

REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN READY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

After more than four years of intensive effort by the Commission, a park and open space plan for the Region has been completed and is ready for public review. Park and open space planning studies are not new in the Region. In the past, however, these studies have been confined to subareas of the seven-county Region—such as individual counties or communities. These studies, moreover, have generally addressed only public and not privately owned recreation facilities and, more often than not, they have relied on the use of national, not regional, standards to identify needs within the public sector. The present study departs from these traditional limitations in that the planning was regional in scope, recognizing that the demand for and the supply of many recreational facilities crosses governmental boundaries and that effective planning for these facilities requires an areawide intergovernmental approach; the planning considered private as well as public facilities on the premise that nonpublic recreation facilities meet a significant portion of the outdoor recreation needs of regional residents and should continue to do so; and the planning developed new standards to better reflect the specific needs of the residents of the Region.

The regional park and open space plan provides another element of the evolving comprehensive plan for the physical development of the 2,689 square mile southeastern Wisconsin Region. The purpose of the plan is to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land needed for outdoor recreation in the Region to the year 2000 and for the protection of the natural resource base and thereby the preservation of the overall quality of life within the Region. More specifically, the regional park and open space plan identifies the need for and recommends the location, size, and type of park and open space sites and facilities needed in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region to the year 2000. The plan contains data that can be used in county and local park and related open space planning and in private recreational development planning and is intended to promote coordination of public and private recreation facility development so that efforts in the two sectors complement rather than

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



duplicate one another. Finally, the planning program is intended to qualify units and agencies of government in the Region for state and federal park and open space grants and to provide a basis for Commission review of federal and state grant applications for park and open space purposes.

In a region of great recreational potential but increasing areawide urbanization, a comprehensive park and open space plan to the year 2000 becomes all but imperative. The value of a regional plan that crosses man-made lines of governmental subdivisions gains added importance from several recent trends: better transportation, making outlying areas of the region more accessible; more leisure time and more money to spend on recreation, encouraging more people to use the recreational facilities; and the changing nature of outdoor recreation relying more heavily on the resource base—as in hiking and cross country skiing—but tending to leave that base unaltered. Since many of these land-extensive recreational activities cross governmental lines and depend upon the presence of such natural resource features as lakes and streams, woodland, wetlands and wildlife habitat, it becomes more appropriate than ever to view the needs and the planned facilities on an areawide basis.

STUDY INITIATION AND ORGANIZATION

Commission interest in recreational needs and facilities as important factors in the development of the region existed long before any formal governmental requests were made for the preparation of a regional park and open space plan. Because the Commission, since its inception, has set a high priority on the preservation of environmental quality, it was particularly pleased to undertake preparation of the regional park and open space preservation plan at the specific request of the City of Racine Common Council and the Milwaukee County Park Commission. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development added impetus by indicating that an areawide park and open space plan was required for continued federal certification of the regional planning program and attendant continued eligibility of local units of government for federal grants-in-aid of many kinds. Accordingly, on October 9, 1972, the Commission established a Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee on Regional Park and Open Space Planning to assist the Commission and its staff in the conduct of the proposed planning program.

Committee membership included public officials responsible for park acquisition and development, citizen leaders drawn from a broad cross section of the community including representatives of the natural resource conservation and environmental

preservation groups, representatives of recreation-related businesses and industries, and representatives of low income and minority groups from core areas of larger cities of the Region. The Committee which is presently chaired by Mr. Robert J. Mikula, General Manager of the Milwaukee County Park Commission, was in its formative stages chaired by Commissioner Richard W. Cutler. Its membership includes:

TECHNICAL AND CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING

Robert J. Mikula	General Manager, Milwaukee County Park Commission
Loren R. Anderson	President, Geneva Lake Development Corporation, Williams Bay
Anthony S. Bareta	Director, Milwaukee County Planning Commission
Donald B. Brick	Walworth County Recreation Agent, Courthouse
Frederick H. Chlupp	Land Use and Park Administrator, Washington County
Delbert J. Cook	Cedar Creek Restoration Council, Cedarburg
Norbert Dettmann	Washington County Board Supervisor
Arthur D. Doll	Director, Bureau of Planning, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
David F. Egelhoff	Ozaukee County Board Supervisor
Booker Hamilton	Production Supervisor, Rexnord Corporation
Karl B. Holzwarth	Park Director, Racine County Park Commission
Charles Q. Kamps	Attorney, Quarles and Brady, Milwaukee
Philip H. Lewis	Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Director, Environmental Awareness Center, Madison
Richard J. Lindl	Director of Parks, Kenosha County Park Commission
John Margis, Jr.	Racine County Board Supervisor, SEWRPC Commissioner
Kathleen Pfister	Cultural Specialist, Milwaukee Department of City Development

PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN—continued

Robert D. Ross	General Manager, The Journal Times, Racine
Phil Sander	Executive Secretary, Southeastern Wisconsin Sportsmen's Federation
George L. Schlitz	Chairman, Kenosha County Park Commission
Frederick G. Schmidt	Member, Sierra Club
Mrs. John D. Squier	Member, Riveredge Nature Center, Inc.
Walter J. Tarmann	Director, Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission
Edgar Trecker	Supervisor of Forestry, Wildlife and Recreation, Southeast District, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Elwood R. Voigt	Ozaukee County Park Manager
Joseph Waters	Proprietor, Lazy Day Campgrounds, Town of Farmington
Dr. Harry H. Wilkens	Outdoor Sportsman, Milwaukee
Dr. George T. Wilson	Visiting Lecturer, Department of Continuing and Vocational Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Thomas N. Wright	Director of Planning, City of Racine

The Commission also would like to acknowledge the work of former Committee members who assisted in the completion of the study—these former members include the following:

William H. Claflin	Former Deputy Commissioner, Department of City Development, Milwaukee
Richard W. Cutler	Attorney, Quarles and Brady, Milwaukee; Commissioner, SEWRPC
Howard W. Gregg	Former General Manager, Milwaukee County Park Commission
Robert A. Gibson, Jr.	Former Comptroller, The Abbey Hotel, Fontana
Clinton E. Rose	Former Milwaukee County Board Supervisor

PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN—continued

A prospectus, which documented the need for the program and outlined its desirable scope and content, was completed by the Committee in January 1973 while work on the study began in July of that year. Two-thirds of the funding for the four-year, \$180,000 study came from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development while the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the seven counties in the Region each provided one-sixth of the needed funds.

PLANNING REPORT

The regional park and open space study findings and recommendations are set forth in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, that is presently in draft form and scheduled for publication following public hearings on the plan. The plan is based upon extensive inventories and analyses of the Region's socioeconomic and natural resource base; existing outdoor recreation sites and facilities and their use; existing recreation plans, administration, and laws and regulations; and potential park and open space sites in the Region. Park and related open space acquisition and development objectives, principles, and standards were developed as part of the planning program and were applied to existing and forecast population levels to identify existing and probable future needs within the Region for open space; for large "regional" resource oriented parks; for recreation corridors; and for smaller "urban" parks together with their attendant recreation facility requirements. This newsletter is intended to constitute a summary of the findings and recommendations contained in that planning report.

INVENTORY, ANALYSIS, AND FORECAST FINDINGS

Some of the more important inventory findings contained in the regional park and open space report are:

- The population of the Region which totaled about 1.8 million in 1975 is expected to increase to about 2.2 million by the year 2000. This forecast increase is quite modest when compared to historic growth rates within the Region.
- Almost 267,000 persons may be expected to be enjoying themselves at public and private general use outdoor recreation sites in the Region on a typical summer Sunday, with 185,000 people, or 70 percent, using public sites. About 57,000 persons may be expected to utilize public and private general use outdoor recreation sites on a typical winter Sunday, with about 39,000 people,

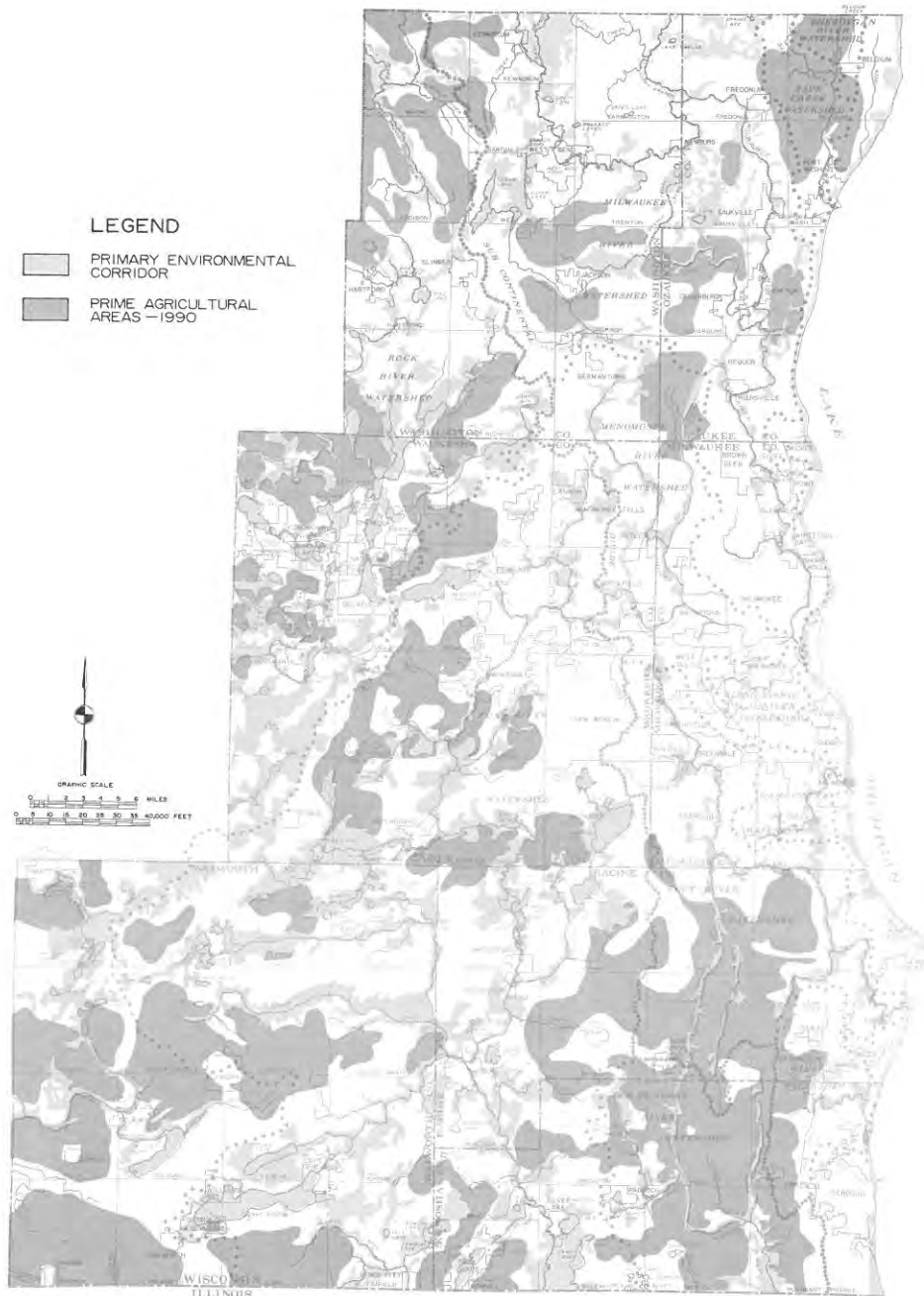
or 68 percent, utilizing public sites. These use figures do not include use of such special facilities as the Milwaukee County zoo, stadium, or conservatory.

- Approximately nine percent of the persons utilizing the public and private recreation facilities within the Region on any given Sunday reside outside of the Region. Moreover, the ratio of out-of-Region participants increases in the southern part of the Region, particularly in Walworth and Kenosha Counties, where an average of 26 percent of the participants are non-Wisconsin residents. If large natural resource oriented facilities only are considered, the use by out-of-Region participants increases to 20 and 45 percent respectively.
- Population densities in the Region, which peaked in 1920 at a level of about 11,000 persons per square mile, have been steadily declining since to a level of about 4,300 persons per square mile in 1970. The attendant diffusion of urban development is being attracted to the prime recreation resources of the Region, intruding into riverine areas, clustering around inland lakes, and spreading out along the Lake Michigan shoreline and into the Kettle Moraine Forest areas. This dispersion threatens the destruction of potential park and recreation sites and related open space required to maintain good outdoor recreation opportunities within the Region and to protect the natural resource base and preserve the overall quality of the environment.
- Inland lakes and perennial streams are focal points for water-related recreational activities. There are 100 major inland lakes of 50 acres or more in the Region having a combined surface water area of 57 square miles, or 2 percent of the total area of the Region. There are also 1,148 miles of perennial streams whose channels and attendant floodlands comprise about 7 percent of the total area of the Region.
- Woodlands in 1970 covered a combined area of about 196 square miles, or 7 percent of the total area of the Region, a decrease of almost 8 square miles from 1963. Water and wetlands covered 283 square miles in 1970, or about 10 percent of the area of the Region, a decrease of about 2.5 square miles from 1963.
- Wildlife habitat areas which covered about 406 square miles in 1970, or 15 percent of the total area of the Region, decreased about 2 square miles from 1963. About 40 percent of the existing habitat area is rated as high value, about 36 percent medium value, and about 24 percent as low value.

- Primary environmental corridors are generally elongated areas in the landscape which encompass the best remaining elements of the natural resource base, including the lakes and streams and their associated undeveloped shorelands and floodlands, woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas, areas of groundwater discharge and recharge, areas covered by organic soils, areas containing rough topography and significant geological formations, areas having scenic, historic and scientific value, and the best remaining potential park and related open space sites. Primary environmental corridors total 503 square miles in 1970, or about 20 percent of the total area of the Region, a decrease of about 6 square miles from 1963.
- Prime agricultural lands covered over 630 square miles in 1970, or almost 25 percent of the total area of the Region, a decrease of about 13 square miles from 1963. Prime agricultural land and primary environmental corridors are shown on Map 1.
- There were 1,773 general use outdoor recreation sites totaling about 49,000 acres in the Region in 1973 with about 24,000 acres, or almost half this acreage, in public ownership (see Map 2). Almost 26,000 acres, or more than 50 percent of the 49,000 acres of general use outdoor recreation site acreage, were located within the Region's primary environmental corridors, with almost 11,000 acres, or almost 50 percent of all publicly owned site acreage, also located in the corridors. The Region had more than 49,000 acres of natural areas in the Region in 1973, almost all in public ownership. Over 31,000 acres, or more than 60 percent of the natural areas, were classified as woodlands or wetlands; the remaining acres were scientific sites, nature conservancy areas, parkways, or other open lands. Over 35,000 acres, or more than 70 percent, of the natural areas of the Region were located within the primary environmental corridors.
- In total, the Region had more than 103,000 acres of publicly and privately owned outdoor recreation and open space land in 1973 averaging about 58 acres per thousand residents. This total recreation and open space acreage represents about 6 percent of the total area of the Region. Almost 74,000 acres, or about 71 percent of the 103,000 acres, were in public ownership.
- Within the Region in 1973 there were: 51 public and 153 private swimming beaches with 60,300 linear feet of beach; 224 public and 185 private sites with picnic areas supplying almost 16,000 picnic tables; 11 public and 36

Map 1

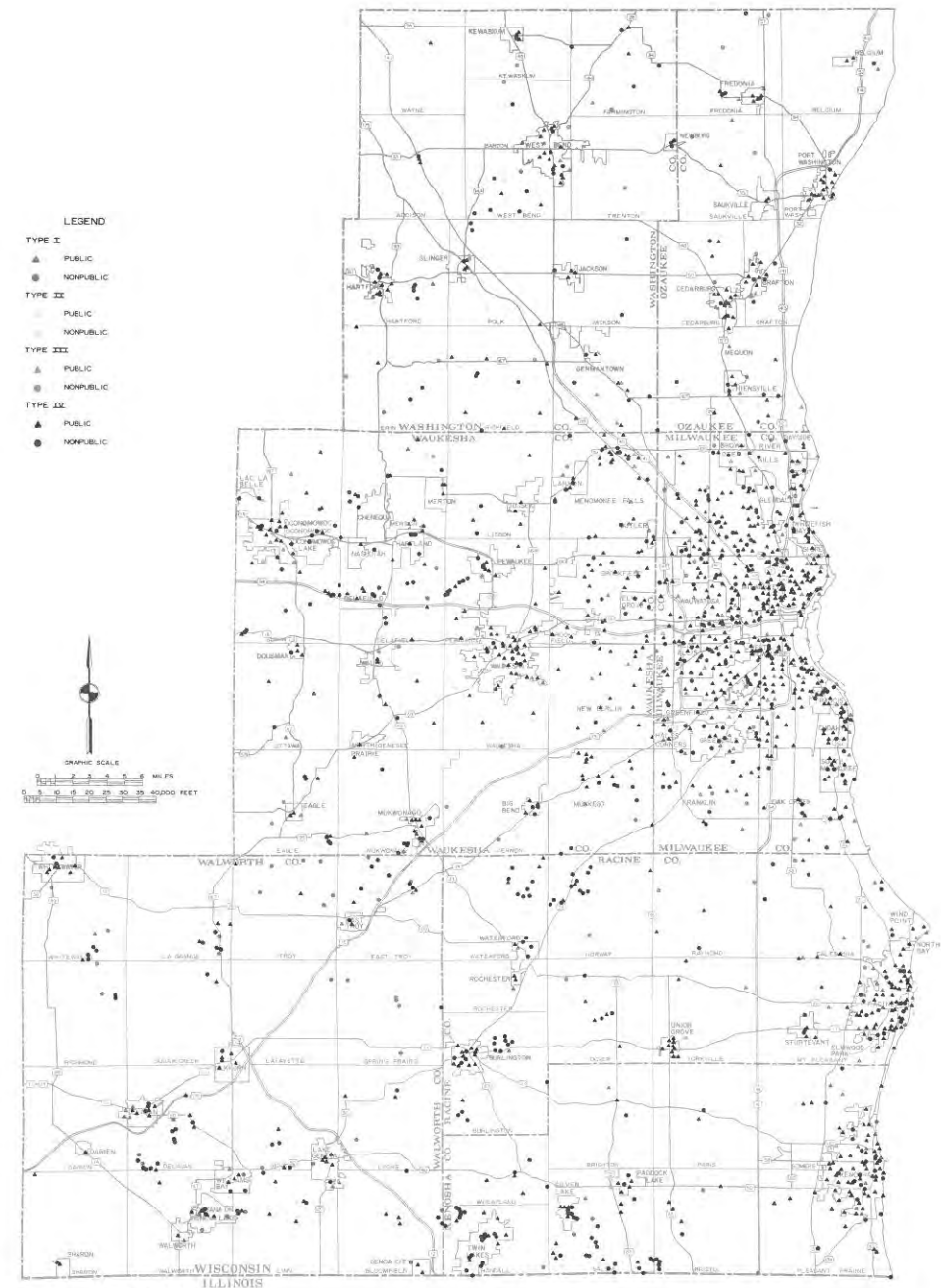
PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS
IN THE REGION: 1970



Source: SEWRPC.

Map 2

GENERAL USE OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES IN THE REGION BY TYPE: 1973



Source: SEWRPC.



SKI HILL AT ALPINE VALLEY TYPE I MULTIUSE SITE

This ski hill at Alpine Valley in Walworth County represents part of a Type I recreation site; that is, a resource-oriented site of 250 acres or more in size offering multiple outdoor recreational facilities. Other facilities offered at Alpine Valley include golf, swimming, and tennis. Alpine Valley is among the privately-owned facilities in the Region. The recommended regional park and open space plan expects such privately-owned sites to continue to meet much of the recreational demand within the Region.

private sites with camping areas providing almost 3,200 camp sites; 20 public and 60 private sites with 9 to 36 hole regulation golf courses and 7 public and 14 private ski hills with over 180 acres of developed ski slopes. There were also 1,056 public and 222 private softball diamonds; 1,758 public and 579 private basketball goals; 775 public and 248 private tennis courts; 186 public and 30 private baseball diamonds; 245 public and 47 private ice skating rinks; 844 public and 331 private playfields; 725 public and 220 private playgrounds; and 31 public and 39 private swimming pools.

LAKE MICHIGAN SHORELINE SITE TYPE II SINGLE USE SITE

Of the many and diverse recreational resources considered in the park and open space plan, the Schlitz Audubon Center on Lake Michigan represents a Type II single use facility; that is, a resource oriented site 100 to 249 acres in size devoted primarily to nature study and heavily dependent on the natural resource base.



- Within the Region in 1973 there were also 73 miles of scenic auto drives, 38 miles of public bike trails and 339 miles of public bike routes, 104 miles of public backpack hiking trails, 69 miles of public and 21 miles of private horseback riding trails, and 18 miles of public and 30 miles of private ski touring trails.
- Recreation activities that rely heavily on the natural resource base—such as camping, skiing, and swimming—were popular with both sexes and most age groups. Commission surveys indicated that participants in these activities were willing to travel relatively long distances from their homes—25 miles or more—with two out of 10 participants in these activities being from out of state. Activities that rely less on the natural resource base—such as softball, tennis, and pool swimming—generally were popular with school age children and young adults who usually traveled less than three miles to sites providing such facilities.
- In terms of actual dollars, local units of government increased their total expenditures for park and recreation purposes from \$15.4 million to \$30.0 million or by 95 percent, and their per capita expenditures from \$9.35 to \$16.65, or by 78 percent, respectively, between 1964 and 1974. In terms of constant 1967 dollars, however, these increases were only 27 and 16 percent, respectively. Park and recreation expenses for operation and maintenance, excluding expenses for recreation programs, increased from \$10.2 million to \$24.2 million, or by 137 percent over the same period in actual dollars, but only 54 percent in constant dollars. Expressed in actual dollars, park and recreation department earnings for all local units of government increased from \$1.5 million to \$5.5 million, or by 267 percent, in the same time period. In terms of constant dollars the increase was 138 percent.
- A special land value study in Milwaukee County to determine the impact of public park and open space lands on adjacent residential property values showed that public park and open space lands which preserve and enhance the attractive elements of the natural resource base, such as parks along the Lake Michigan shoreline or parkways along water courses, increased adjacent residential property values by an average of 30 percent. Large parks, which enhance the beauty of the area in addition to providing space and facilities for recreation pursuits, increased adjacent property values by an average of 16 percent while small local neighborhood parks had a negligible impact on adjacent property values, increasing such values by approximately 3 percent.

- The Region has a substantial reserve of potential park sites to draw upon to meet future recreational demand. Between 1963 and 1975 a total of 751 potential park sites totaling 140,000 acres were identified by the Commission. Between 1963 and 1975 over 12,800 acres, or 9 percent of the potential park site acreage, were in fact committed to recreation or open space use, while over 9,100 acres, or almost 7 percent of the original site acreage, were lost to urbanization. In addition, about 2,000 acres, although unchanged in use, were deleted from the potential park sites inventory as a result of recreational development which effectively isolated portions of the original potential park sites to the extent that the remnant parcels no longer constitute viable potential park areas. In 1975, there then remained a total of 682 potential park sites totaling over 116,000 acres. Of the remaining sites, 211 were identified as possessing high value recreation resources, 234 possessed medium value recreation resources, and 237 possessed low value recreation resources. About 87 percent of the 211 high value potential park sites were located within the primary environmental corridors of the Region, and about 81 percent of such high value sites were located in the outlying Counties of Ozaukee, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha.

REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES

The task of formulating objectives to be used in plan design and evaluation is a difficult but necessary part of any planning process. Seven regional park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives were formulated under the regional park and open space planning program.

1. The provision of an integrated system of public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas which will allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.
2. The provision of sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunity to participate in intensive nonresource oriented outdoor recreation activities.
3. The provision of sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunity to participate in intensive resource oriented outdoor recreation activities.

4. The provision of sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunity to participate in extensive land based outdoor recreation activities.
5. The provision of opportunities for participation by the resident population of the Region in extensive water based outdoor recreation activities on the major inland lakes and rivers and on Lake Michigan consistent with safe and enjoyable lake use and maintenance of good water quality.
6. The preservation of sufficient high quality open space lands for the protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well being and environmental quality of the Region.
7. The efficient and economical satisfaction of outdoor recreation and related open space needs meeting all other objectives at the lowest possible cost.

These objectives relate specifically to the needs and values of the citizens of southeastern Wisconsin and support the development of a park and open space plan for southeastern Wisconsin which aims to ensure that park and open space lands: 1) provide adequate outdoor recreation opportunities for the resident population of the Region, 2) serve as form determinants for future urban growth, and 3) protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base of the Region.

Complementing each of the foregoing specific park and open space objectives is a planning principle and set of planning standards which serve to apply the objectives quantitatively to plan design, test, and evaluation. The planning standards were formulated primarily on results of the detailed inventories and surveys conducted by the Commission under the park and open space planning program. The planning standards generally include detailed per capita, accessibility, and design requirements.

Objectives No. 1 and No. 6 set forth the most basic objectives of the recommended park and open space system for the Region and are presented in full in Table 1 as examples of the full set of objectives, principles, and standards formulated under the regional park and open space plan.

Existing and probable future needs for major public parks, local parks, recreation corridors, and their associated recreation facilities were determined by comparing the existing supply of such sites and facilities to the existing and anticipated demand for such sites and facilities, as indicated by the standards. Alternative park and open space plans were then formulated to meet the identified needs.

Table 1
EXCERPTS FROM OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS
FOR THE RECOMMENDED REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

OBJECTIVE NO. 1

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

PRINCIPLE

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

A. PUBLIC GENERAL USE OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

1. The public sector should provide general use outdoor recreation sites sufficient in size and number to meet the recreation demands of the resident population. Such sites should contain the natural resource or man-made amenities appropriate to the recreational activities to be accommodated therein and be spatially distributed in a manner which provides ready access for the resident population. To meet this standard, the following general use outdoor recreation site requirements should be met: (See Attachment I)
2. Public general use outdoor recreation sites should, to the greatest extent possible, be located within the designated primary environmental corridors of the Region.

B. RECREATION -RELATED OPEN SPACE

PRINCIPLE

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

Table 1 (continued)
Attachment I

Site Type	Size (gross acres)	Publicly Owned General Use Sites					
		Parks		Schools ^a		Maximum Service Radius (Miles) ^c	
		Minimum Per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 population) ^d	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (Miles) ^b	Minimum Per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 population) ^f	Typical Facilities	Urban ^e / Rural
I ^g Regional	250 or more	5.3	Camp sites, swimming beach, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball diamond, passive activity area ^h	Urban ^e 10.0 / Rural 10.0	—	—	— / —
II ⁱ Multi-Community	100-249	2.6	Camp sites, swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball and/or baseball diamond, passive activity area ^h	4.0 ^j / 10.0 ^j	—	—	— / —
III ^k Community	25-99	2.2	Swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball and/or baseball diamond, tennis court, passive activity area ^h	2.0 ^j / —	0.9	Playfield, baseball diamond, softball diamond, football field, track, tennis court	0.5- / 1.0
IV ^m Neighborhood	less than 25	1.7	Wading pool or beach, picnic areas, playfield, softball and/or baseball diamond, tennis court, playground, basketball goal, ice skating rink, passive activity area	0.5 ⁿ / 1.0	1.6	Playfield, playground, baseball diamond, softball diamond, tennis court, basketball goal	0.5- / 1.0

Table 1 (continued)

STANDARDS

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

- 1. A minimum of 0.16 linear mile of recreation-related open space consisting of linear recreation corridors^a should be provided for each 1,000 persons in the Region.
- 2. Recreation corridors should have a minimum length of 15 miles and a minimum width of 200 feet.
- 3. The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas.
- 4. Resource oriented recreation corridors should maximize utilization of:
 - a. Primary environmental corridors as location for extensive trail oriented recreation activities.
 - b. Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites.
 - c. Existing recreation trail type facilities within the Region.

OBJECTIVE NO. 6

The preservation of sufficient high quality open space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and for enhancement of the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the Region.

PRINCIPLE

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

A. PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARD

All remaining nonurban lands within the designated primary environmental corridors in the Region should be preserved in their natural state.

B. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PRINCIPLE

Prime agricultural lands constitute the most productive farmlands in the Region. In addition to providing food and fiber, they contribute significantly to maintaining the ecological balance between plants and animals; provide locations proximal to urban centers for the production of certain food commodities which may require nearby population concentration for an efficient production-distribution relationship; provide open spaces which give form and structure to urban development, and serve to maintain the natural beauty and unique cultural heritage of southeastern Wisconsin.

Table 1 (continued)

STANDARDS

- 1. All prime agricultural lands should be preserved.
- 2. All agricultural lands should be preserved that surround adjacent high value scientific, educational, or recreational resources and are covered by soils rated in the regional detailed operational soil survey as having very slight, slight, or moderate limitations for agricultural use.

^aIn urban areas the facilities commonly located in Type III or IV school outdoor recreation areas often provide a substitute for facilities commonly located in parks by providing opportunities for participation in intensive non-resource oriented activities.

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

^cThe identification of a maximum service radius for each school site is intended to assist in the determination of outdoor recreation facility requirements and to assure that each urban resident has ready access to the variety of facilities commonly provided in school recreation areas.

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

^eUrban areas are defined as areas containing a closely spaced network of minor streets and may include concentrations of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, or institutional land uses having a minimum total area of 160 acres and a minimum population of 500 persons. Such urban areas have been further classified into the following densities: low density urban areas or areas with 2.0 to 6.5 persons per net residential acre, medium density urban areas or areas with 6.6 to 21.0 persons per net residential acre, and high density urban areas or areas with 21.1 to 63.0 persons per net residential acre.

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

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

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

ⁱType II sites are defined as intermediate size sites having a countywide or multicomunity service area. Like Type I sites, Type II sites rely for their recreational value and character on natural resource amenities. Type II parks, however, usually provide a smaller variety of recreation facilities and have smaller areas devoted to each activity.

^jIn general, each resident of the Region should reside within 10 miles of a Type I or Type II park. It should be noted, however, that within urban areas each urban resident should reside within 4 miles of a Type I or Type II park. In urban areas the need for a Type III site is met by the presence of a Type II or Type I site. Thus, each urban resident in the Region should be within 2 miles of a Type III, II or I park site.

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

Table 1 (continued)

^lThe typical service radius of school outdoor recreation facilities is governed by the individual facilities within the school site and by the population densities in the vicinity of the site. In high-density urban areas each urban resident should reside within 0.5 mile of the facilities commonly located in a Type III or IV school outdoor recreation area; in medium-density urban areas each urban resident should reside within 0.75 mile of such facilities and in low-density urban areas each urban resident should reside within one mile of such facilities.

^mType IV sites are defined as small sites which have a neighborhood as the service area. Such sites usually provide facilities for intensive recreation activities and are generally provided in urban areas.

ⁿThe maximum service radius of Type IV parks is governed primarily by the population densities in the vicinity of the park. In high density urban areas, each urban resident should reside within 0.5 mile of a Type IV park; in medium density urban areas, each resident should reside within 0.75 mile of a Type IV park; and in low density urban areas, each urban resident should reside within one mile of a Type IV park. It should be noted that the requirement for a Type IV park is also met by a Type I, II, or III park within the 0.5 - 1.0 mile service radii in high-, medium- and low-density urban areas, respectively. Further, it should be noted that, in the application of the service radius criterion for Type IV sites, only multi use parks five acres or greater in area should be considered as satisfying the maximum service radius requirement.

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

Source: SEWRPC.

ALTERNATIVE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLANS

Frequently Commission plan preparation activities are complicated by having to consider a wide spectrum of alternative plan elements. The regional park and open space plan was comparatively simple in this respect. The open space preservation element—because of its direct relationship to the natural resource base—and the urban, non-resource oriented recreation plan component of the outdoor recreation plan element—because of its direct relationship to the urban areas identified in the adopted regional land use plan—required no alternative plan proposals. The resource oriented recreation plan component of the outdoor recreation plan element did, however, generate two alternative plan proposals from which a choice had to be made. These two plan proposals—an accessibility based alternative and a resource based alternative—each included recommendations for: proposed parks, 100 acres or larger, which would accommodate needed facilities for intensive resource oriented activities; proposed recreation corridors which would accommodate needed facilities for trail oriented activities; and proposed water access facilities which would facilitate use of rivers, major inland lakes, and Lake Michigan for extensive water based activities.

Both alternative plans were designed to meet the identified need for resource oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the Region by the plan design year. The accessibility based alternative plan attempted to meet existing and anticipated outdoor

PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN—continued

recreation requirements by locating future sites in areas readily accessible to population centers of the Region. Under this alternative plan a large portion of the proposed public recreation corridor network would be developed in locations that provide convenient access to residents of the Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine urbanized areas. In addition, individual recreation corridor segments in the outlying areas of the Region would provide convenient access to residents of smaller urban centers including Whitewater, Oconomowoc, Hartford, and West Bend. Nine of the 19 new large parks proposed under the accessibility alternative would be located within 20 miles of the central business district of the City of Milwaukee. Of the remaining 10 large parks proposed under this alternative plan, two would be located in eastern Kenosha County to provide space for resource oriented facilities for residents of Kenosha urban areas, and eight would be located in the outlying portions of the Region to provide space required for resource oriented facilities for residents of the rural and outlying urban areas of the Region.

The resource based alternative plan attempted to meet existing and anticipated future resource oriented recreation needs by utilizing the best remaining potential park sites within the Region. Under this alternative plan many of the proposed large park sites were situated in the outlying portions of the Region where natural resource amenities with high recreational value were relatively abundant. Only four of the 17 proposed new large park sites under this alternative were located within 20 miles of the central business district of the City of Milwaukee.

After detailed review and evaluation of the degree to which the accessibility based alternative and resource based alternative plan elements met park and open space development standards, the Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee on Regional Park and Open Space Planning chose the resource based alternative plan for incorporation into the recommended park and open space system plan for southeastern Wisconsin. Selection of the resource based plan reflected the finding that this alternative would provide a higher quality of recreational experience than the accessibility based alternative plan because it incorporated more high value potential park sites. Moreover, the resource based alternative plan would contribute significantly to the protection and wise use of invaluable natural resource base of the Region. However, in view of the outlying locations of many of the proposed parks, the Committee recommended that mass transit service be provided, on a trial basis, between densely populated urban areas containing concentrations of households with no personal means of transportation and certain recreational sites with high value recreation resources and a variety of recreation facilities.

RECOMMENDED REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

The regional park and open space plan for southeastern Wisconsin consists of two basic elements, an open space preservation plan element and an outdoor recreation plan element.

Open Space Preservation Plan Element

The open space preservation plan element consists of recommendations for the preservation of primary environmental corridors and prime agricultural lands in the Region (see Map 3).

Primary Environmental Corridors: Primary environmental corridor lands, excluding the 66 square miles of surface water area of lakes and streams, totaled 437 square miles in 1970. About 72 square miles, or 16 percent of this area are presently in public ownership. The open space preservation plan element recommends public acquisition of an additional 155 square miles, or an additional 36 percent of the primary environmental corridor lands. Including the 72 miles currently in public ownership, a total of 227 square miles of such land, or about 52 percent of the primary environmental corridor lands, and about 8 percent of the total area of the Region, would be permanently held in public trust upon full implementation of this plan element. Those areas of the primary environmental corridors which are not actually acquired by the public sector, including existing private outdoor recreation areas, would be kept in compatible, essentially natural open uses through the use of exclusive agricultural, floodland, shoreland, conservancy, and very low density (5 acre lot size minimum) residential zoning. In total, about 210 square miles, or 48 percent, of the primary environmental corridor lands in the Region would be zoned in such a manner.

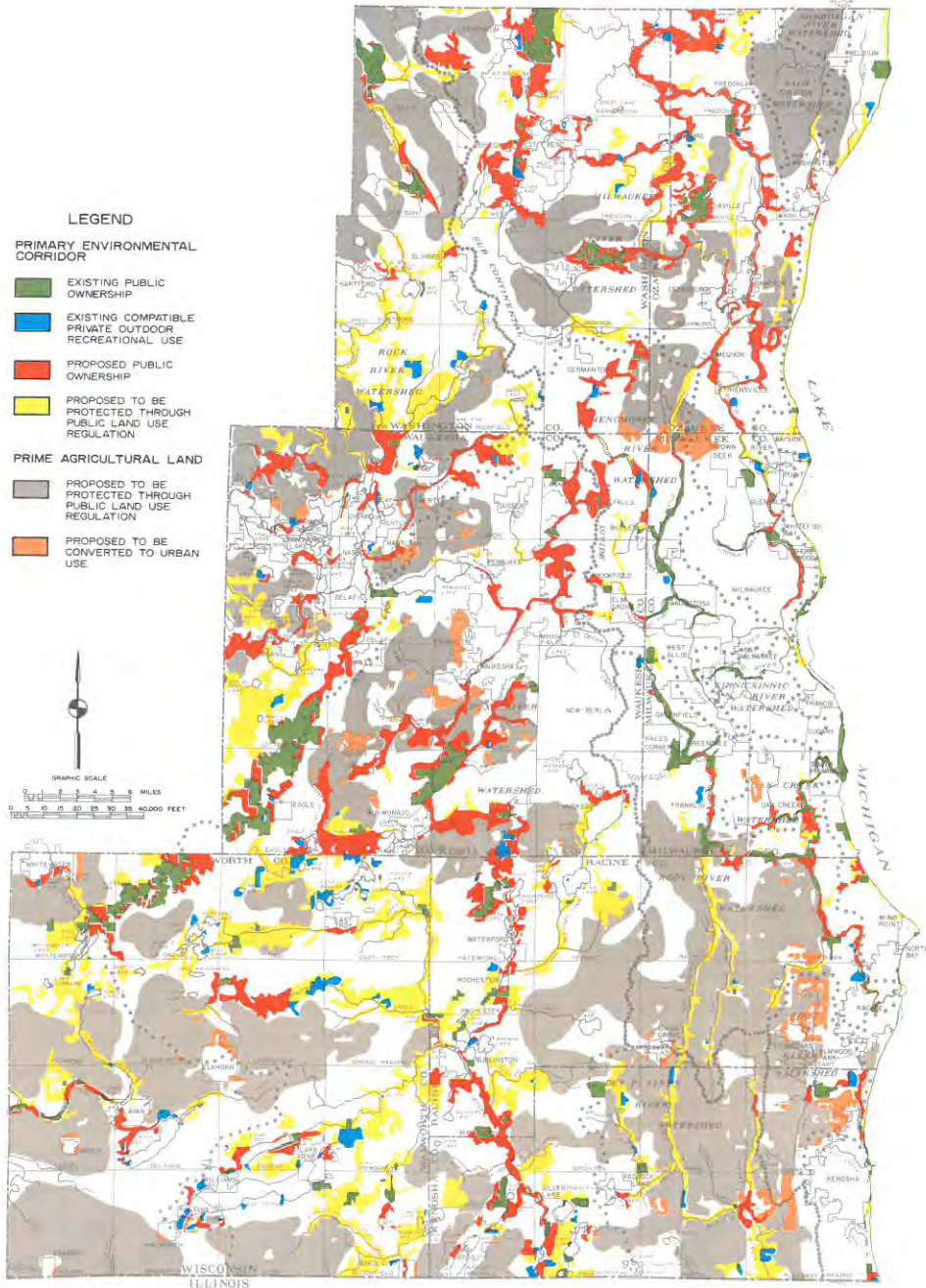
Prime Agricultural Lands: The open space preservation plan element recommends the preservation through exclusive agricultural zoning of 620 square miles of prime agricultural lands, or about 98 percent of the existing prime agricultural acreage in the Region, to protect this invaluable natural resource. An additional 41 square miles of other agricultural lands are recommended to be also kept in agricultural use to provide a desirable open space setting around major scientific, educational, and recreational sites. A total of 661 square miles of agricultural land, or about 41 percent of the total agricultural land, and 25 percent of the total area of the Region would be preserved in agricultural use.

Outdoor Recreation Plan Element

The outdoor recreation plan element consists of two components: a resource oriented outdoor recreation plan which includes recommendations for the number and location of large parks, proposed recreation corridors to accommodate trail oriented

Map 3

RECOMMENDED OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT OF THE REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2000



Source: SEWRPC.

activities, and water access facilities to facilitate the use of rivers, inland lakes, and Lake Michigan; and an urban outdoor recreation plan which provides recommendations for the number and distribution of local parks and facilities required in urban areas of the Region.

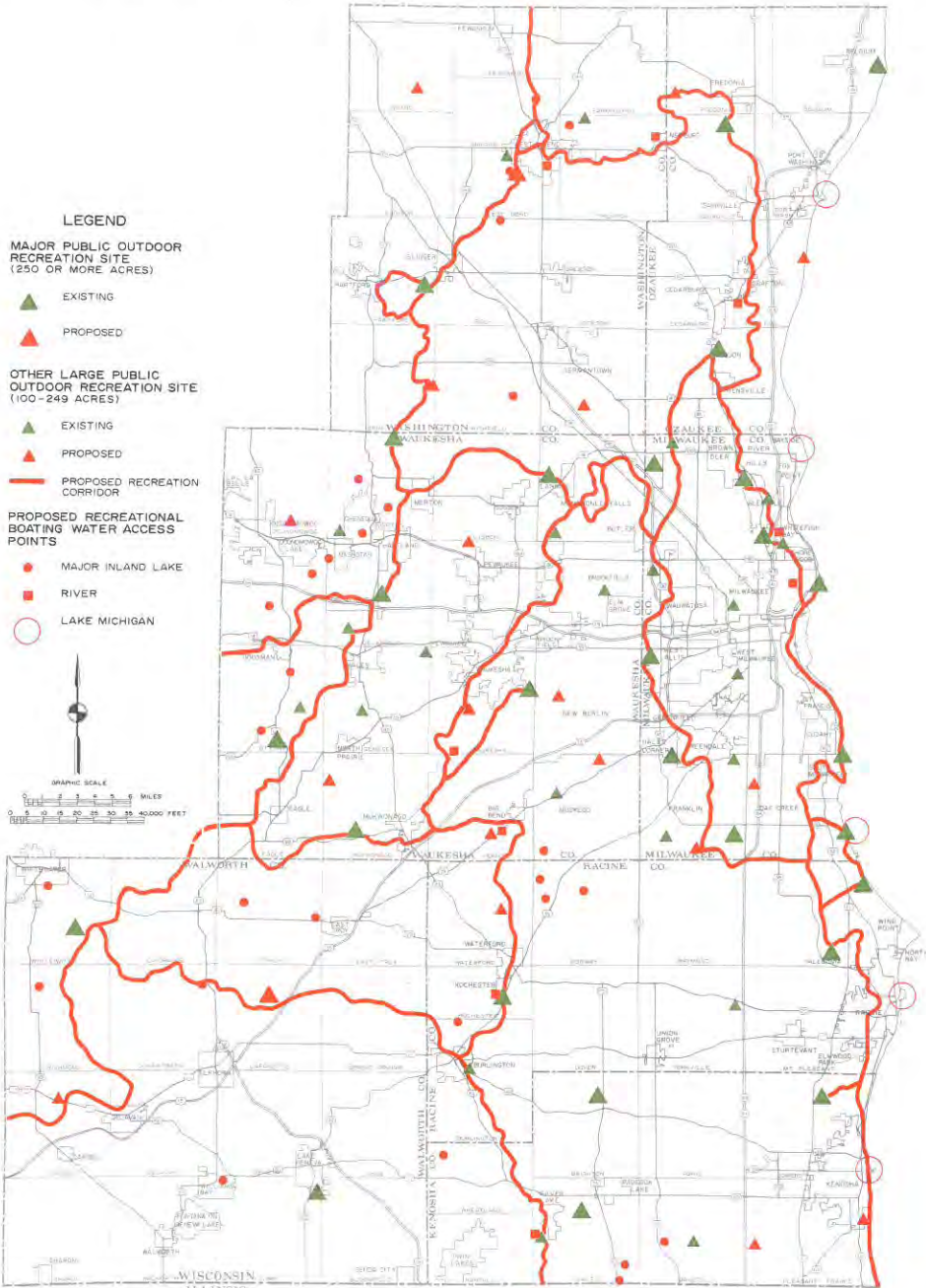
Resource Oriented Outdoor Recreation Plan Component: Under the resource oriented outdoor recreation plan component, the acreage of large parks within the Region would be increased 50 percent from 11,610 acres in 1973 to about 17,465 acres by the plan design year 2000. About 4,125 acres, or 70 percent of the proposed 5,855 acre increase, would result from public acquisition and development of 20 new large—greater than 100 acre—parks (see Map 4). The remaining 1,730 acres would result from the development or expansion of existing park lands. In connection with the provision of such large parks and related facilities, the Committee recommended that the Milwaukee County Transit Board undertake a demonstration project providing bus service from the central part of Milwaukee County to Harrington Beach State Park in Ozaukee County and Pike Lake State Park in Washington County—as well as Whitnall Park in Milwaukee County. The precise route configuration, frequency of service, and appropriate fares should be determined by the Transit Board.

Other proposals include developing five more public swimming beaches along Lake Michigan and five more inland swimming beaches; adding almost 220 additional public camp sites at six large parks and golf facilities at 12 existing or proposed large parks; providing about 2,200 new picnic tables and eight more public nature study areas; and, adding public downhill skiing areas in the Region at one existing and one proposed large park site.

The resource oriented recreation plan component proposes the development of a recreation corridor network with a total length of about 405 linear miles. This network would accommodate trails for biking and hiking, horseback riding, and ski touring and would connect many of the existing and proposed large parks, thereby enhancing the integrity of the regional park and open space system. Biking and hiking trails would be developed throughout the entire 405 miles of proposed corridor, while the corridor network would accommodate 113 miles of horseback riding trails, 45 linear miles of nature study trails, and 48 linear miles of ski touring trails (see Map 4).

The resource oriented recreation plan component recommends additional small boat water access points on 28 inland lakes, primarily for slow boating activities, in the Region as well as provision of five canoe access points on the Milwaukee River and

Map 4
RECOMMENDED RESOURCE ORIENTED COMPONENT OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT—REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2000



four canoe access points on the Fox River. This plan component also proposes over 1,300 additional boat mooring slips and 19 additional boat launch ramps within harbors of refuge along the Lake Michigan shoreline within the Southeastern Wisconsin Region to meet the existing and anticipated future needs for recreational water access facilities on Lake Michigan (see Map 4).

Urban Outdoor Recreation Plan Component: The urban outdoor recreation plan component seeks to provide the quantity of local recreational sites—sites less than 100 acres in area—and intensive nonresource oriented outdoor recreation facilities, including baseball diamonds, basketball goals, ice skating rinks, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and swimming pools, sufficient to meet the overall demand within urban areas of the Region through the plan design year 2000. Such planning requires a different approach and different resources from rural type facilities. Although a smaller land base ordinarily is required for each activity, needed sites often are in densely populated and already built up areas of the Region. Clearance and redevelopment are notably expensive in such areas. Accordingly, the plan calls for only enough clearance and redevelopment to allow each resident of an urban area to have access—within one-half mile—to a public outdoor recreation site. Under the urban outdoor recreation plan component, about 3,180 acres of additional local public recreation lands within almost 250 park and school recreation sites would be provided by the plan design year (see Map 5). About 670 acres, or 21 percent of this total increment, would be provided through subdivision dedication; about 230 acres, or about 7 percent of the total increment, may be expected to be provided through school expansion; and about 770 acres, or 24 percent of the increment, would be provided



**BASEBALL DIAMOND AT KERN PARK
TYPE III MULTIUSE SITE**

Kern Park in Milwaukee County represents a typical Type III site. Type III facilities occupy sites of 25 to 99 acres and are less dependent upon the natural resource base for the quality of the recreational opportunities obtained than Type I and II sites. Such sites commonly provide baseball, tennis, and swimming facilities.

**SKATING RINK AT BUCHNER PARK
TYPE IV MULTIUSE SITE**

This evening skating scene at Buchner Park in the City of Waukesha depicts the kind of recreation opportunity generally provided at a Type IV multiuse site; that is, a site under 25 acres in size generally located in an urban area. Facilities typically provided offer opportunities for ice skating, softball, and playfield and playground activities.



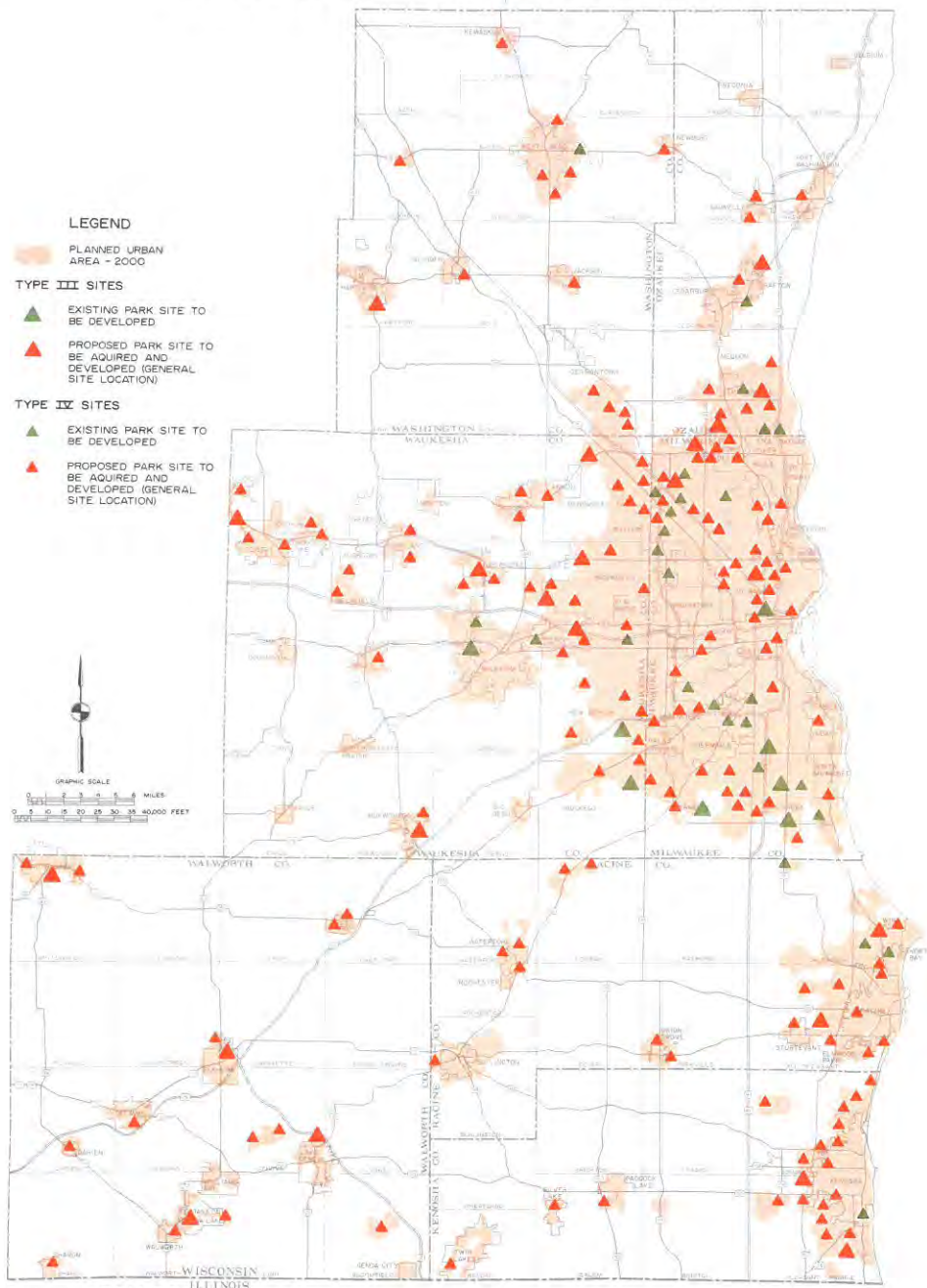
through the development of existing, publicly owned, undeveloped park sites. In addition, this plan component would require the public acquisition and development of 1,340 acres of existing open lands and the public acquisition, clearance, and redevelopment for park purposes of about 170 acres of land currently in urban use.

IMPLEMENTATION

The existing legal and governmental framework in the Region permits the state, county, and local units of government to readily implement the major recommendations contained in the regional park and open space plan. Primary emphasis on implementing this plan lies with actions of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the seven county boards of the counties in southeastern Wisconsin, and the individual municipal units of government in the Region. It is recommended that the DNR purchase the remaining environmental corridor lands within Department project boundaries, such as the Kettle Moraine State Forest, and certain additional environmental corridor lands adjacent to the selected Department project boundaries; and acquire additional segments of primary environmental corridor, primarily along the main stem of the Fox River in Kenosha and Racine Counties south of the City of Burlington, along Sugar Creek in the Towns of Lafayette and Sugar Creek in Walworth County, immediately south and west of West Bend in Washington County, in the Huiras Lake area in Ozaukee County, and in the eastern portion of the Town of Wayne in Washington County. These environmental corridor lands would encompass about 62 square miles, or 40 percent, of the 155 square miles of corridor lands proposed for

Map 5

RECOMMENDED URBAN COMPONENT OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT—
REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2000



Source: SEWRPC.

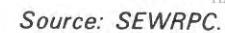
PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN—continued

acquisition under the plan (see Map 6). It is further recommended that the DNR provide two additional state parks within the Region, one to be located in the Sugar Creek corridor in the Town of Lafayette and the other to be located on Lucas Lake in Paradise Valley in Washington County; acquire lands as necessary and develop recreation trails within a continuous recreation corridor traversing the western portion of the Region through parts of Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha Counties; and develop recreation trails within other state-owned lands as necessary to provide continuity throughout the whole regional recreation corridor system. Thus, the state would be responsible for acquisition of lands and development of 107 miles, or about 26 percent, of the 405 miles of recreation trail facilities proposed under the plan (see Map 7).

It is further recommended that county units of government adopt appropriate zoning ordinances including zoning district regulations and zoning district delineations to be effective within the unincorporated areas of the counties to preserve the prime agricultural lands and remaining net primary environmental corridor lands and other lands required for recreation use through exclusive agricultural, floodland, shoreland conservancy, or other appropriate zoning districts and to acquire remaining undeveloped land within designated segments of the primary environmental corridor, especially those areas of the corridor which lie in or adjacent to existing urban areas or areas which may be expected to be in urban use by the plan design year. About 93 square miles, or 60 percent, of the 155 square miles of primary environmental corridor lands proposed for acquisition under this plan would be the responsibility of county units of government (see Map 6). It is further recommended that county units of government provide all additional large parks, with the exception of proposed state parks to be provided at Paradise Valley and Sugar Creek, and develop necessary recreation facilities at such parks. The counties also would be responsible for the acquisition of lands and development of almost 300 miles, or about 74 percent, of the 405 mile recreation trail facilities proposed under the plan (see Map 7). It is also recommended that county units of government provide additional boat access facilities to selected major inland lakes and rivers within the Region and cooperate with the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, in selecting sites and identifying locations for access facilities to Lake Michigan within the Region.

It is recommended that all local units of government adopt appropriate zoning ordinances, including zoning district regulations and zoning district boundaries, to preserve the prime agricultural lands and remaining net primary environmental corridor lands and other lands required for recreation use within the Region through

RECOMMENDED JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR COMPONENT OF THE OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT—REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2000



exclusive agricultural, floodland, shoreland conservancy, or other appropriate zoning districts; prepare and adopt an official map showing as parkways all primary environmental corridors recommended for acquisition under the regional park and open space plan, and as parks all park sites identified in the local refinement of the regional park and open space plan; adopt ordinances controlling the subdivision of lands which include a requirement for park land dedication and/or fee in lieu of dedication during the land subdivision process; and provide additional local parks and related urban outdoor recreation facilities within their respective communities. It is further recommended that local units of government provide access facilities to selected inland lakes and rivers within the Region and cooperate with U.S. Department of Army Corps of Engineers in identifying locations for access facilities to Lake Michigan.

COST OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The recommended plan was analyzed to determine both the attendant capital investment and the operation and maintenance costs of implementing the plan by levels of government. The planning report contains a preliminary capital improvement program which includes the staging of the necessary land acquisition and facility construction and the distribution of the attendant operating and maintenance costs over the 26-year plan implementation period. As indicated in Table 2, the full capital investment and operation and maintenance cost of implementing the recommended regional park and open space plan is estimated at \$973 million. Average annual implementation costs would approximate \$37.4 million, or about \$18.70 per capita, per year over the 26-year implementation period. The per capita costs are based upon a resident regional population of about two million persons, the anticipated average resident population of the Region between 1970 and the year 2000.

Capital investment costs total about \$258.8 million dollars, or 27 percent of the \$973.1 million implementation costs, while the remaining \$714.3 million, or 73 percent, are costs associated with the operation and maintenance of proposed new as well as existing park and open space facilities. It should be noted that of this \$714 million cost, \$641 million or \$12.00 per capita, will have to be expended annually in any case to maintain the existing public park and open space facilities within this Region. Average annual capital investment costs and operation and maintenance costs over the plan design period are \$9.9 million and \$27.5 million, respectively, while the average annual per capita costs for capital investment and operation and maintenance are \$4.95 and \$13.75, respectively. Over \$611.6 million, or 63 percent of the \$973 million plan implementation costs, are assigned to county units of government, while \$296.7 million, or 30 percent, are assigned to city, village, town, or school districts. Only \$64.8 million, or 7 percent of the \$973 million cost of implementation, would be the responsibility of the State.

Table 2
CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDED REGIONAL
PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN BY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT

	Counties	Cities, Villages, Towns and School Districts	State	Total
Capital Investment Costs				
Acquisition (millions of dollars)	96.3	44.9	37.2	178.4
Development (millions of dollars)	52.7	22.2	5.5	80.4
Total (millions of dollars)	149.0	67.1	42.7	258.8
Average Annual Capital Investment Cost (millions of dollars)	5.7	2.6	1.6	9.9
Average Annual Per Capita Cost Capital Investment (dollars)	2.85	1.30	0.80	4.95
Operation and Maintenance Costs (millions of dollars)	462.7	229.5	22.1	714.3
Average Annual Operation and Maintenance Cost (millions of dollars)	17.8	8.8	0.9	27.5
Average Annual Per Capita Cost Operation and Maintenance (dollars)	8.90	4.40	0.45	13.75
Total Capital Investment and Operation and Maintenance Cost (millions of dollars)	611.7	296.6	64.8	973.1
Average Annual Cost (millions of dollars)	23.5	11.4	2.5	37.4
Average Annual Per Capita Costs (dollars)	11.75	5.70	1.25	18.70

Source: SEWRPC.

A public financial resource analysis conducted as part of the regional park and open space study indicates that if existing expenditure patterns—both on the basis of the proportion of the total budget used for, and on the basis of per capita expenditures for park and open space—are maintained local outlays for park acquisition and development may be expected to average \$8.5 million per year in constant 1974 dollars over the

plan design period, increasing from about \$5.8 million per year in 1974 to \$11.3 million per year in the year 2000. Full plan implementation would require an expenditure of about \$8.3 million per year. Moreover, local expenditures for park and open space acquisition and development could be partially offset by state and federal aid programs, which typically provide funds for up to 50 percent of the total outlay for approved projects. The Commission analyses further indicate that if existing expenditure patterns are maintained local expenditures for operation and maintenance may be expected to average \$32.1 million per year in constant 1974 dollars over the plan period, increasing from about \$24.2 million per year in 1974 to \$40.0 million per year in the year 2000. Full plan implementation would require an expenditure of about \$26.6 million per year. It is important to recognize, however, that there would have to be a shift in the distribution of expenditures for park and open space purposes among the local units of government within the Region; governmental units in the outlying areas of the Region would be required to increase their expenditures for park and open space purposes while the expenditure levels for park and open space purposes in Milwaukee County would remain substantially unchanged. Implementation of the plan would also require an increase in the level of direct state expenditures for park and open space in southeastern Wisconsin. Such expenditures now total about \$1.0 million per year for capital and operating costs and would have to be increased to about \$2.5 million per year. This is reasonable in view of the fact that the Region contains about 40 percent of the state's population but only 4 percent of the state's park and open space lands. It may be argued that the greatest need for recreational land is in southeastern Wisconsin where the largest concentration of population exists. It may further be argued that, within the State, the greatest need for open space acquisition is also in southeastern Wisconsin because of the rapid urbanization of the Region and the attendant danger of losing valuable open space lands.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

Five public informational meetings and one formal public hearing have been scheduled to present the findings and recommendations of the regional park and open space planning program to public officials and concerned citizens for their consideration and reaction. The public meeting schedule is as follows:

Public informational meetings:

Monday, August 22, 1977	7:30 p.m.	Washington County Courthouse Auditorium West Bend, Wisconsin
Tuesday, August 23, 1977	7:30 p.m.	Walworth County Courthouse Room 112 Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Wednesday, August 24, 1977	7:30 p.m.	Milwaukee County Courthouse Annex Room 406 Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Parking available first floor)
Monday, August 29, 1977	7:30 p.m.	Waukesha County Office Building Brookfield Room 500 Riverview Avenue Waukesha, Wisconsin
Tuesday, August 30, 1977	7:30 p.m.	Racine County Highway and Office Building State Highway 20 and I-94 Auditorium Racine, Wisconsin

Public hearing:

Wednesday, August 31, 1977	7:30 p.m.	Milwaukee County Courthouse Annex Room 406 Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Parking available first floor)
----------------------------	-----------	---

The public meetings, which will be conducted by the Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee, are intended to provide a detailed briefing on the results of the study and on the plan recommendations, to provide an opportunity for public officials and citizens to ask questions, and to enable public officials and citizens to register their support for or opposition to various aspects of the plan, together with suggested alternatives thereto.

Upon completion of the public meetings, the Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee will meet to consider the record of the meetings and to make any necessary changes to the recommended plan. The plan will then be forwarded to the Regional Planning Commission for its consideration. Upon adoption by the Commission, the plan will be certified to the local, state, and federal units and agencies of government for their consideration and implementation.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Adoption and implementation of the recommended regional park and open space plan would result in the provision of an integrated park and open space system within the Region, a system which can serve the dual purpose of preserving and enhancing the natural resource base while at the same time providing adequate opportunities for

present and future residents of the Region to participate in a wide range of high quality recreational experiences. The importance of adoption and implementation of the recommended park and open space plan to the future overall quality of life within the Region cannot be overemphasized. Though the Southeastern Wisconsin Region is the most heavily urbanized portion of the state, it is still blessed with an abundance of high quality natural resource amenities, including Lake Michigan, numerous inland lakes and streams, attractive woodlands and wetlands, good wildlife habitat, rugged terrain, and scenic landscapes. Unfortunately these resource amenities are all too often taken for granted, or worse, abused and destroyed. These natural resource amenities are irreplaceable. Once lost, they are lost forever. Action taken now in accordance with the recommended plan will not only preserve these natural resources and, therefore, the unique natural beauty and overall environmental quality of the Region for all time, but will facilitate the establishment of a regional park system which provides the resident population with an opportunity unique among the large urban regions of the United States to participate in a wide variety of recreational experience close to home.

QUESTION BOX

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR AND A RECREATION CORRIDOR?

One of the most important tasks undertaken by the Commission as part of its original land use planning program in 1963 was the identification and delineation of those areas of the Region in which concentrations of certain ecologically important natural resources exist and which, therefore, should be preserved and protected in order to maintain the overall quality of the environment for all forms of life within the Region. Such areas normally include one or more of the following seven elements of the natural resource base which are essential to the maintenance of both the ecological balance and the natural beauty of the Region: 1) lakes and streams and the associated undeveloped shorelands and floodlands, 2) woodlands, 3) wetlands, 4) wildlife habitat areas, 5) rugged terrain and high relief topography, 6) significant geological formations and physiographic features, and 7) wet, poorly drained, and organic soils. These seven elements comprise integral parts of the natural resource base. Four additional elements which, although not part of the resource base per se, are closely related

to or centered on that base and are important considerations in identifying and delineating areas with scenic, recreational, and historic value. These additional elements are: 1) existing outdoor recreation sites, 2) potential outdoor recreation sites, 3) historic sites and structures, and 4) significant scenic areas and vistas. The delineation of these 11 natural resource and natural resource-related elements results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow, elongated areas which have been termed environmental corridors by the Commission. Primary environmental corridors are defined as those areas which encompass three or more of the aforementioned 11 environmental elements.

An important task undertaken by the Commission under the regional park and open space planning program was the development of plan recommendations for providing facilities for trail oriented recreation activities such as bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, and ski touring. In order to provide a high quality recreational experience for the trail oriented activities, a linear facility with a variety of natural, historic, cultural, scenic, and topographical features is desirable. Thus, under the regional park and open space plan, publicly owned ribbons of land at least 15 miles in length were delineated in areas of natural, historic, cultural, scenic, and topographic interest. These ribbons of land contain trails marked and maintained for activities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, and ski touring and were termed recreation corridors.

Since the primary environmental corridors are in effect a composite of the best of the individual elements of the natural resource base of southeastern Wisconsin, the Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee on Regional Park and Open Space Planning has recommended that a system of recreation corridors be placed within designated portions of the primary environmental corridors in the Region. Thus, primary environmental corridors serve as the basis for the physical location of recreation corridors.

Placement of recreation corridors within the designated primary environmental corridors would assure the utilization of high value recreation areas for trail oriented outdoor recreation purposes. In addition, since a large number of parks also are located within or adjacent to primary environmental corridor lands, placement of such recreation corridors would serve as a link between the large parks in the Region. Finally, the placement of recreation corridors within primary environmental corridors in the Region would contribute to a realization of a system of parks and recreation corridors which would provide an opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities while at the same time protecting the underlying and sustaining natural resource base of the Region.

Quotable Quote.....

"This message.... ..deals not only with ways to preserve the wilderness, wildlife, and natural and historical resources which are a beautiful and valued part of America's national heritage: it deals also with the effects of pollution, toxic chemicals, and the damage caused by the demand for energy. Each of these concerns, in its own way, effects the environment; and together they underscore the importance of environmental protection in all our lives.

Americans long thought that nature could take care of itself--or that if it did not, the consequences were someone else's problem. As we know now, that assumption was wrong: none of us is a stranger to environmental problems.

Industrial workers, for example, are exposed to disproportionate risks from toxic substances in their surroundings. The urban poor, many of whom have never had the chance to canoe a river or hike a mountain trail, must nevertheless endure each day the hazardous effects of lead and other pollutants in the air.

Intelligent stewardship of the environment on behalf of all Americans is a prime responsibility of government."

President Carter's Environmental
Message to Congress
May 23, 1977
Environment Reporter

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN
PERMIT NO. 645

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Old Courthouse
P.O. Box 769
Waukesha, Wisconsin
53186

Phone: (414) 547-6721

Kurt W. Bauer
Executive Director

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The preparation of this publication was financed in part through a State planning assistance grant from the Wisconsin Department of Local Affairs and Development under the provisions of Section 4 of the Wisconsin Statutes and a comprehensive planning grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.