TECHNICAL REPORT NUMBER 1

POTENTIAL PARKS AND RELATED OPEN SPACES

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIO

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TECHNICAL REPORT

NUMBER I

POTENTIAL PARKS AND RELATED OPEN SPACES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION

Prepared as Part
of the
Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Land Use-Transportation Study

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September 1965

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SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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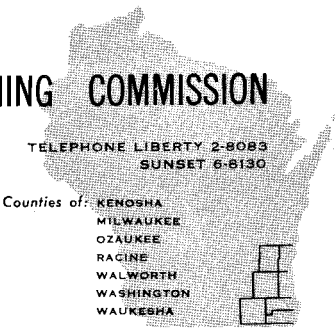

September 23, 1965

STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Early in 1963 the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission began work on a series of major regional planning studies directed at the preparation of certain key elements of an advisory plan for the physical development of the Region. The findings and recommendations of these studies will be presented in Planning Reports to be published by the Commission upon the completion of each of these studies or major phases thereof. These Planning Reports are intended to constitute the official findings and recommendations of the Commission. Much valuable information is being collected in the course of these planning studies, however, that may be helpful in assisting various public and private bodies within the Region in reaching decisions concerning community development. Consequently, the Commission has decided to present such information on a work progress basis through the media of interim Technical Reports such as this.

One of the most important of the major planning programs mounted to date is the regional land use-transportation study directed at producing two of the key elements of a comprehensive development plan for the Region--a land use plan and a transportation plan. Included as an integral part of this study was an inventory of the potential park and related open-space sites remaining within the seven-county Region. This Technical Report, the first in a series, represents a compilation of the information collected in that inventory. This report is not a park plan. It does, however, present information which should be helpful to the individual counties and municipalities in making decisions concerning park and related land use development.

A relatively small number of good potential park and related open-space sites remain within the Region. These comprise a unique asset in that they are largely irreplaceable, and once destroyed, will be lost for all time. It is hoped, therefore, that timely consideration and application of the information provided in this report may assist in averting the destruction of this important segment of our natural heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt W. Bauer

K. W. Bauer
Executive Director

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POTENTIAL PARKS & RELATED OPEN SPACES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION

INTRODUCTION

In January 1963 the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission began a three and one-half year regional land use-transportation study which has as its objective the preparation of a land use plan and a transportation plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. One of the contributing work elements of the study involved the identification, delineation, and value classification of the remaining potential park and related open-space [1] sites within the seven-county Region.

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), Wisconsin Conservation Commission (WCC), and Wisconsin Department of Resource Development (DRD) share responsibilities for, and are all engaged in, planning efforts related to park and open-space reservation and development within the Region. To provide a cooperative and coordinated planning effort, these three agencies in August 1963 executed a "Memorandum of Understanding on Park and Open-Space Planning in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region." In the memorandum, all three agencies agreed to cooperate in the conduct of the park and related open-space inventory necessary to meet the needs of the land use-transportation study by contributing their specialized staff services and available information. This report describes the methodology and summarizes the findings of the potential park and related open-space site inventory conducted in 1964 under this agreement.

Purpose

Parks and related open space comprise an important land use in any urbanizing region; and, therefore, the identification and evaluation of potential, high-quality park and related open-space areas must be an essential part of any comprehensive regional planning operation. Such identification and evaluation were not directed in the park and related open-space inventory toward the preparation of a regional park and open-space plan per se but, rather, at the identification of all remaining high-value, potential major park and related open-space sites within the Region, so that such sites might be protected from inadvertent destruction through poor land use or highway facility development. Thus, an important step would be taken toward the conservation and enhancement of the overall environmental quality of the Region through the protection of one of its most precious natural resources.

Need

The importance of natural resources having recreational potential to the overall quality of the regional environment becomes evident when it is realized that the present outdoor recreational facilities in southeastern Wisconsin serve a Region which comprises only 5 percent of the total land area of the state, yet contains over 40 percent (1.6 million) of the total population of the state. Even more significantly, this seven-county Region has, over the last decade, accounted for over 64 percent of the total population increase of the entire state and is, therefore, the most rapidly growing area of the state. The Region further draws large numbers of people seeking outdoor recreation from the adjacent Chicago metropolitan area, which has a population of approximately seven million.

INVENTORY METHODOLOGY

The potential park and related open-space site inventory [2] involved three basic work elements: 1) preliminary identification of potential sites; 2) determination of inventory criteria and development of coding forms; and 3) field investigation, value rating, and mapping of potential sites. A brief description of each of these basic work elements follows.

[1] *Although the term 'open space' usually refers to any area that has not been converted to residential, commercial, industrial, or other urban development, its use in this report will be limited to those sites having features that enhance the park potential of any adjacent existing or potential park sites.*

[2] *See 'Inventory of Potential Park and Related Open Space Sites,' SEWRPC Technical Record, Vol. 1 - No. 4.*

Figure 1

POTENTIAL PARK SITE CODING FORM

FORM T4-3 5/63

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL LAND USE – TRANSPORTATION STUDY

INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL PARKS RECREATION AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

CARD NO. 021

INTERPRETER	DATE	OFFICE	FIELD	SITE NO.
K.B. HOLZWARTH	10-28-63		√	5

LOCATION — CIVIL DIVISION: 3 1 6 — TOWN 04 & RANGE 19 — SECTION 23 — 1/4 SEC 2

CHECKED BY ____ INITIALS ____ DATE

PUNCHED BY ____ INITIALS ____ DATE

VERIFIED BY ____ INITIALS ____ DATE

LOCATION REMARKS:

2 MILES TO WATERFORD	2 MILES TO HEG MEM. PARK
8 " " BURLINGTON	8 " " MUSKEGO CO. PARK
14 " " WAUKESHA	19 " " BIG FOOT BEACH ST. PARK
20 " " RACINE	20 " " PETRIFYING SPRINGS CO. PK.

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

I LAND USE

0. Residential
1. Retail & Services
2. Wholesale
3. Manufacturing (Non-Durable)
4. Manufacturing (Durable
5. Transportation Communications & Utilities
6. Institution & Government Services
7. Recreation
8. Agriculture & Related
9. Other Open lands, swamps & Water areas

14: 9 1ST
15: – 2ND

REMARKS ____

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

II NO. OF ACRES

1. Less than 150
2. 150 - 300
3. 300 - 500
4. 500 - 750
5. 750 - 1,000
6. More than 1,000

16: 2

REMARKS APRX. 250 ACRES

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

III KEY ATTRACTION TO AREA

1. Lake
2. Forest
3. River
4. Creek
5. Flowage
6. Topography
7. Other ____

17: 3 1ST
18: 6 2ND
19: ____ 3RD

REMARKS Fox River

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

IV ACCESS

A. Convenience & Control

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Fair
4. Poor

20: 3

REMARKS ____

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

B. Road Description

1. Interstate
2. U.S. Highway
3. State Highway
4. County Trunk
5. Town Road
6. Private
7. Developed
8. Undeveloped

21: 5
22: 7

REMARKS BUENA PARK ROAD

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

V GENERAL SOIL TYPES

1. Clay
2. Loam
3. Sand
4. Gravel

23: 2

REMARKS SILT LOAM

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

VI WATER-USE POSSIBILITIES

1. Swimming
2. Fast Boating & Skiing
3. Fishing - Slow-Boating
4. Sailing
5. Winter - Use
6. Other ____

24: 3 1ST
25: 6 2ND
26: 1 3RD
27: – 4TH

REMARKS GOOD AESTHETIC SETTING, WILDLIFE OBSERVATION

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

VII BEACH DEVELOPMENT

1. Good Water Quality
2. Sand Beach
3. Drop Offs
4. Some Shade
5. Parking Available
6. Good Sun Bathing Area
7. Other ____

28: 6 1ST
29: 5 2ND
30: – 3RD
31: – 4TH

REMARKS POOR BEACH AREA

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

VIII TYPE OF FOREST COVER

A. Trees

1. Yes
2. No

32: 1

REMARKS VERY FEW TREES ON THIS SITE - OAK, LINDEN, HICKORY, POPLAR, NEAR WATERS EDGE

B. Size - Diameter - in order of dominance

1. 1 - 2"
2. 3 - 6"
3. 7 - 12"
4. 12 - 24"
5. More than 24"

33: 4 1ST
34: 3 2ND
35: 5 3RD
36: 1 4TH
37: 2 5TH

REMARKS ____

C. Shrubs

1. Yes
2. No

38: 1

D. Grass

1. Good Stand
2. Weeds

39: 1

REMARKS VERY FEW RED AND GREY DOGWOOD, SUMAC, HAWTHORNE

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

IX TOPOGRAPHY & DRAINAGE

40 [2] 1ST
41 [3] 2ND
42 [1] 3RD

1. 0 - 2%
2. 3 - 6%
3. 7 - 12%
4. More than 12%

REMARKS

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

X GENERAL DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES

43 [6] 1ST
44 [2] 2ND
45 [7] 3RD
46 [1] 4TH
47 [5] 5TH
48 [4] 6TH

1. Swimming
2. Picnicking
3. Nature Study
4. Campground
5. Hiking Trails
6. Golf
7. Fishing
8. Hunting
9. Boating
0. Other

REMARKS
WILDLIFE OBSERVATION ALONG RIVER BANK

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

XI EXPANSION POSSIBILITIES

49 [2]

1. Yes
2. No

REMARKS

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

XII HISTORICAL - ARCHEOLOGICAL - GEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

50 [2]

1. Yes
2. No

REMARKS

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

XIII UNFAVORABLE EXPOSURE

51 [-] 1ST
52 [-] 2ND
53 [-] 3RD

1. Lack of Natural Interest
2. Noise
3. Foul Oders
4. Water Quality - Poor
5. Other

REMARKS RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IS BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF THIS SITE

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

XIV RECOMMENDATION

A. State

54 [5]

1. State Recreation Area
2. Scenic State Park
3. State Roadside Park
4. Historical Memorial Park
5. Does not qualify

REMARKS

B. County

55 [2]

1. Picnic & Recreation Area
2. Golf Courses
3. Swimming Areas
4. Fairgrounds
5. Waysides or Roadsides
6. Does not qualify
7. Other

56 [-]

C Other

REMARKS

CON'T. ON PAGE 4 ( )

GENERAL REMARKS

THIS IS A LARGE OPEN AREA NORTH OF BUENA PARK AND EAST OF THE TICHIGAN WILDLIFE AREA. THE SITE HAS AN INTERESTING TOPOGRAPHY WITH GENTLE TO STEEP GRADES AND IT OVERLOOKS THE FOX RIVER. THE SITE HAS VERY GOOD GOLF COURSE POTENTIAL. WATER USE POTENTIAL IS LIMITED TO PASSIVE USE BECAUSE OF ITS MARSHY BANKS. PICNICKING IS A VERY GOOD POTENTIAL USE BECAUSE OF ITS GOOD AESTHETIC SETTING. GOOD WILDLIFE OBSERVATION POTENTIAL ALONG WITH RELATED ACTIVITIES (TRAILS AND NATURE STUDY).

RELATED OPEN SPACE VALUES ARE BOTH HIGH (WATERFOWL AND MUSKRAT) AND LOW (SQUIRREL) FOR GAME. ITS WATER RATING IS LOW.

THE SITE IS RATED HIGH FOR ITS POTENTIAL AS A PARK SITE.

OFFICE REMARKS

Preliminary Identification of Potential Sites

Preliminary identification of each site within the Region having potential park and related open-space value was accomplished through a review of information collected from five primary data sources: 1) files of the DRD; 2) files of local park officials and certain interested citizen groups within the Region; 3) a field inventory of all forest and woodland areas conducted by the WCC foresters under the inventory agreement; 4) a field inventory of all significant fish and game habitat areas conducted by the WCC fish and game biologists under the inventory agreement; and 5) a field inventory of all potential park sites conducted by an experienced WCC landscape architect under the inventory agreement.

Inventory Criteria and Coding Form

The criteria used to determine the park potential of sites within the Region are indicated by the data requirements listed on the inventory site coding form shown in Figure 1. The coding form was designed to permit data obtained for each site to be readily keypunched in preparation for machine processing, as well as to permit convenient use of the form during field work.

Field Investigations

Each potential park site identified in the preliminary investigations was field inspected and pertinent planning data about each site recorded on an inventory form. After all the sites in a particular county had been inspected, the sites were mapped on SEWRPC county base maps at a scale of 1 inch = 4000 feet and assigned a value rating of high, medium, or low. The value ratings were determined for each site after analysis of its available physical planning data with respect to its potential park use. No consideration was given in the value rating to site cost, ownership, or specific demand for park and open-space facilities in any particular area of the Region.

Sites rated as high value possess the most favorable development potential for the type of development recommended, and analysis of the inventory results revealed no serious development limitations. Sites rated as medium value possess certain minor development limitations, as revealed by an analysis of the inventory results. These sites may take on added value as the demand for park sites within the Region increases. Sites rated as low value possess some major development limitations and, therefore, have relatively poor potential for development as park sites without major modifications.

INVENTORY FINDINGS

During the inventory, fourteen broad areas within the Region were identified as possessing recreational resource values of regional significance and warranting careful consideration for conservation and enhancement. These are: the Lake Michigan shoreline, Kettle Moraine, Recessional Moraine, Milwaukee River, Fox River, Root River, White River, Oconomowoc River, Bark River, Sugar Creek, Cedar Creek, Turtle Creek, Paradise Valley, and the Pike Lake areas (see Map 1). As broad areas, all possess multiple-use potential for park, parkway, and related open space; wildlife habitat preserve; water impoundment; forest preserve; and nature study.

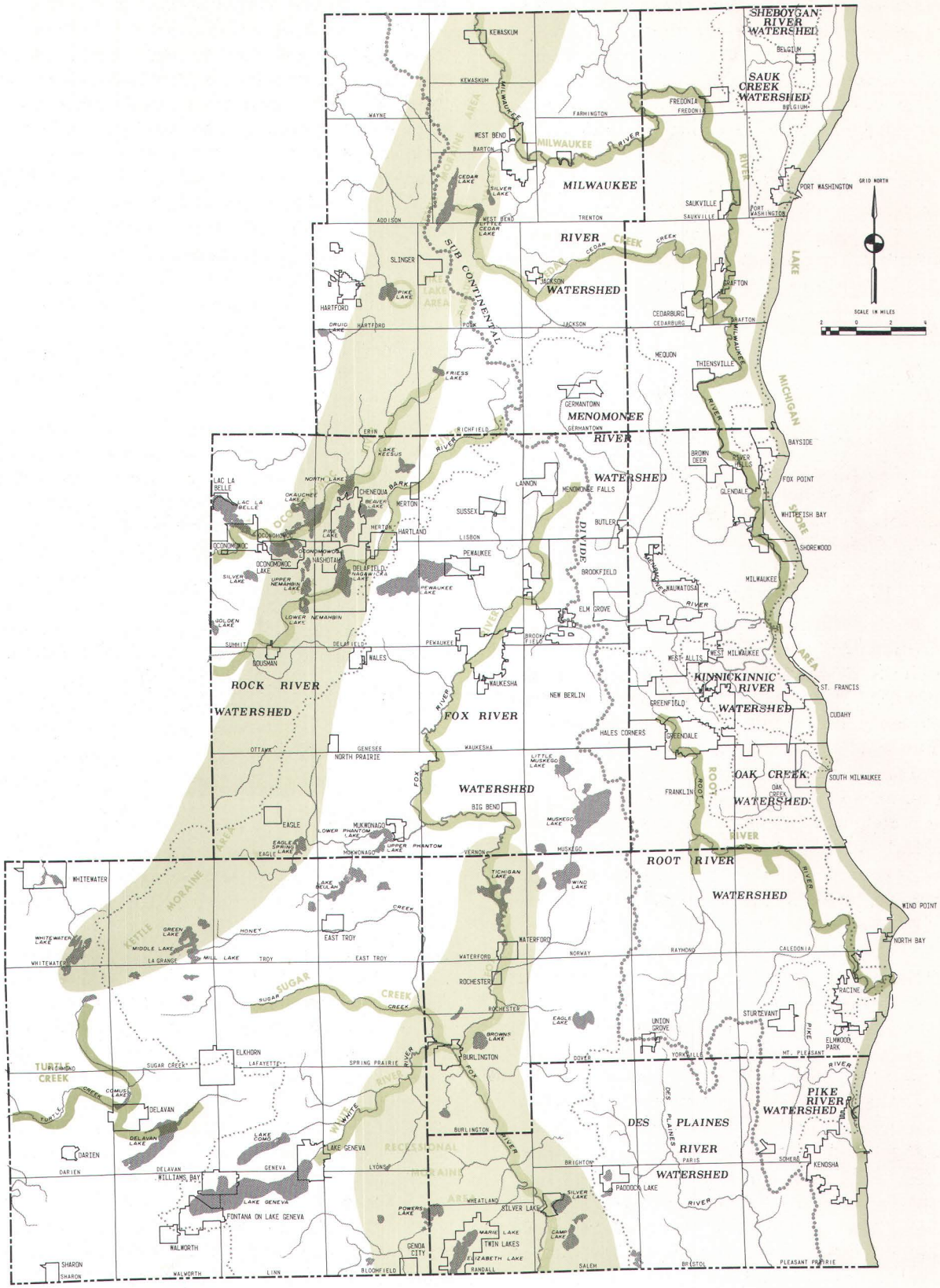
In addition to these fourteen broad recreational resource areas, a total of 606 specific potential park and related open-space sites were identified in the inventory (see Appendix, Table 1); and of these, less than one-third were found to be of high value. (The spatial distribution of the inventoried sites for each county is shown on Maps 3 through 9.) Most of the potential park sites occur within, or adjacent to, the fourteen broad recreational resource areas identified in the inventory. Many of the 183 high-value sites lie along the major waterways or in the moraine areas of the Region. Relatively few potential park sites still remain along the Lake Michigan shore, and the few that do are extremely vulnerable to loss through urban development.

It is extremely significant that of all of the 606 potential park sites inventoried only eight are of such size and contain such exceptional resource values as to warrant consideration as possible state parks. These eight sites are: Pike Lake, Sugar Creek, Paradise Valley, Lake Michigan Quarry, Mukwonago, Cedar Valley, Monches, and Caledonia (see Map 2). Because of their unique value, these sites warrant immediate consideration for acquisition as public recreation sites. The remaining 598 sites are more limited in size, resource value, or both and, therefore, warrant consideration as possible regional, county, or community rather than state parks.

The inventory also identified the ten best remaining sites of highest value within each county (see Maps 3 through 9). In Milwaukee County, how-

Map 1

SIGNIFICANT RECREATIONAL RESOURCE AREAS - 1963



ever, where there are relatively few good potential park sites remaining, only five such sites could be identified. A brief summary of the inventory findings by county, supplementing the data provided in Appendix, Table 1, follows.

Kenosha County

There were 67 potential park sites, totaling 8,960 acres, inventoried in Kenosha County (see Map 3). Of these, 14, totaling 2,655 acres, were classified as high-value sites; 25, totaling 3,205 acres, were classified as medium-value sites; and 28, totaling 3,100 acres, were classified as low-value sites. (For further information pertaining to each potential park site in Kenosha County, see Appendix, Table 2.)

Urban development in Kenosha County has occurred at a relatively high rate, especially along the Lake Michigan shoreline, and has destroyed many of the original fine potential park areas in this county. Although the Lake Michigan shoreline has been almost entirely developed for urban purposes, a few small potential swimming beaches still remain between areas of development offering some remaining local park potential. Streams in the lake terrace area often lose rather than gain volume as they flow across the sand loam belt and, consequently, are not particularly desirable for park development. The intermittent flow characteristics of these streams, coupled with water pollution and a poor fish population, reduce the recreational potential of the surface waters of the lake terrace area. The Fox River, which flows through an area of irregular recessional moraine in western Kenosha County, offers the best potential recreational resource area remaining within the county; and the northeastern end of Silver Lake, in the Fox River basin, comprises the best potential park site remaining in the county.

Milwaukee County

Milwaukee County has one of the finest existing park and parkway systems in the United States and has an active program of park-land acquisition and park development. There were 27 potential park sites, totaling 4,330 acres, inventoried in the county (see Map 4). Of these, 9, totaling 2,135 acres, were classified as high-value sites; 11, totaling 1,675 acres, were classified as medium-value sites; and 7, totaling 520 acres, were classified as low-value sites. (For further information pertaining to each potential park site in Milwaukee County, see Appendix, Table 2.)

Rapidly expanding urban development in Milwaukee County has also eliminated many good potential park sites. The best remaining sites are located primarily in the Franklin-Oak Creek area of the county. The Root River and the Lake Michigan shoreline are the prime recreational resources in Milwaukee County, and the Root River particularly still has many good sites remaining along its stream valleys which have good potential for parkway development. Milwaukee County, with a population of over 1 million, generates a high demand for park land; and in view of this high demand, the medium- and low-value sites remaining may take on added value for their open-space character in this highly urbanized county.

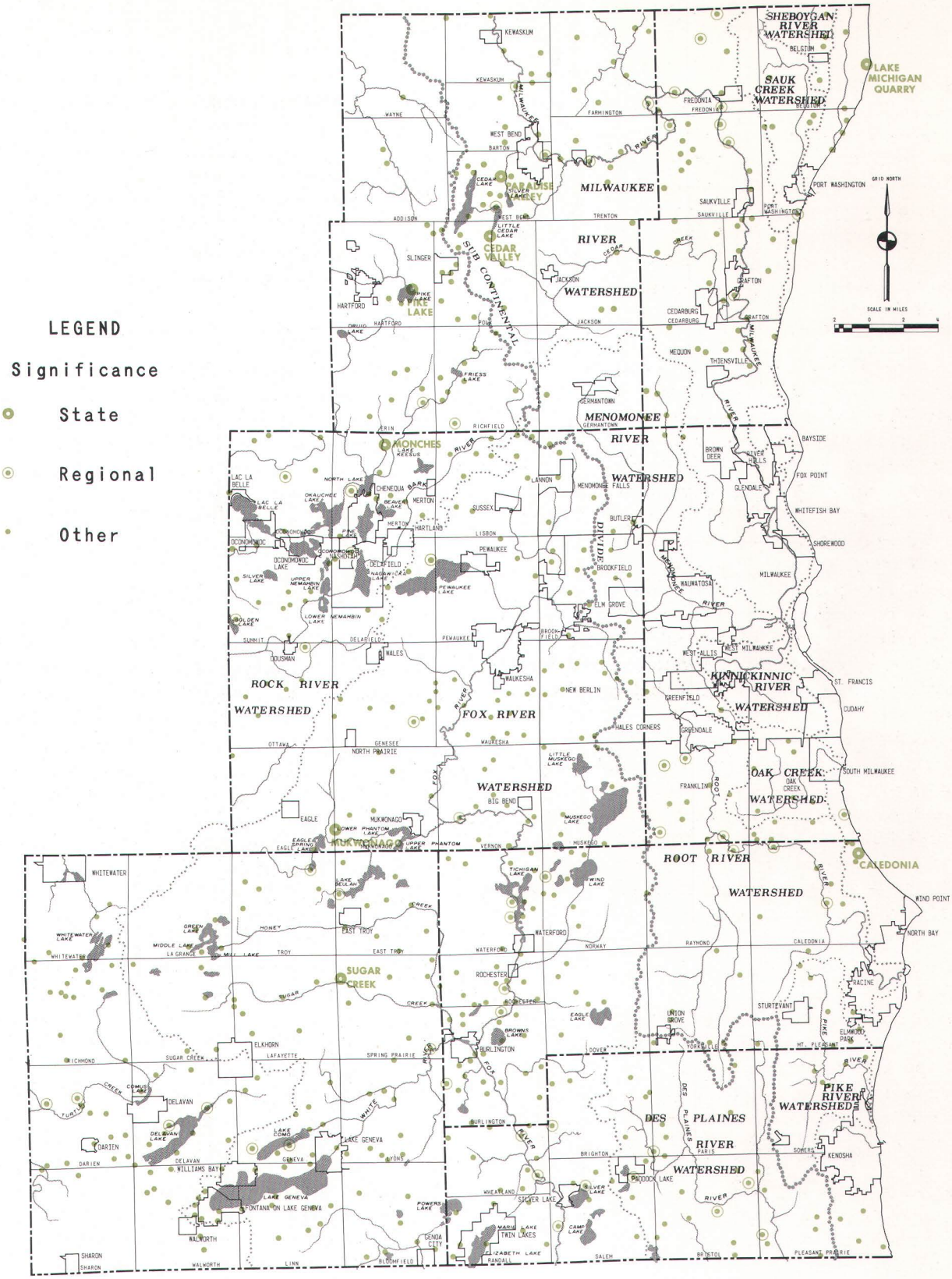
Ozaukee County

There were 65 potential park sites, totaling 9,800 acres, inventoried in Ozaukee County (see Map 5). Of these, 26, totaling 5,015 acres, were classified as high-value sites; 16, totaling 3,095 acres, were classified as medium-value sites; and 23, totaling 1,690 acres, were classified as low-value sites. (For further information pertaining to each potential park site in Ozaukee County, see Appendix, Table 2.)

Ozaukee County contains the only significant portion of Lake Michigan shoreline remaining within the Region in a relatively undeveloped state and, therefore, still possessing a very high potential park value. Particular attention should, therefore, be given to preserving this shoreline, which has stretches of both low bluffs with wide sandy beaches and high bluffs. One potential site is of particularly high value because it has lake frontage with one mile of good sand beach, a heavy forest cover, and an old quarry site within the forest which has filled with water to become a small inland lake. This site is one of the eight prime park sites remaining within the Region which has statewide significance and, therefore, deserves immediate consideration for acquisition as a public recreation area. The Milwaukee River and Cedar Creek, which enter the county from the west and join together to flow south into Milwaukee County, also comprise prime recreational resources in Ozaukee County. These streams form lineal areas which have good potential for parkway development. Possible expansion of such a parkway development into both Washington and Milwaukee counties along the waterways raises the potential recreational value of these stream areas.

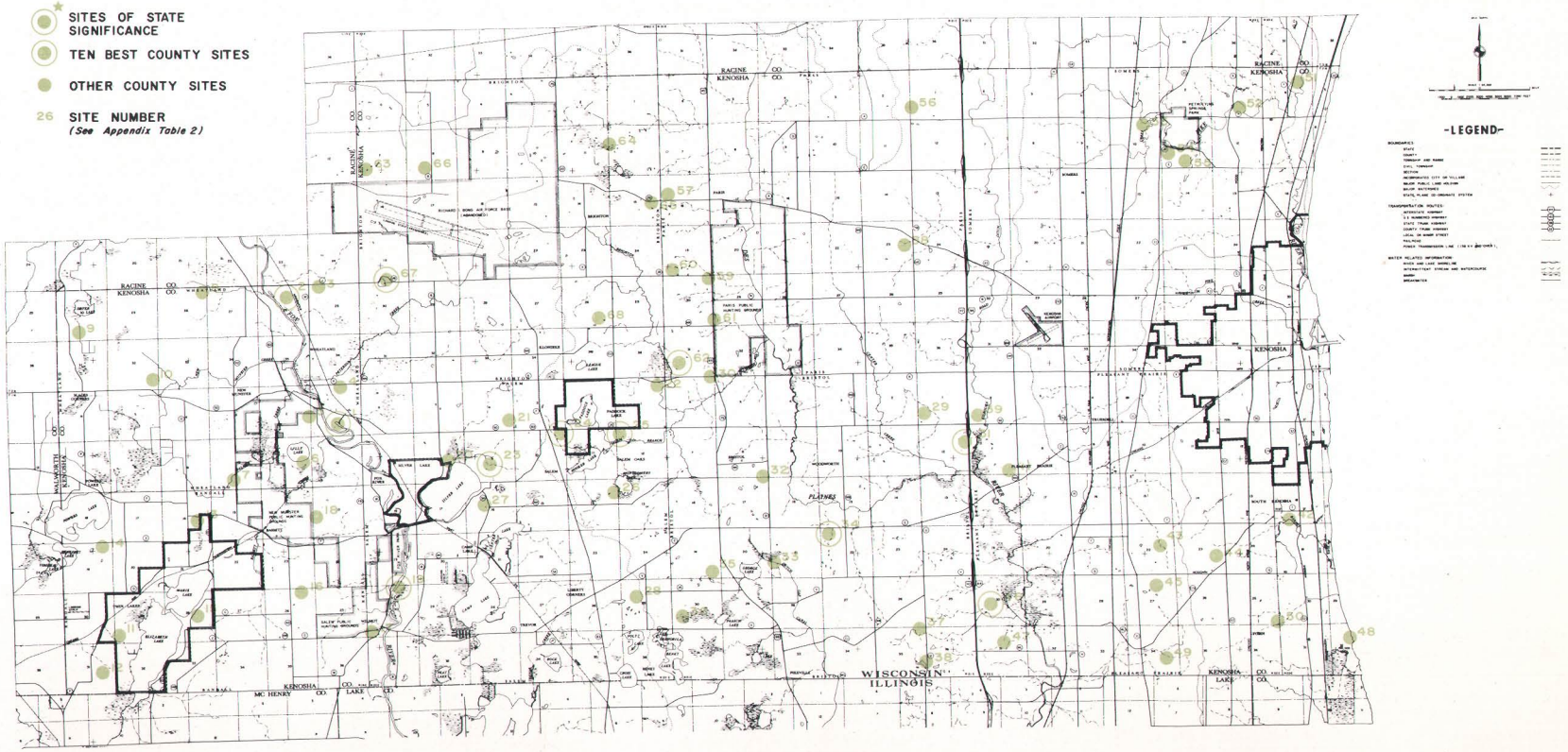
Map 2

POTENTIAL PARK SITES - 1964



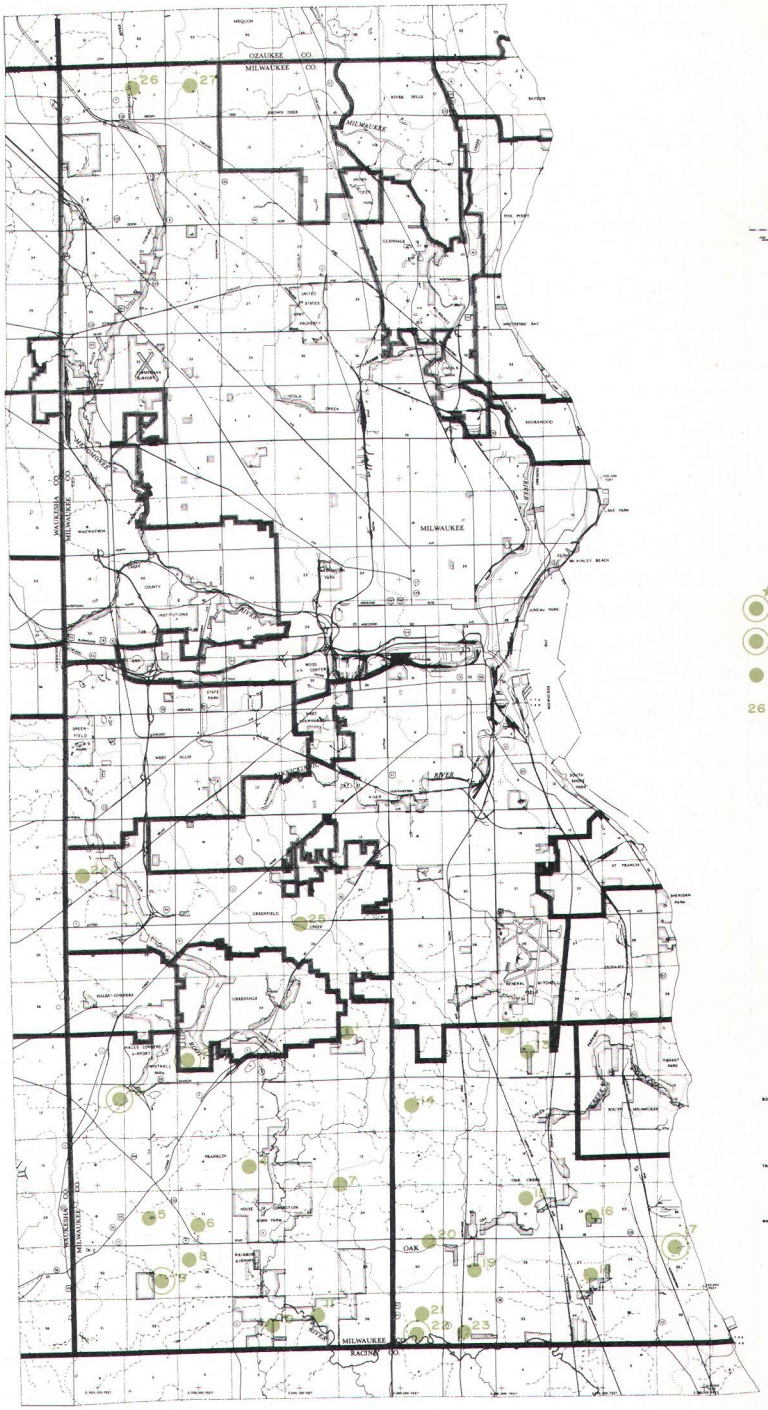
Map 3

POTENTIAL PARK SITES IN KENOSHA COUNTY



Map 4

POTENTIAL PARK SITES IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY



Racine County

There were 91 potential park sites, totaling 11,925 acres, inventoried in Racine County (see Map 6). Of these, 21, totaling 4,462 acres, were classified as high-value sites; 38, totaling 5,038 acres, were classified as medium-value sites; and 32, totaling 2,425 acres, were classified as low-value sites. (For further information pertaining to each potential park site in Racine County, see Appendix, Table 2.)

The Fox River offers the best remaining recreational resource in Racine County. The river flows through a gently rolling to hilly recessional moraine area; and a considerable number of high- and medium-value sites are located along the river, giving the stream valley regional significance as a recreational resource. The area between Burlington and Waterford offers the highest potential in this respect. The Root River in eastern Racine County also is an area of high value, and many sites here indicate good remaining potential for parkway development. The Lake Michigan shoreline is almost entirely developed; however, one of the eight prime potential park sites remaining in the Region is located on Lake Michigan in the Town of Caledonia and deserves immediate consideration for acquisition as a public recreational area.

Walworth County

There were 142 potential park sites, totaling 20,516 acres, inventoried in Walworth County (see Map 7). Of these, 40, totaling 13,115 acres, were classified as high-value sites; 41, totaling 4,323 acres, were classified as medium-value sites; and 61, totaling 3,078 acres, were classified as low-value sites. (For further information pertaining to each potential park site in Walworth County, see Appendix, Table 2.)

In Walworth County the areas of high recreational value include the White River, Sugar Creek, Turtle Creek, Kettle Moraine, and the few remaining undeveloped inland lake areas. The most desirable frontage on the lakes has now been almost totally occupied, however; and further encroachment by urban development can take place only at the expense of the remaining recreational resource potential. Several opportunities for recreational development still exist on the smaller lakes which are scattered throughout the county. The Sugar Creek area comprises the outstanding recreational site in the county and is one of the eight prime park sites remaining within the Region. Impoundment potential exists, and a prime water-related recreational resource could be created on this site. The recreational value of such a water-related site may, however, be limited by water quality and quantity problems. Walworth County has the highest total number of potential sites and high-value sites of any county in the Region. Thus, a very good opportunity remains for park development within this county.

Washington County

There were 83 potential park sites, totaling 15,911 acres, inventoried in Washington County (see Map 8). Of these, 32, totaling 9,749 acres, were classified as high-value sites; 22, totaling 2,852 acres, were classified as medium-value sites; and 29, totaling 3,310 acres, were classified as low-value sites. (For further information pertaining to each potential park site in Washington County, see Appendix, Table 2.)

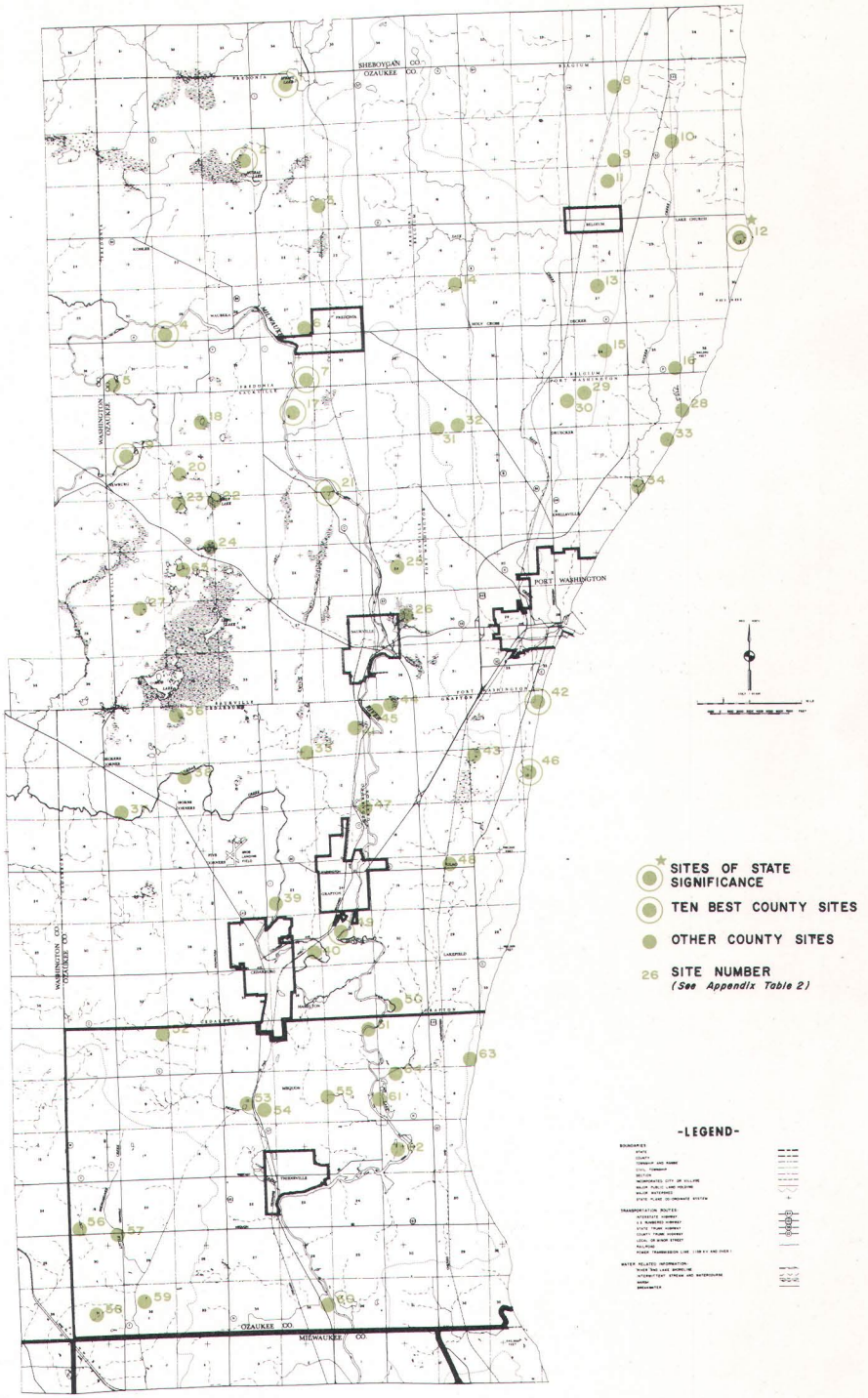
Washington County, which presently has no existing county parks or parkways, has an abundance of high-value potential park sites. Three of the eight prime park sites remaining in the Region are located here. Two of these are located in a belt of drift hills which occupies the western half of the county and provides the best example of the Kettle Moraine in Wisconsin. A pattern of high-value sites runs through this area from the Monches area immediately south of the County Line in Waukesha County to Kewaskum in the north. The sites of particular significance in this area of the county are just southwest of West Bend in the Paradise Valley area. The eastern shoreline of Pike Lake comprises the third prime site. The Milwaukee River and Cedar Creek flow through the county, and both offer good recreational resources. The Milwaukee River has particularly good potential for a lineal type of development, and the possibility of expansion of such lineal development into Ozaukee County further enhances its value.

Waukesha County

There were 131 potential park sites, totaling 20,372 acres, inventoried in Waukesha County (see Map 9). Of these, 41, totaling 8,892 acres, were classified as high-value sites; 48, totaling 7,050 acres, were classified as medium-value sites; and 42, totaling 4,430 acres, were classified as low-value sites. (For further information pertaining to each potential park site in Waukesha County, see Appendix, Table 2.)

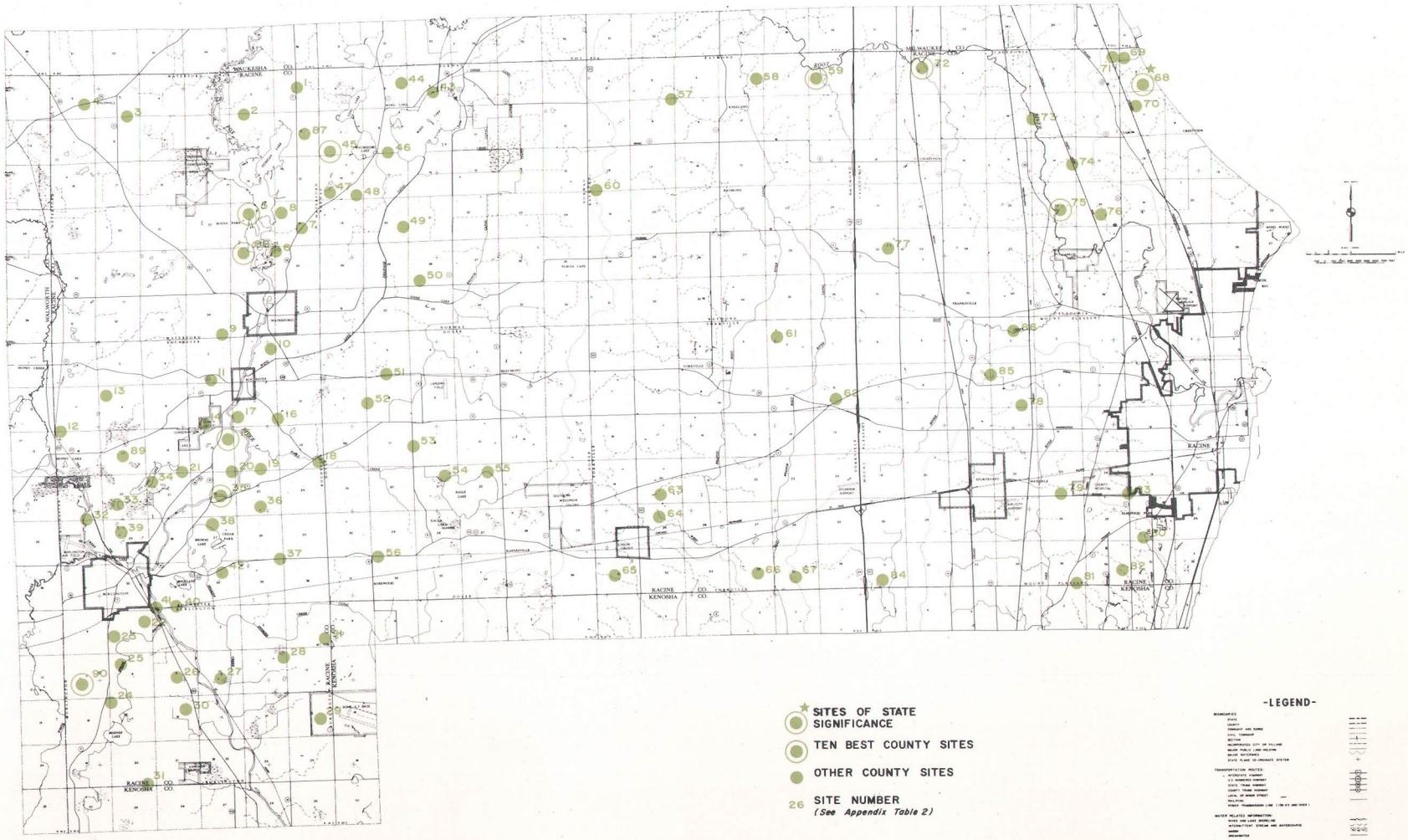
Map 5

POTENTIAL PARK SITES IN OZAUKEE COUNTY



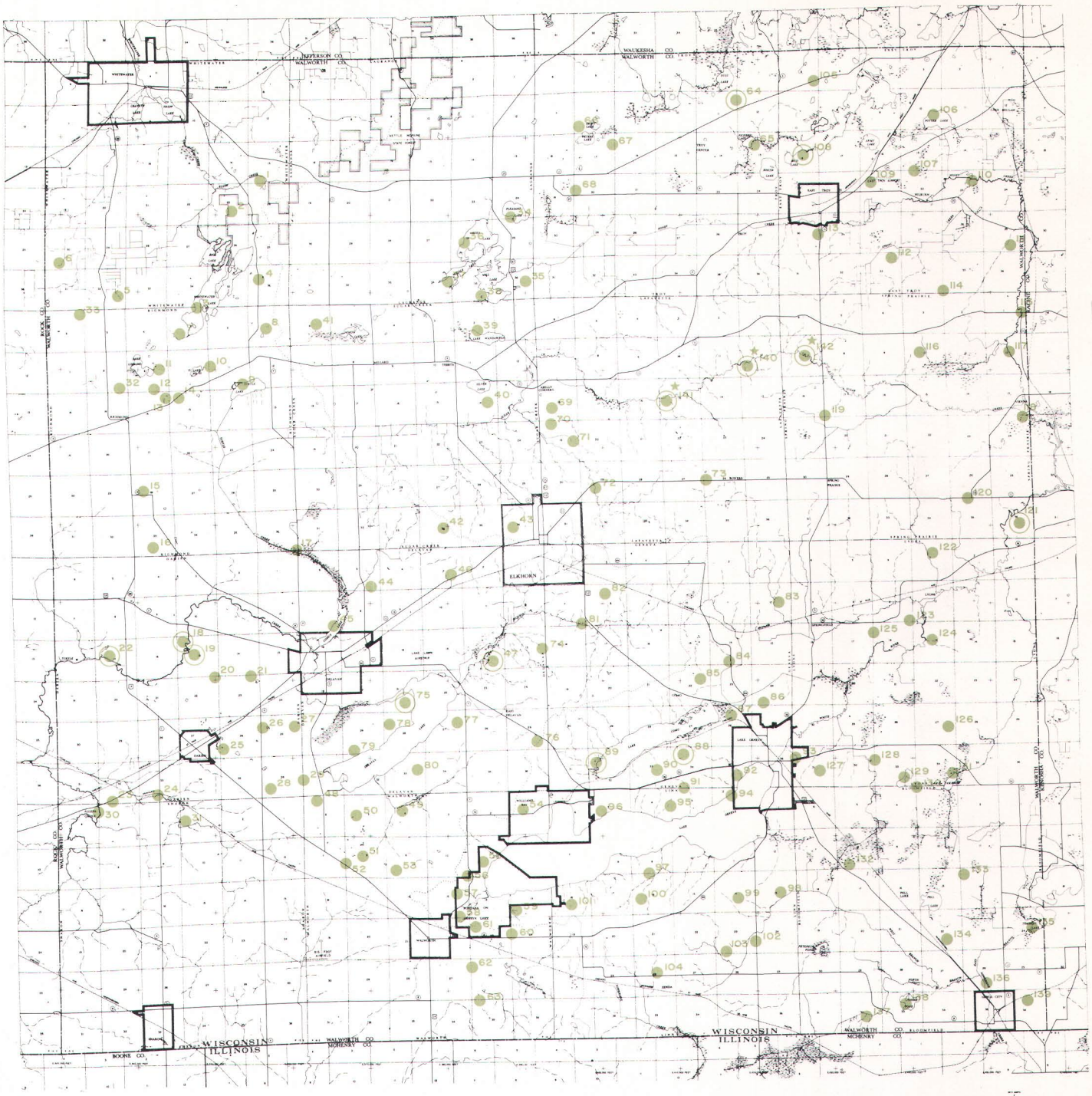
Map 6

POTENTIAL PARK SITES IN RACINE COUNTY



Map 7

POTENTIAL PARK SITES IN WALWORTH COUNTY

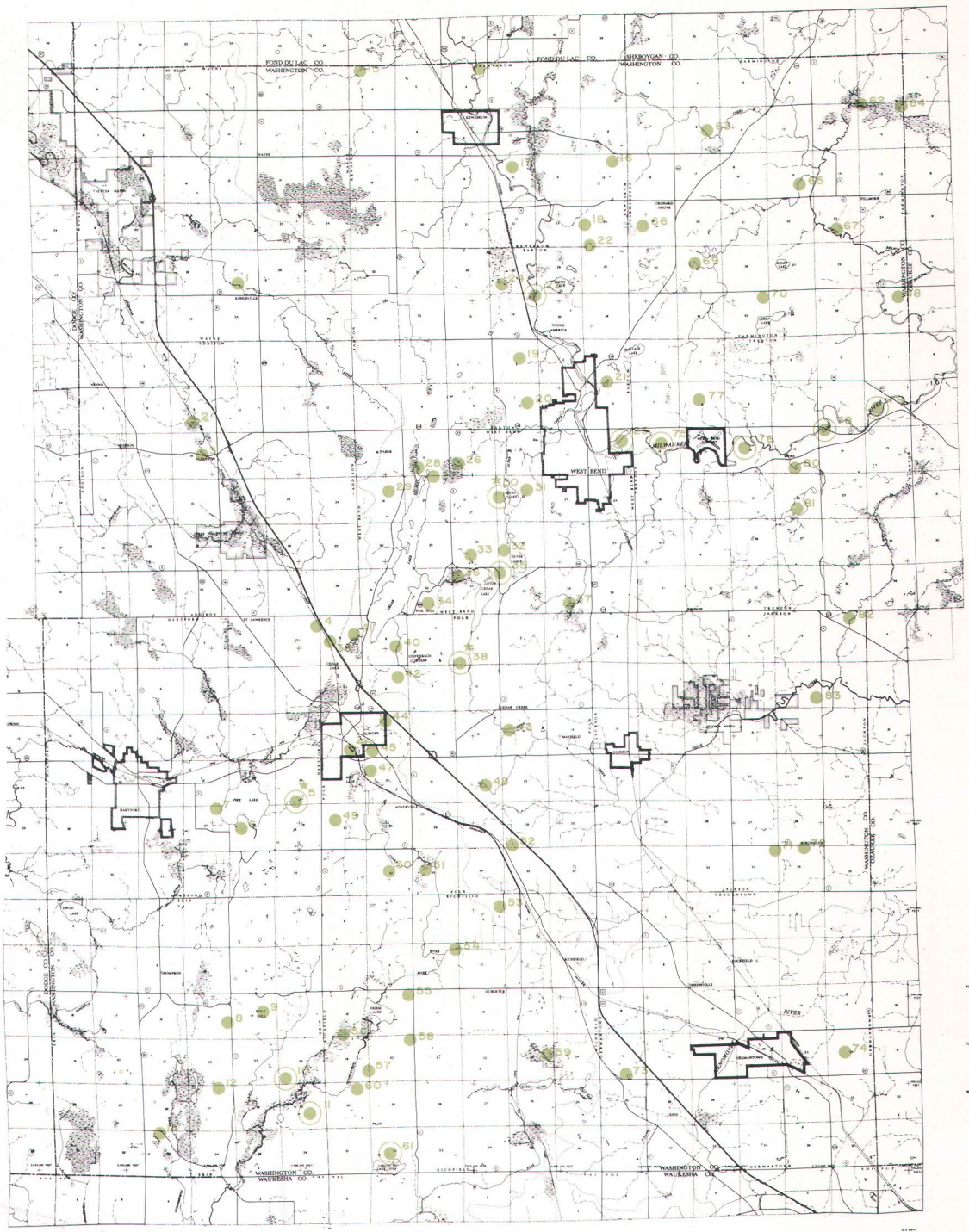


-LEGEND-

- SITES OF STATE SIGNIFICANCE
- TEN BEST COUNTY SITES
- OTHER COUNTY SITES
- 26 SITE NUMBER *(See Appendix Table 2)*

Map 8

POTENTIAL PARK SITES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY



★ SITES OF STATE SIGNIFICANCE

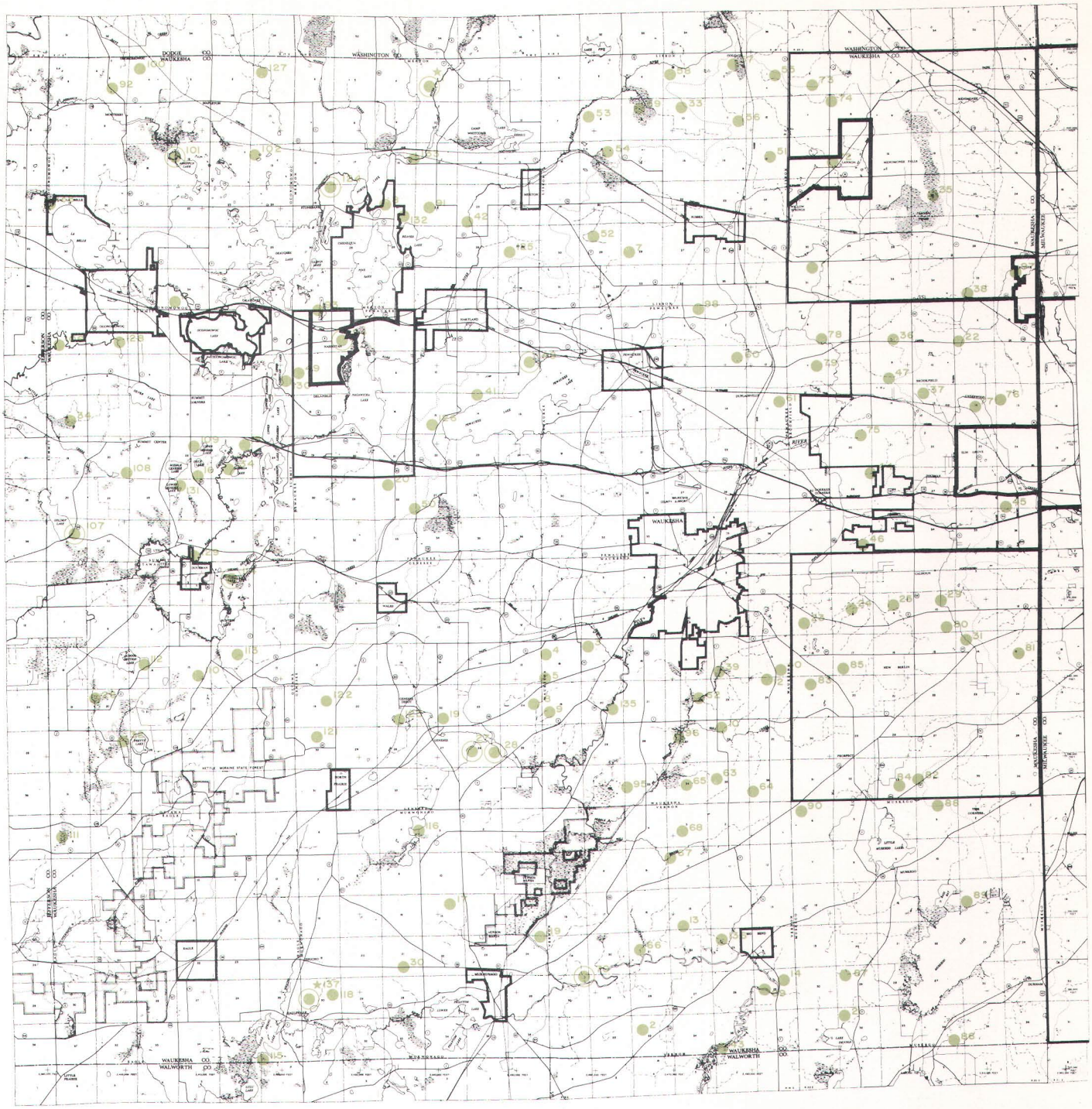
TEN BEST COUNTY SITES

OTHER COUNTY SITES

26 SITE NUMBER
(See Appendix Table 2)

Map 9

POTENTIAL PARK SITES IN WAUKESHA COUNTY



-LEGEND-

- SITES OF STATE SIGNIFICANCE
- TEN BEST COUNTY SITES
- OTHER COUNTY SITES
- 26 SITE NUMBER *(See Appendix Table 2)*

Areas of high recreational value in Waukesha County include the Fox River south of the City of Waukesha, the Kettle Moraine, and many inland lake sites. The northwestern corner of the county, where the many inland lakes and the Kettle Moraine intersect, was at one time the outstanding recreational resource area in the Region. It offered several large lakes, marshes, rivers, creeks, glacial hills, forest cover, and wildlife. Urbanization has now spoiled its full recreational potential, and little is left for potential park or open-space development. What remains should, however, be preserved. The continuous belt of state forest land, which was proposed as the Kettle Moraine State Forest, was to have crossed this prime recreational area; but, because of urban development, it now appears doubtful that the originally proposed forest unit will ever be acquired in this area to join the two existing northern and southern units. The two outstanding sites in the county are both examples of the Kettle Moraine and comprise two of the eight prime park sites remaining in the Region. One is at the south end of the county near Mukwonago, and the other is at the north end of the county near Monches. Although many high-value sites remain in Waukesha County, the extremely rapid rate of urbanization occurring in this county will require early protection of these sites.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In summary, it is important to note that the key resource element present in most of the high-value sites remaining within the Region is surface water. Water-based recreational activities are generally preferred by a large segment of the population over any others; and water is, of course, essential to such recreational activities as swimming, boating, and fishing. Choice camp sites and picnic areas are usually those adjacent to, or within sight of, a lake or stream. The touch of variety added by a pond or marsh also enriches the pleasures of hiking or nature study. This importance of water to recreation emphasizes the necessity for concern about the quality and quantity of the remaining useable regional surface water resources.

It is also important to note that, unfortunately, good potential park sites are usually also good potential residential development sites. If development trends in southeastern Wisconsin continue as they have during the past 15 years, many of the 606 potential park sites will be developed for other purposes.[3] Other major problems which may cause the loss of the potential park and related open-space sites within the Region include: 1) stream and lake pollution and plant nutrient enrichment of recreational resource-related waters; and 2) development of competitive land uses and consequent high land acquisition costs. These sites must serve the Region not only for today but for all time. Once lost they are lost forever.

Detailed information on environmental corridor patterns, soils, water quality, acquisition and development costs, ownership, demand, spatial distribution, and the supply and location of existing facilities is being obtained in other WCC, DRD, SEWRPC, and local studies and will be used to evaluate the ratings assigned in this potential park and open-space inventory. The objectives which the inventory of potential park and related open space was designed to accomplish, however, have been fully met. Sites having high potential as park or related open space, based on the available information, have been identified and their particular assets described. The data from this inventory[4] will be incorporated into the regional land use planning effort and will be reflected in the regional land use plan presently being prepared by the SEWRPC. This plan is intended to be used by state, county, and municipal engineers and planners to guide land use and transportation development in such a way as to limit the encroachment of urban land uses and transportation routes upon the potential park and related open-space sites. It is also hoped that this inventory will be used as a guide to acquiring park and related open-space lands and in the development of action programs by the state and county park and conservation agencies operating within the Region. The inventory represents an important step toward the preservation, improvement, and proper utilization of the limited amount of good park and related open-space areas remaining within the Region. Since the role of the SEWRPC is a completely advisory one, it is incumbent upon all public agencies and citizens involved to take the next steps.

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[3] *Land within the Region is presently (1963) being converted from rural to urban use at the rate of 15 square miles per year.*

[4] *All information relative to the inventory findings for each of the 606 sites is available on IBM cards and on detailed listings at the Commission Offices.*

APPENDIX

Table I

TOTAL POTENTIAL PARK SITES BY COUNTY AND REGION

County	Number Of Sites	Total Number Of Acres
KENOSHA COUNTY		
High Value Sites	14 sites	2,655 acres
Medium Value Sites	25 sites	3,205 acres
Low Value Sites	28 sites	3,100 acres
TOTAL	67 sites	8,960 acres
MILWAUKEE COUNTY		
High Value Sites	9 sites	2,135 acres
Medium Value Sites	11 sites	1,675 acres
Low Value Sites	7 sites	520 acres
TOTAL	27 sites	4,330 acres
OZAUKEE COUNTY		
High Value Sites	26 sites	5,015 acres
Medium Value Sites	16 sites	3,095 acres
Low Value Sites	23 sites	1,690 acres
TOTAL	65 sites	9,800 acres
RACINE COUNTY		
High Value Sites	21 sites	4,462 acres
Medium Value Sites	38 sites	5,038 acres
Low Value Sites	32 sites	2,425 acres
TOTAL	91 sites	11,925 acres
WALWORTH COUNTY		
High Value Sites	40 sites	13,115 acres
Medium Value Sites	41 sites	4,323 acres
Low Value Sites	61 sites	3,078 acres
TOTAL	142 sites	20,516 acres
WASHINGTON COUNTY		
High Value Sites	32 sites	9,749 acres
Medium Value Sites	22 sites	2,852 acres
Low Value Sites	29 sites	3,310 acres
TOTAL	83 sites	15,911 acres
WAUKESHA COUNTY		
High Value Sites	42 sites	9,092 acres
Medium Value Sites	46 sites	6,790 acres
Low Value Sites	43 sites	4,490 acres
TOTAL	131 sites	20,372 acres
THE REGION		
High Value Sites	184 sites	46,223 acres
Medium Value Sites	199 sites	26,978 acres
Low Value Sites	223 sites	18,613 acres
TOTAL	606 sites	91,814 acres

APPENDIX

Table 2

POTENTIAL PARK SITES BY COUNTY

KENOSHA COUNTY

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
1 (8)	100	High
2 (7)	200	High
3	50	Low
4	40	Low
5	105	Medium
6	45	Low
7	125	Low
8	160	Medium
9	60	Medium
10	120	Medium
11	100	Low
12	40	Low
13	80	Medium
14	80	Medium
15	160	High
16	60	Low
17	60	Medium
18	150	Medium
19 (9)	55	High
20	175	Medium
21	40	Low
22	100	Medium
23 (1)	250	High
24 (3)	90	High
25 (3)	210	High
26	40	Low
27	250	Medium
28	180	Medium
29	50	Low
30	30	Medium
31 (5)	480	High
32	160	Medium
33	40	Low
34 (2)	450	High
35	80	Low
36	40	Medium
37	80	Medium
38	60	High
39	400	Low
40	No Site	No Site
41	80	High
42	250	Low
43	70	Low
44	85	Medium
45	60	Low
46 (4)	200	High
47	120	Low
48	350	Low
49	80	Low
50	50	Low
51	200	Medium
52	300	Medium
53	120	Medium

(continued)

KENOSHA COUNTY (cont.)

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
54	50	Low
55	20	Low
56	65	Low
57	160	Medium
58	15	Low
59	30	Low
60	100	Medium
61	150	Low
62 (10)	160	High
63	140	Medium
64	640	Low
65	150	Medium
66	120	Medium
67 (6)	160	High
68	40	Low

Numbers in ( ) indicate the ten sites of highest value in the county.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
1	160	Medium
2 (3)	80	High
3 (4)	200	High
4	80	Medium
5	30	Low
6	80	Medium
7	30	Medium
8	160	Medium
9 (5)	240	High
10	175	High
11	700	High
12	80	High
13	30	Low
14	250	High
15	30	Low
16	50	Low
17 (1)	250	High
18	150	Low
19	200	Medium
20	60	Medium
21	30	Low
22 (2)	160	High
23	275	Medium
24	30	Medium
25	200	Medium
26	200	Low
27	400	Medium

Numbers in ( ) indicate the five sites of highest value in the county.

OZAUKEE COUNTY

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
1 (8)	160	High
2 (9)	250	High
3	100	High
4 (4)	250	High
5	160	High
6	350	Medium
7 (5)	130	High
8	250	Medium
9	40	Low
10	250	Medium
11	130	Medium
12 (1)	250	High
13	250	Low
14	50	Medium
15	175	Medium
16	80	Low
17 (6)	200	High
18	45	Low
19 (2)	400	High
20	650	Medium
21 (7)	375	High
22	75	Medium
23	60	Low
24	100	Low
25	40	Low
26	80	Low
27	200	Medium
28	30	High
29	10	Low
30	30	Low
31	50	Low
32	45	Low
33	75	High
34	50	High
35	65	Low
36	65	Low
37	320	High
38	225	High
39	40	High
40	100	High
41	75	Medium
42 (10)	80	High
43	250	Medium
44	45	Low
45	175	High
46 (10)	300	High
47	60	High
48	10	Low
49 (3)	300	High
50	100	Low
51	300	High
52	100	Low
53	200	Low

(continued)

OZAUKEE COUNTY (cont.)

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
54	65	High
55	100	Low
56	50	Medium
57	80	Low
58	65	Low
59	200	Medium
60	160	Medium
61	120	High
62	160	Medium
63	70	Medium
64	30	Low
65	500	High

Numbers in ( ) indicate the ten sites of highest value in the county.

RACINE COUNTY

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
1	120	Medium
2	90	Medium
3	45	Low
4	30	Low
5 (4)	250	High
6	60	High
7	190	Medium
8	110	Medium
9	30	Low
10	55	Low
11	125	High
12	200	Medium
13	75	Medium
14	240	High
15 (3)	100	High
16	450	High
17	120	High
18	75	Medium
19	175	High
20	150	Medium
21	60	Medium
22	40	Low
23	100	Medium
24	150	Low
25	40	Low
26	50	Medium
27	40	Low
28	80	Medium
29	140	Low
30	80	Medium
31	20	Low
32	275	Medium
33	120	Medium
34	160	High
35 (6)	160	High
36	120	Low
37	100	Low
38	70	Low
39	250	High
40	40	Medium
41	40	High
42	2	Medium
43	20	High

(continued)

RACINE COUNTY (cont.)

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
44	65	Low
45 (5)	400	High
46	40	Low
47	100	Medium
48	80	Medium
49	55	Low
50	60	Low
51	65	Low
52	120	Medium
53	60	Low
54	80	Medium
55	50	Medium
56	500	Medium
57	150	Low
58	160	Medium
59 (10)	250	High
60	66	Medium
61	40	Low
62	100	High
63	30	Medium
64	100	Medium
65	160	Medium
66	45	Low
67	800	Medium
68 (1)	400	High
69	40	Low
70	65	Medium
71	50	Low
72 (7)	140	High
73	120	Medium
74	200	Medium
75 (8)	70	High
76	65	Low
77	40	Low
78	50	Low
79	70	Medium
80	50	Medium
81	80	Medium
82	100	Medium
83	140	Medium
84	40	Low
85	80	Low
86	200	Low
87	320	Low
88 (9)	152	High
89	150	Medium
90 (2)	800	High
91	80	Low

Numbers in ( ) indicate the ten sites of highest value in the county.

WALWORTH COUNTY

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
1	360	High
2	40	Medium
3	20	Low
4	50	Medium
5	30	Low
6	40	Low
7	325	High

(continued)

WALWORTH COUNTY (cont.)

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
8	80	Low
9	200	Medium
10	160	Medium
11	160	Medium
12	20	Low
13	40	Medium
14	120	Medium
15	40	Medium
16	10	Low
17	80	Medium
18 (8)	700	High
19 (8)	460	High
20	50	Low
21	60	Low
22 (7)	650	High
23	30	Medium
24	80	Medium
25	50	Medium
26	30	Low
27	50	Low
28	40	Low
29	40	Low
30	400	Medium
31	250	Low
32	80	High
33	40	Low
34	70	High
35	20	Medium
36	80	Medium
37	80	High
38	100	High
39	100	High
40	100	Medium
41	130	Medium
42	40	Low
43	30	Low
44	160	Low
45	160	High
46	80	Medium
47 (6)	960	High
48	40	Low
49	120	Medium
50	10	Low
51	20	Low
52	15	Low
53	20	Medium
54	30	Low
55	65	Medium
56	30	Low
57	30	Low
58	20	Low
59	20	Medium
60	60	Low
61	100	High
62	40	Low
63	65	Low
64 (3)	210	High
65	160	High
66	160	High
67	160	High
68	160	Medium
69	30	Low
70	175	Medium
71	30	Low
72	30	Low

(continued)

WALWORTH COUNTY (cont.)

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
73	40	Medium
74	20	Low
75 (10)	50	High
76	100	Medium
77	50	Medium
78	17	Low
79	200	Medium
80	25	Medium
81	30	Low
82	30	Low
83	600	High
84	20	Low
85	200	Medium
86	250	High
87	100	Medium
88 (9)	260	High
89 (5)	800	High
90	350	High
91	80	Low
92	50	High
93	30	Medium
94	40	Low
95	350	High
96	40	Medium
97	80	Low
98	15	Low
99	30	Low
100	166	Low
101	320	Low
102	40	Low
103	100	High
104	80	Low
105	100	Low
106	15	Low
107	60	Low
108 (4)	300	High
109	20	Low
110	400	High
111	10	Low
112	50	Low
113	60	High
114	20	Low
115	140	High
116	10	Low
117	300	Medium
118	10	High
119	200	Medium
120	80	Medium
121 (2)	160	High
122	60	Medium
123	20	Low
124	180	Medium
125	100	Medium
126	30	Low
127	158	Medium
128	80	High
129	40	Low
130	15	Low
131	200	High
132	150	Low
133	40	Low
134	50	Low
135	40	Medium
136	180	High
137	400	High

(continued)

WALWORTH COUNTY (cont.)

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
138	1,000	High
139	40	Low
140 (1)	640	High
141 (1)	1,000	High
142 (1)	900	High

Numbers in ( ) indicate the ten sites of highest value in the county.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
1	275	Medium
2	80	Low
3	34	Low
4	35	Low
5 (1)	1,500	High
6	15	Low
7	60	Medium
8	100	Medium
9	500	High
10 (6)	65	High
11 (6)	150	High
12	60	Low
13	45	Medium
14	40	High
15	300	Medium
16	160	High
17	225	High
18	40	Low
19	175	Medium
20	250	High
21	150	Low
22	100	Low
23 (5)	1,100	High
24	300	Low
25 (7)	350	High
26	450	Low
27	30	Medium
28	200	High
29	40	Medium
30 (2)	800	High
31	80	High
32	200	High
33	320	High
34	175	High
35 (10)	20	High
36	175	Low
37	320	Low
38 (3)	960	High
39	30	Low
40	50	Low
41	300	High
42	160	High
43	40	High
44	120	Medium
45	40	High
46	30	Low
47	50	Low
48	100	Medium
49	400	Low

(continued)

WASHINGTON COUNTY (cont.)

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
50	75	Medium
51	225	Low
52	60	Low
53	100	Low
54	320	Medium
55	45	Low
56	200	Medium
57	80	Medium
58	35	Low
59	250	Low
60	50	Medium
61 (4)	350	High
62	400	Medium
63	40	Medium
64	80	High
65	60	Low
66	350	High
67	200	Medium
68	500	High
69	75	Low
70	40	Low
71	40	Medium
72	2	Medium
73	1	Low
74	40	Medium
75 (8)	160	High
76 (8)	160	High
77	60	Low
78 (9)	4	High
79 (9)	100	High
80	160	Medium
81	160	High
82	40	Low
83	250	High

Numbers in ( ) indicate the ten sites of highest value in the county.

WAUKESHA COUNTY

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
1 (2)	560	High
2	250	High
3	40	Low
4	20	Low
5	30	Low
6	No Site	No Site
7	40	Medium
8	75	Low
9	30	Medium
10	20	High
11	200	High
12	160	Medium
13	50	Medium
14	125	Medium
15	40	Medium
16	10	Low
17	600	High
18	150	High
19	40	Low
20	75	Low
21	40	Low

(continued)

WAUKESHA COUNTY (cont.)

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
22	75	Medium
23	30	Low
24	160	Low
25	160	Low
26	150	Medium
27 (9)	225	High
28 (9)	55	High
29	200	Low
30	60	Low
31	80	High
32	120	Low
33	400	Low
34	60	Low
35	1,200	High
36	60	Low
37	75	Medium
38	50	Low
39	225	Low
40	225	Medium
41	100	Medium
42	80	High
43	200	Medium
44	160	Low
45	225	High
46	50	High
47	80	Medium
48 (5)	375	High
49	160	High
50	225	Medium
51	125	Low
52	80	Low
53	75	Medium
54	130	High
55	100	Medium
56	75	Low
57	120	Low
58	80	Medium
59	200	Medium
60	75	Medium

(continued)

WAUKESHA COUNTY (cont.)

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
61	75	Medium
62	150	Low
63	100	High
64	200	Medium
65	300	Medium
66	250	High
67	75	Low
68	200	Medium
69	80	High
70 (10)	225	High
71	80	Medium
72	30	High
73	75	Medium
74	80	Medium
75	75	Medium
76	60	High
77	85	Medium
78	400	Medium
79	100	Low
80	75	Medium
81	75	Low
82	225	High
83	225	Medium
84	75	Low
85	75	Low
86	160	Low
87	120	Medium
88	200	High
89	25	Low
90	100	High
91	40	Low
92	20	Medium
93	160	High
94 (4)	200	High
95	50	Medium
96	250	Medium
97	120	High
98	150	Low
99	No Site	No Site

(continued)

WAUKESHA COUNTY (cont.)

Site Number	Number of Acres	Value
100	300	Low
101 (7)	280	High
102	350	Medium
103	No Site	No Site
104	No Site	No Site
105	No Site	No Site
106	300	Medium
107 (8)	100	High
108	550	Medium
109	75	High
110	225	Medium
111	225	Low
112	75	Low
113	225	Medium
114 (6)	225	High
115	40	Low
116	225	High
117	No Site	No Site
118	100	Medium
119	75	High
120	No Site	No Site
121	75	Medium
122	75	Medium
123	150	Medium
124 (3)	225	High
125	75	Low
126	225	High
127	75	Low
128	250	Medium
129	80	High
130	250	High
131	30	Low
132	250	Low
133	75	Medium
134	200	High
135	200	High
136	400	High
137 (1)	422	High
138	80	Low

Numbers in ( ) indicate the ten sites of highest value in the county.

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