the park as a Lake Michigan beach
- Continued maintenance of the City parks system, including improvements to increase access for people with disabilities
- Continued development of a City-wide, on-street bike system

The previous edition of this plan also recommended that the City protect the natural resources associated with all primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas located within City parks, and that the City adopt and apply conservancy zoning regulations to protect primary and secondary environmental corridors within the City that are privately owned. Information regarding the implementation status of the recommendations from the previous plan is provided in Chapter 4. Updated park and open space plan recommendations are provided in Chapter 5.

### **1.3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The planning process was conducted under the guidance of the City of Racine Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services. The Board consists of government officials and citizens. Staff support was provided by the City Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Department. A complete membership list of the Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services is provided on the inside front cover of this report.

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

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

The park and open space plan was reviewed and discussed at meetings of the City Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services during 2017. All meetings were open to the public, and meeting agendas were posted on the City website in advance of the meetings. Upon completion of a draft plan report, the Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services sponsored a public open house on February 14, 2018, to provide an opportunity for the public to review the plan and provide comments. The draft plan, a plan summary, and a comment form were available at the open house. Notice of the open house included a link to the information on the homepage of the Parks and Recreation Department website, and was listed on social media, including the Parks and Recreation Facebook page. Copies of the draft plan were available for viewing at City Hall, the City Hall Annex, and the Racine Public Library. Written comments on the draft plan were accepted through February 23, 2018. Numerous written comments were received and were addressed at the Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services meetings on February 14, 2018 and March 14, 2018. The comments are summarized in Chapter 5. A public hearing on the plan was held by the Common Council on June 19, 2018, which provided an additional opportunity for public comment.

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

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

## **1.5 PLANNING AREA**

The planning area consists of the entire City of Racine, including Johnson Park and Golf Course and the Johnson Park Dog Run, which are within the City's corporate limits, but not contiguous to the rest of the City; and Shoop Park Golf Course, which is owned by the City but located in the Village of Wind Point. The planning area is located in U. S. Public Land Survey Townships 2 and 3 North and Ranges 22 and 23 East in the eastern portion of Racine County along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The planning area encompasses 10,113 acres, or about 16 square miles, including 10,060 acres within the City of Racine corporate limits and 53 acres within Shoop Park Golf Course. The City is bounded on the north by the Village of Caledonia and the Village of Wind Point, on the east by Lake Michigan and the Village of North Bay, on the south by the Village of Elmwood Park, and on the south and west by the Village of Mount Pleasant.

## **1.6 REPORT FORMAT**

The findings and recommendations of the City park and open space plan update are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter 2 presents population and land use information and an inventory of existing park and open space sites and facilities. Chapter 3 summarizes other planning programs affecting this park and open space plan, and also includes an analysis of parks and recreational facilities based on the application of park planning standards. The implementation status of plan recommendations from the previous park plan is presented in Chapter 4. Updated park and open space recommendations are presented in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 presents a summary of the plan.





*Credit: SEWRPC STAFF*

## 2.1 INTRODUCTION

An inventory of existing resources and other factors that affect development of a system of parks and open space areas within the City was conducted to assist in the development of plan recommendations. The results of the inventory are presented in this chapter. Information about population and population distribution, the pattern of land use development, existing park and open space sites and facilities, and natural resources within the City of Racine planning area was collected and is presented in this chapter. A comparison of similar data from the previous City park plan, which was adopted by the City in 2011 and included inventory information gathered in 2010, is also provided.

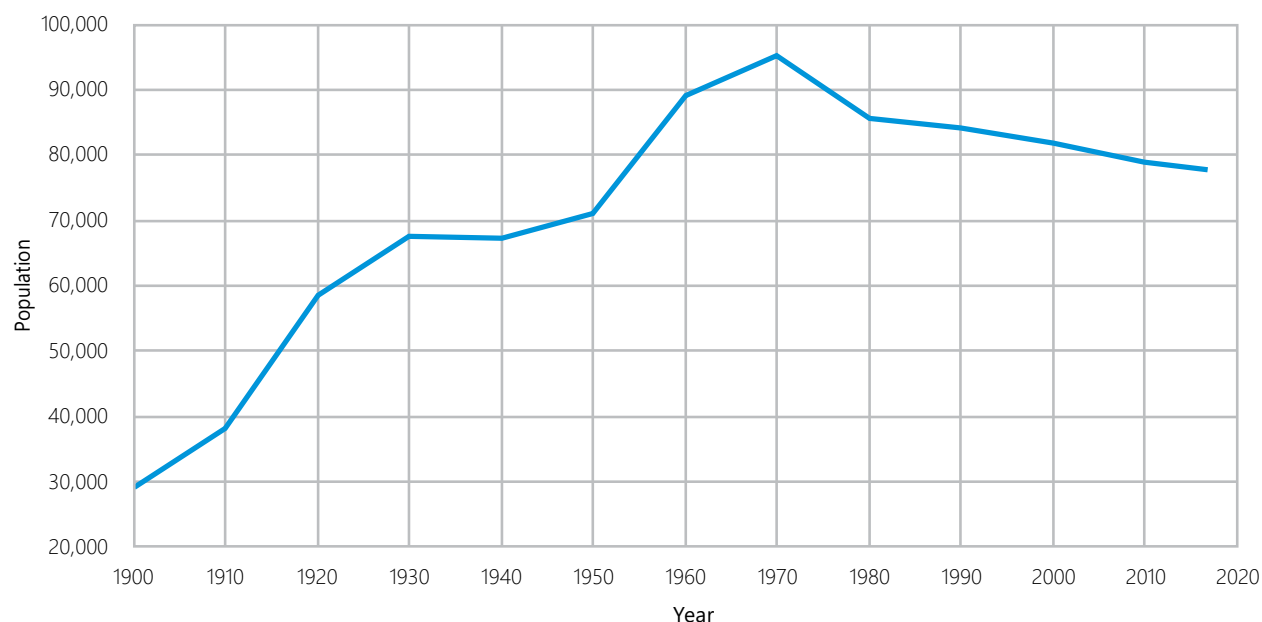
## 2.2 CITY POPULATION

Information about the historical and existing resident population of the City is shown in Figure 2.1. The City's population increased between 1900 and 1930 from 29,102 people to 67,542 people. From 1930 to 1940 the population decreased from 67,542 people to 67,195 people, then rose to 71,193 people in 1950. From 1950 to 1960, the population increased dramatically from 71,193 people to 89,144 people, and increased to 95,162 residents in 1970. Between 1970 and 1980, the population decreased from 95,162 people to 85,725 people, and the population continued to decrease for the next two decades to 81,855 people in 2000 and to 78,860 people in 2010. The resident population level for 2017, based on a Wisconsin Department of Administration estimate, is 77,860 people, a decrease of 1,000 people, or about 1 percent, from 2010.

## 2.3 PLANNED LAND USES

Land use is an important determinant of both the supply of, and the demand for, outdoor recreation and related open space facilities. Accordingly, an understanding of the amount, type, and spatial distribution of urban and nonurban land uses within the planning area is an important consideration in this park and open

**Figure 2.1**  
**Historical Population Levels in the City of Racine: 1900-2017**



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

space planning effort. Information on the amount of land anticipated to be devoted to various types of land uses in 2035<sup>3</sup> is presented in Table 2.1 and shown on Map 2.1.

The City is almost completely developed and is completely surrounded by other incorporated municipalities (villages), which will prevent annexations by the City. Future development within the City will occur through infilling of vacant parcels surrounded by existing development, re-development of under-utilized sites identified in the City comprehensive plan, and small areas of new development on the outskirts of the City. This plan was designed to serve residential areas envisioned by the comprehensive plan.

As previously noted, the City of Racine planning area encompasses 10,113 acres, or about 16 square miles. Existing and planned residential uses occupy 3,859 acres, or about 38 percent of the planning area; commercial uses occupy 722 acres, or about 7 percent of the planning area; and industrial uses occupy 793 acres, or about 8 percent of the planning area. Lands devoted to transportation, communication, and utilities occupy 2,420 acres, or about 24 percent of planning area, with the largest amount devoted to streets and highways, which occupied 1,871 acres, or about 19 percent of the planning area. Governmental and institutional uses accounted for 646 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area. Recreational uses accounted for 681 acres, or about 7 percent of the planning area. In all, 9,121 acres, comprising about 90 percent of the planning area, are devoted to urban uses.

Nonurban uses included the Kestrel Hawk Park Landfill, which occupies 203 acres, or about 2 percent of the planning area, and extractive uses that occupy 89 acres, or about 1 percent of the planning area. Natural resource features including primary and secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and surface water occupy 700 acres, or about 7 percent of the planning area. Thus, 992 acres, comprising about 10 percent of the planning area, are devoted to nonurban uses.

<sup>3</sup> Planned land uses in the City are derived from Map 5 (Land Use Plan for the City of Racine: 2035) from SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 305, A Comprehensive Plan for the City of Racine: 2035, November 2009. No amendments to the land use plan map have been adopted by the Common Council since 2009 that would have a substantive effect on the findings and recommendations of this park and open space plan. Land uses in Shoop Park are derived from Map IX-1 (Recommended Land Use Plan for the Racine County Planning Area: 2035) from SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, November 2009.

Important arterial streets and highways serving the City include STH 11 (Durand Avenue), STH 20 (Washington Avenue), STH 31 (Green Bay Road), STH 32, STH 38 (Northwestern Avenue), Douglas Avenue, Goold Street, Main Street, Ohio Street, Racine Street, Spring Street, State Street, Three Mile Road, and Yout Street.

In addition, about five miles of the Union Pacific Railway right-of-way traverses the City from north to south. John H. Batten Airport, located in the northwestern portion of the City, is a privately-owned, open for public use airport that provides two paved, lighted runways. The airport provides services to corporate, business, and private aircraft, and is the largest privately-owned, public-use, reliever airport in the United States.

## 2.4 PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES AND FACILITIES

### Existing Park and Open Space Sites

An inventory of existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the City of Racine planning area was conducted in 2016. Between 2016 and 2018, the City acquired two additional sites, the three-acre West Bluff Overlook and the six-acre Machinery Row Promenade, which replaced the privately-owned Azarian Marina. As indicated in Table 2.2 and shown on Map 2.2, there were 142 park and open space sites, which encompassed 1,462 acres, or about 15 percent of the planning area. There were 121 publicly-owned sites that encompassed 1,407 acres, or about 96 percent of the total park and open space site acreage. The remaining 19 sites, encompassing 55 acres, or about 4 percent of the total park and open space site acreage, were privately owned. There were also two sites under protective easement, one held by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources along the Root River and one held by the Village of Mount Pleasant along the Pike River.

Table 2.2 includes sites owned by the State of Wisconsin, Racine County, the City of Racine, the Village of Mount Pleasant, and the Racine Unified School District as public sites. School events and school district policies may limit the availability and use of facilities located on public school grounds to the general public.

### Existing Recreational Facilities

#### Public Facilities

As indicated in Table 2.3, in 2016 the following publicly-owned recreational facilities were located in the City of Racine planning area: five baseball diamonds, 11 league ball diamonds, 17 sandlot ball diamonds, 23 tennis courts, 55 playgrounds, 47 playfields, 79 basketball goals, 29 soccer fields, two ice skating rinks, three swimming beaches, a swimming pool, and spray water feature. Other significant publicly-owned outdoor recreation facilities available within the planning area include an 18-hole regulation golf course, two nine-

**Table 2.1**  
**Planned Land Uses in the City of Racine Planning Area: 2035**

Land Use Category <sup>a</sup>	Acres	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of Planning Area
Urban			
Residential <sup>b</sup>	3,859	42.3	38.2
Commercial <sup>c</sup>	722	7.9	7.1
Industrial <sup>d</sup>	793	8.7	7.9
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities			
Streets and Highways	1,871	20.5	18.5
Airports and Railways	457	5.0	4.5
Communications, Utilities, and Other Transportation	92	1.0	0.9
Subtotal	2,420	26.5	23.9
Governmental and Institutional	646	7.1	6.4
Recreational	681	7.5	6.7
Urban Subtotal	9,121	100.0	90.2
Nonurban			
Primary Environmental Corridor	470	47.4	4.6
Secondary Environmental Corridor	18	1.8	0.2
Isolated Natural Resource Area	103	10.4	1.0
Extractive	89	9.0	0.9
Landfill	203	20.4	2.0
Surface Water	109	11.0	1.1
Nonurban Subtotal	992	100.0	9.8
Total	10,113	--	100.0

<sup>a</sup> Parking areas are included in the associated land use category.

<sup>b</sup> Includes Medium Density Residential (6,200 or more square feet per dwelling unit), High Density Residential (less than 6,200 square feet per dwelling unit), and Mixed Use-Residential and Commercial (residential emphasis) land uses.

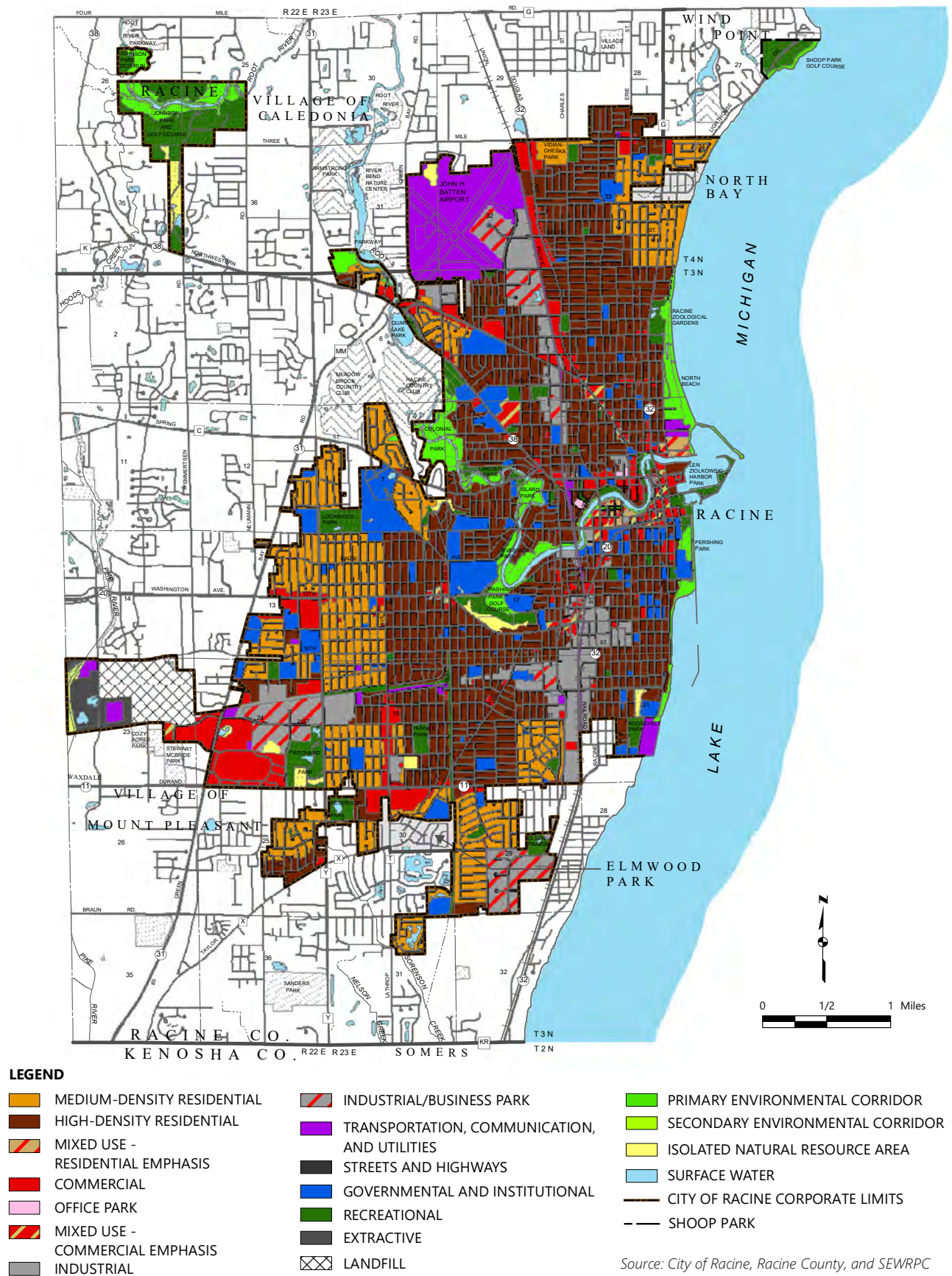
<sup>c</sup> Includes Commercial, Office Park, and Mixed Use-Commercial and Residential (commercial emphasis) land uses.

<sup>d</sup> Includes Industrial and Industrial/Business Park land uses.

Source: City of Racine and SEWRPC



**Map 2.1**  
**Planned Land Uses in the City of Racine Planning Area: 2035**



**Table 2.2**  
**Park and Open Space Sites in the City of Racine Planning Area: 2016**

Number on Map 2.2	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres) <sup>a</sup>
	Public			
1	6th Street Park North	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
2	6th Street Park South	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	2
3	Barbee Park	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	1
4	Bl-Centennial Gardens	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
5	Brose Park	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	5
6	Builders Park	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	1
7	Carlson Park	T4N, R23E, Section 33	City of Racine	5
8	Carre-Hogle Park	T3N, R23E, Section 21	City of Racine	2
9	Case Corporation Easement	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	3 <sup>b</sup>
10	Case-Harmon Park	T3N, R23E, Section 20	City of Racine	5
11	Cedar Bend Park	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	2
12	City Hall	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
13	City Land (Lake Michigan Shoreline North)	T3N, R23E, Section 4; T4N, R23E, Section 33	City of Racine	3
14	City Land (Lake Michigan Shoreline South)	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	1
15	City Land (Root River East)	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	1
16	City Land (Root River West)	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	1
17	City Land (South Side Triangle)	T3N, R23E, Section 20	City of Racine	1
18	Clayton Park	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	6
19	Colbert Park	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
20	Colonial Park	T3N, R23E, Section 7	City of Racine	73
21	County-owned Land	T3N, R22E, Section 13	Racine County	3
22	Crosswalk Park	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
23	DeKoven Woods	T3N, R23E, Section 21	City of Racine	7
24	WDNR Easement (Two Sites along Root River)	T3N, R23E, Section 8	State of Wisconsin	-- <sup>c</sup>
25	Dr. Hamilton Park	T3N, R23E, Section 21	City of Racine	1
26	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	2
27	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
28	Dr. Pierce Park	T3N, R23E, Section 18	City of Racine	1
29	Dodge Park	T3N, R23E, Section 21	City of Racine	5
30	Douglas Park	T3N, R23E, Section 5	City of Racine	5
31	Erskine Park	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	8
32	Festival Park <sup>d</sup>	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	4 <sup>d</sup>
33	Franklin Park	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	4
34	Fuller Park	T3N, R23E, Section 20	City of Racine	1
35	Gaslight Pointe	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
36	Graceland Cemetery	T3N, R23E, Section 7	City of Racine	50
37	Grand Park	T3N, R23E, Section 21	City of Racine	1
38	Greencrest Park	T3N, R23E, Section 29	City of Racine	5
39	Hagerer Park	T3N, R23E, Section 4	City of Racine	1
40	Hantschel Park	T3N, R22E, Section 24	City of Racine	8
41	Harris Plaza	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
42	Harvey Park	T3N, R23E, Section 7	City of Racine	2
43	Horlick Athletic Field	T3N, R23E, Section 5	City of Racine	10
44	Horlick Park	T3N, R23E, Section 6	Racine County	1 <sup>e</sup>
45	Humble Park	T3N, R23E, Section 19	City of Racine	17
46	Island Park	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	21
47	Jay-Eye-See Park	T3N, R23E, Section 20	City of Racine	1
48	Johnson Park Dog Run	T4N, R22E, Section 26	City of Racine	28
49	Johnson Park and Golf Course	T4N, R22E, Sections 25, 26, and 35	City of Racine	335
50	John Thompson Park	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
51	Jonas Park	T3N, R23E, Section 4	City of Racine	1
52	Jones Park	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	1
53	Lakeview Park	T3N, R23E, Section 4	City of Racine	5
54	Lee Park	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	3
55	Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Racine County	16

Table continued on next page.

**Table 2.2 (Continued)**

Number on Map 2.2	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres) <sup>a</sup>
	Public (continued)			
56	Lincoln Park	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	25
57	Lockwood Park	T3N, R23E, Section 7	City of Racine	38
58	Maple Grove Park	T3N, R23E, Section 7	City of Racine	5
59	Marino Park	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	3
60	Marquette Park	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
61	Mary Ellen Helgren Johnson Preserve	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	4
62	Mat Matson Park	T4N, R23E, Section 33	City of Racine	2
63	Memorial Drive West	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	1
64	Monument Square	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
65	Mound Cemetery	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	55
66	N. Owen Davies Park	T3N, R23E, Section 19	City of Racine	5
67	North Beach Park	T3N, R23E, Section 4	City of Racine	49
68	Olsen Prairie	T3N, R23E, Section 29	City of Racine	23
69	Park Place	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
70	Parker Park	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	3
71	Pershing Park	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	28
72	Pierce Woods Park	T3N, R23E, Section 19	City of Racine	6
73	Pike River Corridor	T3N, R22E, Section 13	Village of Mount Pleasant	9
74	Pike River Corridor Easement	T3N, R22E, Section 13	Village of Mount Pleasant	-- <sup>f</sup>
75	Pritchard Park	T3N, R22E, Section 24	Racine County	73
76	Pugh Recreation Area	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
77	Quarry Lake Park	T3N, R23E, Section 6	Racine County	4 <sup>g</sup>
78	Racine Zoological Gardens	T3N, R23E, Section 4	City of Racine	25
79	Randolph Park	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	1
80	Reefpoint Marina	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Racine County	45
81	Reservoir Park	T3N, R23E, Section 30	City of Racine	22
82	Riverside Park	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	21
83	Robert Heck Park	T3N, R23E, Section 5	City of Racine	2
84	Rooney Recreation Area	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
85	Roosevelt Park	T3N, R23E, Section 21	City of Racine	13
86	Sam Azarian Overlook	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	1
87	Samuel Myers Park	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	7
88	Shoop Park and Golf Course	T4N, R23E, Section 27	City of Racine	53
89	Simonson Park	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	4
90	Solbraa Park	T3N, R23E, Section 18	City of Racine	3
91	Springvale East Park	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	1
92	Springvale West Park	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	3
93	State-Hamilton Park	T3N, R23E, Section 8	City of Racine	1
94	Tyler-Domer Community Center	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	3
95	Vidian-Cheska Park	T4N, R23E, Section 33	City of Racine	8
96	Wallis Park	T3N, R23E, Section 20	City of Racine	1
97	Washington Park Bowl	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	11
98	Washington Park Golf Course	T3N, R23E, Section 17	City of Racine	72
99	Wellington Park	T3N, R23E, Section 20	City of Racine	1
100	West Park	T3N, R23E, Section 16	City of Racine	3
101	Wustum Museum	T3N, R23E, Section 5	City of Racine	10
102	Bull Fine Arts Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 21	Racine School District	1
103	Dr. Jones Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 30	Racine School District	3
104	Fratt Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 18	Racine School District	2
105	Giese Elementary School	T3N, R22E, Section 24	Racine School District	7
106	Gilmore Middle School	T3N, R23E, Section 5	Racine School District	8
107	Goodland Elementary School	T3N, R22E, Section 12	Racine School District	5
108	Horlick High School and Wadewitz Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 5	Racine School District	13
109	Janes Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Racine School District	1
110	Jefferson Lighthouse Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 8	Racine School District	1
111	Jerstad-Agerholm Elementary/Middle School	T4N, R23E, Section 33	Racine School District	6
112	Julian Thomas Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Racine School District	1

Table continued on next page.

**Table 2.2 (Continued)**

Number on Map 2.2	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres) <sup>a</sup>
	Public (continued)			
113	Knapp Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 20	Racine School District	
114	McKinley Middle School	T3N, R23E, Section 8	Racine School District	1
115	Mitchell Elementary/Middle School	T3N, R23E, Section 20	Racine School District	3
116	Racine Civil Leaders Academy	T3N, R23E, Section 16	Racine School District	1
117	Red Apple Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 4	Racine School District	1
118	Roosevelt Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 4	Racine School District	1
119	S.C. Johnson Elementary School	T3N, R23E, Section 19	Racine School District	7
120	Starbuck Middle School	T3N, R22E, Section 13	Racine School District	10
121	Washington Park High School	T3N, R23E, Section 17	Racine School District	7
122	Machinery Row Promenade	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	6 <sup>h</sup>
123	West Bluff Overlook	T3N, R23E, Section 9	City of Racine	3 <sup>h</sup>
Subtotal - 123 Sites				1,407 <sup>i</sup>
	Private			
124	5th Street Yacht Club	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Private	4
125	Bray Center	T3N, R23E, Section 16	Organizational	1
126	Gaslight Pointe Marina	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Private	1
127	Harbor Lite Yacht Club	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Private	1
128	Pugh Marina	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Private	7
129	Racine Christian School	T3N, R23E, Section 18	Organizational	1
130	Racine Country Club	T3N, R23E, Sections 5 and 7	Private	22 <sup>j</sup>
131	Racine Lutheran High School	T3N, R23E, Section 8	Organizational	1
132	Racine Riverside Marina	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Private	2
133	Racine Yacht Club	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Private	1
134	Sacred Heart/John Paul II Academy	T3N, R23E, Section 8	Organizational	3
135	St. Catherine's High School	T3N, R23E, Section 16	Organizational	3
136	St. Edwards School	T3N, R23E, Section 18	Organizational	1
137	St. John Nepomuk School	T3N, R23E, Section 4	Organizational	1
138	St. John's Lutheran School	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Organizational	1
139	St. Joseph's Grade School	T3N, R23E, Sections 4 and 9	Organizational	1
140	St. Lucy School	T3N, R23E, Section 29	Organizational	1
141	West Shore Marine	T3N, R23E, Section 9	Private	2
142	Wisconsin Lutheran School	T3N, R23E, Section 16	Organizational	1
Subtotal - 19 Sites				55
Total - 142 Sites				1,462 <sup>i</sup>

Note: Subsequent to the completion of the parks inventory, the City acquired six acres of land along the Root River associated with Machinery Row redevelopment. The site is identified as the Machinery Row Promenade.

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

<sup>b</sup> The existing trail and passive use areas are located on Case Corporation property, but are maintained by the City.

<sup>c</sup> Easements are held on about one acre.

<sup>d</sup> Festival Park was renamed Paul G Harris Rotary Park in October 2016.

<sup>e</sup> Includes only the acreage located within the City. The remaining 14 acres of the park are located in the Village of Mount Pleasant.

<sup>f</sup> The easement is held on about five acres.

<sup>g</sup> Includes only the acreage located within the City. The remaining 35 acres of the park are located in the Village of Mount Pleasant.

<sup>h</sup> Sites were acquired by the City between 2016 and 2018.

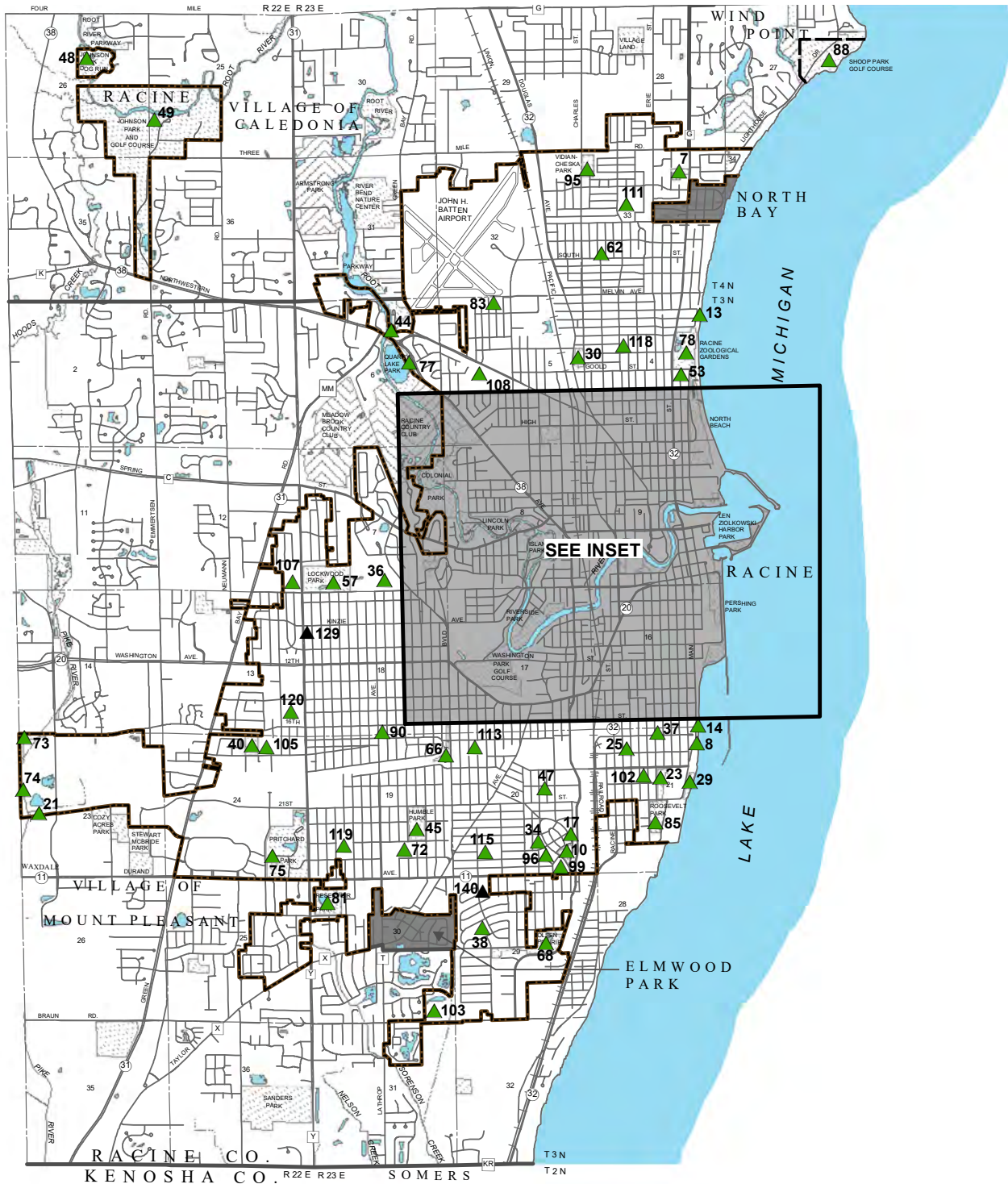
<sup>i</sup> Does not include easements.

<sup>j</sup> Includes only the acreage located within the City. The remaining 161 acres of the site are located in the Village of Mount Pleasant.

Source: City of Racine Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and SEWRPC



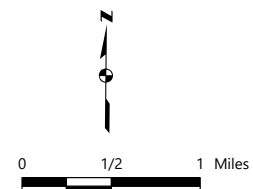
## Map 2.2 Park and Open Space Sites in the City of Racine Planning Area: 2016



### LEGEND

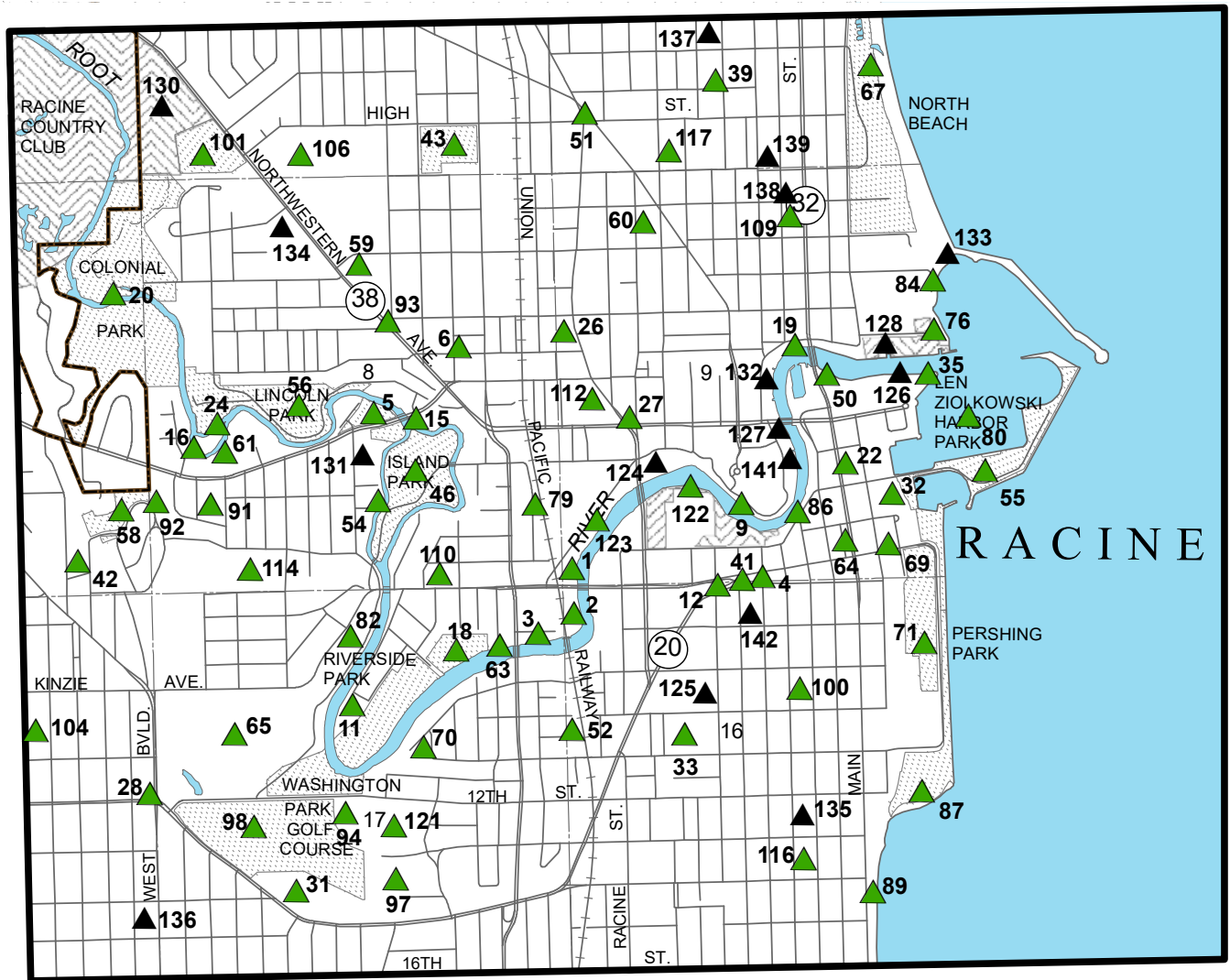
- ▲ PUBLICLY-OWNED SITE
- ▲ PRIVATELY-OWNED SITE
- 40 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 2.2)
- SURFACE WATER
- CITY OF RACINE CORPORATE LIMITS
- SHOOP PARK

Source: City of Racine and SEWRPC





Map 2.2 Inset



**LEGEND**

- ▲ PUBLICLY-OWNED SITE
- ▲ PRIVATELY-OWNED SITE
- SURFACE WATER
- CITY OF RACINE CORPORATE LIMITS
- 42** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 2.2)

Source: City of Racine and SEWRPC

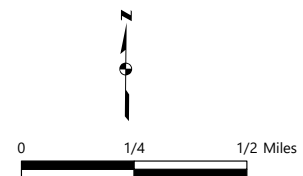


Table 2.3

## Selected Outdoor Recreation Facilities for General Use in the City of Racine Planning Area: 2016

Number on Map 2.2	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball-League Diamonds	Softball-Sandlot Diamonds	Playfield	Playground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer Field	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Trail <sup>a</sup>	Other
1	Public												
2	6th Street Park North 6th Street Park South	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Overlook, Fishing, Historical Exhibit Fishing, Canoe Launch, Shelter, Restrooms, Root River Environmental Education Community Center
3	Barbee Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Fishing Historical Exhibit, Passive Use, Flower Garden
4	BI-Centennial Gardens	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Fishing, Shelter, Picnic Area
5	Brose Park	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	1	--	--	X	--
6	Builder's Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Picnic Area, Fishing
7	Carlson Park	--	--	1	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
8	Carre Hogle Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
9	Case Corporation Easement	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
10	Case-Harmon Park	--	--	--	X	X	1	--	2	--	--	X	Passive Use
11	Cedar Bend Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive Use, Open Space
12	City Hall	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive Use, Open Space
13	City Land (Lake Michigan Shoreline North)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive Use, Open Space
14	City Land (Lake Michigan Shoreline South)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
15	City Land (Root River East)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Open Space
16	City Land (Root River West)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive Use
17	City Land (South Side Triangle)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Fishing, Canoe Launch
18	Clayton Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	1	--	--	--	X	Fishing, Pier, Boat Dock, Historical Exhibit
19	Colbert Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nature Area, Picnic Area, Fishing
20	Colonial Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Passive Use
21	County-owned Land	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Conservancy Area
22	Crosswalk Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area
23	De Koven Woods	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Picnic Area, Shelter, Restrooms, Historical Exhibit
24	WDNR Easement (Two Sites along Root River)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center
25	Dr. Hamilton Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Historical Exhibit
26	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	1	--	--	--	--	Scenic Overlook, Passive Use
27	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Cesar Chavez Community Center
28	Dr. Pierce Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Historical Exhibit, Picnic Area
29	Dodge Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	2	--	--	--	--	Festival Grounds, Fishing, Shelters, Restrooms, Historical Exhibit
30	Douglas Park	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Shelter, Rain Garden
31	Erskine Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
32	Festival Park <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
33	Franklin Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	4	--	--	--	--	Historical Exhibit, Fishing
34	Fuller Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
35	Gaslight Pointe	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--

Table continued on next page.

**Table 2.3 (Continued)**

Number on Map 2.2	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball- League Diamonds	Softball- Sandlot Diamonds	Playfield	Playground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer Field	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Trail <sup>a</sup>	Other
	Public (continued)												
36	Graceland Cemetery	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Cemetery, Historical Exhibit
37	Grand Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
38	Greencrest Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
39	Hagerer Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
40	Hantschel Park	--	--	1	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Shelter, ADA-Compliant Restrooms, Historical Exhibit
41	Harris Plaza	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Historical Exhibit
42	Harvey Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Historical Exhibit
43	Horlick Athletic Field	1	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Football Field, Restrooms, Historical Exhibit
44	Horlick Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Fishing, Boat/Canoe Launch, Restrooms, Shelter
45	Humble Park	2	1	--	X	X	3	2	3	--	--	--	Restrooms, Volleyball, Football Field, Humble Park Community Center, Sledding Hill, Historical Exhibit
46	Island Park	--	2	--	X	X	3	--	--	--	--	X	Fishing, Shelter, Restrooms, Picnic Areas, Canoe Launch, Historical Exhibit, Three Beds of Native Species of Prairie Plants
47	Jay-Eye-See Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
48	Johnson Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Dog Walking Area, Nature Area
49	Johnson Park Dog Run	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	2	--	--	--	18-Hole Golf Course, Picnic Areas, Fishing, Driving Range, Shelters, Restrooms, Historical Exhibit, Nature Area, Concessions, Disc Golf Course
50	John Thompson Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Historical Exhibit, Fishing
51	Jonas Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Historical Exhibit
52	Jones Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
53	Lakeview Park	--	--	1	X	X	3	2	--	--	--	--	--
54	Lee Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Nature Area
55	Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Fish Cleaning Station, Fishing, Restrooms, Dock, Picnic Areas
56	Lincoln Park	1 <sup>c</sup>	--	--	X	X	--	--	1	--	--	X	Wisconsin-DNR Steelhead Facility, Fishing, Picnic Area, Boat/Canoe Launch, Shelter, Historical Exhibit, Restrooms, Beds of Native Species of Prairie Plants
57	Lockwood Park	--	1 <sup>d</sup>	--	X	X	5 <sup>e</sup>	2	3	--	--	--	Fishing, Sledding Hill, Picnic Areas, Shelters, Historical Exhibit, Restrooms
58	Maple Grove Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Nature Area
59	Marino Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
60	Marquette Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	4	--	--	--	--	--
61	Mary Ellen Helgren Johnson Preserve	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nature Area, Historical Exhibit
62	Mat Matson Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	1	--	X	--	--	Shelter, Restrooms, Historical Exhibit
63	Memorial Drive West	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Fishing

Table continued on next page.

**Table 2.3 (Continued)**

Number on Map 2.2	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball-League Diamonds	Softball-Sandlot Diamonds	Playfield	Playground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer Field	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Trail <sup>a</sup>	Other
64	Public (continued)												
65	Monument Square	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Historical Exhibits
66	Mound Cemetery	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Cemetery, Historical Exhibit
67	N. Owen Davies Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	X		--
	North Beach Park	--	--	--									Sand Volleyball Courts, Picnic Areas, Restrooms, Bath House, Shelter, Gazebo, Fishing, Boardwalk, Nature Area, Concession Stand, Historical Exhibit
68	Olsen Prairie	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Nature Area
69	Park Place	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Water Feature Splash Pad, Historical Exhibit, Restrooms
70	Parker Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
71	Pershing Park	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	2	--	--	X	Skate Park, 10 Drive-in Boat Launches, Fishing, Shelter, Picnic Area, Restrooms, Fish Cleaning Station, Historical Exhibit, Concessions
72	Pierce Woods Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Shelter, Picnic Areas, Restrooms
73	Pike River Corridor	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area
74	Pike River Corridor Easement	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Conservancy Area
75	Pritchard Park	--	2	--	X	X	--	--	1	--	--	X	Fishing Pond, Sand Volleyball, Picnic Areas, Restrooms, Shelters, Veteran's Memorial Exhibit
76	Pugh Recreation Area	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Fishing, Pier, Dock
77	Quarry Lake Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	X	Sand Volleyball, Bath House, Picnic Areas, Pier, Fishing, Restrooms, Dog Run Area
78	Racine Zoological Gardens	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Zoo, Restrooms, Shelter, Picnic Area, Historical Exhibit
79	Randolph Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive Use, Gardens
80	Reefpoint Marina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	Marina, Restrooms, Picnic Areas
81	Reservoir Park	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Sledding Hill, Fishing, Picnic Area, Nature Area
82	Riverside Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Fishing, Nature Area
83	Robert Heck Park	--	--	1	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Restrooms, Shelter
84	Rooney Recreation Area	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Fishing, Boat Launch, Pier, Dock, Historical Exhibit
85	Roosevelt Park	--	2	--	X	X	--	2	1	--	--	--	Picnic Area, Shelter, Restrooms, Dr. John Bryant Community Center, Historical Exhibit
86	Sam Azarian Overlook	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Historical Exhibit, Scenic Overlook
87	Samuel Myers Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Canoe/Kayak Launch, Fishing, Historical Exhibit, Gazebo
88	Shoop Park Golf Course	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9-Hole Golf Course, Fishing, Restrooms, Piers, Shelter
89	Simonson Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	Scenic Overlook

Table continued on next page.

**Table 2.3 (Continued)**

Number on Map 2.2	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball-League Diamonds	Softball-Sandlot Diamonds	Playfield	Playground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer Field	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Trail <sup>a</sup>	Other
	Public (continued)												
90	Solbraa Park	--	1	--	X	X	--	2	--	X	--	--	Restrooms, Shelter
91	Springvale East Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
92	Springvale West Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nature Area
93	State-Hamilton Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Historical Exhibit
94	Tyler-Domer Community Center	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Community Center, Restrooms, Historical Exhibit
95	Vidian-Cheska Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Historical Exhibit
96	Wallis Park	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
97	Washington Park Bowl	1	1	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
98	Washington Park Golf Course	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	9-Hole Golf Course, Shelter, Restrooms, Historical Exhibit, Concessions
99	Wellington Park	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
100	West Park	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Passive Use, Flower Gardens
101	Wustum Museum	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Museum, Historical Exhibit
102	Bull Fine Arts Elementary School	--	--	--	X	X	--	3	--	--	--	--	--
103	Dr. Jones Elementary School	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
104	Fratt Elementary School	--	--	1	X	X	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
105	Giese Elementary School	--	--	2	X	X	--	4	--	--	--	--	--
106	Gilmore Middle School	--	--	3	X	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--
107	Goodland Elementary School	--	--	1	X	X	--	8	--	--	--	--	--
108	Horlick High School and Wadewitz Elementary School	--	--	--	X	X	8	4	2	--	--	--	Running Track, Football Field
109	Janes Elementary School	--	--	--	--	X	--	2	--	--	--	--	Tetherball
110	Jefferson Lighthouse Elementary School	--	--	--	--	X	--	5	--	--	--	--	--
111	Jerstad-Agerholm Elementary/Middle School	--	--	1	X	X	--	4	1	--	--	--	--
112	Julian Thomas Elementary School	--	--	--	--	X	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
113	Knapp Elementary School	--	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Running Track
114	McKinley Middle School	--	--	--	X	--	--	2	1	--	--	--	--
115	Mitchell Elementary/Middle School	--	--	1	X	X	--	5	1	--	--	--	--
116	Racine Civil Leaders Academy	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
117	Red Apple Elementary School	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
118	Roosevelt Elementary School	--	--	2	X	X	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
119	S.C. Johnson Elementary School	--	--	1	X	X	--	4	1	--	--	--	--
120	Starbuck Middle School	--	--	1	X	--	--	6	2	--	--	--	Running Track, Football Field
121	Washington Park High School	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	--	--	--	Undeveloped
122	Machinery Row Promenade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Undeveloped
123	West Bluff Overlook	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Subtotal – 123 Sites	5	11	17	47	55	23	79	29	2	3	--	--

Table continued on next page.

**Table 2.3 (Continued)**

Number on Map 2.2	Site Name	Baseball Diamonds	Softball- League Diamonds	Softball- Sandlot Diamonds	Playfield	Playground	Tennis Courts	Basketball Goals	Soccer Field	Ice Skating Rink	Pool or Beach	Trail <sup>b</sup>	Other
124	Private	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Yacht Club, Drive-in Boat Launch Community Center
125	5th Street Yacht Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Marina
126	Bray Center	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Yacht Club, Drive-in Boat Launch
127	Gaslight Pointe Marina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Marina
128	Harbor Lite Yacht Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
129	Pugh Marina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
130	Racine Christian School	--	--	2	X	X	5	1	--	--	X	--	18-Hole Golf Course, Bath House, Platform Tennis Courts
131	Racine Country Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
132	Racine Lutheran High School	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	Marina, Drive-in Boat Launch
133	Racine Riverside Marina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Yacht Club
134	Racine Yacht Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
135	Sacred Heart/John Paul II Academy	--	--	1	X	X	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
136	St. Catherine's High School	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
137	St. Edwards School	--	--	--	X	X	--	6	--	--	--	--	--
138	St. John Nepomuk School	--	--	--	--	X	--	3	--	--	--	--	--
139	St. John's Lutheran School	--	--	--	--	X	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
140	St. Joseph's Grade School	--	--	--	--	X	--	2	--	--	--	--	--
141	St. Lucy School	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	Marina, Drive-in Boat Launch
142	West Shore Marine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Wisconsin Lutheran School	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Subtotal – 19 Sites	--	--	3	5	7	5	18	1	--	1	--	--
	Total – 142 Sites	5	11	20	52	62 <sup>f</sup>	28	97	58 <sup>g</sup>	2	4	--	--

<sup>a</sup> Includes only walking/hiking trails located within parks.

<sup>b</sup> Festival Park was renamed Paul G. Harris Rotary Park in October 2016.

<sup>c</sup> The baseball diamond also serves as a league softball diamond.

<sup>d</sup> The league softball diamond also serves as a baseball diamond.

<sup>e</sup> All tennis courts have lights.

<sup>f</sup> Two playgrounds associated with apartment complexes near Shelbourne Court and Crossridge Drive are also available to the general public.

<sup>g</sup> Includes 10 soccer fields located at Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park and 18 soccer fields located at the Racine Area Soccer Association. Both sites are located in the Village of Caledonia.

Source: City of Racine Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and SEWRPC

hole regulation golf courses, four football fields, three running tracks, 16 boat/canoe launches, one marina, three sledding hills, volleyball courts, fishing areas, a skate park, a disc golf course (Johnson Park and Golf Course) hiking trails, multiple-use trails, two dog exercise areas, a zoo, a museum, a festival grounds, and six community centers.

The number of public recreational facilities has changed due to the removal or addition of facilities at parks and schools between 2011 and 2016. These changes include removal of the sandlot ball diamond at Island Park and eight sandlot ball diamonds at five schools; removal of a basketball goal at Humble Park and 11 goals at three schools, but the addition of three goals at two schools; removal of the playground at Paul P. Harris Rotary Park (formerly Festival Park); removal of two tennis courts from the inventory of park facilities at Cedar Bend Park due to their condition; addition of two soccer fields at Johnson Park and Golf Course and four soccer fields at three schools, but the removal of a soccer field at one school, and the removal of the football field at Lincoln Park; and the addition of the SC Johnson Community Aquatic Center at Pritchard Park in spring 2018. Additional information on new or removed facilities at City of Racine parks is provided in the following section.

### ***Private Facilities***

Recreational facilities available at privately-owned sites included three sandlot ball diamonds, five playfields, seven playgrounds, 18 basketball goals, five tennis courts, a soccer field, a swimming pool, an 18-hole regulation golf course, five marinas, three yacht clubs, a community center, the Racine Baseball Club at 1501 Rapids Drive, and platform tennis courts. Although not located in the planning area, there are 10 soccer fields at Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park and 18 soccer fields at the adjacent Racine Area Soccer Association complex located in the Village of Caledonia just west of the City.

The number of private recreational facilities has also changed due to the removal or addition of facilities at private schools and the other privately-owned recreational sites between 2011 and 2016. These changes include the removal of five basketball goals at two private schools, but the addition of two goals at another private school; and the removal a playground at one private school. A new soccer field was developed by one private school, and six new soccer fields have been developed at the Racine Area Soccer Association complex in the Village of Caledonia.

### **City of Racine Park System**

In 2016, the City of Racine owned 92 park and open space sites, encompassing a total of 1,166 acres, or about 12 percent of the planning area. Between 2016 and 2018, the City acquired the three-acre West Bluff Overlook and the six-acre Machinery Row Promenade, thus bringing the City park system total to 94 sites encompassing 1,175 acres. Both sites are currently undeveloped. The City of Racine park and open space sites ranged from 950 square feet (Jonas Park) to 335 acres (Johnson Park and Golf Course). Park and open space sites owned by the City are listed in Table 2.2. A description of each City-owned park and open space site is included in the previous edition of this report. Major changes to park facilities between 2011 and 2016 are summarized below.

#### ***6th Street Park South***

6th Street Park South is a two-acre passive use site centrally located within the City along the Root River. Existing facilities include a canoe launch, fishing, a shelter, and restrooms. The site also includes a portion of the Root River Pathway and about one acre of primary environmental corridor. The Root River Environmental Education Community Center is also located on the site. The community center is managed by the University of Wisconsin – Parkside and provides educational and recreational opportunities to the community and teaches environmental stewardship. The community center existed when the previous park plan was prepared, but was not inventoried as part of the park.

#### ***Cedar Bend Park***

Cedar Bend Park is a two-acre neighborhood park centrally located within the City along the Root River. The park includes a play area and a tennis court. The park also includes a portion of the Root River Pathway. The park includes a primary environmental corridor consisting of an area of wetlands. Since 2011, the number of maintained tennis courts has been reduced from three to one.

### ***Colbert Park***

Colbert Park is a one-acre passive use park located along the Root River in the eastern portion the City. Existing facilities include a pier, a dock, fishing, and a historical exhibit. Portions of the Lake Michigan Pathway and Root River Pathway abut the park. A portion of the park includes primary environmental corridor. Since 2011, a historical exhibit was developed at the park.

### ***Colonial Park***

Colonial Park is a 73-acre nature area located along the Root River in the western portion of the City. Existing facilities include hiking trails, a picnic area, and fishing. The park also includes a portion of the Root River Pathway and much of the Colonial Park Woods natural area. The majority of the park is encompassed within primary environmental corridor consisting of wetlands and a small pocket of woodlands. Since 2011, a shelter and restrooms have been removed from the park.

### ***Dodge Park***

Dodge Park is a five-acre passive use park located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the southeastern portion of the City. The park is encompassed within a primary environmental corridor. Since 2011, a portion of the Lake Michigan Pathway was developed at the park, which provides a scenic overlook of Lake Michigan.

### ***Festival Park (Paul P. Harris Rotary Park)***

Festival Park is a four-acre special use park located in the eastern portion of the City. The park includes concessions, shelters, restrooms, fishing facilities, and a historical exhibit. The park also abuts the Lake Michigan Pathway. Since 2011, the City has removed the playground from the park. The park was renamed Paul P. Harris Rotary Park in October 2016, and in 2017, the Paul P. Harris performance stage was planned for this location. Subsequent chapters of this plan refer to the park using that name.

### ***Hantschel Park***

Hantschel Park is an eight-acre neighborhood park located in the western portion of the City. Existing facilities include a sandlot ball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a shelter, and a historical exhibit. A wetland is located within the park. Since 2011, the City has renovated the restrooms at the park. The restrooms are now ADA compliant.

### ***Humble Park***

Humble Park is a 17-acre community park located in the southern portion of the City. Existing facilities include two baseball diamonds, one league ball diamond, a basketball court, a playfield, a playground, three soccer fields, three tennis courts, a sledding hill, a volleyball court, a football field, restrooms, a historical exhibit, and the Humble Park Community Center. Since 2011, the City has removed a basketball goal from the park.

### ***Island Park***

Island Park is a 21-acre community park centrally located within the City along the Root River. Existing facilities include two league ball diamonds, a playfield, a playground, three tennis courts, restrooms, a shelter, a canoe launch, fishing, picnic areas, and a historical exhibit. The park also includes a portion of the Root River Pathway. The park is encompassed within a primary environmental corridor, which consists of a small pocket of wetlands. Since 2011, the City has added three beds of native species of prairie plants and installed a historic marker and planted a tree in honor of prominent landscape architect, Jens Jensen. The City removed the sandlot ball diamond from the park. The sandlot ball diamond area can still be used as a playfield.

### ***Johnson Park and Golf Course***

Johnson Park and Golf Course is a 335-acre major park located north of STH 38, and is surrounded by the Village of Caledonia. Existing facilities include a playfield, a playground, an 18-hole golf course, driving range, picnic areas, shelters, restrooms, concessions, a historical exhibit, and a nature area. The park also encompasses a pond and access to the Root River that provides for fishing. The park includes 99 acres of primary environmental corridor and 33 acres of isolated natural resource area. Isolated pockets of wetlands and woodlands outside of environmental corridors are also located within the park. The park also contains portions of the Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way and Root River Bluff critical species habitat sites. Since 2011, two soccer fields and a disc golf course have been developed at the park.



### ***Lincoln Park***

Lincoln Park is a 25-acre community park located in the western portion of the City along the Root River. Existing facilities include a baseball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a soccer field, restrooms, a picnic area, a shelter, two canoe launches, fishing, and a historical exhibit. The park also contains a portion of the Root River Pathway and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Steelhead Facility. The park includes about 11 acres of primary environmental corridor and woodlands outside the primary environmental corridor. The baseball diamond at the park is also used for adult league softball programs. Since 2011, the City added beds of native species of prairie plants and the football field was removed from the park. The area can still be used as a playfield.

### ***Lockwood Park***

Lockwood Park is a 38-acre community park located in the western portion of the City. Existing facilities include one league ball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a basketball court, five tennis courts, three soccer fields, a sledding hill, picnic areas, shelters, restrooms, a small pond for fishing, and a historical exhibit. The league softball diamond at the park is also used as a baseball diamond. Since 2011, lights have been added to the tennis courts.

### ***Park Place***

Park Place is a one-acre passive use site located in the eastern portion of the City. A water feature splash pad and a historical exhibit are located at the site. Since 2011, restrooms have been developed at the site.

### ***Pershing Park***

Pershing Park is a 28-acre community park located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the eastern portion of the City. Existing facilities include a playfield, two soccer fields, a skate park, a 10-lane boat launch, a picnic area, a shelter, restrooms, concessions, a historical exhibit, and fishing facilities, including a fish cleaning station. The park also includes a portion of the Lake Michigan Pathway. The park includes about 12 acres of primary environmental corridor. Since 2011, concessions has been added as a park amenity.

### ***Riverside Park***

Riverside Park is a 21-acre neighborhood park and nature area centrally located within the City along the Root River. The park includes picnic areas and fishing. A portion of the Root River Pathway is also located in the park. The park includes primary environmental corridor containing woodlands and wetlands. In the previous park plan, the park was identified as a one-acre site due to a 20-acre portion of this park being included as part of the adjacent City-owned Washington Park Golf Course.

### ***Samuel Myers Park***

Samuel Myers Park is a seven-acre neighborhood park located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the eastern portion of the City. Existing facilities include canoe/kayak launch, fishing facilities, and a historical exhibit. The park also includes a portion of the Lake Michigan Pathway. Most of the park is located within a primary environmental corridor. Since 2011, a gazebo was developed at the park. The City has also been constructing a walking trail and restoring native dune grasses at the park.

### ***Simonson Park***

Simonson Park is a four-acre passive use park located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the eastern portion of the City. The park includes a portion of the Lake Michigan Pathway and a scenic overlook of Lake Michigan. The park is encompassed within a primary environmental corridor. The scenic overlook existed at the park when the previous park plan was prepared, but was not inventoried as part of the site.

### ***Other Acquisition***

Subsequent to the completion of the parks inventory, the City acquired six acres of land along the Root River associated with Machinery Row redevelopment. The site is identified as the Machinery Row Promenade.

### ***Accessibility and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance***

ADA is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. Under this law, people with disabilities are entitled to all of the rights, privileges, advantages, and opportunities that

others have when participating in civic activities. In September 2010, the Department of Justice revised the regulations implementing the ADA, including the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.<sup>4</sup>

Public entities have an ongoing obligation to ensure that people with disabilities are not excluded from programs and services because facilities are inaccessible. Older facilities are not exempt from the ADA; however, the law allows flexibility in deciding how to meet accessibility obligations. Structural changes to facilities can be made to provide access, the program or service can be relocated to an accessible facility, or the program or service can be provided in an alternate manner. Structural changes that meet 2010 ADA Standards are required when other solutions are not feasible. If many access improvements are needed and there are insufficient resources available to complete the improvements in a fiscal year, the improvements can be extended over time so ADA requirements are met.

Since the adoption of the previous City park plan in 2011, the City has identified ADA accessibility or made ADA accessibility improvements to various City parks. ADA improvements may include developing access to the park facilities or upgrading a park facility to become ADA compliant, such as restrooms. The following City parks have existing ADA accessibility: 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park North, 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park South, Barbee Park, BI-Centennial Gardens, Cedar Bend Park, Clayton Park, Colbert Park, Crosswalk Park, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza, Dr. Pierce Park, Dodge Park, Douglas Park, Erskine Park, Franklin Park, Gaslight Pointe, Graceland Cemetery, Grand Park, Harris Plaza, Horlick Athletic Field, Island Park, John Thompson Park, Jonas Park, Lincoln Park, Lockwood Park, Marquette Park, Monument Square, North Beach, Park Place, Pershing Park, Pierce Woods Park, Pugh Recreation Area, Racine Zoological Gardens, Rooney Recreation Area, Roosevelt Park, Sam Azarian Overlook, State-Hamilton Park, and West Park. The City's other existing parks and recreational facilities will require some improvements to ensure the sites are barrier-free and accessible to people with disabilities.

### **Racine County Parks**

Racine County owns five park sites wholly or partially located within the City of Racine: Horlick Park, Pritchard Park, Quarry Lake Park, Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park, and Reefpoint Marina. Pritchard Park is located north of STH 11 and west of Ohio Street in the southwestern portion of the City. The park encompasses 73 acres and includes two league ball diamonds, a soccer field, a playground, a playfield, the SC Johnson Community Aquatic Center, picnic areas, shelters, sand volleyball court, a hiking trail, restrooms, and a Veteran's Memorial Exhibit. The park encompasses a pond that provides opportunities for fishing in the summer. The park also includes a 12-acre isolated natural resource area consisting of woodlands, which contains the Pritchard Park Woods critical species habitat site. In addition to the community pool, the County plans to develop a multi-purpose turf field before 2020 and develop two league ball diamonds and four youth-sized ball diamonds in the next five to 10 years.

Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park is located in the eastern portion of the City along the Lake Michigan shoreline and the Racine Harbor. The park encompasses 16 acres and includes picnic areas, a dock, areas for shoreline fishing, a fish cleaning station, and restrooms. The park was renamed in recognition of former County Executive Len Ziolkowski in May 2016.

The County also owns Reefpoint Marina, which is a 45-acre site located in the Racine Harbor. The marina is managed by a private company under contract to the County. The marina has 921 boat slips, two permanent piers, an outdoor pool, restrooms, a fish cleaning station, and picnic areas. The pool is open to the public every day at various times throughout the week, but a daily fee is charged for people over two years old. The pool is seasonal and is available for use from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

In addition, the County owns two parks that are partially located within the City of Racine, Horlick Park and Quarry Lake Park. Horlick Park is a 15-acre park located along the Root River north of Rapids Drive and southwest of the airport. A one-acre portion of the park is located in the northwestern portion of the City. The park includes a boat/canoe launch, a shelter, fishing, and restrooms. The park also contains a small portion of the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries, a geological area of statewide or greater significance. Quarry Lake Park is a 39-acre park located along the Root River, south of Northwestern Avenue (STH 38). A four-

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<sup>4</sup> Documented in a report prepared by the U.S. Department of Justice entitled, *ADA Update: A Primer for State and Local Governments*, June 2015.

acre portion of the park is located in the northwestern portion of the City. The park includes a swimming beach, a sand volleyball court, a bath house, a fishing pier, a picnic area, a trail, and restrooms. In 2011, the County developed a dog park (exercise area) at the park. The park also contains a 23-acre portion of the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries geological area.

### **Other Public Sites**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) owns two easements within the City. Both easements are located along the Root River on the south and west sides of the City-owned Lincoln Park. Together, the sites encompass one acre. The Village of Mount Pleasant also owns one site and has an easement on a second site within the City. Both sites are conservancy areas located in the Pike River corridor in the western portion of the City.

### **Trail Facilities**

Opportunities for trail-related outdoor recreation activities, such as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and cross-country skiing, are provided at trail facilities within park and open space sites in the planning area, as noted on Table 2.3. The City also provides the Lake Michigan Pathway and the Root River Pathway for biking and hiking. The Lake Michigan Pathway is about 10 miles in length and traverses north to south within the City near the Lake Michigan shoreline. The pathway provides a connection to the County-owned Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha (MRK) Trail on the north side of the City and the County-owned North Shore Trail on the south side of the City. The Root River Pathway is about five miles in length and is primarily located on park lands along the Root River. The pathway extends from the Main Street Bridge, near downtown, to Colonial Park, with an extension along City streets that connects to the County-owned MRK Trail on the north side of the City and the County-owned North Shore and Racine-Kansasville Trails on the south side of the City. Existing City-owned trails outside of parks are shown on Map 2.3.

Racine County maintains the MRK Trail, the North Shore Trail, and the Racine-Kansasville Trail, which accommodate opportunities for hiking and biking within the City. The MRK Trail extends from the northern portion of the City northward to Milwaukee County. The North Shore Trail extends from the southern portion of the City southward to Kenosha County. The Racine-Kansasville Trail extends westward from the North Shore Trail near West Boulevard in the City to the Village of Sturtevant, just west of the City of Racine. Portions of each trail are located within the City. Racine County has also developed a 100-mile, signed on-street bike route throughout the County. Portions of the on-street bike route within the planning area are located along Three Mile Road in the northern portion of the City and along Lighthouse Drive, which traverses the City-owned Shoop Park in the Village of Wind Point. Existing County trails are also shown on Map 2.3.

The Village of Mount Pleasant has constructed portions of a trail along the Pike River, which connects to the Racine-Kansasville Trail. Although outside the City, the trail is shown on Map 2.3 for informational purposes.

## **2.5 NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES**

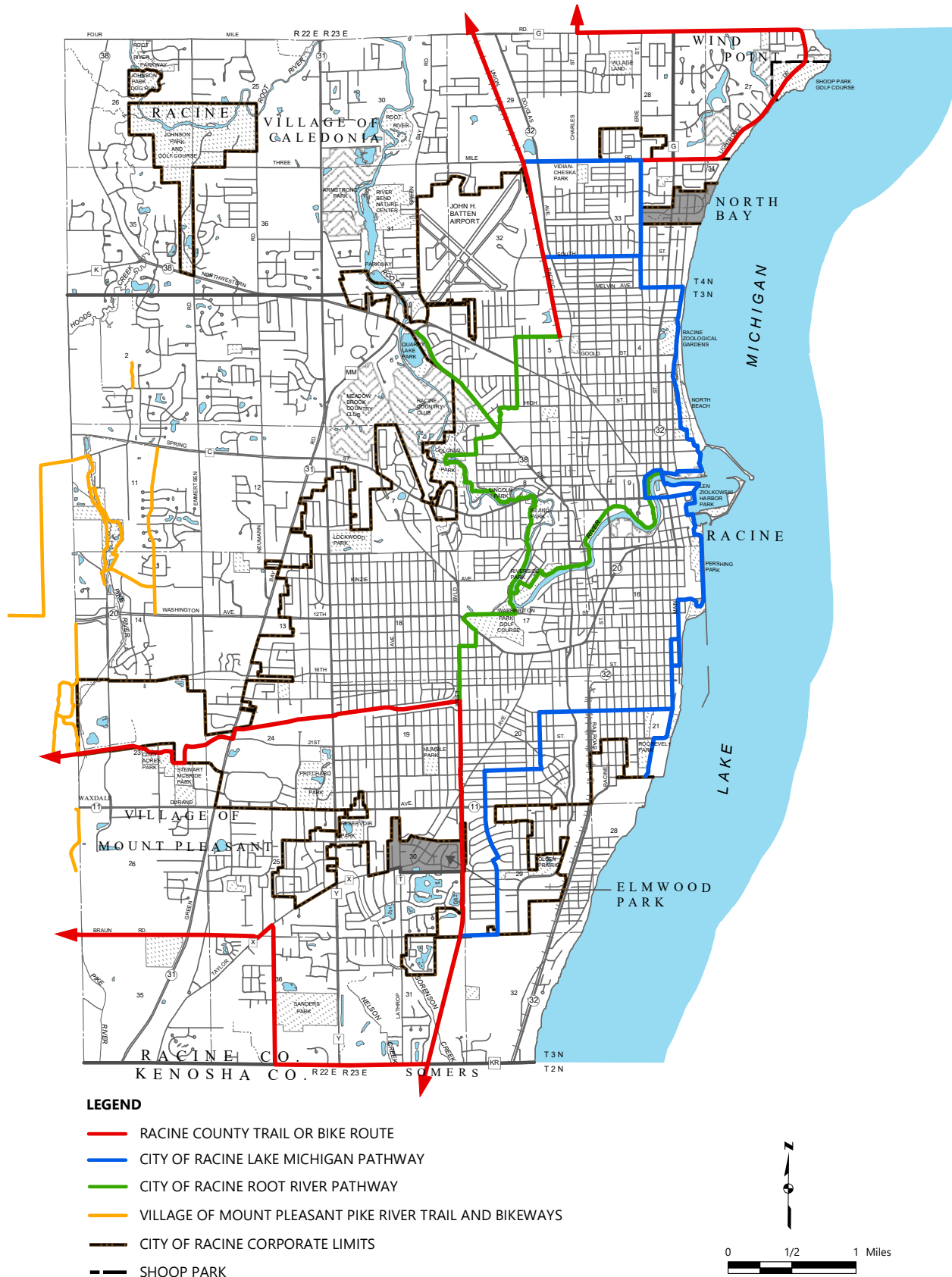
The natural resources of an area are important determinants of the ability of an area to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life and to maintain its social and economic well-being. The park and open space plan should seek to preserve the most significant remaining aspects of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

### **Surface Water Resources**

Surface water resources, including lakes, streams, and associated floodplains, form an important element of the natural resource base of the City of Racine planning area. The planning area consists of the Root River watershed, the Pike River watershed, and two watersheds that drain directly to Lake Michigan. Ultimately, all watersheds within the planning area drain to Lake Michigan. The surface water drainage is shown on Map 2.4.

## Map 2.3

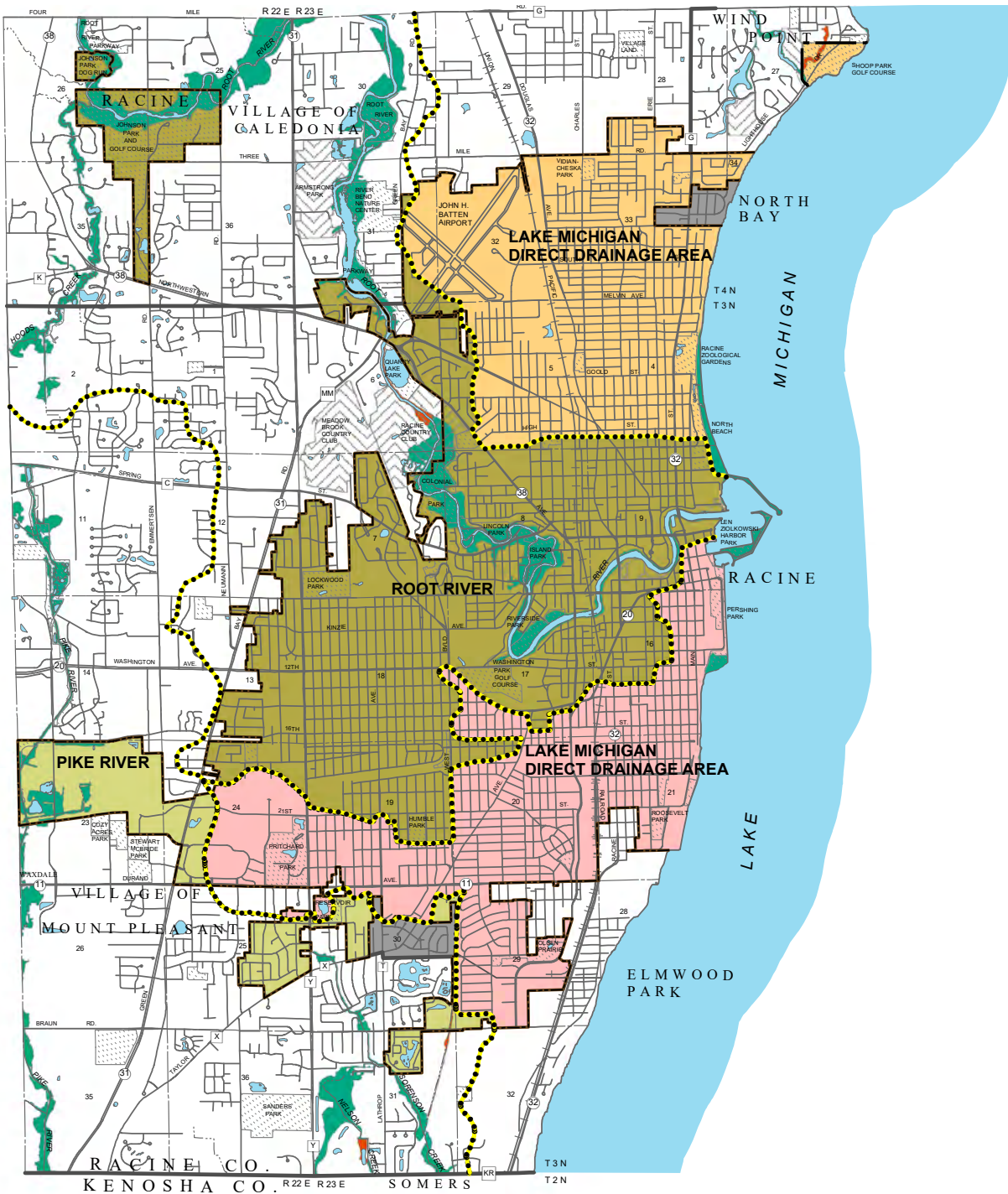
### Existing Trails in the City of Racine Planning Area and Environs: 2016





## Map 2.4

### Surface Water Drainage and Floodplains in the City of Racine Planning Area and Environs: 2012



Surface water resources provide recreational opportunities, influence the physical development, and enhance the aesthetic quality of the City. Lakes and streams provide numerous opportunities for water-related recreational activities, such as swimming, fishing, canoe/kayaking, and other watercraft activities. Lake Michigan is also the major source of supply for domestic, municipal, and industrial water users in the City. Lake Michigan and other surface water resources are shown on Map 2.4.

Approximately eight linear miles of streams have been identified in the planning area. Perennial streams within the planning area include the Root River, Pike River, Hoods Creek, and Sorenson Creek. The Root River and Pike River provide opportunities for fishing and canoe/kayaking within the City.

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

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

Floodplain maps for Racine County were updated in 2012 under a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Modernization Program. The floodplain delineations are shown on Map 2.4, and include floodplains located along the Lake Michigan shoreline, the Root River, Pike River, Hoods Creek, and Sorenson Creek.

The Map Modernization Program identifies the 1-percent-annual-probability floodplain, including floodway and floodfringe areas, and the 0.2-percent-annual-probability (500-year recurrence interval) flood event. The 1-percent-annual-probability floodplain information consists of floodplains delineated by known flood elevations and floodplains where flood elevations have not been precisely determined; these “approximate” floodplains were based on less precise floodplain maps and other factors, such as soil type and vegetative growth. Detailed floodplains have been identified along all major streams and tributaries and the Lake Michigan shoreline. Approximate floodplains have been identified around a drainage swale in Shoop Park and around a stream located west of Spruce Street in the southern portion of the City. The 1-percent-annual-probability floodplain encompasses 508 acres, or about 5 percent of the planning area.

That portion of the Pike River 1-percent-annual-probability floodplain, located in the southwestern portion of the City of Racine, is based on Village of Mount Pleasant planned land uses and planned channel conditions within the City as part of the Pike River Restoration Project. The entire stretch of the Pike River within the City encompasses less than one mile. Phases 1 through 6 of the Pike River Restoration Project have been completed, including stretches of the Pike River within the City and the Village of Mount Pleasant from Old Spring Street south to one-half mile south of STH 11 (Durand Avenue). The final three phases (Phases 7, 8, and 9) were completed in 2017. Trail construction in Phases 7, 8, and 9 is expected to be completed in 2018.

Thus far, the Pike River Restoration Project has increased flood storage, expanded the existing environmental corridor, improved water quality and aquatic habitat, restored and increased wetlands, and provided a portion of a recreational trail system. The Village will continue to administer the Pike River restoration by implementing low-flow channel improvements, expanding in-stream habitats to increase fish and other aquatic wildlife diversity, constructing storm water basins/ponds, restoring riparian areas, replacing invasive plant species with native prairie vegetation and plant emergents (plants that grow in water and are visible

above the surface), and expanding the Pike River Pathway recreation trail, which is proposed to abut or cross portions of the City of Racine. The Village also plans to acquire additional lands along the Pike River to expand the environmental corridor.

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

### **Wetlands**

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

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

### **Woodlands**

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

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

Woodlands are scattered throughout the planning area, but a majority of the woodlands are located within City- or County-owned parks.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Primary Environmental Corridors**

As shown on Map 2.5, primary environmental corridors are located along the Lake Michigan shoreline and the Root River. These corridors encompassed a total area of 570 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area.

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

### **Secondary Environmental Corridors**

As shown on Map 2.5, secondary environmental corridors in the City of Racine planning area are located along the Pike River in the western portion of the City. Secondary environmental corridors encompass 18 acres, or less than 1 percent of the planning area.

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

### **Isolated Natural Resource Areas**

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

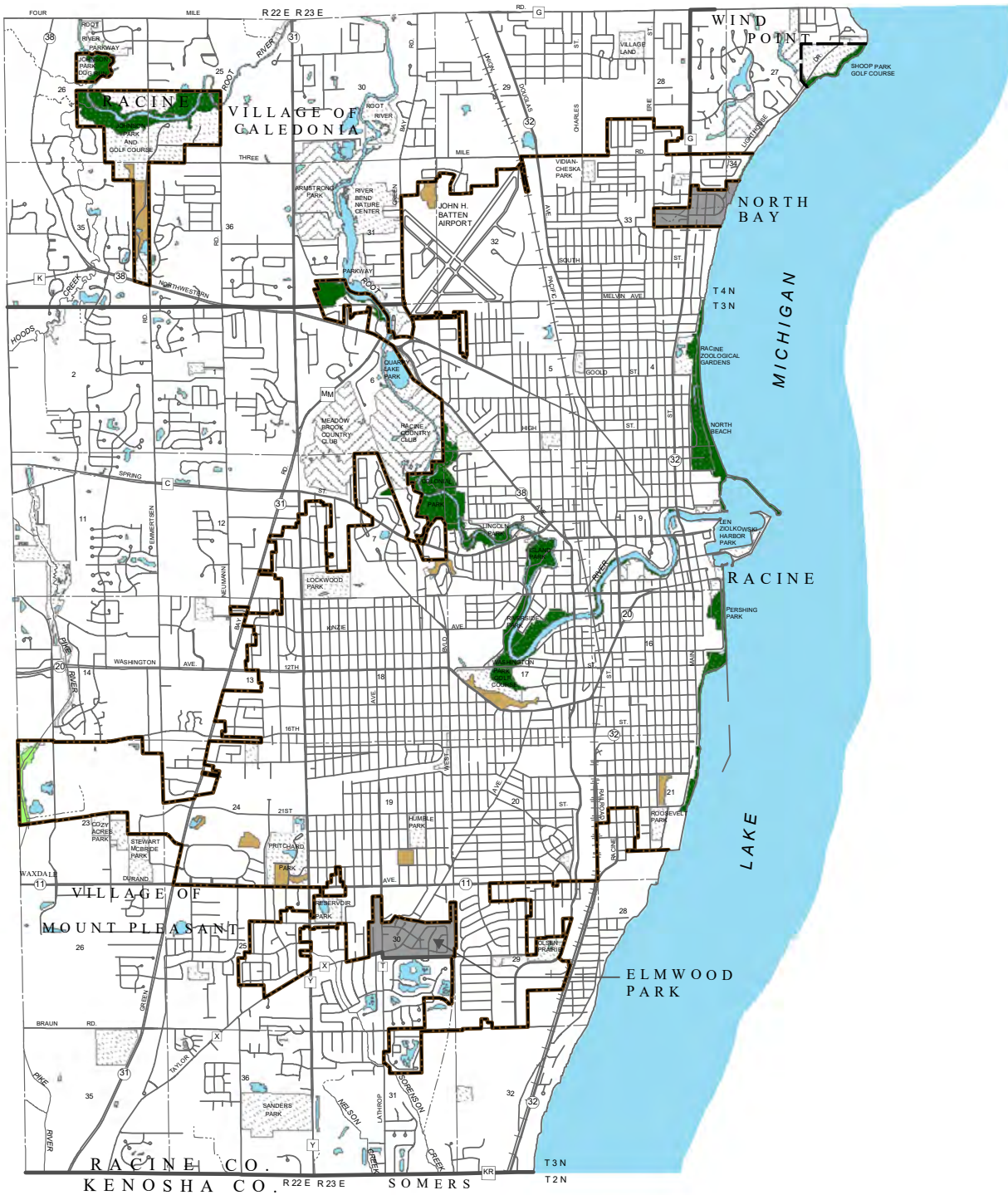
As shown on Map 2.5, isolated natural resource areas are scattered throughout the planning area with a majority of the areas located within publicly-owned park sites. Isolated natural resource areas encompass 114 acres, or about 1 percent of the planning area.

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



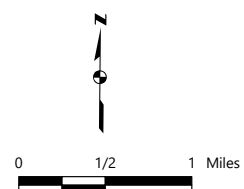
## Map 2.5 Environmentally Significant Lands in the City of Racine Planning Area



### LEGEND

- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
- SURFACE WATER
- CITY OF RACINE CORPORATE LIMITS
- SHOOP PARK

Source: SEWRPC



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

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

As indicated on Map 2.6 and Table 2.4, a 74-acre portion of the Colonial Park Woods Natural Area, a site of countywide or greater significance, was identified within the City of Racine planning area. A 20-acre portion of the natural area is also located in the Village of Mount Pleasant.

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. Five critical species habitat sites have been identified within the planning area. The five sites are shown on Map 2.6 and Table 2.4 and encompass 59 acres, or about 1 percent of the planning area. Four critical species habitat sites are located wholly or partially in the City of Racine, and the remaining site is mostly located in the City-owned Shoop Park located in the Village of Wind Point.

Aquatic habitat areas consist of rivers, streams, and lakes that support endangered, threatened, or rare fish, herptile, or mussel species; support extensive beds of mussel species; or are located within or adjacent to a natural area. Based on a ranking system developed as part of the regional natural areas plan, aquatic areas were designated as AQ-1, aquatic areas of statewide or greater significance; AQ-2, aquatic areas of countywide or regional significance; or AQ-3, aquatic areas of local significance. Three aquatic habitat areas were identified within the planning area. All three areas are considered to be of local significance. These aquatic habitat areas, inventoried in 1994, are also shown on Map 2.6 and Table 2.4 and encompass nearly four linear miles within the planning area.

In addition, portions of three geological areas, encompassing approximately 15 acres, were identified within the planning area. The Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries site has been identified as a geological area of statewide or greater significance and the Wind Point site has been identified as a geological area of countywide or regional significance. The majority of the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries site is located in the Village of Mount Pleasant within the County-owned Quarry Lake Park and along the Root River. The majority of the Wind Point site is located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the City-owned Shoop Park located within the Village of Wind Point. A portion of the Root River Outcrops site, a geological area of local significance, is located along the Root River within the City-owned Johnson Park Dog Run. These sites are also shown on Map 2.6 and Table 2.4.

## 2.6 SUMMARY

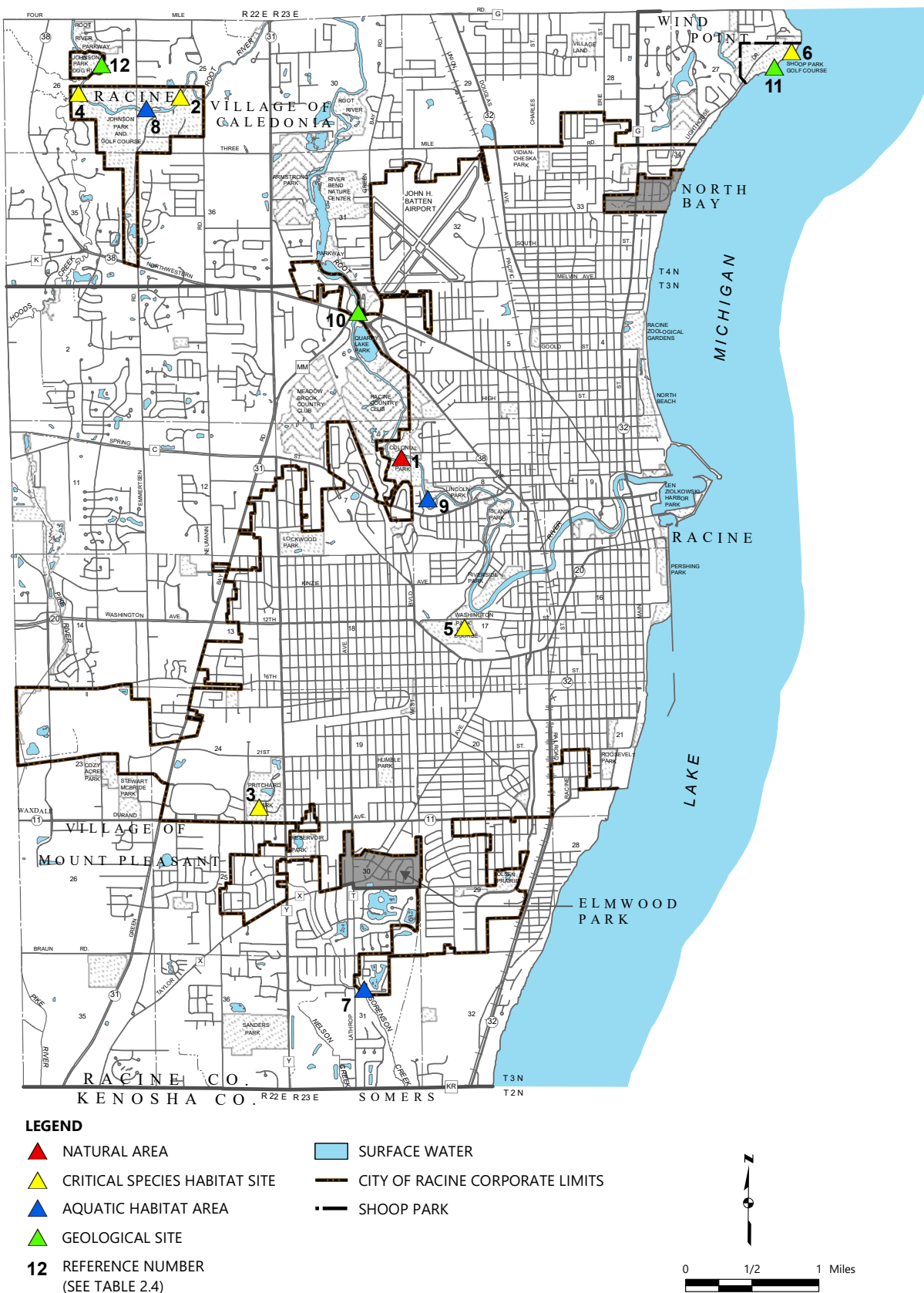
This chapter has presented a general description of the City of Racine planning area, including a description of population levels and land use, existing park and open space sites, and natural resource features such as environmental corridors, wetlands, woodlands, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites. The key components of this chapter are as follows:

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

## Map 2.6

### Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites in the City of Racine Planning Area: 2009



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC

**Table 2.4**  
**Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites in the City of Racine Planning Area: 2009**

Site Type <sup>a</sup>	Number on Map 2.6	Area Name	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
NA-2	1	Colonial Park Woods	T3N, R23E Sections 5, 6, 7, 8	City of Racine and Private	74 <sup>b</sup>	Complex of lowland hardwoods, floodplain forest, and upland mesic to dry-mesic woods bordering the Root River. A number of uncommon species are present, including the State-designated endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ) and the State-designated threatened forked aster ( <i>Aster furcatus</i> )
	2	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way	T4N, R22E Section 25	Racine County, City of Racine, the Caledonia Conservancy, and other Private <sup>c</sup>	20 <sup>d</sup>	Site contains blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ), a State-designated endangered species and hoptree ( <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> ) and heart-leaved skullcap ( <i>Scutellaria ovata</i> ), State-designated special concern species
CSH	3	Pritchard Park Woods	T3N, R22E Section 24	Racine County	10	Site contains red trillium ( <i>Trillium recurvatum</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
	4	Root River Bluff	T4N, R22E Section 26	Racine County, City of Racine, and Private <sup>c</sup>	11 <sup>e</sup>	Site contains hoptree ( <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
	5	Washington Park Woods	T3N, R23E Section 17	City of Racine	14	Site contains blue-stemmed goldenrod ( <i>Solidago caesia</i> ), a State-designated endangered species
	6	Wind Point	T4N, R23E Section 27	City of Racine and Village of Wind Point	4 <sup>f</sup>	Site contains sea rocket ( <i>Cakile edentula</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
AQ-3 (RSH)	7	Pike River downstream from Pike Creek (includes Sorenson Creek)	T3N, R23E Section 31	--	-- <sup>g</sup>	Bisects identified Natural Area; critical fish species present
	8	Root River downstream from Nicholson Road to STH 38	T4N, R22E Sections 25 and 26 T4N, R23E Section 31 T3N, R23E Section 6	--	2.2 <sup>h</sup> miles	Critical herptile species habitat
	9	Root River downstream from STH 38 to Spring Street	T3N, R23E Sections 7 and 8	--	1.4 <sup>h</sup> miles	Critical herptile species habitat
GA-1	10	Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries	T3N, R23E Section 6	Racine County and Private	1 <sup>i</sup>	Natural bluffs and old quarries along the Root River, with exposures of richly fossiliferous Racine Dolomite reef strata. Site has produced the largest known diversity of fossil marine organisms from any Silurian reef in the world. Considered for designation as a National Historic Landmark in the History of Science
GA-2	11	Wind Point	T4N, R23E Section 27	City of Racine, Village of Wind Point, and Private	9 <sup>j</sup>	Low natural outcrops, exposing highly fossiliferous Racine Dolomite reef rock, extending several hundred feet along the Lake Michigan shore
GA-3	12	Root River Outcrops	T4N, R22E Section 26	Racine County, City of Racine, and Private <sup>c</sup>	5 <sup>k</sup>	Low outcrops of Racine Dolomite along the Root River; one of few places in Racine County where rock is exposed

**Table continued on next page.**



**Table 2.4 (Continued)**

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

NA-2 identifies Natural Areas of countywide or regional significance

CSH identifies Critical Species Habitat sites

AQ-3 identifies Aquatic Areas of local significance

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

GA-1 identifies Geological Areas of statewide or greater significance

GA-2 identifies Geological Areas of countywide or regional significance

GA-3 identifies Geological Areas of local significance.

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

<sup>c</sup> Areas within Johnson Park Golf Course and Johnson Park Dog Run are under City ownership and areas outside Johnson Park Golf Course and Johnson Park Dog Run are under private ownership.

<sup>d</sup> Includes only the acreage located in the City. Total acreage is 94 acres. Racine County owns a five-acre portion of the site and the Caledonia Conservancy owns an 18-acre portion of the site. All remaining acreages are under private ownership.

<sup>e</sup> Includes only the acreage located in the City. Total acreage is 50 acres. Racine County owns a two-acre portion of the site. All remaining acreages are under private ownership.

<sup>f</sup> A small portion of the site extends outside of Shoop Park and is owned by the Village of Wind Point.

<sup>g</sup> Approximately 261 linear feet of the site is located within the City.

<sup>h</sup> A portion of the site extends outside of the planning area and miles given are entirely within the planning area.

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

<sup>j</sup> Includes only the acreage located in Shoop Park. Total acreage is 11 acres. The Village of Wind Point owns a one-acre portion of the site, and the remaining one acre is under private ownership.

<sup>k</sup> Includes only the acreage located in the City. Total acreage is 25 acres. Racine County owns a seven-acre portion of the site, and the remaining acreage is under private ownership.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC



- The City of Racine resident population level for 2017, based on a Wisconsin Department of Administration estimate, is 77,860 people. This represents a decrease of 1,000 people, or 1 percent, from the 2010 population.
- In 2016, the City of Racine planning area encompassed about 10,113 acres. Of this total, 9,121 acres, or about 90 percent of the planning area, are currently developed or planned to be developed for urban uses. Residential development is planned for 3,859 acres, or about 38 percent of the planning area, and lands planned to be devoted to transportation, communication, and utilities occupy 2,420 acres, or about 24 percent of planning area. The remaining 992 acres, or about 10 percent of the planning area, consist of natural resource areas or other nonurban uses, including the Kestrel Hawk Park Landfill.
- An inventory of the existing park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities in the planning area in 2016 found that there were 139 such sites, which together encompassed about 1,469 acres, or about 15 percent of the planning area, and two easements that together encompassed six acres. There were 92 City-owned sites, encompassing 1,167 acres, or 12 percent of the planning area. Between 2016 and 2018, the City acquired two sites, the three-acre West Bluff Overlook and the six-acre Machinery Row Promenade, which replaces the privately-owned Azarian Marina.
- The City-owned Lake Michigan Pathway and Root River Pathway provide opportunities for biking and hiking within the City. The 10-mile Lake Michigan Pathway traverses north to south within the City near the Lake Michigan shoreline. The five-mile Root River Pathway is located primarily on park lands along the Root River. Both trails provide a connection to County-owned trails located in the City.
- Primary environmental corridors encompass 570 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area. Secondary environmental corridors encompass 18 acres, or less than 1 percent of the planning area. Isolated natural resource areas encompass 114 acres, or about 1 percent of the planning area.
- The planning area includes a portion of one natural area, the Colonial Park Woods, which is of countywide or greater significance; five critical species habitat sites, including three sites that are partially located within the planning area; and three geological sites, including two sites that are partially located within the planning area. Together these sites encompass about 148 acres in the planning area. The planning area also includes three aquatic habitat areas encompassing about four linear miles.

*Credit: SEWRPC Staff*

Previous chapters of this report have presented information about planned land uses and existing natural resources and park and open space sites in the City. This chapter describes relevant City, County, and regional plan recommendations; probable future population levels in the City in the year 2035; and a set of park and open space objectives, principles, and standards that were used as a guide to prepare the plan update. Goals and objectives developed by the Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services to help implement the second edition of the park and open space plan are also included, since many of the recommendations from the previous plan have been carried forward into this plan update.

Sound planning practice requires that each community plan or plan element be properly related to adopted local, county, and regional plans. Plans that have been considered and appropriately incorporated into this updated park and open space plan include the City of Racine Comprehensive Plan; the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan; the City's Pathway System Plan/Map;<sup>8</sup> the Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan (RootWorks);<sup>9</sup> the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan; and the updated natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin. Neighborhood plans prepared by the City are also incorporated into this park plan, and are summarized in this chapter.

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

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

This plan is the third park and open space plan prepared by SEWRPC for the City. Background information on the previous plan, which also had a design year of 2035, is provided in Chapter 4. Chapter 4 also includes information on the implementation status of recommendations from the previous park and open space plan.

The City of Racine developed and adopted a Comprehensive Plan for the City in 2009. The comprehensive plan includes generalized park, open space, and trail recommendations, as well as goals, objectives, policies,

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<sup>8</sup> The City of Racine Health Department is currently preparing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which will update the Pathway System Plan/Map.

<sup>9</sup> The RootWorks Plan updates the Root River Revitalization Plan that was prepared in 2008 and the Downtown Plan that was prepared in 2005.

and programs for continuing development of the City park system. Following the adoption of the previous park and open space plan in 2011, the City of Racine updated the Uptown Improvement Plan, and developed the Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan. The City is also currently preparing a City-wide bicycle and pedestrian master plan. These plans include generalized and specific recommendations for parks, open space, natural resources, and trails and bikeways in the City.

### **Pathway System Plan/Map**

A Pathway System Plan/Map was prepared by the City of Racine Department of Public Works in 2006. The City pathway system includes the Lake Michigan Pathway and the Root River Pathway. The Lake Michigan Pathway is about 10 miles in length and traverses north to south within the City near the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Root River Pathway is about five miles in length and is located primarily in park lands along the Root River. With both pathways substantially completed, the plan/map precisely identifies the location of the pathways. Both pathways are signed, contain educational signposts, and include appropriate support facilities. The plan/map also identifies County-owned trails and identifies the location of where the County-owned trails and City pathways connect. Further recommendations and updates to the pathway plan/map are reflected in the plan recommendations in Chapter 5.

### **City of Racine Comprehensive Plan**

The City of Racine Common Council adopted a comprehensive plan on November 17, 2009.<sup>10</sup> As required by the Wisconsin comprehensive planning law (Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*), the City's comprehensive plan includes recommendations for future land uses, parks and open space, and natural resource preservation; and includes projections of future population and households in the City. The plan contains park, open space, and trail recommendations and goals, objectives, policies, and programs relevant to this park and open space plan update. The plan has a design year of 2035.

The comprehensive plan anticipates that existing parks and open space sites owned by the City will continue to be maintained to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities to the existing and future population of the City. As recommended in this updated park and open space plan, some existing sites may be expanded and/or additional recreation facilities developed to serve City residents. The plan recommends that the City continue to maintain and provide, where necessary, additional on-street and off-street bicycle trails and routes and off-street pedestrian trails within the City. The plan recommends that the development of bicycle parking facilities and bicycle lanes, paths, or routes on arterial streets be considered when those streets are constructed, reconstructed, or resurfaced. The plan also recommends that the City, in cooperation with Racine County, develop a water trail with appropriate support facilities on the Root River and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The water trails would be developed for use by non-motorized watercraft, such as canoes, kayaks, and pedal boats. The comprehensive plan further recommends the preservation of primary environmental corridors and other important natural resources within the City.

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

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

#### Goals

- Encourage efficient and sustainable growth that provides for the protection of natural systems and preserves the stability and diversity of the City's neighborhoods.
- Maintain the environmental assets of the City through the protection and preservation of valuable natural features including rivers, Lake Michigan, open spaces, and floodplains.

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<sup>10</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 305, A Comprehensive Plan for the City of Racine: 2035, November 2009.

- Preserve open space to enhance the total quality of the environment, maximize essential natural resource availability, give form and structure to urban development, and provide opportunities for a full range of outdoor recreational activities.

### Objectives

- Preserve the remaining primary environmental corridor lands in the City of Racine and, to the extent practicable, preserve the remaining secondary environmental corridor lands and isolated natural resource areas in the City in order to maintain the overall quality of the environment; to provide opportunities for recreational and educational activities; and to avoid serious environmental and developmental problems.
- Preserve habitat for native plants and wildlife thereby preserving the biodiversity of the City and Racine County overall.
- Preserve open spaces and natural resources as part of future development and redevelopment proposals in the City.
- Support carefully planned efforts to restore open space lands to more natural conditions that could result in the expansion of the environmental corridor network. This should include linkages between existing environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, especially those areas that are identified in neighborhood land use plans.
- Develop and maintain a balance between the built environment and the natural environment.
- Develop and maintain a balance between the built environment and the protection of, and public access to, Lake Michigan and rivers in the City.
- Provide a comprehensive system of parks and open spaces within the City to enhance the quality of the environment and life.
- Provide City residents adequate opportunities to participate in resource and nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, including water-based outdoor recreation activities.
- Support recommendations in regional, county, and local plans related to land use, transportation, water quality management, water supply, and parks and open spaces.
- Foster social, educational, recreational, and leisure-time opportunities for residents.
- Implement the recommendations of the regional transportation system plan<sup>11</sup> that pertain to the City of Racine – including recommendations pertaining to arterial streets and highways, public transit service, accommodation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transportation system management, and travel demand management.
- Provide opportunities for bicycling and walking, or other non-motorized forms of transportation, to promote a healthy lifestyle.

### Policies and Programs

- » Expand community gardening opportunities on publicly-owned land or other vacant land in the City, where feasible.
- » Encourage development to occur in areas outside of environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, natural areas, floodplains, wetlands, and critical species habitat sites in the City.

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<sup>11</sup> An update to the regional land use and transportation plans was adopted in July 2016 by the Regional Planning Commission. The update is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 55, VISION 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, July 2017.



- » Encourage the protection of environmental corridors and critical species habitat sites through public and non-profit conservation organization fee simple purchase and conservation easements.
- » Implement the recommendations of the City of Racine park and open space plan and the Racine County park and open space plan as they pertain to the City, and any subsequent plan updates.
- » Continue to update the City park and open space plan and cooperate with Racine County in updating the County park and open space plan, as necessary, to maintain eligibility for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship funding.
- » Where feasible, consider the accommodation for bicycle travel on the arterial street and highway system as that system is resurfaced and reconstructed on a segment-by-segment basis.
- » Undertake planning to refine and detail the recommendations of the regional transportation system plan for local bicycle and pedestrian facilities, taking into account individual neighborhood needs and conditions.
- » Continue to prepare Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) to help identify major projects, including land acquisition, equipment acquisition, transportation facility development and maintenance (including roadways and transit), building maintenance and development, and park projects; and associated funding.
- » Provide a system of public community and neighborhood parks in the City that complement the City and County park and trail system.
- » Identify and seek grant funds to study future needs and demands for recreational programs and facilities.
- » Promote State, County, and local parks and trails to encourage economic development and tourism.
- » Consider park and recreation standards developed by SEWRPC, the National Recreation and Park Association, and the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association when updating the City park and open space plan to ensure an appropriate number, size, and distribution of parks and recreational facilities.
- » Coordinate the City's bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian, and waterway trail planning and development with related County-wide efforts.
- » The City of Racine and Racine County should continue to work with the WDNR and non-government organizations to acquire and develop parks, trails, and other recreation facilities, and to acquire and protect valuable natural resource areas as called for in City and County park and open space plans.

### ***Population Projections***

The comprehensive plan projects a population of 80,510 residents and 32,370 households in the City in the year 2035. The projections were based on population and household levels in 2000, which were 81,850 residents and 31,450 households. In 2010, the city's population was 78,860 residents and there were 30,530 households. Under the plan, the number of City residents would increase by 1,650 persons, or by 2 percent; and the number of households would increase by 1,840 households, or by 6 percent, between 2010 and 2035.



## Root River Watershed Restoration Plan

The Root River watershed restoration plan<sup>12</sup> was prepared by SEWRPC to address concerns about watershed degradation in response to a request from Racine County, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. (Sweet Water), and the Root-Pike WIN. The watershed plan has been adopted by MMSD, Milwaukee and Racine Counties, the Cities of Racine<sup>13</sup> and Greenfield, the Village of Mount Pleasant, and the Town of Dover.

The purpose of the watershed plan is to provide specific, targeted recommendations with the overall goal of restoring and improving water resources in the Root River watershed. The plan is also designed to assist units of government, State and Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private landowners in identifying methods that will restore and benefit the natural assets of the watershed. About seven miles of the Root River cross through the City before it empties into Lake Michigan. There are 22 City-owned park or open space sites (including Johnson Park), two WDNR easements, five private marinas, and two private yacht clubs along the Root River within the City. The Root River watershed within the City encompasses about 4,500 acres, or about 45 percent of the City. The City makes up about 4 percent of the total watershed. The extent of the Root River watershed within the City is shown on Map 2.4.

The watershed restoration plan is focused on four issues: water quality, recreational use and access, habitat conditions, and flooding.<sup>14</sup> The Root River provides many recreational opportunities to City residents, including fishing, hunting, boating, wading, canoeing, kayaking, wildlife watching, and scenic viewing. The portion of the Root River downstream from Horlick Dam supports a trout and salmon fishery that is linked to Lake Michigan. The fishery is based upon stocking of these species by the WDNR.

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

The watershed plan recognizes that the recommended optimal buffer may be difficult to achieve in highly urbanized areas, such as the City. The plan recommends that the widest buffer possible be established where the optimal buffer width would be impractical. Map 3.1 shows existing and potential riparian buffers within the City and surrounding areas. The protection and establishment of buffers could occur through acquisition by a public agency or nonprofit conservation organization, adoption and enforcement of conservancy and floodplain zoning regulations, protection of environmental corridors, and educational campaigns and general promotion of low-impact use of existing buffer areas.

Table 79 of the watershed plan lists site-specific water quality, habitat, and recreational use and access recommendations. Recommendations for portions of the Root River within the City include providing accessibility to the river and canoe launches for people with disabilities; installing water quality and stormwater management facilities in redevelopment areas; expanding the bicycle path system; installing or expanding stormwater ponds to improve treatment of runoff; converting grass buffers to native vegetation; monitoring discharges from existing storm sewer outfalls to assess whether human-specific pathogens and viruses are entering the stormwater system; replacing deteriorated outfall pipes; continuing efforts to eradicate invasive plant species; providing streambank stabilization; and rebuilding failing retaining/

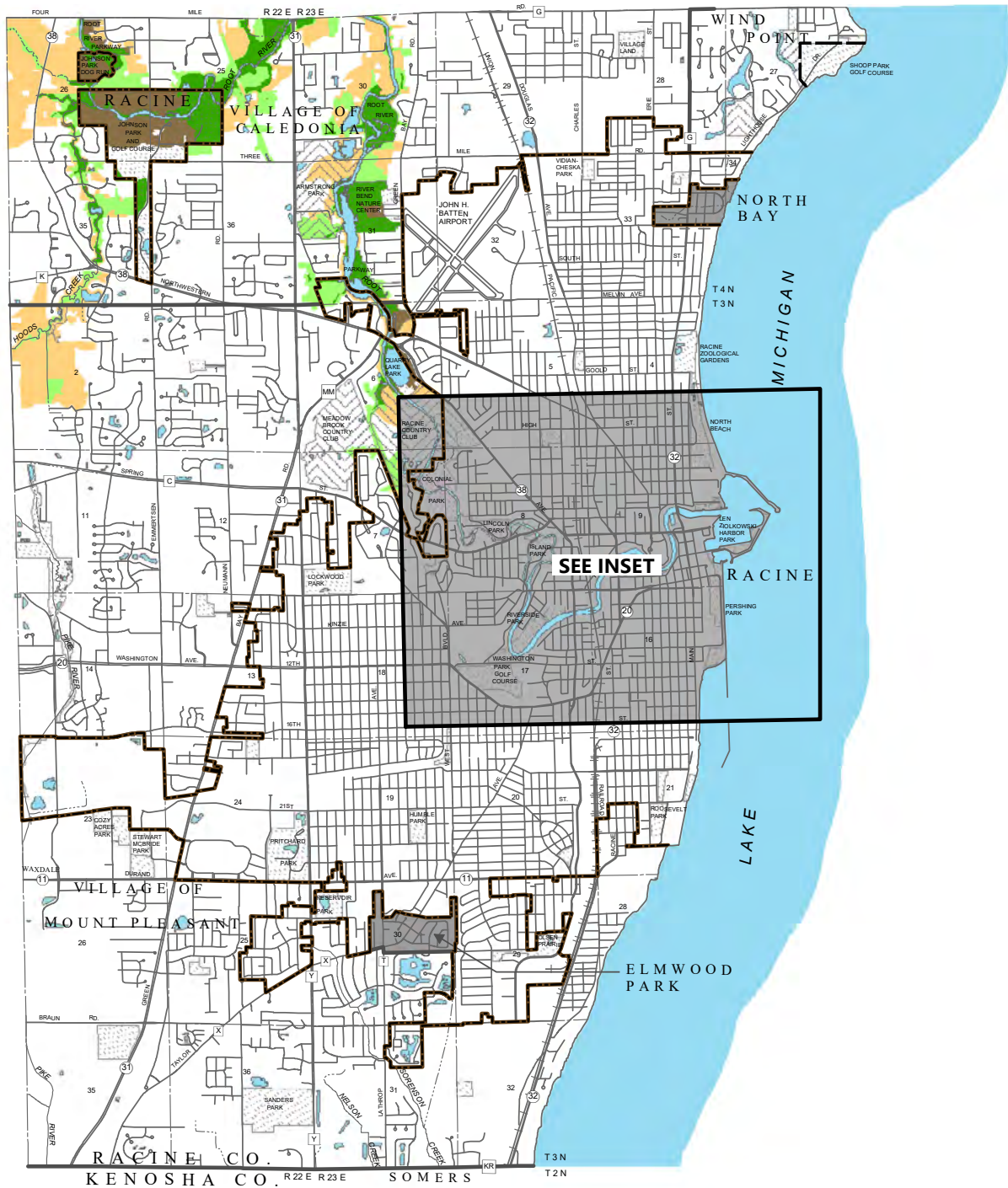
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<sup>12</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 316, A Watershed Restoration Plan for the Root River Watershed, July 2014.

<sup>13</sup> The Racine Common Council adopted the plan on July 7, 2015.

<sup>14</sup> Flooding was addressed in the Root River plan for the Racine County portion of the watershed. Flooding in the Milwaukee County portion of the watershed is being addressed through separate studies.

**Map 3.1**  
**Existing and Potential Riparian Buffer Protection Areas in the**  
**Root River Watershed in the City of Racine and Environs: 2014**



**LEGEND**

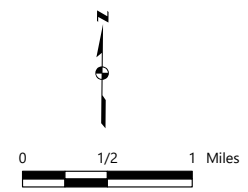
**EXISTING RIPARIAN BUFFERS**

- PROTECTED THROUGH PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND/OR FLOODWAY OR WETLAND
- NOT PROTECTED

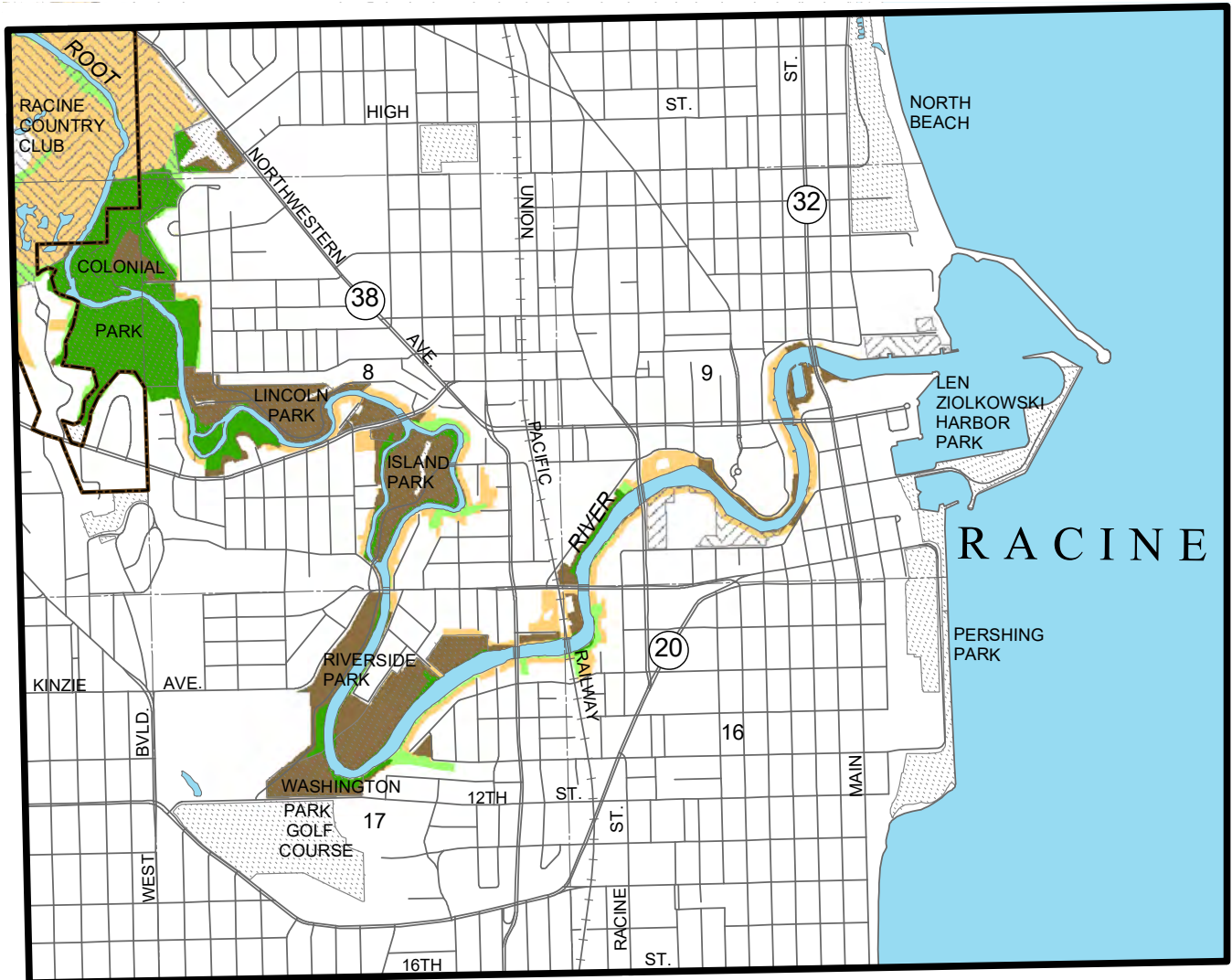
**POTENTIAL RIPARIAN BUFFERS**

- IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP
- NOT PROTECTED

- SURFACE WATER
- CITY OF RACINE CORPORATE LIMITS
- SHOOP PARK



Map 3.1 Inset



**LEGEND**

**EXISTING RIPARIAN BUFFERS**

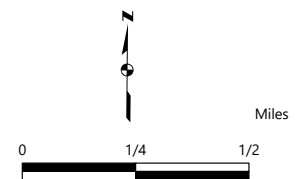
- PROTECTED THROUGH PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND/OR FLOODWAY OR WETLAND
- NOT PROTECTED

**POTENTIAL RIPARIAN BUFFERS**

- IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP
- NOT PROTECTED

- SURFACE WATER
- CITY OF RACINE CORPORATE LIMITS

Source: SEWRPC



bulkhead walls. The watershed plan further recommends that the City evaluate the use of various green infrastructure methods when redevelopment is proposed. Such methods may include green roofs, rain barrels, and porous pavement in areas not subject to application of salt. Specific recommendations from the watershed plan for improvements within City parks are listed in Table 3.1.

In addition to the site-specific recommendations, the watershed plan recommends more detailed floodplain mitigation planning for the City, which has the greatest concentration of buildings in the 1-percent-annual-probability floodplain along the Root River. Examples of potential approaches include expanding areas for conveyance and storage of floodwaters and elevating, floodproofing, or demolishing flood-prone buildings.

The watershed plan carries forth a recommendation from the regional water quality management plan<sup>15</sup> that a total of 10 percent of existing marginally-productive farmland and pasture be converted to either wetland or prairie conditions. The benefits of this practice include reducing fecal coliform bacteria, total suspended solids, total nitrogen, and total phosphorus loads delivered to streams, and to a limited degree, reduced peak stormwater runoff rates. Since the City of Racine is highly urbanized, this recommendation does not apply to the City; however, implementation in rural areas upstream will help improve river water quality downstream through the City and eventually to Lake Michigan.

The plan also recommends that the City of Racine Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, in conjunction with Leadership Racine, continue to conduct an Adopt-A-River program for the reaches of the Root River in the City. Under this program, participating community organizations, associations, and agencies would assume responsibility for litter control along the banks of the River that pass through City of Racine parks. Each participating organization agrees to pick up litter on its segment at least twice a year. The plan also recommends continuation of the City of Racine Adopt-A-Beach program for Lake Michigan beaches.

### **City of Waukesha Great Lakes Water Diversion Application**

In June 2016, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council, which is comprised of the governors of the eight Great Lakes States,<sup>16</sup> issued a “Final Decision” approving a City of Waukesha application for Lake Michigan water supply. The application was made, and the approval granted, according to the requirements of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The “Decision” noted that, under the Compact, as a community within a county that straddles the surface water divide between the Great Lakes Basin and the Mississippi River Basin, the City of Waukesha is eligible to apply for an exception from the prohibition on diversions from the Great Lakes Basin. The “Decision” also determined that the City of Waukesha is without adequate supplies of potable water.

Key conditions of the approval, as set forth in the “Final Decision,” include:

- Specification of an annual average day water supply demand of 8.2 million gallons per day (MGD) (12.7 cubic feet per second (cfs)) for the City of Waukesha
- Specification of a diversion area essentially limited to the area served by the Waukesha Water Utility in 2016, including small portions of the Town of Waukesha that lie within the perimeter boundary of the City of Waukesha
- The return to Lake Michigan, via flow through the Root River, of a volume of treated wastewater approximately equal to the volume of water withdrawn from the Lake
- A requirement that the returned water meet Federal Clean Water Act water quality standards and prevent the introduction of invasive species into the Great Lakes Basin.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources intends to issue a final diversion approval once all Federal, State, and local permits and approvals for diverting Lake Michigan water are obtained.

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

<sup>16</sup> *Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin*.



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

<b>Focus Areas Addressed</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Management Action</b>	<b>Priority<sup>b</sup></b>
Habitat, Water Quality	Johnson Park Dog Park	Address dog waste accumulation problem along access corridor from STH 38	Medium
Recreational Use and Access	Island Park	Provide river and canoe access for people with disabilities	Medium <sup>c</sup>
Recreational Use and Access	Lincoln Park	Provide river and canoe access for people with disabilities	Medium <sup>c</sup>
Recreational Use and Access	Horlick Park	Provide river and canoe access for people with disabilities	Medium
Water Quality	Colonial Park adjacent to W. High Street	Installation of stormwater pond with 0.7 acre permanent pool to treat runoff from a contributing area of 63 acres	Medium
Water Quality	Graceland Cemetery at Graceland Boulevard and Osbourne Boulevard	Expansion of existing wet pond to 0.8 acre permanent pool. Would need to be supported by potential Lockwood North and Lockwood South wet ponds to get full benefit. Will treat runoff from a contributing area of 593 acres	Medium
Water Quality	Hantschel Park south of 16th Street and west of Perry Avenue	Installation of stormwater pond with 0.7 acre permanent pool in existing undeveloped depression to treat runoff from a contributing area of 69.6 acres	Medium
Water Quality	Humble Park at 21st Street and Cleveland Avenue	Installation of stormwater pond with 1.5 acre permanent pool to treat runoff from a contributing area of 142.3 acres	High
Water Quality	Lockwood Park West at Graceland Boulevard and Ohio Street	Conversion of existing dry detention facility to stormwater pond with permanent pool of 4.5 acres. Will treat runoff from a contributing area of 435.7 acres <sup>d</sup>	Medium
Water Quality	Lockwood Park North at Graceland Boulevard and Ohio Street	Installation of stormwater pond with 1.5 acre permanent pool to treat runoff from a contributing area of 572.8 acres <sup>d</sup>	Medium
Water Quality	Lockwood Park South at Graceland Boulevard and Ohio Street	Installation of stormwater pond with 0.4 acre permanent pool to treat runoff from a contributing area of 137.2 acres <sup>d</sup>	Medium
Water Quality	Washington Park between 12th Street, Horlick Park Drive, and the Root River	Installation of stormwater pond with 1.5 acre permanent pool to treat runoff from a contributing area of 1,397.8 acres	High
Habitat, Water Quality, Recreational Use and Access	Root River at Johnson Park	Convert grass buffer on north bank along golf course to long-rooted native vegetation to discourage geese from congregating	Low <sup>c</sup>
Habitat, Water Quality	Root River at WDNR Steelhead Facility	Convert grass buffer to long-rooted native vegetation	Low
Habitat	Colonial Park – 2300 W. High Street	Continue ongoing invasive plant species removal and management activities	High
Habitat	Barbee Park – 215 N. Memorial Drive	Continue invasive plant species management activities	Medium
Habitat	Clayton Park – 1843 Clayton Avenue	Continue invasive plant species management activities	Medium
Habitat	Cedar Bend Park – 33 McKinley Avenue	Continue invasive plant species management activities	Medium
Habitat	Island Park – 1700 Liberty Street	Continue invasive plant species management activities	Medium
Habitat	Lee Park – 1926 Glen Street	Continue invasive plant species management activities	Medium
Habitat	Riverside Park – 110 Riverside Drive	Continue invasive plant species management activities	Medium

**Table continued on next page.**



**Table 3.1 (Continued)**

<b>Focus Areas Addressed</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Management Action</b>	<b>Priority<sup>b</sup></b>
Habitat	Root River Environmental Education Community Center – 1301 W. 6th Street	Invasive plant species removal and management	Medium
Habitat	Horlick Park	Invasive plant species removal and management	High
Habitat, Water Quality	Mainstem Root River within Johnson Park Golf Course, south bank adjacent to golf hole #10	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 125 feet of Root River mainstem with an estimated average erosion height of two feet	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	Mainstem Root River within Johnson Park, south bank approximately 400 feet downstream of the eastern cart bridge	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 180 feet of Root River mainstem with an estimated average erosion height of five feet	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	Mainstem Root River within Johnson Park, west bank approximately 2,500 feet downstream of the eastern cart bridge	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 80 feet of Root River mainstem with an estimated average erosion height of six feet	Medium
Habitat, Water Quality	Mainstem Root River within Colonial Park. Four small isolated areas ranging in length from 35 to 85 feet (245 feet total), along both banks	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along four sections of the Root River mainstem with lengths of 80, 85, 45, and 35 feet and respective estimated erosion heights of four feet, four feet, two feet, and four feet	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	Mainstem Root River, 1,200 feet on both banks along a bend in the River within Washington Park, northwest of Park High School	Bank stabilization to address four sections of moderate to high bank and ravine erosion along 1,200 feet of Root River mainstem. Erosion section lengths are 150, 205, 60, and 80 feet with respective estimated average heights of six, six, 38, and 46 feet (Note: Since 2014, the City has completed the improvements for this site.)	Low
Habitat, Water Quality	Mainstem Root River, about 1,500 feet with isolated areas on both banks within Island and Lincoln Parks	Bank stabilization to address three sections of bank erosion along 1,500 feet of Root River mainstem. Erosion sections lengths are 300, 390, and 38 feet with respective estimated average heights of six feet, six feet, and six feet	High
Water Quality	Outfall on eastern bank of the mainstem Root River adjacent to Horlick Park at the end of Parkview Drive	Pipe replacement with riprap and end section	Medium
Water Quality	Outfall on southern bank of bend on the mainstem Root River adjacent to Cedar Bend Park and 12th Street	Pipe replacement with riprap and end section	Medium
Water Quality	Outfall on southern bank of bend on the mainstem Root River, adjacent to Cedar Bend Park and 12th Street (next to outfall described in (AER-14)	Pipe replacement with riprap and end section	Medium
Water Quality	Outfall on northern bank of bend on the mainstem Root River, within Cedar Bend Park (directly across from outfalls described in AER-14 and AER-15)	Pipe replacement with riprap and end section	Medium
Water Quality	Outfall on northern bank of bend on the mainstem Root River, within Lincoln Park immediately downstream of the WDNR Steelhead Facility	Pipe replacement with riprap and end section	Medium

Table continued on next page.

**Table 3.1 (Continued)**

<b>Focus Areas Addressed</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Management Action</b>	<b>Priority<sup>b</sup></b>
Habitat, Water Quality	Two severe erosion sites on the north bank of Hoods Creek in Johnson Park Dog Park, tax parcel 276-00-00-21-258-000	Bank stabilization to address severe erosion along 65 feet and 80 feet of Hoods Creek. Erosion height is estimated at seven feet and nine feet, respectively. Place fence along embankment to reduce dog access	Medium <sup>c</sup>
Habitat, Water Quality	Two erosion sites on the south bank of the mainstem of the Root River within Johnson Park in tax parcel 276-00-00-212-580-00	Bank stabilization to address bank erosion along 180 feet and 70 feet of the mainstem of the Root River in Johnson Park. Erosion height is estimated at an average of six feet and four feet, respectively	Medium <sup>c</sup>

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

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

<sup>c</sup> As of January 2017, the management action has been completed at the site.

<sup>d</sup> Past history of this park as a fill site indicates that the site would need to be investigated for contaminated soils.

Source: Root River Watershed Restoration Plan Advisory Group; Root River Restoration Planning Group; Racine County Land Conservation Division; Racine Health Department; and SEWRPC

The approved return flow to the Root River in the City of Franklin would supplement baseflows during dry periods, and would be expected to enhance recreational uses of the River, such as fishing and paddling, in communities downstream of the discharge point, including in the City of Racine. Flood flows are not expected to increase appreciably as a result of the planned discharge to the River. The approved flow return of 12.7 cfs is 0.2 percent of the City of Racine 1-percent-annual-probability (100-year recurrence interval) Root River flood flow of 6,380 cfs.<sup>17</sup>

### **Neighborhood Plans**

The City adopted five neighborhood plans from 2003 to 2011; the Douglas Avenue Revitalization Plan, the Downtown Plan, the Live Towerview Plan, the Neighborhood Strategic Plan for Southside Racine, and the Uptown Improvement Plan. A brief description of each neighborhood plan is included in Chapter 4 of the previous City park plan. The plans were prepared to help strengthen or maintain neighborhoods within the City, and include park-, open space-, and/or trail-related recommendations.

Since 2011, the City has updated the Uptown Neighborhood Plan and prepared the Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan. These two plans are summarized in the following paragraphs.

#### **Uptown Improvement Plan**

The Uptown Improvement Plan was prepared by the City of Racine and Schreiber/Anderson Associates, Inc. in 2003-2004. The plan was updated in 2014 by Vandewalle and Associates, Inc. The updated neighborhood plan includes the area between 8th Street and Durand Avenue (STH 11) and Grand Avenue and Kearney Avenue, but the majority of plan recommendations are for the area near the intersection of Washington Avenue, 14th Street, and Junction Avenue, and on the west side of Racine Street (STH 32). The plan recommends developing a pocket park (Gateway Plaza) at the southwest quadrant of Washington Avenue and Junction Avenue for a neighborhood social gathering site; and enhancing the "Junction Triangle" between 15th and 16th Streets and Junction Avenue and the Union Pacific Railroad. The improvements are intended to improve public parking and provide additional public green space, which may include a shelter/gazebo, rain gardens, and bicycle parking. Additional recommendations include a proposed "pass through park" at 1516 Washington Avenue from Washington Avenue north to an existing public parking

<sup>17</sup> Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Flood Insurance Study, Racine County, Wisconsin and Incorporated Areas*, 2012.

lot; improving the streetscape and landscaping near 14th and 16th Streets and at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Junction Avenue; providing improved green/outdoor space for aesthetic purposes when development or redevelopment occurs; and identifying and promoting pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout the neighborhood.

### **Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan**

In July 2012, the Root River Council and Vandewalle and Associates, in partnership with a Project Technical Team that included City staff, local and County organizations, and private entities/organizations, completed the Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan.<sup>18</sup> The focus of the plan is to stimulate and strengthen economic growth, revive local assets, and improve public river access and water quality along the Root River. The plan aims to redevelop and revive Racine's historic industrial district along the Root River by developing new or restoring existing commercial businesses and providing new, mixed-use developments that will encourage live-work environments. The Plan is also focused on making the Root River a regional destination site by providing new access areas and green spaces, rehabilitating or restoring existing access areas and parks, and identifying bicycle and pedestrian trails and walkways. The planning area encompasses 325 acres and includes the Root River from Lake Michigan on the east, Memorial Drive on the west, State Street on the north, and 8th Street on the south. Eleven City parks, special use sites, or passive use sites and five private marinas and two private yacht clubs are located within the planning area, as well as a two-mile segment of the Root River Pathway and a one-half mile segment of the Lake Michigan Pathway.

The plan recommends redevelopment in five focus areas along the Root River: the Transit-Oriented Development District; Machinery Row District; Case New Holland Downtown Riverfront Campus; Belle Harbor District; and the Walker Site Redevelopment. Park, open space, and bike and pedestrian trail recommendations for each area are listed below.

#### Transit-Oriented Development District (also known as West Bluff District)

This 60-acre area is located on the north side of the Root River in the southeast quadrant of Memorial Drive and State Street. Park-related recommendations for this area include potentially developing a park, a trail, and a pathway in the West Bluff Overlook Area (the City acquired three acres of land for a future park site in 2017) and rehabilitating the Western Publishing pedestrian bridge to connect bicyclists and pedestrians to the West Bluff Overlook Area from the south side of the river.

#### Machinery Row District

This 75-acre area is located on the south side of the Root River between Memorial Drive, Villa Street, and 6th Street, and is considered Racine's historic industrial district. Recommendations for this area include redevelopment with commercial and retail, light industrial, and residential uses in mixed-use structures. Park-related recommendations for this area include incorporating streetscape elements associated with the approximately two-mile River Loop development to include benches, improved sidewalks and crosswalks, and pedestrian-scale lighting. The proposed River Loop is a recreational trail that is expected to provide a connection to the river and the Water Street area. The plan also recommends improving direct access and connectivity to the riverfront through public street connections. The RootWorks Area-wide Plan further recommends developing a promenade along the riverfront for recreation and festival parkland (the City acquired six acres of land in 2016); developing a walkway to include passive use amenities; developing other pocket parks with scenic overlooks and passive use amenities; developing river access facilities; and developing a boardwalk along the River.

#### Case New Holland Downtown Riverfront Campus (also known as State Street District)

This 50-acre area is located on the north and west side of the Root River between State Street, Ontario Street, and Superior Street. The area was the historic location of the Case headquarters, a site where farm tractors and equipment were manufactured and assembled. Park-related recommendations for this area include developing a pedestrian bridge (4th Street Bridge) to connect pedestrians to the Downtown Area and the proposed River Loop.

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<sup>18</sup> Documented in a report titled, *RootWorks: Revitalizing Racine's Urban River Corridor Plan*, prepared by Vandewalle and Associates and the Root River Council, July 2012. In 2017, the City adopted a refined version of the plan (RootWorks Area-wide Plan and Implementation Strategy) that provides additional detailed site-specific development recommendations.

### Belle Harbor District

This 11-acre area is located on the south and east side of the Root River on the northwest quadrant of State Street and Main Street. This area was the previous location of the County-owned Belle Harbor Marina. The entire marina has been filled and is planned for a variety of economic development opportunities. The plan suggests that this area has the potential for an outdoor sports equipment business, and recommends that canoe/kayak launches be developed at the site. The plan also recommends that the site have a connection to the proposed River Loop and other nearby districts. The RootWorks Area-wide Plan further recommends improving Sam Azarian Overlook and installing public activity nodes at the Overlook and other locations along the River; developing trailheads with trailhead amenities; and developing pocket parks.

### Walker Site Redevelopment (also known as Harborside District)

This 40-acre area is located on the north side of the Root River west of the Racine Harbor and east of Michigan Boulevard. Park-related recommendations for this area include developing public open spaces in conjunction with other urban land uses. The RootWorks Area-wide Plan further recommends developing links and connections to North Beach; developing or exploring additional access to the Racine Harbor and Lake Michigan; and upgrading wayfinding signage for the Lake Michigan Pathway.

The Root River Corridor plan also recommends increasing public access and opportunities for social interaction within the Root River planning area. The plan recommends expanding 6th Street Park North along Mound Avenue and expanding Sam Azarian Overlook to the north; developing the River Loop recreational trail; rerouting the Root River Pathway along the river's edge on the west side of the City; repairing or constructing boardwalks and pedestrian bridges associated with the proposed River Loop and other Downtown destination points; developing an event area for public gatherings in the Machinery Row area; increasing bicycle connectivity in and to the corridor by developing on-street bike lanes and a "paint on the street" bike route system; and developing additional trailheads and transition points along the River Loop and the Root River Pathway to provide views of the Root River at river level and bluff level.

The plan further recommends improving the water quality of the Root River. The plan recommends implementing green infrastructure methods when redevelopment or new development occurs. The methods include bluff and streambank stabilization, stormwater harvesting using cisterns and rain barrels, and brownfield encapsulation. Because of the topography and the existing and planned developments along the Root River, the plan recommends these methods as the most suitable for managing stormwater.

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

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

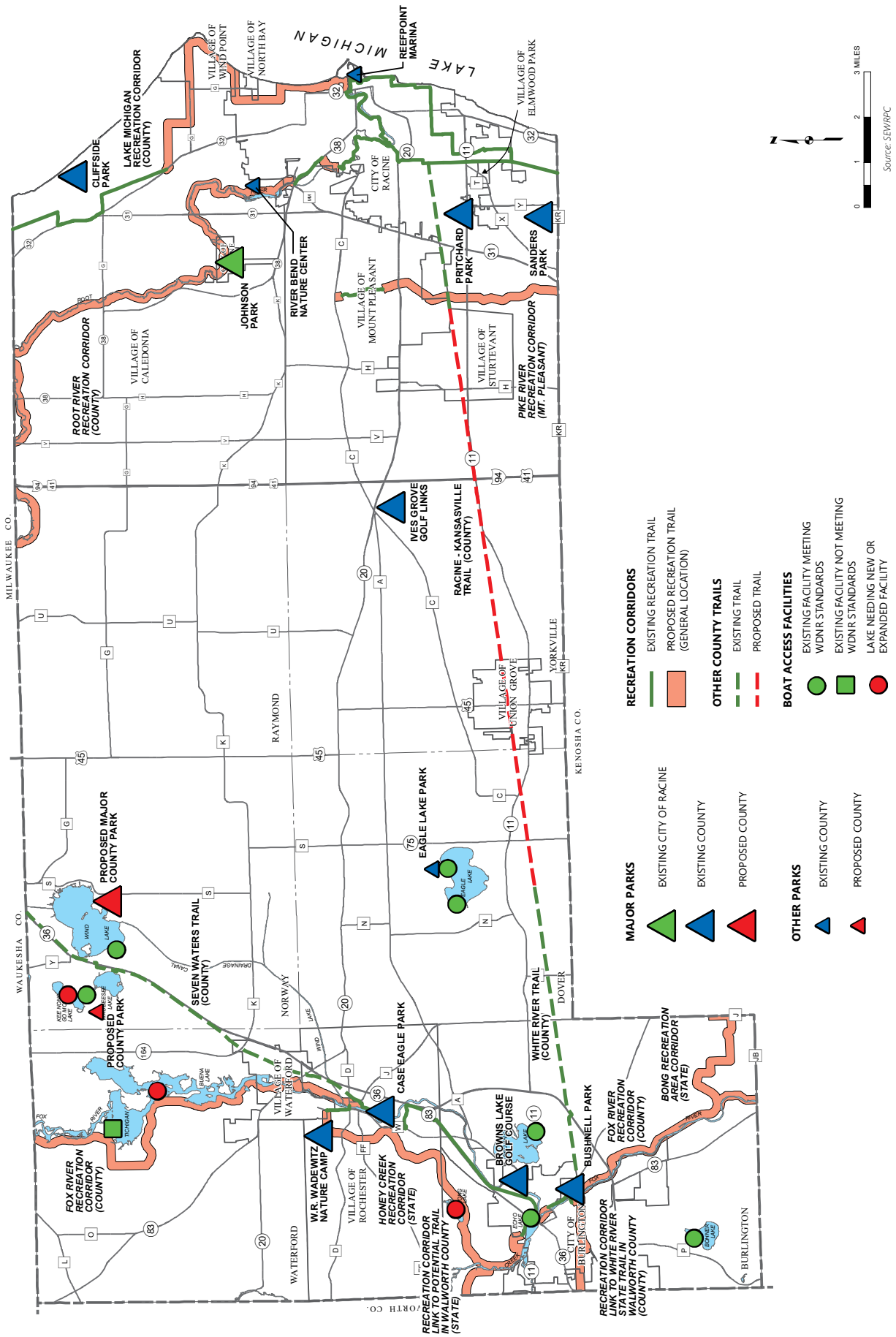
The adopted regional park, outdoor recreation, and related open space plan, as described in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, November 1977, identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommends a system of large regional resource-oriented parks, recreation corridors, and smaller urban parks, together with their attendant recreational facility requirements, to meet these needs. The portion of the regional park plan that applies to Racine County, including the City of Racine, was revised in 1988 through the preparation and adoption of a County park and open space plan. An updated County park and open space plan, a second edition, was adopted by the County Board in 2001, and was designed to the year 2020. In 2012, another update to the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan,<sup>19</sup> a third edition, was adopted by the County Board. That plan is designed to the year 2035 and consists of both an open space preservation element and an areawide outdoor recreation element, intended to, respectively, protect areas containing important natural resources and to provide resource-oriented recreational sites and facilities, including trails. The outdoor recreation element of the County park plan is summarized on Map 3.2.

The outdoor recreation sites recommended within the City of Racine by the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan includes two existing major parks within the City, the 73-acre Pritchard Park and the 335-acre Johnson Park and Golf Course. The plan recommends that Pritchard Park continue to be maintained by

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<sup>19</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 3rd Edition, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin*, February 2013.

**Map 3.2**  
**Outdoor Recreation Element of the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan: 2035**





Racine County and the County provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities as needed.<sup>20</sup> The plan recommends that the County continue to maintain other County-owned sites within the City of Racine, including Horlick Park, Quarry Lake Park, Racine Harbor Park, Belle Harbor Marina, and Reefpoint Marina. The plan also recommends that the City of Racine continue to maintain and provide additional resource-oriented recreational facilities, when necessary, at the City-owned Johnson Park and Golf Course. Since 2011, the County has sold the Belle Harbor Marina for redevelopment and renamed Racine Harbor Park to Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park.

The County park plan recommends the development of a trail along or within view of Lake Michigan, which would connect with existing recreational trails in Milwaukee County and Kenosha County to the north and south, respectively. The City of Racine has developed the Lake Michigan Pathway within the City, which is about 11 miles in length and traverses north to south within the City, including portions of the trail near or within view of Lake Michigan. The pathway provides a connection to the existing Racine County Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha (MRK) Trail on the north side of the City and the existing Racine County North Shore Trail on the south side of the City. The development of the City's Lake Michigan Pathway within the City, plus the existing MRK and North Shore Trails, fully implements the Lake Michigan Corridor Trail within Racine County.

The County plan also recommends that Racine County develop a trail along the Root River. The existing five-mile pathway extends from the Main Street Bridge, near downtown, to Colonial Park. The Root River Pathway currently provides a connection to the County MRK Trail on the north side of the City and the County North Shore Trail on the south side of the City. The pathway also provides a connection to the County-owned Racine-Kansasville Trail. Ultimately, the development of the Root River Corridor Trail along the Root River within Racine County would connect with a similar trail along the Root River in Milwaukee County to the north and the Lake Michigan Corridor Trail to the south. The County plan recommends that the City develop a portion of the Root River Corridor Trail within the City-owned Johnson Park and Golf Course.

The County plan recommends the continued development and maintenance of the Racine-Kansasville Trail. The trail encompasses about three miles within the City and has been completely developed from West Boulevard westward to the City's corporate limits. Within the City, the existing trail is located primarily within a WE Energies utility corridor with some portions located on City streets. Since the adoption of the previous City park plan, the County has extended an existing portion of the trail from the City's western corporate limits and Willow Road in the Village of Mount Pleasant westward to 96th Street in the Village of Sturtevant. In 2014, the Canadian Pacific Railway abandoned the right-of-way from Sturtevant to Kansasville, and efforts were underway in 2016 to develop a trail in the abandoned right-of-way from the Village of Sturtevant to Kansasville to connect to the existing trail segments on the eastern and western portions of the County. The railway right-of-way from Kansasville westward to the City of Burlington was acquired by the WDNR and a trail was developed by Racine County. The trail is referred to as the White River Trail.

The County plan also recommends that the County continue to maintain signage and other route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route and that the Village of Mount Pleasant continue to maintain and develop the Pike River Pathway within the Pike River Corridor. Currently, existing portions of the pathway are developed within the Pike River corridor north of Washington Avenue (STH 20) and abutting and near the City's western corporate limits. An existing pathway segment abutting or near the City's corporate boundary provides a connection to the Racine-Kansasville Trail on the north side of the trail. The continued development of the pathway within the Pike River Corridor in the Village will provide a connection to the Pike River in Kenosha County.

In addition, the County plan recommends the development of water trails. Potential water trails may be located on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline within and adjacent to the City. These trails would connect with water trails in adjacent counties. Currently, there are nine existing public

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<sup>20</sup> In July 2017, SC Johnson proposed to fund the development of an aquatic center at Pritchard Park. The aquatic center includes the development of two swimming pools, water slides, water play structures, spray areas, concessions, and other support-related amenities. The development of the aquatic center was completed in spring 2018 and is open to the public and is operated by the Racine Family YMCA. The County is also proposing to develop a multi-purpose turf field for football, soccer, and lacrosse events before 2020 and develop two league ball diamonds and four youth-sized ball diamonds within the next five to 10 years at Pritchard Park.

boat or canoe access sites located at City- or County-owned parks along the Root River and Lake Michigan within the City. The County plan further recommends that Racine County continue to pursue opportunities to provide access to Lake Michigan for beach swimming, shore fishing, and passive recreational activities, as such opportunities arise.

### **Regional Natural Areas Plan**

Natural areas and critical species habitat sites in Southeastern Wisconsin were identified in 1994 as part of the regional natural areas study. The inventory of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological sites was updated in 2009.<sup>21</sup> One natural area, five critical species habitat sites, and three geological areas were identified, wholly or partially, in the City in 2009, and are shown on Map 2.6 in Chapter 2. Recommendations for the protection of these sites are included in Chapter 5.

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

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

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

The attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide residents of the City with opportunities for high-quality recreational experiences. Under the regional park and open space plan and the Racine County park and open space plan described earlier in this chapter, the responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreational facilities is shared among various levels of government. The responsibility for acquisition and development of major resource-oriented parks and recreational facilities<sup>22</sup> is largely delegated to the state and county levels of government, although larger cities, such as the City of Racine, sometimes provide major parks. The need for major parks will be met within the City of Racine by the continued maintenance of Johnson Park and Golf Course by the City and the continued maintenance and development of Pritchard Park by Racine County.

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

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

The potential need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the planning area is determined by applying the standards set forth in Appendix A for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks and outdoor recreation facilities to the anticipated future resident population of the City of Racine. The Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services considered the results of the analysis and made the modifications described in Chapter 5.

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<sup>21</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997. An update to the plan is documented in SEWRPC Amendment to Planning Report No. 42, Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, December 2010.

<sup>22</sup> Resource-oriented recreational facilities include camping, golfing, picnicking, skiing, and beach swimming. Such facilities are dependent on the natural resources, such as woodlands and rivers or lakes, of the site in which they are located. Facility requirements for these activities are set forth under Objective 3 in Appendix A.

A detailed analysis was conducted and is documented in the previous edition of this report. Because planned land uses and projected population levels have not changed substantially since the original analysis was conducted, a full updated analysis was not prepared. The results of the previous analysis were adjusted to reflect changed conditions between 2011 and 2016. Updates are summarized in this section.

### **Site Needs**

The result of applying the per capita standards for the amount of land needed for community and neighborhood parks to serve City residents in the year 2035 is presented in Table 3.2. The 2035 population forecast of 80,510 City residents is based on the City's 2035 comprehensive plan adopted by the Common Council in November 2009. Application of the per capita standards indicates a need for about 77 additional acres of public outdoor recreation lands at public school sites within the City. Because the amount of acreage in existing public park sites compensates for the relatively low amount of recreation land at public school sites, there is no need for additional park land to meet the per capita standard. Even when per capita acreage standards are met, however, additional parks may be needed if the distribution of existing parks does not provide convenient access for current and future residents.

Application of the two-mile service area radius to existing parks providing community facilities indicated that a small area in the northern portion of the City, near Three Mile Road, is not adequately served by a community park (see Map 3.3). The existing parks providing community park facilities utilized in this analysis include Humble Park, Island Park, Johnson Park and Golf Course, Lincoln Park, Lockwood Park, North Beach Park, Pershing Park, and Pritchard Park in the City of Racine; Quarry Lake Park in the City of Racine and the Village of Mount Pleasant; and Stewart McBride Park in the Village of Mount Pleasant.

Application of the 0.5-mile service area radius to existing parks providing neighborhood facilities indicated that limited portions of the City are not adequately served by a neighborhood park (see Map 3.4). In addition, there are limited areas within the City which, although within the 0.5-mile service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to barriers such as rivers, railroads, or busy arterial streets between parks and residential areas.

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

The facility standards set forth under Objective 2 in Appendix A are concerned with providing an adequate number and distribution of outdoor recreation facilities to afford City residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive outdoor recreation activities such as baseball, softball, and tennis. The results of applying the adopted per capita facility standards to the projected 2035 population level for the City of Racine are presented in Table 3.3. The existing quantity of each facility includes those located in public and private sites within the planning area. Facilities at public sites include those at community parks, neighborhood parks, and public schools. Facilities at private sites include those at private schools and commercial and organizational recreation sites.

The number of each type of recreational facility was adjusted from the analysis conducted in 2011 to reflect the removal or addition of facilities between 2011 and 2016. As described in Chapter 2, these changes include the removal of the public sandlot ball diamond at Island Park and eight sandlot ball diamonds at five schools; the removal of a public basketball goal at Humble Park and 11 public goals at three schools, but the addition of three public goals at two schools; the removal of five private basketball goals at two schools, but the addition of two private goals at a school; the removal the public playground at Paul P. Harris Rotary Park (formerly Festival Park); the removal of a private playground at a school; the removal of two public tennis courts at Cedar Bend Park; the addition of two public soccer fields at Johnson Park and Golf Course, four public soccer fields at three schools, but the removal of a public soccer field at a school, the addition of a private soccer field at a school and six soccer fields at the Racine Area Soccer Association complex in the Village of Caledonia; and the removal of the football field at Lincoln Park.

As shown in Table 3.3, a need was identified through the application of the standards for 12 additional public soccer fields, 12 additional public tennis courts, and two additional public softball diamonds. In cases where the number of private facilities falls below the recommended standard, a need for additional public facilities to fulfill the need was identified, as the public sector has no control over the provision of additional privately-owned recreation facilities. As documented in Chapter 4 of this report, the Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Board refined the results of the needs analysis as they apply to the City park system.

**Table 3.2**  
**Per Capita Acreage Requirements for Community and**  
**Neighborhood Parks in the City of Racine Planning Area**

Park and School Sites	Minimum Standard Net Acreage Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) <sup>b</sup>	Existing Net Acreage	Per Capita Acreage Requirements			
			Existing 2010 Population: 78,860 Residents		Planned 2035 Population: 80,510 Residents	
			Net Acreage Requirement <sup>c</sup>	Net Acreage Need <sup>d</sup>	Net Acreage Requirement <sup>c</sup>	Net Acreage Need <sup>d</sup>
Parks <sup>a</sup>	3.9	831 <sup>e</sup>	308	--	314	--
Schools	2.5	120 <sup>f</sup>	197	77	201	81
Total	6.4	951	505	--	515	--

<sup>a</sup> Includes 32 City-owned major, community, and neighborhood park sites, including Brose Park, Carlson Park, Case-Harmon Park, Cedar Bend Park, Clayton Park, Douglas Park, Erskine Park, Franklin Park, Greencrest Park, Hantschel Park, Harvey Park, Humble Park, Island Park, Johnson Park and Golf Course, Lakeview Park, Lincoln Park, Lockwood Park, Marino Park, Mat Matson Park, N. Owen Davies Park, North Beach Park, Pershing Park, Pierce Woods Park, Riverside Park, Reservoir Park, Robert Heck Park, Roosevelt Park, Samuel Myers Park, Solbraa Park, Vidian-Cheska Park, Washington Park Bowl, and West Park. Also included are three sites owned by Racine County (Pritchard Park, Quarry Lake Park, and Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park) and one site owned by the Village of Mount Pleasant (Stewart McBride Park), which provide community and neighborhood recreational facilities to City residents.

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

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

<sup>d</sup> Acreage need was determined by subtracting the existing acres from the acreage requirement. Since the remainder was a negative number, the minimum acreage requirement was exceeded and no need for additional parks was identified based on per capita standards.

<sup>e</sup> Includes about 312 acres of existing developed (206 acres) and potential developable (106 acres) areas at 36 existing major, community, and neighborhood parks. Developable area excludes wetlands, lowland portions of primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and floodplains within existing parks.

<sup>f</sup> This total includes acreage used for outdoor recreation purposes at 20 public school sites within the City of Racine and J.I. Case High School located in the Village of Mount Pleasant.

Source: City of Racine and SEWRPC

### Facility Needs Based on Service Area Standards

In addition to meeting the per capita acreage standards, the spatial distribution of outdoor recreation facilities should provide ready access by City residents. Application of the service area standards set forth under Objective 2 in Appendix A determined which portions of the City may lack adequate access to selected nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation facilities. Portions of the City that are not adequately served by such facilities, based on application of the standards, are identified in the following paragraphs.

#### Baseball Diamonds

Baseball diamonds were provided at four public outdoor recreation sites in the City of Racine planning area in 2016. The league softball diamond at Lockwood Park also serves as a baseball diamond. Baseball diamonds were also located at the County-owned Haban Park, which is located at the northwest intersection of Spring Street (CTH C) and Borgardt Road in the Village of Mount Pleasant. Application of the two-mile service area standard indicates that an area in the northern portion of the City, near Three Mile Road, is not served by the existing distribution of baseball diamonds, which is unchanged from the previous analysis.

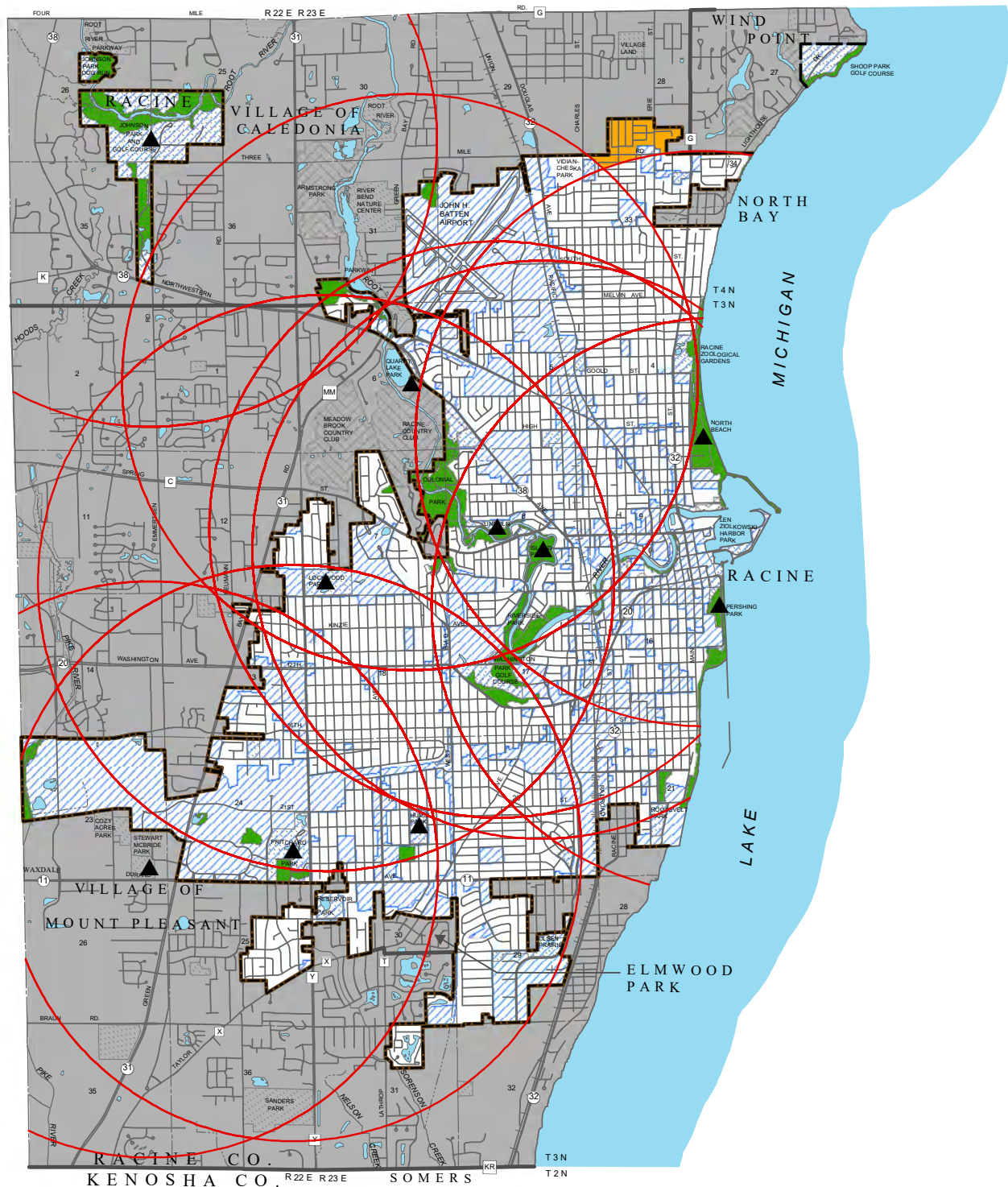
#### Basketball Goals

Basketball goals were provided at 28 public outdoor recreation sites in the City of Racine planning area in 2016. Although one basketball goal was removed from Humble Park, there are two goals remaining at the park to help fulfill the service area standard. Application of the 0.5-mile service area standard indicates that limited portions of the City are not served by the existing distribution of basketball goals. In addition, there are limited areas which, although within the service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to natural (rivers) or transportation-related (arterial streets or railroads) barriers.



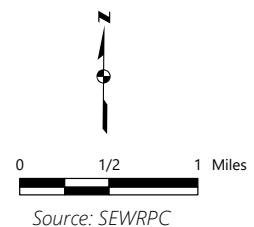
### Map 3.3

## Planned Residential Areas in the City of Racine Planning Area Not Adequately Served by a Community Park



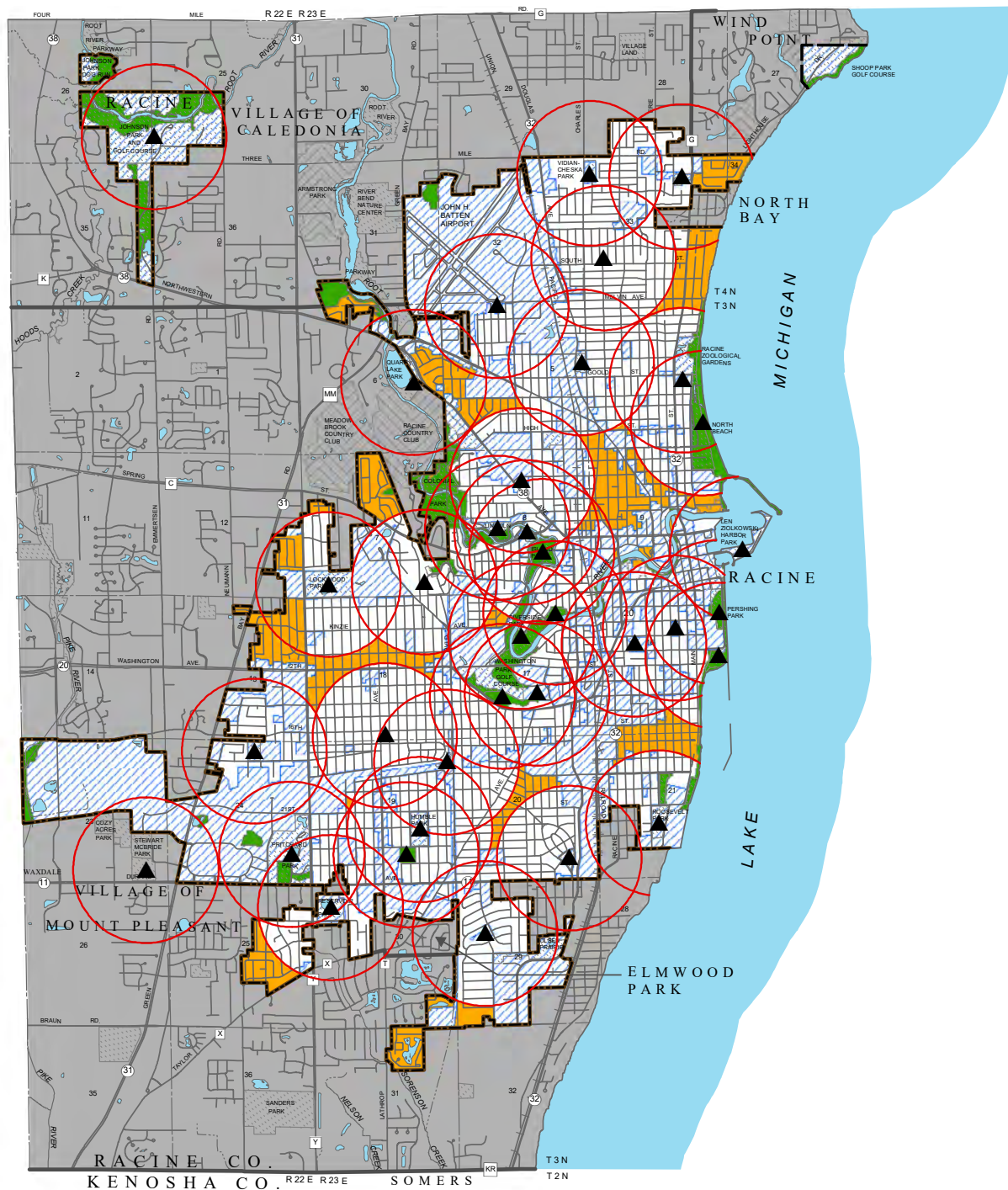
#### LEGEND

- ▲ EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK
- COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A COMMUNITY PARK
- ▨ PLANNED URBAN NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE CITY OF RACINE PLANNING AREA
- CITY OF RACINE CORPORATE LIMITS
- SHOOP PARK



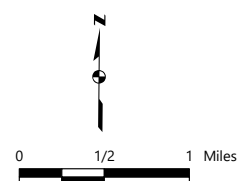


**Map 3.4**  
**Planned Residential Areas in the City of Racine Planning Area**  
**Not Adequately Served by a Neighborhood Park**



**LEGEND**

- ▲ EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- ▨ PLANNED URBAN NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE CITY OF RACINE PLANNING AREA
- CITY OF RACINE CORPORATE LIMITS
- SHOOP PARK



Source: SEWRPC

**Table 3.3**  
**Per Capita Requirements for Selected Outdoor Recreation**  
**Facilities in the City of Racine Planning Area**

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirements <sup>a</sup>				Facility Requirement <sup>b</sup>	Existing Number of Facilities	Facility Need <sup>c</sup>
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Residents			
Baseball	Diamond	Public	0.09	7	10 <sup>d</sup>	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.01</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	
		Total	0.10	8	10	
Basketball	Goal	Public	0.91	73	79	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.22</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	
		Total	1.13	91	97	
Playfield Activities	Playfield	Public	0.39	31	47	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	
		Total	0.50	40	52	
Playground Activities	Playground	Public	0.35	28	55	--
		Nonpublic	<u>0.07</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	
		Total	0.42	34	62	
Soccer	Field	Public	0.69	56	29	12 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>29<sup>e</sup></u>	
		Total	0.86	70	58	
Softball	Diamond	Public	0.53	43	44 <sup>d</sup>	2 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.07</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	
		Total	0.60	49	47	
Tennis	Court	Public	0.41	33	23	12 Public
		Nonpublic	<u>0.09</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	
		Total	0.50	40	28	

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

<sup>b</sup> The facility requirement was determined by multiplying the facility requirement per 1,000 residents anticipated under the adopted City of Racine 2035 comprehensive plan (80,510 residents).

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

<sup>d</sup> Includes baseball and softball diamonds at the County-owned Haban Park located in the Village of Mount Pleasant.

<sup>e</sup> Includes soccer fields at the Soccer Complex of Racine (SCORE), the Caledonia-Mount Pleasant Memorial Park, and the Village of Caledonia-owned land, all located in the Village of Caledonia, in addition to soccer fields at City parks.

Source: SEWRPC

### Playfields

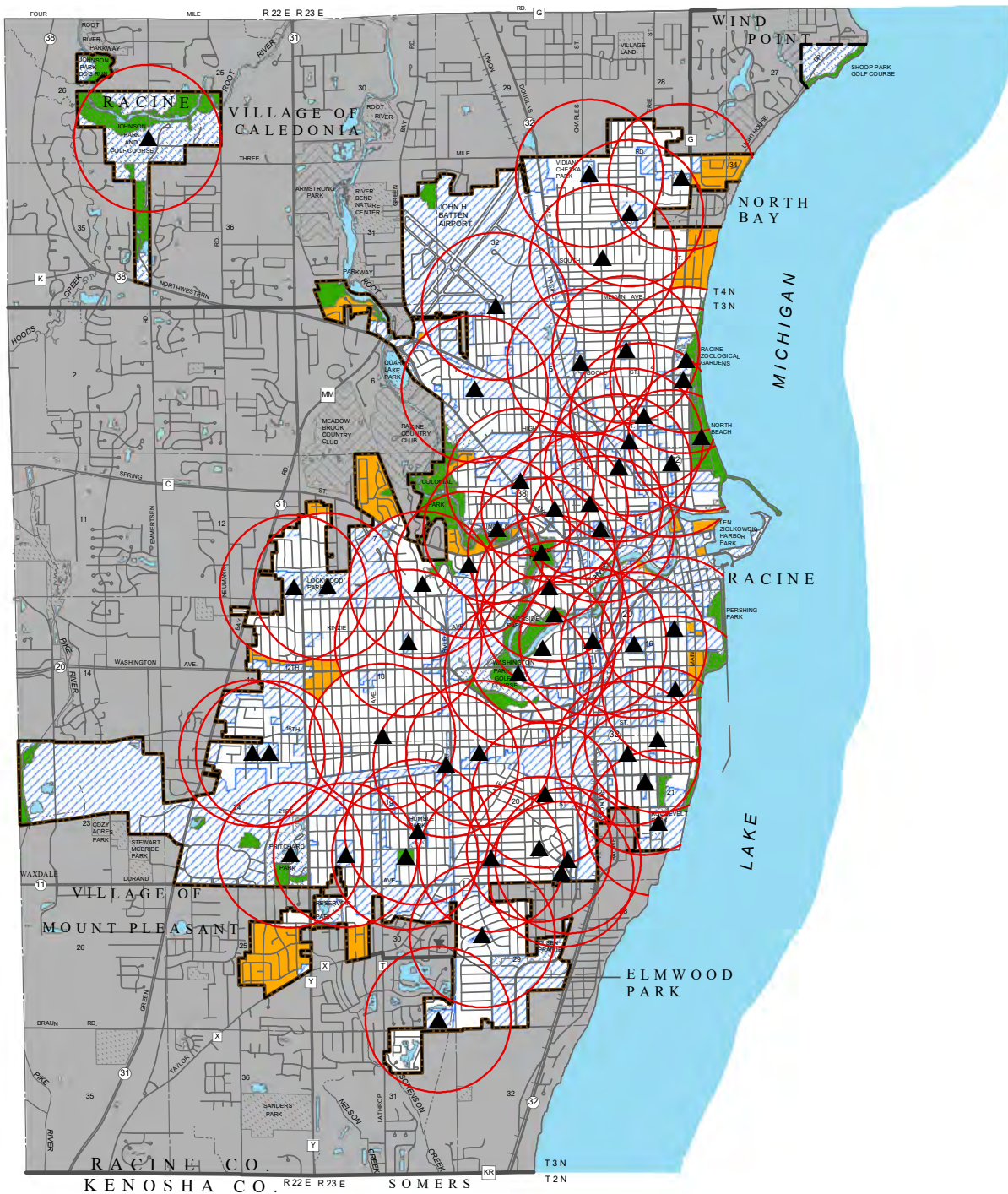
Playfields were provided at 47 public outdoor recreation sites in the City of Racine planning area in 2016. Since 2011, an additional playfield has been identified at Cedar Bend Park. Playfields at nearby parks met the service area standard for the Cedar Bend Park area in the previous park plan analysis. Application of the 0.5-mile service area standard continues to indicate that limited portions of the City are not served by the existing distribution of playfields. In addition, there are limited areas which, although within the service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to natural (rivers) or transportation-related (arterial streets or railroads) barriers.

### Playgrounds

Playgrounds were provided at 55 public outdoor recreation sites in the City of Racine planning area in 2016. Because of the removal of the playground from Paul P. Harris Rotary Park (formerly Festival Park), portions of the downtown area are not located within the recommended 0.5-mile service area for a playground, which is a change from the analysis conducted in the previous plan. The updated playground service areas for the City are shown on Map 3.5. There are limited portions of the City in addition to the downtown area that are outside the recommended service area for playgrounds. In addition, there are limited areas which, although within the service area radius, are considered inadequately served due to natural (rivers) or transportation-related (arterial streets or railroads) barriers.

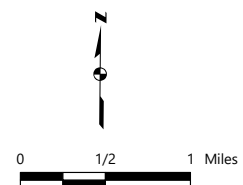
### Map 3.5

## Planned Residential Areas in the City of Racine Planning Area Not Adequately Served by a Playground



#### LEGEND

- ▲ EXISTING PLAYGROUND
- PLAYGROUND SERVICE RADIUS
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYGROUND
- ▨ PLANNED URBAN NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE CITY OF RACINE PLANNING AREA
- CITY OF RACINE CORPORATE LIMITS
- SHOOP PARK



Source: SEWRPC



### ***Soccer Fields***

Public soccer fields were provided at 17 public outdoor recreation sites in the City of Racine planning area in 2016. Public soccer fields were also provided at the Caledonia-Mount Pleasant Memorial Park and at Village of Caledonia-owned land. Private soccer fields were located nearby at the Soccer Complex of Racine (SCORE). All three sites are adjacent to each other and are located in the Village of Caledonia. Since 2011, two soccer fields were developed at Johnson Park and Golf Course. Application of the one-mile service area standard indicates that areas in the northwestern and eastern portions of the City are not served by the existing distribution of soccer fields, which is unchanged from the previous analysis.

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

League softball diamonds were provided at eight public outdoor recreation sites in the City of Racine planning area in 2016. The baseball diamond at Lincoln Park also serves as a league softball diamond. League softball diamonds were also located at the County-owned Haban Park in the Village of Mount Pleasant. Application of the one-mile service area standard indicates that areas in the northern, eastern, and southern portions of the City are not served by the existing distribution of league softball diamonds, which is unchanged from the previous analysis.

### ***Tennis Courts***

Tennis courts were provided at six public outdoor recreation sites in the City of Racine planning area in 2016. Although two tennis courts were removed from Cedar Bend Park, there is a tennis court remaining at the park to help fulfill the service area standard. Application of the one-mile service area standard indicates that areas in the northern, eastern, southern, and southwestern portions of the City are not served by the existing distribution of tennis courts.

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

Two public beaches were identified within the City of Racine planning area in 2016; North Beach and Quarry Lake Park. A seasonal swimming pool is also available for a daily fee at the County-owned Reefpoint Marina. Beaches along Lake Michigan have a 10-mile service radius; hence, the entire planning area is served by the existing distribution of public beaches in the City. A spray water feature/splash pad is also located at Park Place.

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

As shown by Table 3.3, application of the per capita standards identified a need for 12 additional public soccer fields, 12 additional public tennis courts, and two additional public softball diamonds. The service area analysis for recreational facilities contained in the previous park plan called for the development of additional playfields, playgrounds, basketball goals, league softball diamonds, and tennis courts to assure that such facilities are conveniently located to serve neighborhood residents. Table 4.1 in Chapter 4 indicates that a number of recreational facilities recommended in the previous plan have not yet been fully developed, including a ball diamond at Franklin Park and Vidian-Cheska Park; a league ball diamond to replace the sandlot ball diamond at Hantschel Park; a basketball court at Case-Harmon Park, Lincoln Park, Parker Park, and Pershing Park; a full basketball court to replace the existing one-half basketball court at Clayton Park; and a playfield, a playground, and a basketball court at Reservoir Park. Development of these facilities would help meet per capita and distribution standards within the City.

## **3.5 SUMMARY**

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

- The Pathway System Plan/Map recommends the development of a Lake Michigan Pathway and a Root River Pathway within the City. The development of both pathways within the City has been substantially completed. The City of Racine Health Department is currently preparing the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which will update the Pathway System Plan/Map, and provide additional recommendations for bikeways and bike routes in the City.

- The City of Racine 2035 Comprehensive Plan contains general recommendations relevant to this park and open space plan update, including providing additional recreational areas and facilities in portions of the City. The plan also recommends that the City continue to implement the bicycle and pedestrian facility recommendations of the City comprehensive plan and the regional transportation plan. The plan further recommends that the City, in cooperation with Racine County, develop a water trail on the Root River and along the Lake Michigan shoreline.
- In 2014, the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan was completed. The plan provides specific recommendations to address watershed-related conditions, with the overall goal of restoring and improving the water resources of the Root River watershed. The plan is focused on four issues: water quality, recreational use and access, habitat condition, and flooding.
- The City adopted five neighborhood plans between 2003 and 2011. Since 2011, the City has updated the Uptown Neighborhood Plan and prepared the Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan (RootWorks). In 2017, the City adopted a refinement to the RootWorks plan (RootWorks Area-wide Plan and Implementation Strategy) The plans present park-, open space-, and/or trail-related needs and recommendations for each neighborhood.
- The need for major parks has been addressed by the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan. Under that plan, Pritchard Park and Johnson Park and Golf Course were identified as major parks. No additional need for major parks exists within the planning area.
- The County park plan also recommends that the County continue to develop the Lake Michigan Trail, Root River Trail, and Racine-Kansasville Trail. The City of Racine's development of the Lake Michigan Pathway has fully implemented the Lake Michigan Trail within Racine County, and portions of the Root River Pathway and the Racine-Kansasville Trail within the City have largely been completed. The County plan recommends that the City develop the portion of the Root River Corridor Trail within the City-owned Johnson Park and Golf Course to complete the development of the trail within the City.
- Application of the per capita standards for neighborhood and community parks indicates no additional need for parkland to serve the anticipated 2035 City population (80,510 persons).
- Application of the per capita standards for recreational facilities indicates a need for 12 additional public soccer fields, 12 additional public tennis courts, and two additional public softball diamonds in the City. The service area analysis for recreational facilities identifies a need for additional baseball and softball diamonds, basketball goals, playfields, playgrounds, soccer fields, and tennis courts to meet standards for a desirable distribution of recreational facilities.





*Credit: SEWRPC Staff*

## 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Racine Park and Open Space Plan for the year 2035 (2nd Edition),<sup>23</sup> adopted in 2011, includes a number of recommendations regarding the development and/or improvement of recreational facilities. While most of the recommendations are directed to the City of Racine, there are also recommendations directed to other units and agencies of government with jurisdiction within the City, including Racine County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This chapter summarizes the recommendations made in the previous City park and open space plan and indicates those recommendations that had been implemented as of the end of 2016. Recommendations that had not been implemented as of 2016 are also summarized, and were reevaluated as part of this plan update. Plan recommendations are presented in Chapter 5.

## 4.2 STATUS OF PARK PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE CITY OF RACINE

The previous park and open space plan recommendations and the implementation status of each recommendation are summarized in Table 4.1. The table is organized into two sections; the outdoor recreation element and the open space preservation element. The two sections correspond to recommendations made in the body of the previous park and open space plan.

### Outdoor Recreation Element

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

Recommendations in the previous park plan under the outdoor recreation element related to the development and/or improvement of existing parks and trails include:

- The development of neighborhood park facilities at Case-Harmon, Clayton, Paul P. Harris Rotary Park (Festival Park), Franklin, Hantschel, Lincoln, Parker, Pershing, Reservoir, and Vidian-Cheska parks

<sup>23</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 270, 2nd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for the City of Racine, Racine County, Wisconsin, December 2011.

Table 4.1

## Status of Previous Plan Recommendations for the City of Racine Park and Open Space Plan

City of Racine 2nd Edition Park and Open Space Plan Recommendation	Recommendation Fully Implemented	Recommendation Partially Implemented	Recommendation Remaining to be Implemented
Outdoor Recreation Element			
Parks			
1. Case-Harmon Park			
Facilities: Develop a Basketball Court	--	--	X
Replace Playground Equipment	--	--	X
2. Clayton Park			
Facilities: Develop a Full Court Basketball Court to	--	--	X
Replace One-Half Basketball Court			
Provide Benches to View Root River	X	--	--
3. Douglas Park			
Facilities: Replace Ball Diamond Lights	X	--	--
Interior and Exterior Updates to Cesar	X	--	--
Chavez Community Center			
Additional Landscaping	X	--	--
4. Dr. Hamilton Park			
Facilities: Replace Playground Equipment	X	--	--
Improve Streetscape and Park Facilities	X	--	--
5. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park			
Facilities: Interior and Exterior Updates to Dr. Martin	X	--	--
Luther King, Jr. Community Center			
6. Paul P. Harris Rotary Park (Festival Park)			
Facilities: Develop a New Park Area <sup>a</sup>	--	--	X
Develop a Pedestrian Bridge	--	--	X
7. Franklin Park			
Facilities: Develop a Sandlot Ball Diamond	--	--	X
Replace Playground Equipment	--	--	X
8. Graceland Cemetery			
Facilities: Repair Roads and Walkways	--	X	--
Dredge Pond	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
Expand Existing Burial Sites	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
9. Grand Park			
Facilities: Replace Playground Equipment	--	--	X
10. Greencrest Park			
Facilities: Renovate Shelter	--	--	X
Repave Basketball Court	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
11. Hagerer Park			
Facilities: Replace Playground Equipment	--	--	X
12. Hantschel Park			
Facilities: Replace Playground Equipment	X	--	--
Replace Shelter	X <sup>c</sup>	--	--
Renovate Restrooms <sup>d</sup>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
Develop a League Softball Diamond,	--	X	--
Replacing the Sandlot Ball Diamond			
13. Harvey Park			
Facilities: Replace Playground Equipment	--	--	X
14. Horlick Athletic Field			
Facilities: Develop Additional Restrooms	X	--	--
Seal Coat Parking Lot	X	--	--
Replace Football Scoreboard	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
15. Humble Park			
Facilities: Pave 21st Street Sidewalk	X	--	--
Replace Northwest Ball Diamond	X	--	--
Replace Tennis Courts	--	--	X
Replace Play Equipment	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--

Table continued on next page.

**Table 4.1 (Continued)**

<b>City of Racine 2nd Edition Park and Open Space Plan Recommendation</b>	<b>Recommendation Fully Implemented</b>	<b>Recommendation Partially Implemented</b>	<b>Recommendation Remaining to be Implemented</b>
15. Humble Park (continued)			
<i>Interior and Exterior Updates to Humble     Park Community Center</i>	X	--	--
<i>Upgraded Ball Diamonds Lighting</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
16. Island Park			
Facilities: <i>Repave Horlick Drive within the Park</i>	X	--	--
<i>Replace North Ball Diamond Lights</i>	X	--	--
<i>Renovate Tennis Courts</i>	--	X	--
<i>Replace Playground Equipment</i>	--	--	X
<i>Resurface Playground Area</i>	--	--	X
17. Johnson Park and Golf Course			
Facilities: <i>Repave Johnson Park Drive and Picnic Road</i>	X	--	--
<i>Remove River Pumphouse</i>	--	--	X
<i>Replace Lift Station</i>	--	--	X
<i>Rebuild Fourth-Hole Putting Green and     Third-Hole Tee Box</i>	X	--	--
<i>Disc Golf Course</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
18. Jonas Park			
Facilities: <i>Additional Landscaping</i>	X	--	--
19. Jones Park			
Facilities: <i>Replace Playground Equipment</i>	--	--	X
20. Lincoln Park			
Facilities: <i>Renovate Ball Diamond</i>	X	--	--
<i>Replace Ball Diamond Fencing</i>	X	--	--
<i>Pave Parking Lot</i>	X	--	--
<i>Remove Pedestrian Bridge</i>	X <sup>e</sup>	--	--
<i>Added Benches Near Canoe Launch</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
<i>Develop a Basketball Court</i>	--	--	X
<i>Modify the Existing Boat Launch Upstream     from Steelhead Facility</i>	X	--	--
<i>Provide Benches to View the Root River</i>	--	--	X
21. Lockwood Park			
Facilities: <i>Renovate Ball Diamond</i>	X	--	--
<i>Replace Ball Diamond Fencing</i>	X	--	--
<i>Seal and Paint Tennis Courts</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
<i>Add ADA Pathways</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
<i>Crack Fill and Seal Parking Lot</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
<i>New Standard Five-Row Bleachers</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
<i>Upgrade Electric Service at Snow Hill and     Ball Diamond</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
<i>Replaced Tennis Court Lighting</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
<i>Added Hitting Board to Tennis Courts</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
22. Marino Park			
Facilities: <i>Resurface Playground Area</i>	--	--	X
<i>Replace Basketball Court</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
23. Mat Matson Park			
Facilities: <i>Rehabilitated Shelter</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
<i>Replaced Basketball Court</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
24. Mound Cemetery			
Facilities: <i>Repair Roads and Walkways</i>	X	--	--
<i>Expand Existing Burial Sites</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
25. North Beach Park			
Facilities: <i>Install Beach Matting</i>	X	--	--
<i>Prepare Master Plan</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
26. Park Place			
Facilities: <i>Develop Restrooms</i>	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--

**Table continued on next page.**

Table 4.1 (Continued)

City of Racine 2nd Edition Park and Open Space Plan Recommendation	Recommendation Fully Implemented	Recommendation Partially Implemented	Recommendation Remaining to be Implemented
27. Parker Park			
Facilities: Develop a Basketball Court	--	--	X
Replace Playground Equipment	X	--	--
28. Pershing Park			
Facilities: Develop a Basketball Court	--	--	X
Pave Central Parking Lot	X	--	--
Resurface Boat Ramp Parking Lot	X	--	--
Renovate Boat Ramp Restrooms	--	--	X
Renovate Soccer Bleachers	--	--	X
Renovate Locker Rooms	--	--	X
Renovate Locker Rooms	--	--	X
Developed Boat Wash Station	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
29. Racine Zoological Gardens			
Facilities: Install Beach Matting	X	--	--
Develop Outdoor Orangutan Exhibit	--	--	X
Pave Walking Paths	X	--	--
Reseal Wisconsin Avenue Parking Lot	--	--	X
Renovate Primate Building	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
Add Outdoor LED Lighting	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
30. Reservoir Park			
Facilities: Develop a Playfield	--	--	X
Develop a Playground	--	--	X
Develop a Basketball Court	--	--	X
31. Robert Heck Park			
Facilities: Replace Playground Equipment	X	--	--
32. Roosevelt Park			
Facilities: Replace Playground Equipment	X	--	--
Renovate North Ball Diamond	--	--	X
Replace Ball Diamond Fencing	--	--	X
Interior and Exterior Updates to Dr. John Bryant Community Center	X	--	--
33. Samuel Myers Park			
Facilities: Pave Parking Lot	X	--	--
Park Design	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
34. Shoop Park Golf Course			
Facilities: Renovate Clubhouse	--	--	X
Upgrade West Fairway Drainage	--	--	X
35. Solbraa Park			
Facilities: Renovate Shelter	X	--	--
Renovate Ball Diamond	--	--	X
Replace Ball Diamond Fencing	--	--	X
Replace Ball Diamond Lights	--	--	X
36. Tyler-Domer Community Center			
Facilities: Interior and Exterior Updates to Community Center	X	--	--
37. Vidian-Cheska Park			
Facilities: Develop a League Softball Diamond	--	--	X
Pave Bike Path from Charles Street to the Park	--	--	X
38. Washington Park Bowl			
Facilities: Replace Stairs	X	--	--
Renovate East Ball Diamond	X	--	--
Renovate East Ball Diamond Fencing	X	--	--
Renovate East Ball Diamond Lights	X	--	--
Renovate West Ball Diamond	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--
Renovate Storage/Restroom Building	X <sup>b</sup>	--	--

Table continued on next page.

**Table 4.1 (Continued)**

<b>City of Racine 2nd Edition Park and Open Space Plan Recommendation</b>	<b>Recommendation Fully Implemented</b>	<b>Recommendation Partially Implemented</b>	<b>Recommendation Remaining to be Implemented</b>
39. Washington Park Golf Course Facilities: <i>Replace Walkways Along the Building</i>	X	--	--
40. West Park Facilities: Improve Streetscape and Park <i>Replace Playground Equipment</i>	X X	-- --	-- --
41. Wustum Museum Facilities: <i>Renovate for ADA Accessibility</i> <i>Update First and Second Floor</i> <i>Electrical Systems</i> <i>Pave the Rear Parking Lot</i> <i>Pave the Storage Building Area</i> <i>Add LED Lighting to Parking Lot</i>	-- X  X X X <sup>b</sup>	X --  -- -- --	-- --  -- -- --
42. Other Recommendations to be Developed at Unspecified City Parks Facilities: Develop an Outdoor Ice Skating Facility Develop a Community Swimming Pool Develop Additional Practice Soccer Fields/Playfields	-- -- --	-- -- --	X X X
<b>Recreational Trails</b>			
1. Root River Trail and Access Trail within Johnson Park and Golf Course Trail Construction/Signage	--	--	X
2. On-Street Bike Route System Construction/Signage – 23 Miles	--	X	--
3. Riverwalk from 6th Street to Main Street Trail Construction/Signage	--	--	X
4. Lake Michigan Water Trail Signage/Support Facilities – Nine Miles	--	X	--
5. Root River Water Trail Signage/Support Facilities – 12 Miles	--	X	--
<b>Open Space Preservation Element</b>			
Preserve primary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas currently within City ownership in natural, open space uses	--	X (Approximately 568 of 577 acres are in existing City ownership)	--
Enact conservancy zoning regulations and apply the regulations to primary environmental corridors that are privately owned	--	--	X (Approximately 47 acres)
Consider enacting conservancy zoning regulations for secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas that are privately owned	--	--	X (Approximately 43 acres)

Note: Facilities in italics were proposed to be completed by 2016, the remaining facilities and recommendations were proposed to be completed between 2016 and 2035.

<sup>a</sup> The Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Board recommends the integration or relocation of the existing boat launches and boat trailer parking area prior to development of a new park.

<sup>b</sup> Facility not specifically recommended in the previous plan.

<sup>c</sup> The City determined that the shelter be renovated rather than replaced.

<sup>d</sup> The restrooms have been renovated to become ADA compliant.

<sup>e</sup> The City determined that there was a need for the bridge and repaired the bridge.

Source: City of Racine Department of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services and SEWRPC



- Additional improvements to recreational facilities at 37 existing parks, special use sites, community centers, golf courses, and cemeteries, including Case-Harmon Park, Clayton Park, Douglas Park, Dr. Hamilton Park, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Franklin Park, Graceland Cemetery, Grand Park, Greencrest Park, Hagerer Park, Hantschel Park, Harvey Park, Horlick Athletic Field, Humble Park, Island Park, Johnson Park and Golf Course, Jonas Park, Jones Park, Lincoln Park, Lockwood Park, Marino Park, Mound Cemetery, North Beach Park, Parker Park, Pershing Park, Racine Zoological Gardens, Robert Heck Park, Roosevelt Park, Samuel Myers Park, Shoop Park Golf Course, Solbraa Park, Tyler-Domer Community Center, Vidian-Cheska Park, Washington Park Bowl, Washington Park Golf Course, West Park, and Wustum Museum
- Development of a community-wide ice skating rink at an existing City park
- Development of a community swimming pool at a centralized location within the City
- Development of additional practice soccer fields/playfields at existing City parks, if space becomes available during park redevelopment
- Continued maintenance of the Lake Michigan Pathway and Root River Pathway and development of a one-mile portion of the Root River Trail within Johnson Park and Golf Course that will eventually connect to a planned County trail
- Development of a Root River and Lake Michigan Water Trail, in cooperation with Racine County, adjacent local governments, and nonprofit conservation organizations

Since 2011, the City has also pursued some alternative improvements or developments of various facilities at selected park sites, rather than the recommended developments or improvements included in the previous park plan. The previous park plan recommended that the pedestrian bridge be removed from Lincoln Park, but the City determined there was a need for the bridge, and repairs were made. In addition, the stairs at Washington Park Bowl have not been replaced, as recommended, but repaired. A number of other facilities not specifically called for in the existing park plan have also been developed or improved at certain sites and are noted in Table 4.1.

The City is also planning to improve and increase public access to the Root River and Lake Michigan by providing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in areas along the Root River and Lake Michigan. Specifically, the City plans to enhance these amenities within the Harborside area. Harborside is also referred to as the Walker Site Redevelopment area in the City's RootWorks plan, which is described in Chapter 3 of this report. Harborside is located on the west banks of the Racine Harbor, north of the Root River, east of Main Street, and south of Hamilton Street. Currently, the City has two park sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline in this area (Rooney Recreation Area and Pugh Recreation Area), but both sites can be difficult to access and are not well-known properties due to the current street design, existing development, and the lack of directional signage. The City plans to redevelop the existing warehouse and marina structures to commercial and residential mixed-use buildings and connect the public street grid within and into the redevelopment area to improve the access to these sites. The City also plans to develop additional open space along the Lake Michigan shoreline that could potentially present opportunities for programmable recreation and community gatherings.

In addition, the City plans to develop bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly streets within the redevelopment area, which will improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between North Beach Park, located to the north, and the existing Lake Michigan and Root River Pathways, the proposed River Loop, and Machinery Row. Improving connectivity within the redevelopment area will also provide easier access to public and private sites and amenities along Lake Michigan, the Root River, and the Downtown area.

To achieve public safety, environmental protection, economic development, and public health and recreation recommendations in the RootWorks Plan, the City added an overlay district to the City Zoning Code to regulate the use, development, and maintenance of property adjacent to the Root River. The overlay district will also influence the redevelopment potential within the Harborside area.

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

The outdoor recreation element of the previous park plan recommends the continued development of a trail along the Root River. While a five-mile portion of the Root River Trail currently exists, the trail is proposed to be further developed from Colonial Park to, and within, Johnson Park and Golf Course. The previous park plan also recommended that the City continue to maintain the 10-mile Lake Michigan Pathway.

In addition, the previous plan recommended the development of 27 miles of on-street bikeways along State, County, and local streets within the City. The previous plan also recommended that the City develop the Riverwalk along the Root River from 6th Street to Main Street, which is proposed to connect to the lakefront and the Lake Michigan Pathway.

The previous plan further recommends that the City work with Racine County, adjacent local governments, and interested nonprofit conservation organizations to develop the Root River and Lake Michigan Water Trails.

### **Open Space Preservation Element**

The previous park plan recommended that all primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas currently in City ownership remain in public ownership and be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses. A total of 568 acres of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas were owned by the City in 2011. The previous plan recommended that the City acquire about nine additional acres of primary environmental corridor associated with the Colonial Park Woods natural area for resource protection purposes.

The previous plan also recommended that the City enact conservancy zoning regulations and apply those regulations to primary and secondary environmental corridors that are privately owned, and also consider protecting privately-owned isolated natural resource areas through conservancy zoning. To date, the City has not amended its zoning ordinance to include conservancy zoning regulations.

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

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

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

In addition to administering grant funds, the WDNR has placed two easements on properties located along the Root River on the south and west sides of Lincoln Park since 2011.

### **Racine County**

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

The previous park plan recommended that Racine County provide additional facilities and maintain existing facilities at Pritchard Park; continue to maintain facilities at Horlick Park, Racine Harbor Park, Quarry Lake Park, Belle Harbor Marina, and Reef Point Marina; and develop a boat launch at Quarry Lake Park. Since 2011, the County sold the property associated with Belle Harbor Marina for redevelopment and renamed Racine Harbor Park to Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park. The previous park plan recognized and supported the potential redevelopment of the County marina for urbanized uses. The previous plan also recommended that the County, in cooperation with the City and possibly nearby Villages, develop an ice skating facility at Pritchard Park; however, that recommendation is no longer included in the updated County park plan.

Since 2011, Racine County has also acquired a three-acre site in the western portion of the City associated with the continued development of the Racine-Kansasville Trail, formerly known as the Racine-Sturtevant Trail in the previous plan.

The previous plan further recommended that Racine County continue to maintain and preserve the 12-acre isolated natural resource area consisting of the Pritchard Park Woods critical species habitat site within Pritchard Park.

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

The previous park plan calls for Racine County to continue to maintain those portions of the Lake Michigan Trail located in the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant and that the City continue to maintain that portion of the Lake Michigan Trail (called the Lake Michigan Pathway) located in the City. The plan also recommends that the County develop the Root River Trail in the Village of Caledonia, which would connect with the City-owned Root River Pathway. It should be noted that the recent development of the City of Racine's Lake Michigan Pathway and Root River Pathway provide a connection to Racine County trails that connect to Milwaukee County trails to the north and Kenosha County trails to the south.

In addition, the previous plan recommends that the County continue to maintain the Racine-Sturtevant Trail from the City of Racine to the Village of Sturtevant, and eventually extend the development of the trail from the Village of Sturtevant to the City of Burlington. Since 2011, that portion of the Racine-Sturtevant Trail located within the City has been renamed the "Racine-Kansasville Trail." In the previous park plan, the Racine-Sturtevant Trail was proposed to extend from the City of Racine to the City of Burlington, partially within an abandoned railway right-of-way. The trail within the City of Racine extended from West Boulevard west to Willow Road in the Village of Sturtevant. The trail has since been extended west from Willow Road to 96th Street in the Village of Sturtevant.

## **4.4 SUMMARY**

The City of Racine has implemented a number of the recommendations made in the previous park plan related to developing and/or improving City parks and trails and preserving important natural resources within the City. Chapter 3 evaluated the need for additional park sites and recreational facilities in the City. The need for additional park sites and facilities and the revaluation of previous plan recommendations that have not been implemented were considered while developing the updated plan recommendations, which are presented in the following chapter.



*Credit: SEWRPC Staff*

## 5.1 INTRODUCTION

A high-quality parks system provides cultural, environmental, recreational, and aesthetic benefits that directly contribute to the City's quality of life. The primary purposes of this park and open space plan are to provide a sound and workable plan to guide the acquisition of land and the development of recreational facilities to meet the recreation needs of City residents, to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base, and to contribute to the economic value and development of the community. The recommended park and open space plan is presented in this chapter. This plan updates the park and open space plan that was adopted by the City in 2011. Similar to the previous park plan, this plan also has a design year of 2035.

This plan is intended to provide a long-range vision and a guide to assist City officials and staff in making the day-to-day decisions needed for the continued development of the City's park and open space system. To assist in the implementation of the plan, both long-term recommendations, for the next 18 years, and an "action plan," for the next five years, are presented in this chapter. The plan includes recommendations to develop additional recreational facilities at existing parks; update, improve, or replace recreational facilities at existing parks; continue to develop a City-wide system of recreational trails and bikeways; and continue to protect areas with important natural resources.

Important preliminary steps in developing this plan included reviewing park acquisition and development activities conducted to date to implement the previous park plan, and collecting updated information regarding land use, population, natural resources, and park and open space sites and recreational facilities within the City and planning area. New or changed conditions affecting park and open space sites and recreational facilities, including pertinent recommendations from the City of Racine 2035 Comprehensive Plan, the City of Racine Pathway System Plan/Map, the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan, the Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan, the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan, and the updated natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin were also identified and incorporated, as appropriate, into this new plan.

The responsibility for implementing recommendations to meet park and open space objectives is shared by several levels of government. Resource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives requiring large parks, areawide trail facilities, and facilities for such activities as golfing, camping, and boating, are typically the

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

The first part of this chapter summarizes the areawide park and open space plan recommendations for the City, which are presented in the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan.<sup>24</sup> The County plan includes recommendations to provide resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities and to protect environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in Racine County, including the City of Racine. The second section of this chapter sets forth recommendations for providing City park and open space sites and facilities. A third section describes actions needed to implement the plan. A summary of the chapter is included in the last section.

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

The park and open space plan for Racine County contains recommendations which, if implemented, would provide residents of the County with opportunities to participate in a wide range of resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities. Those recommendations, which have been incorporated into this City plan where they pertain to the planning area, are concerned with providing major parks, which provide opportunities for resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, and recreation corridors, which provide opportunities for various trail-oriented activities. In addition, the plan includes recommendations for protecting and preserving open space lands, including natural resource features such as woodlands, wetlands, and floodplains, located within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

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

The outdoor recreation element of the Racine County park and open space plan is shown on Map 3.2 in Chapter 3. The outdoor recreation element includes recommendations for major parks and trail facilities as follows.

#### **Major Parks**

The County plan recommends a total of 10 major public outdoor recreation sites in the County. Two major parks, Johnson Park and Golf Course and Pritchard Park, currently exist within the City of Racine, and would continue to be provided and maintained by the City of Racine and Racine County, respectively. The County plan recommends developing additional facilities for resource-oriented activities as needed at Pritchard Park. Since 2011, the County has developed a Veteran's Memorial Exhibit near the entrance of the park on Ohio Avenue.

The County plan recommends that the County continue to maintain other County-owned sites within the City of Racine, including Horlick Park, Quarry Lake Park, Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park (formerly Racine Harbor Park), and Reef Point Marina. It is also recommended that the County continue to maintain the River Bend Nature Center and continue to provide resource-oriented activities at the site. The nature center is located along the Root River in the Village of Caledonia, adjacent to the City, near Batten Airport. In addition, the County plan recommends that the City of Racine continue to maintain and provide additional resource-oriented recreational facilities, when necessary, at the City-owned Johnson Park and Golf Course. Since 2011, the County has sold the Belle Harbor Marina for redevelopment. As stated in the previous City park plan, the Marina site will be redeveloped with a mix of uses, which may include a business that will provide recreational opportunities on and along the Root River.

The previous County park plan also recommended that the County, in cooperation with the City and possibly nearby Villages, develop an ice skating facility at Pritchard Park; however, that recommendation is no longer included in the updated County park plan.

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<sup>24</sup> Documented in *SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 3rd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, February 2013.*



In 2017, SC Johnson proposed to fund the development of an aquatic center at Pritchard Park. In spring 2018, the development of the aquatic center was completed with two swimming pools, water slides, water play structures, spray areas, concessions, and other support-related amenities. The aquatic center is open to the public and operated by the Racine Family YMCA with the County making improvements and providing some maintenance to the facility. The aquatic center is referred to as the SC Johnson Community Aquatic Center.

The County is also proposing to develop a multi-purpose turf field for football, soccer, and lacrosse events before 2020 and develop two league ball diamonds and four youth-sized ball diamonds within the next five to 10 years at Pritchard Park.

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

The County plan recommends that about 88 miles of recreational trails be provided in the County as part of the 500-mile regionwide trail system. The Lake Michigan Trail, which is recommended under the regionwide trail system, has been fully implemented in Racine County with the completion of the 11-mile Lake Michigan Pathway by the City of Racine. This trail provides a connection to the existing Racine County Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha (MRK) Trail on the north side of the City and the existing Racine County North Shore Trail on the south side of the City. Several segments of the trail within the City are near or within view of Lake Michigan.

The County plan recommends that the County acquire primary environmental corridor lands along the Root River north of the City limits to protect environmentally sensitive areas and to serve as the basis for a Root River parkway and trail system. The trail is proposed to extend south from the Milwaukee-Racine County line along the Root River in the Village of Caledonia through the City to Lake Michigan. The Root River Trail has been fully implemented within the City of Racine through the five-mile pathway that extends from the Main Street Bridge, near downtown, to Colonial Park. The Root River Pathway provides a connection to the County MRK Trail on the north side of the City and the County North Shore Trail on the south side of the City. The pathway also provides a connection to the County-owned Racine-Kansasville Trail. Ultimately, the development of the Root River Trail along the Root River within Racine County would connect with a similar trail along the Root River in Milwaukee County. The County plan recommends that the City develop a portion of the Root River Trail within Johnson Park and Golf Course. The County would be responsible for developing those portions of the trail outside the City of Racine.

The County plan further recommends that the County develop and maintain a trail from the City of Racine to the City of Burlington. In the previous City park plan, this trail was referred to as the "Racine-Sturtevant Trail;" however, the updated County park plan now refers to that trail segment from Racine to Kansasville as the "Racine-Kansasville Trail." The remainder of the trail from Kansasville westward to the City of Burlington is referred to as the "White River Trail." The trail would be located within the right-of-way of the Canadian Pacific Railway, should the railway become abandoned. Recreational activities proposed for the trail include biking, hiking, dog walking, and cross-country skiing. The 22-mile trail would include approximately three miles within the City of Racine.

Currently, the entire trail segment within the City of Racine has been developed, from West Boulevard westward to the City limits. Within the City, the existing trail is located primarily within a WE Energies utility corridor with some portions located on City streets. The remaining portion of the trail, west of 96th Street in the Village of Sturtevant, is proposed to be developed on local, low-volume traffic streets or within an abandoned railway right-of-way. In 2014, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company abandoned the railway right-of-way from Sturtevant to Kansasville. The County is currently planning to develop the remainder of trail in the abandoned right-of-way, which will connect to the existing trail segments on the eastern and western portions of the County.

In addition, the year 2035 regional transportation system plan<sup>25</sup> recommends a network of on- and off-street bicycle ways within the County. Bikeways recommended by the regional transportation plan have

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<sup>25</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 49, A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035, June 2006. The year 2035 plan has been updated to the year 2050 and is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 55, VISION 2050, A Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, July 2017.

been refined through the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan.<sup>26</sup> Existing and planned bikeways recommended by the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan were also incorporated into the City's 2035 comprehensive plan, and are shown on Map 5.1. Map 5.1 includes additional trails recommended in City neighborhood plans and the Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan.

### **Water Trails**

The County plan also recommends the development of water trails. Potential water trails may be located on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan<sup>27</sup> shoreline within and adjacent to the City. These trails would connect with water trails in adjacent counties. Currently, there are nine existing public boat or canoe access sites located at City- or County-owned parks along the Root River and Lake Michigan within the City. It is further recommended that Racine County continue to pursue opportunities to provide access to Lake Michigan for beach swimming, shore fishing, and passive recreational activities, as such opportunities arise.

## **5.3 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION**

The location and extent of the important open space lands in the City of Racine planning area, including wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, surface water, natural and geologic areas, and critical species habitat sites are described in Chapter 2. Many of these important natural resources are located within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, which are also described in Chapter 2. Preserving these open space lands in essentially natural, open uses would serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality in, and protect the natural beauty of, the City of Racine, as well as provide valuable recreational opportunities for residents of the City. Such preservation will also help to avoid creating serious and costly environmental and developmental problems within the City. The open space preservation plan for the City is shown on Map 5.2.

About 84 percent, or 593 acres of the 702 acres of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas within the City, are publicly owned. As shown in Table 5.1, about 569 acres of primary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas are owned by the City. Racine County owns 19 acres of environmental corridor and isolated natural resource areas and the Village of Mount Pleasant owns five acres of secondary environmental corridor along the Pike River, for a total of 24 acres. Publicly-owned environmental corridor lands and isolated natural resource areas should be maintained in public ownership and preserved in open space.

It is recommended that the City acquire about nine acres of primary environmental corridor associated with the Colonial Park Woods Natural Area for natural resource protection. As shown on Map 5.2, the unprotected lands are located adjacent to and south and east of the City-owned Colonial Park. Acquiring the natural area could be done through fee-simple purchase or through conservation easements. Acquisition of the natural area by a nonprofit conservation organization would also serve to protect the area and its resources.

It is recommended that the 46 acres of privately-owned lands within primary environmental corridors be protected through conservancy zoning. Consideration should also be given to applying conservancy zoning to 12 acres of secondary environmental corridors and 31 acres of isolated natural resource areas that are privately owned. Because the City zoning ordinance currently does not include conservancy zoning districts, other than floodplain and shoreland-wetland regulations, it is recommended that the City consider adopting and applying regulations to protect environmental corridor lands. Such regulations should limit development in wetland and floodplain areas to open space uses, and limit development in upland wooded areas to very low density residential use or compatible recreational uses.

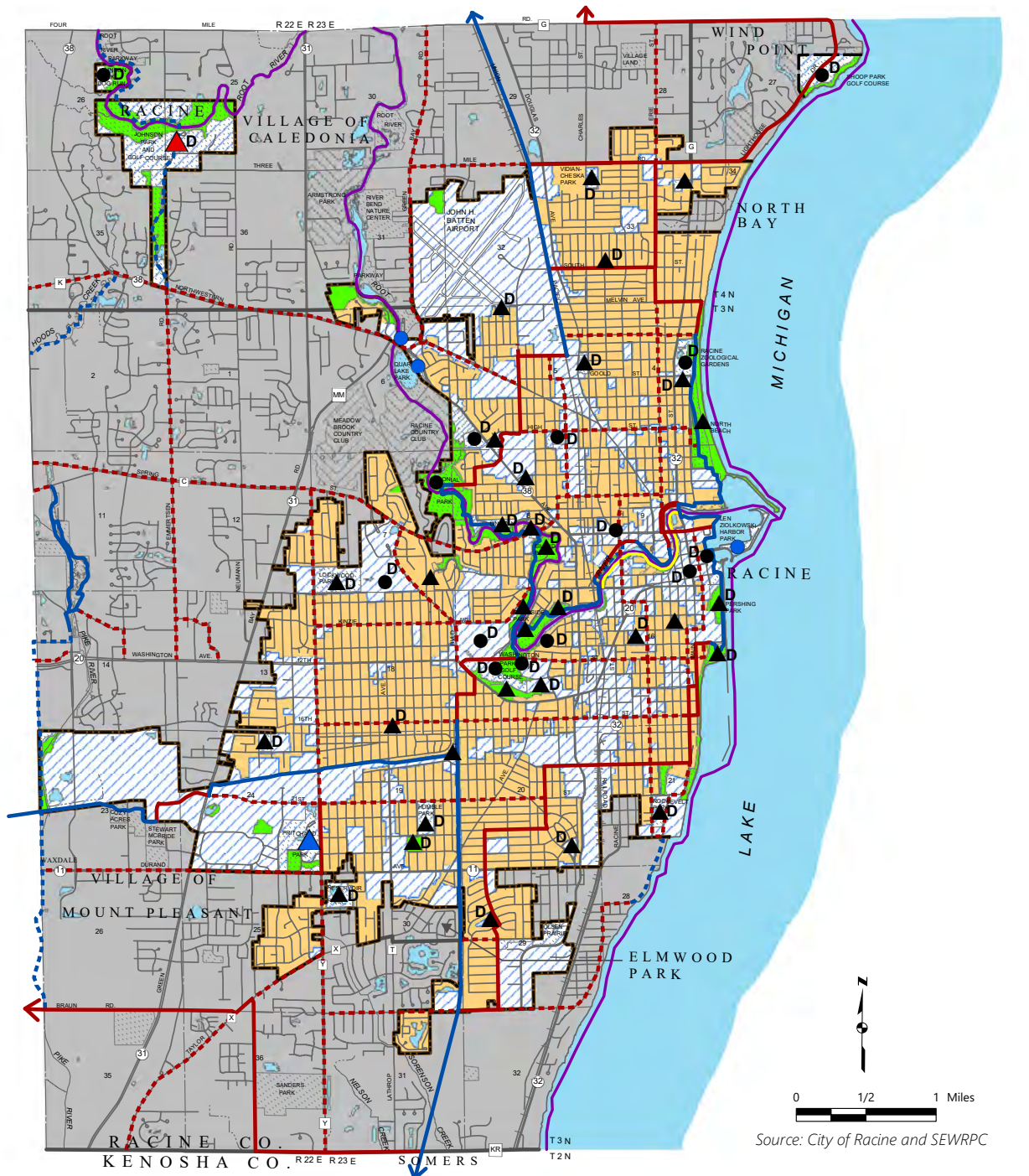
The boundaries of environmental corridors change over time due to updated floodplain and wetland mapping, natural changes in wetland boundaries, and field surveys that precisely identify the boundaries of wetlands and environmental corridors. In addition, floodplain areas adjacent to environmental corridors

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<sup>26</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, November 2009.

<sup>27</sup> [dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakemichigan](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakemichigan)

## Map 5.1 Outdoor Recreation Plan for the City of Racine Planning Area: 2035

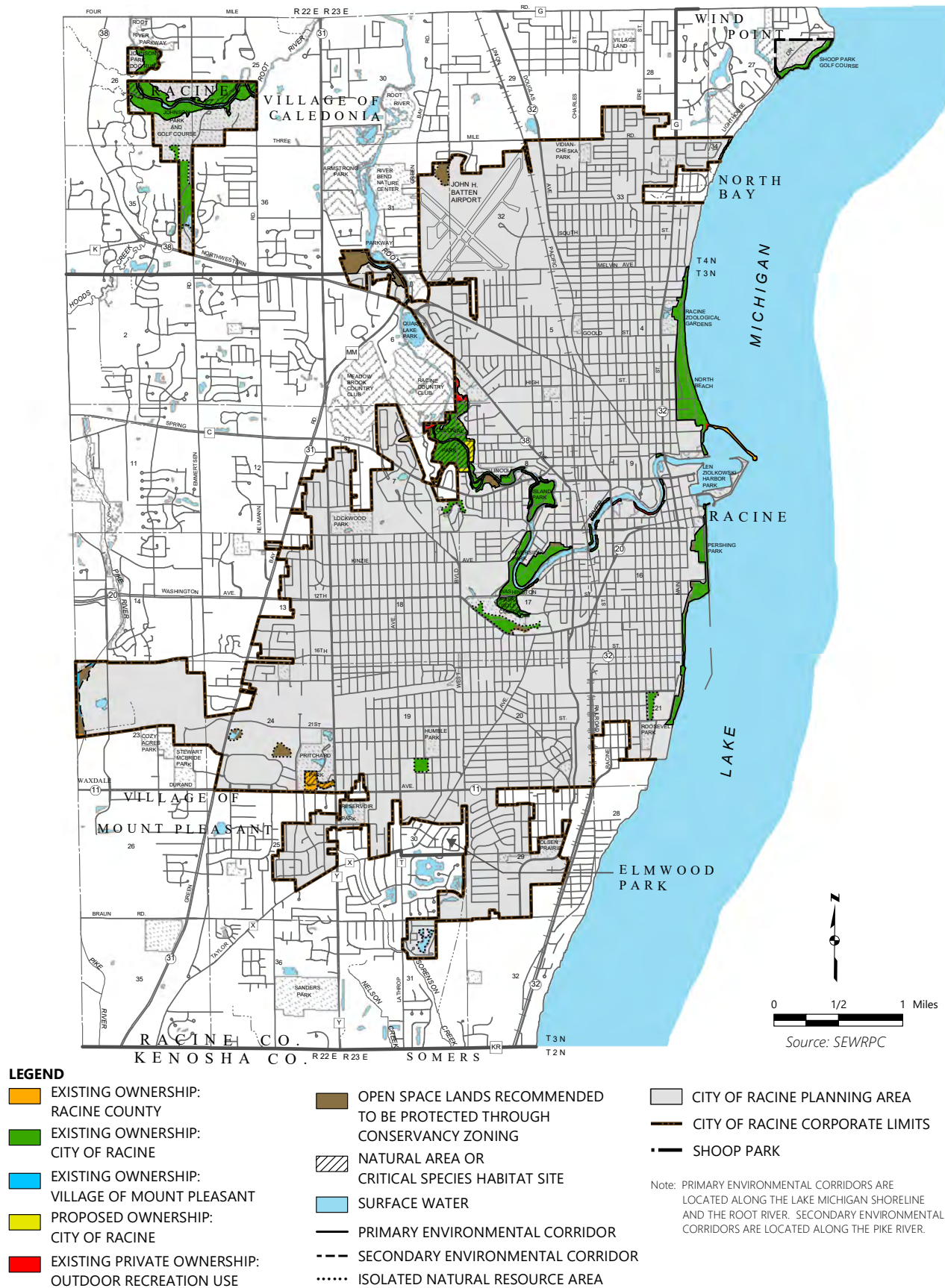


### LEGEND

- |   |  |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| ▲ EXISTING MAJOR PARK: CITY OF RACINE                         | — EXISTING ON-STREET TRAIL OR BICYCLE WAY    | ■ ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS |
| ▲ EXISTING MAJOR PARK: RACINE COUNTY                          | — EXISTING OFF-STREET TRAIL                  | ■ RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT           |
| ▲ EXISTING CITY OF RACINE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK OR COMMUNITY PARK | — RECOMMENDED ON-STREET TRAIL OR BICYCLE WAY | ■ NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT        |
| ● EXISTING CITY OF RACINE SPECIAL USE PARK OR OTHER PARK      | — RECOMMENDED OFF-STREET TRAIL               | ■ SURFACE WATER                     |
| ● EXISTING RACINE COUNTY SPECIAL USE PARK OR OTHER PARK       | — RECOMMENDED RIVERWALK                      | — CITY OF RACINE CORPORATE LIMITS   |
| D ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT OR IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDED           | — POTENTIAL WATER TRAIL                      | — SHOOP PARK                        |



**Map 5.2**  
**Open Space Preservation Plan for the City of Racine Planning Area**



**Table 5.1**  
**Existing and Proposed Ownership of Open Space Land<sup>a</sup> in the City of Racine Planning Area**

<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Existing<sup>b</sup> (Acres)</b>	<b>Plan (Acres)</b>	<b>Planned Change (Acres)</b>
City of Racine	569 <sup>c</sup>	578	9
Other Public <sup>d</sup>	24	24	--
Private Recreation <sup>e</sup>	11	11	--
Private; Protect Through Zoning <sup>f</sup>	--	89	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>98</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas.

<sup>b</sup> Existing ownership as of 2016.

<sup>c</sup> Includes 99 acres of the Root River located within the City.

<sup>d</sup> Includes lands owned by Racine County and the Village of Mount Pleasant.

<sup>e</sup> Includes open space lands held in private ownership for recreational use (for example; golf courses, driving ranges, and athletic fields owned by private schools and organizations).

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

Source: City of Racine and SEWRPC

that are not developed for urban or recreational uses may revert to natural vegetation. Changes to wetland and environmental corridor boundaries may be identified as additions or losses to the environmental corridor network in subsequent versions of regional or City plans. Public acquisition or conservancy zoning of wetlands or environmental corridors should therefore be based on a field delineation of such areas prior to acquisition.

### **Primary Environmental Corridors**

The primary environmental corridors, shown on Map 5.2, encompass approximately 570 acres of land, and are located along the Lake Michigan shoreline and the Root River within the City and the City-owned Shoop Park Golf Course in the Village of Wind Point. Under the park and open space plan, all remaining primary environmental corridors would be preserved in essentially natural, open uses. Of the approximately 570 acres of primary environmental corridor, 504 acres are currently in existing public ownership in City or County parks, including 99 acres associated with the Root River, and are proposed to be retained in such ownership for resource protection purposes. Approximately 11 acres are located within private recreational uses, such as golf courses and marinas.

Since 2011, the City of Racine has acquired one acre of primary environmental corridor along the Root River. It is recommended that the City acquire about nine acres of primary environmental corridor associated with the Colonial Park Woods Natural Area for natural resource protection. The other 46 acres are privately owned, and are recommended to be protected through conservancy zoning or zoning for compatible recreational uses.

### **Secondary Environmental Corridors**

The secondary environmental corridors, shown on Map 5.2, encompass approximately 18 acres of land. The secondary environmental corridor is located along the Pike River in the western portion of the City, and consists of floodplain associated with the Pike River. Racine County currently owns about one acre associated with the Racine-Kansasville Trail and the Village of Mount Pleasant currently owns about five acres for resource protection purposes. It is recommended that the City consider protecting the remaining 12 acres through conservancy zoning or zoning for compatible recreational uses.

### **Isolated Natural Resource Areas**

The isolated natural resource areas, shown on Map 5.2, encompass about 114 acres. The 83 acres currently in existing public protective ownership, include 71 acres owned by the City and 12 acres owned by Racine County, are proposed to be retained in such ownership for resource protection purposes. The areas in protective ownership are located within DeKoven Woods, Erskine Park, Pritchard Park, Maple Grove Park, Pierce Woods Park, Johnson Park and Golf Course, Springvale West Park, and Washington Park Golf Course.



Isolated natural resource areas not currently in public ownership encompass 31 acres and are located within the Batten Airport grounds, north of the Regency Mall, and a pond associated with the Mallard Lake homeowners association in the southern portion of the City. Consideration should be given to protecting privately-owned isolated natural resource areas through conservancy zoning so they are maintained in natural, open uses to the extent practicable.

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

The regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan, as documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*,<sup>28</sup> sets forth a number of recommendations related to preserving identified natural areas and critical species habitat sites within the City of Racine planning area. The regional natural areas plan is summarized in Chapter 2.

As noted in Chapter 2, there are one natural area, five critical species habitat sites, three aquatic areas, and three geological sites within the planning area. All of these sites are included in an environmental corridor or isolated natural resource area. Those portions of the critical species habitat sites and the geological sites located within the City of Racine planning area are currently under protective ownership.

The regional natural areas plan recommends that the City of Racine acquire and protect the Colonial Park Woods Natural Area. The City should acquire the remaining nine acres of the natural area that are not currently in public ownership within the City (which consists of woodlands within a primary environmental corridor) by fee-simple purchase or through a conservation easement. It is also recommended that the City continue to retain and maintain other City parklands that contain critical species habitat sites or geological sites for resource protection purposes.

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

The regional natural areas plan update and this park and open space plan recommend that Racine County continue to retain and maintain the Pritchard Park Woods critical species habitat site and acquire the remaining portions of the Root River Bluff critical species habitat site, located outside of the City of Racine in the Village of Caledonia, that are not currently under public protective ownership. The updated plan also recommends that Racine County acquire a conservation easement to protect the remaining portions of the Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries geological site not currently under protective ownership (located outside of the City in the Village of Mount Pleasant), and acquire the remaining portions of the Root River Outcrops geological site not currently under protective ownership (located outside of the City in the Village of Caledonia).

The above recommendations are shown on Map 5.2 and summarized in Table 5.2. In all, the natural area, critical species habitat sites, and geological sites recommended for preservation encompass 148 acres within the planning area.

## **5.4 CITY PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommended park and open space plan for the City of Racine is shown on Map 5.1 and described in the following sections. Upon full implementation of this plan, the City would provide a variety of parks and related outdoor recreation facilities; a system of recreation trails; and a system of on-street bikeways. This includes one major park (Johnson Park and Golf Course); seven community parks (Humble Park, Island Park, Lincoln Park, Lockwood Park, North Beach Park, Pershing Park, and Roosevelt Park); and 24 neighborhood parks (Brose Park, Carlson Park, Case-Harmon Park, Cedar Bend Park, Clayton Park, Douglas Park, Erskine Park, Franklin Park, Greencrest Park, Hantschel Park, Harvey Park, Lakeview Park, Marino Park, Mat Matson

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<sup>28</sup> An update to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat plan is documented in SEWRPC Amendment to Planning Report No. 42, *Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*, December 2010.

**Table 5.2**

**Recommended Protection of Natural Area, Critical Species Habitat, and Geological Sites in the City of Racine Planning Area**

Number on Map 2.6	Site Identification		Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Site Type <sup>a</sup>	Area Name	Existing Protective Ownership	Proposed to Be Acquired	Total	
1	NA-2	Colonial Park Woods	65	9	74 <sup>b</sup>	City of Racine
2	CSH	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way	20	--	20 <sup>c</sup>	Private Conservancy Organization
3	CSH	Pritchard Park Woods	10	--	10	Racine County
4	CSH	Root River Bluff	11	--	11 <sup>d</sup>	Racine County
5	CSH	Washington Park Woods	14	--	14	City of Racine
6	CSH	Wind Point	4	--	4 <sup>e</sup>	City of Racine and Village of Wind Point
7	AQ-3 (RSH)	Pike River downstream from Pike Creek (includes Sorenson Creek)	--	--	-- <sup>f</sup>	State of Wisconsin
8	AQ-3 (RSH)	Root River downstream from Nicholson Road to STH 38	--	--	2.2 miles <sup>g</sup>	State of Wisconsin
9	AQ-3 (RSH)	Root River downstream from STH 38 to Spring Street	--	--	1.4 miles <sup>g</sup>	State of Wisconsin
10	GA-1	Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries	1	--	1 <sup>h</sup>	Racine County
11	GA-2	Wind Point	9	--	9 <sup>j</sup>	City of Racine and Village of Wind Point
12	GA-3	Root River Outcrops	5	--	5 <sup>j</sup>	Racine County
Total – 12 Sites			139	9	148	--

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

NA-2 identifies Natural Areas of countywide or regional significance

CSH identifies Critical Species Habitat sites

AQ-3 identifies Aquatic Areas of local significance

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

GA-1 identifies Geological Areas of statewide or greater significance

GA-2 identifies Geological Areas of countywide or regional significance

GA-3 identifies Geological Areas of local significance.

<sup>b</sup> Includes only the area located in the City. Total area is 94 acres. The City of Racine owns a 64-acre portion of the site and the privately-owned Racine Country Club owns a one-acre portion of the site. The remaining nine acres are under private ownership within single-family residential areas and are proposed to be acquired by the City. Of the 20 acres located outside the City, 19 acres are owned by the Racine Country Club. The remaining one acre, located on private single-family residential lots in the Village of Mount Pleasant, is not currently under protective ownership and is proposed to be protected through Village of Mount Pleasant zoning regulations.

<sup>c</sup> The Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way critical species habitat site occupies a total of 94 acres. Twenty acres are located within the City, and are owned by the City of Racine as part of Johnson Park and Golf Course. Of the 74 acres located outside the City, five acres are owned by Racine County and 18 acres are owned by the Caledonia Conservancy, a nonprofit conservation organization (NCO). The remaining 51 acres, located in the Village of Caledonia, are not currently under protective ownership and are proposed to be acquired by a NCO.

<sup>d</sup> The Root River Bluff critical species habitat site occupies a total of 50 acres. Eight acres are located in the Johnson Park and Golf Course and the Johnson Park Dog Run. Of the 42 acres located outside the City, two acres are owned by Racine County, as part of the Root River Parkway. The remaining 40 acres, which are not currently under protective ownership, are proposed to be acquired by Racine County as part of the proposed Root River Parkway.

Table continued on next page.

**Table 5.2 (Continued)**

<sup>e</sup> A small portion of the site extends outside of the City-owned Shoop Park and is owned by the Village of Wind Point.

<sup>f</sup> Approximately 261 linear feet of the site is located within the City.

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

<sup>h</sup> The Horlickville Bluffs and Quarries geological site occupies a total of 32 acres. One acre is located within the City, and is owned by Racine County as part of Horlick Park and the Root River Parkway. Of the remaining 31 acres located outside the City, 23 acres are owned by Racine County as part of Quarry Lake Park and three acres are within the privately-owned Racine Country Club, both in the Village of Mount Pleasant, and five acres, which are not currently under protective ownership, are proposed to be acquired through a conservation easement by Racine County.

<sup>i</sup> The Wind Point geological site occupies a total of 11 acres. Nine acres are located within the City-owned Shoop Park, located in the Village of Wind Point. Of the two acres located outside the planning area, one acre is owned by the Village of Wind Point on Village land, and the remaining one acre, which is not currently under protective ownership, is proposed to be acquired by the Village of Wind Point.

<sup>j</sup> The Root River Outcrops geological site occupies a total of 25 acres. Five acres are located within the City, and are owned by the City of Racine as part of the Johnson Park Dog Run. Of the 20 acres located outside the City, seven acres are owned by Racine County, as part of the Root River Parkway, located in the Village of Caledonia, and the remaining 13 acres, which are not currently under protective ownership, are proposed to be acquired by Racine County.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC

Park, N. Owen Davies Park, Pierce Woods Park, Reservoir Park, Riverside Park, Robert Heck Park, Samuel Myers Park, Solbraa Park, Vidian-Cheska Park, Washington Park Bowl, and West Park).

Other notable City park sites include Colonial Park; Festival Park; Horlick Athletic Field; the Racine Zoological Gardens; Washington Park Golf Course and Shoop Park Golf Course, both nine-hole golf courses; Johnson Park Dog Run; and the Wustum Museum. The remaining parks associated with the City park system include City Hall, sub-neighborhood parks, special use parks, passive use sites, playlots, open space sites, conservancy/nature areas, historical exhibits, and cemeteries. Under the recommended plan, the City would further provide 16 miles of recreational trails associated with the Lake Michigan and Root River Pathways that can be utilized for jogging, walking, biking, rollerblading, and related activities, and about 23 miles of on-street bikeways that would consist of bike lanes, bike paths, and bike routes.

The City of Racine Comprehensive Plan for the year 2035 envisions developing additional recreational facilities at existing parks, expanding existing parks, and developing new parks within developing or redeveloping areas of the City. The comprehensive plan recommends that the City continue to develop on-street bikeways and off-street trails for bicycle and pedestrian use. Developing a system of bikeways and trails would provide residents a connection to City and County parks, regional trails, schools, and local destination points, such as employment nodes and commercial and retail businesses. The plan also recommends that the City, in cooperation with Racine County, develop a water trail with appropriate support facilities on the Root River and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The following recommendations would help to implement those components of the comprehensive plan.

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

This section presents recommendations related to existing City parks, including the development of new recreational facilities and improvements to existing recreational facilities. Table 5.3 lists park-related development and improvement projects anticipated to be implemented between 2017 and 2021, and the estimated development costs for each park from the City's capital improvement plan (CIP). Table 5.4 lists park-related projects anticipated to be implemented between 2017 and 2035. Estimated costs for these projects will be developed as part of future capital improvements programming. The CIP is updated on an annual basis, and projects currently identified for implementation may be removed or reprioritized and new projects may be added during each annual update. The City's CIP for parks-related improvements is set forth in Appendix B.

The results of the analysis of outdoor recreation needs, presented in Chapter 3, indicates that there is a need in the City of Racine for additional neighborhood parks and additional recreational facilities, including softball diamonds, tennis courts, soccer fields, playfields, playgrounds, and basketball goals. Such recreational facilities are intended to meet the outdoor recreation needs of City residents and are recommended to be provided by the City. All proposed facility development must comply with the accessibility requirements set forth under federal law in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

It should be noted that a need for 12 additional public soccer fields within the City was identified as part of the needs analysis presented in Chapter 3. The plan does not recommend developing additional soccer fields, due in part to a lack of available land within the City, and because of the number of soccer fields associated with the Soccer Complex of Racine (SCORE), located within and adjacent to the Caledonia-Mount Pleasant Memorial Park in the Village of Caledonia. If land becomes available for additional soccer fields within the City, it is recommended that practice soccer fields/playfields be developed rather than formal, game-sized soccer fields. It is also recommended that the City work cooperatively with the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant to develop additional formal soccer fields within those communities that could be used by City residents.

It should also be noted that a need for 12 additional public tennis courts within the City was identified as part of the needs analysis. Additional tennis courts are recommended only if current demand increases and existing courts no longer satisfy demand. City staff and the City Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Board should continue to evaluate the use of existing tennis courts and the potential need for additional tennis courts during subsequent park and open space plan updates. If developing additional tennis courts is warranted, priority should be given to those areas that are not adequately served by a tennis court based on service area standards.

**Table 5.3****Proposed Improvements at Existing Parks in the City of Racine Planning Area: 2017-2021**

<b>Proposed Improvement</b>	<b>Development Cost</b>
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	
Refinish Gym Floor at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center	45,000 <sup>a</sup>
Exterior Repairs at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center	135,000
Replace Interior Door Hardware at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center	25,000
Replace Scoreboard at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center	4,500 <sup>a</sup>
Replace Bleachers at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center	75,000
Replace 15-Ton Roof Top Air Handling Unit (RTU) at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center	70,000
Subtotal	354,500
Douglas Park	
Refinish Basement at Cesar Chavez Community Center	24,000
Exterior Repair at Cesar Chavez Community Center	100,000
Replace Scoreboard at Cesar Chavez Community Center	8,000 <sup>a</sup>
Replace Interior Door Hardware at Cesar Chavez Community Center	25,000
Replace Roof at Cesar Chavez Community Center	110,000
Subtotal	267,000
Graceland Cemetery	
Replace Roads and Walkways	100,000
Greencrest Park	
Renovate Shelter	92,000
Hantschel Park	
Replace Shelter Roof	15,000 <sup>a</sup>
Horlick Athletic Field	
Reseal Horlick Athletic Field Grounds <sup>b</sup>	10,000 <sup>a</sup>
Reseal Horlick Athletic Field Parking Lot <sup>b</sup>	10,000 <sup>a</sup>
Renovate Horlick Athletic Field Staff Building	24,000
Horlick Athletic Field – Replace 2 Multiple Access Units (MAUs)	30,000
Subtotal	74,000
Humble Park	
Renovate Southwest Ball Diamond	25,000
Replace Southwest Ball Diamond Fence	15,000
Replace Northwest Ball Diamond Lights	200,000
Replace Scoreboard at Humble Park Community Center	4,500 <sup>a</sup>
Upgrade Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) at Humble Park Community Center	165,000
Replace Roof at Humble Park Community Center	115,000
Subtotal	524,500
Island Park	
Repave Horlick Drive	140,000 <sup>a</sup>
Replace Tennis Courts	180,000
Subtotal	320,000
Johnson Park Dog Run	
Land Improvements	20,000
Johnson Park and Golf Course	
Repave Johnson Park Drive	58,000 <sup>a</sup>
Repave Clubhouse Walkway	95,000
Replace Lift Station	115,000
Replace Doors to Clubhouse and Office	20,000
Replace 11th Tee Foot Bridge	90,000
Reconstruct Sand Bunkers	410,000
Replace Butler Building Roof	40,000
Subtotal	828,000
Lakeview Park	
Replace Roof at Lakeview Center	110,000
Lockwood Park	
Replace Ball Diamond Lights	300,000

**Table continued on next page.**



**Table 5.3 (Continued)**

<b>Proposed Improvement</b>	<b>Development Cost</b>
Mat Matson Park	
Replace Basketball Half-Court	12,000 <sup>a</sup>
Renovate Shelter	140,000 <sup>a</sup>
Subtotal	152,000
Monument Square	
Improve Landscaping	15,000
Mound Cemetery	
Replace Roads and Walkways	100,000
Pershing Park	
Renovate Concessions	30,000
Renovate Locker Rooms	100,000
Renovate Skateboard Area	40,000
Subtotal	170,000
Racine Zoological Gardens	
Repair Beach Matting	45,000
Pave Paths	75,000
Construct New Gould Street Parking Lot	200,000
Resurface Giraffe Stalls	38,000
Resurface Rhino Stalls	57,000
Construct Environmental Education Center	1,000,000
Re-Key All Locks	33,500
Replace Roof on Jungle Grill	50,000
Replace Boiler at Main Building	400,000
Subtotal	1,898,500
Robert Heck Park	
Install Basketball Half-Court	13,000
Renovate Shelter	145,000
Subtotal	158,000
Roosevelt Park	
Replace Basketball Court	21,000
Renovate North Ball Diamond	30,000
Replace North Ball Diamond Fence	18,000
Replace Scoreboard at Dr. John Bryant Community Center	4,500 <sup>a</sup>
Exterior Repairs at Dr. John Bryant Community Center	135,000
Replace Interior Door Hardware at Dr. John Bryant Community Center	25,000
Replace Bleachers at Dr. John Bryant Community Center	75,000
Repair Roof at Dr. John Bryant Community Center	230,000
Subtotal	538,500
Samuel Myers Park	
Repave Circle Drive	78,000
Shoop Park Golf Course	
Upgrade West Fairway Drainage	295,000
Renovate Clubhouse	130,000
Repair Clubhouse Roof	50,000
Subtotal	475,000
Solbraa Park	
Replace Basketball Court	23,000
Renovate Ball Diamond	30,000
Replace Ball Diamond Fence	18,000
Replace Ball Diamond Lights	200,000
Replace Shelter Roof	15,000 <sup>a</sup>
Subtotal	286,000
Tyler-Domer Community Center	
Replace Scoreboard	4,500
Replace Roof	155,000
Subtotal	159,500
Washington Park Bowl	
Replace East Ball Diamond Lights	200,000

Table continued on next page.

**Table 5.3 (Continued)**

<b>Proposed Improvement</b>	<b>Development Cost</b>
Washington Park Golf Course	
Replace Doors/Windows to Clubhouse	65,000
Replace Fencing	7,500
Repave Parking Lot and Walkways	90,000
Replace Maintenance Building Roof	20,000
Replace Clubhouse Roof	80,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>262,500</b>
Wustum Museum	
Landscape Grounds	10,000
Pave Paths	8,000
Paint Building	40,000
Repave Main Parking Lot	160,000
Repair Roof	35,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>253,000</b>
<b>Total – 26 Sites</b>	<b>7,751,000<sup>c</sup></b>

<sup>a</sup> Improvement completed by the City in 2017.

<sup>b</sup> It is recommended that any pavement resealing be accomplished with non-coal tar-based sealant. See "Horlick Athletic Field" description later in this subsection.

<sup>c</sup> The total development cost includes proposed improvements to specific City-owned parks and special use sites. Additional parks-related improvements and costs listed in the City's Capital Improvement Program for 2017 through 2021 include various unspecified Parks and Recreation projects (\$4,072,280), unspecified Community Centers projects (\$15,000), specific Graceland and Mound Cemetery projects (\$472,000), specific Buildings projects (\$320,000), and specific Streets – Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathways projects (\$725,000). The development costs associated with these improvements and the total development cost listed above equals the total cost for parks-related projects for the City through the year 2021, and as shown in Appendix B (\$13,355,280).

Source: City of Racine Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and SEWRPC

### **Development and Improvement at Existing City Parks: 2017-2021**

It is recommended that the City develop additional recreational facilities or make improvements to facilities at 26 existing recreational parks, special use parks, community centers, golf courses, and cemeteries during the five-year period from 2017 through 2021, as described below. The estimated development and improvement costs are included in Table 5.3.

- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park is a two-acre park centrally located within the City. Existing facilities include a playground, one basketball goal, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. Improvements recommended for the Community Center include refinishing the gym floor, exterior repairs, replacing the interior door hardware, replacing the scoreboard, replacing the bleachers, and replacing the 15-ton Roof Top Air Handling Unit (RTU). In 2017, the City rehabilitated the gym floor and replaced the scoreboard at the Community Center.
- **Douglas Park:** Douglas Park is a five-acre neighborhood park located in the northern portion of the City. Existing facilities include one league ball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a basketball court, and the Cesar Chavez Community Center. Improvements recommended for the Community Center include refinishing the basement, exterior repairs, replacing the interior door hardware, replacing the scoreboard, and replacing the roof. In 2017, the City replaced the scoreboard at the Community Center.
- **Graceland Cemetery:** Graceland Cemetery is 50-acre cemetery located in the western portion of the City. Residents use the streets within the Cemetery for walking and jogging. It is recommended that the roads and walkways be repaired within the Cemetery. Additional non-recreational improvements are also recommended.
- **Greencrest Park:** Greencrest Park is a five-acre neighborhood park located in the southern portion of the City. Existing facilities include a playground, a playfield, and a basketball court. A portion of the Lake Michigan Pathway abuts the Park. A pocket of woodlands is located within the Park. It is recommended that the Park shelter be renovated.

- **Hantschel Park:** Hantschel Park is an eight-acre neighborhood park located in the western portion of the City. Existing facilities include a sandlot ball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a shelter, and a historical exhibit. A wetland is located within the Park. It is recommended that the shelter roof be replaced. In 2017, the City replaced the shelter roof.
- **Horlick Athletic Field:** Horlick Athletic Field is a nine-acre site located in the northern portion of the City. Existing facilities include a baseball diamond, a playfield, a football field, restrooms, a parking lot, and a historical exhibit. The site is not accessible to the public except during local sporting events or other community-wide events. It is recommended that the athletic field grounds (concessions and restrooms areas) and the parking lot be resealed,<sup>29</sup> the field staff building be renovated, and that two MAUs (Multiple Access Units) be replaced. In 2017, the City resealed the athletic field grounds and the athletic field parking lot.
- **Humble Park:** Humble Park is a 17-acre community park located in the southern portion of the City. Existing facilities include two baseball diamonds, one league ball diamond, a basketball court, three soccer fields, a football field, a playfield, a playground, three tennis courts, a sledding hill, a volleyball court, restrooms, a historical exhibit, and the Humble Park Community Center. Recommendations for the Park include renovating the southwest ball diamond, replacing the southwest ball diamond fence, and replacing the northwest ball diamond lights at the park. Recommendations for the Community Center include replacing the scoreboard, upgrading the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), and replacing the roof. In 2017, the City replaced the scoreboard at the Community Center.

**Table 5.4**

**Recommended Developments or Improvements at Existing Parks in the City of Racine Planning Area: 2017-2035**

Site Name	Proposed Facility Development or Improvement
Brose Park	Replace Shelter
Case-Harmon Park	Develop a Basketball Court
Clayton Park	Develop a Full Basketball Court, Replacing the One-Half Basketball Court
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	Renovate Community Center Roof
Franklin Park	Develop a Sandlot Ball Diamond
Graceland Cemetery	Repair Crypts
Hantschel Park	Develop a League Softball Diamond, Replacing the Sandlot Ball Diamond
Johnson Park and Golf Course	Repave Picnic Parking Lot Replace Office Building Roof
Lakeview Park	Replace Tennis Court
Lincoln Park	Develop a Basketball Court Provide Benches to View the Root River Renovate Shelter
Lockwood Park	Replace Two Shelters
Parker Park	Develop a Basketball Court
Paul P. Harris Rotary Park (Festival Park)	Develop a New Festival Park <sup>a</sup> Develop a Pedestrian Bridge
Pershing Park	Develop a Basketball Court
Pierce Woods Park	Renovate Shelter
Racine Zoological Gardens	Repair Hoofed Animal and North Storage Buildings Repair Beach Matting Blacktop Paths
Reservoir Park	Develop a Playfield Develop a Playground Develop a Basketball Court
Shoop Park Golf Course	Replace Lift Station
Vidian-Cheska Park	Develop a League Softball Diamond
Washington Park Golf Course	Renovate Clubhouse
Wustum Museum	Repair Roof

Note: In addition to development at specific parks, as listed above, this plan recommends the development of an outdoor ice skating facility and a community swimming pool at centralized locations and additional practice soccer fields/playfields at existing City parks if space becomes available through park redevelopment.

<sup>a</sup>The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Board recommends the integration or relocation of the existing boat launches and boat trailer parking area prior to development of a Festival Park.

Source: City of Racine Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department and SEWRPC

<sup>29</sup> It is recommended that any pavement resealing be accomplished using a non-coal tar-based sealant. According to a 2012 paper by B.J. Mahler, P.C. Van Metre, J.L. Crane, M. Scoggins, and E.S. Williams, "Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat and PAHs-Implications for the Environment, Human Health, and Stormwater Management," published in Environment Science and Technology, v. 56, pages 3,039 to 3,045: "Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), academic institutions, and State and local agencies have identified coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat as a major source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in urban and suburban areas and a potential concern for human health and aquatic life."

- *Island Park:* Island Park is a 21-acre community park centrally located within the City along the Root River. Existing facilities include two league ball diamonds, a playfield, a playground, three tennis courts, restrooms, a shelter, fishing, a canoe launch, a historical exhibit, beds of native species of prairie plants, and picnic areas. The Park also includes a portion of the Root River Pathway. The Park is encompassed within a primary environmental corridor. It is recommended that Horlick Drive be repaved within the Park and the tennis courts be replaced. In 2017, the City repaved Horlick Drive within the Park. Also in 2017, Friends of Island Park was formed to help maintain and develop the park. The group has installed native planting beds, removed invasive plant species, and reseeded native plant species in areas of the park. Since adopting the previous plan, the City has also installed the Jens Jensen historical marker at the park shelter and planted a tree in his honor.
- *Johnson Park Dog Run:* Johnson Park Dog Run is a 28-acre site located north of STH 38, and is surrounded by the Village of Caledonia. Existing facilities include a dog walking area and a nature area. The Park includes primary environmental corridor along the Root River. It is recommended that land improvements be made at the site.
- *Johnson Park and Golf Course:* Johnson Park and Golf Course is a 335-acre major park located north of STH 38, and is surrounded by the Village of Caledonia. Existing facilities include a playfield, a playground, two soccer fields, an 18-hole golf course, driving range, disc golf course, picnic areas, shelters, restrooms, concessions, a historical exhibit, and a nature area. The Park also includes a pond and access to the Root River that provides opportunities for fishing. The Park includes primary environmental corridor along the Root River and an isolated natural resource area. Isolated pockets of wetlands and woodlands outside of environmental corridors are also located within the Park. In 2017, the City repaved Johnson Park Drive within the Park.

It is recommended that Johnson Park Drive and the clubhouse walkway be repaved within the Park. Additional recommendations include replacing the lift station, replacing the doors to the clubhouse and office building, replacing the 11th tee foot bridge, reconstructing sand bunkers, and replacing the butler building roof.

- *Lakeview Park:* Lakeview Park is a five-acre neighborhood park located in the eastern portion of the City. Existing facilities include a sandlot ball diamond, a basketball court, a playfield, a playground, three tennis courts, and the Lakeview Center. It is recommended that the roof be replaced at the Lakeview Center.
- *Lockwood Park:* Lockwood Park is a 38-acre community park located in the western portion of the City. Existing facilities include one league softball/baseball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a basketball court, five lighted tennis courts, three soccer fields, a sledding hill, picnic areas, shelters, restrooms, a small pond for fishing, and a historical exhibit. It is recommended that the ball diamond lights be replaced.
- *Mat Matson Park:* Mat Matson Park is a two-acre neighborhood park located in the northern portion of the City. Existing facilities include a playfield, a playground, a basketball goal, a shelter, restrooms, a historical exhibit, and an ice skating rink. It is recommended that the basketball court be replaced and the shelter be renovated. In 2017, the City replaced the basketball court and renovated the shelter.
- *Monument Square:* Monument Square is a one-acre site located in the eastern portion of the City. Existing facilities include historical exhibits. It is recommended that the landscaping be improved.
- *Mound Cemetery:* Mound Cemetery is a 55-acre cemetery centrally located within the City. Residents use the streets within the Cemetery for walking and jogging. It is recommended that the roads and walkways be repaired within the Cemetery. Additional non-recreational improvements are also recommended.
- *Pershing Park:* Pershing Park is a 28-acre community park located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the eastern portion of the City. Existing facilities include a playfield, two soccer fields,

a skate park, a 10-lane boat launch, a picnic area, a shelter, restrooms, concessions, an historical exhibit, fishing, a fish cleaning station, and a portion of the Lake Michigan Pathway. The Park includes primary environmental corridor. Recommendations include renovating concessions, renovating the skateboard area, and renovating the locker rooms.

- *Racine Zoological Gardens*: The Racine Zoological Gardens is a 25-acre special use site located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the northeastern portion of the City. The site is developed with a zoo containing multiple animal exhibits, a playground, picnic areas, a shelter, restrooms, and a historical exhibit. The site also includes primary environmental corridor. It is recommended that beach matting be repaired on the zoo beach. Additional recommendations include paving the walking paths, constructing a new Gould Street parking lot, resurfacing the giraffe and rhino stalls, constructing an environmental education center, re-keying all locks, replacing the roof on the jungle grill, and replacing the main building boiler.
- *Robert Heck Park*: Robert Heck Park is a two-acre neighborhood park located in the northwestern portion of the City near Batten Airport. Existing facilities include a sandlot ball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a shelter, and restrooms. It is recommended that a basketball half-court be installed and the shelter be renovated.
- *Roosevelt Park*: Roosevelt Park is a 13-acre neighborhood park located in the southeastern portion of the City. Existing facilities include two league ball diamonds, a soccer field, a playfield, a playground, a basketball court, a picnic area, a shelter, restrooms, an historical exhibit, and the Dr. John Bryant Community Center. It is recommended that the basketball court be replaced, the north ball diamond be renovated, and the north ball diamond fencing be replaced. Recommendations for the Community Center include replacing the scoreboard, exterior repairs, replacing the interior door hardware, replacing the bleachers, and repairing the roof. In 2017, the City replaced the scoreboard at the Community Center.
- *Samuel Myers Park*: Samuel Myers Park is a seven-acre neighborhood park located along the Lake Michigan shoreline in the eastern portion of the City. Existing facilities include a gazebo, fishing, a historical exhibit, and a portion of the Lake Michigan Pathway. The Park is encompassed within a primary environmental corridor. It is recommended that the circle drive be repaved.
- *Shoop Park Golf Course*: Shoop Park Golf Course is a 53-acre golf course located adjacent to Lighthouse Drive in the eastern portion of the Village of Wind Point along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Existing facilities include a nine-hole golf course, a shelter, piers, fishing, and restrooms. The site also contains primary environmental corridor and wetlands within and outside of the primary environmental corridor. It is recommended that the clubhouse be renovated, the west fairway drainage be upgraded, and the clubhouse roof be repaired.
- *Solbraa Park*: Solbraa Park is a three-acre neighborhood park located in the southwestern portion of the City. Existing facilities include one league ball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a basketball court, a shelter, a volunteer-managed ice skating rink, and restrooms. It is recommended that the ball diamond be renovated, the ball diamond fencing and lights be replaced, the shelter roof be replaced, and the basketball court be replaced. In 2017, the City replaced the shelter roof.
- *Tyler-Domer Community Center*: The Tyler-Domer Community Center is a three-acre community center centrally located within the City. The site includes a playground, restrooms, and an historical exhibit. Recommendations for the Community Center include replacing the scoreboard and replacing the roof.
- *Washington Park Bowl*: Washington Park Bowl is an 11-acre neighborhood park centrally located within the City. Existing facilities include one baseball diamond, one league ball diamond, and a playfield. The Park includes a small portion of primary environmental corridor and an isolated natural resource area. It is recommended that the east ball diamond lights be replaced. It is also recommended that a formal flower bed be developed at the park to honor prominent landscape architect, Jens Jensen.



- *Washington Park Golf Course:* Washington Park Golf Course is a 72-acre golf course centrally located within the City that includes a portion of the Root River. Existing facilities include a nine-hole golf course, a shelter, restrooms, concessions, a historical exhibit, and a portion of the Root River Pathway. The site also includes primary environmental corridor, an isolated natural resource area, and a pocket of woodlands. It is recommended that the doors/windows at the clubhouse be replaced, the fencing be replaced, the parking lot and walkways be repaved, the maintenance building roof be replaced, and the clubhouse roof be replaced.
- *Wustum Museum:* The Wustum Museum is a 10-acre special use site located in the western portion of the City. The site includes a historical exhibit, the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, and the Racine Guild Theatre. Recommendations for the museum include landscaping the grounds, paving the paths, painting the building, repaving the main parking lot, and repairing the roof.

Other improvements recommended at unspecified City parks or City-maintained properties during the five-year period from 2017 through 2021 include replacing the sidewalks within parks; repairing the bicycle pathway pavement; paving areas providing access to park facilities for people with disabilities; maintaining parking lots; removing concrete and asphalt; repaving the park service parking lot; repaving the Wisconsin Avenue parking lot; painting miscellaneous park facilities; tuck-pointing park service; tree planting; emerald ash borer management; improving Root River streambanks and accessibility; landscaping at various parks; replacing fences at various parks; replacing miscellaneous playground equipment; replacing park benches and garbage cans; maintaining bleachers and fountains; replacing facility bleachers; and relandscaping the community centers. Priority should be given to making ADA-related improvements to provide access for people with disabilities.

#### ***Additional Development at Existing City Parks: 2017-2035***

This section describes recommended facility development at existing City parks between 2017 and 2035. No additional land acquisition at existing City parks is recommended during this time period, but as recommended in the City's comprehensive plan, the City should consider expanding existing parks or developing new parks when redevelopment occurs or other opportunities present themselves. An example of this approach is included in the City's Uptown Improvement Plan, which is described in Chapter 3 of this report. The plan proposes the development of a pocket park at the southwest quadrant of Washington Avenue and Junction Avenue when redevelopment occurs in the area.

Additional recreational facilities recommended at each park are listed in Table 5.4 and described below. Implementing recommended improvements is subject to the availability of funding for facility development, operation, and maintenance.

- *Brose Park:* Brose Park is a five-acre neighborhood park centrally located within the City along the Root River. Existing facilities include a playfield, a soccer field, a shelter, fishing, a picnic area, and a portion of the Root River Pathway. The Park also contains a portion of primary environmental corridor. It is recommended that the shelter be replaced.
- *Case-Harmon Park:* Case-Harmon Park is a five-acre neighborhood park located in the southeastern portion of the City. Existing facilities include a playfield, a playground, and a soccer field. It is recommended that a basketball court be provided.
- *Clayton Park:* Clayton Park is a six-acre neighborhood park centrally located within the City along the Root River. Existing facilities include a playfield, a playground, a one-half basketball court, a soccer field, a canoe launch, fishing, and a portion of the Root River Pathway. The Park is encompassed within a primary environmental corridor. It is recommended that the one-half basketball court be replaced by a full basketball court.
- *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park:* It is recommended that the community center roof be renovated at the Park, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021.

- *Franklin Park*: Franklin Park is a four-acre neighborhood park located in the eastern portion of the City. Existing facilities include a playfield, a playground, four basketball goals, a shelter, and a rain garden. It is recommended that a sandlot ball diamond be developed.
- *Graceland Cemetery*: It is recommended that crypt repairs be continued at the site, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021.
- *Hantschel Park*: It is recommended that the sandlot ball diamond be replaced by a league softball diamond, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021.
- *Johnson Park and Golf Course*: It is recommended that the picnic parking lot be repaved and the office building roof be replaced, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021. It is also recommended that the City develop a portion of the Root River Trail through the Park or in an alternate location that provides trail continuity. The trail should not be located in areas that would disturb the golfers or pose a hazard to trail users.
- *Lakeview Park*: It is recommended that the tennis court be replaced, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021.
- *Lincoln Park*: Lincoln Park is a 25-acre community park located in the western portion of the City along the Root River. Existing facilities include a baseball diamond, a playfield, a playground, a soccer field, restrooms, a picnic area, a shelter, two canoe launches, fishing, and a historical exhibit. The Park also contains a portion of the Root River Pathway and the WDNR Steelhead Facility. In addition, the Park includes a portion of primary environmental corridor. It is recommended that a basketball court be developed, benches be provided along the river, and the shelter be renovated.
- *Lockwood Park*: It is recommended that two shelters be replaced, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021. The City may also consider developing a prairie area, developing a native plant/pollinator garden, and restoring wetlands at the park.
- *Parker Park*: Parker Park is a three-acre park centrally located within the City. Existing facilities include a playground. It is recommended that a basketball court be provided.
- *Paul P. Harris Rotary Park*: Paul P. Harris Rotary Park is a four-acre special use park located in the eastern portion of the City. Existing facilities include concessions, shelters, restrooms, fishing facilities, and a historical exhibit. The Park also abuts the Lake Michigan Pathway. It is recommended that a new Festival Park be developed and a pedestrian bridge be developed to connect the Park to the Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park.
- *Pershing Park*: It is recommended that a basketball court be provided, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021.
- *Pierce Woods Park*: Pierce Woods Park is a seven-acre neighborhood park located in the south-central portion of the City. The Park is encompassed within an isolated natural resource area. Existing facilities include a playground, a shelter, restrooms, and picnic areas. It is recommended that the shelter be renovated.
- *Racine Zoological Gardens*: It is recommended that the hoofed animal and north storage buildings be repaired, the zoo beach matting continue to be repaired, and the paths continue to be paved with asphalt, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021.
- *Reservoir Park*: Reservoir Park is a 22-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the southwestern portion of the City. The Park is primarily a stormwater basin and is prone to flooding during periods of high precipitation. The Park is used as an informal playfield and picnic area and for sledding and fishing. It is recommended that consideration be given to developing a formal playfield, a playground, and a basketball court, if flooding issues can be resolved.

- *Shoop Park Golf Course*: It is recommended that the lift station be replaced, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021.
- *Vidian-Cheska Park*: Vidian-Cheska Park is an eight-acre neighborhood park located in the northern portion of the City. Existing facilities include a playfield, a playground, and a historical exhibit. It is recommended that a league softball diamond be developed.
- *Washington Park Golf Course*: It is recommended that the clubhouse be renovated, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021.
- *Wustum Museum*: It is recommended that additional repairs to the roof be administered at the site, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2017-2021.

Parks and recreational facilities-related recommendations cited in the previous City park plan that have not yet been implemented should also be considered by the City if the resources or funding is available or if the City determines that it is necessary to improve or develop a specific facility. These developments or improvements may include recommendations from City neighborhood plans, other City plans, County plans, or other plans that may affect park, open space, or natural resource features within the City.

In the previous park plan, the Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Board identified a need for a formal, outdoor ice skating rink within the City. The ice skating rink would be a community-wide facility and may be similar to the ice skating rink located at Red Arrow Park in the City of Milwaukee. The rink would include appropriate support facilities, such as a warming house with restrooms, storage, and lockers. The site may be developed as part of the City park system or possibly as a joint effort with the Village of Caledonia, Village of Mount Pleasant, and/or Racine County. The City and County, and possibly nearby Villages, may wish to consider developing an ice skating rink or other formal skating facility through a cooperative effort.

The previous park plan also recommended developing a community swimming pool. The Southside Neighborhood Plan recommended developing a swimming pool at Roosevelt Park or Franklin Park; however, the Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Board prefers a swimming pool at a more centralized location within the City, to provide convenient access for all City residents.

The Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Board continues to support the potential development of the ice skating rink and the swimming pool, both community-wide or regional-wide facilities.

Other potential improvements recommended at City parks or City-maintained properties from 2017 through 2035 include: developing park blocks or greenspace within redevelopment areas for active and passive use and youth-oriented recreation; installing parks signs, educational signs, and informational kiosks at existing community and neighborhood parks; providing shelters or canopies for protection from the sun over or near playgrounds and playfields if shade from trees is not available; improving public access to Lake Michigan and the Root River through signs and marked walking paths; improving public transit service to City- and County-owned parks/sites;<sup>30</sup> landscaping intersections and parkways; creating pocket parks and/or community gardens in redevelopment areas and on vacant lots; creating an Adopt-a-Park program; establishing a tree maintenance program for trees located along City streets; expanding 6th Street Park North and the Sam Azarian Overlook; enhancing the “Junction Triangle” between 15th and 16th Streets and Junction Avenue; improving the streetscape and landscaping near 14th and 16th Streets and at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Junction Avenue; developing a park and pathway in the West Bluff Overlook Area; developing streetscape elements associated with the proposed River Loop trail; developing pedestrian bridges to connect people to the Downtown Area, the proposed River Loop, and the riverfront; developing canoe/kayak launches along the Root River near the Downtown area; and continuing development of a bicycle trail system and a pedestrian trail system throughout the City, and removing invasive plant species, such as buckthorn, and planting native species, especially in areas where natural resource areas are prevalent or in areas feasible for native plants to thrive.

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<sup>30</sup> *Public accessibility issues regarding public transit to City-wide destination points should be referred to the City of Racine Transit and Parking Commission.*

### ***Maintenance of Other Existing City Parks***

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

### **Open Space Preservation**

As shown on Map 5.2, the City currently owns 498 acres of primary environmental corridor lands and 71 acres of isolated natural resource areas, for a total of 569 acres. It is recommended that these lands be maintained in City ownership and preserved in essentially natural, open space uses. It is also recommended that the City enact conservancy zoning regulations and apply those regulations to primary environmental corridor lands that are privately owned. Consideration should also be given to protecting privately-owned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas through conservancy zoning.

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Route and Trail System**

It is recommended that a citywide system of recreation trails and bicycle routes continue to be developed to connect existing parks to the regional, county, and adjacent community trail systems and other parks, facilities, and destination points within the planning area, in cooperation with Racine County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), and adjoining local governments.

The City has developed the Lake Michigan Pathway and the Root River Pathway within the City. The Lake Michigan Pathway is about 10 miles in length and traverses north to south within the City near the Lake Michigan shoreline. The pathway provides a connection to the County-owned Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha (MRK) Trail on the north side of the City and the County-owned North Shore Trail on the south side of the City. The Root River Pathway is about four miles in length and is primarily located on park lands along the Root River. The pathway extends from the Main Street Bridge, near downtown, to Colonial Park, with an extension along City streets that connects to the County-owned MRK Trail on the north side of the City and the County-owned North Shore and Racine-Kansasville Trails on the south side of the City. It is recommended that the City develop an additional mile within Johnson Park and Golf Course to complete that portion of the Root River Trail within the City. The trail would eventually connect to the Root River Trail proposed to be developed by Racine County in the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant.

In addition to the trails described above, the City's 2035 comprehensive plan recommends the development of on-street bikeways along 27 miles of streets within the City. About one mile of bikeway along streets under State jurisdiction (portions of Goold Street and Northwestern Avenue) is recommended to be developed by WisDOT, about three miles of bikeways along streets under County jurisdiction (portions of Ohio Street and Spring Street) are recommended to be developed by Racine County, and about 23 miles of bikeways along streets under City jurisdiction are recommended to be developed by the City of Racine.

Additional pedestrian, bicycle, and trail recommendations proposed in City neighborhood plans and the Root River Revitalization Plan (described in the previous City park plan) include developing a Riverwalk along the south side of the river from 6th Street to Main Street; installing bike paths and marked on-street bike routes along the lakefront from Downtown to Roosevelt Park and the SC Johnson campus area; improving public access to Lake Michigan, the Root River, and City- and County-owned parks/sites with signage and marked walking paths along major streets and highways; developing the River Loop recreational trail; developing or repairing pedestrian bridges to connect people to the Downtown Area, the proposed River Loop, and the riverfront; rerouting the Root River Pathway along the River's edge on the west side of the City; repairing or constructing boardwalks and pedestrian bridges associated with the proposed River Loop and other Downtown destination points; increasing bicycle connectivity by developing on-street bike lanes and a "paint on the street" bike route system; developing additional trailheads and transition points along the proposed River Loop and the Root River Pathway to provide views of the Root River at river level and bluff level; and improving pedestrian and bike access along 14th Street.

## Potential Water Trails

The City's 2035 comprehensive plan, the Root River watershed restoration plan, and the County park and open space plan recommend that the City of Racine and Racine County work together to develop a water trail<sup>31</sup> on the Root River and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Water trails, sometimes referred to as a paddling trail or canoe/kayaking trail, would identify parts of the Root River as a waterway that could accommodate low-impact, non-motorized watercraft such as canoes and kayaks. Important factors for establishing water trails include safe and convenient access to a waterway with unobstructed passageways, adequate support facilities, and safe portaging areas. Identifying and providing signs of scenic, historic, and natural view points along the waterway should also be considered. The establishment of a water trail would promote the responsible use and enjoyment of the Root River and would further serve as a place for solitude and respite from the urban environment, while providing educational and recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Developing a water trail in Lake Michigan would provide opportunities for non-motorized boating along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

As shown on Map 5.1, the proposed Root River Water Trail would be approximately 12 miles long and the Lake Michigan Water Trail<sup>32</sup> would be approximately nine miles long within the planning area. It is recommended that canoe access and support facilities be maintained and/or developed at regular intervals along the Root River and the Lake Michigan shoreline within the planning area. Currently, boat/canoe launches along the Root River within the City are located at the County-owned Horlick Park and the City-owned 6th Street Park South, Clayton Park, Island Park, and Lincoln Park. Existing public access sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline are located at the City-owned Pershing Park, Rooney Recreation Area, and Samuel Myers Park. The City and Racine County should consider preparing user-friendly maps for water trail users to identify support facilities and points of interest along the water trail. Nonprofit conservation organizations, such as the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network or the Lake Michigan Water Trail Association, may assist with these efforts.

## Other Considerations

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

- Inventory three beds of native species of prairie plants at Island Park
- Add Friends of Island Park group, which was formed in 2010 and have worked to beautify Island Park
- Prominent landscape architect, Jens Jensen, was honored with a historic marker and a tree planting at Island Park
- Recommend developing a flower bed at Washington Park Bowl to honor Jens Jensen
- Install way-finding directional signs to Island Park and all parks in the City
- Add biking and walking language to Athletic Activities in Appendix A
- Reference to Park Pride committee
- Inventory beds of native species of prairie plants at Lincoln Park
- Inventory species in Natural Areas

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

<sup>32</sup> In July 2017, the Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) designated the Lake Michigan Water Trail as a State trail. It is recommended that the City continue to work cooperatively with the WDNR and Racine County to provide additional Lake Michigan access sites and the appropriate support facilities within the City and environs for water trail users. The City should also continue to maintain and/or improve City-owned access sites currently located along the Lake Michigan shoreline.



- Make public transportation more accessible
- Expand river buffers, stabilize streambanks, and add fish habitat enhancements
- Develop ice skating rinks at every community center
- Develop Frisbee golf facilities
- Include description of River Bend Nature Center
- Remove hoptree plant species at County and City parks
- Plant native plant species and add educational signage
- Add more picnic tables and shelters
- Develop and maintain walking paths
- Consider the use of recovered brownfields to green space
- Restore wetland areas at Pritchard Park where trees were removed
- Enhance/maintain prairie areas at Pritchard Park
- Remove buckthorn from wooded area of Pritchard Park
- Develop low-grow prairie and restore wetlands at Lockwood Park
- Plant native plant species/pollinator garden at Lockwood Park
- Add Red Trillium plant species to Colonial Park

### ***Village of Wind Point Input***

The Village of Wind Point is also preparing a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. Public input regarding the Village plan identified improvements and developments at Shoop Park and Golf Course, which is located in the Village, but owned and maintained by the City of Racine. In June 2018, the following comments pertaining to Shoop Park and Golf Course were submitted to the City by Village staff and include:

- Shoop Park - Clear overgrown area along the lakefront and maintain lake views from the park and parking lot.
- Coordinate with the Village to develop safe pathways along Shoop Park, such as along the lakefront connecting to the Wind Point Lighthouse grounds and along the north end connecting to Village Green Park.
- Shoop Park - Improve the clubhouse to be a multi-use facility, with possible coordination with the Wind Point Lighthouse on facility rentals and events.
- Shoop Park - Restore the wetland swale within the golf course. A restored wetland would help filter pollutants, provide wildlife habitat, green infrastructure, and be a good demonstration project for the public to see.
- Shoop Park – Retrofit rough areas of the golf course by removing turf grass and replacing with native vegetation.

## 5.5 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

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

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

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

### **Racine County**

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

#### **Parks**

With respect to parks and facilities located within the City, the County is responsible for providing additional facilities and maintaining existing facilities at Pritchard Park. Racine County is also responsible for maintaining other County-owned park and open space sites within the City, including Horlick Park, Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park, Quarry Lake Park, and Reef Point Marina.

In July 2017, SC Johnson proposed to fund the development of an aquatic center<sup>33</sup> at Pritchard Park. The development of the aquatic center was completed in spring 2018 and includes two swimming pools, water slides, water play structures, spray areas, concessions, and other support-related amenities. The aquatic center is open to the public and operated by the Racine Family YMCA.

The County is also proposing to develop a multi-purpose turf field for football, soccer, and lacrosse events before 2020 and develop two league ball diamonds and four youth-sized ball diamonds within the next five to 10 years at Pritchard Park.

#### **Trail Facilities**

Racine County is responsible for maintaining those portions of the Lake Michigan Trail located in the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant. That portion of the Lake Michigan Trail within the City of Racine, known as the Lake Michigan Pathway, will be maintained by the City. The County is also responsible for maintaining the Racine-Kansasville Trail from the City of Racine to the Village of Sturtevant, and extending the trail from the Village of Sturtevant to the City of Burlington if the existing railway is abandoned. In addition, Racine County is responsible for developing those portions of the Root River Trail in the Village of Caledonia, which would ultimately connect to the City-owned Root River Pathway.

#### **Water Trails**

The County plan recommends developing water trails. Potential water trails may be located on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline within and adjacent to the City. These trails would connect with water trails in adjacent counties.

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<sup>33</sup> The aquatic center is referred to as the SC Johnson Community Aquatic Center. Details of the aquatic center are located at [racinecounty.com/residents/sc-johnson-community-aquatic-center](http://racinecounty.com/residents/sc-johnson-community-aquatic-center).

## City of Racine

Under the park and open plan for the City, shown on Maps 5.1 and 5.2, the City of Racine would have responsibility for providing a variety of outdoor recreation sites and facilities, including improving and maintaining all existing City parks and facilities, developing trails and bikeways, and developing additional recreational facilities identified in Tables 5.3 and 5.4. Implementing these recommendations would meet the outdoor recreation needs of City residents, and protect areas having important natural resources. It is also recommended that any existing outdoor recreation facility not meeting the accessibility requirements set forth in the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act be brought into compliance in a timely fashion.

The City should also work with Racine County to develop a one-mile portion of the Root River Trail within the City-owned Johnson Park and Golf Course, or in an alternate location that would provide trail continuity, and work with the County to develop the Root River and Lake Michigan Water Trails. In addition, the City would be responsible for developing 23 miles of on-street bikeways within the City.

## Plan Costs

Implementing the park and open space plan for the City of Racine, as presented herein and summarized in Table 5.3, would entail a total cost to the City of \$7,751,000 over the five-year plan implementation period from 2017 through 2021. This includes all site specific park-related improvements included in the City's five-year Capital Improvement Program and does not include costs associated with the general maintenance of existing park facilities and costs associated with unspecified Parks and Recreation projects (\$5,604,280). A summary of the yearly estimated costs related to developing the City's park system is presented in Table 5.5. The information is taken from the City's Capital Improvement Program for the years 2017 through 2021, and is categorized by proposed spending for parks and recreation, community centers, the Racine Zoological Gardens, golf courses, cemeteries, and the Wustum Museum. The City's five-year Capital Improvement Program for 2017-2021 for park-related expenses is included in Appendix B.

## 5.6 SUMMARY

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

The key components of the plan are as follows:

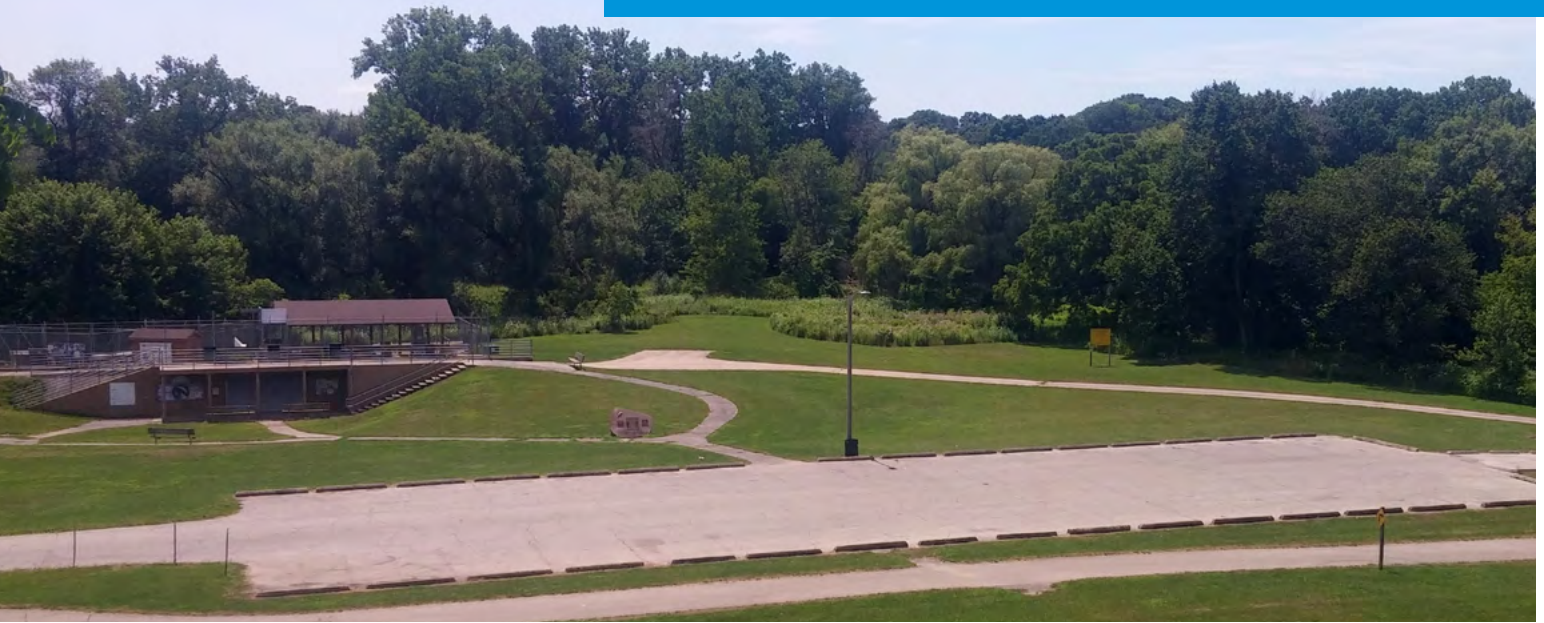
- The WDNR should endorse the plan, thereby making the City eligible to apply for and receive State and Federal grants for acquiring park and open space lands and developing outdoor recreation facilities.
- Racine County should continue to maintain and provide additional facilities at one major park, Pritchard Park, within the City. The County should continue to maintain Horlick Park, Quarry Lake Park, Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park, and Reef Point Marina, which are County-owned sites located within the City
- The County should continue to maintain the Lake Michigan Trail and the Racine-Kansasville Trail, and develop the Root River Trail north of the City to connect with the City's existing Root River Pathway. The County is currently planning to develop the remainder of trail in the abandoned right-of-way from the Village of Sturtevant to Kansasville, which will connect to the existing trail segments on the eastern and western portions of the County. The County should also acquire and protect critical species habitat sites and geological sites as recommended in the 2010 update to the regional natural areas plan.
- The City should consider adopting conservancy zoning regulations and applying those regulations to portions of primary environmental corridors that are not publicly owned. Consideration should also be given to protecting privately-owned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas through conservancy zoning.

**Table 5.5**  
**Estimated Yearly Costs of the Capital Improvement Program for the City of Racine: 2017-2021**

Capital Improvement Program	Year					Total Cost
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Parks and Recreation	1,588,900	1,442,975	1,211,880	1,266,200	794,325	6,304,280
Community Centers	255,000	160,000	137,500	75,000	77,500	705,000
Racine Zoological Gardens	115,000	153,000	72,000	1,048,500	65,000	1,453,500
Wustum Museum	13,000	15,000	170,000	20,000	--	218,000
Cemeteries	130,000	198,000	148,000	98,000	98,000	672,000
Golf Courses	172,500	157,000	778,000	242,000	158,000	1,507,500
Buildings	630,000	440,000	400,000	205,000	95,000	1,770,000
Streets – Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathways	240,000	485,000	--	--	--	725,000
Total	3,144,400	3,050,975	2,917,380	2,954,700	1,287,825	13,355,280

Source: City of Racine Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department and SEWRPC

- The park and open space plan recommends improvements to 26 existing City-owned recreational parks, special use parks, community centers, golf courses, and cemeteries to upgrade and modernize facilities and equipment. Park-related improvements for the years 2017-2021 are included in the City's Capital Improvement Program.
- The park and open space plan recommends developing recreational facilities at nine existing City-owned parks to help ensure that recreational facilities are well-distributed throughout the City and thereby convenient to all residents. The plan further recommends additional development and improvements at 13 City sites. These developments and improvements are likely to occur after 2021.
- The park and open space plan recommends that the City of Racine maintain the Lake Michigan Pathway and the Root River Pathway within the City. The City should develop an additional mile of the Root River Trail within or near Johnson Park and Golf Course that will eventually connect to a County-owned Trail. The City should also develop the River Loop Trail and the Riverwalk.
- The park and open space plan recommends that the City cooperate with WisDOT and Racine County to develop on-street bikeways recommended by the City's 2035 comprehensive plan and the regional transportation system plan. The City should also work with Racine County and, as appropriate, nonprofit conservation organizations to develop the Root River and Lake Michigan Water Trails.
- The cost to the City to implement the park and open space plan would be \$7,751,000 over the five-year period from 2017 through 2021. Costs for additional park facility development recommended by the plan beyond 2021 will be determined through the City's Capital Improvement Program process.



Credit:

In April 2016, the City of Racine Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Department requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the City in updating its park and open space plan. The resulting plan is documented in this report, and is an update of the park and open space plan adopted by the City in 2011. This plan provides a long-range vision and a guide to assist City officials and staff in making the day-to-day decisions needed for the continued development of the City's park and open space system. To assist in implementing the plan, both long-term recommendations, for the next 18 years, and an "action plan" are presented. The action plan sets forth priorities for implementing the plan over the five-year period from 2017 through 2021.

Important preliminary steps in developing this plan included a review of development and improvement activities conducted to date to implement the previous park plan and collection of updated inventory information regarding population, natural resources, and park and open space sites and recreational facilities within the City and planning area. This plan also reflects recommendations from the City of Racine Comprehensive Plan, the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan, the City's Pathway System Plan/Map, the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan, and the updated natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin. Pertinent recommendations from new or updated neighborhood plans prepared by the City since the previous plan was adopted, including the Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan and the Uptown Improvement Plan, are also incorporated into this park plan.

The planning process was conducted under the guidance of the City Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services with staff support provided by the City Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Department. A public informational meeting to present preliminary plan recommendations and to provide additional opportunities for public comment was held on February 14, 2018. This plan was approved by the Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services on March 14, 2018.

This plan has been adopted as a component of the City of Racine comprehensive plan, following the procedures set forth in Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. A public hearing was held by the Common Council on June 19, 2018. The City Plan Commission adopted a resolution recommending that the City of Racine Common Council adopt the park plan as a component of the City's comprehensive plan by ordinance on June 13, 2018. The Common Council adopted the ordinance on June 19, 2018. A copy of the Common Council ordinance adopting the plan is included in Appendix C.



## **6.1 INVENTORY FINDINGS**

The planning area consists of the entire City of Racine, including Johnson Park and Golf Course and the Johnson Park Dog Run, which are within the City's corporate limits, but detached from the rest of the City; and Shoop Park Golf Course, which is owned by the City but located in the Village of Wind Point. The planning area is located in the eastern portion of Racine County along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The planning area encompasses 10,113 acres, or about 16 square miles, including 10,060 acres within the City of Racine corporate limits and 53 acres within Shoop Park Golf Course. The City had a 2010 population level of 78,860 persons. The Wisconsin Department of Administration estimate for 2017, is 77,860 persons, a decrease of 1,000 persons, or about 1 percent, from 2010.

The City is almost completely developed and is completely surrounded by other incorporated municipalities (villages), which prevents annexations by the City. Development within the City between 2017 and the plan design year of 2035 will occur through infilling of vacant parcels surrounded by existing development, re-development of under-utilized sites identified in the City comprehensive plan, and small areas of new development on the outskirts of the City.

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

An inventory of outdoor recreation and open space sites and facilities was conducted in 2016. Between 2016 and 2018, the City acquired two sites, the three-acre West Bluff Overlook and the six-acre Machinery Row Promenade. The inventory identified 140 such sites encompassing 1,462 acres, or about 15 percent of the planning area. Of the 140 outdoor recreation and open space sites, 121 sites encompassing 1,407 acres, or about 96 percent of the area devoted to outdoor recreation and open space uses, were publicly owned. The remaining 19 sites, encompassing 55 acres, or about 4 percent of the total park and open space site acreage, were privately owned. The City of Racine owned 94 park and open space sites, encompassing a total of 1,175 acres. The City's sites ranged from 950 square feet (Jonas Park) to 335 acres (Johnson Park and Golf Course) in size. Since 2011, major developments and/or improvements to park facilities were made at 17 City park sites.

There were also two sites under protective easement, one held by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources along the Root River and one held by the Village of Mount Pleasant along the Pike River.

### **Trail Facilities**

The Lake Michigan Pathway and Root River Pathway developed by the City provide opportunities for biking and hiking within the City. The 10-mile Lake Michigan Pathway traverses north to south within the City near the Lake Michigan shoreline. The four-mile Root River Pathway is located primarily on park lands along the Root River. Both trails provide connections to the County-owned MRK Trail, North Shore Trail, and Racine-Kansasville Trail. The Racine-Kansasville Trail extends westward from the North Shore Trail near West Boulevard in the City to the Village of Sturtevant.

### **Natural Resources and Areas**

The most important features of the natural resource base in the City of Racine and the planning area, including the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas occur in linear areas termed environmental corridors. Primary environmental corridors encompass 570 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area, secondary environmental corridors encompass 18 acres, and smaller pockets of natural resource base elements, termed isolated natural resource areas, encompass 114 acres within the planning area. There are 508 acres encompassed in the 1-percent-annual-probability (100-year recurrence interval) floodplain.

One natural area encompassing 74 acres, five critical species habitat sites encompassing 59 acres, and three geological areas encompassing 15 acres were identified in the planning area. Three aquatic habitat sites were also identified. The inventory of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological areas was initially conducted in 1994 and was updated in 2009. The Colonial Park Woods Natural Area is of countywide or greater significance and was first identified during the update. The natural area, critical species habitat sites, and geological areas are all mostly located within primary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas.

## 6.2 LOCAL PLANS

The City adopted five neighborhood plans from 2003 to 2011. Since 2011, the City has updated the Uptown Neighborhood Plan and prepared the Root River Corridor Redevelopment Plan (RootWorks). In 2017, the City adopted a refined version of the RootWorks plan (*RootWorks Area-wide Plan and Implementation Strategy*). The plans were prepared as a guide to help strengthen or maintain certain neighborhood districts within the City. The plans include park-, open space-, and/or trail-related recommendations. The neighborhood plan recommendations are summarized in Chapter 3.

The City of Racine Health Department is also preparing a *Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*, which will update the Pathway System Plan/Map, and provide additional recommendations for bikeways and bike routes in the City.

The Root River Watershed Restoration Plan was completed in 2014. The plan provides specific recommendations to address watershed-related conditions, with the overall goal of restoring and improving the water resources of the Root River watershed. About seven miles of the Root River traverse the City before it empties into Lake Michigan. The Root River watershed encompasses about 4,500 acres within the City, or about 45 percent of the City. The plan is focused on four issues: water quality, recreational use and access, habitat condition, and flooding. The plan also recommends protecting existing riparian buffers along the Root River and its tributary streams by maintaining or establishing a minimum buffer of natural vegetation within 75 feet on both sides of the River and its tributaries, with consideration given to establishing an optimal riparian buffer up to 1,000 feet on both sides of the River. Establishing an optimal buffer width should be considered when development or redevelopment proposals are submitted to the City for review.

In June 2016, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council issued a “Final Decision” approving a City of Waukesha application for Lake Michigan water supply. The approved return flow to the Root River in the City of Franklin would supplement baseflows during dry periods, and would be expected to enhance recreational uses of the River, such as fishing and paddling, in communities downstream of the discharge point, including in the City of Racine. Flood flows are not expected to increase significantly as a result of the planned discharge to the River.

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

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

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

The responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreational facilities to provide City residents with high-quality recreational opportunities is shared among various levels of government. The responsibility for acquiring and developing major resource-oriented parks and recreational facilities is largely delegated to the State and County levels of government, although larger cities, such as the City of Racine, sometimes provide major parks. The need for major parks will be met within the City of Racine by the continued maintenance and development of Johnson Park and Golf Course by the City and the continued maintenance and development of Pritchard Park by Racine County.

The responsibility for providing neighborhood and community parks and facilities for intensive outdoor recreational activities, as well as acquiring environmental corridors and developing a local trail system, is

delegated to the City of Racine under the regional park and open space plan. The need for community and neighborhood parks and associated recreational facilities in the City of Racine was determined by applying the park and open space standards to the adopted City of Racine 2035 comprehensive plan population forecast of 80,510 persons. Service radius standards were also applied to ensure that community and neighborhood parks will be well-distributed throughout the City and convenient to City residents.

The results of applying the per capita and service area standards for recreational facilities in the City identified a need for additional baseball and softball diamonds, basketball goals, playfields, playgrounds, soccer fields, and tennis courts to meet standards for a desirable distribution of recreational facilities. The Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services also continues to support adding new facilities, including a swimming pool, an ice skating rink, and practice soccer fields, which were recommended in the previous park plan.

## **6.4 STATUS OF 2035 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

The 2035 City of Racine Park and Open Space Plan adopted in 2011 contains a number of recommendations regarding developing and improving recreational facilities. Chapter 4 provides a summary of the recommendations made in the earlier plan and indicates whether those recommendations had been implemented as of 2016. Between 2011 and 2016, the City accomplished the following park and trail development and improvement activities:

- Providing benches to view the Root River at Clayton Park
- Replacing the ball diamond lights, additional landscaping, and interior and exterior updates to the Cesar Chavez Community Center at Douglas Park
- Replacing the playground equipment and improving the streetscape and park facilities at Dr. Hamilton Park
- Making exterior and interior updates to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park
- Replacing the playground equipment at Hantschel Park
- Developing additional restrooms and seal coating the parking lot at Horlick Athletic Field
- Paving the 21st Street sidewalk, replacing the northwest ball diamond, and interior and exterior updates at Humble Park Community Center at Humble Park
- Repaving Horlick Drive and replacing the north ball diamonds lights at Island Park
- Repaving Johnson Park Drive and picnic road and rebuilding the fourth-hole putting green and the third-hole tee box at Johnson Park and Golf Course
- Adding landscaping at Jonas Park
- Renovating the ball diamond, replacing the ball diamond fencing, paving the parking lot, and modifying the existing boat launch upstream from the steelhead facility at Lincoln Park
- Renovating the ball diamond and replacing the ball diamond fencing at Lockwood Park
- Repairing the roads and walkways at Mound Cemetery
- Installing beach matting at North Beach Park
- Replacing the playground equipment at Parker Park
- Paving the central parking lot and resurfacing the boat ramp parking lot at Pershing Park

- Installing beach matting and paving the walking paths at the Racine Zoological Gardens
- Replacing the playground equipment at Robert Heck Park
- Replacing the playground equipment and interior and exterior updates at Dr. John Bryant Community Center at Roosevelt Park
- Making interior and exterior updates at Tyler-Domer Community Center
- Replacing the stairs and renovating the east ball diamond, east ball diamond fencing, and east ball diamond lights at Washington Park Bowl
- Replacing the walkways along the building at Washington Park Golf Course
- Improving the streetscape and park facilities and replacing the playground equipment at West Park
- Updating the first and second floor electrical systems, paving the rear parking lot, and paving the storage building area at the Wustum Museum

Since 2011, the City has also decided to pursue some alternative improvements or developments of various facilities at selected park sites, rather than the recommended developments or improvements included in the previous park plan. The previous park plan recommended that the pedestrian bridge be removed from Lincoln Park, but the City determined there was a need for the bridge and decided to make repairs to the bridge. Also, the stairs at Washington Park Bowl have not been replaced, as recommended, but repaired. A number of other facilities not specifically called for in the previous plan have been developed or improved at certain sites by the City.

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

Upon fully implementing the park and open space plan for the City of Racine, the City would provide a variety of parks and related outdoor recreation facilities, a system of recreation trails, and a system of on-street bikeways to meet the outdoor recreation needs of City residents and protect important natural resource areas. Specific plan recommendations include:

- Developing neighborhood park recreational facilities at nine existing City-owned parks, likely after 2021, to help ensure that recreational facilities are well-distributed throughout the City and convenient to all residents
- Improving recreational facilities at 26 existing City-owned recreational parks, special use parks, community centers, golf courses, or cemeteries, including parks-related improvements identified in the City's Capital Improvement Program for 2017 through 2021, as presented in Appendix B
- Developing and improving 13 existing City parks and developing a formal, outdoor ice skating rink and a community swimming pool, which will likely occur after 2021
- Developing the River Loop Trail and a Riverwalk
- Developing the Root River and Lake Michigan Water Trails, in cooperation with Racine County
- Developing the Root River Pathway within Johnson Park and Golf Course or in an alternate location that would provide trail continuity
- Continuing to maintain the City-owned Lake Michigan and Root River Pathways
- Continuing to maintain the City parks system, including improvements to increase access for people with disabilities

- Continuing to develop a City-wide, on-street bike system in accordance with the City's 2035 comprehensive plan and the regional transportation system plan.

The City should also consider developing or improving parks and/or recreational facilities that were recommended in the previous park plan, but have not yet been implemented, if the resources or funding are available or if the City determines that it is necessary to improve or develop a specific facility.

### **Natural Resource Protection**

It is recommended that the City protect environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas through several methods, including:

- Adopting and applying conservancy zoning regulations to protect privately-owned environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas
- Continuing to protect the natural resources associated with the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas within existing City parks
- Acquiring and protecting about nine acres of primary environmental corridor associated with the Colonial Park Woods Natural Area for resource protection purposes, through acquisition of a conservation easement or fee-simple purchase

### **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)**

In addition to City implementation of the recommendations listed above, the plan recommends that WDNR endorse the plan, thereby continuing to make the City eligible to apply for and receive Federal and State grants for acquiring land and developing outdoor recreation facilities.

### **Racine County**

It is recommended that Racine County provide additional facilities and continue to maintain existing facilities at one major park, Pritchard Park, within the City, and continue to maintain Horlick Park, Quarry Lake Park, Len Ziolkowski Harbor Park, and Reef Point Marina, which are County parks located within the City. Since 2011, the County sold the Belle Harbor Marina for redevelopment purposes. The County should continue to maintain the Lake Michigan Trail, continue to maintain and develop the Racine-Kansasville Trail, and develop the Root River Trail north of the City to connect with the City's existing Root River Pathway. The County plan also recommends developing potential water trails on the Root River, Pike River, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline within and adjacent to the City. In addition, the County should acquire and protect critical species habitat sites and geological sites as called for in the updated regional natural areas and critical species habitat plan and the County park and open space plan.

### **Implementation**

The plan documented in this report is intended to provide a long-range vision and a guide to assist City officials and staff in making the day-to-day decisions needed for continued development of the City's park and open space system. To assist in implementing the plan, both long-term recommendations for the next 18 years and an "action plan," for the next five years, are presented. The action plan sets forth priorities for implementing the park and open space plan over the five-year period from 2017 through 2021, which would entail a cost of about \$7.8 million.

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



# APPENDICES



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

## **APPENDIX A**



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

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

## A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

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

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



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

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

## B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE

- **Principle:** Meeting the recreation demands of the Region's residents cannot be accomplished solely by providing public general use outdoor recreation sites. Certain recreational activities such as hiking, biking, scenic driving, and cross country skiing are best provided through a system of trails and recreation corridors located on or adjacent to linear resource-oriented open space lands. A well-designed system of recreation following linear open space lands can also serve to physically connect existing and proposed public parks, thus forming a truly integrated park and recreation related open space system. Such open space lands also satisfy the need for natural surroundings, serve to protect the natural resource base, and ensure that many scenic areas and areas of natural, cultural, or historic interest are properly considered in determining existing and future land use patterns.
- **Standard 1.1:** The public sector should provide sufficient open space lands to accommodate a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors to meet the resident demand for trail-oriented recreation activities. To fulfill this recommendation, the following recreation-related open space standards should be met:
  1. A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation related open space consisting of linear recreation corridors<sup>p</sup> should be provided for each 1,000 people in the Region
  2. Recreation corridors should have a minimum length of 15 miles and a minimum width of 200 feet
  3. The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas
  4. Resource-orientated recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
    - a. Primary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented recreation activities
    - b. Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites
    - c. Existing trail-type facilities within the Region

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

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

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

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

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

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirement <sup>w</sup>				Design Standards						Service Radius of Facility (miles) <sup>x</sup>
Activity	Facility	Owner	Per Capita Requirements (facility per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements	Total Land Requirements (acres per facility)	Resource Requirements	
Camping	Campsite	Public	0.35	Regional and multi-community parks	0.33 acre per campsite	Restrooms – showers	--	1.83	Ungrazed wooded area Presence of surface water Suitable topography and soils	25.0
		Nonpublic	1.47			Utility hookups	--			
		Total	1.82			Natural area backup lands	1.5 acres per campsite			
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public	0.013	Regional and multi-community parks	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking, and maintenance	8.0 acres per course	185.00	Suitable topography and soils Presence of surface water Form-giving vegetation desirable	10.0
		Nonpublic	0.027			Practice area	5.0 acres per course			
		Total	0.040			Woodland or water areas Buffer	35.0 acres per course 2.0 acres per course			
Picnicking	Tables	Public	6.35 <sup>y</sup>	Regional, multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking	0.02 acre per table (1.5 space per table)	0.11	Topography with scenic views Shade trees Presence of surface water desirable Suitable soils	10.0
		Nonpublic	2.39			Shelters and grills	--			
		Total	8.74			Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table			
Skiing	Developed slope (acres)	Public	0.01	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet	0.13 acre minimum	2.10	Suitable topography and soils (20 percent slope minimum) North or northeast exposure	25.0
		Nonpublic	0.09			Parking	0.25 acre per acre of slope			
		Total	0.10			Ski tows (and lights) Buffer and maintenance Landscape	0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.35 acre per acre of slope			
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)	Major Inland Lakes	6	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking	0.2 acre per acre of beach	-- <sup>z</sup>	Natural beach Good water quality	10.0
		Public	12			Bathhouse-concessions	0.10 acre minimum			
		Nonpublic	16			Buffer areas	10 square feet per linear foot			

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

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

Minimum Per Capita Public Facility Requirements <sup>a</sup>			Design Standards				
Activity	Facility	Per Capita Requirements (linear mile per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Minimum Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Suggested Support Facilities and Backup Lands	Minimum Support Facility Requirements (acres per linear mile)	Resource Requirements
Biking	Route	-- <sup>bb</sup>	Scenic roadways	--	Route markers	--	--
	Trail	0.16	Recreation corridor	1.45	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography (5 percent slope average maximum) and soils
Hiking	Trail	0.16	Recreation corridor	0.73	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Horseback Riding	Trail	0.05	Recreation corridor Regional Park	1.21	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Diversity of scenic, historic, natural, and cultural features Suitable topography and soils
Nature Study	Center	One per county	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	--	Interpretive center building	--	Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species
	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Regional, multi-community, and community parks	0.73	Parking Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Suitable topography and soils Diversity of natural features, including a variety of plant and animal species Suitable topography and soils
Scenic Driving	Route	-- <sup>cc</sup>	Scenic roadways Recreation corridor	--	Route markers	--	--
Cross Country Skiing	Trail	0.02	Recreation corridor Regional and multi-community parks	0.97	Backup lands with resource amenities	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Rolling topography
Snowmobiling	Trail	0.11	Private lands (leased for public use)	1.45	Backup lands, including resource amenities and open lands	24.2	Suitable natural and open areas Suitable topography (8 percent slope average maximum) and soils

► **Objective 5: To provide sufficient surface water access areas to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities on major inland lakes and rivers and on Lake Michigan, consistent with safe and enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of good water quality.**

- **Principle:** The major inland lakes and rivers of the Region and Lake Michigan provide opportunities for water-based recreation activities, including canoeing, fishing, ice fishing, motorboating, sailing, and water-skiing, which may involve unique forms of physical exercise or simply provide opportunities for rest and relaxation within an attractive natural setting. Participating in such activities requires the general public to have access to major inland lakes and rivers and Lake Michigan.

- **Standard 5.1:** Access sites available for use by the general public on streams and major lakes (50 acres or larger) should be provided in accordance with the requirements established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Sections NR 1.90 and NR 1.91 of the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*.
- **Standard 5.2:** Access sites with parking should be provided on major streams throughout the Region. The maximum interval between access points on major canoeable streams<sup>dd</sup> should be 10 miles.

► **Objective 6: To preserve sufficient high-quality open space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity<sup>ee</sup> of the Region.**

- **Principle:** Ecological balance and natural beauty are primary elements to sustaining a healthy environment and maintaining the social and economic well-being of the Region. Preserving the most significant aspects of the natural resource base, that is, primary environmental corridors, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and prime agricultural lands, contributes to sustaining the ecological balance, natural beauty, and economic well-being of the Region.

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

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

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

- **Principle:** Natural areas and critical species habitats are important in a number of ways - including economically, because they support advances in agriculture and medicine; functionally, because they enhance surface water and groundwater quality, minimize erosion, and enhance air quality; educationally; recreationally; aesthetically; in basic scientific research; and in maintaining biological and genetic diversity. In a less tangible but equally important way, natural areas and critical species habitats contribute to the overall quality of life for the Region's residents.
- **Standard 6.2:** The remaining natural areas and critical species habitat areas should be preserved.

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

- **Principle:** Prime agricultural lands, in addition to providing food and fiber, can supply significant wildlife habitat; contribute to maintaining an ecological balance between plants and animals; offer locations close to urban centers for producing certain food commodities that may require nearby population concentrations for efficient distribution; provide opportunities for agricultural and agriculture-related employment; provide open spaces that give form and structure to urban development; and serve to maintain the natural beauty and unique cultural heritage of the Region.
- **Standard 6.3:** Prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.
- **Standard 6.4:** Agricultural lands surrounding adjacent areas with high-value natural resource, educational, or recreational attributes should be considered for preservation to provide a buffer between such resources and urban development.



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

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

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**Footnotes**

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

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

<sup>c</sup> Urban areas are defined as areas containing a closely spaced network of minor streets that include concentrations of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, or institutional land uses having a minimum total area of 160 acres and a minimum population of 500 people. These areas are usually incorporated and served by sanitary sewerage systems. These areas have been further classified into the following categories: Mixed-Use City Center (urban land with at least 18.0 dwelling units per net residential acre), Mixed-Use Traditional Neighborhood (urban land with at least 7.0 to 17.9 dwelling units per net residential acre), Small Lot Traditional Neighborhood (urban land with at least 4.4 to 6.9 dwelling units per net residential acre), Medium Lot Neighborhood (urban land with at least 2.3 to 4.3 dwelling units per net residential acre), and Large Lot Neighborhood (urban land with at least 0.7 to 2.2 dwelling units per net residential acre).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>k</sup> The maximum service radius of neighborhood parks is governed primarily by the population density in the vicinity of the park. In Mixed-use City Center and Mixed-Use Traditional Neighborhood (high-density) urban areas, each resident should reside within 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park; in Small Lot Traditional Neighborhood and Medium Lot Neighborhood (medium

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Source: SEWRPC*



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE  
CITY OF RACINE FOR PARKS-RELATED ITEMS: 2017-2021**

**APPENDIX B**





Table B.1

Capital Improvement Program for the City of Racine for Parks-Related Items: 2017-2021<sup>a</sup>

Parks and Recreation							Funding Source
Project Description and Location	2017 (\$)	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	
Parks Vehicles and Equipment							
Vehicles and Equipment	463,900	593,975	406,880	439,200	366,325	2,270,280	General Obligation Debt and Short Term Debt
Parks Pavement Projects							
Sidewalk Replacement Parks	10,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	58,000	General Obligation Debt
Bicycle Pathway Pavement Repairs	24,000	24,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	138,000	General Obligation Debt
ADA Asphalt to Park Facilities	5,000	--	--	--	--	5,000	General Obligation Debt
Parking Lot Maintenance	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	120,000	General Obligation Debt
Removal of Concrete and Asphalt	10,000	--	10,000	--	10,000	30,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Island Park Tennis Court	--	--	--	180,000	--	180,000	General Obligation Debt
Repave Samuel Myers Circle Drive	--	78,000	--	--	--	78,000	General Obligation Debt
Repave Horlick Drive	--	--	140,000 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	140,000	General Obligation Debt
Repave Johnson Park Drive	--	--	--	58,000 <sup>b</sup>	--	58,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Roosevelt Park Basketball Court	21,000	--	--	--	--	21,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Solbraa Park Basketball Court	--	23,000	--	--	--	23,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Mat Matson Park Basketball Half-Court	--	--	12,000 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	12,000	General Obligation Debt
Install Robert Heck Park Basketball Half-Court	--	--	--	13,000	--	13,000	General Obligation Debt
Repave Park Service Parking Lot	75,000	--	--	--	--	75,000	General Obligation Debt
Repave Wisconsin Avenue Parking Lot	--	--	--	--	86,000	86,000	General Obligation Debt
Reseal Horlick Athletic Field Grounds	10,000 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	10,000	General Obligation Debt
Reseal Horlick Athletic Field Parking Lot	10,000 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	10,000	General Obligation Debt
Subtotal	189,000	161,000	228,000	317,000	162,000	1,057,000	--
Parks Building Improvements							
Miscellaneous Park Painting Facilities	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000	Short Term Debt
Greencrest Park Shelter Renovation	9,000	83,000	--	--	--	92,000	General Obligation Debt
Mat Matson Park Shelter Renovation	80,000 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	80,000	General Obligation Debt
Mat Matson Park Shelter Renovation	--	--	60,000	--	--	60,000	General Obligation Debt
Robert Heck Park Shelter Renovation	--	--	--	55,000	--	55,000	General Obligation Debt
Tuck-Point Park Service	50,000	--	--	--	--	50,000	General Obligation Debt
Robert Heck Park Shelter Renovation	90,000	--	--	--	--	90,000	General Obligation Debt
Subtotal	239,000	93,000	70,000	65,000	10,000	477,000	--
Land Improvements							
Parkway Tree Planting CDBG	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	175,000	Community Develop Bock Grant
Parkway Tree Planting	50,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	290,000	General Obligation Debt
Emerald Ash Borer Management	45,000	45,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	270,000	Short Term Debt
Root River Improvement	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000	General Obligation Debt
Park Signs with Landscape	12,000	--	14,000	--	16,000	42,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Landscape – Various Parks Monument Square/Johnson Parkway Landscape	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Fencing in Various Locations	5,000	--	5,000	--	5,000	15,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Fencing in Various Parks	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	50,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Miscellaneous Playground Equipment	25,000	25,000	--	25,000	--	75,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Park Benches and Garbage Cans	10,000	10,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	60,000	General Obligation Debt
Dog Park	20,000	--	20,000	--	20,000	60,000	General Obligation Debt
Subtotal	20,000	--	--	--	--	20,000	General Obligation Debt
Subtotal	247,000	200,000	229,000	220,000	236,000	1,132,000	--
Recreation Facilities Improvements							
Bleacher Management	5,000	--	5,000	--	5,000	15,000	Short Term Debt
Fountain Management	8,000	10,000	10,000	--	--	28,000	Short Term Debt
Replace Facility Bleachers	--	10,000	--	10,000	--	20,000	General Obligation Debt
Skateboard Renovation	20,000	20,000	--	--	--	40,000	General Obligation Debt
Renovate Pershing Park Concessions	30,000	--	--	--	--	30,000	General Obligation Debt
Renovate Pershing Park Locker Rooms	--	100,000	--	--	--	100,000	General Obligation Debt
Renovate Horlick Athletic Field Staff Building	24,000	--	--	--	--	24,000	General Obligation Debt
Subtotal	87,000	140,000	15,000	10,000	5,000	257,000	--

Table continued on next page.

Table B.1 (Continued)

Parks and Recreation							Funding Source
Project Description and Location	2017 (\$)	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	
Recreation Land Improvements							
Zoo Beach Matting	15,000	--	15,000	--	15,000	45,000	General Obligation Debt
Renovate Roosevelt Park North							
Ball Diamond	30,000	--	--	--	--	30,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Roosevelt Park North							
Ball Diamond Fence	18,000	--	--	--	--	18,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Lockwood Park							
Ball Diamond Lights	300,000	--	--	--	--	300,000	General Obligation Debt
Ball Diamond Management	--	15,000	--	15,000	--	30,000	General Obligation Debt
Renovate Humble Park Southwest							
Ball Diamond	--	25,000	--	--	--	25,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Humble Park Southwest Ball							
Diamond Fence	--	15,000	--	--	--	15,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Washington Park Bowl East Ball							
Diamond Lights	--	200,000	--	--	--	200,000	General Obligation Debt
Renovate Solbraa Park Ball Diamond	--	--	30,000	--	--	30,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Solbraa Park Ball Diamond Fence	--	--	18,000	--	--	18,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Humble Park Northwest Ball							
Diamond Lights	--	--	200,000	--	--	200,000	General Obligation Debt
Replace Solbraa Park Ball Diamond							
Lights	--	--	--	200,000	--	200,000	General Obligation Debt
Subtotal	363,000	255,000	263,000	215,000	15,000	1,111,000	--
Total Cost	1,588,900	1,442,975	1,211,880	1,266,200	794,325	6,304,280	--
Method of Financing							
General Obligation Debt	1,132,000	879,000	805,000	933,000	438,000	4,187,000	--
Community Development Block Grant	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	175,000	--
Short Term Debt	421,900	528,975	371,880	298,200	321,325	1,942,280	--
Total Cost	1,588,900	1,442,975	1,211,880	1,266,200	794,325	6,304,280	--
Community Centers							Funding Source
Project Description and Location	2017 (\$)	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	
Relandscape Community Centers	10,000	--	2,500	--	2,500	15,000	Short Term Debt
Chavez C.C.- Refinish Basement	24,000	--	--	--	--	24,000	General Obligation Debt
Chavez C.C.- Exterior Repair	100,000	--	--	--	--	100,000	General Obligation Debt
Chavez C.C.- Scoreboard(s)	8,000 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	8,000	General Obligation Debt
Chavez C.C.- Replace Interior							
Door Hardware	--	25,000	--	--	--	25,000	General Obligation Debt
King C.C.- Refinish Gym Floor	45,000 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	45,000	General Obligation Debt
King C.C.- Exterior Repairs	25,000	110,000	--	--	--	135,000	General Obligation Debt
King C.C.- Replace Interior Door Hardware	25,000	--	--	--	--	25,000	General Obligation Debt
King C.C.- Scoreboard	4,500 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	4,500	General Obligation Debt
King C.C.- Replace Bleachers	--	--	--	75,000	--	75,000	General Obligation Debt
Bryant C.C.- Scoreboard	4,500 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	4,500	General Obligation Debt
Bryant C.C.- Exterior Repairs	--	25,000	110,000	--	--	135,000	General Obligation Debt
Bryant C.C.- Replace Interior Door Hardware	--	--	25,000	--	--	25,000	General Obligation Debt
Bryant C.C.- Replace Bleachers	--	--	--	--	75,000	75,000	General Obligation Debt
Tyler-Domer C.C.- Scoreboard	4,500	--	--	--	--	4,500	General Obligation Debt
Humble C.C.- Scoreboard	4,500 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	4,500	General Obligation Debt
Total Cost	255,000	160,000	137,500	75,000	77,500	705,000	--
Method of Financing							
General Obligation Debt	245,000	160,000	135,000	75,000	75,000	690,000	--
Short Term Debt	10,000	--	2,500	--	2,500	15,000	--
Total Cost	255,000	160,000	137,500	75,000	77,500	705,000	--
Wustum Museum							Funding Source
Project Description and Location	2017 (\$)	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	
Landscape Grounds	5,000	5,000	--	--	--	10,000	Trust Funds
Blacktop Paths	8,000	--	--	--	--	8,000	Trust Funds
Paint Building	--	--	20,000	20,000	--	40,000	Trust Funds
Repave Main Parking Lot	--	10,000	150,000	--	--	160,000	Trust Funds
Total Cost	13,000	15,000	170,000	20,000	--	218,000	--
Method of Financing							
Trust Funds	13,000	15,000	170,000	20,000	--	218,000	--
Total Cost	13,000	15,000	170,000	20,000	--	218,000	--

Table continued on next page.

**Table B.1 (Continued)**

<b>Zoological Gardens</b>							
<b>Project Description and Location</b>	<b>2017 (\$)</b>	<b>2018 (\$)</b>	<b>2019 (\$)</b>	<b>2020 (\$)</b>	<b>2021 (\$)</b>	<b>Total Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Blacktop Paths Through Zoo	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	75,000	Short Term Debt
New Gould Street Parking Lot	100,000	100,000	--	--	--	200,000	Zoo Donations
Resurface Giraffe Stalls	--	38,000	--	--	--	38,000	Zoo Donations
Resurface Rhino Stalls	--	--	57,000	--	--	57,000	Zoo Donations
Environmental Education Center	--	--	--	1,000,000	--	1,000,000	Zoo Donations
Re-Key All Locks	--	--	--	33,500	--	33,500	Zoo Donations
Replace Roof on Jungle Grill	--	--	--	--	50,000	50,000	Zoo Donations
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>115,000</b>	<b>153,000</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>1,048,500</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>1,453,500</b>	<b>--</b>
Method of Financing							
Short Term Debt	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	75,000	--
Zoo Donations	100,000	138,000	57,000	1,033,500	50,000	1,378,500	--
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>115,000</b>	<b>153,000</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>1,048,500</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>1,453,500</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>Golf Courses</b>							
<b>Project Description and Location</b>	<b>2017 (\$)</b>	<b>2018 (\$)</b>	<b>2019 (\$)</b>	<b>2020 (\$)</b>	<b>2021 (\$)</b>	<b>Total Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Johnson Park and Golf Course – Repave Clubhouse Walkway	95,000	--	--	--	--	95,000	Golf Revenues
Johnson Park and Golf Course – Replace Lift Station	25,000	90,000	--	--	--	115,000	Golf Revenues
Johnson Park and Golf Course – Replace Doors Clubhouse/Office	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	--	20,000	Golf Revenues
Johnson Park and Golf Course – Replace 11th Tee Foot Bridge	--	15,000	75,000	--	--	90,000	Golf Revenues
Johnson Park and Golf Course – Sand Bunker Reconstruction	--	--	205,000	205,000	--	410,000	Golf Revenues
Johnson Park and Golf Course – Butler Building-Roof	40,000	--	--	--	--	40,000	Golf Revenues
Washington Park Golf Course – Replace Doors/Windows	--	15,000	50,000	--	--	65,000	Golf Revenues
Washington Park Golf Course – Fencing	7,500	--	--	--	--	7,500	Golf Revenues
Washington Park Golf Course – Repave Parking/Walkways	--	--	--	12,000	78,000	90,000	Golf Revenues
Washington Park Golf Course – Maintenance Building-Roof	--	--	--	20,000	--	20,000	Golf Revenues
Washington Park Golf Course – Clubhouse Roof	--	--	--	--	80,000	80,000	Golf Revenues
Shoop Park Golf Course – West Fairway Drainage	--	20,000	275,000	--	--	295,000	Surcharges
Shoop Park Golf Course – Renovate Clubhouse	--	12,000	118,000	--	--	130,000	Golf Revenues
Shoop Park Golf Course – Clubhouse Roof	--	--	50,000	--	--	50,000	Golf Revenues
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>172,500</b>	<b>157,000</b>	<b>778,000</b>	<b>242,000</b>	<b>158,000</b>	<b>1,507,500</b>	<b>--</b>
Method of Financing							
Other Funding Sources	172,500	157,000	778,000	242,000	158,000	1,507,500	--
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>172,500</b>	<b>157,000</b>	<b>778,000</b>	<b>242,000</b>	<b>158,000</b>	<b>1,507,500</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>Cemetery</b>							
<b>Project Description and Location</b>	<b>2017 (\$)</b>	<b>2018 (\$)</b>	<b>2019 (\$)</b>	<b>2020 (\$)</b>	<b>2021 (\$)</b>	<b>Total Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Replace Roads and Walks	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	200,000	General Obligation Debt
Graceland Crypt Repairs	45,000	58,000	58,000	58,000	58,000	277,000	Crypt Fund
Graceland Crypt Repairs	20,000	20,000	--	--	--	40,000	General Obligation Debt
Graceland Cremation Area	25,000	--	--	--	--	25,000	General Obligation Debt
Master Plan	--	20,000	--	--	--	20,000	General Obligation Debt
Graceland Office Roof	--	60,000	--	--	--	60,000	General Obligation Debt
Graceland Crypt Roof	--	--	50,000	--	--	50,000	General Obligation Debt
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>198,000</b>	<b>148,000</b>	<b>98,000</b>	<b>98,000</b>	<b>672,000</b>	<b>--</b>
Method of Financing							
General Obligation Debt	85,000	140,000	90,000	40,000	40,000	395,000	--
Crypt Fund	45,000	58,000	58,000	58,000	58,000	277,000	--
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>198,000</b>	<b>148,000</b>	<b>98,000</b>	<b>98,000</b>	<b>672,000</b>	<b>--</b>

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**Table B.1 (Continued)**

Buildings							
Project Description and Location	2017 (\$)	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	Funding Source
Park Service Center – Roof	--	160,000	--	--	--	160,000	General Obligation Debt
King C.C – Replace 15-ton RTU	70,000	--	--	--	--	70,000	General Obligation Debt
Lakeview Center – Roof	110,000	--	--	--	--	110,000	General Obligation Debt
Chavez C.C – Roof	--	110,000	--	--	--	110,000	General Obligation Debt
Bryant C.C. – Roof	230,000	--	--	--	--	230,000	General Obligation Debt
Tyler-Domer C.C. – Roof	--	--	--	90,000	65,000	155,000	General Obligation Debt
Humble Park C.C – HVAC Upgrades	--	135,000	--	--	30,000	165,000	General Obligation Debt
Humble Park C.C – Roof	--	--	--	115,000	--	115,000	General Obligation Debt
Solbraa Park Shelter - Roof	15,000 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	15,000	General Obligation Debt
Hantschel Park Shelter - Roof	15,000 <sup>b</sup>	--	--	--	--	15,000	General Obligation Debt
Horlick Athletic Field – Replace 2 MAU	30,000	--	--	--	--	30,000	General Obligation Debt
Wustum Museum – Roof	--	35,000	--	--	--	35,000	Trust Funds
Historical Museum – Roof (City Portion)	80,000	--	--	--	--	80,000	General Obligation Debt
Historical Museum – Roof (County Portion)	80,000	--	--	--	--	80,000	Racine County
Zoo – Main Building Boiler Replacement	--	--	400,000	--	--	400,000	General Obligation Debt
Total Cost	630,000	440,000	400,000	205,000	95,000	1,770,000	--
Method of Financing							
General Obligation Debt	550,000	405,000	400,000	205,000	95,000	1,655,000	--
Trust Funds	--	35,000	--	--	--	35,000	--
Racine County	80,000	--	--	--	--	80,000	--
Total Cost	630,000	440,000	400,000	205,000	95,000	1,770,000	--
Streets – Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathways							
Project Description and Location	2017 (\$)	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	Funding Source
Lake Michigan Pathway Phase 4	48,000	97,000	--	--	--	145,000	General Obligation Debt
Lake Michigan Pathway Phase 4	192,000	388,000	--	--	--	580,000	State Funds
Total Cost	240,000	485,000	--	--	--	725,000	--
Method of Financing							
General Obligation Debt	48,000	97,000	--	--	--	145,000	--
Crypt Fund	192,000	388,000	--	--	--	580,000	--
Total Cost	240,000	485,000	--	--	--	725,000	--
Overall Total Cost	3,144,400	3,050,975	2,917,380	2,954,700	1,287,825	13,355,280	--

<sup>a</sup> The Buildings and Streets – Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathways sections of this table are identified in the City's 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) under the Department of Public Works while the remaining sections of this table are identified in the CIP under Parks and Recreation

<sup>b</sup> The City completed the project in 2017

Source: City of Racine Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Department



**COMMON COUNCIL ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE  
CITY OF RACINE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2035**

**APPENDIX C**





# City of Racine

## Certified Copy

Ordinance: Ord.0007-18

City Hall  
730 Washington Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
www.cityofracine.org

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**File Number: Ord.0007-18**

Ord. 0007-18 - Amending "A Comprehensive Plan for the City of Racine 2035"

Ordinance adopting an amendment to a document titled "A Comprehensive Plan for the City of Racine: 2035" (Comp Plan 2035) for to incorporate the document titled "A Park An Open Space Plan For The City Of Racine: 2035" (Park Plan:2035), an update of the like named document adopted in 2011 by the Common Council of the City of Racine ( the Common Council) (Adopted ZOrd.7-11). The Common Council of the City of Racine do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to Section 62.23 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the City of Racine is authorized to prepare and adopt certain amendments to The Plan as defined in Sections 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes; and

SECTION 2: The Board of Parks Recreation and Cultural Services (the Board), working with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, prepared an update of the 2011 version of Park Plan:2035 for the City which will serve as a resource intended to assist in promoting environmental stewardship and to assess current and future parks, recreation, and open space needs within the City, which is articulated in the document titled " A Park And Open Space Plan For The City Of Racine: 2035" (the Plan) ; and

SECTION 3: Following a 30 day notice period, on March 14, 2018 the Board concluded a public input period and on that date, forwarded a recommendation for adoption of Park Plan:2035 to the City of Racine Plan Commission (the Commission) and the Common Council.

SECTION 4: On May 9, 2018 the Commission of the City of Racine received a review of Park Plan:2035 in order to educate Plan Commission members and the public on recommendations contained therein and needed amendment to The Plan; and

SECTION 3: On May 9, 2018 the Commission forwarded a recommendation to the Common Council that the process to amend Comp Plan:2035 move forward based on the findings as enumerate in the staff report to the Plan Commissioners for the meeting on May 9, 2018 and recommendation in the commission report to the Common Council for the May 15, 2018 meeting, and in said report that the associated requests to amendment Comp Plan:2035 to incorporate the 2018 update Park Plan:2035; and

SECTION 4: On May 15, 2018 the Common Council referred all matters related to an amendment to Comp Plan:2035 associated with the updated Park Plan:2035 to the Commission, and directed that ordinances be prepared and public hearings scheduled for an amendment to Comp Plan 2035; and

SECTION 5: Ordinance 0007-18 was herein prepared for amendment to Comp Plan:2035 and

transmitted to the Common Council, and a public hearing before the Common Council was scheduled for June 19, 2018; and

SECTION 6: The Commission, on June 13th, 2018 by a majority vote of the commission recorded in its official minutes, recommended to the Common Council the adoption of a resolution and an ordinance adopting the update to the document titled "A Park An Open Space Plan For The City Of Racine: 2035" as an amendment to the document titled "A Comprehensive Plan for the City of Racine: 2035"; and

SECTION 5: The Common Council has duly noticed and conducted a public hearing on the amendment to The Plan, in compliance with the requirements of Section 66.1001(4)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

SECTION 6: The Common Council of the City of Racine, Wisconsin, does, by the enactment of this ordinance, formally adopt the update to the document titled "A Park An Open Space Plan For The City Of Racine: 2035" as an amendment to the document titled "A Comprehensive Plan for the City of Racine: 2035", pursuant to Section 62.23 and Section 66.1001(4)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

SECTION 7: This ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the members-elect of the City Common Council and publication or posting as required by law.

Fiscal Note: N/A

I, Tara Coolidge, certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. Ord.0007-18, passed by the City Plan Commission on 5/30/2018.

Attest:   
Assistant Clerk Tara Coolidge

  
Date Certified